

ESTONIAN HOUND

(Eesti hagijas)

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ORIGIN : Estonia.

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UTILIZATION : Scenthound used for hunting hare, fox and also lynx.

CLASSIFICATION F.C.I. : not yet recognized breed.

DESIRED CLASSIFICATION: Group 6 Scenthounds and related breeds

hounds

Section 1.2 Medium-sized

With working trial

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY : By the information found in the Hunting handbook (published in 1938 by the State Land and Forest Government, author Franz Reindolf) and in the Estonian Kennel Club studbook, published in the same year, a local scenthound breed did not exist in Estonia. Hounds used in battue (43 animals in studbook with numbers 245-398) were not specified by breed, and the population consisted mainly of Swiss (Helvetian) Hounds, Beagles, German Brackes and Dachsbrackes. In a booklet "Questions and answers on hunters trial" (Edgar Vester), published in 1942, the scenthounds used in Estonia, were divided into high-legged (Kostroma, Polish and English Hounds) and low-legged (Swiss Hounds, Beagles and Drevers (Dachsbrackes)). At those times it was decided to pay more attention to smaller sized hounds, who would not present such a big threat to the bovine animals and who would track more slowly. Unfortunately most of the breed material was destroyed during the war.

In years 1947 to 1954, 2460 scenthounds were inspected and evaluated. Among them, there were various purebred, crosses and mongrels. By September 1954, 48 relatively typey small sized specimens were found. They were presented to a commission for evaluation on 24-26.10.1954. By that time, Sergei Smelkov had put together a project for a new scenthound breed standard and based on

the existing material, breeding was begun. The new breed was named “Estonian Hound”. With the act no.161 (27.12.1954) from the director of Central Nature Reserve Areas and Game Management Board of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Soviet Union came the official approval to the standard, which was originally published in Russian language. This below medium sized, persistently working and resonantly giving tongue breed is especially popular in the European part of Russia, but is also known and used on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea and in Finland.

GENERAL APPEARANCE : tricolour, seldom bicoloured, moderate height, length of body clearly exceeding height in withers, proportional dog of strong and dry build. Strong bones and well developed muscles. Durable paws and high prey-drive guarantee good results in finding prey and tracking in difficult terrain. Basic white colour makes it easy to spot the dog working on the field and resonant voice helps to locate the dog from long distance. Gender type clearly visible.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS :

Length index

Males : 108-110

Females : 110-112

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT : even-tempered, agile and friendly.

HEAD : Seen from above, forms a blunt wedge, wider at the back and a little tapering towards the muzzle.

CRANIAL REGION :

Skull : moderate width, curvy lines. Superciliary arches well developed but not protruding.

Stop : moderate, but not steep.

FACIAL REGION :

Nose : wide, totally black. Dogs with gold or tan patches can have lighter coloured noses.

Muzzle : long, straight and in proportion with skull.

Cheeks : flat, relatively dry.

Lips : dry, tight, not overhanging, no flap in the corner of mouth. Rims of lips totally pigmented.

Jaws/Teeth : teeth are white and big. Jaws normally developed with full set of 42 teeth and complete scissor bite, i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to jaws. Level bite due to aging and wearing down of incisors undesirable.

Eyes : slightly slanting, dark brown, rims dark.

Leathers : thin, drooping, set medium high, closely lying to cheeks, edges round, covered with short hair. When pulled towards nose, reaching about half the length of muzzle.

NECK : medium set and length, roundish, muscular, covered with dry skin, without folds.

BODY :

Withers : rising above back

Back : flat, broad, muscular.

Loin : short, broad, arched, muscular.

Croup : broad, of medium length, muscular, sloping.

Chest : oval, long and capacious, reaching down to elbows. Well-developed spare ribs.

Belly and underline : brisket is long, only slight tuckup.

TAIL : saber form, thick at base, tapering slightly towards the end and reaching to the hocks. Lively when moving, base of tail must never be lifted above line of back.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS : dry with strong bones and muscular. Seen from front the forelegs are straight and parallel. Length of legs is about 50% of the height in withers. The angulation of the shoulder joint is 115-120 degrees.

Elbows : strong, close fitting, neither turning in nor out, but firmly turned back

Forearms : bones are oval and have medium length. Sturdy in relation to the body and completely straight.

Pasterns : broad, supple and almost straight

HINDQUARTERS : dry with strong bones and muscular. Seen from behind the hind legs are straight and parallel, well angulated.

Upper and lower thigh : approximately equal length.

Stifle : strong, moderately bent and turning neither in nor out when moving.

Rear pastern : of medium length, very strong, upright

FEET : arched, oval and tight. Nails strong and turning downwards. Thick pads.

GAIT / MOVEMENT : with good drive, free, straight-line, flowing and smooth.

SKIN : tight, elastic, without folds

COAT :

HAIR : hair is short, even, harsh and glossy. Moderate undercoat. Tail is covered with evenly dense hair in whole length and therefore seems thick. On tip of tail hair is somewhat shorter.

COLOUR : typical colours are black patches with tan markings on white basic colour (tricolour). The size of patches is not limited. Lemon to golden-tan patches are also allowed (bicolour). The pattern consists of black or lemon to tan saddle or patches of various sizes with or without warm tan coloured rims on white base. White markings are on head, on the front of neck, on fore- and lower chest, on the belly. All feet and the tip of tail must be white. All colours must be as bright as possible.

SIZE AND WEIGHT :

height at withers 45-52 cm for males, 3 cm less for females

height at croup 1-1,5 cm less than at withers.

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.**

SERIOUS FAULTS :

- Light or heavy build
- Short or elongated body, silhouette high in the rear
- Too flat or domed skull, too much or too little stop, excessively prominent superciliary arches, round cheeks
- Raw, rough head, convex or concave muzzle, roman nose
- Insufficiently pigmented nose, rims of lips or eyes
- Mild overshot where incisors are not in contact
- Eyes too small, light or bulging
- Leathers too short or thick, set on too high, not lying close to head or covered with long hair
- Upright neck, folds on neck
- Narrow, flat ribcage that broadens towards back
- Weak, undeveloped, hollow, crouching topline, short back, long loin, steep croup
- Tail too long (reaching more than 3 cm below hocks) or too short, with tip turned sideways, hair too thick or too thin, tail carried upwards from base
- Elbows turning out, weak pasterns, hocks turning in or out, insufficient angulation, flat feet, spread toes or too long (hare) feet
- Wrong hair type, clearly wavy, too long or short hair on body, too long on muzzle, ears or tail, lack of undercoat
- Insufficient pattern, clear black or brown ticking on white areas. Brown or coffee-coloured patches with brown pigment
- Shy or over agitated

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS :

- Malformation of any kind
- Aggressive, overly shy

- Wrong gender type
- Over- or undershot mouth
- Odd-eyed or white (blue) eyes
- Small, semi-prick or prick ears
- Bent, sharply turned sideways or defective tail
- Lack of basic white colour

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

N.B. : Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.