

THE CAIRN TERRIER CLUB OF CANADA



The CKC

Cairn Terrier Standard

And Clarification

Official CKC Breed Standard of the Cairn Terrier:

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. -

Characteristics: Should impress as being active, game and hardy.

Temperament: Fearless and gay disposition; assertive but not aggressive.

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

Eyes: Wide apart, medium in size, dark hazel. Slightly sunk with shaggy eyebrows.

Ears: Small, pointed, well carried and erect, not too closely set nor heavily coated. : 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.

Neck: Well set on, not short.

Forequarters: bone. Forelegs never out at elbow. Legs covered with harsh hair. : Sloping shoulders, medium length of leg, good but not too heavy

Body: Back level, medium length. Well sprung deep ribs; strong supple loin.

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. **Feet:** Forefeet larger than hind, may be slightly turned out. Pads thick and strong. Thin, narrow or spreading feet and long nails objectionable. **Tail:** Short, balanced, well furnished with hair but not feathery.

Neither high nor low set, carried gaily but not turned down **Gait/Movement:** Very free-flowing stride. Forelegs reaching well forward. towards back. Hind legs giving strong propulsion. Hocks neither too close nor too wide.

Coat: Very important. Weather-resistant. Must be double-coated, with profuse, harsh, but not Slight wave permissible. coarse, outer coat; undercoat short, soft and close. Open coats objectionable.

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.

Size: Approximately 28-31 cms (11-12 ins) at withers, but in proportion to weight, ideally 6-7.5 kgs (14-16 lbs).

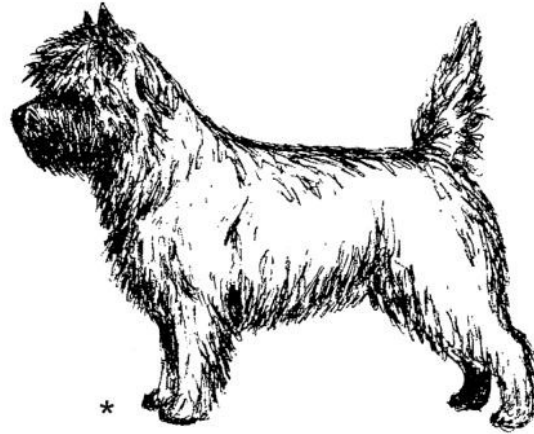
Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness its degree and

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

Credit for the preparation and material in the standard clarification goes with thanks to:

C.T.C.C. Standard Committee				
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(Chairperson)				
The Dutch Cairn Terrier Club Standard Interpretation Work, published in "de Hondenwereld" 1997. Translations by Mieke Jansen				
Drawings* by the late Maude Montgomery, Sarimont Kennels				
American Standard Group at Yahoo owned by Bill Grouke				
Formatting, printing set up and other drawings done by Suzanne Darling				
Editing work - Kevin Durkin				



The breed standard may appear relatively easy to understand and use, but in fact, learning specific breed points is difficult. The intent of this clarification is to assist in the learning process. Other valuable learning tools are examining and discussing the breed with experienced breeders and judges, reading books about the history of the Cairn, studying photographs, watching videos and observing the breed from ringside at shows and specialties. All these help towards gaining a better understanding and insight for our Cairn Terrier, "The Best Little Pal in the World".

The purpose of this clarification is to further define the characteristics of the breed and to better understand the Cairn Terrier. The official standard is printed in bold 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, un-docked 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.

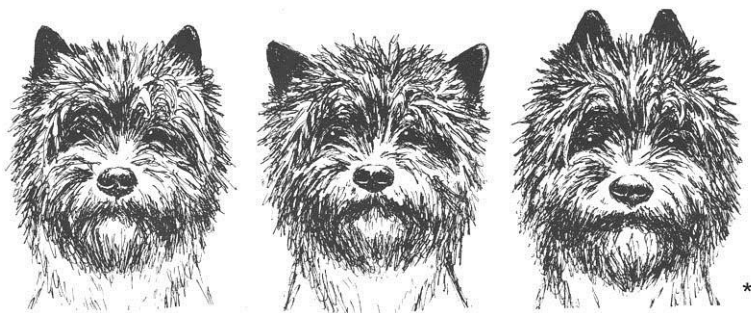
The Cairn Terrier's skull is broad in proportion to length, but in balance with the overall dog. The head is well furnished with hair that may be softer than that on the body; the stop is well defined. Stop means a sudden and short rise in the bone structure, carrying the level of the forehead up to 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.

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

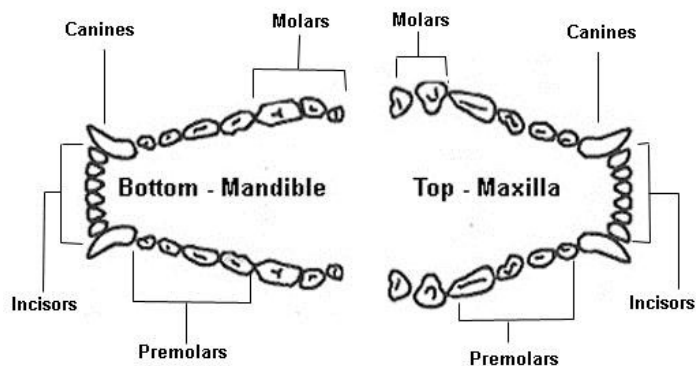
Too Narrow

Too Wide

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 distributed as follows: 6 incisors in each jaw, 2 large canine teeth (commonly called tusks), 4 premolars in each side of the upper and lower jaws, 2 molars in each side of the upper jaw and 3 molars in each side of the lower.



The position of these teeth, starting from the back of the jaw, is: molars, pre-molars, canines, and incisors. 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.

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.



Correct Front



Out at Elbow



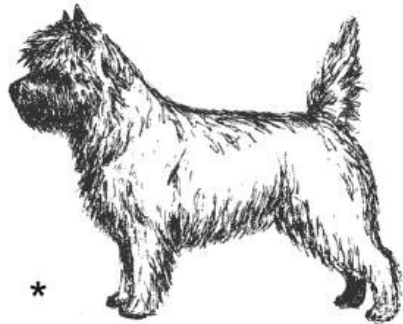
Incorrect
East/West Front



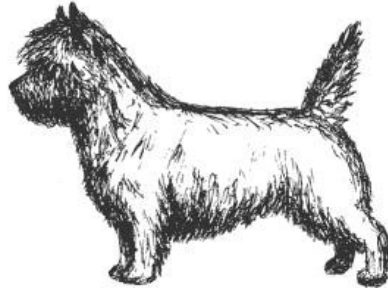
Fiddle Front

Body: Back level, medium length. Well sprung deep ribs; strong supple loin.

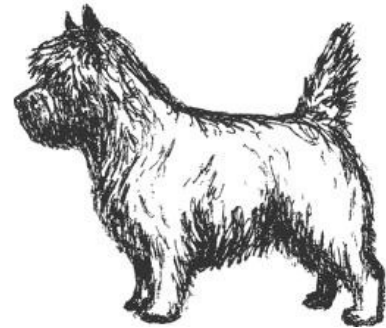
The Cairn should never appear 'square' in body outline. The outline should be 'rectangular' when viewed from the side, as they need sufficient length of back and leg to perform the original hunting function in rugged terrain.



Correct



Too Long



Too Short

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.

In determining whether a fault is minor, serious or major, these two factors may be used as a guide:

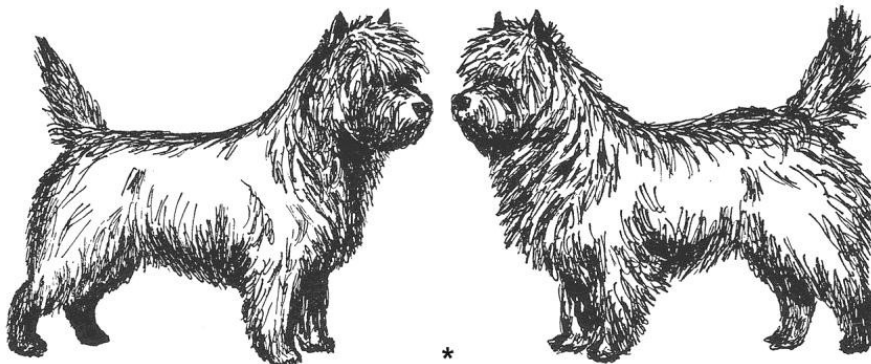
- 1. The extent to which it deviates from the standard.*
- 2. The extent to which such a deviation would actually affect the working ability of the dog.*

Note:

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

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.



Groomed

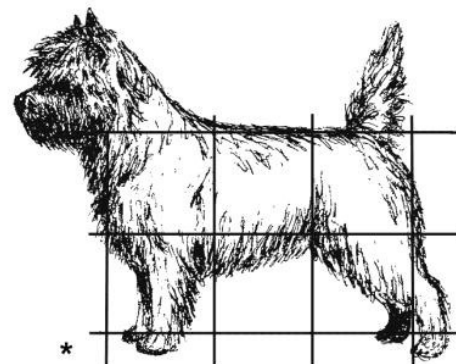
Ungroomed

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.

Size: Approximately 28-31 cm (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

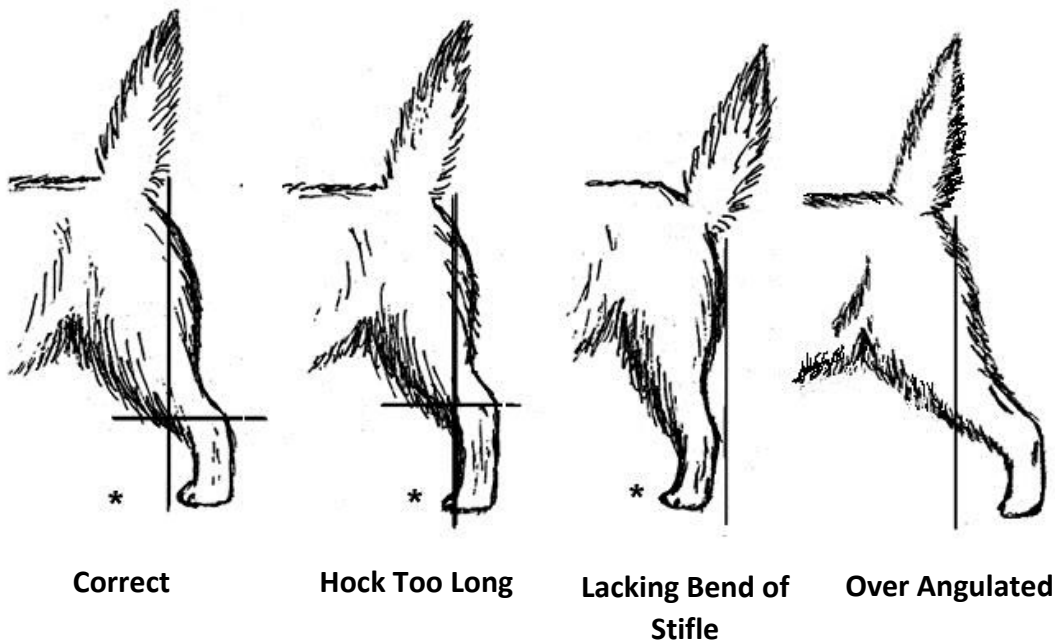


Flat Sided

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.



Feet:

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



Correct Foot



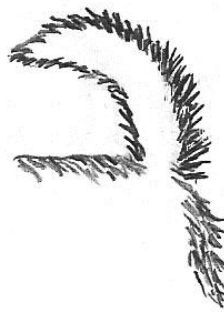
Hare Foot

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.



Correct Tail Set



Gay Tail



Low Tail Set

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.