



Boston Terrier

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 general appearance of the Boston Terrier should be that of a lively, highly intelligent, smooth-coated, short-headed, compactly built, short-tailed, well-balanced dog of medium station, of “acceptable colour” and evenly marked with white. The head should indicate a high degree of intelligence and should be in proportion to the size of the dog. The body rather short and well knit, the limbs strong and neatly turned; tail short; and no feature be so prominent that the dog appears badly proportioned. The dog should convey an impression of determination, strength and activity, with a style of a high order; carriage easy and graceful.

A proportionate combination of “colour” and “ideal markings” is a particularly distinctive feature of a representative specimen, and a dog with a preponderance of white on body, or without the proper proportion of “acceptable colour” and white on head, should possess sufficient merit otherwise to counteract its deficiencies in these respects. The ideal “Boston Terrier expression” displays “a high degree of intelligence,” and is an important characteristic of the breed. “Colour and markings” and “expression” should be given particular consideration in determining the relative value of “general appearance” to other points.

Size

Not exceeding 11.5 kg (25 lb), divided by classes as follows: lightweight, under 7 kg (15 lb); middleweight, 7-9 kg (15 lb and under 20 lb); heavyweight, 9-11.5 kg (20 lb and not exceeding 25 lb).

Coat and Colour

Coat short, smooth, bright and fine in texture. Colour Black, Seal, Black Brindle, Brindle, all with white markings.

Description of Colours:

- Black: Self explanatory. With white markings
- Seal: Base colour is Black with Reddish Brown cast over the top of the coat “Only seen in bright light or sunlight”. With white markings
- Black Brindle: Base colour being Black with Brown hairs distributed through the Black. With white markings
- Brindle: Base colour being Brown with Black hairs distributed through the Brown. With white markings

All other colours are to be disqualified including any solid colour

Description of White Markings:

Required Markings:

- White muzzle band
- White blaze between the eyes
- White fore chest



Desired Markings:

- White muzzle band
- White blaze between the eyes and over the head
- White fore chest
- Full or part white collar
- Part or all of front legs white
- White on the toes of rear feet

Preferably not more than one third of the entire body should be white

Faults: Long or coarse coat; coat lacking lustre. Preponderance of white on body; without the proper proportion of “accepted colour” and white on head; or any variation detracting from the general appearance.

Head

Skull square, flat on top, free from wrinkles; cheeks flat; brow abrupt, stop well defined.

Muzzle short, square, wide and deep, and in proportion to skull; free from wrinkles; shorter in length than in width and depth, not exceeding in length approximately one-third of length of skull; width and depth carried out well to end; the muzzle from stop to end of nose on a line parallel to the top of the skull. Nose black and wide, with well-defined line between nostrils.

Mouth: The jaws broad and square, with short regular teeth. Bite even or sufficiently undershot to square muzzle. The chops of good depth but not pendulous, completely covering the teeth when mouth is closed.

Eyes wide apart, large and round, dark in colour, expression alert, but kind and intelligent. The eyes should be set square in the skull, and the outside corners should be on a line with the cheeks as viewed from the front.

Ears carried erect, either cropped to conform the shape of the head, or natural bat, situated as near the corners of skull as possible.

Faults: Skull “domed” or inclined; furrowed by a medial line; skull too long for breadth, or vice versa; stop too shallow; brow and skull too slanting. Muzzle wedge-shaped or lacking depth; down-faced; too much cut out below the eyes; pinched or wide nostrils; butterfly nose; protruding teeth; weak lower jaw; showing turn-up, lay back; wrinkled. Eyes small or sunken; too prominent; light colour or walleye; showing too much white or haw. Ears poorly carried or in size out of proportion to head.

Neck

Of fair length, slightly arched and carrying the head gracefully; setting neatly into shoulders.

Faults: Ewe-necked; throatiness; short and thick.

Forequarters

Shoulders sloping. Elbows standing neither in nor out. Forelegs set moderately wide apart and on a line with point of the shoulders; straight in bone and well muscled; pasterns short and strong.

Faults: Loose shoulders or elbows; long or weak pasterns.

Body

Deep with good width of chest; back short; ribs deep and well sprung, carried well back to loins; loins short and muscular; rump curving slightly to set-on of tail; flank very slightly cut up. The body should appear short but not chunky. **Faults:** Flat sides; narrow chest; long or slack loins; roach back; sway back; too much cut-up in flank.



Hindquarters

Hind legs set true; bent at stifles; short from hocks to feet; hocks turning neither in nor out; thighs strong and well muscled. Feet round, small, and compact and turned neither in nor out; toes well arched. **Faults:** Hind legs too straight at stifles; hocks too prominent; splay feet.

Tail

Set-on low; short, fine and tapering; straight or screw; devoid of fringe or coarse hair, and not carried above horizontal. **Faults:** A long or gaily carried tail; extremely gnarled or curled against body.

Note: The preferred tail should not exceed in length approximately one quarter the distance from set-on to hock.

Gait

The gait of the Boston Terrier is that of a sure-footed straight-gaited dog, forelegs and hind legs moving straight ahead in line with perfect rhythm, each step indicating grace with power.

Faults: There shall be no rolling, paddling, or weaving when gaited, and any crossing movement, either front or rear, is a serious fault.

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 purpose.

Disqualifications

Any Solid Colour; black and tan; red; mouse colours. All white, absence of white markings. Eyes blue in colour or any trace of blue. Docked tail. Dudley nose.

Scale of Points

General appearance	10	
Skull	10	
Eyes	5	
Muzzle.	10	
Ears	2	
Neck	3	
Body	15	
Elbows		4
Forelegs	5	
Hind legs	5	
Gait	10	
Feet	5	
Tail	5	
Colour	4	
Ideal markings	5	
Coat	2	
TOTAL	100	

Breed Name: Boston Terrier
Year of Recognition: 1899
Effective Date: January 2014