

HANOVERIAN SCENTHOUND

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 01/01/2021

ORIGIN

Germany.

UTILISATION

Scenthound, Tracking Hound for wounded game. In accordance with his hunting requirements as a highly specialised hunting dog for the tracking of wounded game, the Hanoverscher Schweißhund has to display all the FCI recognised Breed Club's required hunting abilities, endurance, potential in the working trials, and be useful for the more difficult tracking of game.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Hanoverscher Schweißhund has developed almost unchanged from the so called "Liam Hound" (Leash Hound) of the early Middle Ages. The Liam Hound, from the breed section of the "Bracke", already played an extraordinary part at the time of the establishment of clan rights of the Germanic tribes (in about 500AD). With the invention of firearms, the methods of hunting big game altered. Dogs were needed to search for wounded game. The Liam Hound offered the best conditions for this and so he became a "Liam-Scenthound". This breed description stayed in place until the hunting estate of the Kingdom of Hannover got more involved with this breed. The Hanoverian hunting estate in the kingdom of Hannover developed this breed further and preserved the proven methods of handling these Hounds. The Deutsche Schweißhund developed into the Hanoversche Schweißhund. Since 1894 the registered "Verein Hirschmann e.V." has been taking care of the breed, since then the breeding of these dogs has continued strictly with regard of their working ability and the dogs are used exclusively in hunting grounds for big game as specialists in tracking cloven-hoof game. The dissertation of Dr. Wolf-Eberhardt Barth of the Forstlichen Fakultät of the GeorgAugust University in Göttingen on the subject "Der Hanoversche Schweißhund as an example of the development of the German Gundogs" (*Magazines of the Landesjagdverbands Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg e.V., Landesjägerschaft, Magazine 2, Hamburg 1970, 96 S*) is the scientific base for the insight into the history of this old Gundog breed, which is correctly named a German culture asset (Deutscher Schweißhund).



GENERAL APPEARANCE

In general appearance, the highly efficient Hanoverscher Schweißhund is of medium size, well-proportioned and powerful. Well-set, strongly muscled fore and hind limbs qualify him for tireless work. Too-long legs, especially overbuilt forequarters, affect his work with nose to ground and are foreign to his type. The broad, deep chest provides ample room for the lungs and enables long, strenuous chases. The slightly wrinkled forehead and the clear dark eyes produce the serious expression typical of the Hanoverscher Schweißhund. Also typical for the breed is the red primary colour of the coat, which can vary from a pale fawn colour to a dark brindle, almost black-appearing colouring.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Length of body to height at withers: 1.4 : 1
- Depth of chest to height at withers: 0.5 : 1
- Length of bridge of nose to length of head: 0.5 : 1

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Calm and assured temperament, at the same time sensitive with his handler, choosy and discerning with strangers. High capabilities of concentration in any tracking work with strong loyalty to the hunter in charge.

HEAD

Forehead slightly wrinkled.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Broad, increasing in width towards the rear, flatly rounded. Occiput barely pronounced.

Superciliary arches: Seen from the side, superciliary ridges clearly defined.

Stop: Mostly strongly pronounced, more so in males.

Facial Region:

Nose: Broad, mostly black, rarely dark brown. Nose large, broad, nostrils well-opened. Bridge of nose slightly arched or almost straight; more arched in males. Gradually narrowing towards forehead.

Muzzle: Strong, deep, and broad. Well-developed for being used (about 50% of length of head). Mandible strong.

Lips: Broad and pendulous, well-rounded.

Cheeks: Strongly muscled and very strong.

Jaws and teeth: Jaws normally developed, very strong, straight, providing all teeth with sufficient room. 42 teeth. Scissor or pincer bite.

Eyes:

Neither prominent nor deep-set, well-fitting lids, dark brown iris. Free of ectropion or entropion.

Ears:

Of medium length. Set on high and broad, smooth, hanging close to the head without twist. Bluntly rounded at the tips.

NECK

Long and strong, gradually widening towards chest. Skin on throat full and loose, slight dewlap permissible.

BODY

Topline: Long, often slightly overbuilt.

Withers: With normal rise. Base of neck strong.

Back: Strong.

Loin: Broad and pliable with slight arch.

Croup: Broad and long, sloping slightly towards the tail.

Chest: Deep and spacious, deep rather than broad.

Underline and belly: In a gradually rising line slightly tucked-up.

TAIL

High set-on, long, and barely curved. Strong at set-on, gradually tapering towards the tip.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Seen from the side, vertically set under the body and straight. Seen from the front, straight, often standing close. Well in proportion to the body.

Shoulder: Shoulder blade flat and close to the body, strongly muscled, well laid back.

Upper arm: Long.

Elbow: Well set backwards, close to the body.

Forearm: Straight, well-muscled.

Carpus (wrist): Broad, almost straight.

Metacarpus (pastern): Never totally steep.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Seen from the side, set under the body or slightly standing back. Well-angulated. Seen from behind, straight. For a medium-sized dog that is longer than tall, normal in proportion to the body. Pelvis broad and capacious.

Upper thigh: Strongly muscled.

Stifle (knee): With an angle of more than 120°.

Lower thigh: Straight and lean.

Hock joint: Broad and strong.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Almost vertical to the ground.

FEET

Forefeet: Strong, round; toes well arched, well-knit; pads large and tough; strong nails.

Hind feet: Rounded, well-knit toes.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Able to move in all gaits, full of drive, flexible, ground-covering when galloping. Preferred gaits at work are the walk or the gallop.

SKIN

Thick, rather loose, mostly wrinkled on the head, and occasionally at the throat, too.

COAT

Hair short, thick, coarse to harsh; somewhat longer and coarser on the rear edges of the upper thighs only. Coat on tail is dense and coarse, a little longer and coarser on the underside.

COLOUR

- Light to dark deer-red, more or less intensely brindled, with or without mask.
- * Small white patches on forechest to be tolerated.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 50cm – 55cm (approx. 19½" – 21½").

Females: 48cm – 53cm (approx. 19" – 21").

Weight:

Males: 30kg – 40kg.

Females: 25kg – 35kg.

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.

- Square build.
- Fine bones.
- Lack of the first premolar (PM1) or of other teeth.
- Under- or overshot bite.
- Ectropion, entropion.
- Twisted or small ears.
- Hindquarters strongly overbuilt.
- Sway-back or roach back.
- Barrel-shaped ribcage.
- Strongly curved or thin tail.
- Steep or loose shoulders.
- Strongly cow-hocked or bandy-legged.
- Splayed feet, hare-feet.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- The above-mentioned faults, when occurring to a highly marked degree or frequently, are disqualifying.

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FCI Standard No 213: HANNOVERSCHER SCHWEISSHUND (HANOVERIAN SCENTHOUND)

FCI Classification: Group 6 – Scenthounds and related breeds.

Section 2. Scenthounds/Leash Hounds.

With Working Trial