

IRISH GLEN OF IMAAL 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 01/01/2025

ORIGIN

Ireland.

UTILISATION

Like all other Terriers, this small, tough breed had to hunt badgers and foxes, and to keep the rat population to a minimum. Now he is a gentle and docile family dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Like many dogs in the Terrier group, not really appreciated by gentlemen sportsmen before the middle of the 19th century, the Irish Glen of Imaal is an old breed that was simply ignored for a long time, rather than the result of later breed experiments. He is very much a local dog, confined to the

bleak area of the Glen of Imaal. The farmers of this area, who were descended from soldiers given land in the 16th and 17th centuries as payment for service rendered to the British Crown, had to utilise their natural cunning and dexterity to survive in this harsh terrain. A dog that could not pull his weight in the day-to-day struggle for existence would not be tolerated. So he had to spend long hours propelling dog wheels, and was often pitted against other dogs in the dubious sport of dog fighting. These customs have now disappeared. Before the Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier became known at dog shows, he had evolved through generations of hard work into the strong sturdy dog we know today. The Irish Kennel Club gave official recognition to the breed in 1934 and a club to promote its interests was soon formed.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Medium-sized with medium-length coat, great strength, with the impression of maximum substance for the size of the dog.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Body longer than tall and low to the ground.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Active, agile, and silent when working. Game and spirited, with great courage when called upon, otherwise gentle and docile; he oozes personality. His loyal and affectionate nature makes him a very acceptable house dog and companion. The Irish Glen of Imaal is said to be less easily excited than other Terriers, though he is always ready to give chase when called upon.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: Of good width and fair length.

Stop: Pronounced.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black.

Muzzle: Foreface of power, tapering to the nose.

Jaws and teeth: Strong. Teeth sound, regular, strong and of good size. Scissor bite.

Eyes:

Brown, medium-sized, round, and set well apart. Light eyes should be penalised.

Ears:

Small rose or half-pricked when alert, thrown back when in repose. Full-drop or pricked undesirable.

NECK

Very muscular and of moderate length.

BODY

Deep and long, and longer than high.

Topline: Straight with slight rise to rear.

Withers: Strong.

Loin: Strong.

Chest: Wide and strong, ribs well-sprung.

TAIL

Docked. Strong at root, well set on, and carried gaily. Pups' tails docked to half length.

Undocked: A natural tail is allowed in countries where docking is banned by law.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Shoulder: Broad, muscular, and well laid back.

Forearm: : Short, bowed, and well-boned

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Strong and well-muscled.

Thigh: Well-muscled

Stifle (knee): Well-bent.

Hock joint: Turned neither in nor out

FEET

Forefeet: Compact and strong, with rounded pads. Front feet to turn out slightly from pasterns.

Hind feet: Compact and strong, with rounded pads.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, not hackneyed. Covers ground effortlessly with good drive behind.

COAT

Hair medium length, of harsh texture with soft undercoat. Coat may be tidied to present a neat outline.

COLOUR

- Blue brindle, but not toning to black.
- Wheaten, from a light wheaten colour to a golden reddish shade.

* Puppies may be born coloured blue, wheaten, or reddish. Lighter-coloured pups usually have an inky blue mask, and there may also be a streak of blue down the back, on the tail, and on the ears. The darker markings will clear with maturity.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 35.5cm (approx. 14").

Females: Accordingly less.

Weight:

Males: 16kg (35 lbs)

Females: Accordingly less.

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.

*Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.

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.

- Hound ears.
- Undershot bite, overshot bite.
- Too short in body.
- Straight front.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Black & tan colour.
- Narrow foreface.

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FCI Standard No 302: IRISH GLEN OF IMAAL TERRIER

FCI Classification: Group 3: Terriers

Section 1 – Large and medium-sized Terriers.
Without Working Trial