

TIBETAN SPANIEL ILLUSTRATED BREED STANDARD



Tibetan Spaniel Club of America, Inc.

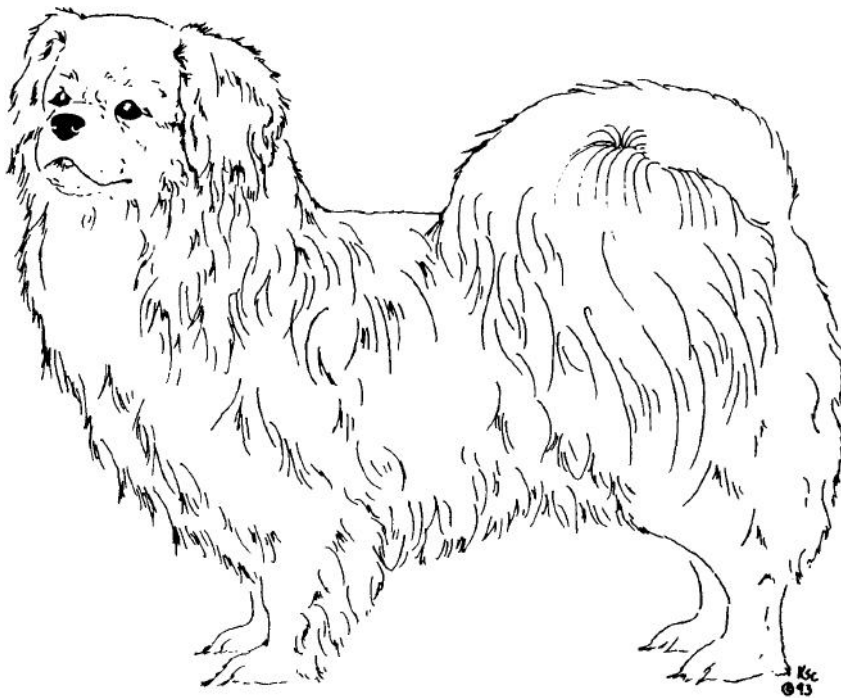
TIBETAN SPANIEL CLUB OF AMERICA ILLUSTRATED BREED STANDARD

The Illustrated Breed Standard has been produced as an aid for people within our breed, approved judges and anyone who wishes to learn about the Tibetan Spaniel. This standard will give a picture of correct type and points of the breed as explained in the text and American Kennel Club Standard.

The text is the Phyllis Mayhew interpretation of the Tibetan Spaniel Standard with additions from the Tibetan Spaniel Club of America and, with their kind permission, The Tibetan Spaniel Association.

Prepared by the Illustrated Breed Standard Committee of the Tibetan Spaniel Club of America, Inc.

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HISTORY

Originating in the Himalayan Mountains of Tibet, the Tibetan Spaniel has been known for more than 2,000 years. Bred and owned by Buddhist monks and lamas, “Tibbies” were never sold. They left the monasteries of Tibet only as treasured gifts to esteemed friends. Legend has it that Tibetan Spaniels were trained to turn the prayer wheels in the monasteries.

Although this legend is doubted, they did serve the monks as companions and bed warmers. With their keen sight and hearing, Tibbies acted as lookouts, lying on the high monastery walls and barking, warning the monks and larger Tibetan Mastiffs whenever anything approached.

The misnomer, Spaniel, came to be part of their name from the French word *epagneul* which, in the Middle Ages, referred to a companion dog and comforter much loved by ladies of the European and Oriental courts.

The breed first came to England in 1898, but few were bred until after World War II. Importation to the United States began in 1966, and the Tibetan Spaniel Club of America was formed in 1971. The American Kennel Club recognized the Tibetan Spaniel in 1984, and they joined the Non-Sporting Group in competition.

PERSONALITY

This is a very intelligent breed that thrives on human companionship. Although they may be aloof with strangers, they are affectionate and devoted to their family and friends. When they are being judged they may well not look straight at you and do not like being swooped down upon. They are very sensitive little dogs; they understand and respond to your moods and feelings. Tibbies are not guard dogs and should never show signs of aggression or bite.

True to their ancient duties in the monasteries, Tibbies will vigorously alert you to any unusual event or arrival. Yet, they do not bark unnecessarily. Neither nervous nor hyper, a Tibbie is like a large dog in a small body. In one compact package, they are both excellent watch dogs and very good bed dogs. They enjoy any high lookout, such as a window sill from which to survey their territory, and at the same time they will be only too happy to cuddle up and keep you warm or nestle on soft pillows or clean laundry. They have keen sight, acute hearing and good scenting powers, and are very long lived and are not given to early aging.

Notes

ILLUSTRATED BREED STANDARD OF THE TIBETAN SPANIEL

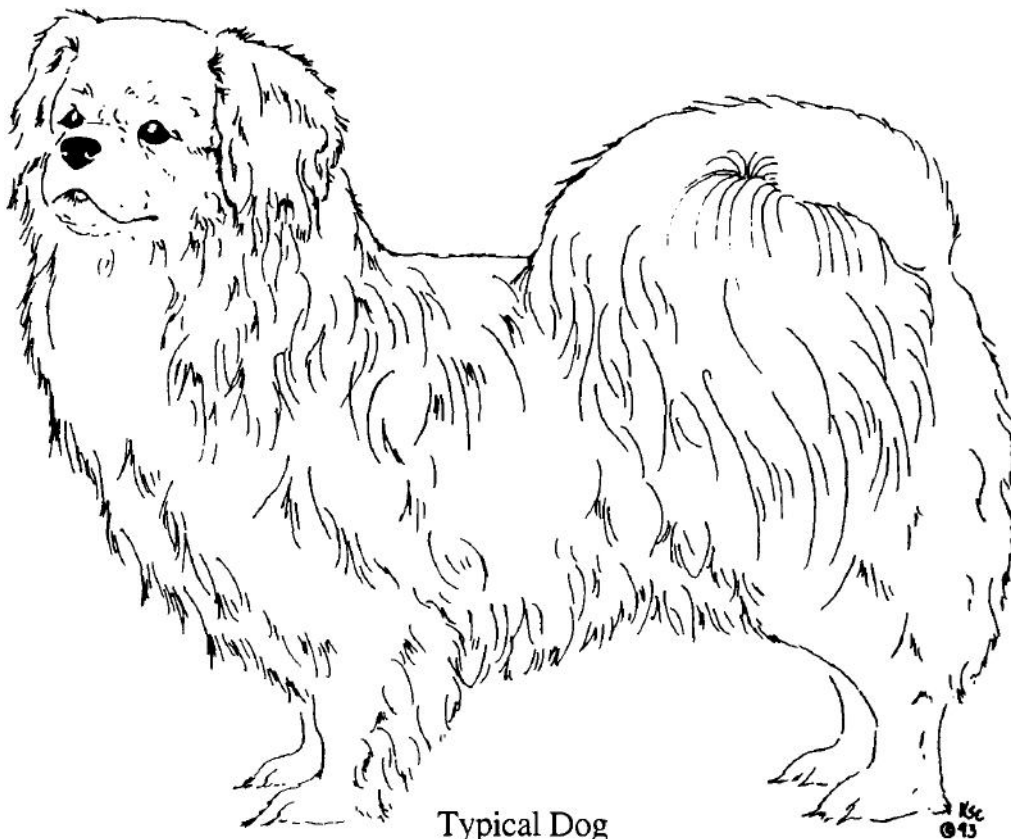
THE OFFICIAL BREED STANDARD IS PRESENTED IN ALL CAPITALS.

Normal type is used for explanatory information.

GENERAL APPEARANCE—SHOULD BE SMALL, ACTIVE AND ALERT. THE OUTLINE SHOULD GIVE A WELL BALANCED APPEARANCE, SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN THE HEIGHT AT WITHERS. FAULT—COARSENESS OF TYPE.

The Tibetan Spaniel Standard calls for moderation in all points in the hope that the breed will continue to be the healthy, intelligent and sound dog it is today. This does not mean that the end product will be a moderate dog as far as showing is concerned when it competes with other breeds. It is likely to be outstanding for natural balance and construction, good movement and dignified showmanship, plus obvious alertness and intelligence. This is a picture that will appeal to many all-rounder judges as a pleasant change from the over-trimmed, over-handled or over-coated specimens of some breeds.

The general appearance should be of a small, well balanced dog, the body slightly longer than the height at withers, the legs being long enough for the dog to show a rectangle of daylight beneath the body. The dog must not look long bodied and low to the ground, nor should it look short backed or high on the leg, giving a completely square or leggy appearance. The dog should have a neat well balanced appearance, symmetrical in outline, the rather small head being carried high and the tail in a gay curl over the back when the dog is moving. The overall picture should give the impression of an active little dog possessing great quality and a proper pride in itself.



Typical Dog



Typical Bitch

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE-SIZE-HEIGHT ABOUT 10 INCHES. BODY SLIGHTLY LONGER FROM THE POINT OF SHOULDER TO ROOT OF TAIL THAN THE HEIGHT AT WITHERS. WEIGHT 9-15 POUNDS BEING IDEAL.

The original Standard gave the weight limit as 5 pounds to 14 pounds and no height was specified. The 1959 Standard brought the weight limit to 10 to 16 pounds and height up to 11 inches. This allowed an enormous variation in size. The Standard now is 9-15 pounds with the height about 10 inches. This was the weight and size Mrs. MacLaren Morrison said they should be as long ago as 1904.

It must be stressed that the body is only very slightly longer than the height at withers and the measurement is taken from the point of shoulder to the root of tail.

Oversized specimens and diminutive toy like individuals must be very seriously penalized.

Notes



Dog



Bitch

HEAD—SMALL IN PROPORTION TO BODY AND PROUDLY CARRIED, GIVING AN IMPRESSION OF QUALITY. MASCULINE IN DOGS BUT FREE FROM COARSENESS.

The overall size of the head is rather small in relation to the size of the dog, and this helps to give the dog an elegant appearance. It should be masculine in the males but never coarse in any way. The skull is slightly rounded between the ears and over the eyes. It is not high domed or apple shaped, just gently rounded and of moderate width and length giving ample room for brain. The head is distinctive for the blunt medium length muzzle and the slightly undershot mouth with a noticeable depth of chin.

SKULL SLIGHTLY DOMED, MODERATE WIDTH AND LENGTH.

The skull is broadest at eye level and does not fall away under the eyes to any marked degree and it is only slightly narrower at the back of the head. It must not be broad and flat, nor narrow and high domed, so there should be no reason for an exaggerated skull to appear in the breed.

FAULTS—VERY DOMED OR FLAT WIDE SKULL.



Correct



Very Domed

STOP MODERATELY DEFINED.

There should be a slight but defined stop to avoid a plain looking face.

FAULTS—ACCENTUATED STOP; WITHOUT STOP.



Correct



No stop



Too much stop

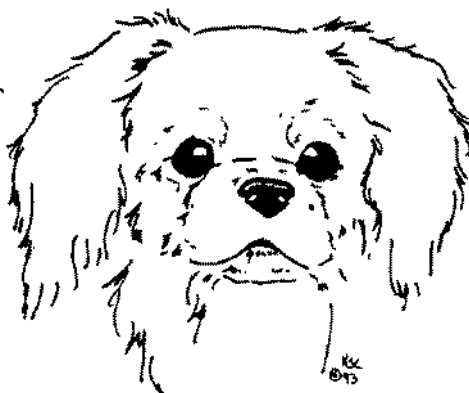
EYES DARK BROWN IN COLOR, OVAL IN SHAPE, BRIGHT AND EXPRESSIVE, OF MEDIUM SIZE SET FAIRLY WELL APART BUT FORWARD LOOKING, GIVING AN APELIKE EXPRESSION. EYE RIMS BLACK.

The eyes are a most attractive feature being oval, almost triangular in shape and most expressive. They should be of medium size set fairly well apart but forward looking, dark brown in color. They must not be too round and prominent, and never narrow or mean in expression. The expression can be disdainful with strangers, the eyes sometimes being half closed to avoid looking directly at a stranger, but they can sparkle with the utmost enthusiasm to greet a friend. They are also capable of giving a very direct summing up look. They can also be extremely mischievous and laughing eyes, as bright and intelligent as any monkey. It is preferable for the whites of the eyes not to show when viewed full on as this gives an incorrect expression.

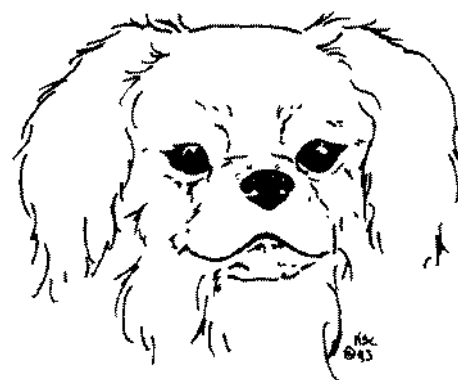
FAULTS—LARGE FULL EYES; LIGHT EYES; MEAN EXPRESSION. BLUE EYES OR EYES WITH BLUE MARKS.



Correct



Round eyes



Slant eyes

EARS MEDIUM SIZE, PENDANT, WELL FEATHERED IN THE ADULT AND SET FAIRLY HIGH. THEY MAY HAVE A SLIGHT LIFT FROM THE SKULL, BUT SHOULD NOT FLY. LARGE, HEAVY, LOW SET EARS ARE NOT TYPICAL.

The ears are very expressive. They may have a slight lift from the skull before they fold over, but should not fly out to the side or be carried erect. There is a natural tendency to lift them a bit when listening and this mobility gives them the expressiveness which is so charming. Low set ears which hang heavily, particularly if large, are not typical of the breed.



Correct



Ears high set and flying



Ears low set

MEDIUM LENGTH OF MUZZLE BLUNT WITH CUSHIONING, FREE FROM WRINKLE. THE CHIN SHOULD SHOW SOME DEPTH AND WIDTH.

The muzzle is about 1½ inches long, measured from the inner corner of the eye to the tip of the nose, and should not exceed this. Noses of less than 1¼ inches are inclined to give an undesirable look of a poor specimen of the Pekingese breed. The muzzle should be strong and have cushioning but should not have a square appearance. It must not be finely tapered to a point. The bluntness is assured if the mouth is correctly undershot with plenty of width between the canine tusks and the chin has sufficient depth to make it clearly visible with the lips fitting neatly. This depth of chin combined with the frontally placed eyes which are forward looking, gives the dog the intelligent ape like expression which is so characteristic of the breed. The angle of the muzzle is important and it should be straight out to the tip of the nose, should not be dishd with an upward curve, nor Roman-nosed with a downward curve. When viewed from the front with the head level, the top of the nose leather should be level or fractionally below the line of the lower eye rims. The muzzle should not show any sign of wrinkle and when the mouth is closed, the teeth must not show or the tongue protrude.

FAULTS —LONG, PLAIN DOWN FACE, BROAD FLAT MUZZLE, POINTED, WEAK OR WRINKLED MUZZLE.



BLACK NOSE PREFERRED.

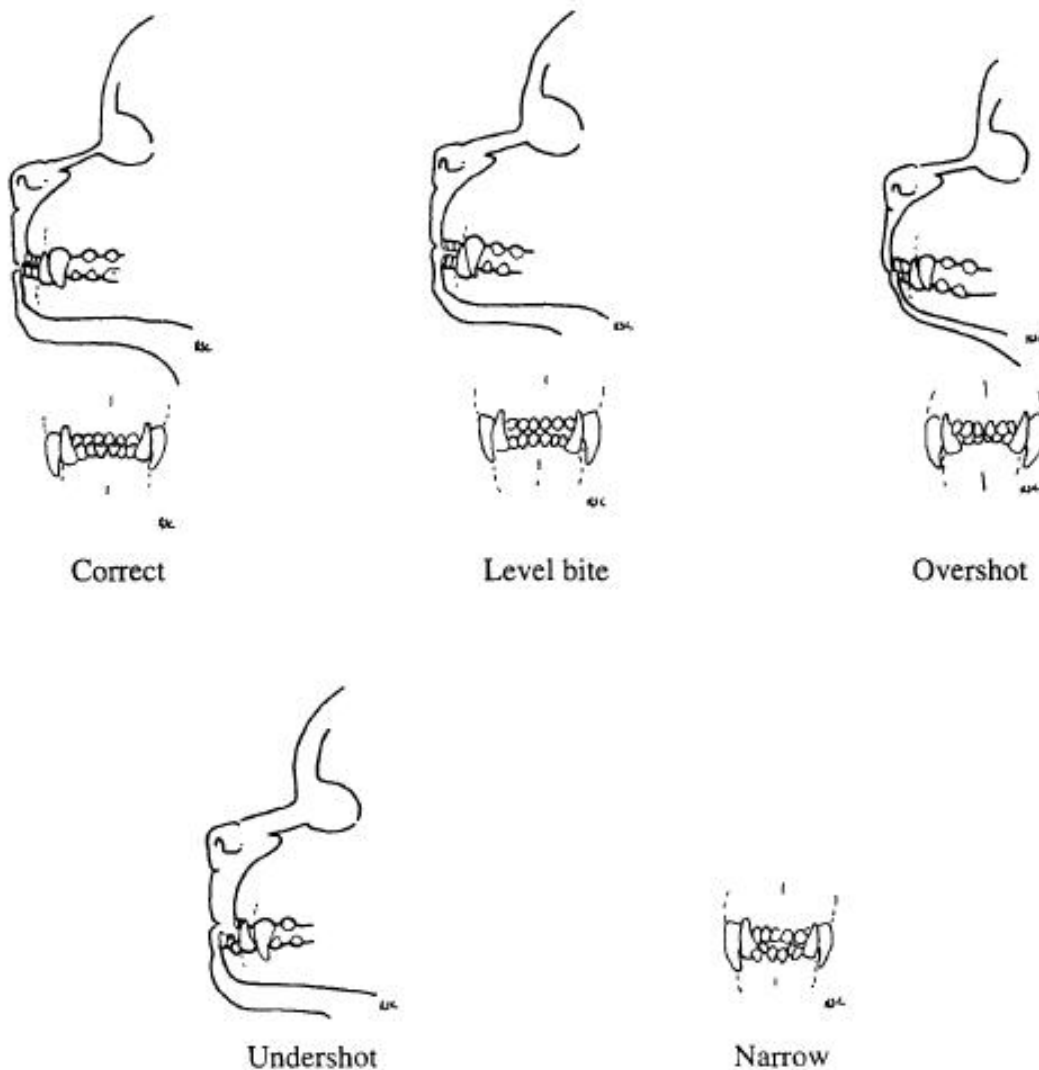
The leather of the nose and the eye rims should be black.

FAULTS —LIVER OR PUTTY-COLORED PIGMENTATION.

MOUTH IDEALLY SLIGHTLY UNDERSHOT, THE UPPER INCISORS FITTING NEATLY INSIDE AND TOUCHING THE LOWER INCISORS. TEETH SHOULD BE EVENLY PLACED AND THE LOWER JAW WIDE BETWEEN THE CANINE TUSKS. FULL DENTITION DESIRED. A LEVEL MOUTH IS PERMISSIBLE, PROVIDING THERE IS SUFFICIENT WIDTH AND DEPTH OF CHIN TO PRESERVE THE BLUNT APPEARANCE OF THE MUZZLE. TEETH SHOULD NOT SHOW WHEN MOUTH IS CLOSED.

The teeth should be evenly placed and the lower jaw wide between the canine tusks. There should be a full complement of teeth for perfection but many Tibetan dogs seem to be short of teeth, commonly four incisors top and bottom instead of six and sometimes there are missing pre-molars. The lower jaw should be wide enough to accommodate six incisors in a straight even line between the canine tusks and to be level when the closed mouth is viewed from the side. A level mouth is permissible providing there is sufficient width and depth of chin to preserve the blunt appearance of the muzzle. An overshot mouth is severely penalized particularly if the chin is receding, which it usually is in these cases, or a severely undershot mouth.

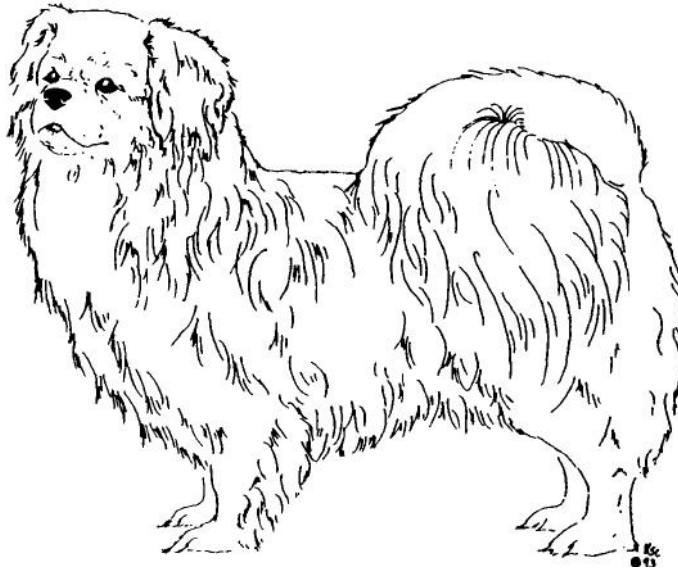
FAULTS —OVERSHOT MOUTH; PROTRUDING TONGUE.



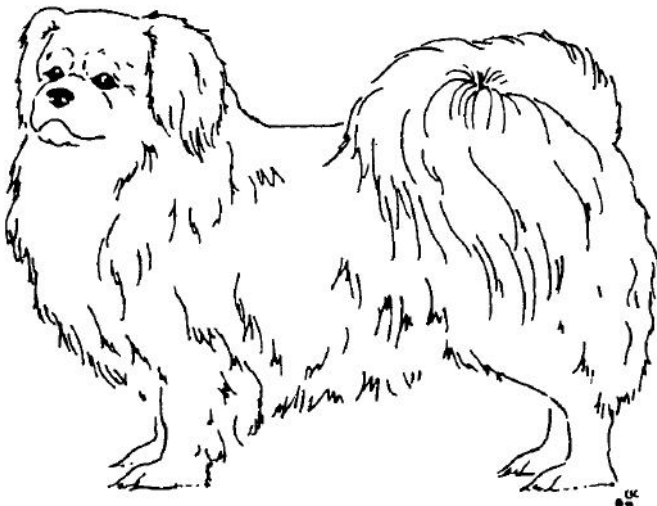
NECK, TOPLINE, BODY—NECK MODERATELY SHORT, STRONG AND WELL SET ON.

The neck is moderately short, strong and well set on so that the head may be carried in the high, rather bridled position that is adopted when showing off and moving well. The adults should carry a “shawl” or “mane” of longer hair on the neck, rather like a lion’s mane, and often of a darker or lighter color than the rest of the dog. It does not develop as a rule until the dog is two years old and is much more pronounced in dogs than bitches. When young or out of coat, the mane is sometimes only defined by color markings.

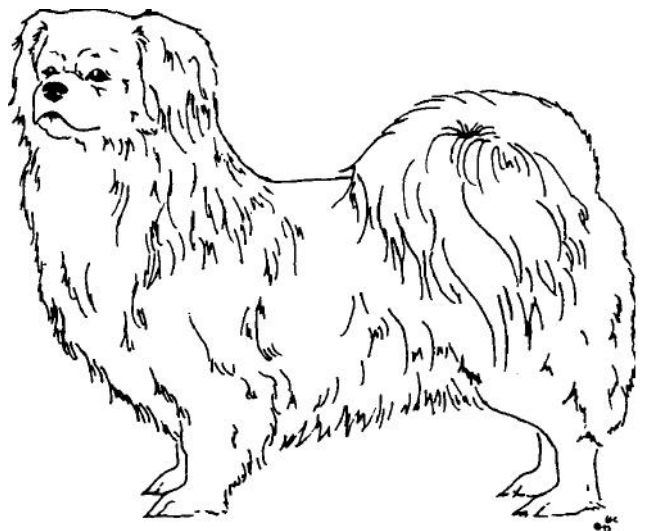
The neck should not be too short to give a stuffy appearance nor should it be too long and ewe like.



Correct



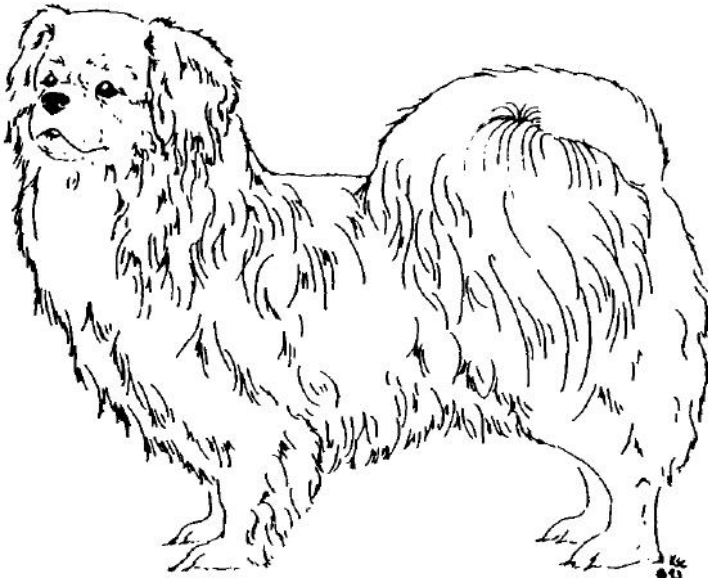
Short In Neck



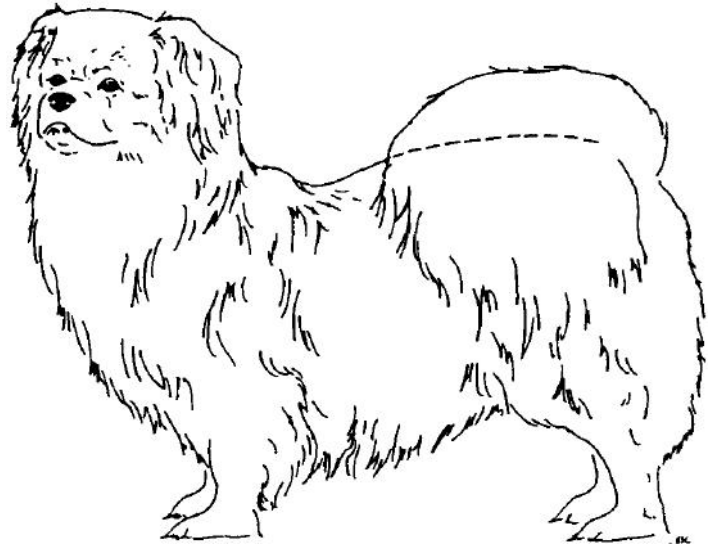
Long In Neck

LEVEL BACK, WELL RIBBED WITH GOOD DEPTH.

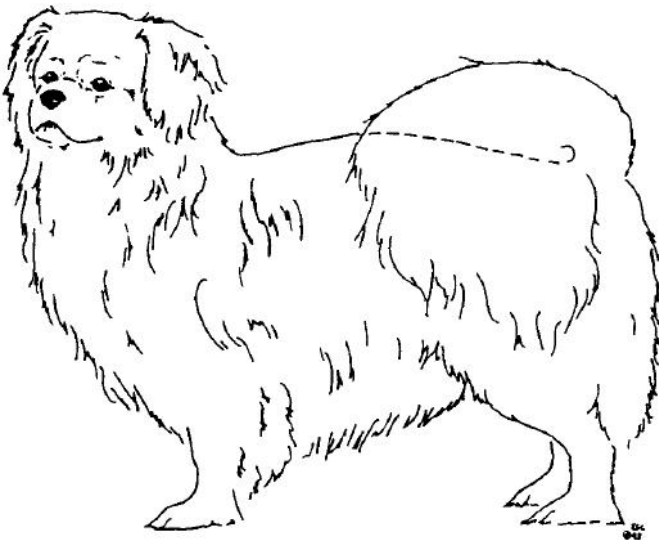
It must be stressed that the body is only very slightly longer than the height at the withers and the measurement is taken from the point of shoulder to the root of tail. The body should be well ribbed with strong loin and level back. The back should not be swayed or roached. The spine, in common with other Tibetan breeds, is rather prominent though quite level, particularly in dogs under two years of age, giving rise to the idea that the dog is thin, even though it is well covered on other parts of the body. This seems to disappear with maturity when the back muscles become more developed. The ribs should be well sprung but not barrel shaped, and carried well back towards a short loin



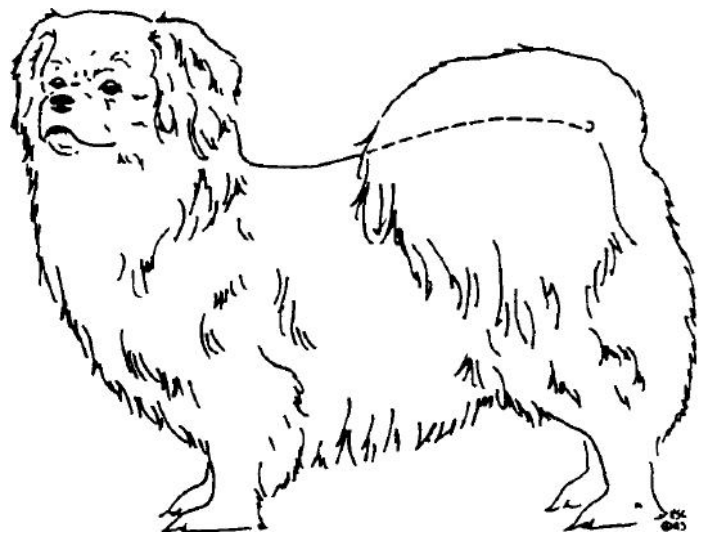
Correct



Dip At The Shoulder



Roach Back



High In Rear

TAIL SET HIGH, RICHLY PLUMED AND CARRIED IN A GAY CURL OVER THE BACK WHEN MOVING. SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED FOR DROPPING TAIL WHEN STANDING.

The tail plays an important part in the general picture of the dog, being carried in a gay curl over the back when moving. The root of the tail should be set on high, that is, it should spring from the top of the back and not start from a tucked under behind the rump position. The curl should be over the center of the back, the tip being carried on the top of one hip. The tail should not be carried flat on the back or straight up the spine. It is perfectly natural for the tail to be dropped down behind the dog when standing at rest, adopting the “lion” position. This position should not be penalized in the ring as long as the tail is carried well over the back when moving as it does not denote a nervous temperament in these cases. An obvious nervous dog is another matter and should be penalized. Some dogs have a kink at the end of their tail, this is of no real significance



Correct Tail



Low Tail

FEET—SMALL HARE FOOT, DEWCLAWS MAY BE REMOVED.

The feet are small and neat, harefooted, not cat-footed in shape or splayed, and there should be feathering on the toes that often extends beyond the feet. White markings are allowed on the feet, are common, and not a fault. The pasterns should be strong and not too sloping, not down on the pasterns. (Note: According to Dr. Quentin LaHam, upon examination of the Tibetan Spaniel, the dog is “flat-footed” unlike most breeds. This would account for their unusual dexterity with their feet.) The Tibetan Spaniel has short metacarpal bones and this should not be mistaken for being down on the pastern.

FAULT—CAT FEET.



Correct Harefoot



Round Cat Foot

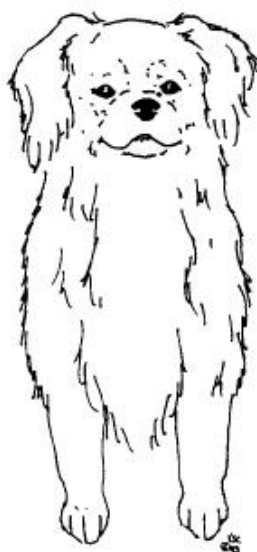
FOREQUARTERS—SHOULDER WELL PLACED AND FIRM. WHEN VIEWED FROM THE FRONT, THE BONES OF THE FOREARMS ARE SLIGHTLY BOWED TO ALLOW THE FRONT FEET TO FALL BENEATH THE SHOULDERS. MODERATE BONE.

The shoulders should be nicely laid back to allow for the brisk action that is so attractive in the breed, and for this reason, the neck must not be too short. The moderately short appearance is really brought about by the mane or shawl. The bones of the forelegs are slightly bowed but firm at shoulder. The dog should not be out at elbow and the legs must not be too bowed and not too heavily boned. The feet should not turn in or out but should point straight ahead. The bone of the legs should be moderate. The chest is moderate, not too broad in front, but not narrow so that the forelegs appear to come “out of one hole,” and it is fairly deep. The legs must be long enough to show a rectangle of daylight beneath the dog but should not have a leggy appearance.

FAULTS—EXTREMELY BOWED OR STRAIGHT FOREARMS, AS VIEWED FROM THE FRONT. DEWCLAWS MAY BE REMOVED.



Correct



Straight



Bowed



East-west



Loose front



Out at elbows

HINDQUARTERS—WELL MADE AND STRONG. STIFLE WELL DEVELOPED, SHOWING MODERATE ANGULATION. HOCKS WELL LET DOWN AND STRAIGHT WHEN VIEWED FROM BEHIND. FEET AS IN FRONT.

The stifle joint should be well developed and moderately angulated. Straight stifles and loose hocks, cow hocks, bow-hocks or toeing in of the feet are faults which should be discouraged.

FAULTS—STRAIGHT STIFLE; COW-HOCKS



Correct



Toeing In



Narrow



Cow Hocked



Wide



Correct



Straight

GAIT—QUICK MOVING, STRAIGHT, FREE, POSITIVE

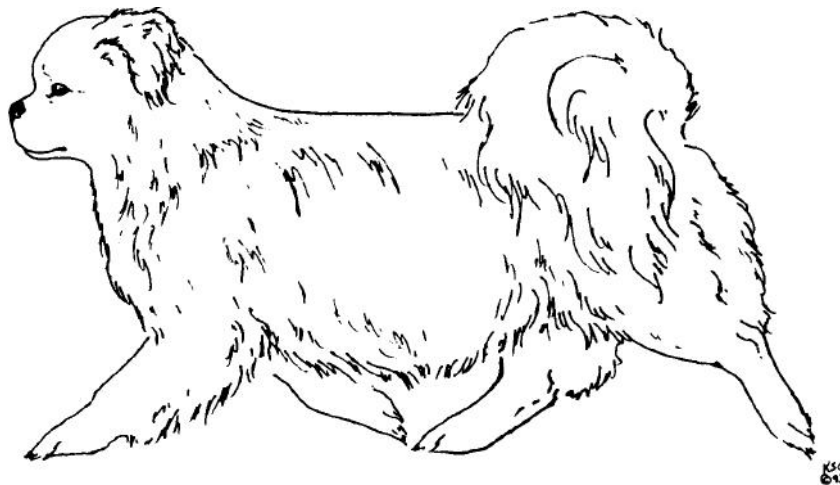
The forelegs should be thrown well out in front of the dog, making good use of the shoulders, the head and neck carried proudly. They should not hackney nor should the elbows be out. The dog should not toe in or out, or swing the forelegs in a semi-circle; a too bowed front, particularly if accompanied with loose elbows will give this sort of rolling movement. The ideal movement is light, almost floating, but quite firm and positive, the hind legs providing plenty of drive, the hind feet being placed straight under the hocks, not turning in or out. It is not a high stepping action, but should cover a lot of ground and be perfectly straight and even. They should be moved at a natural pace.

TEMPERAMENT—GAY AND ASSERTIVE, HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, ALOOF WITH STRANGERS.

They are certainly gay and assertive in the ordinary way, full of life, observant and highly intelligent. They have a characteristic of being aloof with strangers so be warned that when being judged they may not all look straight at you and they do not like being swooped down upon.

FAULT—NERVOUSNESS.

They should never show signs of aggression or nervousness.



Correct Side Movement



Correct



Moving Wide



Crossing Over

COAT—DOUBLE COAT, SILKY IN TEXTURE, SMOOTH ON FACE AND FRONT OF LEGS, OF MODERATE LENGTH ON BODY, BUT LYING RATHER FLAT. EARS AND BACK OF FORELEGS NICELY FEATHERED, TAIL AND BUTTOCKS WELL FURNISHED WITH LONGER HAIR. NECK COVERED WITH A MANE OR “SHAWL” OF LONGER HAIR WHICH IS MORE PRONOUNCED IN DOGS THAN BITCHES. FEATHERING BETWEEN TOES OFTEN EXTENDING BEYOND THE FEET. SHOULD NOT BE OVER-COATED AND BITCHES TEND TO CARRY LESS COAT AND MANE THAN DOGS.

PRESENTATION—IN THE SHOW RING IT IS ESSENTIAL THE TIBETAN SPANIEL BE PRESENTED IN AN UNALTERED CONDITION WITH THE COAT LYING NATURALLY WITH NO TEASING, PARTING OR STYLIZING OF THE HAIR. SPECIMENS WHERE THE COAT HAS BEEN ALTERED BY TRIMMING, CLIPPING, OR BY ARTIFICIAL MEANS SHALL BE SO SEVERELY PENALIZED AS TO BE EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATED FROM COMPETITION. DOGS WITH SUCH A LONG COAT THAT THERE IS NO RECTANGLE OF DAYLIGHT SHOWING BENEATH, OR SO PROFUSE THAT IT OBSTRUCTS THE NATURAL OUTLINE, ARE TO BE SEVERELY PENALIZED. WHISKERS ARE NOT TO BE REMOVED. FEATHERING ON TOES MUST NOT BE TRIMMED. HAIR GROWING BETWEEN THE PADS ON THE UNDERSIDE OF THE FEET MAY BE TRIMMED FOR SAFETY AND CLEANLINESS.

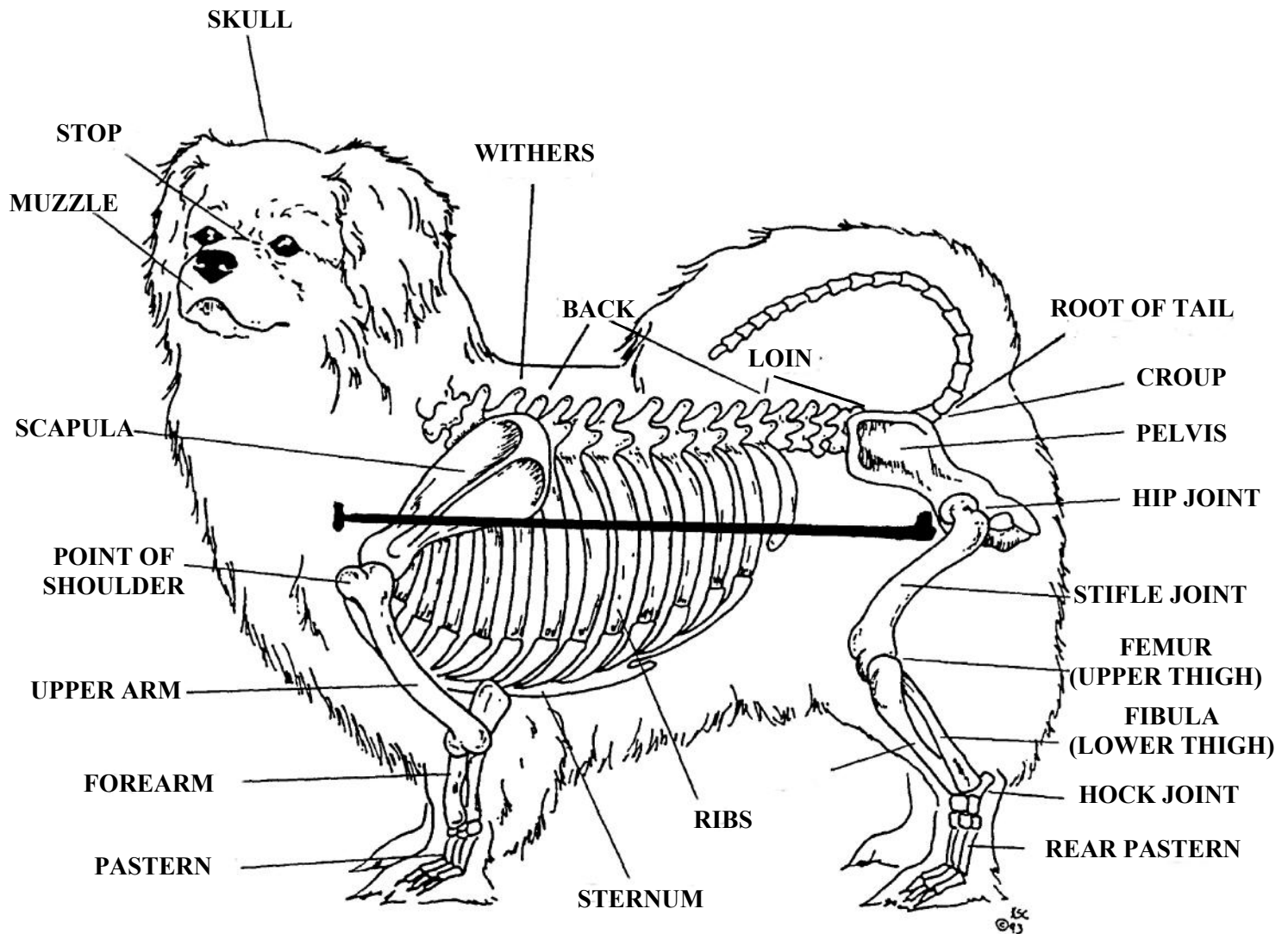
Outer coat silky in texture, smooth on face and front of legs, of moderate length on body, but lying rather flat. Undercoat fine and dense. Ears and back of forelegs nicely feathered, tail and buttocks well furnished with longer hair. The mane should be well defined, the hair being longer than the body coat, but this is usually only apparent in the mature dog. Bitches do not carry as much coat or mane as the dogs and there should be no tendency to become over coated, in either sex. A very heavy coat with trailing fringes is not desirable, the requirement being just enough to look furnished and pretty. *NOTE: any evidence of trimming, thinning, scissoring, plucking, chalking or the removal of whiskers, the T.S.C.A. considers an alteration of the dog and should be severely penalized.* The hair around the pads on the bottom of the feet may be trimmed for the sake of cleanliness and safety. The fringes of hair which extend over the toes and toe nails must never be cut or trimmed.

COLOR—ALL COLORS, AND MIXTURES OF COLORS ALLOWED. FEET—WHITE MARKINGS ALLOWED.

There are a wide variety of colors and mixtures of colors. All are acceptable in Tibetan Spaniels. Sometimes there is a black muzzle or mask and this is very attractive on the lighter colors but there is no preference. Some have an almost frowning expression or scowl, made usually by fine penciled lines or color shadings on the forehead, more than actual forehead wrinkle. Coming from the inner corners of the eyes and meeting in a V above the nose and inside the stop, the scowl then arches over the eyes and eyebrows, giving the expression which sets the Tibetan Spaniel apart from other small non-oriental breeds.

Notes

BODY SLIGHTLY LONGER FROM POINT OF SHOULDER TO ROOT OF TAIL THAN THE HEIGHT AT WITHERS



TIBETAN SPANIEL BREED STANDARD

