



FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)
SECRETARIAT GENERAL: 13, Place Albert 1^{er} B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique)

28.03.2025/ EN

FCI-Standard N° 190

HOVAWART



TRANSLATION: Mrs. R. Binder-Gresly, VDH.
Official language: (DE).

ORIGIN: Germany.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD: 21.03.2025.

UTILIZATION: Working Dog.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 2 Pinscher and Schnauzer
Molossoid breeds- Swiss
Mountain and Cattle
Dogs.
Section 2.2 Molossoid breeds,
Mountain type.
With working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The Hovawart is a very old German working dog in its original sense. The name's origin stems from Middle High German (an old form of German); Hova = Hof (= yard, farm, estate) and wart = Wächter (=guardian). Since 1922 he was developed with the use of dogs similar in type which were still found on farms, and through outcrossing with German Shepherd Dogs, Newfoundlands and Leonbergers among others, as a breed. In 1937 he was recognized as a breed and in 1964 as a working dog. Through persistent selection for breeding, starting as early as the 1960s, on the characteristic "free of hip dysplasia", the disease is almost entirely forced back.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Hovawart is a powerful, medium-large size, slightly longer than the height at the withers, longhaired working dog. The difference in sexes is above all clearly noticeable at shape of head and build of body.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: Height at withers: Length of body:
100: 110 to 100 : 115.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT: The Hovawart is a recognized working dog for versatile usage. His disposition is good natured and even, he has protectiveness, self-confidence and ability to take stress. He has a medium temperament and a very good nose. His balanced proportions and his special devotion to his family make him an outstanding companion-, watch-, guard-, rescue- and tracking-dog.

HEAD

CRANIAL REGION:

The muzzle is straight and parallel to the skull. Muzzle and skull are of about the same length. The scalp is tightly fitting.

Skull: The powerful head has a broad and arched forehead.

Stop: The Stop is well noticeable.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: The nostrils are well developed. In black-& tan and black dogs the nose is black. In blond dogs (light fawn dogs–dark–Snownose is permitted in blond dogs.

Muzzle: The muzzle is strong, both viewed in profile and from above, slightly tapering toward tip.

Lips: Tightly fitting.

Jaws/Teeth: The Hovawart has a strong scissor bite with 42 teeth, according to tooth formula. The teeth are standing vertically in the jaw. Pincer bite is permitted. Irregular bite (for example, protruding lower I1) is permissible.

EYES: The eyes are oval, neither protruding nor deep set. The colour is dark to medium brown. Close fitting eyelids.

EARS: The ears, triangular in shape, hang close to the head and are medium to large sized. They are set on high and appear to broaden the skull. The tip is gently rounded, and they reach in length to the corner of the mouth. In repose the ears hang flat, when alert they could be carried slightly forward. The front edge lies approximately halfway between eye and occiput.

NECK: Strong, of medium length. Skin tightly fitting.

BODY:

Back: Firm and level.

Loin: Strong and slightly longer than the croup.

Croup: Slightly sloping and of medium length.

Chest: Broad, deep and powerful.

TAIL: Bushy and should reach below the hock joint but not touching the ground. It is carried low or high and curved over the back, depending on the dog's mood.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: Strong and straight when viewed from front and side. The shoulder blade is long and well laid back.

Shoulders: Very well muscled.

Upper arm: Fitted to the body.

Elbows: Fitted in a straight line to the rib cage.

Forearm: Strong and muscular.

Pastern joint: Firm.

Pastern: Viewed from the side, moderately sloped.

Forefeet: Roundish, strong and compact. The toes are arched and tight. In black & tan and black dogs the nails are with black pigmentation, in blond dogs toes can be less pigmented.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Strong and straight when viewed from rear. The ratio upper thigh to lower thigh is 1:1.

Upper thigh: Very well-muscled and moderately sloped.

Lower thigh: Moderately sloped and very well-muscled.

Hock joint: Strong and well let down.

Rear pastern: Straight and parallel when viewed from rear.

Hind feet: Roundish, strong and compact. The toes are arched, and tight-Dewclaws are not a fault. In black & tan and black dogs the nails are with black pigmentation, in blond dogs toes can be less pigmented.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Viewed from front and rear the Hovawart moves in all gaits in a straight line and - seen from the side - covering ground well. In a trot there is good reach with powerful drive from the rear.

SKIN: Tightly fitted. In black & tan and black dogs the skin has a blueish shimmer, in blond dogs mostly a pink shimmer.

COAT

Hair: The long-haired coat is thick and slightly wavy and lies flat to the body, with no much undercoat. Feathering on front of neck, underbody, back of forelegs, back of thighs and underside of tail. Coat on head, front of forelegs and front of hindlegs is short. The coat is not open.

Colour: The Hovawart comes in three color varieties: black & tan, black and blond.

Black & tan:

The coat is black and shiny, the color of the markings medium blond. Markings on head begin below the nasal bridge and extend round the corners of the mouth into the throat marking. The point-shaped markings above the eyes are clearly visible. The chest markings consist of two adjacent patches which may be connected. On the forelegs, the marking, seen from the side, extends from the toes to about the pastern and tapers off on the rearside at about elbow level. On the hindlegs, seen from the side, the marking below the hock is seen as a broad stripe, above the hock only as a narrow stripe which extends on the front side of the hindleg up to the belly level. A marking is also present under the base of the tail. All markings are distinct in

outline. Single small white spots-on chest-as well as some single white hairs on toes and tip of tail are permissible. Black pigmentation on eyelids, lips and pads.

Black: The coat is black and shiny. Black pigmentation on eyelids, lips and pads.

Blond: The coat is medium blond, shiny and becomes lighter towards legs and belly. Black and/or predominantly dark pigmentation on eyelids, lips and pads.

SIZE:

Height at the withers:

Males: 63 - 70 cm.

Females: 58 - 65 cm.

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.

- **EYES:**

- One lightbrown eye or two lightbrown eyes.

- **LIMBS:**

- Steep angulation in fore- and/or hindquarters.
- Extremely severe angulation in fore- and/or hindquarters.
- Weak pastern joint.
- Turning out of elbow/elbows.
- Frensch front.
- Cow hocked.

- **COLOUR:**

- Few white hairs on the insides of thighs.
- Few white at tip of tail.

- Single small white markings (the term “patches” was generally replaced with “markings”) at the chest or one big white marking at the chest maximal 8 cm in size at the biggest dimension.
- Toes with white or completely white toes.

Blond: Few white hairs on nasal bridge and/or on top of head.
Small white shimmer on nasal bridge.

- SIZE:

- Females: 66 – 68 cm
- Males: 71 – 73 cm

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities.

- GENERAL APPEARANCE:

- Dogs which do not conform to the phenotype of the breed-
- Distinctly «doggy» bitches.
- Distinctly «bitchy» dogs.
- Distinctly differing body proportions

- IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:

- Dogs with a ration height at withers: length of body: 100 : \leq 100 and dogs with a ratio 100 : \geq 120.

- BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT:

- Aggressive dogs.
- Anxious dogs.
- Gun shy dogs.
- Lethargic dogs.

- HEAD

- Stop: Absence of stop.

- SKULL:

Jaw / teeth:

- Undershot mouth.
- Overshot mouth.
- Cross bite.
- Absence of any other than the (4) PM1 and the (2) M3.

- EYES:

- One blue eye / or two blue eyes.
- One wall eye / or two wall eyes.

- EARS:

- One erect ear / or two erect ears.
- One semi erect ear / or two semi erect ears.
- One rose ear / or two rose ears.
- One off-standing ear / or two off-standing ears.

- BODY:

- Pronounced sway back or pronounced drawn-up back.

Chest:

- Narrow or barrel shaped chest.

- TAIL:

- Anomaly in tail structure.
- Distinctly tail (tail ends more than 5 cm above hock).
- Ring or curled tail.

- LIMBS:

- Distinctly overbuild hindquarters (croup higher than the withers).
- Very steep angulation in fore- and/or hindquarters.
- Extremely strong angulation in fore- and/or hindquarters.

- COAT:

Hair: Predominantly curly coat (ring curls).

Colour:

- All colors not conforming to the standard, e.g. blue-grey, deer color, brown, white, patched, blond with smutty touch or predominantly banded hair.
- White marking(s) outside the chest.
- White at paws reaching beyond toes.

Black & Tan:

- Grey or brown markings outside of standard marking.
- Undercoat predominantly of other color than black.
- Predominantly grey or whitish markings.

Black:

- Grey or brown markings.
- Undercoat predominantly of other color than black.

Blond:

- Red-blond color throughout without getting lighter.
- Whitish-blond color, also on ears.
- Dark markings or dark mask.

- SIZE:

Height at withers

- Undersize.
- Bitches with a size of more than 68 cm, dogs with a size of more than 73 cm

N.B.:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding.

SURFACE ANATOMY

