

Otterhound

General Appearance

Large, straight limbed and sound, rough coated with majestic head, strong body and loose, long striding action, rough double coat and large feet essential. Free moving.

Characteristics

Big, strong hound, primarily built for a long day's work in water but able to gallop on land.

Temperament

Amiable and even-tempered.

Head

Clean, very imposing, deep rather than wide, clean cheekbones, **skull** nicely domed neither coarse nor overdone, rising from distinct though not exaggerated stop to slight peak at occiput. No trace of scowl or bulge on forehead, expression being open and amiable. **Muzzle** strong, deep; with good wide nose, wide nostrils. Distance from nose-end to stop slightly shorter than to stop from occiput. Plenty of lip and flew, but not exaggerated. Whole head except for nose, well covered with rough hair, ending in slight mustaches and beard. **Eyes:** Intelligent, moderately deep set eye; haw showing only slightly. Eye colour and rim pigment variable according to coat colour (a blue and tan hound may have hazel eyes). Yellow eye undesirable. **Ears:** Unique feature of the breed. Long, pendulous, set on level with corner of eye; easily reaching nose when pulled forward, with characteristic fold. Leading edge folding or rolling inwards giving curious draped appearance - an essential point not to be lost. Well covered and fringed with hair. **Mouth:** Jaws strong, large, well placed teeth with perfect, regular scissor bite, i.e., the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Neck

Long, powerful, set smoothly into well laid back, clean shoulders. Slight dewlap permissible.

Forequarters

Well laid shoulders. Forelegs strongly boned, straight from elbow to ground. Pasterns strong and slightly sprung.

Body

Chest deep with well sprung, fairly deep, oval ribcage. Ribs carried well back allowing plenty of heart and lung room; neither too wide nor too narrow. Body very strong, with level top line and broad back. Loin short and strong.

Hindquarters

Very strong; well muscled when viewed from any angle, standing neither too wide nor too narrow behind. Hind angulation moderate; hocks well let down, turning neither in nor out. Thighs and second thighs heavily muscled. In natural stance, hindlegs from hock to ground perpendicular.

Feet

Large, round, well knuckled, thick padded, turning neither in nor out. Compact but capable of spreading; hind feet only slightly smaller than fore feet. Web must be in evidence.

Tail

(Stern) Set high, carried up when alert or moving, never curling over back and may droop when standing. Thick at base, tapering to point; bone reaching to hock and carried straight or in a slight curve. Hair under tail rather longer and more profuse than that on upper surface.

Gait/Movement

Very loose and shambling at walk, springing immediately into a loose, very long-striding, sound, active trot. Gallop smooth and exceptionally long striding.

Coat

Long (1-1/2 - 3 inches/4-8 cm) dense rough, harsh but not wiry and waterproof; of broken appearance. Softer hair on head and lower legs natural. Undercoat evident and there may be a slight oily texture on tip and undercoat. Not trimmed for exhibition. Presentation should be natural.

Colour

All recognized hound colours permissible: Whole coloured, grizzle, sandy, red, wheaten, blue; these may have slight white markings on head, chest, feet and tail top. White hounds may have slight lemon, blue or badger pied markings. Black and tan, blue and tan, black and cream, occasional liver, tan and liver, tan and white. **Colours not desirable:** liver and white, a white-bodied hound with black and tan patches distinctly separate. Pigment should harmonize though not necessarily blend with coat colour; for example, a tan hound may have a brown nose or eye rims. A slight butterfly nose permissible.

Size

Height at shoulder approximately 27 inches (67 cm) for Dogs; Bitches 24 inches (60 cm).

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.

Note

Male animals **MUST** have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.