

COLOMBIAN FINO HOUND



Commented Breed Standard

ASOCIACIÓN CLUB DEL SABUESO FINO COLOMBIANO
ASOCIACIÓN CLUB CANINO COLOMBIANO



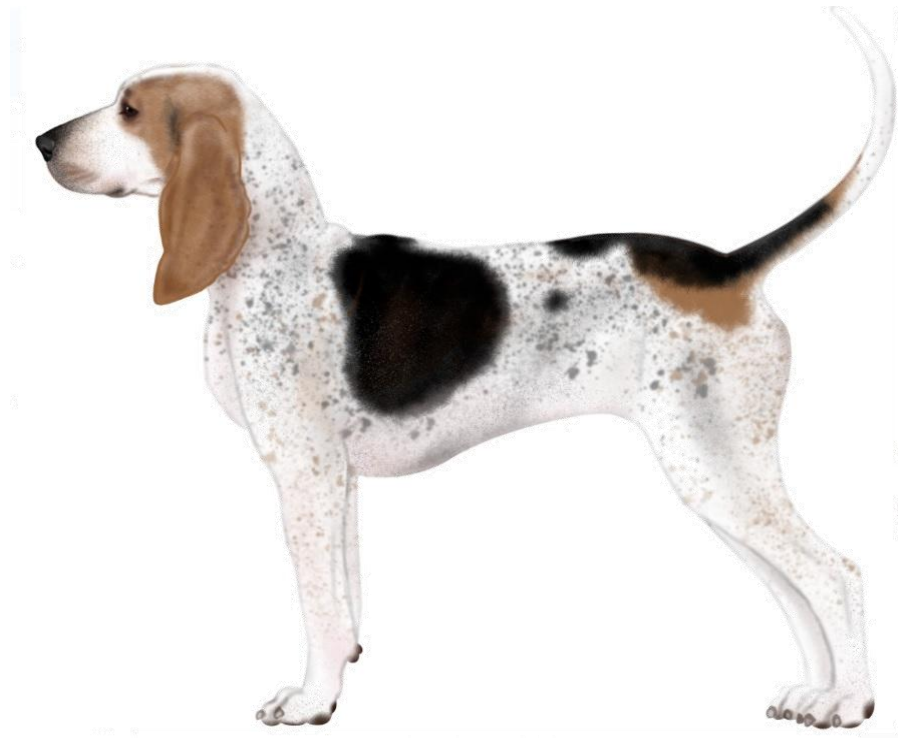
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COLOMBIAN FINO HOUND

FCI -Standard N° 376



FCI-St. N° 376 / 03.03.2026

ORIGIN: Colombia

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID

STANDARD: 11.02.2026.

UTILIZATION: Tracking, hunting, and companionship.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION:

Group 6

Scent hound and related breeds

Section 1 Scent hounds Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The Colombian Fino Hound is a hunting dog developed in Colombia from packs of hounds and some pointing dogs brought from Continental Europe, Great Britain, and North America since the colonial period. Due to their great hunting abilities, they became popular across all social classes, from presidents of the Republic and the upper classes, for their interest in hunting as a sport, to peasants who often relied on the use of the dog to obtain food. For over 200 years, these hunting dogs have been used in Colombia to track various game species and are fully adapted to the diverse geography and climates of the country.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Typical howling hound with long ears and a long tail, featuring a rectangular proportion, passionate hunter of substantial ruggedness, medium to large size, with smooth or rough coat of diverse colours.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: Proportions height at withers/length 10:11.5. The depth of the body measured from the withers to the elbow should be equal to the distance between the elbow and the ground. In the head, the muzzle may be equal to or slightly shorter than the skull.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT: Stubborn in hunting, affectionate at home, and excels as a companion dog. Due to its hunting instincts, it is capable of living in groups with other dogs and is friendly towards strangers.

HEAD: Of medium length, it is harmonious and proportionate to the body.

CRANIAL REGION: Rectangular, with slightly divergent craniofacial axes and a level upper profile.

Skull: The width is less than the length, in a ratio of 1:1.3. When viewed from the front, it is slightly domed, with noticeable brow ridges, and it is desirable for the occipital crest to be pronounced.

Stop: Evident without being overly pronounced.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Large, well-developed, with wide nostrils, colour according to the coat, and fully pigmented.

Muzzle: Of medium length, it can be equal to or slightly shorter than the skull, with a straight profile. When viewed from above, it is rectangular, with the width slightly decreasing towards the nose, without ending abruptly or pointed.

Lips: Developed without being too thick or pendulous, the upper lips cover the lower ones.

Jaws/Teeth: Strongly developed jaw, scissor bite, accepted in a level bite. Ideally, complete dentition with strong and properly aligned canines.

Cheeks: Flat.

EYES: Oval-shaped with a sweet expression, all colours are accepted according to the coat, except blue ones or eyes from different colours.

EARS: Long, pendulous, with or without folds, set at the level of the outer corner of the eye or just below it, with rounded tips; ideally they extend beyond the length of the muzzle without difficulty and, at a minimum, must reach the tip of the nose.

NECK: Strong, of moderate length, may exhibit small folds in the throat.

BODY: Rectangular, flexible, of moderate robustness.

Top line: Strong, with a slight elevation from the withers to the croup.

Withers: pronounced.

Back: Strong and flexible.

Loin: Short and strong.

Croup: Of medium length, moderate width, with an approximate 30° slope, forming a slightly curved contour with the back.

Chest: Of moderate breadth, with a full forechest, the depth should reach at least to the level of the elbows, ribs arched and well back.

Underline and belly: Slightly tucked up.

TAIL: Long, reaching beyond the hock, with a medium set, tapering towards the tip. In motion, it is carried high in a saber shape, or wagging horizontally at the level of the croup, never curled.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: Strong, with solid bone structure and well balanced.

Shoulder: Well-placed shoulder blades, set well back, with good angulation, forming an approximate angle of 90° with the arm.

Upper arm: (Arm) Humerus of medium length, strong bones, and well developed musculature.

Elbow: Firm, neither turned inward nor outward.

Forearm: Strong and straight, of medium length.

Carpus (Wrist): Strong and flexible.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Slightly sloping and forward.

Forefeet: Oval, medium-sized, with resistant nails and paw pads, which may be partially depigmented depending on the coat pattern and colour.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Powerful, angulated with good musculature, hocks not too long and parallel.

Thigh: Long, with strong but not overly developed musculature, with an approximate coxo-femoral angle of 100°.

Stifle (Knee): Strong, with moderate curvature.

Lower thigh: Long and well-angled with the femur.

Hock joint: Strong, wide, and well-descended.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Straight, short, perpendicular to the ground, viewed from behind they are parallel.

Hind feet: Rounded, medium-sized, rugged with resistant nails and paw pads, which may be partially depigmented depending on the coat pattern and colour.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Agile and effortless, balanced with good reach and drive, smooth trot, the topline is maintained during movement. The tail is carried high.

SKIN: Fine and elastic. In the body, it may be pigmented totally or partially according to the colour of the coat.

COAT

Hair:

Short hair variety (standard and large)

Short, smooth, and shiny. The tail hair should not be bristly.

Wire hair variety (standard and large)

The outer coat is even, dense, and hard, and should have an undercoat. There should be a small beard on the muzzle. The eyebrows are thick. Ear hair is shorter than body hair. The tail must be uniformly covered with tight fur.

Colour: They come in a wide variety of colours: red, black, brown, and gray, with or without white. They may present various shades, patterns, and combinations of these colours. Merle coloration is not accepted.

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Standard variety (Short and wire hair)

Height at the withers: 45 to 50 cm, with a tolerance of 2 cm less.

Weight: Between 15 and 25 kg.

Large variety (Short and wire hair)

Height at the withers: 51 to 58 cm, with a tolerance of 2 cm more.

Weight: Between 25 and 35 kg.

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, and its ability to perform its traditional work.

- Ears set too high (above the eye corner)
- Excessively high croup
- Elbows turned out
- Lack of more than two teeth
- Tail set too high or too low

SEVERE FAULTS:

- Overall square proportion
- Short ears (not reaching the tip of the nose)
- Horizontal topline
- Excess skin, very pendulous lips, and excessively developed dewlap, drooping eyelids
- Tail naturally knotted (deformed vertebrae)
- Woolly coat in the wire hair variety

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities
- Specimens with long fur

- Untypical specimen
- Albino specimens
- Merle-coloured specimens
- Blue or differently coloured eyes
- Prognathic bite
- Enognathic bite
- Ectropion
- Entropion

N.B.:

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

Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding.

COLOMBIAN FINO HOUND

HISTORY

Note: Much of this historical account has been reproduced either verbatim or through paraphrasing of the ideas and interpretations presented by Chejo Marín in his book Sabueso Fino Colombiano – History and Origin (2017).

To recount the history of the Colombian Fino Hound, it is appropriate to begin by examining how the various breeds of hunting dogs were introduced into the national territory over time.



Simón Bolívar

According to a long-standing local tradition preserved by rural communities in the areas surrounding Tunja, Creole hounds are said to have accompanied Simón Bolívar's army from the very beginning of the struggle for independence. It is even recounted that, on the night before the Battle of Boyacá, the Liberator ordered a female hound to be tethered beside a rural dwelling so that the Spanish forces would hear her barking and be misled about the army's true position. According to this account, the ruse contributed to a successful ambush, which culminated in the Patriot victory on 7 August 1819.

The history of the Colombian Fino Hound can be traced back to at least a century after the arrival of the Spanish in the New World. It is closely associated with Fray Luis Zapata de Cárdenas, the first Archbishop of the New Kingdom of Granada, who died in 1590 after returning from an extended hunting expedition in the Sumapaz Páramo. He owned an estate in Bogotá through which flowed a stream descending from the Eastern Andes, now known as the Arzobispo River.

Historical sources, including El Carnero, suggest that between 1550 and 1800, Spanish hounds were introduced into Colombia and the former Andean territories to hunt rodents, Greyhounds were brought in for deer hunting, and Spanish Pointers were used for waterfowl hunting, as was the case during the administration of Viceroy Solís. Later, with the onset of the Liberation Campaign, in which the British Legion participated through its Battalion of Rifles.

Historical records dating from the period following Colombian independence indicate that, in addition to Foxhounds and early Pointers, the British introduced bird dogs for the hunting of game birds, as the Bogotá Savanna was well known for its abundance of ducks and migratory waterfowl. Consequently, hunting the

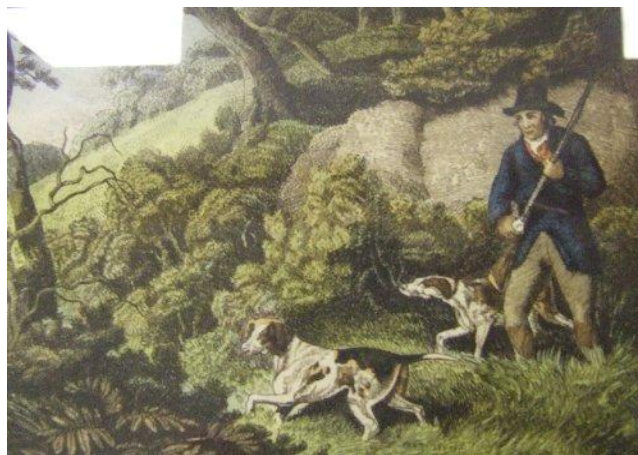
Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) became a popular pastime among British soldiers who had fought in the War of Independence, as well as among Creoles and European settlers.

In the years following Colombia's independence, numerous foreigners arrived in the Americas in search of new economic opportunities. British Colonel J. P. Hamilton travelled through New Granada in 1823 and, in the 1955 edition of *Travels Through the Interior Provinces of Colombia*, recorded one of his hunting expeditions:

“The day after Good Friday was a great hunting day in Bogotá. There was a pack of hounds kept in the town for hunting deer in the surrounding mountains. The dogs were a type of ordinary greyhound, very swift and hunting by scent”—that is, hounds.

He later continues: “Colonel Johnstone of the Columbian service was extremely fond of deer hunting, and had taken several couples of hounds to Bogota.” This account suggests that the Foxhound may have been introduced into Colombia as early as 1823.

In the book *The Exquisite Madman*, Víctor Paz Otero (2004) refers to Tomás Cipriano de Mosquera soldier and three-time President of the Republic. The author notes that, upon returning from France, Mosquera brought with him “various curiosities and ornaments, accompanied by magnificent hunting dogs which, although thin and with melancholy eyes, would improve the breed of the flea-ridden dogs of Popayán.” It is well documented that Mosquera established a pack of French hounds.



English Pheasant Hunt, 18th Century



*Archbishop Fray Luis
Zapata de Cárdenas*

It is also important to consider the accounts of chroniclers who, as early as the colonial period, documented the use of hunting dogs. Their writings are particularly significant, as they demonstrate that hunting was a widespread activity throughout the different regions of the country.

For example, Alexander von Humboldt (1802) observed that: “At La Vega (Cundinamarca) there are many deer—not the small *Cervus mexicanus* of the warm lowlands, but a large deer with magnificent antlers... The dogs of this region are remarkably well trained to pursue deer across steep, rocky slopes with an inclination of sixty degrees, until the animals descend and seek refuge in the river. There, the frightened deer is surrounded and captured with a lasso.”

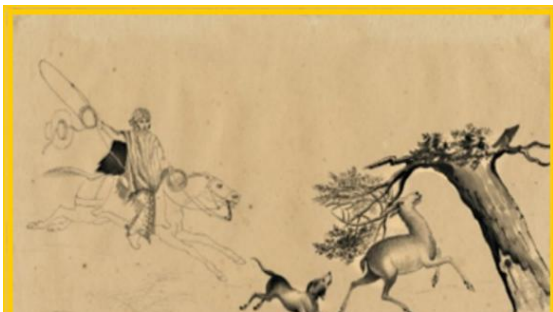


Duck Hunting on the Bogotá Savanna. Watercolour by Joseph Brown (c. 1830).

Likewise, Gaspard-Théodore Mollien, during his journey through Colombia in 1823, observed that in the Magdalena region: “The inhabitants live on little more than plantains, fish, and, occasionally, game. Two or three hunting dogs and a few cats consume the scraps from their table.”

During his stay in Colombia between 1825 and 1840, Joseph Brown produced a series of watercolours depicting various customs of New Granada. One such work, reproduced below, illustrates the hunting of ducks.

Auguste Le Moyne, who visited Colombia as a French diplomat, commented on one of his illustrations: “Big-game hunting is generally carried out in the mountains. Deer are the principal quarry, and the hunt is conducted on horseback with the aid of a lasso and large greyhounds or hounds, apparently without any degeneration from the breed of dogs that the Spaniards brought as auxiliaries in their wars against the Indigenous peoples.”



Auguste Le Moyne (1835). Untitled

José María Cordovez Moure (1899) was the first chronicler to devote an entire chapter to the hunters of the Bogotá Savanna in his work *Reminiscences of Santa Fe and Bogotá* (1899). In this chapter, he mentions several prominent public figures who pursued the hunting of deer, ducks, and other game as a leisure activity.

Regarding Colombian hounds, Cordovez Moure recounts that General José Agudelo, a member of the Conservative Party, owned an estate known as Hacienda El Cedro. The estate was located north of Chapinero, in what is now the Cedritos neighbourhood and its surrounding area in Bogotá. According to Cordovez Moure (1899), the dogs had long ears and, based on his description of their coat colour, they were likely white with either black or reddish patches. He also notes that they had hearty appetites and, elsewhere in his account, describes them as reliable watchdogs. Both their physical



Hacienda El Cedro, Bogotá

characteristics and temperament closely correspond to those of the present-day Colombian Fino Hound.

“The General’s favourite pastime was complemented by a pack of one hundred hounds bearing resounding names ending in -on, such as Napoleón, León, Pichón, and even Fenelón. The females were named after the battles in which their master had fought. All had long ears and spotted coats, and were kept perpetually hungry because, according to the principles of the sport, a hunting dog should taste meat only when it had earned it itself. Don Chepe fed the pack with whey and thin maize porridge served in wooden troughs. Their feeding resembled a storm at sea, with constant growling, snapping, and jostling as each struggled to satisfy the ravenous hunger that tormented them, until the commotion was brought to an end by the crack of whips and stern commands.”

Further on, Cordovez Moure (1899) states: “Victoria (El Negro) deliberately kept only a few pairs of the dogs, dispersing the rest to fend for themselves wherever they could. Not a single one ever returned to its former home, nor did Don José ever hunt again, for, as one of the defeated, he would not have been allowed to establish camp on the páramo...” (he died in 1878).



*Deer Hunters and Staghounds in the Chingaza Páramo
(1960)*

Victoria is believed to have taken hounds with him. It is presumed that he brought these dogs to Tuluá, where he eventually settled. The remaining animals may have died or simply changed ownership, becoming dispersed among neighbouring farms. It is also possible that some of fellow military officers adopted a number of these hounds.

It is believed that, by the end of the nineteenth century, the breed had become distributed throughout much of Colombia. As discussed previously, at least two distinct types of hunting dogs were used by Colombian hunters: the swift greyhound, employed for deer hunting, and the long-eared scent hound.

In 1954, Colombia enacted stringent legislation against indiscriminate hunting. By that time, white-tailed deer had virtually disappeared from the areas surrounding Bogotá, while the city had expanded to the point that Hacienda El Cedro had been absorbed by urban development, giving rise to neighbourhoods such as Cedritos and the surrounding districts. The remaining deer populations retreated to the Sumapaz and Chingaza páramos.

This decline of the white-tailed deer became widespread throughout the country. As a result, the greyhounds traditionally used for deer hunting were no longer needed. Without breeders or hunters to preserve them, this type gradually disappeared.



Hunters in Huila, undated.

The same did not occur with the Colombian Fino Hound, as the paca (*Cuniculus paca*) did not disappear. Although its population declined, it benefited from the elimination of many of its natural predators, including the fox, jaguar, and ocelot. As an omnivorous species, the paca possesses a remarkable capacity for survival and readily adapts to the environmental conditions created by deforestation and small-scale subsistence farming.

The term Tinajero Hound derives from the name of one of its traditional quarry species, known as guaminiquinaje at the time of the Spanish arrival.

The Spanish gradually transformed this name into guardatinaje, which was later shortened to guartinaja, and eventually to tinajo (quinaxe in the Indigenous language of Haiti). In some regions of Colombia, the earlier names are still preserved; however, in the departments of Santander and Boyacá, the term evolved into tinajo, from which the designation Tinajero is derived.

In conclusion, based on the evidence gathered from the accounts of various chroniclers, it can be inferred that the Spanish Alano was the first hunting dog introduced by the Spanish into present-day Colombia. Patiño states that the Spanish brought Greyhounds, hounds, and Podencos, while Roberto Páez notes that they arrived with greyhounds and “other kinds” of dogs. Hamilton, in turn, records that the British introduced hounds, the ancestors of the modern Foxhound.

Furthermore, considering that during the Colombian War of Independence there was a British military unit commonly known as the Rifles Battalion ("Los Cazadores"), it is reasonable to assume that this designation was not merely coincidental. John Johnstone served in this battalion, and it is therefore likely that these soldiers brought with them a considerable number of British hunting dogs, as described by Hamilton and suggested by Joseph Brown's watercolours depicting duck hunting on the Bogotá Savanna.



Paca or Tinajo (Cuniculus paca)



Hounds in Guasca, Cundinamarca, undated

There is no precise information regarding the breeds of dogs brought by religious communities such as the Franciscans and Jesuits. However, it is known that they used hounds in their hunting activities. They were likely responsible for introducing ancient Spanish hound breeds that could resemble some of the modern hound breeds known today. Later, approximately two hundred years ago, the British arrived with their dogs.

It is possible that other landowners, in addition to José Agudelo, maintained hound packs for which no records have survived. It may also be assumed that the pack from Hacienda El Cedro possessed a significant proportion of Foxhound ancestry, given its owner's relationship with the soldiers of the "Rifles" Battalion.

Since the Spanish Hound originated in northern Spain, and Juan de la Cosa, along with several of his fellow countrymen, travelled with Christopher Columbus from the same region (Cantabria and Biscay), it would not be unreasonable to suggest that they brought the first scent hounds to northern South America. This hypothesis is further supported by the fact that Juan de la Cosa made seven voyages to the Caribbean over a period of eighteen years: first as Columbus's lieutenant, later accompanying Alonso de Ojeda, then Rodrigo de Bastidas, and finally leading his own expeditions, until his death in Turbaco

Taken together, these historical accounts suggest that the Colombian Fino Hound originated from a combination of early English Foxhounds, ancient Spanish Hounds, ancient French Hounds, and other European scent hounds and pointing breeds. This hypothesis was subsequently supported by genetic characterization studies.

Part of the identity of the Colombian rural population, many of whom were forced to migrate from their lands to urban areas due to the political violence of the 1950s, was closely connected to the keeping of hounds. These dogs played a role in bringing families and neighbours together on Sundays around hunting expeditions. The hunting activity would conclude with a communal meal prepared from the harvested game, meaning that hunting represented not only a recreational or sporting activity, but also a space for social interaction, communication, and the strengthening of community bonds, centred around the pursuit of animals such as pacas, agouti, deer, and even jaguars.



President of Colombia Guillermo León Valencia at Hacienda Belalcázar, 1915

By the beginning of the twentieth century, these bloodlines were fully established and were used by prominent hunters, including President Guillermo León Valencia, whose hunting expeditions in Cauca provide evidence of the consolidation of a distinct national hound type. After decades of functional selection, this

population was further influenced by the incorporation of breeds such as the Basset Hound, Bloodhound, and Beagle, as well as representatives of the Coonhound group. These breeds had developed in the United States through a parallel process of functional selection, based on the same European scent hounds that contributed to the development of Colombian hounds.

Subsequently, some Coonhounds were imported into the country and introduced new bloodlines into the population, enriching its genetic diversity and enhancing certain functional traits, although both populations had already followed independent evolutionary pathways. The result of this long historical and zootechnical process was the development of the modern Colombian Fino Hound.

More recently, in 2013, the Animal Genetics Group of the National University of Colombia conducted a study on the history and biotype of the Colombian Fino Hound, with the aim of demonstrating that it was indeed a local breed, genetically and morphologically distinct from other hound breeds.



Breed presentation, Corferias – Bogotá, 2015

The Asociación Club Canino Colombiano (ACCC), during its Board of Directors Meeting No. 1374 held on 21 April 2015, unanimously approved the official recognition of the Colombian Fino Hound (SFC) as the first nationally recognized Colombian dog breed.

From that moment, the Initial Registration procedure was established for the first specimens that met the breed standard, with the objective of promoting selective breeding and creating the Colombian Origin Book (LOC). Likewise, the Asociación Club del Sabueso Fino Colombiano (CSFC), the national breed club, was established on 20 September 2014. It was officially recognized by the ACCC according to Board of Directors Act No. 1377 dated 2 June 2015, and has been an affiliated member of the ACCC since 31 August 2017.

On 11 February 2026, the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) granted provisional recognition to the breed, marking a milestone of great importance for its development and preservation. This recognition validates the work carried out over many years by breeders and breed associations, strengthens genetic selection and conservation programmes, and represents a fundamental step towards the breed's definitive recognition at an international level.



Representation of the Colombian Fino Hound at the Bogotá International Dog Show Circuit (2017).

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COLOMBIAN FINO HOUND

ETYMOLOGY

FINO in Colombian tradition: A QUALITY MARK

In Colombia, the word “FINO” does not mean “delicate” or “fragile”; rather, it refers to something select, authentic, and of superior functional quality. It is a term deeply rooted in three of the species that generate the greatest passion and appreciation within Colombian rural culture.

The Fino Gamecock: a tradition dating back to colonial times, when the Spanish introduced fighting roosters that quickly became integrated into popular culture and folklore. It is called “FINO” because it is an animal carefully selected and bred for combat, valued for its strength, endurance, and lineage.

The Colombian Paso Fino Horse:

It is distinguished by its four-beat lateral gait, characterized by speed, smoothness, elasticity, and remarkable stability. It is called “FINO” because its movement is highly refined, precise, rhythmic, and elegant, the result of centuries of selective breeding.

And finally, the subject of this work: the Colombian Fino Hound.

In rural Colombia, it was traditionally known as the “Perro Fino” due to its characteristic ears, coat, and voice. It is called “FINO” because it represents a native dog with exceptional qualities: a combination of acute scenting ability, great endurance, tracking aptitude, and a balanced temperament. These characteristics distinguish it from common village dogs and establish it as a true specialized hound.

In conclusion, “FINO” is a traditional Colombian term used to identify the finest representatives within each species, expressing superior quality, the result of breeding, cultural heritage, and ancestral tradition. More than a simple adjective, it represents a symbol of Colombian pride and identity.



COLOMBIAN FINO HOUND

COMMENTED STANDARD

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Typical howling hound with long ears and a long tail, featuring a rectangular proportion, passionate hunter of substantial ruggedness, medium to large size, with smooth or rough coat of diverse colours..



COMMENTARY

The most distinctive feature of the breed is its long, pendulous ears, characteristic of a typical scent hound, which may resemble other hound breeds in appearance, such as French and Swiss hounds.

The Colombian Fino Hound presents a relatively broad range of size, a peculiarity that is sometimes observed even among individuals born from the same litter. This characteristic often guides the specialization of individuals towards a particular type of quarry. Regardless of size, all specimens of the breed should ideally exhibit a rectangular proportion, showing a balanced overall appearance and moderate construction; they should be neither heavy nor light, with a silhouette that tends towards curved lines.

With a smooth movement, the topline rises slightly from the end of the withers towards the croup, which is slightly higher.

The short, smooth, and shiny coat is highly valued. The rough-coated specimens, known as “Barbillas”, constitute a much rarer variety, developed mainly in high mountain terrain and páramo regions. Their harsh and resistant coat provides greater protection against cold, humidity, and the demanding environmental conditions typical of these ecosystems.

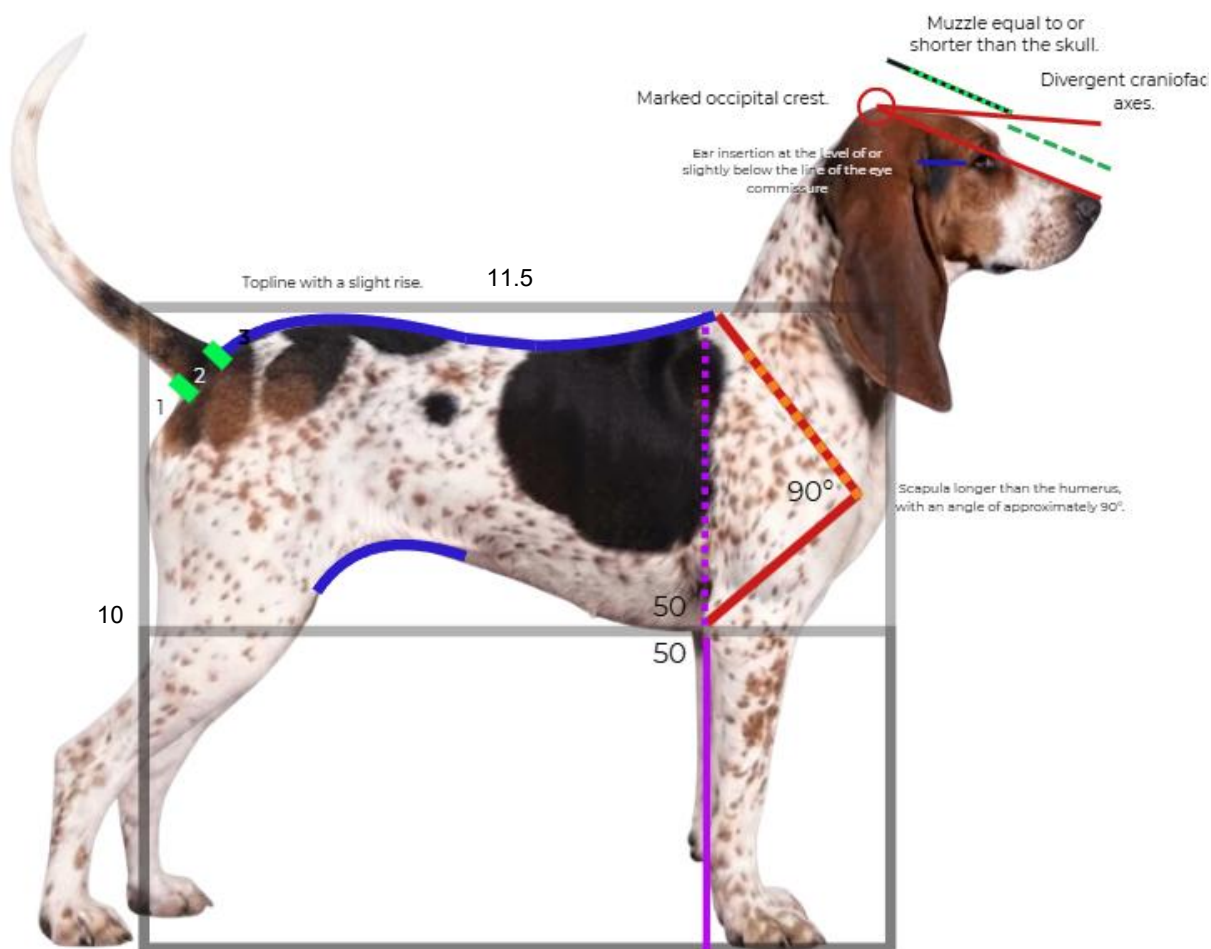
The breed may present a wide variety of colours and patterns, which, combined with size differences, may occasionally explain subtle variations in type among individuals.

A powerful voice, expressed through deep baying and howling, is highly appreciated by hunters, who are able to locate their dogs from a distance in the forest by listening to their strong and distinctive vocalizations.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS: Proportions height at withers/length 10:11.5. The depth of the body measured from the withers to the elbow should be equal to the distance between the elbow and the ground. In the head, the muzzle may be equal to or slightly shorter than the skull.

COMMENTARY

The Colombian Fino Hound is a well-proportioned dog, with a height at the withers that is less than the length of the body. When measured from the point of the sternum to the ischium, it should present a rectangular outline. This characteristic is evident but not exaggerated; therefore, the standard clearly establishes that the breed should neither be square nor excessively long, avoiding the appearance of a low-slung dog, such as a Basset-type hound, which is highly undesirable. The limbs are of medium length, approximately equal to the depth of the chest, measured from the withers to the elbow.



BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT: Stubborn in hunting, affectionate at home, and excels as a companion dog. Due to its hunting instincts, it is capable of living in groups with other dogs and is friendly towards strangers.



HEAD: Of medium length, it is harmonious and proportionate to the body.



COMMENTARY

The head of the Colombian Fino Hound, classified as mesomorphic, is harmonious and proportionate to the body. It does not stand out from the overall appearance of the dog and presents slightly divergent craniofacial planes, with a marked occipital crest. It should never appear excessively dry or heavy, and the skull is slightly arched, without being overly large or prominent. An excessively pronounced nasofrontal depression (stop) creates an overly high forehead, which is not desirable according to the breed type.

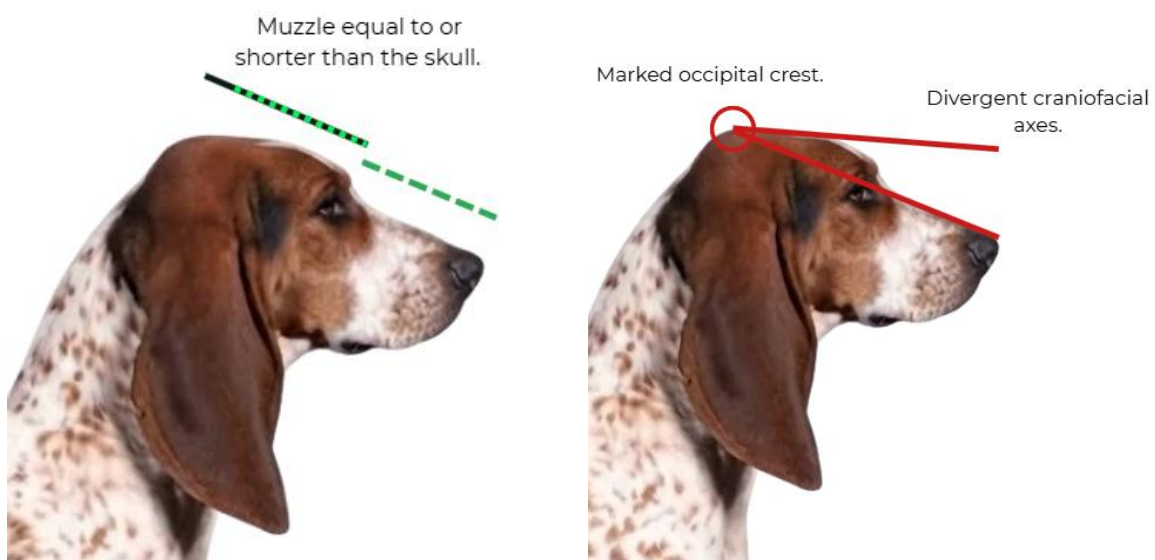
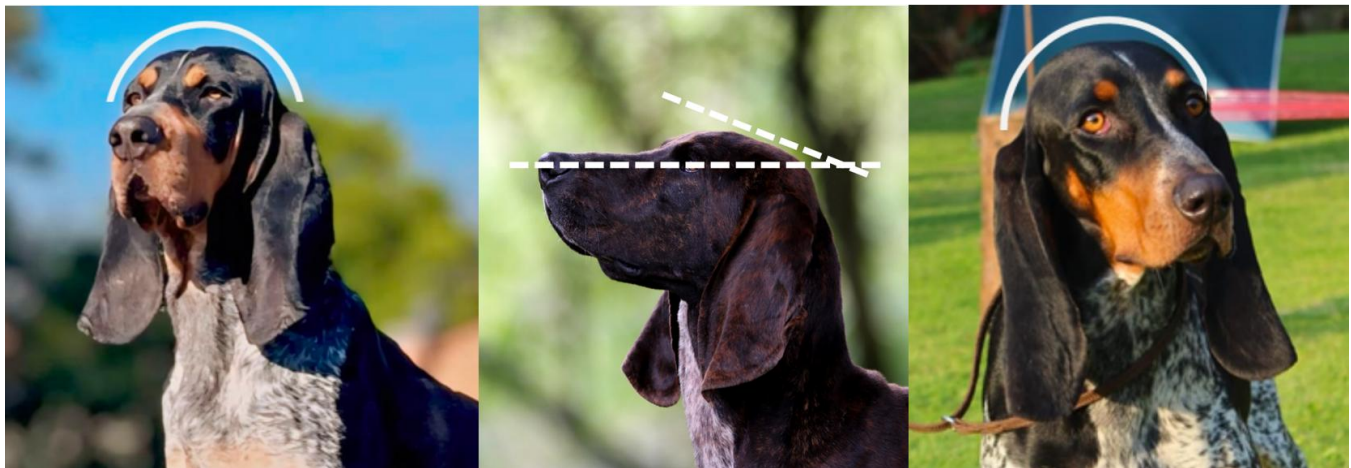


The muzzle, strong and straight, does not present a Roman nose and is slightly shorter than the length of the skull. It should not be square or excessively broad. When viewed from above, it tapers slightly from the base towards the nose, without ending in a point and without appearing weak or overly narrow.

CRANIAL REGION: Rectangular, with slightly divergent craniofacial axes and a level upper profile.

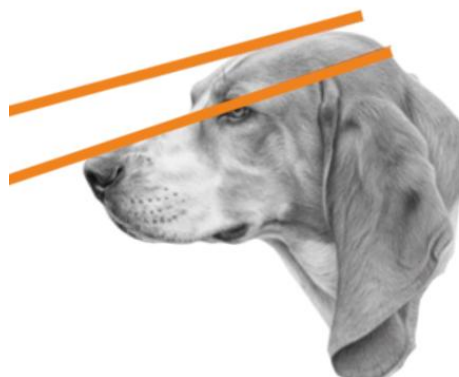
Skull: The width is less than the length, in a ratio of 1:1.3. When viewed from the front, it is slightly domed, with noticeable brow ridges, and it is desirable for the occipital crest to be pronounced.

Stop: Evident without being overly pronounced.





EXERCISE



Nose: Large, well-developed, with wide nostrils, colour according to the coat, and fully pigmented.



Muzzle: Of medium length, it can be equal to or slightly shorter than the skull, with a straight profile. When viewed from above, it is rectangular, with the width slightly decreasing towards the nose, without ending abruptly or pointed.

Lips: Developed without being too thick or pendulous, the upper lips cover the lower ones.

Cheeks: Flat

COMMENTARY

The lips are full, but not excessively pendulous. The upper lip covers the lower lip and, ideally, reaches the level of the jawline, although it may slightly exceed it. This characteristic is commonly observed in larger-sized specimens.



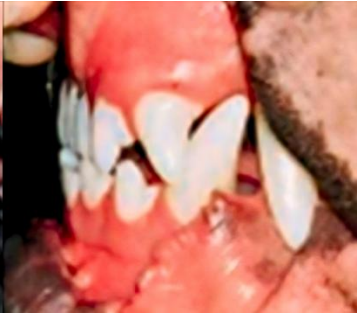
Jaws/Teeth: Strongly developed jaw, scissor bite, accepted in a level bite. Ideally, complete dentition with strong and properly aligned canines.



SCISSOR BITE



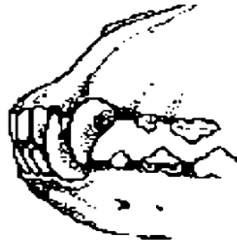
LEVEL BITE



UNDERSHOT BITE



OVERSHOT BITE



Scissor bite: The upper incisors slightly overlap the lower incisors (ideal).

Level bite: The upper and lower incisors meet edge to edge.

Undershot bite: The lower jaw extends beyond the upper jaw.

Overshot bite: The lower jaw is recessed or shorter than the upper jaw.

EYES: Oval-shaped with a sweet expression, all colours are accepted according to the coat, except blue ones or eyes from different colours.



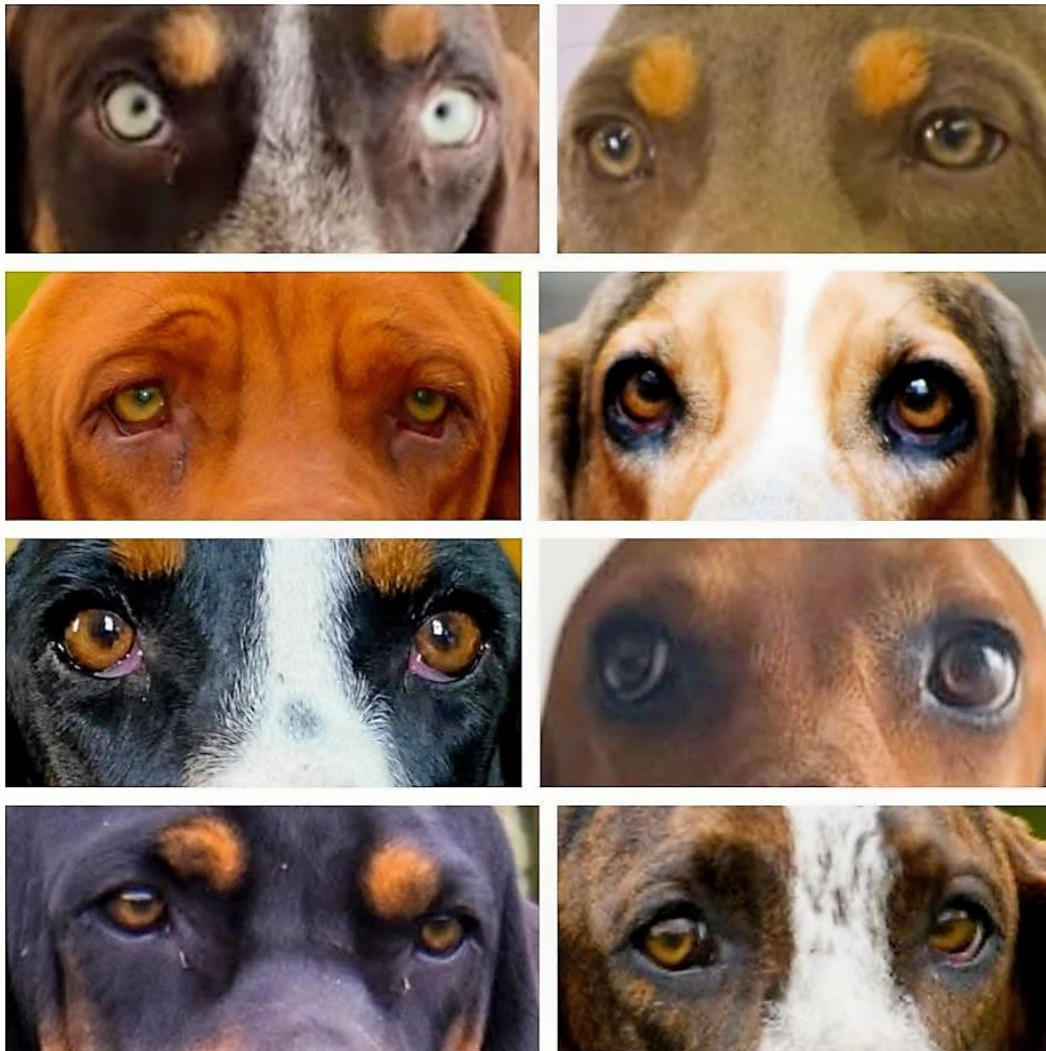
Oval eyes



Drooping eyes



Round eyes



COMMENTARY

The sweet expression is a distinctive characteristic of the breed; therefore, the eyes must be correctly set, neither deep-set nor drooping. Although blue (light blue) eyes or heterochromia are considered a disqualifying fault, light-colored, yellow, amber, and greenish eyes are perfectly acceptable and highly valued by breeders and hunters, contributing to the breed's unique and exotic appearance. Combined with the symmetrical tan markings above the eyes, these eye colors give rise to the popular nickname "four-eyed".

EARS: Long, pendulous, with or without folds, set at the level of the outer corner of the eye or just below it, with rounded tips; ideally they extend beyond the length of the muzzle without difficulty and, at a minimum, must reach the tip of the nose.



COMMENTARY

“Orejones” (long ears) is one of the popular names used for the breed in its country of origin. It refers to the ears, which, together with the voice and hunting ability, were among the main qualities preserved by hunters. The ears are pendulous, with a medium to low set, and their length should easily extend beyond the tip of the nose, with or without folds.

Some variation can be observed in the type of folds they may present, which is described in regional terminology as follows:

“Encartuchada” (rolled/cartouche-like): Very pendulous, with a pronounced fold, making the ear appear narrower than it actually is because it is wrapped inward, with the lateral edges folded towards the inside, resembling a cartucho (a rolled paper tube or the shape of the cartucho flower). When excessively pronounced, the ear tends to end in a point, which is not desirable.

“Suela de alpargata” (espadrille sole): Flattened, with a rounded edge and little or no fold. Its outline resembles the sole of an alpargata, a traditional type of footwear commonly used in warm-climate regions of Colombia. In some cases, this ear type may present a high insertion and insufficient length, which is undesirable.

In puppies and young dogs, the ears appear longer in proportion than they will appear in adult specimens.



EXAMPLES OF EAR DEVELOPMENT IN PUPPIES AND YOUNG DOGS



NECK: Strong, of moderate length, may exhibit small folds in the throat.



COMMENTARY

The neck is muscular and approximately the same length as the head. It is ideally as clean and free of loose skin as possible; however, within the population, some specimens may present a slight amount of loose skin in the throat area, which is acceptable as long as it is not excessive.

BODY: Rectangular, flexible, of moderate robustness.



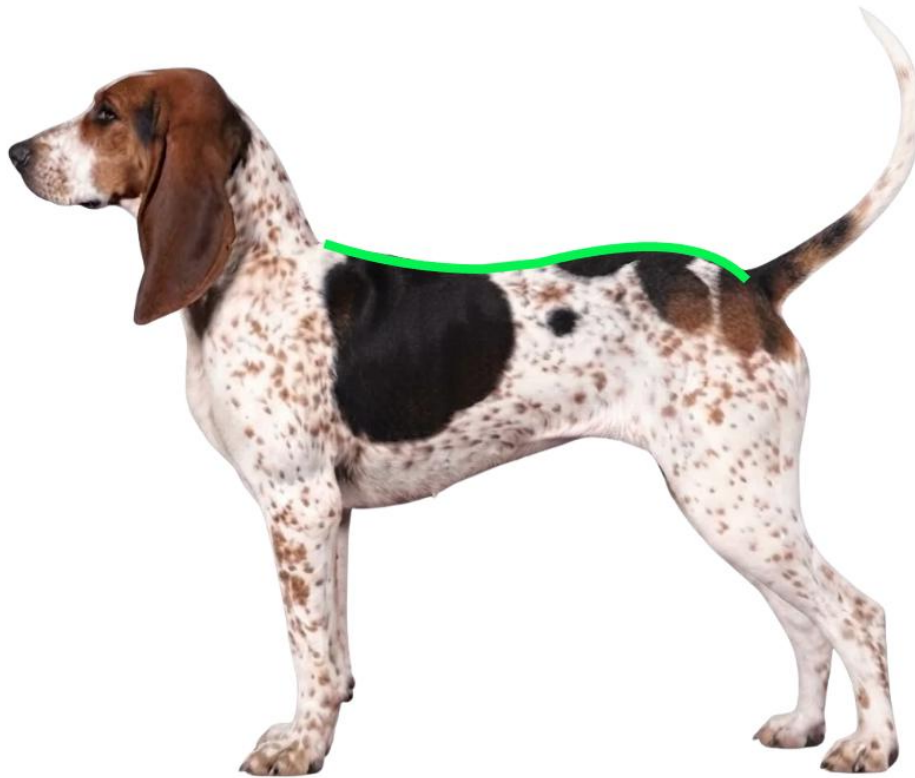
COMMENTARY

Of moderate construction, the Colombian Fino Hound should never appear excessively refined or light, nor should it present a strongly tucked-up abdomen (greyhound-like). It should not be overly robust or heavy, nor have a barrel-shaped ribcage.

Its body is flexible and agile, rather than compact.

The silhouette of a dog breed defines an essential part of its morphological identity. In the Colombian Fino Hound, this silhouette is characterized by a balance between movement, elasticity, and moderation. This overall body expression should be one of the breed's main distinguishing features, allowing it to be recognized and differentiated from other hounds.

Top line: Strong, with a slight elevation from the withers to the croup.



COMMENTARY

Considering the flexible nature of the body, the topline should be neither completely straight nor arched. The standard illustrates a slightly dipped back, with the croup subtly higher, creating a profile free from rigidity or exaggeration.

The slight inclination towards the croup becomes more evident when the dog is standing naturally or while moving with its nose close to the ground during scenting. An excessively elevated croup is as incorrect as a completely straight topline.

Top line: Strong, with a slight elevation from the withers to the croup.

Withers: pronounced.

Back: Strong and flexible.

Loin: Short and strong.

Croup: Of medium length, moderate width, with an approximate 30° slope, forming a slightly curved contour with the back.

Chest: Of moderate breadth, with a full forechest, the depth should reach at least to the level of the elbows, ribs arched and well back.

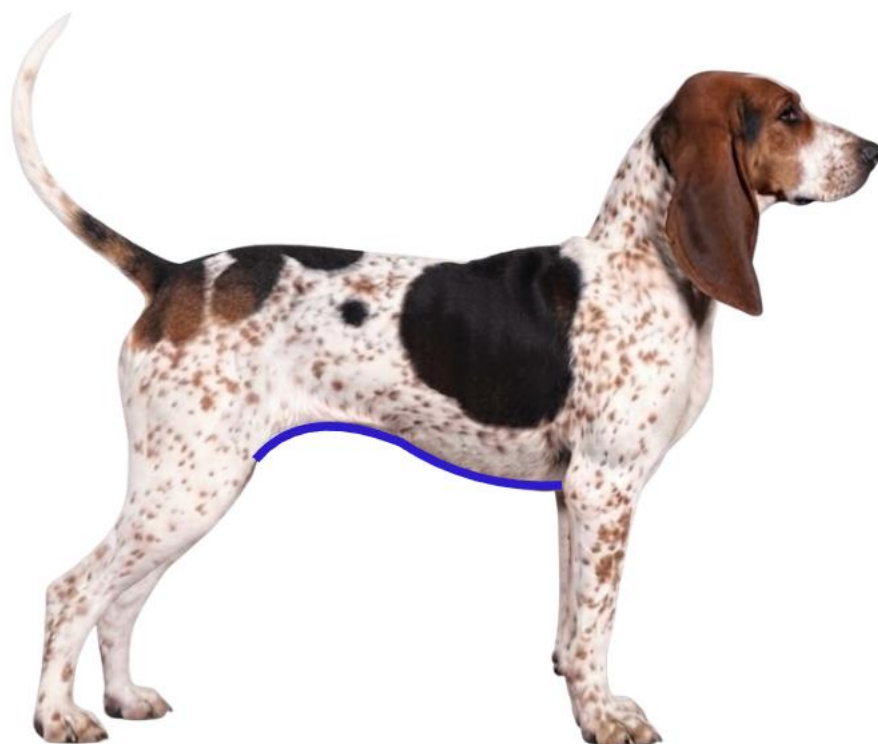
COMMENTARY

Viewed from above, the withers should show well-separated shoulder blades.

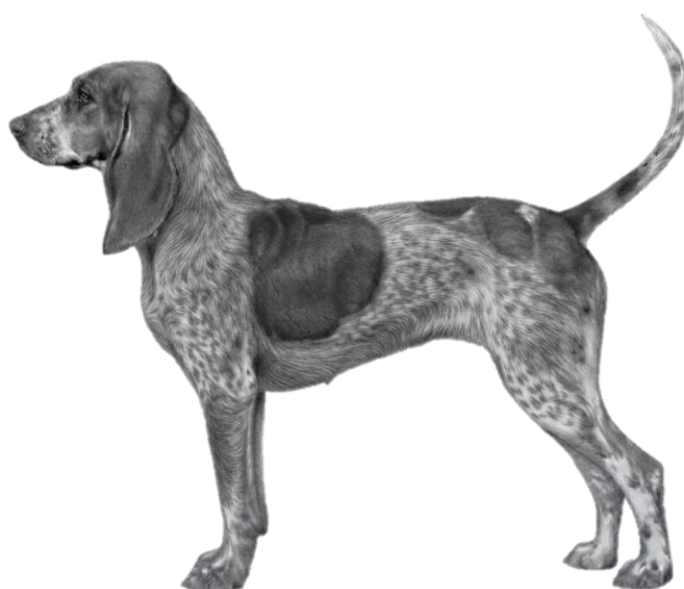
Viewed from the front, the chest should be broad, with the shoulders positioned openly and correctly spaced, without the elbows turning outward or any evidence of an incorrectly formed forehand.



Underline and belly: Slightly tucked up.



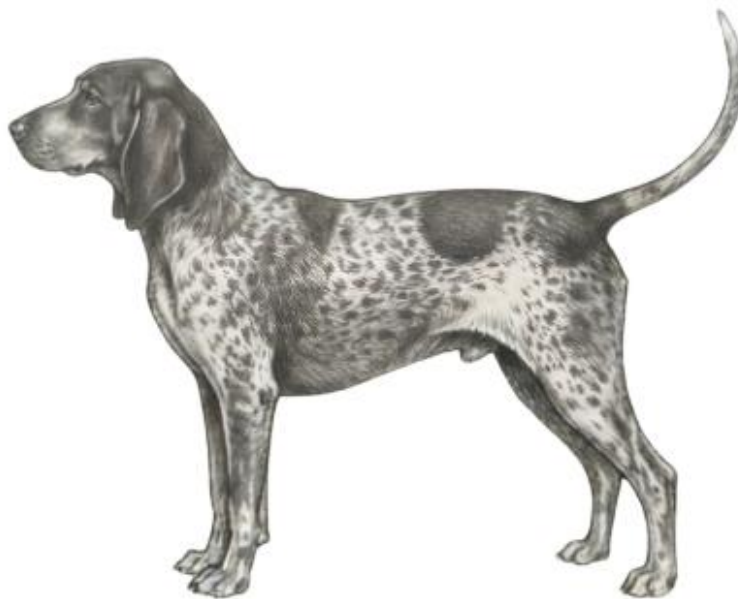
EXAMPLES OF IDEAL / ACCEPTABLE SILHOUETTES.



Ideal silhouette

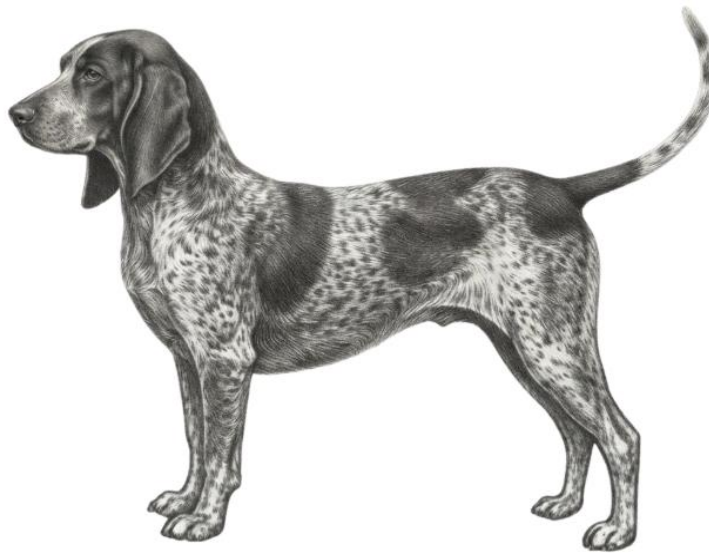


High croup, acceptable range.

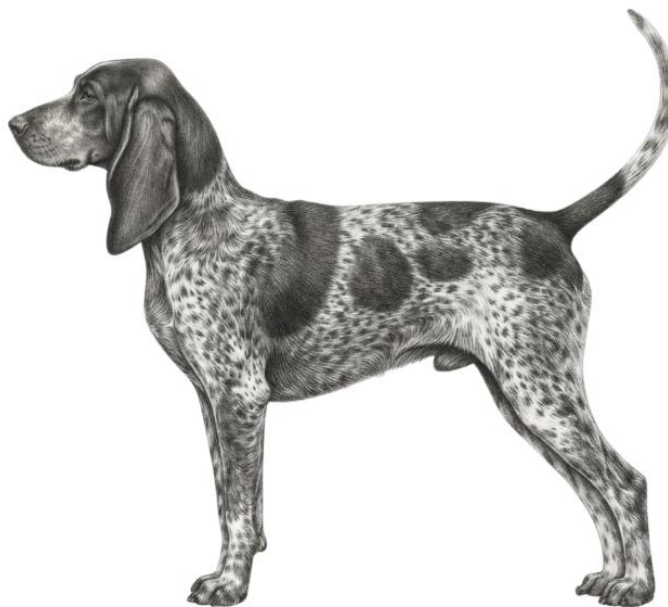


More level topline, acceptable range.

EXAMPLES OF INCORRECT SILHOUETTE PROPORTIONS.



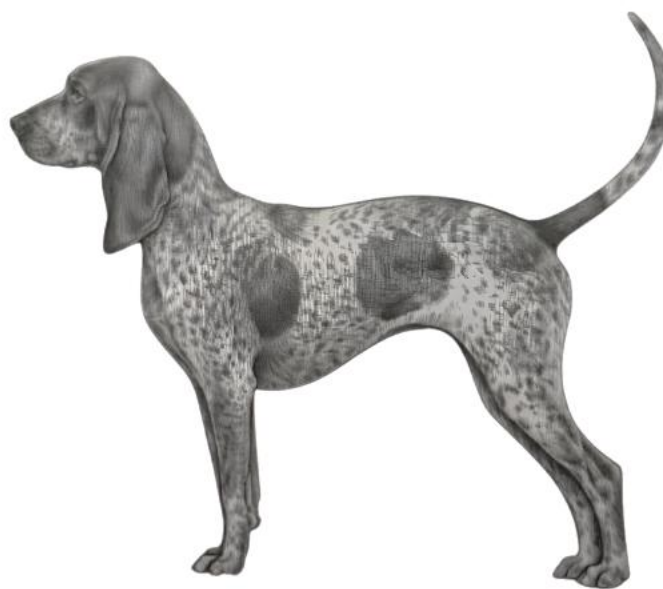
Excessively elongated body with short limbs, without being achondroplastic.



Square proportion, straight topline.

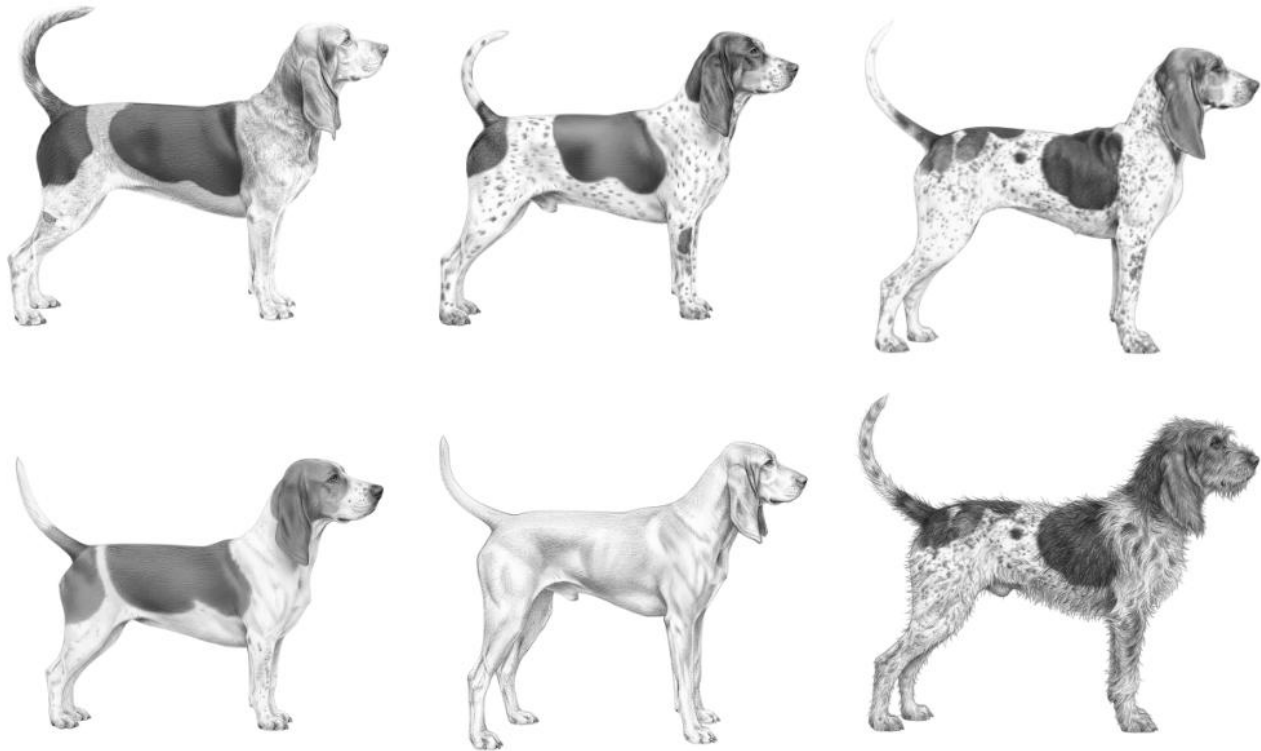


Maneto-type – Achondroplastic.

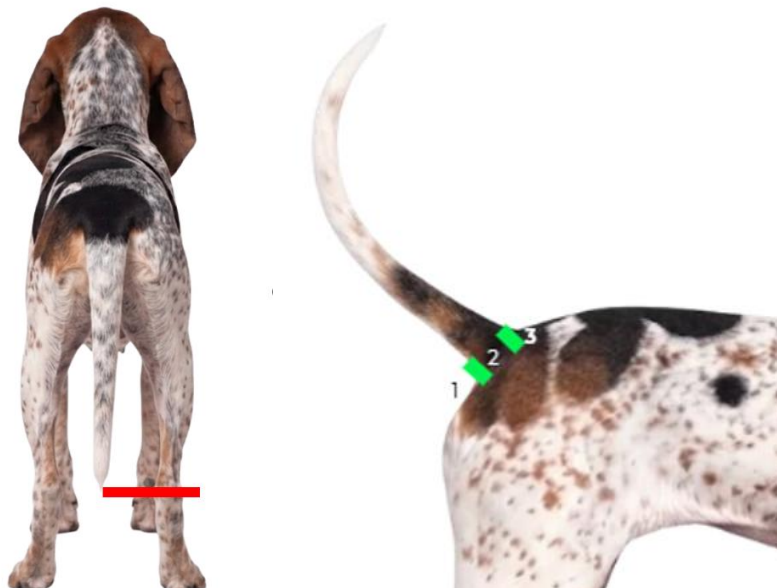


Strongly tucked-up underline, arched topline, and elongated limbs.

EXERCISE: Evaluate the conformation of each dog



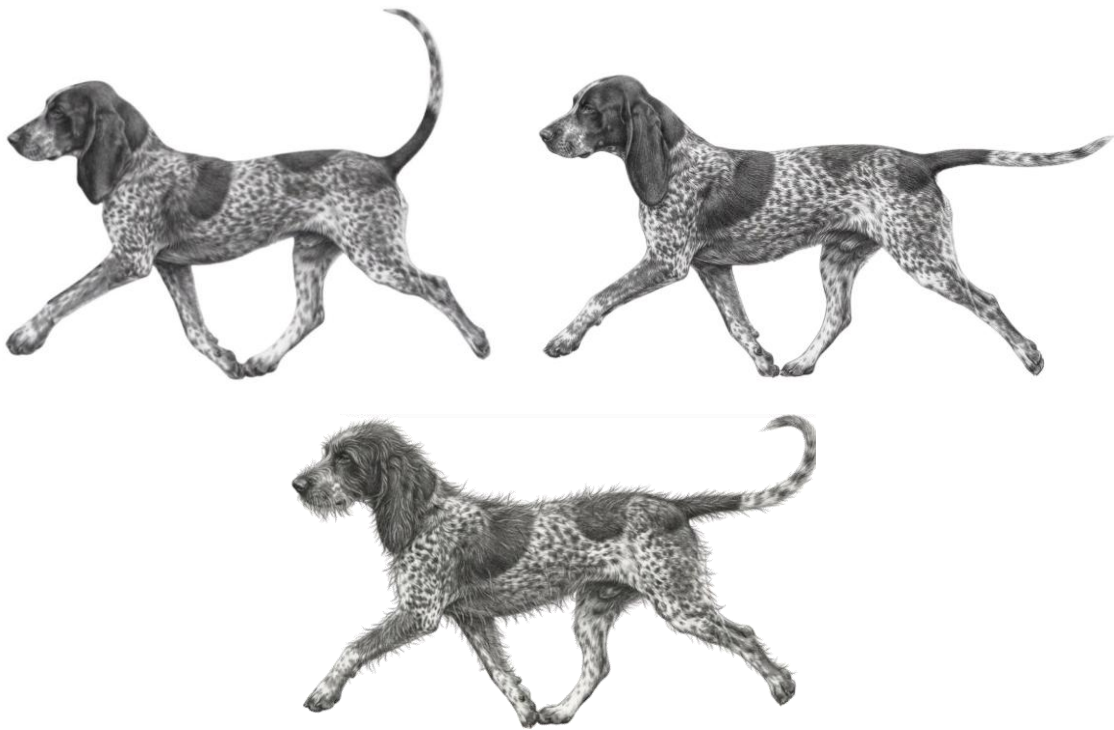
TAIL: Long, reaching beyond the hock, with a medium set, tapering towards the tip. In motion, it is carried high in a saber shape, or wagging horizontally at the level of the croup, never curled.



COMMENTARY

Preferably sabre-shaped, with a graceful curve and carried high, but not so high as to be vertical, nor so curved as to touch the body. At rest, it should reach at least the level of the hock. It may also be carried in a gently wagging horizontal position, level with the croup.

The short hair on the tail should not be longer on the underside to the point of forming a brush, as is observed in the tail of the **Beagle**.



LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: Strong, with solid bone structure and well balanced.

COMMENTARY

The forehand is strong and well developed; this is a characteristic frequently highlighted by hunters when describing the breed. Viewed from the front, the chest is broad and the shoulders are well separated, without the elbows turning outward, which would be undesirable, as would incorrect limb alignment.

Well-constructed forelimbs are highly desirable: straight, correctly set, with strong bone and well-developed feet..



Shoulder: Well-placed shoulder blades, set well back, with good angulation, forming an approximate angle of 90° with the arm.

Upper arm: (Arm) Humerus of medium length, strong bones, and well developed musculature.

Elbow: Firm, neither turned inward nor outward.

Forearm: Strong and straight, of medium length.

Carpus (Wrist): Strong and flexible.

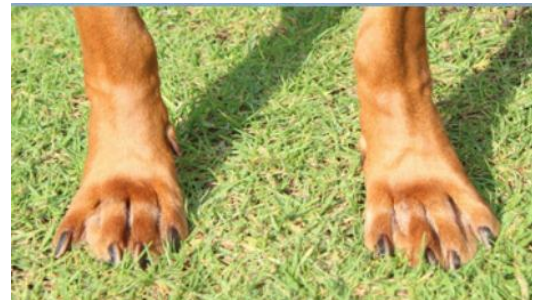
Metacarpus (Pastern): Slightly sloping and forward.

Forefeet: Oval, medium-sized, with resistant nails and paw pads, which may be partially depigmented depending on the coat pattern and colour.

COMMENTARY

The shoulders are muscular, with good scapulohumeral angulation, allowing efficient reach and extension during movement. The scapula should be slightly longer than the humerus, a characteristic observed in the vast majority of the population.

The forefeet and hind feet contribute to the rustic nature of the Colombian Fino Hound; they are large and resistant, with high toes that are not excessively tight, thick pads, and strong, robust nails.



HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Powerful, angulated with good musculature, hocks not too long and parallel.

Thigh: Long, with strong but not overly developed musculature, with an approximate coxo-femoral angle of 100°.

Stifle (Knee): Strong, with moderate curvature.

Lower thigh: Long and well-angled with the femur.

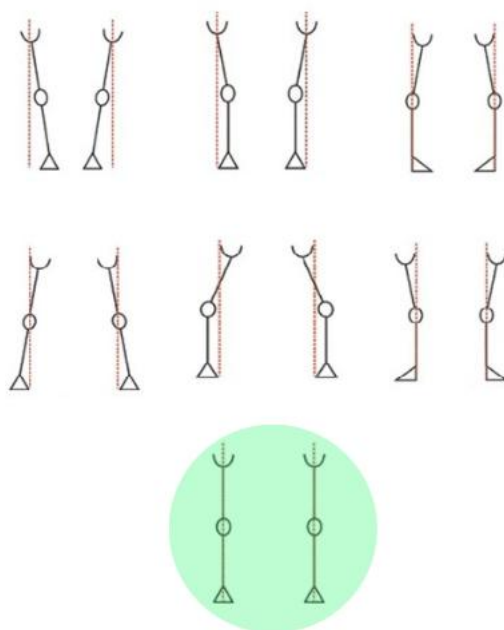
Hock joint: Strong, wide, and well-descended.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Straight, short, perpendicular to the ground, viewed from behind they are parallel.

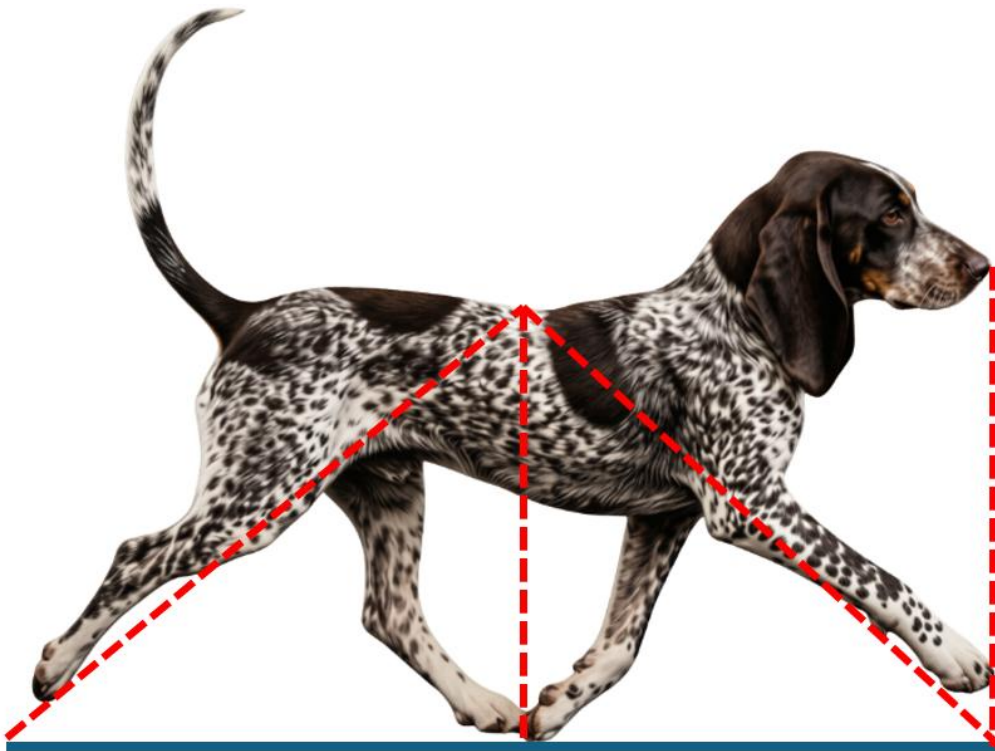
Hind feet: Rounded, medium-sized, rugged with resistant nails and paw pads, which may be partially depigmented depending on the coat pattern and colour.

COMMENTARY

With good musculature and angulation, the hindquarters should be balanced with the forehand. Excessive angulation would negatively affect the typical topline of the breed.



GAIT / MOVEMENT: Agile and effortless, balanced with good reach and drive, smooth trot, the topline is maintained during movement. The tail is carried high.



COMMENTARY

Agile and effortless, thanks to its powerful musculature, good angulation, and, to a great extent, its determined, cheerful, lively, and willing temperament. A correctly conformed and well-built specimen should move with balance and harmony, maintaining a good rhythm at the trot, with adequate reach and drive, without compromising the functional purpose of the movement.

A slight elevation of the forelimbs may be observed, resulting from the humerus being shorter than the scapula. This characteristic movement is more noticeable when the dog carries its head high.

Viewed from the front and from the rear, the limbs should move on parallel planes, without a tendency for the forelegs to cross or for the hocks to come too close together.

SKIN: Fine and elastic. In the body, it may be pigmented totally or partially according to the colour of the coat.

COMMENTARY

The skin should not be loose or pendulous, except in the throat area, where two moderate vertical folds are commonly formed. Throughout the rest of the body, and especially on the head, excessive loose skin is undesirable and considered a fault, as are drooping eyelids and excessively pendulous lips.

COAT



Hair:

Short hair variety (standard and large)

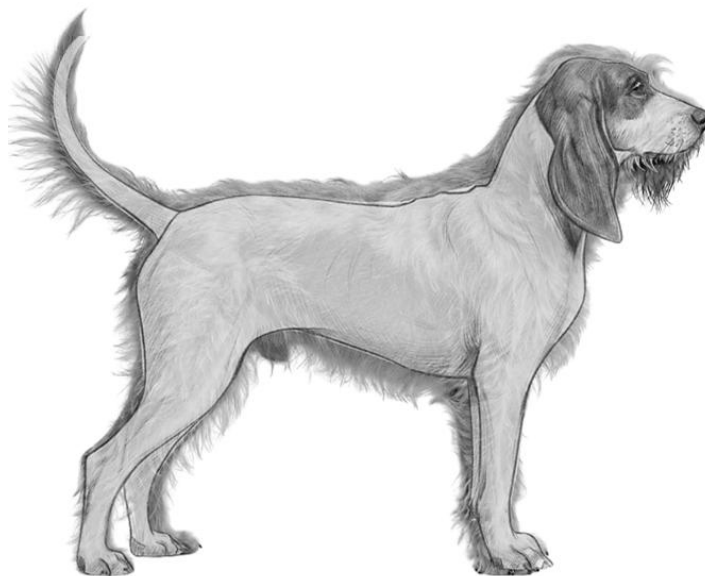
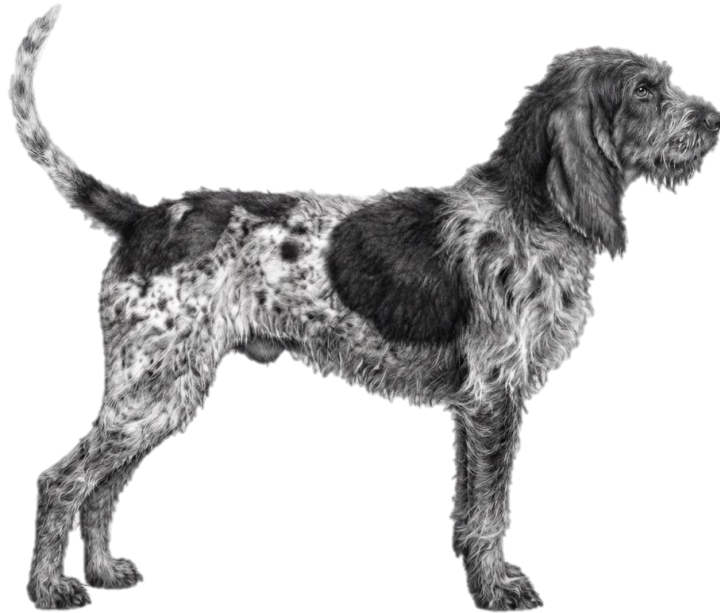
Short, smooth, and shiny. The tail hair should not be bristly.

Wire hair variety (standard and large)

The outer coat is even, dense, and hard, and should have an undercoat. There should be a small beard on the muzzle. The eyebrows are thick. Ear hair is shorter than body hair. The tail must be uniformly covered with tight fur.

COMMENTARY

The general structure of the wire-coated variety must be identical to that of the smooth-coated variety, maintaining the same proportions, balance, and functional characteristics. However, the rough-coated variety typically presents a more robust appearance, resulting from heavier and stronger bone, generally thicker skin, and a more powerful muzzle, which tends to be broader and squarer, while preserving the breed's characteristic type and overall harmony.



Colour: They come in a wide variety of colours: red, black, brown, and gray, with or without white. They may present various shades, patterns, and combinations of these colours. Merle coloration is not accepted.



COMMENTARY

The Colombian Fino Hound exhibits one of the greatest coat color variations among hound breeds, reflecting its broad genetic diversity and a selection process historically focused on functional performance rather than aesthetic criteria. Consequently, the standard accepts dogs in red, black, brown, and blue, with or without white, in a wide variety of shades, patterns, and combinations. Solid base colors may also occur in their dilute forms, which are fully acceptable and are not considered a fault. The only coat pattern expressly excluded by the standard is merle.

From a phenotypic perspective, coat colours can be grouped into several categories. Solid colours include red, black, and brown. In the traditional terminology used by Colombian hunters and breeders, red specimens are commonly referred to as “**Colorados**”, while brown specimens are known as “chocolates”.

Among patterns with tan points, the recognized combinations include black and tan, brown and tan, and grey and tan. In traditional terminology, when the tan markings above the eyebrows are clearly visible, these dogs are commonly called “**Cuatro ojos**” (“four eyes”), due to the appearance created by these distinctive markings.

There is also a characteristic pattern locally known as “**Comadrejo**”, corresponding to red specimens with a darker dorsal saddle, in which a darker coat forms a mantle or “saddle” over the back.

Likewise, “**Barcinos**” are found, a term widely used in Colombia to describe dogs with a striped or brindle pattern. This pattern may occur in association with any of the base colours and with different combinations of markings.



The breed also presents particular patterns, in which white combines with black, red, or brown, as well as tricolour patterns, generally composed of white, a base colour (black, red, or brown), and tan markings. The latter represent one of the most frequent and characteristic phenotypes of the Colombian Fino Hound.

Another traditional pattern is “**Sardo**”, characterized by fine mottling or roaning distributed over the white areas. This pattern may appear in its varieties: redtick (**Granadillo**), bluetick (**Azul**), and chocolate tick, both in bicour and tricolour specimens.

A particular feature of the Colombian Fino Hound is that the different base colours and coat patterns are not mutually exclusive, but can combine broadly with one another. Thus, it is possible to find brindle, roan, saddled, particular, or tricolour specimens on different colour bases, constituting one of the most distinctive phenotypic characteristics of the breed.

The traditional terminology used by Colombian breeders to describe these colours and patterns forms part of the cultural heritage associated with the Colombian Fino Hound and, in many cases, continues to be used as official nomenclature in specimen records, representing a unique characteristic within Colombian canine culture.

Variations in shade within the same coat colour are accepted, from lighter (e.g., lemon) to darker tones, provided they correspond to the established base colour and do not alter the characteristic pattern of the breed. These differences are considered natural variations and do not constitute a fault.



Classification of Coat Colours and Patterns in the Colombian Fino Hound

Solid colours	Red (Colorado)	
	Brown (Chocolate)	
	Black	
Patrones	Black and tan (4 Eyed)	
	Brown and tan	
	Grey and tan & Isabella (Dilutions)	
	Brindle (Barcino)	
	Saddle pattern (Comadreja)	
Particolours	Bicolour	Black and white
		Red and White (including Lemon)
		Tricolour (W + Br + Bl)
	Roans/ ticked	Redtick (Granadillo)
		Bluetick
		Brown ticked
		Tricolour ticked/roan

SOLID COLOURS



Red (Colorado)



Brown (Chocolate)



Black

PATTERNS



Black & Tan (Four-eyed)



Brown & Tan



Grey & Tan



Brindle (Barcino)



Comadreja (Saddle pattern)

PARTICOLOR



Bicolour (Black and white)



Bicolour (Red and white)



Tricolour (White + Brown + Black)



Tricolour ticked/roan



Redtick (Granadillo)



Brown ticked/roan

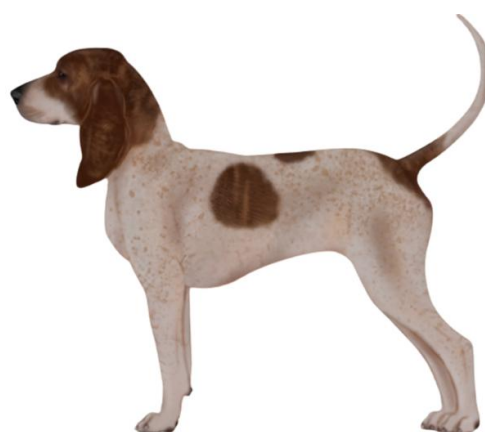


Bluetick

PATTERNED COLOUR COMBINATIONS



Brindle +Saddle Pattern



Brindle + Ticked

NON-ACCEPTED COAT COLORS

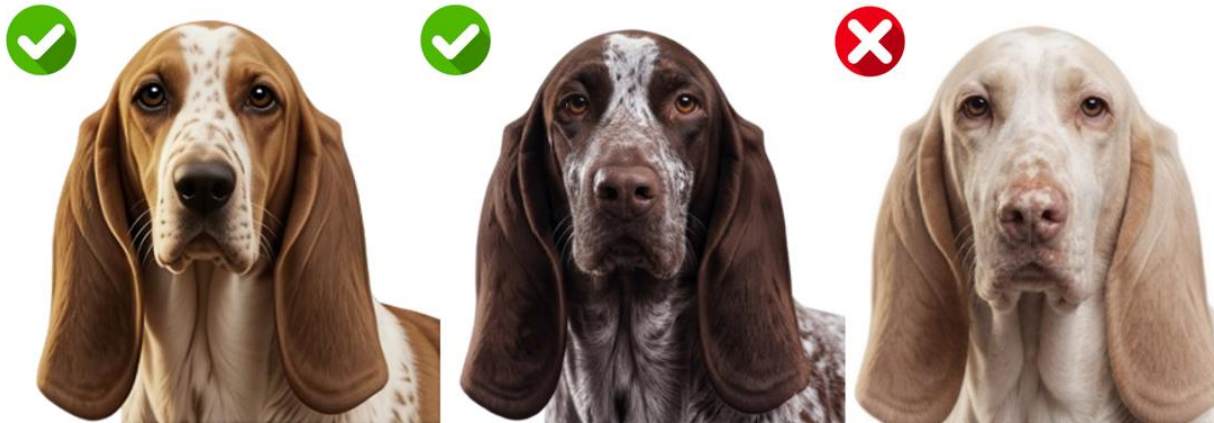


Merle



Albino

In a breed developed under tropical conditions, pigmentation represents an adaptive trait of significant functional importance. Well-pigmented skin, nose, eye rims, and lips provide greater protection against solar radiation. Therefore, depigmented or markedly hypopigmented dogs are not desirable, as they depart from the typical breed phenotype and may be less adapted to prolonged sun exposure.



SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Standard variety (Short and wire hair)

Height at the withers: 45 to 50 cm, with a tolerance of 2 cm less.

Weight: Between 15 and 25 kg.

Large variety (Short and wire hair)

Height at the withers: 51 to 58 cm, with a tolerance of 2 cm more.

Weight: Between 25 and 35 kg.





COMMENTARY

Intermediate-sized individuals occur within the population. When assigning these dogs to the appropriate variety, characteristics such as musculature, bone substance, and overall robustness should be considered, as height alone is not the sole determining criterion.

Because the breed has historically been used to hunt a wide variety of game, considerable variation in size exists. Therefore, size alone should not be regarded as a determining factor in assessing the quality of a specimen



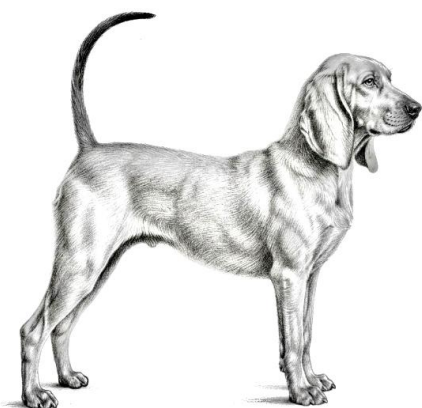
In conformation dog shows, the breed is divided into two size varieties. However, interbreeding between the Standard and Large varieties is permitted, as both belong to the same breed and share the same genetic

background. They differ only in their height range; therefore, this division is functional in nature and does not represent a genetic or racial separation within the Colombian Fino Hound.

NOTE: Specimens of the Large variety generally exhibit greater substance, heavier bone, and more pronounced sexual dimorphism.

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, and its ability to perform its traditional work.

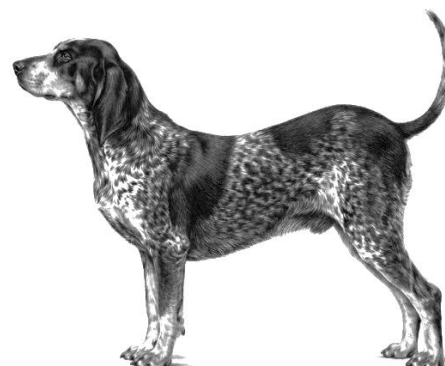
- Ears set too high (above the eye corner)
- Excessively high croup
- Elbows turned out
- Lack of more than two teeth
- Tail set too high or too low



High tail set



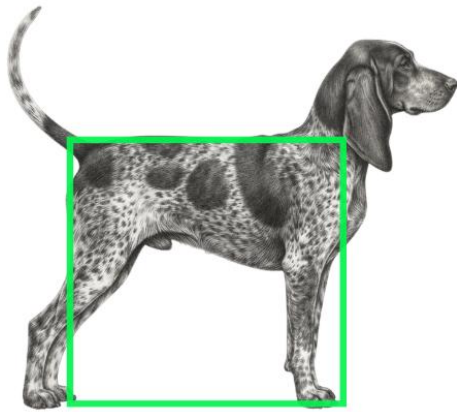
High ear set



Excessively high croup

SEVERE FAULTS:

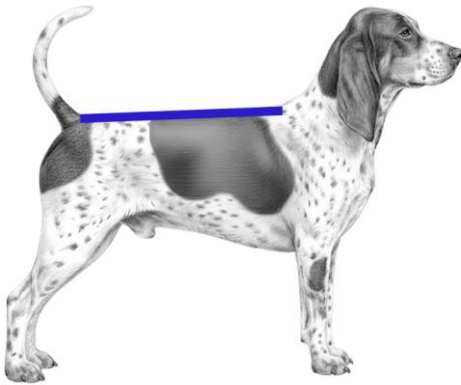
- Overall square proportion
- Short ears (not reaching the tip of the nose)
- Horizontal topline
- Excess skin, very pendulous lips, and excessively developed dewlap, drooping eyelids
- Tail naturally knotted (deformed vertebrae)
- Woolly coat in the wire hair variety



Square overall proportions



Short ears



Straight topline



Excessive skin, pendulous lips and dewlap, drooping eyelids



Tail naturally knotted



Woolly coat

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities
- Specimens with long fur
- Untypical specimens
- Albino specimens
- Merle-coloured specimens
- Blue or differently coloured eyes
- Prognathic bite
- Enognathic bite
- Ectropion
- Entropion



Blue or differently coloured eyes



Merle-coloured



Long fur



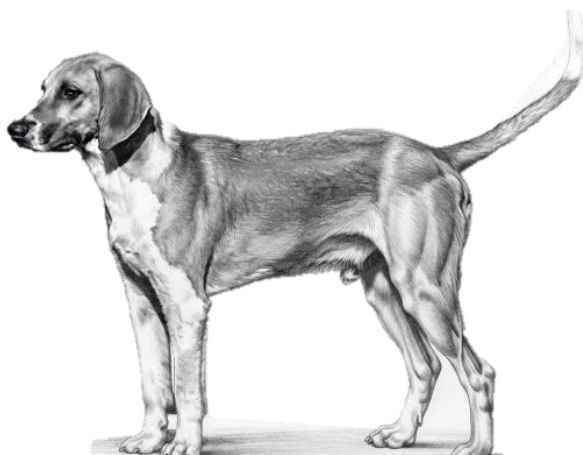
Prognathism



Enognathism



Albino specimens



Untypical specimens

N.B.:

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

Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding.



COLOMBIAN FINO HOUND

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This Illustrated Commentary on the Colombian Fino Hound Breed Standard is a technical document prepared by the Breed Technical Committee as the result of a process of research, analysis, and consensus, based on the study of the breed population, the review of historical records, the evaluation of representative specimens, and the accumulated experience of breeders, judges, and professionals who have contributed to the preservation, selection, and development of the breed.

The criteria, interpretations, and observations contained herein represent the current state of technical knowledge regarding the Colombian Fino Hound and are intended to complement the official breed standard by providing explanations that promote a consistent and uniform interpretation of its provisions, always in accordance with the breed's functionality, the natural variability of the population, and its historical identity.

This document is intended to serve as a technical reference to support an objective, consistent, and well-founded interpretation of the breed's morphological, functional, and zootechnical characteristics. Accordingly, it should be regarded as a reference tool for conformation judges, breeders, researchers, and all those involved in the preservation and promotion of the Colombian Fino Hound.

The Technical Committee recognizes that every dog breed is both a biological and cultural heritage in continuous evolution. Consequently, this document may be revised in the future as new scientific knowledge becomes available, genealogical and population data expand, or accumulated experience in breeding and judging so warrants, while always maintaining the preservation of breed type, functionality, and genetic diversity as its guiding principles.

Finally, the Technical Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to all breeders, owners, judges, researchers, and institutions whose dedication and commitment have contributed to the knowledge, consolidation, and recognition of the Colombian Fino Hound. Their efforts have made it possible for this document to reflect, with the greatest possible technical rigor, the historical and biological reality of a breed that forms an integral part of Colombia's canine heritage.

CSFC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication has been prepared jointly by the Asociación Club del Sabueso Fino Colombiano (CSFC) and the Asociación Club Canino Colombiano (ACCC) as an official technical reference for the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of the Colombian Fino Hound.

Special recognition is given to the members of the Breed Technical Committee—Stefano Trindade, Jonathan Álvarez, Carolina Gamboa, and Juan David Roa—who were responsible for the research, writing, technical review, editing, correction, and selection of the texts, photographs, and graphic content included in this publication.

The historical section of this book was written by Chejo Marín, whose research and documentation have been fundamental to preserving the historical memory and origins of the Colombian Fino Hound. The Committee also gratefully acknowledges the valuable contributions of Luis Martín, Natalia Gamboa and Christian Cuéllar during the development of this work.

A significant number of the photographs included in this publication were generously provided by Reynaldo Cepeda, Luis Martín and Valentina Argüello. The remaining images come from contributions by breeders, the editors of this book, third-party collaborators, and selected material from books and publicly available internet sources, used for documentary and educational purposes.

The technical illustrations, diagrams, and graphic reconstructions included in this work were developed from real photographic records of dogs from the national population, integrating artificial intelligence-assisted graphic generation tools. Their conception, editing, and final graphic design were carried out by Jonathan Álvarez. The final coat color illustrations were produced by Alexandre Gonçalves. All material was prepared under the supervision and in accordance with the technical criteria established by Stefano Trindade and the Breed Technical Committee.

