



## GROUP IV: TERRIERS

# KERRY BLUE TERRIER

RECOGNIZED: 1925

Effective: January 2014

*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

The typical Kerry Blue Terrier should be upstanding, well-knit and in good balance, showing a well-developed and muscular body with definite terrier style and character throughout. A low-slung Kerry is not typical.

### SIZE

**Ideal height at the withers:** Dogs, 47 cm (18.5 in); bitches slightly less

In judging Kerries, a height of 45.75 to 49.5 cm (18 to 19.5 in) for a dog, and 44.5 to 48.25 cm (17.5 to 19 in) for a bitch should be given primary preference. Only where the comparative superiority of a specimen outside of the ranges noted clearly justifies it, should greater latitude be taken. In no case should it extend to a dog over 50.75 cm (20 in) or under 44.5 cm (17.5 in), or to a bitch over 49.5 cm (19.5 in) or under 43.25 cm (17 in). The minimum limits do not apply to puppies.

**Weight:** The most desirable weight for a fully developed dog is 15 to 18.25 kg (33 to 40 lb); bitches weighing proportionately less.

### COAT

Coat soft, dense and wavy. A harsh wire or bristle coat should be severely penalized. In show trim, the body should be well covered but tidy, with the head (except for the whiskers) and the ears and cheeks clear. The correct mature colour is any shade of blue grey, or grey blue from deep slate to light blue grey, or a fairly uniform colour throughout except that distinctly darker to black parts may appear on the muzzle, head, ears, tail and feet.

### COLOUR

Kerry colour, in its process of “clearing” from an apparent black at birth to the mature grey blue or blue grey, passes through one or more transitions – involving a very dark blue (darker than deep slate) shades, or tinges of brown, and mixtures of these, together with a progressive infiltration of the correct mature colour.

Up to 18 months, such deviations from the correct mature colour are permissible without preference and without regard for uniformity. Thereafter, deviation from it to any significant extent must be severely penalized.

Solid black is never permissible in the show ring. Up to 18 months any doubt as to whether a dog is black or a very dark blue should be resolved in favour of the dog, particularly in the case of a puppy. Black on the muzzle, head, ears, tail and feet is permissible at any age.

### HEAD

Long, but not exaggerated and in good proportion to the rest of the body. Well balanced, with little apparent difference between the length of the skull and foreface. **Skull:** Flat, with very slight stop, of moderate breadth between the ears, and narrowing very slightly to the eyes. **Cheeks:** Clean and level, free from bumpiness. **Muzzle:** Jaws deep, strong and muscular. Foreface full and well made up, not falling away appreciably below the eyes but moderately chiselled out to relieve the foreface from wedginess. **Nose:** Black, nostrils large and wide. **Mouth:**

Teeth strong, white and either level or with the upper (incisors) teeth slightly overlapping the lower teeth. **Eyes:** Dark, small, not prominent, well placed and with a keen terrier expression. Anything approaching a yellow eye is very undesirable. **Ears:** V-shaped, small but not out of proportion to the size of the dog, of moderate thickness, carried forward, close to the cheeks, with the top of the folded ear slightly above the level of the skull. A “dead” ear, hound-like in appearance, is very undesirable.

#### **NECK**

Clean and moderately long, gradually widening to the shoulders upon which it should be well set and carried proudly.

#### **FOREQUARTERS**

**Shoulders** fine, long and sloping, well laid back and well knit. Legs moderately long with plenty of bone and muscle. The **forelegs** should be straight from both front and side view, with the **elbows** hanging perpendicularly to the body and working clear of the sides in movement, the **pasterns** short, straight, and hardly noticeable.

#### **BODY**

**Back:** Short, strong, and straight (i.e., level), with no appearance of slackness. **Chest:** Deep and of but moderate breadth. **Loin:** short and powerful with a slight tuck-up, the **ribs** fairly well sprung, deep rather than round.

#### **HINDQUARTERS**

Strong and muscular with full freedom of action, free from droop or crouch. **Thighs:** Long and powerful. **Stifles:** Well bent and turned neither in nor out. **Hocks:** Near the ground and when viewed from behind, upright and parallel with each other, the dog standing well up on them. **Feet** should be strong, compact, fairly round and moderately small, with good depth of pad free from cracks, the toes arched, turned neither in nor out, with black toenails.

#### **TAIL**

Should be set on high, of moderate length and carried gaily erect. The straighter the tail the better.

#### **GAIT**

Both forelegs and hind legs should move straight forward when travelling, the stifles turning neither in nor 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.

- An undershot mouth should be strictly penalized.

#### **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

- Solid black
- Faking or dyeing

**SCALE OF POINTS**

Head .....	20
Neck.....	5
Shoulders and chest.....	10
Legs and feet.....	10
Body.....	10
Hindquarters and stern.....	10
Colour .....	10
Coat.....	15
General conformation and character .....	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

