



**Can You  
Picture  
Yourself  
with a  
Kerry Blue?**



## ***Bred in County Kerry is true. An Irish dog with the coat of blue.***

The origin of the Kerry Blue Terrier is virtually unknown. Based on writings over 150 years ago, there is mention of a true terrier, a game dog, bluish slate in color referred to as the "Harlequin Terrier." It is known that the dog was bred in County Kerry thus named the "Kerry Blue Terrier."

The early Kerries ranged from a dark blue color to a wheaten. The darker colored dogs were used in the breeding of today's Kerry Blue Terriers. It is quite possible to believe that these terriers were cross-bred with the Irish Wolfhounds. Some people say that the resemblance of a three week old Irish Wolfhound and a three month old Kerry Blue Terrier show striking similarities that cannot be doubted.

In old feudal days it was not permissible for Irish peasant farmers to own and hunt with Wolfhounds, therefore the Irish developed the Kerry Blue Terrier to be an all-around working dog as well as a loyal family companion.

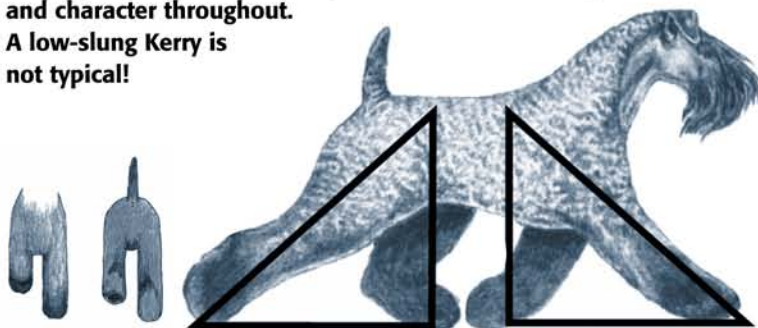
The Kerry was bred for its gameness. They will hunt fox, badger, otter, and river rat. Kerries herd sheep and cattle and have been known to take on a pack of coyotes to protect their flock. This farm dog was expected to work all day and guard the farm at night. The Kerry has to be structurally sound in mind and body to do this work. He is the working terrier!



## ***A Terrier in mind and body sound, well balanced in structure all around.***

The general appearance of a typical Kerry Blue Terrier should be upstanding, well knit, in good balance, showing a well-developed and muscular body with definite terrier style and character throughout.

**A low-slung Kerry is not typical!**



The desired gait is steady and balanced, with full freedom of action. The topline remains level. Both forelegs and hindlegs moving straight when traveling. The stifle turning neither in nor out. Front and rear movement should be straight.

Eyes should be small and dark to enhance that keen terrier expression.



A height of 18-19.5 inches for a dog and 17.5 -19 inches for a bitch should be given primary preference. In no case should it extend to a dog over 20 or under 17.5 inches, or to a bitch over 19.5 or under 17 inches.

The skull should be long and flat but not exaggerated and in good proportion to the body. Jaws deep, strong and muscular. Cheeks clean and level, free from bumpiness. Teeth - Strong, white and either level or with scissor bite. An undershot mouth should be strictly penalized. Nose - Black, nostrils large and wide.

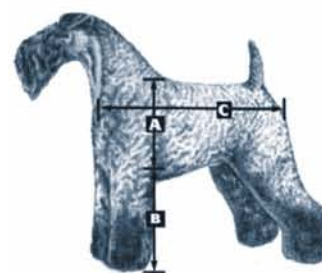


A. Length from withers to elbow

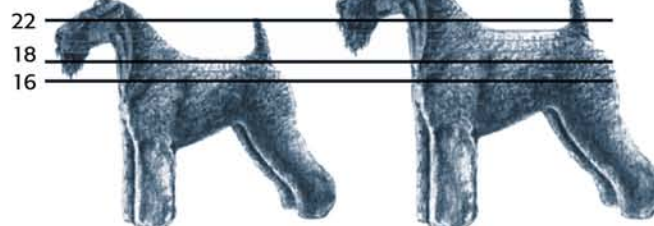
B. Length from elbow to ground.

C. Length from forechest to buttocks.

**CORRECT KERRY  
PROPORTION  $A + B = C$**



Ears are small but in proportion to size of the dog, carried forward close to cheeks.







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.  
DISQUALIFICATION: Dewclaws on hind legs.

Coat - Soft, dense and wavy. A harsh wire or bristle coat should be severely penalized.

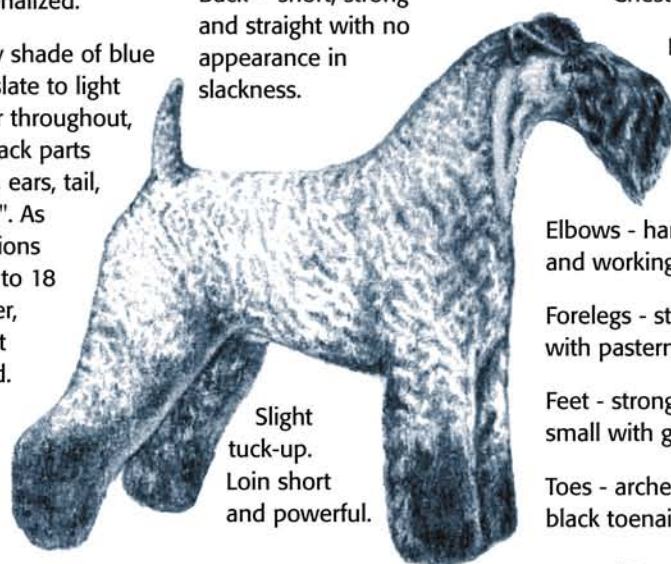
Color- Correct mature color is any shade of blue gray or gray blue from the deep slate to light blue gray, of a fairly uniform color throughout, except that, distinctly darker to black parts may appear on the muzzle, head, ears, tail, and feet. These are called "points". As Kerries are born black, any deviations from the correct mature color up to 18 months are permissible. Thereafter, deviation from it to any significant extent must be severely penalized. Solid black is never permissible in the show ring.

DISQUALIFICATION: Solid Black

Tail - set high, of moderate length and carried gaily erect.

Body - well-developed and muscular. Legs moderately long with plenty of bone and muscle.

Back - short, strong and straight with no appearance in slackness.



Head - long but not exaggerated and in good proportion to the body.

Neck - clean and moderately long, gradually widening at the shoulders which should be well set.

Chest - deep and of but moderate breath.

Ribs - fairly well sprung, and deep.

Forequarters - Shoulders fine, long, and sloping, well laid back and well knit.

Elbows - hanging perpendicularly to the body and working clear of the side in movement.

Forelegs - straight from both front and sideview with pasterns short, straight and hardly noticeable

Feet - strong, compact, fairly round and moderately small with good depth of pad free from cracks.

Toes - arched, turned neither in nor out, with black toenails

## *A dog to converse with Leprechauns t's said. Eyes sparkle with mischief inside his head!*

**Intelligence, loyalty and a sense of fun and adventure, plus a bit of Blarney are all wonderful attributes of the Kerry Blue Terrier.**

A responsible owner who properly trains and cares for the Kerry Blue Terrier maximizes the ownership experience of this magnificent breed. Training will not only strengthens the dog/owner relationship, but is an important component in the safety of a Kerry's life. Training should be done with a firm, consistent yet loving hand.

A Kerry is a great dog to participate in conformation or obedience. They will excel in the agility ring as well. When a Kerry puts his mind to his work, he is a sight to behold!

It is not recommended that this breed be let out to run free in the popular Dog Parks. Even the most well-trained Kerry Blue Terrier will not be able to resist the great fun of chasing a squirrel,

laughing as he hears his master's calls. He will not back down from a challenge from another dog and will stand his ground to protect his master should he think there is a threat.

This dog should not be expected to lay quietly after a day of waiting for his owner to come home. He will find things to amuse himself and can be destructive in the process. With proper training and respect a Kerry will bring joy and happiness into the household.





## *To be owned by a Kerry is a blessing indeed. A lifelong commitment is what he does need.*

**Before you acquire a Kerry or any other living animal, please make sure that you have the time for your pet. A Kerry is a long lived dog, and will give you years of tremendous love and devotion. A Kerry is for Life!**

Ownership is a commitment to provide the highest standard of care as it relates to the physical, social, and mental well-being of the Kerry Blue Terrier. A great deal of being a responsible owner occurs before the puppy is purchased. Prospective owners need to be aware of exactly what a Kerry Blue Terrier is, and what it was bred to do.

The Kerry Blue Terrier is an intelligent, loyal, fun loving, active dog. An active Kerry is a happy Kerry. They are eager to please their owner, and basic obedience training will strengthen the bond between dog and owner. Kerries were bred to herd sheep and cattle, control vermin on farms in addition to hunting fox, otter and other small game. A Kerry is constantly "patrolling" his domain looking for quarry, hence their high activity level.

Physically the Kerry Blue Terrier requires a generous amount of exercise both on and off-lead. Off-lead exercise should be conducted within a fenced area given the strong predator drive which can get them into trouble. Because the Kerry is an active breed, a high quality dog food is essential to develop and maintain body weight, muscle tone and its trademark soft dense wavy coat. The Kerry coat must be brushed, combed and

scissored on a frequent basis to maintain it's body. Nails and ears also need to be cared for on a regular basis. A responsible owner also makes sure that all appropriate and required shots and medications are administered.

Early socialization with other dogs and humans is critical in developing a positive healthy temperament.

Puppy classes are an excellent way to introduce the Kerry to other dogs and people. Not only will the puppy learn how to interact with other dogs, but other owners can pet the puppy so that it becomes accustomed to being touched. This later aids in the care of ear cleaning and nail trimming. Successful socialization will make the Kerry a loyal companion, superb pet and wonderful family member.



## *A quest for the dog that guards the gold at rainbow's end a Kerry Blue puppy to hold.*



**If you decide the Kerry Blue Terrier is the dog for you, begin your search by looking for a reputable breeder. Breeding is a labor of love and an enormous amount of work and responsibility. A reputable breeder should always strive to breed the best they can and provide the utmost care for their puppies and adult dogs.**

**A responsible breeder should help a responsible owner.**

BREEDERS should back their puppies and always help mentor owners throughout the dog's life.

OWNERS should listen to the breeders. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience. They should be able to answer any and all questions you may have.

BREEDERS should set the dog's ears. Kerry puppies need to have their ears pasted on the top of their heads to ensure proper ear carriage. This is done several times. Breeders should offer grooming and training advice.

OWNERS should keep their dog groomed and in good health with yearly veterinary visits.

BREEDERS should provide AKC registration forms when you pick up your puppy and help you fill them out properly.



OWNERS should register and microchip their Kerry. Spay or neuter your dog if you are not going to show.

BREEDERS should be willing to take a puppy or adult Kerry back if the situation arises.

OWNERS should call the breeder first if the time comes when you cannot provide the kind of life your dog deserves.

OWNERS should take their puppies to training classes. Learn to respect and understand each other. The owner should provide a lifetime of love, proper shelter and good nutrition.

**A Kerry Blue, in return, will give his ALL!**



## For a continuing Kerry Blue Terrier education, we have provided more information!

Kerry Blue Terrier puppies are born black and reach their beautiful blue color as they grow up. When you part the dense soft coat his skin is actually blue. A Kerry must show color by 18 months in order to be shown.

Kerry Blue Terrier puppies must have their ears pasted on the top of their heads to ensure the correct ear carriage. Your breeder should provide that service.

Kerry Blue Terriers do not shed. They do need regular grooming.

Kerry Blue Terriers are intelligent, quick-witted and determined.

Kerry Blue Terriers were also known as Irish Blue Terriers.



Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Chicago  
The local breed club.  
[www.chicagokerryblues.org](http://www.chicagokerryblues.org)



United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club  
The official breed club recognized by the AKC [www.uskbtc.com](http://www.uskbtc.com)



2004 International Kennel Club Dog Show in Chicago, Illinois introduced a new breed competition for exhibitors. It is a benching contest to "Educate and Inform" the public about the breed of dog they show.

The Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Chicago decided to accept this challenge and show the public what a Kerry is all about. A committee was formed.



### Kerry Blue Terriers

#### Temperament and Behavior

The Kerry Blue Terrier is a dog of many talents and is a versatile pleasure and companion for all children. However, as with most terriers, children must be taught to respect the dog. In order to do this, the dog must be taught to respect the child. The dog must be taught to respect the child and the child must be taught to respect the dog. The dog must be taught to respect the child and the child must be taught to respect the dog. The dog must be taught to respect the child and the child must be taught to respect the dog.

#### Physical Appearance

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#### Kerry Blue Terriers

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"She's a Kerry, she's always a Kerry!"

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responsible breeder and to impress upon a potential Kerry owner that they have to be a caring and responsible owner.

People need to make informed decision about the type of dog that will share their home for the next 12-15 years.

Coupled with this display and the great group of Kerries and owners exhibiting at the IKC, people walked away with a brochure and contact information for the Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Chicago and for the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club. They were able to pet the dogs and marvel at their soft coats and unusual personalities. People asked questions and they got answers. Some decided that they wanted a Kerry. Some decided that a different breed would be better suited to their lifestyle. Some simply walked away knowing that a Kerry was a pretty neat dog.



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