



AMERICAN SIGHTHOUND FIELD ASSOCIATION

WHIPPET INSPECTION

In addition to checking for lameness and bitches in season, the inspection committee must also check for breed disqualifications. Whippet disqualifications are: blue or wall eyes; any coat other than short, close, smooth and firm in texture; overshot, or undershot one quarter inch or more; and size. The eye color and coat are easily checked visually during inspection. Height and bites should be checked in accordance with the following procedures, which are approved by the American Whippet Club.

Whippet Measuring

The Purpose of Measuring: to determine, through the use of the wicket, whether the Whippet is within the height limits as described in the Whippet Standard of the Breed, (i. e.: 19 to 22 inches for dogs; for bitches, 18 to 21 inches) measured across the shoulders at the highest point. (**NOTE:** This means wickets should measure 18 1/2 and 22 1/2 for dogs, 17 1/2 and 21 1/2 for bitches.) More than one half inch above or below the above stated measurement will disqualify. Each Whippet handler is entitled to two (2) measuring procedures, two (2) minutes each. In the event a Whippet does not measure properly on the first attempt, the handler may return for a second measurement before the Committee closes.

Proper Positioning for Measuring: The Whippet being measured should be walked or placed in the area designated for measuring or on the measuring board, and the handler should ready the Whippet for the wicket. The Whippet should be posed in a naturally alert position, with the head up, but not stretched upward in an exaggerated position; its feet should be well under it and its forelegs vertical, i.e., the front legs must be perpendicular to the board, and parallel to each side of the wicket, as viewed from front and side. The front legs cannot be spread far apart, nor can they be angled or stretched in front of the Whippet's rear. The hindquarters may not be pulled back, and hocks must be at a right angle to the board. Above all, the handler is not allowed to push, poke, pinch, slap or in any way attempt to alter or change the height of the Whippet. (Stroking or scratching will be allowed only to relax the Whippet.) If two (2) of the three (3) inspectors on the Inspection Committee agree a handler is attempting to alter the height of the Whippet, the handler should be excused and thereby forfeit one turn.

Measuring: Once the handler feels he has attained the proper pose, the call is made for the wicket (by the handler) and if the committee agrees that the Whippet is properly posed, a member of the Committee then brings the wicket quickly from behind the Whippet, over the back and lowers it so that the crosspiece comes directly over the highest point of the shoulder blades. That is the moment the majority (2 of 3) of the Inspection Committee must agree that the Whippet is within or outside of the limits as covered by the breed Standard. A Whippet is considered to measure out as over the standard if the large wicket swings, and does not touch the board or ground on either side of the Whippet when the wicket is placed on the highest point of the shoulders. Neither the handler nor the Committee shall place any pressure on the wicket or shoulder to enable the wicket to touch the ground or board. A Whippet is considered to measure out as below the standard if the wicket touches the board on either side of the Whippet and does not touch bone, not hair, of the Whippet; that is, it must clear the shoulders for the Whippet to be considered more than half an inch below. It must be noted that the wicket should never be allowed to hang or rest temporarily in place to see if the Whippet will "settle-down".

Tips for the Inspection Committee: Once the wicket is placed on the Whippet's shoulders the Whippet either measures in or out. The handler only has two attempts to measure the Whippet in. If the wicket is dropped onto the shoulders a second time (whether the handler repositions the Whippet or not), that is the second, and last, attempt. So, please, remember not to place the wicket until the handler indicates the Whippet is ready, even if you have to ask. Both the handler and the committee must be satisfied that the Whippet is posed correctly, as indicated above. If the committee does not believe the pose is acceptable, the handler may restack the hound, within the 2 minute limit. If (or when) the Whippet is posed correctly, place the wicket. If the Whippet does not measure in, tell the handler but **do not place the wicket again**--suggest that the handler walk the Whippet out and return later. That way there will be no misunderstanding about when one measuring attempt ends, and the second begins.

You may not require a Whippet to be placed on a table or other elevated place for measurement. There is nothing in ASFA rules, or American Whippet Club rules which requires a Whippet to be measured on a table, and AKC specifies that a handler may refuse measurement on a table. So, if you do not have level, solid ground at your trial location to use for measuring, be sure to be prepared with a board that can be placed on the ground.

Measuring Whippet Bite

The bite should be visually inspected first. Any undershot bite is a disqualification. In doubtful cases regarding overshot bites, the bite can be measured by cutting a light thin piece of wood, stiff paper, or a piece of cardboard not wider than one inch. Make a line one-quarter (1/4) of an inch from the end of the measure. Place the end of the measure against front teeth of lower jaw. If the front teeth of top jaw "touch or exceed" the quarter-inch mark, the Whippet is disqualified.

As an alternative to this method, a "tile spacer", which is die cast to a precise size, and is available in 1/4" size, may be used to measure bite. With the Whippet's jaws together, place the end of the spacer below the top teeth. If the end of the spacer goes between the teeth of the two jaws with the jaws together, the bite is over 1/4 ". (**NOTE:** Tile spacers are inexpensive and readily available: many clubs could split a small bag. A few in a sealed plastic bag could be easily kept with the race or trial secretary's materials in case there is a questionable bite. Since they are plastic, they are non-porous, and if kept sealed in plastic should remain sanitary.)