AKITA
GROUP: Working

SIZE:

Desirable height in a mature male is 26 to 28 inches at the withers; females, 24 to 26 inches. Variance should be faulted w/increasing severity.
Proportional to weight.

COAT:

Double-coated; thick, soft, dense with shorter undercoat than outer coat; outer coat straight, harsh, and standing somewhat off body; short hair on head, legs, and ears; length of hair at withers and rump approximately two inches, which is slightly longer than on rest of body, except tail where coat is longest and most profuse. *Fault*: **Any indication of ruff or feathering.**

COLOR:

Any color including white, brindle, or pinto; brilliant and clear colors with markings well balanced, with or without mask or blaze; no mask on white dogs; pinto has white background with large, evenly placed patches covering head and more than one-third of body; undercoat may be different color from outer coat.

HEAD:

 Massive and balanced with body; free of wrinkle when at ease; broad skull, flat between ears; square and powerful jaws with minimal dewlap; head forms blunt triangle viewed from above. *Fault*: **Narrow or snipy head.**

Muzzle:Broad and full; distance from nose to stop is distance from stop to occiput, as ratio of 2 to 3; well-defined stop, but not too abrupt; shallow furrow extends well up to forehead.

Eyes: Small, dark brown, deep-set and triangular shape, black and tight eye rims.

Ears: Ears are characteristic of breed, strongly erect and small in relation to rest of head; when folded forward for measuring length, tip will touch upper eye rim; triangular shaped and slightly rounded at tip, wide at base, set wide on head but not too low, and carried slightly forward over eyes in line with back of neck. *Disqualifications*: **Drop or broken ears; deafness.**

Nose: Broad and black, but liver permitted on white Akitas, although black is preferred..

Bite & teeth: Strong, white teeth meet in a scissors bite, but level is acceptable. *Disqualifications*: **Excessive overshot or undershot bite**.

Lips & tongue: Black lips, not pendulous; pink tongue.

NECK:

Thick, muscular, and comparatively short, widening gradually toward shoulders; pronounced crest blends in with base of skull.

BODY:

Longer than high with ratio of 10 to 9 in males, 11 to 9 in females; well-sprung ribs with well-developed brisket; firmly-muscled loin and moderate tuck-up; pliant, but not loose skin. *Serious faults*: **Light bone, rangy body**.

Topline: Level back.

Chest: Wide and deep; chest depth is one-half length of dog at shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS:

Strong, powerful shoulders with moderate layback; heavy-boned forelegs, straight as viewed from front; pastern angle of 15 degrees forward from vertical; dewclaws traditionally left on front legs, but APRI standard recommends removal. *Faults*: **Elbows in or out; loose shoulders**.

HINDQUARTERS:

Powerful, well-developed upper thigh; width, muscular development and bone comparable to forequarters; well-developed upper thighs; moderately bent stifle and hocks well let down, turning neither in nor out; hocks less angular than many breeds at 145 to 160 degrees; dewclaws must be removed. *Faults*: **Rear dewclaws**.

Tail: Large and full, set high and carried over back or against flank in three-quarter, full, or double curl, always dipping to or below level of back; with three-quarter curl, tip drops well down flank; strong and large tail root; tail bone reaches hock when let down; coarse, straight, full hair with no plume. *Disqualification***: Sickle or uncurled tail**.

MOVEMENT:

Brisk and powerful with strides of moderate length, back remaining strong, firm, and level; rear legs move in line with front legs.

TEMPERAMENT:

Alert and responsive, dignified and courteous; aggressive toward other dogs.

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.
Drop or broken ears.
Excessively overshot or undershot.
Sickle or uncurled tail.
Deafness.
Albinism.