**TIBETAN SPANIEL**
GROUP: Non-Sporting

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Tibetan Spaniel is a small, active, alert, highly intelligent dog. He should give a well-balanced appearance, being slightly longer in body than in height. Overall balance of the parts is the most important physical characteristic of the Tibetan Spaniel. The Tibetan Spaniel is to be presented in the show ring in a natural condition without neatening or trimming. For exhibition, the coat is to lie naturally, with no teasing, parting, or styling. Dogs that have such a long coat that there is no rectangle of daylight showing beneath, or so profuse that it obstructs the natural outline, are to be severely penalized. Whiskers are not to be trimmed. The hair growing between the pads, on the underside of the feet, may be trimmed for safety and cleanliness. *Fault*: **Un-balanced appearance; Coarseness of type.**

SIZE:

About 10 inches at withers. Body is slightly longer from the point of shoulder to the root of the tail than it is measured at withers. Ideal weight is from 9 to 15 pounds, but overall balance is the key.

COAT:

Double coat, silky in texture, smooth on face and front of legs, of moderate length on body, but lying rather flat. Nice feathering on the ears and back of forelegs. Buttocks and tail have plenty of longer hair. The neck is covered with a mane or "shawl" of longer hair, which is more readily apparent on males than on females.

COLOR:

All colors and combinations of colors are acceptable. *Disqualification:* **Albinism**

HEAD:

Small in proportion to body; carried proudly, giving an impression of quality. It is masculine in males, but not coarse. The stop is slight but defined. The medium length muzzle is blunt with cushioning and free from wrinkles. The skull should be slightly domed and of moderate width and length. There is some depth and width to the chin. *Faults:* **Very domed or flat wide skull; Accentuated stop; broad, flat muzzle; pointed, weak or wrinkled muzzle; down faced, without stop.**

Eyes: Dark brown; oval; bright and expressive; medium-sized; set fairly well apart but forward looking, giving an apelike expression. Eye rims are black. *Faults:* **Large, full eyes; light eyes; extremely mean expression.**

Ears: Medium size, pendant ears are set fairly high. They are well-feathered in the adults. A slight lift from the skull is acceptable, but they should not fly. **Large, heavy, low-set ears are not typical and should be penalized.**

Nose: Black is preferred. *Faults*: **Liver or putty colored pigmentation.**

Bite: A full complement of strong, white teeth meet in a slightly undershot bite, the upper incisors fitting neatly inside and touching the lower incisors. They are placed wide and evenly between the canines. A level mouth is acceptable, providing there is sufficient width and depth of chin to preserve the blunt appearance of the muzzle. **Teeth must not show when the mouth is closed. *Faults* Overshot mouth, protruding tongue**.

NECK:

Moderately short, strong, and well set on. Covered with the "shawl" of longer hair, more pronounced in dogs than in bitches.

BODY:

Well-ribbed with good depth. Slightly longer than tall. Topline level

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders are well placed.  Forelegs are moderately boned, slightly bowed but firm at the shoulder.  Dewclaws may be removed.  Hare shaped feet are small and neat.  *Faults:*  **Very bowed or loose front; Cat feet**

HINDQUARTERS:

Well made and strong.  Hind legs have well-developed stifles with moderate angulation.  Hocks are well let down and straight in the pastern when viewed from behind.  Feet as in front.  *Faults***:  Straight stifle; cow hocks**

Tail: Richly plumed and set high, carried in a gay curl over the back when moving.  There is no penalty for dropping the tail when standing.

MOVEMENT:

Quick moving, free, positive, and straight.

TEMPERAMENT:

Gay and assertive; highly intelligent; aloof with strangers.  *Fault:*  **Nervousness**


**Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.**