
Cairn Terrier

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. Should impress as being active, game and hardy.

Temperament

Fearless and gay disposition; assertive but not aggressive.

Size

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

Coat and Colour

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.

Head

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

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

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.