



*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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