

The Stafford Knot Questions & Answers

Each month TSK will take questions from our readers and present them to breed specialists, experienced breeders, veterinarians, geneticists or experts in the field of the particular questions being asked.



Ask TSK - Q & A

Question:

The Stafford Knot,

I enjoyed last issues Q & A on slipping hocks. I have a question regarding hocks taken from the Staffbull breed standard from the AKC website where it says 'The hindquarters should be well muscled, hocks let down with stifles well bent' what exactly is the purpose of a 'well let down hock'? Thank you for shedding any light on this part of the written standard for me. Look forward to another interesting issue. Thank you.

Answer:

Thank you for your comments and your question. Many people do not exactly understand why our early Stafford breeders would have desired a well let down hock, nor do they understand what this means.

The easiest way to explain this is to compare the Stafford hock to that of a rabbit. A rabbit must have an overlong hock because it must be able to quickly and purposefully get away from its prey. It does so by a very long and quick hopping motion so that it removes itself from danger by making several leaps very quickly.

A Stafford was bred for endurance, & strength of rear movement - the purpose of a well let down hock allows for this endurance with ease - a dog with a well let down hock can move, run and chase for a long time very easily but perhaps not in as quick order as that of the hare. This of course will also enable the dog to achieve greater drive off his rear. As well, when viewed from the rear, the hocks should be perpendicular with no turning in or out. The metatarsals are short in well let down hocks.

We hope this helps answer your question.