

SKYE 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 01/01/2017

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Terrier.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 75]

One of the oldest of Scottish breeds. The Skye was once known as the Terrier of the Western Isles, evolving into what we now call the Skye Terrier, with a mix of breeds behind him, including Cairn Terrier prototypes. One of the most famed of the breed was Greyfriars Bobby who, in Edinburgh, around 1858, took up a vigil at his master's grave in Greyfriars Churchyard until he, too, died. Greyfriars Bobby was buried in unconsecrated ground in the churchyard, and his devotion is commemorated by a memorial plaque in the street and by a tablet on his grave. Although the majority of Skye Terriers are prick-eared, there is also a variety known as 'drop-eared', and then the ears hang flat against the skull.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Long, low, with coat of good length; twice as long as high. Moves with seemingly effortless gait. Strong in quarters, body and jaw.

CHARACTERISTICS

Elegant and dignified.

TEMPERAMENT

A 'one-man' dog, distrustful of strangers, never vicious.

HEAD

Long and powerful, strength not sacrificed for extreme length. Moderate width at back of skull, tapering gradually with slight stop to strong muzzle. Nose black.

Eyes:

Brown, preferably dark brown, medium in size, close-set and full of expression.

Ears:

Prick or drop. When prick, gracefully feathered, not large, erect at outer edges and slanting towards each other at inner edge, from peak to skull. When drop, larger, hanging straight, lying flat and close at front.

Mouth:

Jaws strong and level with perfect, regular, scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Long and slightly crested.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders broad, close to body, chest deep, legs short and muscular.

BODY

Long and low, back level. Ribcage oval, deep and long. Short loin. Sides appear flattish due to straight-falling coat.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong, full, well-developed and well-angulated. Legs short, muscular, and straight when viewed from behind. No dewclaws.

FEET

Forefeet larger than hind, pointing truly forward. Pads thick, nails strong.

TAIL

When hanging, upper part pendulous, and lower half thrown back in a curve. When raised, a prolongation [*ed. extension*] of incline of back, not rising higher or curling up. Gracefully feathered.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Legs proceed straight forward when travelling. When approaching, forelegs form a continuation of straight line of front, feet being same distance apart as elbows. Principal propelling power is furnished by hind legs that travel straight forward. Forelegs moving well forward, without too much lift. Whole movement termed free, active, and effortless, and gives a more-or-less fluid picture.

COAT

Double. Undercoat short, close, soft, and woolly. Outer coat reasonable length, hard, straight, flat, and free from curl, never impeding action. Hair on head shorter, softer, veiling forehead and eyes, but not obscuring vision. Mingling with side locks, surrounding ears like a fringe and allowing their shape to appear.

COLOUR

- Black, dark or light grey, fawn, cream: all with black points.
- Any self-colour allowing shading of same colour and lighter undercoat, so long as nose and ears are black.

* A small white spot on chest permissible.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 25cm – 26cm (approx. 10" – 10½"); length from tip of nose to tip of tail 105cm (approx. 42")

Females: slightly smaller in same proportions.

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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 75: SKYE TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 3 – Terriers.

Section 2 – Small-sized Terriers .

Without working trial.