



FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)
SECRETARIAT GENERAL: 13, Place Albert 1^{er} B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique)

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FCI-Standard N° 60

SWISS SHORT-LEGGED HOUND

(Schweizer Niederlaufhund)



Swiss Short-legged Scenthound pictured with the tri-colour (berner-colour), the dogs type is representative for all possible colours.



TRANSLATION: Christina Bailey. Original version: (DE)

ORIGIN: Switzerland.

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UTILIZATION: Scenthound hunting the game by giving tongue. He hunts on his own.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 6 Scenthounds and related breeds.
Section 1.3 Small-sized Hounds.
With working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: At the turn of the century, the system of shoots (hunting grounds) was introduced into several Swiss Cantons. As the opinion was that the generally popular medium-sized Swiss Hounds (Schweizer Laufhunde) were too fast for enclosed shoots, it was decided to replace them with smaller short-legged Scenthounds. The new smaller breed, bred through planned selection of stock and suitable crossing, was called "Niederlaufhund ("Short-legged Scenthound"). It distinguished itself by the following qualities: relatively low at height at withers, coat colours similar to the medium-sized Swiss Hounds (Schweizer Laufhunde), with a melodious cry when hunting and searching and with a very passionate determination to find game and to do track work.

The Schweizer Niederlaufhund Club, first known by the name "Schweizerischer Dachsbracken Club", was founded on June 1st 1905.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: "Swiss Hound" type, smaller in proportion than the Schweizer Laufhund. Rectangular in shape, moderately long, well built. Medium-sized, clean, noble head with friendly alert facial expression.

Ears very long, set on low and carried folded. Limbs lean and robust. When moving slowly, the tail is carried hanging down; in action it is curved slightly upwards.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT: **Passionate** small Scenthound, with excellent nose, deft, untiring and keen scenthound with excellent nose. Steady on the trail and hunting with melodious cry. **He reliably searches and drives the game with great determination, even on difficult terrain. He also excels in tracking wounded game.** Friendly character, not nervous and never aggressive. Temperament calm to lively.

HEAD: Noble, clean. Seen from front, rather long and slender, gradually getting broader towards the cheeks.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Slightly arched, no wrinkle or furrow on forehead. Occiput only slightly prominent. Line from occiput to stop of approximately same length and as parallel as possible to the line from stop to nose.

Stop: Moderately developed.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: **Truffle dark.** Nostrils wide open.

Muzzle: Strong, fairly long, medium depth, never pointed. Bridge of nose preferably straight or very slightly convex, rather slender.

Lips: Upper flews moderately overlapping, lightly rounded off in front, never pointed. Corner of mouth not visible.

Jaw/Teeth: Strong, regular and complete scissor bite, the upper row of incisors closely overlapping the lower incisors and teeth set square to the strong jaws. Pincer bite **allowed**. Absence of PM1 and M3 not taken into consideration.

Cheeks: Only slightly developed.

Eyes: Dark, clear, slightly oval, friendly in expression. Neither deep set nor protruding. Lid aperture taut with close fitting lids. Lid rims well pigmented.

Ears: Set on low, not above eye level, narrow; in length reaching at least to the tip of nose. **Nicely** folded, pendulous and close to cheeks; supple, with fine hair. Auricle not protruding.

NECK: Moderately long, lithe and elegant, yet well muscled. Skin on throat may be loose, but dewlap not desirable.

BODY:

Top line: Harmonious from set-on of neck to the gently sloping croup.

Back: Straight, firm, medium length.

Loin: Broad, strong and supple.

Croup: Sloping gently towards the tail. Hip bones should not be visible.

Chest: Broad and deep, reaching at least to the elbows. Point of sternum visible, but not too prominent. Ribs long, moderately rounded. Ribcage reaching well back.

Underline and belly: Belly line slightly tucked up towards hindquarters. Flanks moderately filled in.

TAIL: Set on low in harmonious continuation of croup. Medium length, reaching at least to the hock joint, ending in an elegant point. Well covered with hair, but without plume. In relaxed situations and movement it is carried hanging down with barely any curve. In action and **if** agitated it is carried slightly upwards, never tilted over the back.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: Strongly muscled, **but** not giving a heavy appearance. Seen from **the** front, forelegs **rather lean**, straight **and** vertically placed, with strong bone. Tight feet pointing straight forward.

Shoulder: Strongly muscled. Shoulder blade relatively long and well laid back, flat **and firmly** attached to the **ribcage**. **The** shoulder **blade-upper arm** joint is almost **90 degrees**.

Upper arm: About the same length as shoulder blade, sloping.

Elbow: Naturally placed against the body.

Forearm: Strong, lean, straight, barely shorter than the upper arm.

Carpus: Strong.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Short. Seen from front in vertical line of the forearm, never turned outwards. Seen from side never quite upright, but slightly oblique to the ground.

Forefeet: Roundish, firm. Toes short, tight and well knuckled. Pads tough and hard. Strong nails. Fine hair between toes.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Very muscular, in good proportion to forequarters. Stifle- and hock joints well angulated. Hindlegs parallel, standing neither close nor too wide **apart**. In natural stance they should be placed slightly backwards. Bone of hindquarters slightly less strong than in forequarters.

Thigh: Of good length and width, strong, well muscled.

Stifle (Knee): Well bent, neither turned in nor out.

Lower thigh: Relatively long, sloping.

Hock joint: Strong, well angulated, set low.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Short. Seen from behind straight and parallel.

Hind feet: Fairly round, firm. Short, tight toes. Pads tough and hard. Strong nails. Fine hair between toes. No dewclaws, except in those countries where their removal is prohibited by law.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Preferred natural gait: ground covering trot or gallop. Movement when trotting should be free and easy, striding out well in front and with good strong drive behind. Legs move along straight parallel lines.

Front action: Neither moving close nor paddling; neither toeing in nor out.

Hind action: Practically parallel with definite drive, neither too close nor too wide. Neither cow-hocked nor bow-legged.

SKIN: Well fitting and taut, no folds.

COAT

Hair:

- Smooth coat: Short, smooth, close fitting, finer on head and ears.
- Rough coat: Harsh, elastic, close fitting, barely any undercoat, with a slight beard.
- **Double coat: Top coat very dense, straight, close fitting, short on feet and toes, dense undercoat.**

Colour:

Allowed are all types of colours as follows: white and black with tan markings (Small Bernese Hound), black with tan markings (Small Jura Hound), blue speckled with black mantle (Small Lucerne Hound) and white with orange-red mantle (Small Schwyz Hound) as well as all mixed colours of those.

SIZE:

Height at the withers: Males: 35 – 43 cm.
 Females: 33 – 40 cm.
 Tolerance: +/- 2 cm.

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 and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and its ability to perform its traditional work.

- **Uncertain or slightly sharp temperament.**
- Bone too fine or too coarse, lack of substance.
- Coarse head lacking in refinement.
- Nose partially flesh-coloured.
- Eyes too light, hard expression.
- Ears set on high, too short, thick, flat.
- Distinct dewlap.
- Swayback or roach back.
- Croup short, falling away.

- Chest lacking in depth; ribs too flat or barrel-shaped; ribcage not smooth (e.g. flange ribs).
- Tail carried too high, **severely** bent.
- Forelegs crooked, turned in or out.
- Shoulder blade steep, upper arm too short, angulations too open.
- Weak carpal joints, down in pastern.
- Spread toes, harefeet.
- Insufficient angulations of hindquarters; cow-hocked or bow-legged.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.
- Lack of breed type in general appearance.
- Nose completely flesh-coloured.
- Undershot or overshot mouth, wry mouth.
- Absence of incisors or canines; faulty position of canines; absence of more than 3 premolars and/or molars (except PM1 and M3).
- Entropion, ectropion.
- Sternum too short, abrupt tuck-up at end of sternum.
- Tail rolled in or kinked tail.
- Height at the withers for males: under 33 cm or over 45cm.
For females: under 31 cm or over 42cm.

N.B.:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functional and clinically healthy, breed-typical dogs shall be used for breeding purposes.

The latest amendments are in bold characters.

ANATOMICAL FEATURES

