

LANCASHIRE HEELER

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 01/01/2025

ORIGIN

England.

UTILISATION

Herding & companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The origins of the Lancashire Heeler are not clearly defined, but it has been suggested that when cattle were herded from Wales by Corgis to slaughter in the Ormskirk area, the 'Welsh heeler' met the Manchester Terrier, with obvious results. Certainly, the breed is found in that area and has been bred there for many generations. The Heeler is an intelligent, eager-to-please fellow, with a love of people. The breed is trainable but does best under a firm, kindly owner. He is possessed of a prodigious amount of energy in his small frame.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, powerful, sturdily built, alert and energetic worker.

IMPORTANT PROPORTION

- Body approximately 2.5 cm (approx.0.9") longer than height at withers (measured from withers to set on of tail).

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Works cattle but has terrier instincts when rabbiting and ratting. Courageous, happy and affectionate to owner.

HEAD & SKULL

In proportion to body.

Cranial Region:

Skull and muzzle to be on parallel planes.

Skull: Flat and wide between ears, tapering towards eyes which are set wide apart.

Stop: Moderate, equidistant between nose and occiput.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black or brown, in accordance to coat colour.

Muzzle: Tapering towards the nose.

Lips: Firm. Jaws / Teeth: Scissor bite – jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and setsquare to the jaws. Under or overshot to be discouraged.

Eyes:

Almond-shaped, medium size, dark colour except in liver brown where they may be lighter to match coat colour.

Ears:

Showing alert lift, or erect. Drop ears showing no lift undesirable.

NECK

Moderate length, well set into shoulders.

BODY

Topline: Firm and level, never dipping at withers or falling at croup.

Loin: Short.

Chest: Well sprung ribbing, extending well back with close coupling.

TAIL

Set on high, left natural. Carried over back in a slight curve when alert, but not forming a complete ring.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Shoulder: Well laid.

Elbow: Firm against ribs.

Forearm: Amply boned.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Pasterns allow feet to turn slightly outwards, but not enough to cause weakness or affect freedom of movement.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Muscular. From rear should be parallel, when moving or standing.

Stifle (Knee): Well turned.

Hock joint : Well let down.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern) : Never bandy or cow hocked.

FEET

Small, firm and well padded.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Smart and brisk. Natural, free movement.

COAT

Hair:

Fine undercoat is covered throughout by weather resistant, short, thick, hard, flat topcoat. Topcoat is slightly longer on neck. Undercoat should not show through topcoat nor allow any longer hair at the mane to stand off. Long, or excessively wavy coat is highly undesirable.

Colour:

Black and tan or liver brown and tan with pigment to tone with coat colour, with rich tan spots on cheeks and often above eyes. Rich tan on muzzle and chest and from knees downwards, inside hind legs and under tail. A distinct black or liver mark (thumb mark), according to coat colour, immediately above front feet is desirable. Richness of tan may fade with age. White to be discouraged. A small white spot on fore-chest -although permissible is undesirable.

SIZE AND WEIGHT

Height at the withers:

Ideal: **Males** 30 cm (approx. 11.8").

Ideal: **females** 25 cm (approx. 9.8").

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.

Disqualifying faults:

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



FCI Standard No 360: LANCASHIRE HEELER

FCI Classification: Group 1 – Sheepdogs & Cattledogs (except Swiss Cattledogs)

Section 1. Sheepdogs

Without Working Trial.