

CZECH TERRIER [ČESKÝ 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

Czech Republic.

UTILISATION

Formerly a Terrier breed for hunting foxes and badgers, today more a house and companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Czech Terrier is the result of an appropriate crossbreeding between a Sealyham Terrier dog and a Scottish Terrier bitch, with the aim of developing a light, short-legged, well-pigmented hunting Terrier, with practical drop ears, that was easy to groom and easy to train. In 1949, Mr F. Hork, from Prague, started to improve the breed by fixing their characteristics. In 1959 these dogs were shown for the first time, and the breed was finally recognised by the FCI in 1963.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Short-legged, long-haired, well-made, and well-muscled Terrier with smallish drop ears; of a rectangular format.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- Height at withers: males: 29cm (approx. 11½"); females: 27cm (approx. 10½")
- Length of skull: males: 21cm (approx. 8"); females: 20cm (approx. 8")
- Width of skull: males: 10cm (approx. 4"); females: 9cm (approx. 3½")
- Girth of thorax (behind elbows): males: 45cm (approx. 18"); females: 44cm (approx. 17")
- Length of body: males: 43cm (approx. 17"); females: 40cm (approx. 16")

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Balanced, non-aggressive, pleasant, and cheerful companion, easy to train; somewhat reserved towards strangers; of calm and kind disposition.

HEAD

Shaped like a long, blunt, wedge (not too broad), the plane of the forehead forming a distinctive break in the bridge of the nose.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Not too broad between the ears; tapering moderately towards the supraorbital ridges [*ed. brow ridges*].

Occipital protuberance easy to palpate; cheek bones moderately prominent. Frontal furrow only slightly marked.

Stop: Not accentuated, but apparent.

Facial Region:

Nose: Dark and well-developed. It should be black on Terriers with a grey-blue coat, and liver-coloured on light-coffee brown Terriers.

Muzzle: Nasal bridge straight.

Lips: Relatively thick, fitting neatly.

Jaws and teeth: Strong jaws. Scissors or level bite; complete dentition (the absence of the two M3 in the lower jaw not being penalised). Teeth strong, regularly aligned, and set square to the jaw.

Cheeks: Cheek bones not too prominent.

Eyes:

Of medium size, slightly deep set, with a friendly expression; well-covered by the overhanging eyebrows. Brown or dark brown in grey-blue coated dogs, light brown in light coffee-brown dogs. Eyelids black in grey-blue dogs, liver colour in light coffee-brown dogs.

Ears:

Of medium size, dropping in such a way as to cover the orifice well. Set on rather high and falling flat along the cheeks. Shaped like a triangle, with the shorter side of the triangle at the fold of the ear.

NECK

Medium long, quite strong, carried on a slant. The skin at the throat is somewhat loose but without forming a dewlap.

BODY

Oblong.

Topline: Not straight because loins and rump are always moderately arched.

Withers: Not very pronounced; neck set on rather high.

Back: Strong, of medium length.

Loin: Relatively long, muscular, broad, and slightly rounded.

Croup: Strongly developed, muscular; pelvis moderately slanting. Hip bones often slightly higher than the withers.

Chest: More cylindrical than deep; ribs well-sprung.

Underline and belly: Ample and slightly tucked-up. Flanks well-filled.

TAIL

The ideal length is 18cm – 20cm (approx. 7" – 7½"); relatively strong and low-set. At rest, hanging downward or with a slight bend at the tip; when alert, the tail is carried sabre-shaped horizontally or higher.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: The forelegs should be straight, well-boned and parallel.

Shoulder: Muscular.

Elbow: Somewhat loose, yet neither turned in nor out.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Hind legs strong, parallel, well-angulated, and muscular.

Lower thigh: Short.

Hock joint: Set relatively high, strongly developed.

FEET

Forefeet: Large; well-arched toes and strong nails. Pads well-developed and thick.

Hindfeet: Smaller than the forefeet.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, enduring, vigorous, with drive. Gallop rather slow but lasting. The forelegs extend in a straight forward line.

SKIN

Firm, thick, without wrinkles or dewlap, pigmented.

COAT

Hair long, fine but firm, slightly wavy with a silky gloss; not too much overdone. The Czech Terrier is groomed by scissors (clipping). At the forepart of the head, the hair is not to be clipped, thus forming brows and beard. On the lower parts of the legs, under the chest and belly, the hair should not be clipped either. In show condition the hair at the upper side of the neck, on the shoulders, and on the back should not be longer than 1cm – 1.5cm (approx. ½"). It should be shorter on the sides of the body and on the tail, and quite short on the ears, cheeks, at the lower side of the neck, on elbows, thighs, and round the vent. The transition between clipped and unclipped areas should be pleasing for the eye and never abrupt.

COLOUR

The Czech Terrier has 2 varieties of coat colour:

- grey-blue (puppies are born black)
- light coffee-brown (puppies born chocolate brown)

* In both colour varieties, yellow, grey, or white markings are permitted on the head (beard and cheeks), neck, chest, belly, the limbs, and round the vent.

* Sometimes there is also a white collar or a white tip of the tail. The basic colour, however, must always be predominant.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Between 25cm – 32cm (approx. 10" – 12½")

Males: ideal size: 29cm (approx. 11½").

Females: ideal size: 27cm (approx. 10½").

Weight:

Must not be less than 6kg or more than 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.

- Weak construction.
- Temporary loss of nasal pigmentation (snow nose).
- Weak, short, or snipey foreface, with weakly developed teeth.
- Absence of one (1) incisor.
- Eyes too big or protruding.
- Ears too big or too small; different in shape or carriage as described in the standard.
- Back too long or too short.
- Crooked forelegs, incorrect front.
- Coat too fine or too coarse

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Absence of more than 4 teeth altogether; absence of 2 or more incisors.
- Canine placed in vestibulo position.
- Entropion or ectropion.
- Chest circumference more than 50cm.
- Curled tail or carried over the back.
- Long brindled coat on dogs older than 2 years.
- Coarse or curled cotton-wool type hair.
- White markings covering more than 20%; white blaze on the head.
- Irregular, jerky, spasmodic movements ("Scottie cramp").
- Weight above 10kg or less than 6kg.
- Shyness, unbalanced, or aggressive disposition.

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FCI Standard No 246: ČESKÝ TERRIER (CZECH TERRIER)

FCI Classification: Group 3: Terriers

Section 2 – Small-sized Terriers.

Without working trial