YOU BE THE JUDGE

By Robert Cole
From *Dogs in Canada*, October 1996

THE YORKSHIRE TERRIER
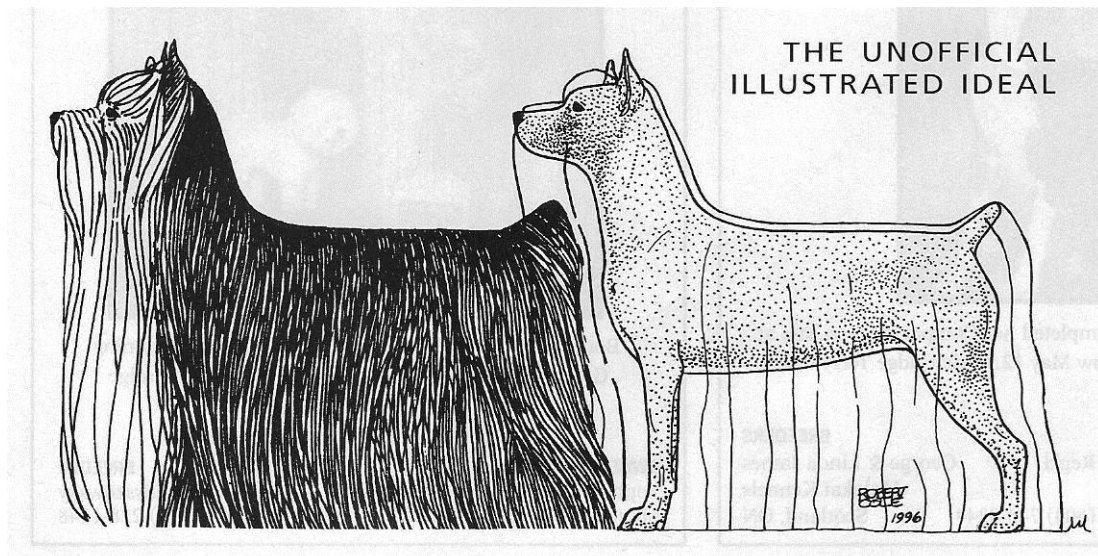*Based on the CKC's Yorkshire Terrier standard as published July 1994*

YOUR TASK
After studying the cloaked and uncloaked unofficial illustrated ideal (below) and reading the text describing features not included in the CKC standard followed by those that are included, place this class of four Yorkshire Terriers in order of merit.

FEATURES NOT IN STANDARD
The "not too long" muzzle is less than half the length of the skull; about a ratio of 2 to 3. The stop is definite. The bridge of the fairly broad muzzle is level and parallel with the top of the "flat" skull. The ears join the head closer to the occiput than to the stop.

I have given the neck a slight arch and drawn withers only slightly higher than the topline. There is a degree of forechest in front of the point of shoulder. The angled shoulder blade and angled upper arm appear the same length. The elbow is level with the deepest part of the brisket; the elbow position is half the height from the ground to the withers (body depth and foreleg length are equal). The front pastern slopes slightly forward. The body from point of the forechest to the buttocks is slightly longer than the height at the withers. Tuck-up is moderate. Feet are arched as well as "round".

THE UNOFFICIAL ILLUSTRATED IDEAL

FEATURES INCLUDED IN STANDARD
The nose is jet black, the eyes are oval and the ears are v-shaped, set high on the head with hair trimmed short on the tips (ears held erect by tying the hair into the topknot are a disqualification).

A long-coated Toy terrier; the Yorkie is readily identified by its straight, flowing, silky body coat of bright, shiny, lustrous steel blue and clear-shaded golden tan. The hair is parted on the muzzle and from the skull to the base of the tail.

The topline must be level. There is a good spring of oval ribs, with a short and strong loin. The tail is docked to a medium length, with plenty of hair, darker blue in colour than the rest of the body, and carried higher than the level of the back. "Higher than level of back" does not restrict the angle to the height I have drawn the tail on the unofficial idea. Advice that "a sloping croup is a fault" suggests that the tail is set on high (horizontal sacrum).

Yorkies come in various heights (height does not receive mention). Ideal size is based on "weight does not exceed 7 lbs. (3 kg)", and "the Yorkie is square".
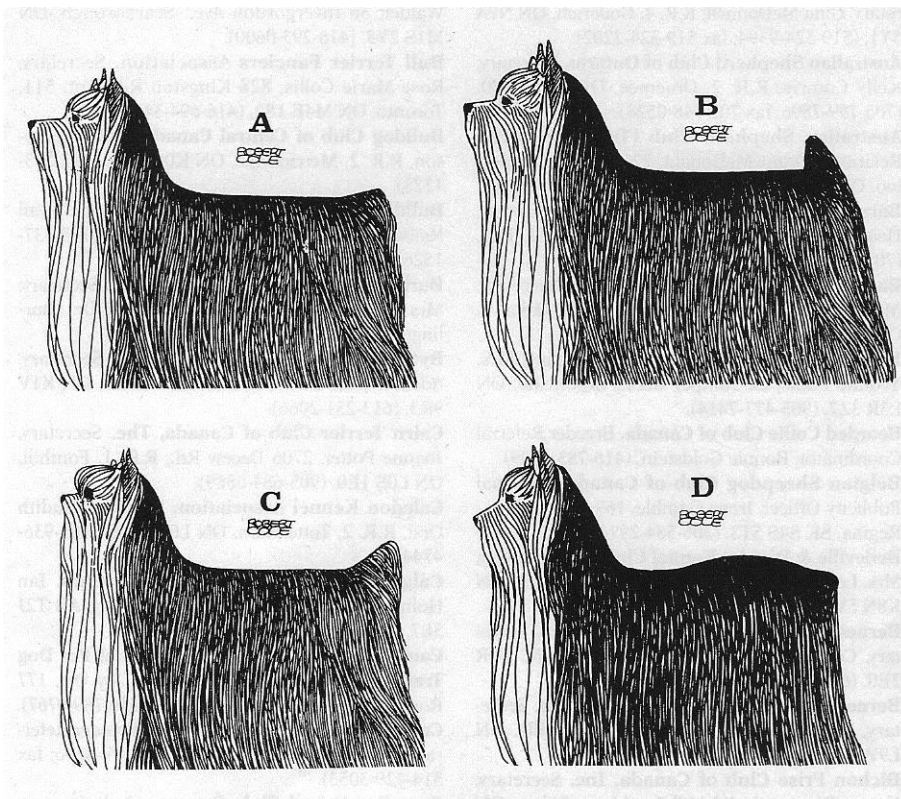
PROPORTIONS

The CKC Yorkshire Terrier standard, however, is the only national guideline that describes this breed as "square". Truly square in dogdom means the same length of body from breastbone to buttocks as the height at the withers. My illustrated ideal is not square, nor is the Yorkshire Terrier Club of America's nor that of the country of origin.

BITCH CLASS A,B,C,D

Heads, height, weight, toplines and tails are features taken into consideration when judging this class.

MUZZLE

None of these four muzzles is correct. Bitch A's muzzle is long; Bitch B's is heavy – in fact, the whole head is large and heavy; Bitch C's is short (doll face), and her eyes are large and round rather than oval; and Bitch D's is not on the same plane as the skull, producing a down-face effect.

OVERWEIGHT

Bitch B is taller and weighs much more than seven pounds. With experience you can tell with your eyes and hands if a Yorkshire is overweight. Overweight usually means gross, but not always.

Sometimes greater soundness goes hand in hand with greater size. That is when awareness that this is a toy breed and its standard demands "weight not to exceed seven pounds" takes on special meaning.

TAILS

All four tails are different. Only one is not "carried higher than the level of the back". Bitch A's body appears long because the tail is not carried high enough. Bitch B's tail is carried straight up which based on the habit of many exhibitors to push the tail forward, must have appeal. Bitch C's tail is docked to a length longer than what many people consider "medium", and is light instead of dark on the end. Bitch D's tail almost slopes down.

MY PLACEMENTS

I placed long-muzzled Bitch A first, baby faced Bitch C second, large and heavy Bitch B third, and unsound Bitch D fourth.

EYE TEST

Somewhere in the text, eye shape received mention. Which of these four Yorkie heads has the correct eye shape specified by the CKC standard, to produce the required "dark and sparkling, sharp, intelligent expression, placed so as to look directly forward and with dark eye rims"?
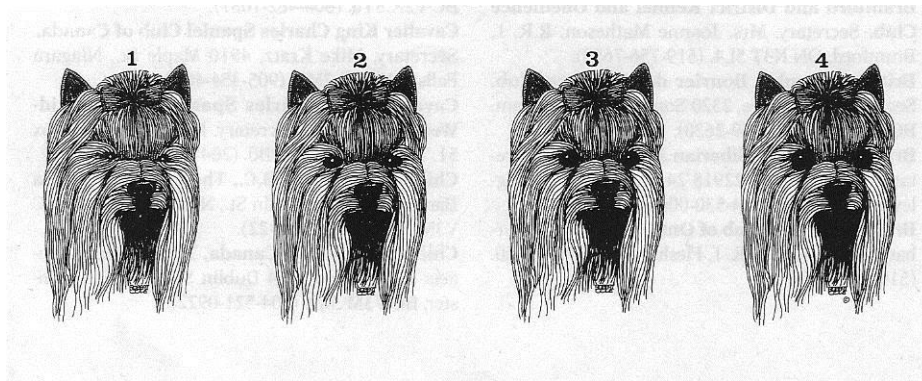

Figure 1 has tiny, perhaps even pig-like eyes, figure 2 has almond-shaped eyes, figure 3 has oval eyes and figure 4 has large round eyes. While the CKC standard describes the eyes as oval, some of the top-winning Yorkies have almond shaped eyes.

Judges looking for additional opinion will appreciate published comments such as those made by Richard F. Sedlack in 1985 in *The Yorkshire Terrier* that inform us, "Round eyes are not correct … oval or almond eyes are." The Yorkshire Terrier Club of America's *Illustrated Discussion of the Yorkshire Terrier*, 1979, describes almond shaped eyes as correct and oval shaped eyes as preferred. From my drawings, it is clear that these are not one and the same shape.

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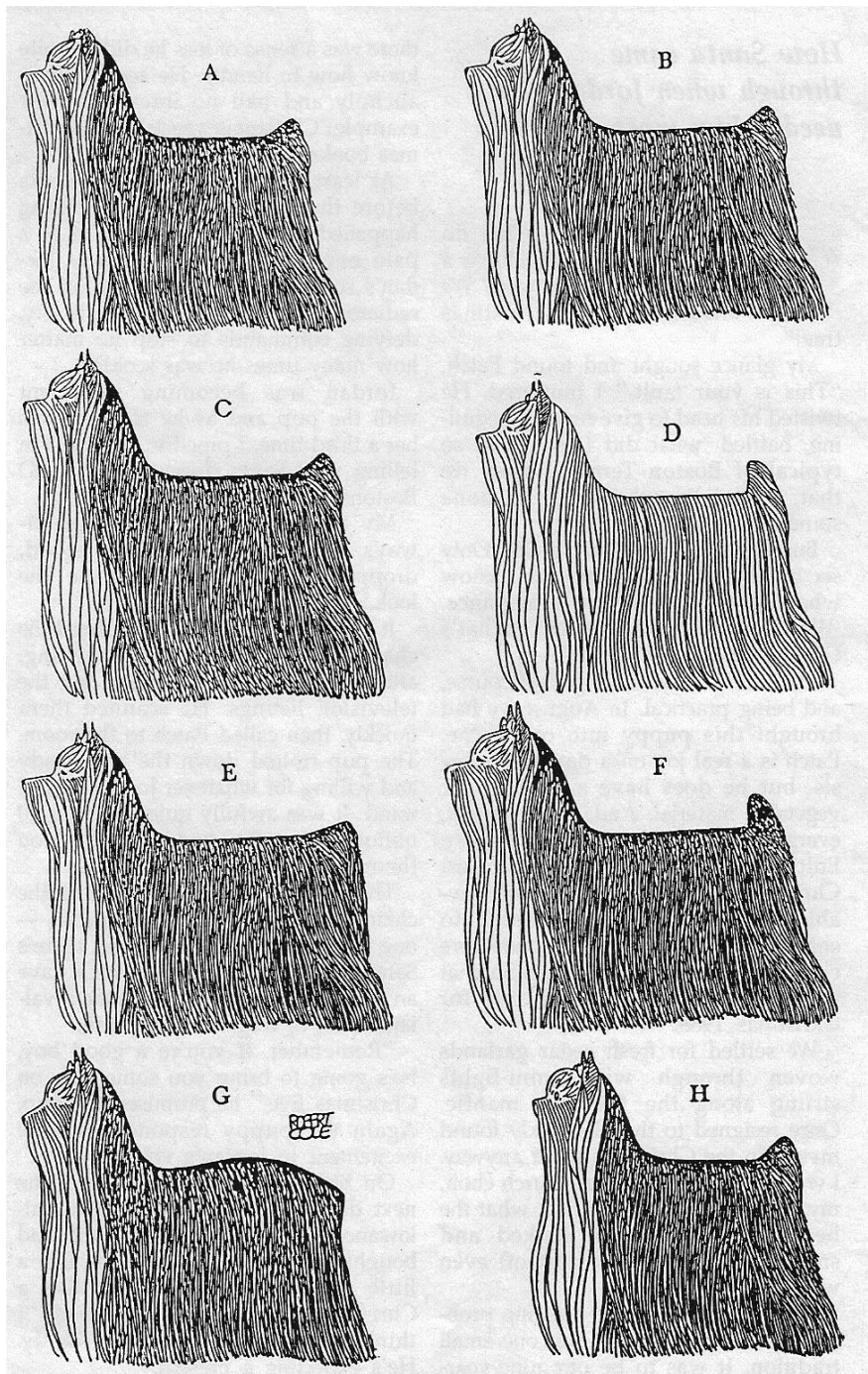From *Dogs in Canada*, December 1989

THE YORKSHIRE TERRIER

The Canadian Kennel Club Yorkshire Terrier standard has recently been revised. Description of almost every one of this toy's features has been enlarged upon, including coat, colour, eyes, neck, body, forequarters, hindquarters and tail. This illustrated discussion incorporates these recent changes.

EIGHT EXAMPLES

I have provided eight illustrated examples detailing the variables involved, rather than just the usual four. These eight bitches have been evenly divided into two classes. Two classes rather than one large class will provide the opportunity to include four placements in each class plus Winner and Reserve Winner and thereby present 10 decisions instead of only four.

DECIDE

Decide on first, second, third and fourth place from the four Bred by Exhibitor A, B,C and D bitches.

Then decide on first, second, third and fourth place from the Open Bitch E, F, G and H class.

From your two first place class bitches select a Winners Bitch. That was your ninth and most important decision. Finally, compare your second place bitch from the class from which you selected your Winners Bitch with the undefeated first place bitch in the other class; decide which of the two will be your Reserve Winner. I will inform you as to the order and reasons for my 10 decisions after you have made yours.

A, B, C D

If you were judging to the American or British standards, based on balance, you might select Bitch B or Bitch D for first place. In fact, Bitch B and Bitch D have the same proportions as the example of correct proportions in the *Illustrated Discussion of the Yorkshire Terrier*, 1979, published by the Yorkshire Club of America. However, you are judging to the Canadian standard, and the revised CKC Yorkshire Terrier standard reads: "The Yorkie is square." Bitch B and Bitch D are not square. Bitch A and Bitch C are square although they are square for different reasons. Regardless of the reasons, which height to length ratio do you prefer?

BITCH A

This seven pound toy terrier's head is correctly rather small. The ratio of muzzle length to skull length is two to three, the muzzle 2/5ths the overall length of head. The muzzle is broad with a slight tapering toward the nose. The top of muzzle and skull like on parallel planes broken b a stop proportional to what you might find on a West Highland White Terrier.

This example has a perfect scissor bite (pincer equally acceptable). Her nose is jet black. Her dark eyes are oval in shape and look straight forward (not at the sides of her head). Her forehead is not domes, nor is her skull. Her head is flat between the small v-shaped, erect ears. The fringe hair has been trimmed (allowed about 1/3rd down from the tip in the U.S.A.; only short on the tips here; seldom adhered to).

Under the long coat, a correct degree of forechest can be felt projecting in front of the point of shoulder. The shoulders have moderate angulation. The neck has moderate length. The body is as deep as the foreleg is long, the snug elbow level with the bottom of the chest. The back is quite short. Tuck-up is slight.

The topline is level; there is no slope to croup. The docked tail is set on as a continuation of the spine and the tail is carried "higher than the level of the back". The front legs are straight and (in my opinion) the same length as the body is deep, half the height of the dog. The pasterns are strong and slope only very slightly. The feet are round, cat-like, with thick pads and black toenails. Dewclaws were removed.

Hind legs are moderately angulated at stifle and hock. The feet (same shape as front) position with the tips of the toes directly under a line dropped down from the buttocks ensuring correct length of second thigh. The rear pasterns position vertical, the hocks are low.

The blue in this example's coat is metallic dark steel blue without any approach to blackness. The hair is a lustrous, silky texture and feels cool to the touch. The dark blue extends from the occiput down the neck to the end of the even darker blue tail.

The shaded golden tan is darker at the roots, shading to a lighter colour in the middle and still lighter at the tips. The fine silky texture reflects light. The tan is deeper in colour at the sides of the head, at ear roots and on muzzle, with ears a deep rich tan.

BITCH B

Aside from being an inch or more longer in body; bitch B possesses the same desirable attributes as Bitch A. Longer, she still has been described by some breeders as square. *Some* Yorkie breeders measure square from the withers to the buttocks – not from the forechest to the buttocks. It may seem a strange way of seeing square to those familiar with Basenji, Boxer and Brittany square, but Yorkie fanciers are not the only dog people who measure square in this manner.

BITCH C

This bitch, like Bitch A, is also square-but-not-square because her body is ultra short. Rather, she is square because her legs are long. Because her legs are long, her outline in profile presents a distinctive balance, a balance quite different from square Bitch A. To make this long-legged, square balance acceptable I have had to lengthen the neck. The standard does not advise as to leg length, and advises only that the neck is of medium length.

BITCH D

Three things are different (from Bitch B) about this example. One pertains to colour, one to markings and one to tail. If you selected Bitch B for first place then you will weight two faults and a recent word change against square Bitch A to determine second place. If you selected square Bitch A for first place then this light blue rather than dark blue rectangular example will probably place either third or fourth (not applicable here, but light blue is always preferable to ay shade of black). The light blue (difficult to depict in black and white) should begin at the occiput; here it begins half way down the neck. The word change involves the tail. Bitch D carries her tail higher than the level of the back – much higher – it is perpendicular. The CKC standard now describes the tail as "higher" than the back, not the previous "slightly higher", so this vertical carriage is more acceptable now than previously.

1,2 3 and 4

When I prepared this article for the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand, based on each of their standards, I selected Bitch B for first place, Bitch D for second, Bitch A for third and Bitch C for fourth. Assuming rectangular Bitch B moves better than square Bitch a, and based on the balance I associate with the Yorkie, I am not going to change the order of my selection. (See future Breed Notes for breeder opinions.)

E, F, G, H

The four bitches in this Open class all have different heads and tails. All have different body length. Only two have, in my opinion, correct length of neck. These four combine to draw attention to a number of interesting Yorkie virtues and faults.

BITCH E

This example's neck and body length are the same as Bitch B's. but her muzzle is longer. Whereas, in my opinion, the ratio of muzzle to skull should be two to three, this bitch's muzzle is the same distance from nose to eye as from eye to occiput, too long for a Yorkie.

This bitch's tail carriage is slightly higher than topline, but often does not have the appeal of one carried at 2 o'clock. A higher carriage than this example's would make the topline appear shorter – a tail carried vertical makes the body appear a great deal shorter. It will be interesting to see if, when the Yorkie standard is clarified in the U.S.A., their work "slightly" will also be deleted.

BITCH F

The standard calls for a small head. This bitch's head is large in proportion to body for a Yorkie. The neck is the same length as Bitch B's but the body is longer. However, the body is made to appear shorter than it actually is by the vertical tail. Given a choice between tail F and tail E, many exhibitors, when stacking their Yorkies, appear to prefer tail F.

BITCH G

The dip behind the withers, the roached topline, the drop off of the croup, the low set tail and lack of angulation at hock suggest this bitch is unsound both front and rear.

Round button eyes and a lack of dark eye rim contribute to this bitch's poor head. The third departure is the down-face muzzle.

BITCH H

This Yorkie departs from my graphic approach to typical in four visible ways. Her neck, body and muzzle are all too short and her eyes are too large and round. Not visible, her skull is domed. The Yorkshire Terrier skull should not be round or domey; it should be rather flat. A domey head and a short muzzle often go together. They combine to set the eyes too far apart, create a deep stop and often the ears set low. Note: when ear position is less than ideal it is not unknown for an exhibitor to falsely attempt to make the ear more erect by tying the hair of the ear into the topknot (now a disqualification in Canada).

1,2,3,4

Bitch E is my choice for first place. Second place is Bitch F. Third goes to Bitch H – her head greatly disturbs but she is sounder than Bitch G.

WINNER AND RESERVE

Winner is between Bitch B and Bitch E. My choice for Winner is Bitch B. Reserve is between Bitch D and Bitch E. My choice is Bitch D.