



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



GLEN OF IMAAL TERRIER

UTILISATION

Like all other terriers, this small tough breed had to hunt badgers and foxes, and to keep the rat population to a minimum. Now he is a gentle and docile family dog who oozes personality; his loyal and affectionate nature makes him a very acceptable house dog and companion.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Like many dogs in the terrier group, not really appreciated by gentlemen sportsmen before the middle of the 19th century, the Irish Glen of Imaal is an old breed which was simply ignored for a long time, rather than the result of later breed experiments. He is very much a local dog, confined to the bleak area of the Glen of Imaal. The farmers of this area, who were descended from soldiers given land in the 16th and 17th centuries as payment for service rendered to the British Crown, had to utilise their natural cunning and dexterity to survive in this harsh terrain. A dog, who could not pull his weight in the day-to-day struggle for existence would not be tolerated. So he had to spend long hours propelling dog wheels and was often pitted against other dogs in the dubious sport of dog fighting, customs now disappeared. Before the Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier became known at dog shows, he had evolved through generations of hard work into the strong sturdy dog we know today. The Irish Kennel Club gave official recognition to the breed in 1933 and a club to promote its interests was soon formed. The Irish Glen of Imaal is said to be less easily excited than other terriers, though he is always ready to give chase when called on.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Medium sized with medium length coat, great strength with the impression of maximum substance for the size of the dog.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Body longer than high and low to the ground.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

Active, agile and silent when working. Game and spirited with great courage when called upon, otherwise gentle and docile.

HEAD

Cranial Region

Skull

Of good width and of fair length.

Stop

Pronounced.

Facial Region

Nose

Black.

Muzzle

Foreface of power, tapering to the nose.

Jaws/Teeth

Jaws strong, teeth sound, regular, strong and of good size. Scissor bite.

Eyes

Brown, medium size, round and set well apart. Light eyes should be penalised.

Ears

Small rose or half pricked when alert, thrown back when in repose. Full drop or prick undesirable.

NECK

Very muscular and of moderate length.

BODY

Deep and long, and longer than high.

Topline

Straight i.e. level.

Loin

Strong.

Chest

Wide and strong, ribs well sprung.

Tail

Docked. Strong at root, well set on and carried gaily. Pups tails docked to half length. Customarily docked.

FOREQUARTERS**Forelegs**

Short, bowed and well boned.

Shoulders

Broad, muscular and well laid back.

Forelegs

Short, bowed and well boned.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong and well muscled.

Thighs

Good.

Stifle

Well bent.

Hocks

Turned neither in nor out.

FEET

Compact and strong with rounded pads. Front feet to turn out slightly from pasterns.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Free, not hackneyed. Covers ground effortlessly with good drive behind.

COAT**Hair**

Medium length, of harsh texture with soft undercoat. Coat may be tidied to present a neat outline.

Colour

Blue brindle but not toning to black. Wheaten, from a light wheaten colour to a golden reddish shade. Puppies usually born true to type, in colour blue, wheaten, reddish. Masks are usually an inky blue, there may be a streak of blue down back, on tails and ears. The darker markings will clear with maturity.

SIZE AND WEIGHT

Height at withers :	Dogs :	35.5 cm (14 in) is the maximum
	Bitches :	accordingly less.
Weight :	Dogs :	16 kg (35 lbs)
	Bitches :	accordingly 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 fully descended into the scrotum

FCI 20/3/98.

(302) Gp3.

Fedco 5/98.

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

28 May 2004