

# AFFENPINSCHER

## Official UKC Breed Standard

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Companion Dog Group

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The goals and purposes of this breed standard include: to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world; and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this breed, and must take the responsibility to see that these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following 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. Absolute soundness and proper muscle tone is a must.

### HISTORY

Although the Affenpinscher has been well known in Europe as far back as the 17th Century, it is relatively unknown in America. Germany is generally accepted as its country of origin. The breed was used to control rodents. It is one of the source breeds of the more popular, and similar, Brussels Griffon. The Affenpinscher is a bright, alert little dog, very much a miniature terrier in conformation and temperament. Its bushy eyebrows and whiskers, short and rather pointed nose and keen, mischievous expression have earned him the nickname of "Monkey Dog." In fact, in German "Affenpinscher" means "monkey-like terrier."

The Affenpinscher was recognized by the United Kennel Club in 1957.

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The total, overall appearance of the Affenpinscher is to be considered more important than any individual characteristic. It is a small, balanced, wiry-haired, toy-type dog; with an intelligence and demeanor making it a good house dog.

Body proportions give a square appearance. The height, measured at the withers, is approximately the same as the body length, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks.

### CHARACTERISTICS

The Affenpinscher is not delicate in any way, being sturdy and compact, with medium bone. The breed is game, alert and inquisitive, displaying great loyalty and affection toward master and friends. They are generally quiet, but can become vehemently excited when threatened or attacked; and are fearless toward any aggressor.

### HEAD

The head is carried confidently upright and is in proportion to the body. It has the characteristic monkey-like expression.

Head properties should remain free of exaggeration so as to not compromise breathing and/or obstruct normal vision.

**SKULL** - Round, not long, domed and has a prominent forehead. The stop is clearly defined.

**MUZZLE** - Short and straight, with no upward curve, and a straight bridge. The lips are black and tight-fitting. The lower jaw protrudes beyond the upper jaw and is slightly turned upward. Well-opened nostrils.

**TEETH** - A full complement of strong, white teeth meet in a close undershot bite. A level bite is acceptable as long as the monkey-like expression is maintained. The teeth and tongue must not show when the mouth is closed. The bottom jaw should be broad enough for the teeth to sit in a slightly rounded straight row. Two missing teeth are not faulty.

*Faults:* Teeth or tongue showing when the mouth is closed, more than two missing teeth.

*Eliminating Faults:* Scissors bite, wry mouth.

**EYES** - The full, round eyes are dark and brilliant. They are of medium size and in proportion to the head; never bulging or protruding. Eye rims are black.

*Serious Faults:* eyes bulging or showing white while looking straight ahead.

**NOSE** - The black nose is not obviously turned up nor down.

**EARS** - The ears are V-shaped and set high. They may be left natural or cropped to a point, as long as they are symmetrical. If natural, they may stand erect, semi-erect or dropped. If cropped, they stand erect.

*Faults:* low-set, very long or unevenly carried ears, fly-away ears.

### **NECK**

The short, straight neck is carried upright, and is free from throatiness.

### **FOREQUARTERS**

The shoulder blades are long, flat and sloping. Upper arm is muscular and lies close to the body.

**FORELEGS** - Strong and straight when viewed from any direction. The elbows are held close to the body. The pasterns are straight slightly sloping. Dewclaws are generally removed from the forelegs.

### **BODY**

The topline is strong, straight and slightly sloping down from high withers. The back is short and straight. The moderately broad chest is deep to the level of the elbow and the ribs are only slightly flattened. The underline is slightly tucked up at the short loin.

### **HINDQUARTERS**

Angulation in the hindquarters is moderate.

**HIND LEGS** - When viewed from the rear, the legs, including the rear pasterns, are straight. When viewed from the side, the hind legs are set under the body, maintaining the square appearance. The upper and lower thighs are strongly muscled and long. The stifle and hock joints both have moderate angulation. Removal of rear dewclaws is customary but not mandatory.

### **FEET**

Forefeet are short and round with tightly knit, well-arched toes. Hind feet are somewhat longer than forefeet. The pads are tough and the nails are short and black.

### **TAIL**

The tail may be left natural or docked. The natural tail is carried curved gently over the back when the dog is in motion.

The docked tail is set high and carried erect. It is generally docked to be between one and three inches in length.

### **COAT**

The hair is dense, rough and harsh-textured. It is approximately one inch in length on the shoulders, body and back; shorter on the rear and tail; and longer, shaggier, and less harsh on the neck, chest, stomach and legs. In a mature dog, the hair on the neck and chest may be longer, forming a cape. The monkey-like expression is maintained by the longer hair on the head, eyebrows and beard.

### **COLOR**

Color is not a major consideration. Acceptable colors include: black, silver, gray, black and tan (with symmetrical markings), and red.

Red may vary from a brownish-red to an orangey-tan. Some black coats may have a rusty cast, or have white or silver hairs mixed in the coat with the tan markings in a black and tan.

A small white spot or a line of white hairs on the chest are not to be penalized.

*Serious Fault:* Large white patches.

*Disqualification:* Albinism.

### **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

Height is measured at the withers. The acceptable height range, for both sexes, is between 9 and 11½ inches.

Weight ranges from 8½ to 13 pounds.

### **GAIT**

The breed's characteristic gait is relaxed, fluid and slightly mincing, with moderate drive from the rear. The legs move straight and parallel.

### **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

*(An Eliminating Fault is a Fault serious enough that it eliminates the dog from obtaining any awards in a conformation event.)*

Scissors bite.

Wry mouth.

### **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

*(A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a bench show/conformation event, and must be reported to UKC.)*

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Albinism.

*The docking of tails and cropping of ears in America is legal and remains a personal choice. However, as an international registry, the United Kennel Club, Inc. is aware that the practices of cropping and docking have been forbidden in some countries. In light of these developments, the United Kennel Club, Inc. feels that no*

*dog in any UKC event, including conformation, shall be penalized for a full tail or natural ears.*