

AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER

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 01/05/2003

ORIGIN

United States of America.

UTILISATION

Terrier.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The American Staffordshire Terrier]:

Some varieties of Bull-and-Terrier from the British Isles began to find their way into America as early as 1850. The name 'Staffordshire Terrier' was approved because the ancestors of the breed originally came from Staffordshire, England. The name of the breed was revised in 1969 to American Staffordshire Terrier, to distinguish it from the British Staffordshire Bull Terrier, which had, by then, completely different breed type. Breed selection was based entirely on conformation and established breed standards that, for decades, have transformed the American Staffordshire Terrier into a much different breed from the American Pit Bull Terrier.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The American Staffordshire Terrier should give the impression of great strength for his size, a well put together dog; muscular, but agile and graceful, keenly alive to his surroundings. He should be stocky, not long-legged or racy in outline. His courage is proverbial.

HEAD

Medium length, deep through, broad skull, very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop; and ears are set high.

Ears:

Cropped or uncropped, the latter preferred.

Uncropped ears should be short and held rose or half-prick. Full drop to be penalised.

[*refer note below]

Eyes:

Dark and round, low down in skull and set far apart. No pink eyelids.

Muzzle:

Medium length, rounded on upper side to fall away abruptly below eyes. Jaws well-defined. Underjaw to be strong and have biting power. Lips close and even, no looseness. Upper teeth to meet tightly outside lower teeth in front.

Nose:

Definitely black.

NECK

Heavy, slightly arched, tapering from shoulders to back of skull. No looseness of skin. Medium length.

BODY

Shoulders:

Strong and muscular with blades wide and sloping

Back:

Fairly short. Slight sloping from withers to rump with gentle, short slope at rump to base of tail. Loins slightly tucked.

Body:

Well-sprung ribs, deep in rear. All ribs close together. Forelegs set rather wide apart to permit chest development. Chest deep and broad.

TAIL

Short in comparison to size, low set, tapering to a fine point; not curled or held over back. Not docked.

LEGS

The front legs should be straight, large, round-boned; pastern upright. No semblance of bend in front. Hindquarters well-muscled, let down at hocks, turning neither in nor out. Feet of moderate size, well-arched and compact.

GAIT

Must be springy, but without roll or pace.

COAT

Short, close, stiff to the touch, and glossy.

COLOUR

Any colour, solid, parti-colour, or patched is permissible, but all-white, more than 80% white, black and tan, and liver not to be encouraged.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: approx. 46cm – 48cm (approx. 18" – 19")

Females: approx. 43cm – 46cm (approx. 17" – 18") is preferable.

Height and weight should be in proportion.

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.

Note: Cropped ears – KUSA Schedule 2 Regulation 7:

“Any dog with cropped ears born within the jurisdiction of the KUSA, imported into it and cropped within it, shall not be registered or recorded by the Kennel Union, and if any such dog is registered or recorded in contravention of this Regulation, upon discovery, its registration or recording shall be cancelled.

7.1. Any dog with ears cropped before importation into the KUSA area of jurisdiction is not eligible for competition at any Kennel Union event.”

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.

Faults to be penalised are:

- Dudley nose.
- Light or pink eyes.
- Tail too long or badly carried.
- Undershot or overshot mouth.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No 286: AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 3 – Terriers.

Section 3 – Bull-type Terriers.

Without working trial