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FCI-Standard N° 286

**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.

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**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.