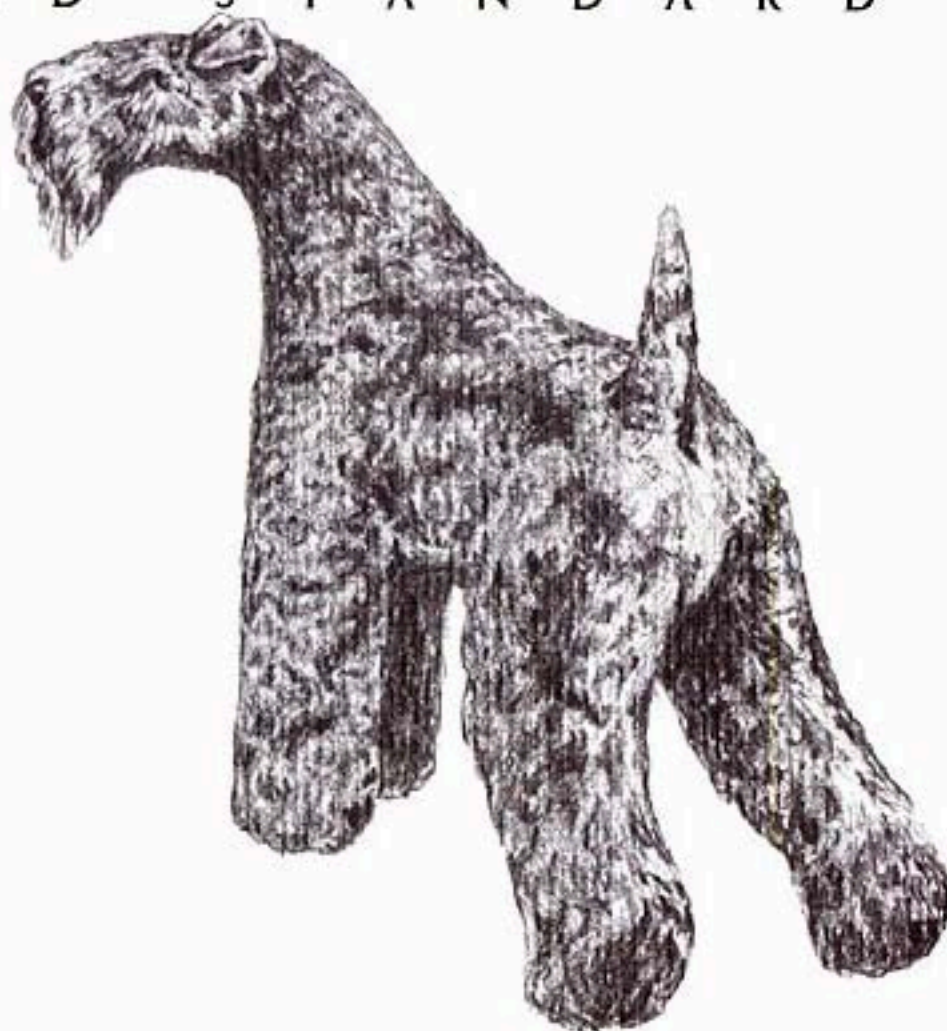
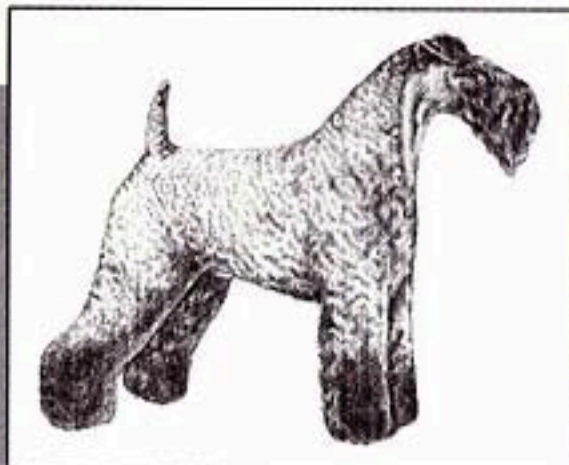


KERRY BLUE TERRIER

T H E

I L L U S T R A T E D S T A N D A R D



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**KERRY BLUE
TERRIER**
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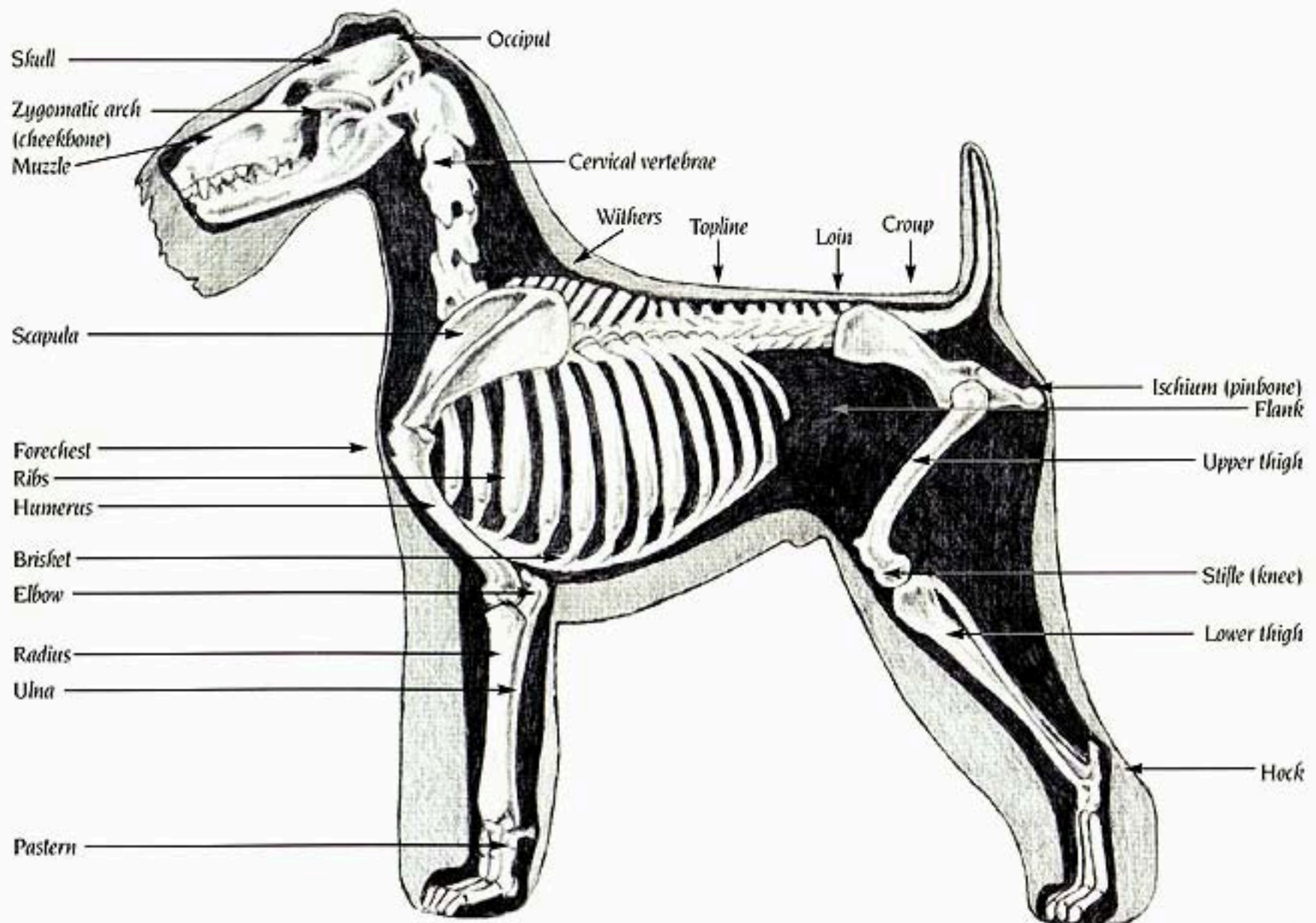
COMMITTEE

Chairman, Edith Izant

Barbara Beuter, Charles Groenendaal, Anne Katona, Barbara Keenan, Ralph Reilly, Fern Rogers, Dorothy Tilsworth

Illustrated by Jody Sylvester

The Kerry Blue Terrier: Basic Anatomical Points





GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The typical Kerry Blue Terrier should be upstanding, well knit and in good balance, showing a well developed and muscular body with definite terrier style and character throughout. A low slung Kerry is not typical.

For the Irishman, the Kerry Blue Terrier was an adaptable working farm dog of gameness, retrieving on land or in water, drawing badger, ratting, herding, guarding, and was the family companion and protector. Describing the typical Kerry Blue Terrier as upstanding refers to keenness and fearlessness; well knit indicates a compact dog; good balance demonstrates soundness and correct structure; well developed and muscular applies to health and fitness. Definite terrier style is alert, intelligent, keen, feisty, proud, and confident. True character of a Kerry Blue Terrier is readiness and willingness, but not aggressiveness. The breed must be gentlemanly and always alert. Exaggeration of any

kind is to be avoided. Both sexes should be compact and strongly constructed with good bone, substance and well developed musculature. The coupling between the forward section of the dog and the rear quarter consists of the muscles of the loin, the flanks and abdomen and the lumbar spine as well as other associated structures. This coupling must be relatively short and strong, but flexible. A too short back and coupling tend to produce "side-winding" and other movement faults. A low slung Kerry is so atypical that it is specifically mentioned in the Standard and should be regarded as a major fault.

Size, Proportion, Substance:

The ideal Kerry should be 18 ½ inches at the withers for a dog, slightly less for a bitch. In judging Kerries, a height of 18-19 ½ inches for a dog, and 17 ½-19 inches for a bitch should be given primary preference. Only where the comparative superiority of a specimen outside of the ranges noted clearly justifies it, should greater latitude be taken. In no case should it extend to a dog over 20 inches or under 17 ½ inches, or to bitches over 19 ½ inches or under 17 inches. The minimum limits do not apply to puppies.

The Kerry Blue Terrier is a mid-size terrier. The Standard is specific that in no case should a Kerry Blue male be over 20" or under 17 ½" or a Kerry bitch over 19 ½" or under 17". Visual measuring lends to making an honest error of ½", therefore, the Standard provides ample latitude for size variation. A Kerry male over 20" or a bitch over 19 ½" loses breed type. Taller is not better. One's eye must be trained to identify and stay within the correct mid-size range.

IDEAL: 18 ½" for a male and slightly less for a bitch

PRIMARY PREFERENCE: 18-19 ½" for a dog, 17 ½" to 19" for a bitch

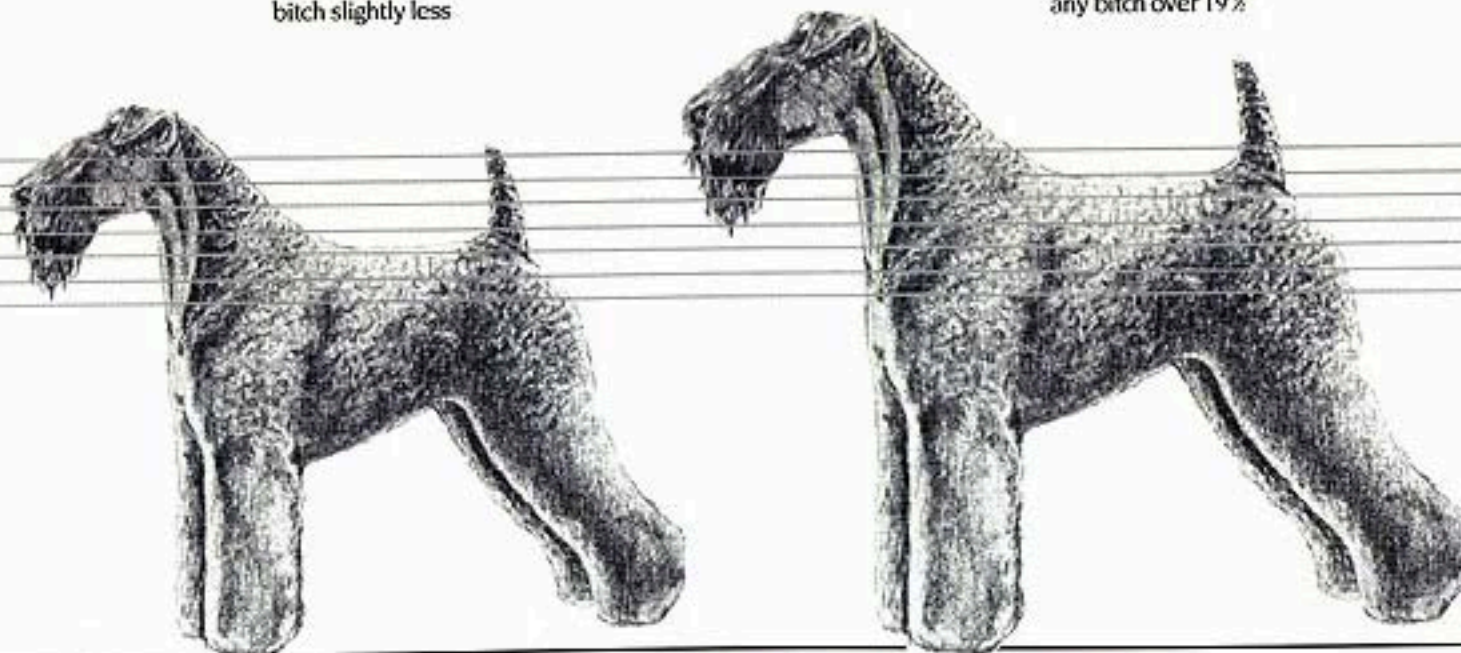
NEVER OVER: 20" for a dog, 19 ½" for a bitch

NEVER UNDER: 17 ½" for a dog, 17" for a bitch

Ideal Kerry dog-
18 ½" at withers;
bitch slightly less

Overlarge-any dog
over 20" at withers;
any bitch over 19 ½"

22"
21"
20"
19"
18"
17"
16"

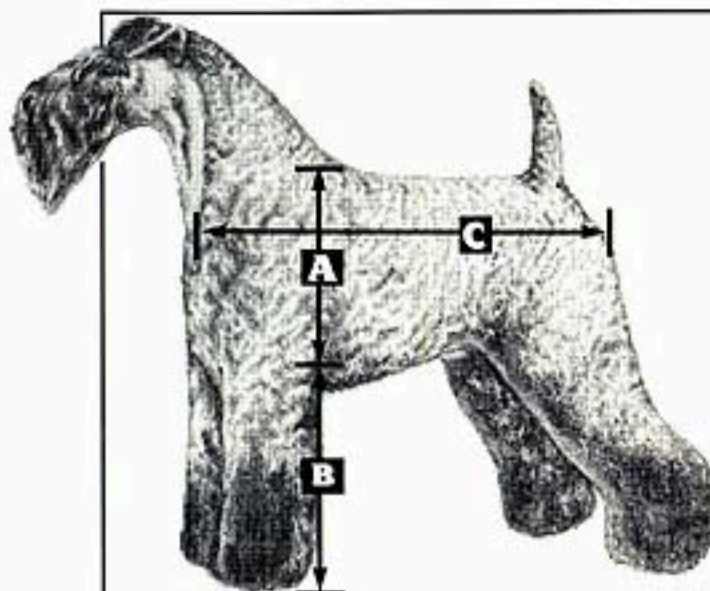


PROPORTION AND SUBSTANCE:

The most desirable weight for a fully developed dog is from 33-40 pounds, bitches weighing proportionately less. A well developed and muscular body. Legs moderately long with plenty of bone and muscle.

"Moderate" or "moderately" are significant words in the Kerry Standard indicating a moderate breed in every way. The Kerry must never appear out of proportion—all parts must balance. The head is in proportion to the body, the neck is in proportion to the length of the back and the back is in proportion to the height at the shoulder and the length of the legs. "Upstanding" refers to length of leg as the Kerry is one of the long legged breeds. The distance from withers to elbow almost equals the distance from elbow to ground and overall length of the dog from forechest to buttocks is approximately equal to the height at the withers. The back may appear short due to correct layback of shoulder, high tail set, or grooming styles, but the back should never be so short as to limit length of stride.

The Kerry should give an impression of good muscular development and soundness. There should be a deep chested, sturdy look, but not low slung. Typically a Kerry exhibits plenty of bone and muscle, but must maintain a marked degree of elegance and style, an aristocrat in the show ring.



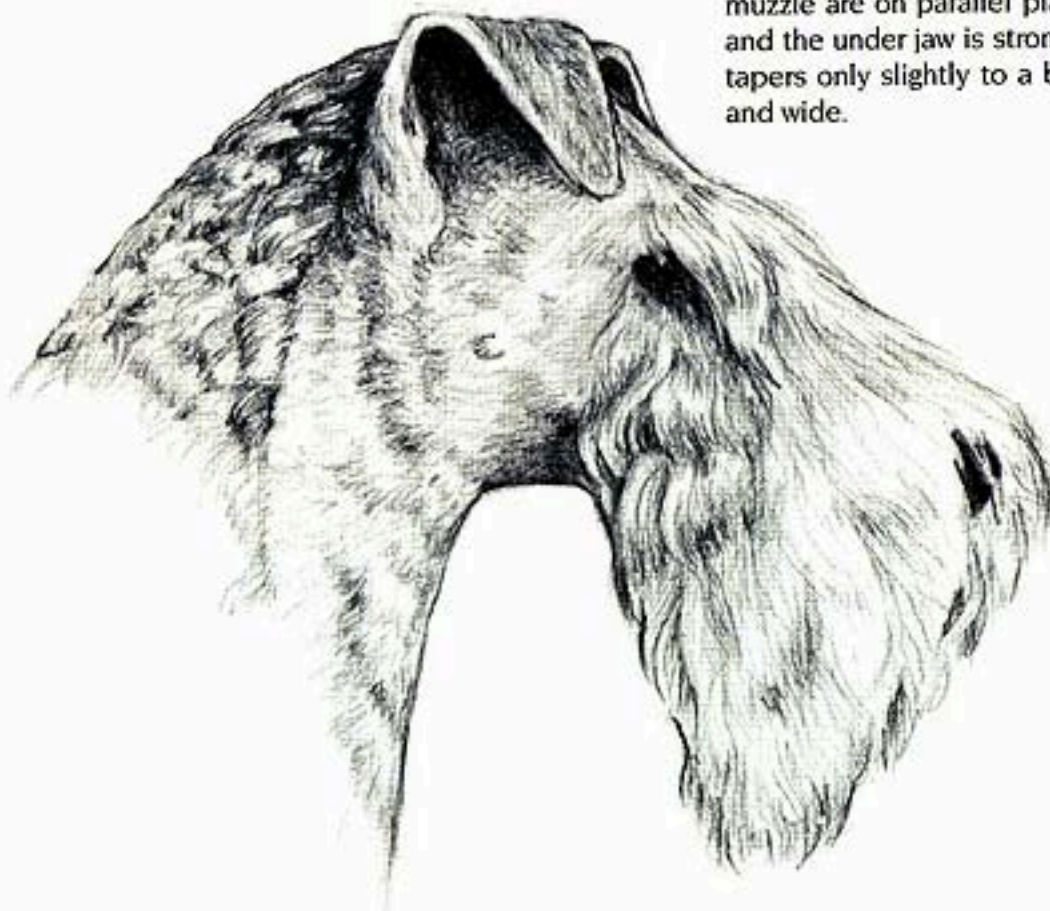
- A. Length from withers to elbow
- B. Length from elbow to ground
- C. Length from forechest to buttocks

Correct Kerry proportion requires
that $A + B = C$

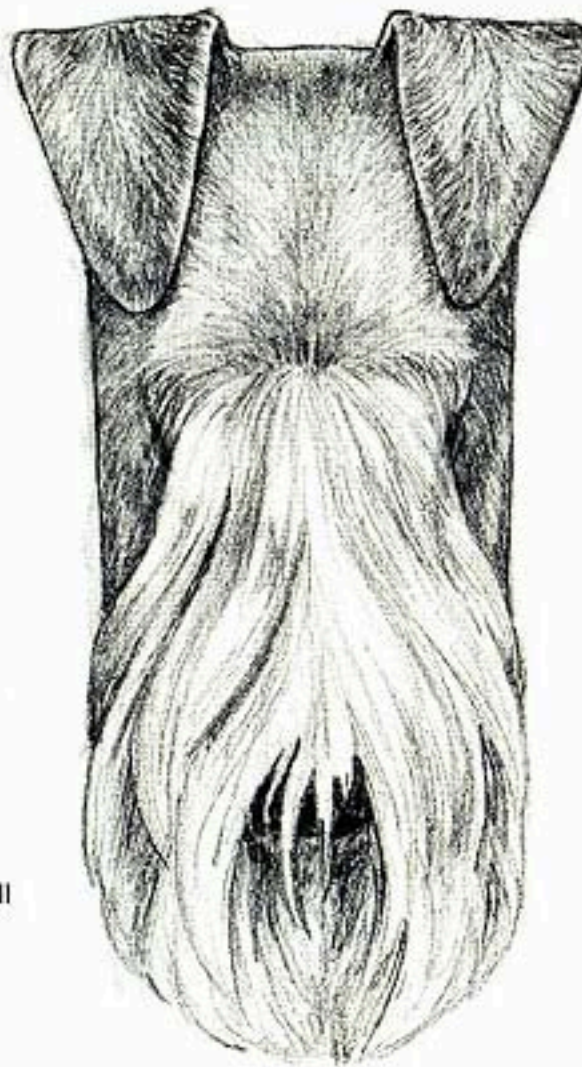
Head:

Long, but not exaggerated, and in good proportion to the rest of the body. Skull flat, with very slight stop, of but moderate breadth between the ears, and narrowing very slightly to the eyes. Foreface full and well made up, not falling way appreciably below the eyes, but moderately chiseled out to relieve the foreface from wedginess. Little apparent difference between the length of the skull and foreface. Jaws deep, strong and muscular. Cheeks clean and level, free from bumpiness.

The head is important to the work of the Kerry (to hunt badger, ratting, retrieving, etc.) A well filled foreface balanced to the skull, both being approximately the same length with the teeth arranged in a scissors or an even bite, is essential. Beauty and quality is revealed in the smoothness and flatness of the skull and the small, dark, expressive eye. Clean and level refers to the malar bones not being prominent. The stop is slight. Skull and muzzle are on parallel planes when viewed in profile, and the under jaw is strong with lips tight. The foreface tapers only slightly to a black nose with nostrils large and wide.



Correct skull



Incorrect skull:
domed between
ears, narrow snipey
muzzle



Incorrect skull: too
wide, protruding
cheekbones

EYES:

Dark, small, not prominent, well placed and with a keen terrier expression. Anything approaching a yellow eye is very undesirable.

Eyes are small and dark. The dark eye rims form an oval or almond shape. Dark eyes, properly placed and properly shaped are essential features in keen terrier expression. Light colored eyes or anything approaching a yellow eye is a major fault.

Correct: small, dark eyes with dark eye rims.



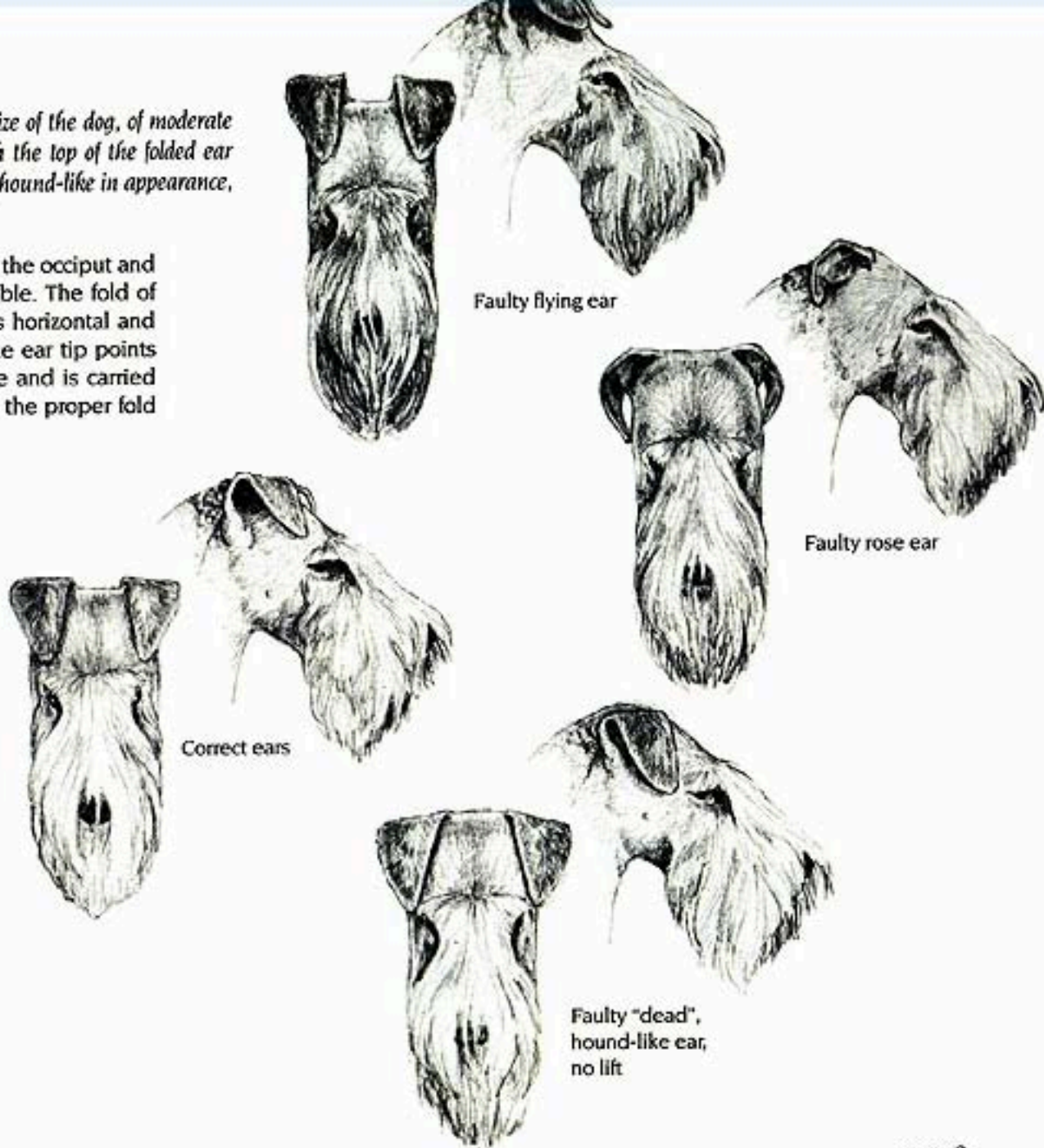
Incorrect: eyes too light, too round



EARS:

V-shaped, small but not out of proportion to the size of the dog, of moderate thickness, carried forward close to the cheeks with the top of the folded ear slightly above the level of the skull. A "dead" ear, hound-like in appearance, is very undesirable.

The ear placement is to be forward of the occiput and as near the top of the head as possible. The fold of the moderately thick V-shaped ear is horizontal and slightly above the top of the skull, the ear tip points toward the outside corner of the eye and is carried forward close to the cheek. To obtain the proper fold to the ear, it is pasted to the hair on the puppy's skull while the puppy is teething. Proper ear pasting will leave no marks or scars. A "dead" ear, hound-like in appearance, a flying ear with the tip held away from the skull, or a rose ear, held out to the side of the skull, are faults. These ear sets are uncharacteristic and disfigure an alert expression. The ear carriage reflects the Kerry's alertness.



NOSE:

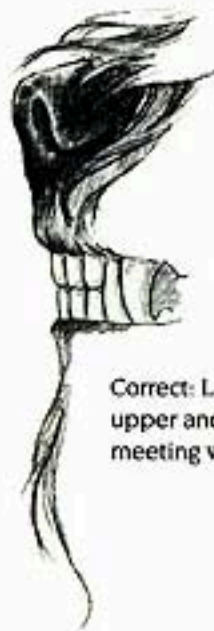
Black, nostrils large and wide.

The nostrils should be large and wide for scent purposes as for any sporting dog. The nose must always be black.

TEETH:

Strong, white and either level or with the upper incisors slightly overlapping the lower teeth. An undershot mouth should be strictly penalized.

Undershot or overshot mouths are both objectionable; however, the Standard states an undershot mouth is strictly penalized. Full dentition is highly desirable.



Correct: Level bite with upper and lower incisors meeting **without** overlap.



Correct: Bite with upper incisors **slightly** overlapping lower teeth



Incorrect: Penalize **extreme** overlapping of upper incisors over lower teeth



Incorrect: Undershot bite should be **strictly penalized**

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY:

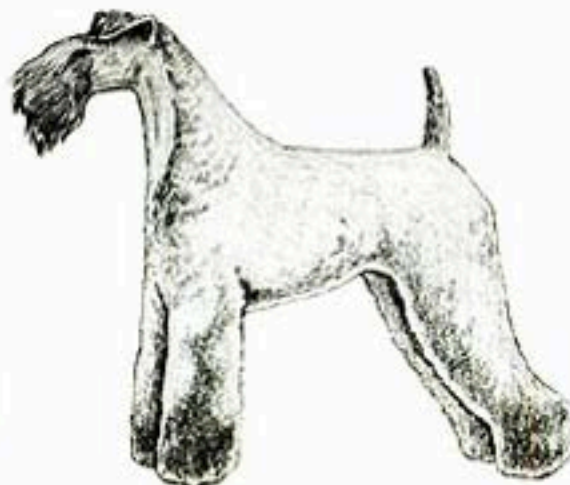
Neck clean and moderately long, gradually widening to the shoulders upon which it should be well set and carried proudly. Back short, strong and straight (i.e. level), with no appearance of slackness. Chest deep and of but moderate breadth. Ribs fairly well sprung, deep rather than round. A slight tuck-up. Loin short and powerful. Tail should be set on high, of moderate length and carried gaily erect, the straighter the tail the better.

The neck is free of throatiness (excessive skin), moderately long, slightly arched, and in proportion to the head and body. Elegance resides in a head carried proudly with a definite arch to the nape of a neck well set into a smooth, well laid back shoulder. The body is compact, muscular, strong with a level topline. A long weak back is not typical. Due to grooming, only a slight waistline is visible when a Kerry is viewed from above, and the hips should be almost as wide as the

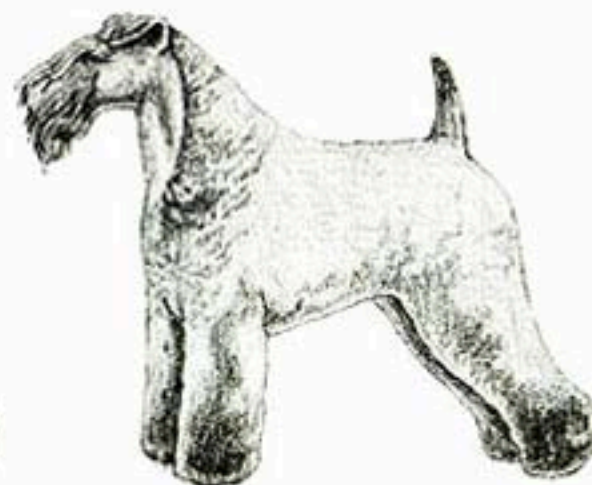
chest. The chest is deep, reaching to the elbow, of moderate breadth, being about four fingers in width between the front legs. The brisket reaches well forward between the front legs. It must be deep and moderately sprung for lung and heart room. A barrel body is not correct. The loin should be short with a slight tuck up and no indication of roll in the loin area while the dog is in motion. The croup is level with the back. The high set tail has the pinbone well out behind. The tail is carried erect, upright—the straighter, the better, or with a very slight forward curve toward the head when excited, slightly more bend over the back while sparring. A squirrel tail should be penalized. The cropped tail is of moderate length, docked approximately one-third, leaving about six vertebrae or one and one-fourth inches at three to five days old, and the tail must balance with the overall dog.



Correct



Racy



Coarse

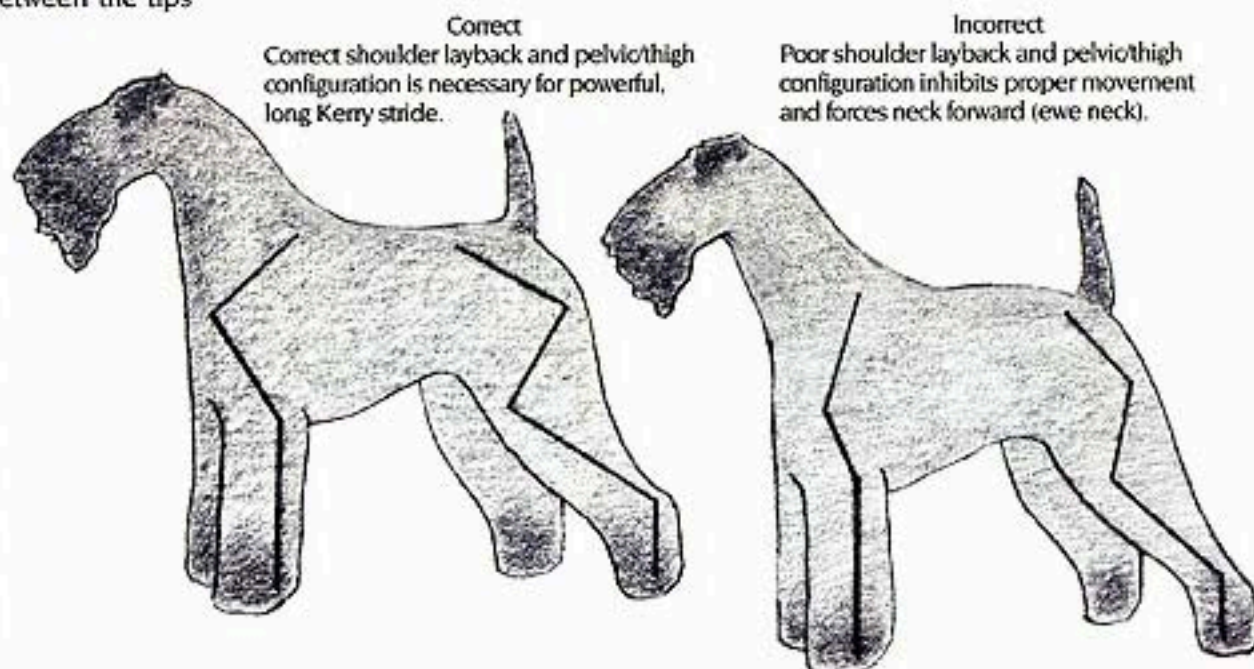
FOREQUARTERS:

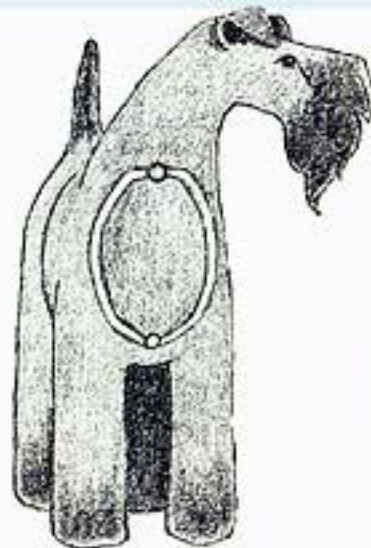
Shoulders fine, long and sloping, well laid back and well knit. The elbows hanging perpendicularly to the body and working clear of the side in movement. The forelegs should be straight from both front and side view. The pastern short, straight and hardly noticeable. Feet should be strong, compact, fairly round, moderately small, with good depth of pad, free from cracks, the toes arched, turned neither in nor out, with black toe nails.

In structure, this terrier resembles the working breeds. The shoulder blade, upper arm and associated muscles should be flat with the upper point of the blade approximately over the elbow. The humerus is as long as the shoulder blade, which brings the front leg back under the body. In show stance, an imaginary vertical line drawn from the top of the shoulder to the ground will pass a little behind the elbow. An adult dog should have two finger widths between the tips of the blades at the withers. This structure is paramount for both beauty and correct sound movement. Correct shoulders contribute a clean line from the withers to the elbow with no appearance of heaviness or over-emphasized muscling. Shoulders well sloped back allow the dog to move with a long, free stride which indicates power, reach and accuracy. The straight shoulder is uncharacteristic as it upsets the visual balance: the neck becomes shorter, the back longer, producing a short, choppy gait. Elbows should be held close to the body while moving or standing. A pinched front is no more acceptable than too

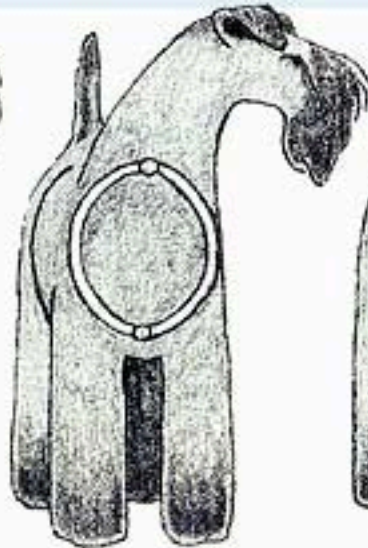
much width. Leg bones are round and smooth without being clunky or too heavy. Dew claws on the front legs should be removed.

The Kerry Blue Terrier should be well up on its feet (toes), which should turn neither in nor out. Judges should check the correctness of the foot. Pick up a front foot—the pads are set close together in a tight, fairly round circle, a cat foot, not splayed. The foot must point straight forward. Flat feet, weak pasterns or down in pastern are objectionable. Black pads should be free of cracks or corns. Toe nails, which should be kept short, are black.

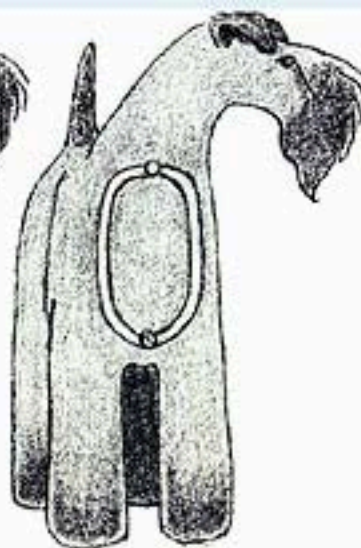




Correct:
Ribs fairly well sprung



Incorrect:
Barrel-ribbed

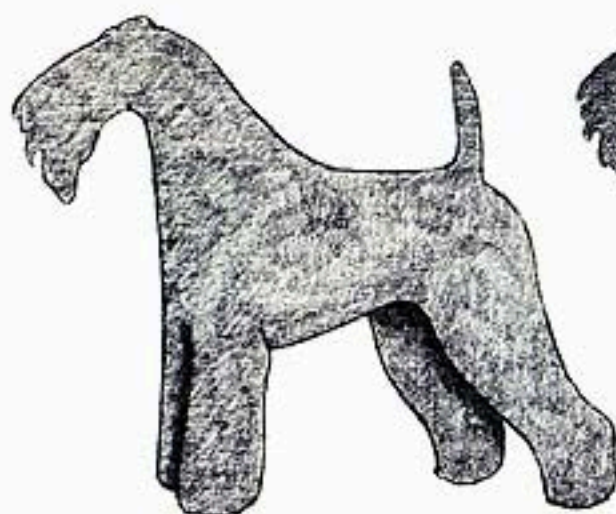


Incorrect:
Slab-ribbed

Correct pastern:
Nearly straight, "up
on toes" look



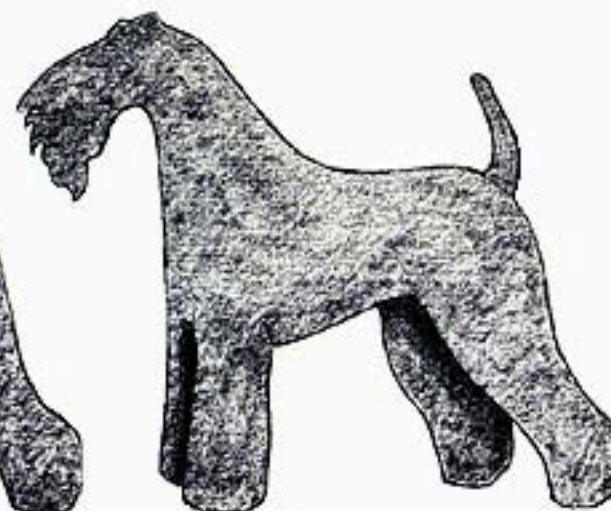
Poor pasterns:
Very pronounced
with flat feet push-
ing nails up



Correct:
Tail straight, high on back



Incorrect:
Squirrel tail



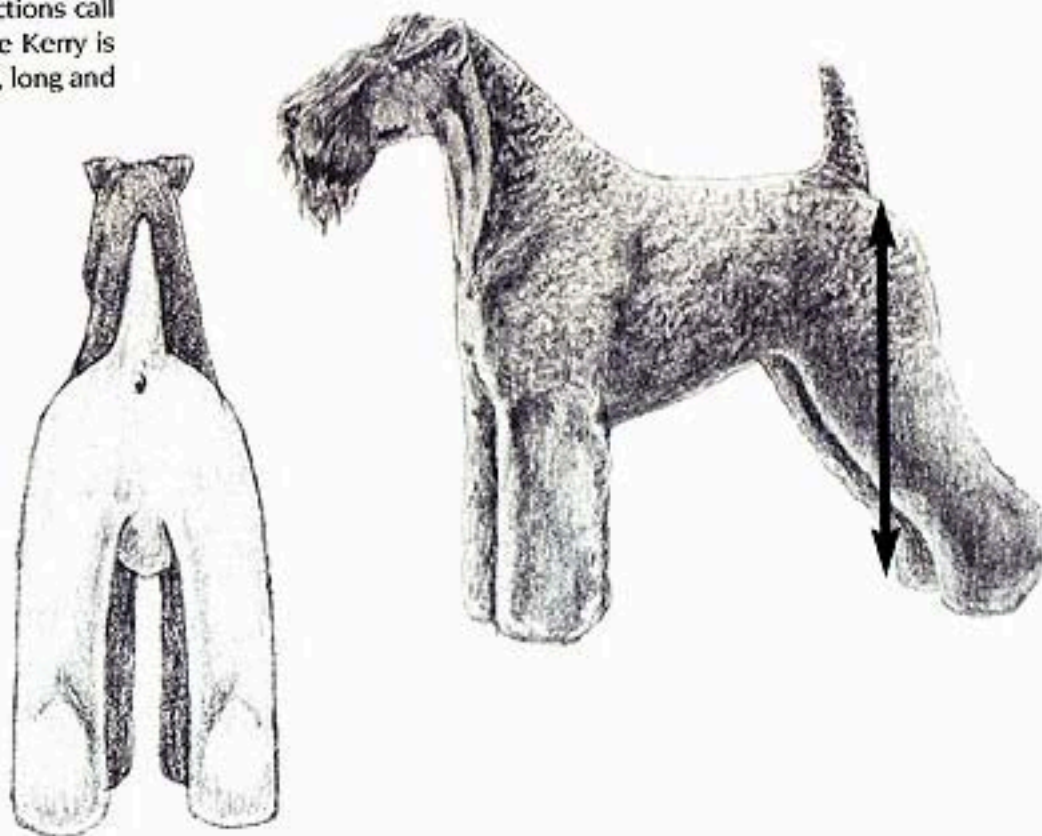
Incorrect:
Low set curved tail

HINDQUARTERS:

Strong and muscular with full freedom of action, free from droop or crouch, the thighs long and powerful, stifles well bent and turned neither in nor out, hocks near the ground and, when viewed from behind, upright and parallel with each other, the dog standing well up on them. DISQUALIFICATION: Dew claws on hind legs. Feet as in front.

Upper and lower thighs should be equal in length. Both upper and lower thigh muscles should be well developed and firm. Hocks should be low or short. From this structure derives the locomotive power for work, play, attack, or for defense: these functions call for muscles, substance and power. When the Kerry is viewed in profile, notice the first thigh, wide, long and powerful. Notice the narrowing second thigh, well developed and firm, complete with a well bent stifle. The profile should show sufficient angulation. When the Kerry is viewed from behind, there should be a visual straight line with no turning in or out of thighs, stifles, or the hind feet. The control tower of this running gear is the powerful muscular development of stem and buttocks. Only when there is sufficient angulation in these areas does there seem to be the desired muscle on the second thigh which gives the look of thrust and power. Lack of muscular development, weak thighs, straight stifles, cowhocks, sickle hocks, or splayed feet not only disfigure but deprive the hindquarters of freedom of

action, and create a hindquarter unfit for proper gait or hard work over any length of time. With dog in show stance, visually draw an imaginary vertical line from the back of the tail—it should fall to the front of the back toes. Dewclaws on the hind legs are a disqualification. Judges are obligated to check for dewclaws on the inside of both hocks. The feet are round, tight, pointing forward, usually a little smaller than the front feet.

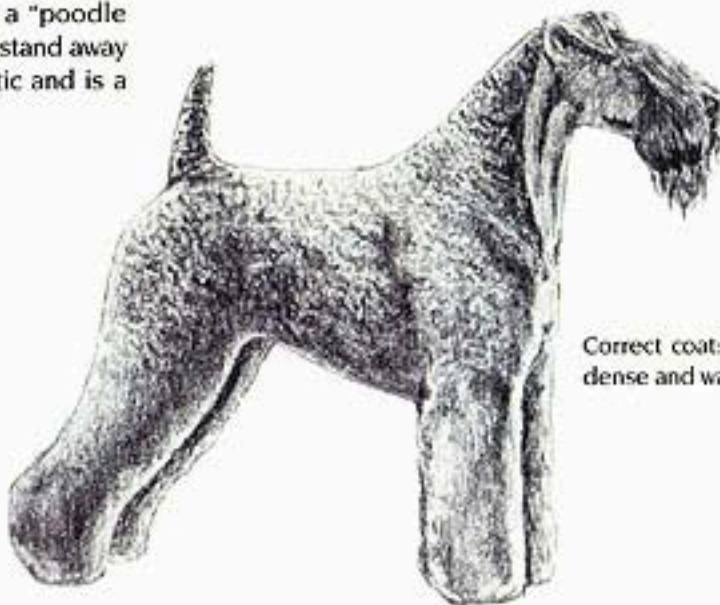
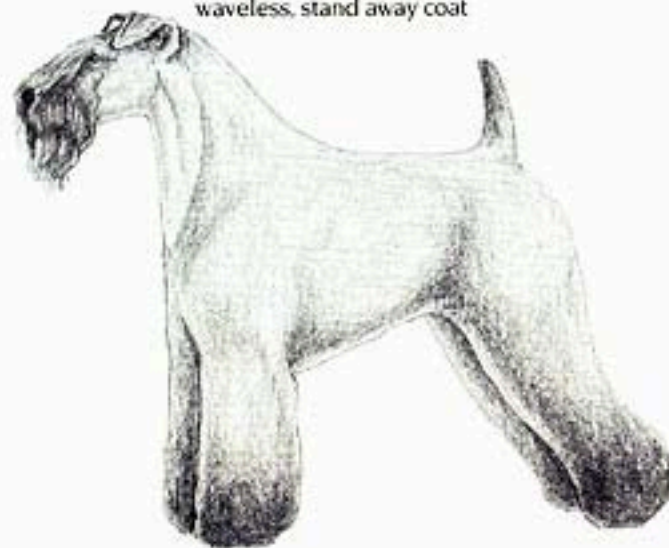


COAT:

Soft, dense and wavy. A harsh, wire or bristle coat should be severely penalized. In show trim the body should be well covered but tidy, with the head (except for whiskers) and the ears and cheeks clear.

Silky, soft, dense, with waves. The combination of these singularities of coat are unique to the Kerry Blue Terrier. The single coat should always be soft, plentiful, dense and wavy. Marcel waves should resemble finger waves, not curls or kinks. The texture is silky, not woolly or harsh. A fuzzy, cotton coat is equally as improper as a harsh coat. The proper coat must be soft to the touch and weather resistant. When in a rain storm, the value of the dense coat becomes evident. The coat does not shed, and even when wet, is odorless. In show trim the body should be well covered but tidy (coat should be wavy and mold to the body like a well-fitting garment). On the head (except for the whiskers), the throat, ears, and cheeks are clipped. The rump and back of tail are trimmed close or clipped. A Kerry Blue coat shaped into a "poodle pack" with every hair standing straight up (stand away coat), showing no waves, is uncharacteristic and is a major fault.

Major fault—"poodle pack" with waveless, stand away coat



Correct coat: silky, soft, plentiful, dense and wavy

COLOR:

The correct mature color is any shade of blue gray or gray blue from deep slate to light blue gray, of a fairly uniform color throughout except that distinctly darker to black parts may appear on the muzzle, head, ears, feet and tail.

Kerry color, in its process of clearing from apparent black at birth to the mature gray blue or blue gray passes through one or more transitions involving a very dark blue (darker than deep slate) shades or tinges of brown, and mixtures of these, together with a progressive infiltration of the

correct mature color. Up to 18 months such deviations from the correct mature color are permissible without preference and without regard for uniformity. Thereafter, deviation from it to any significant extent must be severely penalized. Solid black is never permissible in the show ring. Up to 18 months, any doubt as to whether a dog is black or a very dark blue should be resolved in favor of the dog, particularly in the case of a puppy. Black on the muzzle, head, ears, tail and feet is permissible at any age. **DISQUALIFICATION:** Solid black.





Color is important. It is the most distinguishing hallmark—the dog is a Kerry BLUE. Judges need to understand the Kerry Blue color and its relationship to the breed. The breed has a graying factor which turns the coat color from dark blue to a color between a deep slate or to a light blue gray. Usually Kerries are born black and hopefully approach mature color by 18 months of age. At some point in time the puppy color changes from black to any shade of blue as given in the Standard. The change is gradual and could involve the coat showing tinges of brown in varying degrees; an effect as if a sponge of lighter silver was overlaid on the darker coat; or a marbling effect as if only blotches or spots were turning color. Any of these changes may occur while a correct mature color is developing. Even after the mature color is achieved, Kerries continue to change color. The Standard states the coat is to be the correct, mature color by 18 months; however, many Kerries require two years or longer to achieve this. Such deviations from the correct mature color are permissible without preference and without regard to uniformity up to 18 months of age and should not be

penalized. Up to 18 months of age, any doubt is resolved in favor of the dog, as mentioned in the Standard, except for solid black. Mature color should be fairly uniform all over the body and all shades of blue, from light gray blue to dark blue are equally correct. **No preference shall be given to any color of blue so long as it is a shade of blue.**

When a Kerry is very dark and not entered in a puppy or 12-18 months class, the judge should ask the steward (not the exhibitor, since this is a disqualification factor) the dog's date of birth, and after ascertaining this information, proceed accordingly, knowing that a Kerry under 18 months cannot be penalized for lack of color and any doubt is resolved in favor of the dog as instructed in the Standard. Solid black is never permissible in the show ring. A small white patch on the chest is permissible but not desirable. The skin has a blue cast.

GAIT:

Full freedom of action. The elbows hanging perpendicularly to the body and working clear of the sides in movement. Both forelegs and hind legs should move straight forward when traveling, the stifles turning neither in nor out.

The desired gait is steady, even, covering the most ground with very little effort, maintaining a level topline without roll or pace. The head may drop slightly as speed increases. Moving away at a moderate speed the powerful drive from the hindquarters should show foot pads with each step. Coming back at a moderate speed shows extended reach in front, elbows close to the body and legs straight from elbow to foot. Moving around the ring at a brisk trot, the front feet should extend parallel to end of the nose to coordinate with the powerful drive from the hindquarters, indicating balanced angulation front and rear. The

front feet should barely lift off the ground. At a fast trot, the feet will converge toward the center line of the body. Topline remains level with no bounce. The Kerry is agile and should move with a smooth rhythmic grace which tends to accentuate power and balance. In soundness of movement, the Kerry resembles a long-legged sporting or working breed, rather than the more traditional short-legged terriers. A Kerry should **never** move faster than a brisk trot (which should be well balanced and tireless) in the show ring, preferably on a loose lead.



Forward movement at a moderate gait

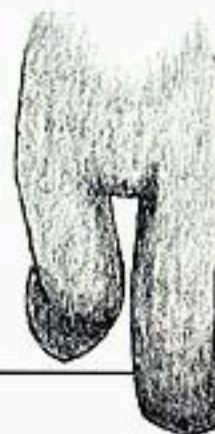
Correct:
Straight legs



Incorrect:
Elbowing out



Incorrect:
Winging



Incorrect:
Crossing over



Rear movement

Correct:
Straight legs



Incorrect:
Cow hocked



Incorrect:
Open hocked



Incorrect:
Crossing over



TEMPERAMENT:

The General Appearance says, "definite terrier style and character throughout".

Kerry Blues should be good tempered, spirited, friendly and brave. This breed is intelligent and affectionate, with a witty, loving, Irishman's sense of humor. Most Kerries greet the judge with a friendly wagging tail. They should be alert but gentlemanly in the ring. They should never be aggressive toward people, and even toward another dog their attitude should be that, while the Kerry won't start anything, he could finish it. This is a powerful dog and must be controlled. At a dog show, a judge should put to the side any exhibitor who allows a Kerry to lunge and snarl. This is not typical of good Kerry temperament. Any suggestion of uncontrolled aggression or timidity is a major fault. In the 1965 edition of *The New Complete Kerry Blue Terrier*, Dr. E. S. Montgomery stated: "The controlled, alert 'devil come forward' attitude of the Kerry Blue Terrier makes a pleasant and lasting impression on the show-attending bystander. Kerry Blues should be spurred but the exhibitor should remember the path to good ring manners is practice. If they eye each other intently, throwing themselves forward on their front toes, arching their necks, raising their ears to proper Kerry position, stand taut and ready for anything, each waiting for the other to make the first move, and when, due to past training, neither does—if they wag their tails, turn slowly and return happily to their places, then they are truly Kerry Blue Terriers". While males should always show in this manner, many females are less interested.

Note: It is imperative for the show and breeding fancier to keep the Standard close at hand. It becomes the nucleus around which to establish goals and priorities. Individuality is expressed by the decisions a breeder makes as to the important features in the growth and development of a line of dogs. The challenge of breeding is to stay within the approved Standard. Most Kerry breeders accept this challenge with devotion.



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