

NORFOLK TERRIER

GROUP: Terrier

HISTORY:

It is speculated that the Norfolk Terrier was developed using the small Irish Terriers and crossing them with other Terrier breeds, including the Border and the Cairn. The breed originally had two varieties, one with drop ears and one with prick ears, which were interbred and shown together. The two varieties were eventually designated as separate breeds, with the prick-eared variety being the Norwich Terrier.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Norfolk Terrier is one of the smallest of the working terriers. Having expressive drooped ears, it is active and compact, low to the ground, free-moving, with good substance and bone. With its natural, weather-resistant coat and short legs, it is a “perfect demon” in the field. This versatile, agreeable breed can go to ground, bolt a fox and tackle or dispatch other small vermin, working alone or with a pack. Honorable scars from wear and tear are not to be penalized

SIZE:

Ideally should not exceed 10 inches at withers. Weight ranges from 11 to 12 pounds, or a weight that is suitable for the individual dog’s structure and balance. Fit working condition is of utmost importance.

COAT:

The protective outer coat is hard, wiry, and straight and lies close to the body. It is about 1 ½ to 2 inches long. There is a definite undercoat. The mane on the neck and shoulders is longer and forms a ruff at the base of the ears and throat. The legs have moderate furnishings of a harsh texture. The hair on the head is short and smooth, except for slight eyebrows and whiskers. Some tidying is necessary to keep the dog neat.

COLOR & MARKINGS:

All shades of red, wheaten (pale yellow), black and tan, or grizzle (blue-gray or roan) are permitted. White markings are undesirable, but permitted.

HEAD:

Wide between the ears, slightly rounded, with a definite stop. Muzzle is wedge shaped and strong, but not as long as the skull..

Eyes: Small, dark, oval and placed well apart. They should have black rims and a keen, sparkling, intelligent expression.

Ears: Small, V-shaped, slightly rounded at the tip. They are smooth and velvety to the touch. They drop neatly with a break at the skull line; carried close to the cheek, not falling lower than the outer corner of the eye.

Bite: Jaw should be clean and strong; tight lipped with a full complement of strong, white, large teeth; scissor bite.

NECK: Strong, medium length neck blends into well laid back shoulders..

BODY:

Good width and moderate depth of chest. Ribs well sprung and topline level; Loins should be strong

FOREQUARTERS:

Well laid-back shoulders; elbows close to ribs; short and powerful legs, as straight as is consistent with the digging terrier; firm pasterns.

HINDQUARTERS:

Broad, strong and muscular with well-turned stifles; low-set hocks, straight when viewed from rear.

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Feet: Round with thick pads; black nails

Tail: Medium docked to provide sufficient length to ensure a balanced outline; straight, set on high; base is level with topline; carried erect. **Not a squirrel tail.**

MOVEMENT:

True, low, and driving; topline remains erect; legs move parallel showing great power of propulsion; good rear angulation; forelegs move freely with feet and elbows the same distance apart, converging slightly with increased speed; hind legs follow track of forelegs, flexing well at the stifle and hock.

TEMPERAMENT:

Alert, fearless, loyal, and affectionate, never aggressive .

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.

Height greatly over standard.

Weight excessive for size.

Overshot bite or undershot bite.

Albinism