

Judging The Coton De Tulear

DIFFERENT TO JUDGING OTHER BREEDS!

Coat...Temperament...Topline...Gait

Judging the Coton is 60% coat quality and 40% the rest, remembering to allow for coat length and thickness varying as this depends on the heritage and region of the Coton.

Coat – The Coton de Tulear is named for its cotton textured coat:

- Should feel supple and soft.
- It can be dense, profuse and may be very wavy.
- An untypical coat is tightly curled, silky or woolly.
- A coat that is too short, too curly or too wavy is a fault.

Topline:

The Coton is groomed to highlight the top-line



Kiko
Two and a half year old male
Perfect Top-line



Quantana (Tina)
(WDS Best Puppy 2017/Multi-Euro CH)
Top-line and Head
Hungry Winter Championship 2017
Judge: Szilvia Gróf
(President of the Hungarian Toy Club)

Temperament – known as the clown or happy dog:

Breed as a companion dog the Coton is famous for its friendly nature referred to as the clown dog because it makes people happy and is like a mini guardian with its family being its flock.

Gait:

Not too open or too close, no uneven movement with a parallel movement of limbs and a shorter stride than the Havanese. In movement the Coton moves lively, airy and full of energy!



Section 1:

Initial Observations...

At first sight of the Coton, you can see the coat length, tail set, neck, head-form and the top-line contour. Judges like to see harmony between the handle/owner and the Coton.

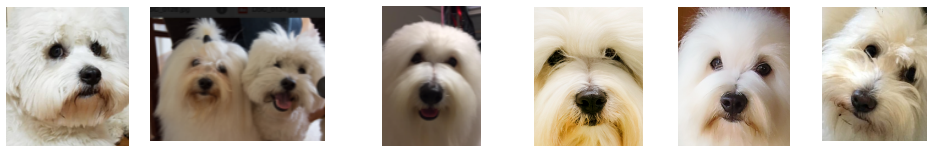
The tail is up in action easily leaning toward the back, or can be up and wagging, as this shows good temperament.

On entering the ring, or if the dog goes straight to the table, after the table inspection, when the Coton is doing a triangle, out and back or circle, the judge checks for harmonic movement of the legs (front and back). Parallel legs are desirable in movement. Default legs are those that are too close in movement or are cross-moving. In movement the Coton moves lively, airy and full of energy!

Section 2:

Things to check on the table...

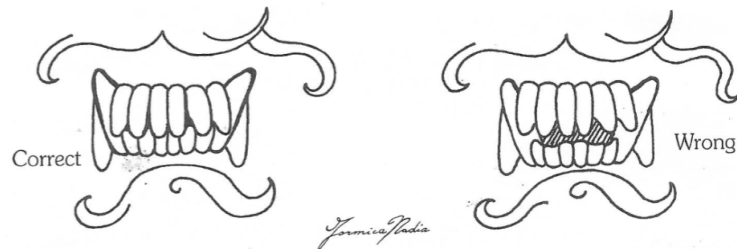
1. Dog's **character is very important, must have expressive eyes**, empty eyes are absolutely not tolerated. The correct Coton is playful, intelligent and always attentive.



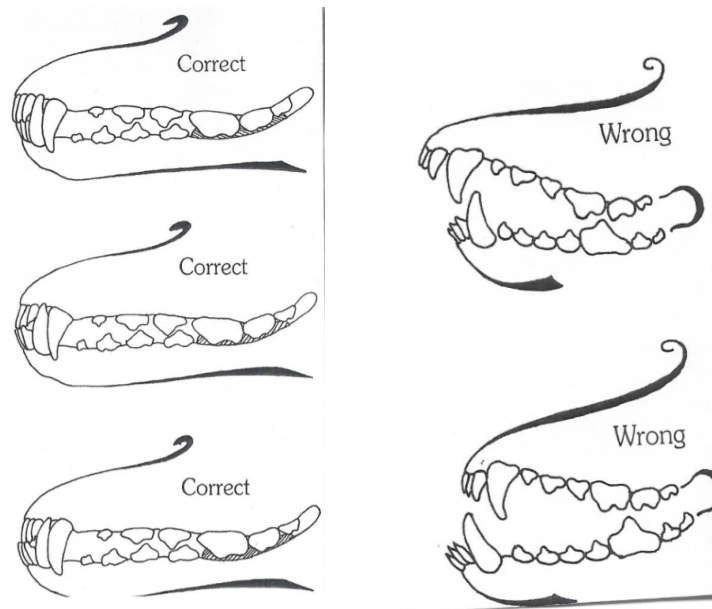
2. The tail is down on the table to show off the curved top-line.



3. Standard accepts 3 bites:



- Scissor
- Reverse scissor
- Pliers (Level)

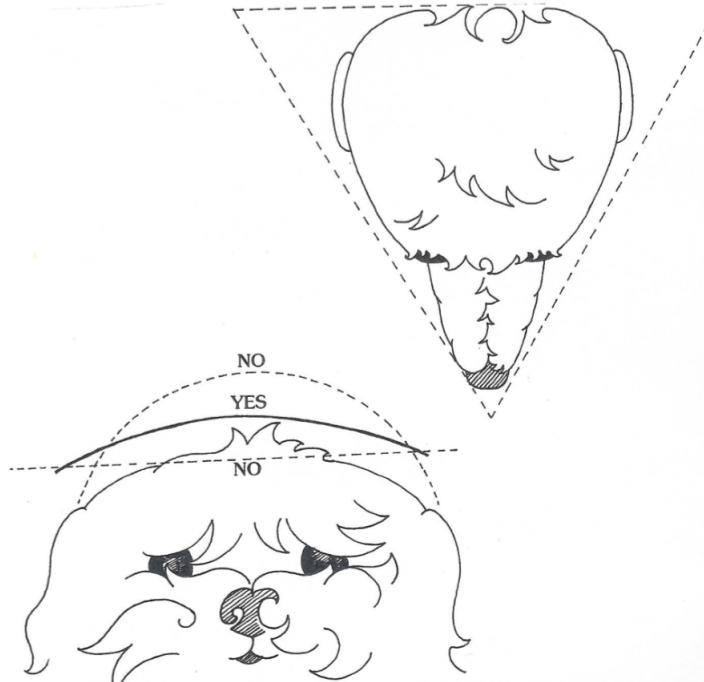


Top judges only accept the scissor bite for a show Coton, asking reverse scissor bites to leave the ring.

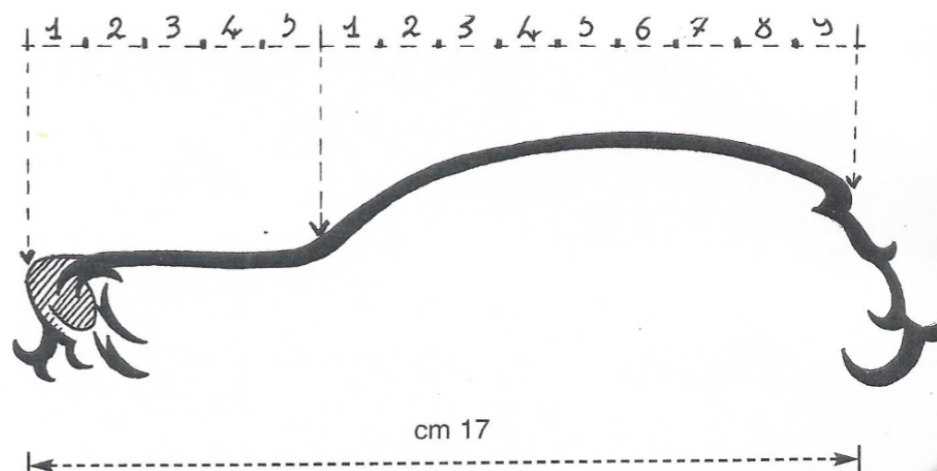
The premolars up and down and the loss of P1 not a big problem.

4. Checking the form of the skull:

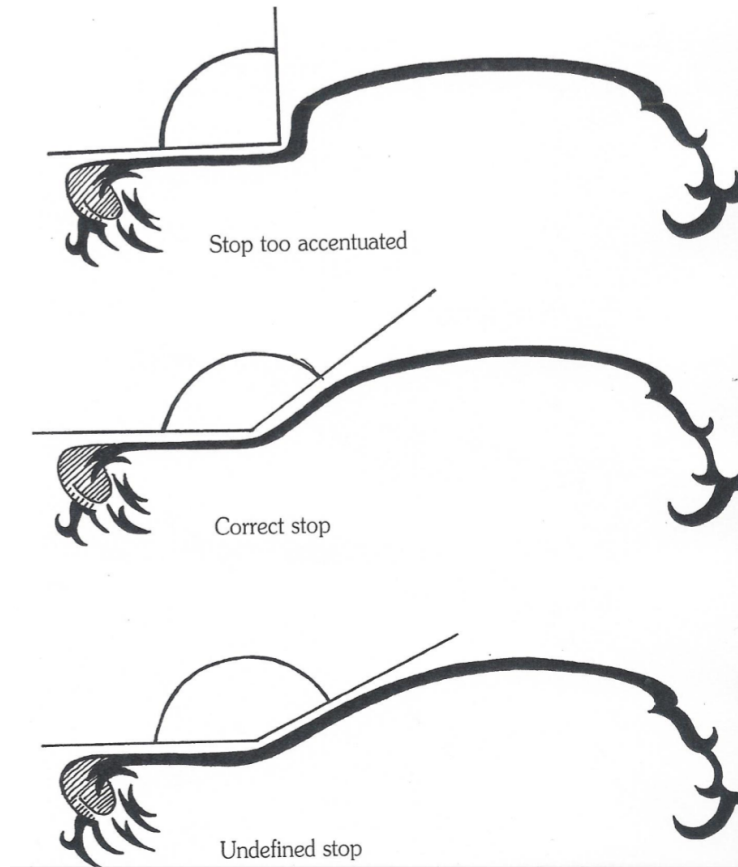
- Triangular skull form.



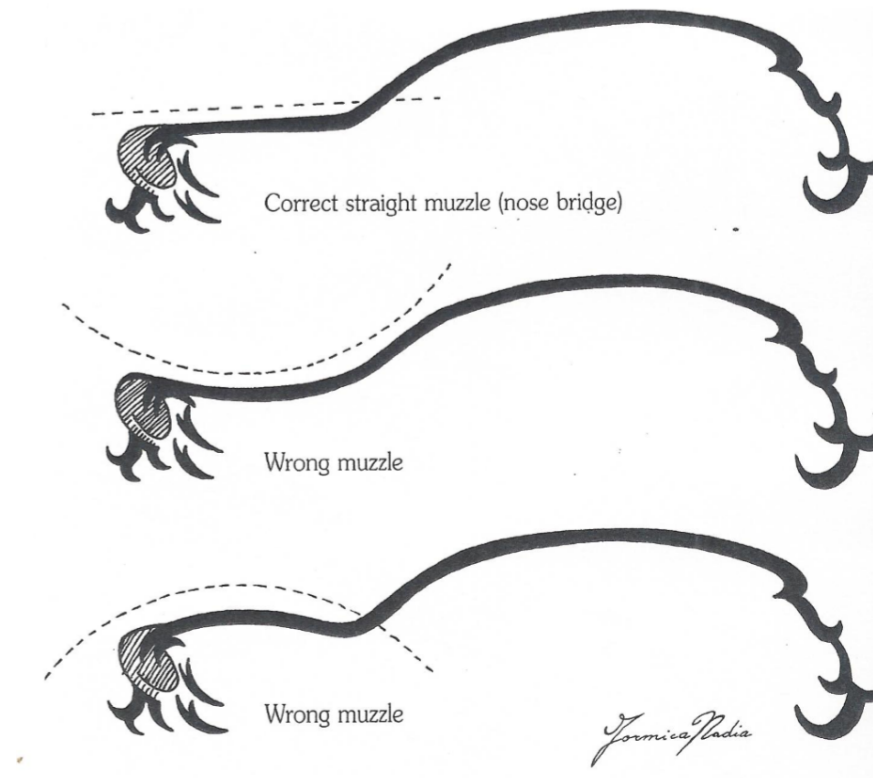
- Muzzle to head



- Stop



- Straight Muzzle



There isn't an EXACTLY PERFECT length of nose, because the different sizes and types of Cotons have different nose lengths and they are all O.K.

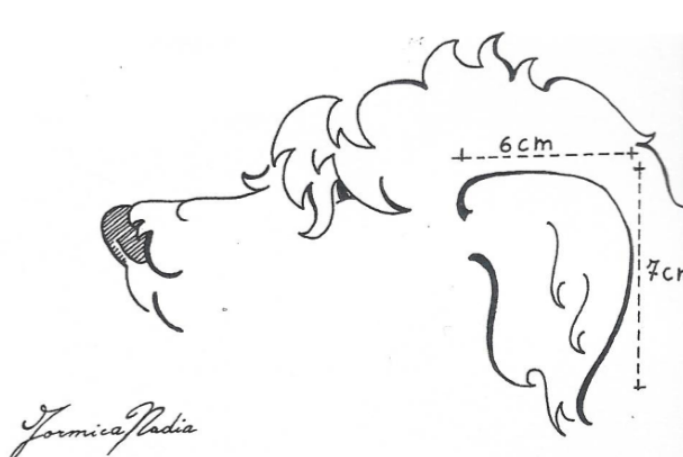
A perfect example of today's standard nose is Tina. A little shorter is acceptable, but not too much! This breed is not a Pekinese!!! The classic Coton type nose length (around 10-15 years ago) is Mille's length, which remains absolutely right.

Judges don't need to use centimeters and millimeters because different types of heads can hold different type of noses. If the first impression of the Coton's face is a harmonic head construction then that head (nose, face and skull) is o.k.

5.

Ears

Checking the ear-set, the form and the length of the ears. Very short ears are a default. Some judges love it if the 2 ears can touch under the chin.



6.

Eyes



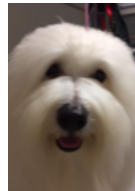
Checking the form and the color of the eyes - big round dark eyes. The light colored eyes (yellow-light brown) not desirable

7. Pigment



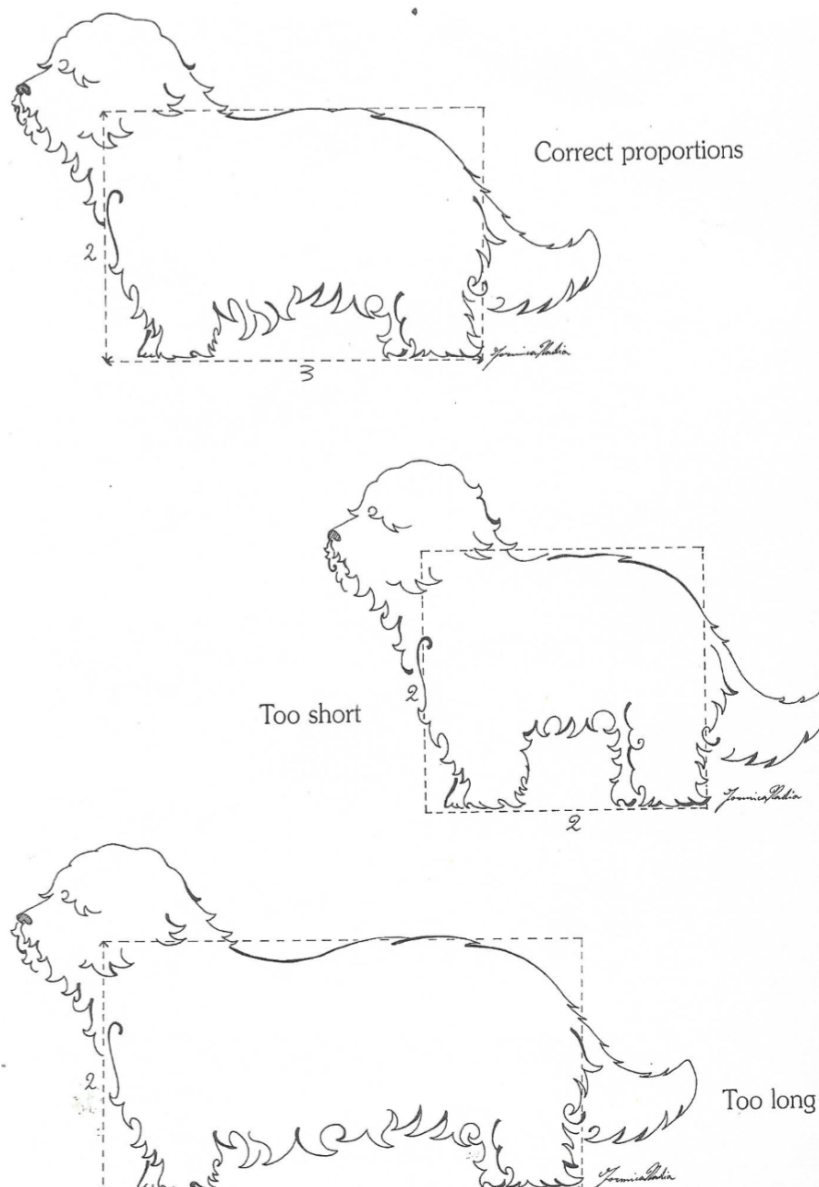
The nose, lips and the eye-rings need to be well pigmented. Pigmentation for the males always needs to be black or deep black. For females you can accept the brown-black, but not the light brown.

8. Temperament



Top Judges look for some reaction from the Coton on the table to check the nice character of the Coton, such as watching them or smiling at them.

9. Length of body is rectangular not square – 5 skulls long



10. **The CURVED top-line is important!!** The top-line curves and slopes down.

If the upper line rising backwards is linear it's a default. This type of dog can't move very well.

Touching the correct top-line is not difficult!!!

The Coton is groomed to show-off the top-line so run your hand down the top-line to flatten the coat and then run your hand over it again to feel the curve.

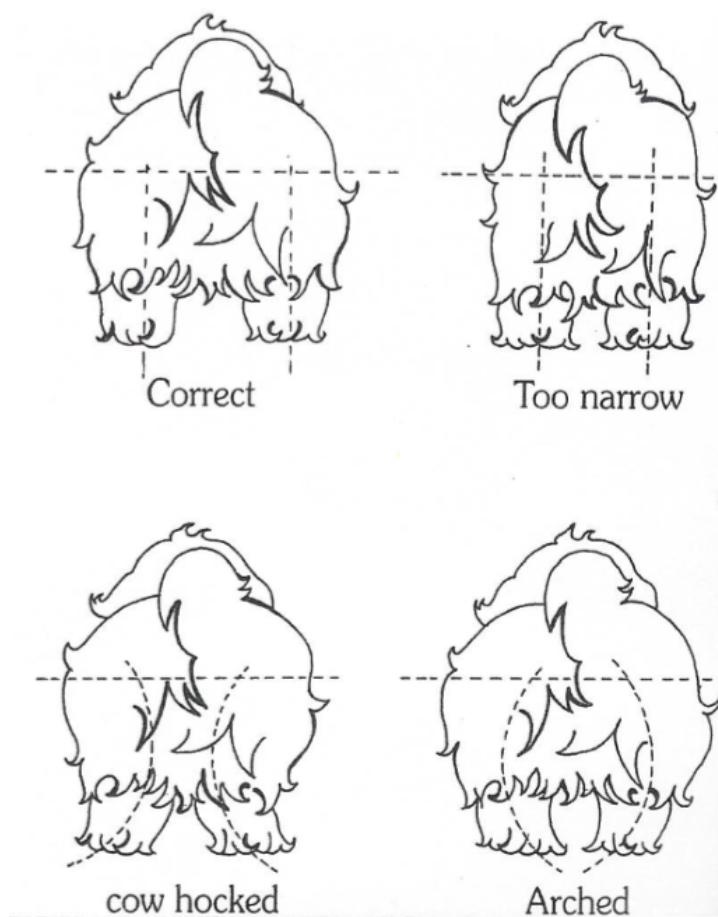


11. **A well-muscled neck is important.** If the neck is too short its not so nice.
12. Well-developed chest in the three dimensions positioned well down to elbow level.
13. Front body should be well muscled and full of power.

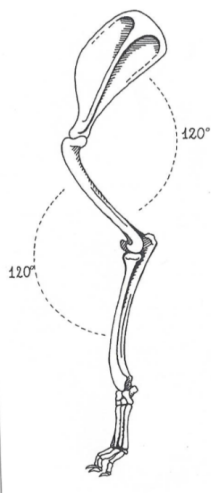


14. Hips shouldn't be narrow.

Looking at the movement from behind we need to see strong well-muscled thighs!

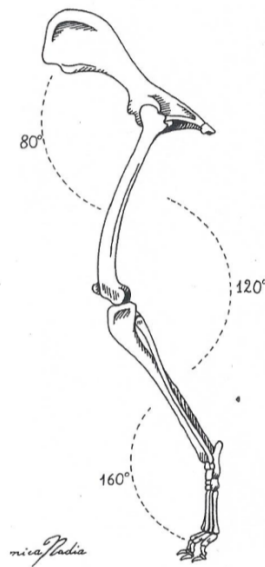


15. Limbs are upright



Forequarters - Shoulders and upper arm: Well-muscled oblique shoulders. Straight shoulders being a serious fault. Upper arm length approximately same as shoulder blade (about 9-10cm). Scapular-humeral angle around 120 degrees. Lower arm parallel and vertical, well-

muscled with good bones. Length approximately that of the upper arm (9-10cm)



Hindquarters –
Upper thigh well
muscled with
well defined
hock joint.

Metatarsals are
vertical.

Dew claw not
judged.

16. Feet are arched, small, pigmented pads and round with tight toes.
17. 2 Testicles for the males.
18. The **quality and texture** of the coat is a cotton feel and **60% of judging**.

To test the coat texture...

Judge should take the within their fingers lift it up and rotate it with their fingers for a while and then release it. Normally a good textured coat stays up on its own. (Coton's World, Eli de Luca P27).

A Coton coat doesn't slide over the fingers or feel cool, and, you can see the individual strands of the coat, whereas a silky coat slides over the fingers and feels cool.

Silky, curly (Bolognese) or extremely fine coats are undesirable. The coat shouldn't be very thin and not heavy!

19. Coat Colour

The **base colour of the coat is white**, however, as often seen on natural cotton plants, **slight shadows of pale grey, champagne or orange-roan are permitted**, especially on ears and tolerated along the body, as long as the general appearance of a white coat isn't altered.

Darker colour is tolerated in young dogs since quite a high percentage of newborns show coloured spots, where the coat near the roots and skin is lighter than the tips of the coat. Colour isn't judged until after puppy coat change around 12 month.

Colour is usually **found around the eyes, on the ears and base of the tail** (Coton's World Eli de Luca P28).



Tri-colour Ears
colour Tail



Tri-

Heavily marked coat or definitive black markings are eliminating faults. (Coton's World, Eli De Luca, P27)

The coat is not overly groomed.



Section3:

Final Assessment...

After the table inspection, when the Coton is doing a triangle, out and back or circle, if the Coton went straight to the table initially the judge checks for harmonic movement of the legs (front and back). Parallel legs are desirable in movement. Default legs are those that are too close in movement or are cross-moving.

If the Judge didn't check the pigmentation of the pads on the table as the dog is walking away the judge will look for black pads. While in movement the tail is up or can be wagging, like Tina's tail.

When stopped in front of judge, or in a line up, the tail can be up or down at rest.

The Coton is not a statue so wagging their tail while standing is a good demonstration of temperament.

A tail at rest is also correct and not a fault in temperament.

If the Judge talks to the Coton and it talks back this is not a fault, rather it is also **showing a good temperament.**

In Europe, the **Judges accept a weight of 7-7.5 kg/15-17lb for males.** In Europe's North States, they tend to accept 18-20lb, but this is too much! On the **important shows the acceptable weight is 7-7.5kg/15-17lb.**



Havanese - Coton de Tulear

Not Similar!

Can't Compare!

The Coton is a different breed and judged very differently to the Havanese. Judges need to forget the Havanese when judging the Cotons.

Judges need to forget the head structure of the Havanese when judging Cotons!!! **The Havanese nose is too long for the Coton.** **The expressive eyes of the Coton are important, not the case with the Havanese face.**

Havanese **movement is different**, as they take longer steps.

The texture and the structure of the Havanese coat is much more silky, linear and heavier where the Coton coat is finer and fluffier.

The top-line of the Coton is curved, whereas the Havanese **top-line is flat.**

Unlike the Havanese, and other Toy breeds, the **Coton isn't a statue in the ring.**

Unlike other toy breeds the **Coton's tail is down on the table and up or wagging in movement.**



International Coton Specialty Judges...

Switzerland: Lisbeth Mach Barbara Müller Christine Rossier Hans Müller Pichard Laurent	Finland: Jussi Limateinen Heinesche Laurent Juha Kares Paloheimo Annukka
Serbia Milivoje Urosevic NEMANJA JOVANOVIC (best Coton Judge in the World who doesn't breed Cotons). Worldwide he is greatly respected by other Judges!!!!	Italy Eli De Luca Ferdinando Asnaghi Pietro Paolo Condo Marco Marabotto Valerio Nataletti Daniele Poltri Alberto Vergara
Great French Judges Sylvie Desserne Boris Chapiro Jean Blangino Bottussi Jocquel Céline	Hungary Gróf Szílvia Rafvászky Katalin Sárközy Gyula
Belgium Jean Francois Vanaken	Croatia Jasna Matejcic Nikola Smolic
Slovach Linda Volarikova	Slovenia Tatjana Urek
Norway Espen Engh Lisbeth Campbell	Romania Dagmar Klain Roberto Schill



BREEDERS:

Below is a list of Kennels whose lines are ingrained in today's Cotons. The following are the early to current European best practice breeders. Knowing the Kennels can be a helpful indicator for Judges to gauge the standard of a Coton based on the quality of its lineage and breeding.

Historically Best Kennels:

1980-2005 these Kennels were at the base of Coton breeding...

- Woodland Cottage (Belgium relocating to Spain) - Micky Ceriez
- Cartoonland (France) - Brigitte Damman
- Nosy Blue (France)
- Echo des Elingues (France) - Kathy Armani
- Swiftcoton (Belgium) - Helen Decolvere
- Du Domaine De La Rouviere (France)
- Rifelin (Finland)
- Chaumiere Du Lac (France)

Current Best Kennels:

- Carbonebianco (Hungary) – Ferenc and Barbara Remenyi
- Cotonbrie (Italy) - Eli de Luca (Eli's Hasta La Vista offspring are winning at the big championship, especially Italian Coton Championship 2017)
- Haut Marais (France) - Veronique Places
- Fleurs d'Aloes (France) - Sandy
- Flamencoton (Spain) - Rie Satsuki
- De Gossipyum (France) - Lydie Vincent
- Donauvillino (Germany) - Anne Vischer
- Semperamigo (Finland) - Jenni Peltola
- Whiteheartlane (Finland) - Teia Santala
- Cotonclouds (Finland) – Currently not to active
- Cotonkiss (England) - Hazell Gill
- Whitebloom (Hungary) - Iváncsics Anca & Géza

