

GERMAN WIRE-HAIRED POINTING DOG

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 01/02/2021

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

According to his purpose as a versatile working Gundog, the German Wire-haired Pointer must possess all the dispositions asked for in the breed. He must be usable for all the work in the field, in the woods, and in water – before and after the shot.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Deutsch Drahthaar is a rough-coated pointing dog, whose initial breeding started at the end of the 19th century (Griffon Korthals), and one that has been systematically bred from the beginning of the 20th century based on the ideas of “Hegewald” (Sigismund Freiherr von Zedlitz and Neukirch) with the sealed aim of creating an assertive, efficient Wire-haired German Gundog. In accordance with the principle of “*by working ability to type*”, and with consequent regard to freedom of breeding, within a short time a Gundog has been developed from the best of the rough-coated types (Pudelpointer, Griffon Korthals, German Broken Coated Pointing Dog) and by using the German Short-haired Pointer, that excels through his useful weatherproof coat and his versatility in all fields of practical hunting. Due to these characteristics, the Deutsch Drahthaar, within a few decades, has developed to become the most popular and well-tried among the large Gundog breeds in Germany, as well as in many countries of the world.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A pointing dog of noble appearance, with harsh coat completely protecting the skin, with an attentive expression full of energy. The movement should be powerful, ground-covering, flowing, and harmonious.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The length of the body and the height at the withers should be as equal as possible.
- The length of the body may exceed the height at the withers by up to 3cm.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Firm, self-controlled, well-balanced, without shyness of game, neither sensitive when shots are fired nor shy or aggressive.

HEAD

In proportion to the size and the sex of the dog. Lines of head slightly diverging.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Flat, slightly rounded at the sides only, moderately broad. Pronounced superciliary ridges.

Stop: Clearly visibly pronounced.

Facial Region:

Nose: Strongly pigmented corresponding to the colour of the coat. Nostrils well-opened.

Muzzle: Long, broad, strong, deep. Slight roman nose.

Lips: Thick, close-fitting, not overhanging. Well-pigmented corresponding to the colour of the coat.

Jaws and teeth: Large teeth. Powerful jaws with a regular, complete scissor bite with the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws. 42 teeth according to the dentition formula.

Eyes:

As dark as possible, neither too deep-set nor protruding, with an alert, lively expression. Eye-rims well-pigmented and close-fitting.

Ears:

Of medium size, set-on high and wide, not twisted.

NECK

Of medium length, strongly muscled; slightly arched nape-line, clean-cut throat, no dewlap.

BODY

Topline: Slightly sloping from the withers in a straight line.

Withers: Pronounced.

Back: Firm, well-muscled.

Loin: Short, broad, muscular loin region.

Croup: Long and broad, slightly sloping and well-muscled. Broad pelvis.

Chest: Broad and deep with well-developed forechest, the breastbone reaching as far back as possible. Ribs well-arched.

Underline and belly: Slight tuck-up towards the rear in an elegant curve.

TAIL

Following the topline, carried as horizontally as possible or slightly raised, but not steep. Neither too thick nor too thin.

[ed. Previously customarily] docked for hunting purposes. (In countries where docking is prohibited by law, the tail may be left natural. It should reach to the hocks and should be carried straight or slightly sabre-like.)

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Viewed from the front, straight and parallel, viewed from the side, legs set well under the body. The distance from the elbows to the ground to be approximately equal to the distance from the elbows to the withers.

Shoulders: Well-laid back, sloping shoulder blade, strongly muscled. Forming a good angle together with the upper arm.

Upper arm: As long as possible, with well-developed, lean muscles.

Elbows: Close to the body, neither turning in nor out. Good angulation between upper arm and forearm.

Forearm: Lean, set perpendicular, strong bones.

Carpus (wrist): Strong

Metacarpus (pastern): Slightly sloping.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Viewed from behind, straight and parallel. Well-angulated at the stifles and the hocks. Strong bones.

Upper thigh: Long, broad, muscular, with good angulation between pelvis and upper thigh.

Stifle: Strong, with good angulation between upper and lower thigh.

Lower thigh: Long, muscular and sinewy.

Hocks: Short, perpendicular to the ground.

FEET

Oval-round with well-knit toes and sufficiently thick, tough, robust, and well-pigmented pads. They are set parallel in stance, and when moving, turn neither in nor out.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Covering lots of ground, with good reach and drive, parallel coming and going; with upstanding posture.

SKIN

Tight, close-fitting, without folds.

COAT

Wire-haired, harsh, lying flat, and dense. Outer coat approximately 2cm – 4cm long; dense, water-resistant undercoat. The outlines of the body may not be obscured by longer coat. Through its harshness and density, it should provide as good a protection against weather and injuries as possible. The lower parts of the legs, as well as the lower region of the brisket and the belly, should be shorter but densely coated, the head and the ears to be shorter and, at the same time, denser, but never softer-coated. Pronounced eyebrows and a well-developed, not too long, beard as harsh as possible emphasises the determined expression.

COLOUR

- Brown roan with or without patches.
- Black roan, with or without patches.
- Brown with or without white chest patch.
- Light roan.

* No other colour is permitted.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 61cm – 68cm (approx. 24" – 26½")

Females: 57cm – 64cm (approx. 22½" – 25")

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:

- Short, or narrow, or pointed muzzle.
- Weak dentition.
- Very loose eyelids.
- Swayback or roach back.
- Heavily overbuilt.
- Elbows heavily turning in or out.
- Bandy-legged, cow-hocked, or close-behind, in stance as well as in movement.
- Pacing permanently when stepping or trotting; stiff or mincing gait.
- Sparse coat, lacking undercoat.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Over- or undershot bite, wry mouth, missing teeth other than P1, the canines being set too narrow.
- Entropion, ectropion, differently coloured eyes.
- Innate kinky or stumpy tail.
- Faulty pigment.

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FCI Standard No 98: DEUTSCH DRAHTHAAR (GERMAN WIRE-HAIRED POINTER)

FCI Classification: Group 7 - Pointing Dogs

Section 1.1. Continental Pointing Dogs – Braque type
With Working Trial