

JACK RUSSELL 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 01/01/2019

ORIGIN

Great Britain; Country of Development: Australia

UTILISATION

A good working Terrier with ability to go to ground. An excellent companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 345]

The Jack Russell Terrier originated in England in the 1800s due to the efforts of the Reverend John Russell. He developed a strain of Fox Terriers to suit his needs for a dog to run with his Foxhounds and go to ground to bolt the fox and other quarry from their dens. Two varieties evolved with basically similar breed standards except for some differences, mainly in height and proportions. The taller, more squarely built dog is now known as the Parson Russell Terrier, and the shorter, slightly longer proportioned dog, is known as the Jack Russell Terrier.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A strong, active, lithe, working-Terrier of great character, with flexible body of medium length. His smart movement matches his keen expression. The coat may be smooth, rough, or broken.

CHARACTERISTICS

A lively, alert, and active Terrier with a keen, intelligent expression.

TEMPERAMENT

Bold and fearless, friendly, but quietly confident.

HEAD

The skull should be flat and of moderate width, gradually decreasing in width to the eyes and tapering to a wide muzzle with very strong jaws. There should be a well-defined stop, but not over-pronounced. The length from the stop to the nose should be slightly shorter than from the stop to the occiput, with the cheek muscles well-developed. The nose should be black.

Eyes:

Small, dark, and with keen expression. MUST not be prominent, and eyelids should fit closely. The eye-rims should be pigmented black. Almond-shaped.

Ears:

Button or dropped, of good texture and great mobility.

Mouth:

Deep, wide, and powerful jaws with tight-fitting, pigmented lips and strong teeth closing to a scissor bite.

NECK

Strong and clean, allowing head to be carried with poise.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well sloped back and not heavily loaded with muscle. Forelegs straight in bone from the elbow to the toes, whether viewed from the front or the side, and with sufficient length of upper arm to ensure elbows are set under the body, with the sternum clearly in front of shoulder blades.

BODY

Chest deep rather than wide, with good clearance, and the brisket located at the height mid-way between the ground and the withers. The body should be proportioned marginally longer than tall, the length from the point of the shoulder to the buttocks slightly greater than the height from the withers to the ground. Back level. Ribs should be well-sprung from the spine, flattening on the sides so that the girth behind the elbows can be spanned by two hands - about 40cm to 43cm (approx. 16" – 17"). The loins should be short, strong, and deeply muscled.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong and muscular, balanced in proportion to the shoulder, hind legs parallel, when viewed from behind, while in free-standing position. Stifles well-angulated and hocks low-set.

FEET

Round, hard, padded, not large, toes moderately arched, turned neither in nor out.

TAIL

Docked: The tip of the tail should be on the same level as ears. May droop at rest. When moving should be erect.

Undocked: May droop at rest. When moving should be erect.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

True, free, and springy.

COAT

May be smooth, broken, or rough. Must be weatherproof, preferably unaltered.

COLOUR

- White MUST predominate with black and/or tan markings.

* The tan markings can be from the lightest tan to the richest tan (chestnut).

SIZE

Height at withers:

25cm – 30cm (approx. 10" – 12").

The weight in kg being equivalent to 1kg to each 5cm in height, i.e. a 25cm dog should weigh approximately 5kg.

***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. However, the following weaknesses should be particularly penalised:

- Lack of true Terrier characteristics
- Lack of balance, i.e. over exaggeration of any points
- Sluggish or unsound movement
- Faulty mouth.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 345: JACK RUSSELL TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 3 – Terriers.

Section 2 – Small Terriers .

Working trial optional.