

KERRY BLUE TERRIER

GROUP: Terrier

SIZE:

Ideal height for a mature male Kerry Blue Terrier is 18½ inches at withers, slightly less for a female with preferred range for males 18 to 19½ inches, and 17½ to 19 for females. Dogs outside desired range by more than half an inch must be superior in overall balance and structure. **Height minimums do not apply to dogs in the puppy class.** WEIGHT:

Preferred weight for a mature male is 33 to 40 pounds with females weighing proportionately less.

COAT:

Soft, dense, and wavy of single coat; show trim has the body well covered, but tidy, with the head, except for the whiskers, and the ears and cheeks clear. **Serious faults: harsh, wire, or bristle coat.**

COLOR & MARKINGS:

Any shade of blue, blue gray, or gray blue ranging from deep slate to light blue gray, of fairly uniform color throughout except that distinctly darker to black parts may appear on muzzle, head, ears, tail and feet. Puppies are born black or nearly black, and color goes through changes as black, very dark blue, shades of brown, and mixtures of these as the dog matures. Until 18 months of age, deviations from correct mature color will not be penalized, and any doubt as to whether the dog is black or very dark blue should be resolved in favor of the dog. **Serious fault: Significant deviation from correct mature coat color. Solid black in a mature dog.**

HEAD:

Long, but in proportionate to size of body.

Skull: Flat, with very slight stop, of moderate width between ears, tapering slightly toward the muzzle; flat and clean cheeks.

Muzzle: Sufficiently wide and deep to balance the skull; strong underjaw; minimum of falling away under the eye, giving moderately chiseled look; tight, darkly pigmented lips.

Eyes: Small, round, dark, and not prominent; set moderately wide apart; an intelligent and fiery expression. **Faults: Large or protruding eyes; light eyes. Serious fault: Yellow eyes.**

Ears: V-shaped, button ears, proportionate to size of dog, set on high, and of moderate thickness; carried close to cheeks with top fold slightly above the level of the skull. **Fault: "Dead" ear or hound-like in appearance.**

Nose: Black with large, wide nostrils.

Bite: Good-sized, evenly spaced, white teeth; scissors bite preferred, but level bite acceptable. **Serious fault: Undershot bite.**

NECK:

Moderate length, carried proudly with slight arch at the crest, gradually widening to the well-laid back shoulders; skin on neck is tight and without dewlap.

BODY:

Ribs extending well back and well sprung from the spine, then flattening into the deep body that extends to the elbows.

Topline: Short and level.

Chest: Deep, but only moderately wide; ribs fairly well sprung, deep rather than round.

Back: Short and level, blending into a short powerful loin with slight tuckup.

Loin: Powerful with slight tuckup.

Croup: Nearly flat.

FOREQUARTERS:

Long, fine, well laid-back and well knit shoulders; long upper arm forming an apparent 90 degree angle with shoulder blade; straight forelegs viewed from both front and side; short, powerful, flexible pasterns, straight and hardly noticeable; viewed in profile, the pasterns are nearly erect; elbows set close to the body, but able to move freely in action. Dewclaws should be removed. ***Serious fault: Short upper arm.***

HINDQUARTERS:

Strong and muscular; bone, angulation, and musculature of hindquarters should be balanced with the forequarters; well-bent stifles, turning neither in nor out, and well-let down hocks; viewed from behind, the hocks are upright and parallel with each other, the dog standing well up on them. ***Disqualification: Dewclaws on hind legs.***

Feet: Strong, compact, fairly round and moderately small, with good depth of pad free from cracks; arched toes, turning neither in nor out; black toenails.

Tail: Set on high, docked to a moderate length, and carried erect, the straighter the better.

MOVEMENT:

Full freedom of action. The Kerry Blue Terrier carries himself with pride and purpose. When trotting, the gait is effortless, smooth, powerful, and well coordinated, showing good, but not exaggerated reach in front and with drive behind. The backline remains level with only a slight flexing to indicate suppleness. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward centerline of balance.

TEMPERAMENT:

Gentle, lovable, and intelligent; enthusiastic and strong-willed.

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.

Dewclaws on hind legs.

Albinism.