



## GROUP IV: TERRIERS

# STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

RECOGNIZED: 1953

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

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a smooth-coated dog. He should be of great strength for his size, and although muscular, should be active and agile.

### TEMPERAMENT

From the past history of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, the modern dog draws his character of indomitable courage, high intelligence and tenacity. This, coupled with his affection for his friends, and children in particular, his off-duty quietness and trustworthy stability, makes him the foremost all-purpose dog.

### SIZE

**Weight:** Dogs, 12.75 to 17.25 kg (28 to 38 lb); bitches, 11 to 15.25 kg (24 to 33.5 lb)

**Height at the withers:** 35.5 to 40.75 cm (14 to 16 in); these heights being related to the weights.

### COAT

Smooth, short and close to the skin.

### COLOUR

Red, fawn, white, black or blue, or any of these colours with white. Any shade of brindle, or any shade of brindle with white. Black and tan, or liver colour not to be encouraged.

### HEAD

Short, deep through, broad **skull**, very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop, short foreface, black nose. The **mouth** should be level – i.e., the incisors of the bottom jaw should fit closely inside the incisors of the top jaw, and the lips should be tight and clean. **Eyes:** Dark preferable but may bear some relation to coat colour. Round, of medium size, and set to look straight ahead. **Ears:** Rose or half-pricked and not large.

### NECK

Muscular, rather short, clean in outline and gradually widening towards the shoulders.

### FOREQUARTERS

Legs straight and well boned, set rather wide apart, without looseness at the shoulders, and showing no weakness at the pasterns, from which point the feet turn out a little.

### BODY

The body should be close-coupled, with a level topline, wide front, deep brisket, well-sprung ribs and rather light in the loins.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Should be well muscled, hocks let down with stifles well bent. Legs should be parallel when viewed from behind. The feet should be well padded, strong and of medium size.

## **TAIL**

Should be of medium length, low set, tapering to a point and carried rather low. It should not curl much and may be likened to an old- fashioned pump handle.

## **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.

To be penalized in accordance with the severity of the fault:

- Light eyes or pink eye rims
- Tail too long or badly curled
- Non-conformation to the limits of weight or height
- Full drop and prick ears
- Undershot or overshot mouths

The following faults should debar a dog from winning any prize:

- Pink (Dudley) nose
- Badly undershot or overshot mouth

*Badly undershot*—where the lower jaw protrudes to such an extent that the incisors of the lower jaw do not touch those of the upper jaw.

*Badly overshot*—where the upper jaw protrudes to such an extent that the incisors of the upper jaw do not touch those of the lower jaw.