

Harrier

Origin and Purpose

Developed in England to hunt hare in packs.

General Appearance

Harriers must have all the attributes of a scenting pack hound. They are very sturdily built with large bone for their size. They must be active, well balanced, full of strength and quality, in all ways appearing able to work tirelessly, no matter the terrain, for long periods. Running gear and scenting ability are particularly important features.

Temperament

Outgoing and friendly, as a working pack breed. Harriers must be able to work in close contact with other hounds. Therefore, aggressiveness towards other dogs cannot be tolerated.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Size-19 to 21 inches for dogs and bitches, variation of one inch in either direction is acceptable. Proportion is off square. The Harrier is slightly longer from point of shoulder to rump than from withers to ground. The body is solidly built, full of strength and quality. The breed has as much substance and bone as possible without being heavy or coarse.

Coat and Colour

Coat – Short, dense, hard and glossy. Coat texture on the ears is finer than on the body. There is a brush of hair on the underside of the tail.

Colour – Any colour, not regarded as very important.

Head

The head is in proportion to the overall dog. No part of the head should stand out relative to the other parts. The expression is gentle when relaxed, sensible yet alert when aroused. **Eyes** are almond shaped, medium size, set well apart, brown or hazel colour in darker dogs. Lighter hazel to yellow in lighter dogs, though darker colours are always desired. **Ears** are set on low and lie close to the cheeks, rounded at the tips. The **skull** is in proportion to the entire animal, with good length and breadth and a bold forehead. The **stop** is moderately defined. The **muzzle** from stop to tip of nose is approximately the same length as the skull from stop to occiput. The muzzle is substantial with good depth, and the **lips** complete the square, clean look of the muzzle, without excess skin or flews. A good **nose** is essential. It must be wide, with well opened nostrils.

Teeth meet in a scissors bite or they may be level. Overshot or undershot bites faulted to the degree of severity of the misalignment.

Neck

The neck is long and strong with no excess skin or throatiness, sweeping smoothly into the muscling of the forequarters.

Forequarters

Moderate angulation, with long shoulders sloping into the muscles of the back, clean at the withers. The shoulders are well clothed with muscle without being excessively heavy or loaded, giving the impression of free, strong action. Elbows are set well away from the ribs, running parallel with the body and not turning outwards. Good straight legs with plenty of bone running well down to the toes, but not overburdened, inclined to knuckle over very slightly but not exaggerated in the slightest degree. Feet are round and catlike, with toes set close together turning slightly inwards. The pads are thick, well developed and strong.

Body

The topline is level. Back muscular with no dip behind the withers or roach over the loin. Chest deep, extending to the elbows, with well sprung ribs that extend well back, providing plenty of heart and lung room. The ribs should not be so well sprung that they interfere with the free, efficient movement of the front assembly. The loin is short, wide and well muscled.

Hindquarters

Angulation in balance with the front assembly, so that rear drive is in harmony with front reach. Well developed muscles, providing strength for long hours of work, are important. Endurance is more important than pure speed, and as such, the stifles are only moderately angulated. Feet point straight ahead, are round and catlike with toes set close together, and thick, well developed pads.

Tail

The tail is long, set on high and carried upwards. It tapers to a point with a brush of hair.

Gait

Perfect coordination between the front and hind legs. Reach and drive are consistent with the desired moderate angulation. Coming and going, the dog moves in a straight line, evidencing no sign of crabbing. A slight toeing-in of the front feet is acceptable. Clean movement coming and going is as important as side gait, which is smooth and ground-covering.”