



GROUP IV: TERRIERS

SKYE TERRIER

RECOGNIZED: 1889

Effective: January 2015

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

An alert terrier with great style, elegance and dignity, gay with friends and reserved with strangers. A working terrier capable of overtaking its game and going to ground, displaying stamina, courage, strength and agility. Must be of a size suitable for its work. Strong in body, quarters and jaws. Of good bone and hard muscle. Neither slight, heavy, lethargic or nervous. Hair on head and body should be of such length and texture to protect it in the brush and in a serious argument. Long, low and lank. Level back. Flattish appearance to sides. Strong head. Dark eyes, full of life and intelligence. Ears prick or drop. Graceful neck. Straight front and rear, with hindquarters moderately angulated. Feathered tail. Hard, straight, 14 cm (5.5 in) outercoat, well furnished on ears, face and tail; any colour so long as muzzle is dark. A good mover. Ideal height for dogs 25 cm (9.75 in), for bitch 24.25 cm (9.5 in) and length measured chest over tail at rump, twice the height.

TEMPERAMENT

Fearless, good-tempered, loyal and canny; never shy or ill-tempered.

SIZE

Ideal measurements: Dogs, height at shoulders 25.5 cm (10 in); length, chest bone over tail at rump 50.75 cm (20 in); head 21.5 cm (8.5 in); tail 22.75 cm (9 in). Bitches, height at shoulder 24.25 cm (9.5 in); length chest bone over tail at rump 48.25 cm (19 in); head, 20.25 cm (8 in); tail 21.5 cm (8.5 in).

A slightly higher or lower dog of either sex is acceptable, providing body, head and tail dimensions are proportionately longer or shorter. It should be noted that the ideal ratio of body length to shoulder height is 2:1.

The height and length measurements should be taken with the Skye standing in a natural position with the feet well under it. A box caliper is used, vertically and horizontally. For the height, the top bar should be across the back at the highest point of the withers. The head is measured from the tip of the nose to the back of the occipital bone, and the tail from its root to tip.

COAT

Double. Undercoat short, close, soft and woolly. Outercoat 14 cm (5.5 in) with no extra credit for any greater length. Hard, straight and flat. Body coat hanging straight down each side, parting from head to tail. Hair on head shorter, softer and veiling forehead and eyes, with moderate beard and apron. On ears, overhanging inside, falling down and mingling with side locks, surrounding the ears like a fringe and allowing their shape to appear.

COLOUR

Any colour, including but not limited to black, dark or light blue, grey, fawn or cream. Shade of head and legs should approximate that of body. In dogs of all colours, muzzle, ears and tip of tail are preferably dark.

HEAD

Should be long and powerful, with slight stop, but never coarse. Strength should not be sacrificed for extreme length. Moderate width at back of skull tapering gradually to a strong muzzle. **Muzzle:** Dark and nose always black. Powerful jaws and mouth, incisor teeth closing level or upper teeth just fitting over lower. **Eyes:** Brown, preferably dark brown. Medium size, close set, full of life and intelligence. **Ears (prick or drop):** Gracefully feathered and symmetrical. When prick, not large, erect at outer edges and slightly wider apart at peak than at skull, should be placed high on skull. When drop, placed lower on head; larger ears are permitted, and they should hang flat against the skull.

NECK

Long and gracefully arched.

FOREQUARTERS

Straight front. Good layback of **shoulders** with tight placement of shoulder blades at withers. **Elbows:** Close to body. **Legs:** Short, muscular and straight.

BODY

Pre-eminently long and low. **Back:** Level. **Chest:** Deep. **Ribs:** A deep oval giving a flattish appearance to sides.

HINDQUARTERS

Full, well developed and moderately angulated. **Legs:** Short, muscular and straight when viewed from behind. **Feet:** Dewclaws may be removed. Large hare-feet, pointing forward. Pads thick. Nails strong and preferably black.

TAIL

When hanging, upper section pendulous, and following line of rump; lower section thrown back in a gentle arc. When raised, a prolongation of the line of the back. Though not preferred, sometimes carried high when happy, excited or angry. When this is a matter of spirit, not conformation, no penalty should follow. Well feathered.

GAIT

The legs should be carried straight forward when travelling. When approaching, the forelegs should form a continuation of the straight line of the front, without paddling or weaving, the feet being the same distance apart as the elbows. The principal propelling power is furnished by the hind legs and should be straight forward without weaving. The whole movement should be fluid without waddle or bounce. Movement is important in a Skye Terrier since conformation may be concealed by a profuse coat. Therefore, the dog must be in motion to reveal its true conformation.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.

- Dogs at shoulder over 30.5 cm (12 in) and bitches over 29.25 cm (11.5 in). Dogs under 20.25 cm (8 in) and bitches under 19 cm (7.5 in). These measurements are definite limits and any height over or under is to be considered a very serious fault.
- Any softness or curl of outercoat, a single or sparse coat, lack of ear or face curtains
- Short, weak or coarse head
- Snipey muzzle
- Nose any colour other than black
- Wry mouth
- Undershot or overshot jaw
- Light or yellow-coloured eyes

- Ears that are not symmetrical. Prick ears that are low set.
- Semi-prick ears, drop-ears with a lift, lazy carriage of prick ears
- Short neck
- Fiddle front or out at elbows
- Straight shoulders, shoulder blades wide apart at withers
- Weak or crooked front legs, high on leg or cobbliness
- Sway back or roach back
- Shallow or barrel chest
- Weak hindquarters, straight stifles, weak or crooked hind legs as viewed from behind, cow hocks
- Splay, paper or cat-foot
- Tail with twist or curl or continuously carried above the line of the back, tail poorly feathered

SCALE OF POINTS

Body

Back and neck. Chest and ribs.

Forequarters and hindquarters. Feet. Movement. 40

Head

Skull. Jaws and teeth. Eyes and ears. 20

Size

Dog: Height at shoulder 25.5 cm (10 in)

Length, chest bone over tail at rump 50.75 cm (20 in)

Head 21.5 cm (8.5 in) and tail 22.75 cm (9 in)

Bitch: Height at shoulder 24.25 cm (9.5 in)

Length, chest bone over tail at rump 48.25 cm (19 in)

Head 20.25 cm (8 in) and tail 21.5 cm (8.5 in)

A slightly higher or lower dog of either sex, providing body, head and tail are proportionately longer or shorter 15

Coat

Outercoat hard and straight with a length of 14 cm (5.5 in), with no extra credit for any greater length.

Undercoat short, close, soft and woolly. 15

Carriage and feather 10

TOTAL **100**

