

SHIBA INU

GROUP: Non-sporting

SIZE:

Males: 14 ½ to 16 ½ inches. Females: 13 ½ to 15 ½ inches. **WEIGHT** Males: 23 pounds preferred. Females: 17 pounds preferred. Slight variations allowed.

COAT:

Double coated; outer coat stiff and straight with soft and thick under coat. Short and even fur on face, ears and legs; guard hairs are about 1 ½ to 2 inches in length and stand off body; Short, harsh, plush and straight; stands off and has undercoat. **Disqualifications: long or woolly coat.**

COLOR:

Red, red sesame (red and black with red predominant), black and tan, black sesame (black hairs predominant), brindle, and white; undercoat is cream, buff, or gray.

Urajiro (cream to white ventral color) is required in the following areas on all coat colors: on the sides of the muzzle, on the cheeks, inside the ears, on the underjaw and upper throat, inside of legs, on the abdomen, around the vent and ventral side of the tail. On *Reds*: commonly on throat, forechest and chest. On *blacks and sesames*: commonly as a triangular mark on both sides of the forechest.

Bright orange-red with urajiro lends a foxlike appearance to this color dogs Clear red is preferred, but a slight bit of black tipping permitted on the back and tail.

Black with tan points and urajiro. Black hairs have a brownish cast, not blue. Undercoat is buff or gray. Borderline between black and tan areas is clearly defined. Tan spots are located as follows: two oval spots over the eyes; on the sides of the muzzle between the black bridge of the muzzle and the white cheeks; on the outside of the forelegs from the carpus, or a little above, downward to the toes; on the outside of the hind legs down the front of the stifle broadening from hock joint to toes, but not completely eliminating black from rear of pasterns. Black penciling on toes permitted. Tan hairs may also be found on the inside of the ear and on the underside of the tail.

Sesame (black-tipped hairs on a rich red background) with urajiro. Tipping is light and even on the body and head with no concentration of black in any area. Sesame areas appear at least one-half red. Sesame may end in a widow's peak on the forehead, leaving the bridge and sides of the muzzle red. Eye spots and lower legs are also red.

Clearly delineated white markings are permitted on the tip of the tail and in the form of socks on the forelegs to the elbow joint, hind legs to the knee joint. A patch of blaze is allowed on the throat, forechest, or chest in addition to urajiro.

Serious faults: Cream, white, pinto, or any other color or marking not specified.

HEAD:

Forehead is flat. Full cheeks.

Eyes: Dark, deep set, slanted upward, triangular shaped; rims are black.

Ears: Small, erect, triangular, leaning forward slightly.

Muzzle: Medium size and well proportioned to head; tapers slightly from stop to nose tip; muzzle length is 40 percent of total head length from occiput to tip of nose; whiskers should remain intact.

Lips: Tight and black.

Nose: Black.

Bite: Scissor with evenly aligned teeth. **Disqualifications: Overshot or undershot.**

NECK:

Strong, thick, moderate length.

BODY:

Sturdy and compact, muscular and powerful; strong loins; Topline is straight and level with firm back; Chest deep, with moderately sprung ribs.

FRONT & REAR QUARTERS:

Forelegs straight and parallel with elbows set close to body and turned neither in nor out. Hind legs well muscled, strong, wide natural stance; hock joint turns neither in nor out. No dewclaws;

Feet: Small, round, cat-like, well arched; thick pads.

Tail: Set high; thick, powerful, and carried over back in a sickle or curved position, with a loose single curl or sickle tail pointing directly toward the neck and nearly parallel to the back is preferred; double curl or sickle tail pointing upward is acceptable; length reaches almost to the hock joint when extended; slightly longer hair than on body and stands open in a brush;

MOVEMENT:

Strong and driving, yet very agile.

TEMPERAMENT:

Protective and aloof with strangers.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.

Disqualifications:

Albinism.

Viciousness or aggressiveness toward handlers or judges.

Undershot or overshot bite.