

AMERICAN RAT TERRIER

GROUP: Terrier.

VARIETIES:

American Rat Terrier and Teddy Roosevelt Terrier

SIZE:

Four, none preferred over the other: Toy/ Miniature/Standard/Decker Giant. All shown in same class. The Teddy Roosevelt variety is distinguishable mainly by leg length, which comes in a general ratio of 10:7 or 10:8 when considering ratio of length of body to height at withers. It is a low-set, muscular, active, small-to-medium hunting terrier.

Proportionate to weight. The Teddy Roosevelt variety measures between 8 and 15 inches at the withers. Toy, 10 lbs. and under; Miniature, over 10 lbs. up to 18 lbs.; Standard, over 18 lbs. to 28 lbs.; Decker Giant, 28 to 45 lbs. Weight will vary with the Teddy Roosevelt variety, depending on the size of the individual dog. **Faults: Teddy Roosevelt variety under 8 inches or over 15. Serious Fault: Teddy Roosevelt variety over 17 inches.**

COAT:

Coated and hairless varieties.

Coated Variety: Short, dense, and smooth, with a sheen; whiskers are not removed.

Hairless variety: Puppies are born with soft, vestigial down generally covering body, but which gradually diminishes until age 6 to 8 weeks, at which time puppies should be completely hairless except for whiskers and guard hairs on muzzle and eyebrows; short, very fine (vellus) hair may be present on body of a mature dog; skin is smooth and warm to the touch; the Hairless variety may sweat when overheated or stressed, but is not faulted in show ring. **Serious faults (Hairless): Vellus hair longer than 1mm on dog over six months of age. Disqualifications (both varieties): Wire or broken coat; long coat.**

COLOR:

Coated variety: Solid white, bi-color or tri color; red & white; solid black & tan; blue & white; red; should always have some white located somewhere on dog. Black, tan, apricot, and red dogs should have black nose and eye rims; chocolate, lemon, blue, and blue fawn may have self-colored nose and eye rims; colored areas may have sable overlay. **Faults: Fawn (pale yellowish tan with self-colored nose), cream (pale yellow to off white); fallow with black mask (very light yellowish tan with black mask), and silver (extreme dilution of blue).**

Hairless variety: Any skin color acceptable; skin is usually parti-colored with an underlying skin color and freckles or spots of contrasting color; freckles enlarge with age, and skin color will darken when exposed to sun. **Disqualification (both varieties): Albinism.**

HEAD:

Proportionate to size of body; viewed from side, skull and muzzle are of equal length, joined by moderate stop; viewed from front and side, the head forms a blunt wedge shape. **Fault: Abrupt stop.**

Skull: Broad, slightly domed, tapering slightly toward muzzle; powerful jaws with well-muscled cheeks. **Serious fault: Apple head; very narrow skull.**

Muzzle: Well filled-out under eyes, well-chiseled, tapering slightly from the stop to the nose; powerful jaws, hinged well back allowing dog to open mouth wide enough to catch rats and other rodents; dry and tight lips with no flews; lip pigment matches nose pigment. **Fault: Snipey muzzle; stop too short (Chihuahua stop); bulging lips.**

Teeth: Complete set of good-sized, evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in scissors or level bite. **Faults: Missing teeth (exceptions may be made for working dogs); overshot or undershot bite.**

Eyes: Set obliquely, round, small, somewhat prominent; eye rims match nose pigment.

Coated variety: Eye color ranges from dark brown to amber, corresponding with coat color; hazel eyes acceptable in dogs with lighter coat color; blue or amber eyes permitted in blue-colored dogs only, but dark gray eyes with gray eye rims preferred.

Hairless variety: Any acceptable color.

Faults: **Bulgy eyes; deep-set eyes; light-colored eyes in dog with black coat color or black pigment; both eyes not of matching colors; eye with iris containing more than one color; wall or china eye.**

Ears: V-shaped, set at outside edges of skull; matching ears strongly preferred; non-matching ear carriage should be penalized to degree of variation. *Note:* Ear carriage may not stabilize until a dog is mature and dogs in puppy class should not be penalized for variations in ear carriage. *Coated variety:* Ears are either erect, tipped, or button when dog is alert.

Hairless variety: Erect ears are preferred, but tipped or button ears acceptable.

Faults: **Erect ears with sides curved inward forming tulip-petal shape; rose ears; bat ears; flying ears; non-matching ear carriage. Disqualification: Hanging ears.**

Nose: Black or self-colored. **Faults:** **Dudley or butterfly nose; pink or pink spotted; snow nose.**

NECK:

Clean, moderately long, muscular, slightly arched, tapering slightly from shoulders to head; neck blends smoothly into well-laid back shoulders.

BODY:

Slightly longer (measured from posternum to point of buttocks) than tall (measured from withers to ground), and length of front leg (measured from point of elbow to ground) should equal approximately one-half of dog's height; moderately short loin, slightly arched, and muscular, with moderate tuck-up; slightly sloping croup; ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from spine, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body; brisket extends to or just below elbow. **Fault: Round body.**

Topline: Strong and level, whether dog is standing or moving.

Chest: Well filled and of moderate width viewed from front; viewed from side, forechest extends in a shallow oval shape in front of forelegs. **Fault: Excessive barrel chest.**

FOREQUARTERS:

Smoothly muscled shoulders with shoulder blades well-laid back with upper tips fairly close together at withers; upper arm of equal length to shoulder blade, joining it at a right angle; elbows close to body; viewed from any angle, forelegs are straight, strong and sturdy in bone; strong, short, nearly vertical pasterns. **Faults: Elbows or legs turned either in or out; bow legged.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Muscular with length of upper and lower thighs approximately equal; hindquarter angulation in balance with forequarter angulation; well-bent stifles, and hocks well let down; when dog is standing; short strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to ground and, viewed from rear, parallel to one another.

Feet: Compact, slightly oval; two middle toes slightly longer than others; toes may be well split up, but not flat or splayed; all dewclaws should be removed.

Tail: Set-on at end of croup; natural tail is thick at base and tapers toward tip; when dog is alert, tail is carried in upward curve; when relaxed, tail may be carried straight out behind dog.

Coated variety: Docked or natural bob tail preferred, but natural tail is not a fault; if docked, it should be between the second and third joint of tail.

Hairless variety: natural tail is preferred, and docked or natural bob tail is serious fault. **Faults (both varieties): Bent tail; ring tail.**

MOVEMENT:

Moves with a jaunty air suggesting agility, speed, and power; gait is smooth and effortless, with good reach of forequarters without any trace of hackney gait; rear quarters have strong driving power, with hocks fully extending; viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other; feet tend to converge toward center line of balance as speed increases.

TEMPERAMENT:

Energetic and alert with enough curiosity and intelligence to make him easy to train; when not hunting, he is exceptionally friendly with people, other dogs, and even cats.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard

Disqualifications:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Short-legged dog whose proportions vary significantly from 10:9 ratio for standard

American Rat Terriers; For the Teddy Roosevelt variety, a longer-legged, square-bodied

dog whose proportions vary significantly from the desired ratio lacks breed type and must be disqualified.

Hanging ears.

Wire or broken coat; long coat.

Rear dewclaws.

Albinism.