

Australian Terrier

General Appearance

A sturdy, low-set dog rather long in proportion to height with strong terrier character, alertness, activity, and soundness. Its untrimmed harsh coat, with a definite ruff around the neck, extending to the breastbone, assists its hard-bitten and rugged appearance. Essentially a working terrier, it is equally suited as a companion dog owing to its loyalty and even disposition.

Size

Weight

The desirable weight is approximately 14 lb. (6 kg).

Height

The desirable height is approximately 10 inches (25 cm).

Coat and Colour

The body coat consists of a harsh, straight dense topcoat approximately 2-1/2 inches (6 cm) long, with short soft textured undercoat. The muzzle, lower legs and feet to be free from long hair. Colour: (a) Blue, steel-blue or dark grey-blue, with rich tan (not sandy) on face, ears, under body, lower legs and feet and around the vent (puppies excepted). The richer the colour and more clearly defined the better. Topknot blue, silver or a lighter shade than head colour. (b) Clear sandy or red, smuttiness, or dark shadings undesirable. Topknot a lighter shade.

Head

Long with flat **skull** of moderate width, full between the eyes, with slight but definite stop. The **muzzle**, strong and powerful, of equal length to that of the skull, which is covered with a soft, silky topknot. **Nose** black, of moderate size; the leather extending to the bridge of muzzle. Jaw strong and punishing, **teeth** large and evenly spaced, the upper incisors fitting closely over the lower; lips black, tight and clean. The **eyes** are small, with keen expression, and of dark brown colour, set well apart and not prominent. The **ears** are small, erect, pointed, well carried, set on moderately wide, free from long hair and sensitive in their use (puppies under six months excepted).

Neck

Long, slightly arched, shapely and strong.

Forequarters

Shoulders long and well laid. Forelegs well boned and perfectly straight, parallel when viewed from the front. Pasterns strong, without slope (slightly feathered to the knee).

Body

Topline level. Long in proportion to height, strongly constructed, with well-sprung ribs and chest of moderate depth and width. Loins strong, flanks deep.

Hindquarters

Moderate length of quarters, broad with strong muscular thighs. Stifles well turned and hocks well bent and let down. Viewed from behind they should be parallel, neither too wide nor too close. Feet small, well padded, toes closely knit and moderately arched, turned neither in nor out, with strong black or dark toenails.

Tail

Docked 2/3, set on high, and well carried, but not over the back.

Gait

The action to be free, springy and forceful. When viewed from the front, the forelegs should move truly without looseness of shoulder, elbows, or pasterns. The hindquarters to have drive and power, with free movement of stifles and hocks. Seen from the rear, the legs from the hocks to the ground to be parallel, neither too close nor too wide.

Faults

Flesh-coloured or butterfly nose. White or light-coloured toenails. Soft, woolly, or wavy coat. Black and tan (puppies excepted). Sandy marking in place of tan. Tan smut in blue coat. Shading or smut in sandy or red. Crooked forelegs. Unsoundness. Light eyes. Under or oversize. Under or overshot mouth. Over gait tail. White markings on chest or feet.

Scale of Points

Skull	5
Muzzle	5
Eyes.....	5
Ears	5
Neck.....	5
Body.....	15
Feet and legs	15
Coat	10
Colour	10
Tail.....	5
General appearance.....	20
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TOTAL	100