

BLUETICK COONHOUND

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 31/03/2016

ORIGIN

United States of America.

UTILISATION

[ed. for interest – from AKC website]:

In pursuit of quarry he is relentless, bold, and single-minded. His off-the-charts prey drive must be channelled. Bluetick Coonhounds are speedy and compact nocturnal hunters.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. for interest – from Wikipedia: The Bluetick Coonhound]:

The Bluetick Coonhound, which originated in Louisiana, was developed from the Grand Bleu de Gascogne Hound of southwestern France, and the English Foxhound, the cur dog, the American Foxhound, and the Black and Tan Virginia Foxhound. Originally, Bluetick Coonhounds were registered in the United Kennel Club as English Foxhounds and Coonhounds, but were recognised by the club as a separate breed in 1946.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Bluetick Coonhound should have the appearance of a speedy and well-muscled Hound. He never appears clumsy or overly chunky in build. He has a neat, compact body, a glossy coat, and clear, keen eyes. In motion he carries his head and tail well up.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

Size:

Height at the withers:

Males: 56cm – 68.5cm (approx. 22" – 27"). *Disqualification:* under 56cm (22") or over 68.5cm (27").

Females: 53cm – 63.5cm (approx. 21" – 25"). *Disqualification:* under 53cm (21") or over 63.5cm (25").

(Entries in puppy class are not to be disqualified for being undersize.)

Proportion:

Proportion (measured from point of shoulder to base of tail, and withers to ground) is square or slightly longer than tall.

Substance:

Weight:

Males: 25kg – 36kg.

Females: 20.5kg – 29.5kg.

HEAD

The head is broad between the ears with a slightly domed skull. Total length of head from occiput to end of nose is 23cm – 25.5cm (approx. 9" – 10") in males, and 20cm – 23cm (approx. 8" – 9") in females.

Stop: Prominent.

Muzzle: Long, broad, and deep, square in profile, with flews that well cover the line of the lower jaw. Depth of foreface should be 7.5cm – 10cm (approx. 3" – 4.5").

Nose: Large with well-opened nostrils. Fully pigmented, black in colour.

Eyes:

Rather large, set wide apart in skull. Round in shape and dark brown in color (never lighter than light brown). Eye-rims tight and close-fitting. No excess third eyelid should be apparent. Expression is a typical pleading Hound expression, never wild or cowering.

Ears:

Set low and devoid of erectile power. Should be thin with a slight roll, taper well towards a point, and reach well towards the end of the nose when pulled forward. Well attached to head to prevent hanging or backward tilt.

Mouth:

Scissor bite preferred, even bite acceptable. *Disqualifications:* undershot or overshot.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

Neck:

Muscular and of moderate length, tapering slightly from shoulders to head. Carried well up but not vertical (goose necked). Throat clean with only a slight trace of dewlap.

Topline:

Slightly higher at withers than at hips. Strong.

Body:

The body should show considerable depth (extending well down toward the elbow), rather than excessive width, to allow for plenty of lung space.

Forchest: Moderate, fairly even with the point of the shoulder. Girth of chest for males is 66cm – 86cm (approx. 26" – 34"); for females 58cm – 76cm (approx. 23" – 30").

Ribs: Long and well-sprung, tapering gradually towards a moderate tuck-up.

Back: Muscular and topline slopes downward slightly from withers to hips.

Loin: Broad, well-muscled and slightly arched.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders: Clean and sloping, muscular, but not too broad or rough, giving the appearance of freedom of movement and strength.

Forelegs: Straight from elbows to feet, well-boned and muscular, with strong, straight, slightly sloping pasterns. Legs should appear straight from either side or front view. Length of leg from elbow to ground is approximately one-half the height at the withers.

HINDQUARTERS

Thigh: Great muscular development for an abundance of propelling power. Breeching full and clean down to hock. Rear legs are parallel from hip to foot when viewed from behind (no cow-hocks).

Hips: Strong and well-muscled, not quite as wide as ribcage.

Hock joints: Strong and moderately bent. Dewclaws are removed.

Feet: Round (cat-like) with well-arched toes and thick, tough pads.

Tail: Set-on slightly below the line of the back, strongly rooted and tapering to a moderate length (in balance to the overall length of the Hound). Carried high with a forward half-moon curve. Well-coated but without flag.

COAT

Medium coarse, and lying close to the body, appearing smooth and glossy. Not rough or too short.

COLOUR

- Preferred color is a dark blue, thickly mottled body, spotted by various-shaped black spots on back, ears, and sides.
- Preference is to more blue than black on body.
- Head and ears predominately black.
- With or without tan markings (over eyes, on cheeks, chest, and below tail) and red ticking on feet and lower legs.
- A fully blue mottled body is preferred over light ticking on the body.
- There should be more blue ticking than white in the body coat.

* No other colors allowed.

* *Disqualifications:* Any colour other than that described in the standard. Albinism.

GAIT

Active and vigorous, with topline carried firmly and head and tail well up.

CHARACTERISTICS

Active, ambitious, and speedy on the trail. The Bluetick should be a free tonguer on trail, with a medium bawl or bugle voice when striking and trailing, which may change to a steady chop when running and a steady coarse chop at the tree.

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Males under 56cm (22") or over 68.5cm (27"). Females under 53cm (21") or over 63.5cm (25"). (Entries in puppy class are not to be disqualified for being undersize.)
- Any colour other than that described in the standard.
- Undershot or overshot.
- Albinism.

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There is no FCI standard for this breed.