

255 Dog Definitions

- Abdomen**.....The portion of the dog's body between the chest and the hind quarters.
- Action**Any performance of function or movement, either of any part or organ, or of the whole body. Used as a synonym for gait in some standards.
- Albino**An animal deficient in pigmentation.
- Almond Eyes**The eye set in surrounding tissue of an almond shape
- Angulation**The angles formed by the meeting of the bones. Mainly the shoulder, upper arm, stifle, and hock.
- Ankylosis**Abnormal immobility and consolidation of a joint. Noted as a cause of faulty tails in the German Shepherd standard.
- Apple head**.....Rounded or domed skull
- Apron**.....Longer hair below the neck on the chest. Frill.
- Babbler**A hound that barks when not on the trail.
- Back**.....Vertebrae or topline between shoulder blade and hip bones
- Bandog**A dog tied by day and released at night. Watchdog.
- Bandy legs**Having a bend of leg outward.
- Barrel**Rounded rib section.
- Bat Ear**.....An erect ear, rather broad at the base, rounded in outline at the top, and with an orifice directly to the front.
- Bay**The prolonged bark voice of the hunting hound.
- Beefy**.....Over-heavy development of the hindquarters
- Belton**Two colors on one hair as Orange Belton or Blue Belton in English Setters
- Bite**.....The way the upper and lower teeth meet when the mouth is closed.
- Blanket**The color of the coat on the back and upper part of the sides, between the neck and the tail.
- Blaze**A white stripe running up the center of the face, usually between the eyes.
- Blinker**A dog that points a bird and then leaves it, or when it finds a bird it avoids making a definite point.
- Blooded**.....A dog of good breeding. Pedigreed.
- Bloom**The sheen of a coat that is a prime condition.
- Bobtail**A naturally tailless dog or a dog with a tail docked very short.
- Bone**.....The relative size (girth) of a dog's leg bones, substance
- Bossy**.....Over-development of the shoulder muscle.
- Brace**In breed: two dogs of the same breed fastened together and shown together. In obedience: two dogs belonging to one owner and shown together.
- Brisket**The chest or rib cage between and just behind the front legs
- Broken up face**.....A receding nose, with a deep stop, wrinkle, and undershot jaw.
- Brucellosis**.....Infectious Canine Abortion. It affects both sexes, has no age preference, and is caused by bacteria.
- Burr**The inside of the ear. The irregular formation that can be seen within the cup of the ear.
- Butterfly nose**.....A part-colored nose. Spotted with flesh color.
- Buttocks**.....The rump or hips.
- Button ear**Ear flap folding forward. The tip lying close to the skull, as to cover the orifice (opening) and pointing to the eye. As in the fox terrier.
- Camel back**Back arched like that of a one humped camel.
- Canine**A group of animals, including dogs, foxes, jackals, and wolves.
- Cat foot**.....Round, compact feet with well arched toes, tightly bunched or close cupped.
- Catch dog**.....A dog used to catch and hold a hunted animal, so that a huntsman can take it alive. Usually pigs or cattle.

CD(And its requirements per the AKC Obedience Rules) Companion Dog. Three scores of 170 or better each. Must receive better than 50% of each exercise, must receive qualifying score by 3 different judges, must be at least 6 dogs competing in the combined novice.

Character(As used in dog standards) Expression, individuality, and general appearance and deportment as considered typical of the breed.

Cheeky.....Cheeks prominently rounded, thick, protruding.

Cherry eye.....A prolapsed of the tear gland on the inner surface of the third eyelid.

ChestThe party of the body or trunk that is enclosed by the ribs.

China eyeA clear blue eye

ChopsJowls. Loose flesh on lips and jaws. Lower cheeks.

Chorea.....A nervous jerking caused by involuntary contraction of the muscles, usually affects the face or legs.

Clip.....The pattern of style of clip placed on a dog. The method of trimming the foot in some breeds, notably the poodle.

CloddyThick set, low, heavy

Close coupledDog with a short loin and back. Comparatively short from the withers to hip bones.

CoarseLacking refinement.

CobbyShort bodied, compact

CoccidiosisProtozoan (one celled animals). Parasites that live in the intestinal tract. Transmitted by ingestion. There are 5 different kinds common in mammals.

ColostrumFirst milk after the birth of the young. It contains immunoglobulins (antibodies) that are needed in the first 24 hours of life. It protects the pups from all infectious diseases.

Conformation.....The structure and form of a dog as defined by its standard.

CorkyActive, alert, lively.

CoupleTwo hounds.

Coursing.....The sport of chasing rabbits by sight hounds.

Crank tail.....A tail carried down and resembling a crank in shape.

CropThe trimmings of a dogs ears

Croup.....The rump; portion of the back between the hip bones & tail vertebrae

CrossbredA dog whose sire and dam are representatives of two different but pure breeds.

CrownThe highest part of the head, The topskull

Cryptorchid.....(Unilateral) One testicle is retained or hidden in the abdominal cavity and one is descended into the scrotum. The dog can reproduce. It is a disqualification from the breed ring.

CurA mongrel dog of no breed identity

CynologyThe study of canines

Dam.....Female parent.

Deadgrass.....Tan or dull straw color, Sedge color, as in the Chesapeake Bay Retriever.

DisqualificationDecision made by a judge or bench show committee following a determination that a dog has a condition that makes it ineligible for any further competition under dog show rules or under the standard of its breed.

Distemper.....(And how is it transmitted) An airborne virus with about 50% mortality. It affects all body organs. It takes about two weeks for symptoms to appear.

Distemper teeth.....Teeth discolored or pitted as a result of distemper, distemper vaccines, or high temperature diseases. Happens in the gum before teeth erupt.

Dock.....To shorten or remove all or part of the tail. Also, the base of the tail.

Dog.....A male dog (canine). Also used collectively to designate both male and female.

Dry Neck.....The skin taut. Neither loose or wrinkled

Dual championA dog that has won both a bench show and a field trial championship.

Dudley nose.....Flesh colored.

East & WestThe toes turn out (Face different directions)

EstrumIt is the period in which ovulation occurs; heat; it lasts about nine days.

EstrusEstrus is the reproductive cycle terminating with ovulation. About 21 days. Heat. In season.

Ewe NeckConcave curvature of the neck top line. Top of the neck sags toward the ground.

EyetoothUpper canine teeth; fangs

FallLonger hair on the chest below the neck. Apron Or hair overhanging the face.

FawnA brown tan or red-yellow with hue of medium brilliance.

FeatheringA longer fringe of hair on ears, legs tail or body

Fiddle frontForelegs out at the elbows, pasterns close, and the feet turned out. French front.

Field ChampionA prefix used with the name of a dog that has been recorded a field champion by the AKC, having met requirements.

FlagA long tail carried high. Usually sporting dogs.

FlankThe side of the body between the hip and the last rib.

Flat BoneThe leg bone whose girth is oval elliptical (an elongated circle) rather than round.

Flat sidedRibs insufficiently rounded as they approach the sternum or breastbone.

FlewsLoose hanging lips

Flying earsAny ear that should be drop or semi-prick but instead stand or fly.

ForearmThe bone of the foreleg between the elbow and pastern.

ForefaceThe part of the face in front of the eyes. The muzzle.

French frontForelegs out at elbows, pasterns close, and the feet turned. Also known as fiddle front.

FringeFringe of the hair on legs and tail.

Frog faceExtending nose accompanied by a receding jaw. Usually overshot.

FrontChest and legs of the dog, especially as seen from the front.

FurnishingThe long hair on certain dogs on the foreface and legs.

FurrowA straight indentation or median line down the center of the skull to the stop.

GaitThe manner in which a dog walks, trots, or runs.

GaitThe pattern of footsteps at various rates of speed, each pattern distinguished by a particular rhythm and footfall. The two gaits acceptable in the show ring: The walk and, most often seen, the trot.

GazehoundA hound that hunts by sight, not scent.,

Guard hairsLonger, smoother, stiffer hairs which grow through the undercoat and normally conceal it.

HamMuscular development of the hind leg just above the stifle.

Hard MouthedThe dog that bites or marks with his teeth when retrieving

HarefootA foot whose third digits are longer. An elongated foot.

HawA third eyelid or membrane in the inside corner of the eye. The nictitating membrane.

HeatSeasonal period of the female. Estrum.

HeightThe perpendicular measurement of the dog from the ground to the highest point of the shoulder or withers.

Hie OnA command used to urge dogs on, usually while hunting.

HockThe tarsus or the collection of bones of the hind leg forming the joint between the second thigh and the metatarsus. The dog's true heel.

Honorable ScarsScars suffered from an injury as a result of work

InbreedingThe mating of closely related dogs of the same breed standard, i.e. Mother to son, brother to sister.

IncisorsFront teeth of each jaw between the canines.

Infectious PapillomasWarts caused by host specific virus. They are benign tumors and are highly contagious. They are cured by vaccine or spontaneous recovery.

InterbreedingThe breeding together of dogs of different varieties.

IrisColored membrane surrounding the pupil of the eye.

IsabellaFawn or light bay color. Light tan.

JowlsFlesh of lips and jaws.

LeatherThe ear flap. Usually of hounds and sporting breeds.

LeptospirosisAn infectious disease caused by living organisms, spread mostly by urine. There must be actual contact.

Level bite.....When the front teeth (incisors) of the upper and lower jaws meet exactly edge to edge.

Litter.....Puppies born to a bitch in one whelping.

Loaded shoulders.....When the shoulder blades are shoved out from the body by over-development of the muscles.

Loins.....The sides, between the ribs and hip bones region on either side of the vertebral column between the last ribs and the hindquarters.

Lower thigh.....Second thigh. The hindquarter from the stifle to the hock.

Mantle.....Dark shaded portion of the coat on shoulders, back and sides. Like on a St. Bernard.

MaskDark color (Shading) on the muzzle and foreface. Mastiff, Boxer, Pekingese, Great Dane

Merle.....A coloration either a gray base with flecks of black or a red base with brown flecks.

Metestrums.....Between cycles of estrus. It is the three months following anestrus. In those two periods the bitch is considered not to be in heat.

Miscellaneous Class.....A competitive class at a dog show for dogs of certain specified breeds for which no regular dog show classification is provided.

Molera.....Incomplete, imperfect, or abnormal ossification (hardening) of the skull.

MongrelA dog whose parents are of mixed breed origin.

Monorchid.....One testicle retained in the abdominal cavity and one visible. A unilateral cryptorchid.

Non-slip retrievers.....Dog that stays at heel, marks the fall of a bird, and retrieves the bird on command. Does not need to find or flush. Spaniels.

Nose.....Organ of smell. Also, the ability to detect by scent.

Occiput.....The bump at the top rear of the skull.

Out at the shoulders.....Shoulder blades loosely attached to the body, leaving the shoulders jutting out in relief and increasing the breadth of the front

Overshot.....The front teeth (incisors) of the upper jaw overlap and do not touch the front teeth of the lower jaw when the mouth is closed.

Paddling.....Moving with forefeet wide.

Parti-colorPatches of two or more colors.

PeakUpper, back point of the skull. Occiput.

Pedigree.....The written record of a dog descent of three generations or more.

PencilingBlack lines dividing the tan on the toes.

Pied.....Comparatively large patches of two or more colors. Also know as piebald or parti-colored.

Pigeon breastA chest with a short protruding breast bone.

Pigjaw.....The front teeth (incisors) of the upper jaw overlap and do not touch the front teeth of the lower jaw when the mouth is closed.
Overshot

Pile.....Dense under coat of soft hair.

Pincer bite.....When the front teeth (incisors) of the upper jaw meet the front teeth of the lower jaw edge to edge (no overlapping). Level bite.

Plume.....The feathering of the tail.

Pneumonia.....an inflammatory change in the lungs and bronchi which can be caused by bacteria, fungus or virus.

Police Dog.....Any dog used for police work

Pom PomBall of hair left at the end of tail or legs of Poodles.

Premium ListAn advanced notice brochure sent to prospective exhibitors and containing details regarding a forthcoming show

Prick Ear.....Ear carried erect and usually pointed at the tip

ProestrusLasts about 9 days before estrus. Denotes onset of breeding cycle. Bloody discharge, swelling of external genital.

Professional HandlerA person who shows dogs for others for a fee.

PuppyA dog of either sex that is under one year old. Puppy classes at the AKC shows are usually divided into 6-9 months, and 9-12 months.

Pure BredA dog whose sire and dam belong to the same breed and are of unmixed descent since recognition of the breed. Often the word thoroughbred is mistakenly used.

Rabies(And how transmitted) Rabies is a fatal viral disease transmitted by contact with infected saliva, by bite or through broken skin surface.

Rat TailThe root thick and covered with soft curls. End of the tail has no hair or very short hair; as in a Water Spaniel

RegisterTo record with the AKC a dog's breeding particulars

RetrieveThe act of bringing something (game, dumbbells, etc.) to the handler.

Ring tailOne that curls into a ring at the end. Curved up.

RingerSubstitute for. A dog closely resembling another dog.

Roach backA convex curvature of the back, in the region of the loins. Also called a carp back.

RoanA fine mixture of colored hairs with white hairs, blue, orange, lemon, etc. Often found in spaniels, setters.

RoundingCutting or trimming the ends of the ear leather. As in the English Fox Hound

RudderThe tail.

RuffThick, longer hair growth around the neck.

Saber tailCarried in a semi-circle.

SableBlack or very dark brown. In Collies and Shelties. It is a lacing of black hairs over brown. Also black tips with tan at the base. Brown to very light tan.

Salmon poisoningA micro-organism transmitted by raw salmon and trout that carry the larvae of the salmon fluke. The fluke harbors neorickettsia which actually causes the disease.

SalmonellosisParatyphoid - A poisoning caused by a bacteria which invades the blood stream. It is much like that which causes human typhoid. It affects mostly young dogs during the fall and winter.

Scissors biteA bite in which the outer side of the lower incisors touches the inner side of the upper incisors. The bite required in most breed standards.

ScissuraMedian line between the eyes at the forehead.

Screw TailA kinky tail (twisted) a naturally short tail twisted in more or less spiral formation. Bulldogs

SedgeTan or dull straw color deadgrass as in the Chesapeake Bay Retriever

Self ColorThe color or whole color except for lighter shadings (solid color)

ShelleyA shallow, narrow body, lacking the correct amount of bone.

Sickle tailCarried out and up in a semi-circle. Like a sickle.

Sight houndA hound that hunts by sight instead of scent. Also: Gazehound.

Single TrackingAll footprints fall in a single line of travel. As the dog's speed increases he angles his legs in toward the center.

SireThe male parent

SpayTo perform a surgical operation on the bitches reproductive organs to prevent reproduction.

SpectaclesShading or dark markings over or around the eyes or from eyes to ears. Keeshond

SplashedIrregularly patched, color on white or white on color

Squirrel tailCurving up and forward over the back

StanceManner of standing.

Stand Off CoatThe outer coat stands straight off from the body.

StandardA description of the ideal dog of each recognized breed, to serve as a word pattern by which dogs are judged at shows.

Staring coatThe hair is dry, harsh, and sometimes curling at the tips.

SteepUsed to denote insufficiently acute angles of articulation. For example, a steep front describes a more upright shoulder placement than is preferred.

SternTail of a sporting dog or hound

Sternum.....The breastbone

StiltedThe choppy, up-and-down gait of the straight-hocked dog.

Stop.....The area between the eyes and between the skull and muzzle. The indentation between the eyes where the nasal bone and stop meet

Straight hocked.....Lacking appreciable angulation at the hock joints. Straight behind.

Straight Shoulders.....Poor angulation of the shoulder bones. Shoulder blades more straight up and down than sloping.

Stud BookThe record of the breeding particulars of dogs recognized breeds

Stud dog.....Male dog used for breeding purposes.

SubstanceBone

Superciliary arches.....The ridge, projection, or prominence of the frontal bone of the skull over the eye; the brow.

Suspension trot.....A fast gait in which all four feet are off the ground for a brief second during each half stride. Because of the long reach, the oncoming hind foot steps beyond the imprint left by the front foot..

Swayback.....Concave curvature of the backbone between the withers and the hipbones.

Symmetry.....Pleasing balance between all parts of the dog.

Tail set.....How the base of the tail sets on the rump.

TD(And its requirements) Tracking Dog. Requires a written statement, signed by a tracking judge, dated within 12 months of a trial date, certifying that the dog is ready to take part in a tracking test. The title is awarded when the dog has been certified by two judges to have

TDXTracking Dog Excellent. A suffix used with the name of a dog that has been recorded a Tracking Dog Excellent as a result of having passed an AKC licensed or member tracking dog excellent test.

TerrierA group of dogs, or a member of the group, used normally for hunting vermin.

Testicles.....The male gonad, gland which produces spermatozoa.

Tetanus.....A bacillus that affects the nervous system. It enters through wounds and is often fatal. There are muscle spasms that start with the jaw and a stiff gait and tail, then difficulty in breathing.

Thigh.....The hindquarter from hip to stifle.

Throatiness.....A excess of loose skin under the throat.

Thumb marksBlack spots on the region of the pastern.

TickedSmall, isolated areas of black or colored hairs on a white ground.

Tied at the elbows.....A gaiting fault, pinching up at the elbows and shoulder joints causes the front legs to swing forward on a stiff outward arc.

TimberBone, especially of the legs

TopknotThe tuft of longer hair on the top of the head.

Trace.....The dark stripe down the back of a Pug

Triangular eyeThe eye set in surrounding tissue of triangular shape. Three cornered eye.

Tri-colorDogs of three colors, usually black, tan, and white.

Trim.....to groom the coat by plucking, clipping, or thinning

Triple Champion.....a dog that has won bench show, field trial, and obedience trial championships

Truncated.....Cut off

Tuck up.....Characterized by a markedly shallower body depth at the loin. Small waisted.

Tulip Ear.....Ears carried with a slight, forward curvature

Twisting hocks.....A gaiting fault in which the hock joints twist both ways as they flex and bear weight. Also called rubber hocks.

Type.....The characteristic qualities distinguishing a breed the embodiment of a standards essentials.

Underline.....The combined contours of the brisket and the abdominal floor.

UndershotThe front teeth (incisors) of the lower jaw overlapping or projecting beyond the front teeth of the upper jaw when the mouth is closed.

Unsound.....A dog incapable of performing the functions for which it was designed.

Upperarm(Or Upper Arm) The humerus or bone of the foreleg, between the shoulder blade and the forearm.

Varminty.....A keen, very bright or piercing expression

Veil.....The portion of the dog's forelock hanging straight down over the eyes, or partially covering them.

Vent.....The anal opening

Walk.....Gaiting pattern in which three legs are in support of the body at all times, each foot lifting from the ground one at a time in regular sequence

Walleye.....An eye with a whitish iris. Bluish eye. (Dalmatian, Old English Sheepdog)

Weaving.....When in motion the crossing of the forefeet or the hind feet. Traveling in & out.

WebbedConnected by a membrane

Weedy.....An insufficient amount of bone. Light boned.

Well Let DownHaving short hocks

Wet neck.....Loose or superfluous skin, with dewlap

WheatenA pale yellow or fawn color

Wheel backThe back line arched markedly over the loin. Roached.

Whelps.....Unweaned Puppies

WhiskerLonger hairs on muzzle sides and underjaw.

Whitelies.....A body color white with markings; found in Corgis

Wind.....To catch the scent of game.

WingingA gaiting fault where one or both front feet twist outward as the limbs swing forward.

WinnersAn award given at dog shows to the best dog (Winners Dog) and the best bitch (Winners Bitch) competing in the regular classes.

WirehairA coat of hard, crisp, wiry texture.

WoodyInsufficient amount of bone; light boned.

WrinkleLoose, folding skin on forehead and foreface.

Wry mouthLower jaw does not line up with upper jaw