

General Appearance

The Treeing Feist is an agile, active, small tree dog. The body is slightly longer than tall. Regardless of the size of the individual dog, the legs must be long enough to allow the dog to move quickly and with agility in rough terrain. The head is blocky, with a broad skull, a moderate stop, and a strong muzzle. The tail is straight, set on as a natural extension of the topline, and may be natural or docked. The coat is short and smooth. The Treeing Feist should be evaluated as a working dog, and exaggerations or faults should be penalized in proportion to how much they interfere with the dog's ability to work. Scars should neither be penalized nor regarded as proof of a dog's working abilities.

Characteristics

Treeing Feists are used most frequently to hunt squirrel, raccoon, and opossum. They hunt using both sight and scent and are extremely alert dogs. On track, they are virtually silent.

Head

The head is proportionate to the size of the body. When viewed from the side, the muzzle is slightly shorter than the skull and joined by a definite stop. The planes of the skull and muzzle are parallel.

SKULL - The skull is flat and broad, tapering slightly toward the muzzle. Cheeks are muscular, but not over-developed.

MUZZLE - The muzzle is long and sufficiently broad and deep to balance the skull. Lips are tight. Lip pigment matches nose pigment and eye rims.

TEETH - The Treeing Feist has a complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite.

NOSE - Nose color is black or self-colored.

EYES - Eyes are brown, ranging from dark to amber. Eye rims match nose pigment.

EARS - Ears are set at the outside edges of the skull and may be erect or button, but not pendulous.

Neck

The neck is clean, muscular, and of moderate length. The neck gradually widens from the nape and blends smoothly into the shoulders.

Forequarters

Shoulders are well laid back. The upper arm is long and forms an apparent 90-degree angle with the shoulder blade.

The forelegs are strong, straight, and moderately well boned. The elbows are set close to the body, but able to move freely in action. The pasterns are short, powerful, slightly sloping, and flexible. "Bench legs" are acceptable but not preferred.

Body

A properly proportioned Treeing Feist is slightly longer than tall. Chest is moderately wide and deep, with the brisket reaching to the elbow. Ribs are well sprung and extend well back. Back is of moderate length, and level, blending into a muscular, slightly arched loin with slight to moderate tuckup.

Hindquarters

The hindquarters are strong and muscular. The bone, angulation, and musculature of the hindquarters are in balance with the forequarters. The stifles are well bent, and the hocks are well let down. When the dog is standing, the short, strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground, and viewed from the rear, parallel to one another.

Feet

The feet are round, well arched, and tight. Pads are hard, tough, and well cushioned. Dewclaws may be removed.

Tail

The tail is set on at the end of the croup. The natural tail is thick at the base and tapers toward the tip or it may be a natural bob. When the dog is alert, the tail is carried in an upward curve. When relaxed, the tail may be carried straight out behind the dog.

Coat

The coat is short, dense, and smooth.

Disqualification: Long or shaggy coat.

Color

Any color or color pattern.

Disqualification: Albinism.

Height and Weight

Height ranges between 10 to 18 inches. Weight ranges between 12 and 30 pounds. Treeing Feists are working dogs and should be presented in hard, muscular condition.

Gait

Treeing Feist gait is smooth and effortless, with good reach of forequarters. Rear quarters have strong driving power, with hocks fully extending. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward centerline of balance. This breed is capable of great bursts of speed when needed.

Disqualifications

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Viciousness or extreme shyness. Long or shaggy coat. Albinism.