

BEDLINGTON TERRIER

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2026

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Terrier.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

It is claimed that the Bedlington can boast a longer traceable pedigree than any other Terrier, and was once known as the Rothbury Terrier, hailing from the former mining areas of the north of England. His fame spread outside his native region, and an association was started for the breed in 1877. Although his expression is mild, he is quite capable of fending for himself, but will not seek a scrap. He is a tough little dog; this unique breed has a lamb-like look about him, but don't be fooled – he is a Terrier through and through. A North Country dog, originally his role was to catch rabbits for the family pot, and a sporting dog he still remains.

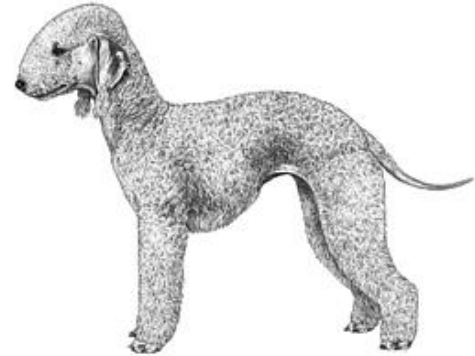


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A graceful, lithe, muscular dog, with no signs of either weakness or coarseness. Whole head pear- or wedge-shaped, and expression in repose mild and gentle.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Body slightly greater in length than height.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

Spirited and game, full of confidence. An intelligent companion with strong sporting instincts. Good tempered, having an affectionate nature, dignified, not shy or nervous. Mild in repose but full of courage when roused.

HEAD

Covered with profuse silky topknot, which should be nearly white.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Narrow, but deep and rounded.

Stop: There must be no stop; the line from occiput to nose-end straight and unbroken.

Facial Region:

Nose: Nostrils large and well-defined. Blue and blue and tan must have black noses, liver and sandies must have brown noses.

Muzzle: Well-filled up beneath eyes.

Lips: Close-fitting, without flew.

Jaws/teeth: Teeth large and strong. Scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Eyes:

Relatively small and bright. Ideal eye has appearance of being triangular. Blues have a dark eye; blue and tans have a lighter eye with amber lights; livers and sandies have a light hazel eye.

Ears:

Moderately sized, filbert-shaped, set-on low, and hanging flat to cheek. Thin and velvety in texture; covered with short, fine hair with fringe of whitish, silky hair at tip.

NECK

Long and tapering, deep base with no tendency to throatiness. Springs well up from shoulders; head carried rather high.

BODY

Muscular and markedly flexible.

Back: has natural arch over loin.

Loins: Arched loin with curved topline immediately above loins.

Chest: Deep and fairly broad. Flat ribbed, deep through brisket which reaches to elbow.

Underline and belly: Arched loin creating a definite tuck-up of underline.

TAIL

Moderate length, thick at root, tapering to a point, and gracefully curved. Set-on low, never carried over back.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs straight, wider apart at chest than at feet.

Shoulder: Flat and sloping.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Long and slightly sloping without weakness.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Muscular and moderate length. Hindlegs have appearance of being longer than forelegs.

Stifle: Moderate turn.

Metatarsus (Rear pasterns): Hocks strong and well let down, turning neither in nor out.

FEET

Long hare-feet with thick, well-closed pads. Pads sound and free from cracks or horny excrescences [*ed. outgrowths*].

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Capable of galloping at high speed and has the appearance of being able to do so. Action very distinctive: rather mincing, light, and springy in slower paces, and with a slight roll when in full stride.

COAT

Hair:

Very distinctive. Thick and linty, standing well out from skin, but not wiry. A distinct tendency to twist, particularly on head and face.

Colour:

Blue, liver, or sandy with or without tan. Darker pigment to be encouraged..

SIZE

Height at withers:

Approx 41cm (approx. 16").

This allows for slight variation below, in the case of a bitch, and above, in the case of a dog.

Weight:

Between 8 – 10kg.

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

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FCI Standard No. 9: BEDLINGTON TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 3 – Terriers.

Section 1 – Large- and medium-sized Terriers .
Without working trial.