

THE AUSTRALIAN TERRIER



**AN ILLUSTRATED CLARIFICATION OF
THE STANDARD**

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OF THE STANDARD

Dedicated to Barbara R. Deer, President of the
Australian Terrier Club of America, 1985-1989,
whose idea inspired the creation of this book.

With appreciation to

*Nell N. Fox for paving the road for
Australian Terriers in the United States*

and to the artists:

*Claudia Coleman, Master Illustrations
Marjorie Shoemaker, Drawings
Alexa Samarotto, Drawings*

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Compiled, written and edited by I. E. Weinstock and K. Barnes.

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STANDARD

STANDARD FOR THE AUSTRALIAN TERRIER

The Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club has approved the following revised Standard for the Australian Terrier as submitted by the Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.:

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A small, sturdy, medium-boned working terrier, rather long in proportion to height with pricked ears and docked tail. Blue and tan, solid sandy or solid red in color, with harsh-textured outer coat, a distinctive ruff and apron, and a soft, silky top-knot. As befits their heritage as versatile workers, Australian Terriers are sound and free moving with good reach and drive. Their expression keen and intelligent; their manner spirited and self-assured.

The following description is that of the ideal Australian Terrier. Any deviation from this description must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

Size—Height 10—11 inches at the withers. Deviation in either direction is to be discouraged. **Proportion**—The body is long in proportion to the height of the dog. The length of back from withers to the front of the tail is approximately 1-1/2 inches longer than from withers to the ground. **Substance**—Good working condition, medium bone, correct body proportions, symmetry and balance determine proper weight.

HEAD

Head—The head is long and strong. The length of the muzzle is equal to the length of the skull. **Expression**—Keen and intelligent. **Eyes**—Small, dark brown to black (the darker the better), keen in expression, set well apart. Rims are black, oval in shape. **Faults**: Light-colored or protruding eyes. **Ears**—Small, erect and pointed; set high on the skull yet well apart, carried erect without any tendency to flare obliquely off the skull. **Skull**—Viewed from the front or side is long and flat, slightly longer than it is wide and full between the eyes, with slight but definite stop. **Muzzle**—Strong and powerful with slight fill under the eyes. The jaws are powerful. **Nose**—Black. A desirable breed characteristic is an inverted V-shaped area free of hair extending from the nose up the bridge of the muzzle, varying in length in the mature dog. **Lips**—Tight and dark brown or black-rimmed. **Bite**—Scissors with teeth of good size.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

Neck—Long, slightly arched and strong, blending smoothly into well laid back shoulders. **Topline**—Level and firm. **Body**—The body is of sturdy structure with ribs well-sprung but not rounded, forming a chest reaching slightly below the elbows with a distinct keel. The loin is strong and fairly short with slight tuck-up. **Faults**: Cobbiness, too long in loin. **Tail**—Set on high and carried erect at a twelve to one o'clock position, docked in balance with the overall dog leaving slightly less than one half, a good hand-hold when mature.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders—Long blades, well laid back with only slight space between the shoulder blades at the withers. The length of the upper arm is comparable to the length of the shoulder blade. The angle between the shoulder and the upper arm is 90 degrees. **Faults**: Straight, loose and loaded shoulders. **Elbows**—Close to the chest. **Forelegs**—Straight, parallel when viewed from the front; the bone is round and medium in size. They should be set

well under the body, with definite body overhang (keel) before them when viewed from the side. **Pasterns**—Strong, with only slight slope. **Fault**: Down on pasterns. **Dewclaws**—Removed. **Feet**—Small, clean, catlike; toes arched and compact, nicely padded, turning neither inward nor outward. **Nails**—Short, black and strong.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong, legs well angulated at the stifles and hocks, short and perpendicular from the hocks to the ground. Upper and lower thighs are well muscled. Viewed from behind the rear legs are straight from the hip joints to the ground and in the same plane as the forelegs. **Faults**: Lack of muscular development or excessive muscularity. **Feet**—(See under Forequarters).

COAT

Outer coat—Harsh and straight; 2 1/2 inches all over the body except the tail, pasterns, rear legs from the hocks down, and the feet which are kept free of long hair. Hair on the ears is kept very short. **Undercoat**—Short and soft. **Furnishings**—Softer than body coat. The neck is well furnished with hair, which forms a protective ruff blending into the apron. The forelegs are slightly feathered to the pasterns. **Topknot**—Covering only the top of the skull; of finer and softer texture than the rest of the coat.

COLOR AND MARKINGS

Colors: Blue and tan, solid sandy and solid red. **Blue and tan**—Blue: dark blue, steel-blue, dark gray-blue, or silver-blue. In silver-blues, each hair carries blue and silver alternating with the darker color at the tips. Tan markings (not sandy or red), as rich as possible, on face, ears, underbody, lower legs and feet, and around vent. The richer the color and more clearly defined the better. **Topknot**—Silver or a lighter shade than head color. **Sandy or Red**—Any shade of solid sandy or solid red, the clearer the better. **Topknot**—Silver or a lighter shade of body coat. **Faults**: All black body coat in the adult dog. Tan smut in the blue portion of the coat, or dark smut in sandy/red coated dogs. In any color, white markings on chest or feet are to be penalized.

GAIT

As seen from the front and from the rear, the legs are straight from the shoulder and hip joints to the pads, and move in planes parallel to the centerline of travel. The rear legs move in the same planes as the front legs. As the dog moves at a faster trot, the front and rear legs and feet may tend to converge toward the centerline of travel, but the legs remain straight even as they flex or extend. Viewed from the side, the legs move in a ground-covering stride. The rear feet should meet the ground in the same prints as left by the front feet, with no gap between them. Topline remains firm and level, without bounce.

TEMPERAMENT

The Australian Terrier is spirited, alert, courageous, and self-confident, with the natural aggressiveness of a ratter and hedge hunter; as a companion, friendly and affectionate. **Faults**: Shyness or aggressiveness toward people.

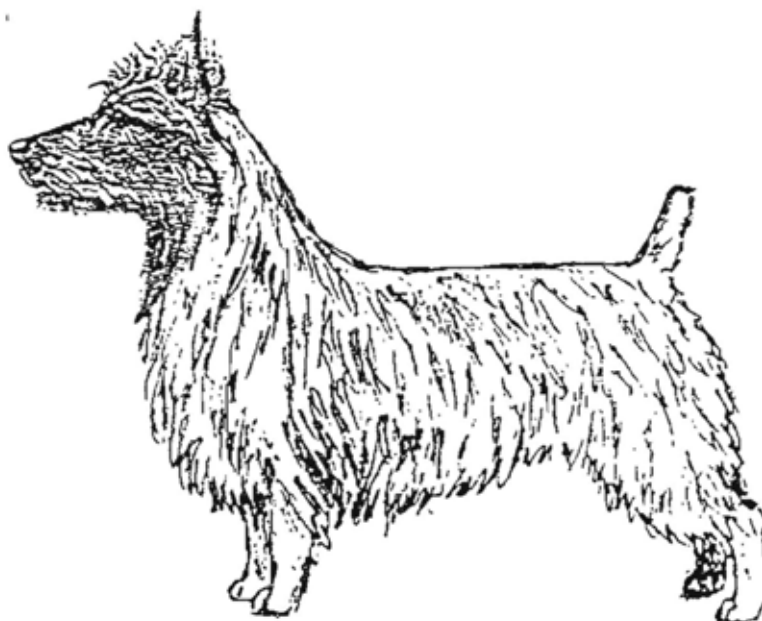
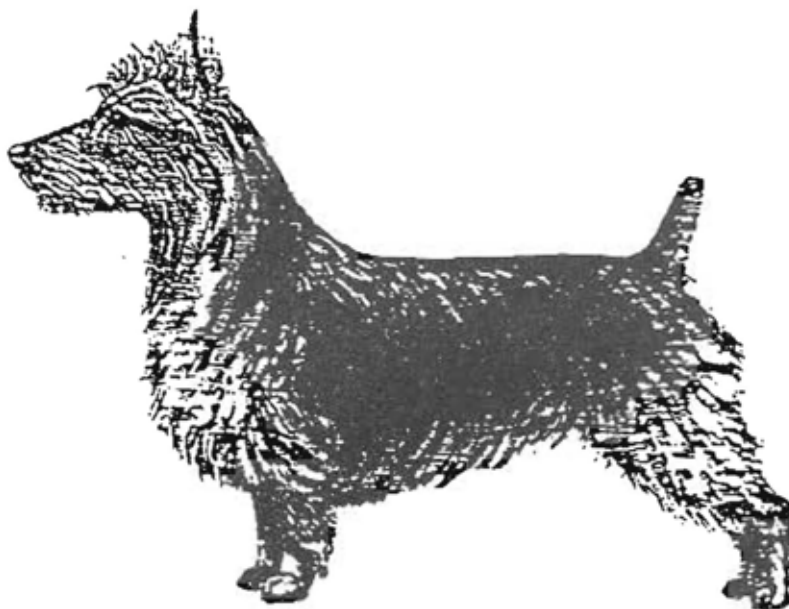
Approved 8-9-88

THE ILLUSTRATED CLARIFICATION OF THE STANDARD

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A small, sturdy, medium-boned working terrier, rather long in proportion to height with pricked ears and docked tail. Blue and tan, solid sandy or solid red in color, with harsh-textured outer coat, a distinctive ruff and apron, and a soft, silky topknot. As befits their heritage as versatile workers, Australian Terriers are sound and free moving with good reach and drive. Their expression keen and intelligent; their manner spirited and self-assured.

The following description is that of the ideal Australian Terrier. Any deviation from this description must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

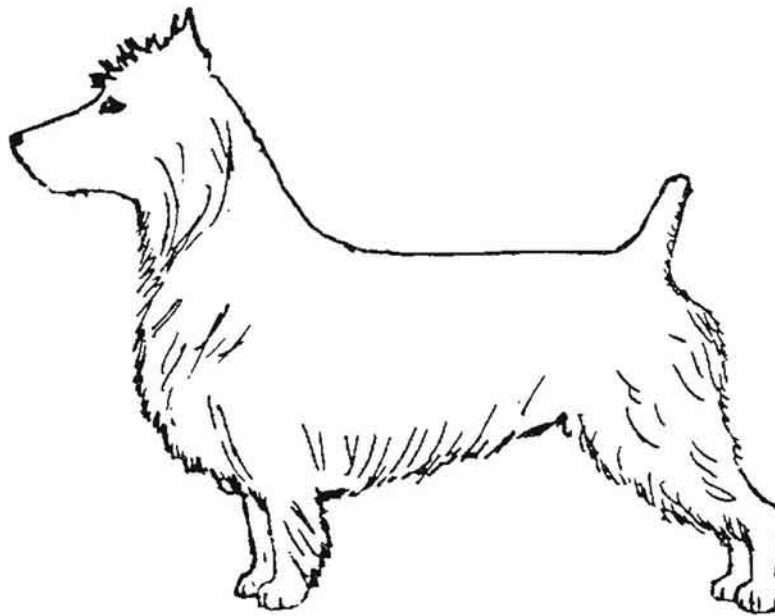


SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

Size-Height 10-11 inches at the withers. Deviation in either direction is to be discouraged.

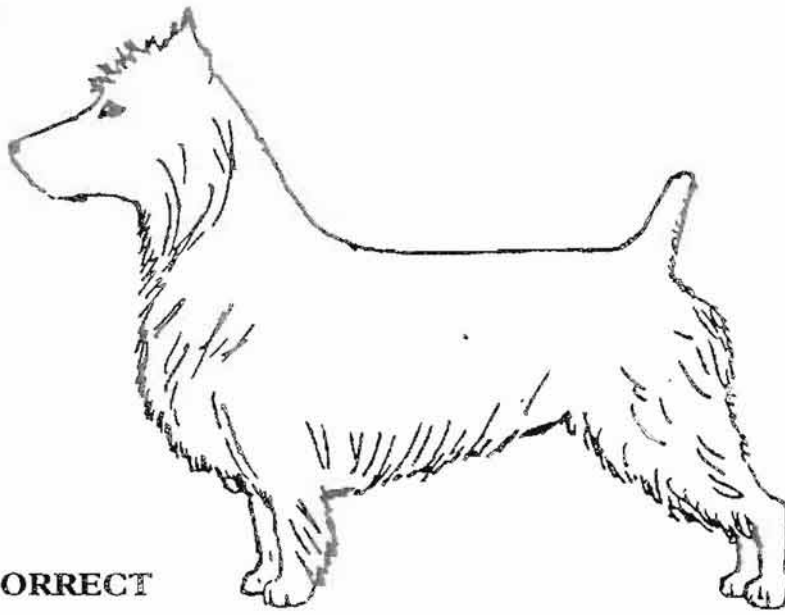
Proportion-The body is long in proportion to the height of the dog. The length of back from withers to the front of the tail is approximately 1 - 1 1/2 inches longer than from withers to the ground.

While the length of the Aussie's back is 1" to 1 1/2" longer than the height from the withers to the ground, its appearance of "long in proportion to height" comes from the length of body formed by correct angulation of the front and rear assemblies and the prominent forechest. There should definitely be something, the prominent forechest, to put your hand on in front of the forelegs, and something to put your hand on behind the tail: the point of the buttocks or ischium, the rearmost bone of the pelvis, which should project well behind the insertion of the tail (indicating more length of the pelvic bone and better muscling in the croup)¹. The Australian Terrier does not present a square outline.

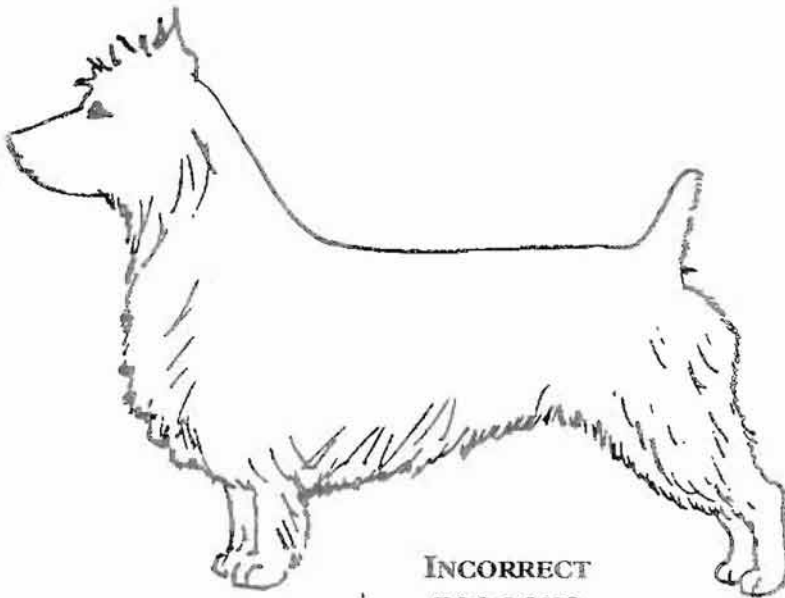


¹Rachel Page Elliott, *The New Dog Steps* (New York, 1985) p. 54.

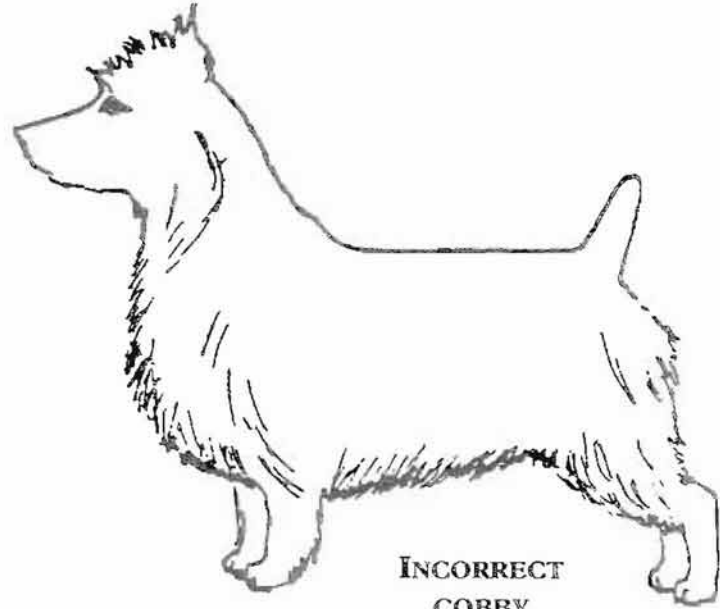
CORRECT



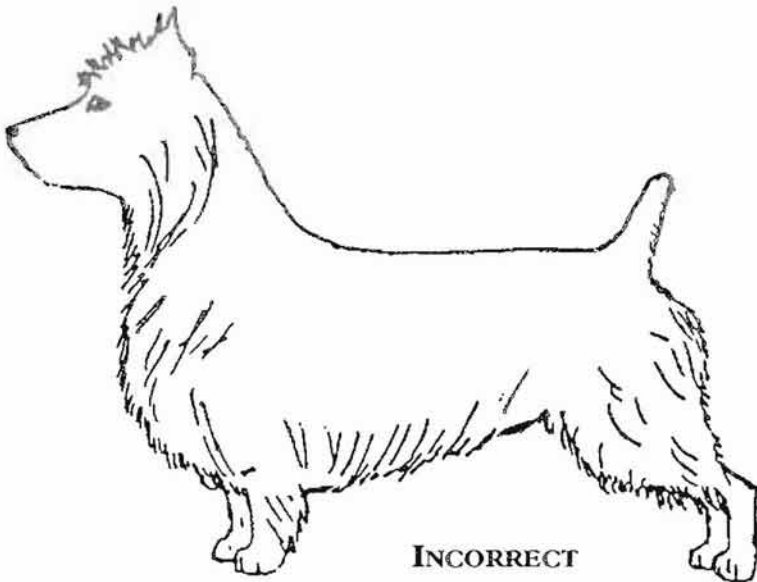
**INCORRECT
TOO LONG**



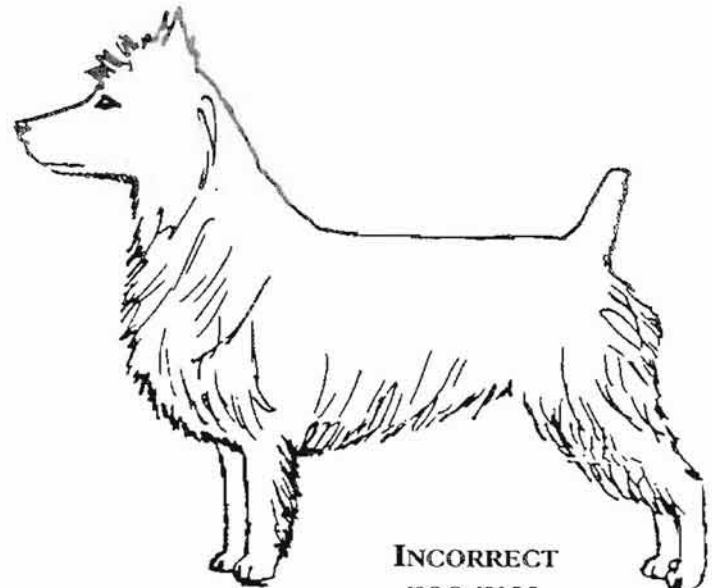
**INCORRECT
COBBY**



**INCORRECT
TOO SHORT ON LEG**

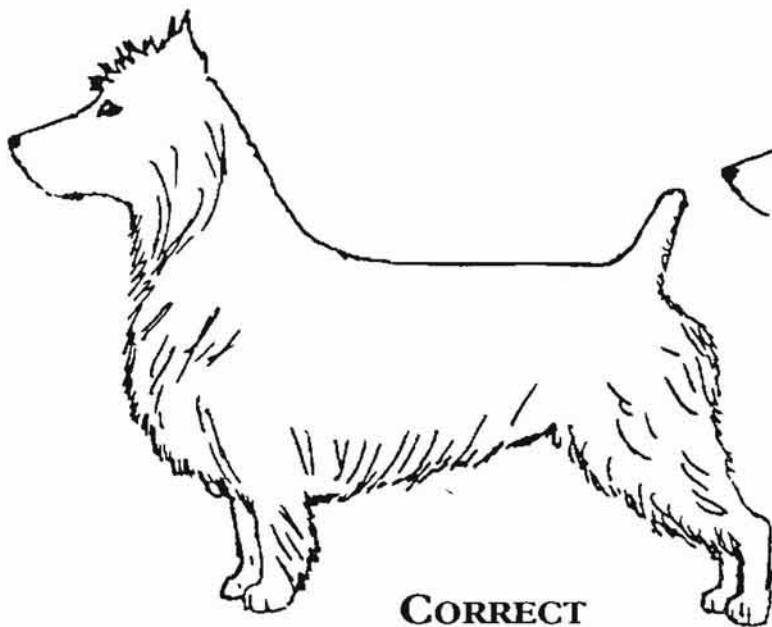


**INCORRECT
TOO TALL**

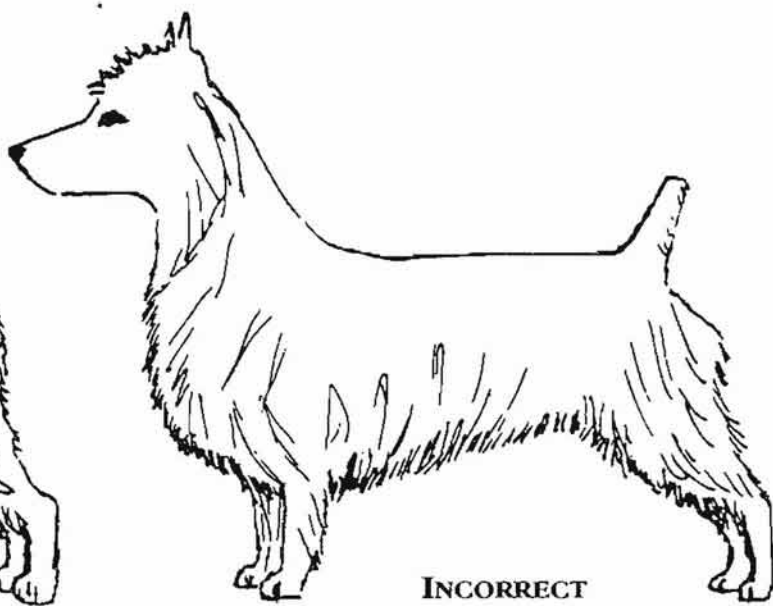


Substance-Good working condition, medium bone, correct body proportions, symmetry and balance determine proper weight.

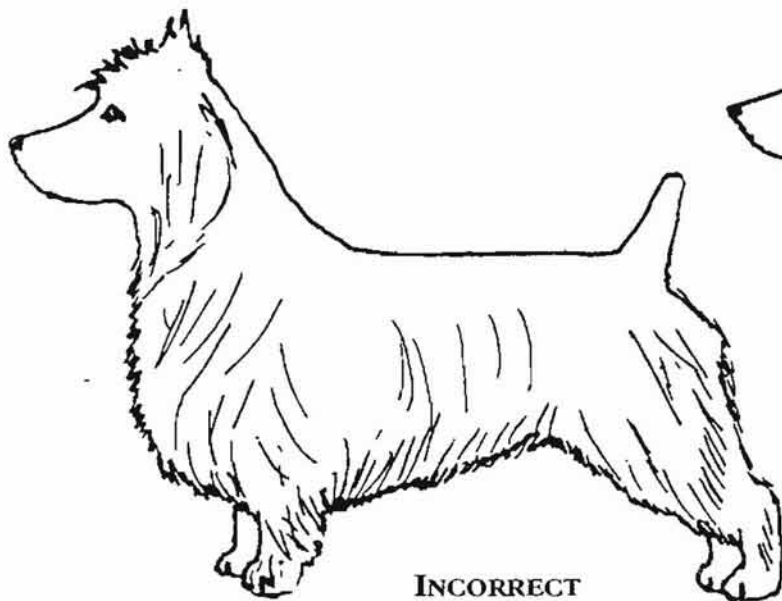
The Aussie is sturdy, neither fine nor heavy boned.



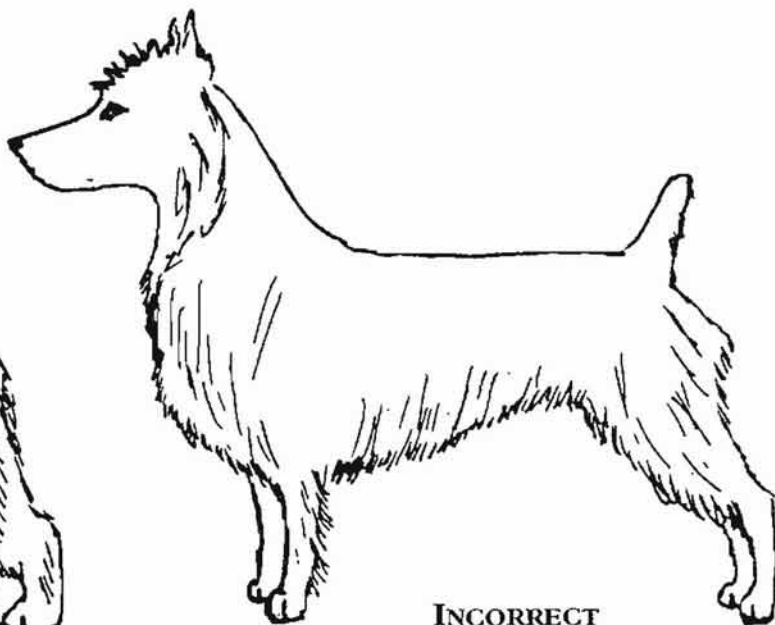
CORRECT



**INCORRECT
TOO FINE BONED**



**INCORRECT
HEAVY BONED**



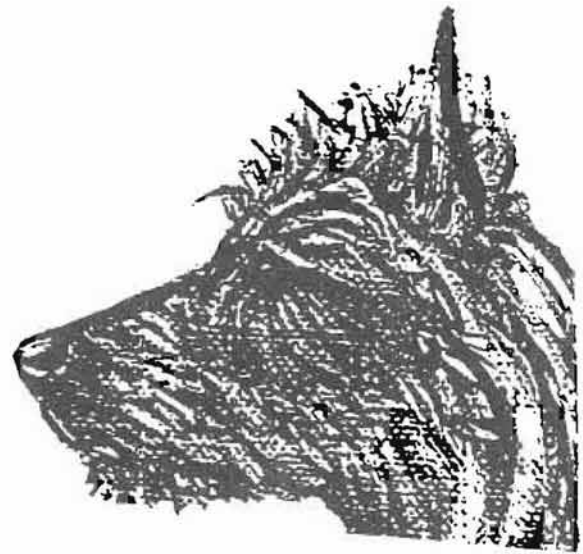
**INCORRECT
WEEDY**

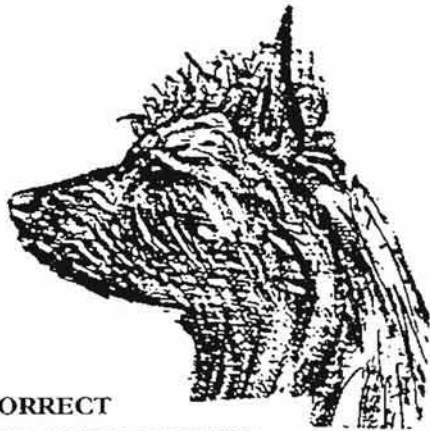
HEAD

Head-The head is long and strong. The length of the muzzle is equal to the length of the skull.

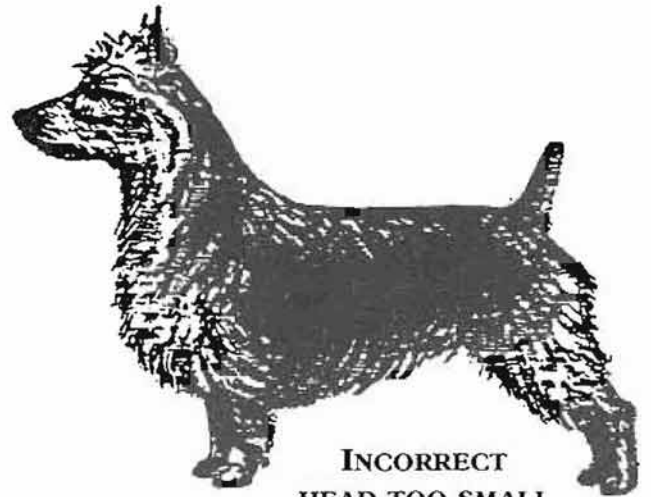
Expression- Keen and intelligent.

The distance from the tip of the nose to the stop is equal to the distance from the stop to the occiput. The expression is confident, alert, showing keen awareness of surroundings.





INCORRECT
SNIPEY MUZZLE, LACK OF CHIN



INCORRECT
HEAD TOO SMALL
FOR BODY



CORRECT



INCORRECT
SNIPEY MUZZLE



INCORRECT
MUZZLE TOO SHORT

Eyes-Small, dark brown to black (the darker the better), keen in expression, set well apart. Rims are black, oval in shape. **Faults:** Light-colored or protruding eyes.

Eye rims are oval or almond in shape. Rims lacking pigmentation, with liver-colored pigmentation, or excessive black pigmentation are incorrect.



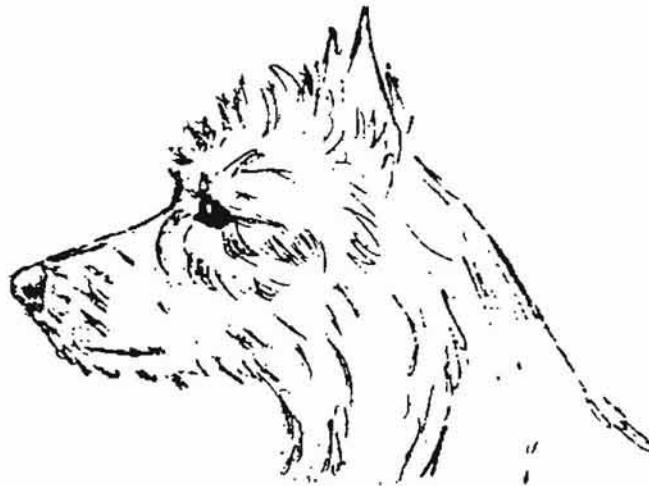
CORRECT
NOTE FILL BETWEEN AND
BENEATH THE EYES



INCORRECT
SET TOO CLOSE TOGETHER



INCORRECT
TOO ROUND



CORRECT



INCORRECT
TOO LARGE, TOO ROUND



INCORRECT
PROTRUDING, BULGING, TOO LARGE

Ears-Small, erect and pointed; set high on the skull yet well apart, carried erect without any tendency to flare obliquely off the skull.



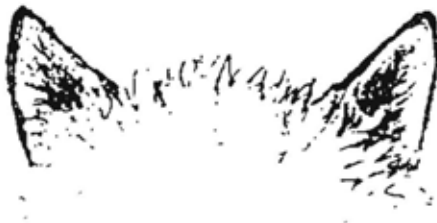
CORRECT



CORRECT



**INCORRECT
SET TOO CLOSE**



**INCORRECT
SET LOW, TOO WIDE APART**



**INCORRECT
ROUND TIPS**

Skull-Viewed from the front or side is long and flat, slightly longer than it is wide and full between the eyes, with slight but definite stop.

Muzzle-Strong and powerful with slight fill under the eyes. The jaws are powerful.

The skull is flat, not rounded (domed). The muzzle is strong, not narrow.



CORRECT
FLAT SKULL



INCORRECT
DOMED SKULL



CORRECT
FLAT SKULL



INCORRECT
DOMED SKULL

Nose-Black. A desirable breed characteristic is an inverted V-shaped area free of hair extending from the nose up the bridge of the muzzle, varying in length in the mature dog.

The leather on the nose is the black, hairless area which narrows as it goes from the nose back toward the eyes. It generally develops after middle age.

Lips-Tight and dark brown- or black-rimmed.

Bite-Scissors with teeth of good size.

The correct bite has upper incisors fitting over the lower incisors. The teeth are evenly spaced, not crowded. The two jaws line up, one directly over the other.



CORRECT
SCISSORS BITE



INCORRECT
LEVEL



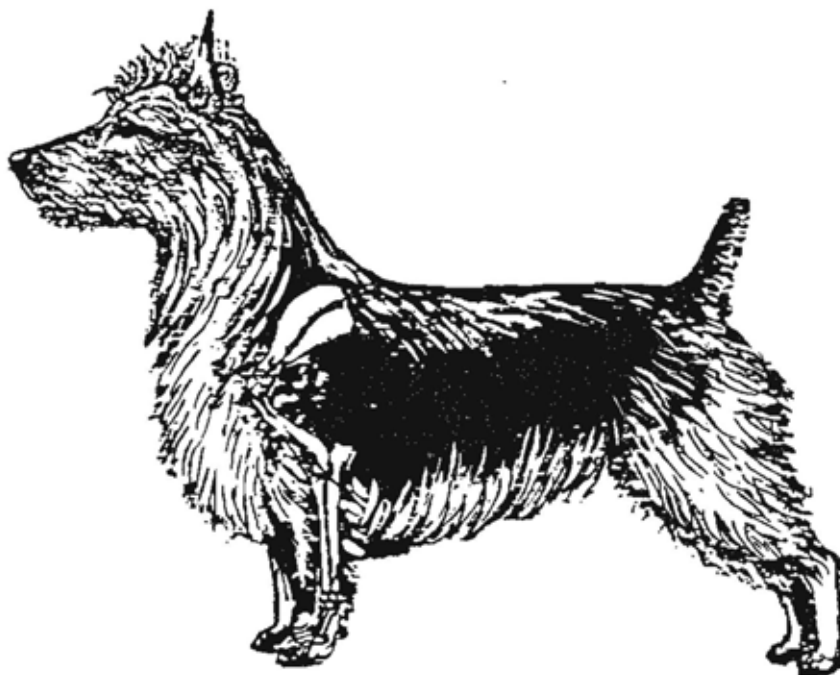
INCORRECT
OVERSHOT



INCORRECT
UNDERSHOT

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck-Long, slightly arched and strong, blending smoothly into well laid back shoulders.

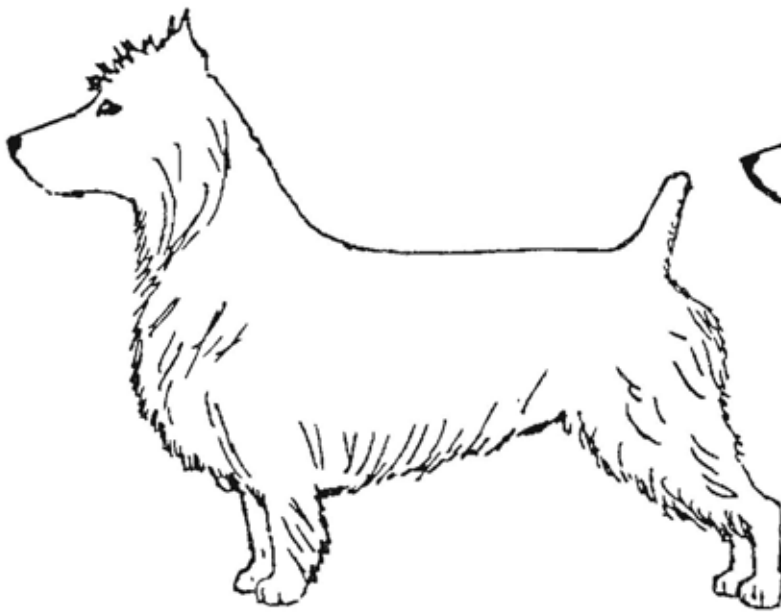


CORRECT
SHOULDER WELL LAID BACK,
OF EQUAL LENGTH TO UPPER ARM

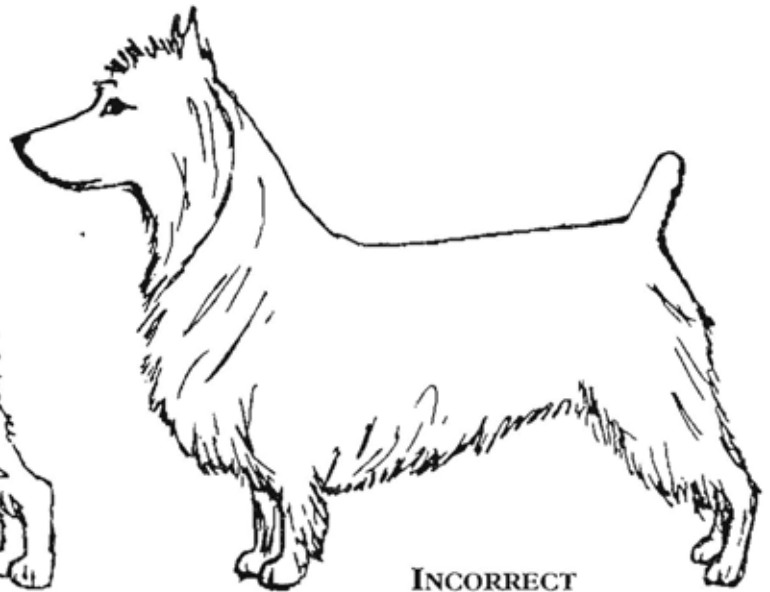


INCORRECT
STRAIGHT (STEEP) SHOULDER,
TOO SHORT NECK

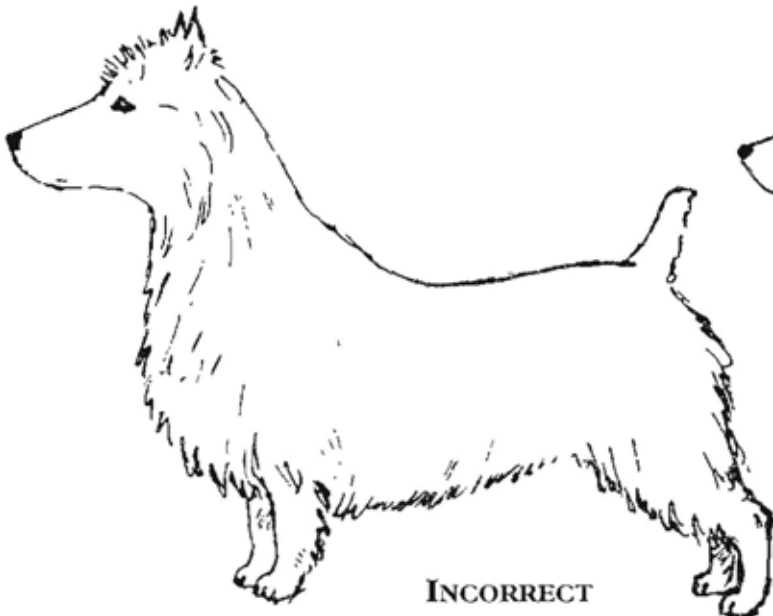
TOPLINE - LEVEL AND FIRM



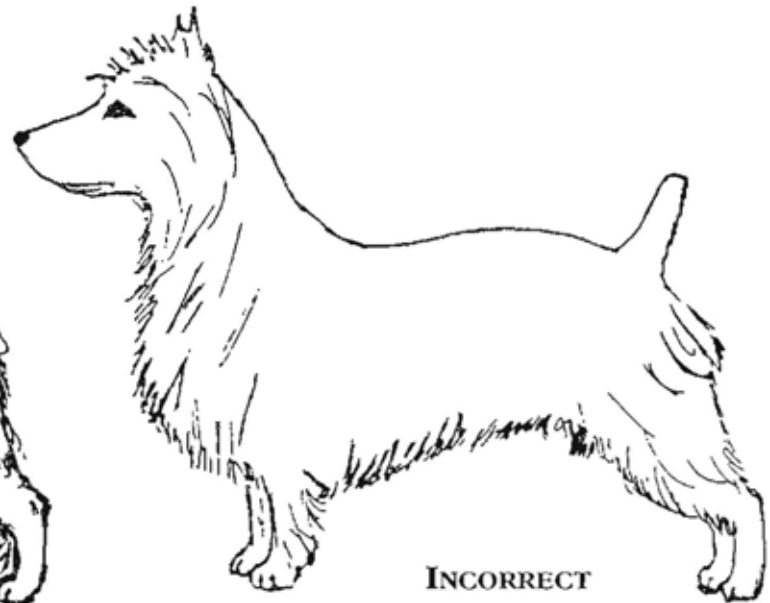
CORRECT



**INCORRECT
HIGH OVER REAR**



**INCORRECT
SWAY-BACKED**

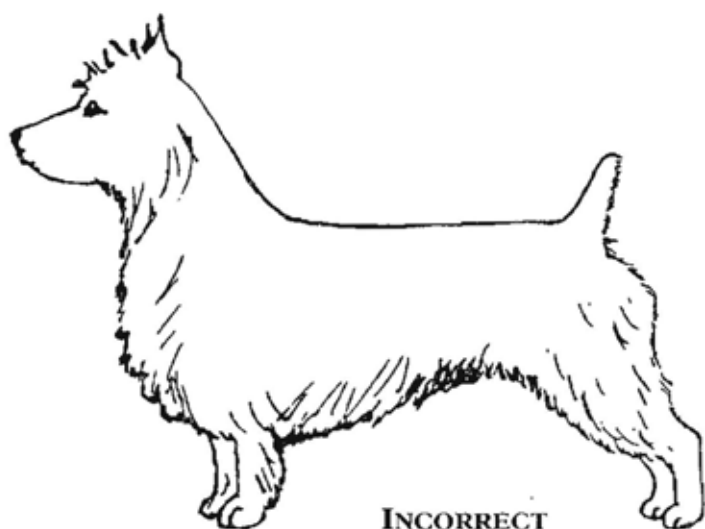
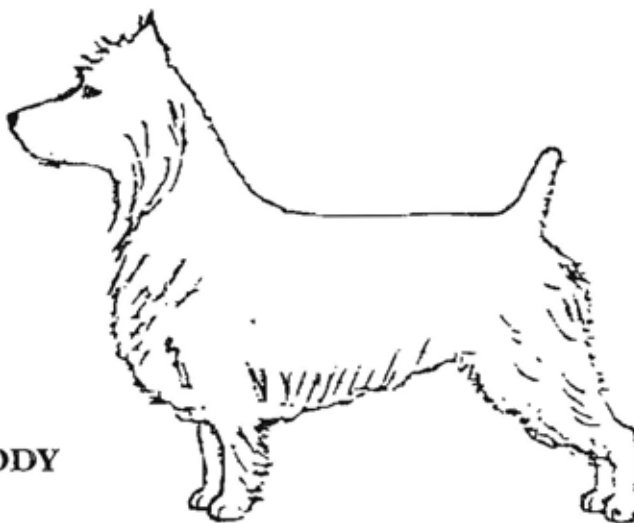


**INCORRECT
ROACHED**

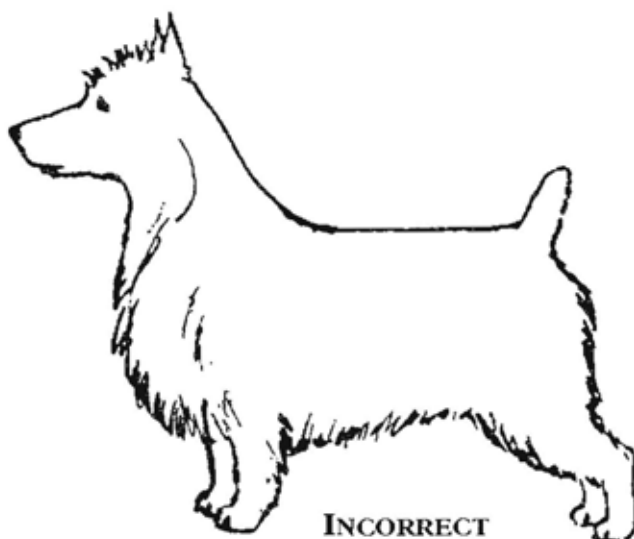
Body-The body is of sturdy structure with ribs well-sprung but not rounded, forming a chest reaching slightly below the elbows with a distinct keel. The loin is strong and fairly short with slight tuck-up. **Faults:** Cobbiness, too long in loin.

The forechest extends well forward of the front legs. The keel of the chest extends below the elbows.

CORRECT BODY



**INCORRECT
TOO LONG IN LOIN**



**INCORRECT
COBBY**

Tail-Set on high and carried erect at a twelve to one o'clock position, docked in balance with the overall dog leaving slightly less than one half, a good hand-hold when mature.



CORRECT

**INCORRECT
LOW TAIL SET**



**INCORRECT
TOO HIGH A TAIL SET**

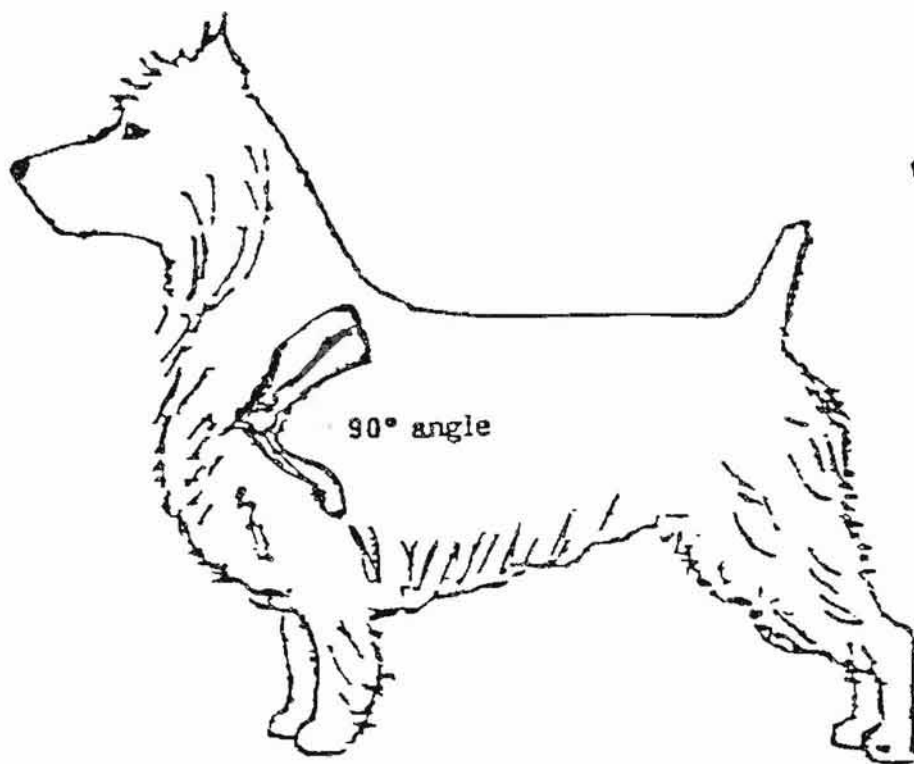
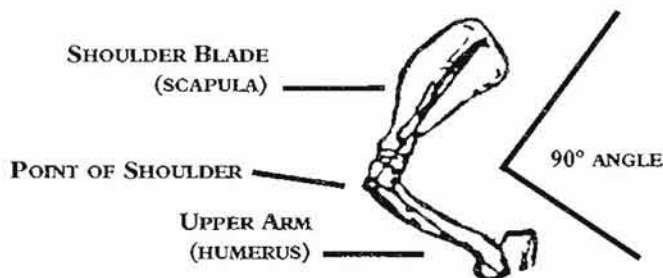


**INCORRECT
GAY TAIL**



FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders-Long blades, well laid back with only slight space between the shoulder blades at the withers. The length of the upper arm is comparable to the length of the shoulder blade. The angle between the shoulder and the upper arm is 90 degrees. Faults: Straight, loose and loaded shoulders.



CORRECT

SHOULDER OF PROPER LENGTH AND LAYBACK, FORMING 90° ANGLE WITH UPPER ARM WHICH IS OF EQUAL LENGTH



INCORRECT

STRAIGHT SHOULDER FORMING MUCH GREATER THAN 90° ANGLE WITH UPPER ARM OF SHORTER LENGTH. NOTE RESULTANT LACK OF BODY IN FRONT OF FORELEGS.



CORRECT
CLEAN SHOULDERS, STRAIGHT FRONT LEGS

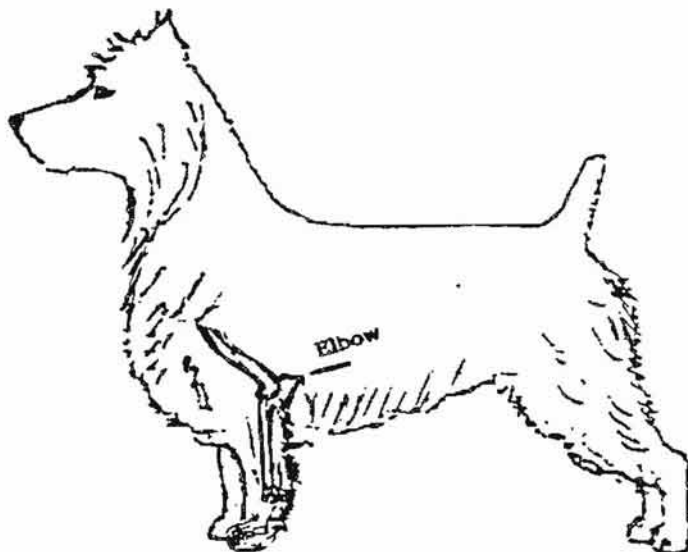


INCORRECT
LOADED SHOULDERS (BULGING MUSCLES)



INCORRECT
LOW SET SHOULDERS, WIDE SPACE
BETWEEN THEM AT WITHERS

ELBOWS - CLOSE TO THE CHEST.



**ELBOWS
CLOSE TO THE CHEST**



CORRECT



**INCORRECT
OUT AT THE ELBOW**

Forelegs-Straight, parallel when viewed from the front; the bone is round and medium in size. They should be set well under the body, with definite body overhang (keel) before them when viewed from the side.



CORRECT



**INCORRECT
TOO NARROW**



**INCORRECT
TOO WIDE**



**INCORRECT
PIGEON-TOED**



**INCORRECT
TOEING OUT**



**INCORRECT - FIDDLE FRONT.
NOTE ELBOWS OUT, PASTERNS
IN, FEET TOEING OUT**



**CORRECT
LEGS WELL UNDER BODY**



**INCORRECT
LEGS TOO FAR FORWARD,
LACK OF KEEL**

Pasterns-Strong, with only slight slope. Fault: Down on pasterns. Dewclaws-Removed.



CORRECT
ONLY SLIGHT SLOPE

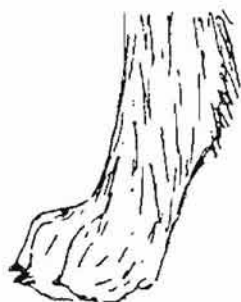


INCORRECT
TOO MUCH SLOPE
DOWN ON PASTERNS



INCORRECT
TOO STRAIGHT, CAN CAUSE
KNUCKLING OVER

Feet - Small, clean, catlike; toes arched and compact, nicely padded, turning neither inward nor outward.



CORRECT
CAT FOOT



CORRECT



CORRECT
UNDERSIDE OF FOOT



INCORRECT
FLAT FOOT



INCORRECT
HAREFOOT



INCORRECT
HEAVY FOOT



INCORRECT
TOEING OUT



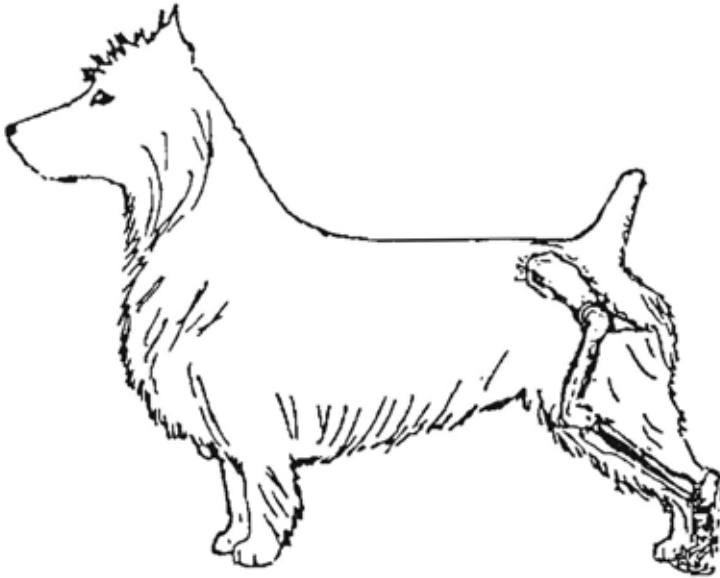
INCORRECT
TOEING IN

NAILS-SHORT, BLACK AND STRONG.



HINDQUARTERS

Strong; legs well angulated at the stifles and hocks, short and perpendicular from the hocks to the ground. Upper and lower thighs are well muscled. Viewed from behind the rear legs are straight from the hip joints to the ground and in the same plane as the forelegs. Faults: Lack of muscular development or excessive muscularity.



CORRECT

NOTE HOW LENGTH AND ANGLES OF BONES GIVE WIDTH AND SUBSTANCE TO HINDQUARTERS.



INCORRECT

STRAIGHT STIFLE, HOCK TOO FAR OFF GROUND. NOTE RESULTANT LACK OF WIDTH & SUBSTANCE OF REARQUARTER.



INCORRECT SICKLE HOCK



CORRECT



INCORRECT TOO WIDE



INCORRECT TOO CLOSE



INCORRECT COW HOCKED



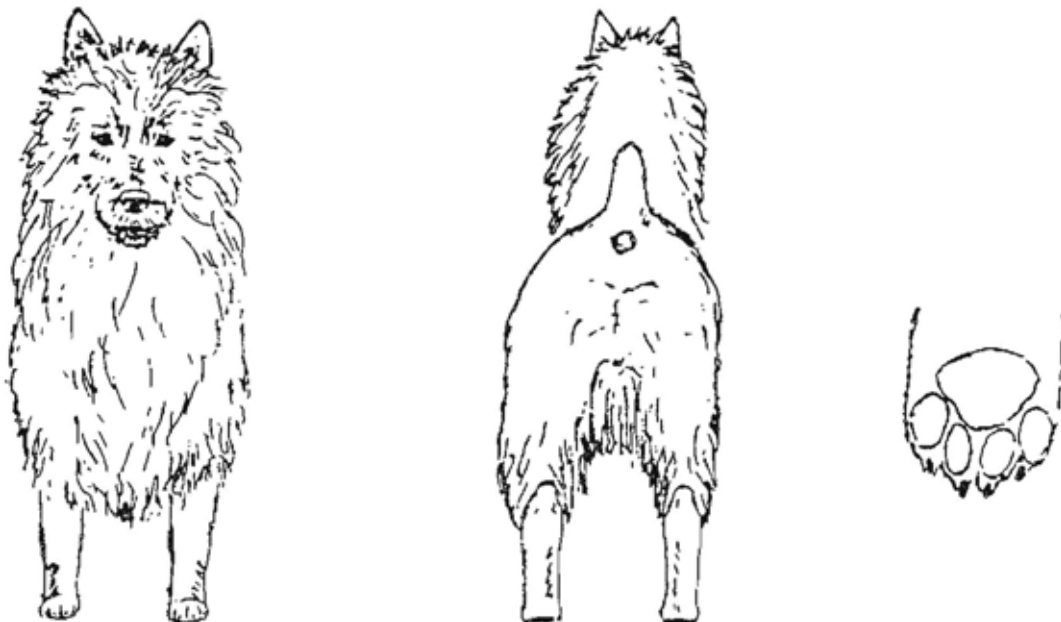
INCORRECT BOWED REAR

FEET-(SEE UNDER FOREQUARTERS).

COAT

Outer Coat-Harsh and straight; 2 1/2 inches all over the body except the tail, pasterns, rear legs from the hocks down, and the feet which are kept free of long hair. Hair on the ears is kept very short.

The coat is not wavy or curly. Hair on the foreface is shorter than that on the body to clearly define the shape. Hair around the vent is kept short. Hair between the pads is clipped.



Undercoat-Short and soft.

The undercoat is affected by climate and environment. A dog living in a cool, moist kennel will grow a more abundant undercoat than a dog living in a warm, dry apartment. Single-coated Australian Terriers that do not grow any undercoat under any circumstances are rare.

Furnishings-Softer than body coat. The neck is well furnished with hair, which forms a protective ruff blending into the apron. The forelegs are slightly feathered to the pasterns.

Topknot-Covering only the top of the skull; of finer and softer texture than the rest of the coat.

In contrast to the harsh outer coat, the topknot is silky in texture.

COLOR AND MARKINGS

Colors: Blue and tan, solid sandy and solid red.

Blue and tan-Blue: dark blue, steel blue, dark gray-blue, or silver-blue. In silver-blues, each hair carries blue and silver alternating with the darker color at the tips. Tan markings (not sandy or red), as rich as possible, on face, ears, underbody, lower legs and feet, and around vent. The richer the color and more clearly defined the better.

Topknot-Silver or a lighter shade than head color.

There should be a definite contrast in color.

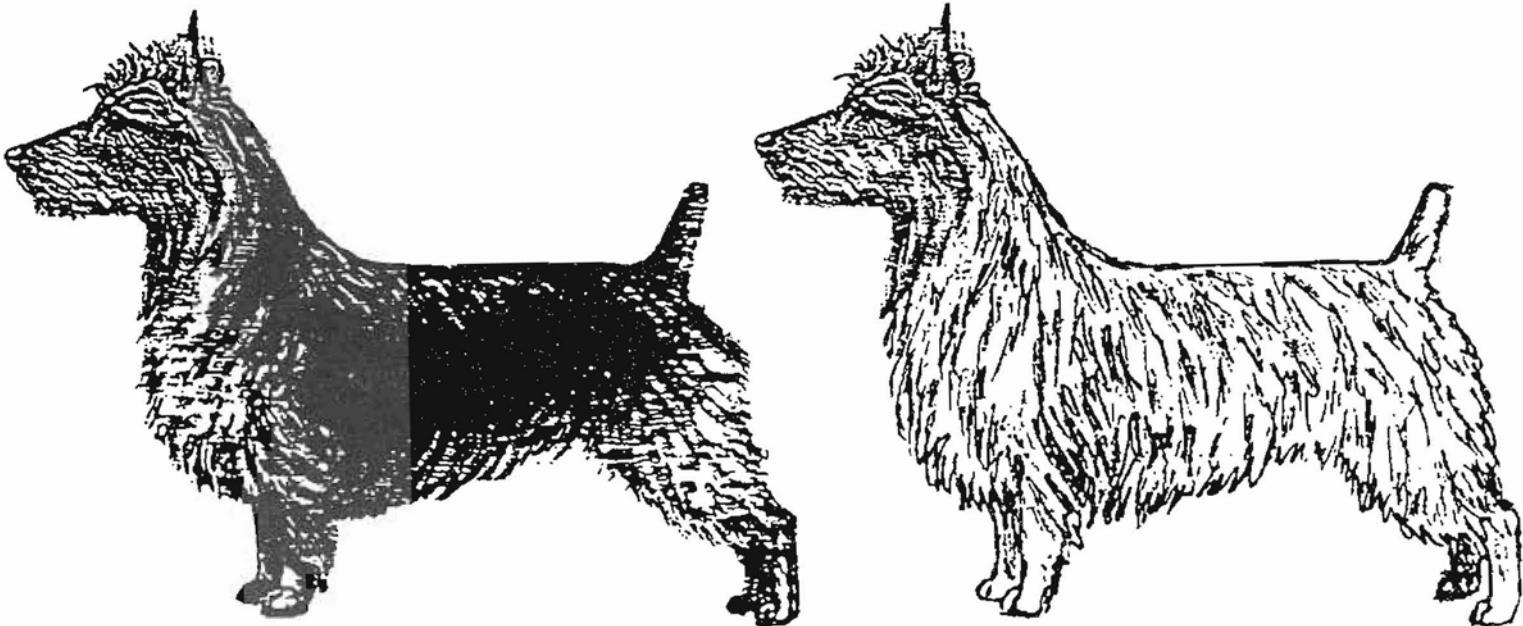
Sandy or Red-Any shade of solid sandy or solid red, the clearer the better.

Topknot-Silver or a lighter shade of body coat.

There should be a definite contrast in color.

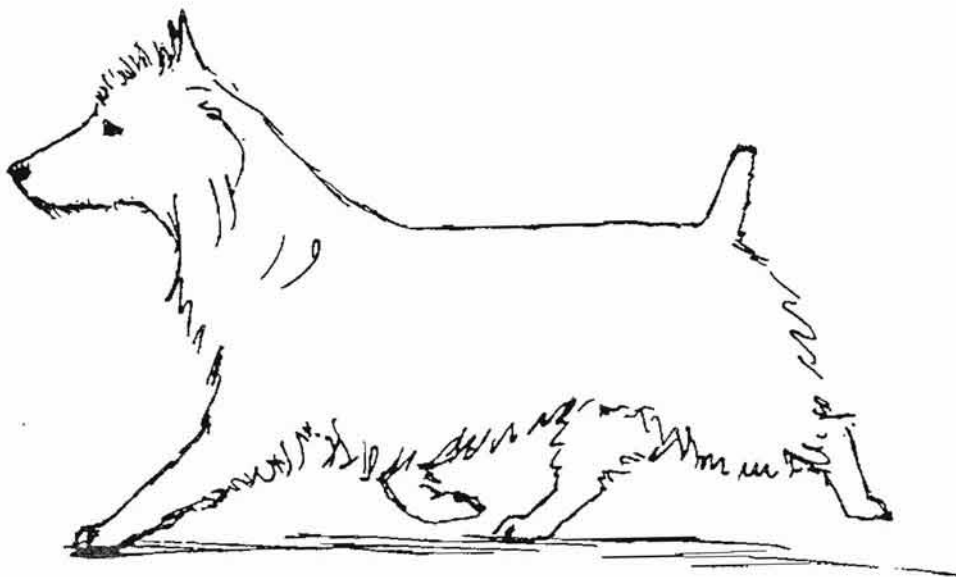
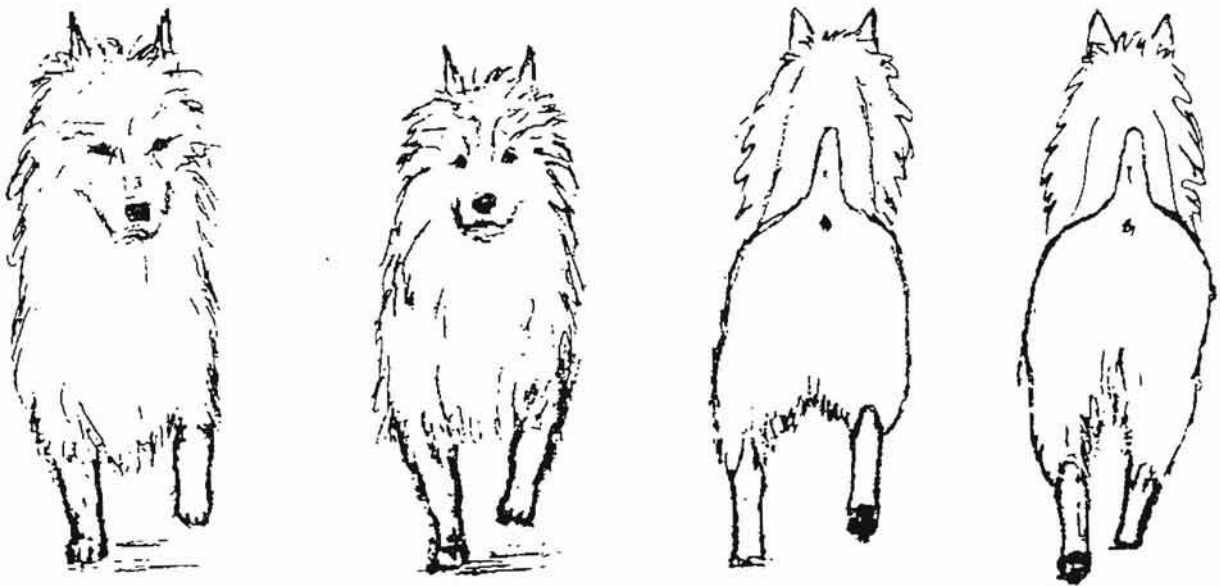
Faults: All black body coat in the adult dog. Tan smut in the blue portion of the coat, or dark smut in sandy/red coated dogs. In any color, white markings on chest or feet are to be penalized.

“All black body coat” means an all black saddle, not a solid black dog with no tan markings. In other words, solid black must not replace blue in the blue portion of the coat.



GAIT

As seen from the front and from the rear, the legs are straight from the shoulder and hip joints to the pads, and move in planes parallel to the centerline of travel. The rear legs move in the same planes as the front legs. As the dog moves at a faster trot, the front and rear legs and feet may tend to converge toward the centerline of travel, but the legs remain straight even as they flex or extend. Viewed from the side, the legs move in a ground-covering stride. The rear feet should meet the ground in the same prints as left by the front feet, with no gap between them. Topline remains firm and level, without bounce.





CORRECT
PARALLEL



CORRECT
CONVERGING TOWARD
CENTER LINE



INCORRECT
OUT AT ELBOWS



INCORRECT
TOEING OUT



INCORRECT
WEAVING



INCORRECT
PADDING

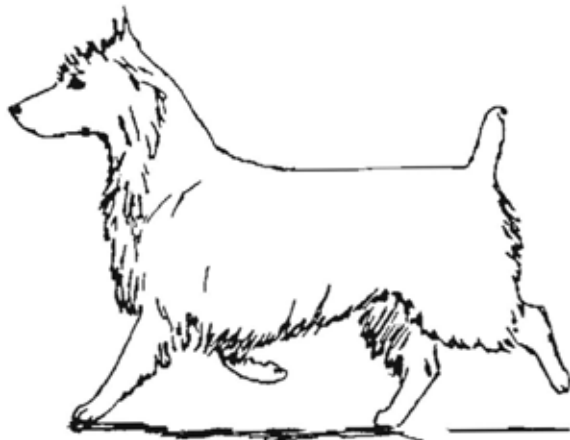
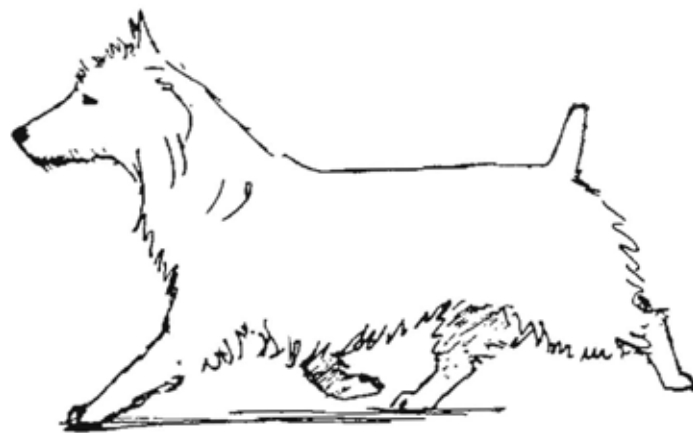


INCORRECT
CRABBING

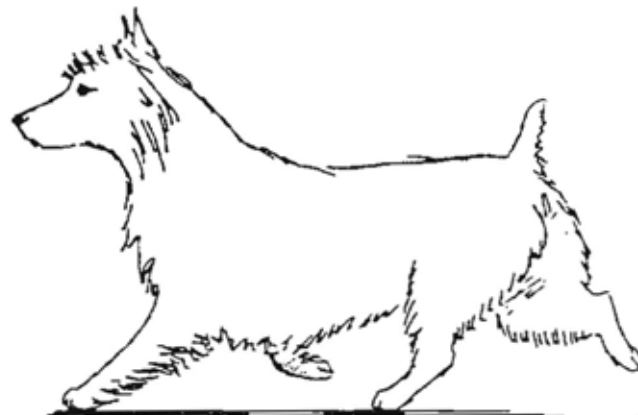


INCORRECT
TOO WIDE

CORRECT
REAR FOOT MOVES INTO
TRACK OF FRONT



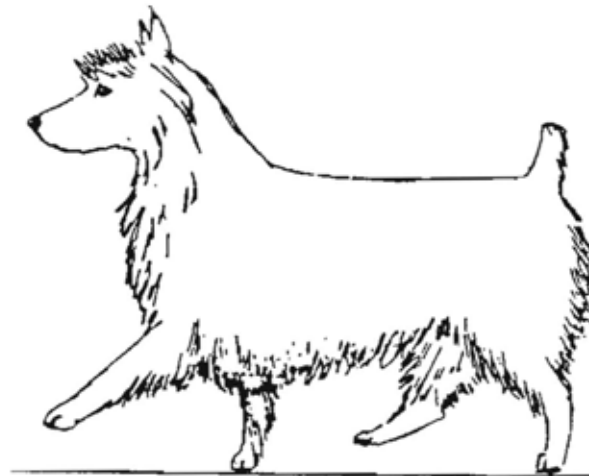
INCORRECT
SHORT MINCING STRIDE



INCORRECT - PACING.
NOTE LEFT FRONT & REAR LEGS
ARE BOTH IN FORWARD POSITION.



INCORRECT
HACKNEY GAIT



INCORRECT
GOOSE-STEPPING

INCORRECT
RUNNING DOWN HILL





CORRECT
PARALLEL



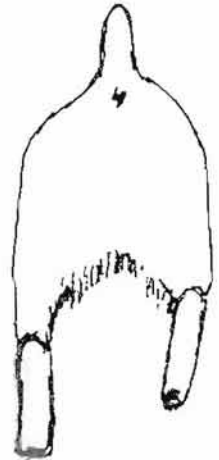
CORRECT
CONVERGING TOWARD CENTER LINE



INCORRECT
TOO CLOSE



INCORRECT
BOWED REAR, BRUSHING



INCORRECT
TOO WIDE



INCORRECT
COW HOCKED



INCORRECT
OPEN HOCKED

TEMPERAMENT

The Australian Terrier is spirited, alert, courageous, and self-confident, with the natural aggressiveness of a ratter and hedge hunter; as a companion, friendly and affectionate.

Faults: Shyness or aggressiveness toward people.

Like most terrier breeds, the Aussie is extremely intelligent but without typical terrier independence and stubbornness. His willingness to please makes him easier to train for obedience than many other terrier breeds.

The breed has a natural beauty. It has not been designed by man to fulfill any one particular chore: fitting into saddlebags, digging and fitting into holes, trotting alongside horses, etc., although it is certainly capable of all of these. It is not flashy, exotic, extreme or exaggerated. The Aussie was developed in a land of great diversity and must be agile, sure-footed, and move with long, reaching, smooth and driving motion in order to fulfill his heritage as an all-around worker. The beauty and balance of the dog must be maintained when the dog is in motion as well as when he is posed and still.

EXPANSION AND CLARIFICATION OF THE STANDARD

THE AUSTRALIAN TERRIER

EXPANSION & CLARIFICATION OF THE STANDARD

The Australian Terrier is a sturdy, low set dog of medium bone, rather long bodied in proportion to height, with strong terrier character, alertness, activity and soundness. It has a harsh outer coat and a soft under coat with definite ruff around the neck extending into an apron covering the distinct breastbone or keel. Other breed characteristics include a soft-textured topknot and an area on the muzzle that is free of hair in the adult dog. Its appearance is intelligent, keen and rugged.

The breed's naturalness is an important characteristic. This is a breed that was developed in a land of great variety, and it must be agile, surefooted, and move with long, reaching, smooth and driving motion in order to fulfill its heritage as an all-around worker: one that excels at herding, guarding and vermin control. It has not, through breeding, been specifically adapted to one particular chore. It is not flashy, exotic, extreme or exaggerated.

The **height** of the Aussie is 10-11 inches at the withers. The **length** of the body comes from the forechest (keel) and correct angulation of the front and rear assemblies, and the length of the back from the withers to the front of the tail: 1-1 1/2 inches longer than from the withers to the ground. There should definitely be "something" to put your hand on in front of the forelegs (the forechest or keel) and behind the tail (buttocks).

SUBSTANCE: Good working condition, medium bone, correct body proportions, symmetry and balance determine proper weight.

HEAD: Long, flat-skulled, full between the eyes with slight but definite stop. The muzzle is of equal length to the skull with fill under the eyes. The skull is slightly longer from the occiput to the stop than it is wide. The cheeks must not be full or prominent along the side of the skull. The muzzle is strong, with long, powerful jaws and large, evenly spaced teeth that meet in a scissors bite. Lips are dark, tight and clean. Nose is black, of moderate size with inverted v-shaped area free of hair in mature dogs extending to the bridge of the muzzle. This hair-free area narrows as it extends back from the nose towards the eyes.

Ears are small, erect and pointed. They are set high on the skull but well apart with no tendency to flare obliquely off the skull. In the standard where it says “set on high” it means ears are not set off the sides of the head. Where it says “well apart” it means not too close together. There should be no leaning of the ears at the base inward toward each other.

The **eyes** are small, dark (as close to black as possible), keen and intelligent in expression. Large, round, light colored or prominent (slightly bulging) eyes are incorrect. The rims should be black in color. Lack of pigmentation, liver pigmentation or an excessive amount of black pigmentation give a foreign expression.

NECK: Long, slightly arched, shapely and strong, it blends into shoulders that are long and well laid back. The proper length and arch of neck and the way the neck blends into the body are essential factors to correct Aussie balance.

BODY: The chest is of medium width with ribs that are well sprung but not rounded. The chest reaches to slightly below the elbows and with forechest forms a distinct keel. The loin is strong with slight tuck-up. The topline is level. The body is sturdy in structure but remember, an Aussie should never be cobby or stuffy and, conversely, should never be too long or weak in the loin.

TAIL: Docked, the length of the tail should be in balance with the neck and enhance the over-all balance of the dog. It should be set on high and carried at a twelve to one o'clock position. When sparring or extremely excited, the Aussie's tail may be carried temporarily over his back.

SHOULDERS: Long, well laid back, set on high, clean and free from muscle build-up. Loaded, short, or straight shoulders are incorrect. In the Australian Terrier the upper arm should equal the length of the shoulder blade. The elbows should lie flat against the side of the rib cage or chest and turn neither in nor out.

Forelegs are straight and set well under the body. The keel or breastbone is thus made prominent in profile by the correct position of the forelegs. **Pasterns** are strong with only slight slope. The forelegs when viewed from the front are parallel.

The front legs and the rear legs from the hocks down are of medium substance and round bone.

HINDQUARTERS: Strong and well muscled but not heavy. Stifles are well turned and hocks well bent and let down. Viewed from the rear they should be parallel, neither too wide nor too close, and are straight from the hip joints to the ground and in the same plane as the forelegs. Excessive muscularity in the rear legs is not proof of good conditioning but rather, like build-up of muscle on the shoulders, an indication of structural faults. Also to be faulted is lack of muscular development of the thighs.

FEET: Small, catlike, well padded, turning neither inward nor out, clean. Toes are arched and compact. Nails are short, black and strong.

COAT: The Aussie is double coated with a harsh straight outer coat, 2 1/2 inches long, and a short, soft undercoat. Covering only the top of the skull, the topknot is of softer and finer texture, as is the hair that feathers the back of the forelegs from the elbow to the knee or carpus. The hair that forms the ruff and apron is softer than the body coat. Ears, forelegs below the wrists (knees or pasterns), feet and rear legs from the hocks down should be free of long hair. Tail should be trimmed neatly. The hair on the foreface should be groomed to clearly define the shape.

The Australian Terrier coat, while harsh, is not as hard or as dense as that of many other terrier breeds.

COLOR: The breed comes in two basic color patterns and three colors: Solid sandy, solid red, and blue & tan.

BLUE & TAN: Correct body colors are any of the following: dark blue, steel-blue, dark gray-blue and silver-blue. The agouti color pattern does appear in the breed (alternation bands of blue and silver with the darker color at the tips). Tan, as rich as possible, but not red or sandy, on face, ears, underbody, lower legs and feet, around vent and on rear facing side of tail.

SANDY OR RED: Any clear color from light sandy to deep red is correct.

The topknot in either color should be a lighter shade than head with silver and platinum colored topknots also desirable.

COLOR FAULTS: Dark smut in the sandy and red coats, solid black in place of blue in the body coat of mature blue & tans over 12 months of age, tan smut mixed into the blue portion of the coat. White markings on chest or feet are to be penalized.

MOVEMENT: The action is free and forceful. When viewed from the front the forelegs move true, without looseness of the shoulder, elbow or pastern. The hindquarters must have drive and power, with free movement of the stifles and hocks. Seen from the front or the rear, the legs move parallel or converge toward a single track, depending upon the speed at which the dog is moving. Viewed from the side, they move in a ground covering stride, with reaching front motion and driving rear, and with no gap between where the front and rear feet touch the ground. The topline should be firm with no bounce.

TEMPERAMENT: Confident, spirited, alert and courageous, with the natural aggressiveness of a ratter and hedge hunter; as a companion, friendly and affectionate.

FAULTS: shyness and aggressiveness towards people.

The Education Committee hopes you have found this expansion and clarification of the standard enlightening, and are better able now to recognize and appreciate the ideal Australian Terrier: its naturalness, its subtle beauty and overall balance-in motion as well as posed and still!.

GLOSSARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

GLOSSARY

- ALMOND EYES**-the tissue surrounding the eyes is oval shaped, bluntly pointed at both corners.
- ANGULATION**-the angles formed by bones meeting at the various joints, mainly the shoulder, stifle and hock joints.
- APPLEHEAD**-domed, rounded skull.
- APRON**-longish hair under the neck and on the front section of the chest.
- BACK**-the vertebrae between the withers and front of the tail.
- BALANCED**-symmetrical, typically proportioned as a whole, well-proportioned.
- BARREL CHEST**-rounded rib section.
- BITE**-the relative position of the upper and lower teeth when the mouth is closed.
- BONE**-the relative girth of a dog's leg bones. Substance.
- BRUSHING**-a gaiting fault, when parallel pasterns are so close the legs brush in passing.
- CAT FEET**-round, compact feet with well-arched toes.
- CHEEKY**-checks prominent, rounded, thick, protruding.
- CHEST**-the section of the body or trunk between the neck in front and the abdomen behind, that part enclosed by the ribs.
- CHIPPENDALE FRONT**-named for the Chippendale chair, forelegs out at the elbows, in or close at the pasterns, and feet turned out. Also fiddle front.
- COARSE**-as applied to bone, head or muscle features, plainer, heavier, larger, clumsier than desirable. As applied to coat, harsh texture.
- COBBY**-short-bodied, short in overall proportions (height to length).
- COUPLING**-the part of the body forming the junction of the ribs and the hindquarters.
- COWHOCKED**-when hocks turn toward each other, restricting movement.
- CRABBING**-dog moves with body at an angle to line of travel. Also side winding.
- CREST**-upper, arched portion of the neck.
- CROSSING OVER**-unsound gaiting action which starts with twisting elbows and ends with crisscrossing and toeing out. Also weaving, plaiting and knitting & purling.
- CROUP**-the rear part of the back, above the hind legs.
- DEWCLAW**-an extra claw or functionless digit on the inside of the legs, usually front but may also be on rear.
- DISH-FACED**-slight concaveness of the line from stop to tip of nose.
- DOCK**-to shorten a tail by cutting.
- DOMED**-rounded in top skull, convex instead of flat.
- DOWN ON PASTERNS**-weak or faulty pastern set at a pronounced angle from the vertical.
- DRIVE**-solid forward thrusting of the hindquarters, denoting sound locomotion.
- ELBOW**-the joint between the upper arm and forearm.
- EVEN BITE**-meeting of front teeth at edges with no overlap of upper or lower teeth.
- EXPRESSION**-the general appearance of all features of the head as viewed from the front.
- FEATHERING**-longer fringe of hair on legs.
- FEET EAST AND WEST**-feet turning outwards.
- FIDDLE FRONT**-see Chippendale front.
- FILL**-fullness of bone.
- FOREARM**-the bone of the foreleg between the elbow and pastern.
- FORECHEST**-section of chest in front of the forelegs.

FOREFACE-the front part of the head before the eyes (muzzle).

FOREQUARTERS-the combined front assembly from its uppermost component, the shoulder blade, down to the feet.

FRONT-the forepart of the body as viewed head on. Forelegs, chest, brisket and shoulder line.

FURNISHINGS-the long hair of ruff and apron.

GAIT-the pattern of footsteps at various rates of speed, each pattern distinguished by a particular rhythm and footfall. The usual gait used in the show ring is the trot.

GAY TAIL-carried too far forward.

GOOSE-STEPPING-accentuated lift of forelimbs similar to hackney action but with full extension of the front pasterns and feet (straightness of leg) before they touch the ground.

HACKNEY ACTION-a high stepping action of the front legs (to keep paws out of the way of oncoming rear feet).

HAREFOOT-a foot where the two center digits are longer, an elongated foot.

HEIGHT-vertical measurement from withers to ground.

HINDQUARTERS-the rear assembly, pelvis, thighs, hocks, rear pasterns and feet.

HOCK-the joint on the hind leg between lower thigh and rear pastern.

HOCKS WELL LET DOWN-hock joints close to the ground.

INCISORS-the six upper and six lower front teeth between the canines. Their point of contact forms the bite.

KEEL - rounded outline of the lower chest, between prosternum (frontmost portion of the breastbone that projects beyond the point of the shoulder when seen in profile) and the rearmost end of the breastbone, resembling the keel of a boat.

KNUCKLING OVER-faulty structure of the wrist joint allowing it to double forward under the weight of the standing dog (can be caused by too steep pasterns).

LAYBACK-the angle of the shoulder blade as compared with the vertical.

LEVEL BITE-front teeth of upper and lower jaws meet edge to edge.

LOADED SHOULDERS-shoulder blades shoved out from the body by overdevelopment of the muscles; excessive development of the muscles on the outside surface of the shoulder blades.

LOIN-part of the body on either side of vertebral column between the last ribs and the hindquarters.

LOWER THIGH-the muscular region between the stifle and the hock joint. Also second thigh.

MINCING-short, choppy, prancing movement lacking power.

MOVING CLOSE-when the hocks turn in and pasterns drop straight to the ground and move parallel to each other.

MUZZLE-the head in front of the eyes, foreface.

OCCIPUT-upper back point of the skull.

OUT AT ELBOWS-turning out or away from body rather than being held close alongside chest.

OVERSHOT BITE-the lower incisors are some distance behind the upper, no physical contact between their outer surfaces and the inner ones of the upper incisors.

PACING-faulty gait in which legs on each side move together: left front and rear legs in forward position, then right front and rear legs. Tends to promote a rolling motion of body.

PADDING-compensation action in which the front feet flip upward in a split-second delaying action to coordinate stride of forelegs with longer stride from behind.

PADDLING-energy-wasting gaiting fault of the forequarters seen with dog coming on. Pasterns and feet move in circular, exaggerated motion, turning or flicking outwards at end of each step. Pinching in at elbows and shoulder joints causes front legs to swing forward on a stiff outward curve as if they were paddling a boat.

PADS-thick, tough, shock-absorbing black tissue on bottom toes.

PASTERN-the region of the foreleg between the wrist (carpus) and the foot.

POUNDING-gaiting fault resulting from dog's front stride being shorter than its rear stride; forelegs strike ground hard before rear stride is expended.

RANGY-tall, long in body, light-boned, high on leg.

REACH-length of forward stride taken by forelegs without wasted or excessive motion.

REAR PASTERN-the section of rear leg between the hock joint above and the foot below.

ROACH BACK-a convex curvature of the back toward the loins.

RUFF-the collar of profuse, long hair that stands out from the neck.

SCISSORS BITE-bite in which the outer side of the lower incisors touches the inner side of the upper incisors.

SICKLE HOCKS-the angle of the hock is small and the foot is placed forward of a straight line from the angle of the hock to the ground when the dog is standing.

SIDE WINDING-see crabbing.

SINGLE TRACKING-all footprints falling on a single line of travel. When a dog breaks into a trot, his body is supported by only two legs at a time which move as alternating diagonal pairs; to achieve balance, his legs angle inward toward a center line beneath his body, and the greater the speed, the closer they come to tracking on a single line.

SNIPEY-weak or pointed foreface.

SOUND-free from abnormality or defect impairing or likely to impair usefulness.

SPRING OF RIBS-the shape or arch of the ribs after they leave the vertebrae.

STIFLE-the joint of the hind leg between the thigh and lower thigh. The dog's knee.

STOP-a step down in the topline of the head located between the eyes where the skull meets the nasal bone.

STRAIGHT SHOULDERS-the shoulder blades rather straight up and down, as opposed to sloping or well laid back. Also referred to as steep or upright shoulders.

THIGH-the upper thigh, the shank, the part of the rear leg between the hip joint and the stifle.

TOPKNOT-the longer, silky-textured hair on top of the head.

TOPLINE-the line of the back between withers and front of tail.

TROT-a rhythmic two-beat diagonal gait in which feet at diagonally opposite ends of the body strike the ground together; i.e. right hind leg with left front leg and left hind with right front. (See single tracking).

TUCK-UP-the shallower body depth at the loin.

TYPE-the characteristic qualities distinguishing a breed; the embodiment of a standard's essentials.

TYPE-a dog that is type is one that has the qualities that distinguish a breed and which embodies the essentials of the standard.

UNDERSHOT BITE-opposite of overshot.

UPPER ARM-the bone of the foreleg (humerus) between shoulder blade and forearm.

VENT-the anal opening.

WEEDY-inadequate bone, lightly framed.

WELL LAID BACK-describes shoulder placement: from the point of the shoulder where the blade meets the upper arm it angles away from the vertical toward the rear of the dog. Shoulders that are well angulated are said to be well laid back.

WITHERS-the highest point of the shoulder; the union of the top of the shoulder blade and the vertebrae just behind the base of the neck.

WRY MOUTH-jaws do not line up with each other.

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Videos:

*The Australian Terrier**

Dogsteps-A Study of Canine Structure and Movement (By: Rachel Page Elliott)*

Videos available by mail from: The American Kennel Club
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* works highly recommended

** out of print but well worth seeking out

*** out of print, interesting, quirky history