

FACT SHEET

Hunting hounds – Bluetick Coonhound



Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) Breed Standard

General Appearance	The Bluetick Coonhound should have the appearance of a speedy and well-muscled hound. They have a neat, compact body, a glossy coat and clear, keen eyes. In motion, they carry their head and tail well up and never appear clumsy.
Characteristics	Active, ambitious and speedy on the trail. The Bluetick should have a free tongue on trail, with a medium bawl or bugle voice when scenting and trailing.
Temperament	Even temperament, outgoing and friendly. Some may be reserved. Not usually shy or vicious.
Head and Skull	The head is cleanly modelled. From the back of the skull to the nose the head measures from 23-25cm in males (9-10 inches) and from 20-23cm in females. (8-9 inches). Stop is prominent. Muzzle is long, broad and deep, square in profile with flews that well cover the line of the lower jaw. Depth of foreface should be 7.5 cm-11.5 cm. (3 to 4½ inches). Nose is large with well-opened nostrils. Fully pigmented, black in colour.
Eyes	Rather large, set wide apart in skull. Round and dark brown in colour (never lighter than light brown). Eye rims tight and close fitting. No excess third eyelid should be apparent. Expression is a typical pleading hound expression, never wild or cowering.
Ears	Set low and devoid of erectile power. Should be thin with a slight roll, taper well towards a point, and reach well towards the end of the nose when pulled forward. Well-attached to head to prevent hanging or backward tilt.
Mouth	Teeth fit evenly with a scissor-bite, an even bite is acceptable.

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Neck	Muscular and moderate in length, tapering slightly from shoulders to head. Carried well up but not vertically (goose-necked). Throat smooth with only a slight trace of dewlap.
Forequarters	Legs are straight from elbows to feet, well-boned and muscular, with strong, straight, slightly sloping pasterns. Legs should appear straight from either side or front view. Length of leg from elbow to ground is approximately one half the height at the withers. Shoulders are clean and sloping, muscular but not too broad or rough, giving the appearance of freedom of movement and strength.
Body	The body should show considerable depth (extending well down toward the elbow), rather than excessive width, to allow for plenty of lung space. Fore chest is moderate, even with the point of the shoulder. Ribs are long and well-sprung, tapering gradually towards a moderate tuck-up. Back is muscular and topline slopes downward slightly from withers to hips. Loin is broad, well-muscled and slightly arched.
Hindquarters	Hips are strong and well-muscled, not quite as wide as the ribcage. Thighs have great muscular development for an abundance of propelling power. Breeching full and clean down to hock. Hocks are strong and moderately bent. Rear legs are parallel from hip to foot when viewed from behind (no cow hocks).
Feet	Round (cat-like) with well arched toes and thick, tough pads.
Tail	Set on slightly below the line of the back, strongly rooted and tapering to a moderate length (in balance to the overall length of the hound). Carried high with a forward half-moon curve. Well-coated but without flag.
Gait/Movement	Active and vigorous, with topline carried firmly and head and tail well up.
Coat	Medium coarse and lying close to the body, appearing smooth and glossy. Not rough or too short.
Color	Preferred colour is a dark blue, thickly mottled body, spotted by various shaped black spots on back, ears and sides. Preference is to more blue than black on body. Head and ears are predominately black. With or without tan markings (over eyes, on cheeks, chest and below tail) and red ticking on feet and lower legs. A fully blue mottled body is preferred over light ticking on the body. There should be more blue ticking than white in the body coat. No other colours allowed.
Sizes	Ideal height: Adult dogs 66cm (26in) Adult bitches 61cm (24in) Dogs usually vary from 63-69cm (22-27 inches) Bitches usually vary from 58-63cm (21-25 inches) Weight: for males 25kg - 36kg (55 to 80 pounds), females 20kg – 30kg (45 to 65 pounds)
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.

Published by the Game Management Authority, October 2025.

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Authorised by the Game Management Authority, Melbourne.

ISBN 978-1-74146-980-6 (Print)

ISBN 978-1-74146-981-3 (pdf/online)

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