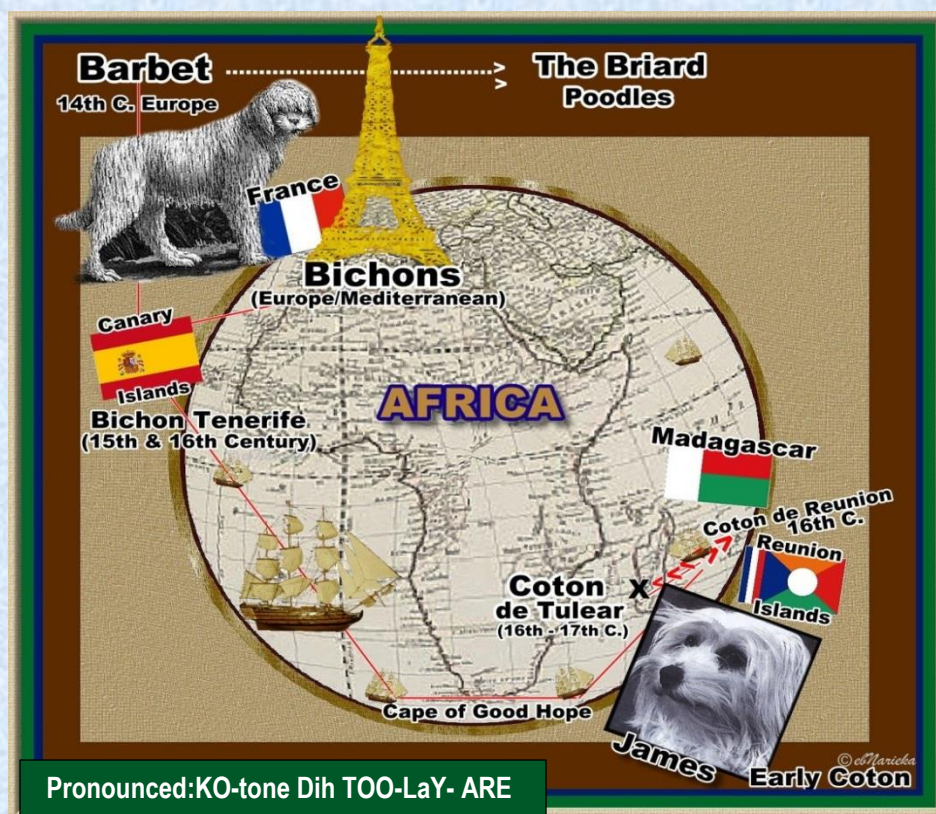


# **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COTON DE TULEAR CLUB. Inc.** **ELABORATION of the October 1. 2013 AKC Breed Standard-Coton de Tulear**

STANDARD APPEARS IN ITALICS THROUGHOUT THIS DOCUMENT

## **The Coton de Tulear finds its ancestry in the Bichon family of dogs.**

The ancestors of the Bichon breeds accompanied sailors on voyages throughout the Mediterranean. In addition to being wonderful companions, they were also "items of barter". For this reason, varieties of the Bichons prospered on the main Islands of the Mediterranean and surrounding Atlantic & Indian Ocean Islands. Bichon Frise or the Bichon Tenerife, as it was originally called, descends from a small white lap dog from which came the name "Barbichon" (later shortened to 'Bichon'), a descendant of the Barbet or Water Spaniel. The breed's name gave rise to the French verb 'bichonner' (to pamper), which originally meant 'to curl one's hair'. The Coton de Tulear is a descendent of the Bichon Tenerife. The most direct ancestor of the Coton de Tulear, however, is the Coton de Réunion. These dogs found their way to the Reunion Islands accompanying sailors, fine ladies, and adventuresome pirates who sailed around the Cape of Good Hope to the Reunion Islands. Cotons de Reunion are now extinct, but long before that fate descended upon them, these hardy dogs continued their travels in the regions around Indian Ocean, eventually inhabiting the Island of Madagascar.



On this exotic Island, the Cotons survival was subjected to dramatic climate changes, rough terrain and threats from endemic species. Their self- preservation and hunting skills became formidable as they adapted in this unforgiving, rugged environment. Cotons on Madagascar endured by mating with native dogs and developed into very sound dogs. The breed displays superior intelligence and resourcefulness. It is commonly believed that Cotons mated with, the Morandovo Hunting Dog, among others. The Coton de Tulear is said to have greater stamina than most Bichon breeds due to the influence of hunting dog ancestry combined with their forced adaptation to the harsh conditions of Madagascar.

As Cotons prospered, they were selected to be small companion dogs who possessed well-balanced characteristics and playful temperaments, who maintained their alert watchdog abilities.

The Coton de Tulear was named for its "cottony" coat texture and after the main port city of Tulear on Madagascar. The Coton became a favorite of noblemen and ruling tribes, hence, the Coton became known as the "Royal Dog of Madagascar".



**The original standard for the Coton de Tulear was written in 1970.**

The breed was accepted in the American Kennel Club's (AKC) Foundation Stock Service (FSS) in the Non-Sporting Group in 1996, and was approved to compete in Performance events starting January 2008. Cotons entered the AKC Misc. Class on July 27, 2012.

**Coton de Tulear will advance to the**

**AKC Non Sporting Group**

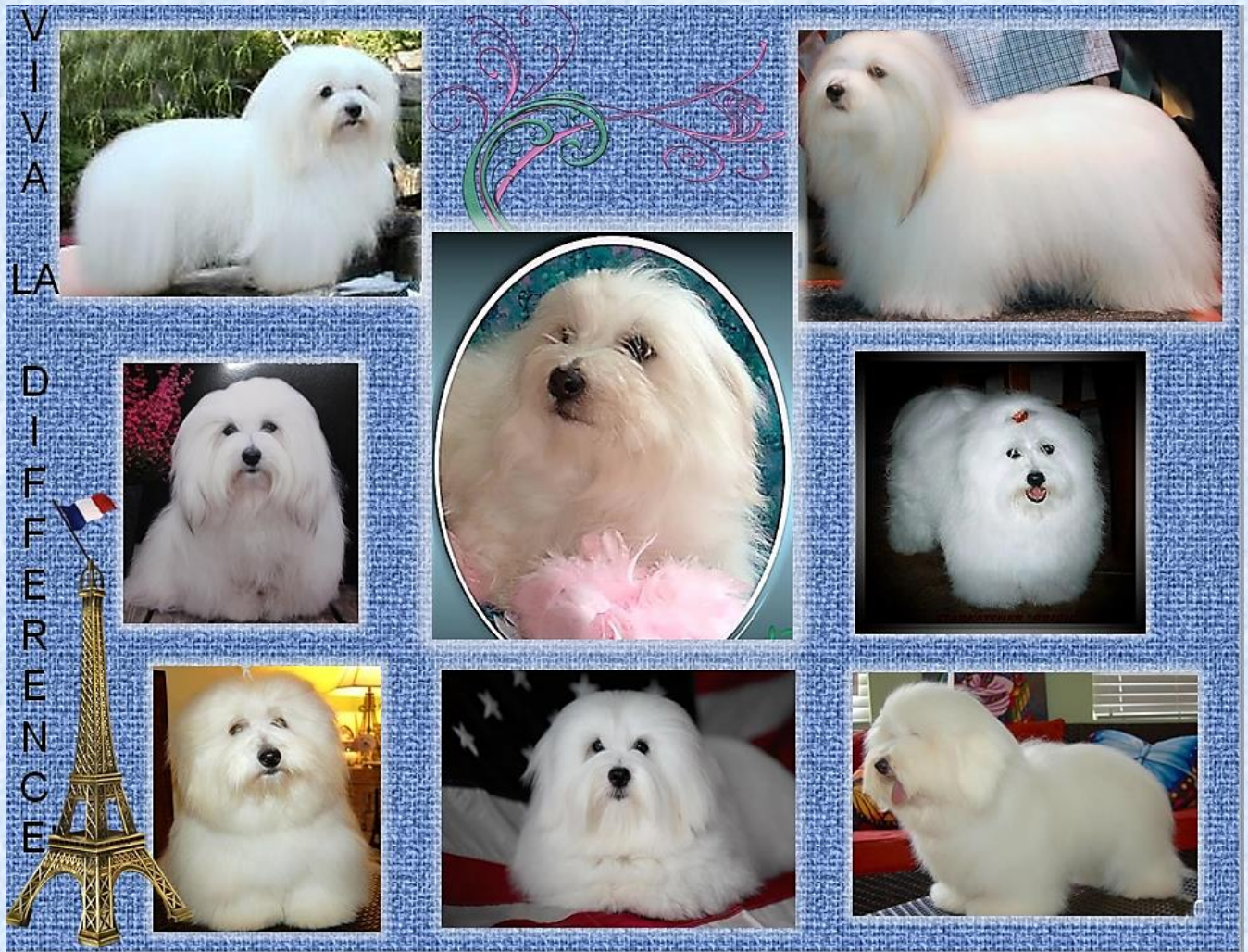
**July 2, 2014**

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** *The Coton de Tulear, also known as the "Royal Dog of Madagascar", is a hardy, sturdy small white companion dog. The breed is endowed with a bright intelligence, is gay and energetic, and at times boisterous but never demanding. The Coton de Tulear is naturally clownish and lighthearted, as well as calm and easygoing. The breed possesses a remarkable gentle, sympathetic awareness to those around and is known for expressing unique vocalizations.*

*In Madagascar, the Coton de Tulear survived in packs in the wilderness, later to become a companion dog of the native Malagasy and Merina tribal nobles. The Coton de Tulear is as unique as many animals found on this wild and isolated island.*

*The Coton de Tulear is characterized by a natural long, white, dry, profuse, cotton-like coat, rounded lively dark eyes, black on white "joie de vivre" expressive smile and witty personality. The breed is somewhat longer than tall. The top line is very slightly arched over the loin with a happily carried tail curved over the back on the move. At rest, the tail is down with an upward hook at the tip revealing the distinguishing outline of the Coton de Tulear*

*"Viva la difference*



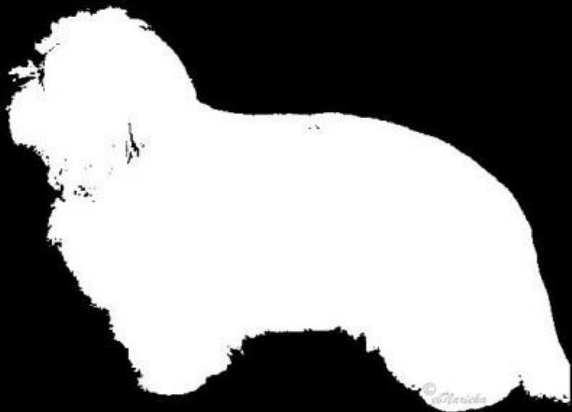
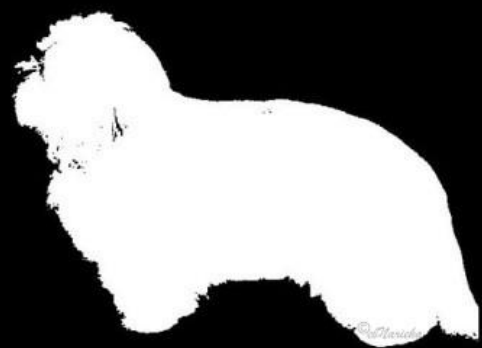
*Beautiful Style Variations Of The Coton De Tulear*



## SIZE, PROPORTION and SUBSTANCE

**Height:** The ideal height for bitches is 9 inches to 10 inches and for dogs is 10 inches to 11 inches. A tolerance of ½ inch below the minimum ideal height or 1 inch above the maximum ideal height is allowed but not preferred.

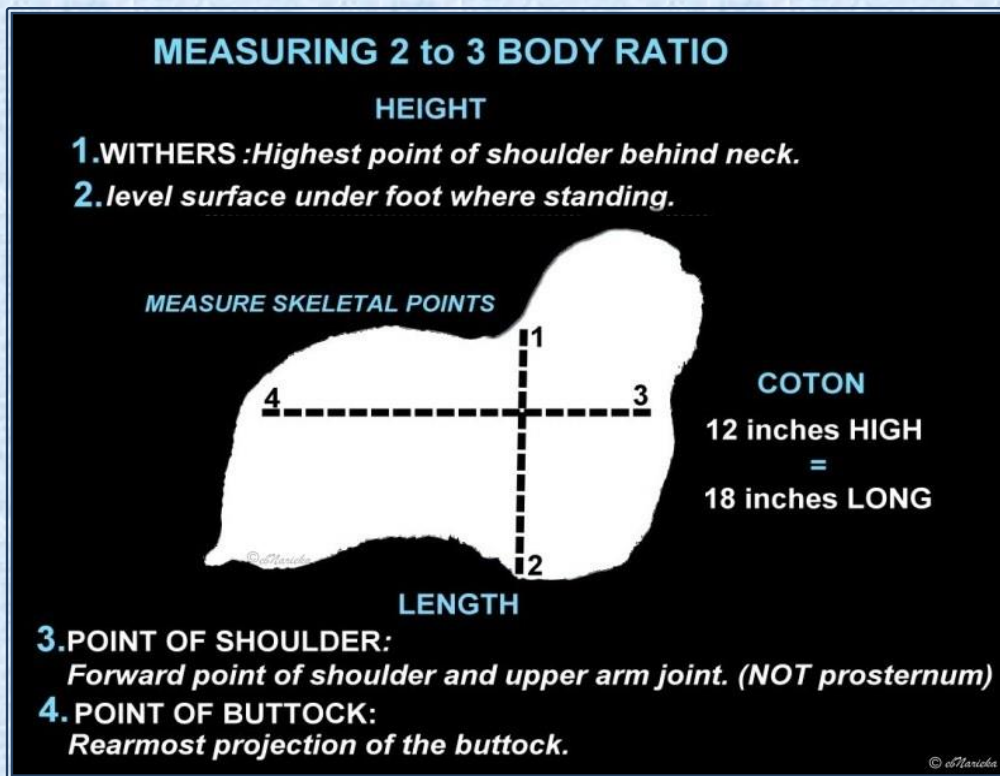
**Weight:** The Coton de Tulear is a sturdy small dog and should never appear fragile. The ideal weight for bitches is 8 pounds to 13 pounds and for dogs is 9 pounds to 15 pounds. When dogs are judged equal in type, proportion, coat and movement, the bitch/dog within the ideal height and weight range is to be given preference.

| MALES   | FEMALES   |
|---|---|
| 10" to 11"<br>TOLERANCE OF<br>1" ABOVE MAXIMUM<br>½" BELOW MINIMUM  | 9" to 10"<br>TOLERANCE OF<br>1" ABOVE MAXIMUM<br>½" BELOW MINIMUM   |
| WEIGHT – 9LBS.. TO 15 LBS.  | WEIGHT – 8 LBS. TO 13 LBS.  |
|   |                                  |
| 2 TO 3 PROPORTIONS<br>SMALLEST DOG<br>HIGH - 9 12"....LONG - 13 3/4"<br>LARGEST DOG<br>HIGH - 12" ... LONG - 17 1/2 "                                 | 2 TO 3 PROPORTIONS<br>SMALLEST BITCH<br>HIGH - 8.5 "...LONG 12 3/4"<br>LARGEST BITCH<br>HIGH - 11" ... LONG 16 1/2" |
| <b>SIZE VARIATIONS</b><br>Dog To Bitch HEIGHT- 3 ½ "<br>Dog To Bitch WEIGHT-7 LBS.<br>Body SIZE can be 1/3 LONGER<br>Body WEIGHT can be almost DOUBLE |   |

© Harisha

**ELABORATION:** The Coton de Tulear is a sturdy dog. They should be of "medium bone" throughout. A Coton should never be "heavily boned & bulky" or "fine boned & fragile". With very dramatic acceptable height and weight ranges, 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 the smallest allowable bitch (8 1/2") to the largest allowable dog (12") there is a difference of 3 ½ inches which is substantial on a dog of this overall size. **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.** Judges are encouraged to measure any dog whose height they feel may be in question. There is a minimum and a maximum height allowance, for each sex. **DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL FOR THE WICKET IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE EXHIBIT'S HEIGHT. Over and under specified heights is a DQ.** **DISQUALIFICATION:** 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. **EXCEPTION: The minimum height disqualification does not apply to puppies under 12 months of age.**

**Proportion:** The **height** measured at the withers is **2/3** the **length** as measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks. This proportion creates a rectangular outline. **Specimens should never appear long and low**



ADDITIONAL EXAMPLE: 2 TO 3 RATIO

A COTON MEASURING 10" HIGH = 15 " LONG

#### CREATING A DEFINITE RECTANGLE OUTLINE




COTONS SHOULD NEVER APPEAR LONG & LOW....NOR TALL & SQUARE

**JUDGE RATIOS WITH YOUR HANDS AS WELL AS YOUR EYES. GROOMING TECHNIQUES CAN BE VERY DECEIVING!**

**HEAD:** The head is short and triangular in shape when seen from above. **The length of the head (nose to occiput ) in relationship to the length of the body (point of shoulder to point of buttock) is 2 to 5.** **Skull:** The skull as seen from the front, is slightly rounded. It is rather wide in relation to its length. The superciliary arches are only slightly developed. There is a slight frontal groove. The occiput and crest are only slightly accentuated. The zygomatic arches are well developed. **Ears:** **The ears are pendulous, triangular, set high on the skull** and attached above the line of the eyes. They are fine at the tips, carried close to the cheeks and reach to the corners of the lips. The ears are covered with white hairs or with some traces of grey (mixture of white and black hairs giving a light grey appearance) or light tan (mixture of white and light tan hairs.) **Stop:** **The stop is slight.** **Cheeks:** The cheeks are lean. **Muzzle:** The muzzle is straight. The length of the **muzzle in relationship to the skull is 5 to 9.** The muzzle as seen from the front must be rather large and capacious with a strong chin. **Nose:** At the end of the nasal bridge, the nose continues as an extension of the same line. The nose has the shape of a rounded triangle, is completely pigmented in shades of black with the nostrils well-open.

## HEAD STUDY


The head is short and triangular in shape when seen from above.

**Muzzle**  
The muzzle is straight. The length of the muzzle in relationship to the skull is **5 to 9**. The muzzle as seen from the front must be rather large and capacious with a strong chin.

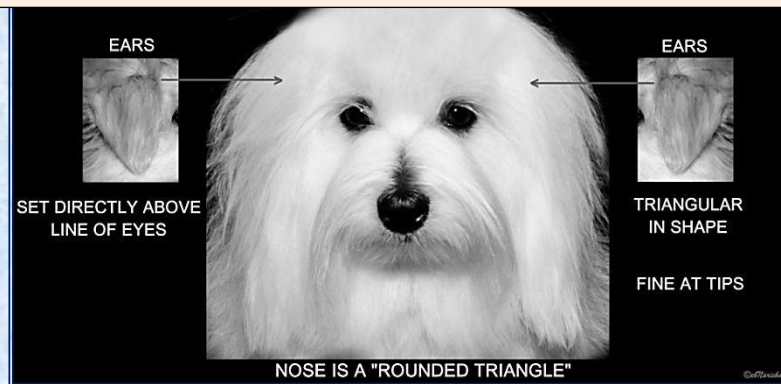
## HEAD TO BODY RATIO

**2 TO 5**



HEAD IS TRIANGULAR IN SHAPE WHEN VIEWED FROM ABOVE! The skull should be wide as opposed to long and narrow, to allow for correct length of nose to occiput. **NARROW HEADS** do not meet the standard requirements, however they are seen frequently. **LONG** muzzles are usually out of proportion to head ratios. **EARS** set too low, give head & face a droopy appearance.

**The standard DOES NOT DEFINE a difference between male and female heads!**




**EARS**  
SET DIRECTLY ABOVE LINE OF EYES




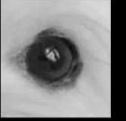
**EARS**  
TRIANGULAR IN SHAPE  
FINE AT TIPS

NOSE IS A "ROUNDED TRIANGLE"

**Eyes:** The eyes are rather rounded, dark brown or black in color, lively, set wide apart with the inner corners and the outer corners on the same level. The rims of the eyelids are completely pigmented in shades of black. **SEVERE FAULT:** An overly large or bulging eye is a severe fault as is an almond shaped, obliquely set eye. **Disqualification** - Eye/s of any color other than brown or black. **Disqualification** - Total lack of pigment on the eye rim(s), nose or lips.

### EYE SHAPE CORRECT



**ALMOND      OBLIQUE      BULGING**

ALMOND-OLIQUE-BULGING = SEVERE FAULTS © Marielha

The dark, expressive, rather rounded eyes of the Coton create the soft, appealing look of the breed. **Light eyes (tan, blue, green) are a DQ. Total lack of pigment on eye rim(s) is a DISQUALIFICATION.**

**The eyes should be wide set. Inner & outer corners are on the same plane. Ideally, the iris should fill the eye with no white showing when dog is looking straight forward.**

**ELABORATION:** PLEASE NOTE: Eye Pigment refers to the “eyeliner” on the inner regions where the upper eyelid meets the lower inner eye rim. Some Cotons have additional pigment around the “skin” of the eyes, commonly referred to as “halo”. While this is acceptable and enhances the eye, it is not taken into consideration when judging for eye pigmentation and “lack of halo” should, in no way, be considered a fault. **Light eyes ( tan, blue, green) are a DQ. Total lack of pigment on eye rim(s) is a DQ**

**Expression:** The expression is lively, intelligent, inquisitive, alert and happy. The Coton’s “joy of life” is displayed in their expression.

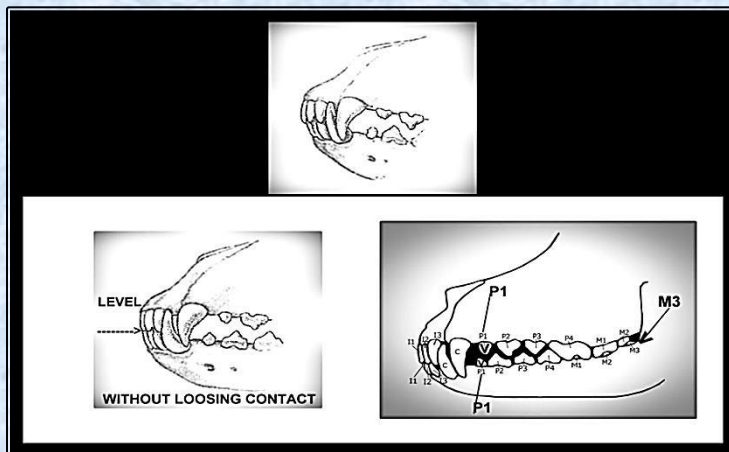


**LIPS – TEETH – BITE**

**Lips:** The lips are fine, tight, and completely pigmented in shades of black. **Flews:** The flews are tight.

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

**Teeth:** The teeth are well-aligned, strong, white and have complete dentition. The absence of the PM1 is not penalized. The M3 is not taken into consideration. **Bite:** The bite is a scissor or level bite without losing contact.



The bite is **SCISSORS** or **LEVEL** without losing contact.

**Absence of the PM 1** in the top or bottom dentition is **not penalized**.

The **absence of the M3** is not taken into consideration.

**TOTAL LACK OF PIGMENT ON THE LIPS IS A DQ.**

## NECK, TOPLINE and BODY

**Neck:** *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.*

**ELABORATION:** The neck is graceful, not thick. It should never appear "stuffy or short" There is a smooth transition from neck to shoulder.

**Body:** *The body is longer than high. The length of the body as measured from the point of shoulder to the point of buttocks is 3 to 2 as compared to the dog's height at the withers.*

**Please refer to page 4 for body proportion graphics.**

### THE ESSENCE OF COTON "TYPE"

**Top line:** *The withers are only slightly pronounced. The top line runs smoothly from the withers to the loin. Beginning over the loin, is a graceful natural arch, not too accentuated that carries through over the croup. The arch is continuous without flatness, resulting in a low tail set.*



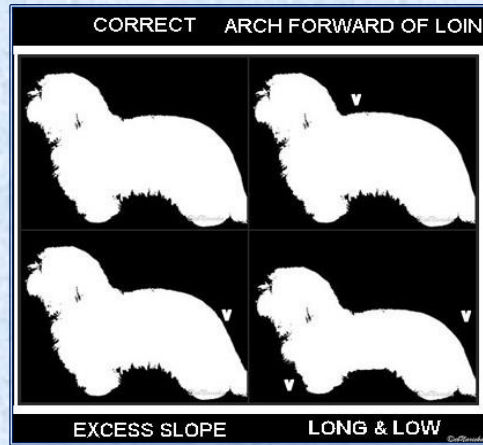
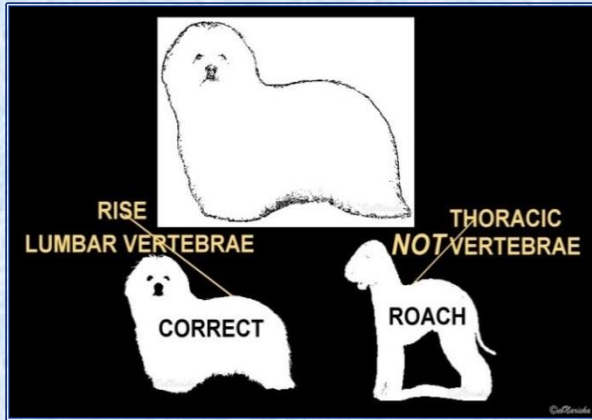
**TOPLINE IS CREATED BY THE SKELETAL STRUCTURE....NOT FROM MUSCLE**

**SLIGHT NATURAL ARCH BEGINS OVER THE LOIN    CONTINUES OVER CROUP WITHOUT FLATNESS**

**CROUP IS OBLIQUE    RESULTING IN A LOW TAIL SET    CREATING THE DISTINCTIVE**

**SLIGHTLY CONVEX TOPLINE OF THE COTON DE TULEAR**

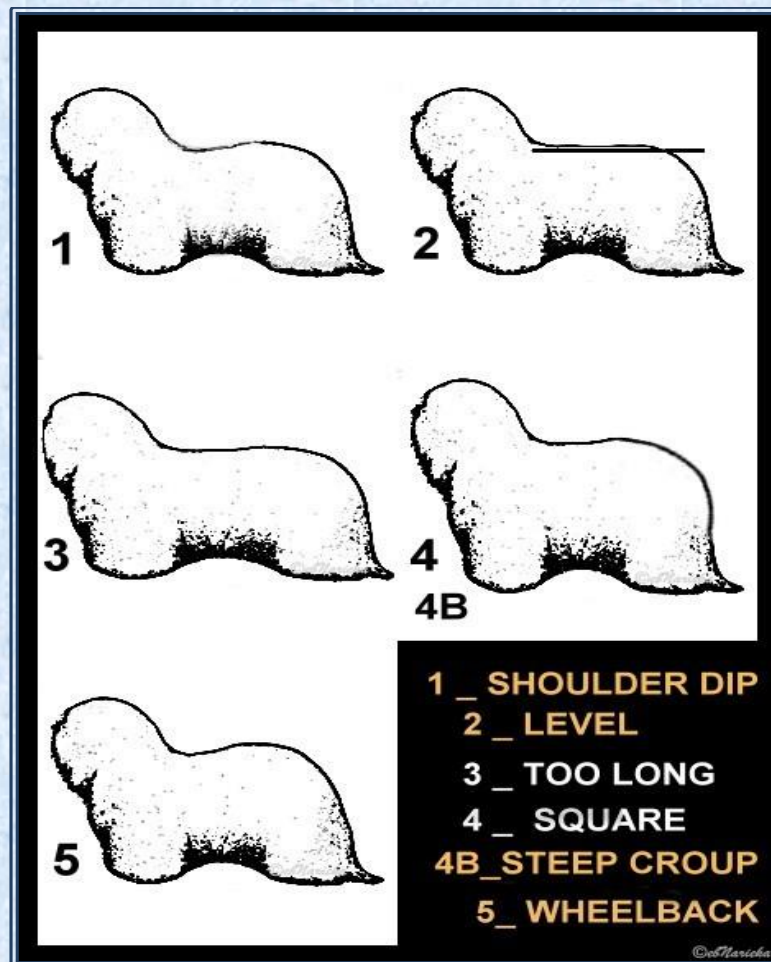




This arch is created by the skeletal system....Topline is slightly convex. The Coton topline should never be flat or high in the rear! The croup is oblique. **NOTE: AKC TERMINOLOGY: Roach back** A convex curvature of the back involving thoracic and lumbar regions. (Cotons do not have a roach back as per AKC Terminology)

The natural arch of the Coton begins over the lumbar vertebrae making the outline slightly convex!

### TOPLINE & CROUP FAULTS



## TOPLINE & CROUP FAULTS

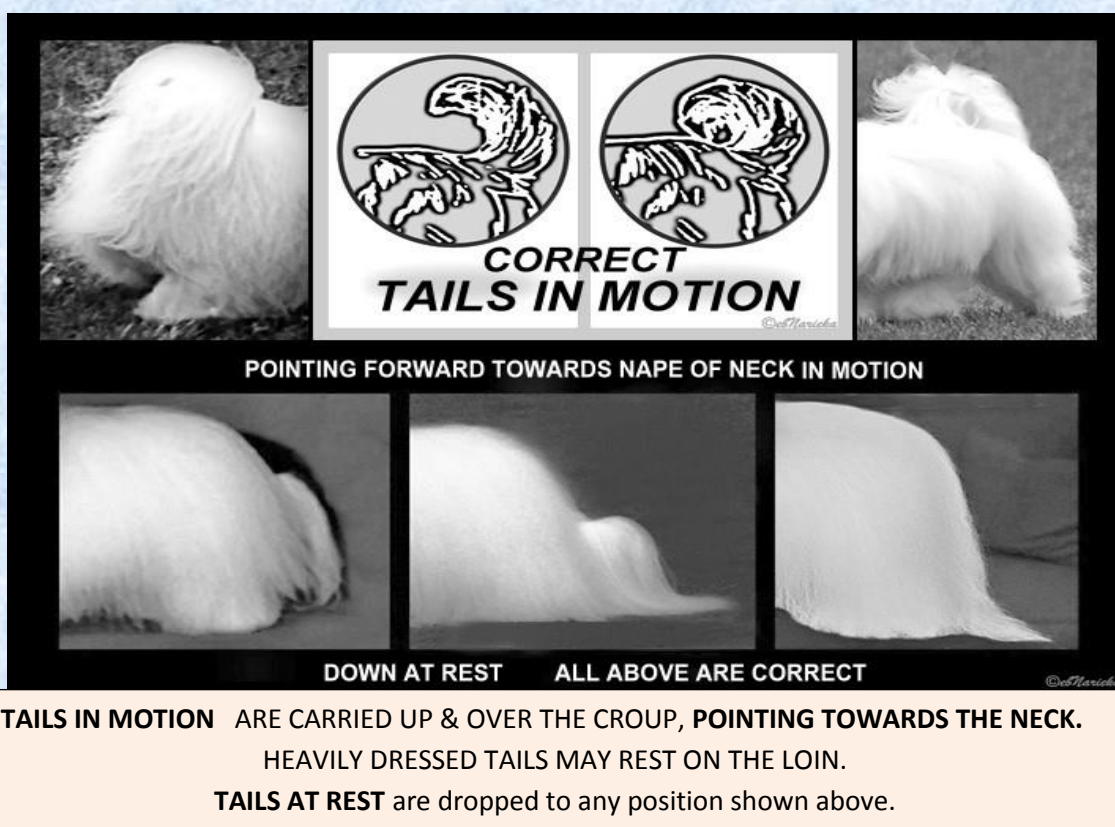
**Fault** - A dip behind shoulder blades or a steep or flat croup is to be penalized. **Severe Fault** - A wheel back or flat back are to be severely penalized

**Chest:** The chest is long, well-developed and well-let down to elbow level. The forechest is well-pronounced and protrudes well-forward of the point of shoulder.

**Ribs:** The ribs are well-sprung. The ribcage extends well-back. **ELABORATION:** The Coton is very agile & has good stamina. Well sprung ribs allow for greater lung capacity.

**Underline:** The underline follows the profile of the sternum, then rises slightly toward the belly. Tuck-up - The belly is tucked-up but not excessively. **Back:** The back is strong. **Loin:** The loin is well-muscled and short. It is fundamental that the loin is short. If it is wide and strong, it helps to give stability to the entire dog's movement. **Croup:** The croup is oblique, short and muscled. **SEE TOPLINE GRAPHIC ON PREVIOUS PAGE**

**Tail:** The tail is low set in the axis of the spinal column. At rest it is carried below the hock with the tip being raised. On the move the tail is carried happily. It is curved over the back so that the hair of the tail rests on the back with the point towards the nape, the withers, the back or the loin. In specimens with abundant coat, the tip may rest on the dorsal-lumbar region.

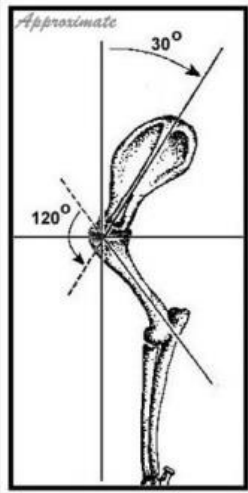


**Fault** - A tail that does not reach the hock; A tail that has a complete curl (loop); A gay tail; A tail that is carried completely flat over the body (snap tail).

**Disqualification** - No tail

Please also see tail elaboration on page 17.

**FOREQUARTERS\_Shoulders:** The shoulder is muscular. **Shoulder Blades:** The shoulder blades are laid back to somewhat near a **30 degree angle** off the vertical. **Upper Arm:** The length of the upper arm corresponds approximately to that of the shoulder blade. The upper arm extends well back so that the elbow is placed directly below the top of the shoulder blade when viewed from the side and structurally the elbows are held close to the body. **The scapula-humeral angle is about 120 degrees.** **Legs:** The front legs are upright. The lower arms are vertical and parallel. They are well-muscled with good bone. The length of the lower arm corresponds approximately to that of the upper arm. The corpus (pastern joint) is a continuation of the line of the lower arm. There is no bow or curve in the forearm or wrist. **Pasterns:** The pastern is strong. When seen in profile, it is sloping very slightly. Dewclaws may be left natural or may be removed. **Feet:** The feet are small and round. **Toes:** The toes are tight and arched. **Pads:** The pads are completely pigmented in shades of black.



**SHOULDER LAYBACK:** approx. 30 degrees off the vertical.


SHOULDER BLADE, UPPER ARM & LOWER ARM correspond approximately equal in length.

ELBOWS are held close to the body.


SCAPULA\_HUMERAL ANGLE: 120 degrees

Pasterns slope slightly.

PADS are black.




**CORRECT SHOULDER PLACEMENT**      **PROPER WIDTH OF CHEST**




**STRAIGHT LEGS**  
**CORRECT FORWARD MOVEMENT**

**"CROSS OVER" MOVEMENT**

**RESULTS OF INCORRECT FOREFRONTS**



BOWED      EAST - WEST      FIDDLE      NARROW



**HINDQUARTERS\_ Angulation:** The pelvis is sloped at approximately **30 degrees off the horizontal**. The **pelvis meets the femur at an angle of about 80 degrees**. Femur meets the lower thigh at 120°  
**Legs:** The hind legs are muscular from hip to hock. **ADD FEMUR ANGLE**

**Upper and Second Thigh:** The upper thigh and lower thigh are approximately equal in length. **Hock Joint:** The hock joint is dry and well defined. The height of the hock joint when measured to the ground is slightly less than the length of the lower thigh. **Hocks (Rear Pastern):** The **rear pastern is perpendicular to the ground from any angle**. **Dewclaws:** Dewclaws may be left natural or may be removed. **Feet:** The feet are small and round. **Toes:** The toes are tight and arched. **Pads:** The pads are completely pigmented in shades of black.

Diagram illustrating rear conformation:

- PELVIC SLOPE IS 30°
- FEMUR TO LOWER THIGH 120°
- HOCKS ARE PERPENDICULAR TO THE GROUND WHEN VIEWED FROM ANY ANGLE

When in motion:

- FLASH OF PAD WILL APPEAR "STRAIGHT" WHEN VIEWED FROM A CORRECT LEG
- FLASH OF PAD WILL APPEAR AT AN "ANGLE" WHEN VIEWED FROM LEGS SET TOO CLOSE OR COW HOCK LEGS

Comparison of rear structures:

- CORRECT**: Shows a dog's rear legs in a balanced, perpendicular stance.
- NARROW**: Shows a dog's rear legs set too close together.
- COW HOCK**: Shows a dog's rear legs splayed out to the sides.

MOVEMENT EFFECTED BY POOR REAR STRUCTURE

PHOTOGRAPHS:

- CORRECT REAR IN MOTION**: Shows a dog's rear legs in motion, with the pad flash appearing straight.
- COW HOCK IN MOTION**: Shows a dog's rear legs in motion, with the pad flash appearing at an angle.

**NOTICE PAD PLACEMENT**

**The results of correct conformation!**



## COAT: THE HALLMARK OF THE COTON DE TULEAR



*This is one of the main characteristics of the breed from which its very name derives. The coat is very soft and supple, with the texture of cotton. It is never hard or rough. The coat is dense, profuse and can be very slightly wavy. A puppy coat is much softer in texture than an adult coat.*

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

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

**Skin:** *The skin is fine and stretched tight all over the body. Although of pink color, it can be pigmented.*

**COLOR:** *Coat color is white.*

**On the ears:** *A few slight shadings of light grey (mixture of white and black hairs) or of light tan (mixture of white and light tan hairs) are permitted on the ears. These shadings are only tolerated but are not desirable.*

**Exception:** *Ears are not considered when applying the excess of 5% color to the body as a serious fault.*

**On the body:** *Light tan shadings (mixture of white and light tan hairs) are permitted on 5% of the body of an adult Coton over 12 months of age. These light tan shadings may appear in one area of the coat or scattered throughout the coat. These shadings should never be so intense or deep in color or be so heavily marked on the coat that they alter the overall appearance of a white coat.*

*When all other considerations are equal, the judge should give preference to the dog whose coat has the most amount of white.*

**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 severe fault in an adult Coton over 12 months of 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.

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



**EXAMPLES:** Coton on the left has the acceptable amount of color on the body-5%

Coton on right has 10% of body color and is a severe fault.

Color may appear in one patch on the body or scattered throughout the body!

**EAR COLOR** is not taken into consideration for correct percentage



**ACCEPTABLE COLORS DO APPLY TO EARS:** A few slight shadings of light grey (mixture of white and black hairs) or of light tan (mixture of white and light tan hairs. (PUPPY COLOR FOLLOWS)

## COAT ELABORATION:

### THE SOFT, WHITE, COTTONY COAT IS THE HALLMARK OF THE BREED!

**TEXTURE & AMOUNT:** *The coat is soft and supple, with the texture of cotton.* Some coats will reach to the ground, but others will be approximately 1 to 3 inches less than ground length. Either coat length, however, is totally acceptable

**The fur should never feel silky nor should it feel harsh or wooly. The coat is straight, with a very slight amount of wave allowable. The coat is dense and profuse, however, it is not necessary that the fur reaches the ground on an adult Coton.** Adult Cotons should have a dense and profuse coat. The coat should never be so "thin" that it lays "flat" against the body.

**The standard describes the ideal adult dog** and the color SEVERE FAULT applies to the ideal adult dog. This refers to any body parts having no more than a total of 5 % of color. This excludes any color on the EARS. **Color on the EARS is allowed on adults as long as that color is light tan or grey.**

**The Coton de Tulear should always present the OVERALL APPEARANCE OF A WHITE DOG.....this is a statement that is DIFFERENT than the description of the Coton de Tulear is a white dog.**

**Adult Cotons** may have **light grey** or **light tan shadings on their ears.**

**Adult Cotons** may have **light tan ONLY on body parts** of the coat **up to 5%.**

**The acceptable color amount on the Coton coat is "tolerated" not desirable.**

**THE 5% OF COLOR REFERS TO COLOR ON BODY PARTS ONLY.COLOR ON EARS IS NOT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION OF THE 5% COLOR.**

*When all other considerations are equal, the judge should give preference to the dog whose coat has the most amount of white.*

**(Puppy color exceptions and elaboration follow below)**

**BLACK: anywhere on the coat of a Coton de Tulear is a DISQUALIFICATION**

**This DQ DOES APPLY TO COTONS OF ALL AGES!**

### COTON PUPPY COLOR (UNDER 12 MONTHS)

**Cotons de Tulear carry a "fading gene" that remains elusive. Generations of white Cotons may be born to all white parents, only to have a heavily colored litter appear. Cotons born with color, may be valuable additions to breeding programs, possessing outstanding conformation.** Cotons de Tulear may be born with some color markings on head, ears and body. This color has the potential to fade progressively as the Coton reaches the age of 1 year old. If you judge a Coton over the age of 1 year , color markings should have faded completely or begin to show very strong amounts of lightening at the base of the color area sufficient to make total color fading imminent, **STILL TAKING THE 5% COLOR ALLOWANCE INTO ACCOUNT.** Colors appearing in very large patches covering the body and intense colors, for example, colors that show hints of dark brown, red or orange, or solid black patches with no hint of fading... will never completely fade out to give the overall appearance of a white dog.

## COLOR FADING EXAMPLES

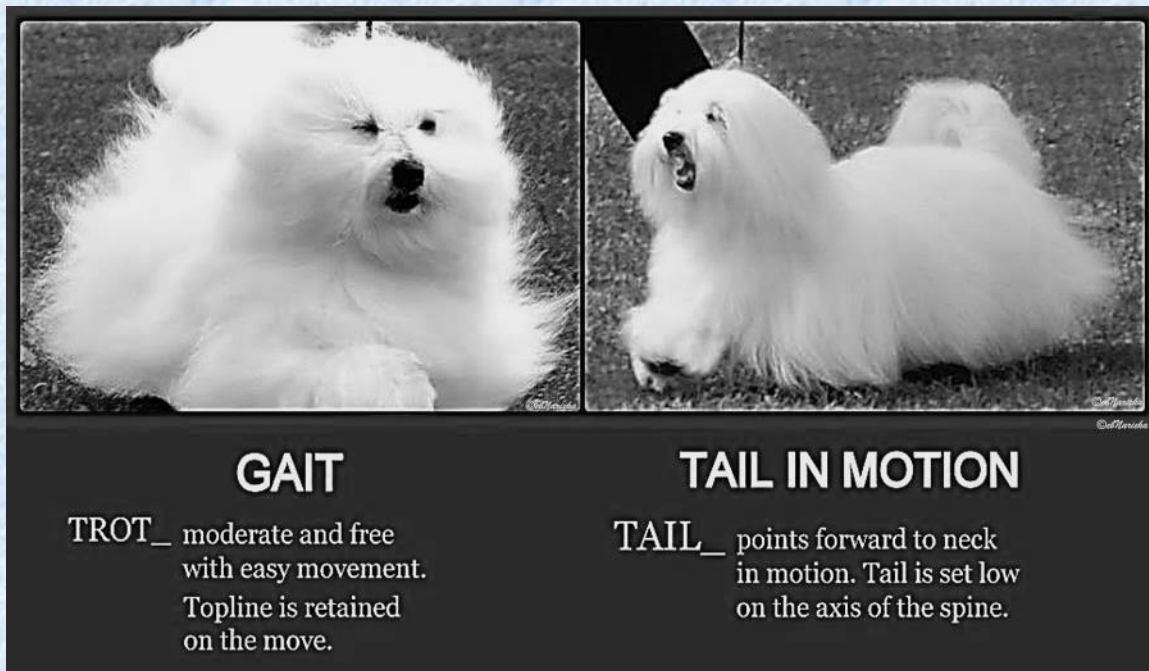
**PUPPY 1:** Retained small amount of color on ears but lost all other color.

**PUPPY 2:** Retained color on ear and side of body. NOTE: BLACK EAR WOULD BE CONSIDERED A DQ AS AN ADULT. Color did not disperse.

**PUPPY3:** Lost all color on face and ears. Grey totally dispersed.




**GAIT:** When trotting the gait is a moderate free and easy movement. The topline is retained on the move. There should be no sign of uneven movement.






The **GAIT IS THE TROT** Free and flowing, without covering a lot of ground; topline retained on the move with no sign of uneven movement

## THE GAIT IS "THE TROT"




PRECISE FOOT PLACEMENT




MODERATE  
FREE & EASY MOVEMENT  
WITH NO SIGNS  
OF UNEVEN MOVEMENT

TOPLINE  
IS RETAINED  
ON THE MOVE

TAIL IS UP  
POINTING FORWARD



CORRECT  
MOVEMENT  
FRONT  
&  
REAR



*©Maricka*

**ELABORATION:** Correct gait results from correct overall correct conformation. The truth and consequences of structure becomes apparent when gaited! The Coton in motion should carry his high head. **When in motion the topline should remain true.** Faulty construction will be very apparent as the topline WILL NOT be retained and side to side movement will occur. Cotons may "hop" over high grass, however, on level surfaces there should be no signs of "skipping". **On the move** : the tail is curved over the back, with the point towards the nape, the withers, the back or the loin. In dogs with abundant coat, the tip may rest on the dorsal-lumbar region. 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 during the gait, this may be forgiven.

When viewed from the front, the Cotons legs move forward in a free and easy motion. The legs and feet should show no signs of crossing over or interfering with each other. **SEE FOREQUARTER INSERT PAGE 12**

Viewed from the rear, the hocks should drive well under the body, following the same line as the forelegs, without being too wide or too closely spaced. 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 and in line with front movement. The close or cow hock leg will show the pad at an angle.

**SEE HINDQUARTER INSERT: Page 11 - 12**

**TEMPERAMENT:** *Of a happy temperament, stable, very sociable with humans and other dogs, adapting perfectly to all ways of life. The temperament of the Coton de Tulear is one of the main characteristics of the breed.*



**THE VERSATILITY OF THE COTON DE TULEAR WILL NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE YOU!!!**

Cotons excel in everything they do, from agility, obedience, therapy, swimming, reading assistance dogs, doggie dancing partners, & more!

They're great with children and get along well with other pets.

The Coton deTulear is excellent for people with allergies as they are **non-shedding and hypoallergenic** MOST OF ALL, they excel at doing the job they were bred for..... being

**YOUR BEST FRIEND**

**PRESENTATION:** *The dog must be shown as naturally as is consistent with good grooming. His coat should be clean and free of mats. In mature specimens, the length of coat may cause it to fall to either side down the back but it should not appear to be artificially parted. The long, untrimmed head furnishings may fall forward over the eyes, or be brushed backwards over the skull. The fur on the very bottom of the feet and between the pads may be trimmed. Any other trimming or sculpting of the coat or any grooming which alters the natural appearance is to be severely penalized.*



**ELABORATION:** COAT TEXTURE CAN BE ALTERED DRAMATICALLY BY OVERUSE OF ARTIFICIAL PRODUCTS AND BLEACH. The coat should never be groomed to fall to either side of the topline or to create an artificial topline. Hands on examination will reveal the correct convex topline and the correct angulation of the front & rear legs .TOPKNOTS are NOT allowed. *Any other trimming or sculpting of the coat or any grooming which alters the natural appearance is to be severely penalized.*

**TAILS UP AND POINTING FORWARD IN MOTION ..... TAILS DOWN AT REST REVEALING TOPLINE**

**BEAUTIFUL GROOMING PRESENTATION EXAMPLE**



## RING PRESENTATION



COTON DE TULEAR ARE EXAMINED STACKED ON THE TABLE.

They are presented with their handlers on the ground for further evaluation.

When stacked--tails are down.

### 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.**