

The Japanese Dog Standard (Judging Standard)

(partially revised August, 1977)

Small Size Dog

Essence And Its Expression

The dog has a spirited boldness with a good nature and a feeling of artlessness. It is alert and able to move quickly with nimble, elastic steps.

General Physical Characteristics

Males and females are obviously distinct with proportioned bodies. The frame is compact with well-developed muscles. Males have a height to length ratio of 10 to 11, females slightly longer. The height for males is 39.5 cm , for females 36.5 cm . A range of 1.5 cm taller or shorter is allowed.

Ears

Ears are the shape of a small triangle, leaning forward slightly and standing up firmly.

Eyes

Eyes are somewhat triangular and slant upward toward the outside corner of the eye. The color of the iris is very dark brown.

Muzzle

The bridge of the nose is straight, the sides of the mouth firm, the nose hard, and the lips do not have any slackness. Teeth are strong and occlude correctly.

Head

The forehead is wide, the cheeks well-developed, the neck sturdy.

Forelegs

The shoulder blade has moderate angulation and is well-developed. Forearms are straight with paws well-knuckled up.

Hind legs

Hind legs are strong with a wide natural stance. The hock joint is strong and the paws well-knuckled up.

Chest

The chest is deep, with ribs moderately sprung. The forechest is well-developed.

Back and loin

The topline is straight, the loin strong. [Trans note: well-tucked up]

Tail

The tail is thick and powerful. In length (when straightened out) it reaches almost to the hock joint. Tail Types: sickle tail, curly tail (full curl, right curl, left curl, double curl)

Coat

Outer coat is stiff and straight, undercoat is soft and thick. Tail hair is slightly longer and stands open. Coat color is sesame, red, black, brindle, or white. The quality and color of the hair should express the characteristics typical of the Japanese dogs.

Fur Color Types

[Trans note: these colors cover all Nihon Ken breeds, see the Judging Resolutions for acceptable Shiba colors]

- sesame (sesame, white sesame, red sesame, black sesame)

[Trans note: The sesame or goma color has black-tipped guard hairs sprinkled throughout the coat. White sesame is a white dog with a light black overlay, red sesame is a red dog with a light black overlay, and black sesame is a dog with a heavy black overlay on a red or red-gray undercoat.]

- red (red, pale red, crimson red)
- black
- brindle (brindle, red brindle, black brindle)
- white

Demerit Marks

Developmental defects and nutritional deficiency.

Disharmony between the color of the body and the nose.

Spots in the coat color.

Short tail caused by genetic defect.

Disqualifications

- Lacking the quality of a Japanese dog.
- Overshot or undershot.
- Short tail caused by genetic defect.

Notice: Any deviations should be expunged as much as possible.