

KEESHOND

GROUP: Non-sporting

SIZE:

Measured at the top of the withers 16-19 inches, with ideal male height of 18 inches and ideal female height of 17 inches; however, correct size is very important, but it should not outweigh that of type. Weight should be proportion to height

COAT:

Double-coated; long, straight, harsh overcoat that stands out well from the thick, downy undercoat covers the body and must never part down the back; entire head, including muzzle, skull, and ears, is covered with a smooth, soft, short hair; ear texture is velvety; neck mane, more profuse in the male, sweeps from under the jaw and covers the whole of front part of shoulders and chest as well as top part of shoulders; smooth and short leg hair, except for feathering on front legs and "trousers" on hind legs; profuse feathering on hind legs down to hocks, but not below; tail hair forms a rich plume. The Keeshond should be shown in a natural state with trimming permissible only on feet, pasterns, hocks and whiskers. Any additional trimming is to be severely penalized.

Faults: Silky, wavy, curly coat; a part down the back.

COLOR & MARKINGS:

Dramatically marked with a mixture of gray, black, and cream, varying from light to dark; outer hair coat is black tipped, producing the characteristic "wolf gray" shadings that must be present to some degree; puppies are less intensely marked; pale gray or cream undercoat, never tawny; dark muzzle with very dark ears (almost black); "spectacles" formed by a combination of markings and shadings in the orbital area including a delicate, dark line slanting from the outer corner of each eye toward the lower corner of each ear coupled with expressive eyebrows;; mane and "trousers" lighter in color than the body; well defined light gray shoulder line markings; cream colored legs and feet.

Faults: Pronounced white markings on legs and feet; black markings more than halfway down foreleg, except for penciling; white foot or feet. Very serious faults: Black, white, or any solid color; any deviation from stated color; lack of dark lines which form the "spectacles."

HEAD:

Well proportioned to body; wedge shaped when viewed from above; a definite stop is evident when viewed from side. **Faults: Apple-head, absence of stop.**

Eyes: Medium size, almond-shaped, dark brown, set obliquely neither too wide apart nor too close together; black eye rims. **Faults: Round eyes; protruding eyes; light eye color.**

Ears: Small, triangular, erect, set high on head; size proportionate to head with length approximating the distance from the outer corner of the eye to the nearest edge of the ear. **Fault: Ears not carried erect when at attention.**

Muzzle: Medium length and well proportioned to skull, neither coarse nor snipey; black, closely meeting lips are neither coarse, thick, nor sagging; no wrinkle at corner of mouth.

Nose: Black. **Fault: Any other color or shading.**

Bite: Scissors bite. **Faults: Misaligned teeth; undershot; overshot; wry mouth.**

NECK:

Moderately long, well-shaped neck, well-set on shoulders.

BODY:

Square, compact, short in loin, belly moderately tucked up; Topline is short with a straight back sloping slightly downward toward the hindquarters. Chest should be deep and strong, well-ribbed and well-rounded.

FOREQUARTERS:

Slight to moderate shoulder to upper arm angulation; forelegs are straight as seen from any angle; strong, slightly sloping pasterns; legs are of good bone in proportion to the overall dog. **Faults: Pronounced white markings; black markings more than halfway down foreleg except for penciling.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Slight to moderate angulation complementing the forequarters, creating balance and typical gait; well muscled with hocks perpendicular to the ground.

Feet: Compact, well rounded, cat-like, with arched toes and black nails. **Fault: White foot or feet.**

Tail: Set high, moderately long, well-feathered, tightly curled over back lying flat and close to the body; forms part of dog's silhouette and does not give the appearance of being an appendage; tip should be black; plume is very light in color when curled over the back.

MOVEMENT:

Slight to moderate reach and drive, with well-balanced movement; a distinctive, breed-unique gait of sharp and straight movement; should move cleanly, briskly, and boldly with tail kept curled over back.

TEMPERAMENT:

Energetic, free-spirited, alert, and affectionate; neither timid nor aggressive; outgoing and friendly with both people and 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:

Extreme viciousness or shyness.

Albinism.