



# **BULLY**

A S S U R E

## **AMERICAN BULLY STANDARDS**

### **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

The American Bully should give the impression of great strength for its size. It is a compact and medium/large size dog with a muscular body and blocky head. The American Bully should have the appearance of heavy bone structure with a bulky build and look.

### **CHARACTERISTICS**

The American Bully is a companion breed exhibiting confidence, a zest for life, along with an exuberant willingness to please and bond with their family, thus making the American Bully an excellent family companion. Despite the American Bully's fierce and powerful appearance their demeanour is gentle. They are great with kids, and extremely friendly with strangers, other dogs, and other animals. Human or dog aggression, extreme shyness, or viciousness is very uncharacteristic of the American Bully and is highly undesirable. Aggressive behaviour towards humans is uncharacteristic of the breed, and highly undesirable.

### **HEAD**

The American Bully breed head is unique and a key characteristic. It is large and broad, but never disproportionate to the overall dog. There is a well-defined, moderately deep stop. The flews are deep, but always clean. Cheek muscles are prominent and free of wrinkles.

### **MUZZLE**

- The muzzle is broad and blocky, or slightly square. The length of the muzzle is shorter than the length of the skull, being from 25 to 35 percent of the overall length of the head. The top of the muzzle is

straight. The lower jaw is well-developed, wide and deep.

The overall structure of the lower jaw, muzzle, stop and skull planes should bear little to no characteristics of the English Bulldog.

### **NOSE**

” The nose is large, with well-opened nostrils. All colours of nose pigment are acceptable. Nose colour is usually in harmony with coat colour.

Eliminating Faults: Excessively large, heavy, head disproportionate to the body. Muzzle so short and blunt as to interfere with normal breathing. Snipey muzzle. Weak lower jaw. Excessive flews. Muzzle slightly turned up at the nostrils.

### **TEETH**

The American Bully has a complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors or even bite.

Serious Faults: Missing teeth. Overshot.

Eliminating Fault: Undershot. Wry bite.

### **EYES**

Eyes are medium size, oval to slightly round, and set well apart and low on the skull. All colours are equally acceptable except blue. The haw should not be visible.

Fault: Blue eyes.

Serious Faults: Eyes not matched in colour.



## **EARS**

Ears are set high, and may be natural or cropped, without preference. Prick, or flat, wide ears are not preferred.

Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral deafness.

## **NECK**

The neck is of moderate length and muscular. There is a slight arch at the crest. The neck widens gradually from where it joins the skull to where it blends in to well laid-back shoulders. The skin on the neck is without excessive dewlap.

Faults: Neck too thin or weak; ewe neck; excessive dewlap.

Very Serious Faults: A short neck that would interfere with functional ability. Neck too long as to be out of proportion with body.

## **BODY**

The body is close-coupled, with a broad, deep chest, and well-sprung ribs. The chest may be wider than it is deep, but free from exaggeration. The forechest does not extend forward much beyond the point of the shoulder. The back is wide, strong and firm. The topline is level and straight. The croup slopes slightly downward to the base of the tail. The loin is wide and short.

The distance from the withers to the elbow is equal to the distance from the elbows to the bottom of the feet. Dogs that are slightly shorter in distance from the elbows to the bottom of the feet are acceptable but not desirable.

Eliminating Fault: Chest so wide as to interfere with normal movement.

## **FOREQUARTERS**

The shoulder blades are long, wide, muscular and well laid back. The upper arm is roughly equal in length to the shoulder blade, and joins at an apparent right angle.

The forelegs are strong and muscular with a slight turn to the forearm. The elbows are set close or just

slightly away from the body. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are set moderately wide apart, and are perpendicular to the ground. The pasterns are short, powerful, flexible, and set at a slight angle.

Eliminating Faults: Front legs so bowed as to interfere with normal movement.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

The hindquarters are strong, muscular and broad. The rump is well-filled-in, and deep.

The thighs are well developed, with thick muscles. Viewed from the side, the hock joint is well bent, and rear pasterns are well let down and perpendicular to the ground. Viewed from the rear, the rear pasterns are straight and parallel to one another.

Serious Faults: Narrow hindquarters. Lack of muscle. Straight stifle. Cow hocks. Sickie hocks. Bowed legs.

## **FEET**

The feet are tight, round, proportionate to the size of the dog and well-arched.

Eliminating Fault: Splayed feet.

## **TAIL**

The characteristic tail is often referred to as a crank or pump handle tail. Straight tails are also acceptable. The tail is set on as a natural extension of the topline, and tapers to a point. When the dog is moving, the tail is carried level with the topline. When the dog is excited, the tail may be carried slightly higher, but never carried over the back. When the dog is standing and relaxed, the tail is carried low and extends approximately to the hock.

Eliminating Fault: Bobbed tail.

Disqualification: Screw tail.

## **COAT**



The coat is glossy and smooth, close, and moderately stiff to the touch.

Faults: Curly, wavy, or sparse coat.

Disqualification: Long coat.

### **COLOUR**

Any colour, colour pattern, or combination of colours is acceptable.

Disqualifications: Albinism.

### **GAIT**

The American Bully breed moves with a jaunty, confident attitude, conveying the impression that he expects any minute to see something new and exciting. When trotting, the gait is effortless, powerful, and well-coordinated, showing good reach in front and drive behind. When moving, the backline remains level with only a slight flexing to indicate suppleness. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward centre line of balance.

Faults: Legs over reaching; legs crossing over in front or rear; rear legs moving too close or touching; pacing; paddling; sidewinding; hackney action; pounding.

### **HEIGHT**

#### **STANDARD**

The standard American Bully type is a medium-sized dog with a compact bulky muscular body, heavy bone structure and blocky head. Male dogs must be 43 to 51 cm, while females must be 41 to 48 cm.

Important to note that the Standard American Bully dogs are not to be penalized for exhibiting heavily muscled, massive, bulky body type.

#### **Pocket**

The "pocket" type is a smaller variant, with full-grown males under 43 cm, but no less than 36 cm, at the withers and females under 40 cm, but no less than 33 cm, at the withers.

### **XL**

An XL type is determined by its adult height, with males between 51 cm and 57 cm at the withers and females between 48 cm and 54 cm at the withers.

#### **Non-standard sizes**

Outside of the breed standard, dogs shorter or taller than the named variations have been bred. Smaller dogs are sometimes called "Micro", and larger ones are called "XXL", but neither are recognized by the kennel clubs as legitimate varieties.

Disqualification: Dwarfism.

### **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

(An Eliminating Fault is a Fault serious enough that it eliminates the dog from obtaining any awards in a conformation event.)

Any disproportionate, overdone characteristic that would interfere with physical activity or working ability.

Excessively large, heavy, head disproportionate to the body.

Muzzle so short and blunt as to interfere with normal breathing.

Snipey muzzle.

Weak lower jaw.

Excessive flews.

Muzzle slightly turned up at the nostrils.

Undershot bite.

Wry bite.

Front legs so bowed as to interfere with normal movement.

Chest so wide as to interfere with normal movement.

Splayed feet.



Bobbed tail.

Excessively tall, excessively short or overly massive dogs, and dogs with a height so far from what is desired as to compromise health, structure, movement and physical ability.

## **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

(A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a conformation event.)

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Bat ears.

Albinism.

Dwarfism.

Long coat.

Screw tail.

Unilateral or bilateral deafness.

Note: Although some level of dog aggression is characteristic of this breed, handlers will be expected to comply with Bully Assure rules regarding dog temperament at Bully assure events.

The docking of tails and cropping of ears in South Africa is illegal.