

SHORTY BULL BREED STANDARD

The Shorty Bull is a compact, low-to-the-ground, powerfully built bull-type companion with strong bone, pronounced muscle, and balanced strength. The dog should appear short, wide, and athletic without impairing movement or health.

GENERAL STRUCTURE

Head: Rounded head with bulldog features. Slightly turned-up nose (black or live) Dudley nose is a fault.

Bite: Must be undershot but not excessive. Bottom canines should not show when mouth is closed.

Eyes: Oval, wide-set, non-protruding. Medium sized with alert expression. All colors are accepted, but brown is preferred.

Ears: Cropped close to the head. Long ears are not permitted in the ring.

Neck: Thick and muscular leading to a level topline.

Body: Short, compact from withers to tail. Broad chest reaching elbows with balance proportions. Well sprung ribs, short back and strong loin. Shoulders and rear are well rounded and muscular. Sight rise above the loins acceptable but not preferred.

Tail: Short, docked, or screwed. Long tails are not permitted.

Colors & Patterns: All colors and patterns accepted, including merle.

MOVEMENT

Movement is one of the most important evaluation points for the Shorty Bull. It should be smooth, balanced, and controlled. Dogs should exhibit strong rear drive and good front reach

FAULTS

Splayed Feet	Weak Pasterns
Cow Hocks	Pigeon Toes
Narrow Hindquarters	Dudley Nose
Breathing Difficulty	

MOVEMENT FAULT

Pacing	Crabbing/Sidewinding
Crossing Over	Paddling

Hackney Action	Rolling/Swaying Gait
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DISQUALIFICATIONS

Aggressive Behavior Towards Humans	Cryptorchidism
Wry Jaw	Deafness
Albinism	

Pacing Movement in the Shorty Bull is a gait where the dog moves both legs on the same side of the body at the same time (right front with right rear, then left front with left rear), instead of the natural diagonal movement seen in a proper trot.

This is a fault because it indicates poor coordination or structural imbalance. It reduces efficiency and endurance.

Sidewinding Movement in the Shorty Bull is when the dog’s body does not track straight while moving—instead, it travels at an angle, with the front and rear not aligning properly. The dog may appear to move diagonally, almost “crabbing,” where the hind legs swing to one side instead of following directly behind the front.

This type of movement is considered a fault, as correct Shorty Bull movement should be straight, balanced, and in line from front to rear. Sidewinding often indicates structural issues such as poor rear angulation, weak topline, or lack of coordination.

Crossing Over: Crossing Over is a movement fault where a dog’s legs move too close to the center line of the body, sometimes even crossing in front of each other instead of tracking straight.

Paddling Movement in the Shorty Bull refers to a gait fault where the dog’s front legs swing outward in a circular or winging motion during movement, rather than moving straight forward and back in a clean line. It is most noticeable when viewed from the front, as the feet appear to “flip” or “roll” outward with each step.

This type of movement is considered a fault, as correct Shorty Bull movement should be straight, efficient, and true, with the legs tracking forward without wasted motion. Paddling often indicates issues in the front assembly, such as loose elbows, incorrect shoulder structure, or weak ligament support.

Hackney Action Movement in the Shorty Bull refers to an exaggerated, high-stepping gait where the dog lifts its front legs unusually high, with excessive flex at the wrist, resembling the motion of a Hackney horse.

This movement is considered a fault, as proper Shorty Bull movement should be smooth, efficient, and ground-covering—not overly flashy or lifted—since hackney action wastes energy and often indicates improper front structure or restricted shoulder movement.

Rolling Movement in the Shorty Bull refers to a side-to-side, swaying motion of the body when the dog walks or moves. It typically happens because of a very wide chest, heavy muscle mass, and sometimes structural exaggeration, causing the dog's shoulders and hips to shift outward as it steps.

While a slight, natural sway can occur in very bulky dogs, excessive rolling is usually considered a fault in structure or movement, as proper movement should still be balanced, efficient, and free-flowing rather than exaggerated or unstable.