

The Tibetan Terrier Club of America would like to call your attention to several essential breed specific areas that are being affected by judging decisions which are contrary to our breed standard. It is *imperative* when judging the Tibetan Terrier that the background of Tibet's extreme climate and difficult terrain be considered in the evolution of this breed. These extremely harsh conditions require the Tibetan Terrier to have abundant, protective coat. Our standard reflects this in describing the Tibetan Terrier as a dog that is **profusely coated**. The proper double coat is an essential breed characteristic and consists of a soft, woolly undercoat and an abundant, fine textured outer coat. While the outer coat hair shaft is a fine texture (as opposed to the Lhasa Apso which has a heavy, straight, hard coat) the Tibetan Terrier's outer coat should not be either silky or woolly. The depth of the undercoat layer may vary by breeding lines, climate, or estrus but should always be apparent in an adult Tibetan Terrier. Due to the varied nature of the changing coat pattern, young adults should **not** be penalized for having a "half and half" texture. Adult coat generally comes in first over the shoulders but can take a year or even longer for the entire coat to change to adult texture. (Puppy coats are single, shorter and may be softer than adult coats). Please pay special attention to the fact that the outer coat and undercoat are of different textures – this is essential for insulation and protection in the Tibetan climate.

While this is a "coated breed" it is **not** a "coat breed". The coat may be either wavy or straight. There should be no preference given to either a wavy coat or a *naturally* straight coat. Ironing of the coat is contrary to the natural presentation required by the standard and should not be rewarded or encouraged. In addition, there are no preferred colors or combination of colors in the Tibetan Terrier. Different coat colors reflect light differently and the breed has variations of both shiny colors and matte colors; please do not confuse light reflection with conditioning. The lack of a fall of hair over the eyes and foreface is also a fault. This fall was again a protective measure to guard the eyes from the harsh sunlight as well as strong winds and dirt.

According to our standard, "**The Tibetan Terrier is shown as naturally as possible.**" It goes on to state "**Sculpturing, scissoring, stripping or shaving are totally contrary to breed type and are serious faults**". Requiring the dog to be shown as naturally as possible does not mean unkempt – the exhibit should be clean, brushed and free of mats. The only trimming allowable under the standard is to the hair between the toes and pads, which may be trimmed level with the underside of the pads for health reasons. Our Illustrated Guide to the Tibetan Terrier clearly states our position that both the exhibitors who show scissored and sculpted dogs and the judges who reward them show an intentional and blatant disregard for the standard. While these seem like harsh words, they demonstrate how determined we are as the Parent Club to maintaining the natural and charming look of our breed.

Many years ago an excellent article regarding overgrooming was sent to all judges of Tibetan Terriers entitled **Cake or Frosting?**. I would encourage you to review this article before your next TT assignment. If you have further questions or would like to request a copy of this article or the **Illustrated Guide to the Tibetan Terrier**, please

contact our Judges Education Chair at: Margy Pankiewicz, Judges Education, TTCA;  
1645 Seaks Run Rd., Glen Rock, PA 17327;  
[Malishar@msn.com](mailto:Malishar@msn.com); (717) 235-6991.