



## GROUP IV: TERRIERS

# BULL TERRIER

RECOGNIZED: 1889

Effective: January 2004

*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.*

### ORIGIN & PURPOSE

The Bull Terrier originated in England and is the Gladiator of the canine race.

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Must be strongly built, muscular, symmetrical and active, with a keen, determined and intelligent expression, full of fire and courage but of even temperament and amendable to discipline. Irrespective of size, dogs should look masculine and bitches feminine.

### SIZE

There are neither weight nor height limits but there should be impression of maximum substance to the size of the dog.

### COAT & COLOUR

The coat should be short, flat, even and harsh to the touch, with a fine gloss. The skin should fit the dog tightly. For white, pure white coat. Skin pigmentation and markings on the head should not be penalized. For coloured, the colour should predominate, all other things being equal, brindle to be preferred.

### HEAD

The head should be long, strong and deep, right to the end of the muzzle, but not coarse. Viewed from the front it should be egg-shaped and completely filled, its surface being free from hollows or indentations. The top of the **skull** should be almost flat from ear to ear. The profile should curve gently downwards from the top of the skull to the tip of the *nose*, which should be black and bent downwards at the top. The nostrils should be well developed. The distance from the tip of the nose to the eyes should be perceptibly greater than that from the eyes to the top of the skull. The underjaw should be strong. *Teeth* should be sound, clean, strong, of good size and perfectly regular with full dentition. Either a level bite or scissors bite is acceptable. If a scissors bite, the upper front teeth should fit in front of and closely against the lower front teeth. The *lips* should be clean and tight. *Eyes* should appear narrow, obliquely placed and triangular, well sunken, as dark as possible and with a piercing glint. *Ears* should be small, thin and placed closely together. The dog should be able to hold them stiffly erect when they should point straight upwards.

### NECK

The neck should be very muscular, long, arched, tapering from the shoulders to the head, and free from loose skin.

### FOREQUARTERS

The **shoulders** should be strong and muscular but without loading. The shoulder blades should be wide, flat, and attached closely to the chest wall, and should have a very pronounced backward slope of the front edge from bottom to top. The **forelegs** should have the strongest type of round quality bone and the dog should stand solidly

upon them; they should be moderately long and perfectly parallel. The **elbows** should be held straight and the strong **pasterns** upright. The **feet** should be round and compact with well-arched toes.

#### **BODY**

The body should be well rounded with marked spring of rib, and a great depth from withers to brisket, so that the latter is nearer the ground than the belly. The **back** should be short and strong with the **topline** level behind the withers and arching or reaching slightly over the loin. The **underline** from the brisket to belly should form a graceful upward curve. The **chest** should be broad, viewed from the front.

#### **HINDQUARTERS**

The hind legs should be parallel viewed from behind. The **thighs** must be muscular, and the second thigh well developed. The **stifle joint** should be well bent and the **hock** well angulated, with the bone to the foot short and strong.

#### **TAIL**

The tail should be short, set on low. It should be carried horizontally. Thick at the root, it should taper to a fine point.

#### **GAIT**

The moving dog shall appear well knit, smoothly covering the ground with free, easy strides and with a typical jaunty air. Fore and hind legs, moving smoothly at the hip and flexing well at the stifle and hock with great thrust.

#### **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.

#### **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

- Deafness
- Blue eyes