

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



## Extended Breed Standard of **THE WELSH CORGI** **(PEMBROKE)**

Prepared by  
The National Welsh Corgi Council  
after consultation with its affiliated clubs  
and in collaboration with  
The Australian National Kennel Council

Standard amended May 2000. Kennel Club London  
FCI Standard No: 39

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## **EXTENDED BREED STANDARD OF THE WELSH CORGI (PEMBROKE)**

This document is based on the Australian National Kennel Council Breed Standard and has been prepared by the National Welsh Corgi Council after careful consideration with the following affiliated clubs:

The Welsh Corgi Club of Queensland  
The Welsh Corgi Club of NSW  
The Newcastle and Northern Welsh Corgi Club  
The Illawarra Welsh Corgi Club  
The Welsh Corgi Club of Victoria  
The Welsh Corgi Club of Tasmania  
The Welsh Corgi Club of South Australia  
The Welsh Corgi Club of Western Australia

Please note that there are two breeds of Welsh Corgi – the Cardigan and the Pembroke. They are not varieties of the one breed. They are independent breeds, each with an independent origin and purpose.

## **THE WELSH CORGI (PEMBROKE)**

Kennel Club, London 2000  
FCI Standard No: 39

### **AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BREED**

The Pembroke Corgi is the physically smaller member of the Working Group, but despite its size, he has a very big heart and big appeal and is still a very popular dog in the United Kingdom, United States of America, New Zealand and, of course, here in Australia. His popularity is attributed by many to the British Royalty, who have been associated with the breed since 1934, but there a large band of loyal supporters of the breed in the way of breeders and fanciers throughout the world who care very much for the breed's welfare and future.



Correct breed type must be a combination of;

- a correctly proportioned and balanced head
- foxy in shape and appearance, together with a body capable of endurance
- not so low and heavily bones as to appear coarse or overdone, nor so lightly boned as to appear racy.

The words '*low set, strong, sturdily built, alert and active giving an impression of substance and stamina in a small space*' should be engraved on every breeder's brain. The Pembroke Corgi should always be kept in good hard working condition.

## • CHARACTERISTICS

***Bold in outlook, workmanlike.***

The Pembroke Corgi was bred as a cattle dog and his bold outlook and workmanlike character and hallmarks of the breed and they must always be one of the foremost attributes of the breed.

## • TEMPERAMENT

***Outgoing and friendly, never nervous or aggressive.***

This aspect of the Pembroke Corgi is very well defined in the standard, and it should be noted that the words '*never nervous or aggressive*' are very strongly put and suggest that such faults be treated as very serious indeed.

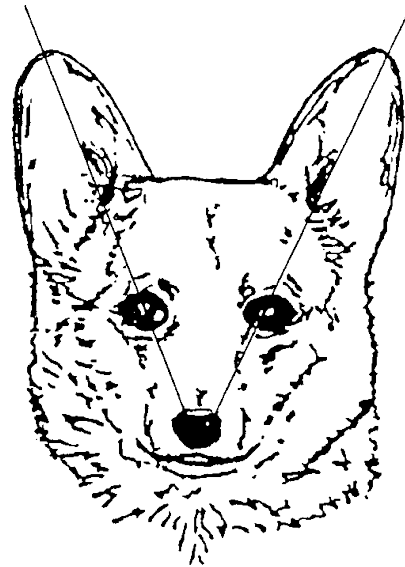
## • HEAD AND SKULL

***Head foxy in shape and appearance, with alert, intelligent expression, skull fairly wide and flat between ears, moderate amount of stop. Length of foreface to be in proportion to skull 3 to 5. Muzzle slightly tapering. Nose black.***

Head to be alert and intelligent, foxy in shape and appearance, but not sly in expression; skull to be fairly wide and flat between the ears.

Moderate amount of stop – the stop being the depression between the eyebrows where the foreface joins the skull. A moderate amount of stop means that there should be a definite, but not exaggerated, drop in the line between the skull and the foreface. A very slight rounding of the cheek, and not filled in below the eyes, as the foreface should be nicely chiselled to give a somewhat tapered muzzle. The distance from the occiput to the centre of the stop to be greater than from the stop to the nose tip; i.e., the muzzle is to be shorter than the length of the skull – the proportion being three (3) parts of the total distance for the foreface and five (5) to the skull.

When viewed from the front, a line drawn through the tip of the nose and then through the eye should, if extended, pass through or close to the tip of the ear to form an equilateral triangle when alerted.



Faults in the head are nearly all faults which detract from the fox-like expression, such as domed between the ears, too little stop (giving a rather benevolent but plain appearance), filled out under the eyes (like a Bull Terrier), too long in foreface (the correct 3 to 5 proportions must be maintained, too deep in the stop and short in foreface (like a Chow), or Roman nosed, too square in the muzzle, etc.

- **EYES**

*Well set, round, medium size, brown, blending with colour of coat.*

The Pembroke Corgi's eyes are medium size, a slightly too large eye being preferred to a too small one. They should be bright, kindly and intelligent. Large round, protruding eyes (pop eyes) and small button eyes are faulty. Colour brown. This allows a fair range of colour. In red or sable dogs, the colour should always blend with the coat. In black and tan or tri-coloured dogs, the eye should be dark, but a black eye is faulty. A too light eye is a bad fault and gives a rather staring and very unattractive expression. A yelloweye is most undesirable.

- **EARS**

*Pricked, medium sized, slightly rounded. Line drawn from tip of nose through eye should, if extended, pass through, or close to tip of ear.*

Medium in size, erect, tapering from the base to the slightly rounded point, mobile and react sensitively to sound, when alerted; carried erect and facing forward; in repose, carried back.

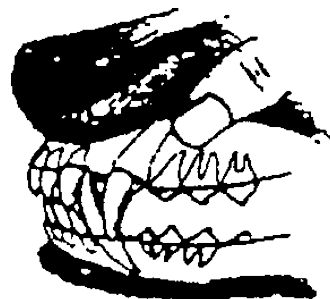
The natural set of the ear should make an angle of 120 to 125 degrees with the flat to the top of the skull.

A large rounded bat-like ear or a small pointed kittenish ear are both faults and are highly undesirable. Other faults are ears set too low, too close, soft or hooded ears. The ears should be mobile; i.e., used a lot. It is most important that the ears be able to be held erect and facing forward when the dog is on the alert, but it is just as important that they are able to be turned and laid backwards. Ears that hang out sideways like aeroplane wings are most undesirable.

- **MOUTH**

*Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e., upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.*

The Pembroke Corgi must have complete dentition, with strong white, evenly spaced teeth. Only a scissor bite is acceptable, the standard is very definite; undershot (lower jaw longer than the upper one) or overshot (upper jaw longer than the lower one) mouths are really bad faults and should not be tolerated.



- **NECK**

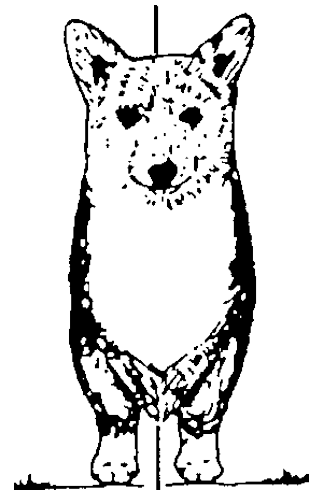
*Fairly long.*

Fairly long or of sufficient length to provide overall balance of the dog. Slightly arched, strong, clean blending well into the shoulders. A short neck giving a stuffy appearance and a long ewe neck are faulty and should be penalised.

- **FOREQUARTERS**

*Lower legs short and as straight as possible, forearm moulded round chest. Ample bone, carried right down to feet. Elbows fitting closely to sides, neither loose nor tied. Shoulders well laid, and angulated at 90 degrees to the upper arm.*

Shoulders well laid and lying close to the rib cage. Upper arm to be approximately equal in length to the scapula and well angulated. Elbows fitting close to the sides, neither loose nor tied. Elbows parallel to the body, when view from the front, the inner side of forelegs should curve slightly around the chest wall and the pasterns should be straight. Legs as straight as possible means literally as straight as soundness and the deep broad chest will permit. It does not mean terrier straight. The strong bone of the Pembroke Corgi should go right down to the feet. No appreciable ankle is wanted and the pastern viewed this time from the side should be only very slightly sloping – a sloping pastern in the Corgi is a weakness.



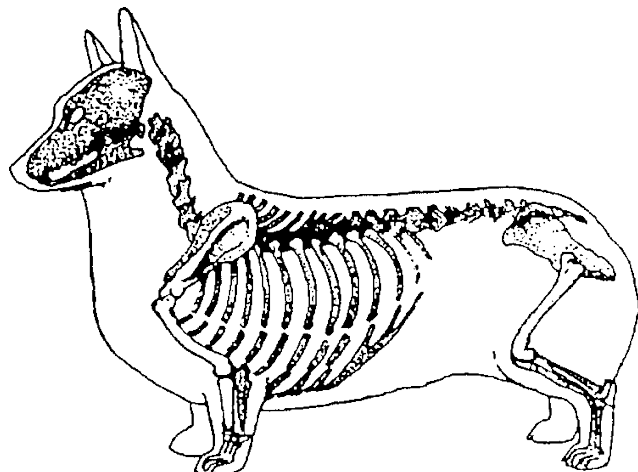
A Pembroke Corgi with good forequarters will have a good prominent pro-sternum.

Faults are too straight or too sloping shoulder, a loaded (heavy) shoulder, elbows that stick out instead of fitting neatly by the sides, too bent forearms, bent pasterns, etc.

- **BODY**

*Medium length, well sprung ribs, not short coupled, slightly tapering, when viewed from above. Level topline. Chest broad and deep, well let down between forelegs.*

Of medium length with well sprung ribs (not barrel ribbed). Firm level topline, 'level topline' speaks for itself. A Pembroke Corgi's back should run level from the base of the neck to the root of the tail. When viewed from above, the body should taper slightly from the shoulders to the end of a strong muscled loin. Chest well let down between the forelegs, but not exaggerated to impair freedom of action. The broad deep chest of a Pembroke Corgi is one of its main characteristics.



Body of medium length – here too, is a characteristic that makes the Pembroke Corgi different from most other breeds. A short terrier-like body is definitely a fault, nor do we want to go to the other extreme and have too long a body, which is a weakness.

The Pembroke Corgi is not built for great speed but is built for endurance and needs plenty of heart room. In profile, the dog should be well ribbed back – the back ribs being deep, allowing for an only moderate tuck-up.

#### • HINDQUARTERS

***Strong and flexible, well angulated stifle. Legs short. Ample bone carried right down to feet. Hocks straight when viewed from behind.***

Strong and flexible. This cannot be achieved without a well-developed second thigh (that part of the leg immediately above the hock), slightly tapering. This means that, in viewing the Pembroke Corgi from behind, the hindquarters should be very slightly narrower than the shoulders and, in moving, a sound dog should place its hind feet just (but only just) inside its front feet.

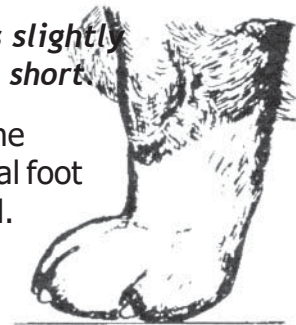
Tapering does not mean sloping quarters. Viewed from behind, the hocks should be straight and not too close together. Any tendency toward cow hocks (hocks turn inwards) or barrel hocks (hocks turned outwards) is a bad fault.

Viewed from the side, providing the dog is standing square, that part of the leg immediately below the hock joint (rear pastern) should be vertical. If it slopes the dog's feet will be carried too far under it (sickle hocked) and it will not be able to move with sufficient thrust.

#### • FEET

***Oval, toes strong, well arched, and tight, two centre toes slightly advance of two outer, pads strong and well arched. Nails short.***

A Pembroke Corgi must be able to twist and turn or drop to the ground quickly and therefore needs help from its feet – an oval foot is required. A round foot or small cat foot should be penalised.



#### • TAIL

***Previously customarily docked short.***

***Undocked: set in line with the topline. Natural carriage which may be above or below topline when moving or alert.***

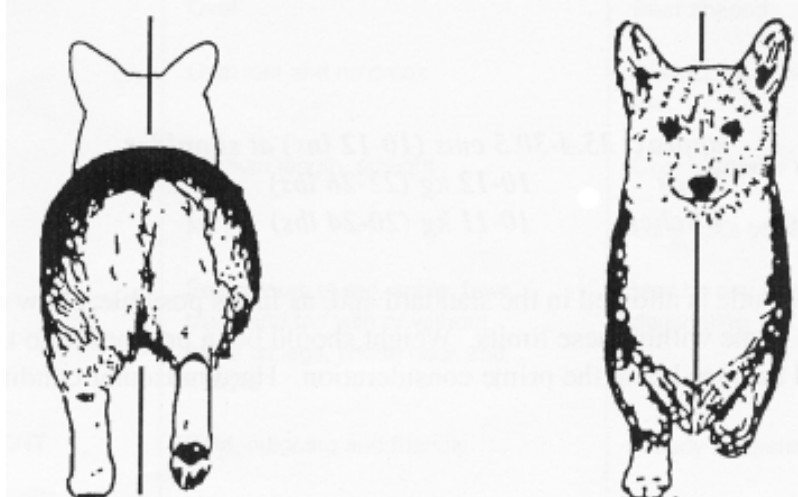
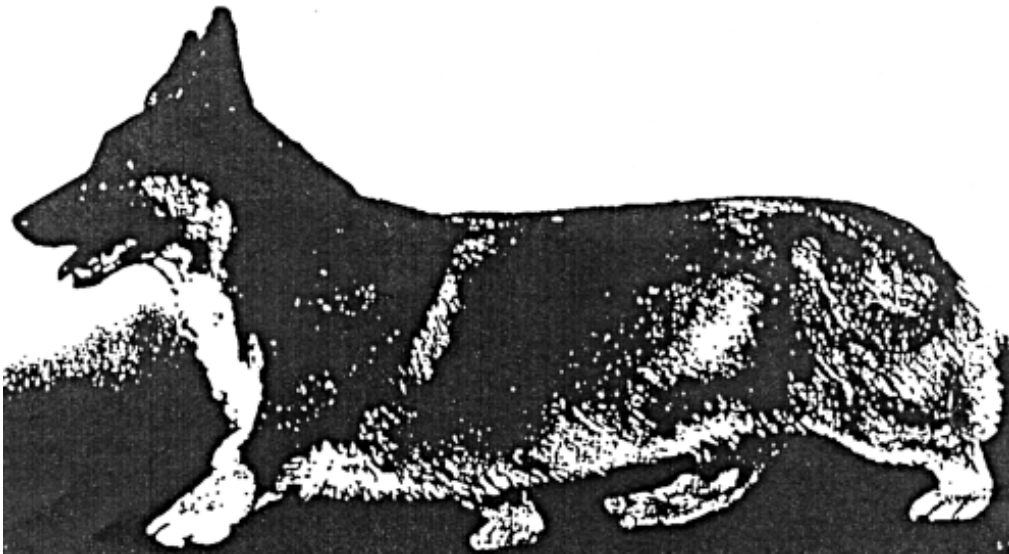
***Natural bobtails may occur, when the tail can be of any length, carried above or below topline when moving or alert.***

A gay tail is not a fault, it is the set of the tail that matters. A low set tail generally goes with a goose rump or sloping quarters and a too high tail gives a Corgi a rather short and unfinished appearance.

- **GAIT/MOVEMENT**

*Free and active, neither loose nor tied. Forelegs move well forward, with too much lift, in unison with thrusting action of hindlegs.*

Bad action is nearly always the result of incorrect conformation and lack of muscle tone. A Pembroke Corgi of correct type, well constructed and correctly conditioned is bound to move well. He should move with a fairly long, free stride, without too much lift, a high stepping action and short stride are not typical of the breed. Faults are any tendency towards dishing or paddling (swinging the legs forward either inwards or outwards in a semi-circular movement, instead of bringing them straight forward) moving too close or too wide either in front or behind, moving with elbows stuck out at an angle to the body, or with the hocks turned in or out. Movement should be free, with no tendency to being tied or stiff in the shoulder and hind feet should come well back and impart plenty of thrust. Movement should be assessed when going away and coming towards you and, most importantly, when being watched from the side, the topline should remain firm and level when on the move at a smart pace. Fast or slow movement is not necessary and only makes it more difficult to assess. As stated earlier, the Pembroke Corgi is not built for great speed.



- **COAT**

*Medium length, straight with dense undercoat, never soft, wavy or wiry.*

A fair amount of latitude is permissible, but the coat must be dense and weather resisting with a good undercoat and be neither silky or wiry. A coat in good condition should carry a real gloss. A coat tending to be on the heavy side is preferable to a too short coat, but a long soft Collie type coat or a fluffy coat is a really bad fault.

The only trimming required is to cut the hair between the toes. Any other trimming is unnecessary and undesirable.

- **COLOUR**

*Self colours in red, sable, fawn, black and tan, with or without white markings on legs, brisket and neck. Some white on head and foreface permissible.*

There seems to be some confusion as to what Pembroke colours really are and to what extent mismarking should be penalised. Red and fawn cover all colours from sandy through red to mahogany. Sable is red with black shadings. Sable should not be confused with brindle (a typical Cardigan colour) which has an almost striped effect.

A black and tan is a black Corgi with tan markings on the head, legs and feet. The tan can be little or it can be quite a lot, but the black should be unmistakably black. The tri-colour is black and tan, with white to the same extent as red. Fawn should be definitely fawn and not cream which is unacceptable.

White markings are correct as set out in the standard, quite how much white is difficult of exact definition; but roughly, the legs, feet and chest can be wholly or partly white and white can run around the neck to form a collar. White should not come too high on the thighs.

Some white on the head or foreface is permissible, but except on the nose, it is altogether undesirable and large white areas on the head should be discouraged as, sooner or later, if widely bred from, mismarking will surely increase.

Good dogs come in any colour, providing that the colour is correct to the standard.

- **SIZE**

<b>Height</b>	<b>Approx. 25.4 to 30.5 cms (10 to 12 ins) at shoulder</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>Dogs 10 to 12 kg (22 to 26 lbs)</b>
	<b>Bitches 10 to 11 kg (20 to 24 lbs)</b>

A good deal of latitude is allowed in the standard and, as far as possible, show dogs in good condition would come within these limits. Weight should be in proportion to the size of the dog, with overall balance being the prime consideration. Hard muscular condition is highly desirable.

• **FAULTS**

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

• **NOTE**

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

**WHEN JUDGING OR ASSESSING THE PEMBROKE CORGI, IT IS ALWAYS WORTH ASKING YOURSELF IF THE DOG COULD PERFORM THE TASKS FOR WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED - TO WORK CATTLE ON WELSH FARMS.**

## THE MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE WELSH CORGI PEMBROKE AND CARDIGAN

<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>CARDIGAN</b>	<b>PEMBROKE</b>
<b>SIZE/WEIGHT</b>	As near as possible to 30.5 cm (12 inches). Weight in proportion to size.	25.4 to 30.5 cms (10 to 12 inches). Dogs 10 to 12 kgs (22 to 26 lbs). Bitches 10 to 11 kgs (20 to 24 lbs).
<b>HEADS</b>	Head is bigger and stronger and has dome above the eyes.	Skull is flat between the ears
<b>EARS</b>	Ears are larger, more prominent and rounder.	Medium size, tapering and slightly rounded at the tip.
<b>NOSE</b>	Nose larger and more prominent. Black	Black.
<b>EYES</b>	Dark in colour, blue acceptable in blue merle, black rims.	Brown.
<b>BODY</b>	Fairly long.	Medium length.
<b>RIB CAGE</b>	More rounded.	Oval.
<b>FRONT</b>	Distinct crook with larger round feet.	Oval feet and no crook.
<b>COAT</b>	Coat is shorter and harsher.	Medium length, straight.
<b>TAIL</b>	Long fox's brush tail	Previously customarily docked short Undocked: Set in line with topline. Natural carriage may be above or below topline when moving or alert. Natural bobtails may occur when the tail can be of any length, carried above or below topline when moving or alert.
<b>COLOUR</b>	Acceptable colours blue merle, brindle, red sable, tri colour with brindle points and tri colour with red points. All the above with or without the typical white markings on head, neck, chest, underpants, legs and feet, white tail tip. White shouldn't predominate on body or head where it should never surround the eyes. Nose and eye rims must be black.	Self-colours of red, sable, fawn, black and tan with or without white on legs, brisket, neck. Some white on head and foreface permissible.
<b>TEMPERAMENT</b>	Steady temperament	Bold, outgoing, and friendly.
<b>GAIT</b>	Tend to move steadier	More active and free moving