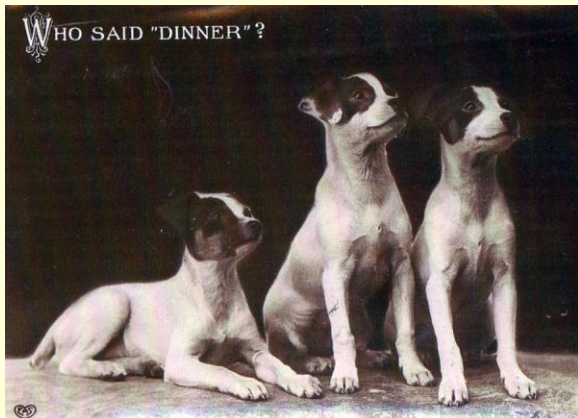
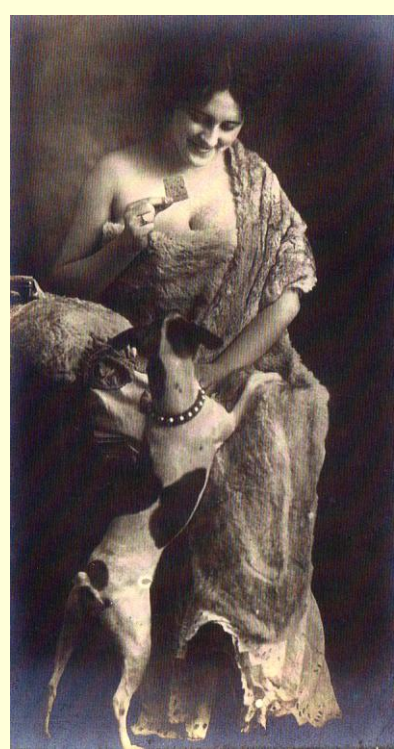




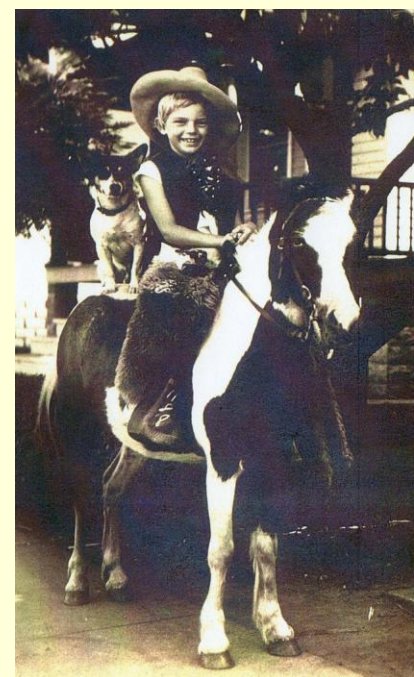
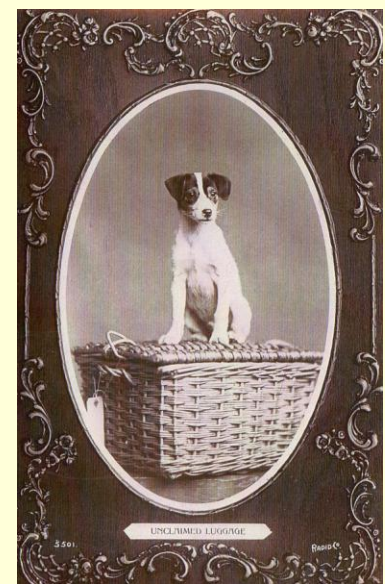
# The Rat Terrier Breed

Presented by  
Rat Terrier Club of America  
(RTCA)





WHO SAID "DINNER"?





# Rat Terrier History

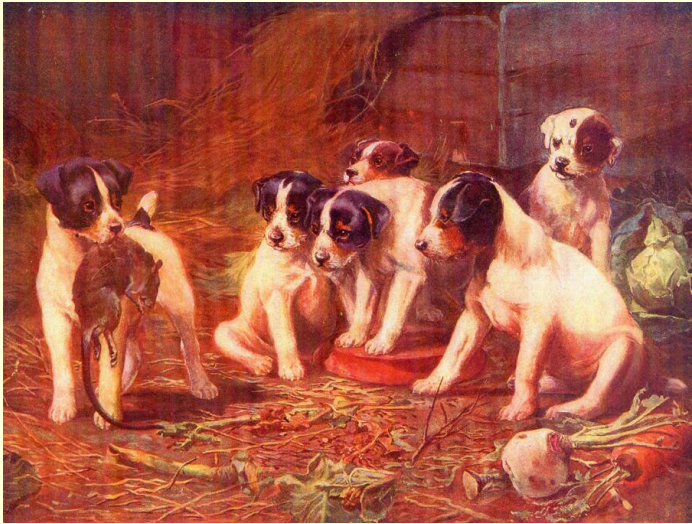


The Rat Terrier is an American breed. Early 19th century immigrants originated the breed from a mixture of crosses; Smooth Fox Terriers, Old English White Terriers, Bull Terriers, and Manchester Terriers. Later, Chihuahuas, Toy Fox Terriers and available Feist breeds were added to the cross.

During the 1910s and 1920s, most farmers owned a Rat Terrier. Rabbits were plaguing crops in the Midwest so farmers began breeding Rat Terriers to Whippets and Italian Greyhounds for “speed”. Farmers in the Central and Southern regions bred their Rat Terriers to Beagles to bring out a stronger prey drive and gave the Rat Terrier breed the “nose”, as well as the good disposition they are known for today.



Bred primarily for protection against vermin on the farm or ranch, and not as earth dogs, the Rat Terrier will follow most quarry to ground but are more suited to trailing, flushing, treeing game and hunting rabbits and vermin.



One Rat Terrier is reported to have killed over 2,500 rats in a span of only seven hours in a rat infested barn. The Rat Terrier is a hard-working farm hand, able to rid an infested barn of vermin with no problem.

The Rat Terrier is not a sparring breed.



The Rat Terrier is a well-muscled dog with a deep chest, strong shoulders, solid neck, and powerful legs. They DO NOT have a typical Terrier front assembly. Their bodies are compact but meaty. The ears can be upright, button or tipped. They can be born with short or full length tails, each being left in its natural state or docked at two days of age. The Rat Terrier is easy to groom with only an occasional combing and brushing to remove dead hair.

The Rat Terrier is a hardy breed, and long lived, living an average of 15 to 18 years.





The Rat Terrier is an intelligent, alert, well rounded, loving dog. They are very inquisitive and eager to please. They respond and are easy to train. This affectionate dog makes an excellent companion for those who will enjoy an energetic, but not hyperactive, dog.







Rat Terriers are good with children, especially if they are raised with them from puppyhood. They are, for the most part, friendly with strangers.

Rat Terriers make good watchdogs. These dogs are quick, very playful and are not yappers. They are also very good swimmers.



# THE RAT TERRIER BREED STANDARD (Official AKC)

## GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Rat Terrier was originally bred for ratting and farm work. A multipurpose companion dog that is capable of hunting rodents and vermin above and below ground, and to course small game. He is a sturdy, compact, small-to-medium sized parti-colored dog giving the appearance of elegance and fitness, denoting speed, power and balance. Honorable scars or a couple of broken or missing canines or incisors teeth are not to be faulted. The following is a description of the ideal Rat Terrier. Variations are penalized to the extent of the deviation.





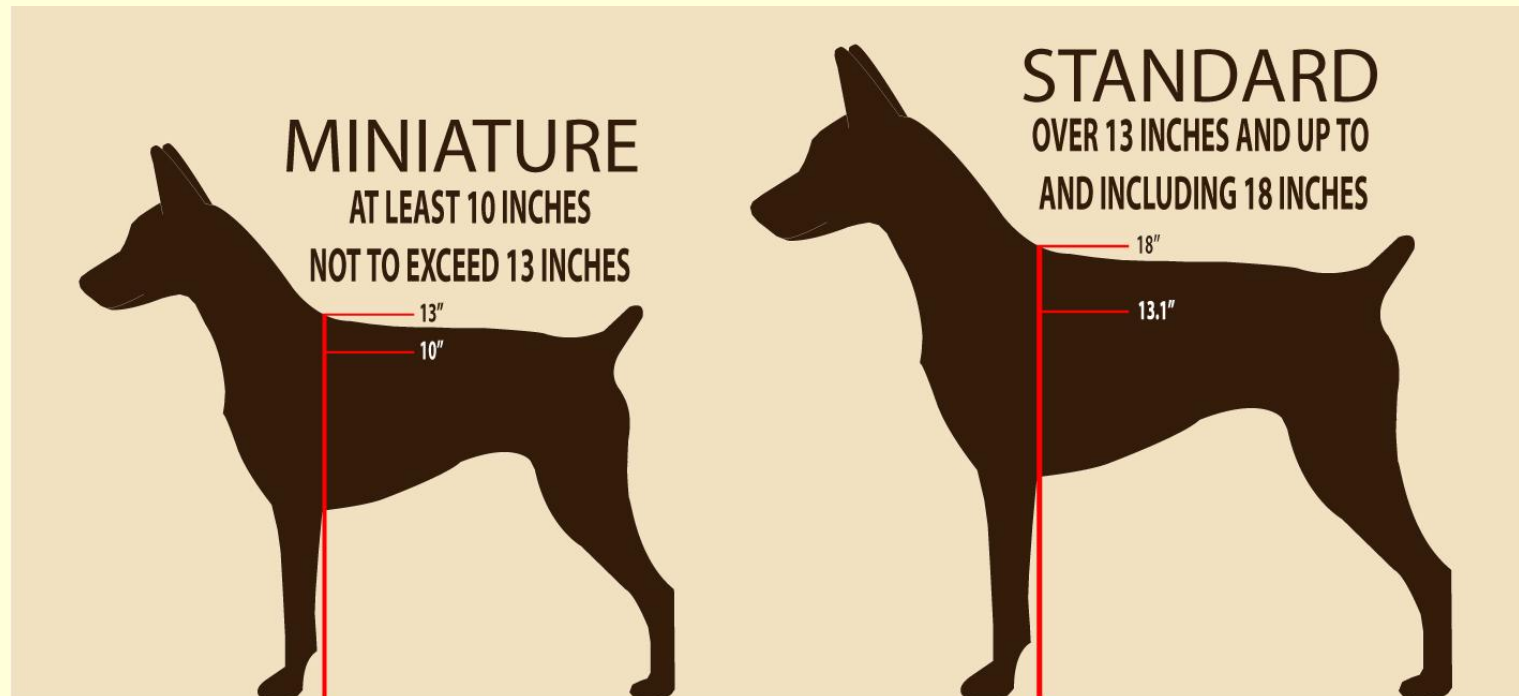
# SIZE

There are two separate size divisions.

**MINIATURE** – At least 10 inches, not to exceed 13 inches.

**STANDARD** – over 13 inches, and up to and including 18 inches in height measured at the withers.

- *Any dog six months of age or older measuring less than 10 inches, or any dog over 18 inches are to be disqualified.*

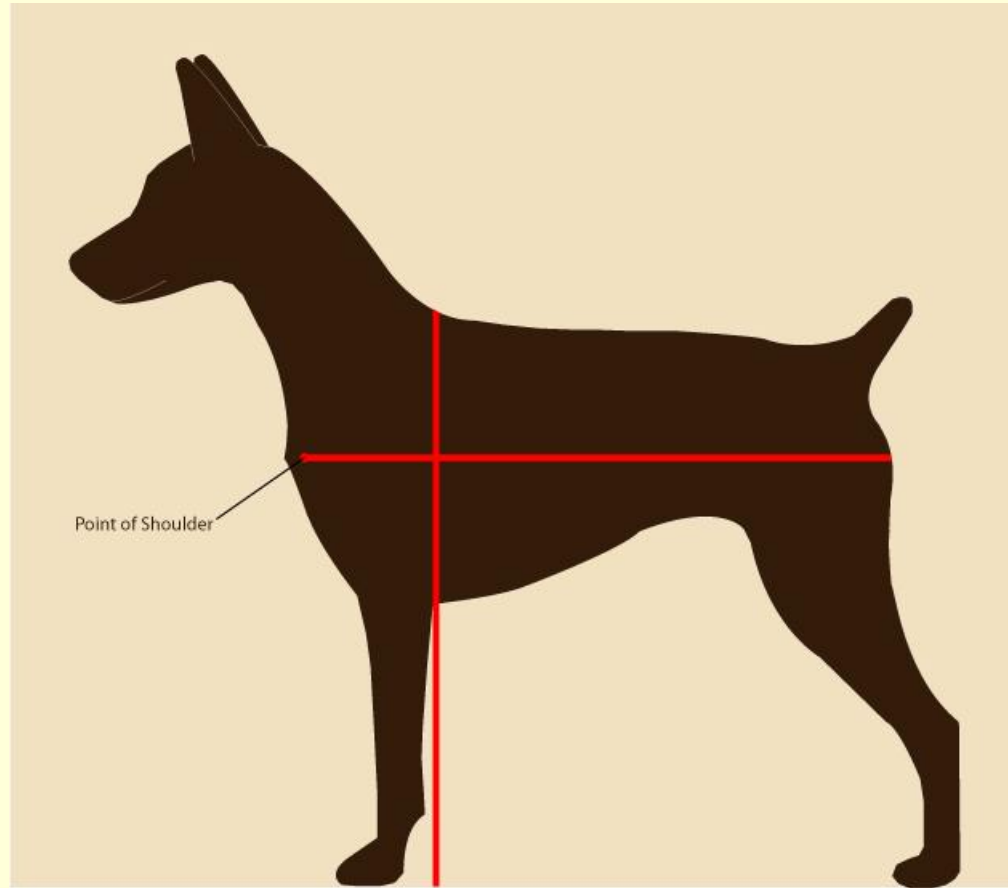


# ***PROPORTION***

The Rat Terrier is just slightly longer than tall.

The height, measured vertically from the ground to the highest point of the withers, is slightly less than the length, measured horizontally from the point of the shoulders to the point of the buttocks.

Shortness in leg is a serious fault.





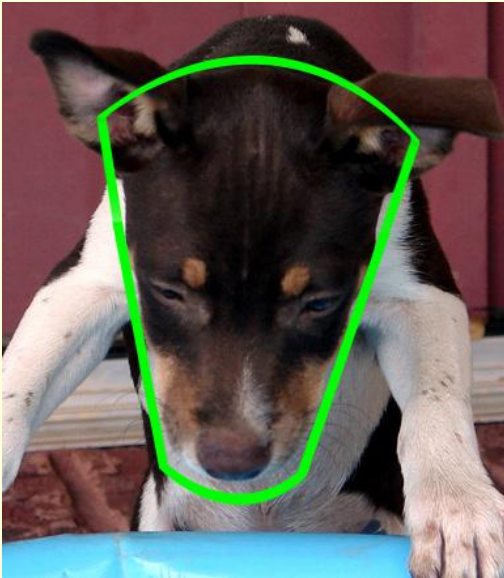
# ***SUBSTANCE***

Moderate bone in proportion to size. A well-balanced, hard-muscled dog with smooth lines under taut skin. This dog should not be rangy nor fine boned and toyish, and never bulky or coarse. They are shown in good, hard physical working condition.



# HEAD

The *HEAD* resembles a smooth, blunt wedge from a front or profile view. When seen from the front, the head widens gradually towards the base of the ears in an unbroken line and is well filled up under the eyes. The *EXPRESSION* is intelligent, alert and full of interest.





The *EYES* are not large. They are obliquely set wide apart and are oval in shape. Eye color varies with coat color from darkest brown to hazel. Eye rim pigmentation corresponds with nose color and facial markings. Gray eyes are acceptable in blue or blue-fawn dogs only, being a serious fault in other colorations.

*Any blue in the eye(s) is a disqualification.*





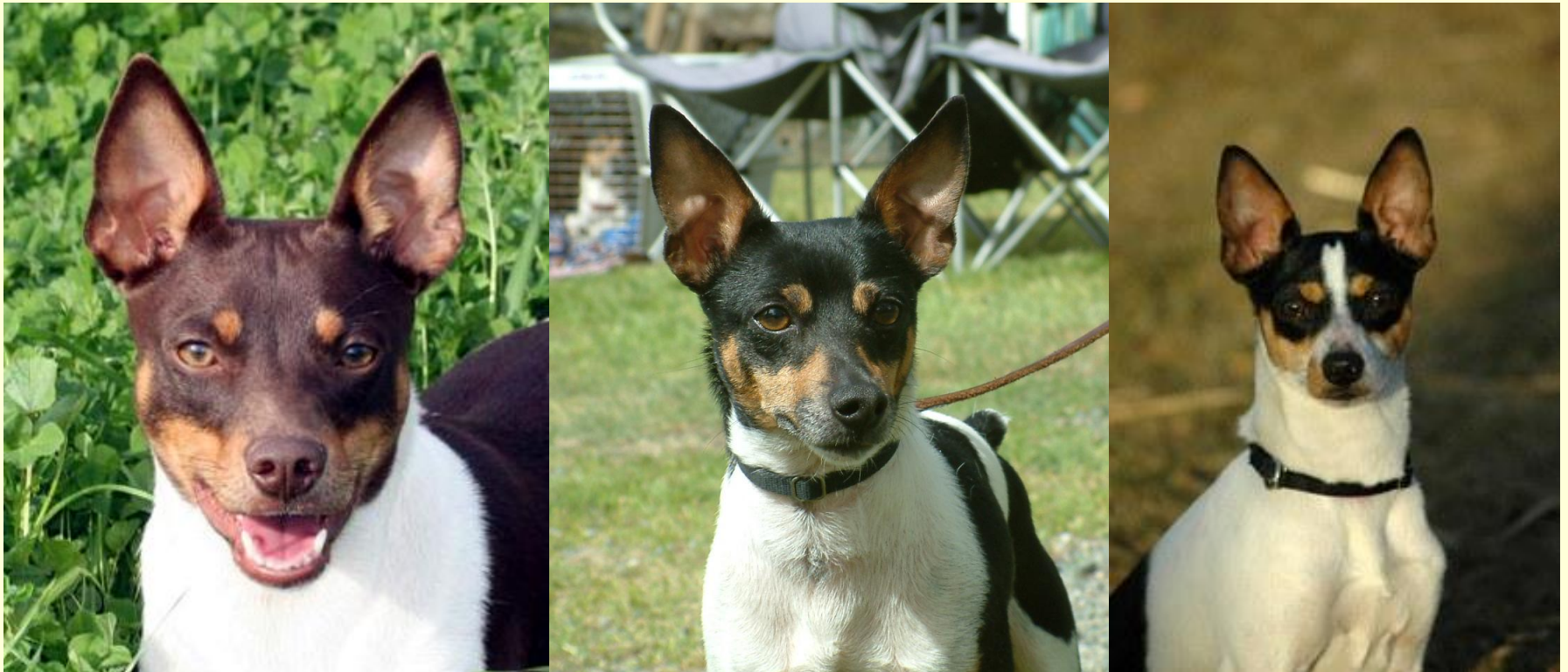
*EARS* – Set on the top outer edge of the skull, V-shaped, with the length in proportion to the head moderately pointed at the tip. When viewed from the side, the base of the ear is on line with the outer corner of the eye. Ears should match in shape and carriage when alert, and can be carried erect, semi-erect and tipped, or button without preference. When alert, a rose ear is a fault.

*Cropped ears are a disqualification.*





*SKULL* –When viewed from the front the skull is moderate in width, relatively flat on top, and rounded at crown and the sides as it widens smoothly from the corner of the eyes to the base of the ears. The occiput is not prominent. The cheeks are flat and well-muscled, but never bulging.



The *STOP* is moderate but distinct. The *MUZZLE* is strong, just slightly shorter in length than the skull and tapers smoothly along the sides to the nose.





- The *NOSE* color corresponds with the body color and is entirely pigmented.



Full pigment

- Flesh-colored noses are considered a fault in lemon or light apricot colorations while being a serious fault in other colorations.



Flesh-colored,  
aka Dudley or  
Butterfly

- Seasonal fading is permitted.



Faded Nose



Snow or Winter Nose

The *LIPS* are clean and tight, and correspond in color with the nose leather or may be pink; either solid or spotted is acceptable. The lower jaw and teeth are strong and well developed with no sign of being snipey or weak.

*BITE* - A scissor bite is preferred. A level bite is acceptable.

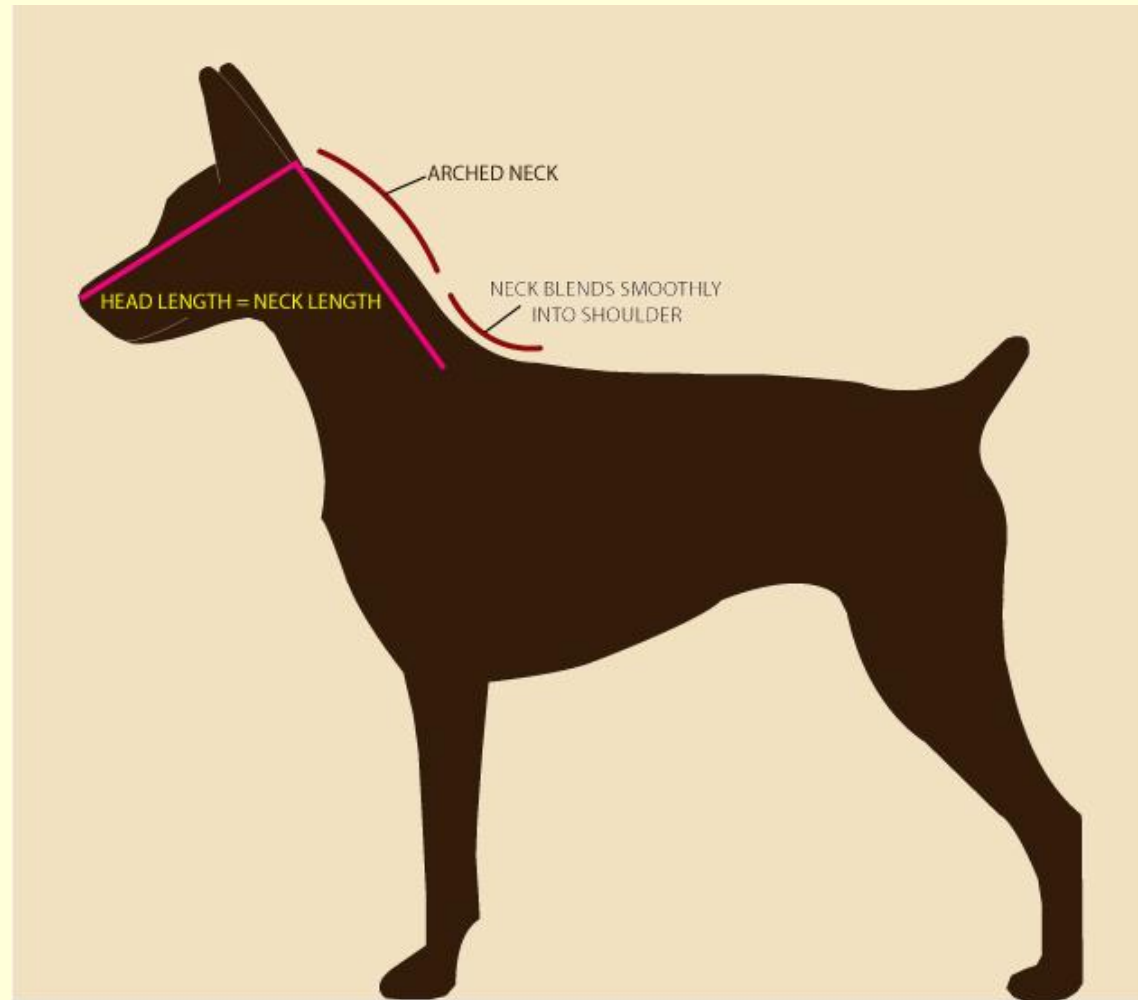




# ***NECK, TOPLINE, BODY***

***NECK*** – Length of neck is in proportion to the head. Strong, arched along the crest and dry, the neck blends smoothly into the flat shoulder blades.

***TOPLINE*** – Smooth and blending from the back through the loin and set of the tail.



*BODY* – The body is compact, strong and flexible with well sprung ribs. The brisket extends to the elbow. When viewed from the front, the ribs appear to be oval. The Rat Terrier, while muscled and fit, has flat muscles that blend into the body. The chest is moderately wide and well filled with a discernible forechest. The underline ascends gradually with the ribs extending well back to a moderate tuck-up.





# ***BACK***

The back is level and firm from the withers to the loin. The short loin has a slight muscular arch blending into the gently rounded croup.



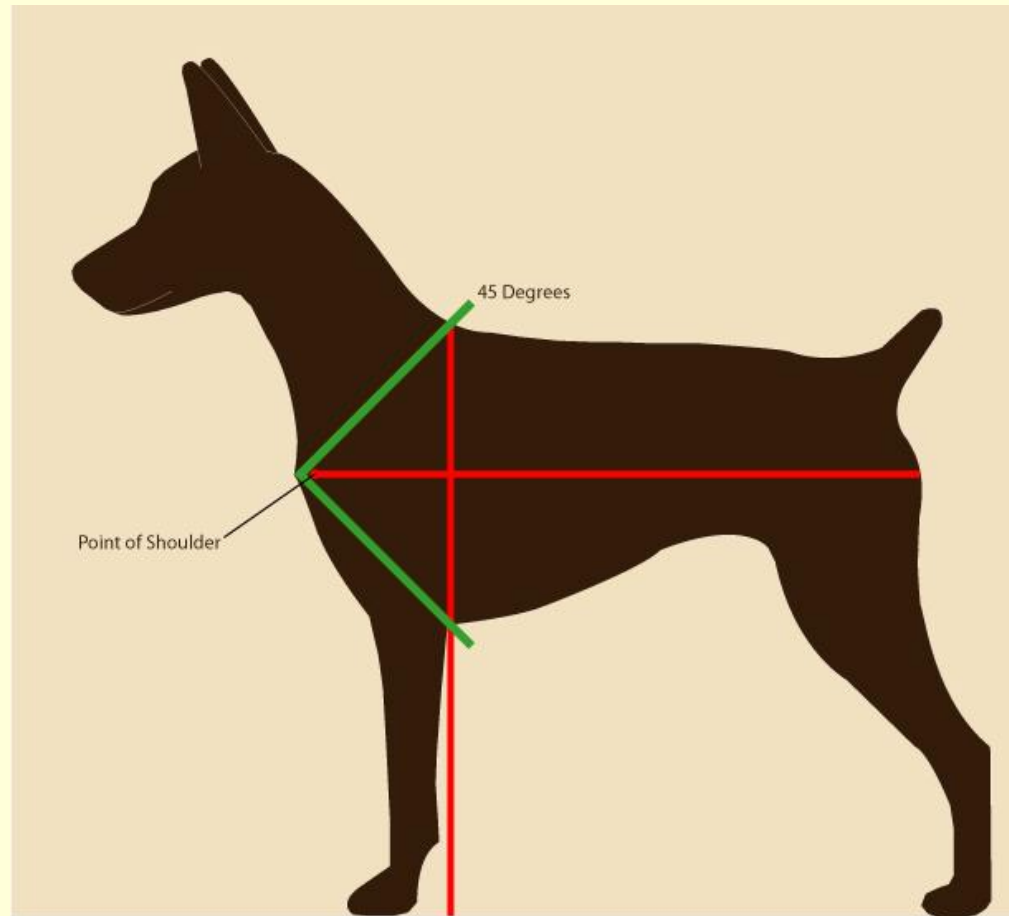
*TAIL* – The tail set is a continuation of the spine. Tails are customarily docked between the second and third joint, or can be a natural bobtail or left naturally long and tapering to the hock joint. Length is unimportant. The carriage is variable depending on attitude, carried from slightly below horizontal to almost erect, but not over the back or a ring tail.





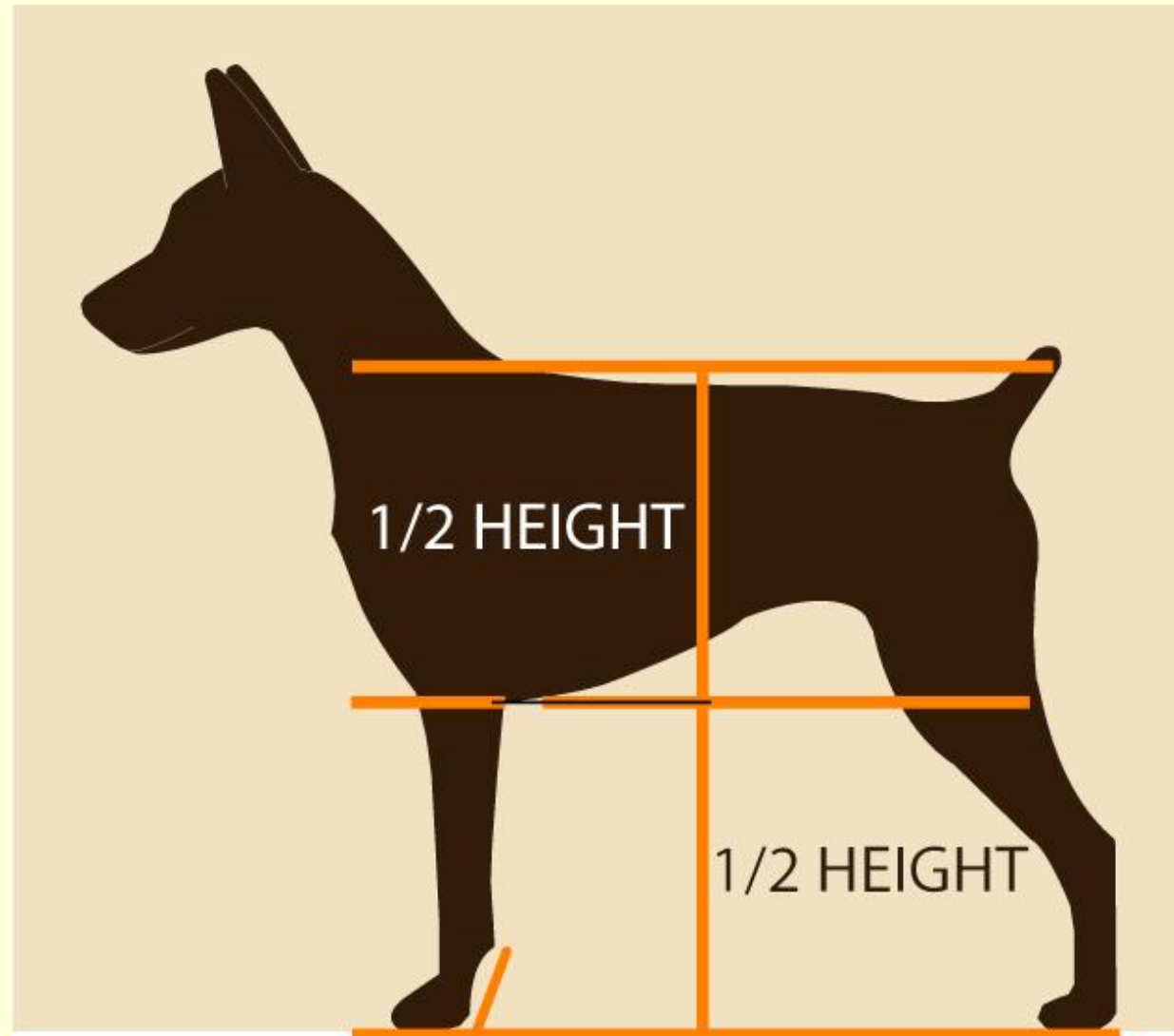
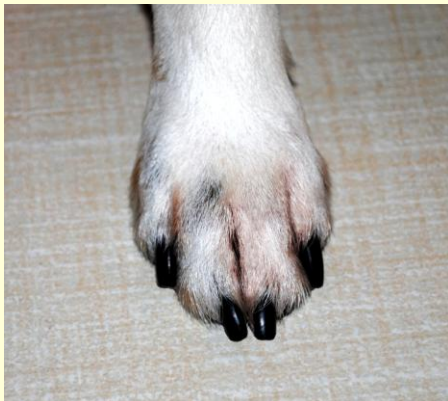
# ***FOREQUARTERS***

The shoulder blades are well laid back with flat muscles providing enough space between the shoulder blades to allow for free movement. The shoulder blades and the upper arms are nearly equal in length and well set back so that the elbows fall directly under the highest point of the shoulder blade.



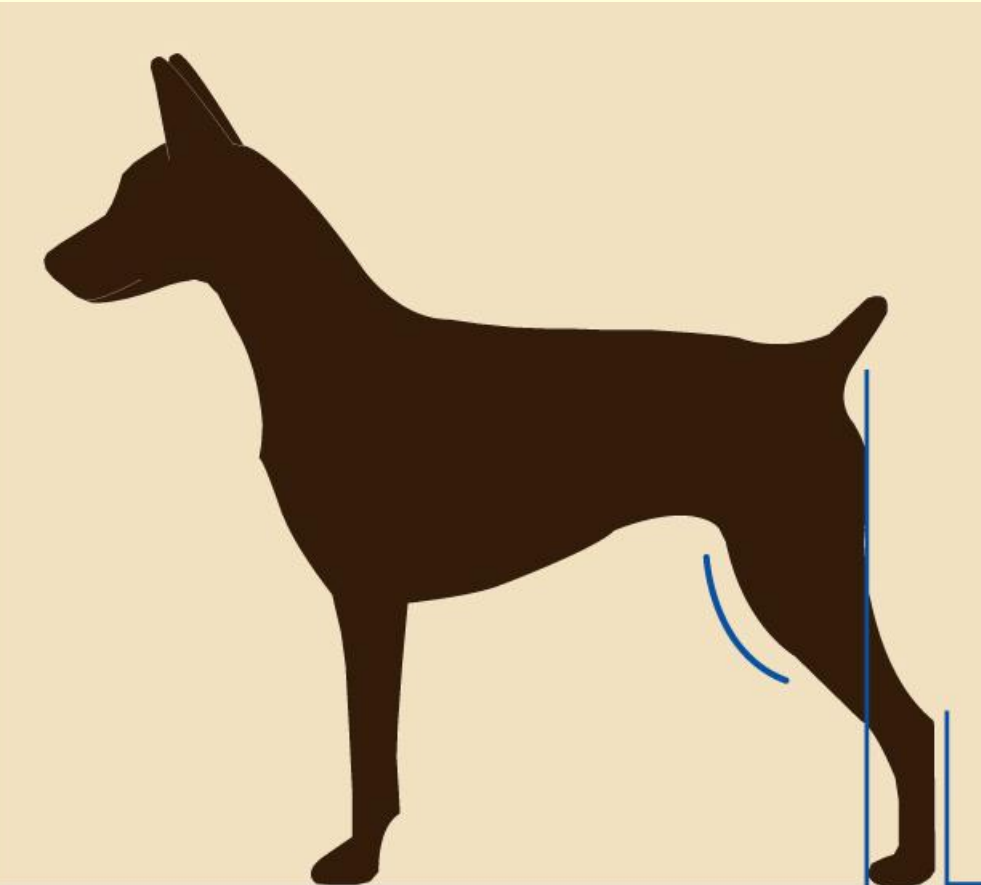
The depth of the body at the elbow is the same distance as from the elbow to the ground. The forelegs stand straight and parallel with elbows turning neither in nor out. The pasterns are slightly sloping when viewed from the side.

The *FEET* are oval in shape. The toes turn neither in nor out, are compact, moderately arched, with thick pads and strong nails. The front dewclaws may be removed.





# ***HINDQUARTERS***



The hindquarters are muscular but smooth and in balance with the forequarters. They should not be bulging or coarse. Stifles are well-bent with short hocks that are parallel and perpendicular to the ground. The hind feet although slightly smaller are similar to the front feet. Rear dewclaws are removed.



# COAT

- Short, close lying, smooth and shiny coat.
- Texture varies; a very slight ruff or wave along the back is allowed, but undesirable.
- Any suggestion of kink or curl is cause for disqualification.
- Whiskers must not be removed.
- Absence of coat (total genetic hairlessness) is a disqualification.





# COLOR

- Any variation of Pied patterning is acceptable.
- Pied is described as comparatively large patches of one or more colors in combination with white.
- Except for the "solid white" extreme piebald dog with only mottled/spotted skin; Rat Terriers are never a solid ground color without white markings, or bi-colored without one color being white.



- Acceptable colors with or without "tan points", include the predominate Black: or Chocolate, Red, Apricot, Blue, Fawn, Tan, Lemon, or White.
- Intense, dark shades of color with clearly defined and delineated coloration is preferred.
- White on the body is preferred to be between 10% and 90%, but all Patterns; spotted, patched or splashed with white in conjunction with (or without) any combination of white on the face, head or ears are equally acceptable without prejudice.





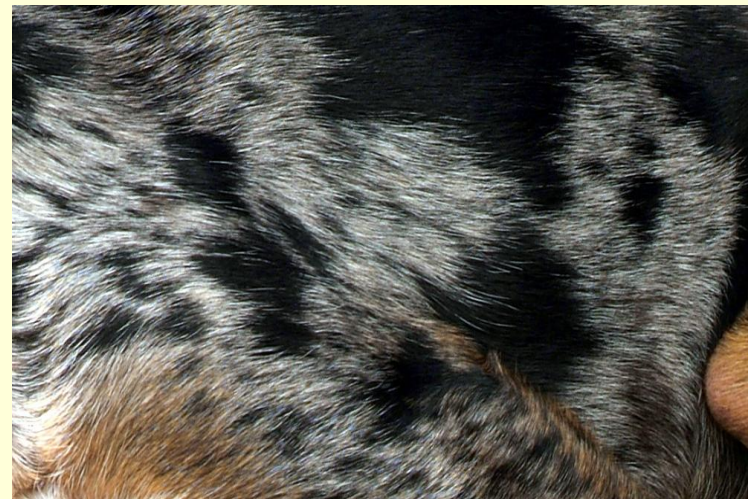
- "Tan Points" are common and vary in shades of cream to rust.
- Badger markings are acceptable.
- Speckling, ticking and mottling is common, but heavy ticking is undesirable.



- Sabbling is permitted in the coat or as shading on the head or penciling on the toes.
- A "black mask/black muzzle", on a dog not having black as coloration is to be seriously faulted.
- A few white hairs do not constitute an acceptable marking. A minimum white marking consists of a patch or strip of white with underlying white/pink skin on the forechest or body that exceeds one inch. Less than one inch of white at its widest dimension is a disqualification.
- Brindle or Merle color patterns are disqualifications.



Brindle



Merle



# ***GAIT***

A ground-covering efficient trot with good reach and drive suggesting agility, speed and power. The legs are parallel at a trot, but as speed increases, the legs converge toward a center line. There should be no elbowing out, weaving or rolling action while in motion.



# TEMPERAMENT

- Keenly observant, devoted, full of energy, yet easily trained and obedient to command.
- The Rat Terrier is a non-sparring breed and generally friendly with other dogs, but may be reserved with strangers.
- Submissiveness is not a fault.
- Overt aggression and excessive shyness should be penalized.





# ***DISQUALIFICATIONS***

- Any dog over six months of age measuring less than 10 inches, or over 18 inches.
- Any blue color in the eye.
- Cropped ears.
- An absence of coat (genetic hairlessness).
- Any suggestion of kink or curl, or coat type other than described is a disqualification.
- Solid colorations (other than white).
- Bi colors without white, or dogs with a patch or strip of white measuring less than one inch at its widest dimension.
- Brindle or Merle color patterns.

(Ratified and adopted May 22, 2009)

# THE END



For general educational purposes continue the presentation and learn more about the Rat Terrier breed.

# LIVING CONDITIONS



Rat Terriers do ok in an apartment but need at least 30 minutes of exercise a day. They are fairly active and should have at least a small to medium sized yard. They love to be inside the house and outside to play.



Rat Terriers love to dig, and they can get out of a fenced yard relatively easily. As long as they have proper protection, they are able to spend a good amount of time outdoors. The breed enjoys challenging games and outdoor romps.





# AKC Color Guide

The color with the most amount on the dog is listed first.

019 Black & White



219 White Black & Tan



202 White & Black



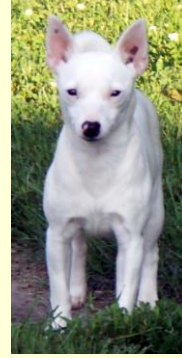
030 Black Tan & White



034 Black White & Tan



199 White



158 Red White & Sable



288 White & Blue



214 White & Red



260 Blue White & Tan





216 White & Silver



287 White & Chocolate



334 White & Blue Fawn



397 White Chocolate & Tan



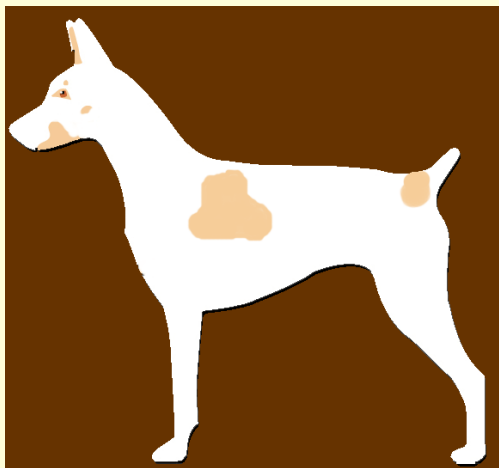
207 White & Fawn (Isabella)



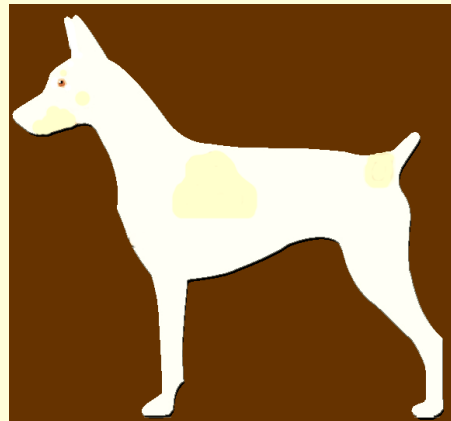
200 White & Apricot



217 White & Tan



211 White & Lemon





# Markings / Patterns

001 Badger markings - (calico or redhead); tan face generally with darker top skull and broad creeping tan markings, with or without darker back.)



084 Blanket-back - large saddle-shaped piebald marking extending over back, ribs and loin, with white extending over shoulders and or hips/loin; chest, brisket and down legs. - Irish pied.



115 Irish Marked - (tuxedo); predominately solid with (or without) white on feet, chest, brisket, and often with white collar marking, full or partial.





025 Piebald - two colors; with one being white. Any shape or color but usually 40-60%.



067 Sable, White markings - White markings [any shape] in combination with single darker (agouti) tipped hairs of base color.



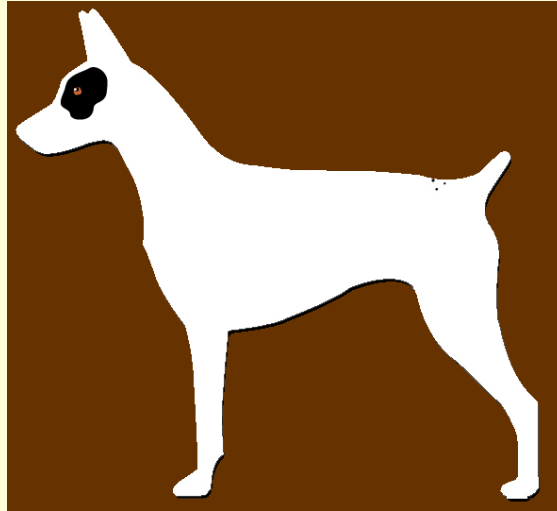
110 Solid - Self-colored with minimal 1-10% white marking, OR any excessive WHITE piebald.



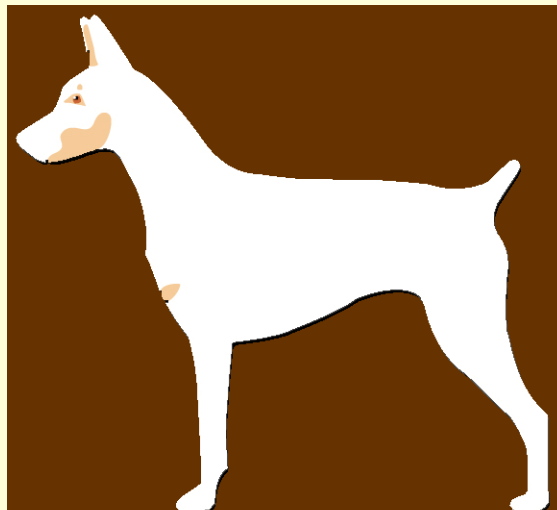
106 Spotted or Patched - 60-95% in any combination, shape or color. Usually with anterior and posterior color: i.e. piebald mask [complete or partial] and ovate/round and or jagged patches along spine, ribs and buttock.



104 - White mask, White markings - (Few Spot Piebald) near solid white piebald with small patch/es, ticking or speckling of color, usually on face as eye patch or partially colored ear.



030 White markings, Tan points - White markings with any visible tan [trim] in conjunction with any color combination not listed in COLOR.

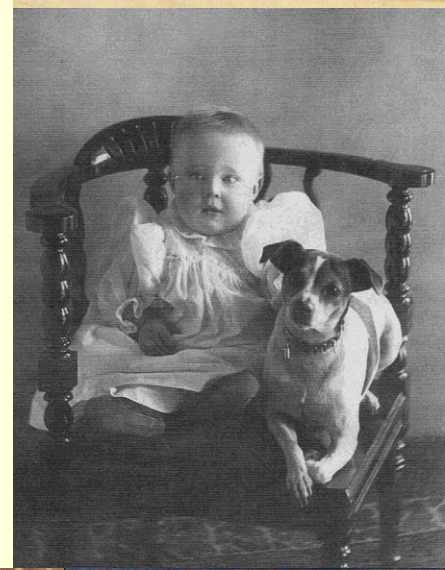




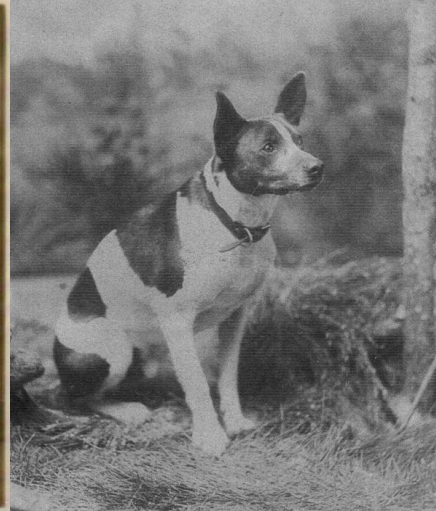


# CREDITS

- Darice Ragan
- Mary Barrett
- Pam Mills
- Jo Ann Draper
- Rat Terrier Club of America Members



*This is my dog C.L.B.*





# THE END

