

# QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD

**HEAD:** clean cut, strong and dry. Size should be in proportion to the body. Muzzle is equal in length or slightly shorter than the back skull. Back skull and muzzle form parallel planes, divided by a moderate, well-defined stop. The muzzle tapers little from base to nose and is rounded at the tip.

**EYES:** brown, blue, amber or any variation or combination. Almond shaped .

**BITE:** Scissors or level; full complement strong white teeth.

**PIGMENT:** Blue merles and blacks have black pigmentation on eye rims, lips and nose. Red merles and reds have liver (brown) pigmentation on eye rims, lips and nose.

**COLOR:** Blue merle, black, red merle, red all with or without white markings and/or tan (copper) points.

**FEET:** Oval, compact with close-knit, well-arched toes. Pads thick and resilient.

**EARS:** Break forward and over, or to the side as a rose ear.

**NECK:** Strong, moderate length, slightly arched at the crest.

**TOPLINE:** Back is straight, strong; level and firm from withers to hip joints. Croup moderately sloped.

**TAIL:** Straight, docked or naturally bobbed, not to exceed 4" in length.

**COAT:** Medium texture and length; straight to wavy; weather resistant, double coated.

**GAIT:** Smooth, free and easy, well-balanced with ground covering stride. Converges towards center as the speed increases.

**PROPORTIONS:** Slightly longer than tall. Solidly built with medium size and bone

**DISQUALIFICATIONS:** *Undershot. Overshot greater than 1/8 inch. White body splashes, which means white on body between withers and tail, on sides between elbows and back of hindquarters in all colors.*

