

## **IRISH TERRIER**

GROUP: Terrier

### **GENERAL APPEARANCE:**

Overall appearance of the Irish Terrier is important in that he must be more than the sum of his parts; must be all-of-a-piece, a balanced vital picture of symmetry, proportion and harmony. Furthermore, he must convey character, activeness, be lithe and wiry in movement with great animation; sturdy and strong in substance and bone structure, but at the same time free from clumsiness, for speed, power and endurance are most essential; must be neither “cobby” nor “cloddy,” but should be built on lines of speed with a graceful, racing outline

### **SIZE:**

Both males and females should be approximately 18 inches at the withers. Males, 27 pounds; females, 25 pounds.

### **COAT:**

Dense and wiry in texture, rich in quality, with a broken appearance, but still lying fairly close to the body; skin is barely visible when the dense hair is parted with fingers; free of softness or silkiness and not so long as to alter the outline of the body, particularly on hindquarters; hair on sides of body is plentiful and of good texture, but not as harsh as hair on back and quarters; undercoat of fine, soft, lighter colored hair exists at the base of the stiff outer coat; hair on upper and lower jaws is similar in quality and texture to that on the body, and of sufficient length to present an appearance of additional strength and finish to the foreface; hair on legs is free from feathering and covered with hair of similar texture to that on body; tail is well covered with harsh, rough hair. ***Serious faults: Single coats, without undercoat; wavy coats; curly and kinky coats; profuse, goat-like beard; absence of beard.***

### **COLOR & MARKINGS:**

Whole-colored (of one color); bright red, golden red, red wheaten, or wheaten; small patch of white on chest is permissible, but not desirable. Puppies sometimes have black hair that disappears before they reach adulthood. ***Serious fault: White on any part of the body other than a small patch of white on chest.***

### **HEAD:**

Long, but in nice proportion to rest of body; skull is flat and rather narrow between ears, narrowing slightly toward eyes; free from wrinkles; hardly noticeable stop except in profile; strong, muscular jaws are not too full in the cheek, and are of good punishing length; close and well fitting lips, almost black in color; delicate modeling of foreface, not falling away appreciably between or below eyes; from occiput to stop, foreface and skull are approximately equal in length. ***Serious faults: Exaggerated foreface; short foreface; excessive muscular development of the temples (“cheeky,” “strong in head,” “thick in skull”); “bumpy” head (where skull presents two lumps of bony structure above eyes).***

Eyes: Small, not prominent, and black color; should show an intense expression, full of life, fire and intelligence. ***Serious faults: Light or yellow eyes.***

Ears: Small, V-shaped, of moderate thickness; well-set on head, dropping forward closely toward outside corner of eye; top of folded ear is well above the level of skull; hair on ears is much shorter and somewhat darker in color than hair on body. ***Serious fault: Dead, hound-like ears.***

Nose: Must be black.

Teeth & bite: Full complement of large, evenly spaced, white teeth; scissor or level bite. ***Faults: Undershot or overshot.***

### **NECK:**

Of fair length, gradually widening toward the shoulders; carried well and proudly; free from throatiness; usually a slight frill on the hair at each side of neck, extending almost to corner of ear.

BODY:

Moderately long; straight, strong back is free from appearance of slackness or dip behind shoulders; slightly arched strong, muscular loin; ribs are fairly sprung and deep, rather than round, reaching to level of elbow; females may be slightly longer than males. ***Serious fault: Short back.***

FOREQUARTERS:

Fine, long shoulders slope well into the back; deep muscular chest is neither full nor wide; moderately long, perfectly straight forelegs are well set from the shoulders and have plenty of bone and muscle; elbows work clear of the sides; short, straight pasterns are hardly noticeable.

HINDQUARTERS:

Strong and muscular; Hind legs have powerful thighs with hocks near the ground; moderately bent stifles. ***Serious fault: Cowhocks.***

Feet: Moderately small, strong and tolerably round; arched toes turn neither in nor out; dark toenails; pads deep and sound; free from corns; cracks do not indicate unsound feet. **Dewclaws should be removed.**

Tail: Fair length; docked with about one-quarter being removed; set on rather high; of good strength and substance.

MOVEMENT:

Both fore and hind legs move straight forward when traveling; stifles turn neither in nor out.

TEMPERAMENT:

Good tempered, spirited, and game; of utmost importance that he show fire and animation with heedless, reckless pluck which earned him the proud nickname of "Daredevil." He is of good temper, most affectionate, and absolutely loyal, tender and forbearing; ever on guard.

**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.**

**Seriously overshot bite or undershot bite.**

**Albinism**