

WHIPPET

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

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Breeds originally used for hunting either by scent or by sight.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Whippet]

Whippets were bred to hunt by sight, coursing game in open areas at high speeds. There are numerous representations of small Greyhound-like Hounds in art dating back to Ancient Egyptian times. In medieval England, a small Greyhound breed became popular for use as a ratting dog; the first written English use of the word "Whippet", with regard to a type of dog, was in 1610. Whippets were commonly known as "snap dogs" for their tendency to "snap up" nearby prey. In the 19th century, Whippet racing was a popular sport in parts of England. The Whippet was held in high regard in the northern parts of England and Wales, but was generally disregarded in the rest of the country. At the time, there were two varieties of Whippet. The first type had a smooth coat and became the modern Whippet. The other had a rough coat from crossbreeding with Bedlington Terriers. This type was frequently referred to as a "rabbit dog". The age of the modern Whippet dawned in 1891 when The Kennel Club granted the breed official recognition, thus making the Whippet eligible for competition in dog shows, and commencing the recording of their pedigrees.

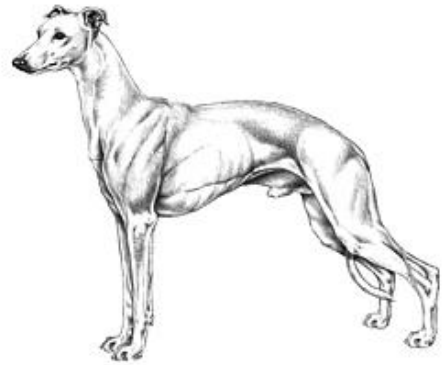


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Balanced combination of muscular power and strength with elegance and grace of outline. Built for speed and work. All forms of exaggeration should be avoided.

CHARACTERISTICS

An ideal companion. Highly adaptable in domestic and sporting surroundings.

TEMPERAMENT

Gentle, affectionate, even disposition.

HEAD

Long and lean, flat on top, tapering to muzzle with slight stop, rather wide between the eyes, jaws powerful and clean-cut. Nose black or blue depending on coat colour. Nose liver in creams. In whites or particolours a butterfly nose is permissible.

Eyes:

Oval, bright, expression very alert.

Ears:

Rose-shaped, small, fine in texture.

Mouth:

Jaws strong with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Long, muscular, elegantly arched.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well laid back with flat muscles. Moderate space between the shoulder blades at the withers. The upper arm is approximately of equal length to the shoulder, placed so that the elbow falls directly under the withers when viewed in profile. Forearms straight and upright with moderate bladed bone. Front not too wide. Pasterns strong with slight spring.

BODY

Chest very deep with plenty of heart room. Well-filled in front. Brisket deep. Broad, well-muscled back, firm, somewhat long, showing graceful arch over the loin, but not humped. Ribs well-sprung. Loin giving impression of strength and power. Definite tuck-up.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong, broad across thighs, with well-developed second thighs. Stifles well-bent without exaggeration, with hocks well let down. Able to stand naturally over a lot of ground.

FEET

Oval, well split up between toes, knuckles well-arched, pads thick, nails strong.

TAIL

No feathering. Long, tapering, reaching at least to the hock. When in action, carried in a delicate curve not higher than the back.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Should possess great freedom of action. In profile, should move with a long, easy stride whilst holding topline. The forelegs should be thrown forward and low over the ground. Hind legs should come well under the body giving greater propelling power. General movement not to look stilted, high-stepping, short, or mincing. True coming and going.

COAT

Fine, short, close in texture.

COLOUR

- Any colour or mixture of colours. Merle unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 47cm – 51cm (approx. 18½" – 20").

Females: 44cm – 47cm (approx. 17½" – 18½").

***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. 162: WHIPPET

FCI Classification: Group 10 – Sighthounds.

Section 3 – Short-haired Sighthounds.

Without working trial.