

HOVAWART

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

Germany.

UTILISATION

Working Dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Hovawart is a very old German working dog breed. The name's origin stems from Middle High German (an old form of German); Hova - "Hof" (= yard, farm) and Wart "Wächter" (= watchman). Since 1922, the breeding of this breed, by using dogs similar in type still found on farms, has been restored. Apart from this, in the early years of breeding, crosses with German Shepherd Dogs, Newfoundlands, Leonbergers and other breeds were admitted. Due to the strict measures taken in selecting the breeding stock, the original working type was attained again. In the country of origin very great importance is attached to the health of the Hovawart. The presence of hip dysplasia, particularly, has been reduced to a small percentage by selecting, for decades, breeding stock free from dysplasia. It is to be expected that all other Hovawart breed clubs will aim for this exemplary goal.

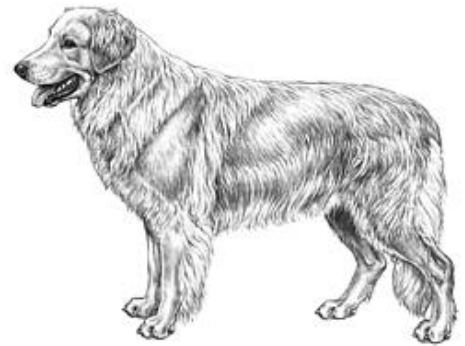


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Hovawart is a powerful, medium-sized, slightly elongated, long-haired working dog. Difference between sexes is clearly recognisable, especially in the shape of the head and build of body.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Length of body comprises at least 110% – 115% of height at withers.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Recognised working dog with versatile usage. Kind and even disposition. Has protective instinct, self-confidence, and ability to take stress; of medium temperament; combined with a very good nose. His balanced body proportions and special devotion to his family make him an outstanding companion, watchdog, guard, tracking, and search-and-rescue dog.

HEAD

The nasal bridge is straight and parallel to the skull. Muzzle and skull are of about the same length. The skin of the head fits tightly.

Cranial Region:

Skull: The powerful head has a broad, rounded forehead.

Stop: Well-visible.

Facial Region:

Nose: Nostrils well-developed. In black/gold and black dogs pigmentation is black; in blonde dogs it is black; "snow nose" (temporary loss of pigmentation) accepted.

Muzzle: Strong, tapering only slightly when seen from above and in profile.

Lips: Fit tightly.

Jaws and teeth: Strong, complete, scissor bite with 42 teeth according to tooth formula. Teeth set square to the jaws. Pincer bite accepted.

Eyes:

Oval, neither protruding nor deep set. Colour: dark to medium brown. Eyelids fit tightly.

Ears:

The loosely fitting triangular drop-ears are set on high and wide apart, thus giving the optical illusion of broadening the skull. They reach in length to the corners of the mouth (labial commissure). Their tip is slightly rounded. When the dog is at ease, they are kept hanging flat, when alert they may be carried directed slightly forward. Their front edge lies approximately half-way between eye and occiput.

NECK

Strong, of medium length. Skin tightly fitting.

BODY

Back: Straight and firm.

Loin: Strong, slightly longer than rump.

Croup: Medium-long and slightly sloping.

Chest: Broad, deep, and strong.

TAIL

Bushy, reaching to below the hocks, but not to the ground. According to the dog's mood it is carried high and curved over the back or hanging down.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs strong, straight, and vertical, seen from the front and side.

Shoulder: Very well muscled. Shoulder-blade long and well laid back.

Upper arm: Long, closely fitting to body.

Elbow: Fitting well to chest.

Carpus (wrist): Strong.

Metacarpus (pastern): Moderately sloping.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Hind legs strong and vertical when seen from behind. Hindquarters are well-angulated.

Thighs: Very well muscled.

Hock joint: Strong, well let down.

FEET

Roundish, strong, and compact. Toes arched and tight. Dewclaws to be removed except in those countries where this is prohibited by law. Nails with black pigmentation in black/gold and black dogs; in blonde dogs there may be less pigmentation.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

In all gaits, the movement of the Hovawart is on a straight line and covering the ground well. The trot is very extended, with powerful drive from the hindquarters.

SKIN

Tightly fitting all over. With a bluish sheen in black/gold and black dogs, with a mostly pink sheen in blonde dogs.

COAT

The strong, long-haired coat is lightly waved and lying close, with only a little undercoat. It is longer on chest, belly, rear side of forelegs, rear side of thighs and tail. It is short on head and at the front side of the fore- and hind legs. The coat is dense.

COLOUR

There are 3 colour varieties: black/gold, black, blonde:

- **Black/gold:** The coat is black and shiny, the colour of the markings medium blonde. On the head, the markings begin below the nasal bridge and extend round the corners of the mouth into the marking of the throat. The point-shaped markings above the eyes are clearly visible. The chest markings consist of two adjacent patches that may be connected. On the forelegs, the marking, seen from the side, extends from the toes to about the pastern and tapers off on the rear side at about elbow level. On the hind legs, seen from the side, the marking below the hock is seen as a broad stripe, above the hock only as a narrow stripe that extends on the front side of the hind leg up to the level of the belly. A marking is also present beneath the set-on of the tail. The markings are distinct in outline everywhere. Single small white spots on the chest as well as some single white hairs on toes and tip of tail are permissible. Black pigmentation on eyelids, lips, and pads.

- **Black:** The coat is black and shiny. Some single white spots on the chest, as well as some single white hairs on toes and tip of tail are permissible. Black pigmentation on eyelids, lips, and pads.
- **Blonde:** The coat is medium blonde, shiny, and becomes lighter towards legs and belly. Single small white spots on the chest, as well as some single white hairs on toes and tip of tail are permissible. Black pigmentation on eyelids, lips, and pads.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 63cm – 70cm (approx. 24½” – 27½”).

Females: 58cm – 65cm (approx. 22½” – 25½”).

***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.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Dogs that do not conform to the impression of original breed type.
- Distinctly “doggy” bitches; distinctly “bitchy” dogs.
- Distinctly differing body proportions than those quoted in the standard.
- Aggressive, anxious, gun-shy, or lethargic dogs.
- Head lacking stop.
- Blue eye or wall eye.
- Erect, tipped ears, rose ear; off-standing ears.
- Undershot, overshot, or wry mouth.
- Absence of more than 2 of the 4 PM1 or the 2 M3, or absence of any other tooth.
- Distinct dewlap or very throaty.
- Pronounced sway- or roach back.
- Narrow or barrel-shaped chest.
- Abnormal tail; tail much too short; pronounced ring tail.
- Much too high in hindquarters (overbuilt).
- Predominantly curly coat (ring curls).
- All colours not conforming to the standard, e.g. blue-grey, deer colour, brown, white, patched, blonde with smutty touch, or predominantly banded hair. White patches. Single white hairs on the inside of the upper thighs are not a disqualifying fault.
- Black/Gold dogs: Grey or brown patches other than the correct markings. Undercoat predominantly of another colour than black. Predominantly grey or whitish markings.
- Black dogs: Grey or brown patches. Undercoat predominantly of another colour than black.
- Blonde dogs: Some single white hairs on the nasal bridge are not a disqualifying fault. Red-blond colour throughout without getting lighter. Whitish-blond colour, also on ears. Distinctly white markings. Dark patches or dark mask.
- Undersize or oversize by more than 3cm.

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FCI Standard No 190: HOVAWART

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

Section 2.2. Molossian breeds; Mountain type
With Working Trial