

AKC vs. FCI Standard

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The Dobermann is the only German breed which bears the name of its original breeder, Friedrich Louis Dobermann (02.01.1834 - 09.06.1894).

He was believed to be a tax collector, offal abattoir manager (knacker) and a part time dog catcher, legally able to catch all stray dogs. He bred with animals from this reservoir that were particularly sharp. The so called "butcher's dogs" which were already considered a relatively pure breed at that time, played a most important role in the origination of the Dobermann breed. These dogs were an early type of Rottweiler, mixed with a type of shepherd which existed in "Thüringen" as a black dog with rust red markings. Herr Dobermann bred with this mixture of dogs in the Eighteen Seventies. Thus he obtained "his breed" : not only alert, but highly protective working and housedogs. They were often used as guard and police dogs. Their extensive use in police work led to the nickname "Gendarme dog". They were used in hunting to control large vermin. In these circumstances it was a matter of course that the Dobermann was recognized officially as a Police Dog by the beginning of the century. The Dobermann breed requires a medium sized, powerful, muscular dog. Despite his substance he shall be elegant and noble, which will be evident in his body line. He must be exceptionally suitable as a companion, protection and working dog and also as family dog.

AKC

General Appearance

The appearance is that of a dog of medium size, with a body that is square. Compactly built, muscular and powerful, for great endurance and speed. Elegant in appearance, of proud carriage, reflecting great nobility and temperament. Energetic, watchful, determined, alert, fearless, loyal and obedient.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Height at the withers: *Dogs* 26 to 28 inches, ideal about 27½ inches; *Bitches* 24 to 26 inches, ideal about 25½ inches. The height, measured vertically from the ground to the highest point of the withers, equalling the length measured horizontally from the forechest to the rear projection of the upper thigh. Length of head, neck and legs in proportion to length and depth of body.

Head

Long and dry, resembling a blunt wedge in both frontal and profile views. When seen from the front, the head widens gradually toward the base of the ears in a practically unbroken line. *Eyes* almond shaped, moderately deep set, with vigorous, energetic expression. Iris, of uniform color, ranging from medium to darkest brown in black dogs; in reds, blues, and fawns the color of the iris blends with that of the markings, the darkest shade being preferable in every case. *Ears* normally cropped and carried erect. The upper attachment of the ear, when held erect, is on a level with the top of the skull.

Top of skull flat, turning with slight stop to bridge of muzzle, with muzzle line extending parallel to top line of skull. Cheeks flat and muscular. *Nose* solid black on black dogs, dark brown on red ones, dark gray on blue ones, dark tan on fawns. Lips lying close to jaws. Jaws full and powerful, well filled under the eyes.

Teeth strongly developed and white. Lower incisors upright and touching inside of upper incisors a true scissors bite. 42 correctly placed teeth, 22 in the lower, 20 in the upper jaw. Distemper teeth shall not be penalized. **Disqualifying Faults:** Overshot more than 3/16 of an inch. Undershot more than 1/8 of an inch. Four or more missing teeth.

FCI

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Dobermann is of medium size, strong and muscularly built. Through the elegant lines of its body, its proud stature, and its expression of determination, it conforms to the ideal picture of a dog.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: The body of the Dobermann appears to be almost square, particularly in males. The length of the body measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock shall not be more than 5% longer than the height from the withers to the ground in males, and 10% in females.

BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT: The disposition of the Dobermann is friendly and calm; very devoted to the family it loves children. Medium temperament and medium sharpness (alertness) is desired. A medium threshold of irritation is required with a good contact to the owner. Easy to train, The Dobermann enjoys working, and shall have good working ability, courage and hardness. The particular values of self confidence and intrepidity are required, and also adaptability and attention to fit the social environment.

HEAD CRANIAL REGION: Strong and in proportion to the body. Seen from the top the head is shaped in the form of a blunt wedge. Viewed from the front the crown line shall be almost level and not dropping off to the ears. The muzzle line extends almost straight to the top line of the skull which falls, gently rounded, into the neck line. The superciliary ridge is well developed without protruding. The forehead furrow is still visible. The Occiput shall not be conspicuous. Seen from the front and the top the sides of the head must not bulge. The slight bulge between the rear of the upper jawbone and the cheek bone shall be in harmony with the total length of the head. The head muscles shall be well developed.

Stop: Shall be slight but visibly developed.

AKC

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck proudly carried, well muscled and dry. Well arched, with nape of neck widening gradually toward body. Length of neck proportioned to body and head. *Withers* pronounced and forming the highest point of the body. Back short, firm, of sufficient width, and muscular at the loins, extending in a straight line from withers to the slightly rounded croup.

Chest broad with forechest well defined. *Ribs* well sprung from the spine, but flattened in lower end to permit elbow clearance. *Brisket* reaching deep to the elbow. *Belly* well tucked up, extending in a curved line from the brisket. *Loins* wide and muscled. *Hips* broad and in proportion to body, breadth of hips being approximately equal to breadth of body at rib cage and shoulders. *Tail* docked at approximately second joint, appears to be a continuation of the spine, and is carried only slightly above the horizontal when the dog is alert.

Forequarters

Shoulder Blade - sloping forward and downward at a 45-degree angle to the ground meets the upper arm at an angle of 90 degrees. Length of shoulder blade and upper arm are equal. Height from elbow to withers approximately equals height from ground to elbow. *Legs* seen from front and side, perfectly straight and parallel to each other from elbow to pastern; muscled and sinewy, with heavy bone. In normal pose and when gaitting, the elbows lie close to the brisket. *Pasterns* firm and almost perpendicular to the ground. Dewclaws may be removed. *Feet* well arched, compact, and catlike, turning neither in nor out.

Hindquarters

The angulation of the hindquarters balances that of the forequarters. *Hip Bone* falls away from spinal column at an angle of about 30 degrees, producing a slightly rounded, well filled-out croup. *Upper Shanks* at right angles to the hip bones, are long, wide, and well muscled on both sides of thigh, with clearly defined stifles. Upper and lower shanks are of equal length. While the dog is at rest, hock to heel is perpendicular to the ground. Viewed from the rear, the legs are straight, parallel to each other, and wide enough apart to fit in with a properly built body. Dewclaws, if any, are generally removed. *Cat feet* as on front legs, turning neither in nor out.

Coat

Smooth-haired, short, hard, thick and close lying. Invisible gray undercoat on neck permissible.

FCI

FACIAL REGION

Nose: Nostrils well developed, more broad than round, with large openings without overall protrusion. Black - on black dogs; on brown dogs, corresponding lighter shades.

Muzzle: The muzzle must be in the right proportion with the upper head and must be strongly developed. The muzzle shall have depth. The mouth opening shall be wide, reaching to the molars. A good muzzle width must also be present on the upper and lower incisor area.

Flews: They shall be tight and lie close to the jaw which will ensure a tight closure of the mouth. The pigment of the gum to be dark; on brown dogs a corresponding lighter shade.

Jaw/Dentition/Teeth: Powerful broad upper and under jaw, scissor bite, 42 teeth correctly placed and normal size.

Eyes: Middle size oval and dark in color. Lighter shades are permitted for brown dogs. Close lying eyelids. Eyelids shall be covered with hair. Baldness around the rim of the eye is highly undesirable.

Ears: The ear, which is set high, is carried erect and cropped to a length in proportion to the head. In a country where cropping is not permitted the uncropped ear is equally recognized. (Medium size preferred and with the front edge lying close to the cheeks).

NECK: The neck must have a good length and be in proportion to the body and the head. It is dry and muscular. Its outline rises gradually and is softly curved. Its carriage is upright and shows much nobility.

BODY

Withers: Shall be pronounced in height and length, especially in males and thereby determine the slope of the top line rising from the croup to the withers.

Back: Short and tight, of good width and well muscled.

Loin: Of good width and well muscled. The bitch can be slightly longer in loin because she requires space for suckling.

Croup: It shall fall slightly, hardly perceptible from sacrum to the root of the tail, and appears well rounded, being neither straight nor noticeably sloping, of good width and well muscled.

Chest: Length and depth of chest must be in the right proportion to the body length. The depth with slightly arched ribs should be approximately 50% the height of the dog at the withers. The chest has got a good width with especially well developed fore chest.

Underline: From the bottom of the breastbone to the pelvis the underline is noticeably tucked up.

Tail: It is high set and docked short whereby approximately two tail vertebrae remain visible. In countries where docking is legally not permitted the tail may remain natural.

AKC

Color and Markings

Allowed Colors: Black, red, blue, and fawn (Isabella). **Markings:** Rust, sharply defined, appearing above each eye and on muzzle, throat and forechest, on all legs and feet, and below tail. White patch on chest, not exceeding ½ square inch, permissible. **Disqualifying Fault:** Dogs not of an allowed color.

Gait

Free, balanced, and vigorous, with good reach in the forequarters and good driving power in the hindquarters. When trotting, there is strong rear-action drive. Each rear leg moves in line with the foreleg on the same side. Rear and front legs are thrown neither in nor out. Back remains strong and firm. When moving at a fast trot, a properly built dog will single-track.

Temperament

Energetic, watchful, determined, alert, fearless, loyal and obedient. *The judge shall dismiss from the ring any shy or vicious Doberman.*

Shyness: A dog shall be judged fundamentally shy if, refusing to stand for examination, it shrinks away from the judge; if it fears an approach from the rear; if it shies at sudden and unusual noises to a marked degree.

Viciousness: A dog that attacks or attempts to attack either the judge or its handler, is definitely vicious. An aggressive or belligerent attitude towards other dogs shall not be deemed viciousness.

Faults

The foregoing description is that of the ideal Doberman Pinscher. Any deviation from the above described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

Disqualifications

Overshot more than 3/16 of an inch, undershot more than 1/8 of an inch. Four or more missing teeth. Dogs not of an allowed color.

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FCI

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS: The front legs as seen from all sides are almost straight, vertical to the ground and strongly developed.

Shoulders: The shoulder-blade lies close against the chest, and both sides of the shoulder-blade edge are well muscled and reach over the top of the Thoracic Vertebra, slanting as much as possible and well set back. The angle to the horizontal is approximately 50%.

Upper Arm: Good length, well muscled, the angle to the shoulder-blade is approximately 105o to 110o.

Elbow: Close in, not turned out.

Lower Arm: Strong and straight. Well muscled. Length in harmony with the whole body.

Carpus: Strong.

Metacarpus: Bones strong. Straight seen from the front. Seen from the side, only slightly sloping, maximum 10o.

Front Foot: The feet are short and tight. The toes are arched towards the top (cat like). Nails short and black.

HINDQUARTERS: Seen from the back the Dobermann looks, because of his well developed pelvic muscles in hips and croup, wide and rounded off. The muscles running from the pelvic towards the upper and lower thigh result in good width development, as well as in the upper thigh area, in the knee joint area and at the lower thigh. The strong hind legs are straight and stand parallel.

Upper Thigh: Good length and width, well muscled. Good angulations to the hip joint. Angulations to the horizontal approximately between 80o to 85o.

Knee: The knee joint is strong and is formed by the upper and lower thigh as well as the knee cap. The knee angulations are approximately 130o.

Lower Thigh: Medium length and in harmony with the total length of the hindquarter.

Hock joint: Medium strength and parallel. The lower thigh bone is joined to the Metatarsal at the hock joint (Angle about 140o).

Metatarsus: It is short and stands vertical to the ground.

Hind Foot: Like the front feet, the toes of the back feet are short, arched and closed. Nails are short and black.

FCI Continued

GAIT: The gait is of special importance to both the working ability as well as the exterior appearance. The gait is elastic, elegant, agile, free and ground covering. The front legs reach out as far as possible. The hind quarter gives far reaching and necessary elastic drive. The front leg of one side and back leg of the other side move forward at the same time. There should be good stability of the back, the ligaments and the joints.

SKIN: The skin fits closely all over and is of good pigment.

COAT

HAIR: The hair is short, hard and thick. It lies tight and smooth and is equally distributed over the whole surface.

Undercoat is not allowed.

COLOUR: The color is black or brown, with rust red clearly defined and clean markings. Markings on the muzzle, as a spot on the cheeks and the top of the eyebrow, on the throat, two spots on the fore chest, on the metacarpus, metatarsus and feet, on the inside of the back thigh, on the arms and below the tail.

SIZE AND WEIGHT

SIZE: Height at the highest point of withers.

Males: 68 - 72 cm

Bitches: 63 - 68 cm

Medium size desirable.

WEIGHT: Males about 40 - 45 kg

Bitches about 32 - 35 kg

FAULTS: any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

General Appearance: Reversal of sexual impression; little substance; too light; too heavy; too leggy; weak bones.

Head: Too heavy; too narrow; too short; too long; too much or too little stop; Roman nose; bad slope of the top line of the skull; weak under jaw; round or slit eyes; light eye; cheeks too heavy; loose flews; eyes too open or too deep-set; ear set too high or too low; open mouth angle.

Neck: Slightly short; too short; loose skin around the throat; dewlap; too long (not in harmony); ewe neck.

Body: Back not tight; sloping croup; sway back; roach back; insufficient or too much spring of rib; insufficient depth or width of chest; back too long overall; too little fore chest; tail set too high or too low; too little or too much tuck up.

Limbs: Too little or too much angulations front or hindquarters; loose elbow; deviations from the standard position and length of bones and joints; feet too close together or too wide apart; cow-hocks, spread hocks, close hocks; open or soft paws, crooked toes; pale nails.

Coat: Markings too light or not sharply defined; smudged markings; mask too dark; big black spot on the legs; chest markings hardly visible or too large; hair long, soft, curly or dull. Thin coat; bald patches; large tufts of hair particularly on the body; visible undercoat.

Character: Inadequate self confidence; temperament too high; sharpness too high; too high or too low a threshold of irritation.

Size: Deviation of size up to two centimeters from the standard should result in a lowering of the quality grading.

Gait: Wobbly; restricted or stiff gait; pacing.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

General: pronounced reversal of sexual impressions.

Eyes: Yellow eyes (bird of prey eye); wall eye.

Dentition: Overshot; level bite; undershot; missing teeth.

Coat: White spots; pronounced long and wavy hair; pronounced thin coat or large bald patches.

Character: Fearful, nervous and aggressive animals.

Size: Dogs which deviate more than two centimeters over or under the standard.

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