

DRAFT BREED STANDARD

Hartwell Retriever

Last Updated: December 2025

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Australian National Kennel Council

Effective from XXXX

Country of Origin: Australia

Group:	Uncategorised
History:	<p>The Hartwell Retriever is an Australian-developed gundog and companion breed originating from deliberate development programs focused on temperament, trainability, coat qualities and family suitability. Multi-generational breeding has refined the type toward an athletic yet soft-natured dog suited to assistance, therapy, and active family environments.</p> <p>The breed's development emphasised intuitive human-animal connection, willingness to work, and an allergy-friendly coat. Today the Hartwell Retriever is recognised for its versatility across companionship, therapy, obedience, scent work, and retrieving-style activities, supported by a stabilising gene pool and emerging breed uniformity.</p>
General Appearance:	<p>The Hartwell Retriever must appear athletic, balanced and graceful, with a compact, well-proportioned body of medium substance. The outline should not appear cloddy or heavy, nor overly fine. A distinctive hallmark of the breed is its soft-textured, low-shedding coat, which may present as fleece or wool and must not be double-coated.</p> <p>Overall impression: a sound, soft-natured, highly trainable dog with a free, effortless gait and expressive presence.</p>
Characteristics:	Extremely clever, intuitive, sociable and people-oriented. Hartwell Retrievers have a strong desire to connect with their handlers, demonstrating an ability to recognise human emotional states. Joyful and energetic when free, yet soft and calm when handled.
Temperament:	Friendly, gentle and people-focused. Highly intelligent, confident, inquisitive and exceptionally trainable. Approaches people happily and displays stability suitable for therapy and family roles.
Head And Skull:	<p>The head should be proportional to the body, moderately broad with defined eyebrows and a moderate stop.</p> <p><i>Foreface and skull</i>: Foreface slightly shorter than the skull. Clean-cut, without fleshy cheeks.</p> <p><i>Muzzle</i>: Medium length, strong, not snipey.</p> <p><i>Nose</i>: Large, fleshy, pigmentation colour-dependent.</p>
Eyes:	Well apart, soft and expressive.
Ears:	Large, expressive, rounded tips framing the face.
Mouth:	<i>Jaws</i> : Strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.
Neck:	Medium length, strong, flowing into well-laid-back shoulders, allowing free head carriage.

Forequarters:	<p><i>Shoulders:</i> Well laid back, upper arms equal in length. Elbows close to the body.</p> <p><i>Forelegs:</i> Straight when viewed from the front. Bone moderate. Pasterns strong and flexible.</p>
Body:	Square or slightly rectangular outline. Deep chest, well-sprung ribs, strong loin with slight tuck-up. Topline level and firm. Length from point of shoulder to point of buttock is approximately equal to height at withers.
Hindquarters:	Well-muscled, balanced with forequarters. Moderately turned stifles, short perpendicular hocks. Rear view straight; cow-hocks faulted.
Feet:	Medium, round, well-arched toes with thick pads. Should not turn in or out.
Tail:	Follows topline, may be carried gaily but not curled over back.
Gait/Movement:	Effortless, smooth, powerful and coordinated with good reach and drive. Light, sound and free.
Coat:	<p>Accepted coat types:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fleece Coat – Soft, silky, wavy or softly spiralling. 2. Wool Coat – Soft lambswool texture with loose spiralling curls. <p>Hair coat is undesirable.</p> <p>General coat requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length 4–6 inches • Straight, wavy or spiralling in staples • Soft texture; not dense, fluffy or fuzzy • Single coat only (double coat is a fault) • Coat changes through life acceptable
Colour:	<p>All acceptable colours and patterns from the development program are recognised.</p> <p><i>Solid Colours:</i> Chalk, Cream, Gold, Caramel, Red, Black, Silver, Blue, Chocolate, Café, Lavender, Parchment.</p> <p>Pigment must match colour group as described.</p> <p><i>Patterns:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid (preferred even shading) • Parti ($\geq 50\%$ white with patches) • Phantom (solid base with specific second-colour points) • Abstract ($< 50\%$ white) • Sable (black-tipped hairs on solid base) • Brindle (tiger-striped pattern) • Multi-pattern (more than one pattern expressed)

Sizes:	<p>Standard Height: 53–63 cm Weight: 21–30 kg</p> <p>Medium Height: 43–52 cm Weight: 13–20 kg</p> <p>Miniature Height: 35–42 cm Weight: 7–13 kg</p> <p>Ideal proportions: square, balanced and athletic.</p>
Faults:	<p>Faults should be judged in relation to their impact on the breed's function, health and temperament.</p> <p>Examples of faults:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toeing in or out • Cow-hocks • Excessive or insufficient bone • Harsh, thick, double or shedding coat • Nervous or unstable temperament • Incorrect bite • Poor movement, lack of reach or drive • Excessive curl tightness (wool) or fuzzy texture (fleece) • Pigment not matching colour description <p>Severe Faults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair coat • Aggression or extreme shyness • Double coat • Structural abnormalities affecting movement
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males should have two testicles fully descended. • Breeders should prioritise health, temperament, intuitive connection to humans, and structural balance.