

Group 6
***This standard is approved by
the RKF Board on 19.02.2020.***

***English version is approved by
the RKF Board on 29.11.2022.***



RUSSKAYA GONCHAYA (RUSSIAN HOUND)



TRANSLATION: Russian Kynological Federation (RKF). Official authentic language English (EN).

ORIGIN: Russia.

UTILIZATION: A hound to work alone, in pair or in pack on a hare, fox, jackal and other game.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 6: Scent hounds and related breeds.
Section 1.1. Large-sized hounds.
With working trials.

It has not yet been recognized by the FCI.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: Russian hound is one of the oldest hunting breeds in Russia. The first evidence of hunting with hounds in Russia dates back to the 12th century, and descriptions of hounds and hunting with them to the beginning of the 16th century.

From ancient times people in Russia hunted elk, roe deer, wild boars, wolves, lynxes, foxes, hares with the help of hounds who had a commercial value. The particular importance was given to the big, strong hounds, able and ready to resist wolf that used to destroy livestock, useful game and caused serious damage to wild animals in hunting grounds. Wolfhound packs of hounds were widely used to fight wolf and control its population. In complex dog hunts, which were popular already in the 16th century, packs of hounds had a secondary role to search and find beast and rattle it in the field for hunters with greyhounds.

The first written mention of Russian hounds is found in Baron Sigismund von Gerberstein's book "Notes on Moscow" (Vienna, 1549). Gerberstein was twice (in 1517 and 1526) the ambassador of the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I to the Great Prince of Moscow Basil III. Describing the Great Prince's brilliant and exemplary grand hunt, Gerberstein mentions the hare hunt involving hounds, whom he calls Canesadoriferi in Latin, or wind dogs.

We can judge about wide distribution of hounds in Russia in the early 17th century by the letters of Mikhail Fedorovich (the tzar from the Romanov family) dated 1619. They contained instructions to collect hounds in different regions of the country for tsar hunting. According to archive records of 1730, during the short Emperor Peter the II's reign (1727-1730), whose main passion was hunting, Russian hounds were more than half of all dogs in the tzar hunts. The first descriptions of the exterior and the requirements to the Russian hounds conformation - Russian searching dogs, unable to swamps - are given in the book by a Russian landowner from Tula region, a nobleman, secretary of the "Volny" economic society, a writer Vasily Levshin "Perfect Gamekeeper, Shooter and Dog Hunter, or Knowledge of All Gear of the Gun and Dog Hunt" (St. Petersburg, 1791).

For a long time the hounds were bred according to the "hunt" owners' personal taste, the selection was mainly on working qualities, the purity of the breed was not observed. By the last third of the 19th century a native hound still did not have a stable type. Purposeful work on its creation begins in 1874. Then the first show of hunting dogs was held in Russia. At the same time the rules of breeding hounds were developed. Leonid Sabanev was Russian zoologist, naturalist, bibliophile hunter, hunting and fishing business founder and promoter, "Nature and Hunting" magazine creator and editor. He suggested classification of the Russian hounds existing population in the article "How to host dog shows and how to perform judging" (Nature and hunting. 1878. No 7).

The first standards start to appear. In 1881 the founder of gun hunting with hounds in Russia, breeder, expert N. P. Kishensky described the breed in detail under the name "Eastern Hound" in the article "The Choice of Hounds". In 1895 on behalf of the Congress of Canine

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Hunters "Description of the modern Russian hounds characteristic features" by P.N. Belousov and A.D. Bibikov is published "Nature and Hunting" magazine. It is based on the works by N.P.Kishesky – the first breed standard under the name "Russian Hound" that was taken later.

At that period the Great Prince Nikolai Nikolaevich (Romanov) creates "Pershin Grand Prince's Hunt", which existed in 1887–1914 and played a special role in the history of Russian Borzoi breed. About one third of the whole population of "Pershin hunt" were hounds. Hunting trips were held (complete dog hunts), breeding work was on a good level and the best Russian hounds of the late 19th century were bred.

After 1917 and the Civil War hunting with Russian hounds gets popular. In new social conditions hounds become gun dogs for private use. Field tests of hounds are held. Such working qualities of this breed as scent, skill (all necessary field qualities presence), search, ability to find a beast quickly, speed with which the hound chases the beast, persistence (ability to follow a best long and closely), melody and fidelity of voice (melodically barking dog) are developed.

In 1925 during the First All-Union Congress of Kynologist in Moscow the Russian hound breed standard was modified and approved in new edition. Further amendments were introduced to the standard in 1939 and on December 23, 1980, when it was adopted by the All-Union Kynological Council of the USSR. On February 6, 2002, the RKF Board approved a new breed standard, amended on April 8, 2015.

The result of breeding is creation of a modern Russian hound breed. It is valued for its legendary characteristic endurance, ability for vigorous and long-term chasing the beast and a strong musical voice, "figurative" (constantly transferring from one note to another, changing in height into different shapes), strong, figurative, without interruption, when each bark is divided into several notes, passing one into another, from discount to bass and back, audible from far away.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Higher than medium size, moderately long, strong, with strong bone and well-developed dry muscles. It has characteristic "beasty" (gloomy, severe, resembling wolf) appearance that differs it from other breeds. Being high on forequarters and its manner to carry its head low gives it a special resemblance to a wolf. Sexual dimorphism is distinctly pronounced.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:

- The length of muzzle to the length of skull ratio is 1:1.
- Height in sacrum is 1–2 cm less or equal to the height in withers.
- The length of the body from point of shoulder to point of buttock is longer than the height at the withers at 5–8 % for males and 7–10 % for females.
- Height to elbow corresponds to half the height at the withers.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT: Behavior type – calm, balanced.

HEAD: Of medium size, lean, wedge-shaped, moderately wide in cheeks.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Elongated, flat, superciliary ridges and occipital crest are weakly pronounced. Skin is tightly fitting.

Stop: Slight, but pronounced.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Wide, big, standing forward a little, black.

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Muzzle: Wedge shaped. The lines of skull and muzzle are parallel.

Lips: Lean, closely fitting, fully pigmented.

Jaws/Teeth: Jaws are strong. Teeth are white, strong and big. Scissor bite. Full dental formula. Absence of P1 and M3 as well as broken or dislodged teeth that do not interfere with the definition of bite, do not affect the assessment of the dog.

Cheeks: Flat and lean.

EYES: Of medium size, almond shaped, oblique, dark brown or brown. Eyelids lean, closely fitting, fully pigmented.

EARS: Hanging, triangle in shape, small, a little shorter than medium length, set a little higher than eye line. Moderately thin, closely fitting.

NECK: Of medium length, set low at 30–35 degrees, muscular and dry.

BODY:

Topline: Smooth with a slight inclination from the withers to the base of the tail.

Withers: Pronounced, long.

Back: Straight, strong, broad and muscular.

Loin: Short, broad, slightly arched, muscular.

Croup: Broad, of medium length, slightly sloping, muscular.

Chest: Broad, deep, reaching to the elbows or a little lower.

Underline and belly: Belly is slightly tucked up – higher than the chest line.

TAIL: Thick at the base, getting gradually thinner to the tip. It reaches the hocks in length or more often it is 2–3 cm shorter. When at rest in hangs down, in excitement the dog carries it above the topline.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: With strong bone, muscular. Seen from the front straight and parallel.

Shoulder: Long, laid back.

Upper arm: Long, oblique, almost equal length with the shoulder. Shoulder angulation is well-pronounced.

Elbows: Close to the body, directed backwards.

Forearm: Strong, medium length, oval in section.

Carpus (Wrist): Firm, seen from the front are in a line with forearm.

Pastern: Firm, slightly sloping.

Forefeet and hind feet: Arched, oval, with tight toes, nails directed to the ground.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: With strong bone and well-developed muscles. Seen from behind – straight and parallel.

Thigh: Moderately long, broad and muscled.

Stifle (Knee): Firm, well angulated.

Lower thigh: Moderately long.

Hock joint: Firm, well pronounced.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Almost vertical.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Movements are free, energetic, balanced, with good covering. Gallop or

wide trot is a characteristic gait while searching a beast, on chasing – it is gallop, changing into trot on a forced slowing down.

SKIN: Thick, elastic, without noticeable developed hypodermic fiber and folds.

COAT:

Hair: Straight, short (4–5 cm), thick and harsh on touch, with well-developed undercoat. Coat on the head, ears and limbs is shorter than on the rest of the body. It is somewhat longer at the back of thighs, but without feathering. Coat is the longest on the neck, where it forms a well-developed ruff. On the tail coat is of medium length, thick, straight, a little shorter to the tip of tail.

Colour:

- Reddish sable (from reddish-ginger to reddish-gold, with blackness).
- Pale sable (fawn with blackness).
- Wolf grey.
- Saddle: reddish or pale sable with black or grizzle saddle.

Any of the abovementioned colours may have lightening (symmetrical white lightening in places where there may be tan).

Small white sport on chest and paws is permissible on any colour.

SIZE:

Height in withers: Males – 58–68 cm, females – 55–65 cm.

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 on the functional health and welfare of the dog and its ability to perform its traditional work.

SEVERE FAULTS

- Height more than 2 cm smaller than the standard.
- Obviously short or high on legs.
- Coarse, dampish or light built.
- Coarse, too big head with broad skull, abrupt stop, too developed superciliary ridges, too pronounced forehead, cheeks, blunt muzzle, snubby nose.
- Partially depigmented nose.
- Too big, low set, partially raised on cartilage or folded ears, ears with rounded tips, covered with long coat.
- Light, small or sunken eyes.
- Lack of one and more incisor; lack of four and more premolars P2, P3 and lower P4; lack of any upper P4.
- Poorly developed or barrel chest.
- Crooked forearms, serious toes in or out.
- Too sloping pasterns.
- Flat, loose or long (hare) feet.
- Cow hocks, barrel hocks, sickle hock.
- Unbalanced movements.
- Crooked or carried sideways tail, curled into half a ring tail.
- Bright-reddish, too many speckles, big white spots on chest, white limbs over pasterns

or hock joints, dark markings on the forehead, ears, lips and under eyes.

- Shaggy coat, absence of undercoat.

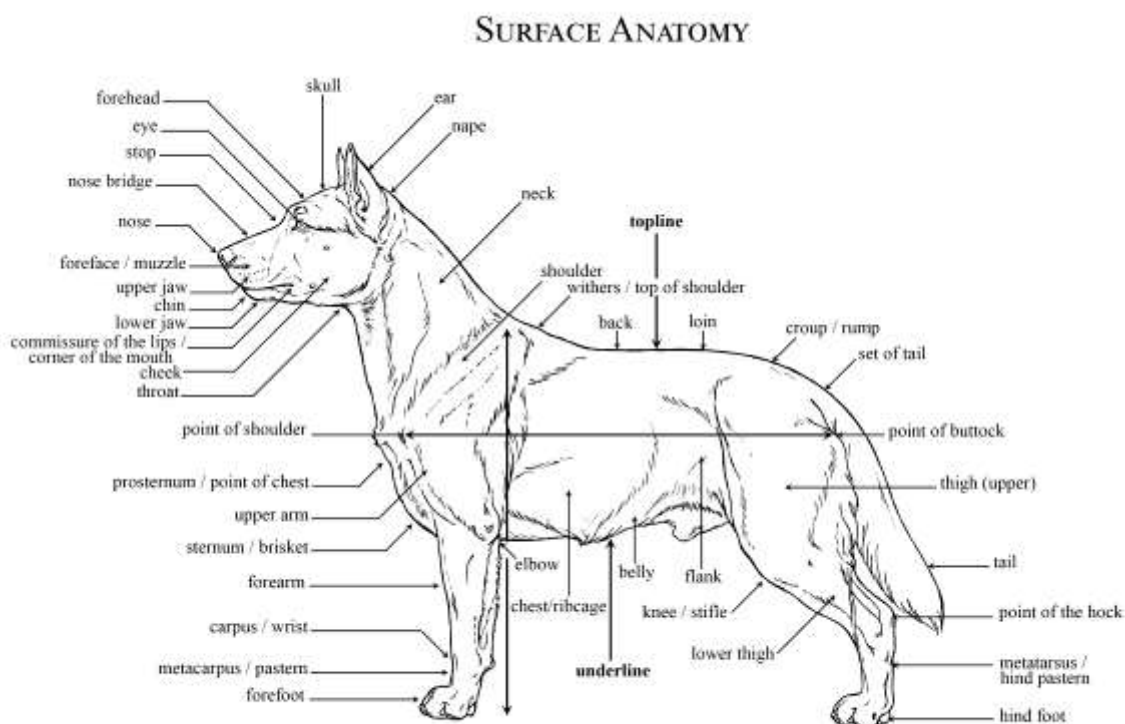
DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- Any dog, showing aggressive or overly shy temperament, as well as physical or behavioral abnormalities, should be disqualified.
- Color, eye color that don't correspond the standard.
- Any bite except scissor bite.
- Absence of any canine tooth or M1 or M2 molar.

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.

The standard was approved, edited and prepared for publication by the RKF Standard Commission on February 19, 2020.



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