Explanation of judging: Marion ten Cate

In the past many breed standards had a point system for the different parts of the dog. But in time most standards skipped this point system because judging is about Breedtype and overall balance of the dog and not about separate points. Example: A dog with excellent rear angulation, could get lots of points for this angulation but with a steep front it will probably show erratic movement. All drive from the rear won’t be supported by the front. The rear will go anywhere but not forward.

**Judging is about Breedtype :**

Breedtype are made by those characteristics of the breed that differentiates it from another breed.

**In general type is made by: head, outline, size, coat and movement – but especially by those points that are unique for a sheltie.** Example: Typical for a sheltie is size . Otherwise we could take a Collie: Ideal size is 35,5 cm for a bitch and 37 cm for a dog +/- 2,5 cm. A sheltie that is too big doesn’t fit in the frame of the Breedstandard. Even when it is a well constructed dog. It will be placed lower than a dog less well constructed dog but with a correct size.

An other example – although it seems a minor detail : are tip ears - only about 6 breeds have tip ears – so tip ears are a very important unique breed characteristic for a sheltie . It influences the expression – which should be sweet. I know a sheltie doesn’t walk on his ears but a sheltie with prick ears is just a nice small shepherd dog (Yslandic Dog?) but not a sheltie and I judge according to the Breedstandard of the Shetland Sheepdog.

A sheltie should have an abundant coat but not so much that it hides the outline of the dog. Than the dog will look cloddy and doesn’t fit in the general appearance of the Breedstandard. But no coat is even worse.

Also movement can be very characteristic: sheltie movement is efficient (not to high) , graceful with drive and stride .

So overall : A nice constructed dog is not a sheltie when it doesn’t have tip ears, correct size, rich coat and moves light and graceful. Without these points It could be any breed.