

Bergamasco

Height – Dogs - 23½” Bitches - 22" at withers. Ok between 21” to 25”

General Appearance – Medium sized rustic appearing sheepdog with abundant coat covering all parts of the body. Rectangular, 5 to 6 % longer than high.

Head - Large, skull/muzzle equal in length, parallel planes; pronounced stop. **Eyes** - Large, oval, set slightly obliquely, hazel to dark brown, tight-fitting black eye rims. **Ears** - Set on high, soft, thin, slightly rounded tips, at alert the ears prick up at base with top 2/3 semi-drooping. May either be flopped or not. **Muzzle** - Blunt, tapers only slightly toward nose, parallel planes. **Nose** - Large, black, big well-opened nostrils. **Bite** - Scissors.

Body - Neck- Strong, slightly arched, no dewlap, thick collar. **Topline** Level to slight rise over loin. **Loin** – Slightly convex. **Croup**- Sloping 35 degrees downward. **Chest** and **Ribs** -Well-sprung, to elbows, nearly absent of tuck-up. **Tail** - Set low. Natural, in action it is raised in curve above level of topline. **Shoulders** - strong, with steep angulation, 55 to 60 degrees from horizontal. **Feet** - oval, well flopped, rear feet slightly smaller.

Coat - 3 types of hair. Undercoat, “goat hair”, and wooly hair. Outer coat forms an uneven distribution of flocks of various widths over body. Flocks are from 1.5 to 3 inches wide. Coat from withers to mid body is mostly "goat hair". On the back of the body and legs, the wooly outer coat is abundant. Hair on legs hangs in flocks rather than feathering. Flocks are never combed out. Hair on head is mostly goat hair, but somewhat less rough.

Color - Only black melanin is present. Puppies are born solid gray or solid black. The color often changes to different shades as the dog matures. There is merle in the breed.

Gait - Free, extended, elastic (slow) trot. Feet remain close to ground. Head is carried forward with the neck forming a slight angle at the withers.

Disqualifications:

- Height under 21”. The minimum height requirement of 21” shall not apply to dogs or bitches under 12 months of age.
- Any lack of pigmentation of eye rims; one (or two) full blue eye(s).
- Dudley nose.
- White coat color on more than one-fifth of the total area of the body.

May 4, 2022