

# Welcome to the wonderful world of the Bluetick Coonhound!



## National Bluetick Coonhound Association

### Breed Highlights

The sleek and beautiful Bluetick Coonhound is a sweet and affectionate charmer who might enjoy snoozing in the shade, but in pursuit of quarry he is relentless,



bold, and single-minded. They have a high prey drive and must be channeled. They need to have a job and keep busy so their noses do not get them into trouble. The Bluetick should have the appearance of a speedy and well-muscled hound. He never appears clumsy or overly chunky in build. He has a neat, compact body, a glossy coat and clear, keen eyes. In motion he carries his head and tail well up.

### Breed Activities

Bluetick coonhounds are an agile and competitive breed and can excel in a variety of activities with their owners, including but not limited to: AKC Conformation, Hunting, Bench Shows, Water Race, Barn Hunt, CAT, Agility, Obedience, Junior Showmanship, Rally, Tracking, Search & Rescue, Service Dogs, Therapy Dogs, Police Dogs, Dock Diving and of course GREAT pets!

### Permanent Identification

Because our hounds may have a one-track mind and may lose us, it is important for your dog to have permanent identification and be enrolled in a recovery program. Microchipping by your veterinarian and registration through programs such as the AKC Reunite (formerly CAR), [www.akcreunite.org](http://www.akcreunite.org) or call 800-252-7894, are highly recommended. The Program consists of an encapsulated microchip inserted under the skin at the back of the neck. The chip contains information used to identify your dog and you, the owner, plus a toll-free number to the Reunite database. Nearly all animal shelters and veterinarians now have scanners to read these chips. The insertion procedure, available at most veterinary offices, is simple and painless.

### Breed vs. Spay/Neuter

If you plan to breed a litter, the first step is to perform an honest comparison of your Bluetick Coonhound

to the breed standard. Obtain a copy from the AKC or National Bluetick Coonhound Association (NBCA) websites ([www.nationalblueticks.com](http://www.nationalblueticks.com) and [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)).

A responsible breeder plans each breeding with the goal of improving the breed, avoiding genetic defects and producing puppies that are not only better than their parents but one step closer to the ideal Bluetick Coonhound described in the breed standard.

Over the years, a Breed Standard for the Bluetick Coonhound has been developed. It is an approved, written description of how the Bluetick Coonhound should look, move, and act. Conscientious and knowledgeable breeders only breed dogs deemed close to the ideal.

Having a litter of puppies is not beneficial to a female and can occasionally lead to problems. Spayed bitches are often healthier and live longer than intact bitches. Neutered males cannot develop testicular cancer and have a lower risk of developing prostate cancer. With proper feeding and exercise, neither will become overweight. If you think you would like to breed dogs, take the time to really learn about the breed and find mentors to help you.

Not all dogs need to be bred to live a happy and fulfilled life. Spayed bitches and neutered males do not exhibit extreme personality changes by removing their reproductive capability. They often live longer and healthy lives free from cancer, uterine infections and perianal tumors. The sex hormones have been proven to have important health benefits. Early spay and/or neuter has been associated with an increase in size, an increased risk of some orthopedic diseases, bone cancer and some undesirable behavior. NBCA recommends surgical sterilization involve a conversation regarding risk/benefits between the veterinarian and the owner involved and should be when animal is at least 1 year old and/or females have had their first heat cycle.





## Brief History

Dogs classified as hounds were bred to pursue warm-blooded quarry. Hounds can be either “sighthounds” or “scenthounds.” Sighthounds (Whippets and Greyhounds, for example) use keen vision and speed to spot and pursue prey. Scenthounds—whether a Beagle pursuing a rabbit, or a Bloodhound on human scent—use an uncanny sense of smell to follow a trail over a distance to locate their quarry. Blueticks and their coondog cousins are scenthounds.



Like all coonhound breeds, the Bluetick is an American creation. Bluetick bloodlines are said to extend back to before the founding of the country, specifically to French staghounds given to George Washington as a gift from his great friend, the Marquis de Lafayette. These were huge, ponderous dogs, easy to follow on foot. Breeders mixed in some English Foxhounds along with a few other hound breeds to develop a high-



endurance and meticulous hunter with a “cold nose.” (This is coon-hunter lingo describing a dog capable of working scent trails that are hours, even days, old.)

These early Blueticks were used by frontiersmen in pursuit of the wily raccoon, but were often expected to work in packs as a big-game hunters on such dangerous quarry as bear, wild boar, lynx, and cougar.

Blueticks are still a coon hunter’s delight, and they are still fixture in Southern culture. Since 1953, the Bluetick Coonhound has been the University of Tennessee’s sports mascot.

Blueticks are speedy and compact nocturnal hunters named for the mottled (or “ticked”) black-and-blue pattern of the glossy coat. A large male can top out at 27 inches and 80-90



pounds; females are smaller, topping out at 25 inches and 50-60 pounds.

Blueticks are well-muscled and speedy, never chunky or clumsy. The baying, bawling, and chopping bark of Blueticks might be cacophonous to some, but to coon hunters it’s the music of the night.

The droopy-eared charm of Blueticks is irresistible. They crave affection and are deeply devoted to those who provide it. Blueticks have tremendous prey drive. Neglected, underemployed coonhounds with no outlet for their hardwired impulses can develop problem behaviors, like serenading the neighbors with loud, mournful “music” or escaping their enclosures.



The Bluetick Coonhound was first allowed to register in AKC in the Foundation Stock Service in 2003. They were fully recognized and allowed to compete in AKC events in January 2010.

## Care of Hounds

- ✓ High-quality dog food,
- ✓ Diet should be appropriate to the dog’s age (puppy, adult, or senior).
- ✓ Watch calorie consumption and weight level, can be prone to obesity
- ✓ Check with your vet if you have any concerns about your dog’s weight or diet
- ✓ Clean, fresh water should be available at all times.
- ✓ Weekly brushing with a medium-bristle brush
- ✓ Occasional bath, unless they’ve gotten into something messy
- ✓ Nails should be trimmed regularly
- ✓ Regular exercise: running, leash walking, working, etc.
- ✓ Early socialization is strongly recommended
- ✓ Susceptible to bloat, learn signs & symptoms
- ✓ Long ears prone to ear infections, check often
- ✓ Regular teeth brushing

**For more information contact the NBCA.**

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