

# **The Illustrated Cairn Terrier Breed Standard**

Produced by the U.K. Joint Cairn Terrier Clubs

2014

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## Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to explain and amplify the Cairn Terrier Standard to help in the training of judges and exhibitors new to the breed

## U.K. Cairn Terrier Clubs & Cairn Terrier Relief Fund

### Cairn Terrier Club

[www.thecairnterrierclub.co.uk](http://www.thecairnterrierclub.co.uk)

### Southern Cairn Terrier Club

[www.sctc.org.uk](http://www.sctc.org.uk)

### Cairn Terrier Association

[www.midlandctc.co.uk/cta/home.htm](http://www.midlandctc.co.uk/cta/home.htm)

### North of Ireland Cairn Terrier Club

[www.facebook.com/NorthOfIrelandCairnTerrierClub](http://www.facebook.com/NorthOfIrelandCairnTerrierClub)

### Midland Cairn Terrier Club

[www.midlandctc.co.uk](http://www.midlandctc.co.uk)

### South Wales & West of England Cairn Terrier Club

[www.swwectc.freeuk.com](http://www.swwectc.freeuk.com)

### Cairn Terrier Relief Fund

[www.cairn-rescue.co.uk](http://www.cairn-rescue.co.uk)

## The Breed Standard

### 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.

### Characteristics

Should impress as being active, game and hardy.

### 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. Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

### 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 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/Movement

Very free-flowing stride. Forelegs reaching well forward. Hindlegs 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.

### Size

Approximately 28-31 cms (11-12 ins) at withers, but in proportion to weight – ideally 6-7.5 kgs (14-16 lbs).

### 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.

### Note

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

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## History of the UK Standard

The Standard was drawn up in 1911, at a meeting in the North British Hotel, Edinburgh. The earliest version that we know of is the one printed in the Cairn Terrier Club Year Book of 1914/15;

### Cairn Terrier Points

**General Appearance (20)** - Small, active, game; very hardy in appearance; strong, though compactly built. Should stand well forward on fore paws, strong quarters, deep in ribs; very free in movement; coat hard enough to resist rain; head small, but in proportion to body. A general foxy appearance is the chief characteristic of this Working Terrier.

**Skull (10)** - broad in proportion; strong, but not too long or heavy jaw. A slight indentation between eyes; hair should be rather full on top of head.

**Muzzle (10)** - powerful, but not heavy; very strong jaw, with large teeth; roof of mouth black.

**Eyes (5)** - set wide apart, large, hazel or dark hazel, rather sunk, with shaggy eyebrows.

**Ears (5)** - small, pointed, well carried, and erect but not too closely set.

**Tail (5)** - about 6 inches, well furnished with hair but not feathery; carried gaily, but must not curl over back.

**Body (25)** - compact, straight back, deep ribs, strong sinews, hind quarters very strong.

**Legs and Feet** - Low in leg; good, but not too large bone; fore legs should not be out at elbow, but fore feet may be slightly turned out; fore feet larger than hind; legs must be covered with hard hair; pads should be black.

**Coat (10)** - Coat hard, but not coarse, with good undercoat and head well furnished; in colour - sandy, grey, brindled or nearly black. Dark points such as ears, muzzle, very typical.

In order to keep this breed to best old working type, any cross with a modern Scotch Terrier will be considered objectionable.

### Faults

Muzzle - undershot or snipey

Eyes - Too prominent or too light

Ears - Too large or round at points. They must not be too heavily coated with hair.

Coat - Silkiness or curliness objectionable, a slight wave permissible.

Skull .....	10
Muzzle .....	10
Eyes .....	5
Ears .....	5
Body, neck and chest .....	25
Legs and Feet .....	10
The Tail .....	5
General appearance, size and coat .....	30
	----
	100

### MOLAR TEETH

There are two molar teeth on each side of the upper jaw and three on each side of the lower jaw.

### MOVING CLOSE

When the hind limbs move close to each other.

### MOVING STRAIGHT

Fore and hind legs moving parallel.

### NECK

That part between skull and front shoulder blade.

### NECK WELL SET ON

Good neckline, merging gradually with strong withers, forming a pleasing transition into topline.

### OVERSHOT

The front teeth (incisors) of the upper jaw overlap and do not touch the front teeth of the lower jaw when the mouth is closed.

### PASTERN

The region of the foreleg between the carpus or wrist and the digits.

### PATELLA

A bone, equivalent to the human knee cap, in front of the stifle joint.

### POINT OF SHOULDER

Joint where upper arm meets scapula.

### ROACH BACK

A convex curvature of the back toward the loin.

### ROLLING GAIT

Rolling, ambling action when moving.

### SCAPULA

Shoulder blade.

### SECOND THIGH

That part of the hindquarter from the stifle to the hock. Lower thigh.

### SET ON

Placement of tail on body and position of ears on skull.

### SHORT COUPLED

With very short coupling.

### SICKLED HOCKED

Inability to extend the hock joint on the backward drive of the hind leg.

### STRAIGHT STIFLE

Stifle joint in which femur and tibia meet at angle of 180 degrees. Straight behind.

### TOPLINE

The dog's outline from just behind the withers to the tail set.

### UNDERCOAT

Dense, soft, short coat concealed by longer top coat.

### UNDERSHOT

The lower teeth (incisors) of the lower jaw extending beyond and not touching the upper teeth.

### UPPER ARM

The humerus or bone of the foreleg, between the shoulder blade and the elbow.

### UPRIGHT SHOULDER

Without sufficient angulation of the shoulder blades.

### WELL SPRUNG RIBS

Ribs springing out from spinal column giving correct shape.

## Glossary of Terms

<b>ACTION</b>	Movement, the way a dog walks, trots or runs.
<b>ANGULATION</b>	The angles formed at a joint by the meeting of the bones.
<b>APPLE HEADED</b>	Very domed, round skull.
<b>BACK</b>	Region between withers and root of tail but in some standards may refer to region between withers and loin.
<b>BOLD IN EYE</b>	Giving foreign expression and protruding eye, sometimes called bolting eye.
<b>BRISKET</b>	The forepart of the body below the chest and between the forelegs.
<b>BRINDLE</b>	A fine mixture of black hairs with hairs of a lighter colour.
<b>BALANCE</b>	A consistent whole, symmetrical, typically proportioned as a whole or as regards its separate parts, i.e. balance of head, balance of body, or balance of head and body.
<b>BREASTBONE</b>	Bone forming floor of chest.
<b>BONE</b>	The relative girth of a dog leg bone
<b>CANINES</b>	The two upper and two lower long, sharp pointed teeth next to the incisors. Fangs.
<b>CAT FOOT</b>	Short, round, compact foot like that of a cat.
<b>CHARACTER</b>	Combination of type, appearance, disposition and behaviour.
<b>COUPLING</b>	The part of the body between the ribs and pelvis, the loin.
<b>CROUP (RUMP)</b>	The end of the back from the front of the pelvis to the root of the tail.
<b>EVEN BITE</b>	Meeting of front teeth at edges with no overlap of upper or lower teeth.
<b>EXPRESSION</b>	The general appearance of all features of the head as viewed from the front.
<b>FOREFACE</b>	The front part of the head, before the eyes. Muzzle.
<b>GAY TAIL</b>	The tail carried very high over the dog's back. A term sometimes used when a tail is carried higher than the carriage approved by the breed standard.
<b>HOCK</b>	The tarsus or collection of bones of the hind leg forming the joint between the second thigh and the metatarsus.
<b>HOCKS WELL LET</b>	Hock joints close to the ground
<b>DOWN</b>	Stifle joint
<b>KNEE JOINT</b>	Angle of the shoulder blade when viewed from the side.
<b>LAYBACK</b>	When the shoulder blades are pushed out from the body by over development of the muscles.
<b>LOADED SHOULDERS</b>	
<b>LOW SET</b>	When tail is set on below level of topline.
<b>MASK</b>	Dark hairs on the foreface.

Several modifications to the original Standard appeared in the 1916 Cairn Terrier Club Year Book (underlined here);

## STANDARD OF POINTS As adopted by the CAIRN TERRIER CLUB

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

- Active, game, hardy and "shaggy" in appearance; strong, though compactly built. Should stand well forward on forepaws. Strong quarters, deep in ribs. very free in movement. Coat hard enough to resist rain. Head small, but in proportion to body. A general foxy appearance is the chief characteristic of this working terrier.
- Shull - Broad in proportion; strong but not too long or heavy jaw. A *decided* indentation between eyes; hair should be *full on forehead*.
- Muzzle - Powerful, but not heavy. Very strong jaw, with large teeth, *which should be neither undershot nor overshot*.
- Eyes - Set wide apart; *medium in size*; hazel or dark hazel, rather sunk, with shaggy eyebrows.
- Ears - Small, pointed, well carried, and erect but not too closely set.
- Short, well furnished with hair, but not feathery; carried gaily, but must not curl down towards back.
- Body - Compact, straight back; *well sprung* deep ribs; strong sinews, hind quarters very strong. *Back medium in length and well-coupled*.
- Shoulders, legs and feet - *A sloping shoulder and a medium length of leg*; good, but not too large bone. Forelegs should not be out at elbow, but forefeet may be slightly turned out. Forefeet larger than hind. Legs must be covered with hard hair. *Pads should be thick and strong. Thin and ferrety feet are objectionable*.
- Coat - *Very important. Must be double-coated, with profuse, hard, but not coarse outer coat, and undercoat which resembles fur, and is short, soft and close. Open coats are objectionable*. Head should be well furnished. Colour - red, sandy, grey, brindled or nearly black. Dark points such as ears, muzzle, very typical.

In order to keep this breed to best old working type, any cross with a modern Scotch Terrier will be considered objectionable.

### Faults

Muzzle - undershot or *overshot*.

Eyes - Too prominent or too light

Ears - Too large or round at points. They must not be too heavily coated with hair.

Coat - Silkiness or curliness objectionable, a slight wave permissible.

Nose - Flesh or light-coloured objectionable.

### SCALE OF POINTS

Skull .....	5
Muzzle .....	10
Eyes .....	5
Ears .....	5
Body .....	20
Shoulders, legs and Feet .....	20
Tail .....	5
General appearance, size and coat .....	30
-----	100

### WEIGHT

Dogs .....	about 12 lbs to 16 lbs
Bitches .....	about 11 lbs to 14 lbs

In 1922 the description of the Tail was altered to ".....but should not turn down towards back."  
The weight clause for both dogs and bitches was also changed to "Ideal weight 14 lbs."

The Standard then remained unchanged until 1948 when the Kennel Club, in a letter dated 10 May, pointed out that there were no explanations for "Characteristics" or "Neck". At the CTC Annual General Meeting on 19 May 1948, it was agreed unanimously that the former should be:

"This terrier should impress with a fearless and gay disposition"  
and the latter:

"Neck - should be well set on, but not short."  
and that this be notified to the Kennel Club.

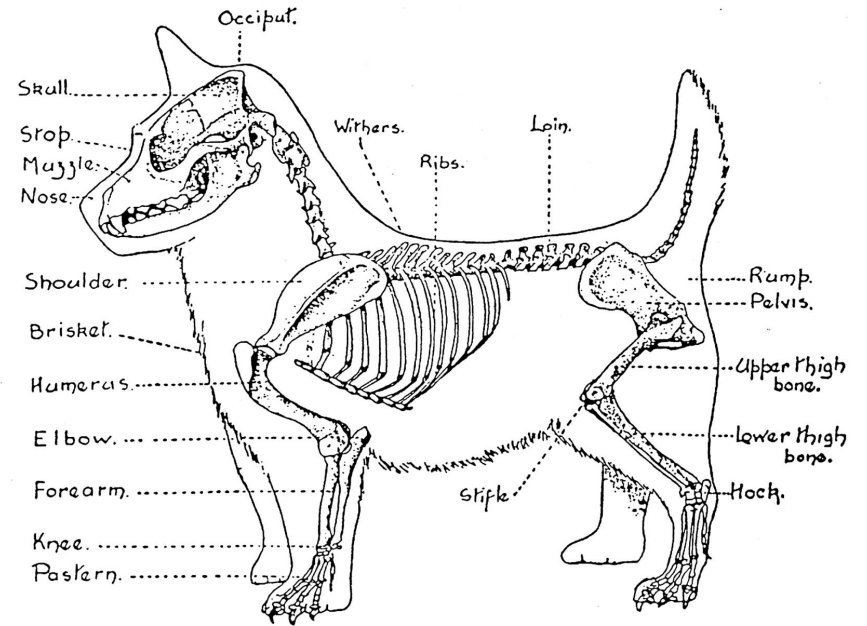
By January 1950, the "Scale of Points", adding up to 100, had disappeared from the Standard, probably as a directive from the Kennel Club, although the CTC minute book does not record this.

In 1972/3 the Kennel Club was drawing to the attention of the Clubs some reference to "Entirety", and the recommendation from the CTC in February 1974, proposed by Mrs Diana Hamilton, and seconded by Miss Peggy Wilson, was that the Clubs accept the Note;

"N.B. The male should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended in the scrotum."

By May 1974, The CTC had received word from the North of Ireland CTC that the footnote was acceptable, and confirmation was expected from the SCTC and the CTA, but the records do not show if this was ever received.

In the event, it seems that nothing further was done until the major revision in 1982, when all the Breed Standards were rewritten in a standardised format at the insistence of the Kennel Club, which then assumed copyright of all the Standards.



**"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."**

The standard mentions the four basic colours, Cream, Wheaten, Red and Grey, with brindling in all these colours.

A Cairn may change colour during its life.

There have been cases of unusual colours being used to register cairns, very often just Brindle, which is of course not a colour, champagne, golden brindle, cream and black and fawn.

Dark ears and muzzle do much to enhance the attractiveness of the Cairn but self coloured should not be penalised.

You will see that whilst we are not colour conscious in our requirements there are certain colours and markings that are not acceptable. Black, white or black and tan.

**"Size - Approximately 28-31 cms (11-12 ins) at withers, but in proportion to weight – ideally 6-7.5 kgs (14-16 lbs)."**

Present day Cairns are bigger.

Some latitude in this respect should be allowed when judging.

Good bone and muscle reflect in the weight.

Same weight for dogs and bitches

**"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."**

#### **Note**

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

## **Cairn Terrier Breed History**

It was not until after shows were first organised in 1859 that the terriers of Scotland began to be separated into distinct varieties.

From references in literature we know they had been a part of everyday life for centuries before that, but they were bred for the service they gave their masters, rather than for looks, and so no particular attempt was made to create individual breeds.

In general they were small, rough-coated and rather longer bodied, but above all plucky and daring dogs who never knew when to give up when fighting their quarry. They needed strong jaws and good teeth. They were also required to bark, or have a good voice, to indicate where they were going and where their quarry was hiding. They also had to have a keen sense of smell.

Gradually different strains began to be developed by their admirers; this depended on what were the best attributes for working in one area. On the west coast of Scotland, but also many places inland and across to Inverness in the east, the breeders looked for small, colourful terriers. Later these became the Cairn Terrier.

The terriers of Scotland were immortalised in other ways. Sir Edwin Landseer included various terriers in his paintings. In his 1830 painting "Highland Music" are two Wheaten terriers which are taken to be Cairns. In 1865 Gourlay Steel painted "Dandie Dinmont and his terriers" which shows two dogs which could be Dandies and two smaller ones resembling Cairns or West Highland Whites.

We know that 200 years before that King James 1 of England (King James VI of Scotland) wrote to Edinburgh for half a dozen "earth dogges or terrieres" which he wished to send to France as presents. In view of this it seems strange that it was not until the early part of the twentieth century that West Highland Whites and the Cairn became known in the south of England. But once they arrived their fame spread quickly.

All the varieties of terrier which came from Scotland qualified for the name Scotch Terrier. All too might have been varieties of the Skye Terriers. At a show in London in 1863 there were classes for Skyes - White Scotch, Fawn Scotch and Blue Scotch. Other events divided classes by weight and ear carriage.

It seems strange to think that those shaggy, wiry, short-legged little terriers that we know today as Cairns could well have been Skye Terriers, perhaps with the qualification short coated, if the fanciers at the turn of the nineteenth century had their way. There were frequent references to short-coated Skye Terriers in books and entries at shows, while the Kennel Club for registration purposes called them Prick-eared Skye Terriers.

By 1909 it became obvious that two such different breeds could not continue under the same name.

Happily, in view of the confusion which would have arisen if the Cairn people had

to the word Skye, Cairn registrations were removed from those of Prick-eared Skye Terriers in 1910. They briefly appeared under the heading "Any other breed or variety" until in 1910 the Kennel Club officially accepted the breed, giving them their own register. The word Cairn arose from their work in getting the otters free from the cairns which formed from fallen rocks by the sea in Skye.

The Cairn Terrier Club was formed in 1910, and in 1911 the first Standard of Points was drawn up. The president was Mr. A. R. Macdonald of Waternish whose family had owned the breed for upwards of 80 years - indeed, the breed had been occasionally referred to as the Waternish Terrier. The Hon. Secretary was Mrs. Alistair Campbell (of the Brocaire affix), who is accepted as the founder of the breed as a show dog. She fought the battle for recognition and it was her actions, with those of The Hon. Mary C. Hawke (Lockers affix), which forced the change of name.

The Southern Cairn Terrier Club followed in 1914, the Cairn Terrier Association in 1925 and the North of Ireland Cairn Terrier Club in 1933. Later, at the beginning of the eighties, the Midland Cairn Terrier Club and the South Wales and West of England Club were accepted. Today all six clubs hold a championship show, and there is a joint club open show, hosted by each club in turn.

Challenge Certificates were offered for the first time in 1912, at Richmond, where the judge was, appropriately, Mrs Alistair Campbell. The first CC winners were Firing Fling and Firing Flora, both owned by Messrs. Ross and Markland. There were just four sets of CCs on offer in 1912. The following year came the first champion, Lady Sophie Scott's Tibbie of Harris. Gesto, owned by Mrs. Campbell, was the first dog champion. That year there were 11 sets of CCs and five champions in all were made up, the other three being Firing Frolic, Skye Crofter and Sheila of Harris.

There was to be one more important battle within the breed: whether Cairns and West Highland Whites should continue to be interbred. Those who wanted interbreeding to stop won the day and from December 31, 1924, the Kennel Club ceased to accept the progeny of such interbreeding for registration. The American Kennel Club had already taken the same decision in 1917, seven years earlier.

In the USA the West Highland White was recognised and established by 1908 so it is likely that "Cairns" could be seen at that time too, but Mrs. Henry E. Price of Connecticut is credited with having imported the first known Cairns. That was in September 1913 when she took over Sandy Peter Out of The West and Loch Scotter's Podge, both bred by Mrs. Noney Fleming. The Cairn Terrier Club of America became a member of the American Kennel Club in 1917, while the first American champion was made up in 1918 - Mrs. Payne Whitney's imported Greentree Ardsheal Gillie Cam.

*Ferelith Somerfield*

## **Towards**

The forelegs should be straight with no slackness at the elbow, the ankle joint should flex on the move.

No pinning, plating or paddling.



**"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."**

Double coat - A profuse, harsh, but not coarse or wiry, outer coat and a short, soft and close undercoat.

The outer coat should not be soft.

Use finger and thumb to remove any straggling hairs, but a natural outline should be kept.

Scissoring should be penalised, with one exception, that is around the feet.

The 'Slight wave' mentioned in the standards is frowned on nowadays.

Trimming is sometimes used to camouflage shortcomings and use of the hands is necessary to identify where this has taken place.

Over preparation is objectionable per Kennel Club Regulations F (annex B)

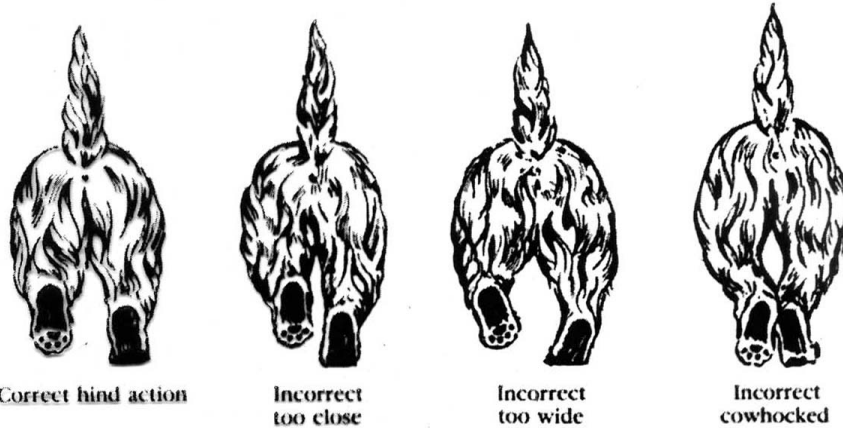
Rugged but not ragged.

A Cairn is not a flashy dog and is disadvantaged when competing with trimmed breeds.

A Cairn should be shown in a clean condition.



## The Standard, Illustrated and Explained



### From the side

The Cairn should move with ease and agility.

The topline should stay level and the feet should stay close to the ground.

The forelegs should reach well forward, but no goose-step, and the rear legs providing plenty of propulsion.

Short steps, front and rear, are inefficient and energy consuming.

Any suggestion that the back feet touch the front feet, resulting in crabbing would be a serious fault.



Correct action



Incorrect pacing action

The text from the Standard is shown in bold

**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.”**

**“Agile”** – a Cairn should be able to move around with quick and easy movements and be supple enough to turn around in a very small space. He was bred for working amongst rocks.

**“Alert, of workmanlike, natural appearance.”** – he should look lively and ready for anything. He should be shown naturally and not be overtrimmed.

**“Standing well forward on forepaws.”** – implies a well developed brisket and with no indication of an upright upper arm as seen in some breeds.

**“Strong quarters”** - should not collapse when pressure placed on it.

**“Ribs”** - well sprung deep ribs with adequate room for heart and lungs.

**“Free movement”** - covers the ground easily and effortlessly.

**“Coat”** - stands all weathers.

This is a dog with good balance



He is holding his head in a natural position. He has a good neckline, not stuffy, not overlong, it flows gently down to the withers. His depth of chest is in balance with the length of his legs and body which make him slightly oblong. His forequarters are correctly angulated. His back is level with no dip behind the shoulders or hump over the loin.

He has a waist.

His hind legs have a good, but not excessive bend of stifle.

He is standing naturally, not under himself, not over angulated.

His tail is well placed, neither low nor high set, it is carried at five past the hour, anywhere between one o’ clock and ten past is the preferred carriage.

These characteristics indicate a dog of good quality.

**Balance is a word not mentioned in the Standard but it is important when considering the dog as a whole.**

**Characteristics - "Should impress as being active, game and hardy."**

The words "active, game and hardy" were written when the Standard was produced in 1911. They have been kept in the present day Standard. This shows how important the breeders and exhibitors past and present attached to these words.

- "Active" - A Cairn should look energetic, should appear to be enjoying his life, should have plenty of spirit and appear strong and robust.
- "Game and hardy" - a description of a true working terrier.

A Cairn should be confident enough to always be shown on a loose lead, he should never be propped up, except when on the table.

He is too independent in spirit to stand like a statue for long periods.

A move regains his attention - not always appreciated by some judges.

**Temperament - "Fearless and gay disposition; assertive but not aggressive."**

To be able to work he needs to be brave enough to confront prey bigger than himself.

An adult ought not to be shy or retreat from other dogs or humans.

A certain degree of wariness with strangers and strange happenings shows intelligence.

He should be able to defend himself if threatened but should not cause any aggression.

**A big dog in a little body!**

**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."**

"Head small, but in proportion to body" - People who do not know the breed may be surprised that our Standard asks for a small head, although the words "in proportion to body" follow. The furnishings make the head appear much larger than it actually is. You would probably be surprised if you saw a Cairn come out of a bath with its head thoroughly soaked. It is a surprisingly small head but still with a much wider skull than the foreface which looks quite pointed and quite slim.

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



Good tails have to be bred for and are highly prized, with their position and length being important.

"Short, balanced" - when held up vertically should be no higher than the tip of the ears.

"Well furnished not feathery" - trimmed as inverted carrot.

"Neither high nor low set" - set on level with the back

"Carried gaily" - at about five-past the hour is average.



The tail on the left is incorrect because it is set too low.  
The tail on the right is incorrect because it is set too high



**"Gait/Movement - Very free-flowing stride. Forelegs reaching well forward. Hindlegs giving strong propulsion. Hocks neither too close nor too wide."**

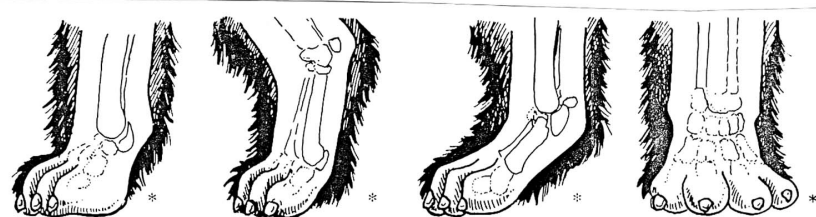
Movement is best assessed from three viewpoints.

**Going away**

The hindquarters should move in parallel with the front legs and should fall in a straight line from the rump, there should be no sideways movements of the rear quarters, neither cow hocked or open hocked but with space between the legs.

The pads should be seen but not thrown backwards in an exaggerated movement.

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



FRONT FEET  
CORRECT

REAR FEET  
CORRECT

WEAK PASTER

SPLAYED FOOT



CORRECT PAD  
CAT FOOT



INCORRECT  
SPLAYED FOOT



INCORRECT  
HARE FOOT

The front feet may turn out slightly so that when he is digging he throws the soil to the side and does not dig himself into a hole, but they should never turn inwards.

The feet should have tight paws and the front feet be larger than the hind feet.

Pads – well cushioned

Nails – keep short

The only part of a Cairn where scissors are used is the feet to keep them neat and tidy.

This is an example of a correct Cairn head



"Skull broad" - The skull is slightly domed and broad in proportion to length.

"A decided indentation between the eyes with a definite stop" - The stop should be well defined. Stop means a sudden and short rise between the foreface and the skull. Many Cairns are too flat between the skull and foreface and any difference comes in a slight, gradual slope rather than a sudden and short rise.

"Muzzle powerful" - strong and powerful. The length of muzzle, nose to stop, should be less than from stop to occiput (roughly one third to two thirds).

"Jaw strong but not long or heavy" - The jaw should be strong enough to hold onto prey.

"Head well furnished" - The hair on the top of the head can be softer than on the body. The head should be well furnished so as to allow the hair to be brushed slightly forward over the eyes.

**"Eyes - Wide apart, medium in size, dark hazel. Slightly sunk with shaggy eyebrows."**

Too dark an eye or too light is objectionable. The worst fault of all is the small, black, boot button eye. Eyes should be slightly sunk, oval/almond in shape, not prominent or large. It is the expression in the eyes which is so appealing to Cairn lovers.

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

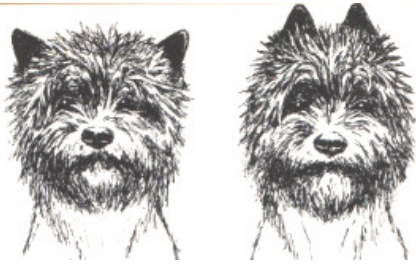


This is an example of correct ears and placement

The shape is important, they should be small and pointed, not round at the tip.

Incorrectly placed ears affect the whole appearance of the head.

They should be just off the vertical and be carried erect. They should not stick out sideways, or be too close together.



The Cairn on the left has ears which are incorrectly placed on the side of the head and the one on the right has ears which are too close together.

It is the custom to remove hair from the top third of the ears, this helps to accentuate the shape.

**"Mouth - Large teeth. Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws."**

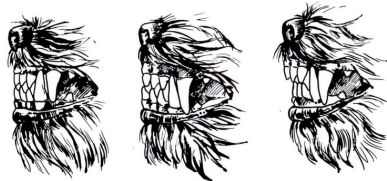


Correct Mouth

This is a good mouth with large, clean, white, evenly placed teeth.

Large teeth, a strong jaw and a scissor bite are important as the Cairn was originally bred for working.

The upper and lower jaws should be of sufficient width and depth to accommodate 42 teeth.



Level bite

Undershot

Overshot

Incorrect Mouths

**"Neck - Well set on, not short."**

The head is carried proudly on a neck flowing into well placed sloping shoulders. It is of medium length with no exaggeration, it should be in proportion and flexible.

A short neck gives a stodgy appearance and spoils the general balance and often goes with an upright front.

A neck of medium length gives flexibility when turning in a small place.

restricted and he would pitter patter.

Legs should not be cow hocked, or conversely, open hocked, and they should not be close together or too wide apart.

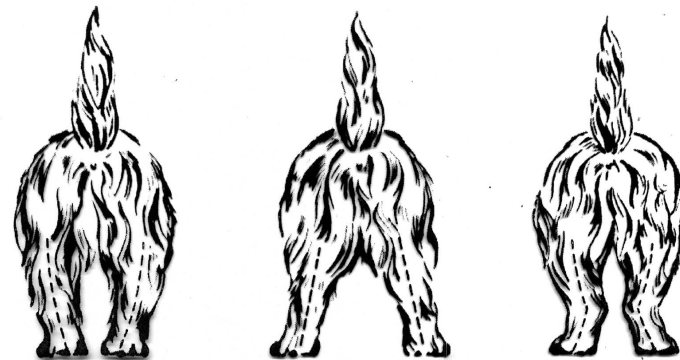
Hindquarters should not be over extended as this leads to weakness.

Incorrectly made hindquarters lead to loss of efficient use of energy



Correct Hindquarters

Straight in stifle



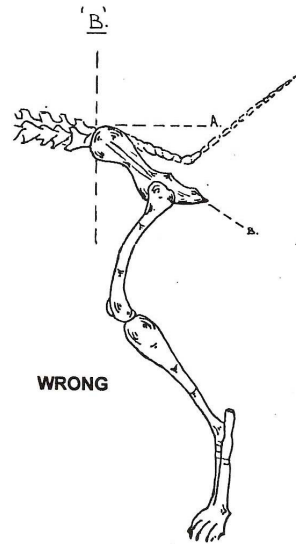
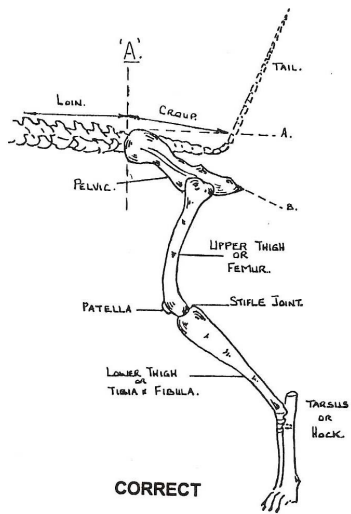
Too close

Too wide

Cow-hocked

**"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."**

The angulation of the hind quarters should be similar to the forequarters to achieve smooth, efficient movement.



**Ideal angulation. 30 degrees for the pelvic structure.**

**Pelvic structure is steeper, approx. 35 to 40 degrees. Because of the steeper angulation we have a low set tail, which in turn affects the rest of the hindquarters.**

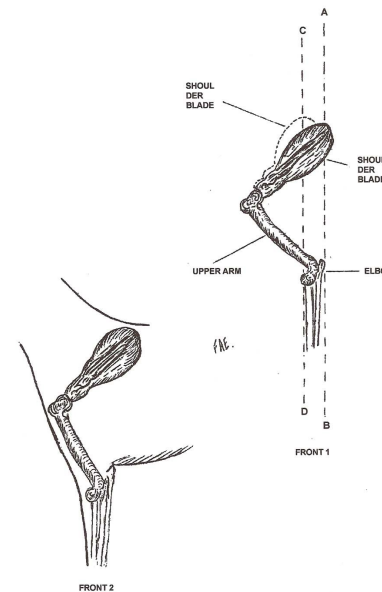
Well angulated and powerful hindquarters together with sufficiently strong muscles are very important as they are used to propel the dog forward.

A Cairn with straight stifles cannot have the propulsion necessary to drive him forward with a free, easy movement.

The hindquarters are dependant upon a pelvis of correct length and angle to allow them to function correctly.

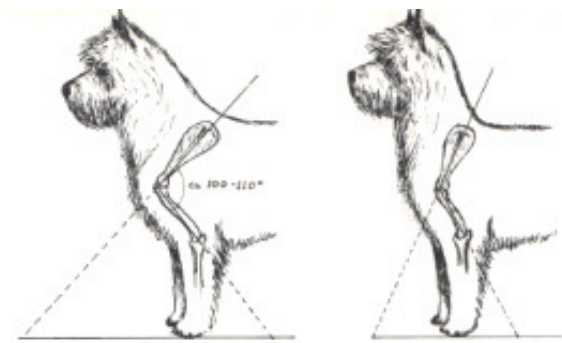
The hocks should be well let down, if they are too high the stride would be

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



We need legs that drop down from fairly slim, smooth shoulders. Distortion can be caused by overloaded, heavy shoulders which can be excess muscle. If this should be combined with being out at the elbow, this would seriously affect the dog's ability to work properly or move correctly.

A sloping shoulder and good length of upper arm is essential to give freedom of movement which is important for a top quality dog. The two diagrams to the left highlight important points. On Front 1 the points A and B are ideal: points C and D show a shoulder that is far too upright, lacking correct angulation. On Front 2 notice the steeper upper arm resulting in the dog not being able to stand well over its forepaws. Note also the lack of chest.



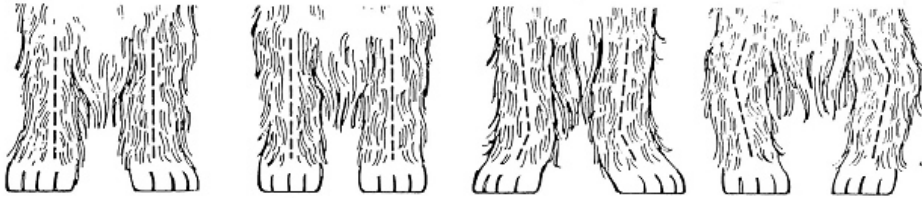
The Cairn on the left has correct shoulder placement and the one on the right is incorrect, being upright in shoulder.

be able to scramble over rocks and would soon tire.

Medium bone is needed, too heavy makes for a solid, heavy animal, too light and he is weedy.

Again the use of the word Medium is used for the Cairn, medium length of leg, a short legged dog would not

The term straight front causes confusion. In a Cairn it is desirable when viewed from the front as we don't want a Queen Anne front or a dog out at the elbow, BUT when viewed from the side a straight front would mean that the shoulders are too upright and upper arm short.



1 2 3 4

Fronts 1 and 2 are both correct. Fronts 3 and 4 are incorrect weak fronts

Long, soft hair on legs is not acceptable.

**"Body - Back level, medium length. Well sprung deep ribs; strong supple loin."**

"Back level" - the back should be level, even on the move.

"Medium in length" - dependent upon there being the correct ratio between the ribs and the loin.

"Strong, supple loin" - medium length, too long and it is likely to be weak.



The body should be supple, lithe, flexible and medium in length.

A short back is not wanted; this would make him stodgy and heavy.

The height from floor to withers should equal the length of the back from the withers to the base of tail.

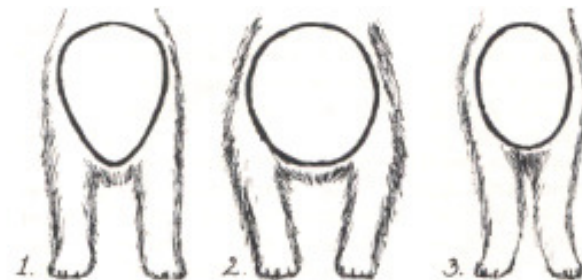
This Cairn above is typical of the breed as regards proportions, height, length and has sufficient daylight underneath.



The Cairn on the far left is too low on its legs and the Cairn on the right is too cobby, i.e. too short on its legs and is too short in back.

Moreover the head of this Cairn is too big in relation to its body.

Sufficient height of leg has nothing to do with size - there are small Cairns with good proportions and there are big ones which are too low on their legs.



The ribs should be heart shaped, not round or flat and should be deep enough to reach the elbow, without this he will not have sufficient width between the legs for the chest to be slightly forward of the legs.

The shape of the ribcage often determines the shape of the front.

Front 1 shows a correct Cairn Terrier front with slightly turned out forepaws and the correct shape of the chest.

Front 2 shows a dog with a too round and wide chest, which results in loose elbows.

Front 3 shows a thin, shallow chest where the forelegs, due to weak pasterns, are beneath the chest. The front becomes too narrow.