

HAMILTONSTÖVARE

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 01/01/2018

ORIGIN

Sweden.

UTILISATION

Scenthound that gives tongue and is used for hunting hare and fox. It is not a pack Hound and it is never used for hunting deer.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Scenthounds have been known in Sweden since the 16th century. Hunting with Hounds was, up to 1789, a privilege for royalty and gentry only. It was not until the end of the 18th century that the ban that had prevented the peasantry from hunting the land was lifted. Hounds, earlier, kept only by the nobility, became known and commonly spread. The origin of the Hamiltonstövare is believed to be a mixture of Scenthounds from Southern Germany, Switzerland, as well as Foxhounds and Harriers. At the first dog show in Sweden in 1886, some 189 Scenthounds were on exhibition. Among them, were a dog and a bitch, named Pang and Stella, owned by Count Adolf Patrik Hamilton. This couple is considered to be the origin of the Hamiltonstövare, or as the Hounds initially were called, "Swedish Hounds". The breed gained the name Hamiltonstövare in 1921 as homage to the man that had created the breed, the founder of the Swedish Kennel Club, Count A.P. Hamilton.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Rectangular, well-proportioned, giving impression of great strength and stamina. Never heavy. The sexual dimorphism should be clearly defined. Tricoloured.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Rectangular body and longish head.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Friendly and even-tempered.

HEAD

Longish head.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Slightly arched and moderately broad.

Stop: Well-defined but not too pronounced.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black, well-developed with large nostrils.

Muzzle: Long, strong, and seen from above or the side, almost evenly broad. Bridge of nose straight and parallel to line of skull. Distance from occiput to stop should be equal to that from stop to tip of nose.

Lips: Upper lips thin, tight, softly rounded, and slightly overhanging. Males have more-pronounced lips than females.

Cheeks: Lean.

Jaws and teeth: Scissor bite. Teeth strong and well-developed.

Eyes:

Almond-shaped, dark brown with calm expression.

Ears:

Soft, hanging flat, with fore edge close to cheek. Ears slightly shorter than the measure from set-on to half-way along the muzzle. Ears to be raised at set-on, only very slightly to reach top of skull when alert.

NECK

Long, powerful, and well set on into shoulders. Skin on neck supple and close-fitting. Males should have a well-defined arch of nape.

BODY

Topline: Level and powerful.

Withers: Well-defined.

Back: Level and powerful.

Loin: Muscular and slightly arched.

Croup: Slightly inclined, long, and broad.

Chest: Deep, long, well-developed, and reaching elbows. Ribs moderately sprung.

Underline and belly: Belly only slightly tucked-up.

TAIL

Set in line with back, reaching hock. Carried straight or slightly curved in sabre fashion. Broad at base and tapering towards tip. When the dog moves, tail preferably not carried above the level of the back.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Strong bone in harmony with the general appearance of the dog. When viewed from front, forelegs to be straight and parallel.

Shoulder: Long, muscular, and well laid back. Closely attached to chest.

Upper arm: Long and well-angulated to the shoulder blade.

Elbow: Close to body and not visible under ribcage.

Metacarpus (pastern): Springy and forming a slight angle to forearm.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Straight and parallel when viewed from behind.

Upper thigh: Broad and well-muscled.

Stifle (knee): Well-angulated.

Hock joint: Well-angulated.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Short, lean, and perpendicular when dog is standing still.

FEET

Oval in shape with well-knuckled, tight toes.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Parallel, powerful, and long-reaching.

COAT

Hair harsh, not too short, lying very close to body. On head, ears, and front of legs, coat should be very short and smooth. Under tail and on back of thighs, hair might be slightly longer.

COLOUR

- Tricolour.

* On the adult dog, black colour to form a mantle to continue on upper side of neck and upper side of tail.

* Tan on head, ears, and legs, as well as on sides of the neck, on shoulders, under body, on thighs, and under the tail.

* Clear marking between the black mantle and the tan on thighs.

* The tan colour can range from a golden tint to a rich, deep, rusty red.

* White markings as a blaze on throat, upper side of neck, collar tolerated, on brisket, tip of tail, lower part of legs, and on feet.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: Ideal height 57cm (approx. 22½"), allowed variation: 53cm – 61cm (approx. 21" – 24").

Females: Ideal height 53cm (approx. 21"), allowed variation: 49cm – 57cm (approx. 19" – 22½").

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.

- Lack of sexual dimorphism.
- Broad skull, pronounced occiput.
- Short or snipey muzzle, dish-face.
- Bulging cheeks.
- Over- or undershot bite, level bite.
- Light eyes
- Soft back.
- Steep shoulder blades.
- Short, steep croup.
- Tail carried above the line of the back.
- Restricted hind movement.
- Undefined mantle with strong mixture of black and tan hairs overly marked with black that covers sides of trunk, shoulders, and thighs in the adult dog.
- Heavily marked with black or tan as well as overly marked with white.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Shy and severely aloof.
- Pronounced over- or undershot bite.
- Bi-coloured (yellow-white, black-white, black-tan).
- All other colours or marking than the ones in the standard.
- Size the limits in the standard.
- Blue eyes, one or both.

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FCI Standard No 132: HAMILTONSTÖVARE

FCI Classification: Group 6 – Scenthounds and related breeds.

Section 1.2. Medium-sized Hounds.

With Working Trial