

IRISH RED AND WHITE 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 31/03/2016

ORIGIN

Ireland.

UTILISATION

Most acceptable companion and friend in the homes and the fields. The Irish Red and White Setter is bred primarily for the field. The standard as set out hereunder must be interpreted chiefly from this point of view and all Judges at bench shows must judge the exhibits chiefly from the working standpoint.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Irish Setter probably came to its own at the end of the 17th century. It is not well known outside of Ireland that there are two breeds of Irish Setters, but is fairly certain, that the Red and White Setter is the older of the two, and that judicious selective breeding evolved the solid red colour. When Irish Setters came to the show benches, just past the middle of the 19th century, there was a good deal of confusion about their proper colour. By the end of the 19th century, the Red Setter had virtually eclipsed the Red and White, which became so rare that they were thought to be extinct. During the 1920s, efforts were made to revive the breed. By 1944, the breed had re-established itself well enough to have a club of its own, and today it can be seen in healthy numbers at Irish shows and Field Trials. The present Club, The Irish Red and White Setter Field & Show Society, was formed in 1981 and, through its endeavours and direction, the breed is now well-established nationally and internationally. The Irish Red and White Setter competes successfully in Field Trials against the other pointing breeds and there are now quite a number of Field Trial Champions and Show Champions.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Strong, well-balanced, and proportioned without lumber; athletic rather than racy. The Irish Red and White Setter is bred primarily for the field and must be judged chiefly from the working standpoint.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Aristocratic, keen, and intelligent. Displays a kindly, friendly attitude, behind which should be discernible determination, courage, and high spirit. The Red and White Setter is a very friendly, dependable, and easily trained Gundog.

HEAD

Broad in proportion to the body.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Domed without showing occipital protuberance, as in the Irish Red Setter.

Stop: Good stop.

Facial Region:

Muzzle: Clean and square.

Jaws and teeth: Jaws of equal or nearly equal length. Regular teeth; scissor bite ideal; edge-to-edge bite acceptable.

Eyes:

Dark hazel or dark brown; oval, with slight prominence and without haw.

Ears:

Set level with the eyes and well back, lying close to the head.

NECK

Moderately long, very muscular, but not too thick, slightly arched, free from all tendency to throatiness.

BODY

Strong and muscular.

Back: To be strong and well-muscled.

Chest: Deep, with well-sprung ribs.

TAIL

Moderate length, not reaching below hock, strong at root. Tapering to fine point; no appearance of ropiness and carried level with or below the back.

LIMBS

Well-muscled and sinewy; strong bone.

Forequarters:

Shoulders: Well laid back.

Elbows: Free, turning neither in nor out.

Forelegs: Straight and sinewy, well-boned.

Pastern: Strong.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Wide and strong; hind legs from hip to hock long and muscular.

Stifle: Well-bent.

Hock: Well let down, turning neither in nor out. From hock to foot of moderate length and strong.

FEET

Close-knit with plenty of feathering between toes.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

When moving at the trot, long striding, very lively, graceful, and efficient. Head held high, hindquarters drive smoothly and with great power. Forelegs reach well ahead and remain low. Seen from the rear, forelegs and hind legs below the hock joint moving perpendicularly to the ground; no crossing or weaving of legs, front or back.

COAT

Long silky fine hair called "feathering" on the back of the fore- and hind legs and on the outer ear flap, also a reasonable amount on the flank extending on to the chest and throat forming a fringe. All feathering straight, flat, and free from curl but slight wave is permissible. The tail should be well-feathered. On all other parts of the body the hair should be short, flat, and free from curl.

COLOUR

- Base colour white with solid red patches (clear islands of red colour).

* Both colours should show the maximum of life and bloom.

* Flecking (but not roaning) permitted around the face and feet, up the foreleg as far as the elbow, and up the hind leg as far as the hock.

* Roaning, flecking, and mottling on any other part of the body is objectionable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 62cm – 66cm (approx. 24½" – 26")

Females: 57cm – 61cm (approx. 22½" – 24")

***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.

Severe faults:

- Any dog or bitch not conforming to the height standard.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Males not having two apparently normal testicles.
- Although flecking, but not roaning, is permitted around the face and feet, up the forelegs as far as the elbow, and up the hindleg as far as the hock, visible and excessive roaning, flecking and mottling on any other part of the body is an eliminating fault.

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FCI Standard No 330: IRISH RED & WHITE SETTER

FCI Classification: Group 7 – Pointing Dogs

Section 2.2 - British and Irish Pointers and Setters – Setter type
With Working Trial