

CAIRN TERRIER BREED STANDARD

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions of exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges' and breeders are requested to refer to the Breed Watch section of the Kennel Club website here <http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/services/public/breeds/watch> for details of such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described or highly undesirable it is strongly recommended that should not be rewarded in the show ring.

Characteristics: Should impress as being active, game and hardy.

General Appearance: Agile, alert, of workmanlike, natural appearance. Standing well forward on forepaws. Strong quarters. Deep in rib, very free in movement. Weather-resistant coat.

Temperament: Fearless and gay disposition, assertive but not aggressive.

Head and Skull: Head small, but in proportion to body. Skull broad, a decided indentation between the eyes with a definite stop. Muzzle powerful, jaw strong but not long or heavy. Nose black. Head well furnished.

Eyes: Wide apart, medium in size, dark hazel. Slightly sunk with shaggy eyebrows.

Ears: Small, pointed, well carried and erect, not too closely set nor heavily coated.

Mouth: Large teeth. Jaw strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, ie upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to jaw.

Neck: Well set on, not short.

Forequarters: Sloping shoulders, medium length of leg, good but not too heavy bone. Forelegs never out at elbow. Legs covered with harsh hair.

Body: Back level, medium in length. Well sprung deep ribs, strong supple loin.

Hindquarters: Very strong muscular thighs. Good, but not excessive, bend of stifle. Hocks well let down, inclining neither in nor out when viewed from the rear.

Feet: Forefeet, larger than hind, may be slightly turned out. Pads thick and strong. Thin, narrow or spreading feet and long nails objectionable.

Tail: Short, balanced, well furnished with hair but not feathery. Neither high nor low set, carried gaily but not turned down towards back.

Gait: Very free-flowing stride. Forelegs reaching well forward. Hind legs giving strong propulsion. Hocks neither too close nor too wide.

Coat: Very important. Weather-resistant. Must be double-coated with profuse, harsh but not coarse, outer coat, undercoat short, soft and close. Open coats objectionable. Slight wave permissible.

Colour: Cream, wheaten, red, grey or nearly black. Brindling in all these colours acceptable. Not solid black or white, or black and tan. Dark points such as ears and muzzle very typical.

Weight and Size: Approximately 28cm to 31 cm (11 to 12 inches) at withers but in proportion to weight – ideally 6 to 7.5 kgs (14 to 16 lbs).

Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness of the fault should be in exact proportion to its degree, and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

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

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