



GROUP IV: TERRIERS

FOX TERRIER (WIRE)

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 Wire Fox Terrier as a separate breed was developed in England during the 19th century. Various strains of terriers, rough or smooth coated, white or coloured, were bred in hunt kennels for the purpose of going to ground against the fox. Little is known of the actual origin of the Wire Fox Terrier. The first standard for this breed was drawn up by The Fox Terrier Club (England) in 1876.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Active and lively, bone and strength in small compass, never cloddy or coarse. Conformation to show perfect balance; in particular this applies to the relative proportions of the skull and foreface, and similarly height at withers and length of body from shoulder point to buttocks appear approximately equal. Standing like a short-backed hunter covering a lot of ground.

CHARACTERISTICS

Alert, quick of movement, keen of expression, on tiptoe of expectation at slightest provocation.

TEMPERAMENT

Friendly, forthcoming and fearless.

SIZE

Height at withers: Dogs not to exceed 38 cm (15 in); bitches slightly less.

Weight: Dogs' ideal weight in show condition 8.25 kg (18 lb); bitches slightly less.

COAT

Dense, very wiry texture, 2 cm (0.75 in) on shoulder to 4 cm (1.5 in) on withers, back, ribs and quarters with undercoat of short, softer hair. Back and quarters harsher than sides. Hair on jaws crisp and of sufficient length to impart appearance of strength to foreface. Leg hair dense and crisp.

COLOUR

White predominates with black, black and tan or tan markings. Brindle, red, liver or slate-blue markings undesirable.

HEAD

Topline of **skull** almost flat, sloping slightly and gradually decreasing in width towards eyes. Little difference in length between skull and foreface. If foreface is noticeably shorter, head looks weak and unfinished. **Foreface** gradually tapering from eye to muzzle and dipping slightly at its juncture with forehead but not dished or falling away quickly below eyes where it should be full and well made up. Excessive bony or muscular development of

jaws undesirable and unsightly. Full and rounded contour of cheeks undesirable. **Nose:** Black. **Eyes:** Dark, full of fire and intelligence, moderately small, not prominent. As near circular in shape as possible. Not too far apart nor too high in skull nor too near ears. Light eyes highly undesirable. **Ears:** Small, V-shaped, of moderate thickness, flaps neatly folded over and dropping forward close to cheeks. Top line of folded ears well above level of skull. Prick, tulip or rose ears highly undesirable. **Mouth:** Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissors bite – i.e., upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Clean, muscular, of fair length, free from throatiness, broadening to shoulders, presenting a graceful curve when viewed from side.

FOREQUARTERS

Seen from front the **shoulders** slope steeply down from junction with neck towards points which should be fine; viewed from side, long and well laid back and sloping obliquely backwards. **Withers** always clean-cut. **Chest** deep, not broad. Viewed from any direction, legs straight, bone strong right down to feet. **Elbows** perpendicular to body, working free of sides, carried straight when moving.

BODY

Back short, level and strong without slackness, **loin** muscle, slightly arched. **Brisket** deep, front ribs moderately arched, rear ribs deep, well sprung. Very short coupled.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong, muscular and free from droop or crouch. **Thighs** long and powerful. **Stifles** well bent, turning neither in nor out. **Hocks** well let down, upright and parallel when viewed from rear. Combination of short second thigh and straight stifle highly undesirable. **Feet:** Round, compact with small, tough and well cushioned pads, toes moderately arched. Turning neither in nor out.

TAIL

Docked: Set high. Carried erect, not over back or curled. Of good strength and fair length. **Undocked:** Set high. Carried erect, not over back or curled. Of good strength and fair length to maintain a balanced appearance.

GAIT

Fore and hind legs move straight forward and parallel. Elbows move perpendicular to body, working free of sides. Stifles turning neither in nor out. Good drive coming from well flexing hindquarters.

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.