



## Official Standard of the Plott

*The Plott may have an identification mark on the rump used to identify the dog when out hunting. Such a mark is not to be penalized when evaluating the dog.*

**General Appearance:** A hunting hound of striking color that traditionally brings big game to bay or tree, the Plott is intelligent, alert and confident. Noted for stamina, endurance, agility, determination and aggressiveness when hunting, the powerful, well muscled, yet streamlined Plott combines courage with athletic ability.

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** **Size** – Height - Males 20 to 25 inches at the withers. Females 20 to 23 inches at the withers. **Proportion** - General conformation and height in proportion. Faults: Extremely leggy or close to the ground. Weight-(in hunting condition) Males 50 to 60 pounds. Females 40 to 55 pounds. **Substance** - Moderately boned. Strong, yet quick and agile. Faults - Overdone. Carrying too much weight and or too much bone to display speed and dexterity.

**Head:** **Head** - Carried well up with skin fitting moderately tight. Faults - Folds, dewlap, skin stretched too tightly. **Expression** - Confident, inquisitive, determined. Fault - Sad expression.

**Eyes** - Brown or hazel, prominent rather than deeply set. Faults - Drooping eyelids, red haw.

**Ears** - Medium length, soft textured, fairly broad, set moderately high to high. Hanging gracefully with the inside part rolling forward toward the muzzle. Ear spread in males - 18 to 20 inches. Ear spread in females - 17 to 19 inches. When attentive or inquisitive, some Plotts display a semi-erectile power in their ears and lift them enough so a noticeable crease occurs on line with the crown. Disqualification - Length of ear extending beyond the tip of the nose or hanging bloodhound-like, in long, pendulous fashion. **Skull** - Moderately flat. Rounded at the crown with sufficient width between and above the eyes. Faults: Narrow-headed, square, oval or excessively domed. **Muzzle** - Moderate length, flews give it a squarish appearance. Faults - Bluntly squared. Pointed. Pigmentation - Eye rims, lips and nose are black. Flews - Black. Fault - Pendulous flews. **Bite** – Teeth - Scissors. Fault - Overshot or undershot.

**Neck, Topline and Body:** **Neck** - Medium length and muscular. Clean and free of ponderous dewlap. Fault: Loose, wrinkled or folded skin. **Topline** - Gently sloping, slightly higher at the withers than at the hips. Fault: Roached. **Body** – Chest - Deep. Ribs - Deep, moderately wide, well sprung. Back - Well muscled, strong, level. Loin - Slightly arched. **Tail** - Root is slightly below level of topline. Rather long, carried free, well up, saber-like. Moderately heavy in appearance and strongly tapered. Sometimes typified by a slight brush.

**Forequarters:** Shoulders - Clean, muscular and sloping, indicating speed and strength. Elbow - Squarely set. Forelegs - Straight, smooth, well muscled. Pasterns - Strong and erect. Feet - Firm, tight, well-padded and knuckled, with strong toes. Set directly under the leg. Disqualification - Splayed feet. Nails - Usually black, although shades of reddish brown matching the brindle body color are permissible and buckskin colored dogs have light red nails. May be white when portions of the feet are white.

**Hindquarters:** Angulation - Well bent at stifles and at the hocks. Hips - Smooth, round, and proportionally wide, indicating efficient propulsion. Legs - Long and muscular from hip to hock. From hock to pad short, strong and at right angles to the ground. Upper and second thigh - Powerful and well-muscled. Feet - Set back from under the body. Firm and tight. Toes - Strong.

**Coat:** Smooth, fine, glossy, but thick enough to provide protection from wind and water. Rare specimens are double coated, with a short, soft, thick inner coat concealed by a longer, smoother and stiffer outer coat.



**Color:** Any shade of brindle (a streaked or striped pattern of dark hair imposed on a lighter background) is preferred. This includes the following brindle factors: yellow, buckskin, tan, brown, chocolate, liver, orange, red, light or dark gray, blue or Maltese, dilute black, and black. Other acceptable Plott colors are solid black, any shade of brindle, with black saddle, and black with brindle trim. A rare buckskin, devoid of any brindle, sometimes appears among litters; ranging from red fawn, sandy red, light cream, and yellow ochre, to dark fawn and golden tan. Some white on chest and feet is permissible as is a graying effect around the jaws and muzzle.

**Gait:** Dexterous and graceful, rhythmic footfall. With ample reach in front and drive behind, the Plott easily traverses various terrains with agility and speed. Legs converge to single track at speed.

**Temperament:** Eager to please, loyal, intelligent, alert. Aggressive, bold, and fearless hunter. Disposition generally even, but varies among strains, with a distinction sometimes appearing between those bred for big game and those bred as coonhounds.

**Disqualifications:** *Length of ear extending beyond the tip of the nose or hanging bloodhound-like, in long, pendulous fashion. Splayed feet.*

**Approved: June 1998**

**Effective: October 1, 1998**