



THE RIDEAU TERRIER CLUB JUDGE RINGSIDE MENTORING

CAIRN TERRIER



**JULIE TROTTIER
2017**

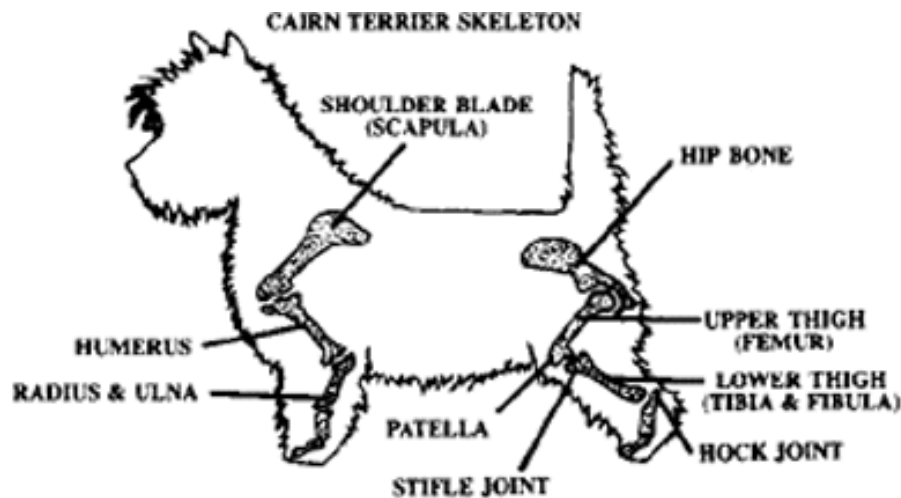
The Official CKC Standard is printed in **bold black letters**.

The Clarification by CTCC is printed in black letters.

The Clarification by other sources printed in **bold red letters**.

General Appearance:

Agile, alert, of workmanlike, natural appearance. Standing well forward on forepaws. Strong quarters. Deep in rib, very free in movement. Weather-resistant coat. The Cairn Terrier is an active, game, athletic, hardy and workmanlike terrier, with moderate bone and substance, a head with a broad skull that is proportionate in size to the body, prick ears and a high-set, undocked tail that tapers to a point and is carried upright. The coat is double, with a harsh, dense, water-repellent topcoat and a close-fitting, soft undercoat, both needed for protection from the elements. The head is well furnished with hair, has a keen, intelligent eye and an alert expression. A properly made Cairn Terrier stands well forward on its forelegs, has strong hindquarters and a well sprung and deep rib, is neither coarse or too heavy in body, nor slight in bone or weedy in appearance. It should gait freely and easily on a loose lead, with balanced reach in front and drive from behind. Males should appear masculine and females feminine.



Characteristics:

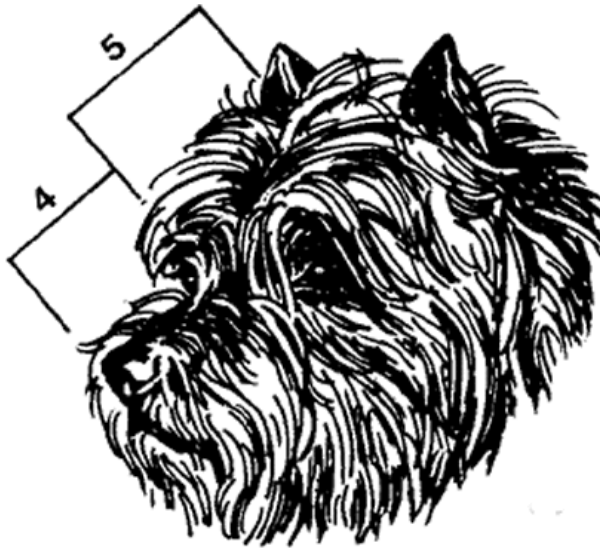
Should impress as being active, game and hardy. The Cairn Terrier should be evaluated as a working terrier, possessing a high degree of stamina and fortitude for working in its native Scottish Highlands. It must be sure-footed and athletic enough to twist and turn underground, as well as agile enough to scale and jump over the jagged rocks of its rugged terrain. The feet must have thick pads for digging in rocks or "cairns" from which its name originates. This is a breed with a natural and purposeful appearance; a breed without exaggerations that is to remain moderate in all ways.

Temperament:

Fearless and gay disposition; assertive but not aggressive. A keen, confident, friendly dog that shows with marked terrier characteristics.

Head and Skull:

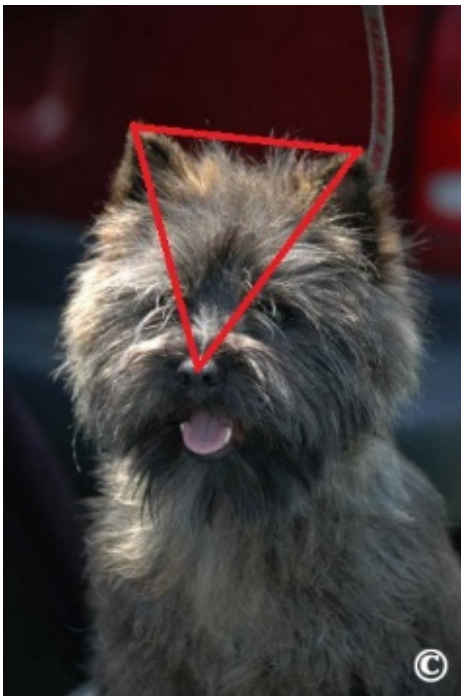
Head small, but in proportion to body. Skull broad; a decided indentation between the eyes with a definite stop. Muzzle powerful, jaw strong but not long or heavy. Nose



black. Head well furnished. The Cairn Terrier's skull is broad in proportion to length, but in balance with the overall dog. The head is well furnished with hair that may be softer than that on the body; the stop is well defined. Stop means a sudden and short rise in the bone structure, carrying the level of the fore face up to that of the skull and is delicately rounded to the occiput. The muzzle is broad and powerful, neither too heavy or long and is slightly shorter than the skull, with the upper planes of the muzzle and skull being

parallel.

The head is very broad and short. The muzzle shorter than the length of skull. The ideal proportion of muzzle to skull is 4 to 5.



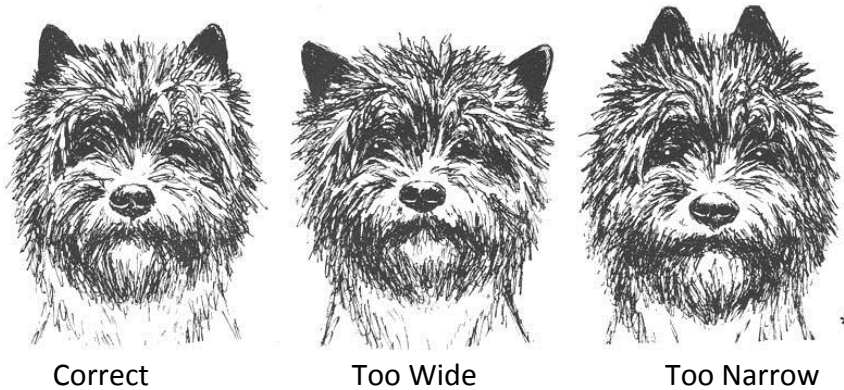
An equilateral triangle drawn from the tips of the ears through the inside corner of the eyes to the nose is an excellent indicator of a good head.

Eyes:

Wide apart, medium in size, dark hazel. Slightly sunk with shaggy eyebrows. The Cairn Terrier's expression is keen, alert, interested and Intelligent. The eyes are oval shaped, medium sized, never round or protruding, are set wide apart, with a definite brow and shaggy eyebrows. Eye colour is dark hazel, but not black. Eye rims and nose are black and fully pigmented.

Ears:

Small, pointed, well carried and erect, not too closely set nor heavily coated. The ears are set high on the outer edge of the skull, with the top third of the ear free from long hairs. Correct placement of the ears is very important to give the right expression. Too wide gives a dull expression, too narrow is Scotty-like which is incorrect



Mouth:

Large teeth. Jaws strong with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. The teeth are large for the size of the dog and the jaws are strong. This is very important for a hunting terrier that needs to grip, hold and kill its prey. The adult dog of any breed should ideally have 42 teeth. These details of dentition are given because Cairns have been shown with fewer than the natural numbers of incisors or premolars and, while the Standard makes no mention of the numbers of teeth, nature apparently intended the number to be as stated.

Neck:

Well set on, not short. The neck is strong, well-muscled, of medium length with a slight arch and blends smoothly into well laid-back shoulders.



Correct powerful neck.



Heavy short neck.



Long and narrow neck, which lacks power. A so-called ewe or goose neck.

Forequarters:

Sloping shoulders, medium length of leg, good but not too heavy bone. Forelegs never out at elbow. Legs covered with harsh hair. The shoulders are well laid back with smooth, flat muscles. The upper arm is approximately equal in length to the shoulder blade, and joins at an angle sufficient to insure that the elbow falls directly below the highest point of the shoulder, enabling the Cairn to stand well over itself. The depth of the chest is even with or slightly below the elbow, and the prosternum is fairly prominent. Legs are of medium length with good but not too heavy bone, and are covered with harsh hair. Forelegs are not out at the elbows, and are straight, but forefeet may turn out slightly. Pasterns are strong and slightly sloped. Dewclaws may be removed.



**Fig. 19
CORRECT FRONT FEET
TURNED OUT SLIGHTLY**



**Fig. 20
CORRECT
STRAIGHT**

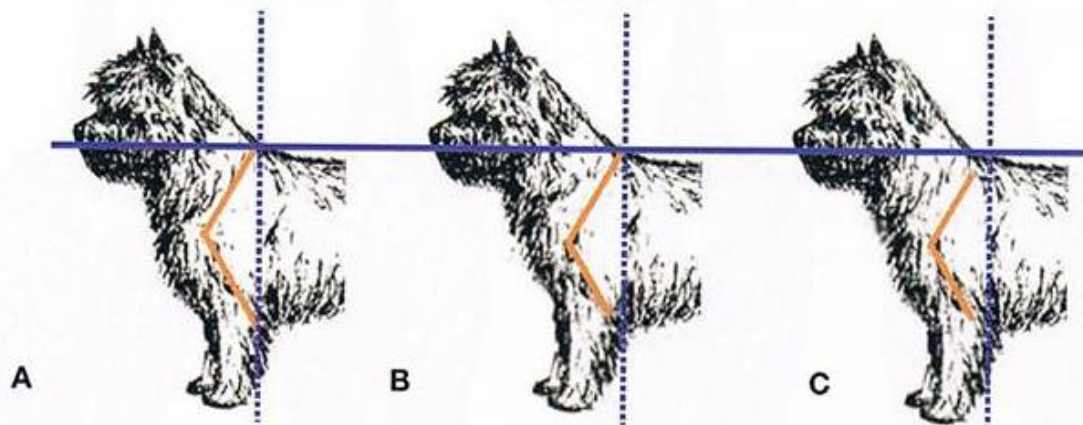


**Fig. 21
INCORRECT
EAST-WEST FRONT**



**Fig. 22
INCORRECT
OUT AT ELBOWS**

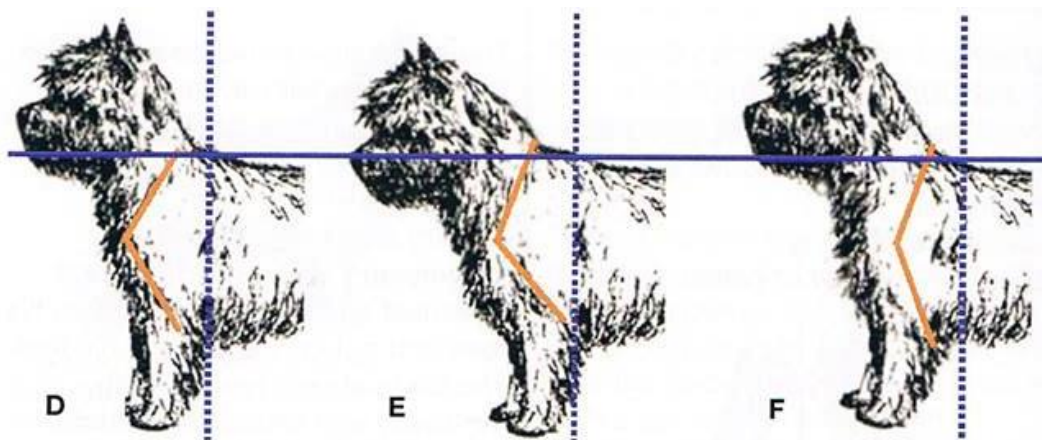
The slight turn out of the feet helps when moving dirt in the tunnels or to climb over rough, rocky terrain.



A. Ideal sloping shoulder: The upperarm is the same in angulation and length as the shoulder. Correct angulation with the elbow placed under the tip of the shoulder and good forechest.

B. Rather short upper arm, the front leg is placed more forward and lack of forechest. Looks like a straight line in front.

C. A shorter upper arm with a short shoulder which is placed forward, the neckline is not strong and the angulation is more open. The dog is not standing well over the forelegs. Not a balanced front with good neckline, and this shows in movement, lack of reach and pace



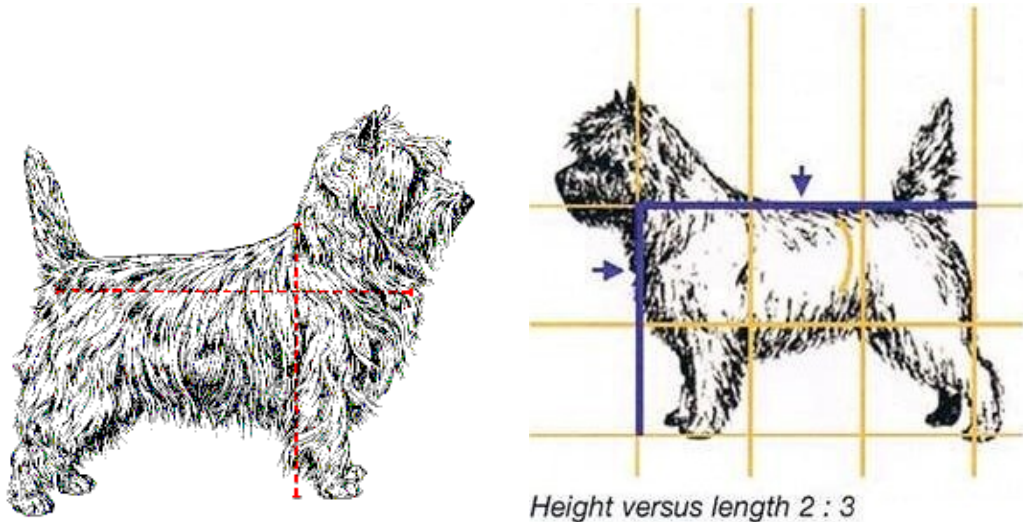
D. The shoulder and upper arm are of good length and quite well angulated but the whole front assembly is placed forward, often seen in Cairns. Due to that the neck is shorter and the forechest is gone, and of course movement is affected. No reach when the frontleg goes back.

E. The upper arm is of good length but the shoulder is short and placed forward, also often seen when the dog has a good upper arm, which is rare in Cairns. As you can see the head is more placed forward and it looks if he will fall, also in movement.

F. The shoulder and upper arm are not well angulated and because of that they are shorter. This will cause a short step and with well angulated hindquarters the drive from behind cannot be compensated correctly by this type of front. So an erratic and unbalanced movement. No forechest and a short neck.

Body:

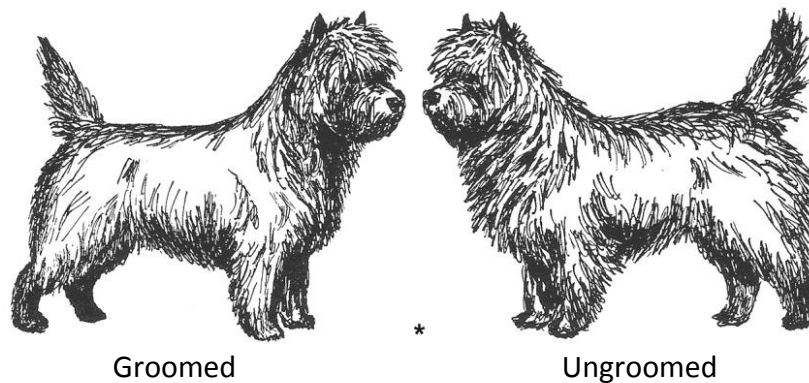
Back level, medium length. Well sprung deep ribs; strong supple loin. The Cairn should never appear 'square' in body outline. The outline should be 'rectangular' when viewed from the side, as they need sufficient length of back and leg to perform the original hunting function in rugged terrain.



The Cairn is a rectangular dog, not square

Coat:

Very important. Weather-resistant. Must be double-coated, with profuse, harsh, but not coarse, outer coat; undercoat short, soft and close. Open coats objectionable. Slight wave permissible. Cairns should be shown in a full coat and tidied up on head, tail, legs and general outline, by hand stripping. Coats should be evenly groomed in length and not carry long skirts, or long leg furnishings. Coats that have been altered by scissoring or other artificial means should be penalized.



Double coat - A profuse, harsh, but not coarse or wiry, outer coat and a short, soft and close undercoat. The outer coat should not be soft.

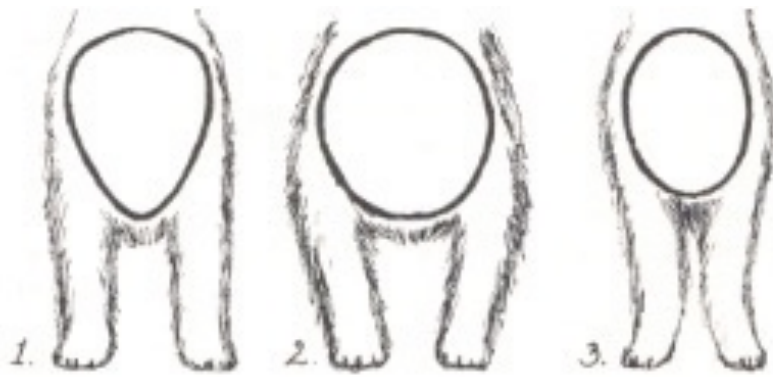
Colour:

Cream, wheaten, red, grey or nearly black. Brindling in all these colours acceptable. Not solid black, or white, or black and tan. Dark points, such as ears, muzzle, and tail, very typical.

 Creme	 Light Brindle	 Darker Brindle
 Wheaten	 Light Brindle	 Dark Red Brindle
 Red	 Rich Red	 Red Brindle
 Grey	 Grey Brindle	 Dark Brindle

Size:

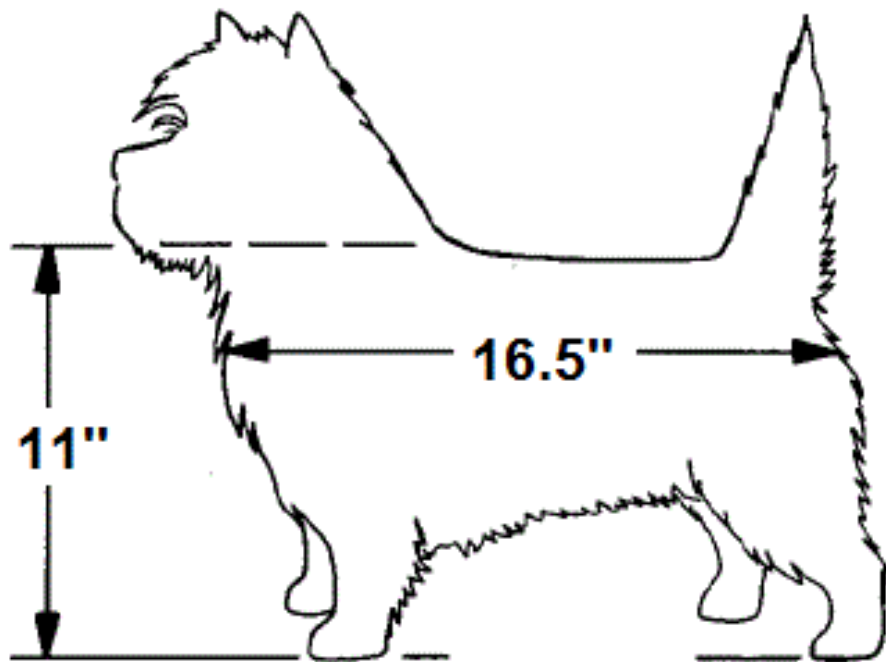
Approximately 28-31 cms (11-12 ins) at withers, but in proportion to weight, ideally 6-7.5 kgs (14-16 lbs). Cairns should be in good, hard working muscle condition and carry no excess weight. The length of the body, measured from the prosternum (front point of breast bone) to the point of the rump (rear projection of the hip), is approximately a third longer than the height of the dog at the withers (highest point of shoulder). The ribs are deep and heart-shaped. The short loin is well muscled and coupled to strongly muscled hindquarters, giving the impression of compact strength and activity without heaviness. The Cairn is not a heavily boned breed, nor are they lightly boned. Good medium bone is needed for the agility work required of a working terrier.



Correct

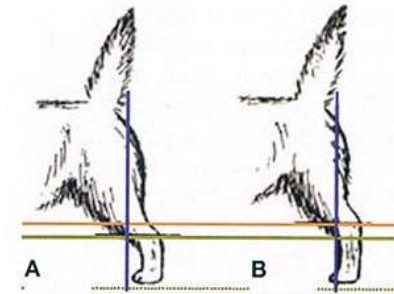
Round Barreled

Flat Side

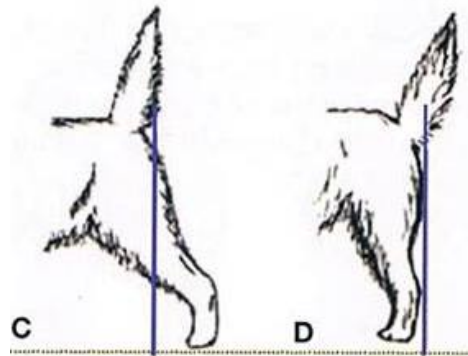


Hindquarters:

Very strong muscular thighs. Good, but not excessive, bend of stifle. Hocks well let down inclining neither in nor out when viewed from the rear. Hindquarters are very strong with well-muscled thighs and the point of rump (rear projection of the hip) is to extend beyond the tail set. There is moderate angulation that is in balance with the forequarters. Good but not excessive bend at the knee joint or stifle, with the length of the femur and tibia being equal. Hocks are short and perpendicular to the ground, being parallel when viewed from the rear. When a straight line is visually drawn from the point of the rump downward, it should fall just in front of the rear paw. Over-angulated rears are not correct.



A. Correct hind angulation. The feet are just behind the line, correct low hock.
B. Hind angulation with high hocks. The second thigh is shortened and the feet is placed forward.



C. The second thigh is longer and it looks over angulated. The feet is placed backwards and often we see sickle hocks coinciding with this what means the hocks are not well let down but in a false position and are not able to stretch fully in movement and therefore lacking drive.
D. The pelvis is too steep, and due to that the knee and hocks are not well angulated but steep and placed under the body. This gives a short step with lack of drive from behind. And risk of patella luxation.

Feet:

Forefeet larger than hind, may be slightly turned out. Pads thick and strong. Thin, narrow or spreading feet and long nails objectionable.

Front feet are larger than back feet (again for digging purposes) with good depth in the pad and strong pasterns, never down on the pasterns. Feet should be tight-with no indication toward a splayed foot

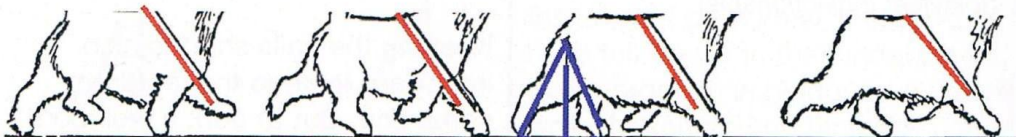
Tail:

Short, balanced, well furnished with hair but not feathery. Neither high nor low set, carried gaily but not turned down towards back. The thick, straight tail is set on at back level and the length is in proportion to the height of the head. Should be well furnished with hair, neatly trimmed, with a fat base and tapering to a point. The tail should be carried like the dog is enjoying its life, but never hooked over the back. Correct carriage may be from 12 to 2 o'clock. **The tail carriage is very important, as well as for the big picture. The tail is for working terrier the handle for the huntsman to pull the terrier out of the den. Tail trimmed as inverted carrot.**

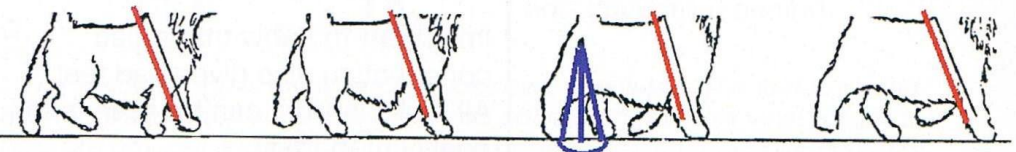
Gait/Movement:

Very free-flowing stride. Forelegs reaching well forward. Hind legs giving strong propulsion. Hocks neither too close nor too wide.

The Cairn moves easily and freely on a loose lead. When viewed from the side, movement is steady and effortless with good reach in front and strong drive behind. The top line remains level with little or no bounce. Balanced angulation front and rear combined with powerful muscles and good conditioning produces smooth, efficient action. When viewed from the front or rear, legs are parallel, dropping straight from shoulders and hips. A slight convergence is allowable for faster speeds, but there is still a straight column of support from hips/shoulders to feet. The rear pads are visible from behind, but feet both front and rear move with very little rise from the ground showing an economy of motion. Elbows do not turn out but remain close to the body. When viewed from the rear, the legs remain parallel, turning neither in nor out, and are neither too high nor low set, carried gaily but not turned down towards back. close nor too wide while in motion.



A. These images show how a well laid back shoulder gives good reach and length of stride when combined with correct angulated hindquarters.



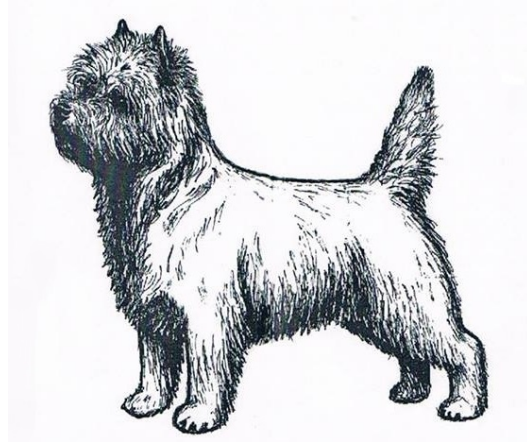
B. A dog who is mediocre in angulation in front and rear goes with short steps and has no drive, it has a stilted and bumpy movement which also shows in too much movement in the topline and tail. Of course this dog needs much more energy to get where he wants to go. Not wanted in a working dog as he will be tired soon.

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.

SUMMERY

- The Cairn is a rectangular dog not square. Approximately 11-12 ins at withers and 16.5-18 ins long, but in proportion to weight, ideally 14-16 lbs.
- The Cairn is a small, active, game and hardy true terrier.
- Head: An equilateral triangle drawn from the tips of the ears through the inside corner of the eyes to the nose is an excellent indicator of a good head. The ratio of muzzle to skull is 4 to 5. Skull broad.
- Teeth are large for the size of the dog. Breeders prefer a full set of teeth and a scissors bite although level is acceptable.
- The eyes are oval shaped and dark hazel.
- Cairn have a coat, not a tight jacket, long leg furnishings and long skirts. Grooming a Cairn like a Westie is highly objectionable. Hand stripping no scissoring.
- Colour: Cream, wheaten, red, grey or nearly black. Brindling in all these colours acceptable. Not solid black, or white, or black and tan. Dark points, such as ears, muzzle, and tail, very typical.
- The feet should have tight paws and the front feet be larger than the hind feet. Front feet usually turn out slightly for better digging ability.
- The shoulders are well laid back. The upper arm is approximately equal in length to the shoulder blade, and joins at an angle sufficient to insure that the elbow falls directly below the highest point of the shoulder, enabling the Cairn to stand well over itself. Good forechest.
- The ribs are deep and heart-shaped. The short loin is well muscled.
- Tail "Short, balanced" - when held up vertically should be no higher than the tip of the ears. "Well furnished not feathery" – trimmed as inverted carrot. Correct carriage may be from 12 to 2 o'clock.
- Hindquarters are very strong with well-muscled thighs and the point of rump (rear projection of the hip) is to extend beyond the tail set. Over-angulated rears are not correct.
- Movement should show good reach in front and strong drive in the rear. The top line remains level with little or no bounce. A dog who is mediocre in angulation in front and rear goes with short steps and has no drive and a bumpy movement.
- Cairn should always be shown on a loose lead.



Body and grooming Westie vs Cairn



References are drawn from the Cairn Terrier Club of Canada research material as well as from the Cairn Terrier Club of the UK and many more. The author acknowledges with great respect their years of rigorous support of the standards of the Cairn Terrier.

MEDIAGRAPHY

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- ❖ The CKC Cairn Terrier Standard And Clarification (2006):
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- ❖ Clarification of the Official Standard by the Cairn Terrier Club of America's Educational Committee.
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- ❖ Judges list on-line seminars www.judgesl.com
- ❖ The Illustrated Cairn Terrier Breed Standard (Produced by the U.K. Joint Cairn Terrier Clubs 2014) www.thecairnterrierclub.co.uk/Standard%20Booklet.pdf
- ❖ Cairn standard from the Netherlands Year book. Illustrated breed standard - Elly Weijenborg-Weggemans & Yvonne Bogert - Based on the Judges Education 2010.
- ❖ Some Drawings by Maude Montgomery, Sarimont Kennels.