

BASSET HOUND

GROUP: Hound

SIZE:

Height 14½ in. or less. Anything taller to be faulted to the degree of variation. Weight 40-70 lbs.

COAT:

Hard, short and smooth with sufficient density for protection; loose and elastic skin. **Disqualification: distinctly long coat.**

COLOR:

Black, white, and tan (tricolor); lemon and white (bicolor); but any hound color is accepted; any distribution of color is acceptable.

HEAD:

Large, but well proportioned with body; length from occiput to muzzle is greater than the width at the brow; pronounced occiput; well-domed skull; loose and wrinkled skin over entire head when head is lowered. **Fault: Flat, broad skull.**

Eyes: Sad looking; soft, slightly sunken; generally dark brown in color; may be hazel in light colored hounds, but not desirable. **Faults: Very light or protruding eyes.**

Ears: Long enough to reach well beyond the nose if pulled forward; set low on skull, not above the lines of the eyes; thin and velvety in texture. **Faults: High set or flat ears.**

Muzzle: Medium size and well proportioned to head; deep and heavy; no snipiness;

Lips: Dark pigment; loose, hanging flews.

Nose: Black and self-colored according to coat.

Bite: Scissor or level. **Faults: Undershot or overshot.**

NECK:

Very powerful, with pronounced dewlap; good length; well arched.

BODY:

Long and smooth rib structure, with ribs being well sprung. **Faults: slack loin; flatsidedness.** Topline is straight and level **Fault: Roached or sagging back;** Chest is deep and full with sternum showing clearly.

FRONT & REAR QUARTERS:

Forelegs are short and powerful; heavy boned; wrinkled skin; knees crook slightly inward. Hind legs are very well muscled with a well-let-down stifle; approximately same width as shoulders; when viewed from the back, the hind legs appear to be parallel. **Faults: Forelegs out at elbows; down in pasterns. Hind bowed; straight or weak hocks; cowhocks.**

Feet: Very large with tough, heavy pads. **Faults: Pinched or splayed toes.**

Tail: Slightly curved, appearing to be a continuation of the spine; carried gaily in hound fashion; coarse hair on underside.

MOVEMENT:

Good reach, with well-balanced movement; smooth, powerful and effortless gait; nose low to the ground in scent-hound fashion; legs move in straight line. **Fault: Paddling in front legs.**

TEMPERAMENT:

Energetic, free-spirited, friendly disposition.

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:

Unsound in legs or feet.

Distinctly long coat.

Viciousness or unfriendly manner.