

# STANDARDS FOR THE JAPANESE SMALL SIZE BREED

## (SHIBA)

### THE NIHONKEN HOZONKAI

1. **Nature and Expression**  
The dog is brave and composed, whilst being alert and loyal. There is sophistication in its good-natured simplicity. It is sensitive without being nervous. There is agility in the dog's overall movement and it should walk with springy steps.
2. **General Appearance**  
Sex features should be distinct. The body should be well balanced, with a solid and well connected bone structure and well developed muscles. Males should have a height to length ratio of 100.110. The female has a somewhat longer body. The height for males is 39.5 cm and for females 36.5, with the acceptable range being 1.5 cm either upwards or downwards.
3. **Ears**  
Small and triangular, angled slightly forward but standing firm and erect.
4. **Eyes**  
Somewhat triangular and slanted upwards. The color of the iris should be dark liver brown.
5. **Muzzle**  
The bridge of the nose should be straight. The mouth should be firm and steady, the nostrils should be tight. The lips should be drawn firmly when closed. Teeth should be strong and the bite correct.
6. **Head and Neck**  
The forehead should be broad. The neck should be well developed but thick and powerful.
7. **Forelegs**  
The shoulder blades should be well developed with proper angulation. The legs should extend straight down with the paws giving the appearance of a tight grip.
8. **Hindlegs**  
The hindlegs should have spring and yet should maintain a solid

stance. The hock joints should be resilient and the paws should give the appearance of a tight grip.

9. **Chest**  
The chest should be deep, the ribs well sprung, and the breast well developed.
10. **Back and Loin**  
The back should be straight and the loins stout and powerful.
11. **Tail**  
The tail should be thick, powerful, and either curled or sickle the full length of which should reach almost to the hock joint.
12. **Coat**  
The coat should be straight and harsh. The undercoat should be dense and soft. The hair on the tail should be somewhat longer than the body hair and should stand off. Coat color should be brindle (sesame), red, black, tiger brindle, or white. Color and quality should have the typical characteristics of the Japanese breeds.

#### Deductions

1. Any acquired deformations and signs of inappropriate nourishment.
2. Nose color unsuitable for particular coat color.
3. Spots, speckles, or patches of color on coat.
4. Congenital short tail.

#### Disqualifications

1. Lack of typical characteristics of the Japanese breeds.
2. Overshot or undershot.

#### Note

Dewclaws should preferably be removed.

#### Supplement

1. Tail Types
  - a. Sickle tail
  - b. Curled tail  
(Drum curl, right curl, left curl, double curl)
2. Coat Colors
  - a. Sesame (Black hairs mingled into a red coat)
  - b. Red  
Red  
Light Red  
Crimson
3. Black and Tan

### Judging Resolution on Japanese Dog Standard

#### TEETH

On the assumption that the Japanese dog has strong teeth, correct bite and complete set of teeth (42), the following method will be taken to correct missing teeth problems.

Point Deduction for missing teeth

- First Premolar - one (1) point deduction for each tooth
- Second Premolar - three (3) point deduction for each tooth
- Any other tooth - five (5) point deduction for each tooth

Revised from the Spring National Show of 1995, evaluation for missing teeth will be enforced as follows

1. Missing teeth will not be evaluated as superior
2. All sizes of dogs with three (3) points deduction or less will be considered as average. More than 3 points deduction will be considered as below average.
3. Point deductions will be given for missing teeth regardless of the causes, inherited or acquired later.
4. In case of chipped, decayed or weak inferior quality teeth, the dog will be subject to point deduction by judge's discretion.
5. If tooth between the canine and third premolar is missing and is difficult to determine whether the missing tooth is first or second premolar, it will be considered as a missing second premolar.

#### BITE

1. Malocclusion or incisor will not be awarded as superior
2. Overshot and undershot will be subjected to an equal amount of point deduction.