



THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE SCOTTISH TERRIER



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A committee of experienced breeders, judges and mentors of the Scottish Terrier have prepared this publication. The officers and board of The Scottish Terrier Club of America have approved it. This illustrated standard is intended as a guide for judges, breeders, exhibitors, and fanciers of the Scottish Terrier. In order to accomplish this objective, we have attempted to employ appropriate illustrations and discussions of the various aspects and sections of the Official Standard pertaining to both the virtues and faults of the breed. It should be understood that in no way does this publication constitute any change in the existing Official Standard adapted by the STCA in 1993. It is simply a clarification.

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History of the Scottish Terrier

The Scottish Terrier originated in the highlands of Scotland. Many historians feel that the Scottish Terrier is one of the oldest breeds in Scotland and one of the original terrier breeds. This is difficult to prove but what we do know is that the first written mention of terriers occurs in a book called "The Natural History" by Pliny the Elder. He came with the Romans when they invaded Britain in 55 B.C. and he recorded the following; "they found much to their surprise, small dogs that would follow their quarry to the ground." The Romans called these "terrarii" or "workers in the earth", from the Latin for earth, terra. Terriers have appeared in written records sporadically from that point until the 1800's when we start to see more frequent references to them. They are indigenous to the British Isles.

In those far off days, hunters kept packs of small terriers to rid the land of vermin. Dogs were selected for their gameness and hunting ability. Appearance mattered little to the practical Scotsman. All he required was that his dogs be fearless enough to attack any prey, small enough to enter a den, sturdy enough to fight their way back out, and hardy enough to withstand a rough life and a harsh Scottish climate. These were the attributes deemed essential in the early hunting terriers and they are still the attributes we look for today.

For hundreds of years they were Scotland's own terriers. Sometime in the late 1800's enough foundation stock had been brought south of the border to warrant a breed name and distinct classes for them at English shows. The first Standard by which they were judged was drawn up in England in 1880, and the first breed club devoted to their interests was the Scottish Terrier Club of England, founded in 1883. However, the first AKC standard, which was drawn up in 1900, was based on the standard of the Scottish Terrier Club of Scotland which was adopted in 1888.

Scotties were imported to the United States in the early 1890's but it was not until the years between World War I and World War II that the breed saw any significant popularity. Scotties have fluctuated in popularity but have maintained a significant following since that time.

A more detailed history of the Scottish Terrier can be found in any of the books shown in the bibliography.

The official standard for the breed as adopted by the Scottish Terrier Club of America in 1993 and approved by the American Kennel Club is typeset in red.

The official standard for the breed contains penalties, not faults, which are typeset in blue within this clarification of the standard.



General Appearance—The Scottish Terrier is a small, compact, short-legged, sturdily-built dog of good bone and substance. His head is long in proportion to his size. He has a hard, wiry, weather-resistant coat and a thick-set cobby body which is hung between short, heavy legs. These characteristics, joined with his very special keen, piercing, "varminty" expression, and his erect ears and tail are salient features of the breed. The Scottish Terrier's bold, confident, dignified aspect exemplifies power in a small package.

The general impression a Scottish Terrier should convey is that of a small, rugged, active dog that is compact and muscular. Unique features of this breed with Achondroplastic tendencies include a heart shaped body dropped between short, heavy legs, deep brisket below the elbow, plenty of forechest extending out front, long head and heavy bone in proportion to the size of the dog, and a wide, powerful rear extending beyond the tail.

"The Scottish Terrier is unique in type and appearance. In construction, build, teeth, temperament and voice he has many of the characteristics of a far larger dog. He should be a veritable 'multum in parvo', and his whole make-up should suggest power, substance, strength and solidity. This is the essence of the breed and anything dainty, racy or toyish is completely foreign." (Penn Bull 74)

The standard is not a set of arbitrary requirements formulated to satisfy the whims of any particular group or to fit the changing mode of fashion. Rather it was written and has been maintained to preserve and perfect a particular type of dog, bred for a very definite purpose, namely, to go to earth. There are definite reasons for every line of the standard. -Edwin Megargee

Achondroplasia:

"A form of dwarfism primarily affecting the development of the long bones, i.e., the limbs of young dogs. Growth in some areas is restricted or arrested, resulting in an animal normal in head and body development, but severely foreshortened in the limbs (Spira 2002-3)