

# JUDGING THE COTON DE TULEAR



**AKC STANDARD: Effective-October 1, 2013**

**The Coton de Tulear, is a drop coated breed. The distinguishing qualities of the breed are best appreciated by judging with hands & eyes equally.**

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

The Coton will be presented for evaluation, stacked on a table, with the tail down to allow the judge to have a full appreciation of the distinctive Coton topline & silhouette. Begin your evaluation of this drop coated breed, carefully letting your hands do the judging.

Approach the Coton realizing that the fur covering his head may drop forward and restrict his vision.

## **EXAMINING THE COAT**

The beautiful "**cotton textured coat**" is a hallmark of the breed. Length of coat will vary. Some coats will reach to the ground, but others will be approximately 1 to 3 inches less than ground length. The coat that DOES NOT reach the ground enables the judge to better evaluate the distinct Coton outline. Either coat length, however, is acceptable. Adult Cotons should have a dense and profuse coat. The coat should never be so "thin" that it lays "flat" against the body.

**Texture:** the coat feels like a soft, fine quality "cotton ball". It should not feel "silky, harsh or wooly". The coat should lay straight with only a very slight amount of wave being acceptable.

**PUPPY COAT TEXTURE:** When examining a puppy under 12 months of age you will feel a distinctively softer coat than an adult coat.

The Coton should be presented to you in a manner that is consistent with good grooming, clean and mat free. **SEVERE FAULT.** *Any trimming, sculpting or grooming of the coat which alters natural appearance.*

## **ACCEPTABLE COLOR AMOUNTS**

The Coton de Tulear has the overall appearance of a white dog. Some amount of color is acceptable on the coat. **Amount & color: 5% light tan. 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 of acceptable color. *When all considerations are equal, judges should give preference to the dog whose coat has the most amount of white.*

**BLACK is a DQ anywhere on the coat and at any age!**

**Exception: Puppy Color - Does not apply to puppies with color under 12 months of age. Puppies with color under 12 months of age 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.**

## HEAD, EARS, EYES & TEETH

The **head** is triangular in shape. The skull is slightly rounded in the front and is wide in relation to the length. The stop is slight. A long narrow head is not desirable. **RATIOS: MUZZLE TO HEAD RATIO IS 5 to 9 & HEAD TO BODY is 2 to 5. The standard DOES NOT DEFINE a difference between male and female heads!**

**EARS:** Attached directly above the line of eyes, are triangular shaped, & leathers reach the corner of the mouth.

**EYES:** *Rather rounded, dark brown or black in color, lively, set wide apart with the inner corners & the outer corners on the same level. The rims of the eyelids are completely pigmented in shades of black. DQ: eye(s) of any color other than brown or black.\**

**NOSE:** Shape of a rounded triangle and pigmented in shades of black. \*

Examine the **teeth** for a level or scissors **bite**. The absence of PM1 & M3 is not taken into consideration. Lips are pigmented in shades of black.\*

**\*Examine for black pigmentation on eye rims, nose and lips. Total lack of pigmentation on eye rims, nose or lips is a DISQUALIFICATION.**

## EXAMINING THE FOREQUARTERS

You should feel straight **fronts**, not East-West, bowed or fiddle fronts. *Elbows are held close to the body.* The chest is wide. The shoulder layback is **30 degrees**. Upper and lower arm are of equal length. Pasterns slope slightly. Dewclaws may be present. Pads are black.

**RIBS** are well sprung. The Coton is very agile and displays great stamina. Well sprung ribs allow for greater lung capacity. The tuck up is moderate.

## NECK, TOPLINE AND TAIL

The **neck** is slightly arched, of moderate length, blends smoothly into the shoulders and is in balance with the height and length of the dog. The neck is "graceful" and should never look or feel "thick". A "short, stuffy" neck will be out of proportion to correct body ratios.

**THE TOPLINE IS SLIGHTLY CONVEX.** *The topline runs smoothly from the withers to the loin & begins a slight, natural arch over the loin continuing over the croup, without flatness, resulting in a low tail set.* 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.**

**FAULT-***a dip behind the shoulder blades or a steep or flat croup is to be penalized. SEVERE FAULT-A wheel back or flat back are to be severely penalized.*

The **tail** is **low set** in the axis of the spine. This is the result of the slightly convex topline & oblique croup. **FAULT-A tail that does not reach the hock: A tail that has a complete curl (loop)A gay tail;A tail that is carried completely flat over the body(snap tail).**

## EXAMINING HINDQUARTERS

**Hindquarters:** Pelvic slope is 30° Pelvis meets femur at 80°Angle of femur to lower thigh is 120°Legs are straight with no sign of being close, too wide or cow hocked. The stifle is well rounded. The rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground from any angle. Pads are black.

## HEIGHTS AND HEIGHT DISQUALIFICATIONS

**IDEAL HEIGHT is 9" to 10" for bitches & 10" to 11" for males. A tolerance of ½" below minimum and 1" above minimum is allowed, but NOT preferred.**

**WICKET any dog in question. OVER & UNDER HEIGHT IS A DISQUALIFICATION. EXCEPTION: under height DQ does not apply to puppies under 12 months of age.**

## JUDGING MOVEMENT

**The gait is a free and flowing moderate trot with no signs of uneven movement.**

**The topline is held firm on the move.** 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.

On the move, **the tail is carried over the loins with the tip pointing forward to the neck.** In dogs with over abundant coats, the tail furnishings will lay on the back.

The tail may go up immediately when gaiting or move to that point as the dog proceeds around the ring. It is not obligatory to see the tail raised continuously while in motion, however, **when the tail is raised, it MUST BE pointing forward.** If the tail is dropped on **rare occasion**, this may be forgiven. **FAULT**-A tail that does not reach the hock: A tail that has a complete curl (loop)A gay tail; A tail that is carried completely flat over the body(snap tail)

**FRONT IN MOTION:** the dog's legs should appear to move forward, in a free and easy manner with no tendency for the feet to cross over or interfere with each other.

**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 at an angle.

## EVALUATING THE CLASS

The Coton will then be presented to you in a lineup on the ground...**TAILS DOWN** to display their slightly convex topline and allow you to view the rectangular outline of the body. This is, indeed, the time when the dramatically different size ranges will become more apparent!

**STANDARD SIZE ELABORATION: With height and weight sizes being so dramatically different, it is important that judges not be influenced by size.** Body weights can be 8 lbs. to 15 lbs. This is almost double in size! The Coton de Tulear standard allows for a wide range within its acceptable heights. From smallest allowable bitch (8 1/2") to largest allowable dog (12") there is a difference of 3 1/2 inches. That is a substantial difference on a dog of this overall size. **IDEAL HEIGHT 9" to 10" for bitches & 10" to 11" for males. A tolerance of 1/2" below minimum and 1" above minimum is allowed, but NOT preferred. WICKET any DOG of questionable height.... Over and under specified heights is a DISQUALIFICATION.**

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

**THE USACTC HOPES YOU HAVE MANY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES JUDGING  
THE MAGNIFICENT "COTON DE TULEAR"**

**PLEASE NOTE:** *In the body of this document, all script in italics is taken directly from the standard.*

***FAULTS in the body of the document ARE ALSO IN ITALICS.***

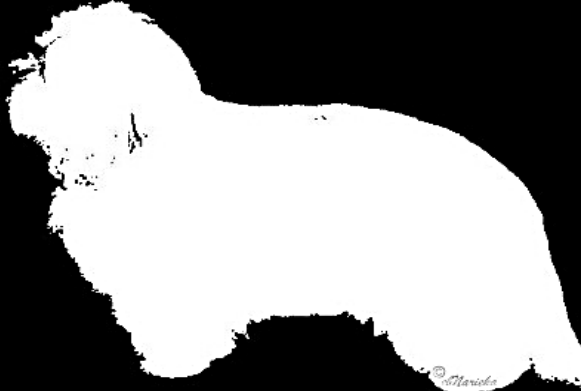
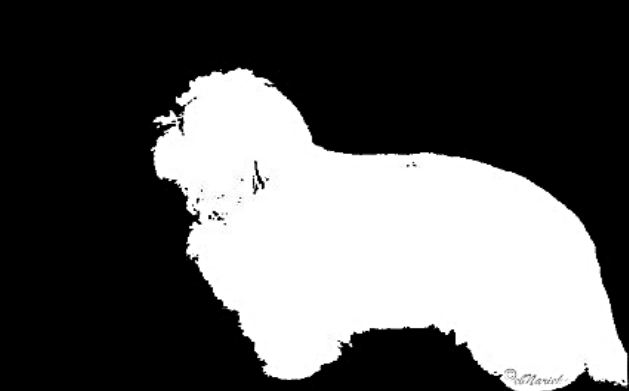
**ADDITIONAL HEIGHT, WEIGHT, RATIO & COLOR INFORMATION FOLLOWS**

**HEIGHT, WEIGHT, RATIO & COLOR INFORMATION**

**BODY RATIO: 2 HIGH to 3 LONG (Point of shoulder to point of buttock)**

**HEAD TO BODY RATIO: 2 TO 5**

**MUZZLE TO SKULL: 5 TO 9**

<p><b>MALES</b> <b>10" to 11"</b> TOLERANCE OF <b>1" ABOVE MAXIMUM</b> <b>1/2" BELOW MINIMUM</b></p>	<p><b>ADULT COTON</b> <b>OVER &amp; UNDER HEIGHT = DQ</b> <b>PUPPY COTON: OVER HEIGHT ONLY IS A DQ</b></p>	<p><b>FEMALES</b> <b>9" to 10"</b> TOLERANCE OF <b>1" ABOVE MAXIMUM</b> <b>1/2" BELOW MINIMUM</b></p>
<p><b>WEIGHT - 9LBS.. TO 15 LBS.</b></p>		<p><b>WEIGHT - 8 LBS. TO 13 LBS.</b></p>
		
<p>2 TO 3 PROPORTIONS SMALLEST DOG HIGH - 9 12"...LONG - 13 3/4" LARGEST DOG HIGH - 12" ... LONG - 17 1/2 "</p>	<p><b>SIZE VARIATIONS</b> Dog To Bitch HEIGHT-3 1/2 " Dog To Bitch WEIGHT-7 LBS. Body SIZE can be 1/3 LONGER Body WEIGHT can be almost DOUBLE</p>	<p>2 TO 3 PROPORTIONS SMALLEST BITCH HIGH - 8.5 "...LONG 12 3/4" LARGEST BITCH HIGH - 11" ... LONG 16 1/2"</p>

**COLOR IN COTONS OVER 12 MONTHS OF AGE**

<p><b>COLOR IN COTONS OVER 12 MONTHS OF AGE</b></p>	
<p>5% ACCEPTABLE</p>	<p>10% OVER ACCEPTABLE AMOUNT</p>
	
<p>NOTE: all color in examples appears on one side of the body.</p>	<p>EAR COLOR: is not taken into consideration when calculation the correct percentage of color.</p>

## FAULTS – SEVERE FAULTS -DISQUALIFICATIONS

**Fault** - Any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

**Fault** - A tail that does not reach the hock; A tail that has a complete curl (loop); A gay tail; A tail that is carried completely flat over the body (snap tail).

**Fault** - A dip behind shoulder blades or a steep or flat croup is to be penalized.

**Severe Fault** - A wheel back or flat back are to be severely penalized

**Severe Fault** - An overly large or bulging eye is a severe fault as is an almond shaped, obliquely set eye.

**Severe Fault** - Atypical hair or hair that is tightly curled, wooly or silky.

**Severe Fault** - Any trimming, sculpting or grooming of the coat which alters the natural appearance.

**Severe Fault**- Any color, except 5% of light tan (mixture of white and light tan hair) appearing in one area of the coat or scattered throughout the coat is a serious fault in an *adult Coton over 12 months of age*.

### DISQUALIFICATIONS

**Height** - Any bitch less than 8.5 inches or taller than 11 inches in height; any dog less than 9.5 inches or taller than 12 inches in height. ***The minimum height disqualification does not apply to puppies under 12 months of age.***

**Eye(s) of any color** other than brown or black.

**Total lack of pigment** on the eye rim(s), nose or lips.

**Color** - Black on the body is a disqualification at any age.

**No tail.**

Document prepared by the USACTC Breed Education Committee

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WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO

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An Elaboration of the Standard & Additional information may be found at [www.usactc.org](http://www.usactc.org)

# JUDGES NOTES