

BEDLINGTON TERRIER

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/01/2019

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Terrier.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 9]

It is claimed that the Bedlington can boast a longer traceable pedigree than any other Terrier, and was once known as the Rothbury Terrier, hailing from the former mining areas of the north of England. His fame spread outside his native region, and an association was started for the breed in 1877. Although his expression is mild, he is quite capable of fending for himself, but will not seek a scrap. He is a tough little dog; this unique breed has a lamb-like look about him, but don't be fooled – he is a Terrier through and through. A North Country dog, originally his role was to catch rabbits for the family pot, and a sporting dog he still remains.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A graceful, lithe, muscular dog, with no signs of either weakness or coarseness. Whole head pear- or wedge-shaped, and expression, in repose, mild and gentle.

CHARACTERISTICS

Spirited and game, full of confidence. An intelligent companion with strong sporting instincts.

TEMPERAMENT

Good tempered, having an affectionate nature, dignified, not shy or nervous. Mild in repose but full of courage when roused.

HEAD

Skull narrow, but deep and rounded; covered with profuse silky topknot, which should be nearly white. Jaw long and tapering. There must be no stop; the line from occiput to nose-end straight and unbroken. Well-filled beneath eye, close-fitting lips, without flew. Nostrils large and well-defined.

Eyes:

Relatively small and bright. Ideal eye has appearance of being triangular. Blues have a dark eye; blue and tans have a lighter eye with amber lights; livers and sandies have a light hazel eye.

Ears:

Moderately sized, filbert-shaped, set-on low, and hanging flat to cheek. Thin and velvety in texture; covered with short, fine hair with fringe of whitish, silky hair at tip.

Mouth:

Teeth large and strong. Scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Long and tapering, deep base with no tendency to throatiness. Springs well up from shoulders; head carried rather high.

FOREQUARTERS

Forelegs straight, wider apart at chest than at feet *[ed. horse-shoe front]*. Pasterns long and slightly sloping without weakness. Shoulders flat and sloping.

BODY

Muscular and markedly flexible. Chest deep and fairly broad. Flat-ribbed, deep through brisket, which reaches to elbow. Back has natural arch over loin creating a definite tuck-up of underline. Body slightly greater in length than height.

HINDQUARTERS

Muscular and of moderate length; an arched loin with curved topline immediately above loins. Hind legs have appearance of being longer than forelegs. Hocks strong and well let down, turning neither in nor out. Moderate turn of stifle.

FEET

Long hare-feet with thick, well-closed pads. Pads sound and free from cracks or horny excrescences [*ed. outgrowths*].

TAIL

Moderate length, thick at root, tapering to a point, and gracefully curved. Set-on low, never carried over back.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Capable of galloping at high speed and has the appearance of being able to do so. Action very distinctive: rather mincing, light, and springy in slower paces, and with a slight roll when in full stride.

COAT

Very distinctive. Thick and linty, standing well out from skin, but not wiry. A distinct tendency to twist, particularly on head and face.

COLOUR

- Blue, liver, or sandy with or without tan.
- * Darker pigment to be encouraged.
* Blues and blue-and-tans must have black noses; liver and sandies must have brown noses.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Approx 41cm (approx. 16").

This allows for slight variation below, in the case of a bitch, and above, in the case of a dog.

Weight:

8 – 10kg.

N.B. Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

©Copyright Kennel Club, London 09/2007 – Reprinted with permission

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.



When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 9: BEDLINGTON TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 3 – Terriers.

Section 1 – Large- and medium-sized Terriers .
Without working trial.