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NZ *\$5.50 inc GST
OCTOBER 1988

National Dog

ALL-BREEDS MAGAZINE FOR THE DOG OWNER, BREEDER & EXHIBITOR
Registered by Australia Post — publication no. NBG 0027



The Shih Tzu
CH DUXFORD PLAYING POSSUM

● SHIH TZU SPECIAL ●

THE SHIH TZU

IT'S A funny thing about dogs... they always seem to bob up in the most unexpected places. Take the time my husband and I were driving through the Waskasui National Park in the wilds of Northern Canada some years ago. Suddenly the cry went up "Stop! There's a moose with its baby in those bushes." As the car screeched to a halt, we piled out, cameras at the ready, to capture this intriguing sight. Pictures taken, we returned to find at least six other cars abandoned behind ours on the road. In this wilderness it seems that a stationary car means "Wildlife is near, let's grab a look"! But even more extraordinary, sitting with great aplomb on the back seat of the car behind ours was a small dog; not just a dog, a Shih Tzu. Coat clipped short, and obviously a much loved pet, it remained unmistakably a Shih Tzu.

It was so easily identifiable because somewhere in this far off country a dedicated person had bred to a written Standard that set out in details the characteristics and appearance of this particular breed. The breed Standard is therefore a most important part of breeding, exhibiting and judging dogs. The Standard is our 'picture in words', hopefully designed with great care, to keep our breeds constant throughout the years, and throughout the world. The Shih Tzu I saw in the wilds of Canada could have come from my own breeding stock.

There has been considerable opposition recently to the revised Standards adopted by the ANKC for a trial period of two years. One can understand breeders' concern, as they see problems looming in their breeds simply because there has not been sufficient thought given to certain phrases or paragraphs within their own Standards.

Although Shih Tzu enthusiasts have fared rather better than others, it is disappointing none the less to find that a great opportunity to further clarify our Standard has been missed, mainly for the want of a few words here and there. I'll try to explain what I mean by making a few additions (in italics), and a short explanation (in light type) where warranted. I would point out this is my opinion, not that of the Shih Tzu Club or its members.

GENERAL APPEARANCE. *Sturdy, abundantly coated dog with distinctly arrogant carriage and chrysanthemum-like face.*

GENERAL APPEARANCE. *Small, sturdy, abundantly coated dog with distinctly arrogant carriage and Chrysanthemum-like face.*

I am pleased to see the rather confusing statement, "Neither a terrier nor a toy dog" deleted from this paragraph. However, the word 'small' should begin this part of the Standard, conveying the size of the dog.

CHARACTERISTICS. *Intelligent, active and alert.*

TEMPERAMENT. *Friendly and independent.*

TEMPERAMENT. *Friendly and independent, never aggressive.*

The sole purpose of this breed is to be a companion dog and house pet. Bad temperament should not be tolerated in this breed.

HEAD AND SKULL. *Head broad, round, wide between eyes. Shock-headed with hair falling well over eyes. Good beard and whiskers, hair growing upwards on the nose giving a distinctly chrysanthemum-like effect. Muzzle of ample width, square, short, not wrinkled. Flat and hairy. Nose black but dark liver in liver or liver marked dogs and about one inch from tip to definite stop. Nose level or slightly tip-tilted. Top of nose*



REVISIONS TO THE BREED STANDARD

by GWEN JOHNSON

leather should be on a line with or slightly below lower eyelid. Wide open nostrils. Downpointed nose highly undesirable, as are pinched nostrils. Pigmentation on muzzle as unbroken as possible.

Although we still have the rather confusing "chrysanthemum-like effect" included, the Standard does mention "good beard and whiskers", better than the American Standard which fails to list facial furnishings at all. I am pleased to see the inclusion of "downpointed nose highly undesirable" as this fault completely destroys true Shih Tzu expression.

EYES. *Large, dark, round, placed well apart but not prominent. Warm expression. In liver or liver marked dogs, lighter eye colour permissible. No white of eye showing.*

EARS. *Large, with long leathers, carried drooping. Set slightly below crown of skull, so heavily coated they appear to blend into hair of neck.*

MOUTH. *Wide, slightly undershot or level. Lips level.*

MOUTH. *Wide, slightly undershot or level. Lips level. Teeth should not show when mouth is closed.*

A very undershot dog will show the lower incisors, an ugly appearance not to be encouraged.

NECK. *Well proportioned, nicely arched. Sufficient length to carry head proudly.*

I love it. The old Standard didn't allow for a neck. For years the argument has been about whether we should have a long neck, a short neck, or indeed any neck at all! My personal opinion has always been that a dog with a "distinctly arrogant carriage" needed sufficient length of neck to carry the head high. This paragraph covers it admirably.

FOREQUARTERS. *Shoulders well laid back. Legs short and muscular with ample bone, as straight as possible, consistent with broad chest being well let down.*

FOREQUARTERS. *Shoulders well laid back, legs short and muscular with ample bone, as straight as possible consistent with broad chest being well let down. Elbows firm, set close to the body.*

It's rather disappointing to find no mention of soundness anywhere in this entire Standard. Slack elbows or pasterns will destroy a level topline, as will straight stifles.

BODY. *Longer between withers and root of tail than height of withers, well coupled and sturdy, chest broad and deep, shoulders firm, back level.*

BODY. *Well balanced. Longer between withers and root of tail than height at withers, well coupled and sturdy, chest broad and deep, shoulders firm, back level.*

A small addition — well balanced — could make a lot of difference to this paragraph. If the dog is well balanced, it will not be too long in body. As the Standard reads, it would be possible to have a very long back, which is quite ugly.

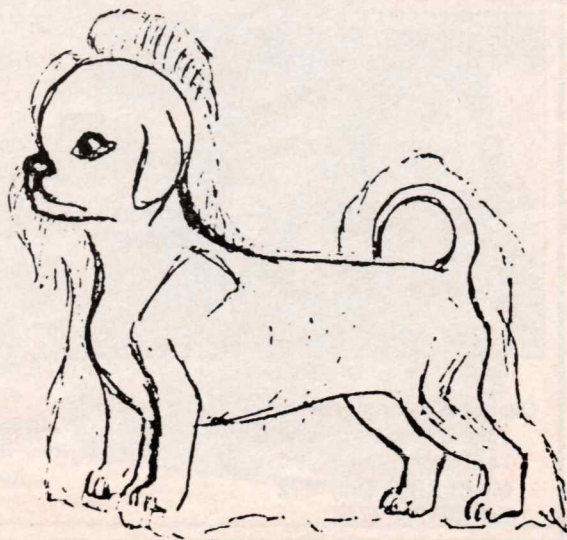
HINDQUARTERS. *Legs short and muscular with ample bone. Straight when viewed from the rear. Thighs well rounded and muscular. Legs looking massive on account of wealth of hair.*

HINDQUARTERS. *Legs short and muscular with ample bone. Straight when viewed from the rear. Thighs well rounded and muscular. Good turn of stifle. Legs look massive on account of the wealth of hair.*

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SKETCHES BY JAY AMMAN

SIDE VIEW *Head large, round — deep stop, rounded backskull beginning at stop. Eyes large and wide apart. Ears set just below crown of skull. Body — round, sturdy and tightly put together. Solid and firm through loin. Chest broad, deep. Shoulders firm, back level, well angulated fore and hindquarters with strong, amply boned legs. Tail curved well over back. Head carried well up arrogant carriage.*



Previously published in Shih Tzu News & National Dog, March 1984.

THE REVISED STANDARD

► continued from page 23

A dog without a good turn of stifle will not have strong rear action, nor show its pads as it moves away.

FEET. Rounded, firm and well padded, appearing big on account of wealth of hair.

TAIL. Heavily plumed, carried gaily well over back. Set on high. Height approximately level with that of skull to give a balanced outline.

TAIL. Heavily plumed, carried gaily, set on high, curving up and over, the tip touching the back. Long pluming to mingle with the coat of the body.

Quite a confusing paragraph as it is. Are we to understand that the height of the tail set is level with the skull? This is an important and beautiful characteristic of our present day Shih Tzu and deserves a better description than is given.

GAIT/MOVEMENT. Arrogant, smooth-flowing, front legs reaching well forward, strong rear action and showing full pad.

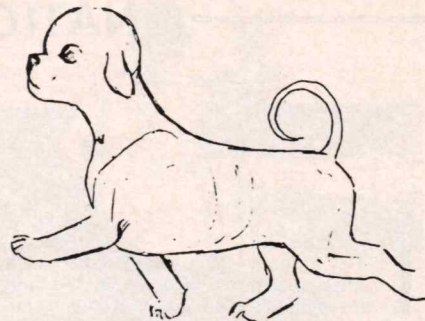
GAIT/MOVEMENT. Arrogant, smooth flowing, front legs reaching well forward, strong rear action, showing full pad. Slight roll behind should not detract.

Most short legged dogs with deep and somewhat broad chests will develop a slight roll or swagger as they move away and increase their speed, unlike the Maltese or Lhasa Apso which are not so heavily boned. It would be a pity to lose the distinction.

COAT. Long, dense, not curly, with good undercoat. Slight wave permitted. Strongly recommended that hair on head tied up.

COLOUR. All colours permissible, white blaze on forehead and white tip to tail highly desirable in parti-colours.

WEIGHT AND SIZE. 4.5 to 8.1kgs (10-18lbs). Ideal weight 4.5-7.3kgs (10-16lbs). Height at withers not more than 26.7cm (10½ ins), type and



breed characteristics of the utmost importance and on no account to be sacrificed for size alone.

The description of coat I consider adequate. Under weight and size I would like to see a minimum of 9ins in height included in the Standard, corresponding with the minimum and maximum weights listed. As the Standard reads now, a dog standing 10½ins at the withers could conceivably weigh 10lbs, or a dog standing 8½ins at the withers might weigh 16lbs, thus destroying the true structure of the dog. No mention is made of balance or proportion that might provide a guideline in this paragraph.

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.

NOTE. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

I know it's easy to sit back and criticise, but the Standard is a most important part of breeding and the understanding of a specific breed. It should not be taken lightly or altered without a great deal of thought. What do you think?

FRONT VIEW. Wide front, elbows neither in nor out, round deep ribcage. Feet firmly planted. **REAR VIEW.** High tail set — wide muscular thighs — toes straight ahead — short, well angulated hocks. Body solid throughout — not wide in front and narrow behind like a Pekingese. **MOVING OUT.** Head carried well up, driving hard and reaching out in front — topline level, tail carried well out back. Smooth and flowing with a slight roll — not ever stiff or jerky.

A TALE OF TAILS

by CHRIS JONES

THE AMERICAN Kennel Club approved Standard for the Shih Tzu states that the tail is to be carried gaily over the back. Specifically, it states that the tail is to be heavily plumed and curved well over the back; carried gaily, set on high.

In the last few years, due to one very influential line in our breed, we have seen many tails "carried on the wrong side". Actually, there is no right side. There is the judge's side, the left, on which most Shih Tzu naturally do carry their

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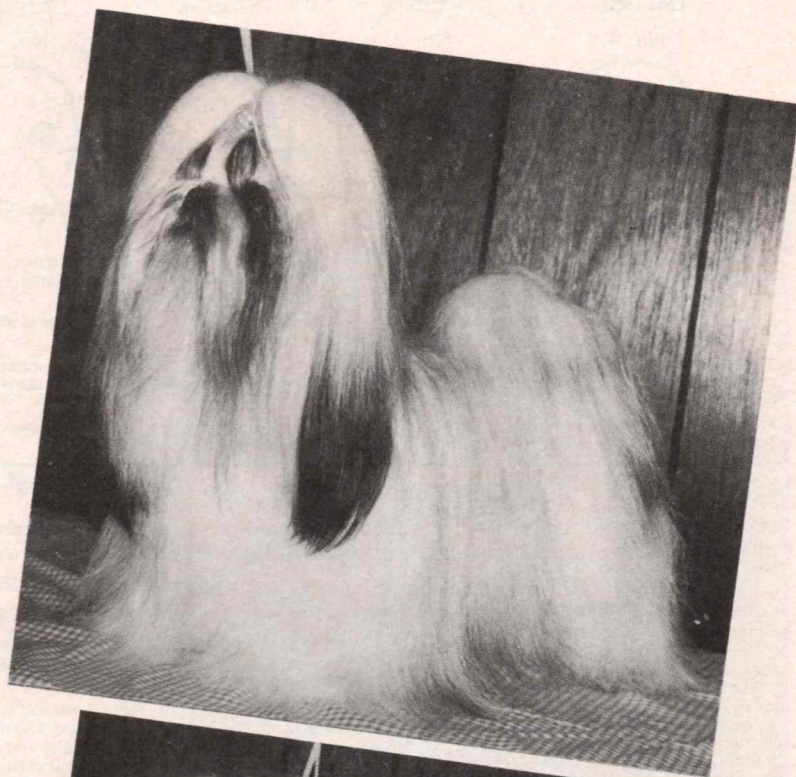
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Daltricia Imp UK

Marque A Devil of A Teazer
Imp USA

Aust Ch Chantrey Rythem N
Blues (pictured)



"FONZ"

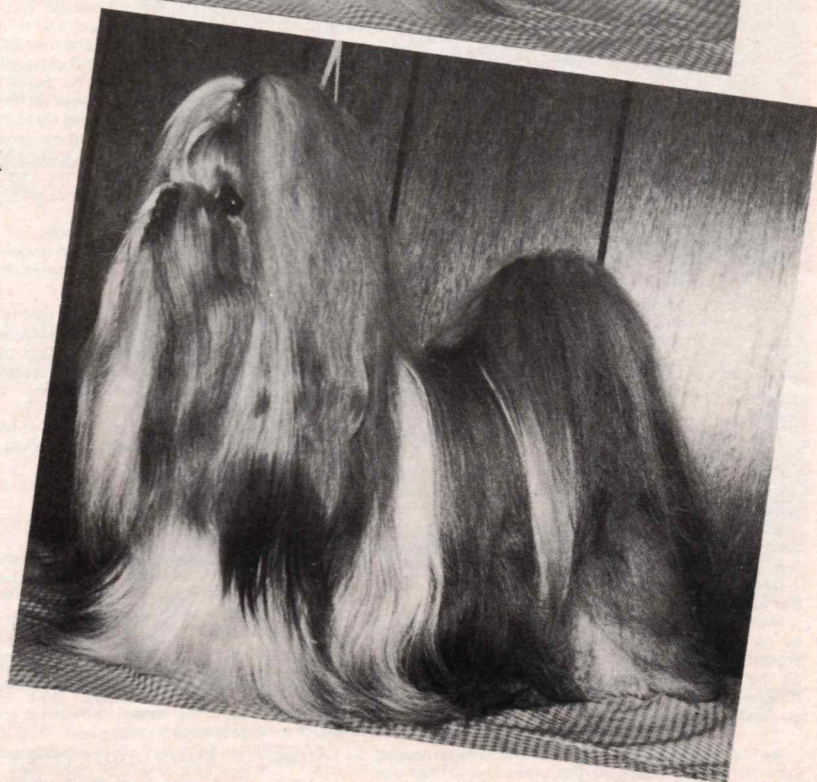
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SHIH TZU HEAD & EXPRESSION — by MARINA OUVAROFF

HEAD and expression undoubtedly establish Shih Tzu breed type and character. The importance of balance and proportion here cannot be over-emphasised.

The head should be broad and round. This means broad in keeping with the dog's body size. And the skull should be broader from side to side than from front to back. This allows for the correspondingly correct wide set eyes and

nose placement, giving a wide, open faced appearance. The brow should be fairly upright, not sloping away too steeply behind the eyes, which gives the face a slightly bumpy look and is most untypical. Actual head size is always relative to the size of the dog but even in smaller type Shih Tzu a certain boldness of head is most attractive.

Width between the eyes is a requirement in which balance is vital. A larger specimen will ap-

pear to have wider placed eyes than a smaller one. This is where the hands as well as the eye may determine the truth. Well arched cheekbones and correct frontal positioning of the eyes, coupled with the desired high nose placement, may be felt as well as seen.

While round, lustrous eyes, frontally placed, are looked for, on no account should they be over-large or protruberant, and they should show no white.

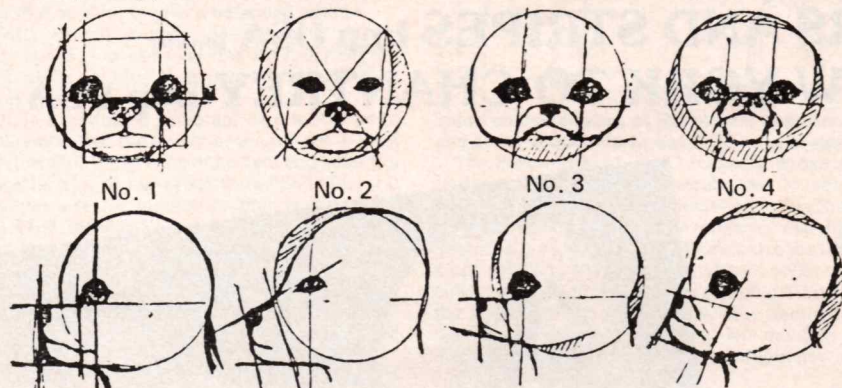
A cleverly prepared head may hide imperfections in proportions. Judges must learn to feel these when carrying out their examinations.

Now we come to the square and short muzzle, not wrinkled like a Pekinese. Here we have a fairly complex combination of factors — foreface, stop, nostrils, jaw and chin all play a part in the correct muzzle. Possibly the single most telling component is the chin, for without a strong, powerful chin the muzzle has very little chance of complying with the Standard. Good turn-up allows for width of jaw. That in turn makes for a well padded muzzle, which goes with the correct stop and nose placement.

Shortness of foreface is of utmost importance for expression. The ideal is about an inch from tip to stop, or as 1 is to 4, allowing for the size of the dog. This should stem from a pronounced stop, level with or just below the eye-rim, with the bridge of the nose level. Extra length of foreface seems to be coupled with lack of skull; overstrong underjaw may produce a too high, untypical nose placement.

For the mouth, level or slightly underhung, the jaw square, Audrey Dadds puts a picture in the mind: "To give the Chinese lion-like appearance, whether the bite is level or undershot, the upper lips should come over the lower when the mouth

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Drawings by Jay Amman

1. A WELL BALANCED HEAD. Total look and feel is broad and round, Eyes large round with much distance between them. Muzzle is square — good balance between upper jaw, lips and chin. Nose is large — nostrils wide open. Lips are cushioned to impart square look. The stop is sharp and well defined.

2. THE "LHASA LOOK SYNDROME". Narrow head — tiny eyes — poorly set muzzle, triangular in shape. There is no definite stop and head falls away between eyes.

3. "PERSIAN KITTEN SYNDROME". Rectangular flat muzzle — tiny little dot of a nose — not enough depth of upper muzzle and barely any lower jaw. This is a head that is "cute" and "appealing" — particularly in bitches...but it is not correct.

4. ALSO A POOR HEAD. Flat topped — too narrow through muzzle. This dog is all eyes and underjaw. Lower teeth on a jaw like this are usually very badly undershot and curve up and over upper gums.

BREED STANDARDS

For comparison we publish here the Standards as approved by the American Kennel Club & that in use previously in England, Australia (until 30 June 1988) & currently in New Zealand

THE AMERICAN STANDARD

GENERAL APPEARANCE. Very active, lively and alert, with a distinctly arrogant carriage. The Shih Tzu is proud of bearing as befits his noble ancestry, and walks with head well up and tail carried gaily over the back.

HEAD. Broad and round, wide between the eyes. Muzzle square and short, but not wrinkled, about one inch from tip of nose to stop. **Definite stop.** **Eyes** — Large, dark and round but not prominent, placed well apart. Eyes should show warm expression. **Ears** — Large, with long leathers, and carried drooping; set slightly below the crown of the skull; so heavily coated that they appear to blend with the hair of the neck. **Teeth** — Level or slightly undershot bite.

FOREQUARTERS. Legs short, straight, well boned, muscular, and heavily coated. Legs and feet look massive on account of the wealth of hair.

BODY. Body between the withers and the root of the tail is somewhat longer than the height at the withers; well coupled and sturdy. Chest broad and deep, shoulders firm, back level.

HINDQUARTERS. Legs short, well boned and muscular, are straight when viewed from the rear. Thighs well rounded and muscular. Legs look massive on account of wealth of hair.

FEET. Of good size, firm, well padded, with hair between the pads. Dewclaws, if any, on the hind legs are generally removed. Dewclaws on the forelegs may be removed.

TAIL. Heavily plumed and curved well over the back; carried gaily, set on high.

COAT. A luxurious, long, dense coat. May be slightly wavy but not curly. Good woolly undercoat. The hair on top of the head may be tied up.

COLOR. All colors permissible. Nose and eye rims black, except that dogs with liver markings may have liver noses and slightly lighter eyes.

GAIT. Slightly rolling, smooth and flowing, with strong rear action.

SIZE. Height at withers — 9 to 10½ inches — should be no more than 11 inches nor less than 8 inches. Weight of mature dogs — 12 to 15 pounds — should be no more than 18 pounds nor less than 9 pounds. However, type and breed characteristics are of the greatest importance.

FAULTS

Narrow head; overshot bite; snipiness; pink on nose or eye rims; small or light eyes; legginess; sparse coat; lack of definite stop.

Approved May 13, 1969

PREVIOUS ANKC STANDARD

Replaced by revised Standard 1st July, 1988

GENERAL APPEARANCE. Very active, lively and alert, with a distinctly arrogant carriage. The Shih Tzu is neither a terrier nor a toy dog.

HEAD AND SKULL. Head broad and round; wide between the eyes. Shock-headed with hair falling well over the eyes. Good beard and whiskers; the hair growing upwards on the nose gives a distinctly chrysanthemum-like effect. Muzzle square and short, but not wrinkled like a Pekinese; flat and hairy. Nose black for preference and about 2½ centimetres (1 inch) from tip to stop.

EYES. Large, dark and round but not prominent.

EARS. Large, with long leathers, and carried drooping. Set slightly below the crown of the skull; so heavily coated that they appear to blend with the hair of the neck.

MOUTH. Level or slightly underhung.

FOREQUARTERS. Legs short and muscular with ample bone. The legs should look massive on account of the wealth of hair.

BODY. Body between withers and root of tail should be longer than height at withers; well-coupled and sturdy; chest broad and deep, shoulders firm, back level.

HINDQUARTERS. Legs short and muscular with ample bone. They should look straight when viewed from the rear. Thighs well-rounded and muscular. Legs should look massive on account of the wealth of hair.

FEET. Firm and well-padded. They should look big on account of the wealth of hair.

TAIL. Heavily plumed and curled well over back; carried gaily, set on high.

COAT. Long and dense, but not curly, with good undercoat.

COLOR. All colours permissible, but a white blaze on the forehead and a white tip to the tail are highly prized. Dogs with liver markings may have dark liver noses and slightly lighter eyes. Pigmentation on muzzle as unbroken as possible.

WEIGHT AND SIZE. 4.5kg (10lb) to 8kg (18lb). Ideal weight 4.5kg (10lb) to 7.3kg (16lb). Height at withers not more than 27cm (10½ins); type and breed characteristics of the utmost importance and on no account to be sacrificed to size alone.

FAULTS. Narrow heads, pig-jaws, snipiness, pale pink noses and eyerims, small or light eyes, legginess, sparse coats.

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tails. Then there's the right side which is away from the judge, allowing him/her to view your dog's topline and length of back. This may either be the 'right' or 'wrong' side for you and your particular dog, depending upon what is exposed to the judge! Indeed, if you have an exceptionally nice silhouette, you may choose to throw your dog's tail to the right side when you gait or pose him.

The Standard does not say the tail must lay on the back, or parallel the back, nor does it state or infer that the tail is to be 'tight'. Lately, many breeders and exhibitors have expressed dismay with judges looking for 'tight' tails.

By the wording of the Standard, we visualise a gently curving tail. It certainly doesn't give us the picture of a flag tail or a screw tail, either of which would be considered 'wrong'. There are no faults of the tail in the present Standard. Even so, most breeders/exhibitors agree that a loose high flying tail, a tight or kinked tail is incorrect.

The Standard does not specify whether the tail must ever touch the back or side of the dog. It would imply that the plumage would touch, as heavy plumage in the face of gravity would naturally cause the hair, if not the tail, to touch the body some place. But again that is not spelled out, merely implied. No point of contact is specified nor given preference. Hence, either side would be acceptable.

The Standard does specify a high tail set. This means that the base of the tail should extend from the highest point at the base of the spine. This should be at approximately a 45 degree angle with the spine, exposing the anus.

As in all aspects of judging, the whole dog should be considered. Unless the entire balance of the dog is destroyed by its tail or tailset, to dump a dog solely because of its tail would be fault judging and counterproductive to breed improvement. A happy wagging tail is one of the hallmarks of this breed. Let's bred and promote the most desirable tails, let's not get tunnel vision and forget all the good points in the rest of the dog.

Reprinted from The Shih Tzu Reporter, USA

THE EXPLOSIVE LITTER



Photo: Twigg

CH MUDAN MIKADO

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Mikado BIS Horsham KC 3.9.88 ★

MUDAN DINAH MITE
at 5 months

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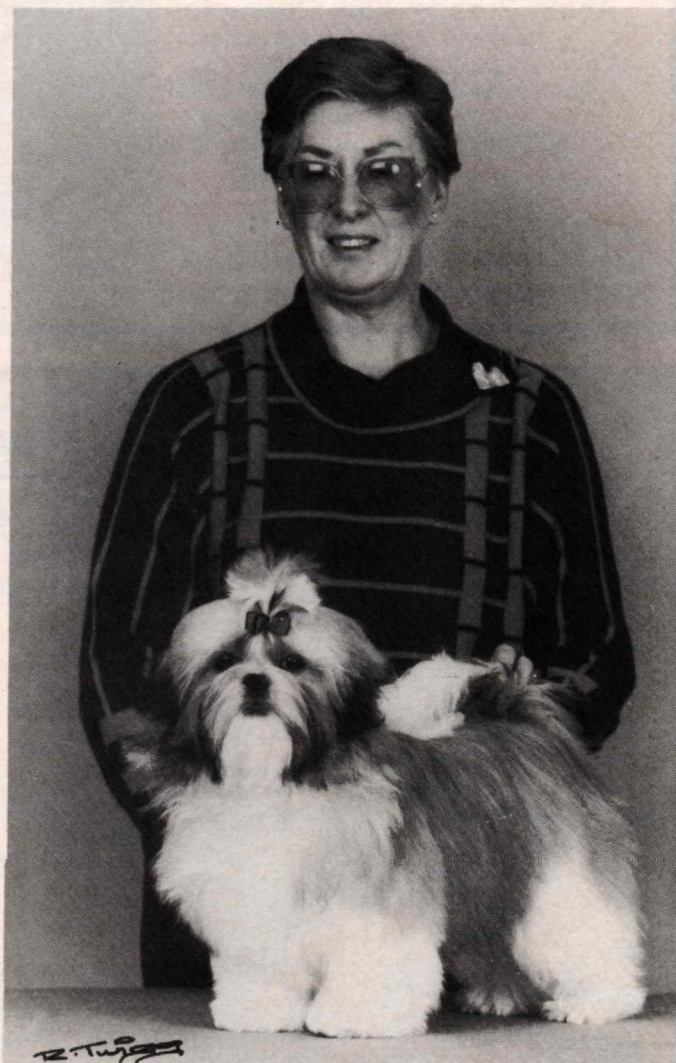
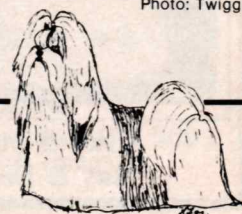


Photo: Twigg

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This BRILLIANT bitch won Exhibit in Group under an INTERNATIONAL judge at 8½ months. Her career was studded with many Group and Show awards.

Photo by Twigg

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Photo by Robinson

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GROOMING YOUR SHIH TZU

Showdog or housepet, a Shih Tzu needs regular care to keep his coat looking beautiful and healthy.



THE GREAT visual attraction of the adult Shih Tzu is the long heavy coat — yet this can be the greatest drawback for owners of both housepets and showdogs.

Yes, the Shih Tzu does require a lot of care coatwise. The Shih Tzu has a double coat — a long outer coat and a thick soft undercoat. It is the undercoat which causes matts, entangling in the outer coat, and if allowed to develop unchecked these matts will eventually need to be cut out — along with the tangled outer coat! In addition, the long ground-length coat of the grown Shih Tzu can pick up burrs, twigs, leaves.

When purchasers take home their new puppy they often do not realise how many hours have gone into the grooming of the winning show dog they so admired. Puppy coats are relatively easy to care for, although there are stages when extra attention is needed as the puppy grows its adult coat.

However, if the puppy is accustomed from an early age to being bathed, brushed and combed regularly, it should look forward to the attention, and should maintain a healthy, clean coat. Establishing this basic routine is essential, whether the puppy is a housepet and companion or destined to be a showdog.

EQUIPMENT

It is a good idea to establish a place, perhaps in the laundry room, garage or workshop, where most of the grooming will be done. All the gear can be kept there, and will be close to hand.

First essential is a sturdy table, with a non-slip surface. If you do not have a specially made grooming table, use one that is steady and cover the top with pyramid or ribbed rubber matting, or a piece of corded carpet. The height depends on whether you want to sit or stand when you are grooming. Good lighting, which does not throw shadows on the dog, is also needed.

You will need a good brush, either bristle or a top quality pin brush with round tipped pins; the bristles or pins should be set firmly in a rubber cushion. It is best to buy good quality, rather than go for a bargain. You will also need a stainless steel comb with medium rounded teeth. A good pair of scissors, nail clippers, a spray bottle, and a hair dryer — this should be a multi-speed dryer, and while a small hand held dryer may be suitable for the companion dog, the showdog will need a bigger floor standing dryer.

THE YOUNG PUPPY

You don't let your children run around with dirty faces, do you? So, right from the first day sponge your puppy's face daily with a facecloth and warm water to remove any stickiness from under the eyes, and food from the whiskers. Check the rear end too, and sponge if necessary, though if you are feeding correctly you shouldn't have any problems with dirty bottoms.

After a week to settle in, the puppy can have its first bath, and this will become a weekly or at least fortnightly routine throughout its life, so make it a pleasant experience, not a hassle.

The laundry tub is a good place to bath. Place a small towel in the bottom of the sink to give the pup a secure footing. Tuck a small piece of cotton wool in each ear. Wet the body with lukewarm, running water (a spray attachment on the taps is ideal), shampoo the body with a protein shampoo and rinse well. Leave the head till last, and sponge this with a facecloth, using "no tears" baby shampoo, and rinsing well, taking care not to get water in the puppy's nose or ears.

Wrap the pup in a towel, give it a cuddle, and either lay on a towel in your lap or on the table, and using the dryer on a low heat, brush until dry, brushing the hair away from the body. Don't forget to removed the cotton wool from the ears.

If you've been brushing the puppy every day, it will have got used to lying in your lap, on its back

and on its tummy, being brushed and combed. As the puppy gets older, train it to lie on its side on the grooming table, as later you will find this much easier. Check ears regularly, plucking out any hairs growing inside with finger and thumb, and keep nails neatly clipped.

GROWING UP

When the little puppy has grown into a young adult, the fluffy puppy coat will be cast, and the adult coats, undercoat and top coat, will grow in. When the coat is casting, grooming twice a day may be necessary. A cream rinse or conditioner diluted with water in a spray bottle can be misted over the coat as you brush, and this will help to prevent the matts forming.

As the coat grows longer, your training of the dog to lie quietly on the table will pay dividends. Lie the dog on its side, and using a knitting needle or tail comb, part the coat from chest along the body in layers, spray lightly and brush and comb through each layer, teasing out any matts that are starting to form. Brush with sweeping strokes, right to the end of each hair.

It is at the young adult stage that the pet owner must decide whether the coat is to be kept trimmed back all over to puppy length. For most pet owners this is certainly the easiest way to go, and the Shih Tzu retains that puppy charm if the topknot, ear fringes, beard and moustaches are trimmed back into the rounded chrysanthemum style!

THE SHOWDOG

For the showdog owner, coat care and attention becomes more complex and time consuming. Ears, topknot, moustaches and beard will need to be tied back or wrapped to keep them clean and prevent them from breaking or being chewed off. Accustom the dog to this while still a puppy so that it becomes used to them. Using strips of chux or plastic, place clean, dry sections of hair in the centre, fold lengthwise into three, then fold from the bottom upwards, and secure with a small latex band. Be careful not to catch the bottom edge of the ear leather in the band when wrapping ear fringes.

The wraps should be undone at least daily, preferably twice a day, brushed through and re-wrapped. Always cut the bands off with scissors, do not pull off or you will break the hair. Don't let the dogs play together with their wrappers on or they will probably lose the lot, hair and all!

Pay particular attention to prevention of staining on white areas around whiskers and beards in parti-coloured Shih Tzu. Cornflour, potato flour, or white fuller's earth mixed with lemon juice into a paste, worked into stained areas, leave it to dry and then brush out with a toothbrush. A little vaseline smeared on the (clean) hair beneath the eyes will help to prevent stains forming.

Pay special attention to the eyes, never allow any matter to build up, and watch out for damage or irritation. Use a gentle human eye wash daily, applying with an eye dropper. Check ears frequently for any discharge or foul smell, take care not to get water into the ears when bathing.

The show Shih Tzu will need bathing in a special showday shampoo to enhance the bloom of his coat, which means all conditioner and oil will be stripped out. The coat will have been thoroughly groomed of course before bathing. Immediately after the show, a light conditioner should be sprayed back into the coat, or ideally the dog re-bathed to remove dust, etc, and a conditioner rinsed through the coat.

In the showing, the topknot is tied up with a latex band and a bow or barrette added. Any split ends or unevenness of the coat or round the feet can be tipped off and neatened, but no drastic trimming should be resorted to. Use the tail comb or knitting needle to get a neat parting along the back

SHIH TZU MILESTONES

- 1954 • The breed arrived in Australia. Imported by UK migrants, Tony & Sue Dobson.
- 1963 • Ch Geltree Ty Ching, black and white male owned by Joan Reeves (Vic), wins best in show.
- 1964 • The Shih Tzu Club of Victoria formed.
- 1970 • The first imported Shih Tzu bitch wins an all breeds BIS — Ch Saffron of Greenmoss (Imp UK), a mahogany and white owned by Phil Cunningham (SA).
- 1973 • The first major award at a Royal show — Ch Tsuyung So Sweet Sum Wun, black and white, wins Puppy Bitch in Show at Sydney Royal, gaining her title at eight months of age. Owner John Sheppard.
- 1974 • Puppy in Show at a Royal — Ch Kajabbi, Krackles, a cream and white male, owned by Loretta Walsh, at Adelaide Royal.
- 1975 • Opposite Sex in Group at a Royal won by Ch Shemara Autumn Leaves, gold and white bitch, who went on to Puppy in Show at Adelaide Royal. Bred and owned by the Gardiners (SA).
- 1976 • The Shih Tzu Club of NSW formed.
- 1978 • The first imported Shih Tzu male to win an all breeds BIS — Ch Lhotse Sun Yat Sen (Imp NZ), black and white, owned by John and Leona Sheppard.
- 1978 • Ch Lhotse Sun Yat Sen (Imp NZ) returns to NZ to become the first Shih Tzu to win a group placement at the NZ National Show.
- 1981 • First English champion arrives — Ch/Eng Ch Delridge Golden Gemini at Crowvalley (Imp UK), gold and white male handled by Rosemary D'Agostin.
- 1981 • Best in Group at a Royal — Ch Shemara Sho-em How, black and white male owned by the Gardiners, at Adelaide Royal.
- 1982 • Mrs G Widdrington, 'The Lady of Lhakang', judged the NSW specialty. BIS went to the cream and white male, Ch Tao Bobby Dazzla, owned by Ray and Robyn Gill.
- 1983 • First Royal Best in Group winning bitch, the black masked gold, Ch Planhaven Sweetie Pie, owned by Frances Wilson and Colleen Carmichael, at Brisbane Royal.
- 1984 • First USA imports arrive — Ch Erinto El Solo of Pen Sans, gold sable and white male, and El Solo Let Em Talk of Pen Sans, black and white bitch.
- 1984 • Opposite Sex in Show at a Royal — Ch Kajushih Bad Habits, a gold and white male, won for breeders Ray and Robyn Gill and co-owner handler Barrie Gardiner.
- 1988 • The first American champion arrived — Am Ch Windgates Fellony, gold and white male owned by Colleen Carmichael and Tony and Sue Ikin.
- The only USA import to win an all breeds BIS — Ch Erinto El Solo of Pen Sans (Imp USA), owned by John and Leona Sheppard.
- Top producing stud dog in the breed — Ch Tao-Ting-A-Ling, campaigned by Pam Bales.
- Australia's top all breeds BIS winning Shih Tzu — the gold white bitch, Ch Shighan Misty Blue, bred and owned by the Ashtons.

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The Lady of Lhakang

LHAKANG was founded nearly 50 years ago, just after the outbreak of World War II. It is now the oldest kennel of Shih Tzu in existence.

Gay Widdrington's love story with the breed began when she bought a black and white bitch puppy from Lady Brownrigg, ostensibly for a pet, to keep her company after her husband was called up for military service.

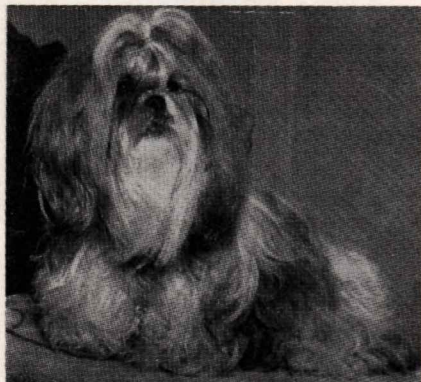
The Shih Tzu was very rare at that time, and Lady Brownrigg would only part with the puppy on condition Mrs Widdrington promised to help her establish the breed. Mee Na of Taishan was only the second generation from the first three imported into the British Isles from China in 1930.

Mee Na was quite captivating. She sat in the doorway looking like a fluffy baby owl, so the promise was quickly made. It is one that Gay has never regretted.

She has vivid recollections of those early dogs, and has done her best to preserve their essential characteristics. After the war ended in 1945, she helped Mona Brownrigg to rebuild the Shih Tzu Club, to trace members and rekindle enthusiasm among the war-weary.

Breeding stock was at a low ebb and already very inbred. Mee Na had had one litter during the war, but the only available male had been her own father. Luckily new imported lines soon became available.

Ch Mao Mao of Lhakang



Gay Widdrington at home in 1988 with two home bred puppies.

The Lhakang kennel carried out careful selective breeding over a period of many years to help introduce and stabilise these new lines so that the breed could be established on a broader basis. It is partly due to her efforts that the breed today is one of the few in the British Isles free of serious hereditary problems.

In 1946 the Lhakang kennel name was registered. It means 'Temple of the Gods'. In 1952 one of Mee Na's daughters, Ch Mao-Mao of Lhakang, produced an outstanding black and white litter, four of which became champions. This litter really established the Lhakang kennel and founded an important continuing line.

In the years since, Lhakang produced many more champions. By the beginning of the '60s it was the top winning kennel in the UK.

In the late 1940s Gay and her mother decided to establish a true-breeding rich golden strain through the line of Ishuh Tzu imported from Shanghai, who transmitted colour. This line still flourishes in the Lhakang kennel after four decades.

Gay is more interested in breeding and rearing than in showing. Her aim has always been to produce reliable breeding stock, and she has helped

to establish many other kennels. In 1964, after Ch Soong of Lhakang, a black and white, gained her title her owner retired from active showing.

A dog who made his mark in the USA was Ching-yea of Lhakang, also black and white, out of the same dam as Soong. He went out in 1966, several years before the Shih Tzu was officially recognised by the American KC so never gained his title. However, Ching-yea was listed as an all-time top producer, and gained his Registry of Merit award (ROM) for siring 11 American champions.

Soong had a beautiful son, Sing-hi of Lhakang, fawn and white, who himself produced two famous sons, Int Ch Greenmoss Golden Peregrine of Elfann, gold/silver/white, and Ch Jen-ki-ko of Lhakang, black and white, both of whom made an important impact on the breed.

In 1971 Gay produced her popular 'Shih Tzu Handbook', a small volume giving essential information on the breed, illustrated by her daughter.

A bitch whom Gay values very highly today is her red-gold, Lhakang Cherbuss. She is the dam of Eng/Finn Ch Lhakang Cassius, now owned by Eija Verlander in Finland, and of Int Ch Lhakang Celandine, owned by Major Hasle in Norway, Top Shih Tzu 1986 and 1987. A younger sibling is Finn Ch Lhakang Casper, owned by Ansa and Olli Pennanen. All these are sired by a beautiful little dog, Tor Ra Lon, similar to Sing-hi in type.

Gay became a specialist judge for Shih Tzus in 1951, and has judged at championship shows regularly ever since. During the '70s and '80s she has received many invitations to judge in countries abroad, and has enjoyed seeing the progress of the breed worldwide.

Her offices have included treasurer and chairman of the Shih Tzu Club (the parent club), founder, chairman and president of the Manchu Shih Tzu Society, patron of the Shih Tzu Club of NSW and of the Shih Tzu Club of Scotland, Hon Life Member of the American Shih Tzu Club and of the Shih Tzu Club of Finland.

Gay and her husband Francis live in the Widdrington ancestral home in the wilds of Northumberland. Her dogs live as family pets and are never confined. For this reason she prefers to place her puppies in homes where they will continue to live as members of the family, even if they are never shown.

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SHIH TZU HEAD & EXPRESSION

▶ continued from page 26

is closed, with no teeth showing. The lips should be well defined, and should look rather human."

Wide nostrils are preferred. Tight nostrils can produce respiratory problems. However, wide nostrils do not necessarily mean over-large, rubbery noses to be correct.

"Ears to be large, with long leathers, and carried drooping. Set slightly below the crown of the skull, so heavily clothed with hair to appear to blend with the hair of the neck." This is straightforward, and the judge's hand and eye should be able to assess correctness here. Flyaway ears give a rather 'scatty' look, which is quite foreign. Usually they are also set on too high, while too low set ears will give the appearance of 'apple headedness', again untypical.

Although the nose and eyes should be black for preference, lighter acceptable in liver or lighter coloured dogs, pigment on muzzle must be as unbroken as possible. Areas of broken pigment will affect an otherwise pleasing facial expression.

The most vital point in assessing the merits of the Shih Tzu head is the overall effect. Any one point, if exaggerated, can upset the entire balance though in itself it may not be tremendously important. Harmony is the keynote — always.

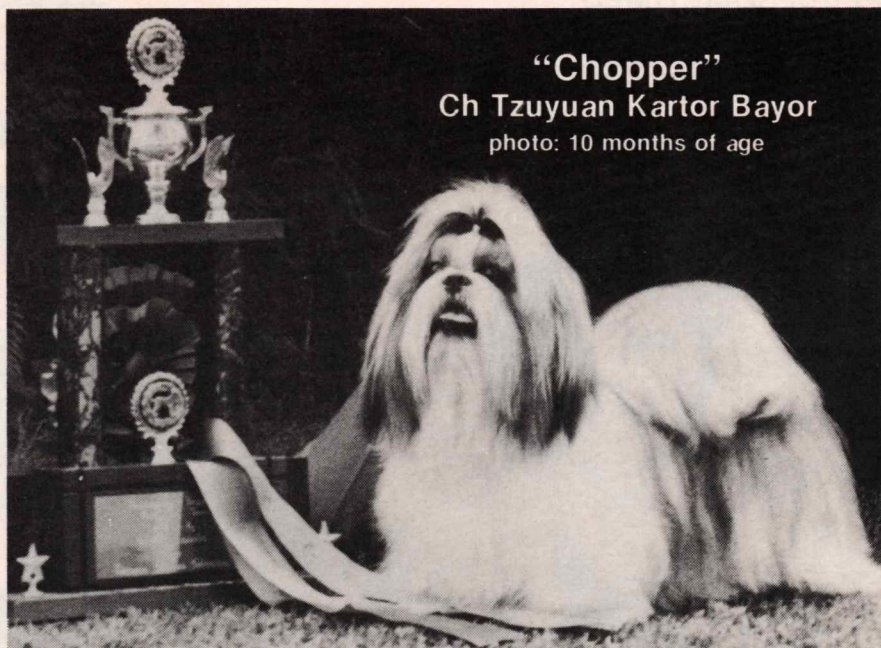
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Sire: Ch Tzuyuan Oriental Docta
Ch Tzuyuan Kartor Bayor
Dam: Ch Tzuyuan Queen Bee



"Chopper"

Ch Tzuyuan Kartor Bayor

photo: 10 months of age



"Chopper" with Gloria Davies

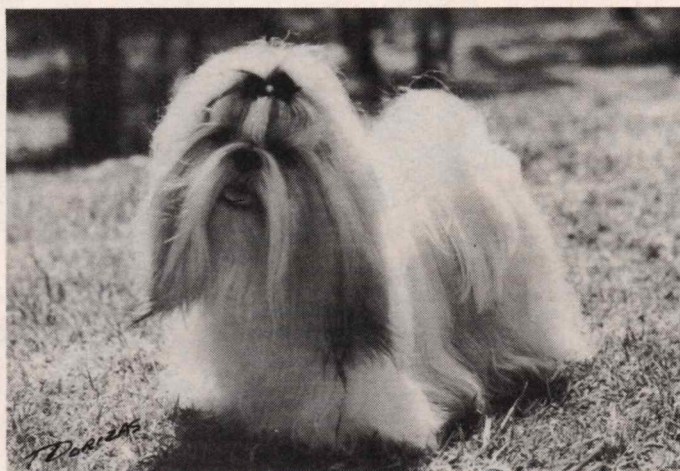


Photo: Dorizas

*Above: Tzuyuan Prettyboy Floyd
Gained his title in 5 weeks of showing. Multiple in Group
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CH DUXFORD CAPT PINKERTON



Photo: Trafford

This young dog earned his stripes at a very young age. Champion at 10 months, a Puppy in Show including Sydney Royal Easter Show and the NSW Shih Tzu Club Specialty. Now tragically retired due to injury.

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*Virtue &
Good Fortune

THE FIRST OF HIS PROGENY

DUXFORD OH SO VAIN

DUXFORD ALL DOLLED UP



Photos by Starlight



Baby in Group first time out

Baby in Show winner. Now owned by Gloria Davies.