



GROUP II: HOUNDS

DEERHOUND (SCOTTISH)

RECOGNIZED: 1889

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.

SIZE

Height: Dogs, 76.25 to 81.25 cm (30 to 32 in), or even more if there be symmetry without coarseness, which is rare. Bitches from 71 cm (28 in) upwards. There is no objection to a bitch being large, unless too coarse, as even at her greatest height she does not approach that of the dog, and therefore could not be too big for work as overbig dogs are.

Weight: Dogs from 39 to 50 kg (85 to 110 lb); bitches from 34 to 43 kg (75 to 95 lb)

COAT

The hair on the body, neck and quarters should be harsh and wiry, about 8 to 10 cm (3 to 4 in) long; that on the head, breast and belly much softer. There should be a slight fringe on the inside of the forelegs and hind legs but nothing approaching the “feather” of a Collie. A woolly coat is bad. Some good strains have a mixture of silky coat with the hard, which is preferable to a woolly coat. The climate of Canada tends to produce the mixed coat. The ideal coat is a thick, close-lying ragged coat, harsh or crisp to the touch.

COLOUR

Colour is a matter of fancy, but the dark blue grey is most preferred. Next come the darker and the lighter greys or brindles, the darkest being generally preferred. Yellow and sandy red or red fawn, especially with black ears and muzzles, are equally high in estimation. This was the colour of the oldest known strains – the McNeil and Chesthill Menzies. White is condemned by all authorities, but a white chest and white toes, occurring as they do in many of the darkest-coloured dogs, are not objected to although the less the better, for the Deerhound is a self-coloured dog. The less white the better but a slight white tip to the stern occurs in some of the best strains.

HEAD

Should be broadest at the ears, narrowing slightly to the eyes, with the muzzle tapering more decidedly to the nose. The head should be long, the **skull** flat rather than round with a very slight rise over the eyes but nothing approaching a stop. The hair on the skull should be moderately long and softer than the rest of the coat. The **muzzle** should be pointed, but the teeth and lips level. The **nose** should be black (in some blue fawns – blue) and slightly aquiline. In lighter coloured dogs, the black muzzle is preferable. There should be a good mustache of rather silky hair and a fair beard. **Eyes** should be dark – generally dark brown, brown or hazel. A very light eye is not liked. The eye should be moderately full, with a soft look in repose, but a keen, far-away look when the Deerhound is roused. Rims of eyelids should be black. **Ears** should be set on high; in repose, folded back like a Greyhound’s though raised above the head in excitement without losing the fold, and even in some cases semi-erect. A prick ear is bad. The ears should be soft, glossy, like a mouse’s coat to the touch and the smaller the better. There should be no long coat or long fringe, but there is sometimes a silky, silvery coat on the body of the ear and the tip. On all Deerhounds, irrespective of the colour of coat, the ears should be black or dark coloured.

NECK

The neck should be long – of a length befitting the Greyhound character of the dog. Extreme length is neither necessary nor desirable. Deerhounds do not stoop to their work like the Greyhounds. The mane, which every good specimen should have, sometimes detracts from the apparent length of the neck. The neck, however, must be strong as is necessary to hold a stag. The nape of the neck should be very prominent where the head is set on, and the throat clean-cut at the angle and prominent.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders should be well sloped; blades well back and not too much width between them. Legs should be broad and flat, and good broad forearms and elbows are desirable. Forelegs must, of course, be as straight as possible. **Feet** close and compact, with well-arranged toes.

BODY

General formation is that of a Greyhound of larger size and bone. **Chest** deep rather than broad but not too narrow or slab-sided. Good girth of chest is indicative of great lung power. The **loin** well arched and drooping to the tail. A straight back is not desirable, this formation being unsuited for uphill work, and very unsightly.

HINDQUARTERS

Drooping, and as broad and powerful as possible, the hips being set wide apart. A narrow rear denotes lack of power. The **stifles** should be well bent, with great length from hip to hock, which should be broad and flat.

TAIL

Should be tolerably long, tapering and reaching to within 4 cm (1.5 in) off the ground and about 4 cm (1.5 in) below the hocks. Dropped perfectly down or curved when the Deerhound is still; when in motion or excited, curved, but in no instance lifted out of line of the back. It should be well covered with hair, on the side, thick and wiry, underside longer and towards the end a slight fringe is not objectionable. A curl or ring tail is undesirable.

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.

- Big thick ears hanging flat to the head or heavily coated with long hair are bad faults.
- Loaded and straight shoulders are very bad faults.
- Cow hocks, weak pastern, straight stifles and splay feet are very bad faults.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- A white blaze on the head or a white collar.

Points of the Deerhound arranged in order of importance:

- 1) Typical: A Deerhound should resemble a rough-coated Greyhound of larger size and bone.
- 2) Movements: Easy, active and true
- 3) As tall as possible, consistent with quality
- 4) Head: Long, level, well balanced, carried high
- 5) Body: Long, very deep in brisket, well-sprung ribs and great breadth across hips
- 6) Forelegs: Strong and quite straight, with elbows neither in nor out
- 7) Thighs: Long and muscular, second thighs well muscled, stifles well bent
- 8) Loins: Well arched, and belly well drawn up
- 9) Coat: Rough and hard, with softer beard and brows
- 10) Feet: Close, compact, with well-knuckled toes
- 11) Ears: Small (dark) with Greyhound-like carriage
- 12) Eyes: Dark, moderately full
- 13) Neck: Long, well arched, very strong with prominent nape

- 14) Shoulders: Clean, set sloping
- 15) Chest: Very deep but not too narrow
- 16) Tail: Long and curved slightly, carried low
- 17) Teeth: Strong and level
- 18) Nails: Strong and curved

