



GROUP IV: TERRIERS

PARSON RUSSELL TERRIER

RECOGNIZED: 2025

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.

ORIGIN & PURPOSE

The Parson Russell Terrier is a working variant of the fox terrier. The breed personifies the type preferred and developed by Reverend John Russell, an avid fox hunter from the county Devon, England, during the nineteenth century. The dog was developed to “run with horse and hound” so that when the hounds drove a fox to ground the terrier followed, baying to bolt his quarry to the surface so the chase could continue. The breed remained popular with hunters and horsemen throughout the 20th century and in January of 1990, it was recognized in England by The Kennel Club.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Workmanlike, active and agile; built for speed and endurance. Overall picture of balance and flexibility. Honourable scars permissible.

TEMPERAMENT

Essentially a working terrier with ability and conformation to go to ground and run with hounds. Bold and friendly.

SIZE

Ideal height at the withers: Dogs, 36 cm (14.25 in); bitches, 33 cm (13 in) – 2 cm (0.75 in) above or below is acceptable.

Important proportions: Well balanced. Overall length of body slightly longer than height from withers to ground. Length from nose to stop slightly shorter than from stop to occiput.

COAT

Naturally harsh, close and dense, whether rough or smooth. Belly and undersides coated.

COLOUR

Entirely white or predominantly white with tan, lemon or black markings, or any combination of these colours, preferably confined to head and/or root of tail.

HEAD

Skull: Flat, moderately broad, gradually narrowing to the eyes. **Stop:** Shallow. **Nose:** Black. **Jaws/teeth:** Jaws strong, muscular. Teeth with a perfect, regular and complete scissors bite – i.e., upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws. **Eyes:** Almond-shaped, fairly deep-set, dark, keen expression. **Ears:** Small, V-shaped, dropping forward, carried close to head, tip of ear to reach corner of eye, fold not to appear above top of skull. Leather of moderate thickness.

NECK

Clean, muscular, of good length, gradually widening to shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Strong, must be straight with joints turning neither in nor out. **Shoulders:** Long and sloping, well laid back, cleanly cut at withers. **Elbows:** Close to body, working free of the sides.

BODY

Well balanced. Overall length slightly longer than height from withers to ground. **Back:** Strong and straight. **Loin:** Slightly arched. **Chest:** Of moderate depth, not to come below point of elbow, capable of being spanned behind the shoulders by average size hands. Ribs not over-sprung.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong, muscular with good angulation. **Stifle:** Good bend of stifle. **Hocks:** Set low. **Rear pasterns:** Parallel, giving plenty of drive. **Feet:** Compact with firm pads, turning neither in nor out.

TAIL

Docked or undocked. **Docked:** Length complementing the body while providing a good handhold. Strong, straight, moderately high set, carried well up on the move. **Undocked:** Of moderate length and as straight as possible, giving a general balance to the dog, thick at the root and tapering towards the end. Moderately high set, carried well up on the move.

GAIT

Free striding, well coordinated, straight action front and behind.

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

- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities

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