



Official Breed Standard

Fox Terrier (Smooth) (Terrier Group)



A Breed Standard is the guideline which 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 which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Active and lively, bone and strength in small compass, never cloddy or coarse. Neither leggy nor too short in the leg, standing like a well-made, short backed hunter, covering a lot of ground.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Alert, quick of movement, keen of expression, on tiptoe of expectation.

TEMPERAMENT:

Friendly, forthcoming and fearless.

HEAD & SKULL:

Skull flat, moderately narrow, gradually decreasing in width to eyes. A little stop apparent, cheeks never full, jaws, upper and lower, strong and muscular, falling away only slightly below eyes. This portion of foreface moderately chiselled out, so as not to go down in a straight line like a wedge. Nose black.

EYES:

Dark, moderately small, as near as possible circular in shape, but not prominent. Expression bright and intelligent.

EARS:

Small, V shaped and dropping forward close to cheek, not hanging by side of head. Fold of ear above level of skull. Leather of moderate thickness.

MOUTH:

Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK:

Clean and muscular, without throatiness, of fair length and gradually widening to shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders long and sloping, well laid back, fine at points, cleanly cut at withers. Legs from any angle must be straight showing little or no appearance of an ankle in front. They should be strong in bone throughout.

BODY:

Chest deep, not broad. Back short, level and strong without slackness. Loin powerful, very slightly arched. Foreribs moderately sprung, back ribs deep.

Strong and muscular, quite free from droop or crouch; thighs long and powerful, hocks well let down, good turn of stifle.

FEET:

Small, round and compact. Soles hard and tough, toes moderately arched, and turning neither in nor out.

TAIL:

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Set on rather high and carried gaily, but not over back, or curled. Of good strength.

Undocked: Set on rather high and carried gaily but not over back. As straight as possible. Tail of moderate length to give balance to the dog.

GAIT / MOVEMENT:

Fore and hindlegs carried straight forward and parallel. Elbows move perpendicular to body, working free of sides, stifles neither turning in nor out and hocks not close. Good drive coming from well flexing hindquarters.

COAT:

Straight, flat, smooth, hard, dense and abundant. Belly and underside of thighs not bare.

COLOUR:

White should predominate, all white, white with tan, black and tan or black markings. Brindle, red or liver markings highly undesirable.

SIZE:

Height at withers not exceeding 39 cms (15 ½ ins) in dogs, bitches slightly less.

Weight: Dogs: 7.5 8 kgs (16 18 lbs), Bitches: 7 7.5 kgs (15 17 lbs).

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 on the health & welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

NOTE:

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles descended into the scrotum.



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15/10/03 Fedco 05/2011/mb/updated 16/08/2011

Most recent changes to this Schedule has an effective date of 01.01.2017

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