

LANCASHIRE HEELER

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 01/02/2017

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Herding & companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 360:]

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 energetic worker.

CHARACTERISTICS

Works cattle but has Terrier instincts when rabbiting and ratting.

TEMPERAMENT

Courageous, happy, affectionate to owner.

HEAD & SKULL

In proportion to body. Skull flat and wide between ears, tapering towards eyes, which are set wide apart. Moderate stop equidistant between nose and occiput. Tapering continues towards nose. Skull and muzzle to be on parallel planes.

Eyes:

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

Ears:

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

Mouth:

Lips firm. Scissor bite – jaws strong with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Under or overshot to be discouraged.

NECK

Moderate length, well laid into shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Well-laid shoulder, elbows firm against ribs. Amply boned. Pasterns allow feet to turn slightly outwards, but not enough to cause weakness or affect freedom of movement.

BODY

Well-sprung ribbing, extending well back with close coupling. Firm, level topline, never dipping at withers or falling at croup. Approximately 2.5cm (1") longer than height at withers (measured from withers to set-on of tail).

HINDQUARTERS

Muscular, with well-turned stifles, hocks well let down. From rear should be parallel, when moving or standing. Never bandy or cow-hocked.

FEET

Small, firm, and well-padded.

TAIL

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

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Smart and brisk. Natural, free movement.

COAT

Fine undercoat is covered throughout by weather resistant, short, thick, hard, flat topcoat. Topcoat 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 highly undesirable.

COLOUR

- Black and tan or liver 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 forechest, although permissible, is undesirable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 30cm (approx. 12")

Females: 25cm (approx. 10")

***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 360: LANCASHIRE HEELER

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

Section 1. Sheepdogs

Without Working Trial.