



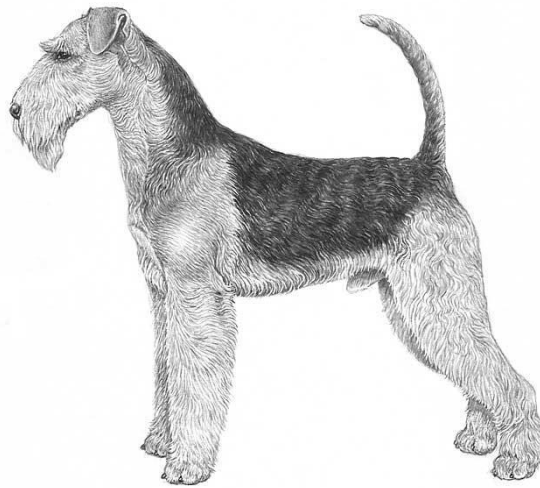
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FCI-Standard N° 7

AIREDALE TERRIER

Standard commentaries
By Monique Van Brempt



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This illustration does not necessarily show the ideal example of the breed.

ORIGIN: Great Britain.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD: 08.10.2012

UTILIZATION: Terrier.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 3 Terriers.
Section 1 Large and medium sized Terriers.
Working trial optional.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The Airedale Terrier is a native of Great Britain, from the county of Yorkshire, it is reputed that the Airedale Show gave the breed its name. Many 'Waterside Terriers' from the valleys of the rivers Wharf, Calder and Aire were exhibited at this show, making up a large entry. He is the largest of all the terrier breeds and encompasses all the characteristics of this group of dogs, he is also known as the King of Terriers.

The Airedale Terrier has remarkable scenting powers and has been used in Africa, India and Canada for tracking, has aided the Red Cross in times of war and has seen service with police and in the armed forces of both Britain and Russia.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Largest of the Terriers, a muscular, active, fairly Cobby dog, without suspicion of leggedness' or undue length of body.

As He is the KING of the Terriers, He has to have a lot of presence, has to show a Royal attitude! He is very proud and show great class, standing out in the show ring, taking attention with his great allure. He has to be strongly built, with good muzzles, the proportions of the dog are from great value, as mentioned in the standard, he needs not to be leggy, with no shortness of legs Shortness of legs gives the dog a long appearance, affecting the proportions. This Terrier has to have good length of legs, because it is a long legged terrier.

BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT: Keen of expression, quick of movement, on the tiptoe of expectation at any movement. Character denoted and shown by expression of eyes, and by carriage of ears and erect tail. Outgoing and confident, friendly, courageous and intelligent. Alert at all times, not aggressive but fearless.

I think this is an excellent description of the temperament of the Airedale Terrier. He is ready at any time, on his toes, but never aggressive. He has to be very intelligent and alert. Constant movement of the tail shows part of the temperament. When touched, the muzzles have to be hard. The temperament has to be nice and stable.

HEAD: Well balanced, with no apparent difference in length between skull and foreface. Free from wrinkles

This is very important, the head has to show class, expressing the intelligence of the dog. The expression of the Airedale head is from big value as giving give his soul away.

Always alert, without any expression of anger.

The head needs to be very dry and clean, without bumps in the skull, square looking. In profile, the head is parallel, no down face or dish face or ram nose, important is the slight stop.

Skull and foreface are of the same length.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Long and flat, not too broad between ears and narrowing slightly to eyes.

The most important faults on the head is that it can be short, bold or rounded in the skull , to large skulls ,too much space between the ears , making the head very heavy .

Stop: Hardly visible.

A deep stop changes the head, giving a wrong front view and wrong profile.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Black.

Standard is very clear “black “Can’t be another colour. The nose is quid large, giving substance to the muzzle.

Muzzle: Foreface well filled up before eyes, not dish-faced or falling away quickly below eyes, but a delicate chiselling prevents appearance of edginess or plainness.

If the foreface is not filled up under the eyes, then it will be tin and snippy. The total class of the head will go away. The dish - faced head, muzzle and face, hollowed out, make the nose going up.

Head balance is lost, losing the chisel aspect, slowly shrinking to the end of the muzzle. It may not be plain, the muzzle has to be quid dry, not being a wedge.

Loose skin on the foreface, will give the head a plump view.

Lips: Tight.

Lips may not be hanging out, the corners of the month need to be well closed, dry and fit, not visible.

Jaws / Teeth: Upper and lower jaws deep, powerful, strong and muscular, as strength of foreface is greatly desired. No excess development in the jaws to give a rounded or bulging appearance to the cheeks. Teeth strong. Scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws preferable, but vice-like bite acceptable. An overshot or undershot mouth undesirable.

By “deep” is meant, from the upside of the head, vertical, to the underside of the head. The head has to be long, suiting the body, giving a good balance between the head and the body. A feminine short head for a male is undesirable. As mentioned before, the cheeks need to be flat, making the skull to look square.

More and more breeds have smaller teeth, the standard mentioning “Strong “and regular planted square in the jaws. The canines may not be going in the gums, what we often see and it is very wrong and pain full for the dog.

When the muzzle is pointed, (not enough filled-up in the muzzle), then the bite can never be set square in the jaw. When it is a Vice-like bite, the teeth really need to touch, it is the opposite way as a scissor bite, but preferable is a normal scissor bite!

Cheeks: Level and free from fullness. “Cheekiness” is undesired.

Cheeks with “Fullness “give a head without class, the cheeks are bulging out also “Cheekiness “makes a heavy rounded head.

Eyes: Dark in colour, relatively small, not prominent, full of terrier expression, keenness and intelligence. Light or bold eye highly undesirable.

Recently, light eyes appear, but the darker the brown, the better, they need to be light oval of form, set deep in the head to have the full Terrier expression, may never standing out, bold or flat in the skull. In the eyes, you can see if the dog is intelligent.

Ears: « V »-shaped with a side carriage, small but not out of proportion to size of dog. Top line of folded ear slightly above level of skull. Pendulous ears or ears set too high undesirable.

Size of ears must suits the head and the dog, not big ears, by no means “Hound “ears, meaning low” hanging ears “dead “ears. Every Terrier breed has a different folded ear. In the Airedale Terrier, the fold of the ear is above the skull, but not so much as a Fox Terrier. because the head may not have a heavy skull, the ears are set quid close to each other and for sure touching on the side the skull, not standing out or flying ears, because this gives a wrong image of the ears also when the top line of the fold is too high.

Frequent faults in the head:

- To short in the head
- Head not parallel
- Head without good proportions: skull – muzzle
- Stop to strong
- Not enough fill up in the muzzle
- strong pronounced cheeks
- light coloured eyes
- bulging eyes
- low hanging ears (hound ears)

NECK: Clean, muscular, of moderate length and thickness, gradually widening towards shoulders, and free from throatiness.

A neck that is to thin, to strong, too long or too short, gives a wrong balance to the dog. Throat skin make the dog unclean and is not desired, normally when there is throat skin, there is all over the dog to much skin, the jacket is not fitting and he does not look dry. He looks fluffy. He never will look “ready for the game “

Frequent faults of the neck:

- Too much skin on the throat.
- Short or to long neck
- Tin neck
- Thick neck

BODY:

Back: Short, strong, straight and level, showing no slackness.

Short without going out of balance, strong when You push on the back he does not bend, straight because we do not want a dip in the top line, or a Camel back - roached back, the top line needs to stay stable when the dog moves.

Loin: Muscular. In short-coupled and well ribbed-up dogs there is little space between ribs and hips. When dog is long in couplings some slackness will be shown here.

All ways feel with your hands till where the ribs are coming, this makes the stability of the back and this say a lot about the length of the body, but beware of short legged dogs.

Chest: Deep (i.e. approximately level with the elbows) but not broad.
Ribs well sprung.

You need also to feel the sternum, the breast, also the depth of the chest, it needs to be there when the dog is adult, Young dogs needs some time to develop.
The ribs need to be well rounded, but not flat or ton ribs.

Frequent faults of the body

- Dip or roach back
- Soft top line
- Not enough ribbed
- To long back
- To short back
- No balance in the body
- Chest too small or too wide

TAIL: Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Set on high and carried gaily, not curled over back. Good strength and substance. Tip approximately at same height as top of skull.

Undocked: Set on high and carried gaily. Good strength and substance.

The tail gives the balance of the dog, never set low, ” there must be something behind” this is one of the typical expressions in the terrier world, it means that the tail must be high implanted, so that the sit bones are coming well out. The croup is very short, this is the part just before the tail, when the croup is long, the tail is to low set. There are many gay tails, this is when the tail is laying over the back, or a curled tail undesired. The tail may never be higher than the top of the head.

Frequent faults of the tail

- Low set tail
- Tail carried over the back
- To thin tail
- To long tail

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulder: Long, well laid back, sloping obliquely. Shoulder-blades flat.

Never expect a front angulation of 45 ° in an Airedale Terrier, it would be the front of the dachshund.

Elbows: Perpendicular to body, working free of sides.

Elbows are following the frontline, may not stay out or pinching inn.

Forearm: Forelegs perfectly straight, with good bone.

The forelegs may never be bond around; they may not turn out or in. The bones need to be round, not flat.

Forefeet: Small, round and compact, with a good depth of pad, well cushioned, and toes moderately arched, turning neither in nor out.

Because the Airedale Terrier needs to be standing high, he needs to stand well on his feet and strait on his legs, short round feet well closed toes, the pasterns need to be strong. If he turns the feet out, he is

pinching in at the elbows, if he is turning the feet inn, he will turn the elbows out, every movement follows each other. He will never be able to have the perfect movement.

Frequent faults of the front

- Upright in front
- Rounded front legs
- Loaded front
- Out of elbows
- In or out turning front feet
- Weak in pastern
- Not enough substance in the bones

HINDQUARTERS:

Thigh: Long and powerful.

With good muscles.

Stifle (Knee): Well bent, turned neither in nor out.

There are many “not enough “knee angulations, makes the behind go under the dog. The dog needs to cover a lot of ground to stand stable.

When the knees are turning inside, the dog will be much open behind, when the knees are turning out, then dog will have tendency for cow hocks.

The opposite is “over angulated “on that moment the dog is not standing easy, he covers to much ground he can have sickle hocks, on that moment the top line is going up behind when he moves and is never stable.

Lower thigh: Muscular.

Good muscles, well developed.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Hocks well let down, parallel with each other when viewed from behind.

Hocks need to be short, the height of the hock is the same as the distance between the hock. They need to stand parallel, if not the dog will not be able to have the good drive in the movement.

Hind feet: Small, round and compact, with a good depth of pad, well cushioned, and toes moderately arched, turning neither in nor out.

If the hind feet are not standing strait, the dog will not be able to move properly, with stability.

Frequent faults in the Hindquarters

- Front or behind feet turning in or out
 - Not enough knee angulation
 - Over angulated knees
 - High hocks
 - Too close standing behind
 - Cow hocks
 - Sickle hocks
 - All angulation faults
 - Not enough muscles
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GAIT / MOVEMENT: Legs carried straight forward. Forelegs move freely, parallel to the sides. When approaching, forelegs should form a continuation of the straight line of the front, feet being same distance apart as elbows.

When moving the front legs may not be lifted high, as a horse, because on that moment, they will not have enough reach, there need to be balanced in the movement, it needs to be effortlessly, following the line of the front angulation, feet must follow the lines of front legs.

Propulsive power is furnished by hind legs.

The drive and power is coming from behind, it is a big dog that has a lot of power when he moves and this power comes out of the good knee angulation, that the dog gives the possibility to move.

Frequent faults in movement

- Missing power when moving because of bad angulations
- Out of elbows
- Crossing in the front
- Pinching elbows in the front
- Weaving in the front
- Weak in pastern
- Front feet turning out
- Front feet turning inn
- Missing drive behind because of not enough knee angulation.
- Cow hocked
- High hocks
- Sickle hocks
- Too much open standing behind legs
- Rounded in the behind legs
- Flat feet behind
- Behind feet turning in or out
- etc ...

COAT:

Hair: Hard, dense and wiry, not so long as to appear ragged. Lying straight and close, covering body and legs; outer coat hard, wiry and stiff, undercoat shorter and softer. Hardest coats are crinkling or just slightly waved; curly or soft coat highly undesirable.

It is very difficult to make the coat of an Airedale Terrier looking like a good fitting jacket, the best length of the coat will be between 2 and 3 cm of length , depend of the quality of the coat , but it is going fast out of length , than the dog does not look dry any more , the coat is going to stand out , the coat need to be water resistant close to each other implanted hear , having enough undercoat to keep the dog warm , he may never be in undercoat for the show , the best is when the Airedale is kept in rolling coat, to keep him in model and balance .The texture of the coat needs to be very hard to the touch .When it grows longer it is going to feel softer and it will fall open , so the good length is very important .Coat needs to feel like a close, hard carpet .

Frequent faults in the coats

- Presented in undercoat
- Coat to soft
- Coat to long

- Not enough furniture on the head and legs
- Curly coat

Colour: Body saddle black or grizzle as is top of the neck and top surface of tail. All other parts tan. Ears often a darker tan, and shading may occur round neck and side of skull. A few white hairs between forelegs acceptable.

Because the Airedale Terrier is born very dark, nearly black, the tan colour is often till 18 months quid dark or with black shades in the tan, this will disappear when the dog is adult. The tan needs to be of a warm full brown colour.

If the “trimming “is not properly trimmed, the colour of the tan is going away, this when the dog is shaved or cut, the tan colour is going very light also the structure of the coat will be softer.

In the Grizzle colour, the saddle is a lighter colour, there is between the dark hear, lighter hear, this call “Grizzle “. Ears need to be all ways trimmed .The white hears between the forelegs, never can be bigger than a small stripe.

Frequent faults in colour

- Too much white on the chest
- Tan not deep enough

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Height at the withers: About 58 - 61 cms for males.
About 56 - 59 cms for females.

As a Terrier judge, you should never measure the height at the withers. It is all about the balance of the dog and the trained eye of the judge. Some males can have the perfect size when you measure them but looks feminine. Always keep in mind a male needs to be masculine and a bitch feminine. Also one of the important points is “breed type.”

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.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.

The Airedale needs to have a very stable temperament, is very free and friendly. Always ready to play. They need to be very social. For the Airedale breed it is uncommon to be shy, for sure not aggressive, they can “share” with competition in the show ring, but never be aggressive. He really needs to keep himself well in the hand! Never anxious!

- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

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.
- This is a very short explanation of the standard to make it more understandable. I know there are so much more points, that can be discussed. But I hope this explanation will help to understand the standard of the Airedale Terrier better.

Monique Van Brempt
All Round Judge

President "INTERRA "
"International World Organisation for all Terrier Clubs."