

SHIH TZU

GROUP: Toy

SIZE:

Desired height is 8-11 inches with ideal height at withers of 9 to 10 ½ inches. Desired weight between 9-16 pounds. Outside these parameters should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

COAT:

Double coated, luxurious, long, and abundant; slight wave is permissible; hair on top of head is usually tied up; should be shown as natural as possible with trimming on feet and at the anus permissible for neatness and to facilitate movement. *Faults:* Sparse coat; curly coat; single coat; excessive trimming.

COLOR:

All colors and markings are permissible and given equal consideration.

HEAD:

Size of the round and broad head should be in balance with the overall size of the dog; wide between the eyes; domed skull; definite stop. *Faults:* **Narrow head; close set eyes; lack of definite stop.**

Muzzle: Square, short, broad, and deep; unwrinkled; set no lower than bottom of eye rim; never downturned; ideally no longer than 1 inch from tip of nose to top, but may vary slightly in relation to overall size of dog. *Faults:* **Snipiness; pink on lips.**

Eyes: Round eyes, not protruding and placed well apart looking straight ahead; dark, but may be lighter in liver and blue pigmented dogs; eye rim pigment is black, except on liver colored dogs when it is liver, and on blue pigmented dogs when it is blue. *Faults:* **Small, close set or light eyes; excessive eye white; pink eye rims.**

Ears: Large, heavily coated, set slightly below the crown of the skull, carried drooping.

Nose: Black and self-colored according to coat.

Bite: Undershot with broad and wide jaw; teeth and tongue should not show when mouth is closed. *Fault:* **Overshot bite.**

NECK:

Medium length, but of sufficient length to permit a natural, high head carriage; well-set-on flowing smoothly into the shoulders; in balance with the height and length of the dog.

BODY:

Overall balanced with no exaggerated features; short-coupled and sturdy with no waist or tuck-up; slightly longer than tall. *Fault:* **Legginess.**

Topline: Level.

Chest: Broad and deep with a good spring of rib, but not barrel-chested; Ribcage depth should extend to just below elbow; distance from elbow to withers is little greater than from elbow to ground.

FRONT & REAR QUARTERS:

Forelegs are short, straight, well boned, muscular, set well apart and under the chest; elbows set close to body; strong, perpendicular pasterns; dewclaws may be removed.

Hind legs are well boned, muscular, and straight when viewed from the rear; well bent stifles, not close but in line with forelegs; well let down, perpendicular hocks; dewclaws should be removed, but not penalized if present.

Feet: Firm, well-padded feet point straight ahead.

Tail: Set high, curled over back, heavily plumed. ***Faults***: Too loose, too tight, too flat, too low-set should be penalized to the extent of deviation from ideal.

MOVEMENT:

Smooth flowing gait, with graceful movements; good front reach and strong rear drive; backline should remain level, head carried naturally high, and tail carried in gentle curve over back; should be evaluated at its own natural speed.

TEMPERAMENT:

Alert, outgoing, happy, affectionate, friendly and trusting.

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:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.