



# THEODORE

Breed In Development

Preliminary Breed Standard



## **Breed characteristics**

Origin: Australia

Size: Small

Lifespan: 10-15 years

Energy level: Low/Medium

Breed group: Toy

## **Purpose of the Breed**

Theodores are specifically bred to be companion dogs. This makes them a perfect fit for families with children, as well as people who live alone and are seeking companionship.

### **The Purpose of the Theodore Breed Standard.**

This breed standard is intended to be the description in words of the temperament of the breed and how it should look and act. It is intended to be the blueprint used by MDBA Theodore breeders in their attempts to breed typical specimens of the breed and reach the necessary criteria to enable it to become a recognised breed.

It is a guideline for breeders to use so that they are able to strive together to produce examples of the breed, which look and behave in a consistent manner and for judges to use in assessing the dogs of this breed.

The breeding objective is to produce a group of healthy dogs which are predictable in appearance and temperament, which make it suitable for its intended purpose. It enables people to make more educated and responsible decisions about whether this breed will suit their purpose and lifestyle.

This consistency ensures the owner can factor in the amount of time required to grooming and exercise the dog, how much space in the home the dog needs, and how well their dog will fit in with children. How tall it a dog will grow, what sort of coat it will develop, and what kind of temperament it will have are predictable which allows potential owners to be informed about whether this breed will suit their lifestyle.

The Theodore is a breed in development and as such, it is still a work in progress. It will take time for the breed to achieve the consistency and criteria required for it to be considered and accepted as a purebred. Many dogs will not be the perfect specimen but will still be suitable in a breeding program.

### **Selection**

Selection describes the process of choosing animals that meet the requirements of the breeding objective and will, in a breeding program, pass particular traits onto their progeny. Selection should consider both subjectively measured traits (visual assessment) and objectively measured traits (genetic assessment).

To progress this breed to recognition as a pure breed, all breeders should use the breed standard, establish breeding objectives and goals and implement selection processes to meet those objectives as part of their breeding programs.

Breeding decisions should be made with the future in mind. Success in a breeding program can be measured as the cumulative result of multiple generations of selection, producing dogs which more closely resemble the breed description which are capable of breeding true to type.

The Theodore has its origins as a cross between a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and a Toy or Mini Poodle. The lovable results, of this cross breed, has brought the attention of serious breeders who wanted to use this base to develop a formal pure breed with the same ideal qualities and more predictability with improved health than their parents.

Those MDBA breeder members, involved in breeding this breed in development, will be able to advertise their dogs and puppies as Theodores/ Cavoodles for 5 years from acceptance by the MDBA as a foundation breed after which they must only be identified and advertised as Theodores. End date Jan 1 2027.

### **General Impression**

A well-balanced dog, free of exaggeration, with a luxurious low / non-shedding, odourless coat. A small, friendly, and affectionate dog that is eager to please, making it an easy breed to train. This is the baby face of the canine world as they have a puppy look about them even as they age. They have long wavy coats making them an extremely pretty dog to look at. They are generally, recognized by furnishings with the “groomed look” a fresh rounded appearance rather than droopy. They have a sociable, joyful, and friendly nature which is charming, outgoing, and friendly. They make excellent family dogs and companions due to their size and amiable temperament.

**Temperament:**

Temperament is affectionate, active, and intelligent. Theodores have a very gentle nature and can make wonderful companions for children. They can adapt to living in a small home or apartment as long as they receive adequate daily exercise. Theodore's can be good guard dogs as they may bark when visitors arrive, however they are not in any way aggressive. They can be quite vocal and prone to separation anxiety so early socialisation and training is necessary.

Their gentle and kind nature makes them behave as if they are extremely compassionate and empathetic. They can often be used as therapy dogs or emotional support dogs for this reason.

They are a well-loved small dog breed because of their outgoing temperaments, gentle nature, and their strong desire to accompany the family from room to room and during outings.

**Size**

No less than 28cm and no more than 36 cm at the withers; weight proportionate to height. A small, well-balanced dog within ideal weight to height is desirable.

**Proportion**

The body approaches squareness, yet if measured from point of shoulder to point of buttock, is slightly longer than the height at the withers. The height from the withers to the elbow is approximately equal to the height from the elbow to the ground.

**Substance**

Bone moderate in proportion to size.

**Head:**

Proportionate to size of dog, appearing neither too large nor too small for the body

**Skull:**

Rounded, not exaggerated, or domed with no tendency toward flatness; the eyebrows and stop are clearly defined.

**Muzzle:**

Full muzzle slightly tapered. Length from base of stop to tip of nose about 5 centimetres. Face well filled below eyes. Any tendency towards snipiness undesirable

**Bite**

A perfect, regular, and complete scissors bite is preferred, i.e., the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square into the jaws.

**Eyes**

Round, but not prominent, with no white showing, set well apart. Positioned to create a soft soulful expression.

**Ears**

Set at or slightly above eye level. Flat against the skull. Leather long with plenty of feathering and wide enough so that when the dog is alert, the ears fan slightly forward to frame the face

**Nose**

Nostrils well developed with pigment uniformly marked.

**Neck**

Neck well proportioned, strong, and long enough to permit the head to be carried high and with dignity without throatiness. Well, enough muscled to form a slight arch at the crest. The neck rises from strong, smoothly muscled, sloping shoulders to give an elegant look

**Tail**

The tail is straight and usually hangs freely past the hocks. The length of the tail is proportionate to that of the body. It is well set on, carried happily, often above their top line with a slight curl and in constant characteristic motion when the dog is in action.

**Coat**

One of the most distinctive physical characteristics of this breed is its coat. It is always luxurious with the texture being curly or feathered. It has large brows and a soft moustache. As the genetic values stabilize the ideal is soft, luxurious, and smooth textured wavy /feathered, single coat [no undercoat]. Exceptionally low to no shedding with exceptionally low to no odour. Visual wavy coat with furnishings most preferred.

A dense rough feeling wool coat and a flat coat with no furnishings are highly undesirable.

**Colours**

All colours are acceptable. Pigment should be solid. Butterfly nose not desirable

**Gait**

The Theodore should be free moving and elegant in action, with good reach in front and sound, driving rear action.

When viewed from the side, the movement exhibits a good length of stride, and viewed from the front and rear it is straight and true with no obstruction, resulting from straight-boned fronts and properly made and well-muscled hindquarters. Sound effortless movement is essential

**Body**

Short-coupled with ribs well sprung but not barrelled. Chest deep and moderately wide extending to the elbows, allowing ample heart room. Slightly less body at the flank than at the last rib, but with no tucked-up appearance.

**Topline**

The top-line is level, both when moving and standing, neither sloping nor roached, from the highest point of the shoulder blade to the base of the tail.

**Forequarters**

Shoulders well laid back, smoothly muscled. Forelegs straight with elbows close to the sides, when viewed from the front. When viewed from the side the elbow is directly below the highest point of the shoulder. The feet are in proportion to the leg, oval in shape with toes well arched and cushioned on thick firm pads with nails short but not excessively shortened. Strong Pasterns. The feet turn neither in nor out.

**Hindquarters**

The hindquarters construction should come down from a good broad pelvis, moderately muscled; stifles well turned, and hocks well let down. The angulation of the hindquarters balances that of the forequarters. The hindlegs when viewed from the rear should parallel each other from hock to heel.

Femur and tibia are about equal in length; hock to heel perpendicular to the ground. When standing, the rear toes are only slightly behind the point of the rump.

**Value of Points**

Temperament 25

General appearance, carriage, and condition.....15

Head, expression, ears, eyes, and teeth.....15

Body, neck, legs, feet, and tail.....15

Gait.....15

Coat, texture.....15

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