

A Blast From The Past

United Kingdom Breed Standard-1934

It is of no little interest that in Australia they should have many a variety of terrier resembling very closely some of the best known British breeds, and that this variety should have been brought over to England and introduced into the country by one or two noted people, including lady Stradbroke of Henham hall, Suffolk, to whose keen efforts the breed owe much.

Although in Australia many of these terriers are kept, there are two kinds, both of which have been claimed to be the original Australian Terrier. One, however, is really the Sydney Silky Terrier, which differs from the Australian Terrier by its long and silky coat that resembles the English Yorkshire Terrier. The Sydney Silky Terrier is, indeed, the result of a cross between the Skye Terrier and the Yorkshire, and resembles both these clearly, whilst the other Australian Terrier is very much more the type of Cairn Terrier, so much that some of them might easily be mistaken to be unusual Cairns.

The color of the Australian Terrier is blue-and-tan. The coat is rough, and the hair no longer than two inches. It has been said it seems unnecessary to bring this variety into England, but of course this is a matter of opinion; the more British breeds the better.

The dog should be rather low set, that is to say of short legs. Its body must be broad enough to make it, as the dog fanciers describe it, a compact dog; at the same time its legs must not be so short as to lose activity. The coat must be hard, in fact it cannot be too hard, and although two inches is given as the required length many of the dogs will be seen to have coats about half an inch longer than this. Breeders are anxious that the coat should not resemble that of the Skye Terrier, hence the reason for being careful as to its length. Too long a coat would spoil the breed altogether.

Dogs with white toe-nails are disqualified, and are therefore not considered to be Australian Terriers



Mrs Herbert Bassett owns a specimen with prick-ears which are less usual than the drop ear variety

Australian Terrier dogs should not be too heavy in fact about 10 or 11 pounds is the weight most desired. Quite a number will be found to weigh more than this, many weighing 13 or 14 pounds, whilst at the other end of the scale some will be found to register only 8 or 9 pounds.

In judging these dogs a long and flat skull is desired. The dog must be full between the eyes, for narrowness will spoil its appearance. On the top of the head is a bunch of "soft hair" known as the "top-knot". The jaw of the Australian Terrier must not be snipey but long and powerful, and there must be no sign of the mouth being overshot, that is to say the upper teeth protruding in front of the lower teeth, or the upper jaw being shorter than the lower jaw. A level mouth is very important.

The nose must be black and on no account may be flesh color; a flesh-colored nose is a definite disqualification for show purposes. No dog may have any white on the chest if it would find favour with the judge.

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It is important to realize that the Australian Terrier is a working dog and must not be mistaken for a plaything. This example shows the hard-bitten appearance of such a dog.

The eyes are small, intelligent-looking and of a dark color. Ears should also be small, set straight upon the skull and standing up, that is to say pricked, although drop ears are allowed. The ears must be free from long hair, and although years ago it was customary to cut the ears of this breed no cut ears are to be seen today.

Sometimes woolly coat are found amongst Australian Terriers, but this also disqualifies them, and is, therefore, to be avoided.

It is an interesting fact that the neck of the Australian Terrier always appears to long in proportion to its body. Breeders state that the body should also be long in proportion to the head of the dog and should be well ribbed-up, the back being straight. Although in the Scottish terrier the natural tail is the standard, the Australian Terrier has a docked tail.

The short front legs ought to be perfectly straight and well set up under the body. A slight feather is allowed to the knee. The feet are free from long hair and the toe-nails must be black. If there is one thing more than anything else interesting as to this breed's show limitations it is the fact that dogs with white toe-nails are disqualified, and are therefore not considered to be Australian Terriers! It seems to most people that disqualifications on so minor a detail is hardly necessary.

The hind legs of the Australian Terrier have good strong thighs and the hocks are but slightly bent. On examining the foot it is found to be on the small side, and well padded. There must be no tendency for the foot to spread out as is seen in some other varieties.

The color of this breed is most important and is divided into two groups. The one, a blue or grey body with tan on legs and tan on the face - the richer the tan the better - with a "top-knot" of blue or silver. In the second example the dog must be of a clear sandy or red color.

On no account is the Australian Terrier adult allowed to have a black coat, although this is no fault in puppies.

The points of the breed are:

Skull	5
Muzzle and Teeth	10
Eyes and Ears	10
Neck	5
Body	5
Feet and Legs	10
Coat	10
Color	10
General Appearance	10
Total	75

This total of show points is also rather unusual. ■



There is always the difficulty in new breeds of keeping the type constant and this picture shows a distinctly different type of Australian Terrier from the one above