

ENGLISH FOXHOUND

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

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Pack Hound for mounted hunt.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The English Foxhound has been bred along careful lines for over two hundred years. The stud books published by the Masters of Foxhounds Association of England date back before 1800, so it is an easy matter for any owner of an English Foxhound to trace the pedigree back. The breeding of Foxhounds in England has always been, and is still today, in the hands of the Masters of Foxhounds, who kept the most careful records of their breeding operations. Lately, the English Kennel Club has published an interim standard for the Foxhound. The FCI recognised the breed in 1964. There have been over two hundred and fifty packs of Foxhounds in Great Britain.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-balanced, powerful, and clean-cut.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Stamina and endurance, natural ability to hunt. Friendly and not aggressive.

HEAD

Well-balanced.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Flat, of medium width.

Stop: Slight.

Facial Region:

Nose: Large nostrils.

Muzzle: Long and square. Moderately developed flews.

Jaws and teeth: Jaws strong with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws

Eyes:

Medium size, hazel or brown. Keen expression.

Ears:

Leathers pendant, carried close to the head, high-set.

NECK

Long, slightly arched, well-developed without being coarse.

BODY

Back: Broad and level

Loins: With a slight rise over strong loins.

Chest: Deep, ribs well-sprung.

TAIL

Well set on high. Carried gaily but never curled over back.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs long, straight, and well-boned down to feet.

Shoulder: Well laid back; muscular, without being loaded.

Metacarpus (pastern): Strong.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Powerful and muscular. Well-boned down to feet.

Stifle (knee): Moderate turn.

Hock joint: Well let down.

FEET

Round, tight, and strong. Well-padded. Nails strong.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free striding, tireless, with the ability to gallop. Good drive behind with no indication to roll.

COAT

Hair short and dense. Weatherproof.

COLOUR

- Any recognised Hound colour and markings.

SIZE

Height at withers:

58cm – 64cm (approx. 23" – 25").

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.
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FCI Standard No 159: ENGLISH FOXHOUND

FCI Classification: Group 6 – Scenthounds and related breeds.

Section 1.1. Large-sized Hounds.

With Working Trial