

Bluetick Coonhound

A Guide to the Conformation Standard

Presented by the National Bluetick Coonhound Association

Material compiled by Cynthia Grooms, Kacie Davis, Jim Daly, Library of Congress, Steve Fielder, former Assistant VP Coonhound Events, and various Bluetick sources



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Bluetick History: How it Began

Coonhounds were developed from colonial foxhounds, some with influences from other breeds

Coonhounds became the tool of the pioneers and evolved into a popular pastime

Coonhound field trials became popular at the turn of the 20th Century

Nite Hunts established in 1945 and continue today as the most popular coonhound event

Coonhound Bench Shows were first held in the 1940's at a Labor Day event called Leafy Oak in Kenton, Ohio.

THE KENTON NATIONAL

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3 SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 4
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5 MONDAY—LABOR DAY SEPTEMBER 6

SIX MILES SOUTH OF...
KENTON, OHIO
ON STATE ROUTE 292

*The World's Largest Field Trial
And Coon Dog Meet!*

Make your vacation plans NOW and meet more dog men here than any place!

\$15
THIS FINAL PG
1st TREE...
And Beautiful
2nd TREE...
And Beautiful
\$100
THIS FINAL
1st TREE...
And Beautiful
2nd TREE...
And Beautiful
RACE START
DOGS WILL RUN
100 HEAT MONEY
1st Tree...\$40,
100 SEMI MONEY
we will run up to
1st Tree...
2nd Tree...
100, 1250 +

NOMINATION FEE
first dog runs
25, 1945, AT 6:00
ADMISSION

This Is No Saturday Afternoon

PURSE M GUARANTEED

Dog Entered In 19

ROBERT DICKMAN
Field Marshal: K

Kenton, Ohio
ENTIRE ENTRY
inter with ONLY
TRIES!
ENDING.
STAIN DAY.
FINAL
MBER 4.
E...\$500
satisfy Trophy
E...\$250
satisfy Trophy
540-520-520



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

and Weekly
by Benj. Franklin

December 9, 1939





BEGINNING HIGH FRONTIER By LELAND JAMIESON

Bluetick History: How it Began

- It is most likely that the Bluetick is principally descended from the quick foxhounds of England with some introduction of the blood of various French hounds which were used for hunting big game and were known as being very cold nosed.
- While documented history of the Bluetick Coonhound is limited, it is widely believed that George Washington received 5 French hounds from General Lafayette. It is not clear exactly what breeding these hounds were nor how they were used in breeding programs of the day. Two breeds of French hounds were around during this time: Grand Gascon Saintogeois (white hound) & Grand Bleu de Gasconge (blue hound).



Bluetick History: Breeding

One theory is the Grand Gascon Saintongeois was bred with the Grand Bleu de Gasconge bloodlines, then selectively bred for the blue color and certain hunting traits (i.e., drive, fast tracking, cold-nosed, hard hunting).

Depiction of Grand Gascon Saintongeois



Grand Bleu de Gasconge,
Paris 1863



- One line or strain of Blueticks, Smokey River bred, can be traced back to the Grand Gascon Saintongeois.
- This would explain why a white color will show up from time to time as is depicted here, to the right on the modern day Grand Gascon Saintongeois



Bluetick History: Breeding

In the 1920's Bluetick breeding became a passion of a select group of men from across the country, including 'foundation' breeders: Bill Green, the Lee brothers, O.O. Grant, Henry O. Smith, and Elbert Vaughn among others.

A pack of the White Mountain Big Game Hounds and owner, William Green, of Orford, New Hampshire.





JAKE RANGER LAO DRUM




a male Coonhound out of FORTY'S Blue Coon and Monahan, owned by Douglas E. Fortin, near to Independence, Kansas.



Cougar and Bear, taken by Rex Moyle, of Alpine, Utah, and Bill Green, of Castle Dale, Utah, while hunting on first hunt in Utah. On the left is Bill

English Blueticks at Stud

(AT RIGHT)
BORDER RAIDER
REGISTERED BLUETICK
(English)

Studs for Catching Coon, Cat, Lion & Bear

SMOKEY RIVER OLD FASHIONED
Bluetick & Redtick Hounds
Bred For Catching Coon, Cat, Lion & Bear

SMOKEY RIVER SPECK (At Stud)
STUD FEE \$50 CASH

BLUE FRECKLES

SMOKEY RIVER KENNELS
Pearl Street

W. D. SHEW
Hartford, Connecticut

FOR SALE
Four extra dark blue-ticked female puppies, out of Green's "Spot" and an extra dark blue-ticked male. These are probably the best combination of blood bred. Born September 1st. Price \$35.00 each.

Bluetick Evolution Theories

The modern Bluetick Coonhound is believed to descend from the Grand Bleu de Gascogne (French Staghound). Many theories exist on how these hounds evolved

1

- Grand Gascon Saintongeois was bred to the Grand Bleu de Gasconge bloodlines and selectively bred for the blue color and certain hunting traits (e.g., drive, fast tracking, cold-nosed, hard hunting)

2

- French Hounds entered the US through Florida and Louisiana: French Tri Colors, Porcelains and Gasconge
- O.O. Grant is thought to have brought pure Grand Blues from France into the US just after World War I; however this is believed to have been refuted by Mr. Grant
- Selective breeding used to ensure blue color, cold nose, fast tracking, hard trailing/ hunting hounds

3

- A 2nd infusion of French hounds were bred back into the Blueticks from approximately 1934-1948
- This breed is believed to be the Grand Gascon Saintongeois hound rather than the Grand Bleu de Gasconge hound and was selectively bred for the blue color and other traits that were desired



- Big game hunters were interested in hounds that could run a track that might be several days old
- They were not interested in the faster, hotter nosed dogs of the day
- Thus began the separation that created the Bluetick's registry recognition



Bluetick History: Registry Recognition

Blueticks were originally classified as English Coonhounds until 1946.



Bluetick and Redtick puppies were born in the same litters. The blue ones were classified as Blueticks and Redticks classified as English.

UKC began registering Blueticks as a separate breed, at the request of the Bluetick fanciers



Bluetick As a Hunter

The Bluetick has many positive hunting traits and are known as hunting dogs. The following characteristics are representative of a Bluetick hunting dog:

Activeness

- Active and ambitious
- Speedy on the trail
- Free tounge

Tone during striking / trailing

- Medium bawl
- Bugle voice

Voice changes

- May change to a steady chop when running
- Steady coarse chop when at the tree



Breed Standard: General Appearance

The Bluetick should have the appearance of...



- A speedy and well-muscled hound
- Never clumsy or overly chunky in build
- A neat, compact body
- A glossy coat

Breed Standard: Size

The Bluetick should be within the size standard outlined below

	Males	Females
Height	22-27" at withers	21-25" at withers
Weight	55-80 pounds	45-65 pounds
Sample		
Disqualification	Under or over height standard (puppies should not be disqualified for being under height standard)	

Breed Standard: Portion and Substance

- Proportion (measured from point of shoulder to base of tail and withers to ground) is square, or slightly longer than tall

Longer than Tall



Square



Breed Standard: Head and Muzzle

Head

- Broad between the ears with a slightly domed skull
- Stop is prominent
- Length from occiput to end of nose
 - Males: 9"–10" Females: 8"–9"

Muzzle

- 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 3"–4.5"



Breed Standard: Eyes

- Rather large, set wide apart in skull
- Round in shape and dark brown in color
 - Never lighter than light brown
- No excess third eyelid should be apparent
 - Eye rims tight and close fitting



Breed Standard: Expression



Typical pleading
hound
expression



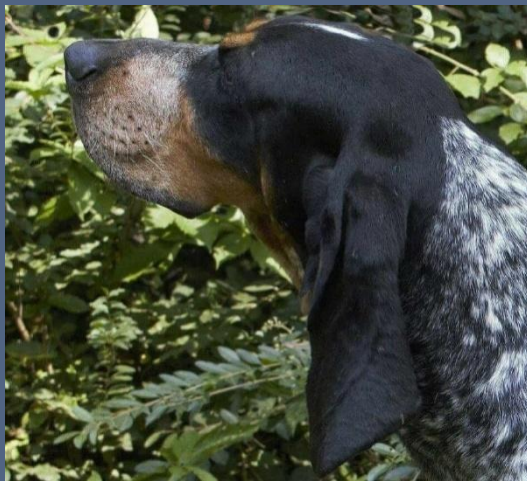
Never wild



Never cowering



Breed Standard: Ears



- Set low and devoid of erectile power
- Should be thin with a slight roll, taper well towards a point

- Reach well towards the end of the nose when pulled forward
- Well attached to head to prevent hanging or backward tilt



Breed Standard: Nose and Teeth

Nose

- Large well-opened nostrils
- Fully pigmented black in color



Teeth

- Preferred: Scissors bite preferred
- Acceptable: Even bite acceptable
- Disqualification: Undershot or overshot

Breed Standard: Neck

Muscular and moderate length

Tapering slightly from shoulders to head

Carried well up but not vertical (goose necked)

Throat clean with only a slight trace of dewlap





Breed Standard: Body

Body should show considerable depth (extending well down toward the elbow), rather than excessive width, allowing for plenty of lung space



Breed Standard: Chest and Ribs

Standard	Males	Females
Chest	Moderate, fairly even with the point of the shoulders	
Chest Girth	26"-34"	23"-30"
Ribs	Ribs are long and well-sprung, tapering gradually towards a moderate tuck-up	
Sample	<div></div>	

Breed Standard: Back

Back is muscular; Topline slopes downward slightly from withers to hips. Loin is broad, well-muscled and slightly arched



Fault: Swayed Back



Fault: Roached Back



Breed Standard: Loins

Broad

Well muscled

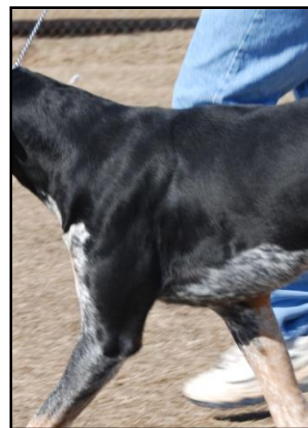
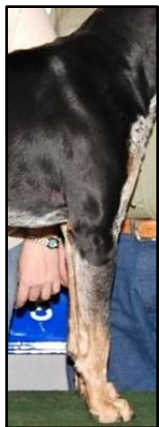
Slightly arched



Breed Standard: Forequarters

Legs

- Strong, straight from elbows to feet, slightly sloping pasterns
- Well boned and muscular
- 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

- Clean and sloping
- Muscular but not too broad or rough
- Appearance of freedom of movement and strength



Breed Standard: Hindquarters

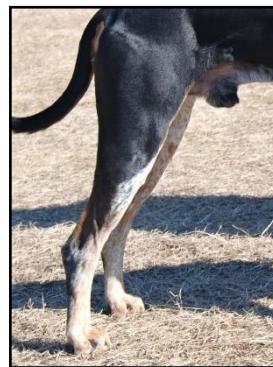
Hips

- Hips are strong and well muscled, not quite as wide as ribcage



Thighs

- Thighs have great muscular development for an abundance of propelling power



Rear Legs and Hocks

- 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 cowhocks).



Fault: Excessively Bent



Fault: Cowhocks



Breed Standard: Feet

Round (cat-like)

Well arched toes

Dewclaws are removed

Thick, tough pads



Flat footedness can be caused by

- age (4-12 months)
- living conditions
- nutrition
- breeding

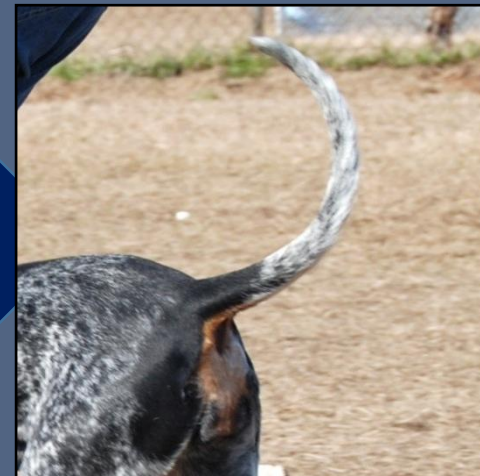


Breed Standard: Tail



Set on slightly below the line of the back and strongly rooted

Carried high with a forward half-moon curve and well coated but without flag



Tapering to a moderate length (in balance to the overall length of the hound)

Breed Standard: Coat

Medium
Coarse

Lying
close to
body



Smooth
& Glossy

Not
rough or
too short

Breed Standard: Color

Overall preferred color is a dark blue, thickly mottled body

- Conformation & structure take precedence over color

Preference on body

- More blue than black
- Fully blue mottled preferred over light ticking
- Should be more blue ticking than white in the body coat

Various shaped black spots

- Back
- Sides
- Head and ears predominately black

With or without tan markings

- Over eyes
- Cheeks
- Chest
- Below tail
- Red ticking on feet and lower legs

Disqualification:

- Albinism
- Any other color than described in standard

Breed Standard: Color

Blueticks have a variety of color combinations. As long as white or liver is not the primary color, any combination of blue ticking, black (spots, saddle back, blanket back), with or without tan, is acceptable.



Breed Standard: Gait

Active

Vigorous

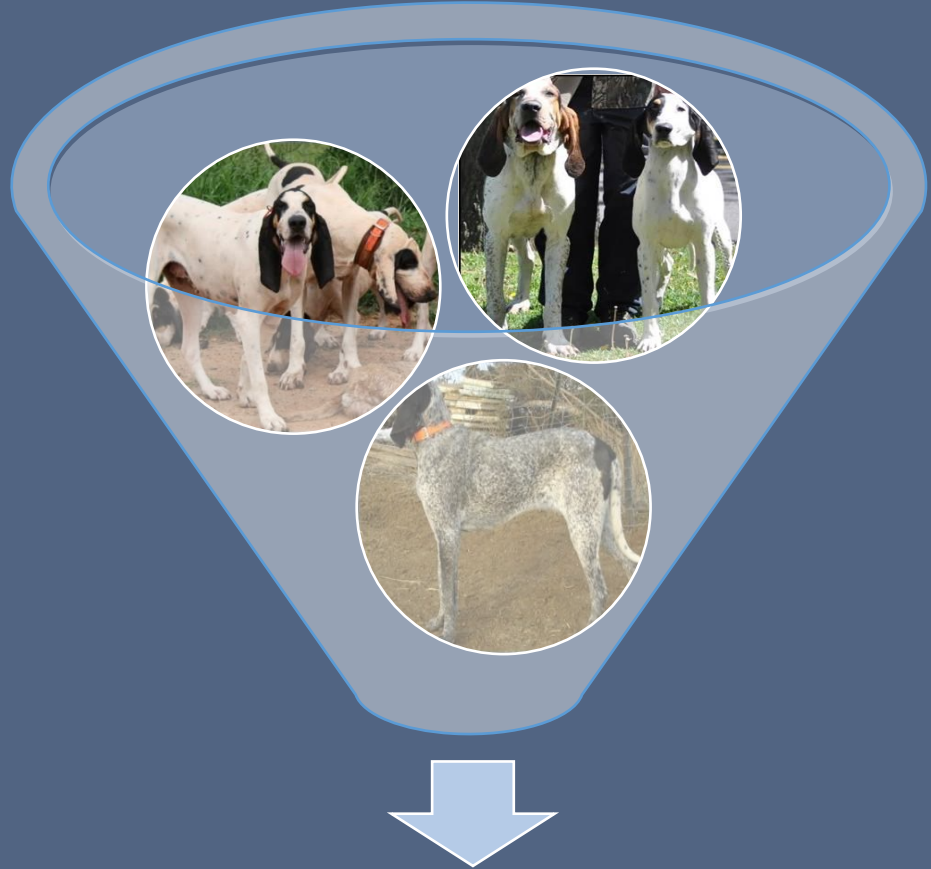
Topline
carried
firmly

Head and
tail well up



Getting Back to the Roots

In an attempt to recreate the hounds of the past, some breeders have been and will continue making crosses with pure GGS stock and current quality Bluetick stock



Resulting in these puppies



Questions



Information Resources

National Bluetick Coonhound Association

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Website: www.nationalblueticks.com

Facebook: [National Bluetick Coonhound Association](#)

AKC Coonhounds: www.akccoonhounds.org

AKC National Club Page: [AKC Breed Club](#)

Official Breed Standard

Official Standard for the Bluetick Coonhound



General Appearance: The Bluetick should have the appearance of a speedy and well-muscled hound. He never appears clumsy or overly chunky in build. He has a neat, compact body, a glossy coat and clear, keen eyes. In motion he carries his head and tail well up.

Size, Proportion, Substance: Height at withers for adult males, 22 to 27 inches. For adult females, 21 to 25 inches. Weight for males 55 to 80 pounds, females 45 to 65 pounds. Proportion (measured from point of shoulder to base of tail and withers to ground) is square or slightly longer than tall. Disqualifications: Males under 22 inches or over 27 inches. Females under 21 inches or over 25 inches. (Entries in puppy class are not to be disqualified for being undersize.)

Head: The head is broad between the ears with a slightly domed skull. Total length of head from occiput to end of nose is 9 to 10 inches in males and 8 to 9 inches in females. 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 3 to 4½ inches. Eyes—rather large, set wide apart in skull. Round in shape and dark brown in color (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. Nose—large with well-opened nostrils. Fully pigmented, black in color. Teeth—scissors bite preferred, even bite acceptable. Undershot or overshot are disqualifying faults. Disqualifications: undershot or overshot.

Neck, Topline, Body: Neck—muscular and of moderate length, tapering slightly from shoulders to head. Carried well up but not vertical (goose necked). Throat clean with only a slight trace of dewlap. Body—the body should show considerable depth (extending well down toward the elbow), rather than excessive width, to allow for plenty of lung space. Forechest is moderate, fairly even with the point of the shoulder. Girth of chest for males is 26 to 34 inches, for females 23 to 30 inches. 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.

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.

Hindquarters: Hips are strong and well muscled, not quite as wide as 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. Dewclaws are removed. Rear legs are parallel from hip to foot when viewed from behind (no cowhocks).

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.

Coat: Medium coarse and lying close to the body, appearing smooth and glossy. Not rough or too short.

Color: Preferred color 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 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 colors allowed. Disqualifications: Any color other than that described in the standard. Albinism.

Gait: Active and vigorous, with topline carried firmly and head and tail well up.

Characteristics: Active, ambitious and speedy on the trail. The Bluetick should be a free tonguer on trail, with a medium bawl or bugle voice when striking and trailing, which may change to a steady chop when running and a steady coarse chop at the tree.

Disqualifications: Males under 22 inches or over 27 inches. Females under 21 inches or over 25 inches. (Entries in puppy class are not to be disqualified for being undersize.) Any color other than that described in the standard. Undershot or overshot. Albinism.

Approved November 2007

Effective July 1, 2008



King of the Coonhounds

The Bluetick Coonhound: King of the Coonhounds

By: Dr. Susan Lloyd, DVM

The modern day Blue Tick Coonhound can trace its origins to an importation of Grand Bleu de Gascognes from the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington in 1785. These French Hounds were crossed on Washington's hounds which descended from hounds brought to America in 1650, by Robert Brooke. One Grand Blue owned by George Washington was recorded as giving birth to 15 puppies, and Washington likened their musical voices to the "bells of Moscow". The Grand Bleu was too slow on the trail to please the American hunter but, when bred to American hounds, it increased their cold-trailing ability and their endurance.

In the beginning of the 20th century all hounds of Bluetick, Redtick and Walker type were all lumped into a group known as English Coonhounds. It is thought this was because they still resembled their heavy boned English ancestors, and were recognized by UKC as one breed as English Fox and Coon Hounds.

In 1924 the first field trial for coonhounds was held and was won by a Bluetick from the Sugar Creek hounds known as "Blue Bones". These trials soon gained popularity. This was a great way for Coonhound breeders to show case their prized hounds, however because of the method of the trial a faster hotter-nosed hound most often was rewarded. This caused a movement toward breeding a smaller, faster, and hotter-nosed hound. The Bluetick breeders of the day proud of their larger, cold-nosed and resolute, if slower hounds wanted to keep their old style of hunting. Fearing this faster is better trend; the Bluetick Breeders of the '40's pulled away from English Coonhound. These breeders officially broke away in 1945 and established the Bluetick Coonhound Breed.

It is essential to understand what a cold-nose hound is. Scent is carried on air waves as well as water in a cone shape. There are several external factors, such as heat, wind and moisture, that affect where and how the scent will hold, however basically the farther you are from the game the more the scent disperses. The farther you are from the game the colder the trail, therefore a cold-nosed hound has the ability to find and work an older tract. But working an older trail takes time and a dog that is determined and strong willed. Cold-nosed hounds typically have heavier heads and longer ears as well as a wetter mouth which helps them hold scent. They also tend to be heavier bone and carry more substance. To put it in to perspective, some examples of cold-nose hounds that we all know are Bloodhounds and Black and Tan Coon hounds. On the other hand a hot-nosed hound will pick up the trail further up the cone closer to the prey where the scent is stronger or hotter and not so dispersed which makes for a faster coon race.

Heated discussion and debate will arise within the present day interpretation of the breed standard. Understandably it is difficult to infer what was meant when a standard was written if you have no working knowledge of the breed in question. Understanding how a Bluetick hunts and why they broke off from the English Coonhounds in the 1940's, I believe paramount to understanding the true meaning of the standard.

Now that the Bluetick has been recognized by AKC, there is a trend toward rewarding smaller hounds. It seems that there is some confusion in the choice of wording of the general appearance description in the standard.

General Appearance

"The Bluetick should have the appearance of a speedy and well-muscled hound. He never appears clumsy or overly hunky in build. He has a neat, compact body, a glossy coat and clear, keen eyes. In motion he carries his head and tail well up".

Now if the above was all the information we were given to describe the Bluetick, most if asked would say that description was of a whippet-like hound. But if you apply this depiction to the history of the breed and to the rest of the standard, we will get a true picture of what a Bluetick Coonhound should look like. So why was the word "speedy" used? Speed is relative. Remember Grand Blues as well as English Foxhounds were too slow for American taste. Subsequently the early hunters wanted a dog that was faster than the Grand Blue but not as fast as an English Coonhound. These early hunters also wanted to get away from Bloodhound type features such as excess skin and wrinkles, thus the "neat, compact body".

As for size, the standard speaks for itself. It calls for a "male 22 to 27 inches", that is almost square, with a girth of chest up to 34 inches, and a "body that should show considerable depth". It also tells us that square is measured from the base of the tail to the withers to the ground. This allows for "long, well-sprung ribs" and a "broad, well-muscled and slightly arched loin". To get the long ribs and still be square, common sense would tell you that there has to be ample length of leg that is "well boned and muscular". "Length of leg from elbow to ground is approximately one half the height at the withers". This is a large hound that should "never appear clumsy or overly chunky". Not as refined as a Greyhound, but not as heavy made as a Bloodhound, the Bluetick coonhound should stand as the King of all Coonhounds.

