

BOSTON 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 01/01/2020

ORIGIN

United States of America.

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. for interest – from Wikipedia: The Boston Terrier]:

The Boston Terrier originated around 1875, when Robert Hooper, of Boston, purchased a dog named “Judge” (known later as “Hooper’s Judge”), which was of a Bull and Terrier-type lineage. This type originally weighed up to 44lbs (20 kg) and was essentially a fighting dog. From this foundation of the breed, subsequent breeders refined the breed into its modern-day presentation. The American Kennel Club (AKC) cites “Hooper’s Judge” as the ancestor of all true modern Boston Terriers. In the early years, the colour and markings were not very important to the breed’s standard. By the 20th century, the breed’s distinctive markings and colour were written into the standard, becoming an essential feature. The Boston Terrier has lost most of its aggressive nature, preferring the company of humans, although some males will still challenge other dogs if they feel their territory is being invaded.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Smooth-coated, relatively short-headed, compactly built, short-tailed, well-balanced dog of medium size; brindle in colour, evenly marked with white. Body rather short and well-knit; limbs strong and neatly turned; tail short and no feature so prominent that the dog appears badly proportioned. Dog must convey an impression of determination, strength, and activity, with style of a high order; carriage easy and graceful.

CHARACTERISTICS

Lively and intelligent.

TEMPERAMENT

Determined and strong-willed.

HEAD

Skull square in appearance, flat on top, free from wrinkles; cheeks flat; brow abrupt, stop well-defined. Muzzle relatively short, square, wide, and deep, with no tendency to taper, and in proportion to skull; free from wrinkles; shorter in length than in width and depth, approximately one-third of length of skull; width and depth carried out well to end; muzzle from stop to end of nose on a line parallel to top of skull; nose black, wide, with well-defined line between nostrils. Jaws broad and square. Flews of good depth, not pendulous, completely covering teeth when mouth closed. Head in proportion to size of dog.

Eyes:

Wide apart, round, and not too large, dark in colour; expression alert, kind, and intelligent. Eyes set square in skull, outside corners on a line with cheeks when viewed from front.

Ears:

Carried erect; small, thin, situated as near corner of skull as possible.

Mouth:

Teeth short and regular, bite even, or sufficiently undershot to square muzzle.

NECK

Of fair length, slightly arched, carrying head gracefully; neatly set into shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders sloping, legs set moderately wide apart on line with point of shoulders; straight in bone and well-muscled; pasterns short and strong. Elbows turning neither in nor out.

BODY

Deep with good width of chest; back short; ribs deep and well-sprung, carried well back to loins; loins short and muscular; rump curving slightly to set-on of tail; flank very slightly cut up; body appears short but not chunky.

HINDQUARTERS

Legs set true, good turn of stifle, hocks well let down; turning neither in nor out; thighs strong and well-muscled.

FEET

Round, small, compact, turning neither in nor out; toes well-arched.

TAIL

Set on low; short, fine, tapering, straight, or curled; devoid of fringes or coarse hair, never carried above horizontal.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Easy and graceful. Sure-footed, straight-gaited, forelegs and hind legs moving straight ahead with perfect rhythm. Each step indicating grace and power.

COAT

Short, smooth, lustrous, and fine in texture.

COLOUR

- Brindle with white markings; brindle must show distinctly throughout body.
- Black with white markings but brindles with white markings preferred.

* Ideal markings: white muzzle, even white blaze over head, collar, breast, part or whole of forelegs, and hind legs below hocks.

SIZE

Weight

Not exceeding 11.5kg divided by classes as follows:

- Lightweight: under 6.8kg.
- Middleweight: 6.8kg and under 9.1kg.
- Heavyweight: 9.1kg and under 11.4kg.

***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.*

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. 140: BOSTON TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 11.3. Small Molossian-type dogs
Without working trial.