

## STABIJHOUN

*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 has an effective date of 01/02/2021

### ORIGIN

The Netherlands.

### UTILISATION

Pointing dog. The Stabijhoun is a very versatile dog. He is an all-round hunting dog and has a good reputation as a mole and polecat catcher.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Stabijhoun is related to the Drentsche Patrijshond and Heidewachtel. The Stabijhoun probably owes its name to its versatility. The word Stabijhoun is derived from the words "sta mij bij" or "stand by me", while "houn" is the Frisian word for "dog" and is pronounced "hoon". The Stabijhoun originates in the Frisian forest area. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Stabijhoun and Wetterhoun were regularly crossbred with each other. Thereby, the unique varieties of each were threatened to be lost. In 1938 a group of enthusiastic people of the Kynologenclub Friesland started purifying the two breeds again and in 1942, both breeds were officially recognised. Important names in this process were: J. Bos, T. van Dijk, B. de Graaf and W. Hoeksema. The first standard was dated February 10, 1944. In 1947, the Dutch Association for Stabij and Wetterhounen (NVSW) was established.



*Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library*

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Functional and powerfully built pointing dog. The body is slightly longer than its height at the withers. The overall picture is neither too robust nor too fine. The skin should fit tightly. The feathering on chest, collar, forelegs, trousers, and tail gives the Stabijhoun the impression of being long-haired, but the coat should not be excessively long. Sexual dimorphism should be unmistakable.

### IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The body is slightly longer than its height at the withers.
- It is important that the harmony and balance associated with a functional body is in accordance with the size of the dog.
- Elbow is approximately equidistant from ground to withers.

### BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

The Stabijhoun guards the yard and keeps it free of mice and rats. The previously common larger type Stabijhoun pulled the milk carts, while the smaller type made his name as a professional mole-catcher. This talent made the Stabijhoun popular with the poorer farmers and farmhands. The moleskins were worth a lot of money as linings for the wrists of sleeves and other items. The Stabijhoun was carried in a basket on the bike so that they could cover long distances. The Stabijhoun is very independent and likes to go his own way. The Stabijhoun is affectionate, but can also be very headstrong. Patience and a consistent education are essential. In the house or in the yard, the Stabijhoun is a quiet but vigilant dog. With strangers or in unfamiliar situations, Stabijhoun may be reserved at first, but should not be afraid.

### HEAD

Dry, without pendulous lips or dewlap. The size of the head is in proportion to the body and sexual dimorphism should be clearly defined. The head exhibits more length than width. The length of the muzzle, measured from the nose to the stop, is approximately equal to the length from the stop to the occiput. The expression is gentle, friendly, and attentive.

### Cranial Region:

**Skull:** The skull is slightly rounded and also slightly rounded on the sides, not narrow, but should not give the impression of being broad or round.

**Stop:** The skull is sloping gradually to the foreface. Seen from the side, the stop seems more marked due to the developed brows.

### Facial Region:

**Nose:** Black in dogs with a black and white coat colour. Brown in dogs with a brown and white coat colour. Nose well-developed with wide-open nostrils.

**Muzzle:** Strong, tapering gradually to the nose tip, without being snipey, viewed both from above and from the side (wedge-shaped). The nasal bridge is straight and broad, and viewed from the side, neither concave nor convex.

**Lips:** Tightly fitting, not pendulous and not showing labial folds.

**Jaws and teeth:** Powerful and complete. Scissor bite. Missing PM1 or M3 is allowed, as is also a duplicate PM1.

**Cheeks:** Barely pronounced.

### Eyes:

Set horizontally. Medium-sized, slightly rounded shape with close-fitting eyelids, without a visible conjunctiva. The pigment of the iris is dark brown for dogs with black and white coat, and a lighter brown colour for dogs with a brown and white coat colour.

### Ears:

The ears are set in an imaginary line drawn from the nose tip through the inside corner of the eyes. When attentive, the ears should not protrude beyond the outline of the skull. The ear auricle is not strongly developed, so the ears are worn smoothly lying against the head. They are moderately long, reaching to the corner of the mouth, and have the shape of a trowel that is not round, but ends in a rounded point. The hair of the ear is a typical feature; at the base of the ear it is quite long, then decreases in length gradually with the lower third of the ear being covered with short hair. The hair should be straight, but slightly wavy is allowed. Hair on the ears should not reach longer than the ear itself as it gives an untidy appearance.

## NECK

Strong and rounded, of medium length, but not too long. The neck runs smoothly with a blunt angle to the back line, so that the head is usually carried low. The neck shows no throatiness or dewlap.

## BODY

Powerful, clean cut, and well-muscled.

**Topline:** Smooth and strong topline.

**Withers:** Far enough back; strong, but not prominent

**Back:** Strong and straight.

**Loin:** Strong and muscular.

**Croup:** Slightly sloping.

**Chest:** Deep, reaching to the elbows. Viewed from the front, rather broad, so that the forelegs are set wide apart. Ribs well-sprung but not barrelled. The ribs are deep and long, so the ribcage extends as far back as possible.

**Elbows:** must be tight to the chest.

**Underline and belly:** Smooth and reaching far enough to the rear. The belly only slightly tucked-up.

## TAIL

Length reaching to the hock joint. Not set high. The tail is usually worn [*ed. carried*] down, although the last third of the tail may turn up during rest or at a stand. During movement the tail lifts, but should never be worn on or over the back or in a spiral. The tail is round and covered up to the tip with long, dense hair, without curls, waves, or feathering. Instead, the tail has a bushy structure, so the hair around is generously long and thick, giving a full and rich appearance.

## LIMBS

### Forequarters:

**General appearance:** Powerful, muscular, and functionally angulated, so the legs are correctly under the body. Forelegs seen from the front standing a bit wide.

**Shoulder:** Shoulder blade close to the chest/body and well laid back.

**Upper arm:** Functionally angulated. Length is equal to or only slightly shorter than the length of the shoulder blade.

**Elbow:** Strong, straight, and parallel.

**Forearm:** Strong, straight, and parallel.

**Carpus (wrist):** Powerful, in the front straight.

**Metacarpus (pastern):** Slightly sloping.

#### **Hindquarters:**

**General appearance:** Strong and functionally angulated, without exaggeration. When viewed from the rear, the legs are wide and hocks parallel.

**Thigh:** Of good width and length, well-muscled and with functional angulation at hip and knee.

**Stifle (knee):** Functionally angulated.

**Lower thigh:** Of good length.

**Hock joint:** Straight, parallel, and placed well apart, turning neither in nor out.

**Metatarsus (rear pastern):** Of normal length.

#### **FEET**

Strong, compact, and slightly oval-shaped. Toes well-arched, closed, and facing forward.

#### **GAIT / MOVEMENT**

Powerful, harmonious, with good drive, and covering a lot of ground. Viewed front on, the Stabijhoun moves a bit broad. During movement, the head is carried low. The tail is carried above the topline with a slight bow during action.

#### **SKIN**

Firm, well-fitting, without wrinkles or folds.

#### **COAT**

The coat is of medium length and straight on the body with a weather-resistant undercoat. At the most, a slightly wavy coat is tolerated on the croup. With the bushy hair on the chest, collar, trousers, and tail, the coat gives the impression of being long-haired. Coat on the head, the front of the forelegs, and on the front of the hocks is short. The hair on the back of the front legs is longer and well-developed. On the trousers and the tail, the hair is bushy rather than feathered. A curly coat is not allowed.

#### **COLOUR**

- The Stabijhoun is a pied dog in black or brown with white markings, but black or brown roans are also accepted.

\* The white may have roaning or ticking.

\* The head is black or brown, with or without a blaze.

\* Both of these colours occur with or without plates [*ed. flecking*].

\* Coats with a (distinct) saddle are tolerated.

\* Tan marking or tri-colour is disqualifying.

#### **SIZE**

##### **Height at withers:**

**Males:** 50cm – 53cm (approx. 19½" – 20½")

**Females:** 48cm – 50cm (approx. 18½" – 19½")

2 cm above and 2 cm below the ideal size is allowed. Breed type is more important than exact measurements.

##### **Weight:**

**Males:** 22kg – 27kg

**Females:** 18kg – 23kg

**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.

- Level bite.
- Too heavy in head, too wide or round in skull.
- Weak back or feet.
- Lack of sexual dimorphism.
- Curly tail or tail carried over the back.
- Strongly sloping pelvis.

### Severe faults:

- Spiral tail.
- Standing and/or moving with legs too far in under body.
- Elegant or graceful appearance.
- Low-legged.
- Narrow front and flat ribs.

### Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities.
- Atypical, lacking breed type.
- Improper fitting eyelids.
- Overshot or undershot bite or wry mouth. Missing too many teeth.
- Kinked tail.
- Very curly coat (astrakan).
- Any other colour or the absence of white colour.

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#### **FCI Standard No 222: STABIJHOUN**

#### **FCI Classification: Group 7 - Pointing Dogs**

Section 1.2. Continental Pointing Dogs – Spaniel type  
With Working Trial