



GROUP IV: TERRIERS

CAIRN TERRIER

RECOGNIZED: 1920

Effective: January 2006

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

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 to 30.5 cm (11 to 12 in) at withers, but in proportion to weight – ideally 6 to 7.5 kg (13 to 16.5 lb).

COAT

Very important. Weather-resistant. Must be double-coated, with profuse, harsh, but not coarse, outercoat; 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. Well furnished. **Skull** broad; a decided indentation between the eyes with a definite stop. **Muzzle** powerful, jaw strong but not long or heavy. **Nose** black. **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 scissors 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. Hind legs giving strong propulsion. Hocks 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.

Note: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.