

GORDON SETTER

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/01/2018

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Pointing.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Gordon Setter]:

The Rev. Pearce in *The Dog*, published in 1872, said, "he is a direct descendant of the Setting Spaniel – an improved Spaniel". Since then, it is concluded that the Setter was primarily derived from the old Land Spaniel, so-called to distinguish it from the Water Spaniel. It is, however, likely that outside crosses with Hounds or Pointers did influence its development. The modern Gordon Setter is a predominantly black dog with rich tan markings on the muzzle, legs, and chest. A little bigger and heavier than either the Irish or English Setter, he is nevertheless descended from the same genetic Setting Spaniels 'mixing pot'. The Kennel Club applied the name 'Gordon Setter' to the breed in 1924. Before that, they were known as Black and Tan Setters, and were found in many kennels including those of the Alexander Gordon, 4th Duke of Gordon (1743–1827).



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Stylish dog, with galloping lines, consistent with its build, which can be compared to a weight-carrying hunter. Symmetrical in conformation throughout.

CHARACTERISTICS

Intelligent, able, and dignified.

TEMPERAMENT

Bold, outgoing, of kindly, even disposition.

HEAD & SKULL

Head deep rather than broad, but broader than muzzle, showing brain room. Skull slightly rounded, broadest between ears. Clearly defined stop; length from occiput to stop slightly longer than from stop to nose. Below and above eyes lean; cheeks as narrow as leanness of head allows. Muzzle fairly long with almost parallel lines, neither pointed nor snipey. Flews not pendulous, clearly defined lips. Nose large, broad, nostrils open and black. Muzzle not quite as deep as its length.

Eyes:

Dark brown, bright. Neither deep nor prominent, set sufficiently under brows, showing keen, intelligent expression.

Ears:

Medium size, thin. Set low, lying close to head.

Mouth:

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

Long, lean, arched without throatiness.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder blades long, sloping well back, wide flat bone, close at withers, not loaded. Elbows well let down and close to body. Forelegs flat-boned, straight, strong; upright pasterns.

BODY

Moderate length. Level topline, deep brisket, ribs well-sprung. Back ribs deep. Loins wide, slightly arched. Chest not too broad.

HINDQUARTERS

From hip to hock long, broad, and muscular, hock to heel short, strong; stifles well-bent, straight from hock joint to ground. Pelvis tending to horizontal.

FEET

Oval, close-knit, well-arched toes, plenty of hair between. Well-padded toe, deep heel cushions.

TAIL

Straight or slightly scimitar, not reaching below hocks. Carried horizontally or below line of back. Thick at root, tapering to fine point. Feather or flag starting near root, long, straight, growing shorter to point.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Steady, free-moving, and true, with plenty of drive behind.

COAT

On head, front of legs, tips of ears short and fine, moderate length; flat and free from curl or wave on all other parts of body. Feather on upper portion of ears, long and silky; on backs of legs long, fine, flat and straight; fringes on belly may extend to chest and throat. As free as possible from curl or wave.

COLOUR

- Deep, shining, coal black, without rustiness, with tan markings of rich chestnut red. Tan should be lustrous. Black pencilling on toes and black streak under jaw permissible.

* **Tan markings:** Two clear spots over eyes not over 2cm in diameter. On sides of muzzle, tan not reaching above base of nose, resembling a stripe around clearly defined end of muzzle from one side to other. Also on throat, two large, clear spots on chest. On inside hind legs and inside thighs, showing down front of stifle and broadening out to outside of hind legs from hock to toes. On forelegs, up to elbows behind, and to knees or little above, in front. Around vent. Very small white spot on chest permissible. No other colour permissible.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 66cm (approx. 26").

Females: 62cm (approx. 24½").

Weight:

Males: 29.5kg.

Females: 25.5kg.

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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 6: GORDON SETTER

FCI Classification: Group 7 - Pointing Dogs.

Section 2.2 - British and Irish Pointers and Setters, Setter.
With working trial.