

CANADIAN SCOTTISH TERRIER CLUB AMPLIFICATION OF THE BREED STANDARD



ORIGIN AND HISTORY

The Scottish Terrier is one of the oldest breeds in Scotland, and also one of the original terrier breeds. The first written mention of terriers occurs in the Natural History by Pliny the Elder, during the first century. When the Romans invaded Britain in 55 B.C., he records, "they found much to their surprise, small dogs that would follow their quarry to the ground." The Romans called these "workers in the earth", terrarii from the Latin for earth, terra. Terriers are indigenous to the British Isles. The earliest terriers were short-legged and most resemble the descriptions of the ancient "prick-eared curs". The Old Scotch Terrier, now extinct, is said to be the ancestor of all modern day short-legged terriers. The "Old Scotch" was a stable worker that had great strength, courage, and stamina and was bred to breach rocky predator dens. Early documents report that farmers and hunters kept small packs of terriers for the purpose of killing vermin and poaching. These terriers were described as "a dog low in stature, strong in body, stout of leg, with small half prick ears, generally sandy or black, and seldom more than 12 -14 inches high. His hair was long, hard and matted. He had a keen bite and acute scenting ability".

As travel was difficult at the time, various districts developed different types of terriers. Some close cousins to the Scottish Terrier would be Cairns, Sealyhams, Skyes and West Highland Whites, to name a few. The breed was first shown in about 1879, under the names Broken-coated, Highland, Aberdeen, and finally, Scottish Terrier. Shortly afterwards, he came to North America, and achieved an immense level of popularity in the 1920's and 1930's. He has had a steady following since that time.

The Scottish Terrier was specifically bred for the purpose of going to ground after badger, otter and other vermin. The leg bones were shortened without reducing the bone, size, strength, power and substance. The body was dropped between the legs to free the elbow for digging and allow more clearance in holes. The feet had a slight toe-out to allow dirt to be thrown to the side, as it could not go under the dog. The dog's head remained long and strong, exceptionally long for the size of the dog, with very large and strong teeth. The dog needed all of these traits, and more, to be able to dig after a badger, fight him underground, and drag him out of his hole if necessary. A powerful, deep chest cavity gave him the ability to breathe while dragging vermin and a powerful hind end provided traction to drag his prey. He needed to retain enough agility to leap from rocks and boulders while



GENERAL APPEARANCE

The face should wear a keen, sharp and active expression. Both head and tail should be carried well up. The dog should look very compact, well muscled and powerful, giving the impression of immense power in a small size.

Compact, well muscled and powerful. The Scottish Terrier is not a small dog, but more a medium size dog with shortened legs. He is low slung, heavy boned for his size, and his head is long for the size of his body. Everything about him gives the impression of great power and substance; he is never “toyish”.

He has an air of authority and presence; his head and tail are up; and adults are often aloof and disdainful of strangers. He should never show fear or nervousness, and while the breed has no actual disqualification's this issue is effectively a disqualification. The standard states, *"No judge should put to Winners or Best of Breed any Scottish Terrier not showing real terrier character in the ring"*. Breeders will not tolerate a judge who puts up a dog who shows fear, nervousness or does not show with its tail up no matter how good the rest of the dog is. This does not mean that the Scottish Terrier is “on” all the time while showing. This breed is highly intelligent, easily bored, independent and willful; often requiring handlers to almost stand on their heads to amuse them. For this reason they have been frequently sparring in groups of two or three in the breed ring (see Sparring).



SIZE

Equal consideration must be given to height, length of back, and weight. Height at shoulder for either sex should be about 10 inches (25 cm). Generally, a well-balanced Scottish Terrier Dog of correct size should weigh from 19-22 LB (9-10 kg), and a Bitch, from 18-21 LB (8-9.5 kg). The principal objective must be symmetry and balance.

The above breed standard provides guidelines; however, breeders tend to be focussed on overall balance and symmetry, and are not overly concerned with dogs who differ slightly from these figures. The length of the back from the withers to the set on of the tail should be only slightly greater than the height at the withers. The dog should give the impression of having good bone, substance, and power for his size, whether he is at the bottom end of the scale or the top of it. The dog's dimensions should be relative to his overall size; neither the large or the small dog is more correct, as long as each is within the standard.

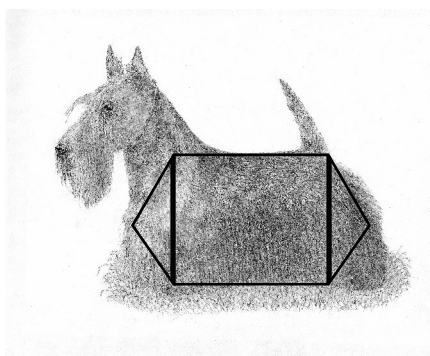


Figure 1



Although one is actually quite a bit larger than the other, the dog on the left and the bitch on the right both give the correct impression of good bone, substance and power for their size. The ideal is to give this impression and still remain within the size stated in the standard.

COAT AND COLOUR

Coat rather short, about 2 inches (5 cm), dense undercoat with outer coat intensely hard and wiry. Colour steel or iron Grey, brindled or grizzled, black, sandy or wheaten. White markings are objectionable and can be allowed only on the chest and that to a slight extent only.

The outer coat should be hard, wiry, and straight, with a thick dense soft undercoat. Dogs with curly or wavy coats are undesirable, this refers to a wave or curl throughout, including the furnishings, it does not refer to the wave sometimes seen on the back of a dog with an exceptionally hard coat who is in a newly stripped jacket. Colour should be solid steel or iron grey, black, sandy or wheaten, brindled or grizzled. White can only be allowed on the chest, and that only to a slight extent. Occasionally young Scottish Terriers will have white hairs in their chin hair or may have a ring of white hairs on their tail, this is not a problem and will be outgrown. In short, no good Scottie can come in a bad colour, unless that colour is white. No one colour should be favoured, or discriminated against. Judges should remember, when evaluating terrier coats, that at the time the standards were written, the dogs were only shown two or three times per year. A hard, straight, wiry outer coat with a soft dense undercoat, is desirable, but today's specials are shown frequently, and thus must be kept in a rolled coat (the coat is constantly being pulled so that new coat is coming in at all times and the dog can be shown throughout the show season). This means that there will be shows where the coat is a little short, or there is somewhat less undercoat, or a slightly looser topcoat, than desired traditionally. Length of coat is a variable that should not be considered important unless it interferes with the judge determining texture and existence of undercoat.

It should be remembered that this coat is very sculptable, so a judge must use his or her hands to verify the texture, the undercoat, and the underlying structure of the dog. It should also be mentioned, that different colours can present visually different pictures which can deceive the eye. Judges need to be wary of this, try to assess each dog on its merits and do not always believe your eyes.

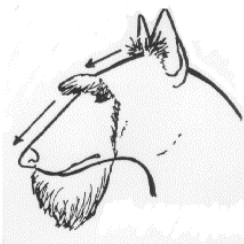
Some of the more common Scottish Terrier colours are shown on the next page:

COAT AND COLOUR, CONT'D



HEAD

SKULL long, of medium width, slightly domed and covered with short, hard hair. It should not be quite flat, as there should be a slight stop or drop between the eyes. *MUZZLE* in proportion to the length of skull, with not too much taper towards the nose. *NOSE* should be black and of good size. The jaws should be level and square. The nose projects somewhat over the mouth, giving the impression that the upper jaw is longer than the lower. The *TEETH* should be evenly placed, having a scissors or level bite, with the former being preferable. *EYES* set wide apart, small and of almond shape, not round. Colour to be dark brown or nearly black. To be bright, piercing and set well under the brow. *EARS* small, prick, set well up on the skull, rather pointed but not cut. The hair on them should be short and velvety.

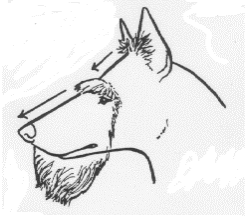


DOWNFACED

Figure 4

undesirable (see Figures 4 and 5).

The head must be brick shaped, of medium width, giving the impression of narrowness due to its great length (about 80% of the length of the back). A narrow skull is incorrect. Cleanness of skull should be the priority. Cheeks are clean throughout, with good fill under the eye, slight stop, strong and punishing underjaw, and not too much taper toward the muzzle. The top of the skull should appear relatively flat, and the muzzle and top of the skull should form parallel planes of equal length (See Figures 2 and 3). Dish-faced or downfaced heads are



DISHFACED

Figure 5

Figure 2

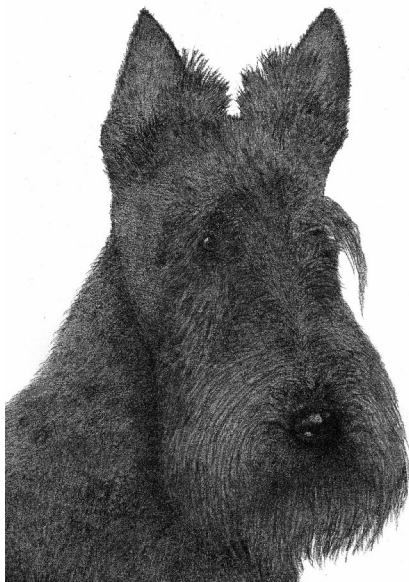


Figure 3



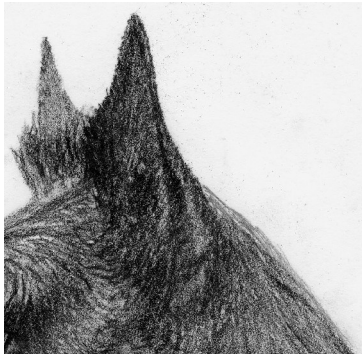
GOOD EXAMPLES OF CORRECT SCOTTISH TERRIER HEADS

A large black nose protrudes over the jaw, almost giving the impression that the jaw looks overshot. Teeth are large and strong, with a level or scissors bite. Small or crowded teeth are usually associated with snipeyness, toyishness or lack of underjaw. The jaw is very long and hinges at the back, giving the mouth the ability to open very wide. Expect the head to be appropriate for the body. A bitch's head is generally more refined than a dog's. A stronger more masculine dog should have a stronger more masculine head however, this does not give an excuse for coarseness or cheekiness.

Given that Scottish Terriers were bred for going to ground for badger and other vermin, weakness of the muzzle and foreface should be considered serious faults, as they interfere with the dog doing its job.

Ears

The high set, small prick ears are mobile and usually carried back while moving, and erect while standing. As depicted in Figure 6, the ears have a tight, clean bell, which does not protrude to any extent from the outside of the skull. Figure 7 depicts ears which are too far apart and lacking the proper clean bell. Normally, Scotties have very mobile ears, which are held against the head while working to keep the dirt out, and to keep them out of harm's way. Don't expect to see a Scottish Terrier use its ears when examined on a table. It is not a normal place for dogs to show attitude. If you really want to see the ears and expression, watch him while he is looking at another dog or is interested in something.



CORRECT EAR
Figure 6

The eyes are small, dark and almond shaped, set wide apart and set under the brow for protection. Round or light colored eyes are faulty (See Figures 8 and 9).



INCORRECT, WIDE/
BAT EARS
Figure 7



CORRECT EYE
Figure 8



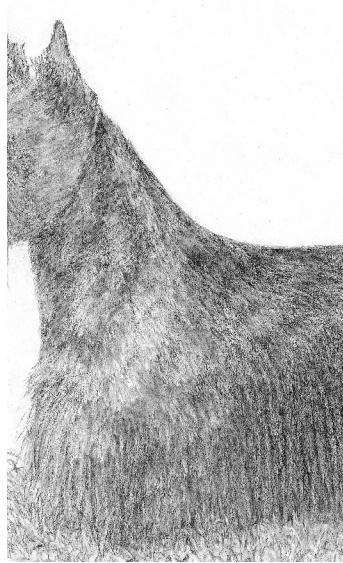
ROUND EYE
Figure 9

NECK

Moderately short, thick and muscular. Strongly set on sloping shoulders but not so short as to appear clumsy.

To hold prey, shake it, and kill it, a Scottish Terrier requires a powerful neck. Long, thin weedy or ewe necks will not do the job. A neck that is too short and cloddy will not allow the head and teeth the mobility they need in a fight.. The neck is approximately the same length as the head and about 80% of the length of the back. When one sees a correct neck, it will remind you of a stallion with a wonderful arch at the crest, giving an impression of power. You are most likely to see the neck angles when the dog is spurred.

As portrayed in Figure 10, a correct neck will flow smoothly, cleanly and powerfully into the long sloping shoulders without any visible interruptions. At the head, it will taper to a clean tight throat latch without losing strength. Again, a word of caution. Because of the sculptability of the Scottish Terrier's coat, one should check to ensure that the neck slope is due to bone and correct angles and not to hair.



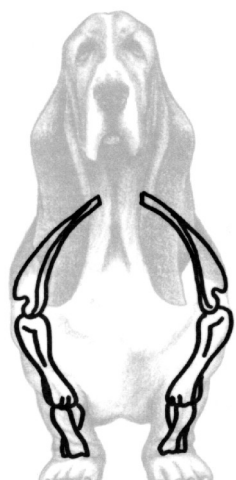
CORRECT NECK
Figure 10

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders sloping. Both forelegs and hind legs should be short and very heavy in bone in proportion to the size of the dog. Forelegs straight or slightly bent with elbows close to the body. Scottish Terriers should not be out at the elbow.

The front of the Scottish Terrier is one of the more controversial points. The standard states “*front legs straight or slightly bent, elbows tight*”. When one considers that this is a breed which fits the qualifications for achondroplasia (“a form of dwarfism primarily affecting the development of 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”) this would normally result in a wrap around front like Dachshunds and Bassets (See Figure 11). However, Scottie breeders chose to fight nature. As depicted in Figure 12, the preferred front for the Scottish Terrier is a modified or partial wrap-around front. The short definition for a wrap around front is that the legs are brought under the body providing a column of support. In a Scottie, they are not brought as far under the body. The Scottie is a four poster with the legs set just under the outside edge of the body.

Traditional experts have stated a belief that it is not possible to have truly straight front legs on a Scottie if he is correctly put together. Other, more contemporary breeders insist the front legs should always be straight. While it is possible to achieve this front with a straight front leg, it is difficult. It must be remembered that it is much easier to obtain straight front legs if certain other structural faults exist. As with any other points the judge must then prioritize and this should be done based on form and function. A dog with a straight front leg who is not capable of digging should be more severely faulted than one with a slight bend who can still do the job. So, it becomes a question not so much of whether the front leg is allowed to have a bend but how much bend is acceptable.



TRADITIONAL WRAP
Figure 11

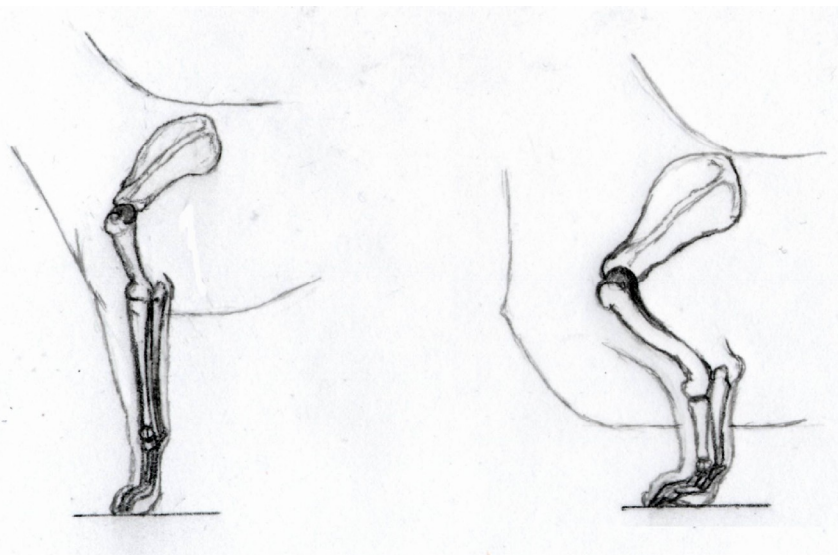
Some common faults associated with the front assembly on the Scottish Terrier are included on the next page. Please remember that while some of these faults will allow the front leg to be straight they are at the expense of another point of structure.



CORRECT SCOTTIE
FRONT
Figure 12

- Traditional wrap around front. This is too much for a Scottie, we prefer our front legs not be as far under the body and appear straighter than those associated with this front.
- Wide front, with the legs set on the outside of the body. This fault is often associated with loaded shoulders and being out at the elbows. This front by virtue of being set on the outside of the body does not require a wrap around the rib.
- Narrow front- associated with little or no rib spring, this is not desirable in a Scottie, it does not allow enough room for the desired heart and lung capacity, this front has nothing to wrap around.
- Traditional working dog front (the brisket is at the elbow, this is high on leg for a Scottie). This front does not require a wrap around as the upper arm is set lower on the rib and this Scottie would lack depth of chest and be unable to dig properly.
- Straight terrier front — shorter, straighter upper arm brings the leg to the front of the body. No wrap is required here and the dog would be unable to dig properly.

While the opinion is often heard that there is a single type of terrier front, this statement is incorrect. The distinction between the straight terrier front and a correct Scottish Terrier front can be seen by comparing Figures 13 and 14. Note the upper arm is shorter and more upright on the terrier front, bringing the leg to the front of the body. The Scottie's longer upper arm brings the leg well back under the dog and creates a pronounced forechest. Why is this front so important to a Scottish Terrier? Why does the brisket have to be below the elbow, why does he need a forechest? It all goes back to form and function. A Scottish Terrier must be able to go to ground. Without this lowered structure, he could not get his body through holes, and once he was in that hole, he needed to be able to dig. Placing the elbow above the brisket frees the leg to dig and it provides for the correct leverage. the brisket allowed the dog to support the body while digging and provided more room for heart and lung. When digging in a hole, a Scottie also needed to throw the dirt out to the side, not under the body. Therefore, a slight toeing out of the front legs, is more correct for this breed. In addition, when the upper arm is correct and the rib is properly heart-shaped (to house powerful lungs), the elbow joint falls just under the wide point of the rib and fits in cleanly. As the rib continues to fall away from the leg, there will be roominess between the leg and body on a Scottie's front. However, the elbow itself should still fit snugly.

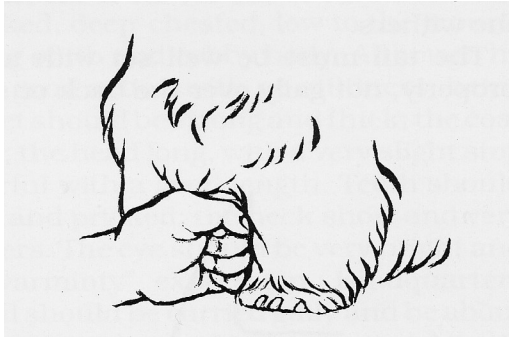


BODY

Moderately short and well ribbed up, chest broad and very deep, well let down between the forelegs. Loin strong, flanks deep.

It has been stated (Caspersz, 1971),

“that in a truly good Scot, there is almost as much of the dog in front of the forelegs as there is behind them. It is an exaggeration, but a useful one, since it conveys the right idea.”

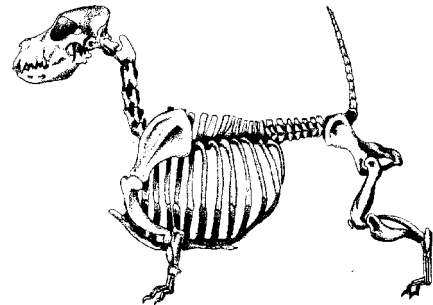


Brisket Sits on top of an Average Man's Hand
Figure 15

Dropped between the legs (Figures 16 & 17), not set on top, the brisket drops below the elbow and the front is broad. A traditional test is to place a man's fist (approx. 4") between the front legs and push it under the dog (see Figure 15). There should be enough room for the fist between the front legs with the brisket resting on the fist. One also should expect to feel the depth of brisket for a long way back as the rib is deep throughout. Significant deviation, more than 1/2" either way means the dog is too high or too low and both impact on doing his job. Too high is a particularly objectionable fault as low slung is an essential of breed type. The rib is heart shaped, not round or oval.

The well angulated shoulder approaches a 45 degree angle (more than in other traditional fronts with the brisket at the elbow) and the upper arm is equal in length, setting it well under the body; the elbows are tight. This produces a pronounced forechest or a significant amount of body in front of the front leg similar to Dachshunds, Corgis and Bassets. The dog is well ribbed up with a strong, short broad loin and relatively tight spacing between the ribs. i.e; length in the rib or loin is not desirable. A relatively short length of back is desirable with the extra length being in the forequarter and rear quarter to allow room for the desirable angulation.

A correct dog can actually look somewhat longer than an incorrect dog when viewing outside measure. A judge should first look between the withers and set on of tail for length and then confirm existence of forechest and shelf by looking at the outside measure. This dog has an off-square outside measure. When Scotties are shown in grass, dogs which are actually too high on leg will often appear correctly proportioned. Dogs with correct leg length and off square body, will often appear too long and low.



Anatomy of the Scottish Terrier
Figures 16 and 17

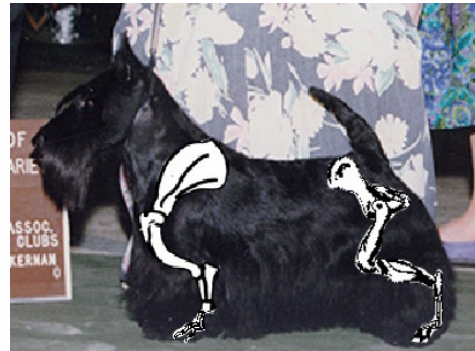
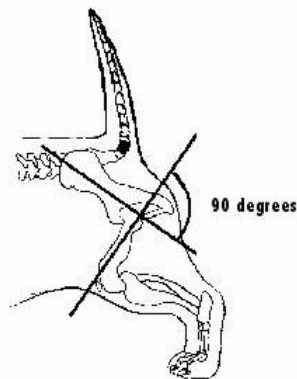
HINDQUARTERS

Very muscular. Stifles should be well bent and legs straight from hock to heel. Thighs very muscular. Feet round and thick with strong nails, forefeet larger than the hind feet.

The rear angle also must be extreme to match the front angle (see Figure 18). There should be a significant shelf behind the tail. The croup is wide, flat and level (See Figures 19-21). The thigh is wide strong and powerful, and the hock is well let down. Scotties with the appropriate rear angulation and shelf should be rewarded.

Feet are big with thick pads, well arched toes, heavy thick nails suitable for digging. The front feet are larger than the back feet.

Rear errors include: open hocks, sickle hocks, cow hocks, offset hocks, long hocks and sloping croups.



**Symmetry between front and rear angulation
Figure 18**



When viewed from the rear, the hocks are parallel and straight down from the broad powerful well muscled hindquarters



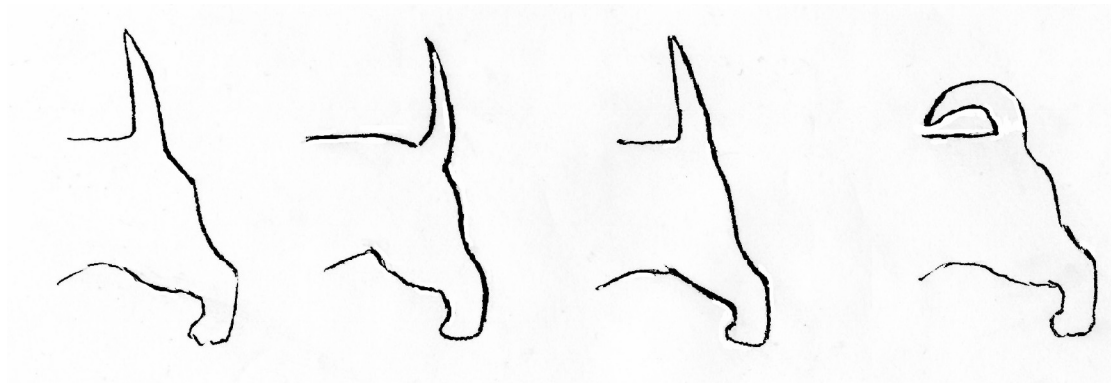
When viewed from the side with the hocks set at right angles, the hocks are set behind the dog

Figures 19, 20, and 21

TAIL

Never cut and about 7 inches (18cm) long, carried with a slight curve but not over the back.

The 7" tail is upright, set high and thick at the base. Do not be overly concerned with a tail that curves forward a little. The better-set tails have more tendency to do this than the lower set ones (Figure 22). A tail that gets overly excited in a spar and curves forward at that time, but goes back to normal on the go round, is not a serious fault; as the dog gets older and less excitable, it will become less noticeable. Actually most breeders consider a one o'clock tail carriage to be a much worse fault as it goes directly against the heads up tails up requirement. This is unlike the Cairns, whose standard asks for the one o'clock carriage.



CORRECT SET

LOW SET

STRAIGHT REAR

GAY TAIL

Figure 22

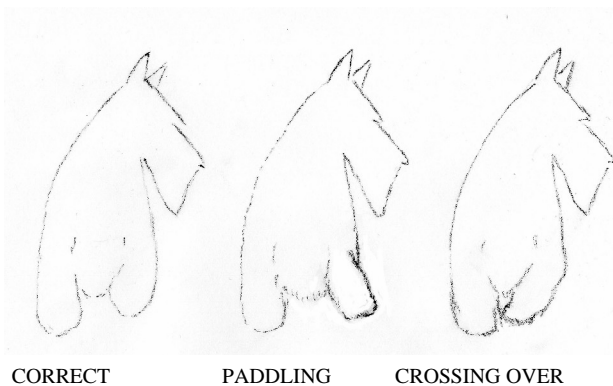
GAIT

“It is not the square trot or walk desirable in long legged breeds. The forelegs do not move in exact parallel planes rather in reaching out incline slightly inward. This is due to the shortness of leg and width of 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 resulting from the unique structure of the Scottish Terrier is called the “Scottie Roll.” It is normally seen only in mature, properly constructed dogs. Due to the shortness of the front leg, the fact that the leg is set well back under the dog and the broadness of the chest, the front leg is forced to come around the chest when the dog moves, the result is that the front legs have a slight inward inclination on reaching out. This is not a description of single tracking, the leg itself has to have a slight wrap to fit around the chest. It is slight, it is not to the point that it looks like crossing over, but it is definitely not a straight forward movement.

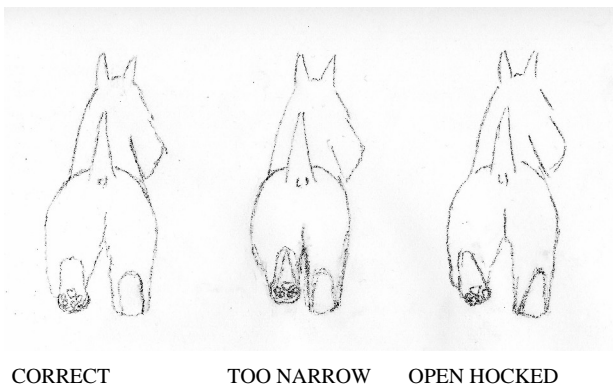
The rear movement on the other hand should be absolutely square and true. The side to side rolling movement sometimes seen in the rear of Scotties is not the “Scottie Roll”, it is faulty movement.

This unique movement, characteristic of our breed should be rewarded, not faulted (Figure 23).



Given the unique movement of the Scottie, at the down and back, one should question the structure of a Scottie who comes at you square and true as well as those who go away in any way but square and true.

Extensive furnishings can often cover many movement faults. A useful tool in examining Scottie movement, is to watch the rear foot pads. You should see them clearly and cleanly as the dog moves away



Nature would suggest shorter heads, and longer backs, higher on leg or more wrap around to the front, less angulation front and rear and less bone and substance. Given this, Scotties may be one of the more difficult breeds to breed well; the breeder is constantly fighting nature and the breed is constantly being dragged toward normalcy and away from its extremes.

Figure 23



Figure 24

The side gait should show good reach and drive and be free flowing. Some of the lower to ground dogs may have difficulty with long grass in outdoor rings and it may cause them to try to jump through it instead of walking.

TEMPERAMENT

Judges need to be patient with Scotties; in general they are not great “showdogs”. They are independent by nature and will set their own course. Do not expect them to bait to the judge as they are truly aristocrats, with manners and dignity. They do not like to be looked in the eye. They are often aloof with strangers and only show their true character to those they love. A judge might try making an unusual noise to get the dog’s attention or call them into the center of the ring to spar in order to see the dogs at their best (see Sparring). In general, they are philosophers and stoic companions who can do anything and go anywhere. They will be playful with children and careful and considerate of the elderly. They tend to be very adaptable and fit into most situations; they do not need a lot of space; and are satisfied with daily walks. They are not usually considered good companions for babies and toddlers.



SPARRING

The Scottie is one of the most frequently sparred breeds in the terrier ring. The temperament as stated earlier can be one that is difficult to assess and it is an essential of breed type. If a judge would like to use a dog that is not showing, it would be wise to spar him. Sparring must be done in a very controlled way and it is the judge's responsibility to control the situation. Do not spar puppies, including Special puppies. Do not bring more than 2-3 dogs into a spar. When you ask them to spar, bring them to the center of the ring and direct the handlers to not allow the dogs to get too close. An ideal spar has the dogs on their toes looking at each other, standing their ground with no leaping through the air and no barking and growling. They actually lose their outline at that point and the spar has lost its purpose. The purpose again, is to see them pulling themselves together and showing some presence (real terrier character). As a judge be firm, control your ring, don't let one handler throw his dog into the face of another to fire it up. To the handler, remember the purpose of the spar is to show your dog off to the judge. Look for a position where the judge will be able to get a good side view of your dog, walk him to this position and get him just close enough to the other dog/dogs that he is on his toes looking at them. Don't get any closer to the other dogs, keep your leash very tight as things can erupt quickly and you will need control and don't let the other handlers push in too close to you. Sparring done well is beautiful to watch, done badly it discredits the handlers, the judge, and the breed.



FAULTS

Soft coat, round or very light eye, overshot or undershot jaw, obviously oversize or undersize, shyness, timidity or failure to show with head and tail up are faults to be penalized. No judge should put to Winners or Best of Breed any Scottish Terrier not showing real terrier character in ring.

PRIORITIES OR ESSENTIALS OF TYPE

- 1) FEARLESS TEMPERAMENT (HEADS UP, TAILS UP)
- 2) LONG HEAD FOR SIZE OF BODY WITH THE POWER TO DO LETHAL DAMAGE
- 3) LOW TO GROUND
- 4) POWER AND SUBSTANCE WITH WELL DEVELOPED FOREQUARTERS AND HINDQUARTERS (BALANCED, AS MUCH OUT FRONT AS BEHIND)

IMPORTANT DETAILS NOT TO BE PRIORITIZED OVER ESSENTIALS ABOVE

- 1) HARD WIRY OUTER COAT, SOFT UNDERCOAT
- 2) SMALL DARK ALMOND EYES SET WIDE
- 3) SCISSORS OR LEVEL BITE WITH LARGE TEETH
- 4) HEAD CLEAN
- 5) LENGTH OF SKULL EQUAL LENGTH OF MUZZLE, PLANES ARE PARALLEL
- 6) COMPACT BUILD
- 7) SMALL PRICK HIGH SET EAR
- 8) THICK 7" HIGH SET TAIL
- 9) CORRECT SIZE

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