The goals and purposes of this breed standard include: to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world; and to act as a guide for judges. Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this breed, and must take the responsibility to see that these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following 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 (and on the dog’s ability to perform its traditional work), which includes acting as a companion.

Eliminating Faults: Heavy wrinkles that affect breathing and/or obstruct normal vision. Muzzle so short as to affect breathing.

Teeth - A full complement of strong, white teeth meet in an undershot bite. A strong underjaw is essential.

Eliminating Fault: Teeth or tongue showing when the mouth is closed.

Disqualifications: Overshot bite. Wry mouth.

Eyes - Prominent, but not bulging, round eyes are dark and lustrous. They are set far apart, and no white shows. The eye rims are black.

Serious Faults: Bulging eyes Incomplete blink, Visible white.

Disqualifications: Entropionism, ectropionism.

Nose - Relatively short, wide, flat nose is black in color, and has large, open nostrils.

Serious Faults: Pinched nostrils. Dudley nose.

Ears - The heart-shaped ears have long feathers. They are set level to the skull, and carried close to the head. The ear leather is never long enough to come below the muzzle.

Serious Fault: Ears that come below the muzzle.

Neck
Short and thick.

Forequarters
Shoulders and upper arms are well laid back and fit closely to the body.
FORELEGS – Short and thick, with heavy bone. Slightly bowed between the pastern and the elbow, which should be held close to the body. The pasterns are moderately sloping, and the front feet turn out slightly. Dog stands well up on feet, not down on pasterns.  
**Serious Faults:** Weak pasterns. Pasterns sloping sharply. Standing down on pasterns.

**BODY**
Short, heavier in front than rear, tapering to a distinct waist. The chest is broad, and the ribs are well sprung and slung between the forelegs. The topline is level.

**HINDQUARTERS**
Hind legs - Strong and well-muscled. The hind legs have slightly less bone than the forelegs, and moderate angulation. Stifles are well defined. Hocks are firm and tight. Viewed from behind, the legs are strong, parallel and fairly close together. Feet point straight ahead.  
**Fault:** Dog whose rear is weak or excessively narrow.

**FEET**
Large and flat. Not round. The toes are well feathered. The Pekingese stands well up on his feet, not on his pasterns.  
**Fault:** Dog standing on pasterns and not on feet.

**TAIL**
The tail is set high, and lies tightly over the back to either side.

**COAT**
The breed is double coated. The long, straight outer coat is rather coarse, while the undercoat is soft and dense. Feathers are found on the thighs, legs, tail, ears and toes. The mane forms a ruff or frill around the neck and extends beyond the shoulder blades. The whole of the coat should not affect the dog’s movement, nor appear cumbersome. Should be shown groomed minimally.  
**Faults:** Curly or wavy outer coat.

**COLOR**
All colors and markings are equally permissible.  
**Disqualification:** Albinism.

**SIZE & WEIGHT**
Pekingese look small but should feel surprisingly heavy when picked up. Ideal weight should not exceed 14 pounds.  
**Serious Fault:** Over 14 pounds in weight.

**GAIT**
Soundness is of the utmost importance. Movement is slow and dignified, with a roll in the front quarters. Action behind is close.

**ELIMINATING FAULTS**
(A dog with an Eliminating Fault is not to be considered for placement in a bench show/conformation event, nor are they to be reported to UKC.)

Heavy wrinkles that affect breathing and/or obstruct normal vision.  
Muzzle so short as to affect breathing.  
Teeth or tongue showing when the mouth is closed.  
**DISQUALIFICATIONS**
(A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a bench show/conformation event, and must be reported to UKC.)

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.  
Viciousness or extreme shyness.  
Albinism.  
Overshot bite.  
Wry mouth.  
Entropionism, ectropionism.