

GREYHOUND

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 31/03/2016

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Sighthound.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 158:]

The experts, although not unanimous, consider that the Greyhound could have had its origins in the Middle East. Drawings of Greyhound-type dogs have been found on walls in Ancient Egyptian tombs, dating as far back as 4,000 BC. Though dogs of the type spread through Europe over the years, it was in Britain that they were developed to a standard. The prototype of the so-called Sighthounds, or gazehounds, the Greyhound is well-known to many people. The coursing Hound, which hunts the live hare, is what the racing Greyhound was developed from; only the cheetah tops the Greyhound for speed. One racing Greyhound was clocked in at over 45mph.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Strongly built, upstanding, of generous proportions, muscular power, and symmetrical formation, with long head and neck, clean, well-laid shoulders, deep chest, capacious body, slightly arched loin, powerful quarters, sound legs and feet, and a suppleness of limb, which emphasise, in a marked degree, its distinctive type and quality.

CHARACTERISTICS

Possessing remarkable stamina and endurance.

TEMPERAMENT

Intelligent, gentle, affectionate, and even-tempered.

HEAD

Long, moderate width, flat skull, slight stop. Jaws powerful and well-chiselled.

Eyes:

Bright, intelligent, oval, and obliquely set. Preferably dark.

Ears:

Small, rose-shaped, of fine texture.

Mouth:

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

NECK

Long and muscular, elegantly arched, well let into shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders oblique, well set back, muscular without being loaded, narrow, and cleanly defined at top. Forelegs, long and straight, bone of good substance and quality. Elbows free and well set under shoulders. Pasterns of moderate length, slightly sprung. Elbows, pasterns, and toes inclining neither in nor out.

BODY

Chest deep and capacious, providing adequate heart room. Ribs deep, well-sprung and carried well back. Flanks well cut up. Back rather long, broad and square. Loins powerful, slightly arched.

HINDQUARTERS

Thighs and second thighs wide and muscular, showing great propelling power. Stifles well-bent. Hocks well let down, inclining neither in nor out. Body and hindquarters, features of ample proportions and well-coupled, enabling adequate ground to be covered when standing.

FEET

Moderate length, with compact, well-knuckled toes and strong pads.

TAIL

Long, set-on rather low, strong at root, tapering to point, carried low, slightly curved.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Straight, low-reaching, free stride enabling the ground to be covered at great speed. Hind legs coming well under body giving great propulsion.

COAT

Fine and close.

COLOUR

- Black, white, red, blue, fawn, fallow, brindle, or any of these colours broken with white.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 71cm – 76cm (approx. 28" – 30").

Females: 69cm – 71cm (approx. 27" – 28").

***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.

©Copyright Kennel Club, London 09/2007 – Reprinted with permission

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.



When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 158: GREYHOUND

FCI Classification: Group 10 – Sighthounds.

Section 3 – Short-haired Sighthounds.
Without working trial.