

YORKSHIRE TERRIER

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 86]

The Yorkshire Terrier comes from the same locale as the Airedale Terrier and was first seen around the 1850s. The old Black and Tan Terrier is behind the Yorkshire Terrier, together with other breeds such as the Maltese and the Skye Terrier. The current name was accepted in 1870. The breed's Terrier-like qualities include the hunting instinct, be it for a Toy in the house or a rodent in the garden.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Long-coated, coat hanging quite straight and evenly down each side, a parting extending from nose to end of tail. Very compact and neat, carriage very upright conveying an important air. General outline conveying impression of vigorous and well-proportioned body.

CHARACTERISTICS

Alert, intelligent Toy Terrier.

TEMPERAMENT

Spirited with even disposition.

HEAD

Rather small and flat, not too prominent or round in skull or too long in muzzle; black nose.

Eyes:

Medium, dark, sparkling, with sharp intelligent expression and placed to look directly forward. Not prominent. Edge of eyelids dark.

Ears:

Small, V-shaped, carried erect, not too far apart, covered with short hair, colour very deep, rich tan.

Mouth:

Perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Teeth well-placed with even jaws.

NECK

Good reach.

FOREQUARTERS

Well-laid shoulders, legs straight, well-covered with hair of rich golden tan a few shades lighter at ends than at roots, not extending higher on forelegs than elbow.

BODY

Compact with moderate spring of rib, good loin. Level back.

HINDQUARTERS

Legs quite straight when viewed from behind, moderate turn of stifle. Well-covered with hair of rich golden tan a few shades lighter at ends than at roots, not extending higher on hind legs than stifles.

FEET

Round; nails black.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked

Docked: Medium length with plenty of hair, darker blue in colour than rest of body, especially at end of tail. Carried a little higher than level of back.

Undocked: Plenty of hair, darker blue in colour than rest of body, especially at end of tail. Carried a little higher than level of back. As straight as possible. Length to give a well-balanced appearance.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, with drive; straight action front and behind, retaining level topline.

COAT

Hair on body moderately long, perfectly straight (not wavy), glossy; fine silky texture, not woolly, must never impede movement. Fall on head long, rich golden tan, deeper in colour at sides of head, about ear roots and on muzzle where it should be very long. Tan on head not to extend on to neck, nor must any sooty or dark hair intermingle with any of tan.

COLOUR

- Dark steel blue (not silver blue), extending from occiput to root of tail, never mingled with fawn, bronze, or dark hairs.
- * Hair on chest a rich, bright tan. All tan hair darker at the roots than in middle, shading to still lighter at tips.
- * Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Weight:

Up to 3.2kg.

***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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 86: YORKSHIRE TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 3 – Terriers.

Section 4.2. Toy Terriers .

Without working trial.

