

General Appearance

The American Corgi is a strong, sturdy, obviously athletic dog, built low to the ground. Its outlook is bright and curious, never shy or aggressive. He gives the impression of willingness and ability to work or play for as long as asked, always with enthusiasm, and a sense of humor. He is neither dull nor high strung. He is neither coarse and heavy as to appear cumbersome light and racey. Throughout the standard, faults that are cosmetic (markings, pigment, earset, etc.) are to be judged less harshly than faults that involve structure, movement, and viability.

Size - Proportion, Substance

Height from the ground to the highest point of the withers is 10 to 12 inches. Dog weighing 24 to 28 lbs., bitches 23 to 27 lbs.- weight in proportion to size. Small toy-like specimens and large cumbersome individuals to be penalized.

Proportions: Definitely longer than tall, with distance from the base of the neck to the dock somewhat longer than the distance from the top of the withers to the ground. But not so low to the ground that daylight can not be seen below the underline.

Head

Expression: The head is fox like in appearance and shape with a alert, intelligent, friendly expression

Eyes: The eyelids form an overall oval shape. The eyes are medium size and well spaced. They do not protrude nor are deeply set. They can be blue or brown or parti-colored. Eyelids are dark. Lack of pigment is faulty.

Ears: The ears are upright and strong and tapered toward the tip with the tip being neither sharply pointed nor excessively round. The ears are placed so as to draw a straight line from the nose through the center of the eye to the ear tip. The length of the ear is moderate. When viewed from the front, a line drawn from ear tip to ear tip is equal in length to a line drawn from nose tip to ear tip. Drop, rose, and button ears are very faulty. Ears too large or too small, set too high or too low are faulty.

Skull: The skull is broad between the ears and relatively flat. The foreface is shorter than the rest of the skull, approximately 40% from stop to nose and 60% from stop to occiput.

Stop: The stop is moderate, neither abrupt nor lacking any definition.

Muzzle: The muzzle is tapered when viewed from the side.

Lips: The lips are clean and close and darkly pigmented. Lack of pigment is faulty.

Nose: The nose is darkly pigmented. Lack of pigment is considered minorly faulty.

Bite: The bite is a scissor bite with upper incisors resting on lower incisors. An over or undershot bite is a very serious fault.

Neck, Topline and Body

Neck: The neck is moderately long and upright, providing overall balance. It is slightly arched. It blends smoothly into the chest and shoulder. A ewe neck is a serious fault.

Topline: The topline is smooth and level from withers to dock, with the tail in line with the back. A roached or swayed back is a serious fault.

Body: The ribs are well sprung. The shape of the ribcage is oval, not round or narrow. The rib cage reaches far to the posterior with the loin relatively short and strong. When viewed from the top, the width at the hips is only slightly narrower than the width at the shoulder with slightly more narrowing in front of the hips. The sternum sits low between the forelegs, but daylight must still be visible below it. The forechest is prominent and blends seamlessly into the front of the neck.

Underline: The underline is curved from the forechest to behind the elbow, then rises gradually to a moderate tuckup.

Tail: The tail is docked as short as possible to maintain the level appearance to the topline. A natural undocked tail is allowed but should not be carried high as to spoil the topline.

Forequarters

The length of the leg from the elbow to the ground is short for the size of the dog. The elbows are parallel and held close to the body. The forearm has a slight indoor curve to allow the feet to be placed well under the body. The pasterns are straight when viewed from the front, turning neither in, nor out. The feet face forward. The shoulders are well laid back, forming a 45 degree angle to the ground. A straight line can be drawn from the top of the shoulder blade through the point of the elbow to the pastern, which is nearly straight. Weak pasterns, or so straight as to appear to knuckle forward, are very faulty.

Feet: Feet are oval shaped with strong toes held close together. Nails are short. Dewclaws are usually removed. Flat, splayed feet are very faulty.

Hindquarters

The angulation of the rear leg mirrors the angulation of the shoulder and forearm. The hips are strong, well muscled, and in balance with the muscling of the shoulder. A straight line can be drawn from the point of the buttock in the rear, to the point of the hock, and through the pastern. The pastern is relatively straight. The angle of the hock is moderate and athletic. Very straight or sickle hocks are faulty. When viewed from behind, the lower legs and feet are straight, turning neither in, nor out.

Feet: Feet are oval shaped with strong toes held close together. Nails are short. Dewclaws are absent. Flat, splayed feet are faulty.

Coat

The coat is of medium length with a short, thick, insulating undercoat and a smooth, longer outer coat. The length of the coat varies with a thicker, longer ruff around the neck and on the back of the hindquarters, slightly longer hair is on the back of the forelegs and underline. An extremely long coat or lack of undercoat is faulty.

Color

The base colors of red, liver, black & tan, sable, fawn, and their corresponding merle and diluted forms are acceptable, as is brindle, with or without white markings. White markings are primarily on the legs, chest, neck, and underside, and as a blaze on the head. Small areas of white on the body are permissible, but never should the white exceed 40% of the body surface area. Some color on the head and ears is required.

Gait

The gait is free and smooth, giving the impression of easy endurance. The forelegs reach well forward and the hind legs reach well up under the body. There is not excessive lifting of the foreleg as to imply inefficient use of energy. When viewed from the front, the forelegs angle in slightly due to shortness of leg and depth of chest, but the feet move in a straight line. Feet winging in or out is faulty. The head is carried forward in line with the motion, the body remains in line with the motion as well. The hind legs move in line with the forelegs, hocks turning neither in nor out. The overall impression of the movement is balanced, athletic, free, and ground covering.

Temperament

The American Corgi is alert, curious, expressive, and self-confident. He must not be shy or aggressive. He is intelligent and willing to please, and possesses a charming sense of humor.