

KUSA



Official Breed Standard

Otterhound (Hound Group)



A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

OTTERHOUND

(Effective 31.03.2016)

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 long day's work in water but able to gallop on land.

TEMPERAMENT:

Amiable and even tempered. Signs of aggression or nervousness should be heavily penalised.

HEAD AND SKULL:

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 from stop to occiput. Plenty of lip and flew but not exaggerated. Whole head except for nose well covered with rough hair, ending in slight moustache 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. upper teeth closely overlapping 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 topline and broad back. Loins 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 forefeet. 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 4-8 cm (1½-3 ins), dense, rough, harsh and waterproof but not wiry; of broken appearance. Softer hair on head and lower legs natural. Undercoat evident and there may be a slight oily texture in top and undercoat. Not trimmed for exhibition. Presentation should be natural.

COLOUR:

All recognised hound colours permissible: Whole coloured, grizzle, sandy, red, wheaten, blue; these may have slight white markings on head, chest, feet and tail tip. 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 permissible: 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 and eye rims. A slight butterfly nose permissible.

SIZE:

Approximate height at shoulder: Dogs: 69 cms (27 ins) Bitches: 61 cms (24 ins).

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 and its effect on the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

NOTE:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only clinically and functionally healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.



Copyright Kennel Club, London 07/2009 – Reprinted with permission

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.

FCI-Standard N° 294 (Gp6)

Fedco 12-2015/NP/Updated 02/2016

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 31-03-2016