

# American Bully

## Official UKC Breed Standard

Effective January 1, 2024

The goals and purposes of this breed standard include: to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world; and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to the health, welfare, essence, and soundness of this breed, and must take the responsibility to see that these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following 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 and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Quality is never to be sacrificed in favor of size and mass. UKC is unwilling to condone the validity of using exaggerated specimens of this breed in a breeding program and, to preserve its health and vibrancy, cautions judges about awarding wins to these representatives.

### HISTORY

The American Bully breed developed as a natural extension of the American Pit Bull Terrier. The APBT has maintained a characteristic appearance and temperament for over 100 years. As with any long-standing breed, several types evolved from the parent breed, with one in particular taking on a specific build and structure that is so unique it was wise to recognize it as a different breed altogether. That being the American Bully breed.

The American Bully breed was subtly influenced by the infusion of several other breeds, which include the American Pit Bull Terrier, American Bulldog, English Bulldog, and Olde English Bulldogge. While these breeds were utilized in the creation of the American Bully, it is a breed of its own and should not specifically resemble any one in particular.

The American Bully breed was recognized by the United Kennel Club on July 15, 2013.

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The American Bully is found in three distinct sizes, the Pocket, Standard/Classic, and XL. The Classic has a lighter body frame and less overall body mass than the Standard while still exhibiting bully traits. The breed is recognizable by its characteristic compact, strong, thick-set structure and build. Their appearance reflects a

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strong American Pit Bull Terrier foundation, blended with stock from other bull breeds.

The overall balance and correct proportions are essential, and absolute soundness and proper muscle tone is a must.

It is a smooth coated dog that possesses great strength for its size. Although quite muscular, it is active and agile. Its presence is a picture of tremendous power and stamina that belies its kind and loyal temperament.

*Eliminating Faults:* Any disproportionate, overdone characteristic that would interfere with physical activity.

*Disqualifications:* Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.

### CHARACTERISTICS

The American Bully breed is, first and foremost, a companion, exhibiting confidence with a zest and exuberance for life. Despite its powerful appearance, their demeanor is gentle and friendly. This breed makes an excellent family dog. The ideal American Bully possesses the athleticism to do well in performance events.

Aggressive behavior towards humans is uncharacteristic of the breed, and highly undesirable.

*Disqualifications:* Viciousness or extreme shyness.

### HEAD

The American Bully breed head is unique and a key characteristic. It is large and broad, but never disproportionate to the overall dog. Top skull is flat without dome between the ears. There is a well-defined, moderately deep stop. The flews are always clean with tight lips. Cheek muscles are prominent and free of wrinkles. The head appears square from the front and side without any wedge appearance.

**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.

**NOSE** – The nose is large, with well-opened nostrils. All colors of nose pigment are acceptable. Nose color is usually in harmony with coat color.

*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. Nose turning up or pushed back.

## **TEETH**

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

*Serious Faults:* Missing teeth.

*Eliminating Fault:* Undershot or overshot bite. Wry bite.

## **EYES**

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

*Fault:* Round eyes. Eyes not matched in color. Visible haw.

*Serious Faults:* Bulging or protruding eyes.

*Disqualification:* Blue eyes, either one or both.

## **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. Bat ears.

## **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 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, and appears square 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.

*Faults:* Weak topline, roached back, rear higher than withers. Dogs that are shorter in distance from the elbows to the bottom of the feet compared to the distance from the elbow to the withers.

*Serious Faults:* Leggy, terrier like structure, lacking muscle.

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

## **FOREQUARTERS**

The shoulder is muscled with blades that are long, wide, 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 large or round bone. The elbows are set close to the body. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are set moderately wide apart, and are perpendicular to the ground with feet straight forward. The pasterns are short, powerful, flexible, and nearly erect.

*Faults:* Upright shoulders, short upper arm, down in pastern.

*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 hocks are well let down and perpendicular to the ground. Viewed from the rear, the rear pasterns are straight and parallel to one another. Width of the hindquarters should be in balance with the forequarters.

*Serious Faults:* Narrow hindquarters. Lack of muscle. Straight or over-angulated stifle. Cow hocks. Sickie hocks. Bowed legs.

## **Feet**

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

Removal of rear dewclaws is preferred, but not mandatory.

*Eliminating Fault:* Splayed or flat feet, long toes, high toe.

## **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.

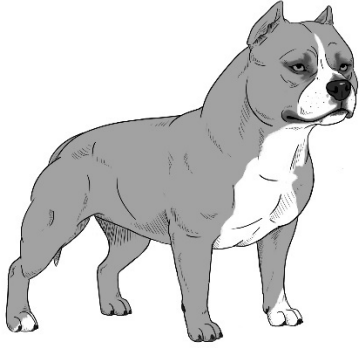
*Fault:* Tail one or more inches above or below the hock.

*Gay tail*

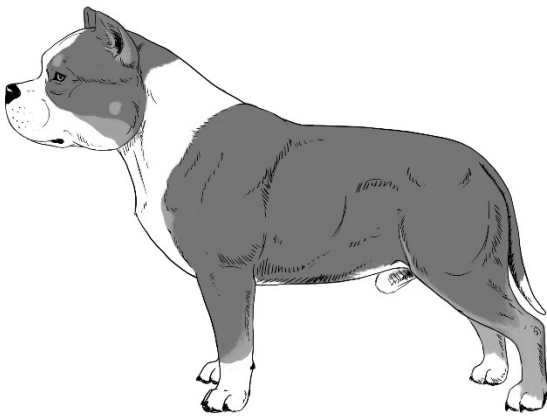
*Serious Fault:* Kinked, knotted, or fused tail.

*Disqualification:* Screw tail, bobbed or docked tail.

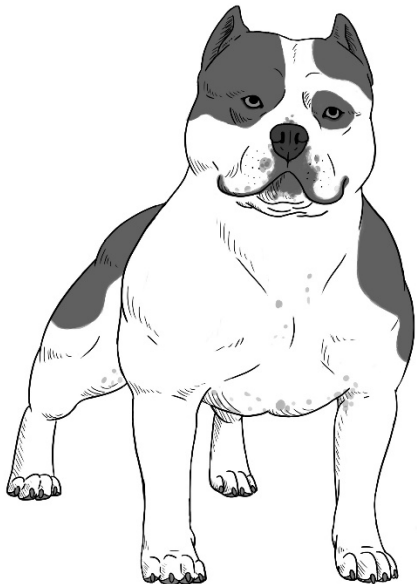
## HEIGHT SECTION & SIZES



**Pocket (above):** The ideal height range for mature Pocket males is under 17 inches and no less than 14 inches at the withers; for mature Pocket females it is under 16 inches and no less than 13 inches at the withers.



**Standard/Classic (Standard shown above):** The ideal height range for mature Standard males is from 17 to 20 inches at the withers; for mature Standard females it is from 16 to 19 inches at the withers. *The Classic has a lighter body frame and less overall body mass than the Standard while still exhibiting bully traits and measuring the same at the withers.*



**XL (above):** The ideal height range for mature males is over 20 inches to 23 inches at the withers; for mature females it is over 19 inches to 22 inches at the withers.

*Heigh/Size Disqualifications:* Dogs with a height so far from what is desired as to compromise health, structure, movement, and physical ability. Overly massive dogs. Dwarfism.

### 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.

*Disqualifications:* Albinism. Merle.

### 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. Legs move diagonally in the same plane with parallel tracking. As speed increases, feet may converge toward the center line of balance.

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

### 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.

Nose turned up or pushed back

All pink nose

Undershot or overshot bite.

Wry bite.

Front legs so bowed as to interfere with normal movement.

Chest so wide as to interfere with normal movement.

Splayed feet or Flat feet

Long toes or High toe

## **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

*(A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a bench show/conformation event and must be reported to UKC.)*

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.

Unilateral or bilateral deafness.

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Albinism.

Merle.

Blue eyes, either one or both.

Bat ears.

Long coat.

Screw tail.

Bobbed tail

Docked tail.

Overly massive dogs

Dwarfism.

*The docking of tails and cropping of ears in America is legal and remains a personal choice. However, as an international registry, the United Kennel Club, Inc. is aware that the practices of cropping and docking have been forbidden in some countries. In light of these developments, the United Kennel Club, Inc. feels that no dog in any UKC event, including conformation, shall be penalized for a full tail or natural ears.*