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## **Black Russian Terrier**

### **Origin & Purpose**

Developed by the former Russian Red Army to guard military installations etc which required a dog able to work independently and to withstand various climatic conditions. The breed was created by crossing the Airedale, Giant Schnauzer and the Rottweiler. The Giant Schnauzer for its intelligence and quick reactions; the Airedale for its leadership, temperament and stamina; the Rottweiler for its firm stature and fearlessness. The Giant Schnauzer contributed the most to its appearance.

### **General Appearance**

The size of the Black Russian Terriers is a larger than an average dog. Black Russian Terriers are strong, with massive bone structure and well-developed muscles. The skin is tight and elastic, without any folds or dewlap. Physical Appearance– Sturdy and robust.

Dogs of this breed are assertive, wary of strangers and resistant; they adjust easily to different climates. The Black Russian Terrier must yield to training.

### **Temperament**

Extremely energetic [vigorous], strong, stable temperament but very lively, with strong defense reactions.

### **Size**

Dogs 66 - 72 cm (26 - 28 inches) at the withers

Bitches 64 - 70 cm (25- 27 inches) at the withers

Male dogs are of greater size [more imposing size], more masculine and more massive [stronger] than bitches.

**Important Proportions** – The proportion of the length of the body to the height at the withers is between 100-105% of the height at the withers. [i.e. Square to slightly longer in body]

### **Coat & Colour**

#### **Coat**

Rough, hard, ample and extremely dense. The seemingly broken coat is between 4-10 cm (1-4 inches) in length and covers the entire body. On the muzzle, the coat forms a rough, brushy moustache on the upper lip and a beard on the lower lip. Above the eyes, the eyebrows are rough

and bristled. On the neck and the withers, the coat is longer and forms a mane. The forelegs, down to the elbows, and the hindlegs, down to the thighs, are covered by a rough and long coat. The undercoat is dense and well-developed.

### Colour

Black or black with grey hairs.

### Head

Long with moderately narrow skull with well rounded cheekbones. **Forehead:** is flat. **Stop:** is marked but not too pronounced. **Muzzle:** is parallel with the topline of the skull. The muzzle is strong, slightly tapering. The length of the muzzle is slightly less than the length of the skull. The moustache and the beard give the muzzle a truncated and square appearance. **Lips:** are thick and full. The upper lip fits tightly to the line of the lower jaw without forming flews (without looseness). **Eyes:** Small, oval shaped, slanted, dark in colour. **Ears:** attached high on the head, hanging straight down from the base, small and triangular in shape. The front rim of the ear hangs down against the cheekbones. **Mouth:** Teeth strong and white in colour, closely positioned. The incisors are positioned in one line; scissor bite.

### Neck

Long, powerful, lean, set at a 40-45 degree angle to the topline.

### Forequarters

Seen from the front, the legs are straight and parallel. The angle of the shoulder-blade with the upper arm is approximately 110 degrees. Elbows must point backwards. The upper arms are short and strong. The pasterns are short and straight. Front dewclaw removal not required. The presence or lack thereof must not influence the judgement of the dog.

### Body

Chest Roomy, deep, with well sprung ribs, reaching to the level of the elbows or slightly below. Withers: high, clearly marked above the topline. Back: straight, wide and muscular. Loins: short, wide, muscular and slightly arched. Rump: wide, muscular, with a barely visible slope towards the tail. Abdomen: rising above the lower line of the chest.

### Hindquarters

Seen from behind, the legs are straight and parallel, but set slightly wider apart than the front legs. Upper thighs: are muscular and well developed. Lower thighs: are long and set obliquely. Hock joints: are lean and well developed. Rear pasterns strong, long and almost vertical. Feet: Fore and Hind Thick, with well arched pads, rounded in shape. Rear dewclaw removal is desirable but not required. The presence or lack thereof must not influence the judgment of the dog.

### Tail

The tail is thick, set moderately high, and is carried at an approximate 45 degree angle from the horizontal. When the tail is docked, there are 3 to 5 vertebrae remaining. An undocked tail is not to be penalized. The preferred shape of an undocked tail resembles a sickle or saber. The abdomen is moderately tucked up and firm.

### Gait

Easy, harmonious and effortless A short [non overreaching] trot or gallop are the most typical gaits. When trotting, the legs must move in a straight line, with the front legs converging slightly towards a median line. The back and loin have an elastic, springy movement.

### Faults

- Light frame, poorly developed muscle tone.
- The length of the body is slightly too long if it is between 106-108% of the height.
- Minor reversal of the required sexual characteristics.
- Shyness, excessive excitability, passiveness [laziness]
- Head too small, forehead rounded, stop hardly marked or excessively pronounced, protruding cheekbones, soft lips.
- **Eyes:** large eyes or eye colour not sufficiently dark. Visible third eyelid.
- **Ears:** set too low; long ears, flying ears, ears held apart from the cheekbones
- **Mouth:** poorly developed teeth, teeth not corresponding with age, damaged teeth which do not interfere with the proper occlusion of the bite. Absence of up to two of the first premolars or absence of

one of the first premolars and one of the second premolars. Light tartar build-up.

- **Neck:** short neck, blocky neck, showing a dewlap or held low
- Shoulders slightly too straight, elbows turned slightly in or out; Weak pasterns, turned in or out
- Chest not sufficiently wide, chest not reaching the elbows, ribcage slightly flat.
- Low, poorly developed withers
- **Back:** weak, narrow or insufficiently muscled.
- **Loins:** long, insufficiently arched
- Horizontal or slightly sloping rump, insufficiently muscled
- Strongly tucked-up or whippet-like abdomen
- Hindquarters: weak muscle tone, short thighs, slightly cow or bow hocked. Angulation of the hock joint too slight or too strong.
- Hare feet. Feet pointing in or out.
- Tail set low, incorrectly docked
- **Gait:** legs not moving in a straight line. Insufficient extension of the front or hind legs.
- **Coat:** straight hair, not broken. Wavy hair, soft hair, hair longer than 10 cm [3.9 in] Insufficient formation of moustache, beard or eyebrows. Frizzy hair
- **Colour:** Brown or grey shadings. Small white spot on chest
- **Size:** Slightly leggy or short on the legs

Height at withers of dogs below 66 cm [25.7 in] or above 72 cm [28.1 in]

Height at withers of bitches below 64 cm [25 in] or above 70 cm [27.3 in]

### Serious Faults

- Very light bone structure, weak muscle tone, frail and weak constitution
- The length of the body is clearly too long if it is in excess of 108% of the height.

- Marked reversal of sexual characteristics. Bitchy dogs.
- Fearful, extremely excitable, extremely passive.

### Major Faults

- Coarse head, too light or too heavy, rounded head; muzzle short, pointed or turned up.
- **Eyes:** light eye, cross eyed
- **Ears:** standing up from the base, semi-erect ears.
- **Mouth:** very small teeth, missing teeth; incisors not aligned; any deviation from a scissors bite; absence of an incisor or a canine; absence of a third or fourth premolar or any molar. Teeth with severely damaged enamel.
- **Forequarters:** upright shoulders; strong deviation of the elbows in or out; forearm not straight, knuckling over, down on pasterns
- Barrel shaped ribcage, too wide, not enough let down, flat or narrow.
- **Loins:** badly coupled, narrow or too arched.
- Clearly sloping or narrow rump.
- Rump too high. Hock joint angulation decidedly straight or over angulated.
- Splayed or very turned out feet.
- **Gait:** restricted or clumsy movement. Sideways movement of the hindlegs (crab-like), marked swinging of the croup (rolling movement of the hindquarters), pacing.
- **Coat:** hair too long (in excess of 15 cm [5.9 in]), soft hair, falling hair, short hair, smooth hair; absence of furnishings on head or legs.
- **Colour:** brown or grey coat, reddish patches; white spots on chin, head, neck or legs
- **Size:** rump set too high or withers too low

Height at withers of dogs below 65 cm [25.4 in] or above 74 cm [28.9 in]

Height at withers of bitches below 63 cm [24.6 in] or above 72 cm [28.1 in]

**Disqualification**

- Any deviation from the scissor bite
- Parti-coloured coat
- White markings on feet
- Red patches
- Grey coat
- Absence of an incisor or a canine tooth
- Absence of any PM3 or PM4
- Absence of any molar

**Note:**

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