

JUDGING THE COTON DE TULEAR

USACTC graphics guide for evaluating key points of Coton Type. Refer to AKC Standard for exact verbiage.

"Under the soft, "cottony" textured coat, the Coton is a dog of balance & symmetry".

The distinguishing qualities of the breed are best appreciated by judging equally with both hands & eyes.



White "Cottony" Coat

The Coton de Tulear has the "overall appearance of a white dog".

However, the standard defines a small amount of allowable color and makes exceptions for puppy color.

TEXTURE: The coat feels like a soft, fine quality "cotton ball", never "silky, harsh or wooly".

Squeeze the fur into a ball. Correct texture is that of a natural cotton ball.

A small amount of fur, twisted upright by your fingers, should produce a "stand up" look of the fur.

Puppy coats are much softer than adults

Coats lay straight with only a very slight amount of wave being acceptable.

Adult coats: dense & profuse. Should never be so "thin" that it lays "flat" against the body.

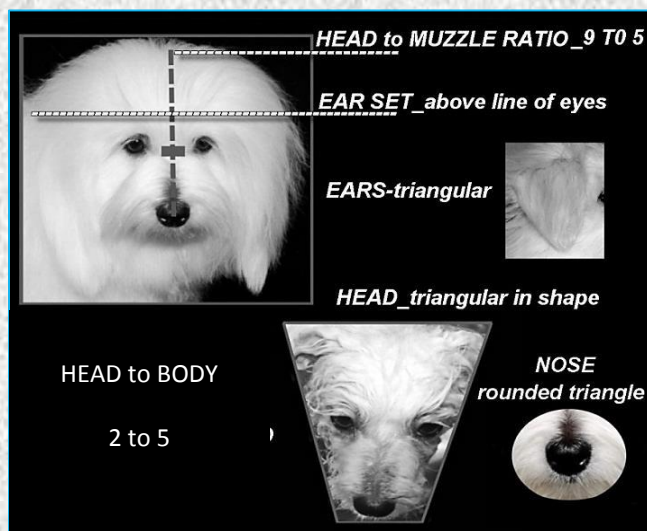
Coats may reach the ground, or be approximately 1" to 3" less than ground length.

Either coat length, is acceptable.

Common severe fault: Artificial parting of head and body. **Severe Fault:** Excessive trimming, sculpting or grooming. Trimming of feet and pads is permitted. The coat should be clean and free of mats. The Coton is shown natural as is consistent with good grooming. Coat hairs should not be, broken, frizzed, unclean or overly stained.

BLACK COLOR DISQUALIFICATION & ACCEPTABLE COLOR AMOUNTS & Puppy Color **REFER to PAGE 4 of DOCUMENT.**

HEAD



EYES: SLIGHTLY ROUNDED

PIGMENT: NOSE, LIPS, EYE RIMS is BLACK

EARS: SET DIRECTLY ABOVE LINE OF EYE

HEAD: TRIANGULAR IN SHAPE

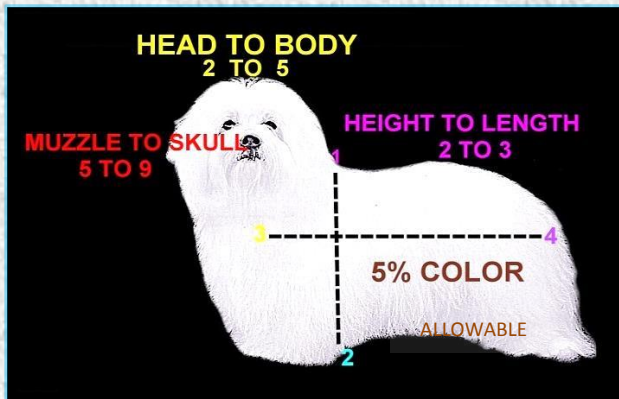
SKULL IS SLIGHTLY ROUNDED

The standard **DOES NOT DEFINE** a difference between male and female heads, but emphasizes correct ratios.

TEETH: SCISSOR or LEVEL BITE

ABSENCE OF PM1 and M3 not penalized

RATIOS



BODY RATIO 2 TO 3

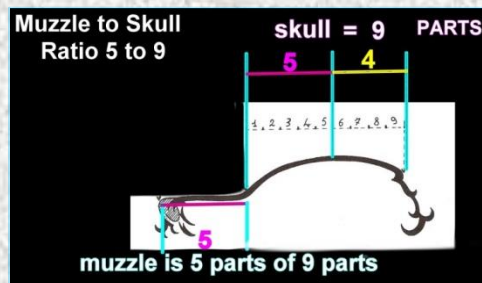
RECTANGULAR SILHOUETTE

2 HIGH: WITHERS TO GROUND

3 LONG: POINT OF SHOULDER TO POINT OF BUTTOCK

A Coton should never appear long and low and definitely not square.

HEAD TO BODY RATIO IS 2 TO 5. A CORRECTLY PROPORTIONED HEAD IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH AN ACCURATE SKULL TO MUZZLE RATIO of 5 to 9



Length of Muzzle
Muzzle is slightly over 1/2 of skull (backskull)

STEP1: Place thumb on stop and index finger on occipital crest.

STEP2: (Keeping thumb in place) Bring index finger forward to slightly less than half the distance to thumb.

STEP 3: LIFT fingers, holding the distance established, place thumb on end of nose and index finger on stop. That measurement should be the exact length of muzzle to skull. 5 to 9

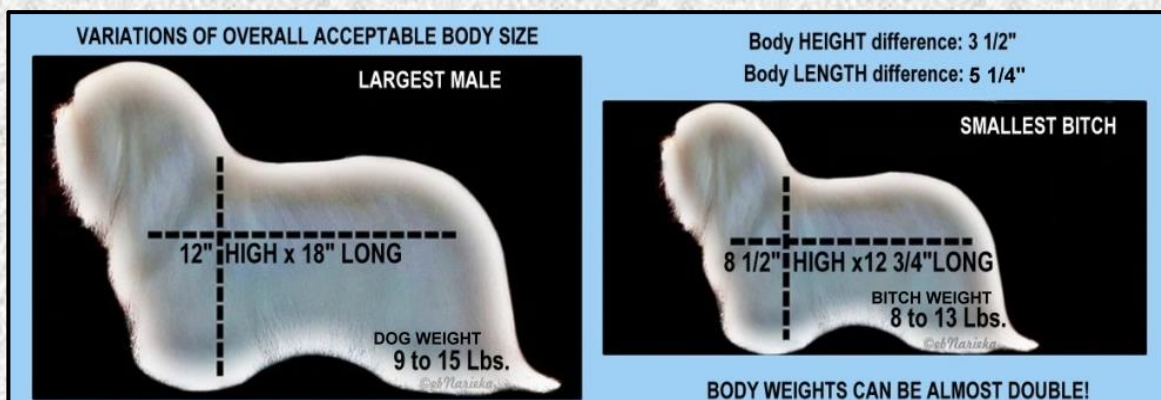
HEIGHT (DISQUALIFICATION) AND IDEAL WEIGHTS.

DOG HEIGHT
10" TO 11" IDEAL
TOLERANCE OF
1/2" BELOW & 1" ABOVE

WICKET for DISQUALIFICATION
SPECIMENS OVER OR UNDER HEIGHT
DOGS: 9 1/2 " TO 12"
BITCH: 8 1/2 " TO 11"

EXCEPTION: *under height DQ does not apply to puppies under 12 months of age*

BITCH HEIGHT
9" TO 10"
TOLERANCE OF
1/2" BELOW & 1" ABOVE



With height and weight sizes being so dramatically different, it is important that judges not be influenced by size and reward the specimen with the best overall conformation

SLIGHTLY CONVEX TOPLINE



Place your thumb & index finger in an "inverted U" shape over the last rib. This enables you to easily determine the starting point of the arch over the lumbar vertebrae.

The rise should not start before the lumbar vertebrae. CROUP is oblique.

TOPLINE EVALUATION CONCERNS

When evaluating the topline, the Coton should not be judged like a Havanese. The Coton topline IS NOT high in the rear. Coton tail set is low. Tail faults are frequently the result of incorrect toplines.

ALSO: If a Cotons withers and croup are on the same plane, with an arch over the loin, you ARE NOT feeling the correct Coton topline. You are feeling a level topline with a "hump".

TAIL SET AND CARRIAGE

On the move the tail is carried happily. It is curved over the back so that the hair of the tail rests on the back with the point towards the nape, withers, back or loin. In specimens with abundant coat, the tip may rest on the dorsal-lumber region.

Tails are down when presented on the table, when the dog is not in motion, and when stacked on the ground at rest.

When the tail is raised, it MUST BE ARCED, pointing forward.



MOST COMMON TAIL FAULTS (in motion)-

FLAGPOLE TAIL: standing STRAIGHT UP

SNAP TAIL: lying FLAT ON THE BACK

JUDGING MOVEMENT "TAKE THEM AROUND"



GAIT: a free and flowing moderate trot with no signs of uneven movement.

TOPLINE is retained.

TAIL: raised and arced pointing forward

It is **not obligatory** to see the tail raised continuously while in motion, however, when the tail is raised, it **must be arced and** pointing forward.

If the tail is dropped on rare occasion, this may be forgiven.

Less than ideal ring conditions may cause Cotons to jump over high grass, however, **SKIPPING should never be seen in the ring**, regardless of conditions.

DOWN AND BACK

REAR IN MOTION: a straight line is maintained at all speeds of the trot, from hip to pad.

The "**flash of pad**" seen from the rear reveals the construction of the rear leg.

The straight leg will show the pad balanced perfectly in line with front leg placement.

Legs that are too close or cow hocked will show the pad going away at an angle.

FRONT IN MOTION: Coton de Tulear have a 30 degree shoulder layback.

Forward movement should be free and easy with no tendency for the feet to cross over.

COLOR ELABORATION-SEVERE FAULT and DQ

Acceptable: 5% light tan in one patch or scattered throughout the body. Over 5% of light tan color is a **SEVERE FAULT**. A light tan or grey dispersed color is allowed on ear tips, & is not considered in determining the 5% amount. **Black** is a **disqualification** on the body at any age.



COLOR ABOVE: in a patch on one side.

Color could be scattered throughout the coat.

This Coton has 5% light tan color on body.

Acceptable 5% color of light tan may appear in one place on the body or scattered throughout the body.

EXCESS OF 5% LIGHT TAN IS A SEVERE FAULT.

Ear color of light tan or light grey is acceptable and **IS NOT** taken into consideration in determining the 5% body color.

The Coton standard addresses ears and body only. As such, all body parts other than ears, are to be considered when determining excess color amounts of light tan (SEVERE FAULT).

BLACK IS A DISQUALIFICATION ANYWHERE ON THE COAT AND AT ANY AGE.

Exception: Puppy Color -Does not apply to puppies with color under 12 months of age. They may have the acceptable colors of light tan, light brown, dark brown, chestnut or grey on the body and head. These colors have the potential to fade to the acceptable 5% allowance by one year of age and should not be penalized.

**When all considerations are equal,
judges should give preference to the dog whose coat has the most amount of white
THE USACTC HOPES YOU HAVE MANY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES JUDGING THE
MAGNIFICENT "COTON DE TULEAR"**

Please visit www.usactc.org (Judges Education Menu) where you will find an Indexed Elaboration of the Standard, a Guide to Judging the Coton and a comparison of the Coton with the Havanese and the Bichon Frise.