

BLOODHOUND

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 01/01/2020

ORIGIN

Belgium.

UTILISATION

Scenthound for large game venery [*ed. hunting quests*], service dog, tracking dog, and family dog. It was, and it must always, remain a Hound that, due to its remarkable sense of smell, is foremost a Leash Hound; often used, not only to follow the trail of wounded game as in the blood-scenting trials, but also to seek out missing people in police operations. Due to its functional construction, the Bloodhound is endowed with great endurance and also an exceptional nose that allows it to follow a trail over a long distance and difficult terrain without problems.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[*ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 84:*]

Large Scenthound and excellent Leash Hound, with very ancient antecedents. For centuries, it has been known and appreciated for its exceptional nose and its great talent for the hunt. It was bred in the Ardennes by the monks of the Abbaye de Saint-Hubert. It is presumed to descend from black or black-and-tan Hounds hunting in packs that were used in the 7th century by the monk Hubert, who was later made a bishop and who, when canonised, became the patron saint of hunters. These big Scenthounds spread throughout the Ardennes, due to the presence of large game, sheltering in the widespread forests of the region. These Saint-Hubert Hounds were famed for their robustness and their endurance, especially when hunting wild boar. The first Saint-Hubert Hounds were black but later black-and-tan was also to be found. In the 11th century, these dogs were imported into England by William the Conqueror. At the same time, dogs of the same type but with an all-white coat, called Talbots, were also introduced there. In England, the imported dogs provided the basic root stock. The progeny of these Bloodhounds received their name as a derivation of "blooded hound" which means a dog of pure blood, therefore a pure-bred. Subsequently the breed was also developed in the United States of America. In the Southern States especially, these dogs were used for hunting runaway slaves.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Noble and dignified expression, characterised by solemnity, wisdom, and power.

CHARACTERISTICS

Possesses, in a most marked degree, every point and characteristic of those dogs that hunt together by scent (Sagaces). Very powerful, standing over more ground than is usual with Hounds of other breeds. Skin relatively loose.

TEMPERAMENT

Affectionate, neither quarrelsome with companions nor with other dogs. Somewhat reserved and sensitive.

HEAD

Head narrow in proportion to length and long in proportion to body, tapering slightly from temples to muzzle, thus when viewed from above and in front, having the appearance of being flattened at the sides and of being nearly equal in width throughout entire length. In profile upper outline of skull is nearly in same plane as that of foreface. Length from end of nose to stop not less than that from stop to back of occipital protuberance. Entire length of head from posterior part of occipital protuberance to end of muzzle 30cm (approx. 12") or more in dogs, and 28cm (approx. 11") or more in bitches. Skull is long and narrow, with occipital peak pronounced. Brows not prominent. Sufficient stop. Foreface long, deep, and of even width throughout, with square outlines when seen in profile. Head furnished with only a small amount of loose skin. Nostrils large and open. In front, lips fall squarely making a right angle with upper line of foreface.

Eyes:

Medium size, dark brown or hazel, neither sunken nor prominent, the lids being oval in shape and meeting the cornea – front window of the eye – perfectly without any irregularity in their contour. Eyes should be free from any interference from the eyelashes. Any obvious signs of eye irritation must be heavily penalised. The eyesight of the Hound should be unimpeded.

Ears:

Thin and soft to the touch, long, set-on low, and falling in graceful folds, lower parts curling inwards and backwards.

Mouth:

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

NECK

Long.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders muscular and well-sloped. Forelegs straight, large, round in bone with elbows well set in. Pasterns strong.

BODY

Ribs well-sprung, chest well let down between forelegs, forming a deep keel. Back and loins strong, the latter deep and slightly arched.

HINDQUARTERS

Thighs and second thighs very muscular. Hocks well let down, bent and squarely set.

FEET

Strong and well knuckled up.

TAIL

Stern long, thick, tapering to a point, set high with moderate amount of hair underneath. Carried scimitar fashion, but not curled over back or corkscrew any time. When moving carried high.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Elastic, swinging free.

COAT

Smooth, short, and weatherproof.

COLOUR

- Black and tan, liver and tan, red.
- Darker colours sometimes interspersed with lighter or badger-coloured hair and sometimes flecked with white.
- Small amount of white permissible on chest, feet, and tip of tail.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 63cm – 69cm (approx. 25" – 27"); ideal height: 66cm (approx. 26")

Females: 58cm – 63cm (approx. 23" – 25"); ideal height: 61cm (approx. 24")

Weight:

Mean average weight of adult dogs in fair condition:

Males: 41kg – 50kg.

Females: 36kg – 45.5kg.

Hounds of the maximum height and weight preferred, providing that quality, proportion, and balance combine.

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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 84: CHIEN DE SAINT-HUBERT

FCI Classification: Group 6 – Scenthounds and related breeds.

Section 1.1 – Large-sized Hounds.

With working trial.