# YOU BE THE JUDGE

By Robert Cole
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     These eight Australian Terriers, divided into two classes, serve to highlight a large number of type and soundness virtues and faults. You are invited to select first, second, third and fourth in each class, then winner and reserve winner.

     Definition of typical has been spread throughout the description of all eight examples, to produce a comprehensive word picture. I will discuss the order of my placements after each class.
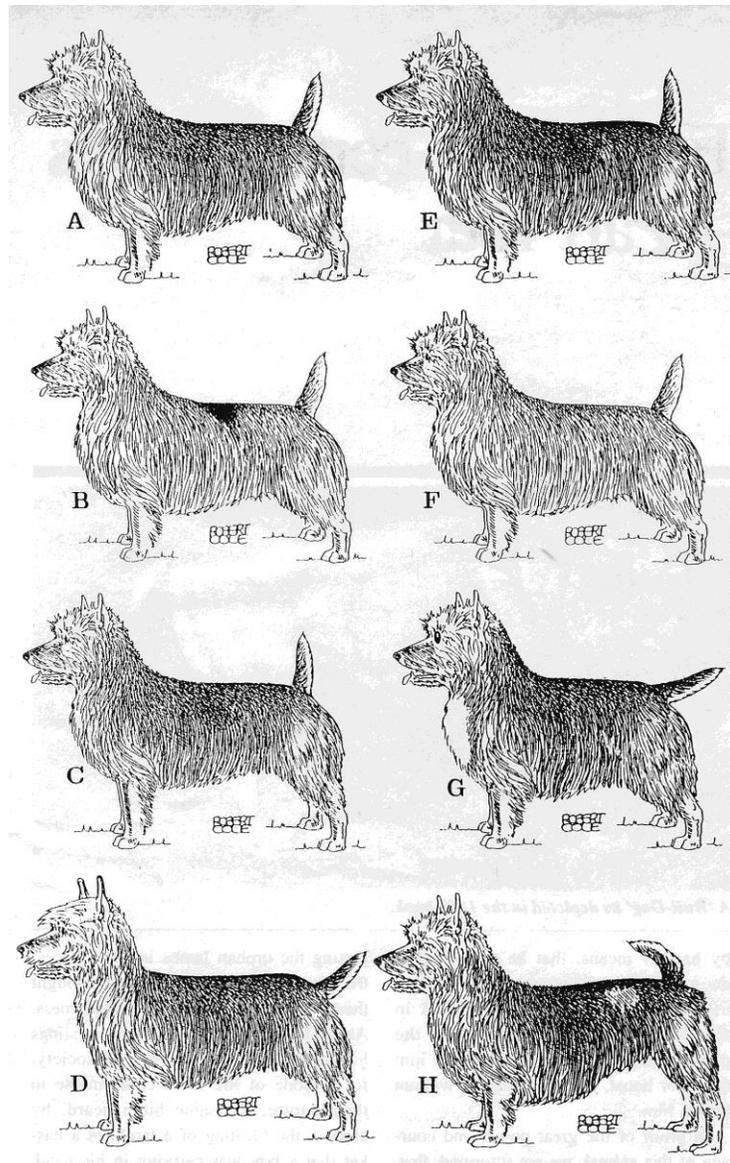
DOG A

This sound, blue and tan example's outer coat is harsh and straight; his undercoat is short and soft. His topknot is a light silver colour, soft and silky in texture. Tan markings (not sandy or red) on face, ears, underbody, lower legs and feet, and around vent, are rich in colour and clearly defined.

Black has been eliminated from permissible colours except, of course, in puppies, but is still found in some adults. When judging in Australia in 1985, I spoke to Trevor Robb, president of the Australian Terrier Club of New South Wales, and came away with the impression that the biggest problem for some judges is the definition of the colour blue. In Australia as in Canada, the blue colours are: dark blue, steel blue or dark grey-blue with righ tan markigns and a silver or lighter shade topknot. In the United States, the colour silver-blue has recently been added and is defined as each hair carrying blue and silver, alternating with the darker colour at the tips.

DOG B

This sound Aussie is sandy in colour (he may also be solid red) with a lighter shade topknot. The coat should be clear. This example's colour is faulty: there is an area of dark smut on his back.

There is something about this example's head that is not correct; though probably not readily observed, it is of concern to breeders. Rather than make this fault more obvious than factual, I have stayed with showring reality. His head is faulty because it is small in proportion to his body. Otherwise the head is correct.

His height is 10 inches at the withers (this is the approximate ideal). The body is long in proportion to the height of the dog.

DOG C

This example has a typical head – a long flat skull, a strong muzzle that does not fall away under the eyes, a slight but definite stop and a black nose of moderate size, with the leather extending to the bridge of the muzzle (which is smaller than, but similar to, that of the Dandie Dinmont). The muzzle is of equal length with the skull; the skull is covered with a soft, silky topknot.

His cheeks are flat and do not carry much coat. The bite is a complete scissor. The underjaw is strong and the black lips are tight-fitting. The eyes are dark, keen in expression and set in square to look forward. The eye rims are black, and oval in shape. The ears are small, erect, pointed, well carried, set on moderately wide and free from long hair.

He stands about 11 inches and exhibits a different balance than the previous two examples. Why? It is not because he is larger and heavier; it is because he has the longest short legs. The CKC standard does not indicate ideal leg length. You must decide if this is the leg length you associate with Australian Terrier balance.

DOG D

This 11 inch example would be 10 inches at the withers if his steep shoulders, steep upper arm and steep front pasterns had not forced his body to raise up above his elbow and move forward, covering keel.

He is balanced front with rear. His steep pelvis has forced the hind leg to steepen, raising the rear and reducing angulation at both stifle and hock. This has also caused the low set tail.

His head is faulty in two ways, one manmade. His manmade fault is the habit of combing the hair on the head forward – it gives a completely wrong impression of an Aussie head. His ears are faulty because they are large. They should be small and pointed, set high on the skull yet well aprt, carried erect without any tendency to flare obliquely off the skull.

1,2,3 and 4

Dog A is my choice for first place; his head, coat, colour, soundness, leg length, body depth and body length are appealing. Second place goes to Dog B because, even with his small head, he is better balanced as an Aussie. His smut mark disturbs, but not to the extent that, in this class, I would place him third. Longer legged Dog C is my choice for third place. Fourth is Dog D.

DOG E

This sound, correctly marked blue and tan is too long in loin. The extra length of loin has caused the topline to roach slightly to compensate for weakness in this area. Appearance of too long a body length has been reduced by a perpendicular set on tail. The two thirds docked tail can be set on from one o'clock to 12 o'clock.

Aside from the long loin, this dog is quite good. His outer coat is 2 ½ inches long all over the body except the tail, pasterns, rear legs from the hocks down, and the feet. Hair on the ears has been kept short.

DOG F

This examples sandy (or red) coat is clear of any dark smut markings. He is sound, his front is balanced with his rear, and is correctly long in proportion to height. His ears are pricked, his eyes are oval, but his head is still faulty.

His muzzle is short. Length of muzzle should be equal to the length of the skull. His short muzzle reduces, to some extent, his ratting ability. It also affects his appearance. He does, however, have a correct, complete scissor bite and the teeth are of good size.

His shoulders are long, well laid back, with only a slight space between the shoulder blades. The upper arm is comparable in length to the shoulder blades and sets at 90 degrees to the blade. The elbow sets close to and slightly above the chest, and there is a distinct keel. The front pasterns are strong, with only a very slight (my preference) slope.

DOG G

To strengthen appreciation for correct body length to height balance, and also to warn against cobbiness, I have included a sound, short bodied example. This short body is foreign to the Aussie.

He has four more visible faults. The most obvious is his large, round rather than oval, eye. Second is the white markings on his chest and feet (the white on the feet is not graphically obvious). Third is his low-set tail, which is due to sacrum angle, rather than a faulty steep pelvis. Fourth is his short, stuffy neck.

DOG H

This is an unsound example both front and rear, but with a correct head and coat (but not colour). He demonstrates by departure the requirement for angulation front and real, level topline, straight front legs, erect tail and correct feet.

Due to steep shoulders, this heavy body has dropped down between the front legs. With elbows positioned high above the brisket, the forelegs have curved around the chest wall. The forelegs are no longer straight, viewed head on.

The hindquarters are equally faulty. The pelvis is flat, the tail curls forward. The bones of the hind legs have been forced into a steep formation and lack of angulation at stifle and hock. Tuck up is more than "slight". The feet are a far cry from the small, compact, well-padded, cat-like feet associated with the Aussie.

The faulty tan smut mismark in the blue portion of this dog's coat is mentioned as undesirable in the CKC standard.

1,2,3,4

The short muzzle on Dog F disturbs me more than Dog E's length of loin. Since they are otherwise quite similar, I have given first place to Dog E, second place to Dog F. Although Dog G's short body is a serious departure from type, I prefer Dog G for third place over very unsound Dog H.

WINNER AND RESERVE

My decision is between first place Dog A and first place Dog E. the decision is not difficult: Dog A is my winner.

Reserve is then between Dog E and my second place Dog B from the first class. This decision took me just a little longer. I ended up giving reserve to Dog B. If Dog E's body had been longer overall, not just in the loin, Dog E would have been my reserve.