



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COTON DE TULEAR CLUB

PRESENTS

### THE WONDERFUL WICKET

**“Congratulations!” You are the proud owner of the magnificent Coton de Tulear!**

**As a breeder, exhibitor in conformation, or a participant in performance activities, measuring your dog is an invaluable procedure to lead you down the path to success.**

**“Why?”**

**The Coton de Tulear breed standard clearly states allowable height measurements and attaches so much importance to this measurement, that it is written as a disqualification for failure to measure within the standard prescribed height!**

**BREEDER:** A reputable breeder strives to make every attempt to breed their dogs to the written standard of perfection. After establishing correct height, the standard establishes ratios for body length ( 2 high x 3 long), head length ( 2 parts head X 5 parts body length) and muzzle length ( muzzle to skull – 5 parts of 9). All of these measurements are derived from the “ initial height measurement” making that determination of height the vital base to establish all key elements of “Coton de Tulear Breed Type and Silhouette.”

**CONFORMATION EXHIBITOR:** When you present a dog in the conformation show ring, you are seeking the evaluation of a Judge who is knowledgeable in your breed. As the Coton has a disqualification fault written for height, a judge may use the prerogative to measure any dog he feels is outside of allowable height measurements.

**PERFORMANCE ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT:** In agility, for example, your dog may need to be measured to ensure that they are competing at the correct height, then the classes they enter may depend on both the dog’s and the owner’s previous competition experience.

**NOTE:** The wicket used for conformation measurements is different than the wicket used for performance events. In this article, we are focusing on the use of the “conformation style wicket.”

#### **AKC Coton de Tulear Standard**

**Height:** The ideal height for bitches is 9 inches to 10 inches and for dogs is 10 inches to 11 inches. A tolerance of ½ inch below the minimum ideal height or 1 inch above the maximum ideal height is allowed but not preferred.

**Disqualification:** any bitch less than 8.5 inches or taller than 11 inches in height; any dog less than 9.5 inches or taller than 12 inches in height. The minimum height disqualification does not apply to puppies under 12 months of age.

**The goal of this article is to not only convey the importance of correct height for establishing correct overall Coton conformation, but to also help you and your Coton learn the wicket procedure so that you may proudly present your Coton that meets the standard!**



**COTON HEIGHT VARIATIONS** **WHAT IS A WICKET?**

**HEIGHT IS BASED ON SKELETAL POINTS – WITHERS TO GROUND  
VOLUME OF COAT AND GROOMING CREATE ILLUSIONS OF ACCURATE SIZE!**

**VARIATIONS OF ACCEPTABLE COTON DE TULEAR HEIGHTS**  
DIFFERENCES CAN VARY GREATLY

**DISQUALIFY OVER & UNDER HEIGHT\***

**DOGS 10" to 11"**  
TOLERANCE OF  
**1" ABOVE MAXIMUM**  
**½" BELOW MINIMUM**

**\* EXCEPTION**  
**\*EXCEPTION: DQ PUPPIES**  
**ONLY OVER HEIGHT LIMITS**  
**UNDER 12 MONTHS OF AGE**

**BITCHES 9" to 10"**  
IDEAL TOLERANCE OF  
**1" ABOVE MAXIMUM**  
**½" BELOW MINIMUM**

**WHAT IS A WICKET?**

The AKC Conformation wicket resembles an “upside down U shape” with a bar inserted below the handle. The legs are marked in “half inch increments ” and are adjustable, with locks to hold them in place. (The withers are the highest point at the dog’s shoulders. – See Graphic on Page 3 )

**AKC CONFORMATION WICKET**



**WHERE TO PURCHASE A WICKET**  
<https://www.doublingkuvasz.com/show-dog-wickets-sale/>

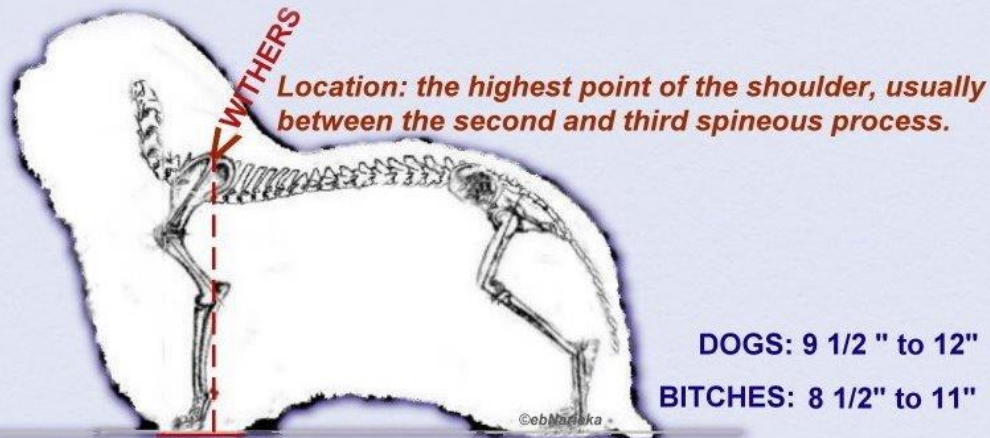
**HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN WICKET**  
[https://romanreign.com/how\\_to\\_make\\_a\\_wicket\\_to\\_measure\\_dogs.htm](https://romanreign.com/how_to_make_a_wicket_to_measure_dogs.htm)

NOTE: DO NOT PURCHASE A WICKET WITH FIXED HEIGHT LEGS. HEIGHTS VARY GREATLY IN COTONS!



## TRAINING FOR THE WICKET PROCEDURE

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



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

You've trained your Coton to stack on the table for examination. Continuing on that base, extend this familiarity by following the procedures **outlined in the steps on page 4**. Enlist the aid of a person that your dog feels comfortable with to act in the role of the judge and begin your practice. Keep your sessions short and pleasant followed by lots of praise and high reward value treats.

Stay focused on your goal of teaching your Coton to be comfortable with the procedure and familiar with the experience of having a judge bring an object, the wicket, over his back from the rear forward.

Every new exercise initially feels a little awkward to both you and your Coton, , but with time and patience, the wicket" procedure will become "second nature" while you proudly enjoy the validation of presenting your Coton de Tulear whose measurements are within standard limits!

If you are attending a CONFORMATION HANDLING CLASS and a wicket is available, ask the trainer to assist you in learning. AT A SHOW: Ask the AKC Field Representative if he is available to review the procedure with you.



**WATCH THE EXACT PROCEDURE**

**AKC – YOU TUBE VIDEO LINK**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcxSI5Nh0eE>

**1. When the judge calls for the wicket, he will inform you of the particular measurement he is taking, either above or below the prescribed standard height. NOTE: The judge is not measuring “exact height” only if the dog is over or under standard. SEE BELOW\***

**2 The judge will lay the wicket flat on the table, then adjust BOTH legs of the wicket as appropriate, lock them into place, and proceed, using a tape measure only, he will inform and confirm with you that the setting is correct and show you the measurement.** If you disagree with the set height, politely inform the judge of the correct allowable heights for the Coton. If necessary, ask the judge to review the standard.

NOTE: when this procedure is being performed, your dog is **NOT on the table!**

**3. After the wicket is properly set and confirmed, position your Coton in a natural “four square” stance with his head in a normal position.** Remove the leash. Control the head by holding it in a natural position as it shown on AKC graphic above.

NOTE: You may part the hair over the withers, allowing for an accurate measurement.

**4. The wicket is held at the judge’s side until he has used his hand to locate the highest point of the withers. The judge places a hand on this point.** Exercising extreme caution, the wicket is then brought up quickly from the rear and forward over the back of the dog, being careful not to hit the dog’s rear legs or at any other point.

**5. The Judge will than take his measurement according to the requirement of height he is looking for , either over or under the standard, noting the location of the dog relative to the wicket bar while observing the legs of the wicket for the location they reach on the table.**

**6. The judge will then mark his book either “measured in” or “measured out-Disqualified”.** A dog who displays unruly behavior and cannot be measured will be excused from the days competition and the judge will mark the book, “Excused – unable to measure”

#### **AFTER THE MEASUREMENT, IF DOG IS DISQUALIFIED. POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL JUDGES NOTATIONS**

Breed Standard DQ • Measured out per breed standard requirement – Judge’s book notation – DQ,  
Measured out by 3 unique judges is a permanent disqualification. All measurements must be noted in the Judges book as BREED STANDARD DISQUALIFICATION.

#### **The following applies when taking measurements to determine EXACT HEIGHT**

**BOTH legs of the wicket will sit level on the table and lay on the withers if you have set the wicket to measure an exact height.**



## ELIGIBILITY— CALLING FOR A MEASUREMENT

Details can be found by following the link below for **AKC RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS**

<https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RREGS3.pdf>

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### **EXCERPTS FROM “Rules Applying to Dog Shows” that are applicable to the Coton de Tulear**

**A height measurement** may be administered on any level of competition by judge’s decision or an exhibitor protest exhibiting in the class providing that no prior measurement was done at that day’s event. An entry may be measured ONCE during the course of an event.

**Exception** – A dog measured during a sweepstakes/futurity is also subject to measurement in the regular classes. Same-day separate events such as Concurrent/Evening Specialties, back-to-back All-Breed Shows etc. are unique events

A measurement may be administered on any level of competition by judge’s decision or an exhibitor protest exhibiting in the class providing that no prior measurement was done at that day’s event.

**NOTE:** A Judge does not have to measure all dogs in a class. It is up to their discretion to measure only the dog in question.

### **Suggestion: When attending a show, bring the following items.**

- 1. AKC pamphlet “Rules Applying to Dog Shows” --- [akc.org](http://akc.org) (link above)**
- 2. Copy of the AKC Breed Standard --- <https://www.usactc.dog/resources/breed-standard/>**
- 3. The USACTC Elaboration of the Standard ----**

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

- 4. Copy of this article for quick reference. ---**

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

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