



Official Breed Standard

Norwich Terrier (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

Small, low, keen dog, compact and strong with good substance and bones. Honourable scars from fair wear and tear not to be unduly penalised.

CHARACTERISTICS

One of the smallest of the terriers. Loveable disposition, not quarrelsome, tremendously active with hardy constitution.

TEMPERAMENT

Gay and fearless.

HEAD & SKULL

Skull broad and slightly rounded with good width between ears. Well defined stop. Muzzle wedge shaped and strong. Ratio of muzzle to skull length is 2:3.

EYES

Relatively small, oval shaped, dark, full of expression, bright and keen.

EARS

Erect, set well apart on top of skull. Medium size with pointed tips. Perfectly erect when aroused, can be laid back when not at attention.

MOUTH

Tight lipped, jaws clean and strong. Rather large, strong teeth with perfect, regular scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Strong of good length, commensurate with correct overall balance, flowing into well laid shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Legs short, powerful and straight; elbows close to body. Pasterns firm and upright.

BODY

Short back, compact with good depth. Ribcage long and well sprung with short loin. Level topline.

HINDQUARTERS:

Broad, strong and muscular, well-turned stifle. Low set hock with great propulsion.

FEET

Rounded, well-padded and cat like. Pointing straight forward standing and moving.

TAIL

Docking previously optional.

(a) Medium docked. Set high, completing perfectly level topline.

Carried erect.

(b) Tail of moderate length to give a general balance to dog, thick at root and tapering towards tip, as straight as possible, carried jauntily, not excessively gay, completing perfectly level topline.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Forelegs should move straight forward when travelling; hind legs follow in their track; hocks parallel and flexing to show pads.

COAT

Hard, wiry, straight, lying close to body, thick undercoat. Longer and rougher on neck forming a ruff to frame face. Hair on head and ears short and smooth, except for slight whiskers and eyebrows.

COLOUR

All shades of red, wheaten, black and tan or grizzle. White marks or patches are undesirable.

SIZE

Ideal height at withers 25 cm (10 in).

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.

NOTE

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

***Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked and 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.**



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

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