



GROUP VII: HERDING DOGS

APPENZELLER SENNENHUND

RECOGNIZED: N/A

Effective: July 2023

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

ORIGIN & PURPOSE

In 1853, an Appenzeller Sennenhund was first described in the book *“Tierleben der Alpenwelt”* (Animal Life in the Alps) as a “high-pitch barking, short-haired, medium size, multicolour cattle dog of a quite even Spitz type, which can be found in certain regions and is used partly to guard the homestead, partly to herd cattle.”

The “Appenzeller Sennenhund Club” was founded in 1906. In 1914, Prof. Heim set up the first valid breed standard. The original breeding territory was the Appenzell region. Today the breed is distributed all over Switzerland and beyond its borders and bred in many European countries. Today it is a versatile working and family dog, used as a driving, watch, guard, house and farm dog.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Tricolour, medium-sized, almost squarely built dog, balanced in all parts. Muscular, very agile and deft, with a cheeky expression.

TEMPERAMENT

Lively, high-spirited, self-assured, reliable and fearless. Slightly suspicious of strangers. A watchdog that cannot be bribed, and capable of learning.

SIZE

Ideal height at the withers: Dogs, 52 to 56 cm (20.5 to 22 in); bitches, 50 to 54 cm (19.75 to 21.25 in). Both +/- 2 cm (0.75 in).

Important proportions: Height at withers to length of body is 9:10. Compact rather than long. Length of muzzle to length of skull is 4:5

COAT

Double coat (moderately short, dense): Firm and fitting. Topcoat thick and shiny. Undercoat thick, black, brown or grey. It is undesirable for the undercoat to be visible through the topcoat. Slightly wavy coat only on withers and back just tolerated, but not desirable.

COLOUR

Basic colour is black or Havana brown with reddish brown-and-white markings as symmetrical as possible. Small reddish brown spots over eyes. Reddish brown markings on cheeks, chest (left and right in the region of the shoulder joint) and on legs. The reddish brown on the latter must invariably be located between the black or Havana brown and the white.

White markings:

- Distinct white blaze that runs from the skull without break over the bridge of the nose and can reach totally or partially round the muzzle.

- White from chin, covering throat without break at chest
- White on all four feet
- White on tip of tail
- White spot on nape of neck or half collar tolerated.
- Thin white ring all around neck tolerated but not desirable.

HEAD

Balanced size in relation to body. Slightly wedge-shaped. **Skull:** Skull fairly flat, broadest between the ears, tapering evenly towards the muzzle. Occiput barely pronounced. Frontal furrow moderately developed. **Stop:** Slightly marked. **Nose:** In black dogs, black, in Havana brown dogs, brown (as dark as possible). **Muzzle:** Medium strength, tapering evenly, but not snipy, with strong lower jaw. Nasal bridge straight. **Lips:** Clean and close-fitting, with black pigmentation in black dogs or with brown pigmentation (as dark as possible) in Havana brown dog. Corner of the mouth not visible. **Jaws/Teeth:** Strong, complete and regular scissors bite. Pincer bite tolerated. One missing PM1 or double PM1 (premolar 1) and missing M3 (molars) tolerated. **Cheeks:** Barely pronounced. **Eyes:** Rather small, almond-shaped, not protruding. Set slightly oblique towards the nose. Lively expression. Eye colour in black dogs is dark brown; in Havana brown dogs, eyes lighter brown, but as dark as possible. Eyelids close fitting. Eye rims black or brown (as dark as possible) corresponding to the colour of the coat. **Ears:** Broad, triangular shaped ears with slightly rounded tips, set on fairly high. In repose, they hang down flat and close to the cheeks. When alert, they raise at the base and turn forward so that the head and ears, seen from above, form a marked triangle.

NECK

Rather short, strong and clean.

FOREQUARTERS

Well muscled; seen from front forelegs straight and parallel; standing not too close. **Shoulder:** Shoulder blade long and sloping. **Upper arm:** Same length or only slightly shorter than shoulder blade. Angle with shoulder blade not too blunt. **Elbows:** Close fitting. **Forearm:** Straight, lean. **Pastern:** Seen from front in straight continuation of the forearm. Seen from the side, set at a very light angle. **Forefeet:** Short, arched, tight toes; solid pads.

BODY

Compact, strong. **Back:** Moderately long, firm and straight. **Loins:** Short and well muscled. **Croup:** Relatively short, running in flat continuation of the topline. **Chest:** Broad, deep, reaching to the elbows, with definite forechest. Sternum reaching sufficiently far back. Rib cage round-oval in diameter. **Underline/belly:** Only slight tuck-up.

HINDQUARTERS

Well muscled. Seen from rear, hind legs straight and parallel, standing not too close. The typical angulations result in relatively straight hindquarters. **Upper thigh:** Fairly long, forming a relatively small angle to the hip bone. **Lower thigh:** Equally long or only slightly shorter than the upper thigh. Lean and well muscled. **Hock joint:** Set relatively high. **Hock:** Set vertical and parallel, slightly longer than the front pastern, turning neither in nor out. Dewclaws may or may not be present. **Hind feet:** Short, arched, tight toes; solid pads.

TAIL

Set on high, strong, of medium length, densely coated. Hair slightly longer on underside. In movement carried tightly curled over the croup, carried sideways or in centre. In repose, pendent tail in various shapes tolerated.

GAIT

Good rear drive, well reaching stride in front. Seen from either front or rear, limbs move in a straight line when trotting.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.

- Lack of typical sex-specific appearance
- Too long or unbalanced in body
- Bone fine or too coarse
- Insufficient musculature
- Very heavy or very light in head
- Skull round
- Stop too defined
- Muzzle too long, too short, narrow or pointed; nasal bridge not straight
- Lips too developed
- Absence of teeth other than 2 PM1 (premolars 1)
- Cheeks too prominent
- Eyes round, protruding or light
- Ears too small, too large, standing off; set on too high or too low
- Swayback, roach back
- Croup overbuilt or falling away
- Belly tucked up
- Chest flat or barrel-shaped; lack of forechest; sternum too short
- Loosely rolled tail, its tip reaching at least the base of the tail
- Insufficient angulation of forequarters and hindquarters
- Down on pastern
- Feet longish oval (hare-feet), splay feet
- Undercoat visible through topcoat
- Faults in markings:
 - Black ticks on white
 - Broken blaze
 - Broad white collar around the whole neck
 - Divided white on chest
 - White reaching distinctly above pastern ("boots")
 - Absence of white on feet and tip of tail
- Over- or undersize regarding tolerance
- Insecure behaviour, absence of liveliness, slight sharpness

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Aggressive or overly shy
- Overshot or undershot mouth
- Entropion, ectropion
- Walleye
- Sickie tail (its tip not reaching the base of the tail), definitely pendent tail; kink tail.
- Other than double coat (moderately short, dense)
- Other than tricoloured coat
- Other than black or Havana brown main colour

