



*CKC Breed Standard*  
**Border Collie**  
*September 2007*  
Standard Provided by ABIDS

**General Appearance:** Well proportioned, smooth outline showing quality, gracefulness and perfect balance, combined with sufficient substance to give impression of endurance. Any tendency to coarseness or weediness undesirable.

**Characteristic:** Tenacious, hardworking sheepdog, or great tractability.

**Temperament:** Keen, alert, responsive and intelligent. Neither nervous nor aggressive

**Size: Ideal Height:** Dogs – 21 inches (53 cm); Bitches – slightly less

**Coat & Colour: Coat:** Two varieties: 1) Moderately long. 2) Smooth. In both, topcoat dense and medium textured, undercoat soft and dense giving good weather resistance. In moderately long coated variety, abundant coat forms mane, breeching and brush. On face, ears, forelegs (except for feather), hindlegs from hock to ground, hair should be short and smooth.

**Colour:** Variety of colours permissible. White should never predominate.

**Head: Skull:** fairly broad, occiput not pronounced. **Cheeks** not full or rounded. **Muzzle** tapering to nose, moderately short and strong. Skull and foreface approximately equal in length. **Stop** very distinct. **Nose** black, except in brown or chocolate colour when it may be brown. In blues, nose should be slate colour. Nostrils well developed. **Eyes:** Set wide apart, oval shaped, or moderate size, brown in colour except in merles where one or both or part of one or both may be blue. Expression mild, keen alert and intelligent. **Ears:** Medium sized and texture, well set apart. Carried erect or semi-erect and sensitive in use. **Mouth:** Teeth and jaws strong with a perfect, regular complete scissor bite, (i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws).

**Neck:** Of good length, strong and muscular, slightly arched and broadening to shoulders.

**Forequarters:** Front legs parallel when viewed from front, pasterns slightly sloping when viewed from side. Bone strong, but not heavy. Shoulders well laid back, elbows close to body.

**Body:** Athletic in appearance, ribs well sprung, chest deep and rather broad, loins deep and muscular, but not tucked up. Body slightly longer than height at shoulder.

**Hindquarters:** Broad, muscular, in profile sloping gracefully to set on of tail. Thighs long, deep and muscular with well turned stifles and string, well let down hocks. From hock to ground, hindlegs well boned and parallel when viewed from rear. Feet: oval in shape, pads deep, strong and sound, toes arched and close together. Nails short and strong.

**Tail:** Moderately long, the bone reaching at least to hock, set on low, well furnished and with an upward swirl towards the end, completing graceful contour and balance of dog. Tail may be raised in excitement, never carried over back.

**Gait:** Free, smooth and tireless, with minimum lift of feet, conveying impression of ability to move with great stealth and speed.

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

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