

## **AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER**

**ORIGIN:** U.S.A.

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD:** 03.09.1996.

**FCI-CLASSIFICATION:** Group           3   Terriers.  
   Section       3   Bull type Terriers.  
   Without working trial.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** The 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.

**CRANIAL REGION:**

Skull: broad.

Stop: Distinct.

**FACIAL REGION:**

Nose: Definitely black.

Muzzle: Medium length, rounded on upper side to fall away abruptly below the eyes.

Lips: Close and even; no looseness.

Jaws/Teeth: Well defined. Under jaw strong and to have biting power. Upper teeth to meet tightly outside lower teeth in front.

Cheeks: Very pronounced cheek muscles.

**EYES:** Dark, round, low down in skull, set far apart. No pink eyelids.

**EARS:** Set high. Cropped or uncropped, the latter preferred. Uncropped ears should be short and held rose or half prick. Full drop to be penalized.

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

**BODY:**

**Topline** : Back fairly short. Slight sloping from withers to rump with gentle short slope at rump to base of tail.

**Loins:** Slightly tucked.

**Chest:** Deep and broad. Well sprung ribs; close together, deep in rear.

**TAIL:** Short in comparison to size, low set, tapering to fine point; not curled or carried over back. Not docked.

**LIMBS:**

**FOREQUARTERS:** Front legs straight, with large bones. Set rather wide apart to permit chest development.

**Shoulders:** Strong and muscular, with blades wide and sloping.

**Pastern:** Upright.

**Forefeet:** Of moderate size, well arched and compact.

**HINDQUARTERS:** Well muscled.

**Hocks:** Let down, turning neither in nor out.

**Hind feet:** Of moderate size, well arched and compact.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT:** Springy but without roll or pace.

## **COAT**

**Hair**: Short, close, stiff to the touch, glossy.

**Colour**: Any colour, solid, particolour, or patched is permissible; but more than 80% white, black and tan, and liver not to be encouraged.

**SIZE**: Height and weight should be in proportion. A height of about eighteen to nineteen inches (46 - 48 cm) at the shoulder for the male and seventeen to eighteen inches (43 - 46 cm) for the female to be considered preferable.

**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.

- Dudley nose.
- Undershot or overshot mouth.
- Light eyes.
- Pink eyelids.
- Tail too long or badly carried.

## **DISQUALIFYING FAULTS**

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

## **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.

## SURFACE ANATOMY

