



Dr. Adam King
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The Havanese is a small, sturdy dog of immense charm.



BooLingo

Other Bichon Breeds

Bichon Frise



Maltese



Bolognese



Coton de
Tulear



Lowchen



Russian
Tsvetnaya
Bolonka

The Havanese



The Six Critical Elements of Breed Type

Outline



Topline



Gait



Expression



Coat



Temperament

Critical Elements of Breed Type: Outline



"The height is slightly less than the length from the point of shoulder to point of buttocks."

-Size, Proportion and Substance

"The head is carried high..."

-Gait

"The tail is high-set and arches up forward over the back."

-Neck, Topline and Body

Critical Elements of Breed Type: Topline



"The Havanese has a short upper arm with moderate shoulder layback and a straight topline that rises slightly from the withers to the croup."

-General Appearance

"The straight topline rises slightly from the withers to the croup."

-Neck, Topline and Body

"...the slight rise in the topline holds under movement."

-Gait

Critical Elements of Breed Type: Gait



"The unique springy gait is a result of the breed's structure and playful, spirited personality."

-General Appearance

"The characteristic spring is a result of the short upper arm combined with the rear drive."

-Gait

"Front legs reach forward freely matching the moderate extension in the rear."

-Gait

Critical Elements of Breed Type: Expression



"The expression is soft, intelligent, and mischievous."

"Eyes are large, dark brown, and almond-shaped."

"Ears are broad at the base, dropped, and...are set high on the skull.."

"The skull is slightly rounded."

"The muzzle is full and rectangular with a broad nose."

-Head

Critical Elements of Breed Type: Coat



"Silky to the touch, the coat is soft and light in texture in both outer and undercoat..."

"The coat is long, abundant, and wavy."

"It stands off the body slightly..."

"An ideal coat will permit the natural lines of the dog to be seen."

"The coat may be corded."

-Coat

Critical Elements of Breed Type: Temperament



"...immense charm."

-General Appearance

"...beloved as a friendly, intelligent and playful companion."

-General Appearance

"The Havanese is friendly, playful, alert, and intelligent with a sweet non-quarrelsome disposition."

-Temperament



The AKC Havanese Breed Standard



General Appearance



The Havanese is a small, sturdy dog of immense charm. The native dog of Cuba, he is beloved as a friendly, intelligent and playful companion. He is slightly longer than tall, with a long, untrimmed, double coat. The Havanese has a short upper arm with moderate shoulder layback and a straight topline that rises slightly from the withers to the croup. The plumed tail is carried arched forward up over the back. The unique springy gait is a result of the breed's structure and playful, spirited personality. These characteristics of temperament, coat, structure and gait are essential to type.



Size, Proportion, and Substance



Size, Proportion, and Substance

Size

The ideal height is between 9 and 10½ inches, with an acceptable height range from 8½ to 11½ inches.





Size, Proportion, and Substance

Size: Disqualifications

Height at withers under 8½ inches or over 11½ inches is a disqualification, except that the minimum height shall not apply to dogs or bitches under twelve months of age.



Size, Proportion, and Substance

Proportion

The height is slightly less than the length from the point of shoulder to point of buttocks, creating a rectangular outline.



Size, Proportion, and Substance

Substance

The Havanese is moderately boned and should never appear coarse or fragile.



Head

Expression

The expression is soft, intelligent and mischievous.



Head

Eyes

Eyes are large, dark brown and almond-shaped. Chocolate dogs may have somewhat lighter brown eyes. Eye rims are solid black for all colors except for chocolate dogs which have solid brown eye rims.



Head

Eyes

Halos



No Halos



Head

Eyes: Disqualifications

Incomplete or total lack of pigmentation of the eye rims is a disqualification. Any color pigmentation other than black or brown on the eye rims is a disqualification.



Head

Ears

Ears are broad at the base, dropped, and have a distinct fold. They are set high on the skull, slightly above the endpoint of the zygomatic arch. When alert, the ears lift at the base but always remain folded. Ear leather, when extended, reaches halfway to the nose.



Head

Skull and Muzzle

The skull is broad and slightly rounded. The cheeks are flat. The muzzle is full and rectangular with a broad nose. The nose is solid black for all colors except for chocolate dogs which have solid brown pigment.



Head

Skull and Muzzle

The stop is moderate and the planes of the head are level. Length of muzzle is slightly less than length of skull measured from stop to point of occiput.



Head

Skull and Muzzle: Disqualifications

Incomplete or total lack of pigmentation of the nose. Any color pigmentation other than black or brown on the nose.



Head

Mouth

A scissors bite is ideal and a full complement of incisors is preferred. The lips are solid black for all colors except for chocolate dogs which have solid brown pigment. Small depigmented areas on lips due to rubbing against canine teeth will not disqualify.



Acceptable depigmentation of lips
due to rubbing of canine teeth

Head

Mouth: Disqualifications

Incomplete or total lack of pigmentation of the lips. Any color pigmentation other than black or brown on the lips.





Neck, Topline, and Body

Neck, Topline and Body

Neck and Chest

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. The prosternum is evident but not prominent. The chest is deep, well developed, and reaches the elbow.



Neck, Topline and Body

Topline

The straight topline rises slightly from the withers to the croup.



Neck, Topline and Body

Body

Measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks, the body is slightly longer than the height at the withers. This length comes from the ribcage. Ribs are well sprung. The loin is short and well muscled. There is a moderate tuck-up.



Neck, Topline and Body

Tail

The tail is high-set and arches forward up over the back. It is plumed with long, silky hair. The tail plume may fall straight forward or to either side of the body. While standing, a dropped tail is permissible. The tail may not be docked.



Forequarters

Shoulders and Upper Arms

The tops of the shoulder blades lie in at the withers, allowing the neck to blend smoothly into the back. Moderate shoulder layback is sufficient to carry the head and neck high. The upper arm is short.



Forequarters

Elbows and Legs

Elbows are tight to the body and forelegs are straight when viewed from any angle. The length from the foot to the elbow is equal to the length from elbow to withers.



Forequarters

Pasterns and Feet

Pasterns are short, strong and flexible, very slightly sloping. Dewclaws may be removed. The feet have arched toes and point straight ahead. Pads and nails may be any color.





Hindquarters

Hindquarters

Hindquarters

The hind legs are muscular with moderate angulation. Hocks are well let down; pasterns are parallel from hock to foot. The croup is slightly higher than the withers. Dewclaws may be removed. The feet have arched toes and point straight ahead. Pads and nails may be any color.



Coat

Coat

Silky to the touch, the coat is soft and light in texture in both outer and undercoat, although the outer coat carries slightly more weight



Coat

Brushed

The coat is long, abundant and wavy. It stands off the body slightly, but flows with movement. An ideal coat will permit the natural lines of the dog to be seen. Puppy coat may be shorter and have a softer texture than adult coat. A single, flat, frizzy or curly coat should be faulted.





Coat

Corded

The coat may be corded. Corded coats will naturally separate into wavy sections in young dogs and will in time develop into cords. Adult corded dogs will be completely covered with a full coat of tassel-like cords



Coat

Coat: Disqualifications

A Coarse, Wirey Coat



A Short, Smooth Coat
With or Without
Furnishings



Color

Color

All colors and marking patterns are permissible and are of equal merit. The skin may be any color.



Color





Gait

Gait

Gait

The Havanese gait is springy. The characteristic spring is the result of the short upper arm combined with the rear drive. Front legs reach forward freely matching the moderate extension in the rear. On the move, the pads may be visible coming or going. The head is carried high and the slight rise in the topline holds under movement.



Gait

Gait

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Temperament

Temperament

The Havanese is friendly, playful, alert and intelligent with a sweet, nonquarrelsome disposition. Aggression or shyness should be faulted.



Presentation

Grooming

Havanese should be shown as naturally as is consistent with good grooming. They may be shown either brushed or corded. The coat should be clean and well conditioned. In mature dogs, the length of the coat may cause it to fall to either side down the back but it should not be deliberately parted.



Presentation

Head Furnishings

Head furnishings are long and untrimmed, and may fall forward over the eyes or to both sides of the head; they may also be held in two small braids secured with plain elastic bands. The braids start above the inside corner of each eye and extend at least to the outside corner, forming the appearance of eyebrows. No other hair accessories are permitted.



Presentation

Trimming

Minimal trimming of the anal and genital area is permissible but should not be noticeable on presentation. Hair on the feet and between the pads should be neatly trimmed. No other trimming or sculpting of the coat is permitted and is to be so severely penalized as to preclude placement.



Presentation

Movement

Havanese should be presented at a natural speed on a loose lead to properly assess the characteristic springy gait.



The Six Critical Elements of Breed Type

Outline



Topline



Gait



Expression



Coat



Temperament



Disqualifications

Height

Under 8½ or over 11½ inches, though the minimum height doesn't apply to Havanaes under twelve months of age.

Lip Pigment

Incomplete or total lack of pigmentation of the lips.

Eye Rim Pigment

Incomplete or total lack of pigmentation of the eye rims.

Pigment Color


Any color pigmentation other than black or brown on the eye rims, nose or lips.

Nose Pigment

Incomplete or total lack of pigmentation of the nose.

Coat

A coarse, wiry coat.
A short, smooth coat with or without furnishings.



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