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NEW ZEALAND



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You Be The Judge

SHIH TZU

by Robert Cole

The Shih Tzu is not an easy breed to judge. Its unique headpiece requires close study, there are national type differences, and its profuse coat hides a 'mysterious' conformation. These three physical aspects are worthy of illustrated discussion.

Three Aspects

To open discussion I have: (1) drawn the head face-on and in profile; (2) provided a sketch of a balanced North American example compared to a balanced British example; and (3) in the final drawing I have stripped the long, luxurious coat from a visual representation of typical as a means of addressing the mystery surrounding Shih Tzu conformation.

Head Face-On

The expression viewed from the front is warm, sweet, wide-eyed, friendly and trusting. This expression is produced by a head that is round and broad, with good width between large, dark, round eyes placed well apart but not prominent. They look straight ahead and no white of eye shows. The nostrils are broad, wide, and open. The jaw is also broad and wide, and when closed the tongue does not show.

Head In Profile

By removing the hair from the head in profile, I have attempted to depict the square, short, unwrinkled muzzle set no lower than the bottom of the eye rim, never downturned, measuring about one inch from tip to definite stop. The 1986 British Standard and the 1993 Canadian Standard add: "Nose level or slightly tip-tilted", which demonstrates the physical subtleties involved and their influence on Shih Tzu expression.

My preference is for a slightly undershot bite, the upper lips fit closely over the lower lips when the mouth is closed, not protruding, never receding. The front of the muzzle is flat.

The skull is domed and there is a definite stop. The large drooping ears are set slightly below crown of skull. The 1988 revised American Standard has deleted drooping ears; however, I do not believe they want ears that lift away from the skull as found on the Tibetan Spaniel. My Canadian Standard continues to ask for drooping, plus: "so heavily coated that they appear to blend into the hair of the neck."

Which Is Canadian, A or B

Mrs Gay Widdrington Shih Tzu specialist, in an excellent article in the August 25,

1989, issue of the English DOG NEWS described national differences quite well. She described the North American Shih Tzu as having a proportionally smaller head, a longer neck, and a lower tail carriage (not set-on) than the Shih Tzu she was accustomed to in England. Dog A represents the type of North American Shih Tzu Mrs Widdrington describes.

Mrs Widdrington did not stop with three national differences; she also described the North American Shih Tzu as higher on the leg than his British counterpart and narrower of body. This observation was made after judging three times in the United States. This doesn't come to me as a surprise.

High on the leg, and narrow bodies are unfortunately still with us today; however, they are faults, always have been, always will be. They are not national differences. It is crucial that this be stressed, especially weight.

The 1988 revised American Kennel Club Shih Tzu Standard stresses "solid, carrying good weight and substance" not once but twice. While the American Shih Tzu, unlike in the rest of the world, is judged as a toy dog in United States, it must still be judged as a sturdy individual.

Coat Removed

The Shih Tzu's luxurious, double-coated, dense, long and flowing coat, not curly - A slight wave permitted, must come off for its 'mysterious' conformation to be seen and discussed. Recent revisions to the Canadian and American Standards assist in this endeavour. They also complement the British Standard where the official wording may be vague or absent. Readers in England, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa are advised accordingly.

Front Legs

The most controversial Shih Tzu part is its short, muscular front legs. Canadian and American Standards no longer ask for short, the latter preferring a more comprehensive description of short i.e., "Distance from elbow to withers is a little greater than from elbow to ground", and "Depth of ribcage should extend to just below the elbow". Dog C's front leg length conforms to this direction.

Straight Leg

The forelegs are required to be "straight" (Canada/US). This is part of the controversy. The British Standard wisely concludes: "straight as possible, consistent with a broad chest being well let down [between elbows]". I have judged Shih Tzu in a number of countries and never found straight front legs.

Chest Drop

The degree a Shih Tzu's chest drops down between its elbows greatly determines how much bow there will be to the forearm between elbow and wrist, one country asking for the chest to drop down **just** below the elbow, the other asking for the chest to drop **well** down below the elbow. The difference in drop may be minor but extremes in either direction will result in a balance quite different from A and B's slightly longer than high proportions.

Feel

Your hands as you examine each Shih Tzu must tell you how much chest drop and departure from straight legs you will accept. I would be remiss at this point if I did not remind you that an overly heavy body can force the chest to drop down too far and the upper arm between point of shoulder and elbow to change position to horizontal. Not only must the forechest, shoulders, elbow, and brisket be examined, but the angle (open) of the upper arm must also be determined.

Front Pasterns

The Americans ask for a perpendicular front pastern. I disagree. To bring the front into static balance and ensure the existence of a correct by angled upper arm, I like to feel a slight but strong pastern slope. Perpendicular is correct for a Fox Terrier but not for a Shih Tzu.

Body

The forechest complements a shoulder blade well laid back and in, and a well angled upper arm. The chest is broad and deep with good spring of rib. The loin is short, the croup does not drop off. There is no waist or tuck-up. The topline is level both standing and moving.

Hindquarters

In balance with forequarters, the short hind legs are muscular and have ample bone. They are straight when viewed from the behind. The rear pasterns are short and positioned perpendicular viewed from the side. The thighs are well rounded and muscular, appearing massive on account of the wealth of hair.

Tail

The tail is set on high, heavily plumed, carried high in a curve over the back,

'teapot handle' fashion, balanced with head. A tight tail is penalized in the show ring when it spoils the balanced picture of the dog.

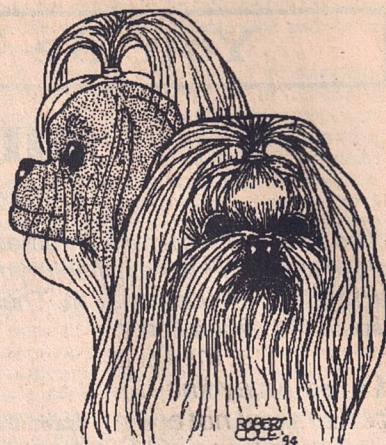
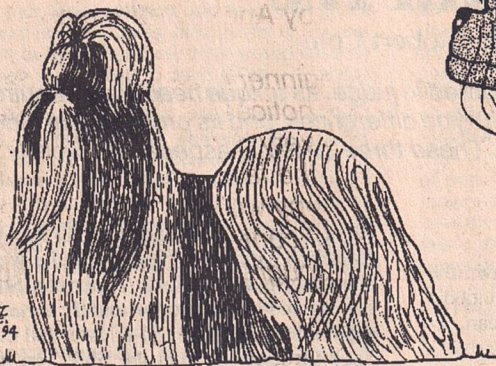
Club to state: "All colour and markings are permissible and to be considered **equally**". The Canadian Shih Tzu Club has gone one step further and deleted **all** mention of colour markings, even from the heading.

Colour Markings

Canadian and American breeders have requested that I include colour markings in this discussion because many undeserving Shih Tzus are winning owing to a preference for lovely markings. All colours are permissible and not a problem. The problem is the over emphasis - at the expense of structure - that some judges place on attractive white blaze on forehead and white tail tip, a "highly desirable" characteristic in the British Standard.

This colour marking preference problem has prompted the American Shih Tzu

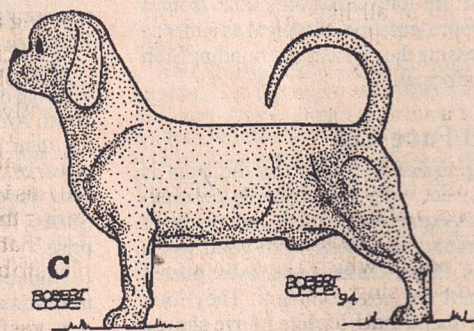
A
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C
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*The
Shih Tzu*

NEW ZEALAND KENNEL CLUB
Official Breed Standard

Shih Tzu

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 2.5 cm 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.

Colour: 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: 4.5 to 8.2 kg (10-18 lb). Ideal weight 4.5 to 7.3 kg (10-16 lb). Height at withers not more than 26.7 cm (10.5 in); type and breed characteristics of the utmost importance and on no account to be sacrificed to size alone.

Faults: Narrow heads, pig-jaws, snipyness, pale pink noses and eye-rims, small or light eyes, legginess, sparse coats.

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

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Clarification of the Shih Tzu Standard

John L Sheppard, February 1978

Head and Skull: Should be balanced with the body, the skull is broad and round; length of nose about one inch from tip to stop. A good stop with a slightly uptilted nose, this imparts a more arrogant expression. Proportions approximately form nose to stop and stop to occiput as 1 is to 4 or 5.

Eyes: Large, dark and round, but not prominent, giving an owl-like expression.

Mouth: Level or undershot, teeth should not show, the ideal is for six incisors placed evenly in a nice wide jaw. However it is better to have teeth unevenly placed in a correct slightly underhung bite than a scissors bite that is not correct and detracts from the true expression of the breed. Level or scissors bites in many cases lack underjaw.

Forequarters: Good layback of shoulder, elbow joint coming directly under the withers. Legs appear massive due to the wealth of hair. Ample bone. The standard calls for a straight foreleg, however to accommodate the broad deep chest there is often a curve in the upper arm, with feet pointing straight ahead and elbows firm.

Body: Slightly longer than height at withers, in appearance a dog that must be "rectangular" in shape. Short coupled with a broad deep chest. Muscular body in hard condition with a level topline.

Hindquarters: Good turn of stifle, legs appear straight from behind with feet turning neither in nor out, with plenty of ham and broad across the beam.

Shih Tzu movement: Due to the width and depth of chest the shih tzu moves with a slight roll as it cannot move its front feet towards the centre as it gaits, thus moving "wide" in front. This gives a slight rocking from side to side. The hind movement of the shih tzu is quite distinctive. Because of the restricted front movement, being short coupled and having muscular hindquarters there is too much drive in the hindquarters for the restricted gait of the forelegs, causing the excess drive to be taken up in the flinging back of the hind legs; ideally the pads of the feet should show.

Tail: Curled over gaily like a teapot handle, set on high with the tip just touching the back, set to balance the head,

it should be possible to pass the hand through the curl of the tail.

Coat and Colour: Thankfully there are no colour preferences or disqualifications, however the forehead blaze, etc, are historically important in the breed. Pigment, whether liver or black, should extend round the eyerims and the nose. Broken pigmentation on the muzzle is permissible, this is a characteristic of many of the old lines.

The coat and its texture is not described in our standard however as it is essential for our breed to have a good undercoat the outercoat would have to be coarse in texture to penetrate through the undercoat otherwise we would have a "cotton wool" type coat. The coat should be neither silky nor dead straight, a slight wave is permitted but not a curl. Texture will also vary with the different colours.

Weight and size: The most disputed part of the standard, with a maximum height of 10.5 inches. The standard states: "10-18 lbs. Ideal weight 10-16 lbs. Type and breed characteristics of the utmost importance and on no account to be sacrificed to size alone". This to me signifies that the shih tzu tends to be a heavy dog and if built as required by the standard must weigh 12-16 lbs. Naturally a smaller dog would weigh less but those I mention would refer to a medium sized dog.

From the standard may I quote: "Very active, lively and alert, with a distinctly arrogant carriage. The shih tzu is neither a terrier nor a toy dog".

The breed is still relatively new but its popularity is definitely on the increase. Some people are in the breed for show wins, not being biased but what judge could resist the glamour and arrogance? Then there are those with a cash register - don't think that they don't exist, just read newspapers and litter registrations. Thankfully we have those who are dedicated to the breed, bringing in new stock, showing, breeding and culling their stock in an effort to improve the breed. They will remain when the others have gone, continuing their efforts to breed the ideal Shih Tzu.

Bloodlines in the British Shih Tzu

All our present day English stock derives from twelve imported dogs. Of these, seven came from China 'pedigree unknown'. In the past the English Kennel Club permitted such dogs to be given a Class II registration on the recommendation of a specialist judge, but this did not of course guarantee genetic purity. Thirteen other dogs were imported, usually from China (ten before the Second War and three afterwards) but unfortunately the lines were not continued. Since 1949 when the Communists came to power, it has been impossible to obtain Shih Tzus from the mainland of China.

The list below comprises all imports whose lines have been continued to the present day. This is followed by pedigrees tracing the lines back as far as they are known. Colours have been included if possible.

The first three imports from China in 1930, Hibou, Shu-ssa and Lung-fu-ssu, were all parti-colours, black and white or brindle and white, and the Brownriggs aimed to keep away from the golden and honey shades to differentiate from the Lhasa Apso. It was only later that these colours became popular.

Colours in Shih Tzu can be rather disconcerting as they often change as the dog matures. In early days, both black/white and brindle/white tended to fade to grey, due to a 'fading gene'. Early stock, in spite of enforced inbreeding, was usually extremely sturdy with confident temperaments. Heads and mouths were invariably good, but bodies tended to be clumsy and some dogs were too big. Unbroken pigment on the muzzle was difficult to get and some coats tended to be too woolly or curly. Most were low to the ground with heavy bone.

Choo-choo (Imp 1933) was a good black and white, but was overshot with rather a long nose. Tashi of Chouette (Imp 1938) was black and white and a very good specimen. No further Shih Tzus were imported until after the War.

Ishuh Tzu (Imp 1948) brought in improved pigment and solid black and rich gold, also improved coat texture. There had been no solid colours before this. Some descendants from this line were rather high on the leg. The black proved to be quite a dominant colour, but the coveted red-gold was recessive, and it was necessary to breed two together to get more than the odd pup in a litter. Black and gold bred together, were more inclined to blend into solid brindle, rather than alternate as in the Labrador.

Hsi-li-ya (Imp 1952) brought in a pretty pale gold and white, and also a good black and white. The gold/white seemed less recessive than the red/gold and could be brought out by breeding to pastel grey. This was a small line. Pigment was again improved and nostrils widened, but noses were now tending to become longer, also legs, and a narrower mouth with overcrowded bottom jaw was creeping in (This cannot be blamed particularly on any import as all had good mouths themselves).

The Pekingese-cross (1952) helped to counteract some

of the above tendencies. It again helped to strengthen pigment and darken eyes. It improved heads, brought in a wider jaw and strengthened the gold and honey shades, also helped to reduce size. The exaggerations of the Pekingese blood seemed remarkably recessive, and the Shih Tzu coat texture with moppy head and paws, dominant. Puppies from the first cross grew up to look like outstanding Shih Tzus, but on examination, noses were ultra short and there was too much bend at the elbow at this stage. This was a natural cross as it was already in the heritage of the Shih Tzu.

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Wish to thank Lee & John Sheppard (Aust) for sending sound quality foundation stock.

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BOB NZ National 1991

NZ Ch Erintoi Sun Warrior (Imp Aust)

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Shih Tzu Milestones

Lis Prouse

1964 Miss Jan Dew of Dunedin imported the 1st Shih Tzu NZ Ch Lelo Sunny (Imp Aust) Sire Aust Ch Lhasa Ku Wang, Dam Aust Ch Newglen Sze Moo; Bred by P Koppen. Lelo Sunny took 2 Best in Shows, 1 RB in Show, 11 Non-Sporting Groups. Jan then imported Ch Ying Kuo of Antarctica. Under her own Kennel name of Losang there was NZ Ch "Took of Losang" and NZ Ch "Bilbo Baggins" of Losang; being shown in the 70's Jan and one of her Shih Tzus were part of the Zone 5 Obedience Team at the National Assembly in Gisborne one year.

William Farnell Oelrich Kennels showed Geltree Ming Loo (Imp Aust) with Best Puppy in Show, Ladies Kennel Club; May 1966.

Lurline Kennels - Mrs S J Dickie Auckland imported 2 dogs "Lhasa Ku Li" and "Lhasa Kow Choo" and a bitch "Lhasa Kin Yah Lan". All three from the Lhasa Kennels NSW.

1970 "Caravel" Kennels were registered by Jack & Lorraine Waghorn in Turangi.

1973 The Waghorns sold "Panda of Caravel" to Mrs Margaret Young. Mrs Young imported an Australian bitch "Okima Chen Myng" and so began the "Chang Kwo" Kennels Margaret Young was also a foundation member of the Asian Breed Club. The Dorvan Kennels owned by Mrs Ford Rotorua produce some top Shih Tzus from England Mr & Mrs Stonehouse came to Auckland bringing with them "Kuire Pasha" and that was the start of the Lhotse Kennels in NZ. Their "Lhotse Me Li Cha" and two others are on many NZ pedigrees.

1974 Mrs Margaret Taiaroa (Higgs) bought Lhotse Lung Fu to begin the Longspur Shih Tzus Mrs Taiaroa (Higgs) imported from Australia "Sukeesan's Goldmyth" and King wood Flash-N-Classi and from the Dorvan Kennels came Choo-Ling of Dorvan a winning team.

1974 Fido Nat Dog Show the 5 dogs entered were:

Kuire Pasha (Imp UK)

- Mrs L Stonehouse

Panda of Caravel

- Mrs M Young

NZCh Bilbo Baggins of Losang

- Miss J Dew

NZCh Yum Yum of Aranui

- Mrs M Porter

NZCh Leidza of Caravel and the 5 Bitches:

- Mrs Bruce

Mei Ling of Aranui

- Mrs M Porter

Kuire Pyrrha (Imp UK)

- Mrs L Stonehouse

Sasha of Dorvan

- Mrs Ford

Lhotse Mei Li Chan (Imp UK)

- Mrs Stonehouse

NZCh Lelo Hine Te Awa (Imp Aust)

- Miss J Dew

To many of us just names on a pedigree.

1976 Mrs Val Garvey entered the Shih Tzu world her 1st Shih Tzu was "Loo Ching Sampan", sire "Oelrich Midnight" dam Lhotse Nao Ching Fu. Val and Cathy have stayed with the breed and their Aust & NZ Ch Flim Flam Man of Kino is a credit to them. 2 Best in Show at Shih Tzu Shows in Melbourne and Sydney. Well done Kino!

1978 Mrs F Bake's 1st Shih Tzu was Golden Ling Ling of Kino The Sire was Aust & NZ Ch Karens Gold Strike of Lansu (Imp UK) and dam Lhotse Nao Ching Fu bred by Val Garvey.

Many other breeders past and present have helped the breed. Mrs Doherty - Jannu Kennels; Sturgess - Christchurch, from Lower Hutt C Strong with Szechawan Kennels Mrs F Leech Soyland Kennels Hawkes Bay, Mrs Moore Loo Chung Kennels Napier also Mrs Dale Connelly, Mrs Rathbun from England. Into the 80's, B McQuillan, J Graham, Mrs Greer - Janui Kennels. Now is the time to mention Ted Thessman, Palmerston North. He owned and showed 3 Janui dogs and one Tung Ting Kennels dog "Smidge". Round the show ring names like Hudson, Cain, Titch, Geovani, Wally, Kelly, Mr Ting Misha Teta Chrissy Belle, Jacke Hadleigh.

The list of breeders and kennel names goes on and everyone does their best to improve and enhance the breed. Apologies to those who we missed on paper, you and your dogs are always remembered in the show ring.

In 1986 the Shih Tzu club held its 1st Champion Show in the Hutt. Mr William Burrell (Aust) was our judge. There were 41 Shih Tzus entered. Best in Show was a Kino Shih Tzu.

The Shih Tzu

SHIH TZU – the strange name means lion and is pronounced “shid zoo”.

The Shih Tzu is a small sturdy dog, distinctly arrogant and having a character all its own. Easily trained and sociable, faithful to their owners without being neurotic, they make ideal housepets for those who are prepared to look after a coated breed.

As they are a coated breed, they do need owners who have the time and temperament to groom them regularly. It is cruel to the dog, and leads to problems when a dog is left unkempt.

Their popularity in the showing is no doubt due to their coat and the arrogant outgoing character of the breed.

The early ancestors of the breed are believed to have originated in Tibet, and they are loosely related to the small Tibetan dog, the Lhasa Apso. Years ago small longhaired dogs were sent to the Imperial Palace in Beijing from the Grand Lamas in Tibet. This was particularly so during the Manchu Dynasty. Supposition is that the Shih Tzu as we know it today evolved from the interbreeding of these Tibetan dogs with the small Chinese dogs. The breed was kept in the confines of the Imperial Court, with the Palace eunuchs in charge of their care. In later years it became customary to present stock to foreign diplomats and important Chinese families. The Dowager Empress Tzu Hsi was an avid dog fancier, she did much to foster the breed, until her death in 1908.

The Breed Arrives in England

The breed was introduced to England in 1930 by Miss Hutchins, General Sir Douglas and Lady Brownrigg, Sir Douglas was a member of the British Army's North China Command, when they discovered the breed. The Brownriggs established their “taishan” prefix in Britain with their foundation stock.

From the beginning the breed was popular, finally in 1940 Championship Status was granted by the Kennel Club but due to the outbreak of the Second World War it was not until 1949 that the breeds first Champion was made up. This was CH TA CHIOF TAISHAN, a fourteen pound liver and white bitch, bred and owned by the Brownriggs. Even today many breeders consider her to be the type to breed for.

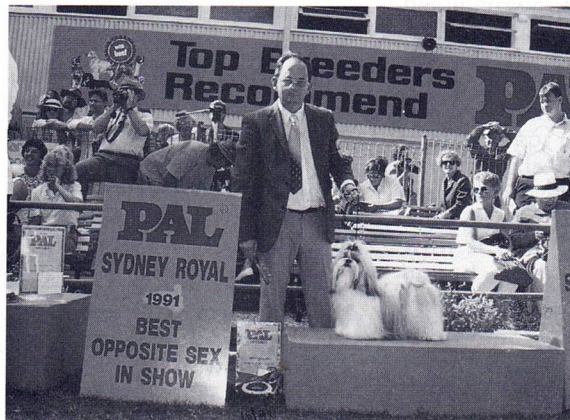
The Shih Tzu Club was formed in 1934, with Lady Brownrigg acting as Secretary until 1954, she was then unanimously elected as President, a position that she held until her death in 1969. Even when she had to curtail her own breeding she could be still be seen going around the benches inspecting the stock. Lady Brownrigg was very adamant in her ideas, especially as to size - her dogs were all roughly between 14-18 pounds. She did not like the breed being in the Toy Group in other countries as she felt that this would only encourage judges to put up small stock, which she considered incorrect.

The popularity of the breed continued to rise and finally in at WELKS Championship Show in 1963 BEST IN SHOW was awarded to CH PAN WAOCHEN OF ANTARCTICA, bred and owned by Ken and the late Betty Rawlings. They had been involved with the breed since 1949, they established a very successful kennel based mainly on a dominant male line which has produced a succession of Championship Group and Best In Show winners. In 1987 at Crufts Betty Rawlings handled their CH HARROPINE CHAKA KHAN AT ANTARCTICA to Best Exhibit in Group, sadly she was to pass away soon after, however the Antarctica Kennels continue today under the experience eye of Ken Rawlings.

Another breeder who has made significant impact on the breed throughout the world is Mrs L G Widdrington, the “Lady of Lhakang”. Obtaining her first Shih Tzu from Lady Brownrigg in 1939, she is a respected authority on the breed. She has bred 13 English Champions. In 1993 I had the pleasure of judging the breed in Finland, my winners were sired by Lhakang dogs. The quality of the stock in Scandinavia is of exceptional quality and they have been fortunate in the exports from “Lhakang” consist-

ently reproducing correct type.

The “Chasmu” prefix of Mrs Audrey Fowler did much to promote the Golden shades. Early imports died or did not produce stock, this did not deter Mrs Fowler and she continued to breed with success until her death in the 1980's.



Aust Ch Erintoi Yan Kee Rebel

In 1955 Mrs Audrey Dadds obtained her first Shih Tzu. There are 8 English Champion “Snaefells” with a few who have titled abroad, Mrs Dadds is a reluctant exporter and breeds primarily for herself. Mrs Dadds is a respected breed specialist and the author of the breed book that I call the “the bible”, THE SHIH TZU, this will be updated in the near future and contains all the basic information newcomers to the breed need to know. Mrs Dadds successfully used the Swedish lines of “Jungfaltests Jung Ming” in her breeding program and in late 1980's used AM CH DIN HO RUPERT T BEAR, this resulted in her current winning dog CH SNAEFELLS LIMITED EDITION, a lovely gold and white dog who is now proving his prowess as a sire. Mrs Dadds best known dog was the Group winning CH NEWROOTS NANKI POO OF SNAEFELL the winner of 13 CC's.

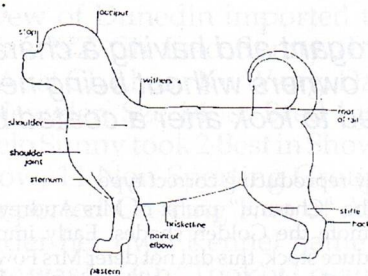
The current breed record holder with 35 CC's, CH FIREFOX OF SANTOSHA, was bred by Messrs Easdon and Martin and owned by Crossleys.

Aust Ch Erintoi Rhythm N'Soul Best Puppy Sydney Royal '93



Body Outline With Anatomical Points

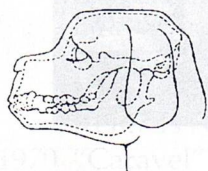
A well-dressed head can do much to improve a dog's appearance. Height and breadth can be altered with good furnishings, and the length of nose and width between the eyes can appear.



The Head



(a) correct skull; good stop; slightly uptilted nose, proportions approximately from nose to stop and stop to occiput as 1 is to 4 or 5.



(b) incorrect skull; nose long and turned downwards; stop too shallow.



(c) correct head; ears set on below the crown; round eyes, large but not prominent; top of nose level with bottom of eyes.



(d) head of Pekingese for comparison; flatskull, large prominent eyes, ears set high on skull.

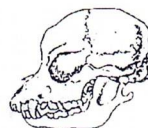


(e) head of Lhasa Apso for comparison; narrower head; nose a little lower and longer.

The Bite



(a) correct; undershot $\frac{1}{8}$ inch or level.



(b) incorrect; overshot.



(c) correct square jaw.

Forequarters

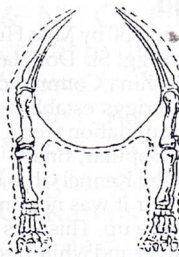


(a) correct; line through withers to foot perpendicular.

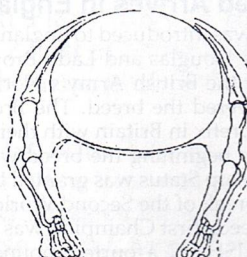


(b) incorrect; humerus too short; elbow too far forward.

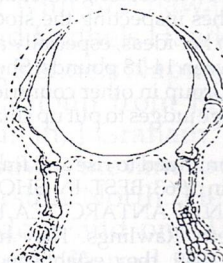
Fronts



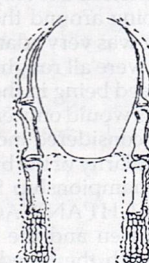
(a) correct; elbow level with brisket; broad deep chest; legs with slight curve.



(b) incorrect; barrel chest out at elbows, bowed front feet turned in.



(c) incorrect 'Peke-type'; 'Queen Anne' legs; toes turned out.



(d) incorrect 'Terrier-type'; front too narrow; legs too straight.

Toplines



(a) correct; level.

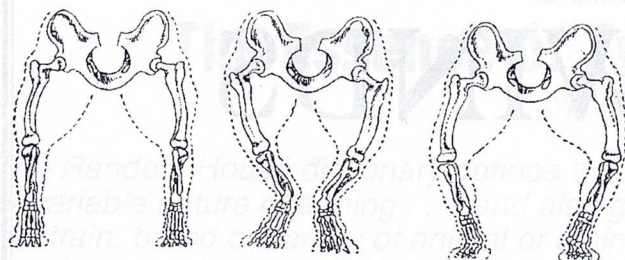


(b) incorrect; high in hind-quarters.



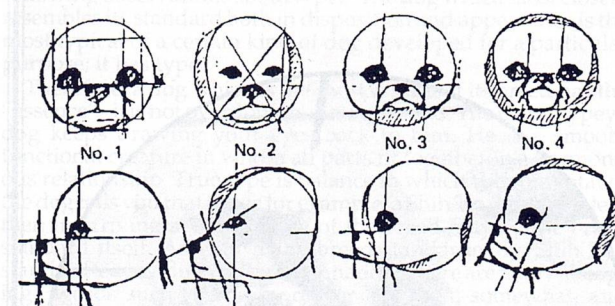
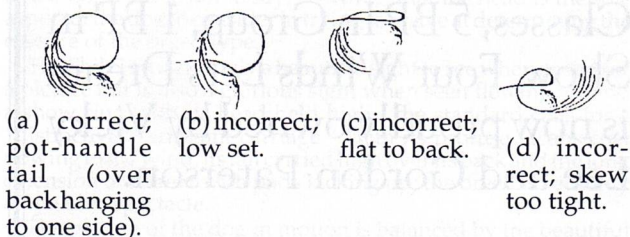
(c) incorrect; roached.

Hindquarters from Rear



- (a) correct; legs straight. (b) incorrect; cowhocked. (c) incorrect; wide and bowed.

Tail Set



No 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.

No 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.

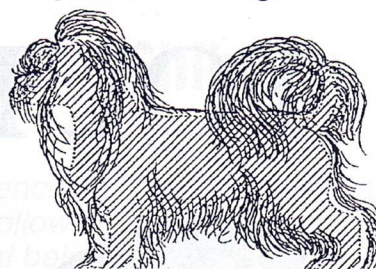
No 3 "Persian Kitten Syndrome"

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.

No 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.

Relationship of Coat to Dog Underneath



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.



Front View

Wide front, elbows neither in nor out, round deep ribcage. Feet firmly planted.

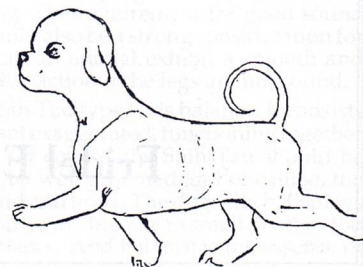


Rear View

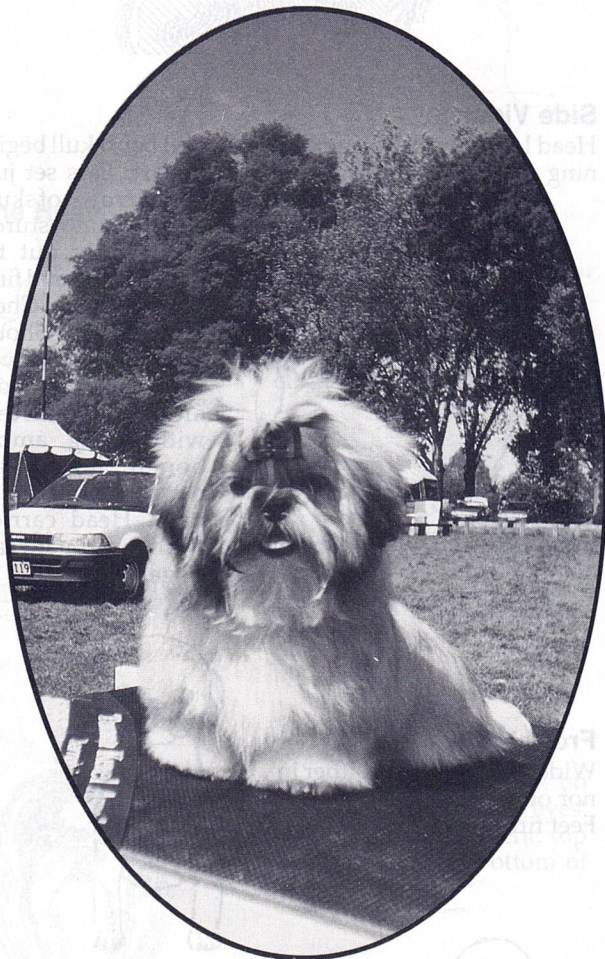
High tail set - wide muscular thighs - toes straight ahead - short, well angulated hocks. Body solid throughout - not wide in front and narrow behind like a Peke.

Moving Out

Head carried well up, driving hard and reaching out in front - topline level, tail carried well over back. Smooth and flowing with a slight roll - not ever stiff or jerky.



FOUR WINDS



Four Winds Golden Dream
Four Winds Lets Dream
Both have won in Baby Puppy
Classes, 5 BP In Group, 1 BP in
Show, Four Winds Lets Dream
is now proudly owned by Vicky
Lee and Gordon Paterson.



Now Look out for our new Boy
Four Winds No stuffed Toi

Fridel E Bake Middle Road, RD 2, Hastings
Ph: 0-6-877 7860

Balance

The Essence of Type in the Shih Tzu

by Joe Walton

The Random House dictionary defines the word essence as, "the basic, real and unvariable nature of a thing . . ." and also gives the following definition of the word type, "a strain, breed or variety of animal or a single animal belonging to a specific king." Our problem then in determining the true essence of type in the Shih Tzu is to try to put our finger on the elements which capture the invariable nature of the dog.

The Shih Tzu often is categorized as a "head breed" and there can be no denying that the standard (that all breeders must live with) does in fact say more about the head than any other single part of the dog. This is not to say, however, that the head is the sole aspect of the dog to consider in trying to arrive at determining the essence of the breed type.

The Shih Tzu is not only a beautiful sight to see when posed for a picture but is also a glorious sight when seen flowing around a show ring with its head held high - the standard calls for a "distinctively arrogant carriage." With its profuse Jacobs coat flowing in the wind, its tail carried high over its back and the long extension of its rear with pads kicking up; the breed is certainly a dynamic spectacle.

The picture of the dog in motion is balanced by the beautiful expressiveness of the head and eyes. The dog is truly the creation of the emperors of China and is as inscrutable as any of the most noble and honoured among them. Hayes Blake Hoyt made the following observations about type, "The dog which most closely resembles its standard both in disposition and appearance is the most typical of a certain kind of dog developed for a particular purpose; it has type."

Therefore, a dog which is the most typical of its breed has the "essence" - it is not overdone, not exaggerated. The truly "typey" dog keeps drawing your eyes back to him. He is a smooth functional creature in whom all parts fit together in a harmonious relationship. True type is balance in which the sum total of the dog tells you that this is for example, a Shih Tzu. The problem then in arriving at the essence of the breed may be the breed standard itself. As with many breed standards, the Shih Tzu standard leaves much to the imagination. There are many "hedging" words such as "no more nor less than, somewhat, and approximately."

The writers of the standard are to be admired for having put together any kind of standard at all considering the wide variety of Shih Tzu which were available at the time of recognition of the breed in 1969. On the other hand they left us with the undeniably difficult task of pulling out those elements which truly give our breed its distinctively different type.

The four areas which presently cause the most discussion among breeders and exhibitors are probably (1) the back length, (2) overall size (height and weight) (3) the neck length, and (4) the proper head. First let us consider the back. The Shih Tzu is not a square dog as with the Maltese or Toy Poodle. The standard states body between the withers; well coupled and sturdy. The overall size of the dog is a much tougher problem because the standard allows any weight from 9 to 18 pounds and any height from 8 inches to 11 inches. In other words, in 3 inches of height the dog could double its weight. Probably no other breed gives such latitude in this matter. Fortunately the standard does state that the weight of the mature dog should be 12 to 15 pounds. Again, we have an example of the importance of the balance in suggesting a weight which conforms to the middle of the standard range. Also, the preferred height is from 9 to 10 1/2 inches - more in balance for the overall dog.

The standard makes no direct mention of how much neck the dog should have. Those breeders and judges who like to see "swan-like" necks are just as mistaken as those who think "no neck" is correct. The dog should walk with its head well up - with a "distinctly arrogant carriage." This implies that the dog does have enough neck but more importantly that the neck is set on correctly, that the dog has the correct amount of layback so that

it can walk or move with its head well. This is a large headed breed and it would look out of balance with a large head and a very long, thin neck to support it. At the same time, the dog would look just as strange with no neck, with the head screwed on to the shoulders. This does not give us a picture of a well balanced "typey" Shih Tzu. The Shih Tzu should have a firm neck with well layed-backed shoulders so that it can move with its head well up to give it the arrogant carriage that its noble ancestry requires.

The Shih Tzu has a brachycephalic head - that is to say, a short face with a large, wide skull and excellent development of the cranium. It has a large head for its size, and it is, of course, this head that gives its distinctive expression and much of its "type". No dog no matter how well bred nor how well put together can be said to be very typey if the head is wrong.

The brachycephalic head came about at some distant point in the past due probably to a mutation. Scientifically this is not the normal head shape for members of the family Canidea. The natural tendency is for the dog to have a longer, narrower muzzle. In the Shih Tzu there is a tendency for the head to revert to the natural canine head if one dog is bred to another with a long muzzle. Holding the short muzzle is a constant battle. However, those who purposely try to over-exaggerate the short face run risk of congenital problems such as cleft palates.

Again, a balanced head is the type all breeders should be aiming for; one that is in balance and proportionate to the size of the dog. Viewing from the front or from the side the head should be broad and round. The muzzle should be square. The eyes should be large, dark and spaced well apart. They should not, however, be prominent or bulging. The Shih Tzu should have a strong underjaw, but in proportion to the muzzle, and should never give one the impression of looking at a monkey.

The Shih Tzu standard is very vague in discussing the placement of the nose. It states only that the dog should have a deep, well-defined stop (slightly concaved beneath the bulge of the brow). The bridge of the nose should be level. The nose should not be tilted so that it is placed up between the eyes giving Shih Tzu a Pekingese expression. The Shih Tzu should never have a down face making it resemble the Lhasa Apso. Down face is one of the most common problems seen in the breed today. The square muzzle needs a slightly undershot bite in order to give the Shih Tzu the appearance of substance of underjaw, but never so undershot as to give the dog a monkey face or scooped jaw appearance. A completely level bite, as the standard allows will tend to give a weak chin. The other element which gives the proper expression is a good wide jaw. A narrow jaw can lead to a snipy muzzle.

As stated earlier the dog should be judged as a dynamic breed, moving as well as standing. The requirement for good sound legs of the other breeds should also be a strong consideration for the Shih Tzu. How else can an animal exhibit a smooth and flowing gait with strong rear action if the legs are not sound.

What is the essence of Shih Tzu type? It is balance. It consists of the qualities discussed, not exaggerated, functioning together in a harmonious manner. Of course, the Shih Tzu should be beautiful. The dog should be well groomed and of course, the dog should be sound of mind and body. The dog which displays all these characteristics neither too big nor too small, neither too fine nor too coarse is in balance. And balance is the essence of type.

Letty Comes To Stay

(Or how to acquire a Shih Tzu without really trying)

Gordon Paterson

It all started one Sunday when our friend Fridel Bake arrived with two promising Shih Tzu puppies. Not being able to make up her mind which to keep for showing, she had come to ask our opinion.

I was immediately taken with Letty, (Lets dream of four winds) but after a few hours watching the pups, the vote seemed to be going two to one in favour of her sister, so to clinch things I made the fatal mistake of stating that if I had Letty I was certain that I would be able to win a Puppy In Show with her!

Well Letty came to stay; temporarily at first, and in her eight weeks in the baby puppy class amassed five baby puppy of group and one baby puppy in show AB. At the tender age of eight months, she also has her first three CCs.

Like all Shih Tzu Letty is a delight to live with, Lhasa puppy toys that had lasted many litters had to be dissected to see how they ticked, adult Lhasas in show coat could be dragged backwards around the yard without complaining, her inquiring mind led to the odd conflict of wills, but her endearing nature always won the day.

When after ten eventful weeks Fridel offered Letty to us, a hard decision had to be made, with both of us working full time and our main interest being our Lhasa Apsos, we needed another coated dog like a third leg, but as will be obvious by now, Letty's home is now at GORVIC where she continues to mature and grow more beautiful by the day.



Coat Care – The Shih Tzu

by Pam Bales

As many owners of Shih Tzu realize, they are not an easy breed to care for coatwise, many hours of hard work will be required, and to keep a Shih Tzu in show condition, requires constant care and attention.

As in any long coated breed, his beauty is enhanced by his long flowing coat and a properly cared for coat reflects the owners dedication.

The Young Puppy

Start at an early age to get puppy used to being bathed and his coat dried with a hair dryer.

When bathing, a mild shampoo such as baby shampoo is ideal as it won't sting his eyes, rinse well and follow with a conditioning rinse.

Stand the puppy on a table and using a nylon and bristle or a small pin brush, dry the puppy quickly, brushing the hair away from the body, use dryer on a low to medium, heat to avoid burning the skin.

When dry, check the ears and remove any hairs by plucking out with finger and thumb or tweezers, a little boracic powder sprinkled on the hair first makes it easier to grasp. Clip the nails, keep these as short as possible.

As the puppy gets older, train him to lay on his side as it is much easier to groom your dog this way.

The Young Adult

During this stage the puppy will begin to shed his fluffy puppy coat and grow in the stronger coat of an adult. You will find that the coat will have to be groomed every day, often twice a day if really bad, and at this stage the application of a light oil can help by preventing the coat from clinging together. It must be remembered however when using oil on a dog's coat that it should never be allowed to dry

out, if allowed to do so the matts will be almost impossible to remove.

Coat conditioner mixed with water and brushed through the dog's coat is also very good.

Lie the dog on his side and using a knitting needle or tail comb, part the coat in layers lightly spray with your mixture of conditioner and water and brush through, teasing out carefully any mats as you go, don't saturate the coat.

Any staining on face can usually be removed by applications of boracic powder, use dry and apply as often as possible, don't allow your dog to lick it off as it is poisonous.

Tie back or wrap the moustaches as the dog quite often eats these off along with his dinner!

Ears, topknot and body coat can be kept wrapped to prevent the hair from breaking off. You can use either chux or plastic eg garbage bags. Cut these into oblong strips, place the hair in the centre and fold lengthwise into three, this is then folded from the bottom upwards, again into three, then secured with a rubber band. Be careful when wrapping ears that the bottom of the ear leather doesn't get caught in the band.

Never leave a dog you have wrapped with any others as you'll find they love to remove the wrappers along with the precious hair you're trying to grow!

Use latex bands to tie up the topknot and always cut off with scissors, pulling off breaks the hair, latex bands can also be used to tie back the moustaches and should be cut off and replaced daily. Faces usually get wet and smelly and should be washed daily.

Finally - be sure to keep your dogs in top condition - a poorly groomed dog rarely wins.

Coat Texture in Shih Tzus

by Gay Widdrington

The English standard for COAT in Shih Tzus says: LONG & DENSE BUT NOT CURLY WITH GOOD UNDERCOAT and this has not changed since the standard was formulated by Gen Sir Douglas Brownrigg, with the help of the Kennel Club in the early 1930's. Much later when the breed really became established in USA (1969) they added to the clause on COAT: LUXURIOUS long and dense, MAY BE SLIGHTLY WAVY but not curly, good WOOLY undercoat. THE HAIR ON TOP OF THE HEAD MAY BE TIED UP. The above (in capital letters) are all additions to the good, except that: MAY be tied up could be changed for SHOULD, as this is an important feature which differentiates externally the Shih Tzu from the Lhasa Apso. As far as I know, other KCs follow one of these standards.

Nothing is said about TEXTURE. In point of fact the coat should look harsher than it feels. It should not be too soft and silky like a Yorkie (a nightmare to keep untangled in the Shih Tzu), nor too coarse like a terrier. When you take a handful of it, the coat should have a smooth resilience, standing slightly out from the body, due to the undercoat.

In early days, coats were often too curly or frizzy, spoiling the appearance of the dog. Often it was not understood that if the puppy-coat was not combed out, it would become hopelessly matted, and some people believed this to be the "good undercoat". The Shih Tzu does not shed hairs all over the place like some breeds, but at change of coat it will usually get hopelessly matted unless attended to.

I may say that coats do still vary a lot in texture, but each import into England seems to have improved that coat and made it easier to deal with, as if an outcross does it good. In my kennel, my oldest Shih Tzu, now 17, has the impossible very soft type of early coat, which mats very easily and absorbs the dirt readily.

My younger dogs are much easier. Tai-tai for instance, has a luxurious coat with correct undercoat which never gets matted, and sheds dirt and wet naturally. My goldens are the same, but some do not have enough undercoat, though this has been improved in young stock. The easy type of coat should obviously be encouraged providing it is correct in texture and undercoat. Coat growth still varies: some pups go badly out of coat about the time they cut their second teeth, and a bitch of this type will usually go out of coat again when in season. It is more correct for a pup just to go on steadily coating up, providing that great care is taken in removing the dead puppy-coat when the time comes, and encourage the growth of the adult coat.

COAT CARE

There are many different opinions on this and of course care has to differ according to different temperatures and circumstances. In England perhaps we are fortunate in living in a moderate dampish climate which is naturally good for coats.

The Chinese, it is said, never combed their Shih Tzus, but patiently parted the matted undercoat with finger and thumb, then brushed thoroughly when any dead under or top-coat would come out. In those days there was plenty of TIME!

I believe in brushing daily, as with human hair, to stimulate the scalp and roots and to keep the hair clean.

Combing is best done only about once a week, right to the skin, but very gingerly.

To groom, first wipe the muzzle and beard with a damp cloth, also round the eyes, and check the eyes to see that the surrounds are not sore and the eyes are clear from any signs of ulcerating. (If so, consult your vet - it is a rare phenomenon in a healthy dog). Hard matter in corners of eyes can be removed with finger and thumb. If whiskers are inclined to stain yellow, an eye lotion, such as Optrex can gradually remove this, but you must be patient. For brushing, having wiped the face and eyes, turn the dog on its back on a table (you should have trained it from puppyhood so that it is relaxed,) and brush the legs and tummy, the wrong way and then down the right way, removing of course any twigs, leaves, etc. A male should be kept trimmed round his private parts, and wiped over with another cloth for hygiene. His side coat may need wiping as well, especially if he has cocked his leg in a wind! A bitch should be kept trimmed round her vulva, and any nasty hard matter removed. When in season, the blood should be rinsed off daily until about two days before she is due for mating (when the bleeding has usually stopped anyway, but don't worry if it doesn't - some Shih Tzus go on bleeding for the full 3 weeks, even after mating).

To carry on with grooming, stand the dog the right way up on the table and brush the coat up the wrong way, starting from the head, then down the right way, starting from tail end, and of course including the tail. Part the hair down centre back with a steel knitting needle and brush hair down tidily on either side. Finish off with the head. Top-knot should not be removed everyday as this can break the hair. Pull out the rubber band with point of nail-clippers, and cut, taking care not to cut the hair as well. Brush out the hair and put on a new rubber band (buy in some small ones, and wrap them round the hair enough times so that they get a proper grip.) See that the band is not too tight against the scalp as this is uncomfortable for the dog. I actually use two bands, one about an inch above the nose to catch up the small hairs, and another higher up catching up the main bunch of hair on top of the head, and opening out sideways.

In caring for the dog, its comfort should come first. It is a good plan to trim unobtrusively round the anus which helps keep the bottom clean. Always inspect under the tail after grooming tail and gentle comb off any dry faeces. A diet with plenty of roughage should prevent loose stools. Some Shih Tzus have very tender skins and

a rough combing can be torture, so go gently when getting out mats, doing a bit at a time if the dog gets distressed. Some people get very long coats which reach the ground and turn up. This is usually produced by artificial means - by never letting two play together after puppyhood, and keeping the coat oiled and in paper curlers, and never taking the dog for a country walk for fear the coat should get broken. But is not the Shih Tzu truly a tough and natural little dog, needing plenty of freedom and every chance to develop his independent and amusing nature? Certainly mine have complete liberty, have terrific games together, go for daily walks over fields or through woods in all weathers - soaked in the rain and balled up with snow (which they love playing in. And they still grow and keep heavy coats. I believe that it is bred from within, plus correct diet and exercise.) But conditions in towns and hot countries must produce their own problems and different forms of management are necessary. I know that there are many sophisticated medications, applications and foods on the market, but I know very little of these.

If the coat seems dry and brittle a teaspoon daily of olive oil or extra fat in the diet can help. A very little almond oil applied to the tips can prevent them breaking.

BATHING

A matted dog should NEVER be bathed until the mats have been parted and combed out, as these will shrink tight to the skin and cause discomfort, and become impossible to unravel without cutting. A good canine or human shampoo should be used and the dog rinsed two or three times. Never use detergent. Rain water is excellent. It is good to dry with a hair-dryer or electric blower, brushing all the time. Or in hot weather the dog can run about outside and be brushed out afterwards. How often one bath depends on conditions. As I do not show any more, my dogs get bathed about twice a year. A dog should be bathed about two or three days before a show, so that the natural oils have time to return to the hair and settle it down. Muzzle and paws can be washed again the day of the show, and white whiskers powdered just before entering the ring. I do not otherwise like powder for cleansing as it clogs the pores, gets up one's nose and the dog's.

If a dog gets wet in the rain, do not dry roughly with a harsh towel, as this breaks the coat, but pad dry with an old cotton sheet which is very absorbent. A dog balled up with snow should be stood in warm water in the sink to melt the snow, then dried.

Inside the ears should be inspected regularly and any hair which have worked their way in, hooked out with point of comb. Earlier stock would grow thick hair right inside their ears. This could be removed by squirting in an ear-powder (to get a grip) and plucking out the hair with finger and thumb. If there is any sign of canker or a cankerish smell, consult your vet. It is a good idea to soap and rinse muzzle about once a week to keep free from grease or extraneous stain.

Some people raise their hands in horror if you mention clipping a Shih Tzu, but sometimes this is kinder, say for a pet dog which gets easily matted, and it will usually take on a new lease of life once its skin can breathe again.

Incidentally a coat which has been clipped will grow in better than ever.

Some people just do not have the knack or ability to groom regularly and correctly. A "puppy-clip" looks

very sweet - hair cut all over to 1 - 1½" twice a year. Top-knot likewise, or left according to taste. Tails and ears look better left long. Some people clip a few of their broods for convenience sake. Of course a brood bitch will naturally go out of coat when her pups are a few weeks old. Broods should be washed under their tails after whelping and daily thereafter until all discharge ceases. Dry well before returning her to the nest. I always clip round the back area of a bitch before whelping, also round the teats.

Of course a show-dog should never show any signs of having been clipped or cut. I favour a coat which just clears the ground, long beard, whiskers and ear-fringes in the adult and long plumed tail, and top-knot falling centrally over the back, plus good leg furnishings.

In caring for your dog, do not forget to attend to nails and dew-claws (i.e. keep them clipped to about ¼" beyond the quick. Anal glands should be squeezed at least twice a year, and teeth inspected and extracted when necessary - all of which would carry me on chasing another hair, I mean 'hare', so I'll just end now and wish you all the best of luck and happy companionship from your dogs.

The Shih Tzu Temperament

The following article was taken from "Dog World 1969" and was written by Mary Wood.

Some people like a fighting dog. Others like a yapper. Some want a guard dog. Some have a need to fulfil the material instinct and desire a dog that they can "mother". Some want a dog to take hunting.

I find I have a need for a companion dog and find this need most completely fulfilled by a Shih Tzu. It is not the size or the luxuriant coat or his unique and exotic Chinese background that attracts me. All these things would be of little moment were it not for the way in which he reacts to me and I to him. In short, it is his temperament which has brought him to me and keeps him there. The Shih Tzu is proud, gay, inquisitive, arrogant and utterly charming. He can be as unobtrusive as a mouse, as merry and playful as a kitten, as demanding as an Oriental despot, one moment a clown, the next joyfully affectionate and the next flat on his back asleep. He is not owned by you, he belongs to you.

The Shih Tzu personality is evident even at a few hours of age. Just let one get lost in the nest or unable to find the breast and it will give you voice to unhappiness in no uncertain tones. A warm hand, the mother's tongue, will quickly satisfy their need for company. Even at this tender age, the tail will stiffen, and attempt to assume the approved teapot handle carriage. It is declaring its banner aloft and at a later age when the head comes up and the feet succeed in their purpose, he is again declaring himself the aristocratic title of SHIH TZU, and proud of it.

A Brief Look At Imports In Victoria, Australia

Jean Anderson

Shih Tzu in Melbourne have come a long way in the past 12 years with imports arriving from UK, USA, Ireland and Canada, so there are many good bloodlines in which to further the breed.

The main importers of the Shih Tzu are Joyce Caspero from the Hickeys in Ireland; Thelma Burwell from Audrey Dadds Snaefell; Mr & Mrs Fitzgerald Pen Sans, USA; Colbourns Shalalee, UK; R D Argostine Crowvalley, UK and ourselves; 2 from Harrowpine (UK); 2 from Ali AJ USA; 1 from House of Wu, USA; 3 from Woodsmokes, Canada; 1 from Green Moss, UK; 1 from Baltricia, UK; 1 from Shallee, UK; 1 from Mark Izeki, Hawaii; 1 from Paora, UK. So from the above you can see we have a lot of imports there are some which are missing.

There are more colours being shown a couple of years ago mostly gold & whites, grey & whites and silver & whites at the shows. The 1993 Shih Tzu Ch Show judged by Jim Hickey of Ireland saw our Canadian dog Can Ch & Aust Ch Woodsmokes Hit The Deck (Imp Can) take our Best In Show, Runner Up was Barry Gardiners Ch Burghley Barley Charley.



*Can & Aust Ch Woodsmokes Hit The Deck (Imp Can)
Photography by Twigg*

Our homebred dog Aust Ch Chantrey Pierre Cardin ex (Ch Ali AJ Stars & Stripes ex Woodsmokes Mirror Image USA) took Dog CC & Best of Breed at the 1993 Melbourne Royal RCC to Can & Aust Ch Woodsmokes Hit the Deck USA. Bitch CC went to Nancy Prouse's Ch Mudan Miss America.

The Dog CC, BOB & Bitch CC plus Int Dog were sired by our Ch Ali AJ Stars & Stripes USA.

We have sent 4 Shih Tzu to NZ, of which 2 are currently being shown.

Mary Milnes Chantrey Kiwi Connection (Ch Woodsmokes Going Places (Can) ex Marque A Devil of a Teazer (USA)) is a Black & White dog and is on 7 CCs, hopefully his last is not far away.



*Ch Chantrey Pierre Cardin
Photography by Twigg*

A Gold & White with Black tips bitch is with Barbara & Kevin Burgess and she has to date 3 Best Puppy of Group. She is Chantrey Kirrabilli (Aust Ch Ali AJ Stars & Stripes ex Harrowpine China Fantasy (UK)).

Aust Ch Ali AJ Stars & Stripes and Woodsmokes Going Places are producers of numerous champion offspring, some of whom are gaining Group & In Show awards for their owners.

Can & Aust Ch Woodsmokes Hit The Deck has only been out of quarantine 12 months and his eldest kids are only 8 months of age.

We feel justifiably proud of the achievements and contribution our beloved Shih Tzu have made to the breed particularly Victoria, and are delighted to be owned by such loving bundles of mischief!!

*Ch Woodsmokes Going Places (Imp Can)
Photography by Twigg*





Stars of the Show



Aust/NZ Champion
Flim Flam Man of Kino

NZ Champion
Hoosa Honey of Kino

Val Garvey
5 Fraser Collins St
Dannevirke
Tel (06) 374 5346

Kino

Cathy Garvey-Webb
13 Stanhope Grove
Korokoro, Lower Hutt
Tel (04) 566 1506

A Tribute To Rags

V C Garvey

Next to my children and perhaps one small tortoiseshell cat named Pebbles, the love of my life would be my Shih Tzu. There has been many little Shitties that have stolen my heart, but one stands out from the rest, and when I think about a good Shih Tzu with the correct temperament and all that goes with them "Rags" comes to mind. The moment she was born she was mine, she loved me as much as I loved her, she knew what I wanted from her and she never let me down. In the show ring she knew better than me where and what to do. She'd throw her little head back as much as to say "come on mum, step it out." Everyone knew her had to admire her, she was a true lady. Her Kennel name was Champion "Bea Winner

of Kino" and to me she was a winner. She produced some lovely babies, Champion "Hoosa Honey of Kino", Champion "Fashion Fantasy of Kino", Australian and New Zealand Champion "Flim Flam Man of Kino", who in his turn produced Champion "Kino Talk of the Town" who at thirteen months was Reserve in Show Champion All Breeds Show, no mean feat for one so young.

Rags died two years ago suddenly while I was in Wellington for the Nationals but she will always be in my mind and heart and while her children and grandchildren are around, Rags will always be here.

A flash of gold and white, Rags ruled the household - if she had been human she would have ruled the country.

The Shih Tzu Head and Expression

by M Ouaroff

Head and expression undoubtedly establish Shih Tzu breed type and character, and the importance of a balanced, well proportioned one cannot be over emphasised. Balance may well be the operative word here, as the various components and their placement are what constitutes an ideal head, with it's 'rather human expression' mentioned in the standard.

The standard reads, 'Heads, broad and round, naturally this means broad in keeping with the dog's body size, but what is not mentioned is that the skull should be broader from the 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. A point to mention here, 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, in my opinion, even in smaller type Shih Tzu, a certain boldness of head is most attractive.

'Wide between the eyes' - is the next requirement listed in the standard, once more balance is the thing to be borne in mind. Obviously a larger specimen will appear to have wider placed eyes than a smaller one, and this is where the hands as well as the eye may determine things - well arched cheekbones, and correct frontal positioning of the eyes, coupled with the desired high nose placement may be felt as well as seen. Size of eyes may sometimes be a confusing issue when assessing a head - while round lustrous eyes, frontally placed, is what is looked for, on no account should they be over large or protruberant, and should show no white. This has appeared in the breed from time to time, and probably in an otherwise good specimen would not be penalised greatly. However, it is incorrect and must not be allowed to become too readily accepted. Incidentally, a cleverly prepared head, may well hide imperfections in head proportions, and judges must learn to feel these out when carrying out their examinations. Heights and breadth of head can be manufactured by clever grooming, and profuse furnishings can sometimes be deceptive. With regard to head furnishings, the standard reads 'shock headed, with hair falling well over the eyes etc! This virtually applies only to young puppies, as does the term 'Chrysanthemum like effect' - with hair growing upwards on the nose. Today we expect to see the topknot and beard parted, tied, and placed to give the 'Oriental Old Gentleman' look.

Now we come to muzzle - square and short, the standard says, but not wrinkled like a Pekingese - Here, we have a fairly complex combination of factors to take into account, foreface, stop, nostrils, jaw and chin, all play a part in the correct muzzle. Possibly the single most telling component part of the head would be the chin - for without a strong powerful chin, the muzzle has very little chance of complying with the standard. I think the Bulldog terminology of 'turn up' is relevant. Good turn up allows for width of jaw, to give room for the desirable six incisors top and bottom. Many short faced breeds have only four, which, in an otherwise worthy specimen is acceptable, but

is not to be encouraged. Width of jaw, in turn, makes for a well padded muzzle, which goes with the correct stop and nose placement.

The shortness of foreface is of utmost importance, as here we get to the 'nitty, gritty' of expression. The standard quotes, 'the nose, ideally about an inch from tip to stop, or as 1 is to 4, allowing for the size of the dog, should stem from a pronounced stop, level with, or just below the eye-rim, with the bridge of the nose level. Any extra length of foreface seems to be coupled with lack of skull overstrong underjaw may produce an overly high nose placement between the eyes, which is Pekey or monkey faced, also untypical.

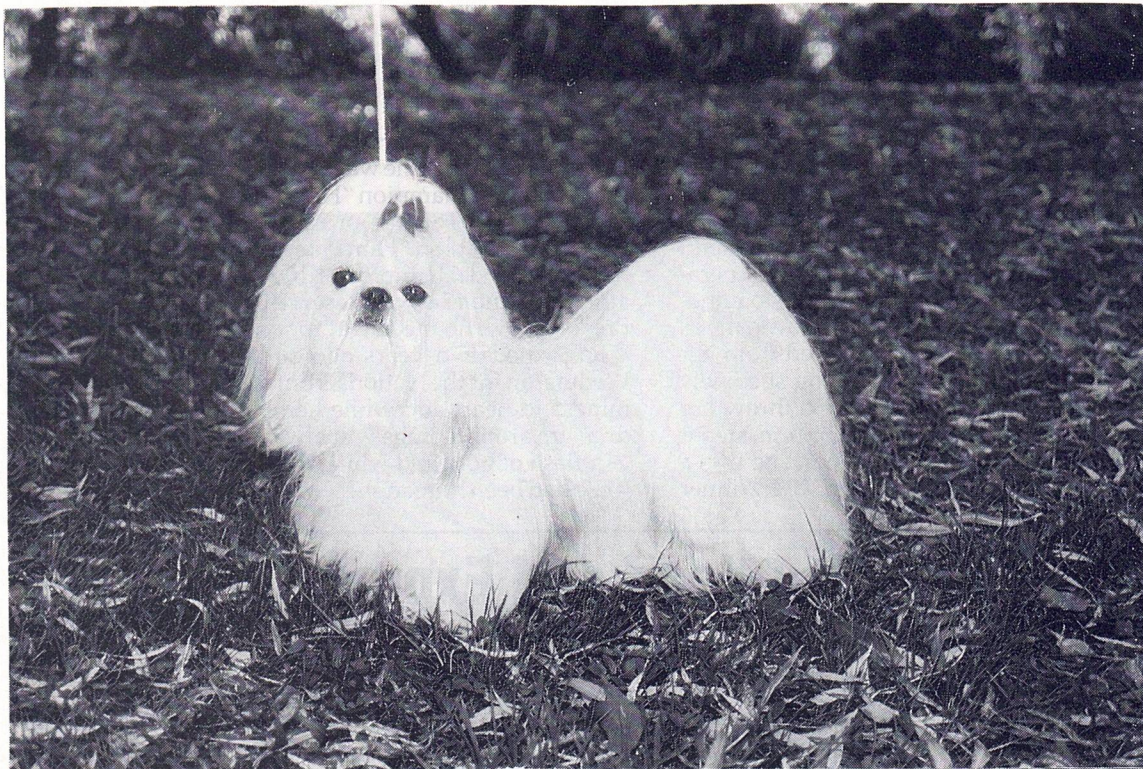
The mouth - The standard reads 'to be level or slightly underhung - The jaw should be square and I quote Audrey Dadds here, as her term puts a picture in the mind, 'To give the Chinese lion-like appearance, and whether the bite is level or undershot, the upper lips should come over the lower when the mouth is closed, with no teeth showing. The lips should be well defined, and should look rather human, the Oriental Old Gentleman again! They should be black, (or dark brown in liver or light coloured dogs).

We've discussed nose placement, but nothing of the nose itself - Wide nostrils are preferred, tight nostrils can produce respiratory problems, however wide nostrils do not necessarily mean over large, rubbery noses to be correct, the size of the nose is governed by, and to be in proportion with the size of the dog.

The standard continues - 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 quite straightforward, and the judge's hand and eye should be able to assess correctness here - Fly away 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.

The question of eye colour, and pigment must be discussed - the standard states - Nose to be black for preference - but we find that in liver, or light coloured dogs, lighter coloured noses, eyes and lips are quite acceptable. Pigment on muzzle to be unbroken as possible, logical, as obvious areas of broken pigment will affect an otherwise pleasing facial expression. Naturally the colour factor is relevant here, faulty pigment is much more noticeable in the lighter colours.

I feel that the most vital point in assessing the merits of the Shih Tzu heads is the overall effect. Any one point, if exaggerated, can upset the entire balance, though in itself, not be tremendously important. Harmony is the keynote - always.



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Kino ZinZan Tzu

Sire: Four Winds Rain Dragon

Dam: Fashion Fantasy of Kino



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**Look for his daughter
"Nzinga A Mayzing Pheobe"**