

YOU BE THE JUDGE

By Robert Cole

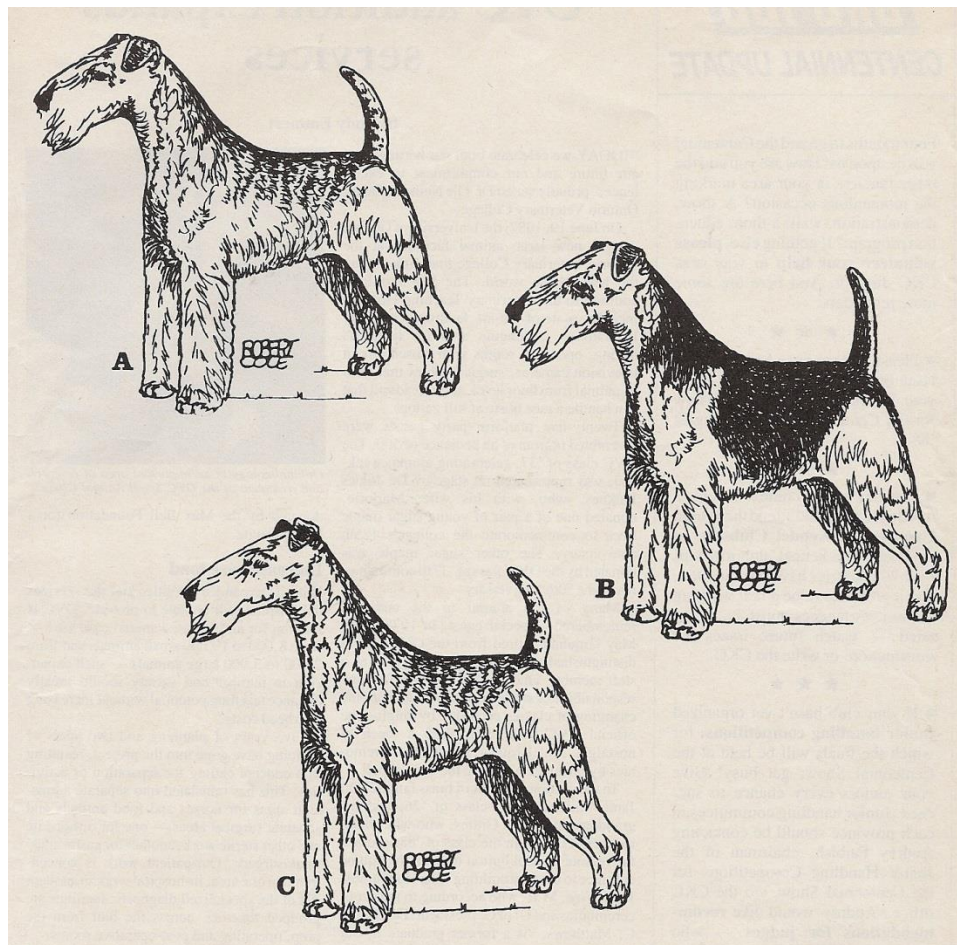
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LAKELAND TERRIER

A major concern of Lakeland Terrier breeders is that their breed not physically resemble the Wire Fox Terrier or the Welsh Terrier. This is understandable. I can see how a Lakeland possessing certain Wire Fox characteristics could appeal to someone not fully familiar with Lakeland type. As for the Welsh, the concern of breeders is that too often Lakelands not only resemble Welsh ... they are mistaken for Welsh.

My friend Tom Horner, in his popular book on judging dogs, *Take them Round, Please*, advises: "Superficially, there is little difference between a Welsh Terrier and a Lakeland Terrier, but each has small points in which it differs from the other. These together form the breed's individual type, which should make it immediately recognizable as a member of its own breed and no other."

It would then seem that to fully appreciate Lakeland type, one should be aware of the small points in which it differs from the Welsh, since the two are so similar. To this end, I have drawn three Lakeland examples for your *You Be The Judge* consideration. One represents typical, one a departure towards certain Fox Terrier characteristics, and one a departure towards Welsh Terrier type. I do not think you will have difficulty deciding which represents typical, Fox Terrier or Welsh Terrier type; but can you identify the particular manner in which each of these departures occur?



DOG A

This 14 ½ in. (37 cm), 17 lb. (8 kg), example represent typical. He is a sound, well-balanced wheaten Lakeland. The head is rectangular, the length of skull equals the length of muzzle. The skull is flat on top and moderately broad. The cheeks are flat. There is good fill-in beneath the eyes. Eyes are small and V-shaped; they fold just above the top of the skull. The oval eyes are dark.

The neck is “reacy and of good length.” The shoulder blades are well laid back. The withers are high. The dog is approximately square. The chest is moderately narrow and deep. I have drawn the “straight” forelegs the same length as I have drawn the body deep, and drawn the “second thighs long and nicely angulated”.

The elbow is level with the bottom of the deep chest, an important consideration and, because of the profuse coat, requires position elaboration. To appreciate the true length of this example’s foreleg (and the other two) measured from the elbow to the ground, look closely and you will see that the inked outline of the elbow has been heaved. The elbow is not where the long hair under the chest and on the back of the forearm meet, the true elbow is above this point and closer to the forechest.

The significance of this forward elbow position is important in the assessing of this breed’s conformation and the manner in which it moves at the trot. The function of the Lakeland is to enter tight openings and close with prey. The forward position of the elbow and narrow chest assists in this function. Movement (endurance) at the trot is secondary.

To complement this function, I have given this typical example a “straight Fox Terrier front”, not only straight head-on, as is required of most breeds, but straight up-and-down in profile as found on the equally square Fox Terrier, Airedale and Welsh (but not the Kerry Blue).

By straight, I mean a specialized forehand, where the shoulders are well laid back in conjunction with a shorter upper arm and a more open angle than found on most breeds. This open angle brings the elbow forward on the chest wall which in turn reduces the need for appreciable bend to the pastern in order to bring the foot under the centre of support. The action this type of forehand produces is distinctive but it is not the action associated with breeds that excel at the endurance trot.

A horizontal sacrum sets the tail high on body. The slight curve to the tail in the direction of the head is considered desirable. The tail is customarily docked so that when the dog is set up in show position, the tip of the docked tail is on an approximate level with the skull.

DOG B

This example’s 15 in. height (ideal for a Welsh) is still within the acceptable range for a male Lakeland, but its 21 lb. weight (17 lbs. is ideal for a Lakeland, 20 lb. for a Welsh) is too heavy for a Lakeland. This example departs towards Welsh in a number of ways.

How about Dog B’s Welsh black and tan colour? It would simplify things greatly if Welsh were black and tan and Lakelands just a solid red or solid wheaten. However, both the Lakeland and the Welsh can be black and tan or black grizzle and tan. Therefore this example’s colour is acceptable. Blue, black, liver, blue and tan, red grizzle, or grizzle and tan are equally acceptable.

This departure towards Welsh is also too wide in skull, too long and deep of jaw and, like the Welsh, the ears point a little more to the outside and the tips lie at the edge of the cheek, whereas the Lakeland’s ears should point more forward so the tips lie closer to the corner of the eye. The coat is rather more abundant in the Welsh. I was fortunate in finding these last helpful observations in R.H. Smythe’s book, *Judging Dogs*, published by Gillford, London, 1972.

DOG C

Lakeland breeders have written asking that when I do an illustrated treatise on the breed to be sure to include concern for three particular departures towards Fox Terrier. I have included all three in Dog C.

First, the head is too long and fine. Second, the neck is too long. Third, the legs are too long, even for a Fox Terrier.

In addition, I have saddled this departure toward Fox Terrier with two more current concerns – too small, high-on-the-head ears, and slanting eyes. The British Standard considers three faults worthy of special mention, these two, and too long of head.

MOVEMENT

Having written that the Lakeland's specialized terrier forehand contributes to a distinctive action at the trot and because not everyone is familiar with the basic manner in which the Lakeland, the Fox Terrier, the Welsh and the Airedale move, it might be well to touch on the subject.

The distinctive manner in which each of these breeds move at the trot is described most fully in the Fox Terrier Standard. The CKC Standard states in part that the forelegs swing "like the pendulum of a clock"; and that, when approaching "the feet being the same distance apart as the elbows." This action departs from the norm, has no counterpart in the wild and is a direct result of the straight Fox Terrier type front each one of these four terrier breeds possess.

Approaching, feet as wide apart as the elbows departs from the norm where to obvious degrees, depending on the breed, the feet usually tend to converge towards a centerline as speed increases. This convergence is the most common method utilized by dogs to minimize lateral displacement. It is not utilized by the narrow bodied Lakeland, Fox Terrier, Welsh and Airedale.

Perhaps because this approach wording is so simple and clear cut and the action easy to observe (or fault), the "straight Fox Terrier type front" is sometimes thought to pertain only to the head-on view posed and moving. It is wrongly believed by some that in profile these terriers trot in the normal manner of good movers.

The opening words in the Fox Terrier Standard are sometimes used to strengthen claim that the action in profile of these breeds is the same as others. The wording reads: "Movement, or action is the crucial test of conformation." It is ... But what is sometimes not understood or explained is that the Fox Terrier's conformation departs from the norm and the resulting (distinctive) profile action is the crucial test of its specialized conformation.

In profile, these four square terrier breeds move at the "pendulum trot". The forelegs swing forward and rearward with hardly any bend to the front pastern. This is an action that can be observed easily in the show ring with the unaided eye. The front pastern of each when lifted prior to being carried forward only bends about 10-30°.

The front pasterns of rectangular breeds that excel at the endurance trot are carried forward at 90° parallel with the ground. The front pastern of the average breed bends to 45°. Only breeds which have the open angle between well laid shoulder blade and short upper arm of these four terriers bend their front pasterns only 10-30° and carry the foot forward in a daisy-clipping manner.

This then is the distinctive manner in which these four terrier breeds move at the trot and, in part, how the action differs from most other breeds. However, I would be amiss if I did not add that there are slight action variations between these four breeds, one especially between the Lakeland and the Fox Terrier. The Lakeland's front pastern flexes a little more than the Fox Terrier's and its stride is a little longer.