

The Black and Tan Coonhound

Beauty-Strength-Courage

A practical guide to judging this grand old American breed

GENERAL APPEARANCE

- ***“First & Fundamentally a Working Dog”***
- “Capable of Withstanding the rigors of winter, the heat of summer and the difficult terrain over which he is called upon to work.”
- “Runs his game entirely by scent...”

* AKC Breed Standard

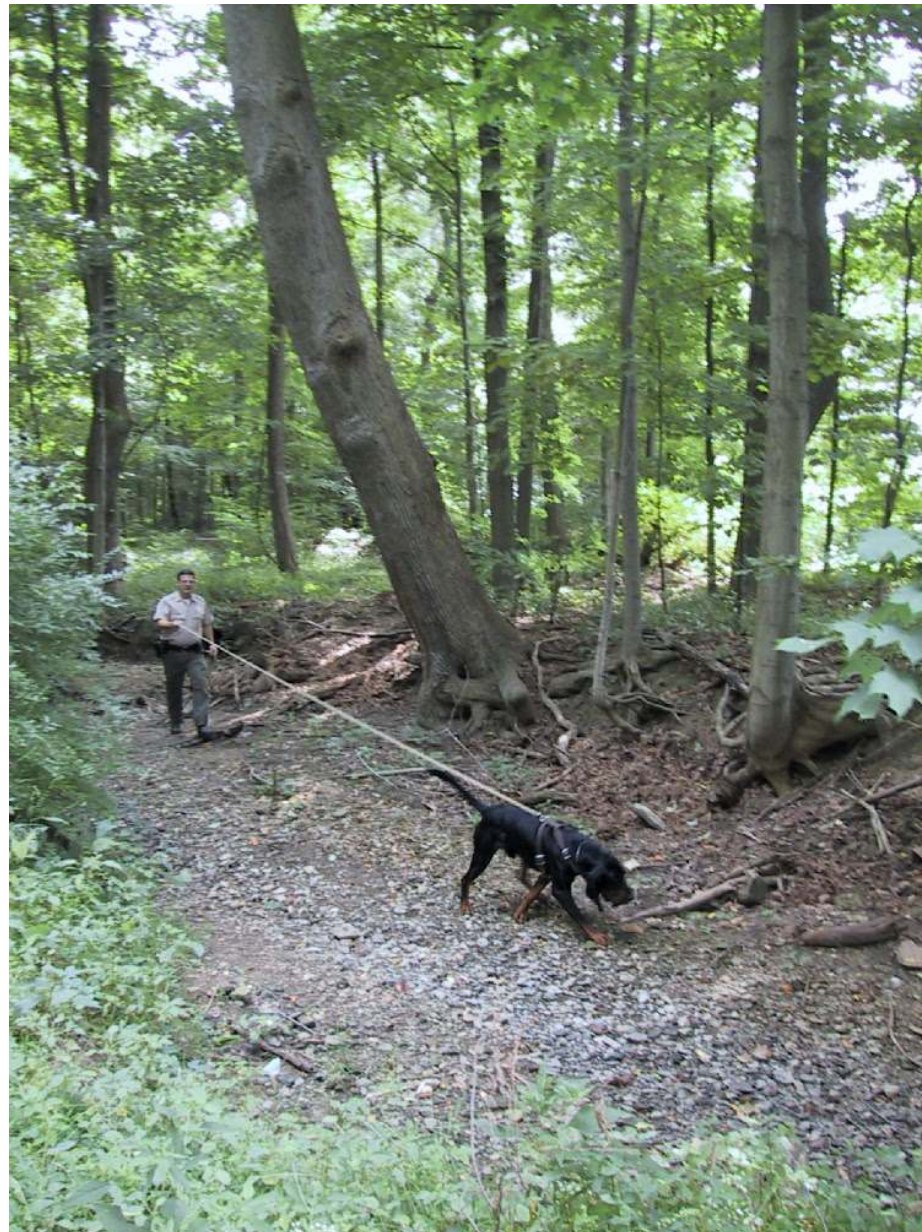
General Appearance, Continued

- The characteristics and courage of the coonhound make him proficient on the hunt for deer, bear, mountain lion and other big game.
- “Judges are asked by the Parent Club to place ***great emphasis*** upon these facts when evaluating the breed.”

“The general impression is that of power, agility and alertness....”



“He Immediately impresses one with the ability to cover the ground with powerful, rhythmic strides...”



ORIGINS

- Native American Breed – Originally descended from the old Virginia Black & Tan Foxhound
- Developed in Kentucky, the Ohio Valley and the Midwest – Col. H.C. Trigg & his pack; the Old Glory strain.
- Foundation Breeds include the Bloodhound, French Grand Bleu de Gascogne and native foxhounds
- Robert Brooke and the Kerry Beagle

Roots of the breed



A Native American Breed

- Dating back to Colonial times, the “Old Glory” strain of Black & Tan hound started in VA & travelled over the Alleghenies with Post-Revolutionary settlers where it was developed in the Ohio Valley.
- Mentioned in historical documents, prized as a hunter and useful guard against wild predators and hostile natives
- Described by early pioneers and Indian fighters such as Daniel Boone, Davey Crockett and Simon Kenton
- Col. Hayden C. Trigg of Glasgow, KY selectively bred a pack of “Long-Eared, Rat-Tailed Black & Tan Hounds to hunt local Grey Fox in years leading up to the Civil War.
- Upon arrival of speedier (and non-treeing) Red Fox, Trigg dispersed much of his pack to local hunters & began outcrossing to other foxhound packs losing the old look and developing into the modern day Trigg strain of American Foxhound.
- Originally recognized in 1900 by UKC as American Black & Tan Fox and Coonhounds.

Early Foundation Stock



L-R: Coe's Blk. Oum, Missouri Blk Beauty, Coe's Blk Sally, Ch. Coe's Midnight Pilot, Midwestern Ace



Purpose and Function

- Originally a general purpose hunter & family protector
- Foxhound “rejects”
- “Cold” nose & persistence accounted for scarce game
- Attributes fell out of favor in 1930s -’40s as emphasis switched to speed and field trials & competition hunts became popular
- Leading to split with the U.K.C. in 1945

Unique Anatomical Adaptations

- Long, low set ears
- Large, well open nostrils
- Tight eye – not prominent
- Rangy build – not compact, cobby or low stationed



AKC/FSS/UKC Bench Show Dogs

AKC purchased the ACHA registry on/around 1990 with the goal of entering the profitable competition coonhunting world.

The ACHA consisted of UKC/PKC registered dogs and originally offered another venue for the competition coonhunter.

Bench shows were offered and dogs were all bred to and judged by the UKC standard, *NOT* the AKC standard.

Unlike the various Sporting breeds, Beagles & Bassets that have “field” only types that do not compete in AKC conformation events, these dogs have a very active show following.

AKC Standard is essentially unchanged since 1945 – one minor revision in 1990

A Good B&T from 1950 would be competitive today – the breed has changed little except for soundness issues- legs, feet, etc. have improved.

The only breed of coonhound recognized by AKC until now
UKC/ACHA/FSS dogs have historically been bred for performance only with color being the determining factor in breed identification

A Few Facts!
UKC routinely opens studbooks annually to “Single Registration” – undocumented dogs with unknown or unregistered pedigrees who will run & tree coon and are the correct color for the breed.

These Single-Registered dogs receive complete registration privileges and are able to hunt, show & be produce litters.

An as yet unknown number of these dogs made up the 2,000+ that AKC admitted into our studbook in 2007.

This is despite the fact that the AB&TCC voted overwhelmingly not to open it.

F.S.S./Bench Show Type

The next few slides are representative of winning type of the FSS stock, *NOT* AKC bred hounds

It is important to remember that these dogs have been bred to a different standard for many generations

They depart from the AKC standard in several significant respects

* Short, flat ear; Straight
(Roache



Previously mentioned head faults; sharp expression; Shallow chest; Roached topline



Topline issues- Flat/Splayed feet; Snipy muzzle; Short ears



Overall lack of Breed Type



Racy outline; Lack of body & substance “shelly”; Poor angulation



General lack of Type, Substance, Quality – shallow chest, lack of 2nd. thigh, low tail set



Incorrect , sloping topline, short ears, lack of muzzle, general racy build



Ranges of Correct Type, Expression and Profile



Ranges of Correct Type, Balance, Profile & Expression,
continued



Gait and Movement

- ****“Easy and graceful with plenty of reach in front and drive behind...”***
- When coming and going, will converge towards centerline as speed increases to a single track.
- When viewed from the side, the topline should remain level.

* AKC Standard

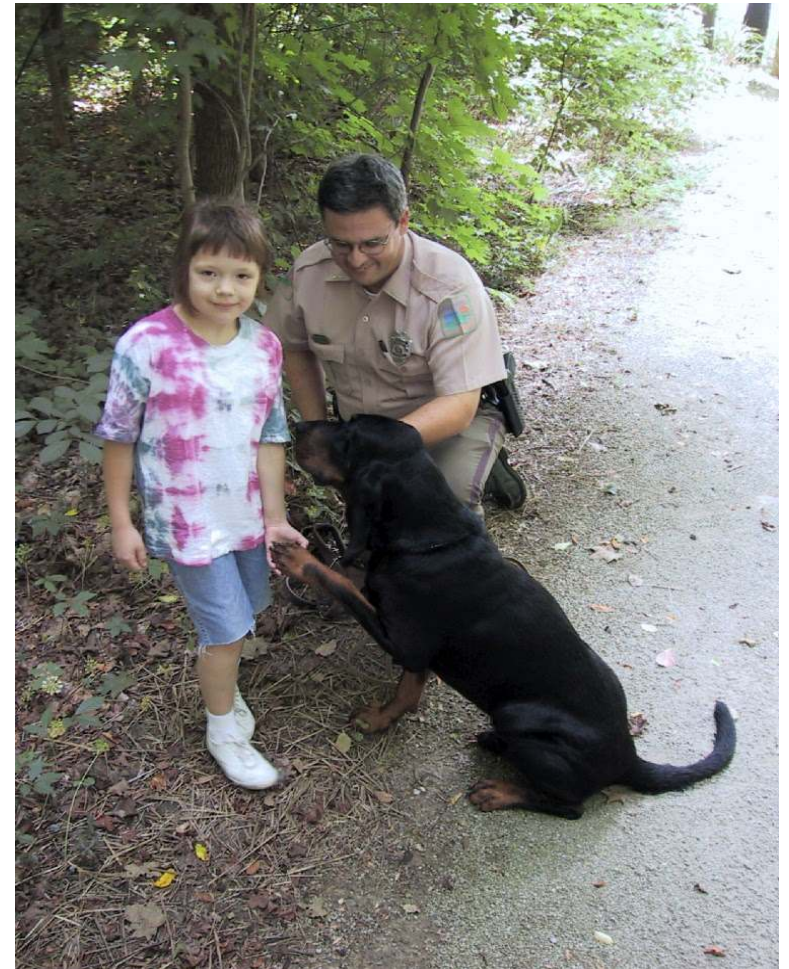
Common Movement Faults

- Hackney fronts, straight upper arms
- Paddling, weak pasterns
- Wide movement, coming & going
- Weak rears; poor drive
- Running “downhill” or low withers



Temperament and Disposition

- Even, outgoing and friendly
- Previous standard called for ***eager*** and ***aggressive***
- ***Never*** shy or vicious
- Early socialization very important!
- Do not confuse lack of showmanship with poor temperament!



Visualizing the Standard

- General Appearance – Remember the first paragraph!
- Overall K-9 Athlete
- ***Power, Agility & Alertness!***



Size, Proportion & Substance

- Dogs are 25-27”
- Bitches are 23-25”
- ***Penalize undersize, not oversize*** - providing soundness & balance are present
- Measured from point of shoulder to buttocks & from top of withers to ground
- Square or slightly off square in the case of bitches



Proportion, dog & bitch



The Headpiece

- Expression is alert, friendly & eager
- Skin is devoid of excess folds
- Nostrils well open & always black
- Flews well developed
- Penalize lack of flew/lip that results in snipy appearance
- Moderate stop tending towards parallel planes
- Skull tends toward oval outline, not broad or blocky
- Eyes hazel to dark brown; frequently connected to overall pigmentation – light tan=lighter eyes, dark markings=darker eyes

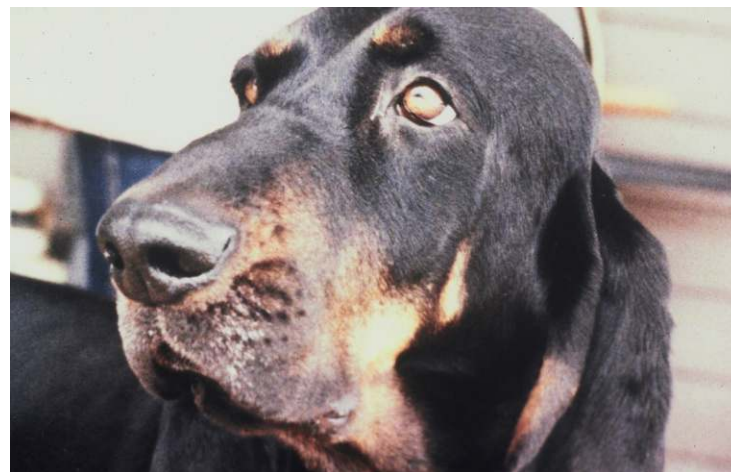


Ears

- Ears are lowset & well back, hanging in graceful folds giving the dog a majestic appearance.
- Thin to the touch, set on at eye level or lower.
- Ears cannot be too long!
- They naturally extend **well beyond** the tip of the nose
- ***PENALIZE SHORT, HIGHLY SET EARS.***



Eyes, Ears and Skull



Common Head Faults



Neck, Topline & Body



- Neck is muscular, sloping and of medium length
- Short, thick necks frequently go with upright, heavy shoulders!

Topline and Body



- “The Back is level, powerful and strong
- Possessing full, round, well-sprung ribs, avoiding flatsidedness
- Chest reaches at least to the elbows
- Tail is strong, with base slightly below level of backline, carried free & when in action at approximately right angle to back”

The Importance of Outline and how it helps define type or lack thereof

- Long and low, over-angulated



- “Shelly” – lacking bone, substance & angulation as well as lack of 2nd thigh development

Outline and Type, continued

- Arched loin on an otherwise quality dog



Balanced but incorrect –
Built like table, flat on
top & straight at both
ends!



Quarters and Legs

- Powerful shoulders, straight forelegs, strong erect pasterns
- Hindquarters well boned & muscled, hip to hock long & sinewy, hock to pad short & strong.
- Hind feet set back from under the body with leg from pad to hock at right angle to the ground



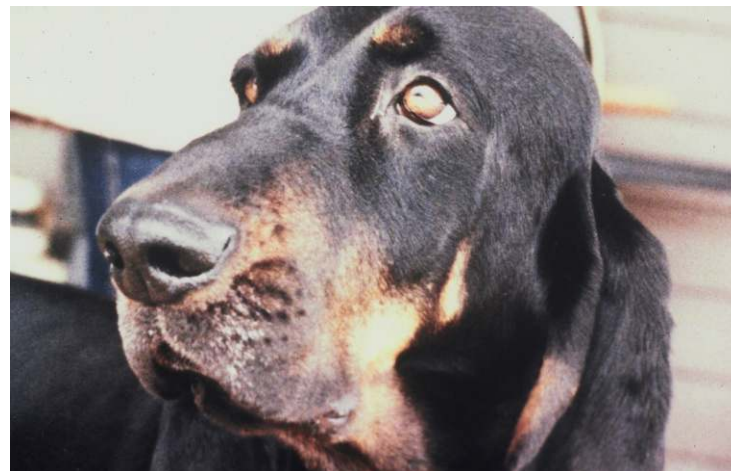
Feet



* “Feet are compact, with well knuckled, strongly arched toes and thick, strong pads”.

* AKC Breed standard

Color and Markings



Disqualification

- White is highly undesirable and a ***solid patch*** extending ***more than an inch*** in any direction is a disqualification



Conclusion



- Remember – there are no stupid questions!
- Make educated decisions based on knowledge and understanding
- Talk to other respected, successful breeders
- Don't be afraid to withhold ribbons if warranted

Heritage



Heritage, continued









