

## WELSH CORGI (CARDIGAN)

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 has an effective date of 01/07/2026

### ORIGIN

Great Britain.

### UTILISATION

Herding and companion.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: *The Cardigan Welsh Corgi*]:

Pembroke Welsh and Cardigan Welsh corgis were both originally listed as one breed by The Kennel Club (UK) in 1925; the two varieties were officially recognised as distinct from one another by The Kennel Club by 1928, but were still categorised together under the title of "Welsh Corgis". In 1935, the two breeds were finally described as uniquely different and shown separately. One theory, regarding the breed's origin, is that both types of Corgi descended from a line of northern, Spitz-type dogs; a second theory is that they descended from the Teckel family of dogs, which is also where the Dachshund originated. The word "Corgi" is derived from the Welsh: "cor gi", which means 'dwarf dog'. The breed was formerly called "yard-long dog" (Welsh: "ci-llathed"). The name "Cardigan Welsh Corgi" name comes from their area of origin in Wales, Cardigan (Welsh "Ceredigion"), and ironically not from their coat markings often resembling a "cardigan" or "vest" worn by the dog.

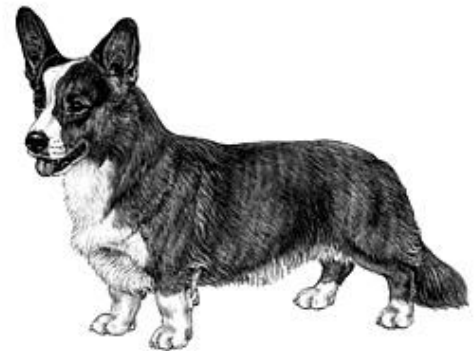


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Sturdy, tough, mobile, capable of endurance. Long in proportion to height, terminating in fox-like brush, set in line with body.

### IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Length of foreface in proportion to head 3 to 5.

### BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

Alert, active and intelligent, steady, not shy or aggressive.

### HEAD & SKULL

Foxy in shape and appearance.

#### Cranial Region:

**Skull:** Wide and flat between ears tapering towards eyes above which it is slightly domed.

**Stop:** Moderate.

#### Facial Region:

**Nose:** Black, projects slightly and is in no sense blunt.

**Muzzle:** Tapering moderately towards nose.

**Jaws/teeth:** Teeth strong, with scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Underjaw clean cut. Strong but without prominence.

#### Eyes:

Medium size, clear, giving kindly, alert, but watchful expression. Rather widely set with corners clearly defined. Preferably dark, or to blend with coat, rims dark. One or both eyes pale blue, blue or blue-flecked, permissible only in blue merles.

### Ears:

Erect, proportionately rather large to size of dog. Tips slightly rounded, moderately wide at base and set about 8 cm (3.5") apart. Carried so that tips are slightly wide of a straight line drawn from tip of nose through centre of eyes, and set well back so that they can be laid flat along neck.

### NECK

Muscular, well-developed, in proportion to dog's build, fitting into well-sloping shoulders.

### FOREQUARTERS

Fairly long and strong.

**Topline:** Level.

**Loins:** Waist clearly defined.

**Chest:** Moderately broad with prominent breast bone. Brisket deep. Well sprung ribs.

### TAIL

Like a fox's brush, set in line with the body and moderately long (to touch or nearly touch ground). Carried low when standing but may be lifted a little above body when moving, not curled over back.

### LIMBS

Strong bone. Legs short but body well clear of the ground.

#### Forequarters:

**Shoulder:** Well laid, angulated at approximately 90 degrees to upper arm, muscular.

**Elbow:** Close to sides.

**Forearm:** Slightly bowed to mould round the chest.

**Metacarpus (Pastern):** Showing flexibility without weakness.

#### Hindquarters:

**General appearance:** Strong, well angulated and aligned with muscular thighs and lower thighs; strong bone carried down to feet. Legs short.

**Metatarsus (Rear pasterns):** Vertical when standing, viewed from side and rear.

### FEET

Round, tight, rather large and well padded. Forefeet turned slightly outwards.

### GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free and active, elbows fitting close to sides, neither loose nor tied. Forelegs reaching well forward without too much lift, in unison with thrusting action of hind legs.

### COAT

#### *Hair:*

Short or medium, of hard texture. Weather-proof, with good undercoat. Preferably straight.

#### *Colour:*

Acceptable colours are blue merle, brindle, red, sable, tricolour with brindle points and tricolour with red points.

\* All of the above with or without the typical white markings on head, neck, chest, underparts, legs, feet, tail tip.

\* White should not predominate on body or head where it should never surround the eyes.

\* Nose and eye-rims must be black.

\* Liver and dilute colours highly undesirable.

### SIZE

#### Ideal height at withers:

**Males & Females:** 30cm (approx. 12")

#### Weight:

In proportion to size with overall balance the prime consideration.

### 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.

#### Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

*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.*



©Copyright FCI – 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.

**FCI Standard No 38: WELSH CORGI (CARDIGAN)**

**FCI Classification: Group 1 – Sheepdogs & Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)**

Section 2. Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)

Without Working Trial.