General Appearance  Above middle-sized, sturdy, mobile working dog. Harmonious and beautiful in proportions, with straight, strong body structure.

Size  Dogs: 64–70cm (25.2–27.6in) at withers; best size 66–68cm (26–26.75in). Bitches: 58–66cm (22.8–26in) at withers; best size 60–63cm (23.6–24.8in).

Head  Strong with flat crown and slightly developed furrow, well defined not too pronounced stop, strong, straight muzzle. Middle sized ears set high, triangular shaped, lying flat in repose. Dark brown eyes, almond shaped, eyelids tight. Lips (flews) slightly developed.

Teeth  Complete shearing dentition (shears means scissors).

Neck  Strong, muscular and of middle length.


Tail  Bushy, reaching to hock, carried slightly suspended.

Forelimb  Shoulders long, strong and slanting with the upper arm forming an obtuse angle, flat lying and well muscled. Appears straight from all sides. Pastern (ankle) giving slightly.

Hind Limb  Upper thigh wide, strong and well muscled. Thigh rather long and seen from the side reaching obliquely (slanting) to the shank. Hock well angulated, wide and strong. Position straight, neither turned in nor out. Dewclaws must be removed in the first few days of life.

Paws  Short, round and compact.

Colour  Deep black ground colour with rich reddish-brown on the cheeks, over the eyes, on all four legs and on the chest. White slight to middle sized symmetrical marking (blaze) and white chest markings (cross). Preferred but not a condition: white paws (with white reaching at the highest to the pastern) and white tip of the tail. Small white patch at nape of neck and white posterior patch (anal) undesirable but tolerated.

Coat  Long, smooth or slightly wavy.

Movement  Stride reaching out well in front, following well through in back; balanced, even ground covering stride in all gaits.

Basic Character  Self-confident, good natured, friendly.

Character  Confident, with little sharpness desired, unfrightened, not gunshy.