

COLLIE (ROUGH)

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 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Sheepdog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 156:]

The Rough and the Smooth Collie are the same, with the exception of coat length. The breed is thought to have evolved from dogs brought originally to Scotland by the Romans, which then mated with native types. Purists may point to subtle differences which have appeared as individual breeders selected stock for future breeding, but the fact remains that the two breeds derived very recently from the same stock and, in truth, share lines that can be found in common to this day. The Rough Collie is the somewhat refined version of the original working Collie of the Scottish Shepherd, from which it has been selected over at least a hundred years. Many of the dogs can still perform satisfactorily at work, offered the chance. The basic message is that for all his beauty, the Collie is a worker.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Appears as dog of great beauty, standing with impassive dignity, with no part out of proportion to whole, giving the appearance of working capability.

CHARACTERISTICS

Physical structure on lines of strength and activity, free from cloddiness and with no trace of coarseness. Expression most important. In considering relative values it is obtained by perfect balance and combination of skull and foreface, size, shape, colour, and placement of eyes, correct position and carriage of ears.

TEMPERAMENT

Friendly disposition with no trace of nervousness or aggressiveness. A great companion dog, friendly, happy and active, good with children and other dogs.

HEAD & SKULL

Head properties of great importance, must be considered in proportion to size of dog. Viewed from front or side, head resembles a well-blunted clean wedge, being smooth in outline. Skull flat. Sides taper gradually and smoothly from ears to end of black nose, without prominent cheek bones or pinched muzzle. Viewed in profile, top of skull and top of muzzle lie in two parallel straight lines of equal length, divided by a slight, but perceptible stop or break. A mid-point between inside corner of eyes (which is centre of a correctly placed stop) is centre of balance in length of head. End of smooth, well-rounded muzzle blunt, never square. Underjaw strong, clean cut. Depth of skull from brow to underpart of jaw never excessive (deep through). Nose always black.

Eyes:

Very important feature giving sweet expression. Medium size (never very small) set somewhat obliquely, of almond-shape and dark brown colour, except in the case of blue merles when eyes are frequently (one or both, or part of one or both) blue or blue-flecked. Expression full of intelligence, with quick, alert look when listening.

Ears:

Small, not too close together on top of skull, nor too far apart. In repose carried thrown back, but on alert, brought forward and carried semi-erect, that is, with approximately two-thirds of ear standing erect, top third tipping forward naturally, below horizontal.

Mouth:

Teeth of good size. Jaws strong with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Muscular, powerful, of fair length, well-arched.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders sloping and well-angled. Forelegs straight and muscular, neither in nor out at elbows, with moderate amount of round bone.

BODY

Slightly long compared with height, back firm with a slight rise over loins; ribs well-sprung, chest deep, fairly broad behind shoulders.

HINDQUARTERS

Hind legs muscular at thighs, clean and sinewy below, with well-bent stifles. Hocks well let down and powerful.

FEET

Oval; soles well-padded. Toes arched and close together. Hind feet slightly less arched.

TAIL

Long with bone reaching at least to hock joint. Carried low when quiet, but with slight upward swirl at tip. May be carried gaily when excited, but never over back.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Distinctly characteristic in this breed. A sound dog is never out at the elbow, yet moves with front feet comparatively close together. Plaiting, crossing, or rolling are highly undesirable. Hind legs from hock joint to ground, when viewed from rear, to be parallel but not too close; when viewed from side, action is smooth. Hind legs powerful with plenty of drive. A reasonably long stride is desirable and should be light and appear effortless. Absolute soundness essential.

COAT

Fits outline of body, very dense. Outer coat straight and harsh to touch, undercoat soft, furry, and very close, almost hiding the skin; mane and frill very abundant, mask and face smooth, ears smooth at tips, but carrying more hair towards base, front legs well-feathered, hind legs above hocks profusely feathered, but smooth below hock joint. Hair on tail very profuse.

COLOUR

Three recognised colours: Sable and white, Tricolour and Blue Merle:

- **Sable:** any shade of light gold to rich mahogany or shaded sable. Light straw or cream coloured highly undesirable.
- **Tricolour:** predominantly black with rich tan markings about legs and head. A rusty tinge in topcoat highly undesirable.
- **Blue Merle:** predominantly clear, silvery blue, splashed and marbled with black. Rich tan markings preferable, but absence should not be penalised. Large black markings, slate colour, or rusty tinge either of top or undercoat are highly undesirable.

* All should carry typical white Collie markings to a greater or lesser degree.

* Following markings are favourable: white collar, full or part, white shirt, legs and feet, white tail tip.

* A blaze may be carried on muzzle or skull, or both.

* All white or predominantly white is highly undesirable.

Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 56cm – 61cm (approx. 22" – 24");

Females: 51cm – 56cm (approx. 20" – 22")

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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No 156: COLLIE (ROUGH)

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

Section 1. Sheepdogs

Without Working Trial.