

## AMERICAN ENGLISH COONHOUND

*A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.*

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]:*

These sleek and racy, lean, but muscular, Hounds work dusk to dawn in pursuit of the wily raccoon. The sight of the American English Coonhounds tearing through the moonlit woods, all sinew and determination, bawling their lusty night music, is a coon-hunter heaven.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

*[ed. for interest – from Wikipedia: The American English Coonhound]:*

The breed's ancestry can be traced back to Foxhounds brought to the United States by European settlers during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. It shares a common ancestry with all other Coonhounds, with the exception of the Plott Hound. The breed developed from 'Virginia Hounds', which were developed over time from dogs imported to the United States by Robert Brooke, Thomas Walker, and the first President of the United States, George Washington. The terrain, there, was much rougher than what they were used to, so the breed was specifically bred, over time, to better adapt to these new conditions. It was traditionally used to hunt raccoons by night, and the American red fox by day. The United Kennel Club (UKC) first recognised it in 1905 as the English Fox and Coonhound.



### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Renowned for speed and endurance, the American English Coonhound has a strong, but racy body, a deep chest with plenty of lung room, a strong back, broad loin, and well-defined musculature. A balanced, powerful dog with no exaggerated parts, the American English Coonhound possesses the grace and attitude of a well-conditioned athlete.

### SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

#### Size:

Height at the withers:

**Males:** 61cm – 66cm (approx. 24" – 26").

**Females:** 58cm – 64cm (approx. 23" – 25").

#### Proportion:

Measuring from the breast bone to the rear of the thigh, and the withers to the ground, the length should be equal to or slightly longer than the height measurement. Slightly off-square.

#### Substance:

Weight in proportion to height, so the dog appears capable of an all-night hunt.

### HEAD

The head is broad and of moderate length.

**Expression:** Kind, Houndy.

**Skull:** Very slightly domed, broad between the ears. **Fault:** Narrow skull.

**Stop:** Prominent.

**Planes:** The stop forms a right angle with the upper line of the muzzle. A line from occiput to brow is a little above, and parallel to a line from eye to nose.

**Muzzle:** Rather square, well-proportioned in width with the skull. Flews covering the lower jaw from the side view.

**Nose:** Black. **Faults:** Pink or white pigmentation.

### Eyes:

Dark brown pigmentation, wide apart. *Fault:* Drooping lids.

### Ears:

Hung rather low, reaching nearly to the end of the nose when drawn out. Fine texture, soft to the touch. *Faults:* Flat, stiff to the touch, cocked.

### Mouth:

Scissor bite with upper incisors fitting closely over the lower. *Disqualifications:* Undershot or overshot.

## NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

### Neck:

Muscular, moderate length; fits smoothly into the shoulders and rises with a slight taper to the skull. Carriage moderate, reaching slightly forward in the trot. *Faults:* Neck carried overly high or low. Thickness at shoulders.

### Topline:

Slightly higher at withers than at hips. Strong.

### Body:

**Chest:** Should reach to the elbow. Shows considerable depth rather than excessive width, allowing optimum lung space.

**Ribs:** Well-sprung with good depth, tapering gradually to floating ribs.

**Underline:** Tight and smooth without exaggeration. *Fault:* Sagging underline.

**Back:** Muscular, blending well with the neck when the head is held alertly. *Fault:* Roached.

**Loin:** Broad, well-muscled.

**Tail:** Set high, carried gaily but not hooked over back. Medium length, slight brush. *Faults:* Plume or rat tail.

## FOREQUARTERS

**Shoulders:** Clean, gradually sloped down from the withers to the point of shoulder, muscular, balanced with body, showing freedom of movement and strength. *Fault:* Protruding shoulders.

**Forelegs:** Straight from side or front view, well-boned, set well apart, muscular.

**Pastern:** Strong and straight.

**Feet:** Set directly under leg, round, catlike, well-padded, strong arch over toes. Nails strong.

## HINDQUARTERS

**Angulation:** in balance with the forequarters.

**Legs:** Strong, straight when viewed from the rear.

**Thigh:** Muscular without being coarse.

## COAT

Hard, protective hair. Medium length.

## COLOUR

- Red and white ticked; blue and white ticked; tricoloured with ticking; red and white; white and black.

\* *Disqualifications:* Tricoloured with no ticking; solid colour with less than 10% ticking; any brindle color.

## GAIT

Effortless trot, with reach and drive, with tail moving side to side. Gives impression of great endurance. Head carried up, but not perpendicular. Expression is alert.

## TEMPERAMENT

Pleasant, alert, confident, and sociable with humans and dogs. An avid hunter. *Faults:* Shyness or timidity.

*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.
- Undershot, overshot, tricoloured with no ticking, solid color with less than 10% ticking, any brindle color.

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**There is no FCI standard for this breed.**