



# THE HARRIER

## history and development

The Harrier, a hound bred specifically for hunting the hare, is one of the oldest of the British breeds. Believed to be descended from the long extinct Talbot and St. Hubert hounds, it may also carry the blood of the Brachet and, much later, the French Basset, all blended to make the early Southern Harrier, from which the old-fashioned Harrier descended. The packs hunted on foot or mounted, just as they do today, according to the country. As the hunter became much faster and of better quality, so the gentry who followed the Harriers demanded a faster, better quality hound. This was effected around 1825 by the infusion of Foxhound blood altering the type, which became much more up on the leg, with shorter ears and dead straight fronts.

Undoubtedly the Welsh packs bred-in Welsh Foxhounds, giving a very light, leggy type of Harrier, often with a slightly broken coat.

Owing to the different terrain and methods of hunting a pack of Harriers, there is a greater divergence in size and style than in any other type of hound.

The Harrier, already known as a distinct breed *circa* 1130, is frequently mentioned throughout the succeeding centuries. Several well-known packs in Britain date from the mid-18th century, notably the Holcombe Harriers and the Craven Harriers.

## color

Any hound color is permitted, perhaps the most usual being hare or badger-pied. In Wales, the Harrier color is mostly a few palest lemon markings, the hound otherwise being virtually white. In the mounted packs, the colors have a wide range, black-and-tan on a white ground, hare-pied, badger-pied and, rarely, blue-mottled. One Irish pack was entirely black-and-tan without white. These were Harrier type and size, with a look of the Bloodhound in them, the head having a trace of peak, with rather longer ears than in the stud-book Harrier.

Liver-and-white is not a hound color.

## care

The Harrier needs only the routine care given by a good kennel huntsman to any breed of hounds. Ears, eyes, coats and condition will be carefully watched, also the anal glands and feet. The right food will be given and the right amount of exercise. This applies to all hounds and there is nothing extra required by the Harrier other than this routine care.

## character

The Harrier is a charming, gentle hound, sensible and kindly. Like any other hounds, they can be dangerous if a bad one gets among them, but this seldom happens with Harriers. They are a pack hound and need discipline when young, but there is no vice in them and they become most level-headed and obedient hounds.

## standards

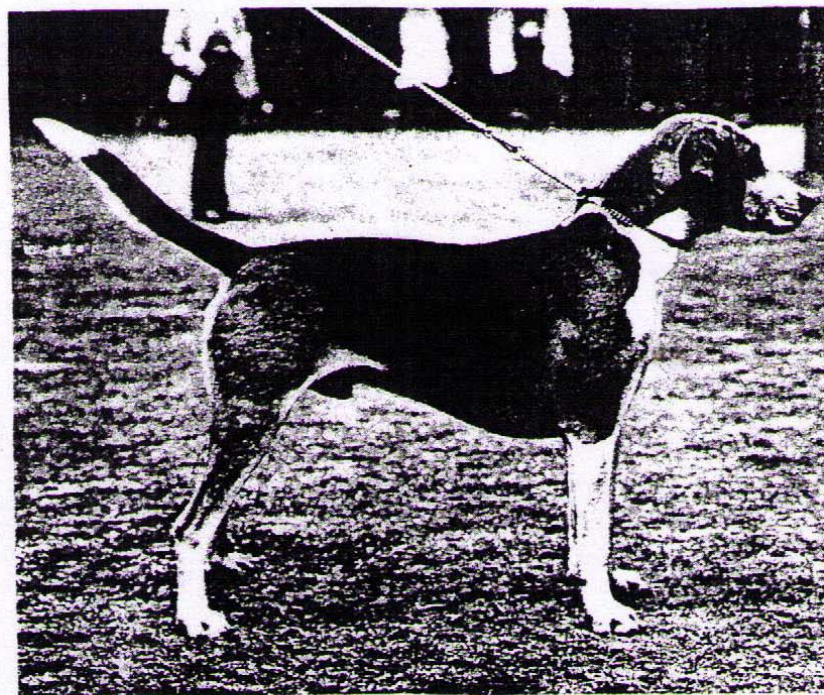
There is no official Standard in Britain; the various Masters selecting puppies to suit their own purpose. For example the Welsh and West Country hounds are exceptionally light in type and coloring, often virtually all-white with a very faint cream or lemon head-marking, while the mounted Vale packs breed a heavier stronger type, of darker color,

more on the lines of a Foxhound in miniature, often hare-pied or tan-and-white, with much heavier bone than the Welsh Harrier.

The size also differs, ranging from 18½" at the shoulder to 22". The A.K.C. Standard specifies 19" to 21". In England each pack goes for its own optimum size, keeping the pack level at that particular size and type.

The head is longer and shallower both in stop and muzzle than the Foxhound, and less square and blocky than the Beagle. The expression is gently refined when relaxed; sensible yet alert when aroused. There is a slight stop; the lip also is not overdone. The throat and neck are clean without flews and the head shows no wrinkle. The neck is long, strong, and graceful, running smoothly into well-laid back shoulders. The body deep, with adequately sprung ribs and slight lift over the loin, well ribbed back. Legs straight and sound, elbows free from crook, the line from shoulder to foot vertical without trace of bandiness at elbow or knee. Pasterns strong and straight, though capable of plenty of spring, ending in a neat oval foot; the hare-foot being preferred to the cat-foot in the mountains. Hindquarters very strong and muscular, the stern being carried in a nice sickle and fairly high. The coat is slightly coarser than the Foxhound, and may be broken in some of the Welsh Harriers.

The voice is a high melodious note, very pretty to hear and, when on their proper quarry, the note is that of a mellow tenor bell.



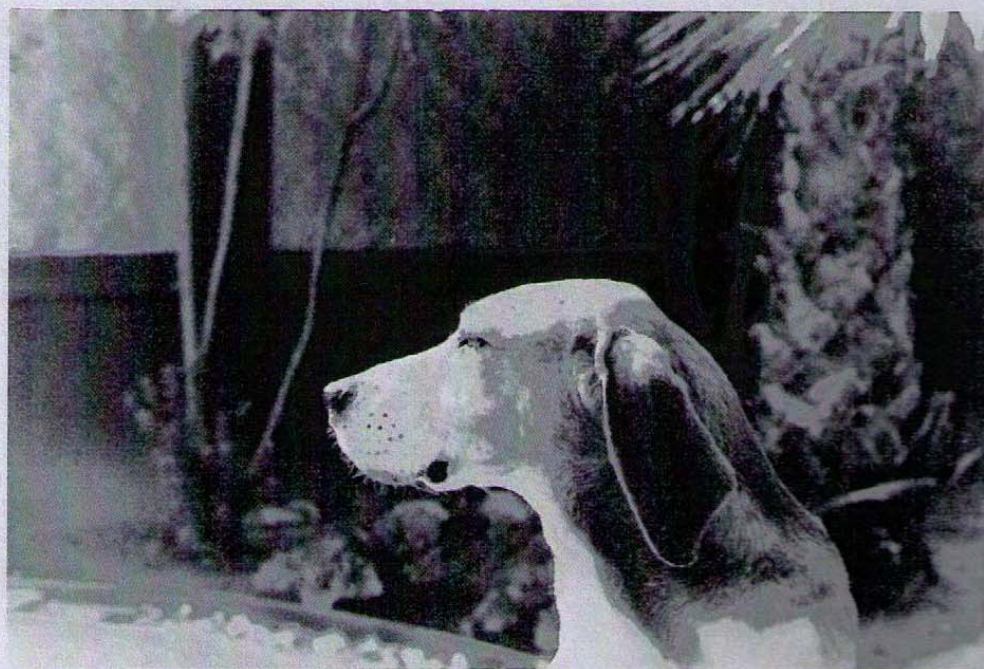


## Official AKC Standard for the HARRIER

**General Appearance-** Developed in England to hunt hare in packs. Harriers must have all the attributes of a scenting pack hound. They are very sturdily built with large bone for their size. They must be active, well balanced, full of strength and quality, in all ways appearing able to work tirelessly, no matter the terrain, for long periods. Running gear and scenting ability are particularly important features. The Harrier should, in fact, be a smaller version of the English foxhound.







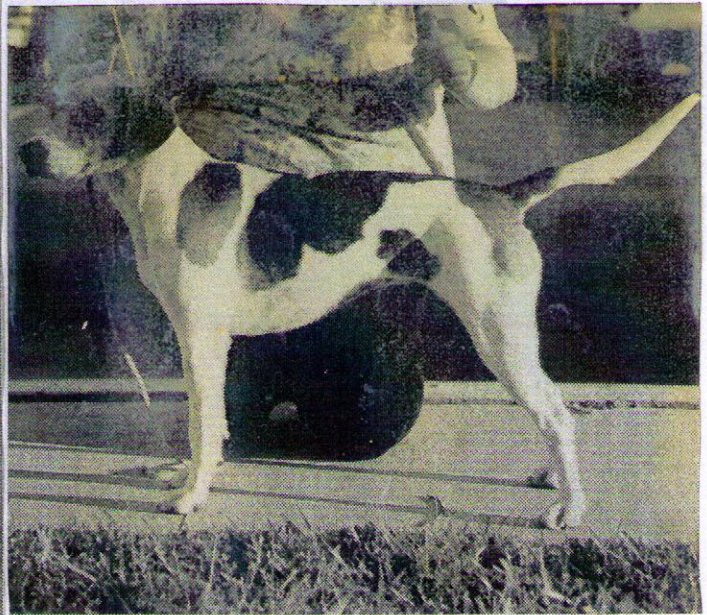


### Size-Proportion-Substance

**Size-** 19-21 inches for dogs and bitches, variation of one inch in either direction is acceptable. **Proportion-** is off-square. The Harrier is slightly longer from point of shoulder to rump than from withers to ground. **Substance-** Solidly built, full of strength and quality. The breed has as much substance and bone as possible without being heavy or coarse.



This dog shows proper substance and proportion

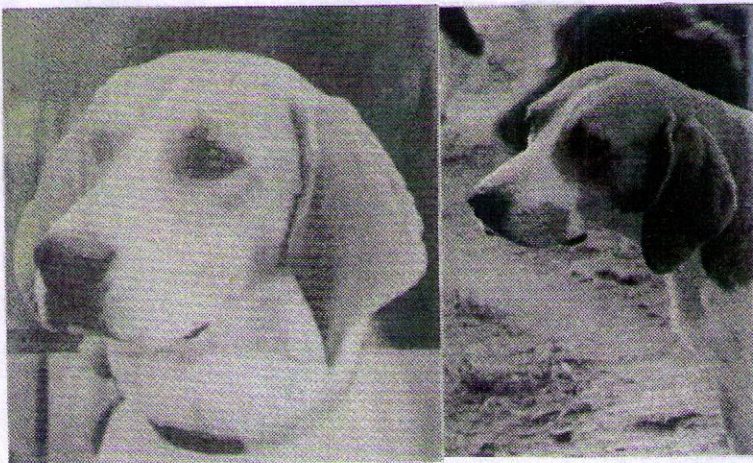


This bitch lacks overall substance and bone

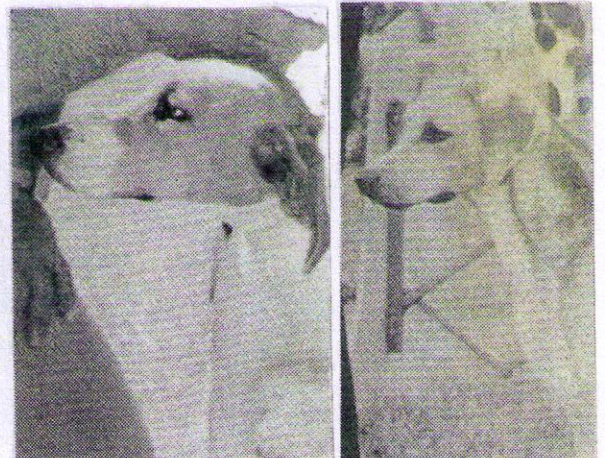
### Head

The head is in proportion to the overall dog. No part of the head should stand out relative to the other parts. the expression is gentle when relaxed, sensible yet alert when aroused. **Eyes** are medium size , set well apart, brown or hazel color in darker dogs, lighter hazel to yellow in lighter dogs, though darker colors are always desired. **Ears** are set on low and lie close to the cheeks, rounded at the tips.

The **skull** is in proportion to the entire animal, with good length and breadth and a bold forehead. The **stop** is moderately defined. The **muzzle** from stop to tip of nose is approximately the same length as the skull from stop to occiput. The muzzle is substantial with good depth, and the **lips** complete the square, clean look of the muzzle, without excess skin or flews. A good **nose** is essential. It must be wide, with well opened nostrils. **Teeth** meet in a scissors bite or they may be level. Overshot or undershot bites faulted to the degree of severity of the misalignment.



Two good heads showing proper skull and muzzle

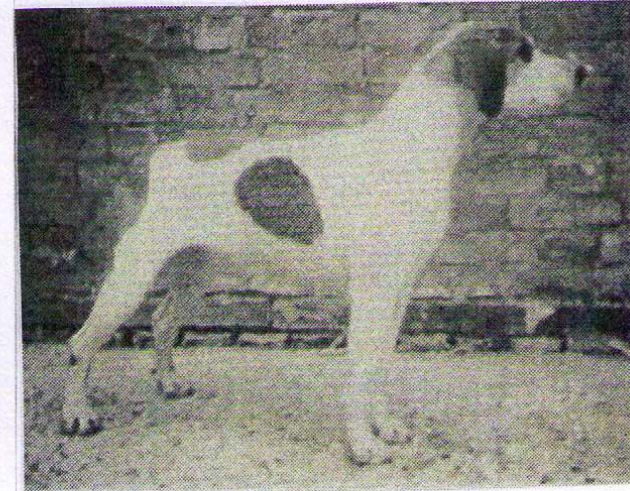


Incorrect heads - Lack of stop, muzzle , lip & under jaw

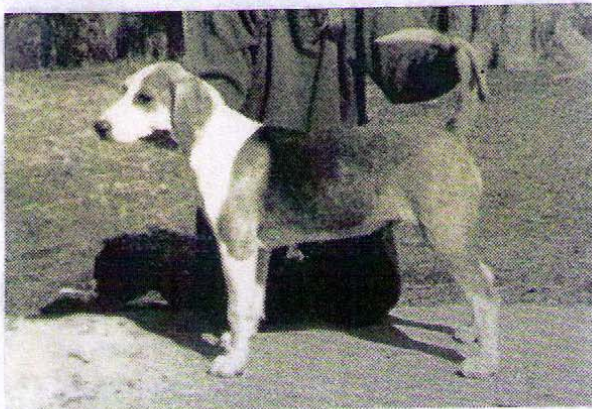


The **neck** is long and strong with no excess skin or throatiness, sweeping smoothly into the muscling of the forequarters. The **topline** is level. Back muscular with no dip behind the withers or roach over the loin. **Body**- Chest deep, extending to the elbow, with well sprung ribs that extend well back, providing plenty of heart and lung room. The ribs should not be so well sprung that they interfere with the free, efficient movement of the front assembly. The loin is short, wide, and well muscled.

The **tail** is long, set on high and carried up from 12 o'clock to 3 o'clock, depending on attitude. It tapers to a point with a brush of hair. The tail should not be curled over the back.



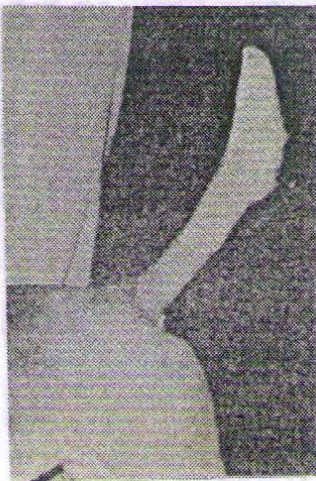
Two nice bitches - note the long, strong necks and exceptional topline of the bitch on the right



Left - this dog shows lack of neck and dip behind withers



Right - note the shortness of rib and the roach over the loin



Left - proper tail and brush

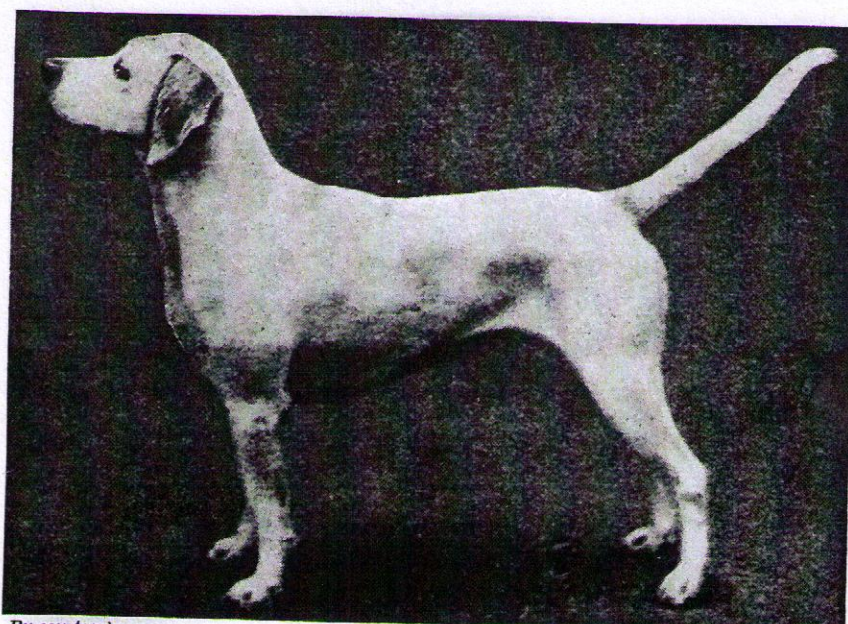


Center - Good carriage while moving



Right - Incorrect





*By courtesy]*

**"FLURRY".**

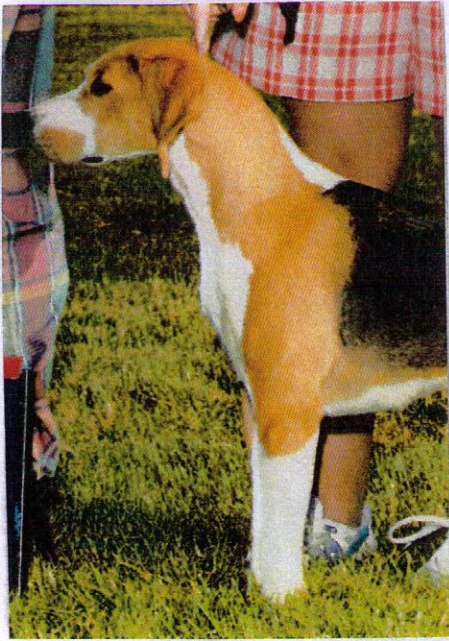
*[Capt. E. A. V. Stanley.]*

This Hound is half Quarme and half Dart Vale. It is very rarely that a noted pack goes out of its own kennels for fresh blood, but here is such an instance. "Flurry's" sire is "Dart Vale Masher" and its mother "Quarme Rachel".



## Forequarters

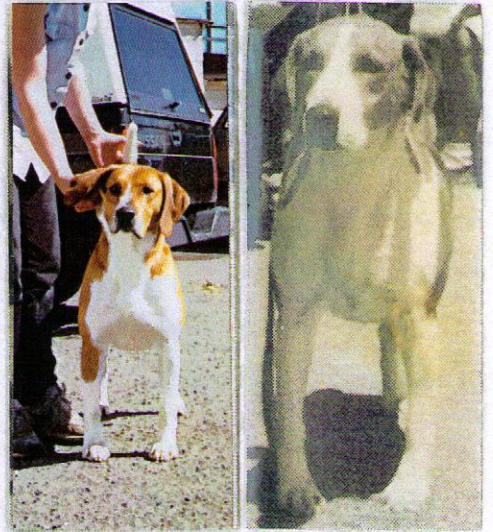
Moderate angulation, with long **shoulders** sloping into the muscles of the back, clean at the withers. The shoulders are well clothed with muscle without being excessively heavy or loaded, giving the impression of free, strong action. **Elbows** are set well away from the ribs, running parallel with the body and not turning outwards. Good straight **legs** with plenty of bone running well down to the toes, but not overburdened, inclined to knuckle over very slightly but not exaggerated in the slightest degree. **Feet** are round and catlike, with toes turning slightly inwards. The pads are thick, well developed and strong.



Proper shoulder assembly & straight legs



Straight shoulders, too knuckled over



Left - Proper front, note the slight toeing in without the elbows turning out

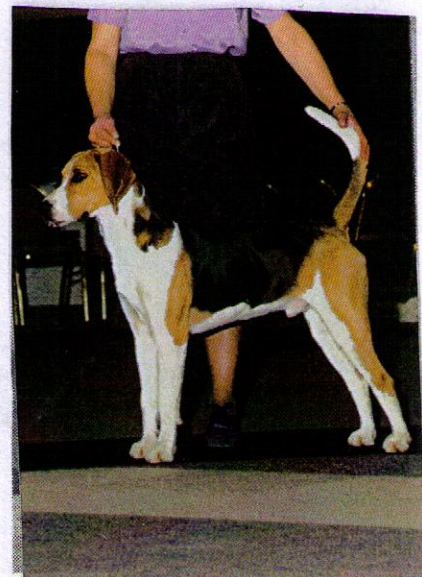
Right - Excessive toeing in, legs bowed, and feet flat lacking good cat shape

## Hindquarters

**Angulation** in balance with the front assembly, so the rear drive is in harmony with front reach. Well developed muscles, providing strength for long hours of work, are important. Endurance is more important than speed, and as such, the **stifles**, are only moderately angulated. **Feet** point straight ahead, are round and catlike with toes set close together, and thick, well developed pads.



This bitch has good balance between front and rear



The dog lacks angulation, stifle too straight



## Coat

Short, dense, hard and glossy. Coat texture on the ears is finer than the body. There is a brush of hair on the underside of the tail.

---

## Color

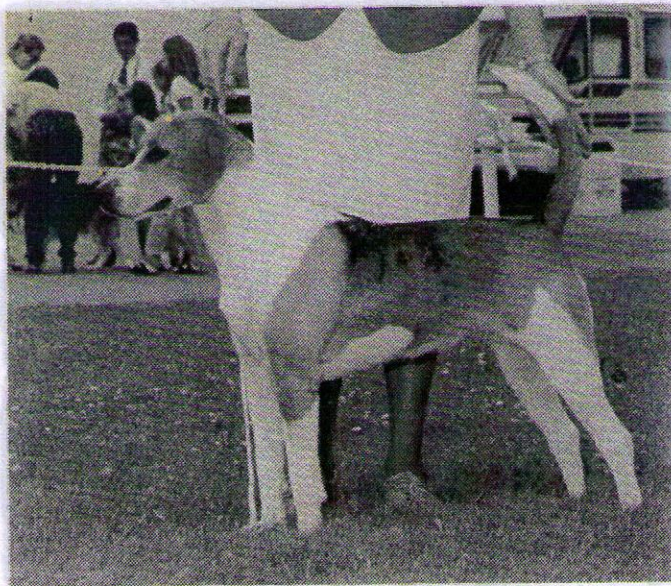
*Any color*, not regarded as very important.



Open mark Tri



Tri with black saddle



Tri with faded saddle



Red and White



## Gait

Perfect coordination between the front and hind legs. Reach and drive are consistent with the desired moderate angulation. Coming and going, the dog moves in a straight line, evidencing no sign of crabbing. A slight toeing-in of the front feet is acceptable. Clean movement coming and going is important, but not nearly as important as side gait, which is smooth, efficient and ground-covering.



An excellent example of proper movement



Notice there is no excessive kick out of the hind legs



Balanced reach and drive between front and rear

## Temperament

Outgoing and friendly, as a working pack breed. Harriers must be able to work in close contact with other hounds. Therefore, aggressiveness towards other dogs cannot be tolerated.

**Approved December 13, 1988**

**Effective February 1, 1989**



