



GROUP IV: TERRIERS

AIREDALE 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.

SIZE

Dogs should measure approximately 58.5 cm (23 in) in height at the shoulder; bitches slightly less. Both sexes should be sturdy, well muscled and well boned.

COAT

Coat should be hard, dense and wiry, lying straight and close, covering the dog well over the body and legs. Some of the hardest are crinkling or just slightly waved. At the base of the hard, very stiff hair should be a shorter growth of softer hair termed the undercoat.

COLOUR

The head and ears should be tan, the ears being of a darker shade than the rest. Dark markings on either side of the skull are permissible. The legs up to the thighs and elbows and the underpart of the body and chest are also tan and the tan frequently runs into the shoulder. The sides and upper parts of the body should be black or dark grizzle. A red mixture is often found in the black and is not to be considered objectionable. A small white blaze on the chest is a characteristic of certain strains of the breed.

HEAD

Should be well balanced with little apparent difference between the length of skull and foreface. **Skull** should be long and flat, not too broad between the ears, and narrowing very slightly to the eyes. Scalp should be free from wrinkles, stop hardly visible, and cheeks level and free from fullness. **Muzzle** should be deep, powerful, strong, and muscular. Should be well filled up before the eyes. **Nose** should be black and not too small. **Mouth**: Lips should be tight. **Teeth** should be strong and white, free from discoloration or defect. Bite either level or vise-like. A slightly overlapping or scissors bite is permissible without preference. **Eyes** should be dark, small, not prominent, full of terrier expression, keenness and intelligence. **Ears** should be V-shaped with carriage rather to the side of the head, not pointing to the eyes; small, but not out of proportion to the size of the dog. The topline of the folded ear should be above the level of the skull.

NECK

Should be of moderate length and thickness, gradually widening towards the shoulder. Skin tight, not loose.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders long and sloping well into the back. Shoulder blades flat. **Forelegs** should be perfectly straight, with plenty of muscle and bone. **Elbows** should be perpendicular to the body, working free of sides.

BODY

Back should be short, strong and level. From the front, **chest** deep but not broad. The depth of the chest should be approximately on a level with the elbows. **Ribs** well sprung. **Loins** muscular and of good width. There should be but little space between the last rib and the hip joint.

HINDQUARTERS

Should be strong and muscular with no droop. *Thighs* should be long and powerful with muscular second thigh; *stifles* well bent, not turned either in or out; *hocks* well let down, parallel with each other when viewed from behind. *Feet* should be small, round and compact with a good depth of pad, well cushioned; the toes moderately arched, not turned either in or out.

TAIL

The root of the tail should be set well up on the back. It should be carried gaily and be of good strength and substance. Docked or undocked is acceptable.

GAIT

Movement or action is the crucial test of conformation. Movement should be free. As seen from the front the forelegs should swing perpendicular from the body free from the sides, the feet the same distance apart as the elbows. As seen from the rear the hind legs should be parallel with each other, neither too close nor too far apart, but so placed as to give a strong, well-balanced stance and movement. Toes should not be turned either in or out.

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.

Faults that should be severely penalized:

- Yellow eyes; hound ears
- White feet
- Soft coat
- Being much over or under the size limit
- Undershot or overshot
- Poor movement
- The use of any and all foreign agents for the improvement of dogs in the show ring, such as colouring, dilating the pupil, and stiffening the coat, is forbidden. Such acts are unsportsmanlike and unfair to those exhibitors who live up to the rules.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head.....	10
Neck, shoulders and chest.....	10
Body.....	10
Hindquarters and tail.....	10
Legs and feet.....	10
Coat.....	10
Colour.....	5
Size.....	10
Movement.....	10
General characteristics and expression.....	15

TOTAL **100**