

KUSA 

Official Breed Standard

American English Coonhound (Hound Group)



A Breed Standard is the guideline which 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 which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

AMERICAN ENGLISH COONHOUND

(Effective 31.03.2016)

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Renowned for speed and endurance, the American English Coonhound has a strong but racy body, a deep chest with plenty of lung room, a strong back, broad loin and well-defined musculature. A balanced, powerful dog with no exaggerated parts, the American English possesses the grace and attitude of a well-conditioned athlete.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE:

Size-Height-Males-24 to 26 inches at the withers. Females -23 to 25 inches at the withers.

Proportion-Measuring from the breast bone to the rear of the thigh and the withers to the ground, the length should be equal or slightly longer than the height measurement. Slightly off square.

Substance-Weight in proportion to height so the dog appears capable of an all-night hunt.

HEAD:

The head is broad and of moderate length.

Expression-Kind, houndy.

Eyes-Dark brown pigmentation, wide apart. Fault: Drooping lids.

Ears–Hung rather low, reaching nearly at the end of the nose when drawn out. Fine texture, soft to the touch. Faults: Flat, stiff to the touch cocked. Skull–Very slightly domed, broad between the ears. Fault: Narrow skull. Stop–Prominent. Muzzle–Rather square, well–proportioned in width with the skull. Flews covering the lower jaw from the side view. Planes–The stop forms a right angle with the upper line of the muzzle. A line from occiput to brow is a little above, and parallel to a line from eye to nose. Nose–Black. Faults: Pink or white pigmentation. Bite–Scissors bite with upper incisors fitting closely over the lower. Disqualifications: Undershot or overshot.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY:

Neck–Muscular, moderate length, fits smoothly into the shoulders and rising with a slight taper to the skull. Carriage–Moderate, reaching slightly forward in the trot. Faults: Neck carried overly high or low. Thickness at shoulders.

Topline–Slightly higher at withers than at hips. Strong. Chest– Should reach to the elbow. Shows considerable depth rather than excessive width, allowing optimum lung space. Ribs–Well–sprung with good depth, tapering gradually to floating ribs. Underline and Tuck up–Tight and smooth without exaggeration. Fault: Sagging underline. Back–Muscular, blending well with the neck when the head is held alertly. Fault: Roached. Loin–Broad, well muscled.

Tail–Set high, carried gaily but not hooked over back. Medium length, slight brush. Faults: Plume or rat tail.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders and Angulation–Clean, gradually sloped down from the withers to the point of shoulder, muscular, balanced with body, showing freedom of movement and strength. Fault: Protruding shoulders. Forelegs–Straight from side or front view, well boned, set well apart, muscular. Pastern–Strong and straight. Feet–Set directly under leg, round, catlike, well–padded, strong arch over toes. Nails–Strong.

HINDQUARTERS:

Angulation–in balance with the forequarters. Legs–Strong, straight when viewed from the rear. Thigh–muscular without being coarse.

COAT:

Hard, protective hair. Medium length.

Color: Red and white ticked, blue and white ticked, tri–colored with ticking, red and white, white and black. Disqualifications: Tri–colored with no ticking, solid color with less than 10 percent ticking, any brindle color.

GAIT:

Effortless trot, with reach and drive, with tail moving side to side. Gives impression of great endurance. Head carried up, but not perpendicular. Expression is alert.

TEMPERAMENT:

Pleasant, alert, confident and sociable with humans and dogs. An avid hunter. Faults: Shyness or timidity.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Undershot, overshot, tri-colored with no ticking, solid color with less than 10 percent ticking, any brindle color.



Copyright Kennel Club, London 01/01/2010 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 written from the publisher

Exco 08.2014

Fedco 12.2015/NP/Updated 02.2016

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 31.03.2016

[Click here to download the PDF version of the official KUSA breed standard.](#)

Download