

Coonhound (Black & Tan)

General Appearance

The Black and Tan Coonhound is first and fundamentally a working dog, capable of withstanding the rigours of winter, the heat of summer, and the difficult terrain over which he is called upon to work. Judges are asked by the club sponsoring the breed to place great emphasis upon these facts when evaluating the merits of the dog.

The general impression should be that of power, agility, and alertness. His expression should be alert, friendly, eager, and aggressive. He should immediately impress one with his ability to cover the ground with powerful rhythmic strides.

Size

Measured at the shoulder: males, 25-27 inches (64-69 cm); females, 23-25 inches (58-64 cm). Height should be in proportion to general conformation so the dog appears neither leggy nor close to the ground. Dogs oversized should not be penalized when general soundness and proportion are in favour.

Coat and Colour

The coat should be short but dense to withstand rough going. As the name implies, the colour should be coal black, with rich tan markings above eyes, on sides of muzzle, chest, legs and breeching with black pencil markings on toes.

Head

The head should be cleanly modelled, with medium stop occurring midway between occiput and nose. The head should measure from 9-10 inches (23-25 cm) in males and from 8-9 inches (20-23 cm) in females. Viewed from the profile the line of the **skull** is on a practically parallel plane to the foreface or muzzle. Skull should tend toward oval outline. Nostrils well open and always black. **Teeth** should fit evenly with slightly scissors bite. **Eyes** should be from hazel to dark brown in colour, almost round and not deeply set. **Ears** should be low set and well back. They should hang in graceful folds giving the dog a majestic appearance. In length they should extend well beyond the tip of the nose. The skin should be devoid of folds or excess dewlap. The flews should be well developed with typical hound appearance.

Neck

The neck should be muscular, sloping, medium length.

Forequarters

Shoulders powerfully constructed. The forelegs should be straight, with elbows well let down, turning neither in nor out; pasterns strong and erect. Feet should be cat-like with compact, well-arched toes and thick strong pads.

Body

The back should be level, powerful and strong, with a visible slope from withers to rump. The chest should be deep. The dog should possess full, round, well-sprung ribs, avoiding flat-sidedness.

Hindquarters

Quarters should be well boned and muscled. From hip to hock long and sinewy, hock to pad short and strong. Stifles and hock well bent and not inclining either in or out. When standing on a level surface, the hind feet should set back from under the body, and leg from pad to hock be at right angles to the ground when viewed both from profile and the rear.

Tail

Should be strong, with base slightly below level of backline, carried free, and when in action, at approximately right angle to back.

Gait

The stride of the Black and Tan Coonhound should be easy and graceful with plenty of reach in front and drive behind.

Faults

Judges should penalize the following defects: undersize, elbows out at shoulder, lack of angulation in hindquarters, splay feet, sway or roach back, flat-sidedness, lack of depth in chest, yellow or light eyes, shyness and nervousness. Dewclaws are a fault. White on chest or other parts of body is highly undesirable.

Disqualification

White on chest or other parts of the body if it exceeds 1-1/2 inches (4 cm) in diameter.