

FCI-Standard N° 37 / / GB

Portuguese Water Dog
(Cão de Água Português)

TRANSLATION: Carla Cruz.

ORIGIN: Portugal.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD:
09.12.1966.

UTILIZATION: Assistance in fishing and retrieving and family dog.

F.C.I. CLASSIFICATION: Group 8 Retrievers-Flushing Dogs-Water Dogs.
Section 3 Water Dogs.
Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: In ancient times, the Portuguese Water Dog spread throughout the entire Portuguese coast. Today, due to the continuous changes in fishing systems, it can be found mainly in the region of Algarve, which can be now called its home. Its presence in the Portuguese coats is probably very remote, and thus the Portuguese Water Dog should be considered an autochthonous Portuguese breed.

GENERAL APPEARANCE AND APTITUDE: Mesomorph, slightly convex outline tending to rectilinear; bracoïd type. Harmonious in shape, balanced, strong and well muscled. Considerable development of the muscles due to constant swimming.

An excellent and resistant swimmer and diver, it is the inseparable companion of the fisherman, to whom it performs a multitude of tasks, both in fishing and in guarding and protecting its boat and property. During the fishing, it will willingly jump to sea to catch and retrieve escaped fish, diving if necessary, and performing the same way if a net breaks or a cable escapes. It is also used as a liaison between boat and shore or vice-versa, even at great distances.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: Medioliign (mesomorph), with body length approximately equal to height at the withers. Height at the withers/chest height relation of 2:1; skull length/muzzle length proportion of 4:3.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT: Exceptionally intelligent, understands and obeys easily and happily any order given by its owner.

An animal with impetuous disposition, wilful, courageous, sober and resistant to fatigue. It has a harsh, penetrating and attentive expression. Of great visual and remarkable olfactory faculties.

HEAD: Well proportioned, strong and wide.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Seen in profile it is slightly longer than the muzzle (4:3).Its curvature is more accentuated in the back and the occipital protuberance is pronounced. Seen from the

front the parietal bones are dome-shaped with a slight depression in the middle, the front is slightly hollow, the frontal furrow extends to two thirds of the parietal bones and the supraciliary arches are prominent.

Stop: Well defined and slightly behind the inner edge of the eyes.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Wide, well open nostrils and finely pigmented. Black in black, white and pied animals. In brown specimens the nose is the same colour as the coat, but never marbled.

Muzzle: Straight, wider at the base than at the extremity.

Lips: Strong, especially in the front. Inconspicuous commissure. Mucous membranes (palate, under the tongue and gums) deeply black pigmented.

Jaws/Teeth: Strong and correct. Healthy and unapparent teeth. Strong and well developed canines.

Eyes: Medium sized; regular, level, rounded, set well apart and slightly slant. The iris is black or brown and the lids, thin, are black edged. Unapparent conjunctive.

Ears: Set above the eye line, held against the head, slightly lifted off in the rear and heart-shaped. Thin, their extremity never reaches below the throat.

NECK: Straight, short, round, muscled, well set and carried high, connecting to the body in harmonious transition. Without ruff or dewlap.

BODY:

Top line: Straight and horizontal.

Withers: Wide and not prominent.

Back: Straight, short, wide and well muscled.

Loin: Short and well connected to the croup.

Croup: Well conformed, slightly sloping; symmetrical and hardly apparent hips.

Chest: Wide and deep. Its inferior edge should reach the elbow. The ribs are long and regularly sprung, providing great respiratory capacity.

Bottom line and belly: Reduced volume and graceful.

TAIL: Entire, of medium set, thick in the base tapering towards the end. Should not reach below the hock. When attentive curls in a ring, not reaching beyond the medium line of the loin. It is a useful aid in swimming and diving.

LIMBS:

FOREQUARTERS: Strong and straight. Upright. Slightly sloping pasterns are admissible.

Shoulder: Slanting in profile and transversely. Strong muscular development.

Upper arm: Strong and regular in size. Parallel to the mean body line.

Forearm: Long and strongly muscled.

Carpus (Pastern joint): Strong bones, broader when seen from the front than from the sides.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Long and strong.

Forefeet: Rounded and splayed. Little arched toes of medium length. The toe web, extending over the whole length of the toes, is composed of limp tissue and covered with abundant and long hair. Black nails are preferred, but according to the coat colour, may also be white, striped or brown. The nails do not reach the ground. Hard central pad and regular thickness in the other pads.

HINDQUARTERS: Well muscled and straight. Upright. Slightly sloping hocks are admissible.

Buttock: Long and well rounded.

Thigh: Strong and regular in length. Very well muscled. The stifle joint does not deviate from the mean body plane.

Leg: Long and very muscled. Does not deviate from the mean body plane. Well slanting from front to back. All tendons and ligaments are strong.

Hock: Strong.

Metatarsus: Long. Without dewclaws.

Hind feet: Identical to the forefeet in all aspects.

GAIT/MOVEMENT: Easy movement, short step walk, light rhythmical trot, energetic gallop.

SKIN: Thick; flexible; not very tight; internal and external mucous membranes preferably pigmented.

COAT:

The whole body is abundantly covered with strong hair. There are two coat varieties: one long and wavy and the other shorter and curly. The first is slightly shiny and fluffy, the latter is dense, lustreless and forms compact cylindrical curls. Except for the armpits and groin the coat is even all over the skin. In the head it forms a topknot of wavy hair in the long and wavy variety and of curly hair in the curly variety. The hair in the ears is longer in the long and wavy variety.

The coat colour is black or brown in various shades, or solid white. In black or black coats, white is accepted in the following locations: muzzle, neck, pectoral, belly, tip of tail and lower extremity of the limbs, below the elbows and hocks.

The white coat may not be albino, therefore the nose, eyelids and interior of the mouth must be black pigmented.

There is no undercoat.

In this breed, partial clipping of the coat, when it is too long, is typical. The posterior half of the body, the muzzle and the tail are clipped, leaving a plume of full-length hair at the tip of the tail.

HEIGHT AT THE WITHERS

Males: 50 to 57 cm, with an ideal height of 54 cm.

Females: 43 to 52 cm, with an ideal height of 46 cm.

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.

SERIOUS FAULTS:

- **Head** – Too long, narrow, flat and pointed.
- **Muzzle** – Too tapered or pointed.
- **Eyes** – Light, too protruding or too sunken.
- **Ears** – Incorrect set, too big, too short or folded.
- **Tail** – Heavy, drooped in action or raised perpendicularly.

ELIMINATING FAULTS

- Jaws – Undershot or overshot.
- Eyes – Wall eye, uneven in shape or size.
- Deafness – Congenital or acquired.
- Tail – Docked, rudimentary or non-existent.
- Feet – Presence of dewclaws.
- Coat – Albinism, marbled nostrils in whole or in part; hair different from the described types.
- Size – Gigantism or dwarfism.

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

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