

## Reference:

### Menacing Classification

#### ‘American Pitbull Terrier’ Type

The Dog Control Act 1996 (‘the Act’) places a statutory obligation on all territorial authorities in New Zealand to classify all dogs of a certain breed or type, as menacing. The intention of this classification was to identify dogs that can be ‘potentially dangerous’, even though they may not have exhibited any aggressive tendencies or behaviour in the past.

There has been little dispute regarding the ‘breeds’ identified in Schedule 4 of the Act, as there has been a long history in professional dog circles of grouping dogs based on physical characteristics.

However, the terms ‘type’ and ‘American Pit Bull Terrier’ do carry some uncertainty. The challenge for the territorial authority is to identify, assess and classify dogs that are essentially ‘cross breeds’, and which are part of a larger group of dogs known as ‘Pit Bulls’. Many of the breeds within this ‘type’ of dog share some physical characteristics, as they were mostly derived from common ancestors.

Dogs New Zealand, formerly known as The New Zealand Kennel Club, does not recognise the American Pit Bull Terrier as a breed.

In the absence of identification standards or guidelines provided by the New Zealand Government for ‘Pit Bull types’, every council must create their own guidance material and identification protocols, and these are mostly based on internationally accepted guidelines and standards.

### Legal Context

The Act sets out to control specified breeds and types of dogs in two ways – firstly, by requiring a territorial authority to classify as ‘menacing’ any dog specified in Schedule 4 of the Act, and secondly, by prohibiting the importation of those breeds and types of dogs.

Schedule 4 of the Act specifies four breeds and one type:

Breeds	Type
Brazilian Fila	American Pit Bull Terrier

Dogo Argentino	
Japanese Tosa	
Perro de Presa Canario	

Section 33C of the Act states:

***“33C Dogs belonging to breed or type listed in Schedule 4 to be classified as menacing***

*(1) A territorial authority must, for the purposes of section 33E(1)(a), classify as menacing any dog that the territorial authority has reasonable grounds to believe belongs wholly or predominantly to 1 or more breeds or types listed in Schedule 4.”*

The Act (and the courts) have failed to provide clarification on precisely what was meant by an ‘American Pit Bull Terrier type’, and in that absence of clarity, territorial authorities have largely used subjective reasons for determining whether a dog is wholly or predominately of this type.

During the examination of the **Local Government Law Reform Bill (No 2)**, which was eventually enacted as the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003, the Local Government and Environment Committee (ref: DBSCH-SCR-2567-2313, page 10) commented that “*we recognise that the American Pit Bull Terrier is sometimes difficult to identify. We also note overseas jurisdictions have developed identification guides which will assist. We believe the measure is worthwhile.*”

The committee also recommended under the section – Classification of a dog as ‘potentially dangerous’ (page 11), the following:

*“The department advised that the proposed category of menacing dog is intended, in part, as a mechanism to impose a greater level of control over existing dogs in New Zealand that belong to one or other of the four restricted fighting breeds listed in new Schedule 4.*

*We consider that amending menacing dog provisions to limit the determinant to deed alone, would fail to address, in a comprehensive way, the potential threat that these animals pose, particularly to children.”*

Section 21 of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 amended the Dog Control Act 1996 by inserting Section 33C, which makes it mandatory for territorial authorities to classify as menacing all dog breeds listed in Schedule 4 of the Act, and also the one type of dog, which is the American Pit Bull Terrier.

## **DNA testing**

There has been an increasing trend for dog owners to have their dog tested using the BITSA (Breed identification Through Scientific Analysis) test – especially with respect to using this as a means for proving a dog is not a Pit Bull type dog.

BITSA is a test which uses DNA analysis to provide a history of a dog's ancestry. The profile obtained is cross-referenced against an extensive genetic database to provide a breed signature. In the case of BITSA, the database uses DNA collected from registered pedigree dogs throughout Australasia. Specifically, it is noted that BITSA does not carry breed signatures for American Pit Bull Terriers.

According to BITSA, the profile of the dog can determine whether both parents of a dog were of a particular breed, but it cannot be used to serve as evidence of a pedigree of dog. The reason for this is that BITSA does not have a conclusive catalogue of all breeds of dogs.

Furthermore, many dogs are so highly cross-bred that very quickly the purebred characteristics (and the genetic breed signatures) are no longer able to be identified. While the above relates to a specific DNA testing service, the general issues identified with this service are likely to apply to other services offering DNA testing for dogs.

For these reasons, it is not recommended to accept DNA testing as evidence of whether a dog is not wholly or predominately a Pit Bull type, unless the testing agency specifically provides a genetic breed signature for the American Pit Bull Terrier.

## **Visual assessment**

Far North District Council Animal Management Officer's undertake a visual assessment, as a means of considering whether a dog may be wholly or predominately a Pit Bull type.

Information is available on the internet for characteristics and colour charts for Pit Bulls. Included in this guide is the UKC breed standard and a Resource booklet produced by Auckland Council for reference.

Council will also rely on information provided by the dog's owner at the time of registration, thus placing the responsibility on the dog's owner to determine the type of dog which they own.

Where any dog is registered by the owner as an 'American Pit Bull Terrier', 'Pit Bull Terrier', 'Pit Bull', 'Pitty' or any similar or related name, or the breed is indicated as a cross with any similar or related name, the dog will be classified as menacing by Far North District Council.

This is based on the reasonable grounds this information gives the council to believe the dog is of the type 'American Pit Bull Terrier', as listed in Schedule 4 of the Act.

The onus will be on the dog owner to prove that the dog is not of 'American Pit Bull Terrier' type, and it will not be Far North District Council's responsibility to prove that it is, or is not, of this type.

## **Menacing classifications**

A menacing classification notice under Section 33C must be issued to the owner of all dogs classed as 'Pit Bull' type.

All menacing dogs are required to be neutered, as specified in the Far North District Council Dog Management Policy 2018.

The requirement to be neutered also extends to dogs that have been classified as menacing by another territorial authority, but now live in the Far North District.

All menacing dogs are required by Section 36A(1)(b) of the Act to be microchipped, and must be muzzled in a public place, Section 33E(1)(a).

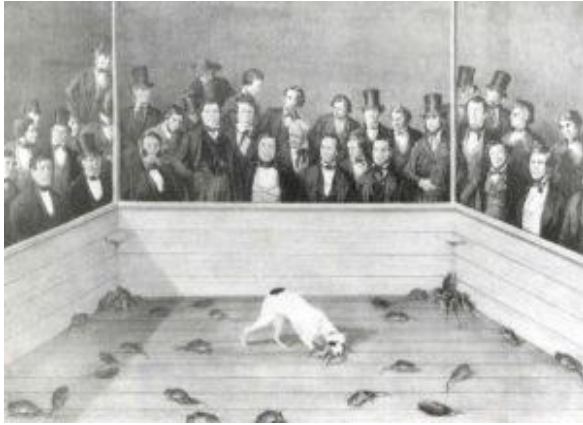
## **History of the 'Pit Bull Terrier'**

[Love-a-bull.org](http://Love-a-bull.org) – *The History of Pit Bulls*

The history of the Pit Bull Terrier can be traced back to the early 1800's in the United Kingdom. Pit Bull Terriers were originally bred from Old English Bulldogs (these dogs are

similar in appearance to today's American Bulldog) who gained their popularity on the British Isles in a cruel blood sport known as "bull baiting".

However, in 1835 the British Parliament enacted the Cruelty to Animals Act 1835, which prohibited the baiting of some animals such as the bull and bear.



Once bull and bear baiting were outlawed, the public turned their attention to "ratting". This practice pitted dogs against rats in which they were timed to see whose dog would kill the most rats in the least amount of time. The 'pit' in Pit Bull comes from ratting, as the rats were placed into a pit so that they could not escape. Ultimately, the public turned their eyes upon dog fighting as it was more easily hidden from view, and thus the law.

Ratting and dogfighting both required more agility and speed on the part of the dog, so Bulldogs were crossed with Terriers to form "Bull and Terriers", which became more commonly known as the first Pit Bull Terriers.

Dog fanciers in England, Ireland and Scotland began to experiment with these crosses between Bulldogs and Terriers, looking for a dog that combined the gameness of the terrier with the strength and athleticism of the Bulldog. The result was a dog that embodied all the virtues attributed to great warriors: strength, indomitable courage, and gentleness with loved ones.

Immigrants brought these bull-and-terrier crosses to the United States, where the American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT) was born. The APBT's many talents did not go unnoticed by farmers and ranchers who used their APBTs as catch dogs for semi-wild cattle and hogs, to hunt, to drive livestock, and as family companions.

In 1976, the Supreme Court in America passed the Animal Welfare Act of 1976. This ground-breaking act made dogfighting officially illegal in all 50 states.



Unfortunately, many times when an act is made criminal, it draws the attention of criminals.

As dogfighting began to re-emerge in the 1980s, animal advocates put an increased focus on the cruel, barbaric, and illegal blood sport. The inadvertent and unfortunate side effect of this new movement was that some people began to seek out Pit Bulls for illicit purposes.

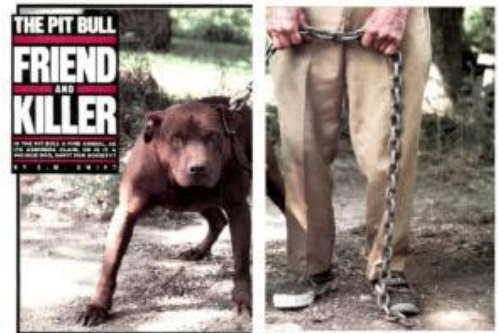
The criminal set began trying to squeeze these dogs into a mould they were never designed to fit. The breed who was once bred to treat every stranger like a long-lost friend was now being used as guard dogs and protection dogs and were being fought in underground fighting rings.

The demand for Pit Bulls led to many owners breeding their own dogs without concern for temperament or socialisation and for the purpose of making a profit, rather than providing a responsible home. Soon Pit Bulls were associated with poverty, 'urban thugs' and crime.

They were mostly viewed as money-making commodities instead of family members and companions.

While there is no defining moment in which to point to and say, "here is where it all went wrong", many trace the turning point to 1987 in which a Time Magazine cover story was titled "*The Pit Bull Friend and Killer*".

Thanks in a large part to the media, the "All American Dog" began to be exploited at new lows.



The Pit Bull, seen by criminals as items to be discarded, and now being seen by the public as a danger, began to fill shelters at an alarming rate. The media portrayal and demonisation of the Pit Bull paved a perfect path for the onset of breed-specific legislation (BSL). The first recorded city to pass BSL was Hollywood, Florida, in 1980.

Currently, there are several breeds that are recognised by different associations which fall under the term 'Pit Bull'. The Federation Cynologique Internationale currently only recognises three similar breeds: the Bull Terrier, the Miniature Bull Terrier, and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

The Canadian Kennel Club and the American Kennel Club also recognise these breeds, as well as the American Staffordshire Terrier.

The United Kennel Club in America was the first registry to recognise the American Pit Bull Terrier. UKC founder C. Z. Bennett assigned UKC registration number 1 to his own APBT, Bennett's Ring, in 1898.

# Reference Material

## AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER

### Official UKC Breed Standard

Revised May 1, 2017

Terrier Group

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The goals and purposes of this breed standard include: to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world; and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this breed, and must take the responsibility to see that these are not perpetuated.

The American Pit Bull Terrier has a long history of being a physically active, muscular, very agile breed, and has maintained breed type for over 150 years. Any departure from the following 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 and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Quality is never to be sacrificed in favor of size. Characteristics that very clearly indicate crossing with other breeds are not to be tolerated.

UKC is unwilling to condone the validity of using exaggerated specimens of this breed in a breeding program and, to preserve its health and vibrancy, cautions judges about awarding wins to these representatives.

#### HISTORY

Sometime during the nineteenth century, dog fanciers in England, Ireland and Scotland began to experiment with crosses between Bulldogs and Terriers, looking for a dog that combined the gameness of the terrier with the strength and athleticism of the Bulldog. The result was a dog that embodied all of the virtues attributed to great warriors: strength, indomitable courage, and gentleness with loved ones. Immigrants brought these bull-and-terrier crosses to the United States. The American Pit Bull Terrier's many talents did not go unnoticed by farmers and ranchers who used their APBTs as catch dogs for semi-wild cattle and hogs, to hunt, to drive livestock, and as family companions. Today, the American Pit Bull Terrier continues to demonstrate its versatility, competing successfully in Obedience, Rally Obedience, Tracking, Agility, Lure Coursing, Dock Jumping and Weight Pulls, as well as Conformation.

The United Kennel Club was the first registry to recognize the American Pit Bull Terrier. UKC founder C. Z. Bennett assigned UKC registration number 1 to his own APBT, Bennett's Ring, in 1898.

#### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The American Pit Bull Terrier is a medium-sized, solidly built, short-coated dog with smooth, well-defined musculature. This breed is both powerful and athletic. The body is just slightly longer than tall, but bitches may be somewhat longer in body than dogs. The length of the front leg (measured from point of elbow to the ground) is approximately equal to one-half of the dog's height at the withers.

The head is of medium length, with a broad, flat skull, and a wide, deep muzzle. Ears are small to medium in size, high set, and may be natural or cropped.

The relatively short tail is set low, thick at the base and tapers to a point.

The American Pit Bull Terrier comes in all colors and color patterns except merle. This breed combines strength and athleticism with grace and agility and should never appear bulky or muscle-bound or fine-boned and rangy.

Above all else, the APBT must have the functional capability to be a catch dog that can hold, wrestle (push and pull), and breathe easily while doing its job. Balance and harmony of all parts are critical components of breed type.

*Eliminating Faults:* Any disproportionate overdone characteristic (such as short legs, excessive bone or massive head or body) that would interfere with physical activity or working ability.

*Disqualifications:* Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Dwarfism.

#### CHARACTERISTICS

The essential characteristics of the American Pit Bull Terrier are strength, confidence, and zest for life. This breed is eager to please and brimming over with enthusiasm. APBTs make excellent family companions and have always been noted for their love of children. Because most APBTs exhibit some level of dog aggression and because of its powerful physique, the APBT requires an owner who will carefully socialize and obedience train the dog. The breed's natural agility makes it one of the most capable canine climbers so good fencing is a must for this breed. The APBT is not the best choice for a guard dog since they are extremely friendly, even with strangers. Aggressive behavior toward humans is uncharacteristic of the breed and highly undesirable. This breed does very well in performance events because of its high level of intelligence and its willingness to work.



*Disqualifications:* Viciousness or extreme shyness.



#### **HEAD**

The APBT head is unique and a key element of breed type. It is large and broad, giving the impression of great power, but it is not disproportionate to the size of the body. Viewed from the front, the head is shaped like a broad, blunt wedge. When viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are parallel to one another and joined by a well defined, moderately deep stop. Supraorbital arches over the eyes are well defined but not pronounced. The head is well chiseled, blending strength, elegance, and character.

*Very Serious Fault:* Overly large, heavy heads.

**SKULL** - The skull is large, flat or slightly rounded, deep, and broad between the ears. Viewed from the top, the skull tapers just slightly toward the stop. There is a deep median furrow that diminishes in depth from the stop to the occiput. Cheek muscles are prominent but free of wrinkles. When the dog is concentrating, wrinkles form on the forehead, which give the APBT his unique expression.

**MUZZLE** - The muzzle is broad and deep with a very slight taper from the stop to the nose, and a slight falling away under the eyes. The length of muzzle is shorter than the length of skull, with a ratio of approximately 2:3. The topline of the muzzle is straight. The lower jaw is well developed, wide and deep. Lips are clean and tight.

*Faults:* Snipey muzzle; flews; weak lower jaw.

*Eliminating Faults:* Muzzle so short and blunt as to interfere with normal breathing.

**TEETH** - The American Pit Bull Terrier has a complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite.

*Fault:* Level bite.

*Serious Faults:* Undershot, or overshot bite; wry mouth; missing teeth (this does not apply to teeth that have been lost or removed by a veterinarian).

**NOSE** - The nose is large with wide, open nostrils. The nose may be any color.

**EYES** - Eyes are medium size, round and set well apart and low on the skull. All colors are equally acceptable except blue, which is a serious fault. Haw should not be visible.

*Serious Faults:* Bulging eyes; both eyes not matched in color; blue eyes.

**EARS** - Ears are high set and may be natural or cropped without preference. Prick, or flat, wide ears are not desired.

*Disqualifications:* Unilateral or bilateral deafness.

#### **NECK**

The neck is of moderate length and muscular. There is a slight arch at the crest. The neck widens gradually from where it joins the skull to where it blends in to well laid-back shoulders. The skin on the neck is tight and without dewlap.

*Faults:* Neck too thin or weak; ewe neck; dewlap.

*Very Serious Fault:* A short, thick neck that would interfere with functional ability.

#### **FOREQUARTERS**

The shoulder blades are long, wide, muscular, and well laid back. The upper arm is roughly equal in length to the shoulder blade and joins it at an apparent right angle.

The forelegs are strong and muscular. The elbows are set close to the body. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are set moderately wide apart and perpendicular to the ground. The pasterns are short, powerful, straight, and flexible. When viewed in profile, the pasterns are nearly erect.

*Faults:* Upright or loaded shoulders; elbows turned outward or tied-in; down at the pasterns; front legs bowed; wrists knuckled over; toeing in or out.

*Eliminating Faults:* Front legs (measured from elbow to ground) shorter than half the total height at the withers. Front legs so bowed as to interfere with normal movement.

#### **BODY**

The chest is deep, well filled in, and moderately wide with ample room for heart and lungs, but the chest should never be wider than it is deep. The forechest does not extend much beyond the point of shoulder. The ribs extend well back and are well sprung from the spine, then flattening to form a deep body extending to the elbows. The back is strong and firm. The topline inclines very slightly downward from the withers to a broad, muscular, level back. The loin is short, muscular and slightly arched to the top of the croup, but





narrower than the rib cage and with a moderate tuck-up. The croup is slightly sloping downward.

*Very Serious Fault:* Overly massive body style that impedes working ability.

*Eliminating Fault:* Chest so wide as to interfere with normal movement.

#### **HINDQUARTERS**

The hindquarters are strong, muscular, and moderately broad. The rump is well filled in on each side of the tail and deep from the pelvis to the crotch. The bone, angulation, and musculature of the hindquarters are in balance with the forequarters. The thighs are well developed with thick, easily discerned muscles. Viewed from the side, the hock joint is well bent and the rear pasterns are well let down and perpendicular to the ground. Viewed from the rear, the rear pasterns are straight and parallel to one another.

*Faults:* Narrow hindquarters; hindquarters shallow from pelvis to crotch; lack of muscle; straight or over angulated stifle joint; cow hocks; sickle hocks; bowed legs.

#### **FEET**

The feet are round, proportionate to the size of the dog, well arched, and tight. Pads are hard, tough, and well cushioned. Dewclaws may be removed.

*Fault:* Splayed feet.

#### **TAIL**

The tail is set on as a natural extension of the topline, and tapers to a point. When the dog is relaxed, the tail is carried low and extends approximately to the hock. When the dog is moving, the tail is carried level with the backline. When the dog is excited, the tail may be carried in a raised, upright position (challenge tail), but never curled over the back (gay tail).

*Fault:* Long tail (tail tip passes beyond point of hock).

*Serious faults:* Gay tail (not to be confused with challenge tail); kinked tail.

*Eliminating Fault:* Bobbed tail.

*Disqualification:* Screw tail.

#### **COAT**

The coat is glossy and smooth, close, and moderately stiff to the touch.

*Faults:* Curly, wavy, or sparse coat.

*Disqualification:* Long coat.

#### **COLOR**

Any color, color pattern, or combination of colors is acceptable, except for merle.

*Disqualifications:* Albinism. Merle

#### **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT**

The American Pit Bull Terrier must be both powerful and agile; overall balance and the correct proportion of weight to height, therefore, is far more important than the dog's actual weight and/or height.

Desirable weight for a mature male in good condition is between 35 and 60 pounds. Desirable weight for a mature female in good condition is between 30 and 50 pounds.

As a general and approximate guideline only, the desirable height range for mature males is from 18 to 21 inches at the withers; for mature females it is from 17 to 20 inches at the withers.

It is important to note that dogs over or under these weight and height ranges are not to be penalized unless they are disproportionately massive or rangy.

*Very Serious Fault:* Excessively large or overly massive dogs and dogs with a height and/or weight so far from what is desired as to compromise health, structure, movement and physical ability.

#### **GAIT**

The American Pit Bull Terrier moves with a jaunty, confident attitude, conveying the impression that he expects any minute to see something new and exciting. When trotting, the gait is effortless, smooth, powerful, and well coordinated, showing good reach in front and drive behind. When moving, the topline remains level with only a slight flexing to indicate suppleness. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance.

*Faults:* Legs not moving on the same plane; legs over reaching; legs crossing over in front or rear; rear legs moving too close or touching; rolling; pacing; paddling; sidewinding; hackney action; pounding.

#### **ELIMINATING FAULTS**

*(An Eliminating Fault is a Fault serious enough that it eliminates the dog from obtaining any awards in a conformation event.)*

Any disproportionate overdone characteristic (such as short legs, excessive bone or massive head or body) that would interfere with physical activity or working ability.

Muzzle so short and blunt as to interfere with normal breathing.


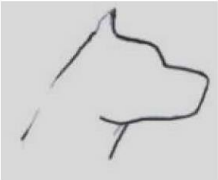




Front legs so bowed as to interfere with normal movement.


Front legs (measured from elbow to ground) shorter than half the total height at the withers.










Chest so wide as to interfere with normal movement.













Bobbed tail.

## Resource booklet – American Pit Bull Terrier type (APBT)

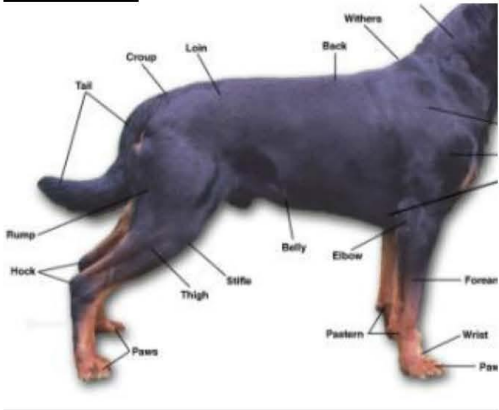


HEAD			
Description	<p><b>Head</b> – the APBT head is a key element of the breed type. It is large and broad, giving the impression of great power, but it is not disproportionate to the size of the body. Viewed from the front, the head is shaped like a broad, blunt wedge. Viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are parallel and joined by a well-defined, moderately deep stop.</p> <p><b>Head Shape</b> – the skull is large, flat, or slightly rounded, deep, and broad between the ears. Viewed from the top, the skull tapers just slightly toward the stop. There is a deep median furrow that diminishes in depth from the stop to the occiput.</p> <p>Cheek muscles are prominent but free of wrinkles. When the dog is concentrating, wrinkles form on the forehead, which give the APBT his unique expression.</p> <p><b>Muzzle</b> – the muzzle is broad and deep with a very slight taper from the stop to the nose, and a slight falling away under the eyes. The length of muzzle is shorter than the length of skull, with a ratio of approximately 2:3. The topline of the muzzle is straight. The lower jaw is well developed, wide and deep. Lips are clean and tight.</p> <p><b>Nose</b> - The nose is large with wide, open nostrils. The nose may be any colour.</p> <p><u><b>Dog anatomy:</b></u></p>  <p><small>Not an APBT – for illustration purposes only</small></p>		
Cheek muscles	<p><b>Outline:</b></p> 		
Muzzle	<p><b>Examples:</b></p> 		

EARS	
<b>Ear shape</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-erect ear carriage</li> <li>Set high on the head and free from wrinkles.</li> </ul>	<b>Examples:</b> 
	
	<div> <div> <b>Not:</b>            Button shape            e.g. Wirehaired Fox Terrier            </div> <div>           Rounded short shape and/or dropped carriage            e.g. Labrador            </div> </div>
	<div> <div>           Bat Shape            e.g. Boston Terrier            </div> <div>           Rounded long shape,            e.g. Basset Hound            </div> </div>














<p><b>Head shape – Mesaticephalic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium skull with a medium muzzle.</li> <li>• Broad at the base but short in length.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Examples:</u></p> 		
			
			
	<p><u>Not:</u> Dolichocephalic e.g. Greyhound</p> 	<p>Brachycephalic e.g. Pug</p> 	









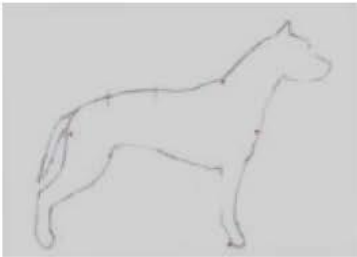
EYES		
<b>Eye shape</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eyes are medium size, round to almond-shaped, and set well apart and low on the skull.</li></ul>	<b>Examples:</b>  	
	 	
	<b>Not:</b> Round shape e.g. Pug 	Triangular shape e.g. Bull Terrier 
	<b>Not:</b> Protruding type e.g. Chihuahua 	Deep type e.g. Shar Pei 
	<b>Eye set</b> (eye position in the skull)	<b>Examples:</b>  
	<b>Not:</b> Wide set e.g. American Staffordshire Terrier 	Oblique set e.g. Greyhound 

















BODY	
<p><b>Description</b></p>	<p><b>Neck</b> – the neck is of moderate length and muscular. The neck should be narrowest just behind the ears and widen downward gradually to blend smoothly into the withers (top of the shoulders). The skin on the neck is tight and without dewlap.</p> <p><b>Forequarters</b> – the shoulder blades are long, wide, muscular, and well laid back. The upper arm is roughly equal in length to the shoulder blade and joins it at an apparent right angle.</p> <p><b>Forelegs</b> – the forelegs are strong and muscular. The elbows are set close to the body. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are set moderately wide apart and perpendicular to the ground. The pasterns are short, powerful, straight, and flexible. When viewed in profile, the pasterns are nearly erect.</p> <p><b>Back</b> – the back should be short and strong, slightly sloping from withers to rump. The topline should be slightly higher at the withers than at the rump, with subtle arch just over the loin area.</p> <p><b>Chest</b> – the chest should be deep, but not too broad, with wide sprung ribs. As the fore chest (also known as the brisket) goes down between the front legs to meet the chest, the fore chest should be deep enough at its lowest point to be even with the dog as elbow when viewed by the side.</p> <p><b>Dog Anatomy:</b></p>  <p><small>Not an APBT – for illustration purposes only</small></p>
<p><b>Size</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium size</li> <li>• Height – at withers, the ideal adult height: male = 45-53cm female = 43-51cm</li> <li>• Weight – estimated, the ideal adult weight: male = 16-27kg female = 14-23kg</li> </ul>	<p><b>Examples:</b></p> <div data-bbox="553 1419 919 1709">  </div> <div data-bbox="964 1419 1276 1709">  </div>

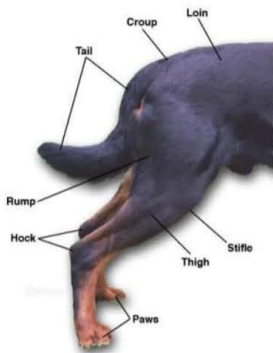
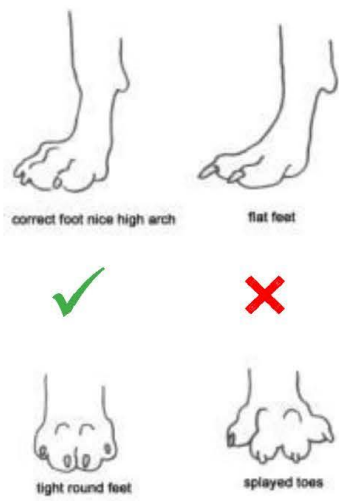


	<u>Not</u> Small e.g. Jack Russell Terrier 	Large e.g. Labrador 	Giant e.g. English Mastiff 
<b>Chest shape</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chest is deep, well filled in, and moderately wide with ample room for heart and lungs</li> <li>The chest should never be wider than it is deep.</li> <li>The fore chest does not extend much beyond the point of shoulder.</li> </ul>			
			
	<u>Not</u> Barrel e.g. Bulldog 	Ovoid / Standard e.g. Jack Russell 	
<b>Build</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stocky build</li> </ul>	<u>Examples:</u> 		














	<p><b><u>Not:</u></b> Solid e.g. Mastiff</p> 	<p>Fine e.g. Greyhound</p> 
<p><b>Body length</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The body is just slightly longer than tall</li> <li>• Females may be slightly longer in the body than males</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Examples:</u></b></p>  	
	<p><b><u>Not:</u></b> Elongated e.g. Dachshund</p> 	
<p><b>Topline</b> (Gradient of the back from the withers to the rump)</p>	<p><b><u>Examples:</u></b></p>  	
	 	













	<p><b><u>Not:</u></b> Level topline e.g. Rottweiler</p> 	<p>Rising topline e.g. Greyhound</p> 
<b>SKIN &amp; COAT</b>		
<p><b>Coat feel &amp; length</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The coat is glossy and smooth, close, and moderately stiff to the touch. The hair should be rather course in texture.</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Examples:</u></b></p> 	
		
<p><b><u>Not:</u></b> Excess skin e.g. Shar Pei</p> 	<p>Wire-haired e.g. Wire-haired Pointer</p> 	<p>Curly-haired e.g. Poodle</p> 
<p>Hairless e.g. Chinese Crested</p> 	<p>Long coat length e.g. Afghan Hound</p> 	<p>Medium coat length e.g. Border Collie</p> 

Coat colour	<u>Examples:</u> Black 	Black & white 	Tan 
	Tan & white 	Chocolate 	Chocolate & white 
	Light brindle 	Dark brindle 	Light & dark brindle 
	Cream 	White 	Black and white 

LEGS	
<p><b>Description</b></p>	<p><b>Hindquarters</b> – the hindquarters are strong, muscular, and moderately broad. The rump is well filled in on each side of the tail and deep from the pelvis to the crotch. The bone, angulation, and musculature of the hindquarters are in balance with the forequarters.</p> <p><b>Thighs</b> – the thighs are well developed with thick, easily discerned muscles. Viewed from the side, the hock joint is well bent and the rear pasterns are well let down and perpendicular to the ground. Viewed from the rear, the rear pasterns are straight and parallel to one another.</p> <p><b>Legs and Feet</b> – the front legs should be strong and sturdy. The feet should point directly to the front, not towards each other or away from each other. The pasterns (which are the lower part of the front leg, from the joint just above the foot down to the foot) should stand erect and strong.</p> <p><u><b>Dog Anatomy:</b></u></p>  <p>Not an APBT – for illustration purposes only</p>
<p><b>Feet shape</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The feet are round, proportionate to the size of the dog, well arched, and tight.</li> <li>• Pads are hard, tough, and well cushioned.</li> </ul>	<p><u><b>Diagram:</b></u></p> 



<p><b>Thigh muscles &amp; leg shape</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well developed</li> </ul>	<p><u>Examples:</u></p> 		
			
			
	<p><b>Not:</b> Long-legged e.g. Great Dane</p> 	<p>Short-legged e.g. Maltese Terrier</p> 	
	<p>Straight leg shape e.g. Wire-haired Fox Terrier</p> 	<p>Crooked leg shape e.g. Lhasa Apso</p> 	

TAIL			
Description	<p>The tail is set on as a natural extension of the topline, and tapers to a point.</p> <p>When the dog is relaxed, the tail is carried low and extends approximately to the hock. When the dog is moving, the tail is carried level with the backline.</p>		
	Examples:		
			
			
	<b>Not:</b> Long e.g. Irish Wolfhound	High carriage e.g. Scottish Terrier	Short e.g. Boston Terrier
			
	Curly e.g. Basenji	Whip e.g. Pointer	Screw e.g. Bulldog
			
	Plume e.g. English Setter	Spitz type e.g. Samoyed	Straight e.g. Airedale Terrier
	