

Official AKC Standard

General Appearance:

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a smooth-coated dog. It should be of great strength for its size and, although muscular, should be active and agile.

Size, Proportion, Substance: Height at shoulder - 14 to 16 inches. Weight - Dogs, 28 to 38 pounds; bitches, 24 to 34 pounds, these heights being related to weights. Non-conformity with these limits is a fault. In proportion, the length of back, from withers to tail set, is equal to the distance from withers to ground.

Head: Short, deep through, broad skull, very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop, short fore-face, black nose. Pink (Dudley) nose to be considered a serious fault.

Eyes: Dark preferable, but may bear some relation to coat color. Round, of medium size, and set to look straight ahead. Light eyes or pink eye rims to be considered a fault, except that where the coat surrounding the eye is white the eye rim may be pink.

Ears: Rose or half-pricked and not large. Full drop or full prick to be considered a serious fault.

Mouth: A bite in which the outer side of the lower incisors touches the inner side of the upper incisors. The lips should be tight and clean. The badly undershot or overshot bite is a serious fault.

Neck, Topline, Body: The neck is muscular, rather short, clean in outline and gradually widening toward the shoulders. The body is close coupled, with a level top-line, wide front, deep brisket and well sprung ribs being rather light in the loins. The tail is undocked, of medium length, low set, tapering to a point and carried rather low. It should not curl much and may be likened to an old-fashioned pump handle. A tail that is too long or badly curled is a fault.

Forequarters: Legs straight and well boned, set rather far apart, without looseness at the shoulders and showing no weakness at the pasterns, from which point the feet turn out a little. Dewclaws on the forelegs may be removed. The feet should be well padded, strong and of medium size.

Hindquarters: The hindquarters should be well muscled, hocks let down with stifles well bent. Legs should be parallel when viewed from behind. Dewclaws, if any, on the hind legs are generally removed. Feet as in front.

Coat: Smooth, short and close to the skin, not to be trimmed or de-whiskered.

Color: Red, fawn, white, black or blue, or any of these colors with white. Any shade of brindle or any shade of brindle with white. Black-and-tan or liver color to be disqualified. Merle pattern does not exist genetically in the breed and shall be disqualified.

Gait: Free, powerful and agile with economy of effort. Legs moving parallel when viewed from front or rear. Discernible drive from hind legs.

Temperament: From the past history of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, the modern dog draws its character of indomitable courage, high intelligence, and tenacity. This, coupled with its affection for its friends, and children in particular, its off-duty quietness and trustworthy stability, makes it a foremost all-purpose dog.

Disqualifications: Black-and-tan or liver color and merle pattern.

Approved July 8, 2025 Effective September 30, 2025



THE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER



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Established 1974
SBTCA Judges' Education Committee
Adopted and Copy Written 2025
www.sbtca.com

Visualization of the Standard Quick Guide

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Size - muscular, active & agile- Medium size, should be athletic, and quite active. Exhibit “economy of effort” in every move. Shown in fit, athletic condition. “Great strength for his size” alludes to efficiency.

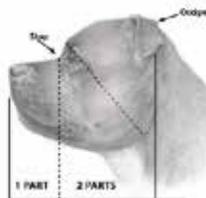
Coat - Correct coat should feel slightly hard, not soft or silky. Tight, short, and should lay flat. Colors are red, fawn, white, brindle, black or blue. Any of these colors with white.

Balance - The correct amount of dog to get the job done, not an ounce more or less. The presence of correct balance is a virtue. Height at shoulder: 14 to 16 inches. Height should be in balance with weight.



Soundness - Constructed soundly with movement being a test of soundness. Can the dog do the job it was intended to do over and over without injury?

Temperament- Cool and easy going about new environment and situations. Should be confident in the ring when examined. Puppies may be nervous, but never fearful. Never human aggressive. Can show typical Terrier arousal.



HEAD

Head- In proportion with body, balanced, and not over or undersized. Nearly the same width as depth., Pronounced cheek muscles. Not brachycephalic. Wrinkle free. Not too heavy or weak or snikey with a deep furrow down the center on adults. Lips tight and clean. Not fleshy.

Muzzle- Angle is a little less than parallel to the angle of the skull. Length no less than 1/3 muzzle to 2/3 skull & 1/2 depth of the skull. Muzzle from tip of nose to stop no less than 1/2 from stop to occipital bone

Nose- Large open nostrils. Shouldn't be 'tip tiled'. Should never be 'gasping' to breathe.

Stop & Eye Socket- 'Distinct' stop, but not completely vertical. From profile eye socket approaches vertical but stop is more gradual.

Eyes- Dark eye, round (never bulging or almond shape), medium size, set in the skull to look straight ahead, and with keen expression. Some exception to be made in color in relation to to coat.

Ears - round out the expression and play a very important role in the overall character of the head. Ears are a barometer for the Stafford's emotion and alertness. Perfect rose or half prick ears round out the classic Stafford expression.



BODY

Forequarters- Legs straight with feet turning out slightly at the pasterns. Perpendicular to the ground. Strong well-balanced front. Feet are tight, well padded, but not cat foot or splayed. Elbows same distance apart as they are to the ground and lie tightly.

Hindquarters- Should be well muscled but not bunched, hocks let down with stifles well bent. Legs should be parallel when viewed from behind.

Weight- Dogs, 28 to 38 lbs; Bitches, 24 to 34 lbs. Heights being in balance to weight.

Gait - Free, powerful, and agile with economy of effort. Efficient. No wasted energy. Legs moving parallel when viewed from front or rear. Discernible drive from hind legs. No running.



DISQUALIFICATIONS

Black & tan, liver color and merle pattern. Merle does not genetically exist in the Stafford.

FAULTS

- Non-conformity to height and weight guidelines.
- Dudley nose/any pink on nose.
- Light eyes or pink eye rims except, where coat surrounding is white.
- Full drop or prick ears.
- Badly undershot or overshot bites.
- Tail that is too long or badly curled.