

# KUSA

Official Breed Standard

## Maltese (Toy Group)



*A Breed Standard is the guideline which 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 which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.*

## **MALTESE**

(Effective 31.03.2016)

### **GENERAL APPEARANCE:**

Smart, white-coated dog, with proud head carriage.

### **CHARACTERISTICS:**

Lively, intelligent, alert.

### **TEMPERAMENT:**

Sweet tempered.

### **HEAD AND SKULL:**

The skull is gently rounded viewed from front and sides but never domed or apple headed. Stop well defined. Muzzle broad, not snipey. Slightly shorter from nose to stop than from stop to occiput. Muzzle never shorter than in the ratio of 1:2. Nose black.

### **EYES:**

Oval, not bulging, dark brown, black eye rims, with dark haloes.

### **EARS:**

Long, well feathered, hanging close to head; hair to mingle with coat at shoulders.

### **MOUTH:**

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

### **NECK:**

Medium length.

### **FOREQUARTERS:**

Legs short and straight. Shoulders well sloped.

### **BODY:**

Well balanced, essentially short and cobby. Good spring of rib, back level from withers to tail.

### **HINDQUARTERS:**

Legs short, well angulated.

### **FEET:**

Round, pads black.

**TAIL:**

Feathered, carried well arched over back.

**GAIT/MOVEMENT:**

Straight and free-flowing, without weaving. Viewed from behind, legs should neither be too close nor too wide apart.

**COAT:**

Reasonable length, never impeding action, straight, of silky texture, never woolly. Never crimped and without woolly undercoat.

**COLOUR:**

Pure white but slight lemon markings permissible.

**SIZE:**

Height not exceeding 25 cms (10 ins) from ground to withers.

**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 on health & welfare of the dog.

**NOTE:**

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum
- Only clinically and functionally healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

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