

RUSSIAN BLACK TERRIER

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2018

ORIGIN

Russia.

UTILISATION

Working dog, guarding dog, sporting and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Russian Black Terrier was created in Russia during the late 1940s and the early 1950s by selective interbreeding of breeds like the Rottweiler, Giant Schnauzer, Airedale Terrier, and Newfoundland Dog. The Giant Schnauzer is considered to be the main ancestor of the breed. The initial breeding was supervised by the military cynological school outside Moscow and the dogs were based in their kennels named "Red Star". The aim of the creators of the breed was the development of a large, brave, strong, and manageable working dog with pronounced guarding instinct; a dog that could be useful for many services and adapt well to various climate conditions. The breed was recognised by the FCI in 1984.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Russian Black Terrier is a large dog with a slightly long body and very athletic built of a robust type and hardy constitution. The breed has qualities like massive bone and powerful muscles. It is symmetrical with a large head and compact body and a voluminous and deep chest. Differences between the sexes to be clearly defined.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The length of the body is slightly longer than the height at the withers, could be more pronounced in females.
- Depth of chest should not be less than half the height at the withers.
- Length of head should not be less than 40% of the dog's height at the withers. The muzzle is slightly shorter than the skull.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

A dignified and confident dog; well-controlled in all situations. When circumstances require, he immediately assumes an active-defensive posture, however, quickly calms down at the disappearance of threat. This handsome breed is amiable and has great endurance; it is undemanding, smart, and friendly. It adapts well to training and various climate conditions and is hard-working and reliable.

HEAD

Head should be in proportion to body, although large, massive, and long.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Moderately broad with flat forehead. Topline of skull is parallel with topline of muzzle. The superciliary arches and occipital bone are moderately pronounced.

Stop: Noticeable but not sharp.

Facial Region:

Nose: Large and black.

Muzzle: Strong, broad, and slightly shorter than skull. Muzzle is wide at base and narrowing slightly to the tip of the nose. Moustache and beard accentuate the volume, give the muzzle a rectangular, blunt appearance.

Lips: Thick, well-pigmented and tight. Lip rims dark.

Cheeks: Dry cheek bones with rounded but not pronounced cheeks.

Jaws and teeth: Large, white teeth that are tightly adjacent to each other, the lower incisors positioned in a line. Full dentition (42 teeth). Scissor bite.

Eyes:

Medium size, oval-shaped, set straight and wide apart, dark colour. Eye-rims dry, tight, and black.

Ears:

Hanging. Set high and symmetrical, medium-sized, triangular-shaped. Front edge close to cheek. Ear leather is dense, without folds.

NECK

Strong, dry, and muscular. The length of the neck is approximately equal to the length of head and set at an angle of 45° – 50° to the horizontal. The nape is strong and well-developed.

BODY

Solid, deep, and voluminous, well-balanced.

Topline: Slightly sloping from the withers to the root of the tail.

Withers: High and well-developed, more pronounced in males than in females.

Back: Strong, straight, and muscular. The length of the actual back is equal to half the length measured from the withers to the base of the tail.

Loin: Wide, short, muscular, and slightly arched. The length is equal to half the length of the actual back.

Croup: Broad, muscular, slightly sloping and of moderate length.

Chest: Deep, long, and broad with slightly sprung ribs. The shape of the thorax (in cross section) is oval. The breastbone is long; the forechest slightly extends the shoulder joint and is well-muscled.

Underline and belly: On the same line as the elbow joint or slightly below. Belly moderately tucked-up. Flanks only slightly developed.

TAIL

Thick at root and set high. In movement, the tail is carried jauntily but the root of the tail does not incline over the back (squirrel tail). Tail traditionally docked in country of origin. An undocked tail's length or shape has no influence on the evaluation of the dog. Preferable shape of the undocked tail is sabre or sickle.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs, when viewed from the front, are straight and parallel. The distance from the elbow (tip of the ulna) to the ground is equal to 50% – 52% of the dogs' height at the withers.

Shoulder: Long, broad, and well laid back. The angle between shoulder blade and upper arm is approximately 100°.

Upper arm: Muscular, and no shorter than the shoulder blades.

Elbow: Close to body.

Forearm: Straight, thick, round bone. Vertical when viewed from the front and side.

Metacarpus (pastern): Short, massive, and slightly sloping when viewed from the side.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: When viewed from behind, straight and parallel, set wider than the forelegs. When viewed from the side, placed slightly behind the dog.

Thigh: Moderately long, slightly inclined, wide with well-developed, voluminous muscles.

Stifle (knee): Well-bent.

Lower thigh: No shorter than thighs.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Strong, low, and vertically positioned. No dewclaws.

FEET

Forefeet:

Large, compact, and round in shape. Nails and pads are black.

Hind feet:

Slightly smaller than front feet and tending towards oval shape. Nails and pads are black.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free and well-balanced with smoothly bent joints. The typical gait is an energetic trot with long strides, which comes from the powerful rear drive and significant reach in the forequarters. Topline to remain firm.

SKIN

Tight, well-fitted without folds or loose skin, still elastic. Evenly pigmented.

COAT

Rough and thick double coat composed of a coarse, thick, slightly waved, outercoat and a soft, short, and dense undercoat. The outercoat covers the whole body. The natural, untrimmed coat length is between 5cm – 15cm (approx. 2" – 6"). The head furnishing is very well developed and forms abundant eyebrows, moustache, and beard. Legs are covered in long, dense furnishing coat. Grooming in the correct form is required. The clipped coat should emphasise the character of a strong and assured dog, and by no means be excessively decorative. The coat is left longest on legs and around the muzzle. The clipping should accentuate the massive head with flat forehead, well-lying ears, strong neck, and well-constructed, strong body.

COLOUR

- **Black:** black with insignificant intermingling grey hair is permissible.

* Grey intermingling hair not to cover more than one-third of the whole body.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 72cm – 76cm (approx. 28" – 30") but no less than 70cm (approx. 27½") and not more than 78cm (approx. 31").

Females: 68cm – 72cm (approx. 27" – 28") but no less than 66cm (approx. 30") and not more than 74cm (approx. 29").

Slightly taller specimens are tolerated providing they are proportionate and of excellent breed type.

Weight:

Males: 50kg – 60kg

Females: 45kg – 50kg

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

***Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.**

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

- Skull rounded.
- Partial lack of pigmentation on lips.
- Incisors not in line in lower jaw. Small incisors.
- Eyes round; slightly light-coloured; oblique or narrow-set.
- Neck too short and not muscular enough.
- Withers not pronounced.
- Sway-back, or narrow back.
- Loin too long; narrow; not muscular enough.
- Shoulders too straight.
- Forearms too short.
- Elbows turned in or turned out.
- Feet turning in or turning out.
- Hocks turned in, out, or sickle.
- Pacing interspersed when trotting.
- Guardcoat soft or smooth.
- Rusty shading in guard coat.
- No undercoat.

Severe faults:

- Deviation from sex type.
- Timid or over-excited behaviour.
- Head short or light.
- Visible third eyelid, light-coloured eyes.
- Croup horizontal or too steep.
- Chest shallow or short.
- Squirrel tail.
- Bowed forearms.

- Movement restricted; sluggish or heavy.
- Guard coat silky.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Deviation towards the ancestry breeds.
- Nose other than black.
- Wall eye or different coloured eyes.
- Deviation from scissor bite or missing teeth.
- Guard coat smooth, and lack of head, chest and leg furnishing.
- Any other colour than the ones described.
- White spots or markings.
- Clearly defined patches of grey hair.

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FCI Standard No 327: RUSSKIY TCHIORNY TERRIER (RUSSIAN BLACK TERRIER)

FCI Classification: Group 2: Pinscher and Schnauzer, Molossoid type dogs, and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs

Section 1.4: Pinscher and Schnauzer type

Working Trial optional