



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.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The American Staffordshire Terrier should give the impression of great strength for his size, a well put together dog, muscular, but agile and graceful, keenly alive to his surroundings. He should be stocky, not long legged or racy in outline. His courage is proverbial.

HEAD

Medium length, deep through, broad skull, very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop; and ears are set high.

EARS

Uncropped ears should be short and held rose or half prick. Full drop to be penalised.

EYES

Dark and round, low down in skull and set far apart. No pink eyelids.

MUZZLE

Medium length, rounded on upper side to fall away abruptly below eyes. Jaws well defined. Underjaw to be strong and have biting power. Lips close and even, no looseness. Upper teeth to meet tightly outside lower teeth in front. Nose definitely black.

NECK

Heavy, slightly arched, tapering from shoulders to back of skull. No looseness of skin. Medium length.

SHOULDERS

Strong and muscular with blades wide and sloping.

BACK

Fairly short. Slight sloping from withers to rump with gentle short slope at rump to base of tail. Loins slightly tucked.

BODY

Well-sprung ribs, deep in rear. All ribs close together. Forelegs set rather wide apart to permit chest development. Chest deep and broad.

TAIL

Short in comparison to size, low set, tapering to a fine point; not curled or held over back. Not docked.

LEGS

The front legs should be straight, large or round bones, pastern upright. No resemblance of bend in front. Hindquarters well muscled, let down at hocks, turning neither in nor out. Feet of moderate size, well arched and compact. Gait must be springy but without roll or pace.

COAT

Short, close, stiff to the touch, and glossy.

COLOUR

Any colour, solid, parti, or patched is permissible, but all white, more than 80 percent white, black and tan, and liver not to be encouraged.

SIZE

Height and weight should be in proportion. A height of about 46 to 48 cm (18 19 in) at shoulders for the male and 43 to 46 cm-(17 18 in) for the female is to be considered preferable.

FAULTS

Faults to be penalized are: Dudley nose, light or pink eyes, tail too long or badly carried, undershot or overshot mouths.

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.

NOTE: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



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FCI Standard No. 286 (Group 3)
Fedco 12/1994 & Fedco 05/2003

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