

Irish Wolfhound Breed Standard UK

General appearance

Of great size, strength, symmetry and commanding appearance, very muscular, yet gracefully built.

Characteristics

Of great power, activity, speed and courage.

Temperament

Gentle, kind and friendly nature.

Head and skull

Head long, carried high, the frontal bones of forehead very slightly raised and very little indentation between eyes. Skull not too broad. Muzzle long and moderately pointed. Nose and lips black.

Eyes

Dark. Elliptical (regular oval) and full. Eyelids black.

Ears

Small, rose shaped, of fine velvet texture. Preferably dark in colour, not hanging close to face.

Mouth

Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Level bite tolerated but not desirable.

Neck

Rather long, very strong and muscular, well arched, without dewlap or loose skin about throat.

Forequarters

Shoulders muscular, giving breadth of chest, set sloping. Elbows well under, turned neither in nor out. Leg and forearm muscular, and whole leg strong and straight.

Body

Chest very deep. Breast wide. Back, long rather than short. Loins arched. Belly well drawn up.

Hindquarters

Muscular thighs and second thighs, long and strong, good bend of stifle with hocks well let down and turning neither in nor out.

Feet

Moderately large and round, turned neither in nor out. Toes well arched and closed. Nails very strong and curved.

Tail

Long and slightly curved, of moderate thickness and well covered with hair, carried low with an upward sweep towards the extremity.

Gait/movement

Easy and active.

Coat

Rough and harsh on body, legs and head; especially wiry and long over eyes and under jaw.

Colour

Recognised colours are grey, brindle, red, black, pure white, fawn, wheaten and steel grey.

Size

Minimum height for dogs: 79 cms (31 ins), bitches: 71 cms (28 ins).

Minimum weight: 54.5 kgs (120 lbs) for dogs, 40.9 kgs (90 lbs) for bitches.

Great size, including height of shoulder and proportionate length of body is to be aimed at, and it is desired to firmly establish a breed that shall average from 81-86 cms (32-34 ins) in dogs.

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 and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Note

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.