

## APPENZELL CATTLE DOG

### [APPENZELLER]

*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 01/02/2017

#### ORIGIN

Switzerland.

#### UTILISATION

Driving, watchdog, guard-, house- and farm-dog. Today also a versatile working and family dog.

#### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

In 1853, an Appenzell Cattle Dog was first described in the book "Tierleben der Alpenwelt" (Animal Life in the Alps) as a "high-pitched barking, short-haired, medium size, multi-colour cattle dog of a quite even spitz type, which can be found in certain regions and is used partly to guard the homestead, partly to herd cattle." In 1895, the great promotor of the breed, head-forester, Max Siber, asked the SKG (Schweizerische Kynologische Gesellschaft, Swiss Cynological Society) to do something for the breed.

In 1898 the executive authorities of the Canton St. Gallen put the sum of SFr.400 at disposal to support the breeding of the Appenzell Cattle Dog. The SKG then formed a special commission; the characteristic traits of the breed were fixed; and at the fair at Altstätten, 9 dogs and 7 bitches appeared; they received prizes between SFr.5 to SFr.10. As a result, eight Appenzell Cattle Dogs were shown at the first international dog show in Winterthur and entered in the newly introduced, separate class for "Cattle Dogs". At the instigation of Prof. Dr. Albert Heim, who committed himself very much to the Swiss Cattle Dogs, and with them, also to the Appenzell Cattle Dog, the "Appenzeller Sennenhund Club" was founded in 1906. Its purpose was to preserve and promote the breed in its natural state. With the compulsory registration of puppies in the "Appenzeller Dog Stud Book", the aim of selective pure-breeding was begun. In 1914, Prof. Heim set up the first valid breed standard. The original breeding territory was the Appenzell region. Today the breed is distributed all over Switzerland and beyond its borders, and bred in many European countries. The notion "Appenzeller Sennenhund" is clearly defined nowadays and the breed, as such, quite distinct from the other Swiss Cattle Dogs. Although the Appenzell Cattle Dog has found many admirers, the breeding stock is still very small. It is only by responsible and careful breeding that it will be possible to establish and consolidate its natural and outstanding hereditary qualities.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

#### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Tri-colour, medium-sized, almost squarely built dog, balanced in all parts. Muscular, very agile and deft, with a cheeky expression.

#### IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Height at withers to length of body is 9 : 10. Rather compact than long.
- Length of muzzle to length of skull is 4 : 5.

#### BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Lively, high-spirited, self-assured, reliable, and fearless. Slightly suspicious of strangers. A watchdog that cannot be bribed; capable of learning.

#### HEAD

Balanced size in relation to body. Slightly wedge-shaped.

### Cranial Region:

**Skull:** Skull fairly flat, broadest between the ears, tapering evenly towards the muzzle. Occiput barely pronounced. Frontal furrow moderately developed.

**Stop:** Slightly marked.

### Facial Region:

**Nose:** In black dogs, black; in havana-brown dogs, brown (as dark as possible).

**Muzzle:** Medium strength, tapering evenly, but not snipey, with strong lower jaw. Nasal bridge straight.

**Lips:** Clean and close-fitting, with black pigmentation in black dogs or with brown pigmentation (as dark as possible) in havana-brown dogs. Corner of the mouth not visible.

**Cheeks:** Barely pronounced.

**Jaws and teeth:** Strong, complete, and regular, scissor bite. Pincer bite tolerated. One missing PM1 or double PM1 (premolar 1) and missing M3 (molars) tolerated.

### Eyes:

Rather small, almond-shaped, not protruding. Set slightly obliquely towards the nose. Expression lively. Colour: in black dogs dark brown, brown; in havana-brown dogs lighter brown, but as dark as possible. Eyelids close-fitting. Eye-rims black respectively brown (as dark as possible) corresponding to the colour of the coat.

### Ears:

Set on fairly high and broad; in repose, hanging down flat and close to cheeks. Triangular shape with tips slightly rounded off. In alertness, raised at set-on and turned forward so that the head and ears, seen from above, form a marked triangle.

## NECK

Rather short, strong, and clean.

## BODY

Compact, strong.

**Back:** Moderately long, firm, and straight.

**Loin:** Short and well-muscled.

**Croup:** Relatively short, running in flat continuation of the topline.

**Chest:** Broad, deep, reaching to the elbows, with definite forechest. Sternum reaching sufficiently far back. Ribcage round-oval in diameter.

**Underline and belly:** Only slight tuck-up.

## TAIL

Set on high, strong, of medium length, densely coated. Hair slightly longer on underside. In movement, carried tightly curled over the croup, carried sideways, or in centre. In repose, pendant tail in various shapes tolerated.

## LIMBS

Strong and dry bone.

### Forequarters:

**General appearance:** Well-muscled; seen from front, forelegs straight and parallel; standing not too close.

**Shoulder:** Shoulder blade long and sloping.

**Upper arm:** Same length or only slightly shorter than shoulder blade. Angle with shoulder blade not too blunt.

**Elbow:** Close-fitting.

**Forearm:** Straight, lean.

**Metacarpus (pastern):** Seen from front, in straight continuation of the forearm. Seen from the side, set at a very light angle.

### Hindquarters:

**General appearance:** Well-muscled. Seen from rear, hind legs straight and parallel, standing not too close. The typical angulation results in relatively "steep" hindquarters.

**Upper thigh:** Fairly long, forming a relatively small angle to the hip bone (coxo-femoral joint).

**Lower thigh:** Equally long or only slightly shorter than the upper thigh. Lean and well-muscled.

**Hock joint:** Set relatively high.

**Metatarsus (rear pastern):** Set vertical and parallel, slightly longer than the front pastern, turning neither in nor out. Dewclaws must be removed, except in those countries where their removal is prohibited by law.

## FEET

Short, arched, tight toes; solid pads.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Good rear drive, well-reaching stride in front. Seen from either front or rear, limbs move in a straight line when trotting.

## COAT

Hair double coat (Stockhaar): Firm and fitting.

- Topcoat thick and shiny.
- Undercoat thick, black, brown or grey. It is undesirable for the undercoat to be visible through the topcoat.

Slightly wavy coat only on withers and back just tolerated, but not desirable.

## COLOUR

- Basic colour black or havana-brown with reddish-brown and white markings as symmetrical as possible.
  - **Reddish-brown markings:**
    - Small reddish-brown spots over eyes.
    - Reddish-brown markings on cheeks, chest (left and right in the region of the shoulder joint) and on legs. The reddish-brown on the latter must invariably be located between the black, havana-brown, and the white.
  - **White markings:**
    - Distinct white blaze that runs from the skull, without break, over the bridge of the nose and can reach totally or partially round the muzzle.
    - White from chin, covering throat without break at chest.
    - White on all four feet.
    - White on tip of tail.
    - White spot on nape of neck or half collar tolerated.
    - Thin white ring all around neck tolerated but not desirable.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

**Males:** 52cm – 56cm (approx. 20½" – 22").

**Females:** 50cm – 54cm (approx. 19½" – 21").

Tolerance of plus or minus 2cm.

***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.

- Lack of typical sex-specific appearance.
- Too long or unbalanced in body.
- Bone fine or too coarse
- Insufficient musculature.
- Very heavy or very light in head.
- Skull round.
- Stop too defined.
- Muzzle too long, too short, narrow, or pointed; nasal bridge not straight.
- Lips too developed.
- Absence of teeth other than 2 PM1 (premolars 1).
- Cheeks too prominent.
- Eyes round, protruding or light.
- Ears too small, too large, standing off; set on too high or too low.
- Sway-back, roach back.
- Croup over-built or falling away.
- Belly tucked up.
- Chest flat or barrel-shaped; lack of forechest; sternum too short.
- Loosely rolled tail, its tip reaching at least the base of the tail.
- Insufficient angulation of fore- and hindquarters.
- Out at elbow.
- Down on pastern.
- Cow-hocks.

- Feet longish-oval (hare-feet), splayed feet.
- Incorrect movement, e.g. short, stilted gait, close movement coming and going, crossing etc.
- Undercoat visible through topcoat.
- Faults in marking:
  - Black ticking on white.
  - Broken blaze.
  - Broad white collar around the whole neck.
  - Divided white on chest.
  - White reaching distinctly above pastern (“boots”).
  - Absence of white on feet and tip of tail.
  - Over- or undersize regarding tolerance.
  - Insecure behaviour, absence of liveliness, slight sharpness.

**Disqualifying faults:**

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Overshot or undershot mouth.
- Entropion, ectropion.
- Wall eye.
- Sickie tail (its tip not reaching the base of the tail), definitely pendent tail; kink tail.
- Other than double coat (Stockhaar).
- Other than tri-coloured coat.
- Other than black or havana-brown main colour.

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**FCI Standard No 46: APPENZELLER SENNENHUND (APPENZELL CATTLE DOG)**

**FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schnauzer, Molossoid type dogs, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs**

Section 3. Swiss Mountain and Cattle Dogs  
Without Working Trial