



HIMALAYAN MOUNTAIN DOG BREED STANDARD

The goals and purposes of this breed standard are to:

- preserve the varieties in style of the landrace native guardian dogs of the Himalaya Mountain Region which are of same family by placing them under a single breed name and providing guidelines that preserve the characteristics most adaptive to their native environments, traditional functions, and purposes;
- furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain the quality of the breed;
- serve as a guide for judges and exhibitors.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to the health, welfare, fundamental characteristics, and soundness of this breed, and must take the responsibility to see that these are not perpetuated.

HISTORY

The HMD is comprised of the land race dogs used for thousands of years by the native people of the Himalaya Mountain region as a protective, watchful guardian of their territory, property, and livestock. These dogs are considered to be one of the oldest land race dogs in existence. They are similar to each other in appearance, temperament, and purpose, but some variations are seen, depending on altitude, climate, and cultural beliefs of the locale.

The HMD includes dogs which have historically been identified by the regional names that sometimes are the same name as the shepherds who use them. Some of the popular regional names are; Dokhyi (Tibetan Cultural Area), Bhote Kukur (Nepal), Gaddi and Bhutia (India), Bankhar (Mongolia), Bjop Chi (Bhutan), and Bakarwal (Pakistan).

ESSENTIAL TRAITS

These are agile and robust dogs. These traits are key to their survival in their homelands.

- Deep brisket.
- Well sprung ribs.
- Broad head.
- Muzzle that is sufficient in length to warm or cool inhaled air.
- A double coat, with an insulating, water proof layer and top layer hair is weather resistance.

- Deep bark.
- Agility.
- Strong muscle throughout. Powerful and well-muscled hindquarters.
- Feet are oval, firm, and compact, with well-knit and well-arched toes and deeply cushioned pads. Feet are furred between the pads.
- Tail carried over the back when at a trot or when alert.
- Dry mouth.
- Single estrus per year in fall or winter.
- Normal, but low thyroid levels allow dogs to function well with less food.
- Has high altitude gene.
- Willingness to guard in situations that require a protective response, intelligence, independent thinking, closely bonded to territory, people, and pack.

Breeders and judges should respect and allow for the variances in these dogs, and avoid giving preferences to size and length of coat.

Varieties

For the purpose of avoiding the elimination of qualified dogs of this breed through individual judge or breeder preferences the following three varieties are to be exhibited separately. This separation is only for exhibition and does not need to be applied to breeding and/or registration.

- Under 27 in/68.5 cm tall
- 27 in/68.5 cm and over
- Bearded

Detailed Breed Description

Any departure from the following description 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 and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Head

Skull:

Large. Skull is broad with a median line. Skull slopes from the median line toward ears. This slope may not be seen, but felt. The skull may appear to be slightly rounded or flat from ear to ear and varies in degree. These appearances are influenced by a defined to well-defined occiput, set of ear, and hair.

Stop:

When viewed from the front, slightly sloping to very sloping.

Stop may appear to be sharper when viewed from the side, due to the brow ridges.

Muzzle:

The length of the muzzle is between $\frac{2}{3}$ and equal to the length of the skull, when measured from the middle of the stop to the end of the nose and the middle of the stop to the occiput.

Upper lips are overhung, but not lippy. This is a dry mouth breed.

Upper lips are padded to well-padded.

Lower lips are slightly pendulous in the corners of the mouth. Open and extremely hanging corners of are to be severely faulted.

Muzzle is deep, but depth of muzzle varies.

Muzzle is wide and varies in width from dog to dog.

Blunt to somewhat blunt at the end.

Bite:

Scissor (preferred) or level.

Full dentition.

All others are a disqualification. Broken/removed teeth due to injury are not a disqualification or fault.

Nose:

Large and in balance with the width and depth of the muzzle. Open nostrils. Color is black or reflects the dog's coat color (blue, liver, or isabella). Complete or partial Dudley nose is acceptable.

Ears:

Medium size.

Acceptable length varies from below the eye to the lower jaw line.

Pendant, triangular in shape.

Hanging close to head. Slightly raised when alert.

Set high. The ear set varies between level with the top of the skull to slightly below, but always above the eye.

Ear leathers are medium thick to very thick. The hair on the ear leathers is most commonly short, but occasionally longer hair at the top to middle of the ear is seen and should not be penalized. On the bottom half of ear, the hair must be short.

Eyes:

Expressive.

Medium size.

Set wide and fairly deep set.

Acceptable eye shapes include oval, almond, and triangular, with tight fitting eyelids.

Preferred color is any shade of brown including all variations of amber.

Eye rims are black except in dilute coat colors. In dilute colored dogs (blue, pale golds) the eye rims may match the degree of dilution.

Ectropion and Entropion are disqualifications.

Expression:

Alert. Watchful. Dignified. Self-assured and commanding respect.

Body

General Impression:

Dogs are robustly built, well boned with strong, firm muscles. Females tend to be lighter and smaller compared to males.

Height:

Height is measured from the withers to the ground on a level surface.

Preferred height is 23 to 28 inches (58.42 to 71.12 cms).

Dogs over 29 inches (73.66 cms) to be disqualified in the show ring.

Other than the disqualification, dogs who are over 18 month of age and outside the preferred measurements should be faulted by judges to the degree they are above or below the preferred height.

Weight:

In mature dogs, the preferred weight is between 25 kg to 65 kg.

Proportions:

Slightly longer than tall.

Coupling should be of reasonable length so as to allow for the turning ability this breed requires to perform its traditional functions as a guardian.

Length is measured from the prosternum to the ischium.

Neck:

The neck is rather short, thick, well-muscled, and well-set.

Neck is carried near level, with the topline (withers to croup), when gaiting naturally.

May or may not have a slight dewlap. Excessive dewlap to be severely faulted.

Back:

Straight, muscular from withers to croup. The croup is broad and rather flat.

Chest:

Oval shaped rib cage.

Moderately wide when viewed from the front.

Well-sprung ribs.

Brisket is deep, reaching even with or below the point of the elbow.

The underline has a moderate to pronounced tuck-up.

Fault: Very narrow chest when viewed from the front.

Forequarters

Shoulders:

Are well laid back. Well-developed muscles, firm, not bulging.

Forelegs:

Straight.

Forearm bone is strong, with oval to flat bone. Bone may be moderately to substantially wide, but always in proportion to the dog's body.

Leg length may vary and should be in proportion with the body.

Pasterns:

Medium in length, slightly sloping. Straight pasterns and/or short pasterns to be faulted.

Elbows:

Elbows are to be close to the body.

Feet:

Medium to large.

Oval, firm, and compact, with well-knit and well-arched toes and deeply cushioned pads.

Furred between the pads.

Dewclaws:

Required.

Hindquarters

Powerful and well-muscled, with all parts being moderately to well angulated.

Muscles are well-developed and firm, but not bulging.

Hind legs are parallel with each other when viewed from behind.

Wide upper thigh.

Stifle:

Moderately to well bent.

Straight stifle is a severe fault

Hocks and Rear Pasterns:

The hocks are strong, moderately to well bent, and perpendicular. The length of the rear pastern is approximately one-third of the total length of the leg.

The following are faults:

Cow Hock;

Slipped (**slip, slipping**) Hocks;

Straight Hocks.

Feet:

Single or double dewclaw may be present but are not required. Surgical removal is discouraged unless necessary (i.e. injury). Toeing out of the rear feet is acceptable.

Tail

Set high.

The tail is medium length, reaching to the point of hock when relaxed.

It is well feathered.

May have a hook on the end.

The tail is carried over the back and some part of the tail must touch the back.

In dogs who carry the tail rather close to the body there should be a gap between the body and tail at the base of the tail.

The end of the tail may be tucked under itself or fall over the loin.

When the dog is at a trot, the tail should be carried over the back. It is acceptable for the dog to have the tail down when relaxed and when standing or walking.

To adequately judge the carriage of the tail, at some point during judging, the tail should be observed in the up position without the handler holding the dog's tail up.

Coat

Double coat.
Top layer hair is short to medium length.
The undercoat varies in fineness and is soft.

The undercoat is shed out in warm weather months and may be nonexistent during this time. Dogs are **not to be faulted** for being exhibited out of undercoat during warm weather months.

The texture of the top layer is somewhat coarse. Where it is shorter and around the neck, it stands off the body. The shawl lays flatter.

This breed has a top layer length pattern, as described below. This pattern should be visible even on short coat dogs.

The top layer on the neck (mane) blends into a "shawl" that runs over shoulders and down the length of the spine, over the hips, blending into the breeches. The hair becomes shorter over the hips.

Feathering is typical behind shoulders.

The hair on the top of the head is short with longer hair starting mid-skull or farther back that blends into the mane.

The hair on the ear leathers is short and soft, may have longer hair that extends down from the top of the ear.

Tail, breeches, and rear pasterns are feathered.

Feathering on the back of the forelegs varies in length from fairly short to moderately long. The hair on the front of the legs is shorter.

Feathering is typical along the underline and varies in length from dog to dog.

Bearded variety has furnishings on the muzzle. The top layer on the head including the ears may be longer than on the non-bearded variety.

Severe Fault: Lack of this coat length pattern in dogs 18 months of age and over.

This breed is shown in its natural coat. No trimming or sculpting is permitted.

No type of coat enhancing/altering products such as (but not limited to) chalk, hair spray, and coloring are to be present on the dog when exhibited.

Dogs presented with these types of coat products or who are visibly trimmed or sculpted, are not to receive placements or ribbons.

Colors and markings

Colors:

Red (Recessive red; ee) from cream to dark red, excluding mahogany red.

Black (Dominant black or recessive black: K^B/k^y , KB/KB or aa).

Sable (a^y has liver or black hairs).

Liver (bb brown).

Brindle (k^{br} is typically black stripes on a red base).

All colors may be modified by the dilute gene (d/d). Blue for black dogs. Isabella for liver dogs. In sable colored dogs, the nose and the black or the liver hairs will be diluted. In recessive red only the nose is diluted.

Black will include coat colors that have a reddish hue.

In general, the undercoat is usually the same color or a lighter shade of the corresponding top coat.

Markings:

Tan point (a^t/a^t). Tan point colors may appear in all the variations of red. Dogs with these markings may also have penciling.

Urajiro (no genetic marker at this time) in recessive red and sable dogs.

All colors (excluding recessive red) may have the followings markings:

Spectacles, masks, widow's peaks, and all markings influenced by masks on sable dogs (E^m).

White markings.

Ticking on feet and legs.

Disqualifications: Albinism and Merle

Gait

When the HMD is walking toward you, it is very deliberate, reminiscent of a cat walking.

At the trot the HMD is light on its feet.

The impression of the HMD in motion should be of power and agility. It should be cat-like in its turns, easy and fluid, never clumsy. Capable of functioning over a varied terrain with stamina and suppleness.

Head and neck are carried almost level with the back when walking, trotting, and running, unless the dog is alert and watching. Judges should instruct exhibitors to use the lead loosely so the gait can be properly evaluated.

When the dog is at a trot or when alert, the tail must be carried over the back (see tail). When relaxed, stressed, or walking tail may be down.

At a canter or gallop, the tail is used as balance and may be carried lower instead of over the back, however it should not be near to or touching the ground.

Both the transverse gallop and rotary gallop is seen in this breed.

Single tracks both front and rear.

Temperament

Aloof, especially with strangers. Highly intelligent. Confident, but may be wary. Bonds very closely with their people, pack, and territory. They are mostly independent, but need human interaction. They also are independent thinkers. Protective of people, property, pack and charges.

Faults:

Extreme shyness (not to be confused with wariness).

Extreme over reactivity.

Severe Faults:

Open and extremely hanging corners of the lips.

Lack of coat length pattern in dogs 18 months of age and over.

Disqualifications:

Any other bite besides scissors or level.

Dogs over 29 inches (73.66 cms)

Entropion or Ectropion.

Albinism. Merle.

Revised and Approved by HMDCI Membership

2/7/22

Revisions are in bold type.