

KUSA



Official Breed Standard

Parson Russell Terrier (Terrier Group)



A Breed Standard is the guideline which 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 which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Workmanlike, active and agile; without exaggeration built for stamina and endurance, overall picture of balance and flexibility. Honourable scars permissible.

CHARACTERISTICS

Originally a terrier bred to work fox, a confident, energetic and happy dog that has the ability and conformation to go ground.

TEMPERAMENT

Bold and friendly.

HEAD & SKULL

Head wedge shaped. Skull flat, moderately broad, gradually narrowing to the eyes. Cheeks not prominent. Stop shallow. From nose to stop slightly shorter than from stop to occiput. Nose black.

EYES

Dark, almond shaped, never prominent. Keen, intelligent expression.

EARS

Size in proportion with the head. V-shaped, dropping forward, tip of ear to be level with outer corner of eye. Fold not above top of skull. Leather of moderate thickness.

MOUTH

Jaws strong, muscular, Teeth of good size and set square to the jaws, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Clean, muscular, of good length, gradually widening and well set into the shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders long and sloping, well laid back, cleanly cut at withers. Upper arm of equal length to the shoulder and at such an angle that the legs are carried well back under the body, below the point of the withers. Legs strong and straight turning neither in nor out, strong, flexible pasterns. Elbows close to body, working free of the sides. Moderate width between forelegs should be slightly greater than depth of body.

BODY

Overall length from point shoulder to point of buttock slightly greater than height from withers to ground. Chest of moderate depth, not extending below point of elbow. Capable of being spanned behind the shoulders by average sized hands. Ribs carried well back, not over-sprung nor slab-sided. Back strong, straight and flexible. Loin strong and slightly arched. Well balanced.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong, muscular, with well-developed second thigh. Good angulation and bend of stifle without exaggeration. Hocks set low and rear pasterns parallel, giving plenty of drive.

FEET

Compact with firm pads, toes moderately arched, never flat or open, turning neither in nor out.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Length complementing the body. Strong, preferably straight, moderately high set, carried well up on the move, may be carried lower when relaxed.

Undocked: Of moderate length, preferably straight, giving a general balance to the dog. Thick at the root and tapering towards the tip. Moderately high set, carried well up on the move, may be carried lower when relaxed.

[*refer note below]

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Free-striding, ground covering gait, without exaggeration. Strides should be of good length, never stilted or high-stepping. Hindquarters providing plenty of drive. Well co-ordinated, straight action front and behind.

COAT

Whether rough, broken or smooth naturally harsh, flat, straight, close and dense with good undercoat. Weather resistant. Belly and underside coated. Skin thick and loose. The prepared coat should appear natural, never clipped.

COLOUR

White or predominantly white with tan, lemon or black markings, or any combination of these colours. The colour preferably confined to the head and/or root of tail, but a little body colour is acceptable.

SIZE

Ideal height at withers: dogs 36cm (14in), Bitches 33cm (13in). Most importantly soundness and balance should be maintained whilst taking into account that this terrier, bred to work fox, should be capable of being spanned behind the shoulders by average sized hands. With these provisos, lower heights are acceptable, however.

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 on health & welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

***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.** (Fedco 12/2017 Amended DR/Feb 2018)



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