

THE AUSTRALIAN TERRIER

A Presentation For Judges

By

The Australian Terrier Club of America Inc.



A STORY OF TRUE GRIT

THE REMARKABLE AUSTRALIAN TERRIER

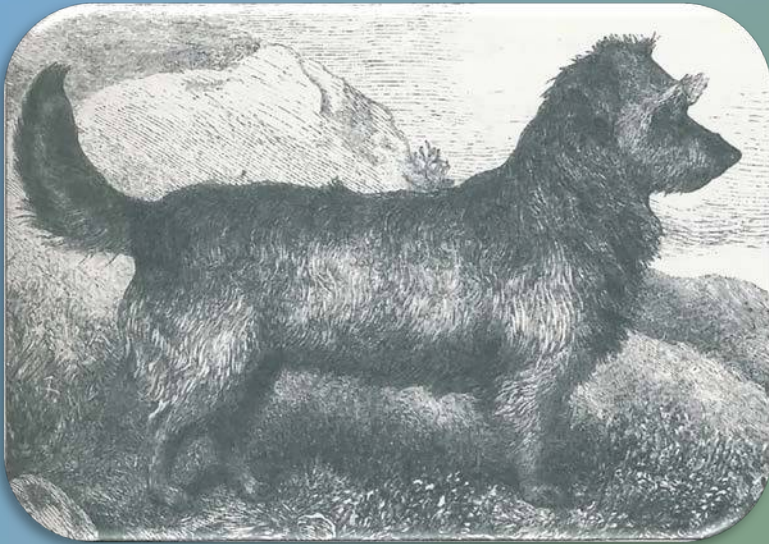


H I S T O R Y

These dogs, especially the one in the center looking out at us, are the early British terriers from which the Australian Terrier was probably descended.



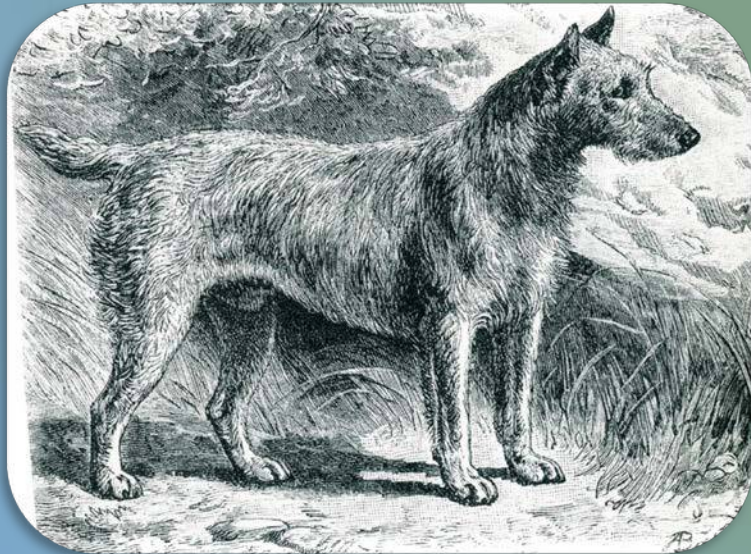
The Terrier, Sydenham Edwards, circa 1880, from his Cynographia Britannica



Flora, the old working type of Skye Terrier
Illustrated Book of the Dog, Vero Shaw, 1880



A Scotch Terrier



Early Irish Terrier , circa 1859



A likeness of a small terrier, indigenous to the border of England and Scotland around the 1850's

Form and Functions of the Australian Terrier, set early Changed little since

Small and Sturdy

Strong heads with large teeth and a good terrier voice.

Natural Hunter

Lithely built and speedy, capable of leaping in the air and whipping around quickly – to dangerous vermin and deadly snakes

Game

Able to herd cattle or sheep

Good Companion

Keen and alert, watchdog against intruders

Coat

Harsh, moderate in length to withstand the harsh native undergrowth, resistant to extremes of hot/dry or cold /rainy weather, protective furnishings around his head, front and neck to defend himself against retaliation by deadly quarry.

AUSTRALIAN TERRIERS 1890'S



*Painting featuring an Australian Terrier and a Silky Terrier
William Harrowing-painting late 19th century*



*Rough Coated Terrier, a first prize winner
1889 Victorian Dog Show*



*Australian Terrier on a Crate in the Garden
Lucien Henry painting, 1890*

HISTORICAL PREFERENCES EXPANDED WITH STANDARDS OF 1887, 1896 with minor changes in 1926

Small and Sturdy, Natural Hunter defined by:

- **Strong head with large , powerful teeth, small eyes**
- **Prohibition of ear cropping (1895) resulted in both drop ears and naturally prick ears. Drop ears eliminated by 1926 reprint**
- **Small in size and weight**
- **Long, slightly arched neck, body slightly longer than tall, with well-angulated forequarter, hindquarters, tail docked**

Coat

- **Hard, straight, 2-2 1/2 inches in length, topknot softer texture and lighter color than body coat**

Challenges to the Future of the Breed

Challenges to the Breed

- Prohibition of ear cropping in 1895, led to the appearance of both resulting in both natural drop and natural prick ears (Standard of 1896)
- The growing popularity of the local Australian Silky Terrier and the Yorkshire Terrier imported from England

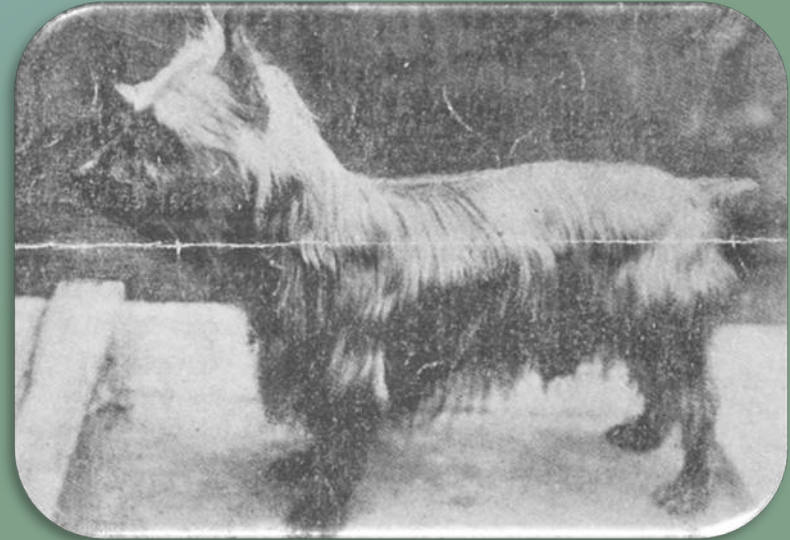
Meeting the Challenges

- 1898, Victoria – Resurgence of entries in classes for the Rough-Coated Terrier at the Victorian Poultry and Dog Society's Dog Show with an entry of 46
- 1899, New South Wales- Breed classified for the first time as "Australian Terrier Rough-Coated" at the Intercolonial Exhibition in Sydney. Four (4) dogs and seven (7) bitches entered; six(6) were Sandies and five(5) were Blue-and-Tans.

AUSTRALIAN TERRIER V. SILKY TERRIER



Australian Terrier – Ch. Blue Clipper (circa 1906)



Sydney Silky Terrier - Ch. Ideal (circa 1906)



GD. Ch. Monaro Glenaro (1905) Woodstock Cup winner.
Owner Mr. George Johnson



CH. Tarago Masher, bred by Mr. George Keyser
of Melbourne, Cassell's New Dog Book, 1907

1901

Australia becomes a nation



1904 - 1914

The first New South Wales Australian Terrier Club

1905

Members of the press in both Victoria and New South Wales finally supported use of the term “Australian”, claiming the appropriateness of acceptance in Victoria, considering the important early Standard had been published in Melbourne as far back as 1887.

AUSTRALIAN TERRIERS IN ENGLAND, 1910-1930



**Mrs. Woods and her Aussies
around 1910**



**1910 England. Mrs. J. R. Woods' dogs-
Woodstock Doongarah and Woodstock Wirree**



**Mrs. Tebbs Aussies , Sydney and Jacko,
imported to England from India in the 1920's**



**Winker of Fame- one of the earliest photos
of Aussies from the Fall Archives of ATCGB**

AUSTRALIAN TERRIERS IN AUSTRALIA , 1920s-1930s



**Ch. Sturt Gloucester – 1936 - 12 years old.
Mr. Nippard's Sturt lines sought after as foundation stock**



**Cheerio Pataudi
All Sandy variety established by Mr.
McPharlin of S.A. - 1930.**



**Ch. Westmead Buster
1930's Westmead, NSW
produced especially excellent Sandy Aussies**



**Champion Grendon Brood Bitches
1930's, Mr. Mitchell's Grendon Kennels in Victoria**

The Australian Terrier Comes of Age 1940-1950

Two men, Fred Wheatland and Frank Longmore, re-established the ATC in Victoria in the 1940s. Both men were judges in Victoria with a special interest in the Australian Terrier and the Silky Terrier. Together with Bill Wiltshire, Jr. and members of the Club, they revised the Standard in 1943. It was adopted by the Victorian Kennel Control Council in 1947.

- Increased weights to 12-14 pounds from 10-11 pounds to eliminate weedy dogs.
- Small, pointed, well-carried and erect Ears became the Standard; Dropped ears were relegated to a stated Fault.
- “Crooked legs” added to Faults, an attempt to stabilize good fronts.
- Previously stated Faulty curly and woolly coats expanded to include silky coat texture.
- Color defined more clearly as “blue or blue-black or grey-black” in Blue-Tans; Smuttiness or dark shadings undesirable in the Sandies or clear Reds

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PAST



KCC Ch. Merryvale Nurelee (Nurelle),
Winner, First "Parade" in Victoria 1946

"Sandies generally speaking very even in color; also better in front caused by the fact that they are further from the ground, and that naturally helps the front appearance."

"Report of First Parade in The Australian Dog News – "The splendid entry of 60 dogs exceeded anticipation...although the breed was very much mixed in general make up, there was plenty of material exhibited which should go a long way in bringing these terriers nearer to the Standard generally. Most common faults : bad fronts, blocky heads. bad broken and poor Blue color ."



Ch. Seven Oaks Caruso,
Winner, First Championship Show, Vic 1949

Influence on Breed Type AUSTRALIA 1950's and 1960's.



Champion Merryvale Pixie

The two dogs pictured here, apart from size, could be shown successfully today. They have excellent type and structure with especially correct, beautiful heads. Note the top dog's light colored top knot, long head, straight front legs.



Ch. Seven Oaks Blue Sprigan (back)
Ch. Seven Oaks Winsome (front)

Pre- World War II Australian Terriers



Mr. Moss's (NSW) Grand Ch. Torres Blue Jacket, 1930. Exported to England.



CH Sturt Major

1940's -50's ...England and Ireland Post WW II



CH Dandy of Zella- 1947
Foundation Sire of Elvyne Kennels , England



CH Elvyne Brass Tacks – 1951
Grandson of Ch. Dandy of Zella

Ireland to America 1950s-1960s

In Ireland, some excellent Red or Sandy dogs were being produced based on English bloodlines. The ATC of Great Britain added “and Northern Ireland” to the Club name. Four Irish dogs imported to or whose puppies were sent to the USA, appear on Foundation Pedigrees of the ATCA : Cognac of Billabong, Sarah of Billabong, Disraeli of Billabong, and Thornley Chanter, a son of imported Grendon Red Shadow.

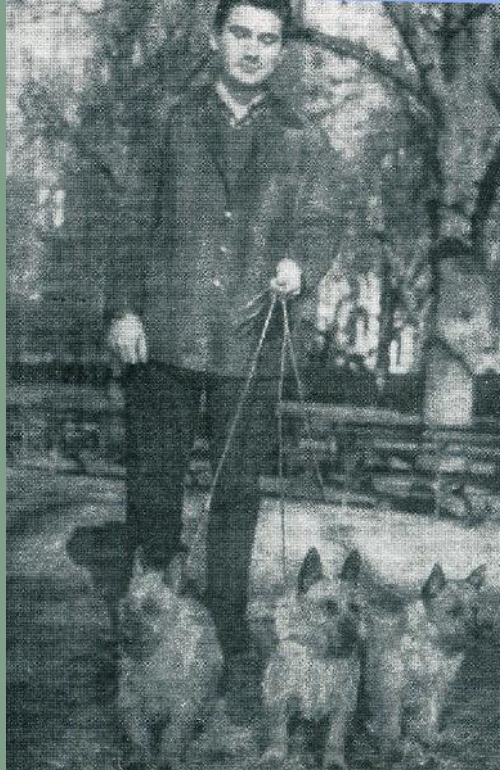


Tawny Boy of Billabong and Cheery of Zella



Billabong Aussies, Ireland 1950's

Nell Fox, John Harjes, and the AKC



Ronald Bunda in Central Park, NYC, with John Harjes' Blu-Crest Australian Terriers, 1950

- **Foundation Pedigrees**
- **Australian Terriers dominate Westminster Miscellaneous Classes-1958,1959, 1960**
- **1960- Highest miscellaneous entry ever at Westminster**
- **1958 (9), 1959 (44), 1960 (58).**
- **ATCA admitted to AKC Registry in 1960**

Frank Longmore on the Australian Terrier in Australia in 1966

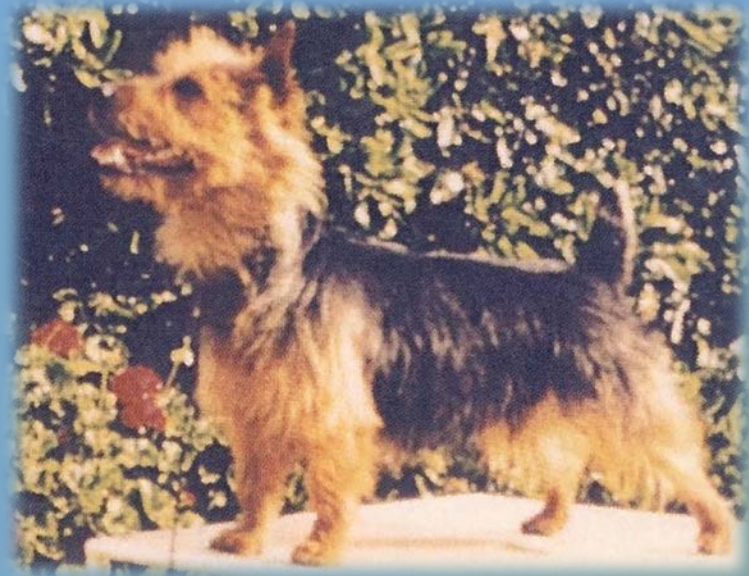
An active working terrier, keen expression, strong , punishing jaw, hindquarters with drive and power, free movement of stifles and hocks; desirable weight 14 pounds.

- The Aussie has become too big and heavy”; he is NOT a thick-set heavy dog, short-necked and solid for his size. *Should be light and springy on his legs and feet and very active.*
- Coats too soft and wavy instead of the *harsh, straight dense top coat with short soft undercoat.*
- Too many black and tan dogs winning instead of those with *blue, steel blue or dark grey-blue* called for in the Standard.
- Many sandy dogs seen as “right off Aussie type”. *Should be “Clear, sandy or red; smuttiness or dark shadings undesirable. Topknot a shade lighter.”*
- Judges should not ask the Australian Terrier for more bone and substance if he has the characteristics described above... They should insist “on free movement around the judging ring.”

Fred Wheatland's Advice to U.S. Australian Terrier Breeders, 1966

- Cautioned that only a few established kennels in Australia had avoided detrimental cross-breeding and remained pure over the past 30-50 years.
- Advocated the adoption of the Australian Standard by the American Kennel Club to avoid discrepancies that already existed. Especially regarding Color, Wheatland opted for removal of inequality of preference for the Blue and Tans from the American Standard. *This was finally achieved in the American Standard Revision of 1970.*
- Saw too much variation in type, bone, size and substance. For Wheatland, TYPE meant the overall picture of the dog, not just the head.
- Felt that a foreign expression was created by rounded ears allowed in the American Standard
- Supported requiring leather on the nose extending to the bridge of the muzzle in an adult dog. He felt there was a correlation between presence of hairless leather on the muzzle and strength of foreface.
- Recommended adding to the American Standard: Neck slightly arched, Muzzle free of long hair, and undesirableness of tan hairs or tan smut in a blue coat. *Incorporated into American Standard except for muzzle free of long hair.*
- Recommended expanding the Gait or Movement sections should be expanded in the American Standard.

1950s-1960s – Aussie Type



Ch. Redberry Comrade, Imported 1966



Wonga Rhon Freckles, imported to US



Ch. Tinee Town Talkbac, "Joey" Imported (born 1968)



Ch. Taralee

Many TARALEE EXPORTS TO America had this dog in their pedigrees

The American Standard – 1960, 1970, 1988

Issues over the Years

- Height** 10-11 inches at the withers. Deviation in either direction to be discouraged.
Australian Standard(1962) states approximately 10 inches at withers is desirable, with bitches slightly less.
- Color** The American Standard Revision of 1970 finally established equal status among the 3 colors, Blue and Tan, Sandy and Red.
- Weight** Good working condition, medium bone, correct body proportions, symmetry and balance determine proper weight.
Australian Standard (1962) calls for approximately 14 lbs for dogs, with bitches slightly less.
- Ears** Pointed ears (not slightly rounded at tips)
- Bite** Scissors bites are required in both the American and the *Australian* Standards.

Judging the Australian Terrier



The breed's naturalness is an important characteristic. It is not flashy, exotic, extreme or exaggerated.

Body Profile



Expression





- Australian Terriers are sound
- Free moving
- With good reach and drive

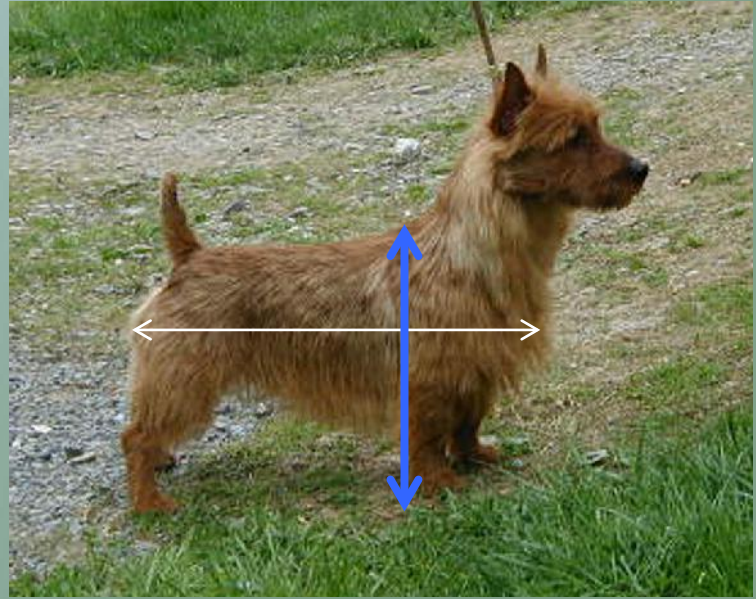


Size

Proportion

Substance

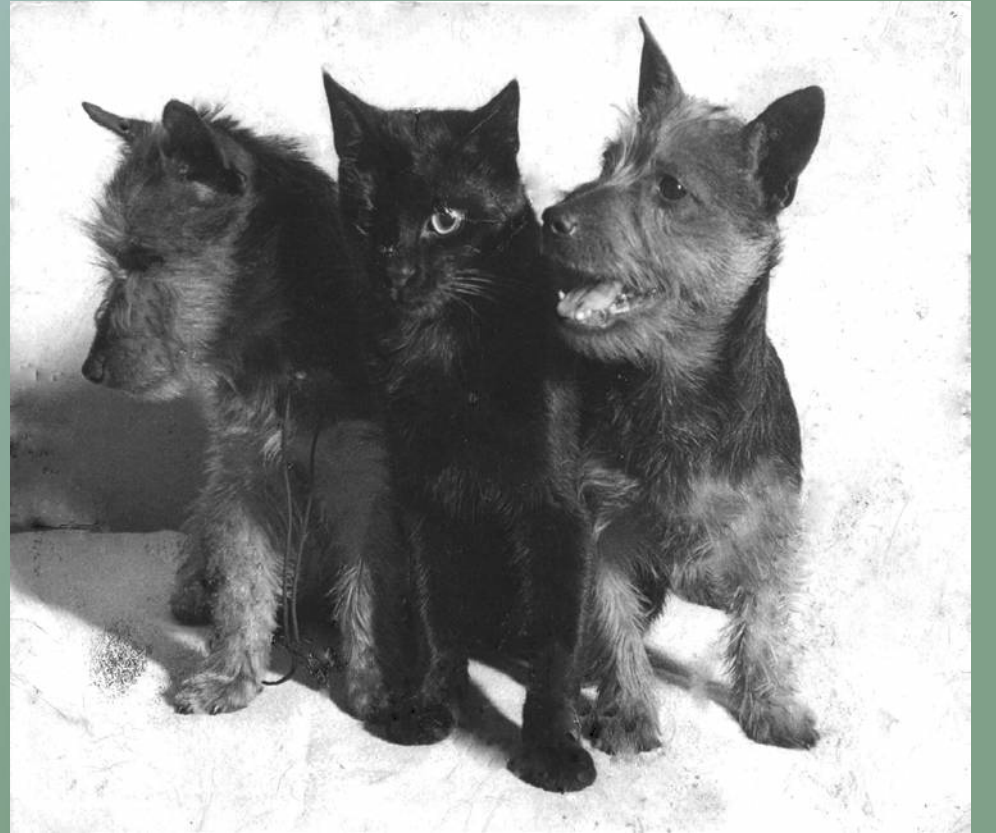




The Australian Terrier Head

- Proportions
- Expression
- Ears
- Skull & Muzzle
- Nose, Lip, Teeth





Proportions: Skull & Muzzle



Elements of Correct Eye Expression





- Shape
- Size
- Color
- Rims



E
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R
S



- Nose
- Lips
- Nose Leather
- Teeth



Summary: The Head

- Proportions
- Topknot
- Eyes
- Ears
- Muzzle & Skull



Neck, Topline, Body

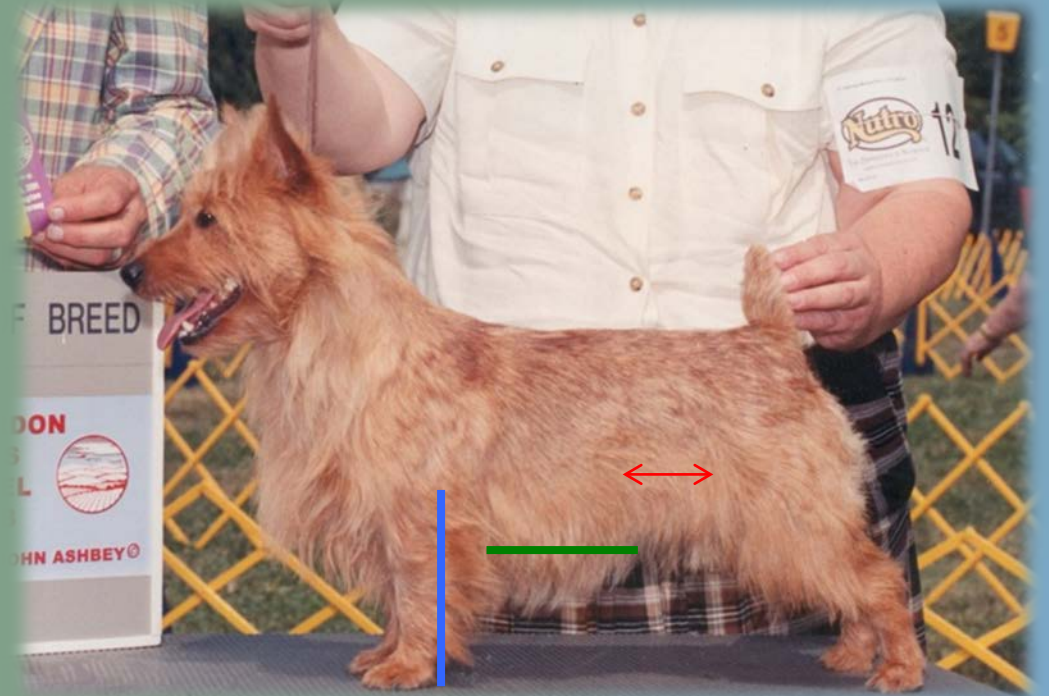


STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF CORRECT BREED TYPE

- Neck
- Topline



Correct Proportions - BODY



Tail Set and Carriage



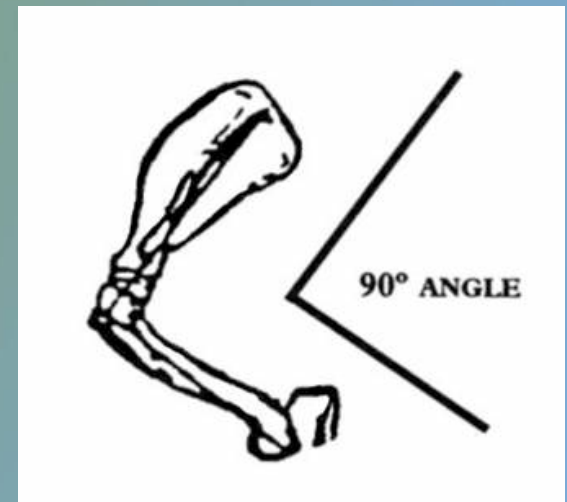
STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF CORRECT BREED TYPE

- **Correct Proportions**
- **Long Head**
- **Level Topline**
- **Correct angulation**
- **Legs well under the body**



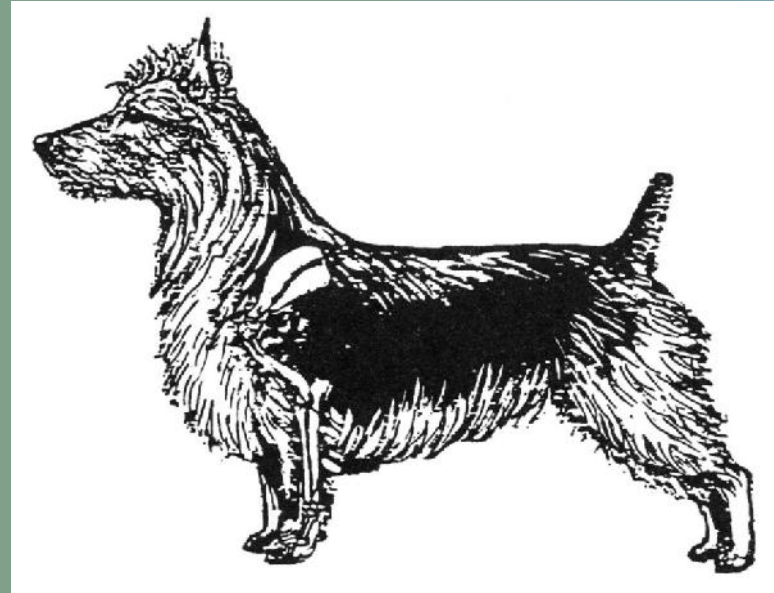
STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF CORRECT BREED TYPE

- Shoulder



STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF CORRECT BREED TYPE

- **Forechest**
- **Elbows**
- **Ribs**



Forequarters



- Forechest prominent
- Distinctive keel
- Elbows below withers
- Forelegs set well under
- Chest about 1" below elbow



Hindquarters



COAT



- Outer Coat
- Undercoat
- Furnishings
- Topknot



COLOR



- Two basic color patterns
- Three colors





MOVEMENT



- Moving freely with good reach and drive
- No wasted motion and no bounce to the backline

Side Gait



FRONT GAIT



REAR GAIT



Temperament

- Spirited
- Alert
- Courageous
- Self-confident
- Friendly & Affectionate



Problems found in the breed

- Short upper arm
- Physical structure that doesn't allow a ground covering stride
- Lack of prominent forechest & buttocks
- Necks that reach straight up and not forward
- Excessively long necks
- Straight necks without arch
- Excessive size and coarseness
- Wide skull
- Short snipey muzzle
- Topknot that is not lighter than the rest of the head
- Black Coats

Puppies In The Ring

What Should You See?



Focus on the distinctive features



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BREED

- **Proportions** - Back slightly longer than the dog's height from withers to ground.
- **Body** -long with distinctive keel, prominent forechest and buttocks.
- **Head** - long with flat skull slightly longer than wide, slight stop, and muzzle of equal length.
- **Coat** – Soft silky topknot of silver color or lighter color than the head. Double coated with a 2 ½ “ harsh outer coat and soft undercoat. Furnishings softer on the side of the neck forming the ruff and down to the apron and the feathering on the forelegs.
- **Colors** – **Blue-and-Tan, Solid Red and Solid Sandy.**
 - Blue:** silver blue, dark grey blue, steel-blue, dark blue.
 - Solid Red or Sandy:** any color from light to dark
- **Gait** – Smooth and free with reach and drive.

Examining the Australian Terrier



The breed's naturalness is an important characteristic. It is not flashy, exotic, extreme or exaggerated.

THE AUSSIE - BUILT FOR VERSATILITY



Australian Terriers were bred to be jacks and jills of all trades around farms, and their duties included herding livestock, killing vermin and venomous snakes.

They are a fast, agile, independent working dog.



Australian Terriers can be great performance dogs.



They are game enough for the chase during the day



and



to curl up on the hearth at night.



Australian Terriers are game for any activity with their humans, be it sailing, dock diving or offering comfort as a therapy dog.



The Judges Education Committee acknowledge the following sources for this presentation

The Australian Terrier – An Illustrated Clarification of the Standard. I. E. Weinstock and K. Barnes. The Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc., 1994.

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The Judges Education Committee thanks the authors, contributors and compilers of the ATCA publication, *The Australian Terrier: An Illustrated Clarification of The Standard*, and to the many talented photographers whose pictures are used here. Thanks also to the ATCA Members and Sanctioned Presenters whose proposals, comments, and helpful input have made this presentation possible.

The ATCA Judges Education Committee, 2016-17

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THE END