

CHOW CHOW

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

China. (Patronage: Great Britain).

UTILISATION

Guard dog, companion.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 205]

The ancestry of the Chow is attributed to China, where he was kept as a guard dog, and also used for hunting. The Chow has been known in China for upwards of 2,000 years and is related to Spitz dogs of the Nordic type, also containing something of the Mastiff. Because of China's 'closed door' policy to the rest of the world, Chows did not begin to appear in other countries until around 1800. He made his way to England sometime during the late 18th century and was not really noticed in Britain until the 1920s, with a number being shown at Crufts in 1925.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Active, compact, short-coupled, and essentially well-balanced, leonine in appearance; proud, with a dignified bearing; well-knit frame; tail carried well over back. Should always be able to move freely and must not have so much coat as to impede activity or cause distress in hot weather.

CHARACTERISTICS

Quiet dog, good guard, bluish-black tongue; its distinctive short-striding gait allows it to move freely, never lumbering and with excellent endurance.

TEMPERAMENT

Independent, loyal, yet aloof.

HEAD

Skull flat, broad; stop not pronounced, well filled out under eyes. Muzzle moderate in length, broad from eyes to end (not pointed at end like a fox). Nose large and wide in all cases, black, with exception of cream and near-white, in which case a lighter-coloured nose permissible, and in blues and fawns, a self-coloured nose (but black preferable in all cases).

Eyes:

Dark, oval-shaped, medium-sized, clean and free from entropion. In blues and fawns, lighter colours permissible in keeping with coat colour.

Ears:

Small, thick, slightly rounded at tip, carried stiffly and wide apart, but tilting well forward over eyes and slightly towards each other, giving peculiar characteristic scowling expression of the breed. Scowl never to be achieved by loose wrinkled skin of head.

Mouth:

Teeth strong and level, jaws strong, with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth

closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. A solid black mouth including the roof and flews, with a bluish-black tongue is ideal. However, some dilution may be evident in the gums of blues and fawns and this dilution may be more pronounced in creams and whites.

NECK

Strong, full, not short, set well on shoulders, and slightly arched. Of sufficient length to carry the head proudly above the topline.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders muscular and sloping. Elbows equidistant between withers and ground. Forelegs perfectly straight, with good bone.

BODY

Chest broad and deep. Ribs well-sprung but not barrelled. The distance from withers to elbow is equal to the distance from elbow to ground. Back short, level, and strong. Loins powerful.

HINDQUARTERS

In profile, the foot is directly under the hip joint. Well-developed first and second thigh, with only slight bend of stifle. Hocks well let down. From hocks downwards to appear straight, never flexing forward.

FEET

Small, round, cat-like, standing well up on toes.

TAIL

Set high, carried well over back.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Relatively short striding, hind feet not lifted high, appearing to skim the ground, resulting in pendulum-like action when seen in profile. Forelegs and hind legs moving parallel to each other and straight forward. Dogs should always be able to move freely and soundly without any sign of distress.

COAT

Either rough or smooth. Any artificial shortening of the coat that alters the natural outline or expression should be penalised, with the exception of feet, which may be tidied.

- **Rough:** profuse, dense, straight, and off-standing, but not excessive in length. Outer coat coarse, with soft, woolly undercoat. Especially thick round neck forming mane or ruff and with good culottes or breechings on back of thighs.
- **Smooth:** short, double coat, dense, straight, upstanding, not flat, plush-like in texture.

COLOUR

- Whole-coloured black, red, blue, fawn, cream, or white; frequently shaded, but not in patches or parti-coloured (under-part of tail and back of thighs frequently of a lighter colour).

* Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 48cm – 56cm (approx. 18½" – 22").

Females: 46cm – 51cm (approx. 18" – 20").

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 205: CHOW CHOW

FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and Primitive types.

Section 5.1. Asian Spitz and related breeds.
Without working trial.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADVANCED REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (ARC)

Before submitting any application the following requirements must have been fulfilled:

1. Must be on the Kennel Union Breed Register
2. Be positively identified by microchip
3. Be over twenty-four (24) months of age
4. Be a Kennel Union Breed (conformation) Champion
5. The registered name of the dog must contain an Affix (Kennel name)
6. The dog has been x-rayed for Hip Dysplasia aged twelve (12) months or older and been issued with an acceptable Certificate, incorporating its KUSA Registered name and number together with positive identification details, confirming it has hips graded A1 and A2 and B1
7. A certificate issued by a registered Veterinarian incorporating the KUSA Registered Name and number together with positive identification details confirming there is no luxation of the patella's or clinical signs thereof
8. A certificate issued by a registered Veterinarian, incorporating the KUSA Registered Name and number, together with positive identification details confirming that there are no signs of entropion or that any surgical procedure has been carried out on them.
9. In the case of male dogs a Certificate is issued by a registered Veterinarian, incorporating the KUSA Registered Name and number together with positive identification details confirming that it has both testicles fully descended into the scrotum. ,
FEDCO 12/99 - Amendment to ARC, Fedco Dec 2016 effective 01.04.17