

ORDINANCE 2023 – _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF BEN HILL COUNTY, GEORGIA, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE II, AS AMENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF PIT BULL DOGS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners, as the governing authority of Ben Hill County, Georgia, exercises the powers, duties, and responsibilities vested in such governing authority through local Acts and Georgia law; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 2, Paragraph 1 of the Georgia Constitution provides counties the authority to adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions, or regulations relating to its property, affairs, and local government for which no provision has been made by general law and which is not inconsistent with this Constitution or any local law applicable thereto;

WHEREAS, the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners, as the governing authority of Ben Hill County, Georgia, exercises the powers, duties, and responsibilities vested in such governing authority through local Acts and Georgia law; and

WHEREAS, Ben Hill County presently has no ordinances related to pit bull dogs; and

WHEREAS, the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners has determined that it is necessary to adopt this ordinance to protect the health, welfare and safety of Ben Hill County; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners as follows:

SECTION 1: From and after the passage of this ordinance, Chapter 10, Article II of the Code of Ordinances of Ben Hill County, Georgia, is amended by adding Subdivision IV in the manner set forth in “Exhibit 1”, attached and hereby incorporated hereto.

SECTION 2: The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this ordinance is declared illegal or void by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, paragraphs, and sections of this ordinance.

SECTION 3: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4: This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by the Ben Hill County Board of Commissioners.

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SO ORDAINED this ____ day of September, 2023.

BEN HILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

BY: _____
STEVE TAYLOR, CHAIRMAN

By: _____
HOPE HARMON, VICE CHAIRMAN

By: _____
DANIEL COWAN, COMMISSIONER

By: _____
BENNIE CALLOWAY, COMMISSIONER

By: _____
JOHN WILLIAM MOONEY, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

BY: _____
DONNA PRATHER, COUNTY CLERK

Subdivision IV. Pit Bulls

Sec. 10-115. Definition and Identification of a Pit Bull Dog.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Subdivision IV, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subdivision, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (a) *Custodian* shall refer to the owner of any Pit Bull Dog (as defined herein) and shall also refer to any other person who has any such dog in his or her possession, custody or control within the unincorporated area of Ben Hill County, Georgia.
- (b) *Pit Bull* or *Pit Bull Dog* shall refer to any dog which exhibits those distinguishing characteristics which:
 - (1) Substantially conform to the standards established by the American Kennel Club for American Staffordshire Terriers or Staffordshire Bull terriers; or
 - (2) Substantially conform to the standards established by the United Kennel Club for American Pit Bull Terriers.
- (c) The Standards of the American Kennel Club and the United Kennel Club referred to in subsection (a)(1) above, are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A and shall remain on file with the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Humane Society and with the Animal Control Office.
- (d) Technical deficiencies in the dogs' conformance to the standards described in subsection (a)(2) shall not be construed to indicate that the subject dog is not a Pit Bull Dog.
- (e) Testimony by a veterinarian, zoologist, animal behaviorist, or animal control officer that a particular dog exhibits distinguishing physical characteristics of a Pit Bull shall establish a rebuttable presumption that the dog is a Pit Bull.

Sec. 10-116. Confinement of Pit Bull Dogs.

- (a) Because of the Pit Bull Dog's inbred propensity to attack other animals, and because of the danger posed to humans and animals alike by a Pit Bull Dog when running loose or while running together in a pack, every Custodian of a Pit Bull Dog must at all times keep such dog securely confined indoors, or confined in a securely and totally enclosed and locked pen, with a top and with all four (4) sides at least six (6) feet high, and with a conspicuous sign displaying the words "Dangerous Dog."
- (b) At any time that a Pit Bull Dog is not confined as required in subsection (a) above, every Custodian of any such dog shall muzzle such dog in such a manner as to prevent

it from biting or injuring any person or animal, and kept on a leash with the owner or Custodian in attendance, provided, however, that no Custodian of a Pit Bull Dog may walk any such dog within fifty (50) feet of any public school ground, or enter onto such school ground, public parks, or any public festivals or functions with any such dog, under any circumstances whatsoever, except as provided in subsection (c) below.

- (c) An exception to these confinement requirements is hereby provided for the Custodian of any Pit Bull Dog in attendance at, and participating in, any lawful dog show, contest or exhibition sponsored by a dog club, association, society or similar organization.

Sec. 10-117. Liability Insurance or Other Evidence of Financial Responsibility to be Maintained by Custodians of Pit Bull Dogs.

In order to protect the public and to afford relief from the severe harm and injury which is likely to result from a Pit Bull Dog attack, every Custodian of a Pit Bull Dog shall maintain or otherwise provide evidence of the of the Custodian's financial ability to respond in damages up to and including the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for bodily injury to or death of any person or damage to property which may result from the ownership, keeping or maintenance of such dog. Proof of ability to respond in damages shall be given by filing with the Animal Control Office a certificate of insurance from an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Georgia, stating that the Custodian and Ben Hill County will each be insured against liability for such damages; or by posting with the Animal Control Office a surety bond conditioned upon the payment of such damages during the period of such registration; or by posting a personal bond secured by a mortgage in real property or security interest in personal property; or a sworn financial statement of the Custodian providing such information as said Animal Control Office may reasonably require, documenting the Custodian's financial ability to respond in damages up to and including the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00).

Sec. 10-118. Registration of Pit Bull Dogs.

Every Custodian of a Pit Bull Dog in the unincorporated area of Ben Hill County shall register such dog with the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill county Humane Society annually. The first such registration shall occur during the calendar month immediately following the effective date of this section. Subsequent annual registrations shall be done during the month of January of the year in question. The registration shall include the following: Name, address and telephone number of the dog's owner and Custodian; the address where the dog is harbored; a complete identification of the dog including the dog's sex, color and any other distinguishing physical characteristics; a color photograph of the dog; a description of the method of compliance with the confinement requirements; proof of the liability insurance or other evidence of financial responsibility required pursuant to this Subdivision; and a registration fee. The possession of any unregistered Pit Bull Dog is hereby prohibited, and each day the custodian of any such newly-acquired Pit Bull keeps, maintains, harbors, or otherwise possesses any such dog shall constitute a separate violation of this section.

Sec. 10-119. Enforcement.

It shall be the duty and responsibility of Ben Hill County's Animal Control Officers to enforce the provisions of this Subdivision.

Sec. 10-120. Prohibition of New Acquisitions of Pit Bulls.

- (a) From and after the effective date of this Subdivision, no Pit Bull Dogs shall be sold, purchased, or otherwise obtained within the unincorporated area of Ben Hill County or otherwise brought into the unincorporated area of Ben Hill County.
- (b) The possession of any such newly-acquired Pit Bull Dog within the unincorporated area of Ben Hill County is hereby prohibited, and each day the Custodian of any such newly-acquired Pit Bull so keeps, maintains, harbors, or otherwise possesses any such dog shall constitute a separate violation of this section.

Sec. 10-121. Penalties.

- (a) Any violation of this Subdivision shall subject the subject Pit Bull Dog to immediate seizure and confinement by the Animal Control Office. In the event of any such seizure, the Magistrate Court of Ben Hill County shall, upon application by the County Manager or representative of the Animal Control Office, order the humane destruction of such dog after notice to the Pit Bull Dog's Custodian (if known) and hearing thereon.
- (b) Each and every violation of this Subdivision shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable as provided by law; provided that the minimum penalty for any such violation shall be a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). Each day that a violation continues shall be deemed and considered to be a separate violation of this Subdivision.

EXHIBIT "A"



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

Information on AKC American Staffordshire Terrier Puppies

AKC MEET THE BREEDS®: American Staffordshire Terrier



Courageous and strong, the American Staffordshire Terrier (Am Staff)'s athletic build and intelligence make him ideally suited to many dog sports such as obedience, agility, tracking and conformation. He is often identified by his stocky body and strong, powerful head. The breed's short coat can be any color, and either solid colored, parti-colored or patched.

A Look Back

Until the early 19th century, the Bulldog used for bullbaiting in England was more active and longer-legged than the breed as we know it today. It is thought that the cross of this older Bulldog and a game terrier breed created the Staffordshire Terrier. Originally called the Bull-and-Terrier Dog, Half and Half or Pit Dog, it became known as the Staffordshire Bull Terrier in England. When accepted for AKC registration in 1936, the name changed to American Staffordshire Terrier to reflect the heavier American type and to distinguish them as separate breeds.

Right Breed for You?

The Am Staff is a people-oriented dog that thrives when he is made part of the family and given a job to do. Although friendly, this breed is loyal to his family and will protect them from any threat. His short coat is low-maintenance, but regular exercise and training is necessary.

If you are considering purchasing an American Staffordshire Terrier puppy, [learn more here](#).

- Terrier Group; AKC recognized in 1936.
- Ranging in size from 17 to 19 inches tall at the shoulder.
- General purpose dog.

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American Staffordshire Terrier Breed Standard

Terrier Group

General Impression

The American Staffordshire Terrier should give the impression of great strength for his size, a well put-together dog, muscular, but agile and graceful, keenly alive to his surroundings. He should be stocky, not long-legged or racy in outline. His courage is proverbial.

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Head

Medium length, deep through, broad skull, very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop; and ears are set high. *Ears* - Cropped or uncropped, the latter preferred. Uncropped ears should be short and held rose or half prick. Full drop to be penalized. *Eyes* - Dark and round, low down in skull and set far apart. No pink eyelids. *Muzzle* - Medium length, rounded on upper side to fall away abruptly below eyes. Jaws well defined. Underjaw to be strong and have biting power. Lips close and even, no looseness. Upper teeth to meet tightly outside lower teeth in front. Nose definitely black.

Neck

Heavy, slightly arched, tapering from shoulders to back of skull. No looseness of skin. Medium length.

Shoulders

Strong and muscular with blades wide and sloping.

Back

Fairly short. Slight sloping from withers to rump with gentle short slope at rump to base of tail. Loins slightly tucked.

Body

Well-sprung ribs, deep in rear. All ribs close together. Forelegs set rather wide apart to permit chest development. Chest deep and broad.

Tail

Short in comparison to size, low set, tapering to a fine point; not curled or held over back. Not docked.

Legs

The front legs should be straight, large or round bones, pastern upright. No semblance of bend in front. Hindquarters well-muscled, let down at hocks, turning neither in nor out. Feet of moderate size, well-arched and compact. Gait must be springy but without roll or pace.

Coat

Short, close, stiff to the touch, and glossy.

Color

Any color, solid, parti, or patched is permissible, but all white, more than 80 per cent white, black and tan, and liver not to be encouraged.

Size

Height and weight should be in proportion. A height of about 18 to 19 inches at shoulders for the male and 17 to 18 inches for the female is to be considered preferable.

Faults

Faults to be penalized are: Dudley nose, light or pink eyes, tail too long or badly carried, undershot or overshot mouths.

Approved June 10, 1936

American Staffordshire Terrier Links

[Colors and Markings](#) | [Did You Know?](#) | [History](#) | [Photos](#) | [Puppies](#) | [Shop For Your Breed](#) | [Video](#)

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KENNEL CLUB™

Information on AKC Staffordshire Bull Terrier Puppies

AKC MEET THE BREEDS®: Staffordshire Bull Terrier



The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a smooth-coated dog with great strength for his size. He is active and agile and comes in six color varieties: solid red, fawn, white, black, blue, or brindle. Today, he serves primarily as a family companion and is seen in the show, obedience and agility rings.

A Look Back

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier draws its character of indomitable courage, high intelligence, and tenacity from his past history. The breed originated in the nineteenth century when coal miners in Staffordshire, England, wanted a small, fast dog. They combined the Bulldog with a small local terrier similar to the Manchester Terrier. The result was the Staffordshire Bull Terrier that we know today.

Right Breed for You?

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is extremely courageous and obedient, highly intelligent and affectionate with a sense of humor. 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. He looks forward to daily exercise, and his powerful jaws enjoy a supply of sturdy chew toys. While he is a sweet-tempered, affectionate dog, his strength and determination require an experienced owner who can work with him in a firm, but gentle way. The Staffie's coat is short and smooth, and needs only a quick brushing once a week.

If you are considering purchasing a **Staffordshire Bull Terrier puppy**, [learn more here](#).

- Terrier Group; AKC recognized in 1975.
- Ranging in size from 14 to 16 inches tall at the shoulder and 24 to 38 pounds.
- Game sports.

© The American Kennel Club, Inc.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Breed Standard

Terrier Group

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

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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 foreface, 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 topline, 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.

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.

Disqualification

Black-and-tan or liver color.

Approved November 14, 1989

Effective January 1, 1990

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Links

[Colors and Markings](#) | [Did You Know?](#) | [History](#) | [Photos](#) | [Puppies](#) | [Shop For Your Breed](#) | [Video](#)

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AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER (REVISED NOVEMBER 1, 2008)

Terrier Group

View Registration Requirements

Revised November 1, 2008

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HISTORY

Sometime during the nineteenth century, dog fanciers in England, Ireland and Scotland began to experiment with crosses between Bulldogs and Terriers, looking for a dog that combined the gameness of the terrier with the strength and athleticism of the Bulldog. The result was a dog that embodied all of the virtues attributed to great warriors: strength, indomitable courage, and gentleness with loved ones. Immigrants brought these bull and terrier crosses to the United States. The American Pit Bull Terrier's many talents did not go unnoticed by farmers and ranchers who used their APBTs as catch dogs for semi-wild cattle and hogs, to hunt, to drive livestock, and as family companions. Today, the American Pit Bull Terrier continues to demonstrate its versatility, competing successfully in Obedience, Tracking, Agility and Weight Pulls, as well as Conformation.

The United Kennel Club was the first registry to recognize the American Pit Bull Terrier. UKC founder C. Z. Bennett assigned UKC registration number 1 to his own APBT, Bennett's Ring, in 1898.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The American Pit Bull Terrier is a medium-sized, solidly built, short-coated dog with smooth, well-defined musculature. This breed is both powerful and athletic. The body is just slightly longer than tail, but bitches may be somewhat longer in body than dogs. The length of the front leg (measured from point of elbow to the ground) is approximately equal to one-half of the dog's height at the withers. The head is of medium length, with a broad, flat skull, and a wide, deep muzzle. Ears are small to medium in size, high set, and may be natural or cropped. The relatively short tail is set low, thick at the base and tapers to a point. The American Pit Bull Terrier comes in all colors and color patterns except merle. This breed combines strength and athleticism with grace and agility and should never appear bulky or muscle-bound or fine-boned and rangy. Above all else, the APBT must have the functional capability to be a catch dog that can hold, wrestle (push and pull) and breathe easily while doing its job. Balance and harmony of all parts are critical components of breed type.

Very Serious Fault: Any disproportionate overdone characteristic (such as short legs, excessive bone or massive head or body) that would interfere with working ability.

CHARACTERISTICS

The essential characteristics of the American Pit Bull Terrier are strength, confidence, and zest for life. This breed is eager to please and brimming over with enthusiasm. APBTs make excellent family companions and have always been noted for their love of children. Because most APBTs exhibit some level of dog aggression and because of its powerful physique, the APBT requires an owner who will carefully socialize and obedience train the dog. The breed's natural agility makes it one of the most capable canine climbers so good fencing is a must for this breed. The APBT is not the best choice for a guard dog since they are extremely friendly, even with strangers. Aggressive behavior toward humans is uncharacteristic of the breed and highly undesirable. This breed does very well in performance events because of its high level of intelligence and its willingness to work.



HEAD

The APBT head is unique and a key element of breed type. It is large and broad, giving the impression of great power, but it is not disproportionate to the size of the body. Viewed from the front, the head is shaped like a broad, blunt wedge. When viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are parallel to one another and joined by a well defined, moderately deep stop. Supraorbital arches over the eyes are well defined but not pronounced. The head is well chiseled, blending strength, elegance, and character.

Very Serious Fault: Overly large, heavy heads.

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SKULL - The skull is large, flat or slightly rounded, deep, and broad between the ears. Viewed from the top, the skull tapers just slightly toward the stop. There is a deep median furrow that diminishes in depth from the stop to the occiput. Cheek muscles are prominent but free of wrinkles. When the dog is concentrating, wrinkles form on the forehead, which give the APBT his unique expression.

MUZZLE - The muzzle is broad and deep with a very slight taper from the stop to the nose, and a slight falling away under the eyes. The length of muzzle is shorter than the length of skull, with a ratio of approximately 2:3. The topline of the muzzle is straight. The lower jaw is well developed, wide and deep. Lips are clean and tight.

Faults: Snipey muzzle; flews; weak lower jaw.

Very Serious Fault: Muzzle too short, which impairs breathing capability.

TEETH - The American Pit Bull Terrier has a complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite.

Fault: Level bite.

Serious Faults: Undershot, or overshot bite; wry mouth; missing teeth (this does not apply to teeth that have been lost or removed by a veterinarian).

NOSE - The nose is large with wide, open nostrils. The nose may be any color.

EYES - Eyes are medium size, round and set well apart and low on the skull. All colors are equally acceptable except blue, which is a serious fault. Haw should not be visible.

Serious Faults: Bulging eyes; both eyes not matched in color; blue eyes.

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

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 into well laid-back shoulders. The skin on the neck is tight and without dewlap.

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

Very Serious Fault: A short, thick neck that would interfere with functional ability.

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 it at an apparent right angle.

The forelegs are strong and muscular. The elbows are set close to the body. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are set moderately wide apart and perpendicular to the ground. The pasterns are short, powerful, straight, and flexible. When viewed in profile, the pasterns are nearly erect.

Faults: Upright or loaded shoulders; elbows turned outward or tied-in; down at the pasterns; front legs bowed; wrists knuckled over; toeing in or out.

Very Serious Fault: Legs shorter than half the total height at the withers.

BODY

The chest is deep, well filled in, and moderately wide with ample room for heart and lungs, but the chest should never be wider than it is deep. The forechest does not extend much beyond the point of shoulder. The ribs extend well back and are well sprung from the spine, then flattening to form a deep body extending to the elbows. The back is strong and firm. The topline inclines very slightly downward from the withers to a broad, muscular, level back. The loin is short, muscular and slightly arched to the top of the croup, but narrower than the rib cage and with a moderate tuck-up. The croup is slightly sloping downward.

Very Serious Fault: Overly massive body style that impedes working ability.

HINDQUARTERS

The hindquarters are strong, muscular, and moderately broad. The rump is well filled in on each side of the tail and deep from the pelvis to the crotch. The bone, angulation, and musculature of the hindquarters are in balance with the forequarters. The thighs are well developed with thick, easily discerned muscles. Viewed from the side, the hock joint is well bent and the 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.

Faults: Narrow hindquarters; hindquarters shallow from pelvis to crotch; lack of muscle; straight or over angulated stifle joint; cow hocks; sickle hocks; bowed legs.

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FEET

The feet are round, proportionate to the size of the dog, well arched, and tight. Pads are hard, tough, and well cushioned. Dewclaws may be removed.

Fault: Splayed feet.

TAIL

The tail is set on as a natural extension of the topline, and tapers to a point. When the dog is relaxed, the tail is carried low and extends approximately to the hock. When the dog is moving, the tail is carried level with the backline. When the dog is excited, the tail may be carried in a raised, upright position (challenge tail), but never curled over the back (gay tail).

Fault: Long tail (tail tip passes beyond point of hock).

Serious faults: Gay tail (not to be confused with challenge tail); kinked tail.

Disqualification: Bobbed tail.

COAT

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

Faults: Curly, wavy, or sparse coat.

Disqualification: Long coat.

COLOR

Any color, color pattern, or combination of colors is acceptable, except for merle.

Disqualification: Merle

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

The American Pit Bull Terrier must be both powerful and agile so actual weight and height are less important than the correct proportion of weight to height. Desirable weight for a mature male in good condition is between 35 and 60 pounds. Desirable weight for a mature female in good condition is between 30 and 50 pounds. Dogs over these weights are not to be penalized unless they are disproportionately massive or rangy.

Very Serious Fault: Excessively large or overly massive dogs.

GAIT

The American Pit Bull Terrier 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, smooth, 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 center line of balance.

Faults: Legs not moving on the same plane; legs over reaching; legs crossing over in front or rear; rear legs moving too close or touching; rolling; pacing; paddling; sidewinding; hackney action; pounding.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Viciousness or extreme shyness. Unilateral or bilateral deafness. Long coat. Bobbed tail. Albinism. Merle.

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

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For more information feel free to [contact us here](#).