

WELSH 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

The Welsh Terrier is a breed with a truly working background. He is perhaps rather less exuberant than some of the other members of his group. Like so many of his cousins, he was originally used in hunting the fox, badger, and even otter. The Welsh and Lakeland Terriers, which have considerable similarity, may well have had a common origin prior to the Roman invasion of Britain when their Celtic owners retreated to the Welsh mountains and the Lake District. He is a neat, workmanlike dog with a tight, wiry coat, normally of black and tan.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Smart, workmanlike, well-balanced, and compact.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

Affectionate, obedient, and easily controlled. Happy and volatile, rarely of shy nature. Game and fearless but definitely not aggressive although, at all times, able to hold his own when necessary.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: Flat, of moderate width between ears.

Stop: Not too defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black.

Muzzle: Medium length from stop to end of nose.

Jaws/teeth: Jaws powerful, clean cut, rather deep and punishing; strong with perfect, regular scissor bite, i. e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Eyes:

Relatively small, dark, expression indicative of temperament. A round, full eye undesirable.

Ears:

V-shaped, small, leathers not too thin, set-on fairly high, carried forward and close to cheek.

NECK

Moderate length and thickness, slightly arched and sloping gracefully into shoulders.

BODY

Back: Short.

Loins: Strong.

Chest: Good depth and moderate width. Well ribbed up.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Well set on. Carried erect but not too gaily.

Undocked: Well set on. Carried erect but not too gaily. In overall balance with the rest of dog.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Shoulder: Long, sloping and well set back.

Elbow: Perpendicular to body, working free of sides.

Forearm: Legs straight and muscular, possessing ample bone.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Upright and powerful.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Strong.

Thighs: Muscular, of good length.

Metatarsus (Rear pasterns): Hocks well bent, well let down and with ample bone.

FEET

Small, round and cat-like.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Forelegs and hind legs carried straight forward and parallel. Elbows move perpendicular to body, working free of sides, stifles turning neither in nor out.

COAT

Hair:

Wiry, hard, very close, and abundant. Single coat undesirable.

Colour:

Black and tan for preference, or black grizzle and tan, free from black pencilling on toes.

* Black below hocks most undesirable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Not exceeding 39cm (approx. 15½").

Weight:

9 – 9.5kg.

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.

*Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.

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. 78: WELSH TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 3 – Terriers.

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

