

MIXED BREED CONFORMATION STANDARD

ORIGIN AND PURPOSE: The mixed breed dog was the first dog man ever knew. Over thousands of years, mixed breed dogs were selected to develop certain instincts and characteristics that man would find of value – be it as a herding dog, a guard dog or a food animal. As these preferred traits and characteristics became more developed, breeds became distinctly recognizable. Mixed breeds still serve many of the original purposes that purebreds do, but above all we prize them as companion animals. Because most mixed breeds have no pedigree or health history, they are always spayed or neutered.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Mixed Breed Dog is a well-balanced dog of any size and with appropriate bone. He is attentive and animated, showing strength and stamina combined with unusual agility. Slightly longer than tall, he can have a coat of any length and coarseness with coloring that offers variety and individuality in each specimen.

CONDITION: The Mixed Breed Dog should be in good physical condition, of proper weight, with healthy skin with no sores or scaling. Good grooming and cleanliness are important.

TEMPERAMENT: The Mixed Breed Dog is intelligent, friendly, and adaptable. He is an exceptional companion. He is versatile and easily trained, performing his assigned tasks with great style and enthusiasm. He may be reserved with strangers but does not exhibit shyness or aggression.

HEAD: In proportion to the body. Whiskers and eyebrows should be left natural; beards may be trimmed for tidiness.

A. TEETH: A full complement of strong, white teeth. Teeth broken or missing by accident are not penalized. An even or scissors bite is preferable, except for dogs who resemble breeds which allow an underbite or overbite, such as Pekinese or boxers.

B. EYES: Very expressive, showing attentiveness and intelligence. Clear, and of moderate size, set a little obliquely, free of discharge, with pupils dark, well-defined and perfectly positioned. Color is brown, blue, amber, or any variation or combination including flecks and marbling.

C. NOSE: Size, shape and color should harmonize with the coat and eyes.

D. EARS: Can be either erect or folded. Cropped ears are acceptable, but not encouraged.

BODY: The neck is firm, clean and in proportion to the body. It is of medium length and slightly arched at the crest, setting well into the shoulders. The body is firm and muscular. The topline appears level at a natural four-square stance. The chest is deep and strong with ribs well-sprung. The loin is strong and broad when viewed from the top. The bottom line carries well back with a moderate tuck-up. The croup is moderately sloping. Tail may be of any length, straight, or curly. Docked tails are acceptable, but not encouraged.

FOREQUARTERS: The shoulder blades (scapula) are long and flat, close set at the withers, and are well laid back at an angle approximately forty-five (45) degrees to the ground. The upper arm (humerus) is attached at an approximate right angle to the shoulder line with forelegs dropping straight, perpendicular to the ground. The elbow joint is approximately midway from the ground to the withers. The chest when viewed from the front should be neither overly wide or narrow. The legs are straight and powerful, and free of obvious joint and/or bone malformations. Pasterns are short, thick and strong, but still flexible, showing a slight angle when viewed from the side. Feet have well-arched toes and no obvious deformities. Pads are thick and resilient; nails short and strong. Dewclaws may be removed.

HINDQUARTERS: Width of hindquarters approximately equal to the width of the forequarters at the shoulders. The angulation of the pelvis and upper thigh (femur) corresponds to the angulation of the shoulder blade and upper arm forming an approximate right angle. Stifles are clearly defined, hock joints moderately bent. The metatarsi are short, perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Feet have well-arched toes and no obvious deformities. Pads are thick and resilient; nails short and strong. Rear dewclaws may be removed.

COAT: May be of any length, texture, color, or markings. Coat must enhance rather than detract from the dog's overall appearance and expression. Coat should be clean and without bare patches or mats.

COLOR: All colors are strong, clear and rich. All colors and patterns are recognized. In dark colors there should be black pigmentation on nose, lips and eye-rims. Lighter colors may have liver or lighter color pigmentation on nose, lips and eye rims. Butterfly nose should not be faulted.

GAIT: Smooth, free and easy; exhibiting agility of movement with a well-balanced, ground covering stride. Fore and hind legs move straight and parallel with the center line of the body; as speed increases, the feet, both front and rear, converge toward the center line of gravity of the dog, while the topline remains firm and level.

SURGERY: Dewclaws may be removed, and surgery for entropion, dystichiasis, hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, luxating patellae, cruciate ligament, and umbilical hernia is allowed. Cropped ears and/or docked tails are allowed but not encouraged.

Spaying or neutering is required unless the dog has a medical condition which precludes this type of surgery (proof from veterinarian required).

MISCELLANEOUS: Any condition which, in the opinion of the judge, would detract from the dog's ability to perform in obedience, affect its lifespan, or detract in any way from its being a good pet and companion must be penalized to the extent of the condition.

SCALE OF POINTS:

General Appearance and Condition	20
Temperament	20
Gait and Movement	20
Head and Body	10
Forequarters	10
Hindquarters	10
Coat and Color	<u>10</u>
Total Points	100