



• BREED FEATURE • STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER



They answered

A.1. We have been breeding Staffordshire Bull Terriers since 2009. During those 5 years we have only had 3 litters, all 3 were different Dams.

The Stafford is as sensitive, affectionate and intuitive as they are confident and bold.

A.2. Around 8 to 9 years ago when we started attending the all breeds champ shows the Staffords were well represented in both numbers and size.



Jolyet & Andrew Lyon

They displayed a well muscled physique and for most, bred at the top end of the standard. Now days it seems their numbers have dwindled by comparison and they are in some cases bred finer, targeting the lower end of the scale.

A.3. First and foremost, the judge should acknowledge the overall virtues of the exhibit i.e.; (built for purpose and well proportioned in structure).

Then the judge could study the exhibits attributes such as;

- muscle definition, including chest, back and inner as well as outer thighs
- strong head with a neat scissor bite with correct position of canines



Too many times it is said ring side that breeders that breed to the smaller end of the standard at 14 inches are breeding specialty dogs, were as those who breed to the higher end of the same standard at 16 inches are breeding all breed show dogs



- the exhibit should be square in shape ie; as high as it is in length
- carrying a pump handle shape tail
- the exhibit should also display good leg extension with well balanced movement while gaiting. (this activity will highlight any incorrect joint issues)

Of course the other attributes of the Stafford exhibit that should be considered are a well sprung rib cage for lung capacity and large open nostrils to

allow for greater air intake thus filling the lungs with oxygen, well turned stifle with straight set hocks that sit square at the back and thick muscled neck tapered from the head to the shoulder.

A.4. If you were able to add a sentence to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed standard what would it be?

“Any Staffordshire Bull Terrier that has been bred within the parameters of the said Standard shall be known as and referred to a specialty dog”

Too many times it is said ring side that breeders that breed to the smaller end of the standard at 14 inches are breeding specialty dogs, were as those who breed to the higher end of the same standard at 16 inches are breeding all breed show dogs and are said to be undesirable at a Stafford specialty show.

A.5. • Hereditary cataract (HC-HSF4)

• Organic Aciduria (L-2HGA) (affects the central nervous system from an early age, causing epileptic seizures, wobbliness, and altered behaviour)

Both of these diseases are genetic and can be easily detected by a DNA test.

The other health issue could be skin allergies, but for most, are easily controlled by veterinary care.

A.6. Assuming that they have researched the breed and are confident that they are able to meet the needs of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier we would advise ;

Don't buy from a pet store or a breeder registered or not that have a high turn over of litters each year, both of these examples usually are just breeding to supply a demand and are money motivated.

Before going to meet the breeder make a list of all of your questions and don't be afraid to ask them all. These questions should include

- Have the puppies had their first vaccination
- Have they been vet checked for health and micro chipped
- Have both parents been DNA tested for genetic diseases, if so, ask to see the certificate/report
- Will the puppy come with pedigree papers
- Will the puppy come with some of the food its been eating and information on caring for a young puppy (puppy pack)
- Ask to see the puppies parents if practical the sire (father) may not be owned by the breeder therefore making it difficult to assess the temperament of him but the Dam (mother) should be available for assessment.

If the breeder fails to answer any of your questions and or refuses to accommodate you on your request for relevant information regarding the raising of the puppy be prepared to walk away from

We asked

Q.1. How long have you been breeding Staffordshire Bull Terriers? Why are they your chosen breed?

Q.2. How do you feel the standard of Staffordshire Bull Terriers today compares with say 10 years ago?

Q.3. Could you list in order of priority the 5 most important points you think a judge should look for in the Staffordshire Bull Terrier?

Q.4. If you were able to add a sentence to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed standard what would it be?

Q.5. Does the Staffordshire Bull Terrier have any health problems?

Q.6. What would your advice be to a potential puppy buyer when looking for a Staffordshire Bull Terrier?

the purchase.

Above all else, the puppy is for life and should become an integral part of the family.

The puppy should be socialised with other dogs through out its life and offered regular intellectual stimulation as well as exercise.

Andrew Lyon Lionsden

A.1. I have loved & been involved with Staffords for over 30 years.



Lou Kelly

A.2. I personally feel the SBT has become more to the terrier type example smaller and finer and 10 years ago they had more substance and shared evenly both bully/terrier traits and that is more to my type & understanding of the standard of the SBT.

A.3.

- 1) Correct scissor bite with correct canine placement.
- 2) Good level topline.
- 3) Nice strong head rose ears with dark eye and good pigment.
- 4) Good movement with strong drive.
- 5) Correct tail set.

A.4. Happy Lovable Loyal Character.

A.5. Breeders are testing for L2HGA & HC to help to eradicate this in the breed and they have been known to

have skin & eye irritations under different types of categories.



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A.6. Reputable breeder with plenty of knowledge and understanding of the breed that does all of the health tests & who will be more than happy to help you and always be there for you.

Lou Kelly Trylou

A.1. We have been showing and breeding Staffords for 12yrs although in dogs and the show world all our lives. Mum was the patron of the Stafford Social Club before we got into the breed and helped get the now Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of Northern NSW up and running. We then had a friend who decided to find us a dog in the



Sue Lane

UK and so Ch Kelstock Nickkis Black Magic (imp UK) came to be our first

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The Breed Standard

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Smooth coated, well balanced, of great strength for his size. Muscular, active and agile.

CHARACTERISTICS: Traditionally of indomitable courage and tenacity. Highly intelligent & affectionate especially with children.

TEMPERAMENT: Bold, fearless and totally reliable.

HEAD AND SKULL:

Short, deep though with broad skull. Very pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop, short foreface, nose black.

EYES: Dark preferred but may bear some relation to coat colour. Round, of medium size, and set to look straight ahead. Eye rims dark.

EARS: Rose or half pricked, not large or heavy. Full, drop or pricked ears highly undesirable.

MOUTH: Lips tight and clean. Jaws strong, teeth large, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK: Muscular, rather short, clean in outline gradually widening towards shoulder.

FOREQUARTERS:

Legs straight and well boned, set rather wide apart, showing no weakness at the pasterns, from which point feet turn out a little. Shoulders well laid back with no looseness at elbow.

BODY: Close coupled, with level topline, wide front, deep brisket, well sprung ribs; muscular and well defined.

HINDQUARTERS:

Well muscled, hocks well let down with stifles well bent. Legs parallel when viewed from behind.

FEET: Well padded, strong and of medium size. Nails black in solid coloured dogs.

TAIL: Medium length, low set, tapering to a point and carried rather low. Should not curl much and may be likened to an old fashioned pump handle.

GAIT/MOVEMENT: Free, powerful and agile with economy of effort. Legs moving parallel when viewed from front or rear. Discernible drive from hindlegs.

COAT: Smooth, short and close.

COLOUR: Red, fawn, white, black or blue, or any one of these colours with white. Any shade of brindle or any shade of brindle with white. Black and tan or liver colour highly undesirable.

SIZES: Desirable height at withers 36-41 cms (14 to 16 ins), these heights being related to the weights. Weight: dogs: 13-17 kgs (28-38 lbs); bitches 11-15.4 kgs.

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.

NOTES: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



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Nikki Lane & Kaitlyn Willis

Stafford. Now couldn't imagine life without them.

A.2. I think the dogs of 10 years ago were definitely sounder without the exaggerations of today.

A.3. Free of Health issues - Penalise heavily problematic breathing and inverted/converging canines. Temperament - never tolerate frightened or people aggressive dogs, if either of these 2 problems are present then the dog should be dismissed from the ring, then judge on Type, balance, soundness, form follows function.

A.4. Moving with reach and discernible drive.

A.5. Yes there has been a problem

“**Penalise heavily problematic breathing and inverted/converging canines. Temperament - never tolerate frightened or people aggressive dogs, if either of these 2 problems are present then the dog should be dismissed from the ring**”

with Hereditary Cataracts and a neurological disorder called L2-HGA. Both are able to be DNA tested and all breeding stock should be tested clear or clear by parentage or at the very least a carrier and then only mated to a clear. Distichiasis - extra lashes, converging/inverted canines.

A.6. Make sure parents are L2-HGA and HC tested clear or hereditary clear, don't be taken in by colour, blue is not rare so don't pay exorbitant prices for them and don't buy sight unseen and research your breeder and make sure there is lifetime support.

Sue & Nikki Lane & Kaitlyn Willis
Lanvilla & Sandtoys Staffords

A.1. I bought my first Staffordshire Bull Terrier back in 1975, fell in love at first sight and haven't been without a Stafford or two since then. I bred some litters but at that time I was heavily involved in showing Shetland and Miniature Ponies and didn't get into showing my Staffords until my son Darcy came along and I got bitten by the dog show bug. I have bred one Specialty Best In Show winner and have had two Runner

Up Best In Show specialty wins with my imported dog from the UK.

A.2. Back 10 years ago there were more Staffords being shown, the numbers were huge. It was easy to find a good stud dog at a show as there was a lot of quality dogs to choose from. Sadly now with numbers fallen off and dogs in pet homes being desexed I have resorted to importing frozen semen from the UK to keep my breeding program heading in the right direction. I can understand when I hear judges say that the Staffords are the hardest to judge in Group 2 as there is such a wide range of types.

A.3.1. Temperament - Bold, fearless and totally reliable - if it's not then don't award it.

2. Correct Stafford movement - Staffords aren't Gundogs and shouldn't be moved as such.

We are seeing a lot of straight upper arm movement and dogs with no rear drive. The standard calls for movement to be free, powerful and agile with economy of effort. Legs moving parallel when viewed from front or rear. Discernible drive from hindlegs.

3. Short sternums - A Stafford should be well ribbed back with a good tuck up, definitely not herring gutted, so wrong on any breed let alone a Bull breed.

4. Height / Weight - standard says desirable height at withers 14 to 16 inches (36-41cm) these heights being related to weights. Weight - dog 13-17 kg Bitches 11-15.4 kg. I would like to see trainee judges provided with scales and a wicket so they can understand this important part of the breed standard. A Stafford shouldn't be a heavy dog on short little legs nor should it be a long leggy dog with no bone or substance.

5. Breed Type - A blend of bull and terrier, a Stafford that looks, moves and acts in a manner closely conforming to



Sue Lambert

the breed standard. A dog should look like a dog and a bitch should look like a bitch without you having to check which is which. A quality class of Open dogs at a specialty show is a joy to see.

A.4. Light in loins is what I would like to see put back into the standard.

A.5. We now have DNA testing in Australia for L2hga and Hereditary Cata-

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facts so there is no excuse for anyone to breed puppies affected for either of these conditions, thankfully most breeders are testing these days. A good breeder will eye test breeding stock for PHPV, Cataracts and Distichiasis before making a decision to breed and have litters tested as well.

A.6. My advice would be do your homework, research the breed because a Staffordshire Bull Terrier will not suit everyone. They aren't the sort of dog you can just dump in the backyard and not put

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any effort into training, they crave human companionship and need to be socialised. Ask questions and make sure you buy from a breeder who health tests.

Sue Lambert Woolloostaff

A.1. I have been breeding Staffords for over 15 years and my daughter joined me nearly 3 years ago. I didn't choose Staffords, they chose me! I met one and fell in love. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a hardy, loving and child friendly breed. They give everything they have to their owners with a dedication that is hard to match. I like to think they have a sense of humour and they will do just about anything to please their owner.

A.2. I would say conditioning and presentation has gotten better over time, but like with some other breeds we are starting to see exaggerations creep in, but I'd say we are in pretty good shape.

A.3. Soundness and movement that uses an economy of effort with discernible drive, a head that is not coarse or exaggerated, but broad and defined as it is described in the standard, a pump handle



Kayla Osborne

tail, a straight and well boned front with correct lay of shoulder, and of course temperament. A Stafford should never be shy or timid.

A.4. I would add the phrase, 'being rather light in the loins,' to the description of the body in the standard as I believe it is an important part of the appearance of the breed.

A.5. They are a generally hardy breed. Genetic testing is available for HC and L2, which are two of the main genetic diseases, which all responsible breeders should test for. It is also important that breeding stock is tested for PHPV.

A.6. Do your research. Visit a show and talk to Stafford exhibitors, research the breed online or in books. They are extremely family orientated and crave

“**I would say conditioning and presentation has gotten better over time, but like with some other breeds we are starting to see exaggerations creep in**”

attention from their owners, so ensure you have the time to put into them. They do not like being left in a backyard all day, they must be a part of the family. And ensure that you also have the time to put into training and socialising them.

Karen Horley & Kayla Osborne
Pepstaff