KUSA

Official Breed Standard

Sealyham 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
Free moving, active, balanced and of great substance in small compass. General outline oblong, not square.

CHARACTERISTICS
Sturdy, game and workmanlike.

TEMPERAMENT
Alert and fearless but of friendly disposition.

HEAD & SKULL
Skull slightly domed and wide between ears. Cheek bones not prominent. Punishing square jaw, powerful and long. Nose black.

EYES
Dark, well set, round, of medium size. Dark, pigmented eye rims preferred but unpigmented tolerated.

EARS
Medium sized, slightly rounded at tip and carried at side of cheek.

MOUTH
Teeth level and strong with canines fitting well into each other and long for size of dog. Jaws strong with regular scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK
Fairly long, thick and muscular on well laid shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS
Forelegs short, strong and as straight as possible consistent with chest being well let down. Point of shoulder in line with point of elbow which should be close to side of chest.

BODY
Medium in length, level and flexible with ribs well sprung. Chest broad and deep, well let down between forelegs.

HINDQUARTERS
Notably powerful for size of dog. Thighs deep and muscular with well bent stifle. Hocks strong, well bent and parallel to each other.

FEET
Round and cat like with thick pads. Feet pointing directly forward.

TAIL
Previously customarily docked.
Docked: Medium length. Thick with a rounded tip. Set in line with back and carried erect. Quarters should protrude beyond set of tail.
Undocked: Medium length of tail to give a general balance to the dog. Thick at root and tapering towards tip. Ideally carried erect. But not excessively over the back, and with no curl or twist. Quarters should protrude beyond set of tail.
[***refer note below]**

GAIT / MOVEMENT
Brisk and vigorous with plenty of drive.

COAT
Long, hard and wiry topcoat with weather resistant undercoat.

COLOUR
All white or white with lemon, brown, blue or badger pied markings on head and ears. Much black and heavy ticking undesirable

SIZE
Height should not exceed 31cm (12in) at shoulder. Ideal weight: Dogs: approx. 9 kg (20 lb); Bitches: approx. 8kg (18lb). General conformation, overall balance, type and substance are main criteria.

FAULTS
Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on 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 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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