

# **WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOUR DOG IS A “HAVANESE?”**

**-An Extensive List of what the Judges look for-**

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# There will be 6 Club Standards listed:

- A. Zoila Portuondo Guerra, “Bichon Havanese” -has been suggested that her description may be the Cuban Standard if the FCI gives Patrimony of the breed to Cuba, the country of origin.
- B. The current American Standard will be “AKC”
- C. The December 1, 2010 version of the proposed revision to the American Standard will be “HCA”
- D. The current FCI Standard will be FCI
- E. The new Canadian Standard will be “CKC”
- F. The United Kennel Club Standard will be “UKC”

Throughout this document you will find **highlighted Bluenotes** that represent important issues needing special attention in the opinion of this writer.

# Head Shape and Size

- Zoila – Proportional to the size of the body, with a broad, flattened skull of moderate nasal-frontal depression.
- AKC – The back skull is broad and slightly rounded. The stop is moderate.
- HCA – The skull is broad and slightly rounded. The stop is moderate and the planes of the head are level.
- FCI - Of medium length, the relation between the length of the head and that of the trunk (measured from the withers to the base of the tail) is of 3/7. Cranial Region: Skull: Flat to very slightly rounded, broad; forehead hardly rising; seen from above it is rounded at the back and almost straight and square on the other three sides. Stop: Moderately marked.
- CKC – Medium length, balanced in proportion to body. Skull: Flat to very slightly rounded, broad, forehead rising, seen from above, rounded at the back and almost straight and square on the other three sides. Stop: moderate.
- UKC – It is a balanced wedge shape of moderate size, slightly broad but always refined looking. The skull is a slightly rounded, slightly broad intermediate (mesaticephalic) type with a moderate stop.

# Teeth

- Zoila – Teeth meet in a scissors bite. Faults: Incorrect bite: overshoot, undershoot or clamp bite.
- AKC – A scissors bite is ideal. Full complement of incisors preferred.
- HCA – A scissors bite is ideal and a full complement of incisors is preferred.
- FCI – Jaws/Teeth: Scissors bite. A complete dentition is desirable. The absence of premolars 1 (PM1) and molars 3 (M3) is tolerated.
- CKC – Jaws/Teeth: Scissors bite. Complete dentition desirable, absence of premolars (PM1) and molars (M3) tolerated.
- UKC – A scissors bite and normal jaw formation are expected. Preference is to be given to a healthy, clean mouth with reasonably uncrowded, untwisted, strong, white teeth. Fault: Level bite. Disqualifications: Overshoot or undershoot bite; wry mouth; severely crowded or twisted teeth.

# Muzzle

- Zoila- **Slightly longer** than the forehead with a moderate but perfectly visible stop.
- AKC – The stop is moderate. Length of muzzle **is slightly less than length of back skull** measured from stop to point of occiput and the planes are level. The nose is broad and squarish, fitting a full and rectangular muzzle, with no indication of snipiness.
- HCA - Length of muzzle **is slightly less than length of skull** measured from stop to point of occiput. The muzzle is full and rectangular with a broad nose.
- FCI – The **length of the muzzle (tip of nose to stop) is equal to the distance between the stop and the occipital protuberance**. Muzzle: Narrowing progressively and slightly towards the nose but neither snipey nor truncated. Important fault: Truncated or snipey muzzle, length not identical to that of the skull.
- CKC – Muzzle: level; narrowing slightly towards the nose but neither snipey nor truncated. **Muzzle length equals skull length from stop to occiput**. Fault: Muzzle truncated or snipey, shorter/longer than skull lengthy.
- UKC – The muzzle is balanced above and below the stop; tapering with flat cheeks. The **length of the muzzle is equal to the distance from the stop to the occiput**.

# Eyes

- Zoila – The eyes are dark and almond shaped, surrounded by dark pigmentation.
- AKC – The eyes are dark brown, large, almond-shaped, and set rather widely apart. Dark eyes are preferred irrespective of coat color, although the chocolate colored dog may have somewhat lighter eyes. The pigment on the eye-rims is complete, solid black for all colors except for the chocolate dog, which has complete, solid, dark chocolate pigment. No other dilution of pigment is acceptable.
- HCA – Eyes are large, dark brown and almond-shaped. Chocolate dogs may have somewhat lighter brown eyes. Eye rims are solid black for all colors except for chocolate dogs which have solid brown eye rims. Incomplete or total lack of pigmentation of the eye rims is a disqualification.
- FCI – Quite big, almond shape, of brown colour as dark as possible. Kind expression. The eye rims must be dark brown to black.
- CKC – Eyes: Bright, gentle, intelligent and expressive. Quite big, wide set, almond shaped. Dark brown; lighter brown on chocolate dogs. Eye rims: Fully pigmented. Dark brown/black; Liver/Brown on chocolate dogs.
- UKC – Rather large and oval shaped, deep set and dark. Eye rims must be fully pigmented. Disqualifications: Less than full, dark pigment on eye rims . . . Havanese have an alert, gentle expression produced by the combination of large dark eyes, dropped ears, long fur and an endearing habit of tilting their head when listening.

# Prosternum

- Zoila -
- AKC – The upper arm is relatively short, but there is sufficient angle between the shoulder and upper arm to set the legs well under the body **with a pronounced forechest.**
- HCA - The Havanese has a short upper arm with moderate shoulder layback . . . **.The prosternum is evident but not prominent.**
- FCI -
- CKC - . . . good bone structure . . . **Forefront prominent.**
- UKC – The body, from the prosternum on the forechest to the point of the rump, is about two-thirds longer than the height at the withers.

# Shoulder Layback

- Zoila – Forequarters: Short, straight and moderately angled. Leg bones are strong.
- AKC – . . . His characteristic topline, rising slightly from withers to rump is a result of moderate angulation both fore and aft . . . Forequarters – Shoulder layback is moderate, lying not more than 40 degrees of vertical. Extreme shoulder layback will negatively affect proper gait, and should be faulted.
- HCA - . . . . The Havanese has . . . . moderate shoulder layback . . . Moderate shoulder layback is sufficient to carry the head and neck high. The up
- FCI – . . . good bone structure . . . forelegs with free stride . . .
- CKC – Forelegs straight and parallel, lean; good bone structure, moderate angulations.
- UKC - Forequarters: Forelegs – the front legs are relatively short and light boned, but not fragile. They provide a straight column of support when viewed from the front, are moderately angulated and have good reach.



# Return Angle of the Upper Arm

- Zoila –
- AKC – The upper arm is relatively short, but there is sufficient angle between the shoulder and upper arm to set the legs well under the body with a [pronounced forechest](#).
- HCA -
- FCI –
- CAN –
- UKC -

# Length of Upper Arm

- Zoila -
- AKC - The upper arm is relatively short . . . typically short upper arm.. . . gait “flashy” front action effected by the short upper arm.
- HCA- The Havanese has a short upper arm . . . .The upper arm is short. The characteristic spring (of the gait) is the result of the short upper arm . . .
- FCI –
- CKC –
- UKC –

# Leg Length

- Zoila – Forequarters: Short, straight and moderately angled. Longitude from feet to elbows is the same as from elbows to withers. Leg bones are strong. . . .
- AKC – The distance from the foot to the elbow is equal to the distance from elbow to withers.
- HCA - The length from the foot to the elbow is equal to the length from the elbow to withers.
- FCI – The Havanese is a sturdy little dog, low on his legs . . . .
- CKC – Forequarters: Distance from ground to elbow equals that from elbow to withers.
- UKC – The front legs are relatively short and light boned, but not fragile. . . The length of the leg from the foot to the elbow is no longer than the distance from the elbow to the withers . . .

# Elbow

- Zoila – The sternum line coincides with elbow height.
- AKC – The chest is deep, rather broad in front, and reaches the elbow. The elbows turn neither in nor out, and are tight to the body.
- HCA - The chest is deep, well developed, and reaches the elbow. . . . Elbows are right to the body . . . The length from the foot to the elbow is equal to the length from the elbow to withers.
- FCI –
- CKC – Elbows close to body. . . . chest reaching the elbow.
- UKC – . . . and when standing naturally, the elbow is positioned at the lower edge of the rib cage.

# Feet

- Zoila – Forequarters: . . . feet rounded . . Hindquarters: . . . The feet are oval shaped.
- AKC – The (front) feet are round, with well arched toes, and turn neither in nor out. Pads and nails may be black, white, pink or a combination of these colors. Chocolate dogs may also have brown pads and nails. . . . Hind feet have well arched toes and turn neither in nor out. Pads and nails may be black, white, pink or a combination of these colors. Chocolate dogs may also have brown pads and nails. . . . . The hair on the feet and between the pads should be neatly trimmed for the express purpose of a tidy presentation.
- HCA - Forequarters and Hindquarters: The feet have arched toes and point straight ahead. Pads and nails may be any color. Hair on the feet and between the pads should be neatly trimmed.
- FCI – Feet: Of slightly elongated shape; small; tight toes. Important faults: French front – (pasterns too close, feet turned outwards). Deformed hind feet.
- CKC – Feet: Pointing straight forward; slightly elongated shape; small; tight toes. Hindquarters: Feet same as front. Faults: French front; . . . . deformed feet.
- UKC – The feet are small, compact and well cushioned, with toes a little elongated. The rear feet are smaller than the front pair. Nails should be kept reasonably short.

# Bone

- Zoila – Leg bones are strong . . . strongly boned. Fault: Crooked bones
- AKC – The Havanese is a sturdy little dog, and should never appear fragile. A coarse dog with excessive bone is likewise contrary to type and therefore equally undesirable. . . Forelegs are well boned... the Hind legs are well boned.
- HCA - The Havanese is small sturdy dog . . . The Havanese is moderately boned and should never appear coarse or fragile.
- FCI –
- CKC – Weight proportionate to height and bone.
- UKC – Forelegs – the front legs are relatively short and light boned, but not fragile.

# Chest/Rib Spring

- Zoila – . . . the sternum line coincides with elbow height. . . .
- AKC – The chest is deep, rather broad in front, and reaches the elbow. The ribs are well sprung.. . . length comes from the rib cage . . .
- HCA - The chest is deep, well developed, and reaches the elbow. Ribs are well sprung. . . . length comes from the rib cage.
- FCI – Ribs well sprung
- CKC –Ribs well sprung; chest reaching the elbow. . .
- UKC –The ribs are well sprung, deep and carried well back.

# Neck

- Zoila – Moderately long and erect, with no dewlap
- AKC – The neck is of moderate length, in balance with the height and length of the dog. It carries a slight arch and blends smoothly into the shoulders. . . . . The tops of the shoulder blades lie in at the withers, allowing the neck to merge smoothly into the back. . . . . Head carriage is typically high, even on the move.
- HCA - The neck is slightly arched, of moderate length, blends smoothly into the shoulders and is in balance with the height and length of the dog. . . . The tops of the shoulder blades lie in at the withers, allowing the neck to blend smoothly into the back. . . . The head is carried high . . .
- FCI- Of medium length.
- CKC- Medium length, proportionately balanced, blending smoothly into the shoulders.
- UKC- The neck is sturdy, of moderate length and is well set into the shoulder region.



# Balance

- Zoila- The head is proportional to the size of the body. . . .
- AKC- . . . His characteristic topline, rising slightly from withers to rump is a result of moderate angulation both fore and aft . . . . the height at the withers . . . is slightly less than the length from point of shoulder to point of buttocks, creating a rectangular outline rather than a square one. . . . The neck is of moderate length, in balance with the height and length of the dog. . . . The body, measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks, is slightly longer than the height at the withers. This length comes from the ribcage and not from the short, well-muscled loin. Forequarters: Shoulder layback is moderate (not more than 40 degrees) . . . Hindquarters . . The hind legs . . . with moderate angulation.
- HCA- The neck is . . . in balance with the height and length of the dog. Forequarters: . . . moderate shoulder layback . . . Hindquarters: . . . with moderate angulation. Front legs reach forward freely matching the moderate extension in the rear.

# Balance

- FCI- The relation between the length of the body (measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock) and the height at the withers is of  $\frac{4}{3}$  Head: Of medium length, the relation between the length of the head and that of the trunk (measured from the withers to the base of the tail) is of  $\frac{3}{7}$ .
- CKC- General appearance: . . . . well balanced . . . weight proportionate to height and bone, maintaining a balanced moderate build without exaggeration towards either fragility or coarseness. . . . Neck. . . proportionately balanced . . . Hindquarters: . . . . moderate angulations in balance with forequarters.
- UKC- The body, from the prosternum on the forechest to the point of the rump, is about two- thirds longer than the height at the withers.

# Loin

- Zoila –
- AKC – . . . short well muscled loin . . . moderate tuck up . . .
- HCA - . . The loin is short and well muscled. There is a moderate tuck-up.
- FCI – Back: Topline straight, slightly arched over the loin. Belly (abdomen) well tucked up.
- CKC – Belly well tucked up.
- UKC – The flanks are tucked up. The loin is strong.

# Height

- Zoila – Height at the withers can range from 23 to 30 centimeters (9 to 12 inches), the ideal is 27 centimeters (10.5 inches).
- AKC – He is slightly longer than tall. . . The height range is from 8 ½ to 11 ½ inches, with the ideal being between 9 and 10 1/2 inches, measured at the withers, and is slightly less than the length from point of shoulder to point of buttocks . . . . The minimum height ranges set forth in the description above shall not apply to dogs and bitches under twelve months of age. Disqualification: Height at withers under 8 ½ inches or over 11 ½ inches, except that the minimum height ranges set forth in the description above shall not apply to dogs or bitches under twelve months of age.
- HCA- He is slightly longer than tall, . . . . The ideal height is between 9 and 10 ½ inches, with an acceptable height range from 8 ½ inches to 11 ½ inches. Height at withers under 8 ½ inches or over 11 ½ inches is a disqualification, except that the minimum height shall not apply to dogs or bitches under twelve months of age. The height is slightly less than the length from the point of shoulder to point of buttocks, creating a rectangular outline. Measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks, the body is slightly longer than the height at the withers.

# Height (B)

- FCI – Size: Height at the withers: From 23 to 27 cm. Tolerance: from 21 to 29. The relation between the length of the body (measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock) and the height at the withers is of  $\frac{4}{3}$ . The length of the body is slightly superior to that of the height at the withers. Eliminating Faults: Size over or under the indicated norms of the standard.
- CKC– . . . slightly longer than tall. . . .Ideal height at withers 23-27 cm (9.0 to 10.6 inches). Tolerance from 21-29 cm (8.3-11.4 inches). . . . height measured at withers. Disqualifications: Height: under 21 cm or over 29 cm (minimum not applicable to puppies under 12 months).
- UKC – The body from the prosternum on the forechest to the point of the rump, is about two-thirds longer than the height at the withers. [Size & Weight. Havanese stand between 8 ½” and 10 ½” in height](#), and weigh from 7 to 14 pounds (with mid-size much preferred). Height limits are more important than weight. Disqualifications: Weight under 7 or over 14 pounds. Eliminating Faults (An Eliminating Fault is a Fault serious enough that it eliminates the dog from obtaining any awards in a conformation event.) Height under 8 ½ inches or over 10 ½ inches.

# Rise – and Location of the Rise

- Zoila – . . . the back strong, with the spine sloping slightly toward the rump (. . . tail set high). . .
- AKC – His characteristic topline, rising slightly from withers to rump . . . . **The topline is straight but not level, rising slightly from withers to rump.** There is no indication of a roach back. The rear assembly, in which the rump is slightly higher than the withers, contributes to the breed's unique, springy gait. (Tail is high set. . . .)
- HCA – The Havanese has . . . **a straight topline that rises slightly from the withers to the croup.** The croup is slightly higher than the withers. . . . the slight rise in the topline holds under movement.
- FCI – Back: **Topline straight, slightly arched over the loin. (Croup noticeably inclined . . .)** (NB – Doesn't say the rump is higher than the withers.)
- CKC – **Topline is straight, slightly arched over the muscular loin, presenting a gentle, gradual rise from withers to rear** with smooth transition to natural lines of the rump. (. . . tail moderately high set . . .) Faults: . . . roached back; exaggerated rise . . . .
- UKC – The straight topline is not level, but rises gradually to the rear. (. . . tail set smoothly on the back in a moderate position. . .)

# Amount of Rise

- Zoila – . . the back strong, with the spine sloping slightly toward the rump.
- AKC – His characteristic topline, rising slightly from withers to rump . . . The topline is straight but not level, rising slightly from withers to rump. . . . the rear assembly, in which the rump is slightly higher than the withers . . . .The slightly higher rear may cause . . . .
- HCA - . . . . has a straight topline that rises slightly from withers to croup. . . .straight topline rises slightly from withers to croup. . . . The croup is slightly higher than the withers. . . .the slight rise in the topline hold under movement.
- FCI – . . . .(NB Doesn't say there is a rise from the withers to the rump, tail or croup – says the topline is straight, slightly arched over the loin.)
- CKC – Topline . . . . presenting a gentle, gradual rise from withers to rear . . . .
- UKC – . . . . topline is not level, but rises gradually to the rear.

# Tail Carriage and Tail Set

- Zoila – Tail: Set high, the tail is thick at the base and tapers to a point as it curves over the rump like a plume, without touching the body. If the tail is too close to the body or curly, it destroys the harmony and correct image of the Bichon Havanese, especially its walk. Movement: . . . the tail movement conveys will and pride. Its joy in life and its sense of innate pride are clearly expressed in its movements and in how it carries its head and tail. . . .Faults: Corkscrew tail. And in the Hotline, Toby Biller interview: Q – Can you tell us about the relationship of the tail set to the croup and the angle of the pelvis? A- The tail sets in a slightly sloped rump, at the top line ending point where it joins the buttocks. The pelvis bone tends to be horizontal and joins the femur in a moderate angle of about 120 degrees. This sort of low setting liberates the tail to be carried on high without touching the back. (My copy of the next portion is cut off – this is the best I can make of what it says: Q- What is the typical tail carriage of Cuban dogs. A- The typical tail carriage is high. It doesn't touch the back or the ????. The tail plays a role in the Havanese ??? It uses it for balance, wagging it from one side to the other which also expresses the breed's temperament. To tell the truth, Havanese with curled and ??? over the back or croup, we lose a ?? the beauty and harmony that is characteristic of the gait of the Havanese. ??? the loose tail carried on high naturally like a palm tree leaf, completing the harmonic image of the dog. Without tail carriage, you could say that even the most beautiful Havanese lacks s???, (Author: Often called the "Cuban Tail" and not commonly seen today in the USA or Canada.)



# Tail Carriage and Tail Set (B)

- AKC- His plumed tail is carried loosely curled over his rump. The tail is high set and plumed with long, silky hair. It arcs forward over the back, but neither lies flat on the back nor is tightly curled. On the move the tail is carried loosely curled over the rump. The long plume of the hair may fall straight forward or to either side of the body. The tail may not be docked
- HCA – The plumed tail is carried arched forward up over the back. . . . The tail is high-set and arches forward up over the back. It is plumed with long, silky hair. The tail plume may fall straight forward or to either side of the body. While standing, a dropped tail is permissible. The tail may not be docked. The croup is slightly higher than the withers.
- FCI –Carried high, either in shape of a crosier or preferably rolled over the back; it is furnished with feathering of long silky hair. Important Fault: Straight tail, not carried high
- CKC –. . . plumed tail carried over the back. Tail: Plumed tail, moderately high set, furnished with long silky feathering falling over the back or to either side. Loosely curled over the back while gaiting, may drop at rest.
- UKC – The tail is set smoothly on the body in a moderate position and carried over the back. Serious Faults: Straight or dropped tail.

# Stifle Angle

- Zoila –
- AKC – . . . moderate angulation fore and aft . . . Hindquarters – moderate angulation . . . . The hind feet fall slightly behind a perpendicular line from the point of buttock when viewed from the side. . . .”spring “ is caused by the strong rear drive . . . . incapable of exaggerated . . . drive. There is good extension in the rear . . . . .
- HCA - . . . moderate shoulder layback . . . .Moderate shoulder layback is sufficient to carry the head and neck high. The hind legs are muscular with moderate angulation.
- FCI –
- CKC –
- UKC – legs moderately angulated. . .

# Pasterns

- Zoila –
- AKC – Forequarters: The pasterns are short, strong, and flexible, very slightly sloping. Hindquarters: . . . . no tendency toward sickle hocks. . .
- HCA – Forequarters: Pasterns are short, strong and flexible, very slightly sloping. Hindquarters: Hocks (rear pasterns) are well let down; pasterns are parallel from hock (joint) to foot.
- FCI –
- CKC –
- UKC- . . . feet well cushioned. . .

# Coat and Coat Color

- Zoila –The torso is covered with abundant, silky hair – often 4 inches long in this zone (body) and a little longer on the chest than on the stomach – which never reaches the ground. The hind quarters are covered with profuse, undulating hair. The beauty of the Bichon Havanese is in its coat, which should be abundant over the entire body. The hair is fine, long and undulating, with a very typical pearly sheen. The hair on the paws is shorter than on the body. The body and head are profusely covered with long silky hair, giving the dog a natural, ‘Ungroomed’ appearance. Colour: Any colour or combination of colours is acceptable in the Bichon Havanese, though, as we have already noted, the most common colours are ivory or champagne.
- AKC –General Appearance . . . covered with a profuse mantle of untrimmed long, silky, wavy hair. His plumed tail . . . His unique coat reflects centuries in the tropics and protects against heat. It is remarkably soft and light in texture, profuse without being harsh or woolly. Likewise, the furnishing of the head are believed to protect the eyes from the harsh tropical sun, and have traditionally never been gathered in a topknot for this reason. The tail . . . is plumed with long, silky hair. . . . Coat: The coat is double, but without the harsh standoff guard hair and woolly undercoat usually associated with double coats. Rather, it is soft and light in texture throughout, though the outer coat carries slightly more weight. The long hair is abundant and ideally, wavy. An ideal coat will not be so profuse nor overly long as to obscure the natural lines of the dog. Puppies may have a shorter coat. A single, flat coat or an excessively curly coat are equally contrary to type and should be faulted. Disqualification: A coarse, wiry coat. An atypical short coat on an adult dog (atypical would be smooth, flat coat with, or without furnishings). Color – All colors are acceptable, singly or in any combination. No preference is given to one color over another. The skin may be freckled or parti colored. . . . The long untrimmed head furnishing may fall forward over the eyes, naturally and gracefully to either side of the skull or be held in two small braids beginning above the outer corner of the eyes, secured with plain elastic bands. Corded coats will naturally separate into wavy sections in young dogs and will in time develop into cords. Adult corded dogs will be completely covered with a full coat of tassel – like cords. Disqualification: Coarse wiry coat. An atypical short coat on an adult.

# Coat and Coat Color (B)

- HCA - He is . . . . with a long, untrimmed, double coat. Silky to the touch, the coat is soft and light in texture in both outer and undercoat, although the outer coat carries slightly more weight. The coat is long, abundant and wavy. It stands off the body slightly, but flows with movement. An ideal coat will permit the natural lines of the dog to be seen. Puppy coat may be shorter and have a softer texture than adult coat. A single, flat, frizzy or curly coat should be faulted. A coarse, wiry coat is a disqualification. A short, smooth coat with or without furnishings is a disqualification. The coat may be corded. Corded coats will naturally separate into wavy sections in young dogs and will in time develop into cords. Adult corded dogs will be completely covered with a full coat of tassel-like cords.
- FCI – General Appearance . . . with long abundant hair, soft and preferably wavy. Coat: Hair: Undercoat woolly and no very developed: it is often totally absent. The topcoat is very long (12-18 cm in an adult dog), soft, flat or wavy and may form curly strands. Colour: Rarely completely pure white, fawn in its different shades (slight blackened overlay admitted), black, Havana-brown, tobacco colour, reddish brown. Patches in mentioned colours allowed. Tan markings in all nuances permitted. Important faults: Coat harsh, not abundant: hair short except on puppies: groomed coat.

# Coat and Coat Color (C)

- CKC –General appearance - . . . with long abundant, soft and wavy hair in a variety of colours and patterns. Coat and Colour – Hair: Well suited to a breed developed in the tropics, the abundant, silken double coat is fine, soft and lightweight throughout, with a subtle airiness, less substantial at the touch than appearance suggests. Undercoat light and may not be very developed. The topcoat, very long (12-18 cm in adults) does not hang to the ground, allowing light under the dog when standing on a solid surface; it enhances and reflects the lines of the body. No preference given for extreme length or profuseness. Puppy coats shorter, softer, less full than adult's. Hair ideally wavy; any degree of wave permissible. Single, perfectly straight or tightly curled coats undesirable; woolly, harsh or wiry textures incorrect. Natural coat separation is acceptable, deliberate parting is not. Head furnishings simply brushed back or allowed to fall naturally. . . . Tail furnished with long silky feathering. . . Colour: Wide colour diversity; all colours, markings and patterns equally acceptable. Faults: Coat harsh, not abundant; hair short except on puppies, trimmed or sculpted coat. Overgroomed or neglected coat.
- UKC – The breed's profuse double coat is very soft. The hair on the head blends the face and ears together, forming a hood onto the shoulders and chest. The hair on the forehead may form a curtain in front of the eyes, depending on the texture and length. For safety reasons, this hair may be held away from the face by unadorned rubber bands. In Conformation events, Judges can require the removal of bands which impede evaluation of the dog.
- The long adult coat, which may take two or four years to develop fully, must not touch the ground. The tail is covered with a long, silky plume which blends into the body coat when resting. The coat tends to form narrow sections, or "locks", which show the unique "lacey" or ric-rac braid effect of hair sectioned when wet. This distinctive wave-style has a wide range of expression, from "quite relaxed" (but not very straight), to a very "tight", which can be corded. The correct "lacey" effect is most evident on the ears, legs, rump and tail, but if straightened by grooming will take hours to return unless wetted. (The degree of "tightness" in a lacey coat is not to be considered until definitive historical research verifies what was correct, but straight coats are clearly incorrect.)
- Color: All colors are acceptable; singly or in any combination. In fact, great diversity of coloring is this breed's heritage. Many colors lighten or darken with age or whelping; residential dark tipping may remain. All colors develop a matte appearance.

# Hair over Eyes

- Zoila –
- AKC – . . the furnishing of the head are believed to protect the eyes from the harsh tropical sun, and have traditionally never been gathered in a topknot for this reason.
- HCA - Head furnishings are long and untrimmed, and may fall forward over the eyes or to both sides of the head;
- FCI – . . . . hair on the forehead may be slightly shortened so that it does not cover the eyes .
- CKC – Head furnishings simply brushed back or allowed to fall naturally. .
- UKC – The hair on the forehead may form a curtain in front of the eyes, depending on the texture and length.

# Temperament

- Zoila – The temperament of the Bichon Havanese plays a decisive role in its form. These dogs should be neither timid nor aggressive. By character, the breed is lively, intelligent and up to any situation. It shows no cowardice, in spite of its size. It enjoys sharing with its family every kind of inside or outside activity, from swimming running to romping in the grass or in the snow. Its joy in life and its sense of innate pride are clearly expressed in its movements and in how it carries its head and tail. It gets along well with others of the same breed and even other breeds; for, although the Bichon Havanese is somewhat dominant, it's not a quarrelsome dog.
- AKC –The Havanese is a small sturdy dog of immense charm. . . . The expression is soft and intelligent, mischievous rather than cute... The Havanese gait is lively, elegant, resilient, and unique, contributing greatly to the breed's overall essential typiness. . . . .duties traditionally have been those of companion, watchdog, child's playmate and herder of the family poultry flock. His presentation in the show ring should reflect his function – always in excellent condition but never so elaborately coifed as to preclude an impromptu romp in the leaves, as his character is essentially playful rather than decorative. Playful and alert. The Havanese is both trainable and intelligent with a sweet, non quarrelsome disposition.
- HCA – The Havanese is a small, sturdy dog of immense charm. . . . he is beloved as a friendly, intelligent and playful companion. The unique springy gait is a result of the breed's structure and playful, spirited personality. These characteristics of temperament, coat, structure and gait are essential to type. The Havanese is friendly, playful, alert and intelligent with a sweet, non-quarrelsome disposition. Aggression or shyness should be faulted.



# Temperament

- FCI – Movement is lively and elastic. Exceptionally bright he is easy to train as alarm dog. Affectionate, of a happy nature, he is amiable, a charmer, playful and even a bit of a clown. He loves children and plays endlessly with them. . . . According to his happy nature, the Havanese has a strikingly light-footed and elastic gait: . . . Eliminating Faults: Aggressive or overly shy.
- CKC –Casual and carefree, unaffected in both manner and appearance. Movement lively and elastic, . . . Exceptionally bright and attentive, easily trained in many capacities. Affectionate, happy natured, amiable, a charmer, playful and even a bit of a clown. An eager, lively, devoted family companion, typically good with children. Faults: Excessive shyness or aggression.
- UKC – Havanese have a quiet and gentle disposition, but enjoy rowdy play sessions. They are affectionate, preferring to be at their owner’s side or in the same room, and will alert their owner to approaching strangers. They enjoy the company of other Havanese. They are intelligent, easy to train and attentive to their handler. Havanese have an alert, gentle expression produced by the combination of large dark eyes, dropped ears, long fur and an endearing habit of tilting their head when listening.

# Presentation

- Zoila – The Bichon Havanese should move freely and easily, with a lively, elegant gait. The head is held high and the tail movement conveys will and pride.
- AKC – His plumed tail is carried loosely curled over his rump. His duties traditionally have been those of companion, watchdog, child's playmate and herder of the family poultry flock. His presentation in the show ring should reflect his function – always in excellent condition but never so elaborately coifed as to preclude an impromptu romp in the leaves, as his character is essentially playful rather than decorative.
- . . . does not appear so fragile as to make him unsuitable as a child's pet. . . . the furnishings of the head are believed to protect the eyes from the harsh tropical sun, and have traditionally never been gathered in a topknot for this reason. . . . In both structure and gait, the Havanese is not easily mistaken for any other breed. His characteristic topline, rising slightly from withers to rump . . . . The resulting springy gait is flashy rather than far-reaching and unique to the breed. The overall impression of the dog on the move is one of agility rather than excessive ability to cover ground. These characteristics of temperament, structure and gait contribute in large part to the character of the breed, and are essential to type. . . . On the move the tail is carried loosely curled over the rump. An ideal coat would not be so profuse nor overly long as to obscure the natural lines of the dog. . . . The Havanese gait is lively, elegant, resilient, and unique, contributing greatly to the breed's overall essential typiness. . . . while a truly typey dog is incapable of exaggerated reach and drive, the action does not appear stilted or hackneyed. There is good extension to the rear. .

# Presentation

- . . The topline holds under movement, neither flattening nor roaching. Head carriage is typically high, even on the move. The dog should be shown as naturally as is consistent with good grooming. He may be shown either brushed or corded. His coat should be clean and well-conditioned. In mature specimens, the length of the coat may cause it to fall to either side down the back but it should not appear to be artificially parted. The long, untrimmed head furnishings may fall forward over the eyes, naturally and gracefully to either side of the skull or be held in two small braids beginning above the outer corner of the eyes, secured with plain elastic bands. (No ribbons or bows are permitted.) . . . minimal trimming of the hair at the inside corner of the eye is allowed for hygienic purposes only, not an attempt to re-sculpt the planes of the head. Minimal trimming around the anal and genital areas, for hygienic purposes only, is permissible but should not be noticeable on presentation. The hair on the feet and between the pads should be neatly trimmed for the express purpose of a tidy presentation. Any other trimming or sculpting of the coat is to be severely penalized as to preclude placement. Because correct gait is essential to breed type, the Havanese is presented at natural speed on a loose lead.

# Presentation

- HCA – Havanese should be shown as naturally as is consistent with good grooming. They may be shown either brushed or corded. The coat should be clean and well conditioned. In mature dogs, the length of the coat may cause it to fall to either side down the back but it should not be deliberately parted. Head furnishings are long and untrimmed, and may fall forward over the eyes or to both sides of the head; they may also be held in two small braids secured with plain elastic bands. The braids start above the inside corner of each eye and extend at least to the outside corner, forming the appearance of eyebrows. No other hair accessories are permitted. Minimal trimming of the anal and genital area is permissible but should not be noticeable on presentation. Hair on the feet and between the pads should be neatly trimmed. No other trimming or sculpting of the coat is permitted and is to be so severely penalized as to preclude placement. Havanese should be presented at a natural speed on a loose lead to properly assess the characteristic springy gait.
- FCI – . . .His movement is lively and elastic. . . . According to his happy nature, the Havanese has a strikingly light-footed and elastic gait; forelegs with free stride and pointing straight forward, the hind legs giving them the impulsion and moving in a straight line.
- All grooming, the usage of scissors to even out the length of the coat and all trimming is forbidden. Exception: tidying up the hair on the feet is permitted, [the hair on the forehead may be slightly shortened so that it does not cover the eyes and the hair on the muzzle may be slightly tidied up](#), but it is preferable to leave it in natural length.

# Presentation

- CKC – Casual and carefree, unaffected in both manner and appearance. Movement lively and elastic, plumed tail carried over the back. Tail: Loosely curled over the back while gaiting, may drop at rest. Gait: The Havanese has a strikingly light-footed and elastic gait which contributes greatly to breed type. Movement is lively and springy, forelegs free striding and pointing straight forward; hind legs giving the impulsion and moving in a straight line. Topline steady in motion; head naturally carried high. Movement best evaluated at the trot with dog moving freely on loose lead. Show of pads permissible. Faults: General appearance lacking in type; . . . . trimmed or sculpted coat; Over groomed or neglected coat.
- UKC – . . The hair on the forehead may form a curtain in front of the eyes, depending on the texture and length. . . . . this hair may be held away from the face by unadorned rubber bands. In Conformation events Judges can require the removal of bands which impede evaluation of the dog.
- None of the hair is to be scissored, except: for neatening around the edge of the feet. The tiniest possible trimming is permitted for good hygiene at the inner corner of the eyes, at the vent, and as needed on the belly. The hair between the foot pads must be trimmed to allow safe movement. The hair is not to be parted along the spine. Forehead hair may form a curtain in front of the eyes . . . A small braid starting above each eye and hanging down to the side is a permitted ring alternative. Scissored coats are disqualified except that the Stud Dog or Brood Bitch class entries may have simple, shortened coats. . . . Havanese have a lively, springy trot.

# Faults

- Zoila – If the tail is too close to the body or curly, it destroys the harmony and correct image of the Bichon Havanese, especially its walk. Faults: Incorrect bite: overshot, undershot or clamp bite. Crooked bones. Poor pigmentation. Corkscrew tail. Timidity.
- AKC – Faults: The foregoing description is that of the ideal Havanese. Any deviation from the above described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation keeping in mind the importance of the contribution of the various features toward the “original purpose of the breed.”
- HCA- The foregoing description is that of the ideal Havanese. Any deviation from the above described dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.
- FCI – 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.

# Faults

- Important Faults: General appearance lacking in type. Truncated or snipey muzzle, length not identical to that of the skull. Bird of prey eyes; eyes too deep set or prominent; rims of eyelids partially depigmented. Body too long or too short. Straight tail, not carried high. French front (pasterns too close, feet turned outwards). Deformed hind feet. Coat harsh, not abundant; hair short except on puppies; groomed coat.
- CKC – Faults: Any departure from foregoing points to be considered a fault and penalized in proportion to degree of deviation. General appearance lacking in type. Excessive shyness or aggression. Fragility or coarseness. Muzzle truncated or snipey, shorter/longer than skull length. Bird of Prey eyes, eyes too deep set or prominent. Nose or eye rim(s) partially depigmented. Body too long/short; roached back; exaggerated rise. Straight or tightly curled tail; incorrect tail carriage. French front; leg(s) bowed/curved; deformed feet. Coat harsh, not abundant; hair short except on puppies, trimmed or sculpted coat. Over groomed or neglected coat.
- UKC – Eliminating Faults (sounds like a DQ to me, so see the next topic).

# Disqualifications

- Zoila –
- AKC – Disqualification: Height at withers under 8 ½ or over 11 ½ inches except that the minimum height range shall not apply to dogs or bitches under twelve months of age. **Complete absence of black (or chocolate in the chocolate dog) pigmentation on the eye-rims, nose or lips.** Coarse, wiry coat. An atypical short coat on an adult. (Atypical refers to a smooth, flat coat with, or without furnishings.)
- HCA- Disqualifications: Height at withers under 8 ½ inches except that the minimum height shall not apply to dogs or bitches under twelve months of age. **Incomplete** or total lack of pigmentation of the eye rims. **Incomplete** or total lack of pigmentation of the nose or lips. Any color pigmentation other than black or brown. A coarse, wiry coat. A short, smooth coat with or without furnishings.
- FCI – Eliminating Faults: Aggressive or overly shy. Depigmented nose. Upper or lower prognathism. Ectropion, entropion; **rim of eyelids of one or both eyes depigmented.** Size over or under the indicated norms of the standard. Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified. N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- CKC – Disqualifications: Depigmented nose. Overshot or undershot. Ectropion, Entropion ; **one or both eye rims totally depigmented.** Height: under 21 cm or over 29 cm (minimum not applicable to puppies under 12 months. N.B. Males must have two apparently normal testicles fully descended.
- UKC – Eliminating Faults: (An Eliminating Fault is a Fault serious enough that it eliminates the dog from obtaining any awards in a conformation event.) **Height under 8 ½ inches or over 10 ½ inches.**



# Disqualifications

- Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Viciousness or extreme shyness. Overshot bite. Undershot bite. Wry mouth. Severely crowded or twisted teeth. A coarse or wiry coat texture. In adults, the complete absence of guard hairs or undercoat. Scissored coats (trimmed, neatened or molded), except at the edge of the feet or around hygiene areas. Albinism. **Weight under 7 or over 14 pounds. Less than full**, dark pigment on eye rims, nose or lips of dogs over 12 weeks of age.
- The portions of the Standards that I find difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile are highlighted in yellow.
- A consistent “look” of a dog in any given breed that is still within the Standard is referred to as a “Style” of dog. Indeed where line breeding is common and long term, it allows us to see the difference between a Malagold Golden Retriever and one from the Chuckanut Kennel. Where a pre-potent dog throws itself particularly well, “Style” may be seen just in the get of that powerful producer. For a few years, for instance, we could, easily pick out the “ANDY” dogs in the Golden Retriever ring.
- A problem arises when a Standard clearly defines a dog in a way that is in direct conflict with another Standard. For instance a Standard saying that a dog must be more than seven inches tall and another Standard that says a dog must be less than seven inches tall are irreconcilable. We are not simply talking about the difference in Styles of dog in such a case.

There is an old Fable/Parable about the six blind men asked to describe an elephant after examining the animal from their perspective. I like the Buddha version. After each blind man described the elephant differently from the others that version concludes this way:

“Then they began to quarrel, shouting, ‘Yes it is!’ ‘No, it is not!’ ‘An elephant is not that!’ ‘Yes, it’s like that.’ And so on, till they came to blows over the matter.

“Brethren, the raja was delighted with the scene.

“Just so are these preachers and scholars holding various views blind and unseeing . . . .In their ignorance they are by nature quarrelsome, wrangling, and disputatious, each maintaining reality is thus and thus”

Then the Exalted One rendered this meaning by uttering this verse of uplift,

O how they cling and wrangle, some who claim

For preacher and monk the honored name!

For, quarreling, each to his view they cling.

Such folk see only one side of a thing.

Jainism and Buddhism. Udana 68-69: Parable of the Blind Men and the Elephant.

I am not a dog show judge and never intend to be one. If I were a Judge, I guess that I would do the same thing I try to do as a breeder: Form a mental image of the ideal Havanese dog under all the Standards and then find the dogs closest to my mental image in the ring. I would refrain from “fault” judging and instead look for the best overall really good dog. I would follow the disqualification criteria of the Standard applicable to the venue where I was judging where the Standard did not allow me to employ my subjective discretion. And frankly, I would ignore the “requirements” of a Standard unique to any particular Standard or in conflict with other Standards – except where failure to adhere to a particular “requirement” called for a disqualification.

The difficulty various Standard writers have had in writing a uniform, clear Standard that easily describes the same dog reminds me of the now famous situation when United States Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart found that he could not define when pornography crossed the line and became obscenity. His famous rejoinder was . . . . “But I know it when I see it, . . . .” Jacobellis v. Ohio, 378 U.S. 184 (1964)

Those who have written these irreconcilable Standards purporting to describe the same dog have created a situation where Judging Havanese is analogous to Judging Porn: We can’t define the ideal Havanese, but we know one when we see one.

Or, perhaps more aptly: Are we deluding ourselves? If we can’t agree on a common definition and single Standard, then isn’t it perhaps true that “we” really don’t know what an ideal Havanese is – even when we see one.

# Blue Notes

- For your convenience, here is a summary of the Blue highlighted areas of Inconsistency or Contradiction in the various standards.
- Muzzle
  - Slightly longer
  - Is slightly less than the length of back skull
  - Is slightly less than length of skull
  - The length of the muzzle (tip of nose to stop) is equal to the distance between the stop and the occipital protuberance
  - Muzzle length equals skull length from stop to occiput
  - The length of the muzzle is equal to the distance from the stop to the occiput
- Prosternum
  - With a pronounced forechest
  - The prosternum is evident but not prominent
  - Forefront prominent

# Blue Notes

- Height
  - At the withers can range from 23 to 30 centimeters (9 to 12 inches)
  - Havanese stand between 8 ½” and 10½” in height
- Rise – and the Location of Rise
  - The topline is straight but not level, rising slightly from withers to rump.
  - A straight topline that rises slightly from the withers to the croup
  - Topline straight, slightly arched over the loin. (Croup noticeable inclined..)
  - Topline is straight, slightly arched over the muscular loin, presenting a gentle, gradual rise from withers to rear
- Amount of Rise
  - NB doesn't say there is a rise from the withers to the rump, tail or croup. The topline is straight, slightly arched over the loin.
- Hair Eyes
  - Hair on the forehead may be slightly shortened so that it does not cover the eyes.

# Blue Notes

- Presentation
  - The hair on the muzzle may be slightly tidied up
- Faults
  - If the tail is too close to the body or curly, it destroys the harmony and correct image of the Bichon Havanese, especially its walk.
  - Muzzle length not identical to that of the skull
  - The Muzzle length being shorter or longer than the skull
  - Nose or eye rim(s) partially depigmented.
  - Body too long or short
- Disqualifications
  - Complete absence of black (or chocolate in the chocolate dog) pigmentation on the eye-rims, nose or lips.
  - Incomplete
    - Rim of eyelids of one or both eyes depigmented
    - Height under 8 ½ inches or over 10 ½ inches
    - Weight under 7 or over 14 pounds
    - Less than full