

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



Extended Breed Standard of **THE AUSTRALIAN KELPIE**

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in conjunction with
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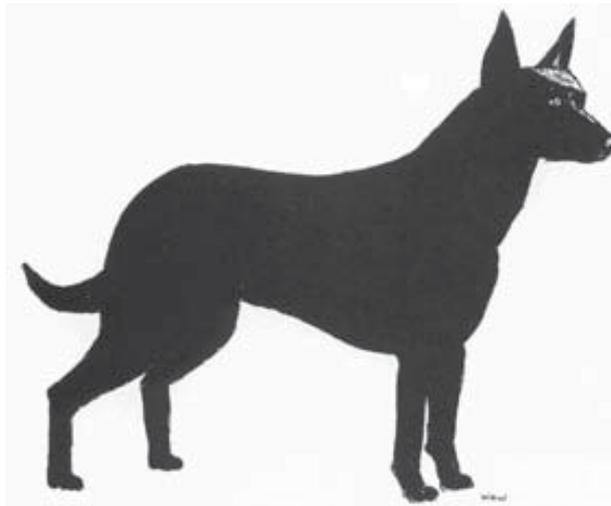


Fig.1 Early drawing by W.A. Wheatland – all breeds judge.

HISTORY OF THE BREED

It was once said “Australia rode on the sheep’s back – referring to the dependency of the Australian economy on the wool industry. Without the Australian Kelpie, Australia may very well not have been so prosperous. Clearly the Kelpie contributed greatly to the industry. This dog being able to perform the work of several men. Tireless workers in the hottest and dustiest of climates, the Kelpie has been known to travel more than 50 kilometres in one day. It should be noted that the word “Kelpie” is a Gaelic word meaning “water sprite”.

The first sheep graziers in Australia did not use dogs to herd and guard their flocks. Convicts and Chinese who were employed as shepherds initially undertook these tasks and sheep were yarded at night. Following the opening of vast areas of land in New South Wales and Victoria, the sheep numbers increased so dramatically that some properties were over two million acres and ran over a quarter of a million sheep. In areas as extensive as these, shepherding was impractical, wire fences were erected and sheep were left to run free. It was then necessary to have dogs to handle sheep in such large areas.

Like so many breeds, the origin of the Kelpie is disputed, however, in the book "Sheepdogs, Their Breeding, Maintenance and Training" by Dr R.B. Kelleyan excerpts from a letter from a Mr. Jack King claims:

"Being the last of the Kings of Hanging Rock and Woolengongh stations, I am giving true and reliable statement of the origins of the Kelpie. The Kelpie or old Kelpie known by the name of Gleeson's Kelpie, was black and tan, long-haired, lop eared, medium sized bitch, which has a red tinge on her coat, when the sun shines on her. When she worked her ears went up and down. The late George Robertson of Warrack Station, Victoria imported her sire and dam from Scotland. Mr. Gleeson, who was living at Murray Dunrobin Station, Victoria secured one bitch puppy from the litter and called her "Kelpie". When Mr. Gleeson came to Albury he met his old friend Mark Tully, who gave him a smooth haired, black, pricked eared dog called "Moss", which Mr. Tully had bought from Mr. Rutherford of Yarrawonga Station. The sire and dam of Moss were imported from Scotland.

In the early 1870's Mr. Robertson of Yeraldra Station (near Forbes in NSW) imported a dog and bitch, Brutus and Jennie from Scotland. Brutus was a smooth haired dog, black and tan with pricked ears. Jennie was a long-haired bitch with half erect ears. Brutus mated to Jennie produced Caesar, Nero and Laddie. Caesar was mated with Gleeson's Kelpie and produced a black and tan bitch known as King's Kelpie.

Gleeson mated Kelpie on two occasions to Moss and King's Kelpie was also mated to Moss, and all the good Kelpies came from the cross. Laddie, a son of Brutus and Jennie, was also mated to King's Kelpie and produced Sallie, which was mated to Moss, became dam of Barb eventually owned by Mr. Edols of Burrangong station."



Fig.2. "Kings Kelpie".

Barb was named after a black horse, which won the Melbourne Cup in 1869 – Australia's premier horse race. Black Kelpies became known as Barbs and for many years were considered to be a different breed to the Kelpie. They were, however, chiefly exhibited in the same show classes as Kelpies. It is on record that at the Canberra Kennel Club show in 1943 eleven Barbs were shown in classes of their own. The judge on the day was Mr.W.A.Wheatland from Victoria. From the end of World War 11 it would appear that the so-called Barbs reverted to being shown in the classes for Kelpies.

At twelve months of age, King's Kelpie was entered in the first Sheepdog Trial in 1872, which was held in Forbes, New South Wales. She won this Trial with ease. After this trail win her pups were in great demand and at the time were called Kelpie's pups, and so the name evolved.

One of Australia's most renowned Kelpies was a smoke blue named Coil, who won the first round of the Sydney Sheepdog trials, in 1898, gaining the maximum number of points. That evening Coil was involved in an accident with a horse and cart, which resulted in a broken fore leg. His owner John Quinn of Cootamundra in New South Wales taped a splint on the foreleg and the next day, to everyone's surprise, Coil, on three legs with the fourth dragging, again gained maximum points with a faultless performance. Coil's mother Gay, had also won the first Sydney Sheepdog Trial, two years earlier.

A further letter received in 1946 by Dr. Kelleyan from a Mr. Morris of Artesian Downs, Queensland stated:

'Forty years ago, at a Sydney Sheep Show Dog Trials, the workers were almost all Kelpies, a grand looking lot of dogs and plenty, really good workers among them. The late Mr John Quinn and Messrs. King and McLoud (then of Wilga Downs) bred lots of them. Later, Mr McLoud imported a big type, heavy Border Collie such as Tweed of Roxborough, a huge red dog with black back (Bantry Girl, a cross Kelpie had a strain of this dog). Mr Quinn bred thousands of Kelpies, using only selected parents and commenced with one dog and two bitches. Mr King only provided very few and all related toward the King and McLoud Kennel. Bidy was the prominent one. She was mated with Coil and their progeny with Wallace. They were then well and truly inbred together to make up the Wilga Downs Kelpies and Barbs. These were very good dogs, which all speaks well for the good that must have been in the original importations. If I could import dogs of the same strain as those from which was bred, I would not hesitate to do so. Apart from that strain, there never seems to have been any other really reliable breed, except for short periods by a very few persons with dogs from those strains. The best strain in Australia today can be run back to "Biddy's Daughter" by Coil from Bidy, which I saw win a Sydney Trial beating Wallace.'



Fig. 3. "Coil" winner Sydney Sheepdog Trials 1896

Two matters that have been debated over the years as to the origins of the Kelpie are that the Kelpie is the result of dogs mating with foxes. Scientific evidence is that dogs and foxes cannot breed. The other is that the Dingo was used in the development. Again, the evidence is that although Dingoes have been mated with Kelpies, this has been generally without success as sheepdogs.

Kelpies were first exhibited at the Melbourne Royal Show in 1908, with an entry of six dogs and three bitches. Over the years Australian Kelpies have been exported to Norway, Sweden, USA, New Zealand and many other countries.

The Standard was adopted by the Australian National Kennel Council, effective from 1st January 1963. Prior to this the controlling bodies of the various Australian States had developed standards under which the breed was exhibited in those particular states. The FCI recognised the Australian Kelpie in 1989. In doing so they adopted FCI Standard No 293, which is based on the ANKC Standard.



Fig. 4. Best Bitch in Show All Breeds – Sydney Royal Easter Show – 1952.



Fig. 5. Excellent specimen of the breed.



This is a typical silhouette of an Australian Kelpie

● GENERAL APPEARANCE

The general appearance shall be that of a lithe, active dog of great quality, showing hard muscular condition combined with great suppleness of limb and conveying the capability of untiring work. It must be free from any suggestion of weediness.

The Kelpie's head is slightly rounded at the top skull with a definite stop between skull and muzzle. The muzzle is slightly shorter than the length of skull. The bite is scissor. The eyes are almond shaped and of medium size. The ears run to a fine point at the tips and are of a moderate size. The neck is of moderate length, strong and slightly arched. The legs are strong and straight. The body is slightly longer than tall. The tail is of medium length, set low and well covered with coat like a brush. The coat is a double coat with a short dense undercoat and a hard, straight, weather-repellant outer coat. The colours are black, black and tan, red, red and tan, fawn, chocolate, and smoke blue. Average height is from 43cm to 51cms (seventeen to twenty inches).

● CHARACTERISTICS

The Kelpie is extremely alert, eager and highly intelligent, with a mild, tractable disposition and an almost inexhaustible energy, with marked loyalty and devotion to duty. It has a natural instinct and aptitude in the working of sheep, both in open country and in the yard. Any defect of structure or temperament foreign to a working dog must be regarded as uncharacteristic.

He should be well balanced with good length of stride. To be well balanced a dog must have every part of its body in proportion to every other part and to the dog as a whole.

● TEMPERAMENT - (SEE UNDER CHARACTERISTICS)

He should be outgoing and friendly and should not show any cowardly traits. An important thing when judging a Kelpie is to remember if a working dog loses concentration on what is required by its handler it will fail. So as long as you can see the expression then that should be all that is required. For anyone who has seen working dog trials you will know exactly what is meant. If a working dog does not concentrate on either visual or verbal instructions from its handler and is distracted by people, noises etc., then it can easily lose the stock it is trying to work.

● HEAD AND SKULL

The head is in proportion to the size of the dog, the skull slightly rounded, and broad between the ears. The forehead running in a straight profile towards a pronounced stop. The cheeks are neither coarse nor prominent, but round to the foreface, which is cleanly chiselled and defined. The muzzle, preferably slightly shorter in length than the skull. Lips tight and clean and free from looseness. The nose colouring conforms to that of the body coat. The overall shape and contours produce a rather fox-like expression, which is softened by the almond-shaped eyes.

The skull tapers towards the muzzle and should not be massive in jaw.

Fig. 6. Correct head proportions.



● EYES

The eyes are almond shaped, of medium size, clearly defined at the corners, and show an intelligent and eager expression. The colour of the eyes to be brown, harmonising with the colour of the coat. In the case of blue dogs a lighter coloured eye is permissible.



The eyes are almond shaped and harmonise with the coat colour. A light eye gives a hard expression foreign to the Kelpie. However, a sound, typey, slightly light-eyed dog should not be beaten by an unsound dog which is off-type because the latter happens to have a dark eye. In making judgments one has to weigh up the degree of faults.

Fig. 7. Correct eye size and shape.

● EARS

The ears are pricked and running to a fine point at the tips, the leather fine but strong at the base, set wide apart on the skull and inclining outwards, slightly curved on the outer edge and of moderate size. The inside of the ears is well furnished with hair.

Along with other head features, the correct shape, size and placement of the ears are paramount in ensuring the Australian Kelpie exhibits the required expression for the breed.

● MOUTH

The teeth should be sound, strong and evenly spaced, the lower incisors just behind but touching the upper that is a scissor bite.

To be undershot or overshot is a serious fault. Loss of teeth through accident should not be penalised.



Fig. 8. Male head

● NECK

The neck is of moderate length, strong, slightly arched, gradually moulding into the shoulders, free from throatiness and showing a fair amount of ruff.

A dog with a short, thick neck lacks liberty of action i.e. cannot work free. The neck must be strong and well muscled (but not overdone and thick). It should curve down from the crest in a slight arch. The arch is a structure of great strength.

● FOREQUARTERS

The shoulders should be clean, muscular, well sloping with the shoulder blades close set at the withers. The upper arm should be at a right angle with the shoulder blade. Elbows neither in nor out. The forelegs should be muscular with strong but refined bone, straight and parallel when viewed from the front. When viewed from the side, the pasterns should show a slight slope to ensure flexibility of movement and the ability to turn quickly.

Hindquarters and shoulders are used by the dog to turn quickly; they do not turn on their pasterns. Pasterns are like shock absorbers. An important feature not mentioned in the Standard is the length of the upper arm (humerus), which should (approximately) be the length of the scapular. The length of leg should be approximately the same from the point of elbow to the ground as is the distance from the withers to the point of elbow. The tendency should be towards longer legs rather than shorter.

Fig. 9. Showing how shoulders affect movement.

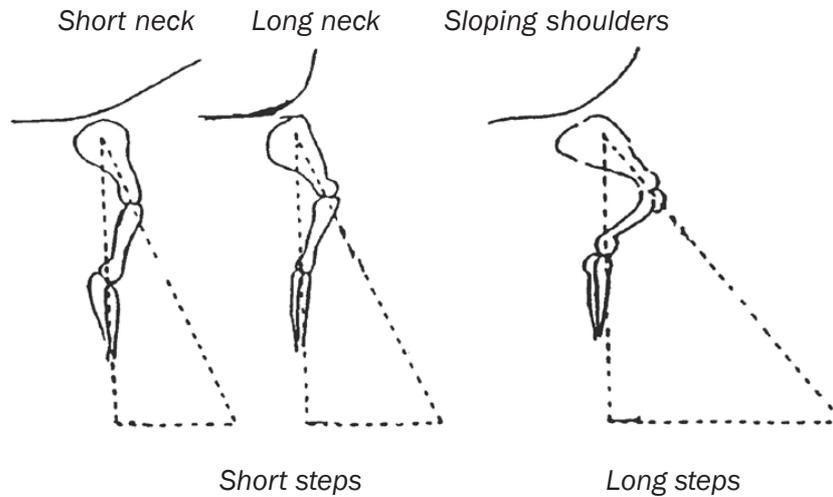


Fig. 10 – Beautifully balanced bitch.

● BODY

The ribs are well sprung and the chest must be deep rather than wide, with a firm level topline, strong and well-muscled loins and good depth of flank. The length of the dog from the fore chest in a straight line to the buttocks, is greater than the height at the withers as 10 is to 9.

The chest should be deep rather than wide, ribs to be well sprung and not barrel ribbed, and not out of proportion with the body. Well-sprung ribs are essential to allow for the heart and lung room of a working dog. There is sometimes confusion between a well-ribbed dog and a fat dog. To see spring of rib you must look down on the dog from above - it should be seen from behind the shoulder blades, spreading out, then narrowing (not too much) to the waist”.



Fig. 11 – Correct topline.

The Kelpie should have a level topline, neither roached nor swampy. Both these faults indicate structural weakness. In the Kelpie there must be a decided rise at the withers to allow sufficient action of the forequarters. The back should be of moderate length. The length of the dog from point of the breastbone in a straight line to the buttocks is greater than the height at the withers as 10 is to 9. It is better for them to be a little longer rather than too short, because a longer body gives greater fluency of movement. Any tendency to squareness should be considered a fault.



Fig. 12 – Outstanding winner including Best in Show All Breeds.

● HINDQUARTERS

The hindquarters should show breadth and strength, with the croup rather long and sloping, the stifles well turned and the hocks fairly well let down. When viewed from behind, the hind legs, from the hocks to the feet, are straight and placed parallel, neither close nor too wide apart.

The hindquarters should show breadth and strength. The haunch bone should be long rather than short, and laid at a corresponding angle to the shoulder; the rump rather long and sloping to the legs, the stifles well turned, the hock fairly well let down and placed parallel with the body. Cow hocks and bow hocks are a serious fault.

There appears to be some confusion between “rump”, which is the area immediately above the pelvis, the bone that controls the slope of the area, and the “haunch” or upper thigh (femur), which is the bone set at a corresponding angle to the shoulder blade. The rump or croup should be long and well-sloped and at about 30 degrees to the line of the spine. The upper thigh (femur) is set into the hip socket at the pelvis and should be at a corresponding angle to the shoulder blade. The overall upper line of rump and tail should form a smooth curve when the dog is standing at rest. Particular emphasis should be placed on the turn of stifle and any tendency to straightness should be considered a serious fault. A good turn of stifle is an absolute essential to drive. Without a good bend of stifle action tends to be stilted and the dog cannot cover a great deal of ground.

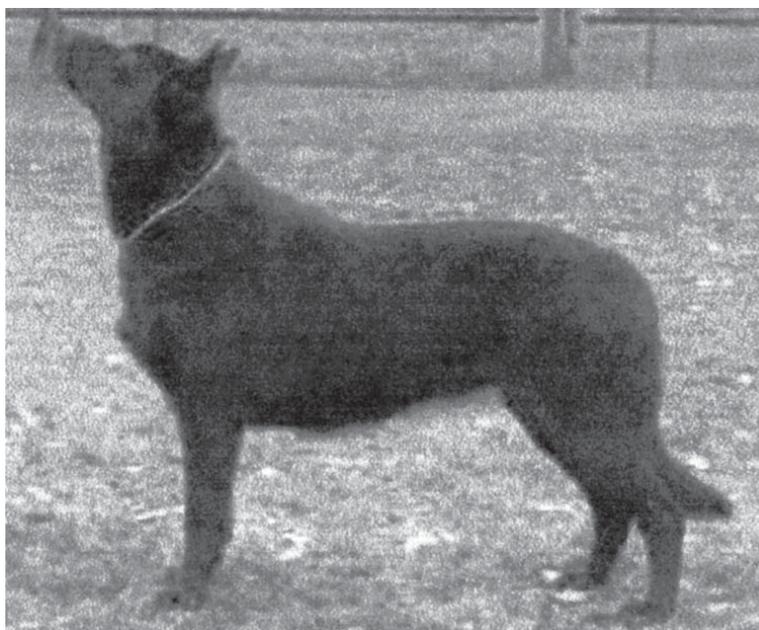
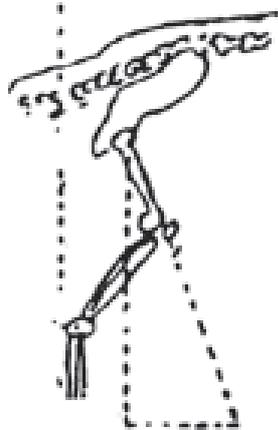


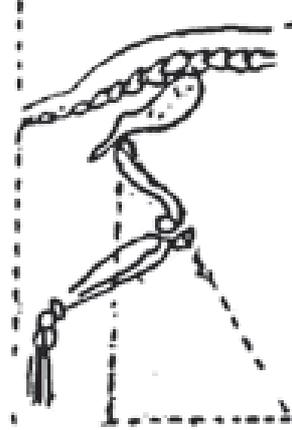
Fig. 13 – Showing correct turn of stifle.

Straight stifle



Short stepping

Correct bend of stifle



Long stepping (drive)

Fig. 14 - Bend of stifle.

● **FEET**

The feet should be round, strong, deep in pads, with close knit, well arched toes and strong short nails.

The dog should stand well up on the toes. The foot should appear one entity - the toes should not be clearly separated. A dog that is expected to work all day over rough country must have a thickly padded foot, otherwise his feet would be damaged by stones etc., and he would very soon be lame. To achieve this round, close knit foot, the dog must be structurally correct in feet and must get a fair amount of exercise on hard ground. Flexibility is needed to allow the dog to adapt to differing ground surfaces. Good feet are a very important characteristic of a working breed.



Fig. 15 - Correct size and placement of ears.

● TAIL

The tail during rest should hang in a very slight curve. During movement or excitement it may be raised, but under no circumstances should the tail be carried past a vertical line drawn through the root. It should be furnished with a good brush. Set on position to blend with sloping croup, and it should reach approximately to the hock.

Tails with curls and pronounced hooks are faulty. The length of the tail should reach to the hock. The tail should be carried level and not carried past the vertical line - this refers to set on and carriage of tail. Sometimes puppies will raise their tails with excitement or a stud dog, scenting bitches, will do this although they have or he has the correct set-on. This should not be penalised heavily provided that only carriage and not set-on of tail is involved. The tail should have sufficient hair to form a good brush.



Fig.16 – Correct set- on, curve and length of tail, with good brush

● GAIT / MOVEMENT

To produce the almost limitless stamina demanded of a working sheepdog in wide open spaces the Kelpie must be perfectly sound, both in construction and movement. Any tendency to cow hocks, bow hocks, stiltiness, loose shoulders or restricted movement weaving or plaiting is a serious fault. Movement should be free and tireless and the dog must have the ability to turn suddenly at speed When trotting the feet tend to come closer together at ground level as speed increases but when the dog comes to rest it stands four square.

Drive is a very important breed characteristic, as without it the Kelpie would be useless as a working dog. The dictionary's definition of "drive" includes the following - "push", "impel vigorously", "impel by thrust".

A high stepping dog or a very fast stepping dog does not have drive. The dogs that move with little, fast steps, not covering much ground at each step, but expending a lot of energy for little result, is flashy and eye catching, but lacks drive (i.e. is not a good mover); neither is the dog that is unwilling to move because he lacks true breed character. The Kelpie should have good reach - he should propel himself forward with long powerful, effortless strides, the source of power and strength being his great, well-muscled hindquarters. The dog should flex his hocks and use his pasterns so that the pads can be seen clearly from behind when he is moving away. It should be a free “fluid” action, never stilted or rolling, but giving the impression that the dog is moving with purpose, ease and strength.

If a dog is to move as a Kelpie should, it must be structurally correct, with the required angulation of shoulder and length of upper arm, good legs and feet, a good turn of stifle, powerful hindquarters and the correct length from withers to pelvis. Added to these ingredients for good action, there must be the will to move. A dog so constructed and motivated should move with the required drive. If these characteristics are missing you will see sloppy, stilted, rolling or hackney action.

In order to assess drive you must see the dog moving sideways on a loose lead. No dog can move correctly if it is strung up on a tight lead with front feet scarcely touching the ground. In the show ring the Kelpie should be gaited at the pace, which best suits the movement of the individual dog. In order to demonstrate his ground-covering abilities he will need to move at a moderate speed, neither too fast (it is not a race around the ring), nor too slowly (he cannot cover ground well at a crawl). He should move purposefully, as if he is really going somewhere. While minor deviations in front and back action may be forgiven in an otherwise good dog, lack of the correct drive can only be viewed as a major fault in a working breed. The Kelpie needs drive to keep going hour after hour when he is working. Without drive the Kelpie cannot work effectively.

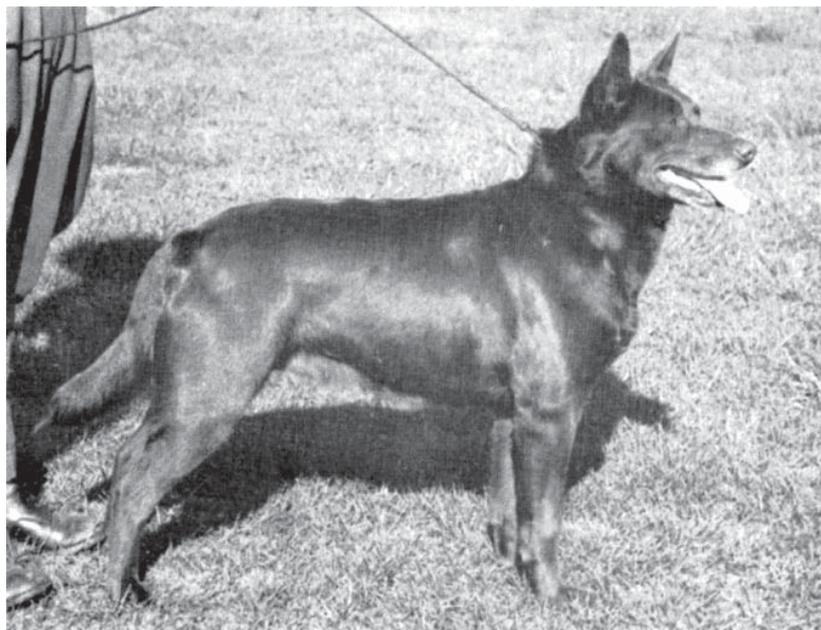


Fig. 17 – Best in Show All Breeds winner from mid. 20th Century.

It is essential that the Kelpie be perfectly sound, both in construction and movement. The gait is smooth, free and tireless, with the ability to turn suddenly at speed, and as well be capable of the crouching, stealthy movement demanded by its work. Front feet should be cleanly thrust forward without toeing in. Any tendency to cow hocks, bow hocks, stiltiness, elbows out, loose shoulders or restricted movement, weaving or plaiting, are serious faults. Standing at rest, however, the legs seen from the front and rear should be “four square”.

● COAT

The coat is a double coat with a short dense undercoat. The outer coat is close, each hair straight, hard, and lying flat, so that it is rain-resisting. Under the body, to behind the legs, the coat is longer and forms near the thigh a mild form of breeching. On the head (including the inside of the ears), to the front of the legs and feet, the hair is short. Along the neck it is longer and thicker forming a ruff. The tail should be furnished with a good brush. A coat either too long or too short is a fault. As an average, the hairs on the body should be from 2 to 3 cms (approx. 0.75 -1.25 ins) in length.

The coat should be moderately short, flat, smooth and weather resisting, with a dense undercoat. On the head, ears, feet and front of the legs the hair should be slightly shorter. The coat is longer at the neck, showing a fair amount of ruff, and at the rear of the thighs forming a mild breeching. The hair on the tail should be sufficient to form a good brush.

● COLOUR

Black, black and tan, red, red and tan, fawn, chocolate, and smoke blue.

● SIZE

***Height: Dogs 46-51 cms (approx. 18-20 ins) at withers
Bitches 43-48 cms (approx. 17-19 ins) at withers***

The Standard does not allow for a great difference in size between dogs and bitches. Both dogs and bitches are expected to do the same work. The difference is that the dog should be a little heavier and taller and should have a look of masculinity about him, and the bitch show greater refinement.



Fig. 18 - Beautifully balanced male.

● FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Remember we are talking about faults, not disqualifications. Every dog has faults, but in varying degrees. For example, some have light bone; but how light? The answer to this question would vary from “slightly light” to “very fine”. The worst faults are features foreign to the breed and structural faults, which would prevent the dog from carrying out efficiently the tasks for which the Kelpie was bred. We have to accept and overlook minor faults in otherwise good dogs. Minor faults are those, which do not affect breed type or working ability - things, which can be classed as “trimmings” or the “icing on the cake”.

For example, a light-eyed dog can see just as well as a dark-eyed dog. However, a sound, typey, slightly light-eyed dog should not be beaten by an unsound dog which is off-type because the latter happens to have a dark eye. In making judgments one has to weigh up the degree of faults and their importance in a working breed.

One important feature mentioned in the Standard, under “ General Appearance” is that indefinable thing called “quality”; that thing which marks a dog out as a champion. This is a feature, which shows good breeding in all purebred animals. A dog may be a strong, masculine type and still have quality, and a bitch too, may show strength and quality. Quality embraces both physical makeup and temperament; a subtle blend of conformation, balance and character. A Kelpie with quality walks and moves with confidence and pride in himself.

● SERIOUS FAULTS

<i>Goose necked</i>	<i>Running with head held too high in an unnatural position. A working Kelpie moves with head held slightly lowered.</i>
<i>Bad mouths</i>	<i>Undershot or overshot mouths. (Loss of teeth through accident - the dog should not be penalised).</i>
<i>Topline</i>	<i>They should not be roached or swampy. Topline is taken from slight rise at the base of the withers.</i>
<i>General Appearance</i>	<i>Any sign of coarseness, cloddiness - being massive or heavy.</i>
<i>Bad temperament</i>	<i>Not being able to get on with fellow companions. Stud dogs sometimes will be aggressive if there are bitches on heat.</i> <i>Biting is a serious fault and foreign to the breed.</i>
<i>Straight stifles</i>	<i>Straight in the hind leg - not having a curve to the hind leg and let down of hock.</i>
<i>Short croup</i>	<i>From the top of the rump to set on of tail there is not enough distance to have a good set on of tail.</i>
<i>Cow hocks</i>	<i>To turn in at the hocks with lower section of the leg turning outwards.</i>

Bow hocks	<i>This is the reverse situation - the hocks turn outwards and the feet in towards each other.</i>
Weaving	<i>Unsound gaiting which starts with twisting elbows and ends with criss-crossing and toeing out.</i>
Plaiting	<i>The crossing of front or back legs when gaiting.</i>
Splayed feet	<i>Toes spread out too far.</i>
Flat feet	<i>Where a dog does not stand up but down on his toes.</i>
Semipricked/ floppy ears	<i>Ears are soft at the tips. Leather of ears not firm.</i>
Cobby	<i>Short in body.</i>
Shallow bodied	<i>Too narrow and not enough depth of body.</i>
Short, hook, twist tails	<i>Self-explanatory.</i>
Lack of brush	
Coat too long	<i>Should be as in Standard.</i>
Cowardly behaviour	<i>Backing away from humans. Kelpies are friendly and outgoing.</i>
Incorrect movement	<i>Fast, choppy, unbalanced movement.</i>

Breeders should be aiming to breed a balanced Kelpie. In order to achieve this aim we need to breed for longer upper arm to give a better length of stride, and better turn of stifle and let down of hock to give more drive from behind.

● **NOTE**

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



Fig. 19 – Typical of the breed

Judging the Australian Kelpie

At all times when judging the Kelpie, there are two vital points to keep in mind; no judge can afford to overlook them

- (a) This is a working sheep dog, bred to drive and herd large flocks of sheep under hard Australian conditions, and
- (b) The Kelpie must at all times be distinguished from the Cattle Dog with the latter's greater substance, much stronger head, more pronounced spring of rib and heavier bone.

Assuming that a judge, as any judge should, understands conformation and balance and intends to perfect their knowledge of Working Dogs (Group Five), they should make a detailed study of the heads of the Kelpie, the Cattle Dog, the German Shepherd and the Corgi. The heads of these four working breeds have many common features but it is the points of dissimilarity which indicate to the expert whether the judge is really familiar with the breed standards. For example, what is meant by the expression "ears of moderate length" and how does one interpret this in relation to the variations in size and strength of head?



Fig. 20 – Dog in action

The head is broad between the ears but the muzzle is refined, giving a keen intelligent expression. This expression should reflect the intelligence of the dog and his keen, almost restless desire to work.

The withers are close set and the chest in its section could be likened to a pointed egg standing on its point. Dogs so constructed have the correct tireless movement whereas those with round or barrel chests are wide in front, heavy and generally unsuited for their job.

Examine the coat carefully to see that there is a dense undercoat and a weather-resistant outer coat. Be careful that you appreciate there are seven permissible colours and in each colour there are various shades. Some judges are prone to favour glossy dark red colours without looking closely at the texture or undercoat.

Good feet are vital and there are great differences to be found here. We are not looking for terrier feet, and in a dog required to move and turn quickly, some spring of pastern is essential. Generally the dog with correct chest and forelegs will have the desired feet, whilst the heavy, barrel-shaped dog will have large, flat feet.



Fig. 21 - Typical female.

Where you have a class of dogs to judge, and, after examining them carefully, are having trouble in separating two or more, move them again around the ring at a sharp trot. Now ask yourself, “Which dog can best earn its keep as a working sheepdog?” This, after all, is the supreme test, the real reason why the dog was developed in Australia.

Finally, at all stages remember that the standard calls for a dog “of great quality”. Unfortunately, some working dogs are presented in poor condition and lack the quality to compete with other breeds. The correct head, eye, conformation and movement should produce a well balanced Kelpie with the obvious quality you are seeking.



Fig. 22 - Typical of the breed

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dogs of Australia produced by Kennel Control Council Melbourne Victoria

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