

NEWFOUNDLAND

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

Canada. (Patronage: FCI)

UTILISATION

Sledge dog for heavy loads, water dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 50]

The breed originated on the island of Newfoundland from indigenous dogs and the big black bear dog introduced by the Vikings after the year 1100. With the advent of European fishermen, a variety of new breeds helped to shape and reinvigorate the breed, but the essential characteristics remained. When the colonisation of the island began in 1610, the Newfoundland Dog was already largely in possession of his proper morphology and natural behaviour. These features allowed him to withstand the rigours of the extreme climate and sea's adversity, while pulling heavy loads on land or serving as a water and lifeguard dog.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-balanced, compact, impresses with strength, great activity and effortless power. Large, double coated, deep bodied, muscular and strong with substantial bone throughout, but not giving heavy inactive appearance. Noble, majestic, and powerful.

CHARACTERISTICS

A multipurpose dog, at home on land and in water, the Newfoundland is capable of draught work and shows natural lifesaving abilities. He has evolved to withstand the rigours of extreme climate and the sea's adversity. Devoted companion.

TEMPERAMENT

Exceptionally gentle, docile nature.

HEAD AND SKULL

Head broad and relatively large, slightly arched crown, occipital bone well-developed. No decided stop. Muzzle broad throughout its length and rather square, clean cut, covered with short fine hair. Depth and length of muzzle approximately equal. Length from tip of nose to the stop slightly less than from stop to occiput. Forehead, muzzle and face free of wrinkle. Nostrils large, open, well-pigmented. Nose: Black in black, and in white and black dogs; brown in brown dogs.

Eyes:

Relatively small, almond shaped not showing haw, set rather wide apart. Eyelids must fit closely, free from obvious eye problems. Colour: dark brown in black, or in white and black dogs, lighter shades of brown which complement the coat colour permitted in brown dogs. Any other eye colour is undesirable.

Ears:

Triangular, relatively small, with rounded tips, covered with short hair. Set level with, or slightly above the brow, lying close to head.

Mouth:

Soft and well-covered by tight lips. Loose lips and heavy jowls undesirable. Scissor bite is preferred, i.e. upper teeth overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws, but pincer bite tolerated.

NECK

Strong, muscular well set onto shoulders, long enough to permit dignified head carriage. No excessive dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders muscular and well laid back. Elbows directly below the highest point of withers, fitting close to sides. Forelegs well muscled, substantially boned, perfectly straight and parallel. Distance from elbow to ground about half height at withers. Pasterns are strong and slightly sloping.

BODY

Length of body from point of shoulders to point of buttock is greater than height at withers. Body is compact. Topline level and firm. Back broad, strong and muscular. Loin well muscled. Croup broad and slightly sloping. Chest deep, fairly broad with brisket reaching at least to elbows. Ribs well sprung. Flank deep. Underline almost level and never tucked up. In bitches, body may be slightly longer.

HINDQUARTERS

Powerful, muscular, substantially boned. Upper thighs wide and muscular. Stifle well bent, but not giving a crouching appearance. Lower thighs strong and fairly long. Hocks well let down and well apart, parallel to each other; they turn neither in nor out. Viewed from rear, legs straight and parallel. Cow hocks highly undesirable.

FEET

Large, well rounded, tight and cat like. Webbing of toes is present. Splayed or turned out feet highly undesirable.

TAIL

Tail set in line of croup. Strong and broad at base, reaching to or slightly below hock. Fair thickness, well covered by hair. When standing the tail hangs downwards with slight curve at end; when moving carried slightly up, and when excited straight out with only a slight curve at end. Tails with a kink or curled over back highly undesirable.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free with characteristic slight roll of skin. Good reach and strong drive, giving impression of effortless power while retaining level top line. When in motion, slight toeing in at front is acceptable.

COAT

Double, flat and dense. Outer coat of coarse texture, and oily nature, water resistant. Slight wave permissible. Undercoat soft and dense. When brushed the wrong way the coat falls back into place naturally. Feathering present on all legs.

COLOUR

Only permitted colours are:

- **Black:** Dull jet black may be tinged with bronze. White markings acceptable on chest, toes and tip of tail.
- **Brown:** Chocolate or bronze. White markings acceptable on chest, toes and tip of tail.
- **Landseer:** (white and black): predominantly white with black markings. Head with or without white blaze. Black saddle, black rump extending to tail. Coat white with minimal ticking. Markings should be considered only when judging dogs of otherwise comparable quality and never at expense of type, structure and soundness.

* Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Average height at shoulder:

Males: 71cm (approx. 28").

Females: 66cm (approx. 26").

Average Weight:

Males: 64kg – 69kg.

Females: 50kg – 54.5kg

While size and weight are important it is essential that balance, symmetry, and substance is maintained.

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

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.

©Copyright Kennel Club, London 09/2007 – Reprinted with permission

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.



When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 50: NEWFOUNDLAND

FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schanuzer, Molossoid, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs.

Section Section 2.2.2. Molossian types: Mountain type
Without working trial.