

The Pinscher Club of Great Britain



Guide to the Breed Standard

This *Guide to the Breed Standard* has been prepared to assist judges and others interested in the required conformation and temperament of the Pinscher. It is intended to augment the information given in the Interim Breed Standard.

1. GENERAL APPEARANCE: Well-balanced, smooth coated, medium size with elegant and flowing outlines but strong and well muscled.

Guideline:

- Excessive substance/size highly undesirable as it detracts from the essential flowing outlines and the elegance of the Pinscher.

2. CHARACTERISTICS: Alert, good-natured, playful. Loyal, watchful and fearless.

3. TEMPERAMENT: High spirited and self-possessed.

4. HEAD AND SKULL: Seen from above and side resembles a blunt wedge. Strong but not heavy, elongated without pronounced occiput. Overall length in proportion to back (from withers to base of tail) is approximately 1:2. Top of muzzle parallel with extended line of unwrinkled, flat forehead; slight but distinct stop. Cheek muscles strong but not prominent. Deep muzzle. Nose full and black; in reds nose of corresponding shade. Lips tight and dark. Snipiness undesirable.

Guideline:

- 'Blunt wedge' defined as 'length twice the width'.
- Excessively broad heads undesirable.

5. EYES: Dark, of medium size, oval and directed forward. Eye rims tight.

Guideline:

- Rounded and light eyes considered a fault.

6. EARS: Set high, 'V' shaped, folded down close to head.

7. MOUTH: Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

8. **NECK: Elegant and strong. Neither short nor stout. Nape well arched. Skin of throat tight without dewlap.**
9. **FOREQUARTERS: Well laid shoulder with good but flat muscle. Forelegs straight viewed from all sides, parallel elbows are close to body.**

Guideline:

- Straight pasterns are highly desirable.
- Out at elbows not acceptable.

10. **BODY: Chest moderately wide with flat ribs. Brisket extends below elbow. Forechest extends beyond point of shoulder. Compact and short coupled. Length of body approximately equal to height at withers. Back short and slightly sloping. Slightly rounded croup.**

Guideline:

- The lower part of the chest rises slightly backwards merging with the moderate tuck-up of the belly.
- The distance between the last rib and the haunch is short, thereby giving the Pinscher a compact, short-coupled appearance.
- Too heavy or too light in substance is highly undesirable.
- Back too long and weak; distinct roach (wheel) back or hollow back undesirable.
- Chest pear and not barrel shaped.
- Bitches may be slightly longer in loin.
- The topline is not totally straight, but shows a very slight, gently flowing line caused by the strong first vertebra of the withers, the back and the slightly rounded rump (croup) to the set-on of the tail.

11. **HINDQUARTERS: Seen from behind parallel, with sufficient width. Upper thigh slanted and strongly muscled. Good length and bend of stifle, hock turning neither in nor out.**

Guideline:

- When standing, hock to heel perpendicular to ground.

12. **FEET: Well arched, compact and cat like with dark nails. Turning neither in nor out. Tough, hard pads.**

13. **TAIL: Set and carried high. Customarily docked to three joints..**

14. **GAIT/MOVEMENT: Free, well balanced and vigorous with good reach in front and strong rotary driving action from rear. Front and hind legs**

should not be thrown outwards. Topline should remain strong and firm. Hackney movement is undesirable.

15. COAT: Short and dense, smoothly fitting, glossy without bald spots.

Guideline:

- White patches of hair undesirable, but occasional white hairs, due to coat damage, acceptable.

16. COLOUR: All solid colours from fawn (Isabella) to stag red in various shades. Black and blue with reddish/tan markings. In bi-coloured dogs sharply marked red/tan markings desirable. Markings distributed as follows: at cheeks, lips, lower jaw, above eyes, at throat, at forechest as two triangles separated from each other, at metatarsus, forelegs, feet, inner sides of hind legs and vent region.

Guideline:

- Black with red or brown (tan) markings.
- Red/tan markings desired as dark and as rich as possible; they must be sharply marked.
- Solid colours. Red and fawn dogs should be of a rich, clear, uniform colour without darker/lighter saddle, eel stripes, straw markings or darker hairs.

17. SIZE: Height at withers: 43–48 cms (17–19 ins).

Guideline:

- Oversized and undersized dogs highly undesirable.

18. 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.

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