

STAFFORDSHIRE BULL 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 01/01/2017

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Terrier.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

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

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier originated in the northern parts of Birmingham and in the Black Country of Staffordshire, for which it is named. They descended from 19th century Bull Terriers that were developed by crossing Bulldogs with various Terriers to create a generic type of dog, generally known as Bull-and-Terrier. Staffords share the same ancestry as the modern Bull Terrier, although the two breeds developed along independent lines, and do not resemble each other. Modern Staffords more closely resemble the old type of Bull Terrier, and were first recognised as a purebred dog breed by The Kennel Club in 1935.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Smooth-coated, well-balanced, of great strength for his size. Muscular, active, and agile.

CHARACTERISTICS

Traditionally of indomitable courage and tenacity. Highly intelligent and affectionate, especially with children.

TEMPERAMENT

Bold, fearless, and totally reliable.

HEAD

Short, deep through, with broad skull. Very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop, short foreface, nose black.

Eyes:

Dark preferred, but may bear some relation to coat colour. Round, of medium size, and set to look straight ahead. Eye-rims dark.

Ears:

Rose- or half-pricked, not large or heavy. Full drop or pricked ears highly undesirable.

Mouth:

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

NECK

Muscular, rather short, clean in outline gradually widening towards shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Legs straight and well-boned, set rather wide apart, showing no weakness at the pasterns, from which point, the feet turn out a little. Shoulders well laid back with no looseness at elbow.

BODY

Close-coupled, with level topline, wide front, deep brisket, well-sprung ribs; muscular and well-defined.

HINDQUARTERS

Well-muscled, hocks well let down with stifles well-bent. Legs parallel when viewed from behind.

FEET

Well-padded, strong, and of medium size. Nails black in solid-coloured dogs.

TAIL

Medium length, low-set, tapering to a point and carried rather low. Should not curl much and may be likened to an old-fashioned pump handle.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, powerful, and agile, with economy of effort. Legs moving parallel when viewed from front or rear. Discernible drive from hind legs.

COAT

Smooth, short, and close.

COLOUR

- Red, fawn, white, black, or blue, or any one of these colours with white.
- Any shade of brindle, or any shade of brindle with white.

* Black and tan, or liver colour highly undesirable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

36cm – 41cm (approx. 14" – 16"); these heights being related to the weights.

Weight:

Males: 13kg – 17kg.

Females: 11kg – 15.4kg.

***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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 76: STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 3 – Terriers.

Section 3 – Bull-type Terriers .

Without working trial.