

POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG

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

Poland.

UTILISATION

Easy to handle, he works like a sheepdog and guard dog. Moved to urban city life, he is a very good companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Polish Lowland Sheepdog]:

Known in its present form in Poland from at least the 13th century, the Polish Lowland Sheepdog, commonly referred to as the PON, is most likely descended from the Puli, Tibetan Terrier and other herding dogs. Legend has it that the PON was part-ancestor of the Bearded Collie. Almost driven to extinction in World War II, the PON was restored, mainly through the work of Dr. Danuta Hryniewicz and her dog, "Smok" ("Dragon"), the ancestor of all PONs in the world today, who sired the first ten litters of PONs in the 1950s. In fact, Dr. Hryniewicz considered Smok to be the epitome of the breed, with a perfect anatomical build and a wonderful temperament. Smok set the standard and type that was emulated by PON breeders for generations to come, and from which the first official standard for the PON was finally written, and accepted by the FCI in 1959. He is considered to be the 'father' of the modern Polish Lowland Sheepdog. His moderate build lends itself to working effortlessly all day long, running with ease to herd the sheep.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Polish Lowland sheepdog is a dog of medium size, compact, strong, muscular, with a thick long coat. His well-groomed coat gives an attractive and interesting appearance.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The proportions of height at withers to length of body is 9 : 10.
- The ratio length of muzzle to length of skull is 1 : 1 ; yet the muzzle can be a little shorter.

BEHAVIOUR & TEMPERAMENT

Of a lively but tempered disposition, vigilant, agile, intelligent, perceptive and gifted with a good memory. Resistant to unfavourable climatic conditions.

HEAD

Medium dimension, proportional, not too heavy. The thick fur on the forehead, the cheeks and the chin give the head a look of being heavier than it really is.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Not excessively broad, slightly rounded. Frontal furrow and occipital protuberance noticeable.

Stop: Well accentuated.

Facial Region:

Nose: As dark as possible in relation to the colour of the coat with large nostrils.

Muzzle: Strong, blunt. Nasal bridge straight.

Lips: Fitting well; their edges are of the same colour as the nose.

Jaw/Teeth: Strong jaws. Teeth strong, with scissor or pincer bite

Eyes:

Medium size, oval, not protruding, hazel colour, with lively and piercing look. The rims of the eyelids are dark.

Ears:

Hanging, set rather high, of medium size, heart-shaped, wide at base; the fore edge is close against the cheeks; very mobile.

NECK

Of medium length, strong, muscled, without dewlap, carried rather horizontally.

BODY

Out line: Rather rectangular than square. Withers: Well accentuated.

Back: Flat, well muscled.

Loin: Broad, well fused.

Croup: Short, slightly truncated.

Chest: Deep, of medium width; ribs quite well sprung, neither flat nor barrel-shaped.

Underline and Belly: Outlining an elegant curve towards the hindquarters part.

TAIL

Short tail or stumpy-tail, very shortly docked tail.

Undocked quite long and very hairy tail. At rest the tail is hanging; if the dog is alert, the tail is gaily curved over the back, never curled or lying on the back. Undocked tail of medium length, carried in different manners.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Seen in profile and from the front: Vertical and straight. Stance well balanced due to a strong skeleton (bone structure).

Shoulders: Broad, of medium length, oblique, clean cut, very muscular.

Pastern: Slightly slanting in relation to the forearm.

Hindquarters:

Seen from behind: Vertical, well angulated.

Thigh: Broad, well muscled.

Hock: Well developed.

FEET

Forefeet: Oval, tight toes, slightly arched pads really hard. Nails short, as dark as possible.

Hind feet: Compact, oval shape.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Easy and ground covering. Walk or trot smooth (without much vertical displacement). The dog often ambles when he walks slowly.

SKIN

Tight fitting, without any folds.

COAT

Hair:

The whole body covered with coarse hair, dense, thick, and profuse; soft undercoat. Straight or slightly wavy hair is acceptable. The hairs falling from the forehead cover the eyes in a characteristic manner.

Colour:

All colours and patches are acceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 45 - 50 cm (approx. 17.7" to 19.6").

Females: 42 - 47 cm (approx. 16.5" to 18.5").

The dog must retain the type of a working dog; consequently his size must not go down below the standard; he must neither be too weak nor delicate.

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.

*Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.

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.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

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FCI Standard No 251: POLSKI OWCZAREK NIZINNY (POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG)

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

Section 1. Sheepdogs

Without Working Trial.