

## Data Packet 1A:

## Redbone Coonhound

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redbone\\_Coonhound](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redbone_Coonhound)

The **Redbone Coonhound** is a breed of dog, which is widely used for hunting bear, racoon and cougar. Their agility allows them to be used for hunting from swamplands to mountains and some can be used as water dogs. This breed has been registered with the UCK since 1904. This is the type of hound featured in the novel *Where the Red Fern Grows*.

### Appearance

The Redbone Coonhound has a lean, muscular, well proportioned build. The body type is typical to the coonhounds subgroup, with long straight legs, a wide barrel chest, and a head and tail that is held high and proud when hunting or showing. The Redbone's face is often described as having a pleading expression, with sorrowful dark brown or hazel eyes and long, drooping ears. Their coat is short and smooth against the body, but coarse enough to provide protection to the skin while hunting through dense underbrush.

Their paws have especially thick pads and are also webbed and dewclaws are common. The nose should be black and prominent. The ears are floppy and should extend to nearly the end of the nose if stretched out.

Coloration of the nose is always black and the coat color is always a rich red, though a small amount of white on the chest, between the legs, or on the feet is permissible, though not preferred. Variations of black fur on the face and muzzle are also not uncommon. The toes are typically webbed.

Males should be 22-27 inches (56-68.5 cm) at the shoulder, with females slightly shorter at 21-26 inches (53-66 cm). Weight should be proportional to the size and bone structure of the individual dogs, with a preference towards leaner working dogs rather than heavier dogs. Generally, weights will range from 45 to 70 lbs (20.5 to 31.75 kg).

### Behavior

They instinctively mark their position for following hunters by vocalizing as they catch up with their quarry. Therefore, this breed will have the desire to chase small animals such as rabbits, squirrels, badgers, or even cats. A Redbone Coonhound should have a tall fence to retain the animal and keep it from wandering.

Redbones are known to have an independent intelligence especially well suited for problem solving. This can be an issue if the problem they want to solve is their backyard fence or the dog-proof garbage. Most Redbones require leashes to avoid wandering. In a hunt setting they will often make quarter mile loops away from the pack searching for scent of their prey before returning or using their bay to raise the alarm, thus bringing the pack to their aid. Because of their instinctive desire to follow scents, they are eager to

**Redbone Coonhound**



A Redbone Coonhound

Nicknames	Reds
Country of origin	Southern United States
Traits	<a href="#">[hide]</a>
Classification and standards	<a href="#">[show]</a>
Dog ( <i>Canis lupus familiaris</i> )	



follow their noses and may ignore their owners' commands-they should not be allowed off leash in an uncontrolled area.

The Redbone is an extremely vocal dog, as would be expected of a hound. The breed is known for its distinctive "drawling" bark, also known as a "bay." Hunters who use the breed follow the sound of the loud howls as the dogs track quarry. It takes training to first control their excited, emotional, booming barks, but also to help provide the hounds an outlet for their 'tracking' desires that sometimes drive their vocalizations.

## History

In the late 18th century, many European type hunting dogs were imported to America, most of them of Scottish, French, English, and Irish ancestry: the [English Foxhound](#), the [Harrier](#), the [Grand Bleu de Gascogne](#), the [Welsh Hound](#), the [beagle](#), and the [Bloodhound](#) were among these. Most often, these dogs were imported so that wealthy planters of the [Tidewater](#) could mimic the European gentry and engage in [foxhunting](#), with smaller amounts of dogs winding up on small farms.

However, after the American Revolution, as settlement pushed farther West and deeper South, hunters discovered they had a problem: the hounds imported from the late 18th and early 19th century British Isles and France were bred to hunt in different terrain than what was on offer in the American South. By late in the reign of [George III](#) much of the original oak forests of England, Scotland, and Ireland had long since been cut down to service the [Royal Navy](#) and many of the peat bogs were being mined for use as a source of fuel; with the exceptions of badgers, rabbits, and foxes much of the original fauna that would have inhabited these lands had become extirpated over time. The French aristocracy owned a few private reserves for themselves to hunt in, but typically their dogs could get away with having a colder nose as the amount of land to hunt on was still limited.

This was in stark contrast to the American South, which included many hundreds of miles of subtropical bald cypress swamps and hardwood forest. The terrain was loaded with animals that would fight back viciously to the death, like [alligators](#), [black bears](#), [porcupines](#), cougars, or raccoons. When confronted with such conditions the European breeds were almost useless since none of the aforementioned animals burrow into the ground or passively run from trouble: when confronted with prey that climbed a tree or in some cases tried to throw off their pursuers in deep, swampy water, the dogs would mill about pacing below the tree, confused. When confronted with porcupines, they would sometimes even flee when the lead dog was quilled. Over time, Southern hunters would selectively breed dogs that would not back down, had great stamina, and would "hound" their prey until they treed or cornered their exhausted quarry, leading to modern coonhounds.

In the late 18th century Scottish immigrants brought with them red colored foxhounds to Georgia, dogs which would be the foundation stock of the Redbone. Later, c. 1840 Iris bred Foxhounds and Bloodhound lines were added to the mix. The name of this breed would come from an early breeder of this time, Peter Redbone of Tennessee.

Over time, breeders followed a selective program that led to a coonhound that is more specialized for prey which climbs trees relative to European hunting dogs, was unafraid of taking on large animals, was agile enough to carry on over mountain or in meadow, and liked to swim if necessary. They were ideal for pack hunting of both small and larger prey. In their early breeding history, the Redbone had a black saddleback, but by the beginning of the 20th century, they were an uninterrupted red tone.

## Health

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The Redbone Coonhound, fortunately, is an extremely healthy breed, which suffers only rarely from less than a handful of genetic issues. Besides hip dysplasia, common in many dogs, the Redbone tends to

suffer from two main eye problems: entropion and progressive retinal atrophy, also known as PRA.

Entropion is an eye problem that occurs in many breeds of dogs, including Redbones, though is not as common in Redbones as it is in breeds such as Bloodhounds or Mastiffs. The condition is characterized by the eyelids folding inward, causing the dog quite a substantial amount of discomfort and pain especially due to eyelashes or hairs rubbing against the cornea; the cornea may develop ulcers and/or erosions. More often than not, entropion is inherited and may show up at birth.

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA), instead, affects structures that are deeper within the eye, such as the retina and the cells that it is composed of; essentially, the retinal cells either do not develop properly or degenerate after they develop. It is an inherited disorder, and there are actually many subtypes of the disease. Unfortunately, there is no treatment for PRA; any dog diagnosed with the disease will eventually go blind.