

## Standard for the Lancashire Heeler

**History:** The Lancashire Heeler's history extends back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The exact origin of the breed is unknown. However, it is generally accepted that a type of Welsh Corgi was utilized to drive stock to market in northern Wales to the Lancashire market. What is known is a small black and tan dog known as the butchers' dog was common in the Ormskirk area of West Lancashire. The possible ancestors for this dog include the Corgi and Manchester Terrier. These useful farm dogs were bred for generations within this particular district developing their own characteristics. Once bred as a cattle herder and a ratter these friendly little dogs have gained popularity as a wonderful family dog.

The breed was recognized by the Kennel Club in the U.K. in 1981 and a vulnerable native breed in 2006.

Today there is a growing interest in this great companion dog that happily participates in obedience, agility, rally and herding events. The Lancashire Heeler has gained popularity in the U.S., Sweden, the Netherlands and Australia.

**General Appearance:** Small, powerful, sturdily built, alert energetic worker.

**Size Proportion, Substance:** Ideal height at shoulder - dogs: 12 inches; bitches: 10 inches.

**Head:** *Head* - In proportion to body. *Eyes* - Almond-shaped, medium size, dark color except in liver where they may be lighter to match coat color. *Ears* - Showing alert lift, or erect. Drop ears showing no lift undesirable. *Skull* - Skull flat and wide between ears, tapering towards eyes which are set wide apart. Moderate stop equidistant between nose and occiput. Tapering continues towards nose. Skull and *muzzle* to be on parallel planes. *Lips* - Lips are firm. *Bite* - Scissor bite – jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Under or overshot to be discouraged. **Neck, Topline, Body:** *Neck* - Moderate length, well laid into shoulders. *Body* - Well sprung ribbing, extending well back with close coupling. Firm, level *topline*, never dipping at withers or falling at croup. Approximately 1 inch longer than height at withers (measured from withers to set on of tail). *Tail* - Set on high, left natural. Carried over back in a slight curve when alert, but not forming a complete ring. Feet – Small, firm and well padded.

**Forequarters:** Well laid shoulder, elbows firm against ribs. Amply boned. Pasterns allow feet to turn slightly outwards, but not enough to cause weakness or affect freedom of movement.

**Hindquarters:** Muscular, with well-turned stifles, hocks well let down. From rear should be parallel, when moving or standing. Never bandy or cowhocked.

**Coat:** Fine undercoat is covered throughout by weather resistant, short, thick, hard, flat topcoat. Topcoat slightly longer on neck. Undercoat should not show through topcoat nor allow any longer hair at the mane to stand off. Long or excessively wavy coat highly undesirable.

**Color:** Black and tan or liver and tan with pigment to tone with coat color, with rich tan spots on cheeks and often above eyes. Rich tan on muzzle and chest and from knees downwards, inside hind legs and under tail. A distinct black or liver mark (thumb mark), according to coat color, immediately above front feet is desirable. Richness of tan may fade with age. White to be discouraged. A small white spot on forechest, although permissible is undesirable.

**Gait:** Smart and brisk. Natural, free movement.

**Temperament:** Courageous, happy, affectionate to owner.



**Faults:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

**Approved October 9, 2017**

**Effective June 27, 2018**