

## 1962 Standard and description of The Gordon Setter

**General Impression:** The Gordon Setter is a good sized, sturdily built, black and tan dog, well muscled, with plenty of bone and substance, but active, upstanding and stylish, appearing capable of doing a full day's work in the field. He has a strong, rather short back, with well-sprung ribs and a short tail. The head is fairly heavy and finely chiseled. His bearing is intelligent, noble, and dignified, showing no signs of shyness or viciousness. Clear colors and straight or slightly waved coat are correct. He suggests strength and stamina rather than extreme speed. Symmetry and quality are most essential. A dog well-balanced in all points is preferable to one with outstanding good qualities and defects. A smooth, free movement, with high head carriage, is typical.

**Size:** Shoulder height for males, 24 to 27 inches. For females, 23 to 26 inches.

**Weight:** Males, 55 to 80 pounds; females, 45 to 70 pounds. Animals that appear to be over or under the prescribed weight limits are to be judged on the basis of conformation and condition. Extremely thin or fat dogs should be discouraged on the basis that under or overweight hampers the true working ability of the Gordon Setter. The weight-to-height ratio makes him heavier than other Setters.

**The Head:** The head is deep, rather than broad, with plenty of brain room; a nicely rounded good sized skull, broadest between the ears. The head should have a clearly defined stop. Below and above the eyes should be lean, and the cheek as narrow as the leanness of the head allows. The muzzle is fairly long and not pointed, either as seen from above or from the side. The flews should not be pendulous. The nose should be broad, with open nostrils and black in color. The muzzle is the same length as the skull from occiput to stop and the top of the muzzle is parallel to the line of the skull extended. The lip line from the nose to the flews shows a sharp, well-defined, square contour.

**The Eyes:** Of fair size, neither too deep-set, or too bulging, dark brown, bright and wise. The shape is oval rather than round. The lids should be tight.

**The Ears:** Set low on the head approximately on the line with the eye, fairly large and thin, well folded and carried close to the head.

**The Teeth:** The teeth should be strong and white, and preferably should meet in front in a "scissors" bite, with the upper incisors slightly forward of the lower incisors. A level bite is not to be considered a fault. Pitted teeth from distemper or allied infections should not be penalized.

**The Neck:** Long, lean, arched to the head, and without throatiness.

**The Shoulders:** Should be fine at the points, and laying well back, giving a moderately sloping topline. The tops of the shoulder blades should be close together. When viewed from behind the neck appears to fit into the shoulders in smooth, flat, lines that gradually widen from neck to shoulder.

**The Chest:** Deep and not too broad in front; the ribs well-sprung, leaving plenty of lung room. The chest should reach to the elbows. A pronounced forechest should be in evidence.

**The Body:** The body should be short from shoulder to hips, and the distance from the forechest to the back of the thigh should approximately equal the height from the ground to the withers. The loins should be short and broad and not arched. The croup is nearly flat, with only a slight slope to the tailhead.

**The Forequarters:** The legs should be big-boned, straight and not bowed, with elbows free and not turned in or out. The angle formed by the shoulder blade and upper arm bone should be approximately 90 degrees when the dog is standing so that the foreleg is perpendicular to the ground. The pasterns should be straight.

**The Hindquarters:** The hind legs from hip to hock should be long, flat and muscular; from hock to heel, short and strong. The stifle and hock joints are well bent and not turned either in or out. When the dog is

standing with the hock perpendicular to the ground the thigh bone should hang downward parallel to an imaginary line drawn upward from the hock.

The Feet: The feet should be formed by close knit, well-arched toes with plenty of hair between; with full toe pads and deep heel cushions. Feet should not be turned in or out. Feet should be cat-like in shape.

The Tail: Short and should not reach below the hocks, carried horizontal or nearly so; thick at the root and finishing in a fine point. The feather which starts near the root of the tail should be slightly waved or straight, have triangular appearance, growing shorter uniformly toward the end. The placement of the tail is important for correct carriage. If the croup is nearly flat, the tail must emerge nearly on the same plane as the croup to allow for horizontal carriage. When the angle of the tail bends too sharply at the coccygeal bone, the tail will be carried too gaily or will droop. The tail placement should be judged in its relationship to the structure of the croup.

Temperament: The Gordon Setter should be alert, gay, interested, and aggressive. He should be fearless and willing, intelligent and capable. He should be loyal and affectionate, and strong-minded enough to stand the rigors of training.

Gait: The action of the Gordon Setter is a bold, strong, driving, free swinging gait. The head is carried up and the tail “flags” constantly while the dog is in motion. When viewed from the front the forefeet move up and down in straight lines so that the shoulder, elbow and pastern joints are approximately in line with each other. When viewed from the rear, the hock, stifle and hip joints are approximately in line. Thus the dog moves in a straight pattern forward without throwing the feet in or out. When viewed from the side the forefeet are seen to lift up and reach forward to compensate for the driving hindquarters. The hindquarters reach well forward and stretch far back, enabling the stride to be long and the drive powerful. The overall appearance of the moving dog is one of smooth-flowing, well balanced rhythm, in which the action is pleasing to the eye, effortless, economical and harmonious.

The Coat: Should be soft and shining, straight or slightly waved, but not curly, with long hair on ears, under stomach and on chest, on back of the fore and hind legs, and on the tail.

Color and Markings: Black with tan markings, either of rich chestnut or mahogany color. Black penciling is allowed on the toes. The borderline between black and tan colors should be clearly defined. There should not be any tan hairs mixed in the black. The tan markings should be located as follows: (1) Two clear spots over the eyes and not over three-quarters of an inch in diameter; (2) On the sides of the muzzle, but resembles a stripe around the end of the muzzle from one side to the other; (3) On the throat; (4) Two large clear spots on the chest; (5) On the inside of the hind legs showing down the front of the stifle and broadening out to the outside of the hind legs from the hock to the toes. It must not completely eliminate the black on the back of the hind legs; (6) On the forelegs from the carpus, or a little above, downward to the toes; (7) around the vent; (8) A white spot on the chest is allowed, but the smaller the better. Predominantly tan, red, or buff dogs which do not have the typical pattern of markings of a Gordon setter are ineligible for showing and undesirable for breeding.

Scale of points in judging Gordon setters: While not a part of the official breed standard, may be helpful in placing proper emphasis upon qualities desired in the physical make-up of the breed.

Head and Neck (incl	Coat.....8
Ears & eyes).....10	Color and Markings.....5
Body.....15	Temperament.....10
Shoulders, forelegs, forefeet.....10	Size, general appearance.....15
Hind legs and feet.....10	Gait.....12
Tail.....5	

TOTAL POINTS--100

