

JUDGING THE WEIMARANER

A SHORT PRECIS - FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The Weimaraner should immediately stand out by its free flowing, effortless gait. Correct conformation of the dog is essential if one is to maintain this movement. It should cover the ground with a great deal of reach and drive, a level topline and a look of nobility.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Weimaraner is a medium to large breed of dog, which should never appear cloddy or shelly; muscular, strong bone with a short sleek coat. Body length to height is 11 – 10. This is not a short backed dog.

HEAD: The head is aristocratic, evenly balanced between forehead and muzzle. The head should have a look of length with a kindly expression. The width of the skull should not be much greater than the width of the muzzle. The length of the muzzle should be at least as long as the length of the skull. When viewed from the front or the side, the planes of the head should be almost parallel. The flews are deep but not pendulous. The large nose is essential to enable the dog to maintain its tremendous scenting ability.

EYES: Set to look straight ahead, in the shape of a fat almond. When excited the eyes look black, but the normal colour is amber in varying shades.

EARS: Set on high, level with the topline of the skull. Reaching to within 1-2 inches from the end of the nose.

MOUTH: Full dentition is required with a correct scissor bite.

FOREQUARTERS: The neck should flow into the shoulders in a graceful curve, not a sharp angle. The neck is moderately long, and a longer neck is not better. The angulation of the scapula and the humerus should be approximately 90 degrees to each other. They should be of equal length and sit flat against the ribcage, allowing for ease of movement. There is flexibility through the elbow region but that doesn't excuse broad fronts and elbows flexing out.

BODY: The Weimaraner has a long ribcage and a short loin. This is not a breed that is as short as possible in the back. The body is deep, almost to the elbow. The dog should not look short on leg. The length of leg is slightly greater than the depth of body. Topline is level, a slight slope to the croup is OK but SLIGHT is the word. The ribcage is keel shaped, well filled in through the front but not pigeon chested.

TAIL: Is set at approximately 30 degrees to the croup but I as a breeder would prefer a higher set tail rather than a low set tail. The tail should be carried confidently but does not have to be held erect. The lighter tail is preferred to a heavy one.

HINDQUARTERS: I would ask that you look for balanced angulation, balanced with the forequarters and well developed. A dog that has straight shoulders and hindquarters like a Boxer will not work all day and will not move correctly. The second thigh should be well developed with good definition between the second thigh and the hock. The hocks are well let down.

FEET: The feet are webbed and therefore not like a cat foot. The two centre toes are usually longer than the other toes which is a characteristic of the breed. The pads should be thick offering protection to the foot when the dog is working in rough terrain.

COAT: Is short, smooth and sleek. That doesn't mean soft. The hair is quite bristly, run your fingers backwards up the dog's

back and the hair will tend to stick under your nails. The under body of the Weimaraner should also be well covered with hair. Long Hair coats see below.

COLOUR: Silver, mouse or roe grey are the accepted shades of the Weimaraner. Do not accept Dobermann markings in the showing, no matter how good the specimen. There is a metallic sheen to the coat, often more easily seen across the top of the skull. A small amount of white is acceptable on the chest and toes. When the coat is changing you often get the appearance of an eel stripe down the back. Dark pigmentation is a MUST in this breed, the darker the better.

SIZE: The Weimaraner is one of the largest dogs in the Gundog Group therefore one would expect to see bone and substance. There is a large variation between the smallest bitch and the largest dog. I don't particularly like to see small bitches as I have found one of the first things you lose when breeding is size; however I do not accept that either bitches or dogs can be oversize without consequences. There is no need for oversize or undersize in the Weimaraner as the Breed Standard allows for one of the largest variations in size of any of the Breed Standards.

D 59 – 70, ideal 62-67, B 57-65, ideal 59-63.

LONGHAIR: There should be no difference in this variety to the smooth coated Weimaraner other than coat length. The coat can vary from 1 – 2" in length over the body and ears with slightly longer feathering on the tail and legs. Do not expect to see the same amount of hair as a Golden Retriever or Setter.

THIS IS A WORKING BREED AND THEREFORE ANYTHING THAT DETRACTS FROM THE DOG'S WORKING ABILITY SHOULD BE HEAVILY PENALISED. e.g, a thin, flat foot would be penalised more than another dog with a large patch of white or one that is changing coat.

When judging this breed, like any other, ask yourself could this do what it was initially bred for? In the case of the Weimaraner it was required to work all day alongside the hunter in all types of terrain and weather. It is one of the HPR (Hunt, Point, and Retrieve) breeds which means it is versatile in all aspects of gundog work.

SUE SHRIGLEY Ghostwind Weimaraners.
International All Breeds Judge (FCI Recognised)

