



GROUP IV: TERRIERS

AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER

RECOGNIZED: 1990

Effective: January 2021

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 American Staffordshire Terrier should give the impression of great strength for his size, a well put together dog, muscular, but agile and graceful, keenly alive to his surroundings. He should be stocky, not long-legged or racy in outline. His courage is proverbial.

SIZE

Height and weight should be in proportion. A height of about 46 to 48 cm (18 to 19 in) at shoulders for the dogs and 43 to 46 cm (17 to 18 in) for the bitches is to be considered preferable.

COAT

Coat short, close, stiff to the touch and glossy.

COLOUR

Any colour, solid, parti or patched is permissible, but all white, more than 80% white, black and tan, and liver not to be encouraged.

HEAD

Medium length, deep through, broad skull, very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop; **muzzle** medium length, rounded on upper side to fall away abruptly below eyes. Jaws well defined. Underjaw to be strong and have biting power. **Lips** close and even, no looseness. **Nose** definitely black. Upper **teeth** to meet tightly outside lower teeth in front. **Eyes** dark and round, low down in skull and set far apart. No pink eyelids. **Ears** set high; cropped or uncropped. Uncropped ears should be short and held half prick or rose.

NECK

Heavy, slightly arched, tapering from shoulders to back of skull. No looseness of skin. Medium length.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders strong and muscular with blades wide and sloping. **Forelegs** set rather wide apart to permit chest development. The front legs should be straight, large or round bones, pastern upright. No resemblance of bend in front.

BODY

Back fairly short. Slight sloping from withers to rump with gentle short slope at rump to base of tail. Well-sprung ribs, deep in rear. All ribs close together. **Chest**, deep and broad. **Loins** slightly tucked.

HINDQUARTERS

Well muscled, let down at hocks, turning neither in nor out. **Feet** of moderate size, well arched and compact.

TAIL

Short in comparison to size, low set, tapering to a fine point; not curled or held over back. Not docked.

GAIT

Must be springy but without roll or pace.

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.

Faults to be penalized are:

- Dudley nose
- Light or pink eyes
- Undershot or overshot mouth
- Full drop ears
- Tail too long or badly carried