



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



AUSTRALIAN TERRIER

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A sturdy low-set dog, rather long in proportion to height with strong Terrier character, alertness, activity and soundness. Its untrimmed, harsh coat with definite ruff around the neck extending to the breastbone and its long strong head assist in developing its hard bitten, rugged appearance. Essentially a working terrier, but its loyalty and even disposition make it equally suitable as a companion dog.

HEAD & SKULL

Long with flat skull of moderate width, full between the eyes, and slight but definite stop. The muzzle, strong and powerful, equal in length to that of the skull, which is covered with a soft topknot. The muzzle must be strong and not fall away under the eyes. Nose black, of moderate size, the leather extending to the bridge of muzzle.

EYES

The eyes shall be small, oval, with keen expression, and of dark brown colour, set well apart and not prominent.

EARS

The ears are small, erect, pointed, well carried, set on moderately wide, free from long hair and sensitive in their use (puppies under six months excepted).

MOUTH

Jaw strong and punishing, teeth large and evenly spaced, the upper incisors fitting closely over the lower (scissor bite), lips black, tight and clean. The length and strength of the muzzle are essential to give the strong, punishing jaw.

NECK

The neck is of good length, slightly arched, strong and flowing into the well angulated (well laid) shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

The forechest is well developed, brisket relatively deep with forelegs well boned, straight and parallel when viewed from the front. Pasterns are strong, without slope; the legs are slightly feathered towards the wrist.

BODY

Long in proportion to height, strongly constructed, with well sprung ribs and chest of moderate depth and width. The topline is level with loins strong and deep flanks. In considering the body, attention must be paid to the opening description, "sturdy low set dog, rather long in proportion to height".

HINDQUARTERS

Moderate length of quarters, broad with strong muscular thighs. Stifles are well turned with hocks well bent and let down. Viewed from behind they should be parallel from hock to feet, neither too wide nor too close.

FEET

Small, round, compact, well padded, toes closely knit and moderately arched, turned neither in nor out, with strong black or dark toenails.

TAIL

Docked, set on high, and well carried, but not over the back. Customarily docked

GAIT/MOVEMENT

The action to be free, true, springy and forceful. When viewed from the front, the forelegs should move truly without looseness of shoulder, elbows or pasterns. The hindquarters to have drive and power, with free movement of stifles and hocks. Viewed from the rear the legs from the hocks to the ground to be parallel, neither too close nor too wide.

COAT

The body coat consists of a harsh dense top coat approximately 6 cm (2½ in) long with short soft textured undercoat. The muzzle, lower legs and feet to be free from long hair.

COLOUR

- a) Blue, steel blue or dark grey blue, with rich tan (not sandy) on face, ears, under body, lower legs and feet and around vent (puppies excepted). The richer the colour and more clearly defined the better. Smuttiness is objectionable. Topknot blue, silver or lighter shade than head colour.
- b) Clear sandy or red, any smuttiness or dark shadings objectionable. A topknot of a lighter shade is acceptable.
- c) In any colour, white markings on chest or feet must be penalised.

SIZE

Height : The desirable height is approximately 25 cm (approx.10 in) at the withers. With bitches slightly less.

Weight: The desirable weight is approximately 6.5 kg (approx. 14 lb) for dogs with bitches slightly less.

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.

NOTE

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

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