

# American Coon Hunters Association

## ACHA BREED STANDARDS

The **ACHA** recognizes nine different dog breeds. The Treeing Cur and Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog are recognized **ACHA** breeds.

**Note:** The **ACHA** does not have a breed category for “x-breed” or “cross breed” dogs, as some registries do. An **ACHA** guideline is to register a mixed breed dog **as what it looks like**. Under this guideline (which only affects bench show entries), a dog will compete against other dogs that it looks like.

**UNIVERSAL DISQUALIFICATIONS** (A dog with a DISQUALIFICATION must NOT to be considered for placement in a bench/conformation event and MUST be reported to **ACHA**.)

Spayed or neutered dogs.

Undershot or overshot

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid

Viciousness or extreme shyness

Albinism

Any color or combination other than described as per breed.

Deaf

Blind

## RECOGNIZED BREEDS

### AMERICAN BLACK & TAN COONHOUND



#### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Black & Tan Coonhound is first and fundamentally a working dog, a trail and tree hound, capable of withstanding the rigors of winter, the heat of summer and the ability to handle difficult terrain.

*Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.*



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## CHARACTERISTICS

Even temperament, outgoing and friendly. As a working scent hound, must be able to work in close contact with other hounds. *Disqualifications: Viciousness or extreme shyness.*

## HEAD

The head is cleanly modeled. From the back of the skull to the nose, the head measures 9 to 10 inches in males and from 8 to 9 inches in females. Expression is alert, friendly and eager. The skin is devoid of folds. Skull tends towards oval outline. Medium stop occurring midway between occiput bone and nose. Viewed from profile the line of the skull is on a practically parallel plane to the foreface or muzzle.

- TEETH - Scissors bite is preferred, even bite is acceptable. *Disqualifications: Undershot or overshot.*
- EYES – are from hazel to dark brown in color, almost round and not deeply set. Penalize yellow or light eyes. *Disqualification: Blind.*
- NOSE – Large with well-opened nostrils.
- EARS – are low set and well back. They hang in graceful folds, giving the dog a majestic appearance. In length they extend naturally well beyond the tip of the nose and are set at eye level or lower. Penalize ears that do not reach the tip of the nose and are set too high on the head. *Disqualification: Deaf.*

## NECK

Is muscular, sloping, and medium length. The skin is devoid of excess dewlap.

## FOREQUARTERS

Powerfully constructed shoulders. The forelegs are straight, with elbows turning neither in nor out. Pasterns are strong and erect.

## BODY

Chest is deep, broad, reaching to the elbow. Ribs are well sprung. Back is level, powerful and strong. Chest reaches at least to the elbows.

## HINDQUARTERS

Quarters are well boned and muscled. From hip to hock long and sinewy, hock to pad short and strong. Stifles and hocks well bent and not inclining either in or out. When standing on a level surface, the hind feet are set back from under the body and the leg from pad to hock is at right angles to the ground. *Fault: rear dewclaws*

## FEET

Compact and well padded. Strong, well arched toes and stout, well set nails. Penalize flat or splayed feet.

## TAIL

Strong with base slightly below level of backline, carried free and when in action at approximately right angle to back.

## COAT

The coat is short but dense to withstand rough going.

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## **COLOR**

As the name implies, the color is coal black with rich tan markings above eyes, on sides of muzzle, chest, legs and breeching, with black pencil markings on toes. Penalize lack of rich tank markings, excessive areas of tan markings, excessive black coloration. *Faults: White on chest or other parts of body is highly undesirable.*

*DISQUALIFICATION: A solid patch of white which extends more than 3 inches in any direction.*

## **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

Height at withers for adult males should be between 25 to 27 inches. Adult females, 23 to 25 inches.

Proportion: Measured from the point of shoulder to the buttocks and from the withers to the ground the length of body is equal to or slightly greater than the height of the dog at the withers. Height is in proportion to general conformation so that the dog appears neither leggy nor close to the ground. Males are heavier in bone and muscle than females.

## **GAIT**

When viewed from the side, the stride of the Black and Tan Coonhound is easy and graceful. When viewed from the front the forelegs, which are in line with the width of the body, move forward in an effortless manner, but never cross. Viewed from the rear the hocks follow on a line with the forelegs. Topline is level.

## **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

Males under 25 inches or over 27 inches. Females under 23 inches or over 25 inches. (Entries in Puppy Class are not to be eliminated for being undersized.)

## **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

A solid patch of white which extends more than 3 inches in any direction.

## **AMERICAN LEOPARD HOUND**





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## **HISTORY**

American Leopard Hounds are believed to be the descendants of dogs that were brought to the new world by Spanish conquistadors and crossed with native Mexican dogs. Early American settlers brought Leopard dogs from Mexico to hunt bear.

## **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

The American Leopard Hound is a powerful, agile tree dog of medium-to-large size. The body is just slightly longer than tall. Legs are long enough to allow the dog to move quickly and with agility in rough terrain. The head is broad, with a moderate stop and a heavy muzzle of moderate length. Ears are set high and drop. The tail is straight, set low, and may be any length. The coat is dense but close fitting. The American Leopard Hound should be evaluated as a hunting dog, and exaggerations or faults should be penalized in proportion to how much they interfere with the dog's ability to hunt. Scars should neither be penalized nor regarded as proof of a dog's working abilities.

## **CHARACTERISTICS**

The American Leopard Hound is an all-purpose tree dog, noted for stamina and the ability to withstand all extremes of temperature. This breed is noted for its extreme desire to please, which makes it an easy dog to train. They can handle a cold track and still be under the voice control of the handler. They are open trailers with a very strong desire to stay on track. They excel in their ability to hold game at bay without getting injured. Although they have been bred and used for all varieties of small game, the American Leopard Hound is also outstanding on big game such as bear and cougar.

## **HEAD**

The head is large but proportionate to the size of the body. When viewed from the side, the muzzle is slightly shorter than the skull and they are joined by a definite stop. The planes of the top lines of the skull and muzzle lie in parallel planes.

- **SKULL** - The skull is flat and broad, tapering in width slightly toward the muzzle. Cheeks are muscular and prominent.
- **MUZZLE** – The muzzle is of medium length and well-proportioned to the rest of the head. Lips are tight and darkly pigmented.
- **TEETH** - The American Leopard Hound has a complete set of evenly spaced white teeth meeting in a scissors bite.
- **NOSE** – Nose is black.
- **EYES** – Eyes are nearly round and set wide apart. Eye color may be any shade of yellow or brown. Leopard spotted dogs may have one or both blue eyes or wall eyes. Eye rims are tight and darkly pigmented. The expression is soft and appealing.
- **EARS** – Ears are drop, of short-to-medium length, wide at the base, and set high.

## **NECK**

The neck is slightly arched, strong, very well-muscled, and of moderate length. The neck gradually widens from the nape and blends smoothly into the shoulders.



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## **FOREQUARTERS**

Shoulders are well laid back. The upper arm is long and wide and forms an apparent 90-degree angle with the shoulder blade. The forelegs are strong and straight, with large, round bones. The elbows are set close to the body, but able to move freely in action. The pasterns are short, powerful, straight and flexible.

## **BODY**

A properly proportioned American Leopard Hound is slightly longer than tall. Back is broad, strong, of moderate length, and level, blending into a muscular, slightly arched loin with slight to moderate tuck-up. The croup slopes gently to the set on of the tail. The ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from the spine, then curve down and inward to form a deep body. The brisket extends to the elbow. Viewed from the front, the chest between the forelegs is muscular and wide. This is a dog bred for stamina and faults should be penalized to the degree that they detract from that goal.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

The hindquarters are strong and muscular. The bone, angulation, and musculature of the hindquarters are in balance with the forequarters. The stifles are well bent, and the hocks are well let down. When the dog is standing, the short, strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground, and when viewed from the rear they are parallel to one another.

## **FEET**

The cat-like feet are of moderate size, round and compact, with well arched toes. Pads are large, tough, and well cushioned.

## **TAIL**

The tail is set on low and may be any length.

## **COAT**

Coat is double and dense, but smooth. The outer coat is rough, and the undercoat is fine and wooly. This makes it possible for dogs to work in thick underbrush for long periods of time after most dogs have given up.

*Disqualifications: Excessively long hair, silky or wavy hair.*

## **COLOR**

Leopard spotted; yellow; black (may have brindle or tan trim); brindle; red and blue or mouse color. Any of these may also have white points and a white collar. No solid white dogs accepted

*Disqualification: Albinism.*

## **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

Height at the withers for mature males is between 22 and 27 inches. For adult females, it is 21 to 25 inches.

Mature males weigh between 45 and 75 pounds. Mature females weigh between 35 and 65 pounds. American Leopard Hounds are working dogs and should be presented in hard, muscular condition.

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## **GAIT**

American Leopard Hound gait is smooth and effortless, with good reach of forequarters. Rear quarters have strong driving power, with hocks fully extending. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance.

## **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

Excessively long hair, silky or wavy hair.

## **BLUETICK COONHOUND**



## **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

The Bluetick Coonhound should have the appearance of a speedy and well-muscled hound. He has a neat body that is well proportioned; not clumsy or chunky in build. He has a glossy coat. Eyes are clear and keen with a typical pleading hound expression, never wild or cowering. As a scenthound, the Bluetick's natural position of the head and tail in motion is parallel to the ground; the tail is not curled over the back or dropped between the legs.

## **CHARACTERISTICS**

The Bluetick is active, ambitious and speedy on the trail. It should be a free tonguer on trail, with a bawl, squall, chop or bugle voice when striking and trailing, with a distinct changeover on tree of bawling, chopping or combination of both. Should be hospital to both men and dogs which are around them.

*Disqualifications: Viciousness or extreme shyness.*



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## HEAD

The head is broad between the ears, with a slightly domed skull. Total length of head from occiput to end of nose is 9 to 10 inches in males, and 8 to 9 inches in females. The stop is prominent. The muzzle from the stop to the end of the nose should be well proportioned in width with the skull, with depth of flews well covering the lower jaw. Depth of foreface should be 3 to 4 ½ inches. TEETH - Scissors bite is preferred, even bite is acceptable. *Disqualifications: Undershot or overshot.*

- EYES – Rather large and set wide apart in stop. Round in shape, and dark brown in color, but not lighter than light brown. Eyelids are tight and close fitting. No excess third eyelid should be apparent. Expression is typical of a pleading hound, never wild or cowering. *Disqualification: Blind.*
- NOSE – fully pigmented, black in color' with well-opened nostrils.
- EARS –The ears are attached slightly below top of skull, but set low enough on head to be devoid of erectile power. Should be thin, with a slight roll, taper well towards a point, and reach well towards the end of the nose when pulled forward. Well attached to the head to prevent hanging or backward tilt. *Disqualification: Deaf.*
- Muzzle – from the stop to end of nose should be square, well-proportioned in width with the skull, with depth and flews well covering the lower jaw. Depth of 3 to 4 ½”.

## NECK

Nicely muscled, moderate in length, rising with a slight taper from shoulder to head that allows the head to be carried well up but not vertical (goose necked). Throat clean, with only a slight trace of dewlap.

## FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders clean and sloping, muscular but not too broad or rough, giving the appearance of freedom of movement and strength. The forelegs are straight from shoulders to feet, well boned, and muscular with strong straight pasterns. Forelegs should appear straight from either side or front view.

## BODY

The chest should show considerable depth (extending well down toward the elbow) rather than excessive width, to allow plenty of lung space. The fore chest is moderate fairly even with the point of the shoulders. Girth of chest for males is 26 to 34 inches, females 23 to 30 inches. Ribs are long and well sprung, tapering gradually toward a moderate tuck up. Back is muscular and firm, slightly lower at hips than withers. Loin is broad, well-muscled and slightly arched. Proportion (measured from point of shoulder to base of tail and withers to ground) is square or slightly longer than tall.

## HINDQUARTERS

Hips are strong and well-muscled, not quite as wide as rib cage. Hind legs are straight from hip to foot when viewed from behind. The hocks strong and moderately bent when viewed from the side. Thighs have ample muscular development for an abundance of propelling power. Breeching full and clean down to hock.

## FEET

Round (cat-like), with well-arched toes. Pads are strong, hard and thick. The size of the feet should be proportionate to the size of the dog.





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## **TAIL**

Set on slightly below the line of the back, strongly rooted, and tapering to a moderate length. In balance to the overall length of the hound. Well coated but without flag. Carried gaily, slight curve or parallel to ground, but not turned forward over the back or dropped between legs.

## **COAT**

Medium coarse and laying close to the body, appearing smooth and glossy. Not too rough or too short.

## **COLOR**

Preferred color is dark blue, thickly mottled body, spotted by various shaped black spots on back, ears and sides. Preference is to more blue than black on body. Head and ears predominantly black. With or without tan markings (over eyes, on cheeks, chest and below tail), and red ticking on feet and lower legs. Red may be eliminated as to the desire of the breeder, as well as the amount of black on the body and the tan head coloring. A fully blue mottled body is preferred over light ticking on the body. There should be more blue ticking than white in the body coat. *Disqualifications: Any color or combination of colors other than described.*

## **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

Height at withers for adult males should be between 22 to 32 inches. Adult females, 20 to 27 inches. Ideal weight for males 55 to 90 pounds; females 35 to 75 pounds; should be in proportion to height. *Eliminating faults: Males under 22 inches or over 32 inches. Females under 20 inches or over 27 inches.* (Entries in Puppy Class are not to be eliminated for being undersized.)

## **GAIT**

A smooth, lithe gait is essential. The action of the Bluetick Coonhound is a strong, driving, smooth gait. The over-all appearance in motion should be that of effortless power, endurance, speed, agility, smoothness and grace. When viewed from the front, the front legs must reach well out in front in straight lines, with pasterns strong and springy as if to pull in the ground. Hackneyed motion is not desired, nor is paddling or weaving. The rear legs follow the front legs, which give forceful propulsion, thus the Bluetick moves in a straight pattern forward. When viewed from the side there should be a noticeable drive, with a ground-covering stride.

## **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

Males under 22 inches or over 32 inches. Females under 20 inches or over 27 inches. (Entries in Puppy Class are not to be eliminated for being undersized.)

## **SERIOUS FAULT**

Lacking in adequate angulation: i.e. Post legged.



## ENGLISH COONHOUND



### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The English Coonhound is a hound of strong build, capable of considerable speed and great endurance. He is balanced, graceful and free from exaggeration.

*Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.*

### CHARACTERISTICS

Pleasant and sociable, with strong hunting instincts. Voice is a good hound bawl.

*Disqualifications: Viciousness or extreme shyness.*

### HEAD

Broad between the ears and good overall length. Skull is slightly domed in skull. Muzzle is long, deep and square, with enough flew to give the jaw a squared off appearance. Stop is well defined but moderate.

- TEETH - Scissors bite is preferred, even bite is acceptable. *Disqualifications: Undershot or overshot.*
- EYES – Fairly large and set moderately well apart in skull. Dark brown in color with tight fitting lids. *Disqualification: Blind.*
- NOSE – Large with well-opened nostrils.
- EARS – Set fairly low on skull. Fine in texture, soft to the touch. Fairly long, reaching near the end of the nose when stretched forward. *Disqualification: Deaf.*

### NECK

Nicely muscled, moderate in length, tapering slightly as it rises up out of the withers.

### FOREQUARTERS



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Forelegs set well apart. Strong and straight with good bone. Pasterns nearly vertical with just enough slope to absorb shock. Length of leg from elbow to ground is approximately one-half the height at the withers. Shoulders sloping, clean and muscular.

## **BODY**

Chest is deep, broad, reaching to the elbow. Ribs are well sprung. Back is strong and straight, never roached. Topline is slightly higher and withers than at hips. Loin is muscular and slightly arched. Overall proportion (measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks and withers to ground) is square or slightly longer than tall.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Hips and thighs well-muscled and strong. Stifles are stout and have good angulation. Hock joint has moderate angulation. Dewclaws should be removed. Rear pasterns short and strong. Lack of angulation is a highly undesirable feature: (i.e. post legged.)

## **FEET**

Compact and well padded. Strong, well arched toes and stout, well set nails.

## **TAIL**

Moderately set and gaily carried but never hooked over the back. Medium in length, with a small amount of brush acceptable. Never overly long and thin.

## **COAT**

A good hard, protective, hound type of medium length.

## **COLOR**

Redtick, Bluetick, tri-color with ticking, white and red, white and black, white and lemon.

*Disqualifications: Albinism. Any brindle in coat. Any color or combination of colors other than described.*

## **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

Height at withers for adult males should be between 22 to 27 inches. Adult females, 21 to 25 inches. Weight should be in proportion to height, keeping in mind the strong build of the English Coonhound. (Entries in Puppy Class are not to be eliminated for being undersized.)

## **GAIT**

Smooth and effortless, showing great capacity for endurance. Head and tail carried well up.

## **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

Males under 22 inches or over 27 inches. Females under 21 inches or over 25 inches.

## **SERIOUS FAULT**

Lacking in adequate angulation: i.e. Post legged.

## LOUISIANA CATAHOULA LEOPARD DOG



### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Catahoula is a medium to medium-large, short-coated dog, with a broad head, small-to-medium drop ears, and an undocked tail set on as a natural extension of the topline. The body is just slightly longer than tall and the distance from the elbow to the ground should equal 50-60 percent of the dog's height from the withers to the ground.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Catahoula temperament ranges from serious and business-like when working to clownish at home, with varying levels of energy. They can be independent, protective and territorial so they require firm guidance and a clear understanding of their place. Catahoulas are affectionate, gentle and loyal family companions.

*Disqualifications: Viciousness or extreme shyness.*

### HEAD

The head is powerfully built without appearing exaggerated. Viewed from the side, the length of skull and muzzle are approximately equal in length, and joined by a well-defined stop of moderate length. The planes of the top skull and the bridge of the muzzle are roughly parallel to one another. There may be a slight median furrow between the eyes and running back to the occipital bone.

- SKULL - The skull is broad and flat, with well developed cheeks. *Fault: Excessively broad or narrow skull.*
- TEETH - a complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth. A scissors bite is preferred, but a level bite is acceptable. Full dentition is greatly desired, but dogs are not to be penalized for worn or broken teeth. *Serious Faults: Overshot or undershot bite.*
- EYES – Set moderately well apart, medium in size, somewhat rounded in appearance, and are set well into the skull. Eyes may be any color or combination of colors without preference. Eye rims are tight and may be any color or combination of colors. *Serious Faults: Malformed pupils; pupils not centered; sagging eyelids making haw visible; functional abnormality of eyelids or eyelashes.*
- NOSE – Pigment may be any color or combination of colors.

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- **EARS** – Ears are drop, short to medium in length, moderate in size, and proportionally wide at the base, gradually tapering to the slightly rounded tip. They should fold over and be generally triangular in shape. The top of the ear fold is level or just slightly below the top line of the skull. When the dog is at attention, the inner edge of the ear lies close to the cheek. Laid-back ears are acceptable but not preferred. *Faults: Any ear type other than described above. Disqualification: Cropped ears*
- **MUZZLE** - The muzzle is strong and deep. Viewed from above, the muzzle is moderately wide and tapering toward the nose. Lips may be tight or slightly pendulous with pigment of any combination of colors. *Faults: Snipey muzzle.*

## **NECK**

The neck is muscular and of good length, without being overdone. The circumference of the neck widens from the nape to where the neck blends smoothly into the shoulders.

*Faults: Neck too short and thick or too thin and weak; excess skin forming dewlap.*

## **FOREQUARTERS**

The shoulders are strong and smoothly muscled. The shoulder blades are long, wide, flat and well laid back. The upper arm is roughly equal in length to the shoulder blade and joins it at an angle sufficient to ensure that the foot falls under the withers. The elbows are close to the body and do not turn out.

## **FORELEGS**

The forelegs are straight, and of medium bone, indicating strength without excessive thickness. Pasterns are strong, short, and slightly sloping. The length of the forelegs should roughly equal 50-60% of the dog's height at the withers. A dog with legs shorter than ideal is to be more heavily penalized than a dog with longer legs. *Faults: Forequarters significantly heavier than hindquarters; bone too heavy or too fine; straight shoulders; out at elbows; weak pasterns.*

## **BODY**

A properly proportioned Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog is slightly longer than tall. The topline inclines very slightly downward from well-developed withers to a level back. The back is broad and well muscled with a short, strong, slightly arched loin. When viewed from the side, the forechest extends in a shallow oval shape in front of the forelegs. Tuck-up is apparent, but not exaggerated. Croup is medium to long and slightly sloping. *Faults: Chest too broad, too narrow or too shallow; soft topline; exaggerated or absent tuck-up; loin too long.*

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Hindquarters are strong and smoothly muscled. Width and angulation of hindquarters are in balance with the forequarters. *Serious Fault: Dogs being either natural bobtail or having the tail docked. Disqualification: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchidism (the absence of one or both testes from a dog's scrotum). Note: This includes a testicle that has been surgically placed or re-placed.*

## **HIND LEGS**

The stifles are well bent, and the hocks are well let down. When the dog is standing, the short, strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground and, viewed from the rear, parallel to one another.

*Faults: Thin, weak hindquarters; cow-hocked; open-hocked.*



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## **FEET**

Good feet are essential for a working dog. Feet are well knit and oval in shape. Toes are long, webbed and well arched. Pads are thick and hard. Nails are strong. Dewclaws may be removed. *Fault: Cat foot.*

## **TAIL**

The tail is a natural extension of the topline. It is thicker at the base, and tapers to the tip. Natural bob tails are permitted, but not preferred. The natural bob tail, regardless of length, will taper in width from base to tip. A full length tail may be carried upright with the tip curving forward when the dog is moving or alert. Catahoulas should be allowed to carry their tails naturally when being shown. Exhibitors should not hold tails upright.

*Faults: Ring tail; docked tail. Disqualification: Complete absence of a tail.*

## **COAT**

The Catahoula has a single coat, short to medium in length that lies flat and close to the body. Texture ranges from smooth to coarse. *Disqualifications: Long coat; fuzzy coat that obscures dog's outline.*

## **COLOR**

Catahoulas come in an endless variety of coat colors and patterns. The Leopard pattern has a base color, with contrasting spots of one or more other colors. Solids have a single coat color. Brindles may have a light or dark base coat color with contrasting stripes. In dogs of equal quality, rich, deep colors are preferable to the lighter colors. No coat color or pattern is preferred.

*Serious Fault: 70 percent or more white.*

*Disqualifications: 90 percent or more white coat color; solid white head; albinism. Long or fuzzy coated.*

## **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

Ideal height at maturity for males is 24 inches, and for females, 22 inches, with a variation of two inches either way acceptable. Weight may range from 50 to 95 pounds, in proportion to the dog's height.

## **GAIT**

When trotting, the gait is smooth, fluid and effortless, showing good but not exaggerated reach in front and powerful drive behind. The topline remains level with only a slight flexing to indicate suppleness. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other.

## PLOTT COONHOUND



### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Plott is a beautiful, strongly build yet moderate hound, with a distinct brindle covered coat. His appearance suggests the capacity for speed, stamina and endurance.

*Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.*

### CHARACTERISTICS

Active, fast, bright, kind, confident, courageous, vicious fighters on game, super treeing instinct, take readily to water, alert, quick to learn, have great endurance and beauty.

*Disqualifications: Viciousness or extreme shyness.*

### HEAD

The head is carried well up. Dome is moderately flat. Moderate width between and above eyes.

- **TEETH** - Scissors bite is preferred, even bite is acceptable. *Disqualifications: Undershot or overshot.*
- **EYES** – are from hazel to dark brown in color. No drooping eyelids.  
*Disqualification: Blind.*
- **EARS** – are moderately high and of medium length, soft and no erectile power.
- **MUZZLE** – Moderate length, but not square.





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## **FOREQUARTERS**

Powerfully constructed shoulders. The forelegs are straight, with elbows turning neither in nor out. Pasterns are strong and erect. Legs are smooth, straight with muscular forearm. Straight at knees, perfectly in line with upper leg.

## **BODY**

Chest is deep with adequate lung space. Back should be slightly arched, well-muscled and strong. Not roached. Shoulders should be muscular and sloping to indicate speed and strength.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Strong and muscular above the hock, slightly bent at the hock, no cow hock, speedy shaped and graceful. Hips should be smooth, round, proportionately wide. Flanks gracefully arched muscular quarters and loins.

## **FEET**

Round, solid, cat foot, well-padded and knuckled, set directly under leg.

## **TAIL**

Moderately heavy, strong at root tapering there, rather long with brush, carried free, well up, saber like.

## **COAT**

Hair fine to medium coarse, short or medium length, to give a smooth and glossy appearance.

## **COLOR**

The National Plott Hound Association's definition of the word "brindle": a fine streaked or striped effect or pattern of black or tan hairs with hairs of a lighter or darker background color. Shades of colors accepted: buckskin, yellow brindle, red brindle, tan brindle, brown brindle, black brindle, gray brindle and maltese (slate grey, blue brindle). Grey muzzle accepted.

## **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

Height at withers for adult males should be between 22 to 27 inches. Adult females, 21 to 25 inches. Adult males should weigh between 50 to 75 pounds. Females 40 to 65 pounds.



## REDBONE COONHOUND



### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Redbone is a medium-sized hound, with a rich, deep red colored coat. He is well-balanced and agile, making him adaptable to various types of hunting and terrain.

*Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.*

### CHARACTERISTICS

The breed is characterized by its pleading eyes and sweet voice. They have a natural treeing instinct and make excellent water dogs. They are even tempered and affectionate with a strong desire to please.

*Disqualifications: Viciousness or extreme shyness.*

### HEAD

Moderately broad and slightly domed in skull, proportionate to general body size. Muzzle is well balanced with the other features of the head, as long as the skull, with a straight nasal bone, never dish-faced or concave. The planes of the top skull and muzzle are parallel. Stop is well defined but not abrupt. The head gives the general impression of length rather than width.

- **TEETH** - Scissors bite is preferred, even bite is acceptable. *Disqualifications: Undershot or overshot.*
- **EYES** – Set fairly well apart in skull, brown to hazel in color, with the darker color preferred. Round in shape but not prominent. Expression is pleading. *Disqualification: Blind.*
- **NOSE** – Large with well-opened nostrils. Black in color fully pigmented.
- **EARS** – Set moderately low, firmly attached to head. Fine in texture, not stiff and reaching near the end of the nose when stretched forward. Size in proportion to head. *Disqualification: Deaf.*



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## **NECK**

Medium long and strong, slightly arched and held erect, denoting proudness. Throat clean, but slight fold of skin below angle of jaw is not objectionable.

## **FOREQUARTERS**

Forelegs should be straight with good bone and set well under the body. Muscled for strength and speed. Pasterns strong and straight, nearly vertical with just enough slope to absorb shock. Length of leg from elbow to ground is approximately one-half the height at the withers. Shoulders sloping, clean and muscular.

## **BODY**

Chest is deep and broad. Ribs are well sprung for plenty of lung space. Topline is slightly higher and withers than at hips. Back is strong and straight. Loin is muscular and slightly arched with moderate tuck up. Overall proportion (measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks and withers to ground) is square or slightly longer than tall.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Thighs well-muscled and strong. Rear legs straight from hip to foot when viewed from behind, never cow hocked. Dewclaws should be removed. Moderate angulation at stifle and hock to balance with forequarter. Rear pasterns short and strong.

## **FEET**

Compact and well padded. Cat-like, with strong, well arched toes and stout, well set nails.

## **TAIL**

Set slightly below the line of the back. Moderate in length, with a slight brush.

## **COAT**

Typical short, glossy, hound type coat.

## **COLOR**

Solid red is preferred. Small amount of white on brisket or feet not objectionable.

*Disqualifications: Albinism. Any color or combination of colors other than described.*

## **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

Height at withers for adult males should be between 22 to 27 inches. Adult females, 21 to 25 inches. Weight proportionate to size and medium build. (Entries in Puppy Class are not to be eliminated for being undersized.)

## **GAIT**

A well balanced and agile Redbone moves freely and easily at a reasonable speed with head and tail carried well up.

## **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

Males under 22 inches or over 27 inches. Females under 21 inches or over 25 inches. (Entries in Puppy Class are not to be eliminated for being undersized.)

## TREEING CUR



### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The American Treeing Cur is a powerful, agile tree dog of small to medium size. The body is just slightly longer than tall. Legs are long enough to allow the dog to move quickly and with agility in rough terrain. The head is broad with a moderate stop, and a muzzle slightly shorter than the length of skull. Ears are drop and the tail is straight, set low, and of any length, including a natural bob. The coat is dense but close fitting. The Treeing Cur should be evaluated as a working dog, and exaggerations or faults should be penalized in proportion to how much they interfere with the dog's ability to work. Scars should neither be penalized nor regarded as proof of a dog's working abilities.

### CHARACTERISTICS

The American Treeing Cur is a fast, hard hunter that finds game using its eyes, ears and nose. They may be open, semi-open, or silent on track with a good change at the tree. Treeing Curs are alert and easily trained. In addition to being outstanding tree dogs, they are also good watchdogs and excellent family companions.

### HEAD

The head is broad but proportionate to the size of the body. When viewed from the side, the muzzle is slightly shorter than the skull and joined by a definite stop. The planes of the skull and muzzle are parallel.

- **SKULL** – The skull is flat and broad, tapering slightly toward the muzzle. Cheeks are muscular and prominent.
- **MUZZLE** – The muzzle is slightly shorter than the skull, moderately broad with a well-defined underjaw. Lips are tight with no flews, and are darkly pigmented.
- **TEETH** - The Treeing Cur has a complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite.  
*Disqualifications: Overshot or undershot bite.*
- **NOSE** – Nose is square with well-opened nostrils. Pigment can black or pink in color.



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- EYES – Eyes are medium to large in size, set wide apart with inner and outer corners on the same horizontal line. Brown eye color is preferred but yellow, green, or blue is acceptable. Eye rims are tight and black.
- EARS – Drop ears, of short to any length, wide at the base, and set high long Hound Ears are very common in many American treeing Curs.  
*Disqualification: Erect ears.*

## **NECK**

The neck is slightly arched, strong, very well-muscled, and of moderate length. The neck gradually widens from the nape and blends smoothly into the shoulders.

## **FOREQUARTERS**

Shoulders are well laid back. The upper arm is long and wide and forms an apparent 90-degree angle with the shoulder blade. The forelegs are well muscled with strong bone. The elbows are set close to the body, but able to move freely in action. The pasterns are short, powerful, straight, and flexible.

## **BODY**

A properly proportioned Treeing Cur is just slightly longer than tall. Back is broad, strong, of moderate length, and level, blending into a muscular, slightly arched loin with slight to moderate tuck up. The ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from the spine, then curving down and inward to form a deep body. The brisket extends to the elbow. Viewed from the front, the chest between the forelegs is muscular and well filled. This is a dog bred for stamina and faults should be penalized to the degree that they detract from that goal

## **HINDQUARTERS**

The hindquarters are strong and muscular. The bone, angulation, and musculature of the hindquarters are in balance with the forequarters. The stifles are well bent, and the hocks are well let down. When the dog is standing, the short, strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground, and viewed from the rear, parallel to one another.

## **FEET**

The Treeing Cur has a cat foot, of moderate size, compact and well arched. Pads are large, tough, and well cushioned.

## **TAIL**

The tail is set low and either naturally bobbed or of any length.

## **COAT**

The outer coat is short to medium in length, and may be smooth or rough in texture. Undercoat is short, dense, and soft.

## **COLOR**

Any color, color pattern or combination of colors is acceptable on a Treeing Cur. *Disqualification: Albinism.*

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## HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

Height ranges between 18 to 24 inches. Weight is 30 to 60 pounds, proportionate to height. Treeing Curs are working dogs and should be presented in hard, muscular condition.

## GAIT

The Treeing Cur gait is smooth and effortless, with good reach of forequarters. Rear quarters have strong driving power, with hocks fully extending. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance.

## TREEING WALKER COONHOUND



## GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Treeing Walker Coonhound is a well-balanced, symmetrical, graceful hound well known for his ability to run and tree a variety of game on varying kinds of terrain. *Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.*

## CHARACTERISTICS

The Treeing Walker is energetic, intelligent, active, courteous, composed, confident, fearless and kind. This breed has a super abundance of sense and is capable of great endurance. Excellent trailing, hunting and treeing instinct and ability. Voice is a clear, ringing bugle or a steady, clear chop. Noticeable change in voice at tree. *Disqualifications: Viciousness or extreme shyness.*

## HEAD

The head is carried well up. Occiput bone is prominent. Cranium broad and full. Head is in pleasing proportion to the body.

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- TEETH - Scissors bite is preferred, even bite is acceptable. *Disqualifications: Undershot or overshot.*
- EYES –Moderately large and prominent; set well apart. Open, soft and expressive. Dark in color, brown or black. *Disqualification: Blind.*
- NOSE – rather large and prominent; black in color. A slightly sloping nostril not objectionable.
- EARS – of medium length set moderately low. Should hang gracefully, inside part tipping toward muzzle. Should not be too pointed at tip, but slightly round or oval, soft, and velvety, hanging with a tendency to roll when head is raised. In proportion to the head and body. *Disqualification: Deaf.*
- Muzzle – is rather long, tapering slightly to end, medium square, with flews sufficient to give a rather squared off appearance. Nasal bone is straight. Stop is medium, defined but not abrupt.

## **NECK**

Rising free and light from the shoulders. Strong in substance, yet not loaded; of medium length. Throat should be clean and free from folds of skin. A slight wrinkle below the angle of the jaw, however, is allowable.

## **FOREQUARTERS**

Forelegs are straight with a fair amount of bone and a short, straight, slightly sloping pastern. Length of leg from elbow to ground is approximately one-half the height at the withers. Shoulders are sloping and cleanly muscled without a heavy or loaded appearance.

## **BODY**

Chest is deep rather than broad, giving lung space. Ribcage is well-sprung and long, extending well back. Back is muscular, moderately long, level and strong. Loins short, broad and slightly arched. Tuck-up moderate. Overall proportion is square or slightly longer than tall.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Hips and thighs strong and well-muscled, giving abundance of propelling power. Stifles strong and well let down. Hocks firm, symmetrical and moderately bent. Feet close and firm. Declaws removed.

## **FEET**

Solid, compact, well padded, giving a cat-like appearance. Well arched toes, strong nails for quick getaway.

## **TAIL**

Set rather high; Strong at root. Tapering, moderately long without flag. Carried free, well up, saber like. Curved gracefully up and forward.

## **COAT**

Smooth haired; glossy, fine yet dense enough for protection. A close hard hound coat.

## **COLOR**

Tri-colored is preferred, white-black-tan. White may be predominant color, with black spots and tan trim; or black may be predominant color with white markings and tan trim, such as saddle back or blanket back. White with tan spots or white with black spots may be accepted. Any other combination will be penalized when shown. *Disqualifications: Albinism. Any color or combination of colors other than described.*



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## **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

Slightly more at shoulders than at hips. Shoulders should measure: Adult males should be between 22 to 27 inches. Adult females, 20 to 25 inches. Ideal weight should be in proportion to dog's height. Working dogs should not be penalized when shown slightly under weight.. (Entries in Puppy Class are not to be eliminated for being undersized.)

## **GAIT**

The Treeing Walker moves with good reach and drive, showing good balance. Hackney (high stepping) is a fault.

## **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

Males under 22 inches or over 27 inches. Females under 20 inches or over 25 inches. (Entries in Puppy Class are not to be eliminated for being undersized.)