

## 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 01/01/2026

### ORIGIN

Great Britain.

### UTILISATION

Sighthound.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The experts, although not unanimous, consider that the Greyhound could have had its origins in the Middle East. Drawings of Greyhound-type dogs have been found on walls in Ancient Egyptian tombs, dating as far back as 4000 BC. Though dogs of the type spread through Europe over the years, it was in Britain that they were developed to a standard. The prototype of the so-called sighthounds, or gazehounds, the Greyhound is well known to many people. The coursing hound, which hunts the live hare, is what the racing Greyhound were developed from, only the cheetah tops the Greyhound for speed. One racing Greyhound was clocked at over 45 mph.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Strongly built, upstanding, of generous proportions, muscular power and symmetrical formation, with long head and neck, clean well laid shoulders, deep chest, capacious body, slightly arched loin, powerful quarters, sound legs and feet, and a suppleness of limb, which emphasise in a marked degree its distinctive type and quality.

### BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Possessing remarkable stamina and endurance. Intelligent, gentle, affectionate and even tempered.

### HEAD

Long, moderate width.

#### Cranial Region:

**Skull:** Flat.

**Stop:** Slight.

#### Facial Region:

**Muzzle:** Jaws powerful and well chiselled.

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

#### Eyes:

Bright, intelligent, oval, and obliquely set. Preferably dark.

#### Ears:

Small, rose-shaped, of fine texture.

### NECK

Long and muscular, elegantly arched, well let into shoulders.

### BODY

**Back:** Rather long, broad and square.

**Loins:** Powerful, slightly arched.

**Chest:** Deep and capacious, providing adequate heart room. Ribs deep, well sprung and carried well back  
**Underline and belly:** Flanks well cut up.

## TAIL

Long, set on rather low, strong at root, tapering to point, carried low, slightly curved.

## LIMBS

### Forequarters:

**General Appearance:** Elbows, pasterns and toes inclining neither in nor out.

**Shoulder:** Oblique, well set back, muscular without being loaded, narrow and cleanly defined at top.

**Elbow:** Free and well set under shoulders.

**Forearm:** Forelegs long and straight, bone of good substance and quality.

**Metacarpus (Pastern):** Moderate length, slightly sprung.

### Hindquarters:

**General appearance:** Body and hindquarters, features of ample proportions and well coupled, enabling adequate ground to be covered when standing.

**Thigh and lower thigh:** Wide and muscular, showing great propelling power.

**Stifle (knee):** Well bent.

**Metatarsus (Rear pastern):** Hocks well let down, inclining neither in nor out.

## FEET

Moderate length, with compact, well-knuckled toes and strong pads.

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Straight, low reaching, free stride enabling the ground to be covered at great speed. Hindlegs coming well under body giving great propulsion.

## COAT

### Hair:

Fine and close.

### Colour:

Black, white, red, blue, fawn, fallow, brindle or any of these colours broken with white.

## SIZE

### Ideal height at withers:

**Males:** 71cm – 76cm (approx. 28" – 30").

**Females:** 68cm – 71cm (approx. 27" – 28").

***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.

### Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.



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**FCI Standard No. 158: GREYHOUND**

**FCI Classification: Group 10 – Sighthounds.**

Section 3 – Short-haired Sighthounds.

Without working trial.