

## AMERICAN BULLDOG

GROUP: Working

### SIZE :

Desirable height in a mature male ranges from 22 to 27 inches; females, 20 to 25 inches.  
Desirable weight in a male ranges from 75 to 125 pounds; females, 60 to 100 pounds.

### COAT:

Short, close, and stiff to the touch. **Disqualification:** Long or wavy coat.

### COLOR:

All colors and color patterns or combinations of colors are acceptable, except for solid black, solid blue, and tricolor (white with patches of black and tan). Those exceptions are to be penalized to the degree of deviation. Some dark brindle coats may appear black except in very bright light. A buckskin color pattern, where the base of the hair is fawn and the tips are black, may also appear solid black.

### HEAD:

Large and broad, giving impression of great power; viewed from side, the skull and muzzle are parallel and joined by a well-defined stop; very deep and abrupt stop, almost at right angle with muzzle; width of forehead is greater than height, despite the depth of the stop.

#### Eyes:

Medium size, round, set well apart; all colors acceptable, but brown is preferred; haw is not visible; dark eye rims preferred. **Fault: Very visible haw.**

#### Ears:

Natural ears preferred, but may be cropped; natural ears are small to medium size, set high, and may be drop, semi-prick, or rose. *Drop ears* are set high, level with the upper line of the skull, accentuating the skull's width; base of ear is slightly raised in front and then hangs along the cheek; slightly rounded tip; pulled toward the eye, the ear should not extend past the outside corner of the eye. *Semi-prick ears* are the same as drop ears except that only the tips of the ears drop forward. *Rose ears* are small and set high on the skull. **Fault: Hound ears.**

#### Muzzle:

Broad and thick with very slight taper from the stop to the nose; length is equal to 35 to 45 percent of length of head; lips are moderately thick but not pendulous; well-defined chin, neither overlapping upper lip nor covered by it.

#### Nose:

Black with large nostrils. Brown or liver colored nose is disqualification.

#### Bite & teeth:

Undershot preferred with inside of lower incisors extending in front of the upper incisors up to ¼ inch, but scissors bite is acceptable; should have a complete set of large, evenly spaced, white teeth; teeth not visible when mouth is closed; worn teeth or broken teeth in working dogs are acceptable. **Faults: Level bite and extreme undershot should be penalized to the extent that the bite interferes with the dog's ability to work.**

### NECK:

Muscular and strong enough to exert leverage, but short enough to exert power; widest point is almost as broad at the head; slight arch at crest, tapering slightly from shoulders to head; slight dewlap is acceptable. **Faults: Neck too short and thick; thin or weak neck.**

### BODY:

Well-sprung ribs from the spine and then flatten to form a deep body extending at least to the elbows, or lower in adult dogs; short, broad, and slightly arched loin, blending into a moderately sloping croup; firm,

moderately tucked up flank. Legs: Forelegs are straight, strong, short and set wide apart. Hind legs are muscular and longer than forelegs, with hocks let well down.

Topline:

Inclines very slightly downward from well-developed withers to broad, muscular back. **Serious faults:** **Swayback; sloping topline.**

Chest:

Deep, moderately wide with ample room for heart and lungs.

FOREQUARTERS:

Strong, well muscled shoulders; shoulder blade is well laid back and forms an apparent 90-degree angle with the upper arm; tips of shoulder blades set about two to three finger-widths apart; heavily boned and very muscular forelegs; elbows set on a plane parallel to the body, neither close to body nor turned out; viewed from front, forelegs are perpendicular to the ground or may incline slightly forward in a dog with a very broad chest; pasterns are short, powerful, and slightly sloping when viewed in profile; pasterns are straight when viewed from front.

HINDQUARTERS:

Well muscled and broad; width and angulation of hindquarters is in balance with width and angulation of forequarters; well-developed thighs with thick, easily discerned muscles; short, muscular lower thighs; rear pasterns, viewed from side, are well let down and perpendicular to ground; viewed from rear, pasterns are straight and parallel to each other. **Faults** Cowhocks; open hocks. **Serious faults:** **Narrow or weak hindquarters.**

Feet:

Round, medium in size, well arched, and tight. **Fault:** **Splayed feet; seriousness of fault is based on amount of splay in feet.**

Tail:

Natural tail is preferred, but may be docked; natural tail is very thick at the base and tapers to a point; set low; "pump handle" tail preferred, but any tail carriage from upright, when dog is excited, to relaxed between hocks is acceptable. **Serious faults:** **Tail curled over the back; corkscrew tail; upright tail when dog is relaxed.**

MOVEMENT:

Effortless when trotting, smooth, powerful, and well coordinated, showing good reach in front and drive behind; backline remains level when moving, 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; feet tend to converge toward center line of balance as speed increases. **Fault:** **Poor movement should be penalized to the extent to which it reduces the dog's ability to perform the tasks it was bred to do.**

TEMPERAMENT:

Gentle and loving family companion; fearless. It is common for young dogs to be somewhat standoffish with strangers, and they should not be penalized for this. At around 18 months of age, the breed's normal confidence asserts itself. **Disqualifications:** **Viciousness or extreme shyness; cowardice.**

**Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.**

**Disqualifications:**

**Viciousness or extreme shyness.**

**Cowardice.**

**Overshot.**

**Long or wavy coat.**

**Unilateral or bilateral deafness.**

**Albinism.**