



**Official Breed Standard
of the
Kennel Union of South Africa**



AIREDALE TERRIER

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Largest of the Terriers, a muscular, active, fairly cobby dog, without suspicion of legginess or undue length of body.

CHARACTERISTICS

Keen of expression, quick of movement, on the tiptoe of expectation at any movement. Character denoted and shown by expression of eyes, and by carriage of ears and erect tail.

TEMPERAMENT

Outgoing and confident, friendly, courageous and intelligent. Alert at all times, not aggressive but fearless.

HEAD & SKULL

Skull long and flat, not too broad between ears, and narrowing slightly to eyes. Well balanced, with no apparent difference in length between skull and foreface. Free from wrinkles, with stop hardly visible; cheeks level and free from fullness. Foreface well filled up before eyes, not dish-faced or falling away quickly below eyes, but a delicate chiselling prevents appearance of wedginess or plainness. Upper and lower jaws deep, powerful, strong and muscular, as strength of foreface is greatly desired. No excess development of the jaws to give a rounded or bulging appearance to the cheeks, as cheekiness is undesirable. Lips tight, nose black.

EARS

V-shaped with a side carriage, small but not out of proportion to size of dog. Top line of folded ear slightly above level of skull. Pendulous ears or ears set too high undesirable.

EYES

Dark in colour, small, not prominent, full of terrier expression, keenness and intelligence. Light or bold eye highly undesirable.

MOUTH

Teeth strong. Jaws strong. Scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws preferable, but vice-like bite acceptable. An overshot or undershot mouth undesirable.

NECK

Clean, muscular, of moderate length and thickness, gradually widening towards shoulders, and free from throatiness.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder long, well laid back, sloping obliquely, shoulder blades flat. Forelegs perfectly straight, with good bone. Elbows perpendicular to body, working free of sides.

BODY

Back short, strong, straight and level, showing no slackness. Loins muscular. Ribs well sprung. In short-coupled and well ribbed-up dogs there is little space between ribs and hips. When dog is long in couplings some slackness will be shown here. Chest deep (i.e. approximately level with elbows) but not broad.

HINDQUARTERS

Thighs long and powerful with muscular second thigh, stifles well bent, turned neither in nor out. Hocks well let down, parallel with each other when viewed from behind.

FEET

Small, round and compact, with a good depth of pad, well cushioned, and toes moderately arched, turning neither in nor out.

TAIL

Set on high and carried gaily, not curled over back. Good strength and substance. Customarily docked. Tip approximately at the same height as top of skull.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Legs carried straight forward. Forelegs move freely, parallel to the sides. When approaching, forelegs should form a continuation of the straight line of the front, feet being same distance apart as elbows. Propulsive power is furnished by hindlegs.

COAT

Hard, dense and wiry, not so long as to appear ragged. Lying straight and close, covering body and legs; outer coat hard, wiry and stiff, undercoat shorter and softer. Hardest coats are crinkling or just slightly waved; curly or soft coat highly undesirable.

COLOUR

Body saddle black or grizzle as is top of the neck and top surface of tail. All other parts tan. Ears often a darker tan, and shading may occur round neck and side of skull. A few white hairs between forelegs acceptable.

SIZE

Height about 58 - 61 cms (23 - 24 ins) for dogs, taken from top of shoulder, and bitches about 56 - 59 cms (22 - 23 ins).

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

NOTE

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

Copyright Kennel Club, London 3/94.

Reprinted with permission.

FCI (7) Gp3

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without permission in writing from the publisher.

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa.

15-10-03