

The Illustrated
Standard
of the

Norfolk Terrier®

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A study of the

Norfolk Terrier

This publication has been prepared by the committee of the Norfolk board members and subsequently approved by the officers and board of the Norfolk Terrier Club. It is intended as a guide for judges, breeders, exhibitors, and fanciers of the Norfolk Terrier.

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Norfolk Terrier History

The Norfolk Terrier's origins are the same as the Norwich Terrier, as the early Norwich Terrier breed consisted of two varieties: Drop Ear (which became the Norfolk Terrier when the breeds divided) and Prick Ear (which retained the name Norwich Terrier when the breeds divided). In 1964, The Kennel Club in England agreed to register Drop Eared Norwich Terriers as Norfolk Terriers, effectively separating Norwich and Norfolks into two separate breeds. Breed separation occurred in America in 1979.

In the breed's developing years, ear type was the subject of much dissention. Ear carriage was unreliable, with some puppies carrying one ear up and one ear down. The two ear types were not often interbred in the early days, and after World War II were distinctly bred by ear type: drop-ear to drop ear, and prick ear to prick ear. Since then, the Norfolk breed has developed subtle differences in both structure and character from the Norwich.

The first Norfolk Terriers were imported from England to the United States in 1935. Early breeders were devoted to developing a small, game dog, keenly loyal with great stamina and intelligence. There are those who believed the drop ear protected the ear canal from dirt and debris when the Norfolk went to ground.

Norfolk Terrier

The official standard for the breed as adopted by the Norfolk Terrier Club and approved by the AKC is typeset in red.

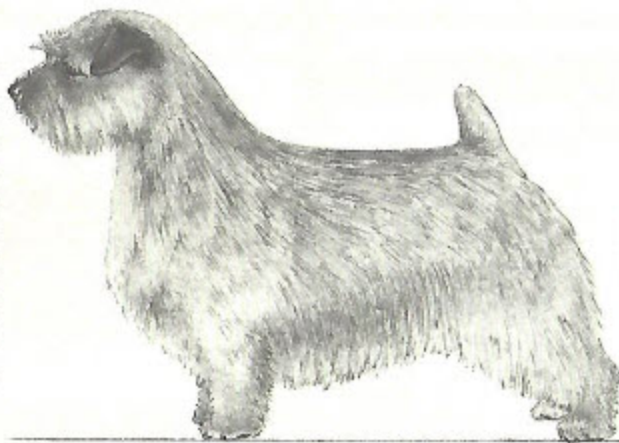
General Appearance

The Norfolk Terrier, game and hardy, with expressive dropped ears, is one of the smallest of the working terriers. It is active and compact, 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 acceptable in the ring.

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What you should look for:

Norfolk Terriers are full of mischief, intent, and are very aware of their surroundings. They express themselves with their ears and tail—the ears are carried forward and the



tail is always erect. Norfolks are very versatile, compact and free-moving with good bone and substance and should immediately give the impression of an alert, competent working terrier. One of the smallest working terriers, they should have short legs and a weather resistant coat.

What you should avoid:

A shy or aggressive Norfolk Terrier does not exhibit the correct temperament.

A Norfolk Terrier may be more of a challenge because they have ideas of their own.

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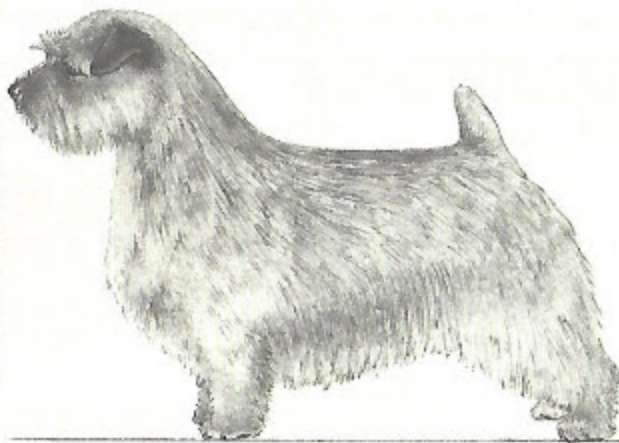
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Size, Proportion, Substance

Height at the withers is 9 to 10 inches at maturity. Bitches tend to be smaller than dogs. Length of back from point of withers to base of tail should be slightly longer than the height at the withers. Good substance and bone. Weight 11 to 12 pounds or that which is suitable for each individual dog's structure and balance. Fit working condition is a prime consideration.

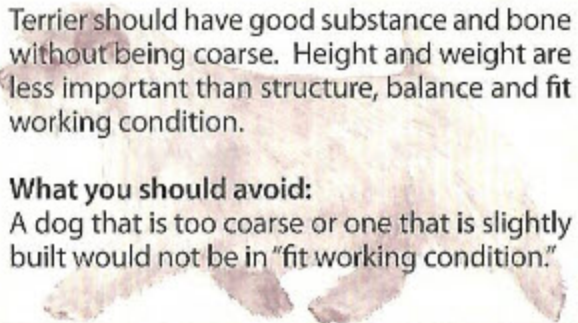
What you should look for:

A well-balanced Norfolk Terrier should be approximately 9 to 10 inches high and weigh approximately 12 pounds. The distance from the point of the withers to the base of the tail should be slightly longer than the height at the withers producing the correct "off-square" appearance. Bitches should not be penalized for being smaller than dogs as this is a typical breed characteristic. The Norfolk

Terrier should have good substance and bone without being coarse. Height and weight are less important than structure, balance and fit working condition.

What you should avoid:

A dog that is too coarse or one that is slightly built would not be in "fit working condition."



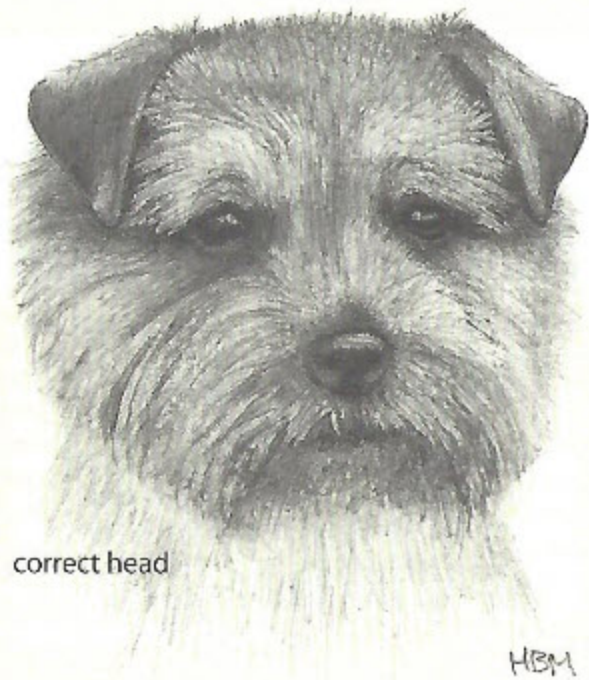
The Norfolk chest (sternum) should fill the hand; that being so the upper arm should sit directly under the line of the shoulder (withers). The shoulders must be well laid back allowing for a moderate length of neck. Hocks must be low and set well behind the tail set allowing for great propulsion

from the rear. This being correct, the stifle will naturally have a good turn. The head must be pleasing with the point of the ear reaching no further than the outside corner of the eye. A Norfolk is low to the ground and makes a pretty picture going and coming.

Head

Eyes small, dark and oval, with black rims. Placed well apart with a sparkling, keen and intelligent expression. Ears neatly dropped, small, with a break at the skull line, carried close to the cheek and not falling lower than the outer corner of the eye. V-shaped, slightly rounded at the tip, smooth and velvety to the touch.

Skull wide, slightly rounded, with good width between the ears. Muzzle is strong and wedge shaped. Its length is one-third less than a measurement from the occiput to the well-defined stop. Jaw clean and strong. Tight-lipped with a scissor bite and large teeth.



What you should look for:

The wide set eyes should be small, dark and oval with a bright and intelligent expression. The proper ear set should not reach below the corner of the eye and the size should be in balance with the width of the head. The ears are wide set on a slightly rounded skull and the forward edge of the ear is carried against the cheek when the dog is alert. The length of the muzzle is one-third the length of the head from tip of nose to the occiput. A strong wedge shaped muzzle is required to allow for the large teeth in a scissors bite.

What you should avoid:

Eyes that are light, large, full or round should be avoided. A topskull that is too narrow or level will have an incorrect ear set and should be penalized. An improper ear set or carriage detracts from the correct Norfolk expression. A foreface that is weak will lack the strength required for tackling vermin and an overshot or undershot bite should be faulted.



eyes too large,
round, light



eyes too small



correct
scissors



ears too low



ears too high



too long muzzle



too long backskull



overshot



level



undershot



Norfolk Terrier

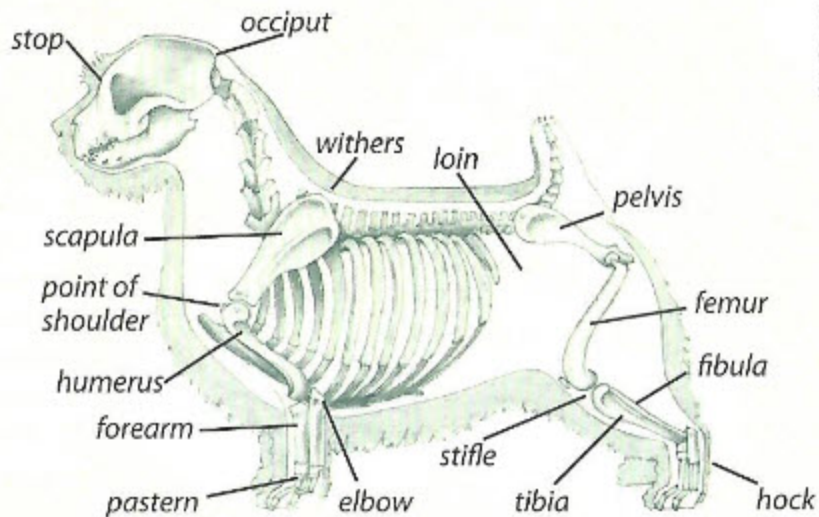
Norfolk Terrier

Has small eye rims.

Body is slightly off square. Length of back from point of withers to base of tail should be slightly longer.

Specifies coat length to be 1.5 to 2 inches long. Coat is dense and harsh. Not an abundant undercoat, typically not crisp.

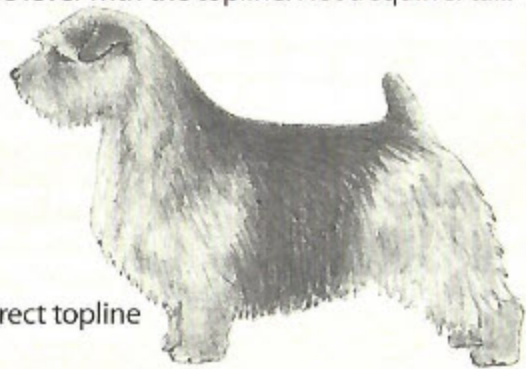
Drop ears.



The temperament of a Norfolk lends itself to versatility. The breed makes a wonderful therapy dog and makes a good performance dog.

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck of medium length, strong and blending into well laid back shoulders. Level topline. Good width of chest. Ribs well sprung, chest moderately deep. Strong loins. Tail medium docked, of sufficient length to ensure a balanced outline. Straight, set on high, the base level with the topline. Not a squirrel tail.



correct topline

What you should look for:

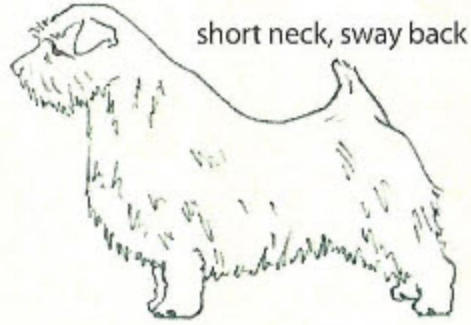
The Norfolk Terrier should be a balanced dog with well sprung ribs, broad chest and strong loins. The neck should be moderate, strong and blend into the well laid back shoulders. The tail should be docked long enough to be in balance with the overall outline and the base should be level with the topline. The tail must always be erect.



too long

What you should avoid:

A Norfolk Terrier with a short neck and upright in shoulder would not allow for proper reach in front. Slab sided ribs as well as barrel chests are not characteristic of the breed. Low set tails or tails that are not erect should be penalized including a gay or squirrel tail. The hocks placed directly under the tail set is improper.



short neck, sway back

Forequarters:

Well laid back shoulders. Elbows close to ribs. Short, powerful legs, as straight as is consistent with the digging terrier. Pasterns firm. Feet round, pads thick, with strong, black nails.

What you should look for:

The shoulders should be well laid back with elbows that are close to the ribs. The legs should be straight, short and powerful as befits a digging terrier. The front feet are round with thick pads and strong black nails. Front feet are larger and rounder than rear feet.

What you should avoid:

Avoid bowed front legs, slab-sided or barrel chested dogs, weak pasterns and flat feet which would hinder the dog's ability to work.



The Norfolk is a sturdy determined little hunter who has a keen expression with a dark oval eye. His ears should point to the corner of the eye. A proper 12 o'clock tail set is the ideal. A Norfolk temperament should be steady.



fiddle front, out at elbows



too narrow



correct



flat/splayed



too much crook

Hindquarters

Broad with strong, muscular thighs. Good turn of stifle. Hocks well let down and straight when viewed from the rear. Feet as in front.

What you should look for:

The rear should be well angulated with good turn of stifle along with strong muscular thighs. The hocks should be well let down and straight when viewed from the rear turning neither in nor out. The feet smaller and more oval than the front feet with thick pads and black nails.

What you should avoid:

Straight stifles, long hocks, open hocks or cow hocks should be penalized as should feet that turn in or out when viewed from behind.



A Norfolk should have a good driving rear, as it's the last thing you see going away. A good turn of stifle helps propel the dog.



cow hocked



toed-in



too narrow

Coat

The protective coat is hard, wiry and straight, about 1½ to 2 inches long, lying close to the body, with a definite undercoat. The mane on neck and shoulders is longer and also forms a ruff at the base of the ears and the throat. Moderate furnishings of harsh texture on legs. Hair on the head and ears is short and smooth, except for slight eyebrows and whiskers. Some tidying is necessary to keep the dog neat, but shaping should be heavily penalized.

What you should look for:

The harsh double coat required by the standard serves as protection from the weather and is characteristic of this breed.

What you should avoid:

A soft or wavy coat should be penalized.

Colors shown below, left to right: wheaten, red, black and tan, and grizzle.

Color

All shades of red, wheaten, black and tan, or grizzle. Dark points permissible. White marks are not desirable.

What you should look for:

All shades of red or wheaten, black and tan, or grizzle coloring are equally permissible. Dark points are allowed.

What you should avoid:

White on the body coat should be heavily penalized except for a small patch on the chest, no larger than a half dollar coin, is not uncommon to the breed.



Gait

Should be true, low and driving. In front, the legs extend forward from the shoulder. Good rear angulation showing great powers of propulsion. Viewed from the side, hind legs follow in the track of the forelegs, moving smoothly from the hip and flexing well at the stifle and hock. Topline remains level.

What you should look for:

As a working terrier, look for smooth side gait with good reach and drive with the front legs extending at full reach well beyond the forechest and the rear extension well beyond the tail. Viewed from the front, the front legs should move straight down from the shoulder. Viewed from the rear, the legs should follow in the track of the front legs, moving parallel with the pads turning neither in nor out.

What you should avoid:

Avoid a bouncing topline and stilted gait. Paddling in the front and a close moving front should be penalized. Pads turning in or out when viewing from behind should be penalized. Failure to track in the path of the front legs when viewed from behind is a fault.



Temperament

Alert, gregarious, fearless and loyal. Never aggressive.

What you should look for:

Look for a Norfolk that expresses devilment. It should be interested in everything around it, and if brought into the middle of the ring for a "Meet and Greet" should appear fearless, but never aggressive. It should be ready to defend or play. On the ground, the Norfolk with true breed character will always have its tail erect. Norfolks, free standing, exhibit true breed character but sometimes a handler will stack.

What you should avoid:

Avoid an aggressive Norfolk and one that shows no interest in its surroundings.

Approved October 13, 1981

Reformatted March 23, 1990



Overall balance and proportion of the Norfolk is what to look for. Next look at the head and expression, proper ear set, dark oval shaped eyes and hopefully with a glint of mischief that says, "Look at me."