

long on the back, but very dense and more like fur than hair. The coat of the smooths is much like that of the smooth Sheepdog.

The great features of the breed may be said to be concentrated in the head and coat. The head should be short, the muzzle thick and blunt, the eyes small and sunken, temples prominent, and with the loose skin over hanging and wrinkles on the forehead forming a scowl quite distinct from the expression of any other breed of dog, the nearest approach being that of the Pekingese. The ears should be very small, prick, and pointed. Shortness of body is a great desideratum in the breed, and straight forelegs and cat-like feet equally desirable, and a black roof of the mouth and black tongue, which are said to indicate purity of race, indispensable points in the breed. The tail should curl on the back, and the dog when moving present the appearance of a compact, strong, sturdy, yet agile animal of a sullen disposition, which most but not all Chow Chows are. In disposition they are, speaking generally, what may be termed an unsocial dog, shrinking from the society of their own species, or even humans, except their own master or mistress, to whom they become much devoted. They are a very game dog, and usually can hold their own in combat with any dog their own size. Another quality they have is their wonderful topographical knowledge. Many stories are told of Chow Chows, who have accidentally lost their owners in a crowd, threading their way through the labyrinth of a crowd until they have found them, and of their wonderful homing instinct, dogs having been known to find their way home a score or more miles through country they had never before traversed.

There are four or five colours of Chow Chows, the reds being most in favour, blacks next, then red with white shadings, fawn, white, and blue.

The Toy craze has not yet reached the Chow Chow, the best size for which is a dog of from 40lbs. to 50lbs. The standard description issued by the Chow Chow Club is as follows:—

**HEAD.**—Skull flat and broad, with little stop, well filled out under the eyes.

**MUZZLE.**—Moderate in length and broad from the eyes to the point (not pointed at the end like a fox's).

**NOSE.**—Black, large, and wide. (In cream or light coloured specimens a pink nose is allowable.)

**TONGUE.**—Black.

**EYES.**—Dark and small. (In a blue dog light colour is permissible.)

**EARS.**—Small, pointed, and carried stiffly erect. They should be placed well forward over the eyes, which gives the dog the peculiar characteristic expression of the breed—viz., a sort of scowl.

**TEETH.**—Strong and level.

**NECK.**—Strong, full, set well on the shoulders, and slightly arched.

**SHOULDERS.**—Muscular and sloping.

**CHEST.**—Broad and deep.

**BACK.**—Short, straight, and strong.

**LOINS.**—Powerful.

**TAIL.**—Curled, well carried over back.

**FORELEGS.**—Perfectly straight, of moderate length, and with great bone.

**HINDLEGS.**—Same as forelegs, muscular, and with straight hocks.

**FEET.**—Small, round, and cat-like, standing well on the toes.

**COAT.**—Abundant, dense, straight, and rather coarse in texture, with a soft woolly undercoat.

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