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.

HISTORY
The Border Collie’s rootstock is of western European
origin, with northern England and Scotland being the
specific areas of development. People wanting specific
herding characteristics isolated individual dogs
exhibiting those traits and bred them, thereby
developing a “pure breed.” The Border Collie breed was
established just over 100 years ago.

They are specifically known for their “eye,” or
almost hypnotic stare, when herding stock. Other
specific traits include intelligence, speed, strength and
an innate herding instinct. The Border Collie sets the
standard in herding, particularly on sheep. This breed
was historically bred for working ability rather than
type.

The Border Collie was recognized by the United
Kennel Club on January 1, 1961.
FOREQUARTERS
Shoulders are well laid back, and the elbows are held close to the body. 
FORELEGS - Straight and parallel when viewed from the front, from the side the pasterns are slightly sloping. Bone is strong, but not coarse.

BODY
Slightly longer than tall. Athletic in appearance, with well-sprung ribs and a deep, rather broad chest. The loin is deep and muscular, not tucked up. The croup slopes gently to the set on of the tail.

HINDQUARTERS
Strong and muscular. 
HIND LEGS - Thighs are long and deep, stifles and hocks are well turned. Rear pasterns are well boned and parallel when viewed from the rear.

FEET
Oval in shape, with deep pads and tight, well arched toes. Nails are short and strong.

TAIL
Moderately long, reaching at least to the hock joint. Set on low, well furnished with hair, and with an upward sweep at the end which completes the graceful appearance of the dog. The tail may be raised in excitement, but never carried over the back.

COAT
Varied lengths: long, medium or smooth. May be straight or wavy. The long-coated dog will have well-feathered forelegs, breeches and tail, and an abundant mane.

The top coat is dense and of medium texture. The undercoat is soft, short and dense to provide adequate weather resistance.

COLOR
Black and red. Less predominant colors include gray, blue merle, red merle, lemon and sable. May have white trim only, and/or may be accompanied by tan points.

All colors or combination of colors and/or markings permissible. Solid color, bi-color, tri-color, merle and sable dogs are to be judged equally with no one color or pattern preferred over another. White markings may be clear white or ticked to any degree. Random white patches on the body and head are permissible but should not predominate. Color and markings always secondary to physical evaluation and gait. 
Disqualification: Albinism.

SIZE
Ideal height at the withers for males is 21 inches, slightly less for females.

GAIT
Free, smooth and tireless, keeping the feet close to the ground. Gait conveys the impression of being able to move with great stealth and speed.

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.