

LHASA APSO

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 have an effective date of 01/01/2018

ORIGIN

Tibet (China). (Patronage: Great Britain)

UTILISATION

Toy dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 227]

The Lhasa Apso comes from Tibet, where many live at high altitudes and the climate can be severe. He has to be a hardy little dog to withstand these conditions, and this has had a great influence on his development. His long, hard coat, with its dense undercoat, acts as insulation during winter, and the fall of hair over his eyes protects them from the wind, dust, and glare. The Apso is one of several Eastern breeds to come to the West.

The first Apsos arrived in Britain in the early 1920s and were being shown in London soon after. When they were first seen in Britain they were confused with other shaggy Oriental dogs and all were labelled 'Lhasa Terriers'. Later a distinction was made, especially between the Apso and the Tibetan Terrier, which is thought to have been behind the early Apsos. A breed club for the Lhasa Apso was established in Britain in 1933.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-balanced, sturdy, heavily coated, without excess.

CHARACTERISTICS

Gay and assertive.

TEMPERAMENT

Alert, steady, but somewhat aloof with strangers.

HEAD

Head furnishings with fall over eyes, but not affecting the dog's ability to see; good whiskers and beard. Skull moderately narrow, falling away behind eyes, not quite flat, but not domed or apple-headed. Straight foreface with medium stop. Nose black. Muzzle about 4cm (approx. 1½"), but not square; length from tip of nose roughly one-third total length from nose to back of skull.

Eyes:

Dark. Medium size, frontally placed, oval, neither large nor full, nor small and sunk. No white showing at base or top.

Ears:

Pendant, heavily feathered.

Mouth:

Upper incisors close, just inside lower i.e. reverse scissor bite. Incisors in a broad and as straight a line as possible. Full dentition desirable.

NECK

Strong and well-arched.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well laid back. Forelegs straight, heavily furnished with hair.

BODY

Length from point of shoulders to point of buttocks is greater than height at withers. Ribs extending well-back. Level topline. Strong loin. Balanced and compact.

HINDQUARTERS

Well-developed with good muscle. Good angulation. Heavily furnished with hair. Hocks when viewed from behind parallel and not too close together.

FEET

Round, cat-like with firm pads. Well-feathered.

TAIL

High-set, carried well over back but not like a pot-hook. Often a kink at end. Well-feathered.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free and jaunty.

COAT

Top coat long, heavy, straight, hard, neither woolly nor silky. Moderate undercoat. Coat never impeding action.

COLOUR

Golden, sandy, honey, dark grizzle, slate, smoke, parti-colour, black, white, or brown. All equally acceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 25cm (approx. 10").

Females: slightly smaller.

***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. 227: LHASA APSO

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 5.1. Tibetan breeds

Without working trial.