



AUSTRALIAN COBBERDOG SOCIETY

The Australian Cobberdog

Breed Standard

Group:

History:

General Appearance: (Refer to Characteristics)

Characteristics

The Australian Cobberdog is aware, smart and easy to train with a gentle will to please. They are loyal to their family without being opposed to strangers. Cobberdogs are easily recognisable by their facial furnishings with a luxurious low-shedding, long fleece coat that falls in gentle waves. They have a strong desire for close human companionship and an instinct to seek intimate eye-to-eye contact.

The Australian Cobberdog's head and facial expressions are a signature trait with a pleasing open face, striking eyes and a notable muzzle. The ears are moderate, well-placed and adept to support non-verbal communication.

Temperament

The Australian Cobberdog is even-tempered, confident and sociable, eager to please, observant, loyal and adapts well to new situations and environments. The Australian Cobberdog is very intelligent making them highly trainable. The Australian Cobberdog should show no signs of anxiousness, timidity or aggression; these traits would be considered serious temperamental faults.

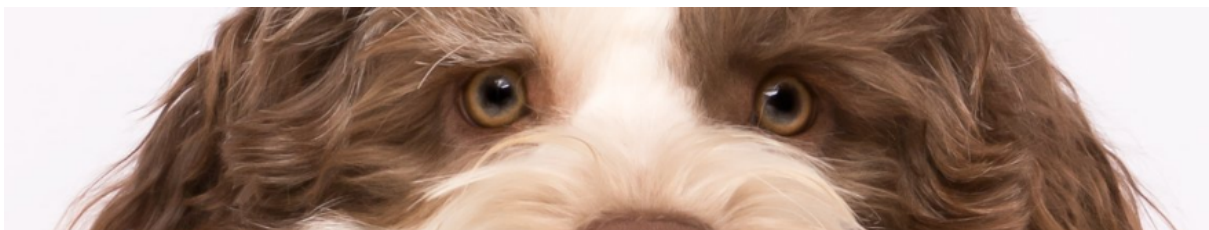
The Australian Cobberdog is lively and playful when left to their own devices, yet is gentle and calm when handled. They have the remarkable ability to intuitively connect with humans, understanding and responding to the emotional and physical needs of their handler.

Head And Skull

Mesaticephalic skull free from exaggerations and in proportion to the size of the dog. Length from tip of nose to the inner corner of the eyes is only slightly shorter than from the inner corner of the eyes to the point of the occiput. Nasal bones are broad and flat, with frontal bones a similar width to the side bones which have flat muscling giving a sculptured appearance. Skull gently rounded and of similar width to the frontal bones of the face with furnishings. The stop is blunt but well defined with a very slightly indented brow between the eyes.

Eyes

The eyes of an Australian Cobberdog are distinctive and unique. Expression of the eyes is open, soulful, confident and friendly. The preferred shape is round to oval, with long fine eyelashes. The eyes should be set well apart, but not so far that they're closer to the side of the head. Eye expression supersedes perfect shape. Both dark and light eyes are acceptable, in colours brown to amber and hazel, almost green. Puppy eyes can be bright blue, green to grey, before changing to a shade of amber.





Eyes NOT set well apart (fault in many standard size Cobberdogs, partly due to a more narrow head):



Ears

The Australian Cobberdog should have drop ears with long silky furnishings and a slightly elevated set-on at the base. This should be set slightly above the outside corner of the eyes. Ear leather is pliable, with its tip at least mid-way down the face. When extended forward, ears should not reach beyond the nose. Furnishings may extend below this point. Ear canals are free from thick hair and preferably average width rather than narrow. When curious or inquisitive, the ear set should rise to the top of the head. Ears should hang close to the face.

Mouth

Muzzle is fairly broad, a little shorter than the skull, its depth being only slightly less than the length with a slight wedge shape giving a rather blunt profile. The nasal bridge has a straight profile. Lips firmly fitting and rims well pigmented. Teeth - white, strong, even, with scissor bite. A full set of 42 teeth is desirable. Malocclusion is undesirable.

Nose

Australian Cobberdogs have a wide fleshy nose with open nostrils and rich unbroken pigment that is either black or liver. Nostrils are well developed with a gentle matte sheen.

Neck

Moderately long and muscular, with no loose skin. Slightly arched and carried high and elegant. Flows seamlessly down to the withers.

Forequarters

Shoulders are well laid back and muscular. The slightly rectangular body shape gives room for angles, reflected by a harmonic and effortless looking trot with a pushing hind. Angulation of the shoulders is symmetrical to that of the femur and tibia bones in the hindquarters, with sufficient slope to allow maximum extension of the front limbs when trotting. The point of shoulder is in line with the pro sternum. Upper arms are evenly muscled, with elbows neither pinched into the sides nor protruding. When seen from the front, the forelegs are straight, parallel and strong.

Body

Free from exaggerations, with a top line that remains level with a strong loin leading to a slightly sloping croup. The dog should appear close to square with a slight length longer than height acceptable in early development (no more than a 10:12 H:L), balanced, athletic, and with good muscling. Tuck up is sufficient to enable the hind legs to reach well forward beneath the body when gaiting. Ribs should appear well sprung, not barrelled.

Hindquarters

When seen from behind, the hindlegs are straight; parallel and strong, like the forelegs. Hind legs turn neither in nor out. Upper thighs are broad, tapering only slightly into the second thigh. When viewed from the rear, the thighs are in a direct line behind the forearms of the front legs and are free of bowing or curvature.

Feet

Slightly oval toes, well-arched and tight, with well-developed pads, adorned with strong nails. Flat and open paws are a fault. Dewclaws are permitted on the front and back feet.

Tail

The Australian Cobberdog has an easy-to-read sabre tail, to be kept lush. The tail should follow the top line when at rest. The last two thirds may curve above the dog's back when excited or in movement. The tip should not touch the back, nor curl upon itself.

Gait/Movement

The Australian Cobberdog should move steadily covering the ground with minimum effort. The trot is true two-beat action with all four feet tracking and landing straight characterised by a graceful, rhythmic two-beat movement that showcases lightness on its feet. The tail will swing in movement adding to the overall impression of a confident, joyful and proud dog. The topline remains parallel with the ground, with minimal up and down movement when viewed from the side. Dishing, plaiting, ambling and pacing are all considered faults.

Coat

Long, soft to the touch, falling in gentle waves to loose curls. Single coated is favourable. Low shed with minimal odour. A dense wiry, rough feeling, wool, curly or flat coat with the absence of furnishings are highly undesirable.

Colour

Accepted Australian Cobberdog colours:

White/Cream, Blonde/Gold, Caramel, Red, Brown, Black.

(*Please refer to the ACS Colour Chart for colour breakdown).

Accepted ACD patterns are as follows:

Phantom, Merle, Pied

Sizes

Miniature: Over 32 cm and No Taller than 42 cm (toe to withers)

Medium: Over 42 cm and No Taller than 52 cm

Standard: Over 52 cm and No Taller than 62 cm

Faults

Any deviation from the descriptions listed above are considered faults. Please refer to the ACS Extended Breed Standard for additional information.

Notes

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

Female animals must have a normal vulva (free of inversion).