

ITALIAN GREYHOUND

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

Italy.

UTILISATION

Racing and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 200]

The little Italian Sighthound descends from small-sized Sighthounds that already existed in ancient Egypt at the court of the Pharaohs. Passing through Laconie (Greece), where numerous representations on vases and bowls confirm this, the breed arrived in Italy at the outset of the 5th century BC. Its greatest development occurred during the era of the Renaissance at the court of the nobles. It is not rare to find the Italian Sighthound represented in the paintings of the greatest Italian and foreign masters.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A Greyhound in miniature, more slender in all proportions.

CHARACTERISTICS

Elegant, graceful, and quick-moving.

TEMPERAMENT

Intelligent, affectionate, and vivacious; may appear aloof.

HEAD

Skull long, flat, and narrow, slight stop. Muzzle fine and long. Nose dark in colour.

Eyes:

Rather large, bright; full of expression.

Ears:

Rose-shaped, placed well back, soft and fine, not pricked.

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. Teeth even.

NECK

Long, gracefully arched.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders long and sloping. Legs straight; well set under shoulders; fine, strong bone and pasterns.

BODY

Chest deep and narrow. Good length of rib and brisket. Back slightly arched over loin.

HINDQUARTERS

Long, well-muscled thigh: hind legs parallel when viewed from behind; well-bent stifle, hocks well let down.

FEET

Hare-feet.

TAIL

Low-set, long, fine, carried low.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

High-stepping and free action. Front and hind legs to move forward in a straight line with propulsion from behind.

COAT

Skin fine and supple. Hair, short, fine, and glossy.

COLOUR

- Black, blue, cream, fawn, red, white, or any of these colours broken with white.
 - White dogs may be broken with one of these colours.
- * Merle, black or blue with tan markings, brindle or any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

32cm – 38cm (approx. 12½" – 15").

Weight:

3.6kg – 4.5kg.

Overall type and elegance essential

***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. 200: PICCOLO LEVRIERO ITALIANO (ITALIAN SIGHTHOUND)

FCI Classification: Group 10. Sighthounds

Section 3.3. Short-haired Sighthounds

Without working trial.