

## PHARAOH HOUND

*A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.*

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2025

### ORIGIN

Malta (Patronage: Great Britain).

### UTILISATION

Sighthound.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Pharaoh Hound]:

The Pharaoh Hound, or “Kelb tal-Fenek”, is a traditional breed of rural Malta. It is sometimes claimed that the Pharaoh Hound descends from the dogs shown in the tomb paintings of Ancient Egypt. Modern DNA studies suggest that the breed is not of ancient origin, but a moderately recent development from various other breeds. It apparently became genetically distinct from the Sicilian Cirneco dell'Etna no more than two hundred years ago, a Hound of similar structure and appearance to the Kelb tal-Fenek,

but somewhat smaller. The first litter of Pharaoh Hounds to be born outside Malta was in the United Kingdom in 1963. A breed standard was approved by the British Kennel Club in 1974.

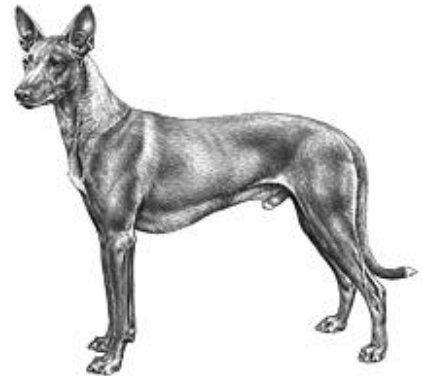


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Medium-sized, of noble bearing with clean-cut lines. Graceful yet powerful. Very fast with free, easy movement and alert expression.

### CHARACTERISTICS

An alert keen hunter, hunting by scent and sight using its ears to a marked degree when working close.

### TEMPERAMENT

Alert, intelligent, friendly, affectionate, and playful.

### HEAD

Skull long, lean, and well-chiselled. Foreface slightly longer than skull. Only slight stop. Top of skull parallel with foreface, whole head representing a blunt wedge when viewed in profile and from above.

#### Eyes:

Amber-coloured, blending with coat; oval, moderately deep-set, with keen, intelligent expression.

#### Ears:

Medium high set; carried erect when alert, but very mobile; broad at base, fine, and large.

#### Mouth:

Powerful jaws with strong teeth. Scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

#### Nose:

Flesh-coloured only, blending with coat.

### NECK

Long, lean, muscular, and slightly arched. Clean throat-line

## FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders strong, long, and well laid back. Forelegs straight and parallel. Elbows well tucked-in. Pasterns strong.

## BODY

Lithe with almost straight topline. Slight slope down from croup to root of tail. Deep brisket extending down to point of elbow. Ribs well-sprung. Moderate cut-up. Length of body from breast to haunch bone slightly longer than height at withers.

## HINDQUARTERS

Strong and muscular. Moderate bend of stifle. Well-developed second thigh. Limbs parallel when viewed from behind.

## FEET

Strong, well-knuckled, and firm, turning neither in nor out. Paws well-padded.

## TAIL

Medium set – fairly thick at base and tapering (whip-like), reaching just below point of hock in repose. Carried high and curved when dog is in action. Tail should not be tucked between legs. A screw tail undesirable.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free and flowing; head held fairly high. Hound should cover ground well without any apparent effort. Legs and feet should move in line with body; any tendency to throw feet sideways, or high stepping, 'hackney' action highly undesirable.

## COAT

Short and glossy, ranging from fine and close to slightly harsh; no feathering.

## COLOUR

- Tan or rich tan with white markings allowed as follows:
  - White tip on tail strongly desired.
  - White on chest (called 'the star').
  - White on toes.

\* Slim white blaze on centre-line of face permissible.

\* Flecking or white other than above undesirable.

Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

**Males:** 56cm – 63cm (approx. 22" – 25").

**Females:** 53cm – 61cm (approx. 21" – 24").

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

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

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**When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:**

**FCI Standard No. 248: PHARAOH HOUND**

**FCI Classification: Group 5 – Spitz and primitive types.**

Section 6 - Primitive type.

Without working trial.