

TIBETAN MASTIFF COAT PATTERN & LENGTH

By Marcha Garn

The following pictorial presentation was compiled to demonstrate the typical coat pattern and varying coat lengths in Tibetan Mastiffs.

The first photographic page describes the typical coat pattern of an adult Tibetan Mastiff.

**Puppies have a coat that lacks guard hair (outer coat) and is typical of the undercoat. The guard hair starts to become evident between 5 and 6 months of age. The patterning is discernable at around 8 to 9 months of age. These are approximations and may vary somewhat.*

**In warm months, adults shed their undercoat and it to the point it may be hard to find. Dogs should not be penalized in the show ring during these months for lack of undercoat. The coat length patterning of the guard hair is not shed and should be observable.*

Please note that as Tibetan Mastiffs age, it is not uncommon to see lengthening of the hair on the ear leathers and around the croup area. The coat in general can also become thicker and longer as the dog ages.

The following pages are the varying coat lengths seen in TMs.

You will be able to see the coat pattern in the full body photos that were taken at an angle that allows the coat pattern to be seen. This is pattern is evident in all coat lengths.

Please keep in mind that there are “no perfect dogs” and the dogs that are pictured are not meant to represent a perfect specimen of the breed.

“Photos Courtesy of Sanna Sander” are Aboriginal dogs. The photos were taken at the “Saving and Protecting Do-Khyi International Conference 2014”, held in China, Spring 2014. Thank you, Sanna!

Many thanks to those contributed by allowing the sharing of their photographs and their lovely dogs!

TIBETAN MASTIFF COAT PATTERN TMs have a coat pattern that is one of the defining characteristic of the breed. It is an adaption that protects the dog from being injury by predators and helps maintain body temperature in the extreme climate of the lands of the Tibetan Mastiff's origin. Guard hair length and feathering varies dog to dog from fairly short to moderately long. Photo courtesy of Sergej Shurashov.



Longer guard hair may start **mid-skull or farther back** and blends back to mane.

Mane blends into a **“shawl”** that runs over shoulders and down the length of the spine, over the **hips** and blending into the breeches. The hair becomes shorter over the hips. **Feathering** is typical behind shoulders. Undercoat may be denser in these areas.

Hair on the ear leathers is soft and is typically shorter than the rest of the coat. Hair under the ears (behind cheeks) can be longer.

Tail, breeches and rear pasterns are feathered. Length varies from dog to dog, excessive length that impedes function or effects health is not desirable.

Mane extends around the front of the neck. This hair is can vary in length from dog to dog, but is typically shorter than the hair on back of the neck.

Feathering behind the forelegs varies in length from fairly short to moderately long, excessive length is not desirable. The hair on the front of the legs is short. **Feathering** is typical along the underline. Length varies as noted above.



Photo Courtesy of Sanna Sander



Photo Courtesy of Andy Briggs

Photo Courtesy of Donna Walker





Photo Source: Ingrus Pedigree database



Photo Courtesy of Kristina Sherling



Photo Courtesy of Sanna Sander



Sanna Sander
www.sannasdd.com

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