



## COTON DE TULEAR

### STANDARD RATIOS DEFINE THE ESSENCE OF THE DISTINCTIVE TYPE

The base ratios of the Coton de Tulear have been defined in every standard from the Original Madagascar Standard of 1970, the FCI Original Standard of 1970, all revisions forward, and in the current AKC Standard of 2014. *The Coton is a "DEFINITE RECTANGULAR BREED" at the RATIO of 2 high / 3 long!* Not "slightly" longer than tall. Standard described elements of the breed are based on these RECTANGULAR PROPORTIONS!

When base ratios are not correct, the silhouette, structure, angulation and movement of the dog is effected negatively. The glorious Coton de Tulear coat is easily groomed to hide faults making it essential to always perform a thorough "hands on" evaluation of the underlying skeletal structure of the breed.

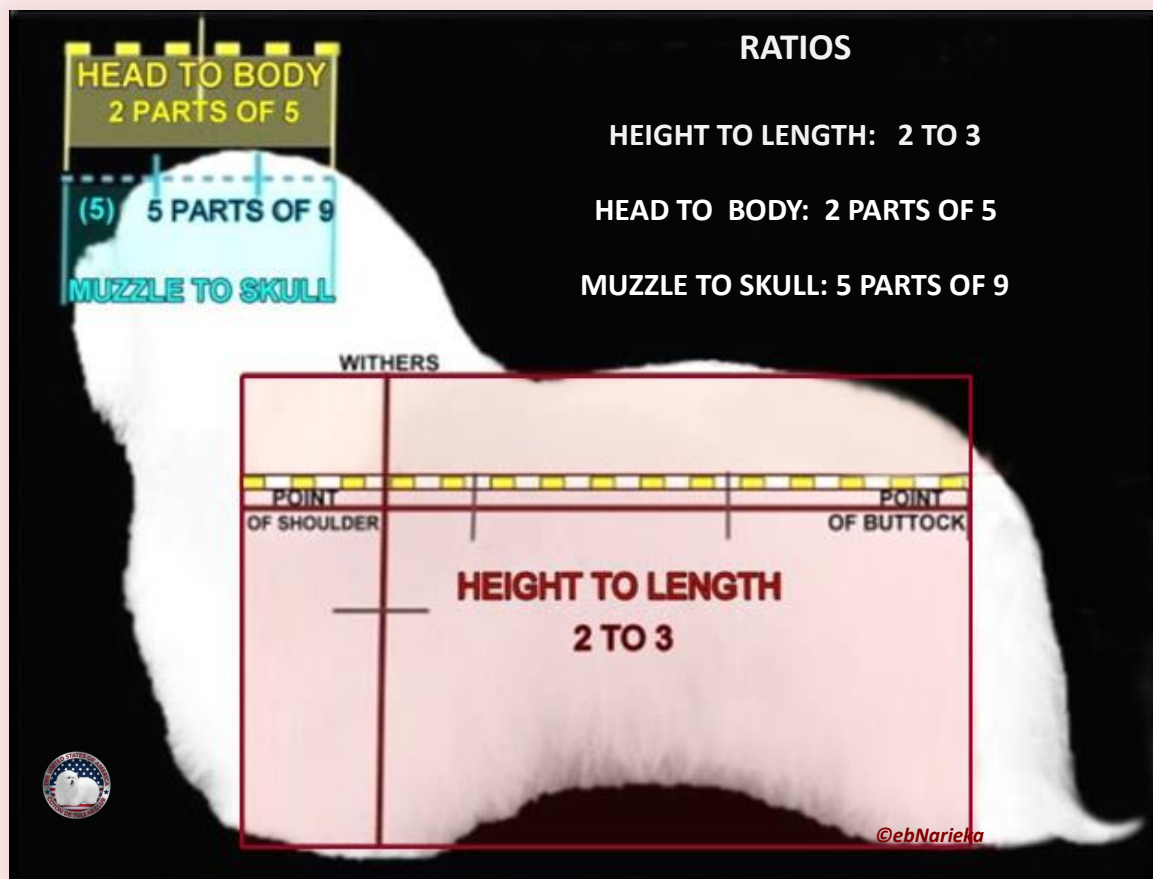
***ALL ratios are measured from STANDARD DEFINED SKELETAL POINTS of the dog.***

***Example: 10" HIGH.....LENGTH IS 15" LONG ....A DEFINITE SKELETAL RECTANGLE!***

***Never BASE RATIOS on illusions created by the coat or grooming of the body, head, stop or muzzle!***

***Profuse coat creates the ILLUSION of additional length both forward & rear of the skeleton.***

***ALL OTHER RATIOS are BASED ON THE HEIGHT TO LENGTH RATIO.***





# COTON DE TULEAR HEIGHT THE DEFINITIVE BASE MEASUREMENT

**HEIGHT DISQUALIFICATION! Over and Under Defined Heights!**

**DOGS: IDEAL – 10" to 11" BITCHES – 9' to 10" BOTH WITH ALLOWANCE OF 1" ABOVE & ½" BELOW**

**EXCEPTION: PUPPIES UNDER 12 MONTHS OF AGE ARE DISQUALIFIED FOR OVER HEIGHT ONLY**

*Never measure or evaluate, height, length, head, stop, muzzle by profuse coat or creative grooming illusions*

**HEIGHT IS MEASURED FROM WITHERS TO GROUND.**  
*Coton de Tulear withers are only slightly pronounced.*

**WITHERS**  
 Location: the highest point of the shoulder, usually between the second and third spinous process.

**DOGS: 9 1/2 " to 12"**  
**BITCHES: 8 1/2" to 11"**

*The Coton de Tulear is measured on a table.*

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## HEIGHT TO LENGTH RATIO

**MEASURING 2 TO 3 BODY RATIO**

*Coton de Tulear withers* **2 HIGH**

**A. WITHERS:** highest point of shoulder behind neck.  
**B. LEVEL SURFACE** under foot where stacked.

**MEASURE SKELETAL POINTS**

**3 LONG**

**C. POINT OF SHOULDER:**  
 Forward point of shoulder and upper arm joint. (NOT prosternum)

**D. POINT OF BUTTOCK:**  
 Rearmost projection of the buttock.

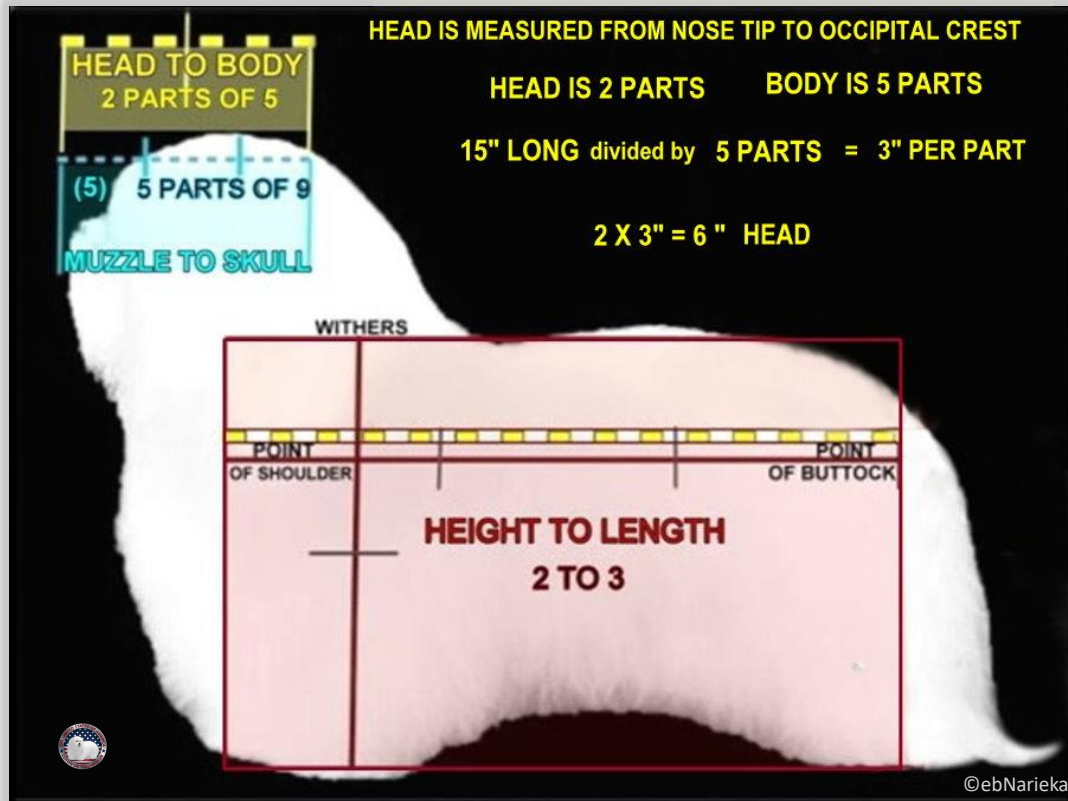
**THESE MEASUREMENTS ESTABLISH THE DISTINCTIVELY DEFINITE RECTANGULAR COTON BOD**



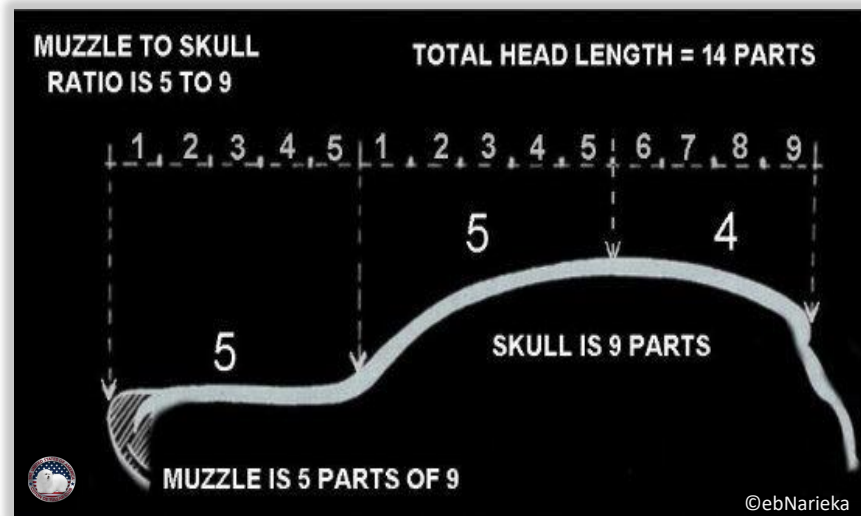
# HEAD TO BODY RATIO IS 2 PARTS HEAD TO 5 PARTS BODY

*Never evaluate body ratios, head stop & muzzle by profuse coat or creative grooming illusions!.*

**HEAD** IS MEASURED FROM **NOSE TIP TO THE OCCIPITAL CREST**  
**BODY** IS MEASURED FROM **POINT OF SHOULDER TO POINT OF BUTTOCK**



MUZZLE TO SKULL RATIO IS 5 PARTS OF 9



It is vital to remember that the LENGTH of the SKULL is different than the total length of the HEAD.

## MUZZLE TO SKULL RATIO IS 5 PARTS OF 9

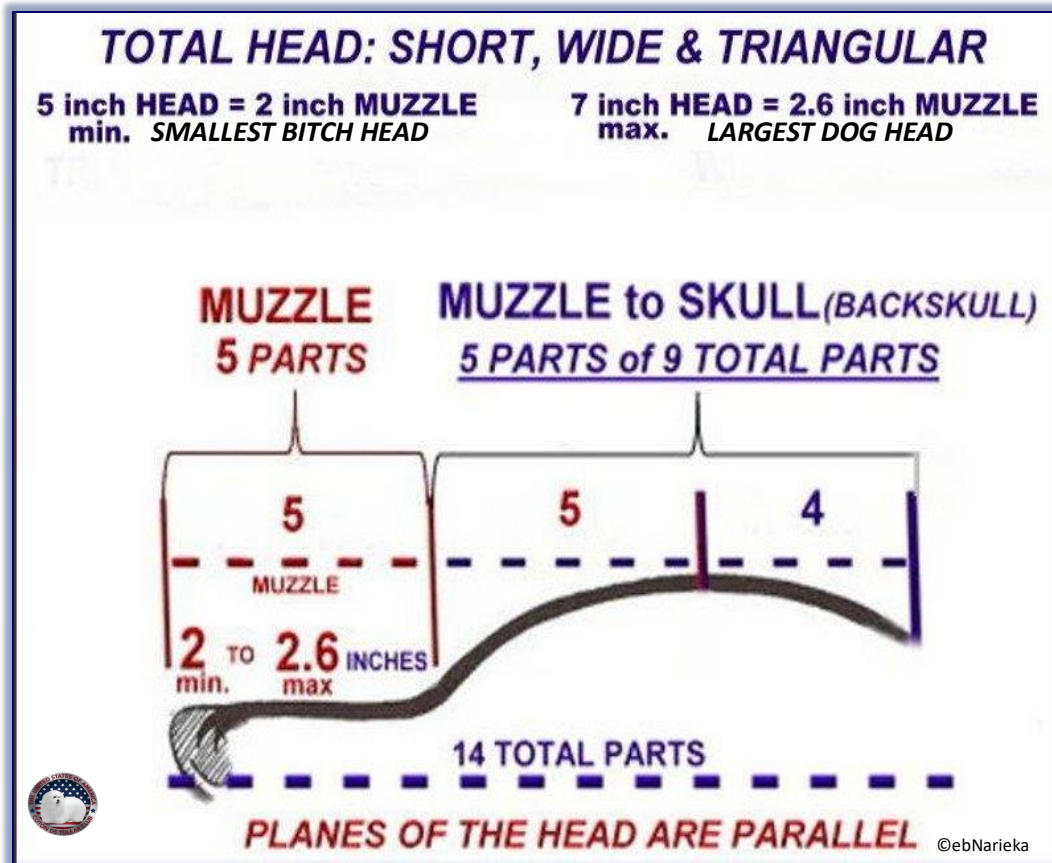
*Never evaluate the head stop & muzzle by profuse coat or creative grooming illusions.*

It is vital to remember that the LENGTH of the SKULL is different than the total length of the HEAD

**TOTAL HEAD** MEASURES 14 PARTS FROM NOSE TIP TO OCCIPITAL CREST

**SKULL(BACKSKULL)** MEASURED FROM STOP TO OCCIPUT IS 9 PARTS

**MUZZLE** IS 5 PARTS OF SKULL(BACKSKULL) FROM END OF **NOSE TO STOP**.



**IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH CORRECT HEAD LENGTH BEFORE ASSESSING MUZZLE LENGTH!**

**1: Place thumb on stop and forefinger on occipital crest.**

*(ESTABLISHING SKULL LENGTH- 9 PARTS OF FULL HEAD)*

**2: Keeping thumb in place, bring index finger forward to slightly less than half the distance to the thumb.**

*(ESTABLISHING THE LENGTH OF MUZZLE 5 PARTS OF 9 PARTS SKULL LENGTH)*

**3: Holding the distance established, place thumb on end of nose & index finger on stop.**

*(That measurement should be the exact length of muzzle to skull....5 to 9!)*

**ON CORRECT BASE HEAD TO BODY PROPORTIONS – muzzle measures slightly over ½ of the skull (backskull)**



## HOW TO MEASURE

*Never measure or evaluate, height, length, head, stop, muzzle by profuse coat or creative grooming illusions*

**HEIGHT IS MEASURED FROM WITHERS TO GROUND  
FOLLOWING THE STANDARD PRESCRIBED NUMBERS FOR DOGS & BITCHES**

*As reflected by the charts below.*

### **HEIGHT**

Height divided by 2 = each part of height

### **HEIGHT TO BODY RATIO 2 TO 3**

2 parts height x 3 = Body Length

### **HEAD TO BODY RATIO 2 TO 5**

Length divided by 5 = length of each body part

Body part x 2 = head length

### **MUZZLE TO SKULL RATIO 5 PARTS OF 9**

*FIRST establish total HEAD Parts*

*TOTAL HEAD PARTS: 5 + 9 = 14 total HEAD parts*

**SKULL IS 9 X each head part**

**MUZZLE is 5 x each head part**

### **DOGS**

HEIGHT	LENGTH	HEAD	SKULL	MUZZLE
12	18	7.2	4.63	2.57
11	16.5	6.6	4.24	2.36
10	15	6	3.86	2.14
9.5	14.25	5.7	3.66	2.04

### **BITCHES**

HEIGHT	LENGTH	HEAD	SKULL	MUZZLE
11	16.5	6.6	4.24	2.36
10	15	6	3.86	2.14
9	13.5	5.4	3.47	1.93
8.5	12.75	5.1	3.28	1.82



## EXAMPLE

**BASED ON A COTON DE TULEAR THAT IS 10 " HIGH**

**Never measure or evaluate, height, length, head, stop, muzzle by profuse coat or creative grooming illusions**

HEIGHT TO LENGTH RATIO 2 TO 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 HIGH DIVIDED BY 2 = 5" each part

HEIGHT TO LENGTH RATIO 2 TO 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 parts long by 5" parts high = 15 inches long.

**COTON 10 " HIGH IS 15 " LONG**

HEAD TO BODY RATIO 2 TO 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 15" LONG DIVIDED BY 5 PARTS = 3" per body length part.

HEAD TO BODY RATIO 2 TO 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 3" per length part times 2 head parts = 6" head length.

**COTON 10" HIGH AND 15" LONG HAS A 6" HEAD**

**REMEMBER THAT THE FULL LENGTH OF THE HEAD NOSE TO OCCIPUT IS DIFFERENT THAN  
THE LENGTH OF THE SKULL(BACKSKULL), STOP TO OCCIOUT ONLY!  
MUZZLE and SKULL LENGTH IS ESTABLISHED BY THE TOTAL HEAD LENGTH**

### ESTABLISHING TOTAL HEAD LENGTH PARTS

*ADD 5 TO 9 for a TOTAL OF 14 PARTS TO ARRIVE AT EACH HEAD PART*

**HEAD IS 14 PARTS TOTAL. ON A HEAD LENGTH OF 6 " DIVIDED BY 14 PARTS = 0.428 " PER PART.**

MUZZLE TO SKULL RATIO 5 TO 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 TOTAL PARTS OF MUZZLE AND SKULL

MUZZLE IS 5 PARTS \_\_\_\_\_  $5 \times 0.428" = 2.14"$

SKULL IS 9 PARTS \_\_\_\_\_  $9 \times 0.428$

**COTON 6" HEAD HAS A .....2.14 " MUZZLE**

**COTON 6" HEAD HAS A .....3.86" SKULL**

USACTC, Inc. has created this document to aide in the understanding of these defining ratios As we strive to preserve the magnificent Coton de Tulear.

THE ELABORATION OF THE STANDARD

COTON TAIL CARRIAGE AND MOVEMENT

EVALUATING THE COTON COAT

And numerous informative articles can be found on

**usactc.dog Please note .dog is correct!**

<https://www.usactc.dog/resources/judges-education/printable-education-guidelines/>

Prepared by Eileen Narieka from the USACTC Breed Education Committee.  
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