



# THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE SCOTTISH TERRIER



## The Illustrated Guide to the Scottish Terrier



A committee of experienced breeders, judges and mentors of the Scottish Terrier have prepared this publication. The officers and board of The Scottish Terrier Club of America have approved it. This illustrated standard is intended as a guide for judges, breeders, exhibitors, and fanciers of the Scottish Terrier. In order to accomplish this objective, we have attempted to employ appropriate illustrations and discussions of the various aspects and sections of the Official Standard pertaining to both the virtues and faults of the breed. It should be understood that in no way does this publication constitute any change in the existing Official Standard adopted by the STCA in 1993. It is simply a clarification.

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### **History of the Scottish Terrier**

The Scottish Terrier originated in the highlands of Scotland. Many historians feel that the Scottish Terrier is one of the oldest breeds in Scotland and one of the original terrier breeds. This is difficult to prove but what we do know is that the first written mention of terriers occurs in a book called "The Natural History" by Pliny the Elder. He came with the Romans when they invaded Britain in 55 B.C. and he recorded the following; "they found much to their surprise, small dogs that would follow their quarry to the ground." The Romans called these "terrarii" or "workers in the earth", from the Latin for earth, terra. Terriers have appeared in written records sporadically from that point until the 1800's when we start to see more frequent references to them. They are indigenous to the British Isles.

In those far off days, hunters kept packs of small terriers to rid the land of vermin. Dogs were selected for their gameness and hunting ability. Appearance mattered little to the practical Scotsman. All he required was that his dogs be fearless enough to attack any prey, small enough to enter a den, sturdy enough to fight their way back out, and hardy enough to withstand a rough life and a harsh Scottish climate. These were the attributes deemed essential in the early hunting terriers and they are still the attributes we look for today.

For hundreds of years they were Scotland's own terriers. Sometime in the late 1800's enough foundation stock had been brought south of the border to warrant a breed name and distinct classes for them at English shows. The first Standard by which they were judged was drawn up in England in 1880, and the first breed club devoted to their interests was the Scottish Terrier Club of England, founded in 1883. However, the first AKC standard, which was drawn up in 1900, was based on the standard of the Scottish Terrier Club of Scotland which was adopted in 1888.

Scotties were imported to the United States in the early 1890's but it was not until the years between World War I and World War II that the breed saw any significant popularity. Scotties have fluctuated in popularity but have maintained a significant following since that time.

A more detailed history of the Scottish Terrier can be found in any of the books shown in the bibliography.

The official standard for the breed as adopted by the Scottish Terrier Club of America in 1993 and approved by the American Kennel Club is typeset in red.

The official standard for the breed contains penalties, not faults, which are typeset in blue within this clarification of the standard.



**General Appearance**—The Scottish Terrier is a small, compact, short-legged, sturdily-built dog of good bone and substance. His head is long in proportion to his size. He has a hard, wiry, weather-resistant coat and a thick-set cobby body which is hung between short, heavy legs. These characteristics, joined with his very special keen, piercing, "varminty" expression, and his erect ears and tail are salient features of the breed. The Scottish Terrier's bold, confident, dignified aspect exemplifies power in a small package.

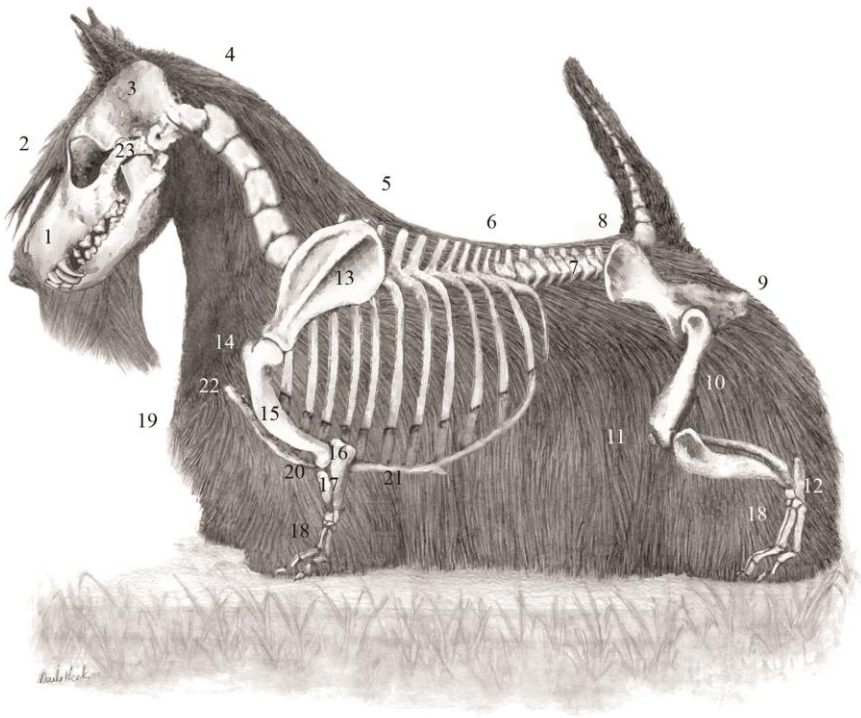
The general impression a Scottish Terrier should convey is that of a small, rugged, active dog that is compact and muscular. Unique features of this breed with achondroplastic tendencies include a heart shaped body dropped between short, heavy legs, deep brisket below the elbow, plenty of forechest extending out front, long head and heavy bone in proportion to the size of the dog, and a wide, powerful rear extending beyond the tail.

*"The Scottish Terrier is unique in type and appearance. In construction, build, teeth, temperament and voice he has many of the characteristics of a far larger dog. He should be a veritable 'multum in parvo', and his whole make-up should suggest power, substance, strength and solidity. This is the essence of the breed and anything dainty, racy or toyish is completely foreign." (Penn Bull 1983 - 74)*

*The standard is not a set of arbitrary requirements formulated to satisfy the whims of any particular group or to fit the changing mode of fashion. Rather it was written and has been maintained to preserve and perfect a particular type of dog, bred for a very definite purpose, namely, to go to earth. There are definite reasons for every line of the standard. -Edwin Megargee*

**Achondroplasia:**

"A form of dwarfism primarily affecting the development of the long bones, i.e., the limbs of young dogs. Growth in some areas is restricted or arrested, resulting in an animal normal in head and body development, but severely foreshortened in the limbs (Spira 2002-3)



- |            |                  |                       |               |                    |
|------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Muzzle  | 6. Back          | 11. Stifle            | 16. Elbow     | 21. Sternum        |
| 2. Stop    | 7. Loin          | 12. Hock              | 17. Foreleg   | 22. Prosternum     |
| 3. Skull   | 8. Croup         | 13. Scapula           | 18. Pastern   | 23. Zygomatic Arch |
| 4. Neck    | 9. Point of Rump | 14. Point of Shoulder | 19. Forechest |                    |
| 5. Withers | 10. Thigh        | 15. Upper Arm         | 20. Brisket   |                    |

Height at withers for either sex should be about 10 inches. The length of back from withers to set-on of tail should be approximately 11 inches. Generally, a well-balanced Scottish Terrier dog should weigh from 19 to 22 pounds and a bitch from 18 to 21 pounds.

**Size, Proportion, and Substance** relate directly to the history and purpose of the Scottish Terrier. The Scottie is a dog developed for the work he was designed to do, namely to "go-to-ground" and to enter the den of vermin. He must be compact enough to do so, yet sturdy and substantial enough to kill his prey. Scotties are expected to hold their own against larger and tougher animals like badger or fox. The Scottie makes up for his relatively smaller size with his thick bone and strong musculature.

**Size** While size is clearly established and delineated in the standard, proportion and substance are ratios within the parameters of correct size.

Described as compact, low and short-legged, the Scottie possesses surprisingly large bone in proportion to the size of the dog. A Scottie's height at the withers is about 10 inches and with his short legs and his brisket set below his elbows he is of the right size and construction to do his job of going into a hole. The weights of 18-21 pounds for bitches and 19-22 pounds for dogs allows for slight differences between the sexes. An 18 pound bitch and a 22 pound dog are equally correct according to the standard, and may appear significantly different in size when in the ring. Do NOT give preference to one size over the other.

**Proportion** describes the relationship of one part of the dog to another and should be evaluated within the size ranges stated above. Back length is measured from the withers to the set on of tail and should appear level and parallel to the ground. This contributes to the dog's compact appearance. When viewed in profile, the Scottish Terrier should appear longer due to its pronounced forechest and rear shelf. The principle objective must be symmetry and balance without exaggeration. Equal consideration shall be given to height, weight, length of back and length of head.

**Substance** is the relationship of bone to body. A bigger dog does not necessarily have more substance than a smaller bitch within the range of size. Bone should be evaluated by encircling the front leg just below the elbow with one's hand and then comparing that ratio to the size of the dog or bitch. The Scottish Terrier should be a sturdily-built dog of good bone and substance.

*"It is important to view the dog as a whole, and balance is a primary factor. No dog can be good in itself unless each part is in correct relation to the other parts, and all these must harmonize together" (Penn Bull 1983 - 75)*

Penalties:

Obviously oversize or undersize

Lack of bone or substance

## Five key elements must be present for the Scottish Terrier to have correct substance:

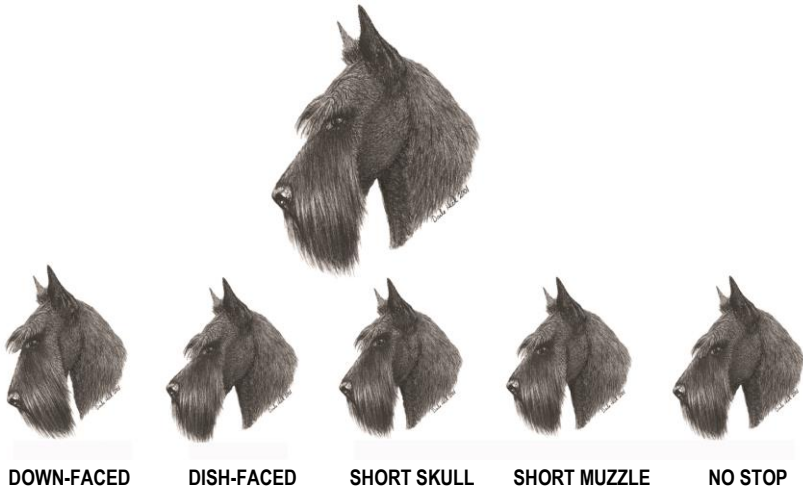
- 1) **Heavy bone** - Despite his compact size the Scottish Terrier has heavy bone especially noticeable in the legs.
- 2) **Powerful muscles**- A Scottie's body should never feel soft, but instead should feel hard and muscular all over, particularly in the hindquarters.
- 3) **Deep ribs** - The ribs should spring outward from the spine and then curve inward. This forms a body that is nearly heart-shaped when viewed in cross-section. The ribs extend well back on the body.
- 4) **Short, broad loin** - A Scottie should never have a waist. The ribs go well back on the dog and the loin is short, strong and broad.
- 5) **Deep brisket** - Viewed from the front the Scottie's chest is wide and deep and the body should appear to be slung between the two front legs rather than sitting on top of them. The brisket extends below the elbow. Viewed in profile the forechest should extend well in front of the point of shoulder.

*The Scottish Terrier in general appearance should be a small, big-built dog, a difficult combination to obtain. Some would condemn the too large dog completely, but the Standard wisely states that such should be discouraged . . . but lack of muscle and power is notably condemned in almost every paragraph in the Standard, and therefore the undeveloped, under boned dog is damned from nose to tail. (McCandlish 1909 - 48)*

Penalties:

Lack of bone or substance

Head—The head should be long in proportion to the overall length and size of the dog. In profile, the skull and muzzle should give the appearance of two parallel planes. The skull should be long and of medium width, slightly domed and covered with short, hard hair. In profile, the skull should appear flat. There should be a slight but definite stop between the skull and muzzle at eye level, allowing the eyes to be set in under the brow, contributing to proper Scottish Terrier expression.



The head is a priority in establishing breed type and is the reason so much space was allotted to it in the Standard. The head distinguishes the Scottish Terrier from his closest terrier cousins. In order to be a good judge of Scottish Terriers, one should commit this part of the Standard to memory. It is clear and it is definitive. When evaluating the Scottish Terrier, the equal proportion of skull to muzzle length is critical. Viewed from the side, the head must be long. The length of the head is relative to the length of the back and the overall size of the dog. Ideally, the head is of moderate width with very little zygomatic process<sup>2</sup> and with flat cheeks giving the head a clean appearance. Any impression of narrowness is an impression only and actual narrowness is not to be encouraged. Anything which takes away from the strength of the head and muzzle interferes with the original function of the breed.

The slightly-domed skull and muzzle should form two parallel planes of equal length, separated by a slight but distinct stop between the eyes. The stop is essential, not only in achieving the characteristic expression, but because it allows the eyes to be set deeply under the brow where they are less susceptible to injury.

*The correct head planes, equal proportion of muzzle and skull, length of head and cleanness of skull all combine to give the head an aristocratic appearance. The deep set eyes, eye placement and length of muzzle give the impression that the Scot is looking down his nose at you. (Penn-Bull 1983 - 75)*

**Penalties:**  
**Coarse or short head**

<sup>2</sup>Zygomatic Process refers to the degree of prominence of the Zygomatic Arch: "The bony ridge forming the lower border of the eye socket (orbit). Composed of two parts, it is an extension of the zygomatic or malar bone at the rear of the skull. (Spira 2002 - 147)



The skull should be smooth with no prominences or depressions and the cheeks should be flat and clean. The muzzle should be approximately equal to the length of skull with only a slight taper to the nose. The muzzle should be well filled in under the eye, with no evidence of snippiness. A correct Scottish Terrier muzzle should fill an average man's hand.

The teeth should be large and evenly spaced, having either a scissor or level bite, the former preferred. The jaw should be square, level and powerful. Undershot or overshot bites should be penalized.



A powerful muzzle is a critical feature of the breed. A correct Scottish Terrier muzzle should fill an average man's hand. The muzzle is well filled under the eye, meaning that there should be very little indentation below the eye and there should be good width to the muzzle at the point below the eye making it almost as wide as the skull. The muzzle should taper very little to the end of the nose. It is well filled throughout and there should be a strong under jaw. In evaluation, the muzzle should be examined for strength, noting teeth of surprisingly large size that could grasp a badger or fox.

The nose should be black, regardless of coat color, and of good size projecting over the mouth and giving the impression that the upper jaw is longer than the lower.

Small teeth are undesirable. Scotties can damage a tooth in day to day activities, and the judge is advised to make a careful examination and use caution and common sense to allow for "honorable scars" when making their final judgment.

#### Penalties:

##### Overshot or undershot jaw

*One specific feature is the "shark nose" and the sloping line from the tip of the nose to the chin gives correct finish to the muzzle. A squared-off, "blunt" nose is untypical and mars the appearance of the head. (Penn-Bull 1983 - 75)*

*The teeth of a Scotsman should be large & formidable. – (Marvin 1982 - 170)*



**CORRECT**



**TOO LIGHT**



**TOO ROUND**

The eyes should be set wide apart and well in under the brow. They should be small, bright and piercing, and almond-shaped, not round. The color should be dark brown or nearly black, the darker the better.

The varminty expression of the Scottish Terrier depends on the elements of eye color, placement and shape. Color should be dark on all Scotties, whether wheaten, light or dark brindle or black coated. Light brown, amber, yellow or other eye color variations must be considered undesirable.

Placement of eyes set well under the brow protects the Scottie from injury while in the den of its prey. He should give the impression of looking down his nose at the world. Good fill contributes to a deeper set eye and stronger muzzle. Feeling for fill under the eye is essential when examining the Scottish Terrier. An almond shaped eye is desired to keep the "hard-bitten" rather than "soft" expression.

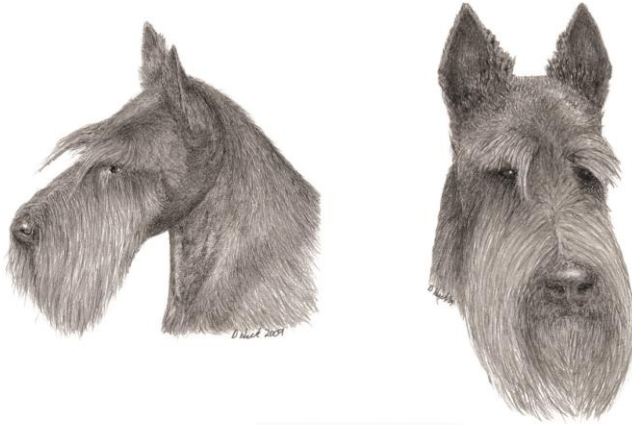
#### Penalties:

**Round, protruding or light eyes**

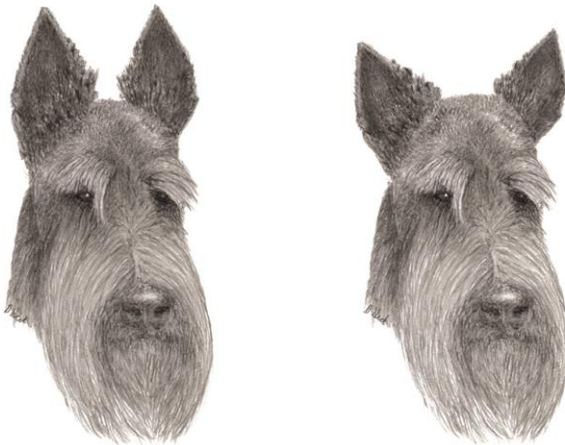
*A round eye completely ruins expression. It is impossible to get the breed's individual expression in a dog with a round eye and the first consideration in breeding is to conserve the individuality of the breed. (STCA Study of the Scottish Terrier 1999 - 12)*

*The almond-shaped eye referred to in the standard is described to perfection by Dorothy Caspersz in her book, "The Scottish Terrier". To really benefit from this description, you should examine a Scottie with a good eye while someone reads it to you. "To give the correct expression, the curve of the upper eyelid should be accentuated, especially at a point a little nearer the haw than the center of the lid, while the lower lid is a flat curve. The outer point of the eye is slightly higher than the haw so that at the broadest part, the eye appears to be slightly oblique." The Scottie with good expression does not look soft. To quote Dorothy Caspersz again, "In the eye (of the Scottish Terrier) there is ever the mixture of gravity and gaiety. Once you've seen that look, it's hard to forget it."*

The ears should be small, prick, set well up on the skull and pointed, but never cut. They should be covered with short velvety hair. From the front, the outer edge of the ear should form a straight line up from the side of the skull. The use, size, shape and placement of the ear and its erect carriage are major elements of the keen, alert, intelligent Scottish Terrier expression.



**CORRECT EARS**



**EARS TOO BIG**

**EARS WIDE SET**

The size, shape, placement and use of the ears also have important bearing on the Scottish Terrier's expression, and on the overall appearance of the breed. They should be placed well back on the skull with the base extending slightly behind the occiput. The lobe should not be pronounced. Ears set too far forward on the skull, too wide apart, or too close together detract from the desired alert expression. Scottie ears are mobile and expressive. A Scottie on the move may move with ears folded back. It is a breed that works underground and the ear is folded back to protect it and to keep the dirt out. However, the ears should stand stiffly erect when something has attracted the dog's attention.



**CORRECT NECK LENGTH**



**NECK TOO LONG**



**NECK TOO SHORT**

**Neck, Topline, Body**—The neck should be moderately short, strong, thick, and muscular, blending smoothly into well laid back shoulders. The neck must never be so short as to appear clumsy.

A Scottie needs a moderately short, strong neck to drag an unwilling enemy from its den and to kill it. Head carriage looks down when a neck is set correctly. The neck must be set into well laid-back shoulders. Straight shoulders can make a neck of the proper length look too short. The properly set neck possesses a very slight arch.



**CORRECT**



**LOW TAIL SET & SLOPING CROUP**



**TOO LONG & THIN**



**GAY TAIL**

The tail should be about seven inches long and never cut. It should be set on high and carried erectly, either vertically or with a slight curve forward, but not over the back. The tail should be thick at the base, tapering gradually to a point and covered with short, hard hair.

Tail carriage is one of the most obvious means by which the Scottish Terrier proclaims his character. For that reason, there are four references to tail carriage in the Standard.

Under GENERAL APPEARANCE, the Standard says an erect tail is a salient feature of the breed.

The TAIL section specifically requires the tail to be carried erect either vertical or with a slight curve forward.

The expression used to describe Scottie Temperament is "heads up, tails up attitude."

Finally, failure to show with tail up is specifically listed as a fault under PENALTIES.

The tail, if properly groomed, placed and carried, can contribute favorably to the Scottish Terrier's general appearance. It should be set far enough forward on the back so that the spine does not slope down to it. When alerted, the Scottie should carry his tail upright, with a very slight curve toward the head. The curve should not be exaggerated nor should the tail be carried well over the back (gay tail). It should not appear thin or overly long. It is often described as looking like an inverted carrot - thick and strong at the base and tapering gradually to a point.

The Scottish Terrier tail set and carriage are addressed in temperament and in judging the breed. However, a dog with a low tail set can have a good attitude but be unable to bring the tail as high as desired. This is a structural fault and has no bearing on his attitude; one should fault it accordingly. Please refer to the section on temperament for further explanation.

**Penalties:**

[Low set tail](#)

[Failure to show with ears and tail up](#)



**CORRECT**

The topline of the back should be firm and level.



**LOW TAIL SET & SLOPING CROUP**

The topline should be strong, firm and level both when freestanding and on the move.



**ROACH BACK**

Whether the dog is standing or moving. There should be no apparent dip at/or just behind the shoulders or any roaching over the loin.

Penalties:  
Low set tail



**SWAY BACK**

The body should be moderately short with ribs extending well back into a short, strong loin, deep flanks and very muscular hindquarters. The ribs should be well sprung out from the spine, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body that would be nearly heart shaped if viewed in mid section. The topline of the back should be firm and level.

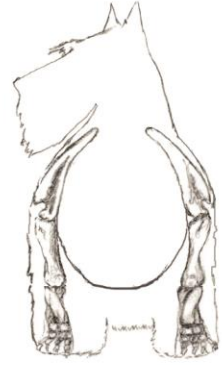
The shoulders should be well laid back and moderately well knit at the withers. The forelegs should be very heavy in bone, straight or slightly bent with elbows close to the body, and set in under the shoulder blade with a definite forechest in front of them.



**ACCEPTABLE RIB  
AND FRONT LEG**



**SLAB SIDED  
NARROW FRONT**



**BARREL RIB  
ROUND/WIDE FRONT**

The body should be moderately short with ribs extending well back into a short, strong loin, deep flanks and very muscular hindquarters.

The body of a Scottish Terrier is strong, powerful and deep and all parts are important.

The ribs should be well sprung out from the spine, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body that would be nearly heart shaped if viewed in cross section.

The shape of the body is largely determined by the ribs. It is important that the ribs be carried well back, extending beyond the halfway point of the body. When viewed from the front, a Scottie's ribcage is described as heart shaped. The ribs start their spring immediately on leaving the spine, forming a broad, strong back. The ribs gradually taper down in a heart shaped pattern, creating a chest to drop between the legs and placing the brisket below the elbow and between the legs, giving the legs freedom to move.

*"The long shoulder blade is set well back on the ribs and is laid back at close to a 45 degree angle from vertical. The upper arm is approximately the same length as the shoulder blade. The upper arm will lie at approximately a 90 degree angle with the shoulder blade. It follows around the broad heart-shaped rib enough to bring the elbow next to the body at below the widest point of the rib and sets the elbow well back on the dog. This creates a pronounced forechest in front of the legs. The relatively straight foreleg continues down to the pastern.*

*The body should be slung between, and not placed on top of the legs... Broadly speaking, the impression should be that of a squarely built dog, and length and height should not optically appear markedly different. A Scottish terrier should never look higher than its length, although it is possible for him to be little longer than his height and still retain type." (Penn-Bull 1983 - 77)*

The chest should be broad, very deep and well let down between the forelegs. The forechest should extend well in front of the legs and drop well down into the brisket. The chest should not be flat or concave and the brisket should nicely fill an average man's slightly-cupped hand. The lowest point of the brisket should be such that an average man's fist would fit under it with little or no overhead clearance.



Average man's cupped hand should fit under the chest and drop down between the legs.



Average man's fist should fit under the brisket with little or no clearance

The standard describes the forechest and how to assess depth and width very well. Individuals with small hands must be reminded to make allowances for the smaller size of their hands.

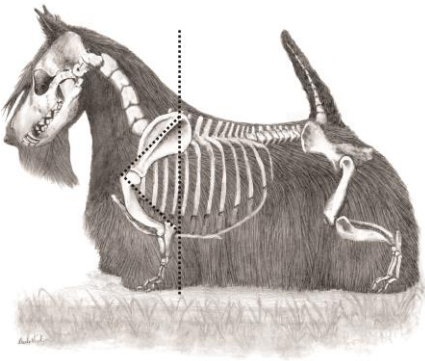
The front of the Scottish Terrier historically has been one of the more controversial points with breeders. Many traditional experts have stated a belief that it is not possible to have truly straight front legs on a Scottie. Other more contemporary breeders insist that the front legs should always be straight. While it is possible to breed this front with a relatively straight front leg, it is difficult. The judge needs to prioritize using form and function. WHILE SOME MAY DIFFER ON THIS, THE STANDARD IS CLEAR. THE FORELEGS WHILE HEAVY IN BONE MAY BE STRAIGHT OR SLIGHTLY BENT. IN BOTH CASES THE ELBOWS SHOULD BE TIGHT TO THE BODY AND SET IN UNDER THE SHOULDER. See Page 3 for side view.

*The Scottish Terrier is of peculiar build, a build all his own, and his breadth of chest, pronounced brisket, well-laid-back shoulder-blades, with his short, straight, sturdy legs, are some of his most essential characteristics. (Caspersz 1976 - 70)*

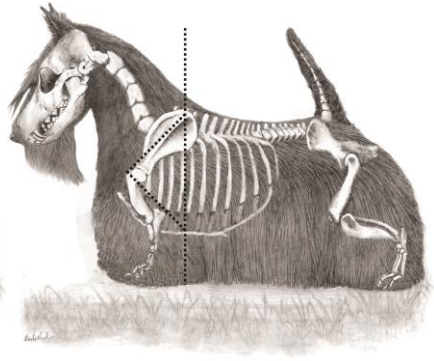
*Straight forelegs as defined by the Standard is a relative term. No true Scottie is straight (in the leg) in the sense that a Fox Terrier is. (Ewing 1932 - 71)*



Forequarters—The shoulders should be well laid back and moderately well knit at the withers. The forelegs should be very heavy in bone, straight or slightly bent with elbows close to the body and set in under the shoulder blade with a definite forechest in front of them. Scottish Terriers should not be out at the elbows. The forefeet should be larger than the hind feet, round, thick and compact with strong nails. The front feet should point straight



**CORRECT**



**SHORT UPPER ARM**

The long shoulder blade is set well back on the ribs and is laid back at close to a 45 degree angle from vertical. The upper arm appears to be approximately the same length as the shoulder blade. The upper arm will lie at approximately a 90 degree angle with the shoulder blade. It follows around the broad heart-shaped rib enough to bring the elbow next to the body at below the widest point of the rib and sets the elbow well back on the dog. This creates a pronounced forechest in front of the legs. The relatively straight foreleg continues down to the pastern.



**CORRECT GOOD REACH**



**INCORRECT POOR REACH**

*It has been truly said that there is almost as much of a good Scot in front of the forelegs as there is behind him when viewing him in profile. (Caspersz 1976 - 71)*

Penalties:  
Upright shoulders  
Out at the elbow

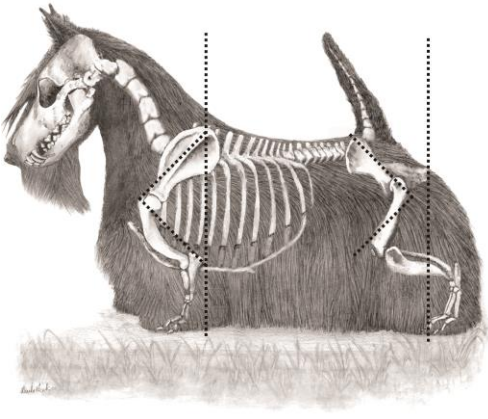


### **What is the ideal Scottish Terrier front?**

The long shoulder blade is set well back on the ribs and is laid back at close to a 45 degree angle from vertical. The upper arm appears to be nearly the same length as the shoulder blade. When the scapula and the upper arm are correct, a straight line can be drawn from the withers to touch the back side of the fore leg. The elbow is tight and well back on the dog as are the front legs. A dog with the forequarters described contributes to a pronounced forechest in the Scottish Terrier known as the keel. The deep ribs are heart shaped when viewed in cross-section, the brisket is below the elbow and slung between the front legs.

Why is this important? Why does the brisket have to be below the elbow? Why does he need a forechest? A Scottish Terrier must be able to go to ground. With this lowered structure, he is able to get his body through holes, and once he is in the holes, he is able to dig. Placing the elbow above the brisket frees the leg to dig and it provides for the correct leverage. Placing it below the widest point of the rib allows it to fit in cleanly and have clearance to move. The lower brisket allows the dog to support the body while digging and provides more room for heart and lung. It also allows the legs to fold and retain freedom of movement in a hole. A Scottie needs to throw the dirt out to the side, not under the body when digging. Therefore, a slight toeing out of the front legs was traditionally considered more correct for the breed.

Hindquarters—The thighs should be very muscular and powerful for the size of the dog with stifles well bent and the legs straight from hock to heel. Hocks should be well let down and parallel to each other.



Relatively big, powerful hindquarters are essential to the Scottish Terrier. The hindquarters had to be strong enough to easily allow the Scottie to spring from rock to rock and to drag vermin backward from the den. A broad powerful rear starts with a well bent stifle. The upper thigh should slope sharply away from the pelvis meeting the thigh in a 90° angle at the stifle. The lower, or second thigh muscles, should feel well developed and firm. When evaluating a Scottie's hindquarters they should feel wide and powerful from the side and from the

rear. the Scottie should move absolutely straight and true when moving away.

Viewed from the side, the dog should stand so that a line drawn from the point of the rump touches the front of the rear toes. Hocks viewed from the side and the rear should be short and absolutely vertical both when standing and moving. A perfect Scottie rear is heavily muscled and should extend as far behind the tail as the forechest extends beyond the front legs. A straight stifle or an over-bent stifle and hock is undesirable.

*A thin-looking thigh ought to be regarded as an abomination for all Scottish Terrier breeders. (Caspersz 1983 - 73)*

*A well-bent stifle should accompany the big hind-quarters and thighs to give springing ability above the ordinary considering the length of leg. (McCandlish 1909 - 31)*

*This (correct well laid back) front conforms rather well with extreme rear angulation for it has mechanical ability to relift the centre of gravity and absorb shock. The laid back blade angulated upper arm and bent pastern all contribute to flexibility. (McDowell 1950 - 165)*



**Correct**



**Cow-Hocked**



**Open-Hocked**

Penalties:

Too narrow in front or rear

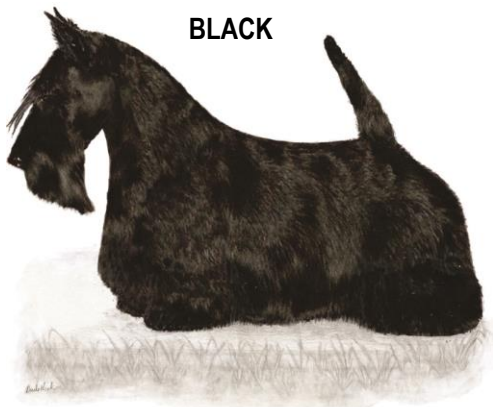
Coat—The Scottish Terrier should have a broken coat. It is a hard, wiry outer coat with a soft, dense under coat. The coat should be trimmed and blended into the furnishings to give a distinct Scottish Terrier outline. The dog should be presented with sufficient coat so that the texture and density may be determined. The longer coat on the beard, legs, and lower body may be slightly softer than the body coat but should not be or appear fluffy.

Coat -The importance of a proper coat cannot be overstressed. Both the harsh wiry jacket and dense undercoat are essentials of Scottish Terrier breed type as they contribute to the protection of the dog at work, as well as during harsh weather conditions. One must feel the coat in order to determine correct texture and density. The Scottie is a double-coated terrier with a soft, dense undercoat that is difficult to part sufficiently to see the skin. When checking the outer coat, feel between the thumb and index finger to determine harsh and wiry texture. The dog must be shown in a long enough coat to determine texture. On examination, at no time should the jacket be raked toward the head. The coat should not be clipped down nor blown, but should present a generally broken-haired look over the body. The jacket should lie close and tight around a muscular body. Furnishings should appear longer and feel softer, but not so long as to drag on the ground. Long furnishings do not create a low stationed dog.

Penalties:  
Soft or curly coat



## BLACK



**Color**—Black, wheaten or brindle of any color. Many black or brindle dogs have sprinklings of white or silver hairs in their coats which are normal and are not to be penalized. White can be allowed only on the chest and chin and that too slight extent only.

*It is seldom a good dog can be a bad color. If I owned a good one, I would not bother my head about his color. - A. G. Cowley- Albourne Kennels*

## BRINDLE



All colors are equally desirable and judged by the same standard as described on the previous pages under coat. That means there is no preference between blue-black and brown-black, no preference among cream colored wheaten or gold colored wheaten or red wheaten, and no preference among the many shades of brindle. Sprinklings described above in The Standard should not be construed as patches. Small amounts of white on the chin and the chest are allowed and should not be penalized. These spots should not exceed the size of a quarter.

## WHEATEN



One should, however, be aware that there are some optical illusions created by colors. For example, a brindle whose cheeks are light in color may give the appearance of having a coarser head than a brindle with a dark mask. Brindling in the leg hair can make a dog's movement appear faulty. Wheatens, who have the correct dark eye pigment, are like women wearing eyeliner. The dark rim around the eyes against a light background makes the eyes look larger.

Regardless of coat color, every Scottie must have a black nose, black eye rims and dark brown or black eyes.

In recent years, breeders have been dismayed to see the habit of "enhancing" color grow into a fad for completely coloring Scotties by artificial means. Remember that no Scottie has ever naturally been without some variation in the coat color. We encourage judges to penalize this practice severely!

Gait—The gait of the Scottish Terrier is very characteristic of the breed. It is not the square trot or walk desirable in the long-legged breeds. The forelegs do not move in exact parallel planes: rather, in reaching out, the forelegs incline slightly inward because of the deep broad forechest. Movement should be free, agile and coordinated with powerful drive from the rear and good reach in front. The action of the rear legs should be square and true, and at the trot, both the hocks and stifles should be flexed with a vigorous motion. When the dog is in motion, the back should remain firm and level.



Movement is the crucial test of conformation. The Scottish Terrier has a gait that is unique to the breed. The Scottie's gait is not a square trot or walk. The forelegs do not move in exact parallel planes, rather in reaching out they incline slightly inward. The front legs will turn in slightly on reaching out and there will be an almost imperceptible moment of suspension as the front rebalances. This is thought to be due to the shortness of the leg and the width of the chest. At the same moderate speed described above, the Scottie's feet will be closer together than his elbows. While the Scottish Terrier does not exhibit the gait of a sporting dog, he should have good reach in front and proper drive in the rear. See illustrations above.

Note: The foot does not reach to the end of the nose but it does extend beyond the chest.

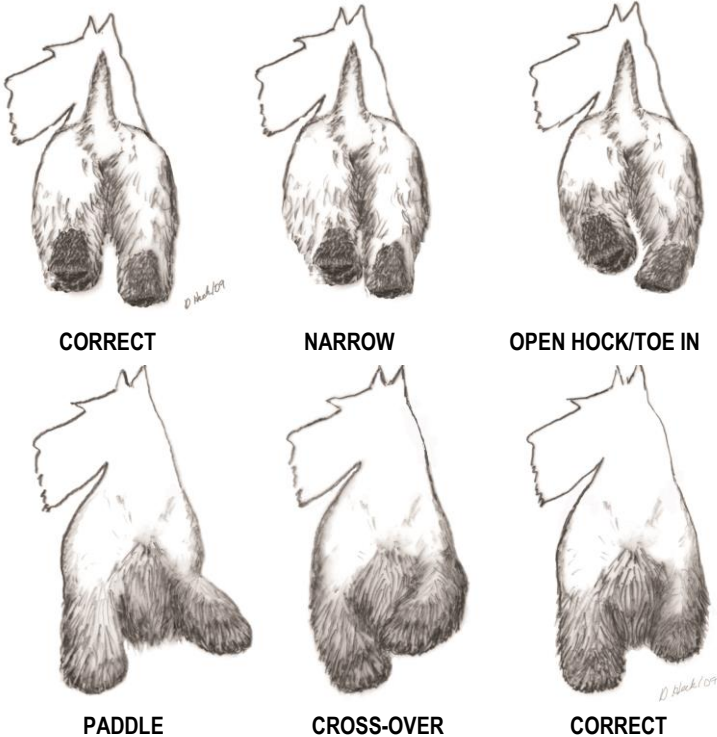
The action of the rear legs should be square and true, and at the trot both the hocks and stifles should be flexed with a vigorous motion. The movement should be free and easy with the front legs reaching out and the hind legs driving from behind with a decided push. It is important to note that a dog that is higher on leg will appear to move better in a generic sense. This is not desirable and is at the expense of Scottish Terrier type.

Because of the Scottie's broad, deep chest and short legs, the laws of balance require that he reach inward almost as soon as he starts moving forward.

When judging front gait look for visible extension of front legs seen under chest, slight incline of forelegs while accelerating forward, with no paddling or crossing. Quick moving legs do not mean a Scottish Terrier is moving correctly especially on an uneven surface. A low, correctly built Scottie, with visible reach and drive should cover ground well.

It is critical to remember that the rear movement should be absolutely straight and true when viewed from the rear, with good flex at the hock.

When judging rear gait look for visible rear drive pushing from behind, rear legs in line with front (parallel), hocks moving straight forward, pads turned straight up.



**Penalties:**

- Lack of reach or drive
- Movement too wide or close in rear
- Stiff or stilted movement

Temperament—The Scottish Terrier should be alert and spirited but also stable and steady going. He is a determined and thoughtful dog whose "heads up, tails up" attitude in the ring should convey both fire and control. The Scottish Terrier, while loving and gentle with people, can be aggressive with other dogs. He should exude ruggedness and power, living up to his nickname, the "Diehard."

"No judge shall put to Winners or Best of Breed any Scottish Terrier not showing real Terrier character in the ring."

**NOTE:** The final words of our breed standard indicate the degree of importance that breeders place on temperament. The question then becomes: what is the definition of true terrier temperament?

The Scottie is bigger than he looks in mind and body. He, by nature, is a courageous dog that possesses a keen hunting instinct. Being highly intelligent, he is both strong willed and loyal to his owners. The Scottie does not respect just anyone, and barely tolerates attention from strangers. It has been quoted that Scottish Terrier owners must be confident enough to love a dog that feels openly superior to them.

Judges may see one or more Scottie idiosyncrasies in the ring: stopping or backing up to assess the situation, the "Scottie Shake", disliking their muzzle clamped, boredom from excessive waiting or repetition, or acting dour or aloof (even in a spar). The old English standard has these words, "The dog should look willing to go anywhere and do anything." It is because of this distinct temperament that you can often see the Scottie at his best when sparring. See sparring on the next page.

Not seen in the show ring is the broad and complex character that is the Scottish Terrier. One can miss out on the rolling eyes, the sighs, the smiles, the talking, the selective deafness and all of the other myriad aspects of Scottie behavior that both enslave and exasperate their breeders.

*First temperament, the Scottie has to be fearless, not quarrelsome, but unafraid of man or beast. (Marvin 1982 - 164)*

*Many judges who are not acquainted with the Scottie will turn down the better dog because the tail is not carried stiffly. This is not right ... He is a dour dog that will not show if the urge is not there. This does not demonstrate shyness, for which the requirement was incorporated, but rather a true Scotch temperament which refuses to do that which the dog does not want to do. It is believed that judges who know the breed can detect shyness in the dog's eye and this should be the criterion rather than the inflexible turndown on showmanship. (Marvin 1982 - 167)*

*He is a king, a laird, a chief and will meet you as friend and equal, but not as servant or menial. His allegiance, his loyalty and his trust must be gained by fair and sympathetic treatment... (Penn-Bull 1983 - 98)*

Penalties:

Failure to show with ears & tail up

Shyness or timidity





**Purpose of Sparring:** To see real Terrier character which is a confident & dignified attitude with no sign of shyness or timidity.

What one should see is a confident, dignified, tough dog who won't back down from a challenge. When sparring, the dog should collect himself and appear on full alert, tail and ears up with excitement. He boldly stands four-square and protects his space. He may stare down his opposition or look away, as if to give the other dogs the opportunity to leave with their dignity intact. If the other dogs don't back down, he may start a ruckus, but he should return to control when asked to do so by his handler. Sparring should never make a Scottish uncontrollable. After sparring, a Scottish should walk away with an air of strength and firmness to signify confidently that he has asserted his superiority like a gentleman.

#### **GUIDELINES FOR SPARRING:**

- Not all dogs have to be sparred to determine attitude.
- Separate overly feisty dogs early.
- Split large classes.
- Announce your guidelines to exhibitors.
- Do not allow handlers to use other dogs as bait.
- Sufficient time should be allowed for dogs to notice each other
- Sparring puppies with adult dogs should be avoided.
- Control your ring. Direct handlers to maintain distance between dogs.
- Spar 2-3 dogs being considered.
- Be confident about the sparring process.

## How to Judge the Scottish Terrier



Upon initial entrance of dogs in the ring, assess general appearance noting size and proportion. Stand back and take a side view for length of back, topline, and balance. Look for a pronounced hindquarters and a pronounced forechest. Upon examination on the table confirm that your observations were real AND NOT MASTERFUL GROOMING.

### Examination of the Head

Look for a well-balanced, quality head. Approach the head by placing hands underneath the muzzle and skull. Check the eyes for correct almond shape and piercing expression. Feel the bones at the side of the head. These bones should be flat and clean, with no curves. Feel that the top of the skull is nearly flat or slightly domed, not apple shaped. Compare the length from occiput to stop and stop to the end of the muzzle to determine that they are equal. When you run your hands up to the side of the cheekbones, you should be able to go straight up to the ear. Look for small ears, well placed on the head so that when viewed from the front they are not set too wide. The eyes should be well apart, small, dark and almond-shaped. Put your thumb between the eyes. There should be a slight stop. Put your hand beneath the eye and around the muzzle to see that it is well filled under the eye. You should find a good wide mouth, with a strong square jaw. Note that the bite is scissors or level neither being undershot nor overshot.

### Examination of the Body

In checking the front end, run your hands down the neck which should flow gradually and smoothly into the shoulders. The shoulder blade should be well laid back. The upper arm should be of almost equal length and set at an approximate right angle to the shoulder blade. Elbows should be tucked in so that when you move your hands down the leg from the shoulder, you don't feel the elbow sticking out. Encircle the leg to feel for adequate bone.

Examine the feet, which should be thick and well rounded.

Cup the forechest with your hand to ensure that it is well-filled and extends forward. Drop your hand palm up between the front legs to ensure proper width of chest. Place your fist under the chest. A correct brisket will just touch the top of an average man's fist.

Ribs should be heart-shaped in cross section, well sprung and deep. A Scottish Terrier should not be short-ribbed. Feel between the rib cage and upper thigh—the loin should be short and muscular

Look for very muscular thighs and a well bent stifle. Hocks should be short in length and parallel to each other.

When you lift the coat to feel texture, you do not want to see skin. The dog should have a dense undercoat with a hard, tight topcoat. Furnishings should also have harsh texture and should not be excessive.

When the dog is coming toward you, you want to see two front feet, inclining slightly inward around a powerful forechest. Going away, you want to see the whole back foot turn straight up. From the side, you want to see reach in front and extension behind. The top line should remain level both standing and on the move. Tail should be erect. Movement should be efficient despite short legs and breadth of chest.

### Scale of Points

Skull	5
Muzzle	5
Eyes	5
Ears	10
Neck	5
Chest	5
Body	15
Legs and Feet	10
Tail	5
Coat	15
Size	10
General Appearance	<u>10</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## **What Exhibitors Appreciate**

### **Scottish Terrier exhibitors and dogs appreciate it when judges:**

- Set guidelines for sparring.
- Disallow the throwing or leaving of bait in the ring.
- Understand it is an active breed that needs to be judged in a timely manner. Do not make dogs wait excessively inside or outside the ring.
- Reexamine individual dogs on the table rather than on the ground.
- Are not heavy handed. Know Scotties are a sturdy, yet sensitive breed, and barely tolerate intimacy from strangers.
- Provide shade for exhibitors and their dogs.
- Are polite to inexperienced exhibitors, as Scotties are difficult to show.
- Allow plenty of space for moving and exhibiting all dogs to the best advantage.
- Appreciate that all colors are judged by the same standard.
- Honor dogs that stand and show on their own.
- Are aware of their surroundings. Tall grass can create a different image.
- Reward overall breed symmetry, balance and Scottish Terrier showmanship.

## Key Elements of Scottish Terrier Type:

- **Temperament** – shows true terrier temperament, no shyness or timidity.



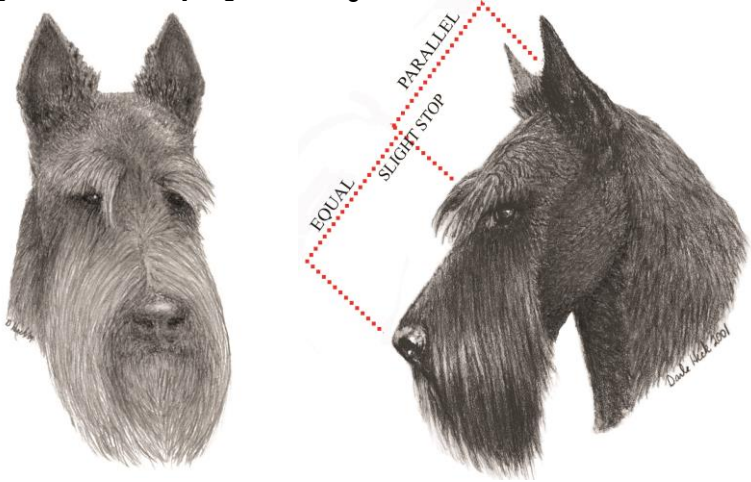
- **Low to ground** – deep brisket ending below the elbow. Compact from withers to tail, however, longer from point of chest to point of rump. Obvious forechest and obvious rear shelf add to length.



- **Heavy bone and substance** for the size of the dog



- **Long head-** in proportion to the size of dog, skull medium width, good fill under eye, good strength of muzzle with sizable teeth



- **Harsh outer coat & dense undercoat** – to protect dog from injury & inclement weather



- **Movement** – Gait is unique to the breed with forelegs that incline slightly on acceleration while **rear legs move true**. A correctly built Scottish Terrier should cover ground well despite his short legs.

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