

TMSF MCNAB BREED STANDARD

The versatile nature of the McNab reflects the genetic diversity and hybrid vigor present in the breed. As is reflected in their mission, The McNab Stockdog Foundation seeks to retain this diversity. Therefore, the breed standard is broad and there is no desire to narrow it at the cost of losing genetic diversity.

BREED TYPE

The McNab stockdog is considered a working/herding class breed, bred to herd and gather up many varieties of livestock that live in flocks or herds. McNabs have their own style of working that distinguishes the breed from their cousins, such as the Border Collies, Kelpies and Koolies, just to name a few. Their working style is known as loose-eyed, as opposed to fixed-eyed. McNabs' strongest herding trait is to go to the head or fetch stock and hold. They use more force than stealth when moving cattle, which makes them excellent working cattle dogs. When in motion, they are upright and rarely in the crouch stance. They will use bite (not a gripping bite) and bark when necessary to move stock. They also have a keen nose and can scent stock that is taking cover in brush and flush them out of hiding. They are not driving dogs but can be taught to drive. McNabs can easily switch jobs, turn off and refocus. These dogs are famous for having an "off-switch."

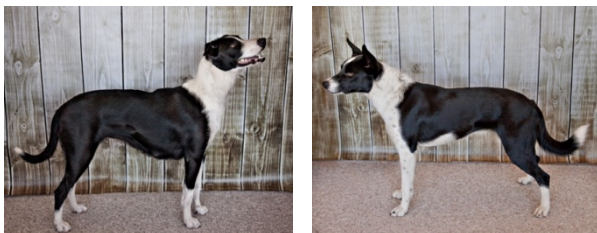
DISPOSITION

McNabs are extremely loyal companions to their guardians and protective of what is theirs. They may be reserved upon initial meetings with strangers, and, if not socialized early, they can be wary of strangers and other animals that do not belong in their clan. It is advisable to raise them with children, other pets and livestock, beginning at the puppy stage, so they can assimilate into the family and farm dynamics.

TEMPERAMENT

McNabs are working dogs and need a job to do. They have a strong desire to please and be with people and other animals, bonding strongly with their handler and family. McNabs are so smart that they can take on any task and will work whatever they are taught to work. McNabs' keen intelligence and desire to please and work have earned them breed titles in many venues, including working competitions, herding, hunting, sporting dogs, search & rescue, disaster relief, scent work, service jobs and serve as active family companions.

GENERAL CONFORMATION



A first impression of the McNab is to note their poised presence and alert, intelligent expression. McNabs are of medium size, slightly longer than tall. They have a lean body, and their way of moving is smooth and effortless. Any conformation faults that would hamper their endurance and athletic abilities as a working/herding class of dog breed should be disqualified for breeding purposes.

HEAD



Appearance is keen and at attention, ready for action. The forehead shape is of a moderate stop, leading to a moderate muzzle. Straight pencil-nosed or blocky heads are considered a fault. Lips/jowls are not too tight or loose. Any extremes of the head are undesirable and considered a fault.

TEETH

McNabs should have a scissors bite. Incisors should line up evenly and any deviation of more than a ¼ inch underbite or overbite in the jaw is considered a serious fault.

EYES

Eyes are oval shape and well set apart. The most common McNab eye colors range from dark brown to amber. Blue eyes can also occur. Genetically, there are three distinct ways blue eyes occur in dogs:

- The first way, which is linked with pigment loss in the coat, can present in three different variations, either as two blue eyes, or as wall eyes or split eyes. Wall eyes, technically known as heterochromia, are when a dog has one blue eye and one brown or amber eye. A split eye has some blue in it and the rest is brown or amber. Split eyes vary from mostly blue to mostly brown or amber.
- The second way in which blue eyes can occur is when a dog has large amounts of white around its eyes. White areas on the coat are where the cells are unable to produce any pigment, so if these areas spread to the face, the result may be pigment loss in the eyes and on the nose, making the nose pink and the eyes blue. This only tends to occur on very high-white dogs.
- Lastly, blue eyes can be inherited as a completely separate gene, unaffected by coat color. This gene, however, is rare. It occurs occasionally in the Border Collie and similar breeds. These dogs can have one or both blue eyes, regardless of their main coat color, ranging in shade from almost white to sky blue. This is particularly striking when seen on black dogs.

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EARS



Ears are set well apart and medium-sized, with one or both carried erect and/or semi-erect, either pointing forward or offset to the side.

TAILS

Tail dock is set below the top-line. Tails are most commonly long by nature but may occur naturally bobbed of various lengths and may also be docked according to breeder preference.

HINDQUARTERS

From top of croup to point of hip should be the same distance as point of hip to stifle, with a triangular shape in order to give ample room for muscle mass. Gaskin has ample width allowing for muscle. Stifles should curve and not be too straight. Hocks should have curvature, not post-legged or sickle-hocked. Slightly turned-in hocks are acceptable.

FEET



Feet are compact and oval in shape: pads are deep and strong, and toes are moderately arched and close together with strong nails of moderate length. Webs between the toes are common among the McNab. Dewclaws occasionally occur on the hind legs, and it is recommended that they be removed. The bottom gives way to a deep heart girth, allowing room for heart and lung capacity. The flank is moderately tucked up, depending on the individual's body condition.

TOPLINE

The neck is of medium length, not set too high or low upon the shoulders, which are well defined and of medium depth. The body is lean and of medium muscle, allowing for a combination of speed and stamina. The top-line appears level with a well-sprung rib cage and muscular loins, giving way to a downward sloping croup. The top-line should not tilt more than 10 degrees uphill or downhill.

BOTTOM-LINE

Forelegs, when viewed from the front, are straight in line with the point of shoulder. Chest is of moderate width. Deviations occurring base narrow or base wide should not deviate more than 10 degrees. Toes pointing in or out more than 10 degrees are a fault. Because sufficient length of leg is crucial for the type of work the breed is required to do, the distance from the wither to the elbow is slightly less than from the elbow to the ground, and legs that are too short in proportion to the rest of

the body are a serious fault. The shoulder blades are long, well-laid-back and well-angulated to the upper arm. Shoulder blades and upper arms are equal in length. The elbows are neither in nor out.

GAIT

The gait is smooth and effortless. McNabs are so athletic that they can switch directions and speed in one motion, while still maintaining balance. Any defect that detracts from their agility and efficient movement would be considered a fault.

SIZE

Sizes range from a minimum of 14 inches at the top of the shoulder to a maximum height of 26 inches. Weight is a minimum of 30 pounds to a maximum of 60 pounds. Breeders should keep within these ranges.

HAIRCOAT

The McNab's coat is short to moderate in length (on average 2 inches long; should be no shorter than 1 inch); and is preferably single-coated and lying flat, although sometimes double coats occur, mostly around the neck and haunches. Light feathering on the tail and the back of the hind legs is common, but never on the front legs. Coats are typically either black bi-colors, red bi-colors or tri-colors. The colors can vary from liver to blonde and all shades in between. However, due to the McNab's diverse genetic background, recessive hair genes do occur, such as sables of different hues. Coat patterns other than bi-colors and tri-colors do occur, such as piebald and saddles with tan points. White furnishings starting with the head can be a blaze, strip, snips, split face, bald head or solid color, partial white over the ears, or no white on the head. White furnishings around the neck range from full white collars to partial collars. White markings on the chest are almost always full or partial. Legs can have white toe tips, socks and stockings. The lower torso is most commonly white, with large, black irregular markings that can cover the entire torso and go over the back, known as piebald. Tails can be half-white, on up to the tip, with no white. Some dogs are solid color with very little white trim. Light ticking can occur within the white areas, but roaning is not considered typical for this breed. Pink skin around the eyes, nose and lips can occur and is considered undesirable when excessive. Puppies are often born with pink noses or partial black noses, which fill in by the time they are 10 weeks of age. Lack of pigment on the nose or around the eyes and lips should not be more than 50%.

HEALTH

The average lifespan for the McNab is between 12 to 16 years of age. Genetic defects are very rare and uncommon in the McNab. However, because they are descended from European herding dogs and various other breeds known in the McNab DNA testing results, there is still the possibility that a recessive genetic disease mutation could surface.