

## NEWFOUNDLAND

*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 have an effective date of 01/01/2018

### ORIGIN

Canada. (Patronage: FCI)

### UTILISATION

Sledge dog for heavy loads, water dog.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

*[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 50]*

The breed originated on the island of Newfoundland from indigenous dogs and the big black bear dog introduced by the Vikings after the year 1100. With the advent of European fishermen, a variety of new breeds helped to shape and reinvigorate the breed, but the essential characteristics remained. When the colonisation of the island began in 1610, the Newfoundland Dog was already largely in possession of his proper morphology and natural behaviour. These features allowed him to withstand the rigours of the extreme climate and sea's adversity, while pulling heavy loads on land or serving as a water and lifeguard dog.



*Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library*

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-balanced; impresses with strength and great activity. Substantial bone throughout, but not giving heavy inactive appearance. Noble, majestic, and powerful.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Large draught and water dog, with natural life-saving instinct; a devoted companion.

### TEMPERAMENT

Exceptionally gentle, docile nature.

### HEAD

Head broad and relatively large, occipital bone well-developed, no decided stop, muzzle short, clean cut, and rather square, covered with short fine hair.

#### Eyes:

Relatively small, dark brown, not showing haw, set rather wide apart. Free from obvious eye problems.

#### Ears:

Small, set well back, square with skull, lying close to head, covered with short hair without fringe.

#### Mouth:

Soft and well-covered by lips. Scissor bite preferred, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws, but pincer bite tolerated.

### NECK

Strong, set well onto shoulders.

### FOREQUARTERS

Legs perfectly straight, well-muscled, elbows fitting close to sides, well let down.

### BODY

Well-ribbed, back broad, with level topline, strong muscular loins. Chest deep, fairly broad.

## HINDQUARTERS

Very well built and strong. Slackness of loins and cow-hocks most undesirable.

## FEET

Large, webbed, and well-shaped. Splayed or turned-out feet most undesirable.

## TAIL

Moderate length, reaching a little below hock. Fair thickness, well-covered with hair, but not forming a flag. When standing, hangs downwards with slight curve at end; when moving, carried slightly up; and when excited, straight out with only a slight curve at end. Tails with a kink or curled over back are most undesirable.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, slightly rolling gait. When in motion, slight toeing-in at front acceptable.

## COAT

Double, flat, and dense, of coarse texture, and oily nature, water-resistant. When brushed wrong way it falls back into place naturally. Forelegs well-feathered. Body well-covered but chest hair not forming a frill. Hind legs slightly feathered.

## COLOUR

Only permitted colours are:

- **Black:** Dull jet black may be tinged with bronze. Splash of white on chest, toes, and tip of tail acceptable.
- **Brown:** Can be chocolate or bronze. In all other respects, follow black except for colour. Splash of white on chest, toes, and tip of tail acceptable.
- **Landseer:** White with black markings only. For preference black head with narrow blaze, evenly marked saddle, black rump extending to tail. Beauty in markings to be taken greatly into consideration. Ticking undesirable.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

**Males:** 71cm (approx. 28").

**Females:** 66cm (approx. 26").

### Weight:

**Males:** 64kg – 69kg.

**Females:** 50kg – 54.5kg

While size and weight are important it is essential that symmetry is maintained.

## 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. 50: NEWFOUNDLAND**

**FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schanuzer, Molossoid, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs.**

Section Section 2.2.2. Molossian types: Mountain type  
Without working trial.