



GROUP II: HOUNDS

OTTERHOUND

RECOGNIZED: 1965

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.

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.

SIZE

Height at the withers (approximately): Dogs, 68.5 cm (27 in); bitches, 61 cm (24 in)

COAT

Long (3.75 to 7.5 cm [1.5 to 3 in]), 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.

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 scissors 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 rib cage. Ribs carried well back allowing plenty of heart and lung room; neither too wide nor too narrow. Body very strong, with level topline 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, hind legs 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 forefeet. Web must be in evidence.

TAIL

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

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

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.

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