

Standards For The Australian Cattle Dog

Head

The head is in proportion to the size of the body, broad between the ears, but without coarseness, tapering to the muzzle, with a slight stop between the eyes, the skull between the ears to be slightly domed but to be flat immediately behind the eyes, the cheeks must not be full or in any way prominent, and the whole head when viewed from the top should be much in the form of a "V", well filled in under the eyes. There should be plenty of substance in foreface, with a good depth from top to bottom. The under jaw should be strong and well developed.

Muzzle

The muzzle is strong and of medium length and while tapering to the nose, it must not be carried to such an extreme as to give the appearance of being overshot. The lips must be tight-fitting and clean, and the nose should be black whatever the colour of the dog may be.

Teeth

The teeth should be sound and strong, gripping with a scissor-like action, the lower incisors just behind but touching the upper. To be undershot or overshot is a bad fault and entails definite disqualification.

Eyes

The eyes should be oval shaped of average size, neither prominent nor sunken, and they must show an alert and intelligent expression and be of a dark brown colour; any white blemishes in the eye entails disqualification.

Ears

The ears should be pricked, of moderate size but rather small than large, broad at the base, with plenty of muscle running to a point at the top, set wide apart at the skull, inclined outward and slightly rounded, and the inside of the ear should be fairly well filled with hair. Spoon ears and rat ears are a serious defect.

Neck

The neck should be strong, or medium length with plenty of muscle, fitting gracefully into the body, joining the head without sharp angles and free from throatiness.

ForeQuarters

The shoulders should slope well back. Upright shoulders are a bad fault, they should show plenty of muscle, but not loaded. The forelegs should be perfectly straight viewed from the side.

Hind Quarters

The hind quarters should show breadth and strength; the loins being broad and strong, the rump rather long and sloping to the legs, when viewed from behind, must be quite straight without any tendency to cow-hocks or bow hocks, which are an extremely bad fault, the stifles are well turned and the hocks strong and well let down.

Tail

The tail during rest should hang in a slight curve, during movement and excitement it should be raised, but under no circumstance should the tail be carried past a vertical line drawn through the root. Tails with curves and pronounced hooks are faulty. The length of the tail bone should not be longer that will reach to the hock nor should it be too short. The tail should be furnished with a good brush.

Feet

The feet should be round and short, the toes strong, well arched and held close together. The pads should be hard and deep, and the nails must be black, short and strong.

Coat

The coat should be moderately short, straight and of medium texture with a thick undercoat. Behind the legs, the coat is longer, and forms near the thigh a mild form of breeching. On the head and the front of the legs and feet the hair should be short.