



GROUP II: HOUNDS

BASSET 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.

COAT

The coat should be similar to that of the Foxhound, not too fine and not too coarse, but yet of sufficient strength to be of use in bad weather. The skin loose and elastic.

COLOUR

No good hound is a bad colour, so that any recognized Foxhound colour should be acceptable to the judge's eye, and only in the very closest competition should the colour of a hound have any weight with a judge's decision.

HEAD

The head should be large. The **skull** narrow and of good length, the peak being very fully developed, a very characteristic point of the head, which should be free from any appearance of, or inclination to, cheek bumps. It is most perfect when it closely resembles the head of a Bloodhound, with heavy flews and forehead wrinkled to the eyes. The **expression** when sitting or when still should be very sad, full of reposeful dignity. The whole of the head should be covered with loose skin; so loose in fact, that when the hound brings its nose to the ground the skin over the head and cheeks should fall forward and wrinkle perceptibly. The **nose** itself should be strong and free from snipiness. While the **teeth** of the upper and lower jaws should meet, a pig-jawed hound, or one that is underhung, is distinctly objectionable. The **eyes** should be deeply sunken, showing a prominent haw, and in colour they should be a deep brown. The **ears** are very long, and when drawn forward, folding well over the nose. They are set on the head as low as is possible and hang loose in folds like drapery, the ends curling inward, in texture thin and velvety.

NECK

The neck is powerful, with heavy pendant dewlaps.

FOREQUARTERS

The **shoulders** are muscular, sloping and well laid back. The **forelegs** should be short, very powerful, very heavy in bone, close fitting to the chest with a crooked knee and wrinkled ankle, ending in a massive paw. A hound must not be "out at elbows." He must stand perfectly sound and true on his feet, which should be thick and massive, and the weight of the forepart of the body should be borne equally by each toe of the forefeet so far as it is compatible with the crook of the legs.

BODY

The **chest** should be deep and full. The body should be long and low and well ribbed up.

HINDQUARTERS

The quarters should be full of muscle, which stands out so that when one looks at the dog from behind, it gives him a round, barrel-like effect, with quarters "round as an apple." He should be what is known as "a good dog to

follow,” and when trotting away from you, his **hocks** should bend well and he should move true all round. A hound should not be straight on his hocks, nor should he measure more over his quarters than he does at his shoulder.

TAIL

The stern is coarse underneath and carried “gaily” in hound fashion.

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.

- “Out at elbows” is a bad fault.
- Slackness of loin, flat-sidedness and a roach or razor back are all bad faults.
- Cow hocks, straight hocks or weak hocks are all bad faults.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Unsoundness in legs or feet should absolutely disqualify a hound from taking a prize.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head, skull, eyes, muzzle, flews	14
Ears	10
Neck, dewlap, chest and shoulders.....	18
Forelegs and feet.....	18
Back, loins, hocks, and hindquarters	18
Stern.....	5
Coat and skin	5
Colour and markings.....	5
Basset Hound character and symmetry.....	7

TOTAL **100**