

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
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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.

THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE BREED WAS USED

The farmers in the Pembrokeshire area of Wales developed the Welsh Corgi Pembroke as a cattle dog and companion dog. He is an energetic worker who controls the herd from behind by barking and nipping the heels of the cattle and then going down to ground to avoid the kicking hooves. His short sturdy legs give him the ability to stop, start, twist and turn, and his low centre of gravity gives him great balance. Unlike his cousin, the Cardigan Corgi, he does not have a tail. The Welsh Corgi is not built for great speed and he was not required to work in large open spaces as the Welsh farms were only small.

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BREED

Any records of the origin of the breed have been lost in time (if indeed any ever existed), but it is generally thought that the Welsh Corgi Pembroke was developed by the breeding of local dogs with spitz types bought into Wales by the invading Vikings and the Flemish weavers in about 1100AD. These early dogs were much lighter in bone and higher off the ground than our present day dogs.

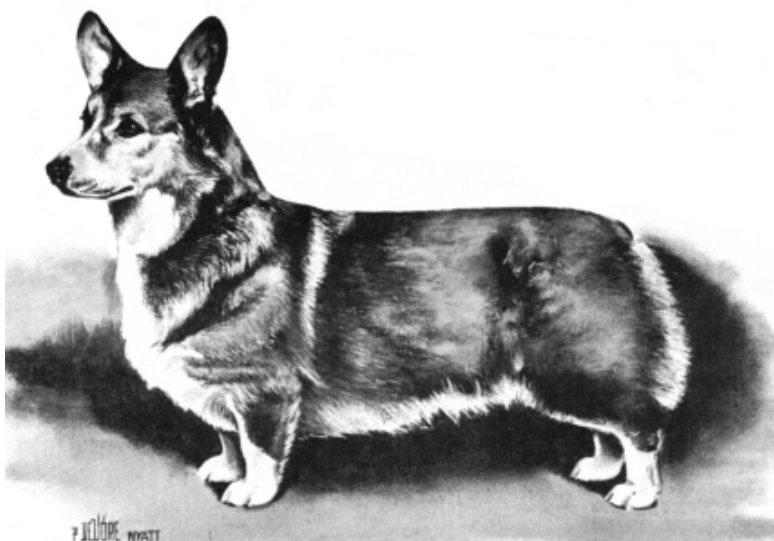
The Welsh Corgi Pembroke, having spent hundreds of years as a farm and companion dog, finally found his way into small agricultural shows in Wales during the 1800's, but it was not until 1925 that classes were provided for them. At that stage, the Cardigans and Pembrokes were shown together. In 1928 they were officially recognised by the Kennel Club in the UK, and the first Challenge Certificates were awarded. The two breeds were separated on the Kennel Club register in 1935.

A number of Pembrokes came to Australia prior to 1930, but the first registered imports were brought into Melbourne by Mr J Nish in 1934. These first arrivals were Aust Ch Rozavel Ranger (Imp UK) and Aust Ch Rozavel Pipkin (Imp UK). In 1935 Pembrokes were exhibited for the first time at the Melbourne Royal Show. Aust Ch Rozavel Ranger (Imp UK) was the dog Challenge Certificate winner, and Aust Ch Titania of Sealy (Imp UK) won the bitch Challenge Certificate.

● GENERAL APPEARANCE

Low set, strong, sturdily built, alert and active, giving impression of substance and stamina in a small space.

This clause in the standard gives a sort of bird's eye view of the Pembroke Corgi as a whole, which should instantly appeal as a herding dog, alert and active, low set, strong and sturdily built.



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 boned 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.

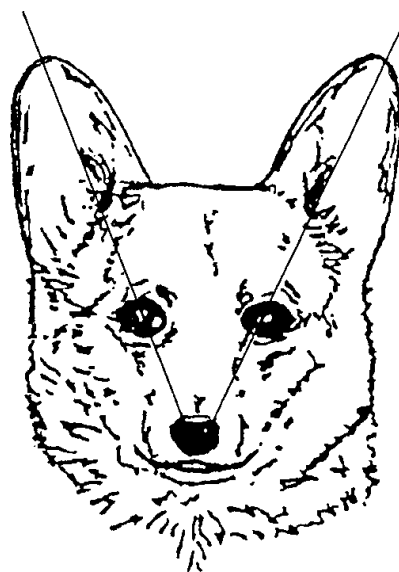
● **HEAD AND SKULL**

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 yellow eye 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.

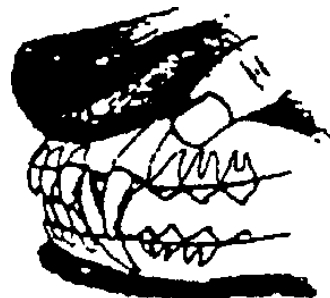
The natural set of the ear should make an angle of 120 to 125 degrees with the flat to the top of the skull.

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**

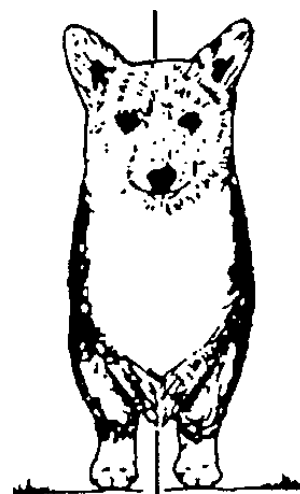
Fairly long.

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.



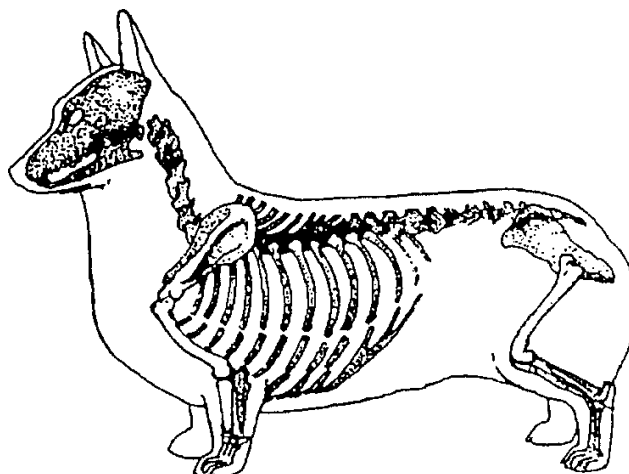
A Pembroke Corgi with good forequarters will have a good prominent pro-sternum.

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

Short, preferably natural.

Docked: Short. Undocked: Set in line with topline.

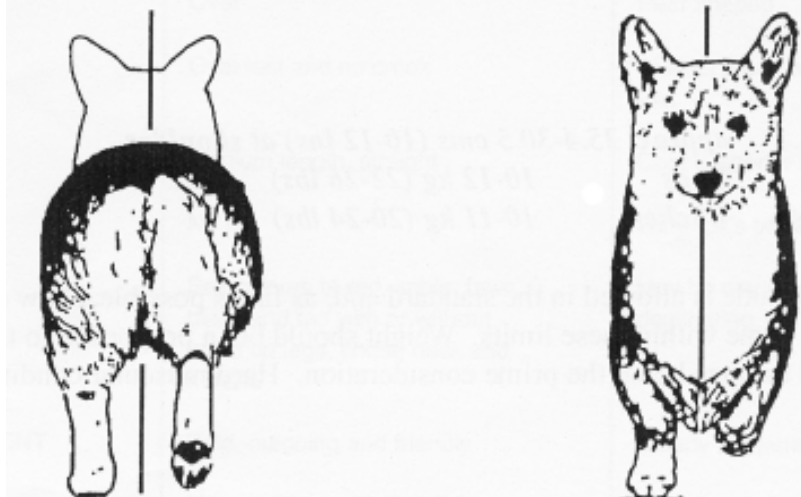
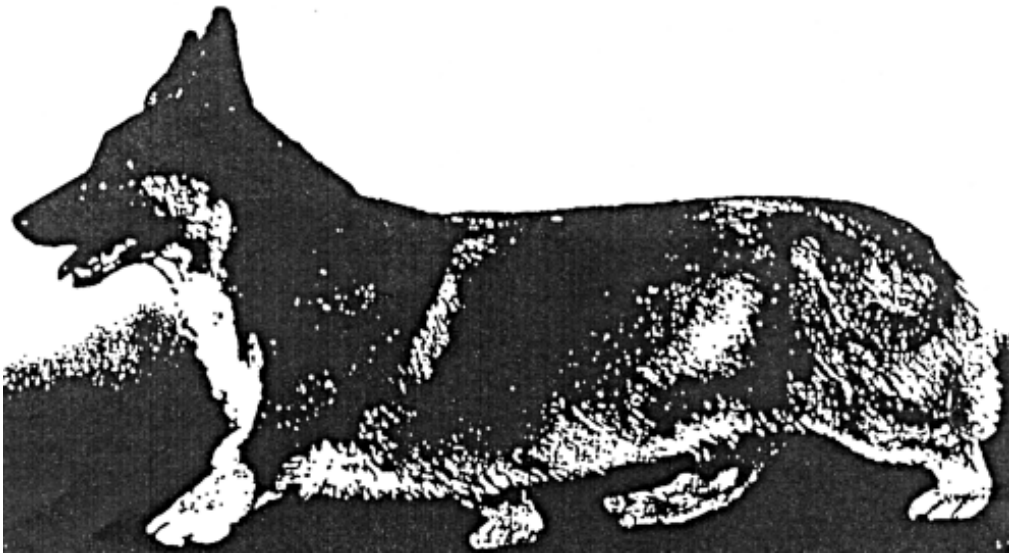
Natural carriage above topline when moving or alert.

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**

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

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.

● **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

CHARACTERISTIC	PEMBROKE	CARDIGAN
SIZE/WEIGHT	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)	As near as possible to 30.5 cms (12 ins) No weight restriction applicable
HEADS	Skull is flat between the ears	Head is bigger and stronger and has dome above the eyes
EARS	Medium size, tapering and slightly rounded at the tip	Ears are larger and more rounded
NOSE	Black	Nose is larger and more prominent
EYES	Brown	Dark
BODY	Medium length	Fairly long
RIB CAGE	Oval	Pear shaped
FRONT	Oval feet and no crook	Distinct crook with larger round feet
COAT	Medium length, straight	Coat is shorter and harsher
TAIL	Short, preferably natural. Docked: Short. Undocked: Set in line with topline. Natural carriage above topline when moving or alert	Long fox's brush tail
COLOUR	Self colours of red, sable, fawn, black and tan with or without white on legs, chest, neck and muzzle	May be any colour without white dominating
TEMPERAMENT	Bold, outgoing and friendly	Steady temperament
GAIT	More active and free moving	Tend to move steadier