

CURLY COATED RETRIEVER

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 01/01/2025

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Retriever.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from AKC website: the Curly-Coated Retriever]:

The ancestry of the "Curly" is unknown, but it is one of the oldest Retriever breeds, likely having being the first breed used for serious retrieving work. Originally developed in England, and being a long-time favourite of English gamekeepers, he was popular on the large estates. British artwork from 300 years ago features this distinctive dog, and written accounts go back to 1803. He has been purebred since the early 1900s, so records of his lineage don't exist before this. However, it is likely that some of the breeds in his background include the Poodle, the Newfoundland, and the Irish Water Spaniel, as well as some extinct breeds. The popularity of the Curly-Coated Retriever has waxed and waned over the years and, during both world wars, the population dramatically declined. Today, the breed is limited in numbers, with its popularity having been overthrown by the Labrador Retriever and Golden Retriever.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Strong, upstanding dog with a degree of elegance. Distinctive coat.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Slightly longer in body, measured from point of shoulder to point of buttock, than in height from withers.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Intelligent, steady, reliable. Bold, friendly, self confident and independent. May seem aloof.

HEAD

Wedge-shaped in both side and front profiles. In proportion to body size.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Foreface and skull equal length. Planes of skull and muzzle parallel.

Stop: Slight.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black in blacks and brown in livers.

Jaws/Teeth: Jaws strong, with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Eyes:

Large, not prominent, oval-shaped and obliquely set. Dark brown in blacks; in livers brown tone to blend with coat colour.

Ears:

Rather small, set slightly above level of eye; lying close to head, covered with small curls.

NECK

Strong and slightly arched, of medium length, free from throatiness and flowing freely into well laid-back shoulders.

BODY

Topline: Strong and level.

Loin: Short, deep and powerful.

Chest: Deep with well sprung ribs, oval in cross section with brisket reaching elbow. Forechest visible. Ribs extend well back.

Underline and belly: Slight tuck up.

TAIL

Flows from topline. Should reach approximately to hock, carried straight on a level with topline when moving.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs straight, set well under body.

Shoulder: Well laid back and muscular.

Upper arm: Upper arm and shoulder blade approximately equal in length.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Strong.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Strong, muscular.

Stifle: Moderate turn of stifle.

Hock: Well let down and well bent.

FEET

Round, tight with well-arched toes

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Effortless, powerful gait with good extension and drive. Parallel movement. At speed, legs tend to converge.

COAT

Hair:

Body coat a thick mass of small tight, crisp curls lying close to skin, extending from occiput to tip of tail; without undercoat or bare patches. Elsewhere smooth hair.

Colour:

Black or liver.

SIZE

Ideal height at withers:

Dogs: 69 cm (approx. 27")

Bitches: 64 cm (approx. 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.*

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 its ability to perform its traditional work.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities.

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FCI Standard No. 110: CURLY-COATED RETRIEVER

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

Section 1 - Retrievers

With working trial.