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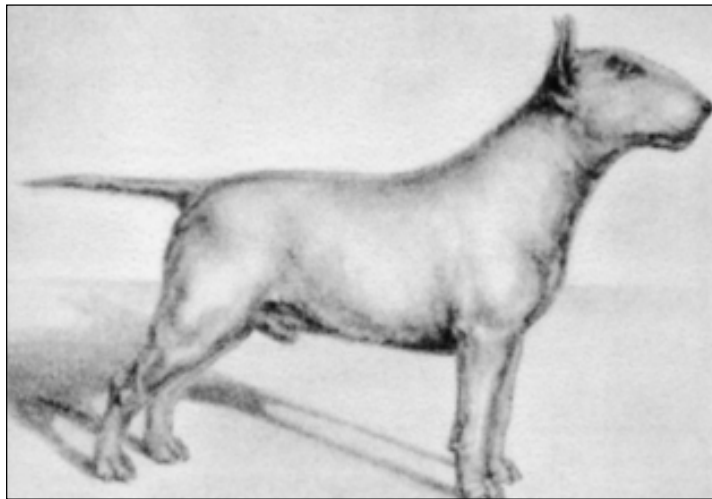
Extended Breed Standard of
THE BULL TERRIER
& BULL TERRIER (MINIATURE)

Produced by
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in collaboration with
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Standard Kennel Club, London 1994
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BULL TERRIER & BULL TERRIER (MINIATURE)

The Standard of the Bull Terrier (Miniature) is the same as that of the Bull Terrier with the exception of the size.

BACKGROUND

by Mr T Horner

In order to appreciate to the full every implication of the standard it is necessary to know a little about the background of a mixture of the old fashioned Bulldog, the White English Terrier (now extinct but resembling a Manchester Terrier in all but colour), the Dalmatian and possibly one or two other breeds, with the Bulldog and terrier characteristics predominating and still making their presence felt today.

We must thank the Bulldog for the Bull Terrier's courage and determination, his substance and heavy bone, his barrel ribs and deep brisket, the strong jaws and the fine close coat. Also for the brindle, red, fawn and fawn smut and the black and tan colouring and possibly for obedience. We must, however, blame the Bulldog for certain undesirable features of body, legs and feet that have bedeviled the Bull Terrier throughout his history, for the over-broad skull, undershot jaw, round eyes and also for the dudley nose and other faults of pigmentation.

White English Terriers were refined terriers which gave many points indicative of quality, the small dark eyes, neat ears, keen expression, the clean outline, straight legs and cat feet, tight shoulders, well bent stifles, low set hocks and the whip tails, together with agility, intelligence, and the pure white coat.

But from the terrier the breed also derived a tendency for lightness of build, light bone and the excitability still sometimes encountered.

Conformation was improved by the use of the Dalmatian whose leggier type, good legs and feet and movement can still occasionally be recognised in the Bull Terriers of today. Here again there were disadvantages as no doubt the ticked coat came from this source and perhaps also the mild expression still found in the breed.

Bull Terriers reminiscent of all these three types are still to be seen, all of them complying with the somewhat broadly based requirements of the standard and all acceptable and useful for correcting exaggerations of type or deviations from the standard. Thus the Bulldog type will give substance, the terrier type will add quality and agility and the Dalmatian type improve conformation and movement. Excess of any of these types is undesirable, the ideal being a blend of the good points of all three.

Soundness as it refers to dogs has never been precisely defined. In Bull Terriers it refers to the general skeletal and muscular perfection as laid down in the Breed Standard.

(EXPLANATION)

Two matters mentioned in Tom Horner's article need explanation.

Where reference is made to 'barrel ribs', this should be read as 'marked spring of ribs'. The reason being the ANKC description 'barrel ribs' indicates a fault in this breed. Where as Mr Horner is using the term to describe a virtue and in accordance with ANKC terminology he means 'marked spring of ribs'.

At the time of writing his article Mr Horner stated, 'Soundness as it refers to dogs has never been precisely defined'. The ANKC now defines 'soundness' as follows:

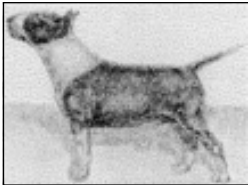
Soundness

1. *A requirement that both physical and mental properties are such that the dog may perform the functions for which it was evolved.*
2. *A term, which may be applied to 'movement'.*

THE THREE INGREDIENTS

These three subtypes are essential for providing the genetic ingredients which produce the ideal combination of substance, soundness and shapeliness called for in the Bull Terrier Standard.

BULLDOG TYPE



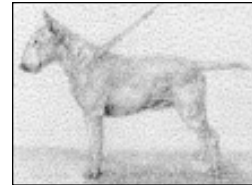
Body substance, density, and heavy bone are exaggerated in the 'Bulldog' type

TERRIER TYPE

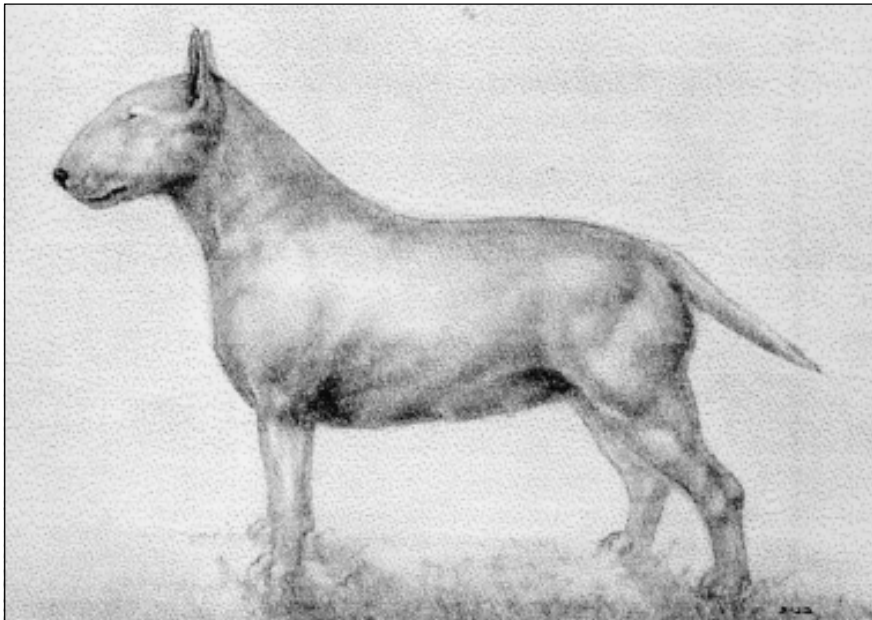
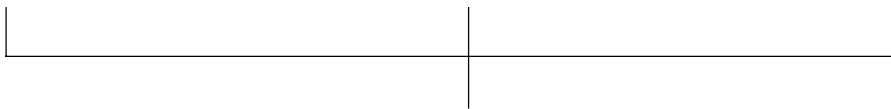


Quality, agility and soundness are the primary virtues in the tidy, compact 'Terrier' type

DALMATIAN TYPE



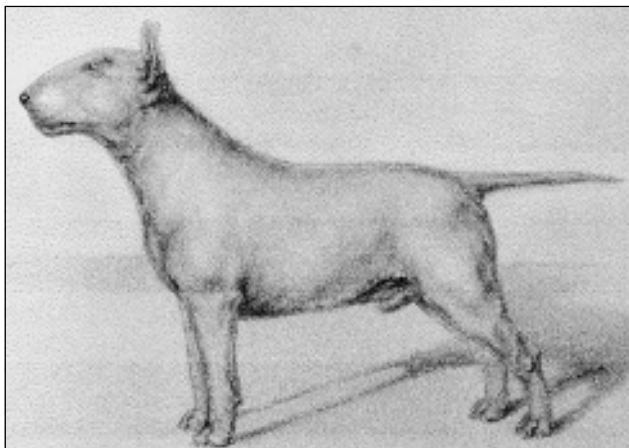
More leg, sweeping body lines and a free long stride are hallmarks of 'Dalmatian' type



A good combination of all three types with quality, shapeliness, soundness and density

OVERVIEW

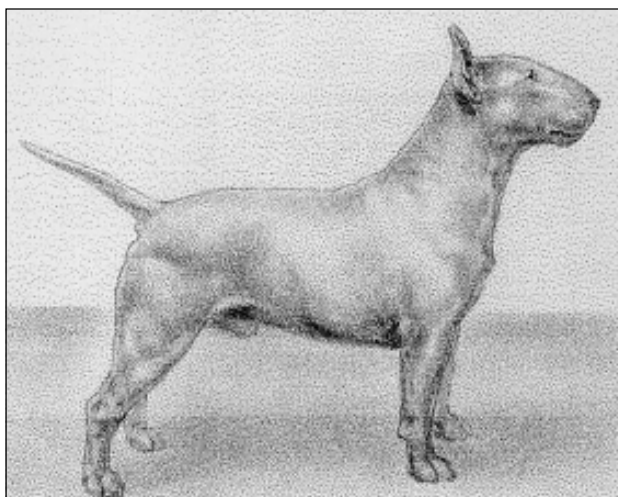
The Bull Terrier Standard is explicit in describing the virtues which the ideal Bull Terrier should possess. It states a fault is a deviation from the described virtue, and is faulty in proportion to its degree. Therefore, judges are charged with finding the animal that possesses the best combination of breed virtues as outlined in the standard and which conforms to the judge's visualisation of the ideal Bull Terrier.



A properly constructed Bull Terrier that combines the essential virtues giving an impression of strength and agility.

• GENERAL APPEARANCE

Strongly built, muscular, well balanced and active with a keen, determined and intelligent expression.



The Bull Terrier should be the maximum dog in the available space; a dense substantial animal, but with balance and agility. He should give the impression of strength, energy and quickness. The expression should reflect these body projections/ a positive, glinting intelligent eye set in a triangular opening which produces that characteristic look. Temperament is paramount in a Bull Terrier. He must be outgoing, friendly, interested in his surroundings and on his toes, but NEVER bad tempered or shy.

- **CHARACTERISTICS**

The Bull Terrier is the gladiator of the canine race, full of fire and courageous. A unique feature is a downfaced, egg shaped head. Irrespective of size dogs should look masculine and bitches feminine.

This section gives an insight into the history of the breed. It also highlights the one characteristic that makes the Bull Terrier stand out from other members of the canine race – the head. Special note is also made of the necessity for a noticeable differentiation between the sexes.

- **TEMPERAMENT**

Of even temperament and amenable to discipline. Although obstinate is particularly good with people.

Temperament is particularly important noting the original use for the dog. The standard describes the ideal temperament, and any animal which deviates from this ideal to the extent that it is exceptionally timid or overly aggressive should be penalised. Bull Terriers usually exhibit a degree of animation and individuality in the ring. They should not be penalised for an exuberant approach to life but should at all times be under control and be amenable to handling by the judge.

- **HEAD AND SKULL**

Head long, strong and deep right to end of muzzle, but not coarse. Viewed from front egg shaped and completely filled, its surface free from hollows or indentations. Top of skull almost flat from ear to ear. Profile curves gently downwards from top of skull to tip of nose which should be black and bent downwards at tip. Nostrils well developed and underjaw deep and strong.

The overall shape and proportions of the Bull Terrier head are very important. It must have virtues of strength, egg shape and piercing expression for the animal to approach the ideal.



The profile

From the side the head should demonstrate the clean, sweeping, unbroken profile called for in the standard and should also have depth and strength of muzzle and underjaw.



An excellent head in strength and proportion; the distance from eye to nose tip is noticeably longer than from the eye to the top of the skull. The profile demonstrates a clean sweeping curve with a noticeable down turn at the nose, called 'roman finish'.



A weak snipey head with a dipped profile and short shallow underjaw often called 'pig jaw'.



This head has a good but unexaggerated profile with excellent strength of muzzle carried all the way to the end. Clean tight lips and a full deep underjaw complement the great virtues of strength and balance in this head.

The front

From the front, the head should be egg shaped with no indentations from the base of the ear to the end of the muzzle. The end of the muzzle should be strong and broad. More strength of muzzle with less curve of profile is preferable to a pronounced profile with a narrow muzzle that tapers to a point.



An ideal head with fill, strength and balance. The skull is flat across the top with small, well placed ears which point upwards. No indentations detract from the smooth egg shape. The eyes are well set, small dark and triangular.



This head lacks fill under the eyes, so it is not egg shaped. The eyes are large and placed low in the head. This skull is round and the ears are badly placed on the side, pointing outwards. The large, low set eyes and poor ear set give this head a poor expression.

Expression

The expression is a key feature of the Bull Terrier. Together with the dense, muscular, shapely body and correctly shaped head, the intense look is responsible for making a BULL TERRIER and not just a strong chunky dog. The eye openings should be slanted and triangular, set relatively high in the head, with a dark keen eye. The ears add to the alert expression and should be close together and pointing upwards. A Bull Terrier with large ears and a round or light eye loses that intense, alert look so valued in the breed.



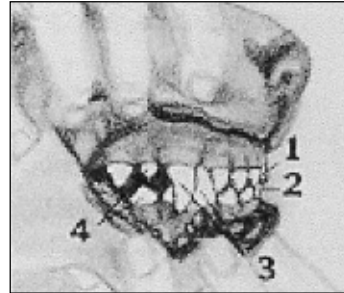
Small vertical well shaped ears, a small triangular eye opening set high in this smooth egg shaped head create the desirable intense and alert expression in this Bull Terrier.

● MOUTH

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

The mouth may well become a problem with a dog which has an exaggerated head profile. In order to accommodate a very curved and therefore somewhat shortened nose profile, the underjaw is either deep, long and broad, producing undershot dentition, or narrow and shortened which allows the front incisors to meet in the required scissor bite. This type of jaw construction may well crowd the lower canines inward where they can prevent the mouth from completely closing and damage or puncture the hard palate above. Premolars are often missing in Bull Terriers, possibly as a result of this progressive shortening of the lower jaw to achieve a more exaggerated profile and retain a scissor bite. A long wide muzzle with the correct profile to accommodate proper dentition can appropriately balance a deep strong underjaw.

This is a correct mouth with the top incisors (1) closely overlapping the bottom incisors (2) the canine teeth (3) are properly placed and fully visible, with the premolars (4) present just behind the canines.



Considered a minor fault. A 'level or pincer mouth' with the upper and lower incisors meeting with no overlap.



A mouth fault with one or more of the bottom incisors just forward of the upper incisors with no space in between.



Undershot bite. A more severe mouth fault with the lower incisors well forward of the uppers and the lower canine beside or forward of the top lateral incisor.



Overshot bite. The upper incisors forward of the lower with a space in between, This fault is more severe when the lower canine falls behind the upper canine as pictured here.



Misplaced canine tooth. A scissors bite with a misplaced lower canine. The top half of the canine is not visible when the jaws are closed.



A 'wry' mouth. This mouth looks scissor from one side and undershot from the other, resulting from a crooked line of dentition.

As with the assessment of any part of the dog, a mouth fault should be penalised according to its degree. The mouth problem may well have been caused by exaggerations in the head properties and it must always be remembered that an exaggeration of any part of any breed, is a serious fault and is most certainly not a virtue. An exaggeration of the head is, however, not the only reason that a dog may have a bad mouth, such a mouth may also be found in a dog that is under done in this regard.

Proper assessment of the mouth should include the strength and width of the underjaw, the size and regularity of the teeth and the placement of the lower canines. These should be fully visible with the tips in front of the upper canines and outside of the upper canines and outside of the upper gum. Inward displacement of the lower canines can be damaging and painful to the dog, as well as preventing correct closure of the upper and lower jaw. A lack of premolars must also be taken into account in this assessment. A full dentition of 42 teeth is essential.

● EYES

Appearing narrow and triangular, obliquely placed, black or as dark brown as possible so as to appear almost black, and with a piercing glint. Distance from tip of nose to eyes perceptibly greater than from eyes to top of skull. Blue or partly blue undesirable.

The placement is of prime importance as the expression of the dog can be spoiled if it is incorrect. Generally a straight line can be drawn from the inside base of the ear to the corresponding edge of the nose and from the base of the ear across to the first line. The apex of this triangle will provide the correct placement of the eye. Of course this is assuming ear placement is correct.



● EARS

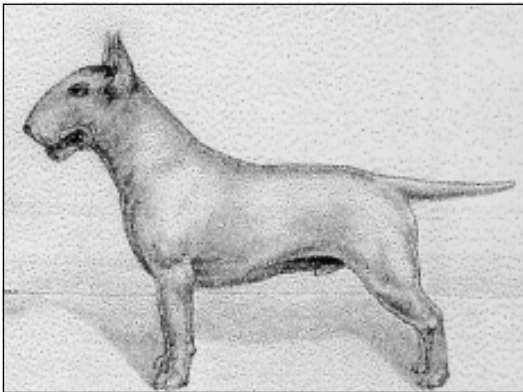
Small, thin and placed closely together. Dog should be able to hold them stiffly erect, when they point straight upwards.

Self explanatory but if ear placement is incorrect it can effect expression and in turn mislead eye placement.

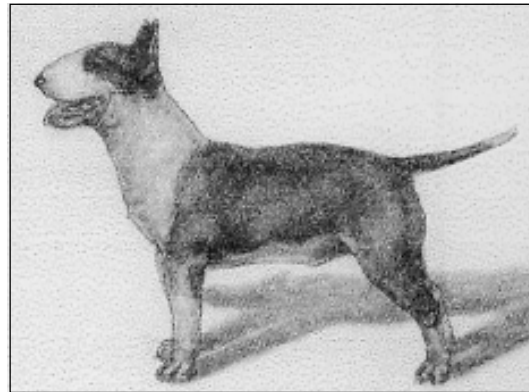
- **NECK**

Very muscular, long, arched, tapering from shoulders to head and free from loose skin.

A long, arched, tapering neck rising from a well angulated shoulder is a very pleasing feature and one which is a valued component of the overall balance and symmetry. A short, upright neck caused by an upright shoulder breaks the topline which should give the impression of gentle integrated curves rather than abrupt changes in angles and direction.



This dog has the correct neck, shoulder and topline. The neck is well set on giving a smooth transition from the sloping shoulder to the head. The withers are behind a vertical line from the elbow.



A straight shoulder with a badly set on neck rising from withers forward of a vertical line from the elbow.

- **FOREQUARTERS**

Shoulders strong and muscular without loading. Shoulder blades wide, flat and held closely to chest wall and have a very pronounced backward slope of front edge from bottom to top, forming almost a right angle with upper arm. Elbows held straight and strong, pasterns upright. Forelegs have strongest type of round, quality bone, dog should stand solidly upon them and they should be perfectly parallel. In mature dogs length of foreleg should be approximately equal to depth of chest.

The standard calls for straight front legs with elbows pointing straight back and the middle toes straight forward. Most deviations from this ideal are out at elbows, curved or bowed front legs and feet pointing outwards.



A correct front showing a broad chest and straight forelegs properly attached to the shoulders, feet pointing straight ahead.

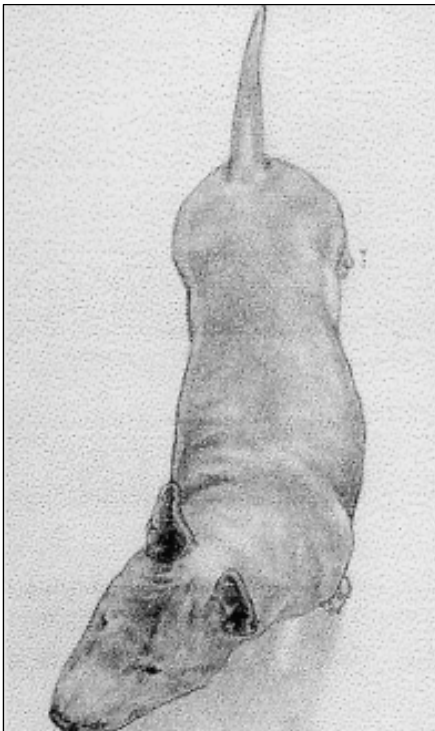


A Bulldog front, with curved forelegs and elbows, wrists and feet pointing outward.

- **BODY**

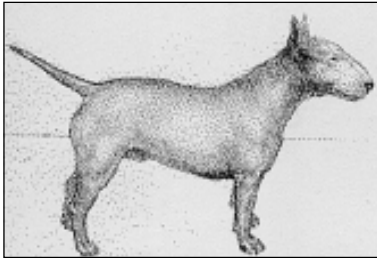
Body well rounded with marked spring of rib and great depth from withers to brisket, so that latter nearer ground than belly. Back short, strong with backline behind withers level, arching or roaching slightly over broad, well muscled loins. Underline from brisket to belly forms a graceful upward curve. Chest broad when viewed from front.

The ribcage can easily be assessed from above, the sides of the dog curving outwards to accommodate the well-sprung ribs, and curving in behind the ribcage to make a discernable waist.

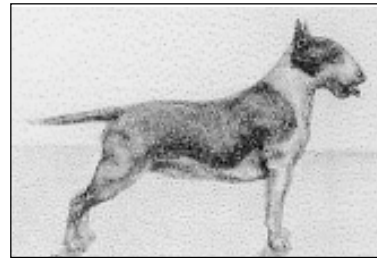


From above, this dog demonstrates good spring of rib, tapering to a definite waist behind the rib cage.

The Bull Terrier should be a combination of dense but smooth parts connected by graceful curves. Beware the heavy, ill-made animal that has a long, straight-cut body which lacks the graceful quality of the well-knit athlete. Also beware the individual who lacks substance and spring of rib.



Lacking substance and spring of rib this dog is also upright in shoulder and high in the rear.

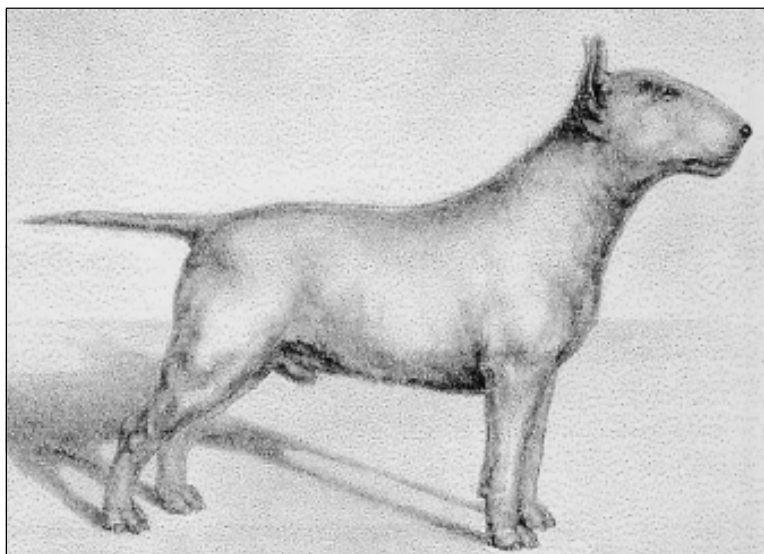


A short neck, upright shoulder and long straight body contribute to this animal's lack of shape.

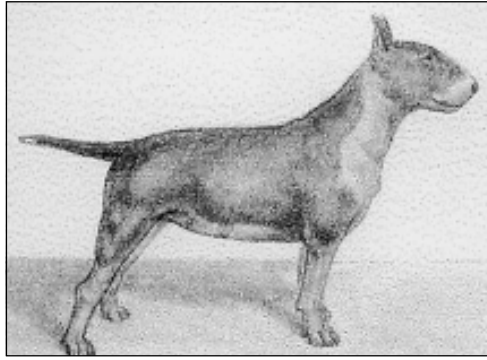
● **HINDQUARTERS**

Hind legs parallel when viewed from behind. Thighs muscular and second thighs well developed. Stifle joint well bent and hock well angulated with bone to foot short and strong.

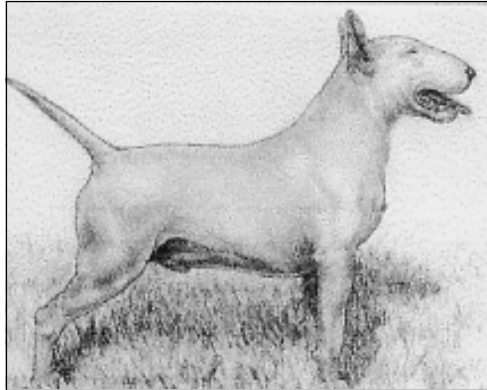
Faulty conformation of the hindquarters include straight stifles, lack of a muscular second thigh, sickle, cow or bow hocks and rear pasterns that are too long. It is essential that the hind legs are parallel when viewed from behind. When the dog is standing naturally the rear pasterns must also be vertical when viewed from both the side and behind.



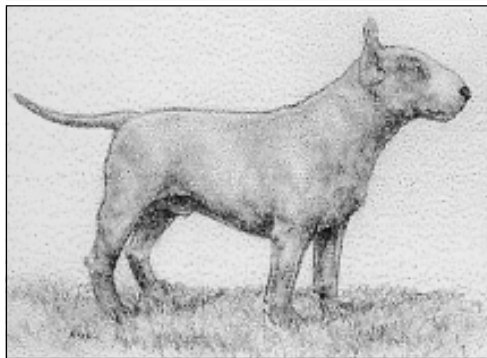
A muscular hindquarter with a well developed second thigh, well angulated at the stifle. The bones between the hock and the foot are short and strong.



A straight hindquarter lacking overall musculature and showing no angulation in the stifle joint.



This stifle joint is overbent, and while seemingly desirable is actually a weak construction often associated with 'cow hocks'.



A weak hindquarter displaying sickled hocks. Viewed from the side when the dog is standing naturally, the hock joint is bent in such a manner that the rear pastern slopes forward from the hock to the foot. When in motion the dog is unable to flex the hock joint on the back reach of the hind leg.

Correct hindquarters from the rear. The legs are muscular, straight and parallel with the front legs.



Incorrect hindquarters with 'cow hocks'. The hocks turn in and are closer together than the feet. The stifle and feet point outwards.



Bow hocks are a weak, unsound construction usually characterised by short, choppy hind action. The ANKC 'Glossary of Terms' describes bow hocks as follows: 'Hock joints placed wider apart than the feet'.

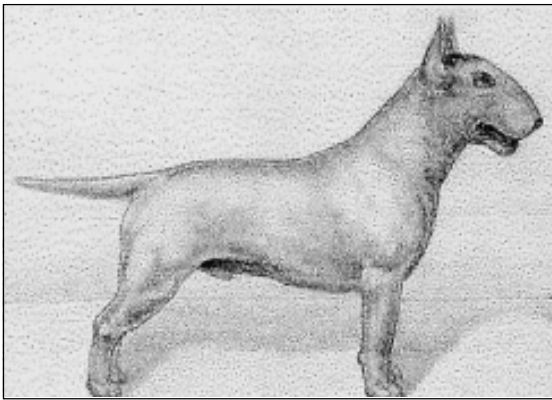
- **FEET**

Round and compact with well arched toes.

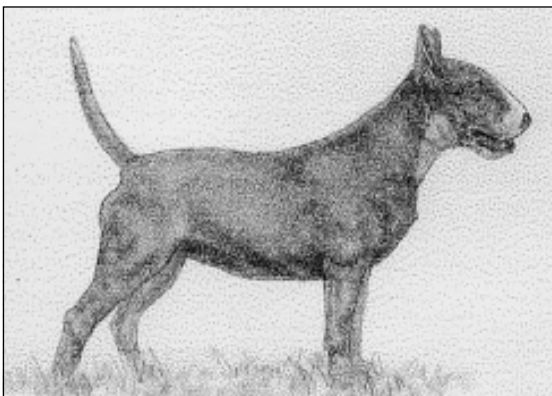
- **TAIL**

Short, set on low and carried horizontally. Thick at root, it tapers to a fine point.

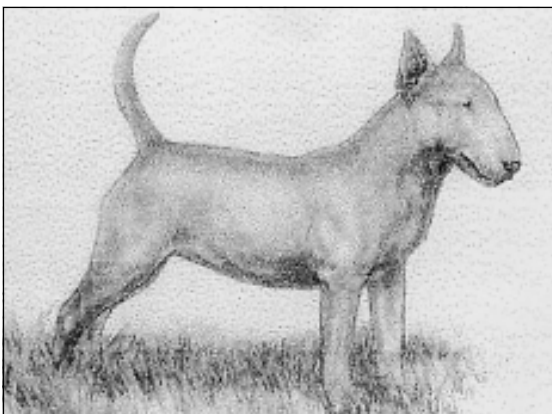
A properly set on, tapered tail carried horizontally gives a finish to the topline which is essential to our visualization of the ideal Bull Terrier. Unfortunately, many dogs have varying degrees of 'gay' tails which brings the lines of an otherwise ideal animal to an abrupt, angular termination. While 'gay' tails have not been considered a serious fault, they are often associated with a short pelvis and flat croup which detract from the finishing lines of this muscular yet gracefully agile dog.



A correct topline, tailset and carriage. The tail is broad at the base and tapers to a point. It does not reach beyond the hock when held downward against the back of the hind leg.



A short croup with high set-on tail, with a high or 'gay' carriage.



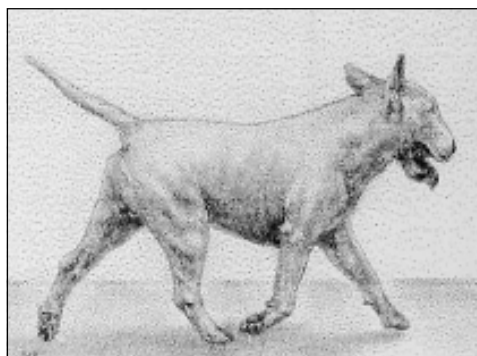
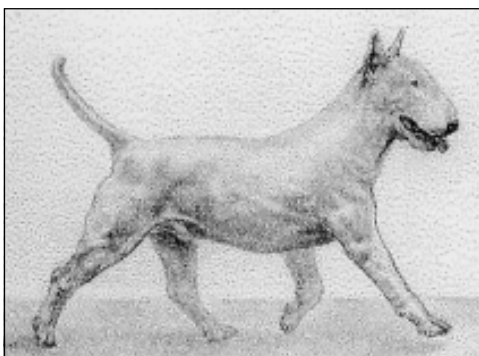
An extremely high set 'gay' tail, set-on a flat, shallow croup.

● GAIT/MOVEMENT

When moving, appears well knit, smoothly covering ground with free, easy strides and with a typical jaunty air. When trotting, movement parallel, front and back, only converging towards centre line at faster speeds, forelegs reaching out well and hindlegs moving smoothly at hip, flexing well at stifle and hock, with great thrust.

A Bull Terrier which is made well is likely to move well, and it is in motion that the animal passes the true test of construction. From the front (coming towards the judge) the forelegs should be perfectly straight, with the feet the same distance apart as the elbows. If the shoulders and elbows are not properly constructed the elbows will visibly turn outward and the feet will be closer together than the elbows. Any deviations in straightness of the forelegs will be noticeable, and these are often accompanied by a crossing or weaving gait. From the rear (going away from the judge) the hind legs should also be parallel. Bowed hocks will cause the hind feet to turn in and they will sometimes actually cross as the dog puts one in front of the other. Cow hocks or hocks which turn in towards the centre will cause the stifles and feet to turn out, with a resultant loss of drive. Always allow for the requirement in the standard that the dog will track in when moved at a faster speed than a trot. From the side, animals with straight shoulders will usually show some slackness or a dip behind the withers. A straight hind leg and a badly made croup will cause the hindquarter to be higher than the front, giving the impression that the animal is 'running downhill'. The standing Bull Terrier can be cleverly 'stacked' to minimise these basic construction problems so it is essential for breeders and judges alike to familiarise themselves with the ideal Bull Terrier in motion. It is in the movement phase of assessment that the crucial tests are met and passed or failed. A Bull Terrier which moves correctly should be recognised and rewarded in the ring.

MOVEMENT FROM THE SIDE



This dog is moving correctly, with good extension of the forelegs and flexion and drive behind. This produces a ground covering gait which is powerful but does not appear stilted or choppy from the side.

MOVEMENT FROM BEHIND



Correct Movement

Hind legs are moving squarely away, parallel with the forelegs



Base Narrow

Hind feet are put down toward the centre line as the dog moves away



Cow Hocks

The stifles are flexed toward the outside and the hocks pulled inward as the dog moves, producing a weaving action.

MOVEMENT FROM THE FRONT



Correct Movement

Forelegs moving straight forward, parallel to the hind legs



Base Narrow

Forefeet hit the ground toward the centre line



'PADDLING'

The rotation of the wrist throws the pastern and foot out to the side as the foreleg is advanced

● **COAT**

Short, flat, even and harsh to touch with a fine gloss. Skin fitting dog tightly. A soft textured undercoat may be present in winter.

While hair texture is not generally regarded as important in the overall picture of the ideal Bull Terrier, a thin, patchy or dull coat detracts from the impression of a vibrant, healthy animal. Coats marred by bouts with allergies are also a sign of less than ideal health in addition to being unsightly.

● **COLOUR**

For white, pure white coat. Skin pigmentation and markings on head not to be penalised. For coloured, colour predominates; all other things being equal, brindle preferred. Black brindle, red, fawn and tricolour acceptable. Tick markings in white coat undesirable. Blue and liver highly undesirable.

Ticking, which occurs in the undercoat and is more prevalent in the thicker winter coat, is a fault. The severity of the fault can be minimal, with a few odd ticks in the undercoat, or more heavily penalised if the coat is heavily ticked. Mismarks, which are actual patches of colour on the neck, body or tail involving both the undercoat and the longer guard hairs, are also undesirable. Skin pigmentation which takes the form of dark spots on the skin which show through the white hair in a thin coat, is not to be penalised. It has been the usual practice, when judging Bull Terriers, to view light ticking and small mismarks as a relatively minor fault in an otherwise worthy animal, and while it is important to be aware of the desirability of a clear coat, it is also important not to disregard an animal for what is generally considered to be a minor coat fault.

● **SIZE**

There are neither weight nor height limits, but there should be the impression of maximum substance for size of dog consistent with quality and sex.

Bull Terrier (Miniature) is the same as that of the Bull Terrier with the exception of the following:

Height: Should not exceed 35.5 cms (14 inches).

There should be an impression of substance to size of dog. There is no weight limit. Dog should at all times be balanced.

The word 'substance' in the standard is important. The word should be interpreted as correct bone and muscle as required by the breed standard. It should not be confused with bulk, or with overweight dogs, lacking muscle tone.

- **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.

- **NOTE**

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

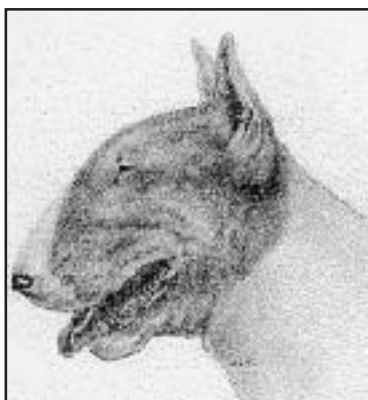
OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

When assessing a coloured Bull Terrier one must be alert to the optical illusions which can be caused by the lines and areas of the white markings. On the head, a crooked blaze can give the impression of a dipped profile, or conversely produce the illusion of a curved profile.

Compare the effects of these head markings on the profile and fill of these pairs of identical heads.



An eye patch on a white can effect the impression of fill and downface. This marking changes the profile impression.



The blaze outline on a coloured often deceives the eye and creates a false profile.

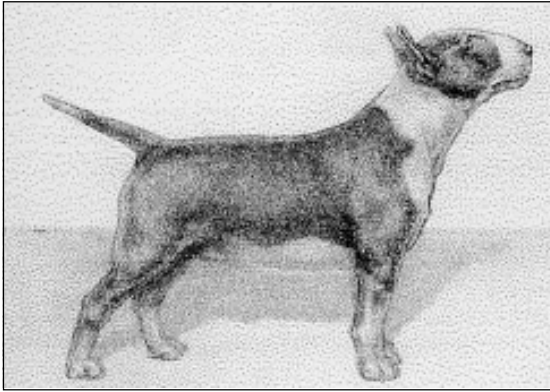


The wide blaze on the right makes the same head look more filled.

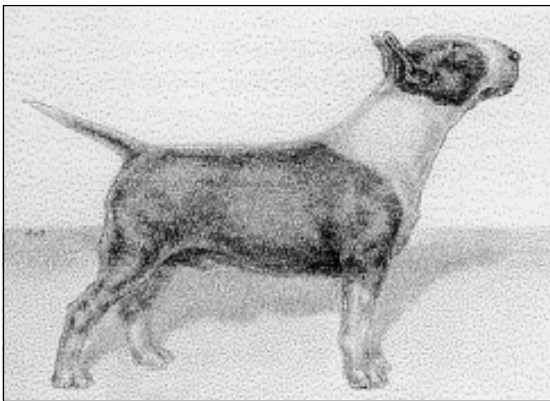


The same dog from different angles.

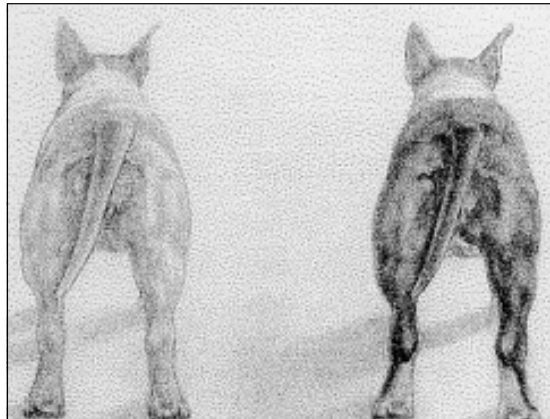
White markings on the chest and belly can extend upward toward the sides to interrupt the underline and give a false impression of shallowness in body depth and substance. Markings on the limbs can be particularly deceptive by carrying the eye in a crooked line. This is especially true on the hind legs, as the pattern of the Bull Terrier's 'socks' is almost always in a diagonal line across the back of the leg, making the dog look 'cow hocked', especially when moving. White splotches on the body of a coloured Bull Terrier are not considered a fault unless they are so numerous as to cover more than half the surface of the animal. Remember, in most cases the head and limbs are often about half white/half colour, and the chest and belly are usually totally white.



The markings on the neck and underbelly of this dog create the impression of an upright shoulder and shallow depth of brisket.



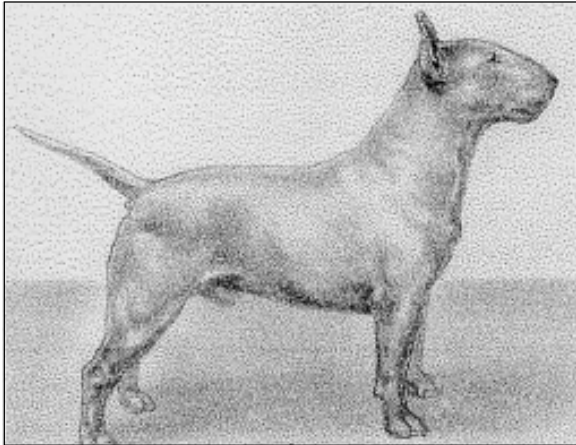
The same dog with a sloping collar and dark underbelly which visually enhances his shoulder, 'shortens' his back and 'deepens' his brisket.



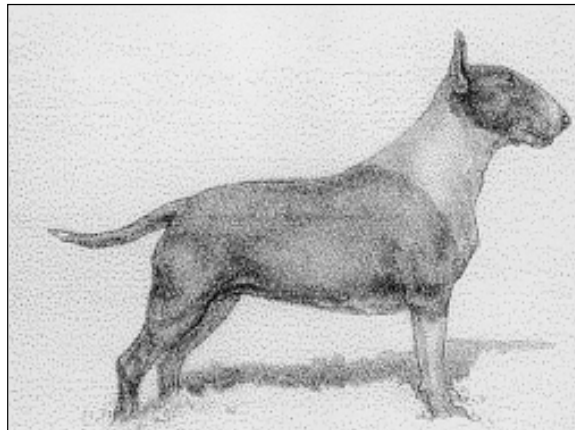
The same hind legs appear more 'cow hocked' on the coloured due to the diagonal markings.

Overall impression

The overall impression of the Bull Terrier's body should be one of a short-backed, well-knit dog, with strength and graceful lines. The outline should flow continuously from the occiput over a graceful neck, tying smoothly into the withers and then to a straight, level strong back with a slight rise over a muscular loin, finishing in a gentle slope over the croup to a low-set tail.



A typey dog with smooth athletic build. The neck is well set on, the topline continues with no pronounced dips or abrupt change in angle. A deep brisket and good tuck-up complete the lines of this shapely animal.



A shapely bitch with graceful body lines . The line from the occiput sweeps without a break from the neck over the withers and then to a straight, level, strong back with a slight arch over the muscular loin, finishing in a gentle slope over the croup with a well-set on tail. The underline carries smoothly backward under the deep brisket, curving upward behind the ribcage to the belly.

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The Late Tom Horner.