



The majority of the 300 Barbet currently registered with the AKC were born in America from stock imported from Canada, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy and France. This population is quite young, as there were just 30 Barbet in the US in 2009. Among this group are more than 30 AKC title holders in 9 events including conformation, agility, rally, obedience, dock jumping, therapy and coursing aptitude.

JUDGING THE BARBET

To correctly assess the Barbet, the judge should first stand back to observe the entry for outline, overall balance and size. The dog should stand with an upright carriage, neck flowing smoothly into shoulder, a level topline into sloping croup and low set tail. There should be evidence of forechest with front legs set under the body, chest reaching to the elbow, beautiful sweep to the rear and low set hocks that are perpendicular to the ground. The coat should be long yet the shape of the dog should be evident.

Upon individual examination, the judge should approach the dog from the front as the view may be somewhat obscured by long hair that falls from the top of the head. The head should be broad and substantial. The backskull will be longer than the muzzle; the muzzle broad and not inclined to snipiness. The hair on the top of the skull must fall to the bridge of the nose with a long beard and moustache completing

the picture. Expression should be soft and kindly natured.

Conformation of the Barbet is relatively straightforward. This is a rectangular dog that should have good, balanced angles front and rear and all four feet should face forward with no toeing in or out. There is a slight rise over the loin where the athletic Barbet hinges when at speed. At the trot, the topline should remain level and strong while the tail is elevated in a graceful sweep, never curling onto the back. An easy, ground-covering trot with stylish carriage, good front reach and impulsion from hindquarters should be rewarded.

Bitches stand 19-22½ inches at the withers, with dogs 21-24½ inches. Weight for bitches generally falls in the low to mid 40s with dogs about

