

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG

(Also known as Australian Queensland Heeler and Blue Heeler)

GROUP: Herding

SIZE:

Males from 18 to 20 inches, females from 17 to 19 inches, measured at the withers. Males and females under or over these specified sizes are undesirable. Weight should be in proportion to height, generally 35 to 40 pounds.

COAT:

Weather-resistant outer coat is moderately short, straight, and of medium texture; short dense undercoat; coat is longer behind the quarters, forming a mild feathering; tail is sufficiently furnished to form a good brush; head, forelegs, hind legs from hock to ground, covered with short hair. Coat is never clipped or trimmed.

COLOR:

Two recognized colors: Blue and red.

Blue or blue-mottled with or without other markings; permissible markings are black, blue or tan markings on head, evenly distributed for preference; forelegs are tan midway up and extends up front to the breast and throat, with tan on jaws; tan hindquarters on inside of hind legs and inside of thighs, showing down from front of stifles and spreading out to outside of hind legs from hock to toes; tan undercoat is permissible on body providing it does not show through blue outer coat; black markings on body are undesirable.

Red color should be a good even red speckle all over including the undercoat with or without darker red markings on head; even head markings are desirable; red markings on body are permissible but not desirable. **Fault: White or cream undercoat.**

HEAD:

Blunt, wedge-shaped balanced with other proportions of the dog, in keeping with general conformation; broad skull very slightly curved between ears, flattening a slight but definite stop; muscular but not prominent cheeks; broad foreface, well filled in under the eyes, tapering gradually to a medium-length, deep, powerful muzzle.

Eyes: Oval, medium size, brown with very dark pupil, neither prominent nor sunken; alertness and intelligence must be expressed;

Ears: Moderate size, preferably smaller than large, broad at the base, muscular, pricked and moderately pointed (neither spoon nor bat eared); set wide apart on skull, inclined outwards, firmly erect, sensitive in their use; inside of ear should be fairly well furnished with hair.

Muzzle: Medium-length, deep, and powerful.

Nose: Black, regardless of coat color.

Bite: Scissors bite of sound, strong, and regularly spaced teeth. **Disqualifications: Undershot or overshot bite.**

NECK:

Muscular and of exceptional strength, of medium length, about one-third the length of the body, broadening to blend into the body, free from throatiness.

BODY:

Length of body, from point of breastbone to buttocks, is greater than height at withers in a ratio of 10 to 9; well-sprung ribs, not barrel chested; loins are broad, deep and muscular with deep flanks strongly coupled

between the fore and hindquarters; croup is slightly sloping, broad, strong and muscular with very little tuck-up. Topline is level; Chest is deep and muscular and moderately broad.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders are broad of blade, sloping, muscular and well angulated to upper arm, and at the point of withers should not be too closely set; upper forearm is well angulated to the shoulders; lower arm should have strong, round bone extending to the feet; **forelegs should be perfectly straight when viewed from front; pasterns should show no weakness.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Broad, strong and muscular; rump is rather long and sloping, thighs long, broad and well-developed with moderate turn to stifle; strong, well let down hocks; viewed from behind, legs are straight from hocks to feet and placed neither close nor too wide apart.

Feet: Round with short strong, well-arched toes held close together; hard and deep pads; short and strong nails; all dewclaws should be removed, but not penalized if present.

Tail: Low set, following slope of the croup; at rest should hang in slight curve of a length to reach approximately to the hock; may be raised during movement and/or excitement, but under no circumstances should any part of the tail be carried past a vertical line drawn through the root; gay tail is to be severely penalized; hair on tail is sufficiently furnished to form a good brush. The tail is never docked.

MOVEMENT:

True, free, supple and tireless action; front and rear movement of shoulders and forelegs with powerful thrust of hindquarters should be in unison; soundness is of paramount importance; capability of quick and sudden movement is essential. ***Serious faults: Stiltidness; loaded or slack shoulders; straight shoulder placement; weakness at elbows, pasterns or feet; straight stifles; cow or bow hocks.***

TEMPERAMENT:

Ever alert, extremely intelligent, watchful, courageous and trustworthy, with an implicit devotion to duty; loyal and protective; suspicious of strangers, but must be amenable to handling in the show ring.

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.

Overshot or undershot bites.

Yellow eyes.

Albinism.