

Breed Standard for the Bichon Habanero/ Toy Havanese/ Bichon Havanais

(as written in El Bichon havanero book by Ziola Guerra- early 1990s)

Classification: Toy and companion dog

General appearance: The Bichon Havanero or Toy Havanese is a small, lively dog with a mantle of long, silky wavy hair in any color or combination of colors covering its entire body, which is slightly longer than its width at the withers. The tail is raised like a plume and curled over the rump. By temperament, it is playful and alert. The Toy Havanese belongs to Group IX, as classified by the Federation Cynologique Internationale.

Head: Proportional to the size of the body, with moderate nasal-frontal depression: broad, flattened skull: large, dark, expressive, almond-shaped eyes surrounded by a halo of pigmentation. The stop is ample, with good pigmentation, and the muzzle is slightly shorter than the forehead. The underjaw is flat and firm. Teeth meet in a scissors bite. High set, broad-based ears fall to points without covering the cheeks. The ears have a slight dip that rises when the dog is at attention. The dog's long hair falls from the occiput over the muzzle, covering the eyes.

Neck: Moderately long and erect, with no dewlap.

Body: Slightly longer than it is tall, the Toy Havanese has rounded flanks, high haunches and a strong back. The spine slopes slightly toward the rump.

Front legs: Short, straight and moderately angled. Longitude from the feet to elbow the same as from elbow to stop. Strong bones. Rounded feet with long, somewhat delicate toes, covered with hair

Hind Legs: Solidly muscular thighs, with convex outer edge. Leg slightly longer than thigh. Oval shaped feet.

Tail: Located high on the rump, the tail is thick at the base and tapers to a point as it curls over the rump without touching the body. Long, silky hair gives the tail a plum-like appearance.

Skin: Tight to the body and wrinkle-free

Color: All colors and their possible combinations are acceptable

Height: Between 23 and 30 centimeters tall at the stop.

Movement: Lively, elegant, resilient gait, with head held high and tail waving over the rump

Sexual organs: Males must have two normal well-developed testicles.

Grooming: Coat must be kept clean. Hair is brushed by layers with a grooming rake once a week. Hair around the inner corners of the eyes, the pads of the feet, the genital and the anal areas should be kept trimmed.