



GROUP IV: TERRIERS

AUSTRALIAN TERRIER

RECOGNIZED: 1937

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

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

Height: The desirable height is approximately 25.5 cm (10 in).

Weight: The desirable weight is approximately 6.25 kg (14 lb).

COAT

The body coat consists of a harsh, straight dense topcoat approximately 6.25 cm (2.5 in) long, with short soft textured undercoat. The muzzle, lower legs and feet to be free from long hair.

COLOUR

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. 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: Tail set on high, well carried, docked in balance with the overall dog, a good handhold when mature.

Undocked: Tail set on high, well carried, may be slightly arched but not lying on the back, well covered with hair but free of fringing.

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

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.

- 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; white markings on chest or feet
- Crooked forelegs, unsoundness
- Light eyes
- Under or oversize
- Under or overshot mouth
- Over-gay tail

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

TOTAL **100**