

RETRIEVER (CHESAPEAKE BAY)

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

United States of America.

UTILISATION

Retriever.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from the AKC Website: The Chesapeake Bay Retriever]:

Chesapeake Bay is long and shallow, with a low capacity for storing heat; thus the water is icy cold. The bay is located along the 'Atlantic Flyway', a flight path taken by ducks and geese to their winter homes. Every year the bay hosts a third of all migratory waterfowl wintering on the East Coast. Old-time sportsmen that lined both shores of the Chesapeake Bay during the 19th century, hoping to exploit this duck hunter's paradise, built a Retriever well-suited to the bay's frigid waters. They set the basic breed type of the Chesapeake Bay Retriever based on Newfoundlands, Irish Water Spaniels, and Hounds of undetermined origin. The thick, oily, double coat of the 'Chessie' is both insulating and waterproof; it repels moisture much the way a duck's feathers do. His broad chest acts a plow against the ice floes, and powerful hindquarters and large webbed feet enable him to swim tirelessly against the slashing winds that whip across the bay.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-proportioned, active worker with a strong muscular appearance. A distinctive oily, double coat, which is very important. Capable of working in adverse conditions, including ice and snow.

CHARACTERISTICS

A courageous and keen worker, with a great love of water. Independent, affectionate, but not extrovert with strangers, he makes a good guardian of home and family.

TEMPERAMENT

Bright and happy disposition, alert and intelligent, and showing a willingness to work.

HEAD & SKULL

Broad and round with medium stop. Muzzle of similar length to skull, pointed but not sharp. Lips thin, not pendulous. Nostrils well-developed. Nose and lips of colour to harmonise with coat. There should be a noticeable difference between the sexes.

Eyes:

Medium size, very clear, of yellow or amber colour and set wide apart.

Ears:

Relatively small, well set up on head, hanging loosely and of medium leather; carried close.

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. Level bite tolerated.

NECK

Of medium length with a strong muscular appearance tapering from head to shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Well-muscled and well-boned. Shoulders powerful, well laid back, long in blade with upper arm of equal length, placing legs well under body with no restriction of movement. Forelegs straight when viewed from the front. Leg length equal to depth of body. Pasterns slightly sloping.

BODY

Of medium length, with well-sprung ribs, short-coupled and strong, but not cobby. Chest well-developed, deep and broad. Topline level or with hindquarters slightly higher than the withers. Back strong and neither swayed nor roached. Flanks showing some tuck-up.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong, well-muscled, and powerful, complementing the forequarters. Well-turned stifles, with rear pasterns of moderate length. Hocks turning neither in nor out.

FEET

Well-webbed hare feet, of good size, with toes well-rounded and close.

TAIL

Of medium length, straight or slightly curved. Medium heavy at the base. Carried level or slightly higher than topline, not curled over back.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Strong and powerful with no restriction of movement, which should be smooth, free, and effortless. As speed increases the feet tend to converge.

COAT

A distinctive feature. Coat should be thick and reasonably short, not over 4cm long, with harsh, oily outer coat and dense, fine, woolly undercoat covering whole body, having a tendency to wave on neck, shoulders, back, and loins. A straighter, thick coat is acceptable provided its water resistance is retained. Coat on face, ears, and legs short and straight. Moderate feathering on tail permissible. Oil in harsh coat and woolly undercoat of extreme value. The coat should resist water.

COLOUR

- Dead grass (straw to bracken), sedge (red-gold), any shade of brown.
- * White spots on chest, belly, toes, or the back of feet permissible – the smaller the spot the better.
- * Masking and brindling in coat pattern is acceptable but not desirable. Self-coloured dogs preferred.
- * Colour of coat must be given every consideration when judging but is of lesser importance compared to the quality and texture of the double coat.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 58cm – 66cm (approx. 23" – 26")

Females: 53cm – 61cm (approx. 21" – 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.*

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. 263: CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVER

FCI Classification: Group 8 – Retrievers, Flushing Dogs, Water Dogs

Section 1 - Retrievers

With working trial.