



**Official Breed Standard
of the
Kennel Union of South Africa**



CHIHUAHUA

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Small, dainty, compact.

CHARACTERISTICS

Alert little dog; swift-moving with brisk, forceful action and saucy expression.

TEMPERAMENT

Gay, spirited and intelligent, neither snappy nor withdrawn.

HEAD AND SKULL

Well rounded 'apple dome' skull, cheeks and jaws lean, muzzle moderately short, slightly pointed. Definite stop.

EYES

Large, round but not protruding; set well apart; centre of eye is on a plane with lowest point of ear and base of stop; dark or ruby. Light eyes in light colours permissible.

EARS

Large, flaring, set on at an angle of approximately 45 degrees; giving breadth between ears. Tipped or broken down highly undesirable.

MOUTH

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

NECK

Slightly arched, medium length.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well laid; lean, sloping into slightly broadening support above straight forelegs, set well under chest giving freedom of movement without looseness.

BODY

Level back. Body, from point of shoulder to rear point of croup, slightly longer than height at withers. Well sprung ribs, deep brisket.

HINDQUARTERS

Muscular; hocks well let down, with good turn of stifle, well apart, turning neither in nor out.

FEET

Small and dainty, turning neither in nor out; toes well divided but not spread, pads cushioned, fine, strong, flexible pasterns. Neither hare nor cat like, nails moderately short.

TAIL

Medium length, set high, carried up and over back (sickle tail). When moving never tucked under or curled below the topline. Furry, flattish in appearance, broadening slightly in centre and tapering to point.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Brisk, forceful action, neither high-stepping nor hackney; good reach without slackness in forequarters, good drive in hindquarters. Viewed from front and behind legs should move neither too close nor too wide, with no turning in or out of feet or pasterns. Topline should remain firm and level when moving.

COAT: Long Coat : Soft texture (never coarse or harsh to touch) either flat or slightly wavy. Never tight and curly. Feathering on ears, feet and legs, pants on hindquarters, large ruff on neck desirable. Tail long and full as a plume.

Smooth Coat : Smooth, of soft texture, close and glossy, with undercoat and ruff permissible.

COLOUR

Any colour or mixture of colours.

SIZE: Weight : up to 2.7 kgs (6 lbs)

With 1-1.8 kgs (2-4 lbs) preferred. If two dogs are equally good in type the more diminutive preferred.

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.

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