

**FCI-Standard N°293 /21.04.1997. / GB**

**AUSTRALIAN KELPIE**





Nose : The colour conforms to that of the body coat.

Muzzle : Cleanly chiselled and defined, preferably slightly shorter in length than the skull.

Lips : Tight and clean, free from looseness.

Teeth : The teeth should be sound, strong and evenly spaced, the lower incisors just behind but touching the upper; that is a scissor bite.

Cheeks : Neither coarse nor prominent, but round to the foreface.

Eyes : The eyes are almond shaped, of medium size, clearly defined at the corners, and show an intelligent and eager expression. The colour of the eyes to be brown, harmonising with the colour of the coat. In the case of blue dogs a lighter coloured eye is permissible.

Ears : The ears are pricked and running to a fine point at the tips, the leather fine but strong at the base, set wide apart on the skull and inclining outwards, slightly curved on the outer edge and of moderate size. The inside of the ears are well furnished with hair.

**NECK** : The neck is of moderate length, strong, slightly arched, gradually moulding into the shoulders, free from throatiness and showing a fair amount of ruff.

**BODY** : The length of the dog from the forechest in a straight line to the buttocks is greater than the height at the withers as 10 is to 9.

Topline : Firm, level.

Loins : Strong and well muscled.

Croup : Rather long and sloping.

Chest : Deep rather than wide.

Ribs : Well sprung.

Flank : Of good depth.

**TAIL** : The tail during rest should hang in a very slight curve.

During movement of excitement it may be raised, but under no circumstances should the tail be carried past a vertical line drawn through the root. It should be furnished with a good brush.

Set on a position to blend with sloping croup, and it should reach approximately to the hock.

## **LIMBS**

**FOREQUARTERS** :The forelegs should be muscular with strong but refined bone, straight and parallel when viewed from the front.

**Shoulders** : Clean, muscular, well sloping with the shoulder-blades close set at the withers.

**Upperarm** : Should be at a right angle with the shoulder-blade.

**Elbow** : Neither in nor out.

**Pastern** : When viewed from the side, the pasterns should show a slight slope to ensure flexibility of movement and the ability to turn quickly.

**HINDQUARTERS** :Should show breadth and strength. When viewed from behind, the hind legs, from the hocks to the feet, are straight and placed parallel, neither close nor too wide apart.

**Stifles** : Well turned.

**Hock** : Fairly well let down.

**Feet** : The feet should be round, strong, deep in pads, with close knit well arched toes and strong short nails.

**GAIT/MOVEMENT** : To produce the almost limitless stamina demanded of a working sheepdog in wide open spaces, the kelpie must be perfectly sound, both in construction and movement. Any tendency to cow hocks, bow hocks, stiltiness, loose shoulders or restricted movement weaving or plaiting is a serious fault. Movement should be free and tireless and the dog must have the ability to turn suddenly at speed. When trotting the feet tend to come closer together at ground level as speed increases, but when the dog comes to rest it stands four square.

## **COAT**

**HAIR** : The coat is a double coat with a short dense undercoat. The outer coat is close, each hair straight, hard and lying flat, so that it is rain-resisting. Under the body, to behind the legs, the coat is longer and forms near the thigh a mild form of breeching.

On the head ( including the inside of the ears), to the front of the legs and feet, the hair is short. Along the neck it is longer and thicker forming a ruff. The tail should be furnished with a good brush. A coat either too long or too short is a fault. As an average, the hairs on the body should be from 2 to 3 cm (approx.3/4" - 1.1/4") in length.

**COLOUR** : Black, black and tan, red, red and tan, fawn,chocolate, and smoke blue.

**SIZE** : Height : The height at the withers shall be for the dogs 46 to 51 centimeters (approx. 18-20 ins.) Bitches 43 to 48 centimeters (approx. 17-19 ins.)

**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.

**N.B.** : Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.