

WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER

GROUP: Terrier

SIZE:

Ideal is eleven inches at withers for males, ten inches for females; slight deviation is acceptable; very compact dog with good balance and substance. **Faults: Over or under height limits.** Weight should be in proportion to height.

COAT:

Double coated; outer coat is straight, hard, white hair about two inches long and free of any curl; short, abundant undercoat, soft and close, resembling fur in texture; outer coat shorter on neck and shoulders, blending into longer furnishings on stomach and legs; ideal coat is hard, straight and white, but a hard, straight, white coat with wheaten-colored tips preferable to fluffy or soft white coat; furnishings may be somewhat softer and longer, but must never appear fluffy. The head may be shaped (by plucking) to present a round appearance and act as a frame for the typical Westie expression, but is not necessary. The legs are covered with short, hard hair. The hair on the ears is short, smooth and velvety, and is free of fringe at the tips. **Faults: Soft coat; any silkiness or tendency to curl; any open or single coat; too short a coat.**

COLOR:

The only acceptable color is white. **Disqualifications: Any color other than white. Albinism.**

HEAD:

Shaped to present a round appearance from front; in proportion to body.

Skull: Broad, in proportion to a powerful jaw; slightly domed between ears; not too long, gradually tapering to eyes; defined stop; heavy eyebrows. **Faults: Long or narrow skull.**

Eyes: Medium size, deep set, almond-shaped; dark brown color; looking from under heavy eyebrows, and being set wide apart, eyes have piercing look, sharp, intelligent; black eye rims.

Ears: Small, carried tightly erect, set wide apart on top outer edge of skull, terminating in sharp point; must never be cropped; ear hair is trimmed short and is smooth and velvety, free of fringe at tips; black skin pigmentation preferred. **Serious faults: Round-pointed, broad, large, ears set closely together, not held tightly erect, or placed too low on side of head.**

Muzzle: Blunt and powerful; slightly shorter than skull; gradually tapers to nose. **Fault: Muzzle longer than skull.**

Nose: Black, fully pigmented.

Bite:

Scissors bite with upper incisors slightly overlapping lower incisors; tight scissors or level bites are acceptable; full complement of large (for size of the breed), strong white teeth; must be six incisor teeth between the canines of both the lower and upper jaws; an occasional missing premolar is acceptable. **Faults: Defective or misaligned teeth; any missing incisors; several premolars missing; overshot or undershot bites.**

NECK:

Muscular; gradually thickens toward base, well set on sloping shoulders; length in proportion to the whole of the dog. **Faults: Neck too long or too short.**

BODY:

Compact and of good substance; ribs deep and well arched in upper half of rib, extending at least to elbows, and presenting a flattish side appearance; back ribs of considerable depth, and distance

from last rib to upper thigh as short as compatible with free movement of body; short, broad and strong loin.

Topline: Flat and level, both standing and moving. **Faults: High rear; any deviation from standard.**

Chest: Very deep and extending to elbows, with breadth in proportion to size of dog.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulder blades well laid back and well knot at backbone; shoulder blade should attach to an upper arm of moderate length, and sufficient angle to allow for definite body overhang; muscular forelegs, well boned, relatively short, but with sufficient length to set the dog up so as not to be too close to ground; forelegs are reasonably straight, and thickly covered with short hard hair; set in under the shoulder blades with definite body overhang before them; height from elbow to withers and elbow to ground should be approximately the same. **Faults: Out at elbows; light bone; fiddle-front.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Powerful and muscular thighs; well angulated, not set wide apart, with hock well bent, short, and parallel when viewed from rear; hind legs are muscular, sinewy, and relatively short; viewed from rear, pasterns are short and parallel. **Faults: Weak hocks; cow hocks; long rear pasterns; lack of angulation.**

Feet: **Fore feet** larger than hind ones, round, proportionate in size, strong, thickly padded; may properly be turned out slightly; dewclaws may be removed. **Hind feet** smaller than front feet, thickly padded, dewclaws should be removed. Black pigmentation is desirable on pads of all feet and nails (older dogs may lose coloration).

Tail: Relatively short, but never docked. When standing erect, the tip is approximately level with the top of skull, thus maintaining a balanced appearance; tail carried gaily, but not curled over back; set high enough so that the spine does not slope down to it; tail is covered with hard, straight hair, but no feathering. **Faults: Tail set too low; tail too long; thin; carried at half-mast or over the back.**

MOVEMENT:

Free, straight and easy all around, powerful, with reach and drive, not stilted; forelegs freely extend forward by the shoulder; hind legs move free, strong and fairly close; hocks flexed freely and drawn close under the body so that when moving off the foot, the body is propelled forward with some force; the dog single tracks as speed increases; topline remains level. **Faults: Lack of reach; lack of drive; stiff, stifled or too wide movement.**

TEMPERAMENT:

Alert, inquisitive, easy-going, happy, courageous and self-reliant while remaining friendly. **Faults: Excess timidity or excess pugnacity.**

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.

Color other than white.

Albinism.