

HAVANESE

GROUP: Toy

SIZE:

At withers, between 8½ and 11½ inches. The ideal is between 9 ½ inches and 10 ½ inches. **Faults: Height below or above the standard. Should be faulted to the degree of variance from the standard.** Between 7 and 14 pounds, with mid-size much preferred. **Faults: Weight under 7 or over 14 pounds. Height limits are more important than weight. Should be faulted to the degree of variance from the standard**

COAT:

The breed's profuse double coat is very soft. The hair on the forehead may form a curtain in front of the eyes, depending on the texture and length. For safety reasons, this hair may be held away from the face by unadorned rubber bands. In conformation events, judges can require the removal of bands that impede evaluation of the dog.

The long adult coat, which may take two or four years to develop fully, must not touch the ground. The tail is covered with a long, silky plume that blends into the body coat when resting. The coat tends to form narrow sections, or "locks", which show the unique "lacey" or ric-rac braid effect of hair sectioned and braided when wet. This distinctive wave-style has a wide range of expression, from "quite relaxed" (but not very straight), to a very "tight", which can be corded. The correct "lacey" effect is most evident on the ears, legs, rump and tail, but if straightened by grooming will take hours to return unless wetted. **(The degree of "tightness" in a lacey coat is not to be considered until definitive historical research verifies what was correct, but straight coats are clearly incorrect.)**

GROOMING:

None of the hair is to be scissored, except: for neatening around the edge of the feet. The tiniest possible trimming is permitted for good hygiene at the inner corner of the eyes, at the vent, and as needed on the belly. The hair between the foot pads must be trimmed to allow safe movement. The hair is not to be parted along the spine. The hair on the forehead may form a curtain in front of the eyes, depending on its texture and length. For safety reasons, this hair may be held away from the face by unadorned rubber bands. In Conformation events, Judges can require removal of bands that impede evaluation of the dog. A small braid starting above each eye and hanging down to the side is a permitted ring alternative. Scissored coats are not preferred except in the case of breeding or kennel dogs who may have their hair shortened and neatened. **Disqualifications: A coarse or wiry coat texture. In adults, the complete absence of guard hairs or undercoat**

COLOR & MARKINGS:

All colors are acceptable; singly or in any combination. In fact, great diversity of coloring is this breed's heritage. Many colors lighten or darken with age or whelping; residual dark tipping may remain. All colors develop a matte appearance. **All pigment on eye rims, nose and lips must be dark and fairly complete.** Except for the true chocolate-coated dogs, which have dark brown/liver colored pigment, all other coat colors require black pigment. **Disqualification: Albinism.**

HEAD:

Balanced wedge shaped of moderate size, slightly broad, but always refined looking.

Skull: Slightly rounded, slightly broad intermediate type with a moderate stop.

Eyes: Rather large, oval-shaped, deep set and dark; fully pigmented eye rims. **Disqualification: Complete absence of black (or chocolate on a chocolate dog) pigmentation on eyerims.**

Ears: Set slightly raised on skull; dropped leathers of moderate size, forming a gentle fold.

Muzzle: Balanced above and below the stop; tapering, with flat cheeks; length of muzzle is equal to the distance from stop to the occiput; clean, tight, fully pigmented lips, except for the two small areas on the lower slip normally lightened by abrasion from the upper canine teeth.

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Nose: Dark and fully pigmented. **Complete absence of dark pigmentation is a serious fault.**

Teeth & bite: Scissors bite with normal jaw formation; preference given to a healthy, clean mouth with reasonably uncrowded, untwisted, strong white teeth. *Fault*: Level bite. **Disqualifications: Overshot or undershot bite; wry mouth; severely crowded or twisted teeth.**

NECK:

Sturdy, of moderate length, well set into the shoulder region.

BODY:

The body, from the prosternum of the forechest to the point of the rump, is about two-thirds longer than the height at the withers. *Fault*: Square appearance

Topline: Straight, rising gradually to the rear.

Chest: Well-sprung ribs, deep and carried well back.

Loin: Strong.

Croup: Well dropped.

FOREQUARTERS:

Relatively short forelegs, light boned, but not fragile, providing a straight column of support when viewed from the front, moderately angulated and with good reach; length of leg from foot to elbow is no longer than distance from elbow to withers, and, when standing naturally, the elbow is positioned at the lower edge of the rib cage; dewclaws should be removed.

HINDQUARTERS:

Back legs provide a straight column of support when viewed from the rear, are moderately angulated, normally flexible and deliver strong drive. **Dewclaws must be removed.**

Feet: Small, compact, well cushioned, with toes a little elongated; rear feet are smaller than front pair; nails should be kept reasonably short.

Tail: Set smoothly on body in a moderate position, and carried over the back. **Serious faults: Straight or dropped tail.**

MOVEMENT:

Gait is a lively, springy trot. The Havanese loves fast sprints in a rotary gallop, even using a half-bound to gain a burst of speed; yet they enjoy long, easy walks; excellent broad and high jumpers; the dog single tracks as speed increases. **Faults: Hackney gait in front; padding; moving too close behind. Serious fault: Tail not carried over the back when gaing.**

TEMPERAMENT:

Quiet and gentle disposition, but enjoying a rowdy play session; affectionate and alert; intelligent, easy to train.

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; Albinism

Overshot bite or undershot bite

Wry mouth

Severely crowded or twisted teeth

Coarse or wiry coat texture

In adults, complete absence of guard hairs or undercoat

Complete absence of dark pigment on eye rims, nose, or lips of dogs over 12 weeks of age

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