



GROUP II: HOUNDS

AFGHAN HOUND

RECOGNIZED: 1937

Effective: January 2004

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Afghan Hound is an aristocrat, his whole appearance one of dignity and aloofness with no trace of plainness or coarseness. He has a straight front, proudly carried head, eyes gazing into the distance as if in memory of ages past. The striking characteristics of the breed – exotic, or “Eastern,” expression, long silky topknot, peculiar coat pattern, very prominent hip bones, large feet, and the impression of a some-what exaggerated bend in the stifle due to profuse trouserings – stand out clearly, giving the Afghan Hound the appearance of what he is, a king of dogs, that has held true to tradition throughout the ages.

TEMPERAMENT

Aloof and dignified, yet gay.

SIZE

Height: Dogs, 68.5 cm (27 in), plus or minus 2.5 cm (1 in); bitches, 63.5 cm (25 in), plus or minus 2.5 cm (1 in)

Weight: Dogs about 27.25 kg (60 lb); bitches, 22.75 kg (50 lb)

COAT

Hindquarters, flanks, ribs, forequarters and legs well covered with thick, silky hair, very fine in texture; ears and all four feet well feathered; from in front of the shoulders, and also backwards from the shoulders along the saddle from the flanks and ribs upwards, the hair is short and close forming a smooth back in mature dogs – this is a traditional characteristic of the Afghan Hound.

The Afghan Hound should be shown in its natural state; the coat is not clipped or trimmed; the head is surmounted (in the full sense of the word) with a topknot of long, silky hair – this is also an outstanding characteristic of the Afghan Hound. Showing of short hair on cuffs on either front or back legs is permissible.

COLOUR

All colours are permissible, but colour or colour combinations are pleasing. White markings, especially on the head are undesirable.

HEAD

The head is of good length, showing much refinement. The **skull** is evenly balanced with the foreface. The occipital bone is very prominent.

The head is surmounted by a topknot of long silky hair. There is a slight prominence of the nasal bone structure causing a slightly Roman appearance, the centre line running up over the foreface with little or no stop, falling away in front of the eyes so there is an absolutely clear outlook with no interference; the under jaw showing great strength, the jaws long and punishing. The **nose** is of good size, black in colour. The **mouth** is level, meaning that the teeth from the upper jaw and lower jaw match evenly, neither overshot nor undershot. This is a difficult mouth

to breed. A scissors bite is even more punishing and can be more easily bred into a dog than a level mouth, and a dog having a scissors bite, where the lower teeth slip inside and rest against the teeth of the upper jaw, should not be penalized. The **eyes** are almond shaped (almost triangular), never full or bulgy, and are dark in colour. The **ears** are long, set approximately on level with outer corners of the eyes; the leather of the ear reaching nearly to the end of the dog's nose, and covered with long silky hair.

NECK

The neck is of good length, strong and arched, running in a curve to the shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders long and sloping and well laid back. Shoulders have plenty of angulation so that the legs are well set underneath the dog. Too much straightness of shoulder causes the dog to break down in the pasterns, and this is a serious fault. **Forelegs** are straight and strong with great length between elbow and pastern; **elbows** well held in; **pasterns** long and straight; **forefeet** large in both length and width; toes well arched; feet covered with long thick hair, fine in texture; pads of feet unusually large and well down on the ground.

BODY

The **backline** appearing practically level from the shoulders to the loins. The height at the shoulders equals the distance from the chest to the buttocks. The **brisket** well let down, and of medium width. Strong and powerful **loin** and slightly arched, falling away towards the stern, with the hip bones very pronounced; well ribbed and tucked up in flanks.

HINDQUARTERS

Hindquarters powerful and well muscled with great length between hip and hock; **hocks** are well let down; good angulation of both stifle and hock; slightly bowed from hock to crotch. The **hind feet** are broad and of good length; the toes arched and covered with long thick hair. All four feet of the Afghan Hound are in line with the body, turning neither in nor out.

TAIL

Tail set not too high on the body, having a ring, or a curve on the end; should never be curled over, or rest on the back, or be carried sideways; and should never be bushy.

GAIT

When running free, the Afghan Hound moves at a gallop, showing great elasticity and spring in his smooth, powerful stride. When on a loose lead, the Afghan can trot at a fast pace; stepping along, he has the appearance of placing the hind feet directly in the footprints of the front feet, both thrown straight ahead. Moving with head and tail high, the whole appearance of the Afghan Hound is one of great style and beauty.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.

- Sharpness or shyness
- Lack of short-haired saddle in mature dogs
- Coarseness
- Snipiness
- Overshot or undershot
- Eyes round or bulgy or light in colour
- Exaggerated Roman nose
- Head not surmounted with topknot
- Neck too short or too thick, a ewe neck, a goose neck, a neck lacking in substance

- Front or back feet thrown outward or inward
- Pads of feet not thick enough, feet too small, or any other evidence of weakness in feet
- Weak or broken-down pasterns
- Roach back, sway back, goose rump, slack loin
- Lack of prominence of hip bones
- Too much width of brisket causing interference with elbows
- Too straight in stifle
- Too long in hock

