Coton De Tulear

Examine on Table

General Appearance - A hardy, sturdy, small, gay, energetic dog, with natural long, white, dry, profuse, cotton-like coat. Longer than tall, tail carried happily over back on movement, down with upward hook at tip at rest.

Size – Dogs- 10 to 11"; Bitches – 9 to 10"; Height at withers 2/3 length from point of shoulder to point of buttocks.

Head – Short, triangular from above, in proportion to length of body; **Eyes -** Rather round, dark brown/black, set wide apart, eye rims completely black pigmented; **Ears –** Pendulous, triangular, set high on skull, above line of eyes, completely covered with white or some traces of grey or tan. **Skull –** Slightly rounded, rather wide in relation to length; **Stop –** Slight; **Muzzle –** Straight, ratio to skull 5 to 9, rather large; **Nose –** Completely pigmented in black, well-opened nostrils; **Bite –** Scissors or level without loss of contact.

Neck – Slightly arched of moderate length, in balance with height and length of dog; **Topline –** Withers slightly pronounced, top line runs smoothly from withers to a well-muscled short loin; Over loin a graceful natural arch carried through over a short muscled croup resulting in a low tail set; **Elbows –** Placed below top of shoulder blade; **Feet –** Front and rear small, round, tightly arched.

Coat – Main characteristic of breed; soft, supple, texture of cotton, dense, profuse; **Color –** White, may be slightly shaded on ears and body.

Gait – At a trot, moderate free and easy movement retaining top line.

Presentation – Shown naturally, clean, free of mats, head furnishings may fall over eyes or be brushed backward over skull.

Disqualifications -

Height – Any bitch less than 8.5 inches or taller than 11 inches; Any dog less than 9.5 inches or taller than 12 inches, does not apply to puppies under 12 months of age; **Eyes –** Of any color than brown or black; Total lack of pigment on the eye rims, nose or lips; **Color –** Black on the body is a DQ at any age; **No tail.**