



**Official Breed Standard
of the
Kennel Union of South Africa**



AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER

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

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 cms (18 - 19 ins) at shoulders for the male and 43 to 46 cms (17 - 18 ins) 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 and its effects on the health & welfare of the dog

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