ENGLISH COONHOUND

Official UKC Breed Standard
Revised January 1, 2011

The goals and purposes of this breed standard include:
to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain
the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance
this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world;
and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid
any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to
the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this
breed, and must take the responsibility to see that
these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following 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.

HISTORY
The history of the English Coonhound is the history of
nearly all coonhounds. With the exception of the Plott
Hound, all of the UKC breeds of coonhounds have a
common ancestry that is deeply rooted in the English
Foxhound.

The English Coonhound was first registered by UKC
in 1905, under the name of English Fox & Coonhound.
In those days the dogs were used much more on fox
than they are today. They name also reflected the
similarity that the breed had to the American Foxhound
and the English Foxhound.

The variation in color is another aspect of English
Coonhound history. Both the Treeing Walker and the
Bluetick Coonhound were originally registered with UKC
as English. The Walker was recognized as a separate
breed in 1945, and the Bluetick a year later. There are
still tri-colored and blueticked English hounds, though
redticked dogs dominate in the breed today.

The first mention of hounds in America appears in
the diary of one of the men who was with the explorer
DeSoto. He also mentions that the hounds were used
for the hunting of Indians rather than fox, raccoon or
rabbit.

In 1650, Englishman Robert Brooke brought his pack
of hounds to America with him. Thomas Walker of
Virginia imported hounds from England in 1742, and in
1770 George Washington, an avid fox hunter, had
hounds imported from England. These dogs were the
foundation of the “Virginia Hounds”, from which the
present day English Coonhound was developed.

The Americans adapted the animals to the much
rougher American terrain and climate, and, through
careful breeding practices, adapted the hounds to
American game: raccoon, opossum, cougar and various
species of bear.

English hounds have excelled in both performance
and conformation. The first major coonhound Field Trial
of all time, the first Leafy Oak, was won by an English
dog called “Bones”, owned by Colonel Leon Robinson.

GENERAL APPEARANCE
The English Coonhound is a dog 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
The head is broad between the ears, and of good
overall length. Skull very slightly domed. Muzzle is long,
deep and square, with enough flews to give the jaw a
squared off appearance. Stop is well defined but
moderate.

TEETH - Scissors bite preferred, even bite acceptable.
Undershot or overshot are disqualifying faults.

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 and soft to
the touch. Fairly long, reaching nearly to the nose when
pulled forward.
**Disqualification:** Deaf.

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

**FOREQUARTERS**
Forelegs set well apart, and are straight and strong, with good bone. Pasterns nearly vertical, but with enough slope to absorb shock. Length of leg from elbow to ground is approximately one-half the height at the withers. Sloping shoulders are clean yet strongly muscled.

**BODY**
Chest is deep, reaching to elbow, and broad. Ribs are well-sprung. Back is straight and strong, never roached. Topline is slightly higher at withers than at hips. Loin is strongly muscled and slightly arched. Underline curves gracefully upward to a moderate tuck up at the flank. 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 are strongly muscled, showing drive and power. Stifles are stout and have good angulation. Hock joint has moderate angulation. Rear pasterns are strong and straight when viewed from behind. Dewclaws removed.

Lack of angulation is a highly undesirable feature: i.e., post legged.

**FEET**
Tight, well-arched toes, deep pads, and strong nails.

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

**COAT**
A good hard, protective, hound type coat of medium length.

**COLOR**
Redtick, bluetick, tri color with ticking, white and red, white and black, white and lemon.

*Disqualifications:* Any brindle in coat. Albinism.

**HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**
Height at withers for adult males, 22 to 27 inches. For adult females, 21 to 25 inches. Weight should be in proportion to height, keeping in mind the strong build of the English Coonhound.

**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 undersize.)

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

**ELIMINATING FAULTS**
*A dog with an Eliminating Fault is not to be considered for placement in a bench show/conformation event, nor are they to be reported to UKC.*

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 undersize.)

**DISQUALIFICATIONS**
*A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a bench show/conformation event, and must be reported to UKC.*


**SERIOUS FAULT**
Lacking in adequate angulation: i.e. post legged.

*Note: Spayed and neutered dogs may compete in all UKC Licensed Coonhound Events, including bench shows, nite hunts, water races and field trials.*