

SILKY TERRIER

GROUP: Toy

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

A true “toy terrier;” moderately low set, slightly longer than tall, of refined bone structure, but of sufficient substance to suggest the ability to hunt and kill domestic rodents; also fearless in attacking snakes; bright, inquisitive eyes suggest a level of intelligence seldom seen in so small a dog, the inquisitive nature and joy of life making the Silky an ideal companion.

SIZE:

Height, measured at the withers, ranges from 9 to 10 inches. **Deviation in either direction is undesirable.** Weight ranges from 8 to 10 pounds.

COAT:

Single coated; straight, glossy and silky in texture; coat on mature dogs falls below, and follows, the body outline, but does not approach floor length; profuse hair on top of head forms a topknot; long hair on face and ears is objectionable; hair is parted on head, down over the back all the way to the root of the tail; well-coated tail, but no plume; legs have short hair down from pastern joint on forelegs and the hock joint on hind legs; leg furnishings should not obscure feet; overall, the coat presents a well-groomed, but not sculptured appearance.

COLOR:

Blue and tan color combination; acceptable blue colors are silver-blue, pigeon-blue, and slate-blue, and extends from base of skull to tip of tail, down forelegs to elbows, and halfway down outside of thighs, very dark on tail; down forelegs to the muzzle and cheeks, around base of ears, on legs and feet, and around the vent; topknot is silver and fawn, being lighter than the tan points.

Disqualification: Albinism

HEAD:

Strong, wedge-shaped, and moderately long.

Skull: Flat, but not too wide between ears; slightly longer than muzzle; proportionately, skull is about three-fifths, with muzzle being two-fifths; shallow stop.

Eyes: Small, dark, almond-shaped, and piercingly keen; dark eye rims. ***Serious fault: Light eyes.***

Ears: Small, V-shaped, set high and carried erect without any tendency to flare obliquely off the skull.

Muzzle: Slightly shorter than skull.

Nose: Black.

Bite: Scissors bite with strong and well-aligned teeth. ***Serious faults: Undershot or overshot bite.***

NECK:

Medium-long, fine, blending gracefully into sloping shoulders, crested to some degree.

BODY:

Moderately low set; length, measured from the point of the shoulder (or forechest) to the rearmost projection of upper thigh (or point of the buttocks), about one-fifth longer than height at withers; lightly built with strong but rather fine bones. ***Faults: Body too short or too long.***

Topline: Flat and level. ***Faults:*** Roach back or dip in topline.

Chest: Medium wide extending down to elbows.

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FOREQUARTERS:

Well-laid-back shoulders, together with proper angulation at upper arm, place forelegs nicely under body; strong, straight, and rather fine-boned forelegs.

HINDQUARTERS:

Well-muscled, strong thighs, but not so developed as to appear heavily; well angulated stifles with low hocks, parallel when viewed from behind.

Feet: All feet are catlike, round, and compact; thick and springy pads; strong dark-colored nails; point straight ahead turning neither in nor out; dewclaws must be removed. ***Faults: White or flesh-colored nails; dewclaws.***

Tail: Docked, set high, and carried at twelve to two o'clock position.

MOVEMENT:

Straightforward, lively, free and light-footed gait; hindquarters should have strong propelling power. ***Faults: Toeing in or out.***

TEMPERAMENT:

Characteristically keenly alert; quick; friendly; responsive manner. ***Faults: Shyness or excessive nervousness. Disqualification: Viciousness.***

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

Albinism