The Welsh Terrier in Profile

WTCA

THE WELSH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

Introduction

This book has been prepared by the Annotated Standard Committee of the Welsh Terrier Club of America for the purpose of clarifying the official Breed Standard.

For ease of reference, each subject is arranged in the following order:
The official Standard will appear in regular type.
Explanation and discussion will appear in *italic* type.

These discussions are the result of gathering opinions from the members of the Welsh Terrier Club of America since the time we started updating the Standard. We hope that the illustrations and discussions will serve as a fundamental guide to breeders and judges.

While reading this book, one should bear in mind that the Annotated Standard discusses differences and types of Welsh Terrier, never forgetting that the BREED STANDARD personifies the IDEAL dog. It is impossible to illustrate the outgoing, sparkling personality of the Welsh Terrier.

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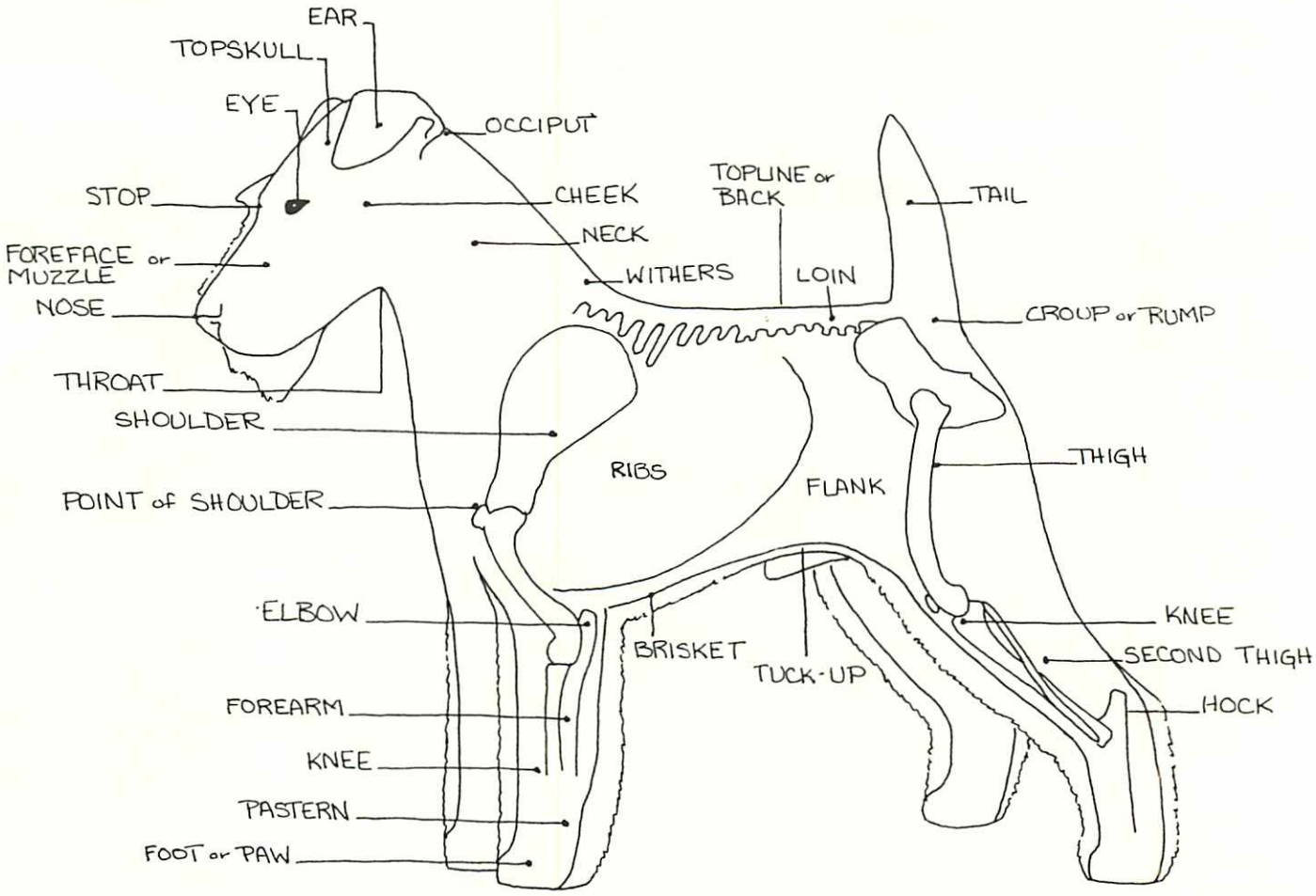
Committee Chairperson

Illustrations & Cover Design
Patricia Peters

Special thanks to Bardi McLennan for her help and encouragement.


EAR
TOPSKULL
EYE
OCCIPUT
STOP
CHEEK
TOPLINE or BACK
TAIL
NECK
FOREFACE or MUZZLE
WITHERS
LOIN
NOSE
CROUP or RUMP
THROAT
SHOULDER
RIBS
THIGH
FLANK
POINT of SHOULDER
ELBOW
KNEE
BRISKET
SECOND THIGH
TUCK-UP
FOREARM
HOCK
KNEE
PASTERN
FOOT or PAW

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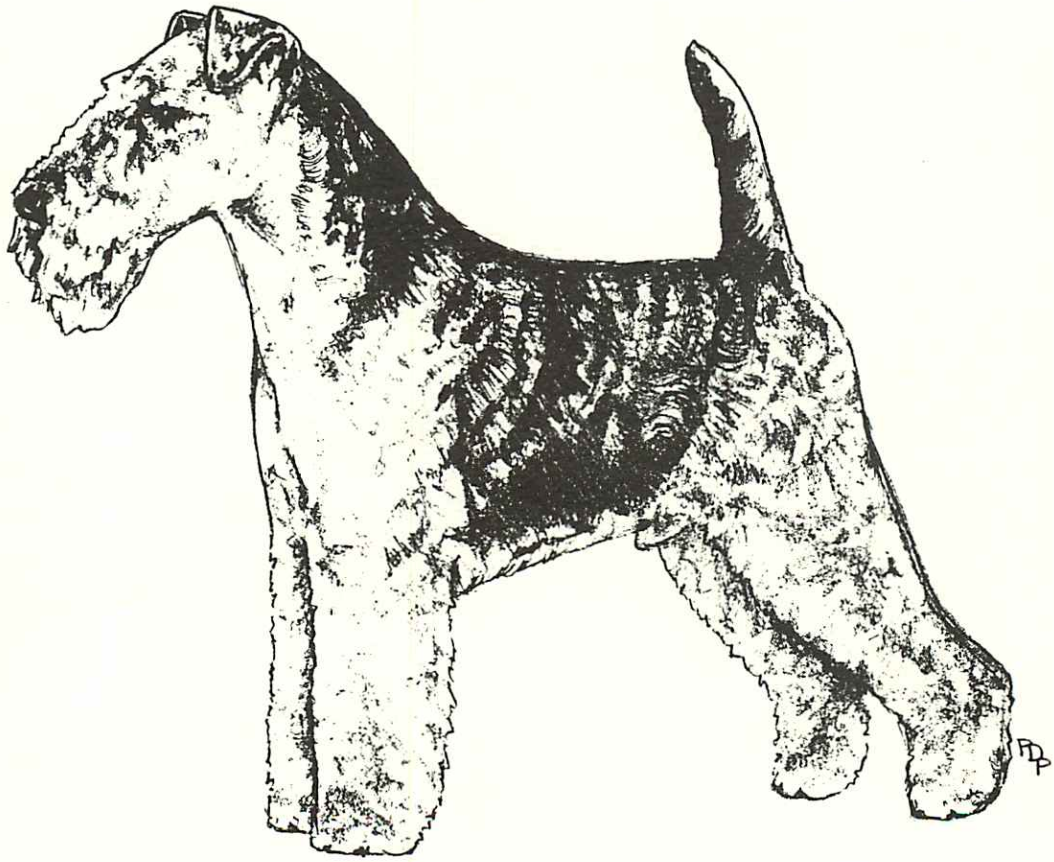
General Appearance

The Welsh Terrier is a sturdy, compact, rugged dog of medium size with a coarse wire-texture coat. The legs, underbody and head are tan; the jacket black (or occasionally grizzle). The tail is docked to a length meant to complete the image of a "square dog" approximately as high as he is long. The movement is a terrier trot typical of the long-legged terrier. It is effortless, with good reach and drive. The Welsh Terrier is friendly, outgoing to people and other dogs, showing spirit and courage. Intelligence and desire to please are evident in the attitude. The "Welsh Terrier" expression comes from the set, color and position of the eyes combined with the use of the ears.

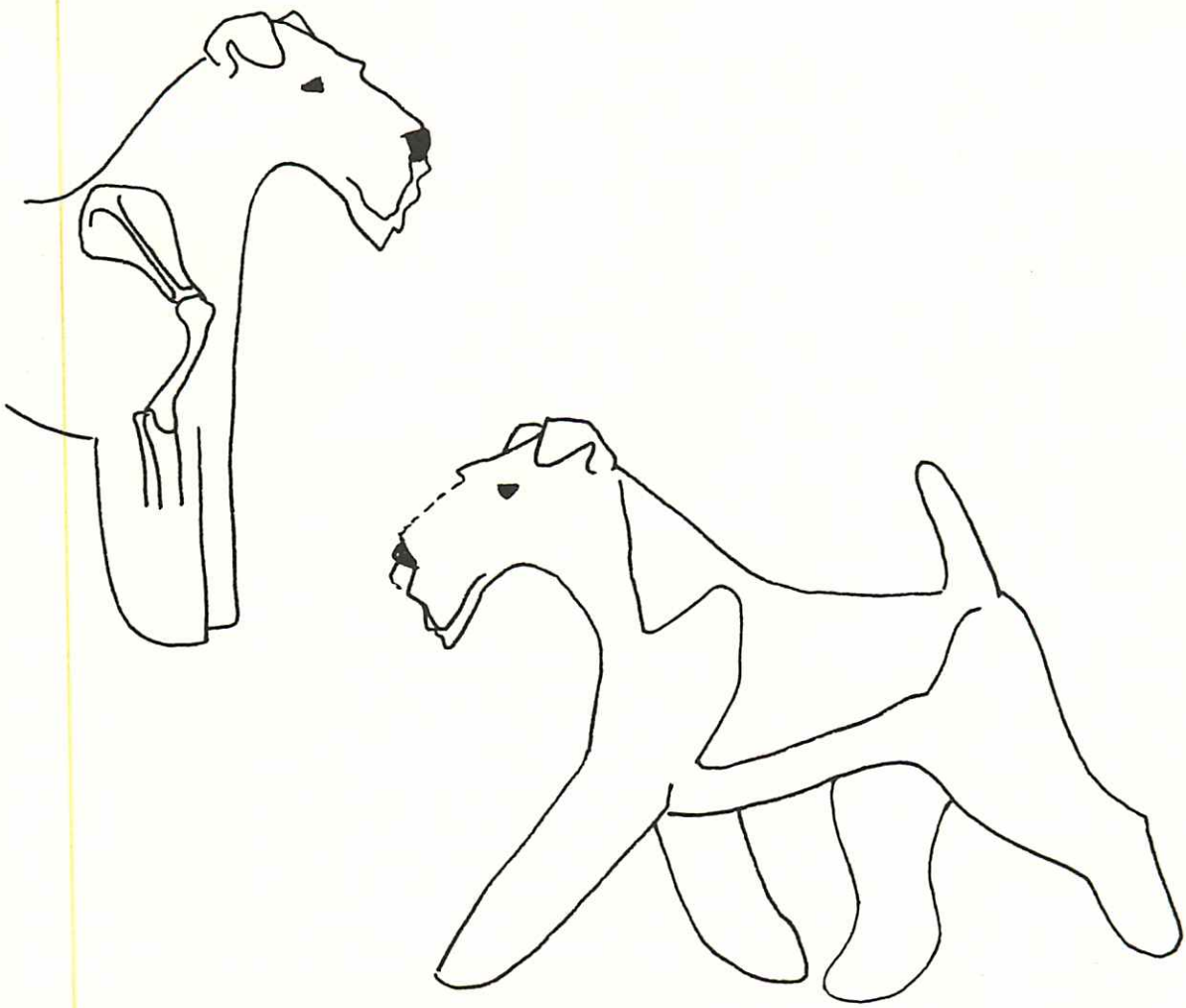


The term "square dog" indicates the overall look of the Welsh Terrier. The general appearance is of straight lines. The proportional balance of the total dog is more important than the actual measurement of any one part. The usual misconception is: the shorter the back, the better, not taking into consideration that an extremely short-backed dog will not be able to move properly.

"Straight Front" means that the upper arm is a shortened bone, and the dog stands correctly with brisket and front legs in a straight line. Good reach is determined by a properly laid back shoulder. The more upright the shoulder, the shorter the reach will be. Correct drive comes from well-angulated quarters, strong hock joints and strong flexing of the foot.

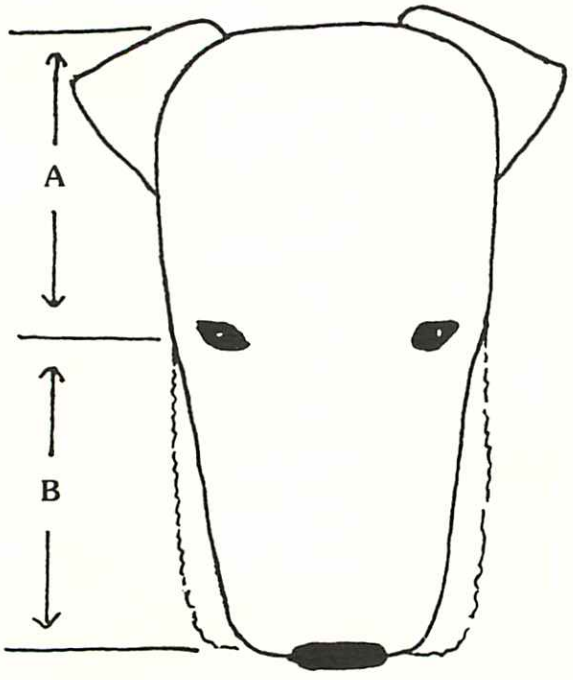
Reach in front should equal drive behind.

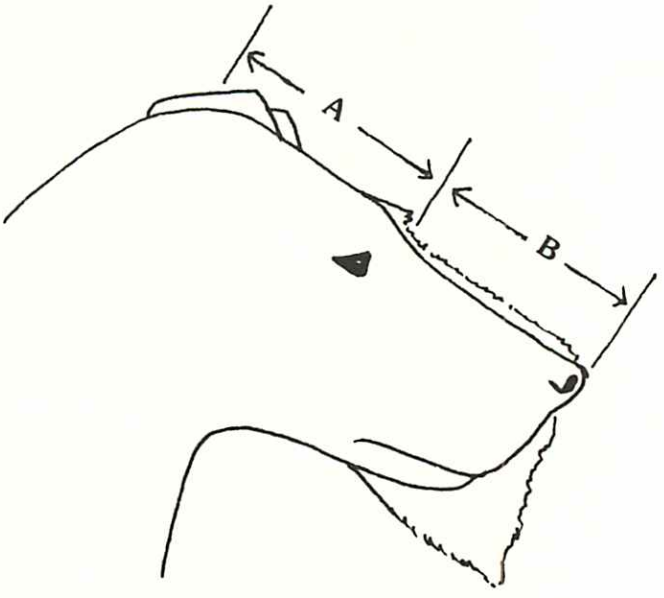
"Terrier Trot" is a gait used by the straight-fronted terrier which gives the picture of an alert and outgoing dog moving on its toes.



Head

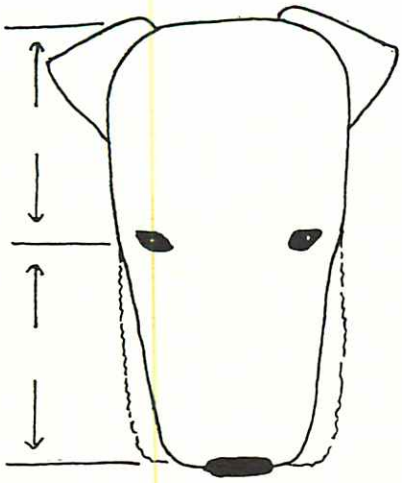
The entire head is rectangular. The foreface is strong with powerful, punishing jaws. It is only slightly narrower than the backskull. There is a slight stop. The backskull is of equal length to the foreface. They are on parallel planes in profile. The back-skull is smooth and flat (not domed) between the ears. There are no wrinkles between the ears. The cheeks are flat and clean (not bulging).



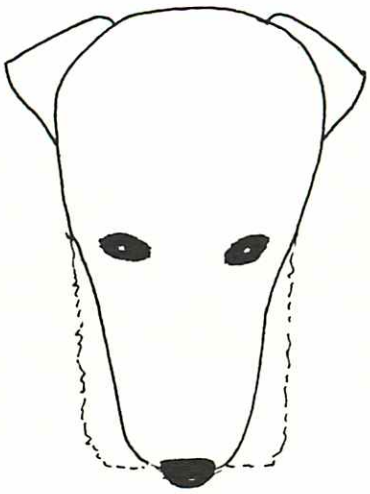


The head of the dog and the bitch differ. The bitch's head is somewhat finer, often smaller, often shorter-muzzled, and may be set on a more refined neck. This difference often elicits the criticism, "she is a pinhead" (out of balance). It may be a true evaluation. This head would be incongruous on a dog, which is also excused for a slightly heavier or more masculine head and neck. The bitch may have a sweet almost dreamy expression, seldom if ever seen on the male.

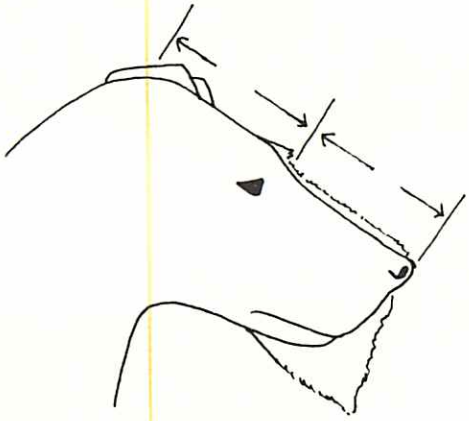
The entire head of dog or bitch is rectangle and is equal in length from nostrils (not beard) to stop (B) as from stop to occiput (A).

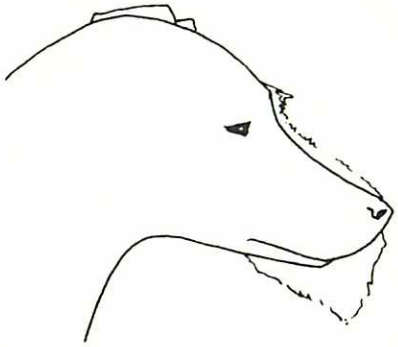


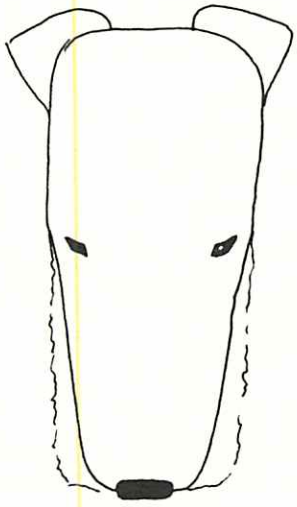
1. IDEAL



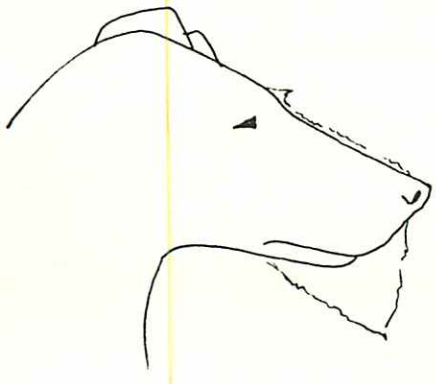
2. Snipey, dome-headed
stop too pronounced
slightly dish-faced

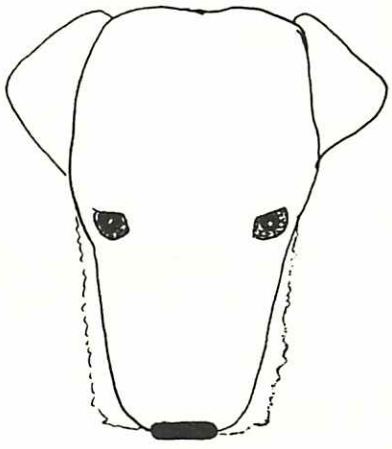






3. Foreface too long, backskull too narrow,
ears too high, small slanted eyes,
fox terrier look





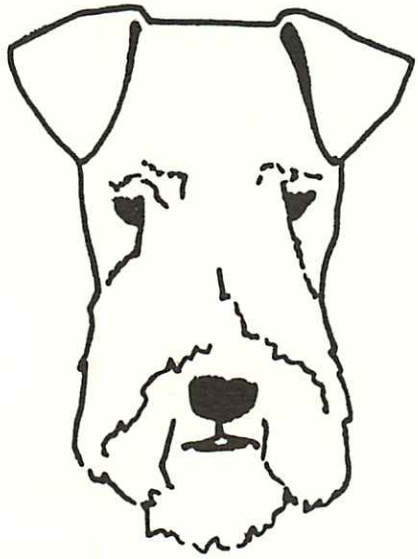
4. Topskull bumpy, bulging cheek bones,
foreface too short, ears large and houndy,
eye large round and light, throaty

Muzzle

The muzzle is one-half the length of the entire head from tip of nose to occiput. The foreface in front of the eyes is well made up. The furnishings on the foreface are trimmed to complete — without exaggeration — the total rectangular outline. The muzzle is strong and squared off, never snipey. The lips are black and tight.

NOSE

The nose is black and squared off.



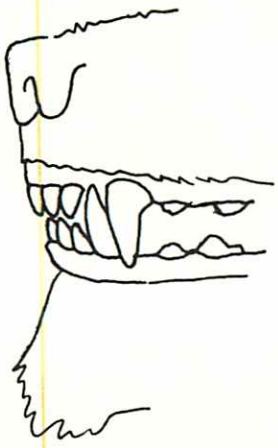
Winter Nose: One occasionally sees a Welsh nose which appears to be mottled or gray in color (charcoal). This is a temporary condition, due to a lack of sunlight in the winter months.

The Muzzle: this lower half of the dog's head is shaped with furnishings, but in skeletal structure there should be no dishing-out beneath the eyes (#2) page 7, no protruding cheeks (#4) page 7 and no snipey muzzle (#2). The lips are tight and black. (By wetting the face furnishings one can more clearly see the head shape.)

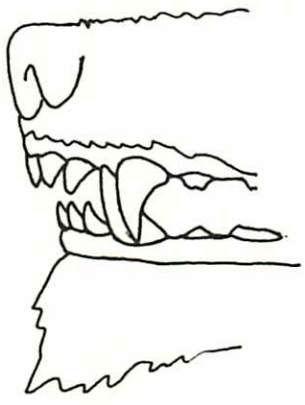
The nose is completely black, relatively broad and squared off. (Snipey-muzzled dogs often have small round noses.)

Teeth

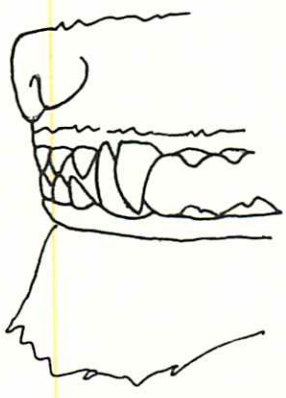
A scissors bite is preferred, but a level bite is acceptable. Either one has complete dentition. The teeth are large and strong, set in powerful, vice-like jaws.



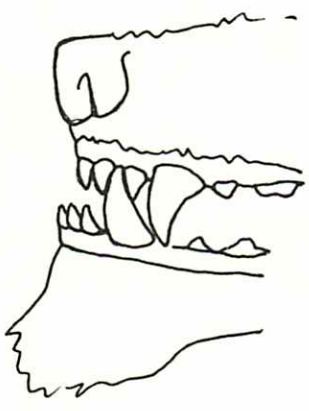
SCISSORS



OVERSHOT



LEVEL



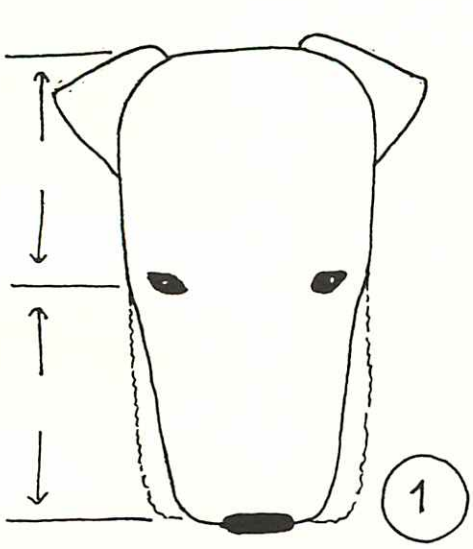
UNDERSHOT

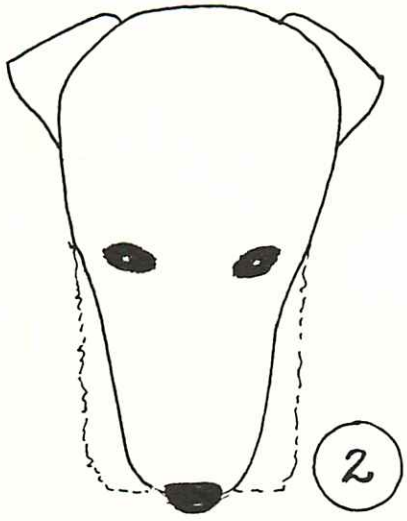
The long canine teeth anchor the bite. Note that this anchor is almost the same in either a scissors or a level bite. Complete dentition consists of 42 teeth in the adult dog. There are 20 upper and 22 lower (one extra molar on each side of the lower jaw). The tooth most often missing is a pre-molar.

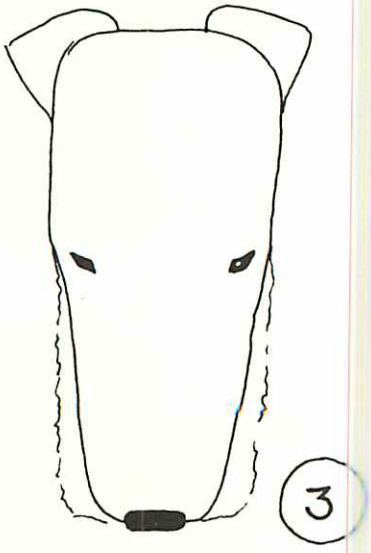
The teeth in the Welsh Terrier, like most terriers, are very large for the size of the dog and are set in powerful jaws.

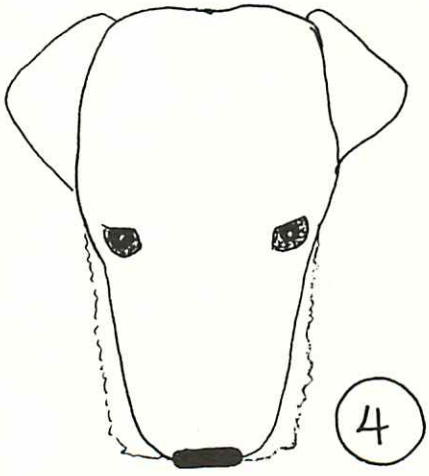
Eyes

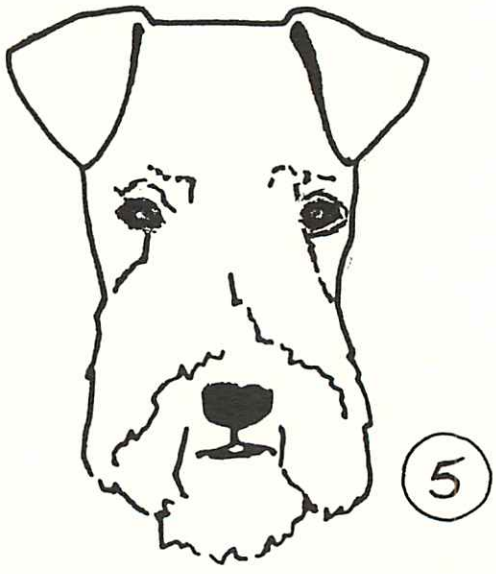
The eyes are small, dark brown and almond-shaped, well set in the skull. They are placed fairly far apart. The size, shape, color and position of the eyes give the steady, confident but alert expression that is typical of the Welsh Terrier.









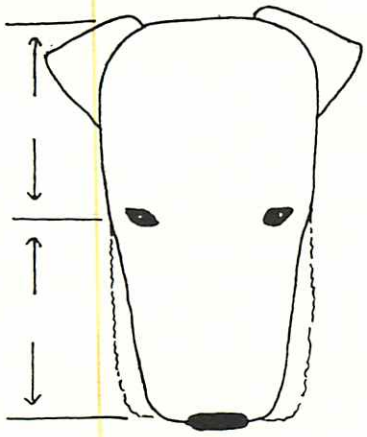


If the eyes are not small, dark and almond shaped the total expression of the dog changes.

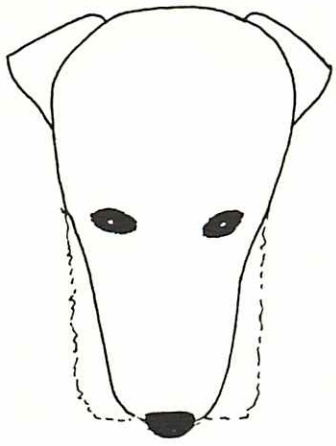
1. *Proper placement*
2. *Wrong placement — eyes close together and small round nose*
3. *Small slanted eyes*
4. *Large, round and light in color*
5. *Picture showing right eye with dark rim. Although the eyes are the same size, the black rim enlarges the look of the eye.*

Ears

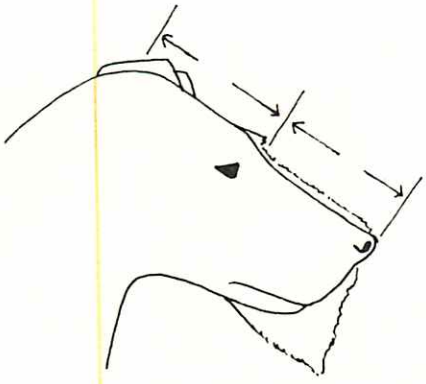
The ears are V-shaped, small, but not too thin. The fold is just above the topline of the skull. The ears are carried forward, close to the cheek with the tips falling to, or toward, the outside corners of the eyes when the dog is at rest. The ears move slightly up and forward when at attention.

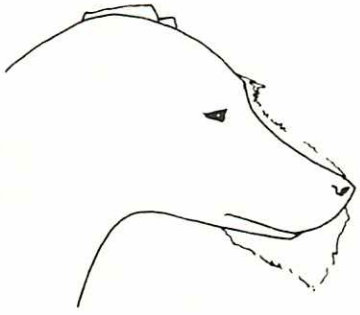


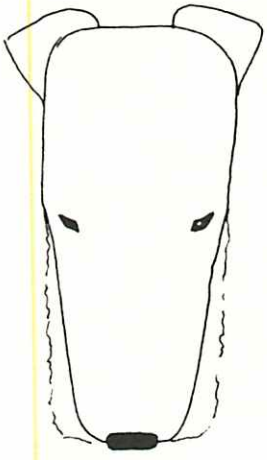
CORRECT EARS



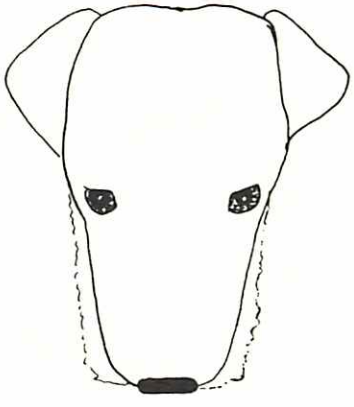
Dome shape of head make ears appear wrong







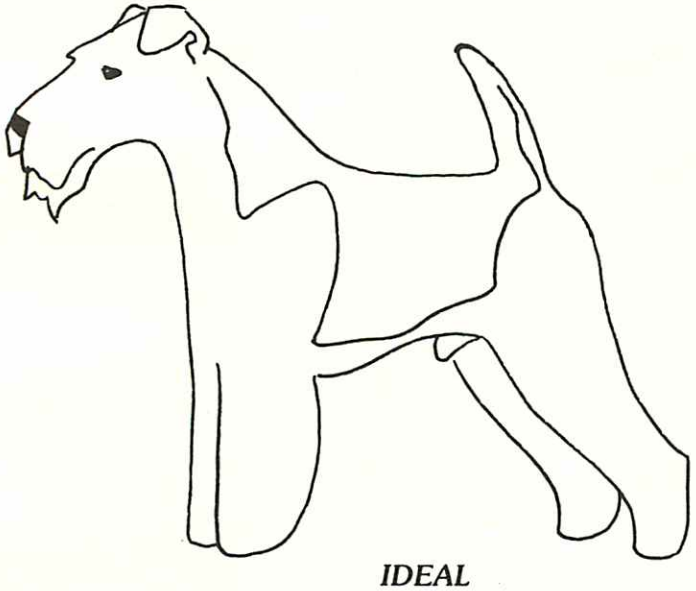
Ears too high (fox terrier type)



Large and houndy

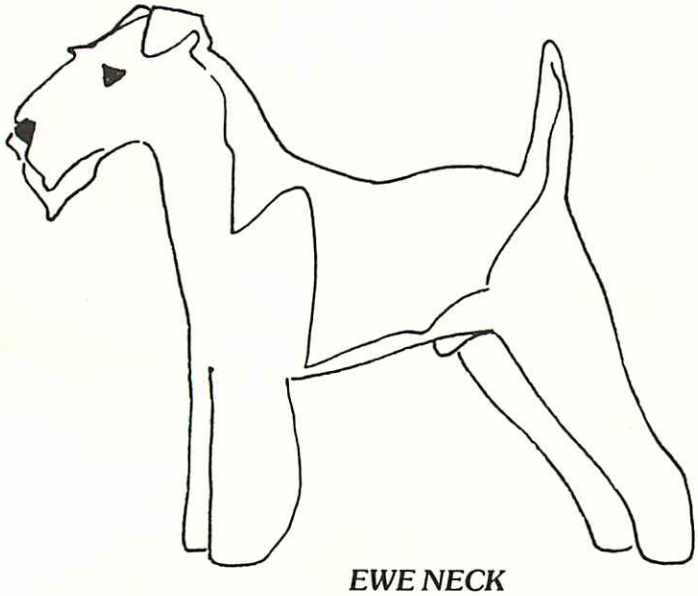
Neck

The neck is of moderate length and thickness, slightly arched and sloping gracefully into the shoulders. The throat is clean with no excess of skin.

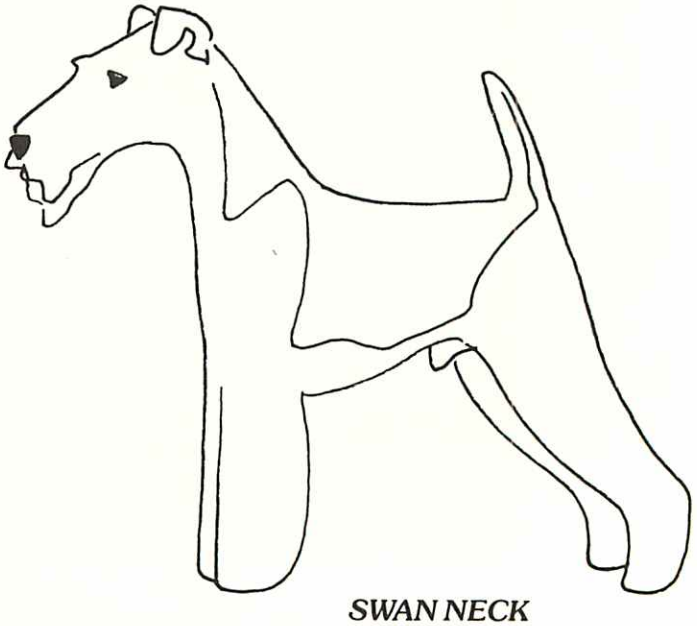


IDEAL

THICK NECK



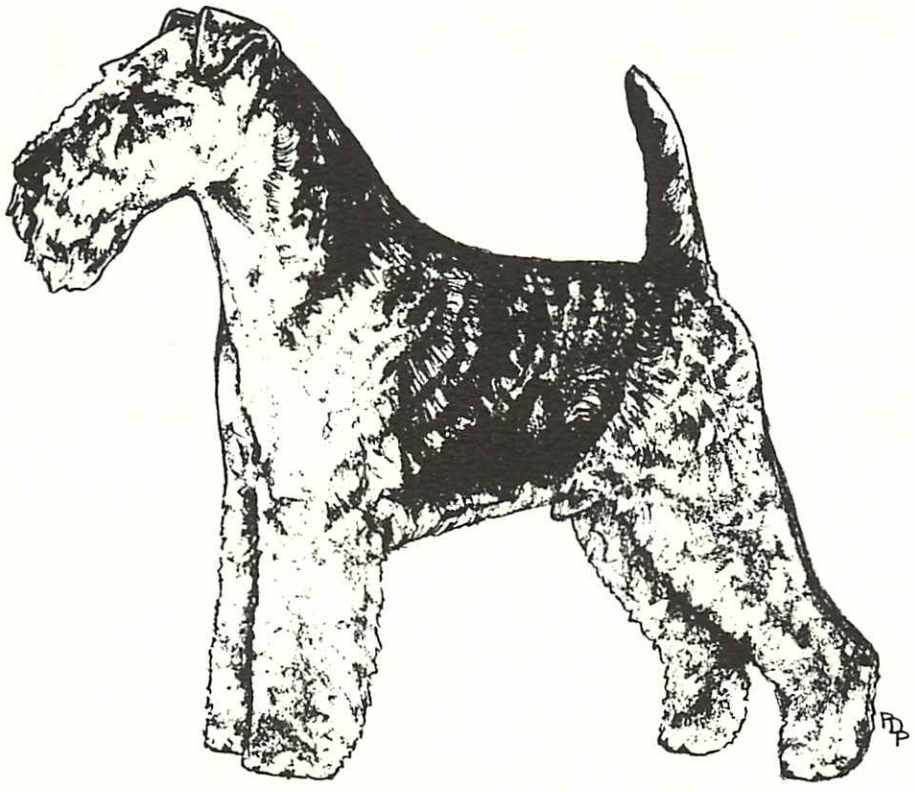
EWE NECK



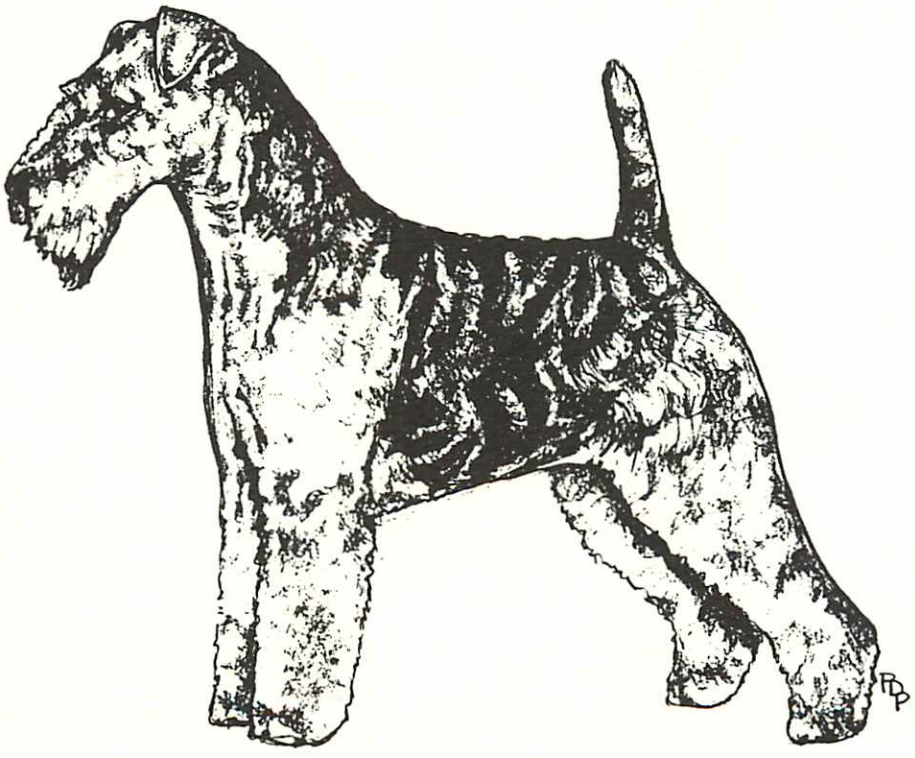
SWAN NECK

Body

The body shows good substance, is well ribbed up with a level topline. The loin is strong and moderately short. There is good depth of brisket and moderate width of chest. The front is straight. The shoulders are long, sloping and well laid back.

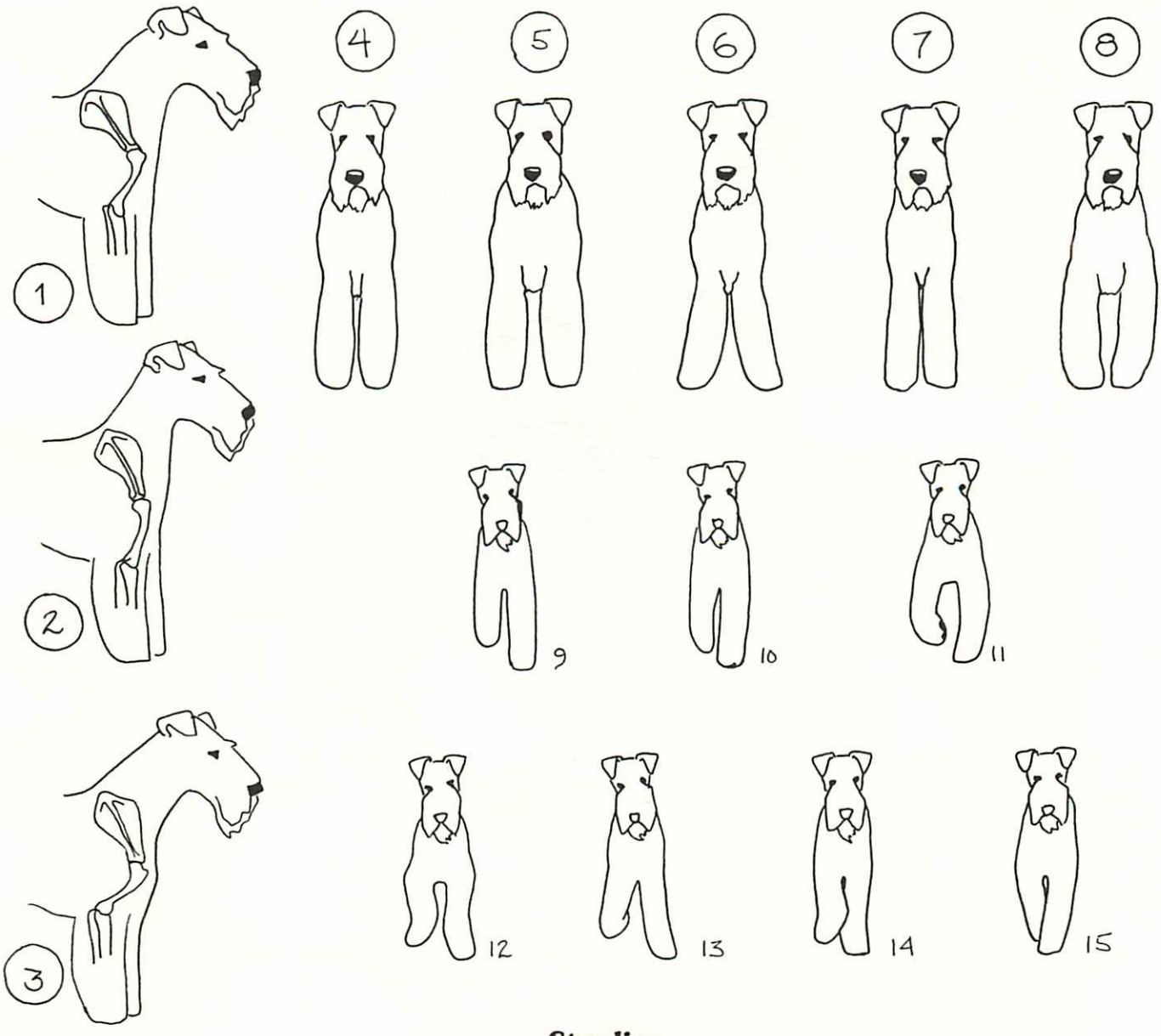


THE IDEAL WELSH TERRIER DOG



THE IDEAL WELSH TERRIER BITCH

Front



Standing

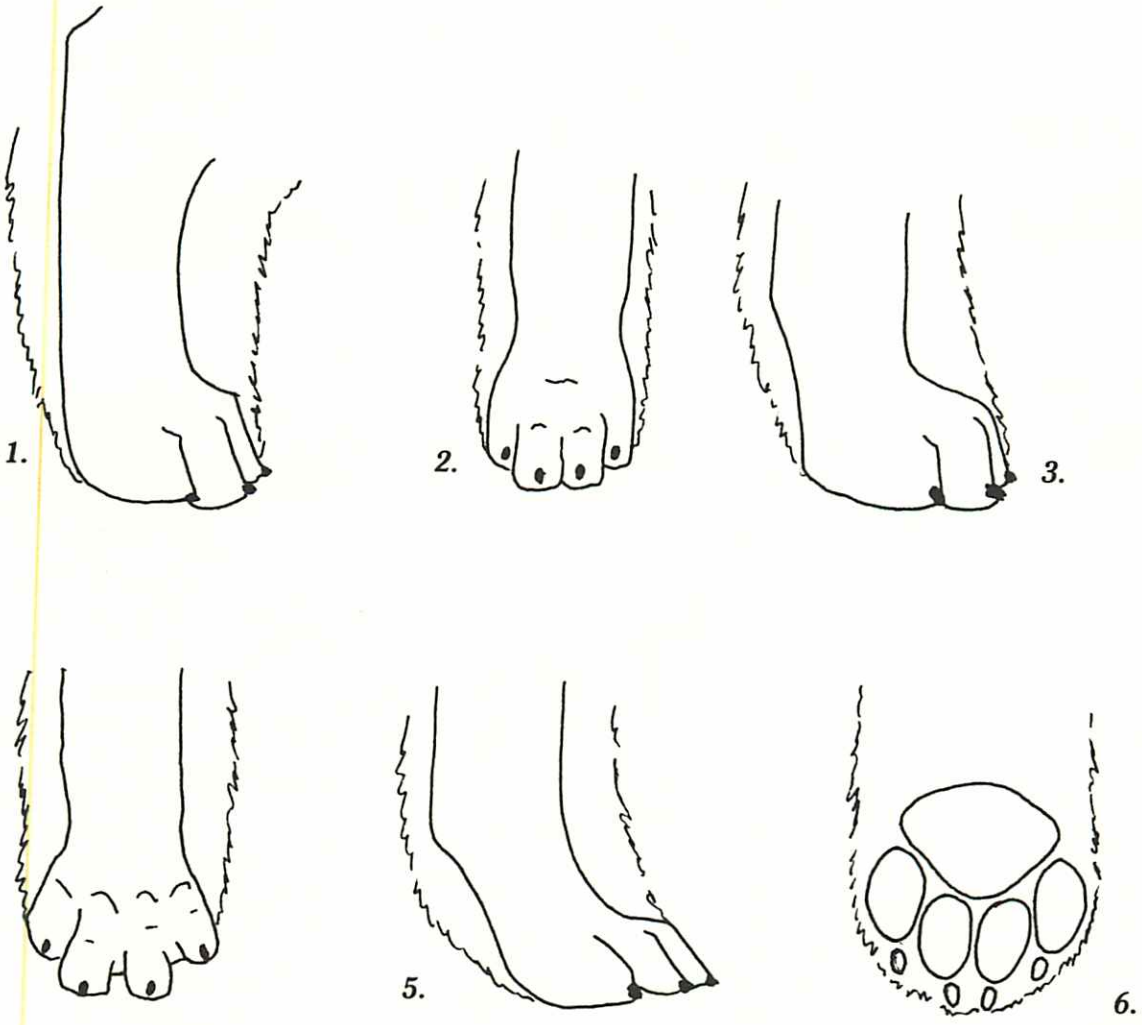
1. *Correct*
2. *Shoulder and upper arm (humerus) lack angulation*
3. *Shoulders upright, humerus over-angulated. (Chicken-breasted, head and neck thrust forward.)*
4. *Correct*
5. *Loaded in shoulders, too wide*
6. *A-Frame, often toe out, bound in at elbows*
7. *Too narrow, lacks forechest and body*
8. *Bow-legged, often toe-in, out at elbows.*

Front Movement

9. *Correct, moving on parallel planes, toeing neither in nor out. Elbows close to body*
10. *Correct, as the dog picks up speed there is a tendency to converge toward a median line of travel — not singletracking (see 15)*
11. *Too wide, bowed*
12. *Weaving*
13. *Tied at elbows, paddling*
14. *Toeing out — narrow front*
15. *Singletracking*

Forelegs and Feet

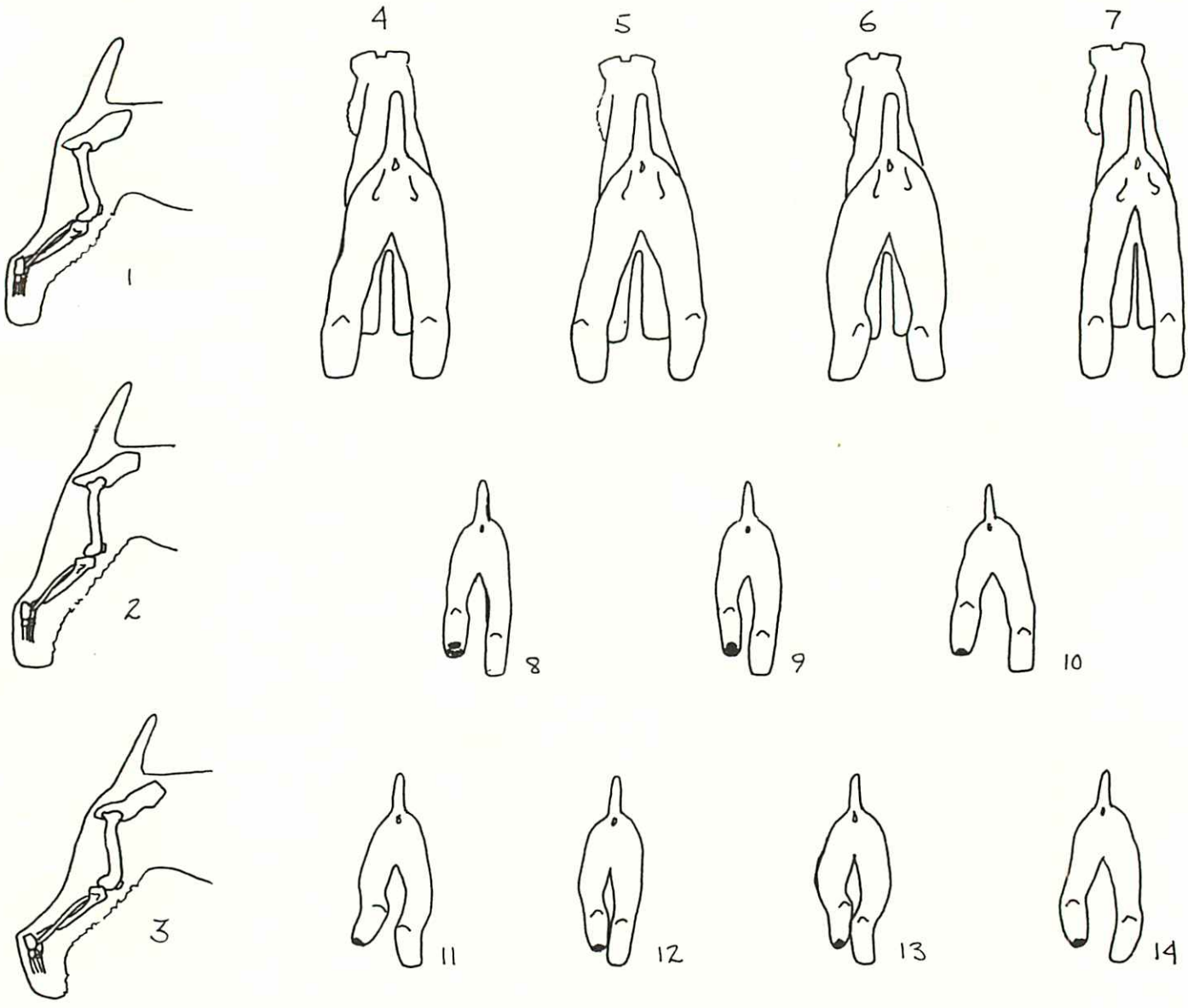
The legs are straight and muscular with upright and powerful pasterns. The feet are small, round, cat-like. The pads are thick and black. The nails are strong and black. Dewclaws (front and back) are removed.



1. *Correct rear foot*
2. *Correct, toes tight & arched*
3. *Correct front foot*
4. *Splay footed*
5. *Flat thin "hare" foot*
6. *View of pad (round and cat like)*

Hindquarters

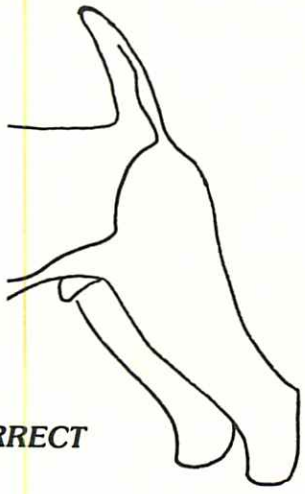
The hindquarters are strong and muscular with well-developed second thighs and the stifles well bent. The hocks are moderately straight, parallel and short from joint to ground.



1. *Correct*
2. *Straight*
3. *Over-angulated, sickle hocked*
4. *Correct*
5. *Open-hocked*
6. *Cow-hocked*
7. *Narrow*
8. *Parallel tracking, hocks straight*
9. *Correct, as the dog picks up speed there is a tendency to converge toward a median line of travel*
10. *Moving too wide, "breach" rear*
11. *Cow-hocked*
12. *Moving close, stifles turning out, hocks rotating*
13. *Moving close, brushing or crossing*
14. *Open-hocked*

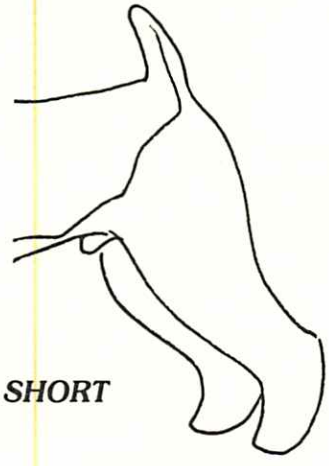
Tail

The tail docked to a length approximately level (on an imaginary line) with the occiput, to complete the square image of the whole dog. The root of the tail is set well up on the back. It is carried upright.

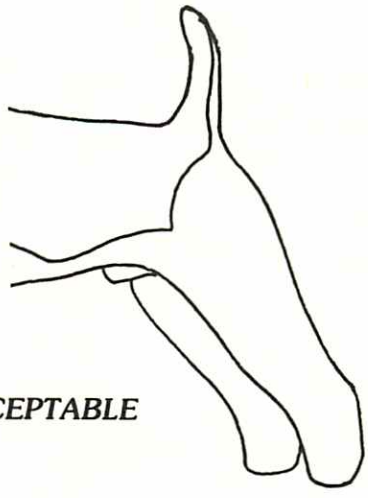


CORRECT

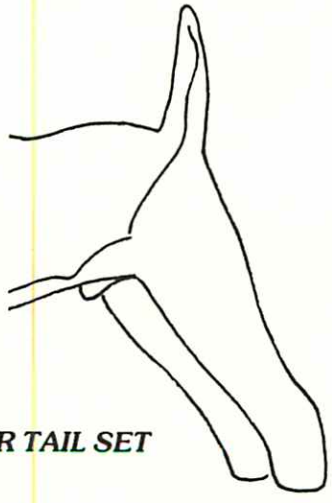
GAY TAIL



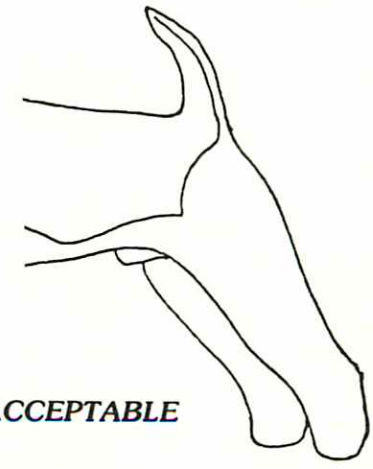
TOO SHORT



ACCEPTABLE



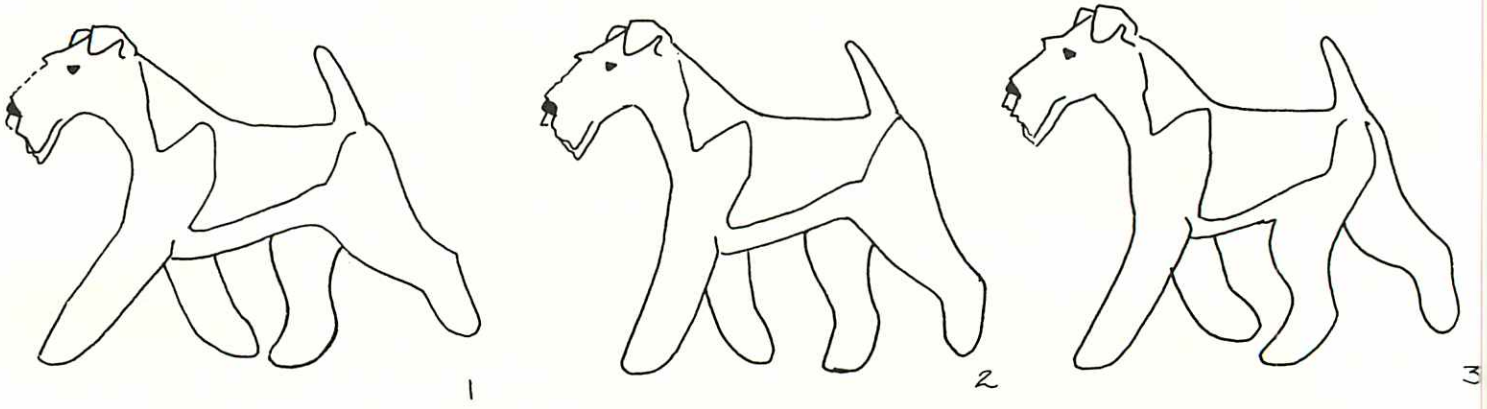
POOR TAIL SET

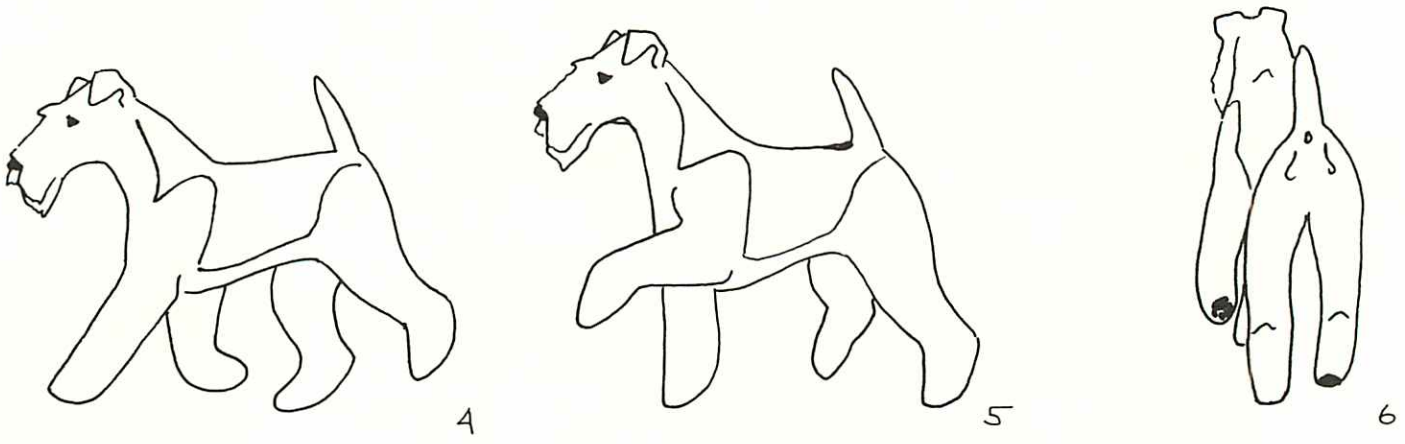


ACCEPTABLE

Movement

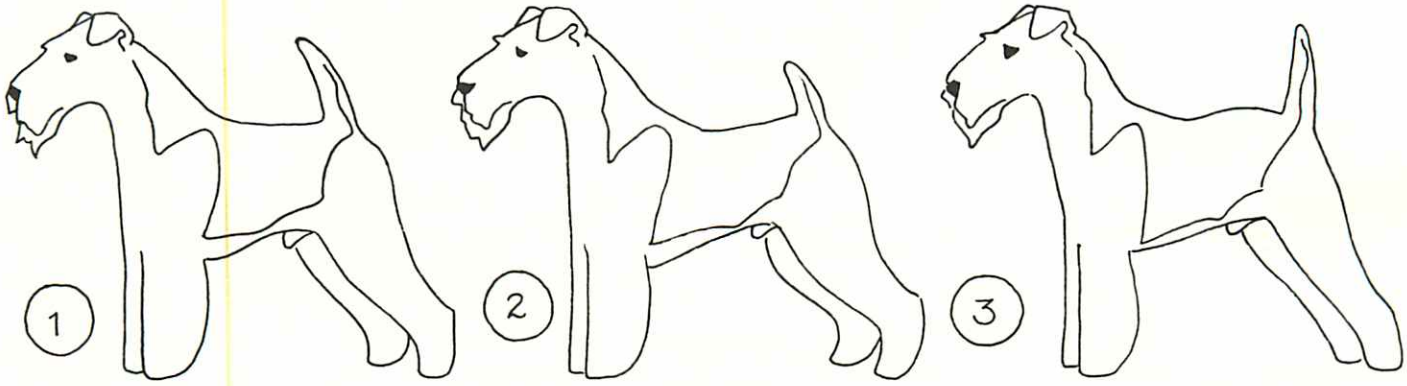
The movement is straight, free and effortless, with good reach in front, strong drive behind, with the feet naturally tending to converge toward a median line of travel as speed increases.



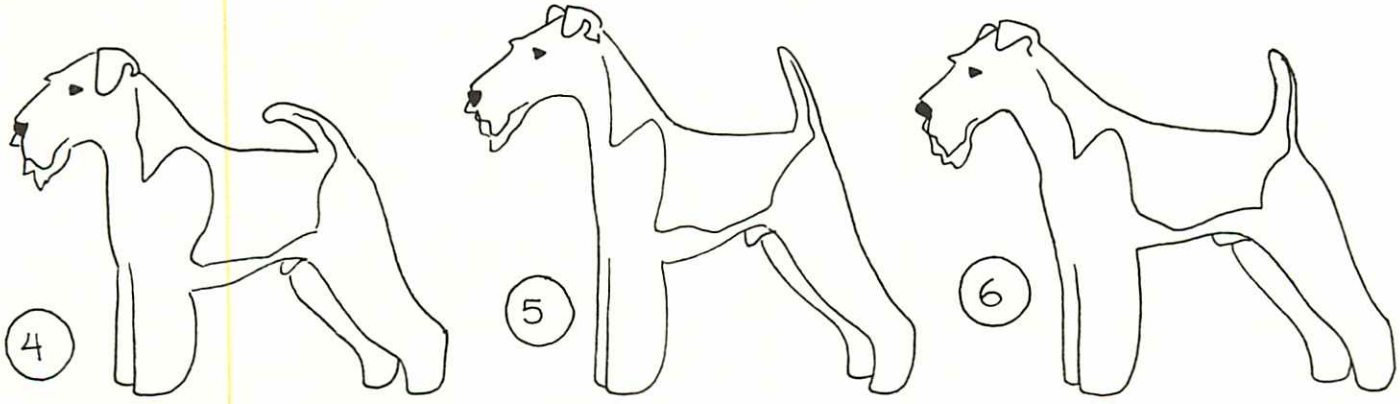


1. *CORRECT. Good reach and drive without interference.*
2. *Mincing short stride, lacking angulation at both ends.*
3. *Pacing.*
4. *Sickle-hocked behind, padding (striking with the back of forefoot causing a jolt everytime a foot hits the ground. Also running downhill. All created by too much angulation behind and straight front.*
5. *Hackney Gait. Prancing, inefficient exertion. Doesn't cover ground. Too busy going up and down.*
6. *Crabbing or side winding.*

Comparison of Faults in Profile



1. *Ideal — Well balanced and constructed.*
2. *Soft topline, long backed, high in the rear, tail docked too short, high in the hock and sickle-hocked.*
3. *Ewe-necked, straight shoulder, roached back, poor tail set, straight in stifle. This type is often narrow and lacking substance.*
4. *Houndy ear, short thick neck, loaded shoulder, low on leg, gay tail.*
5. *Fox-terrier expression, high ears, head too long, swan neck, too short backed, weak hindquarters, narrow front and upright shoulder.*
6. *Straight-shouldered, chicken-breasted, sloping topline and straight in stifle, shallow-chested and lacking body. Slightly curved tail acceptable.*



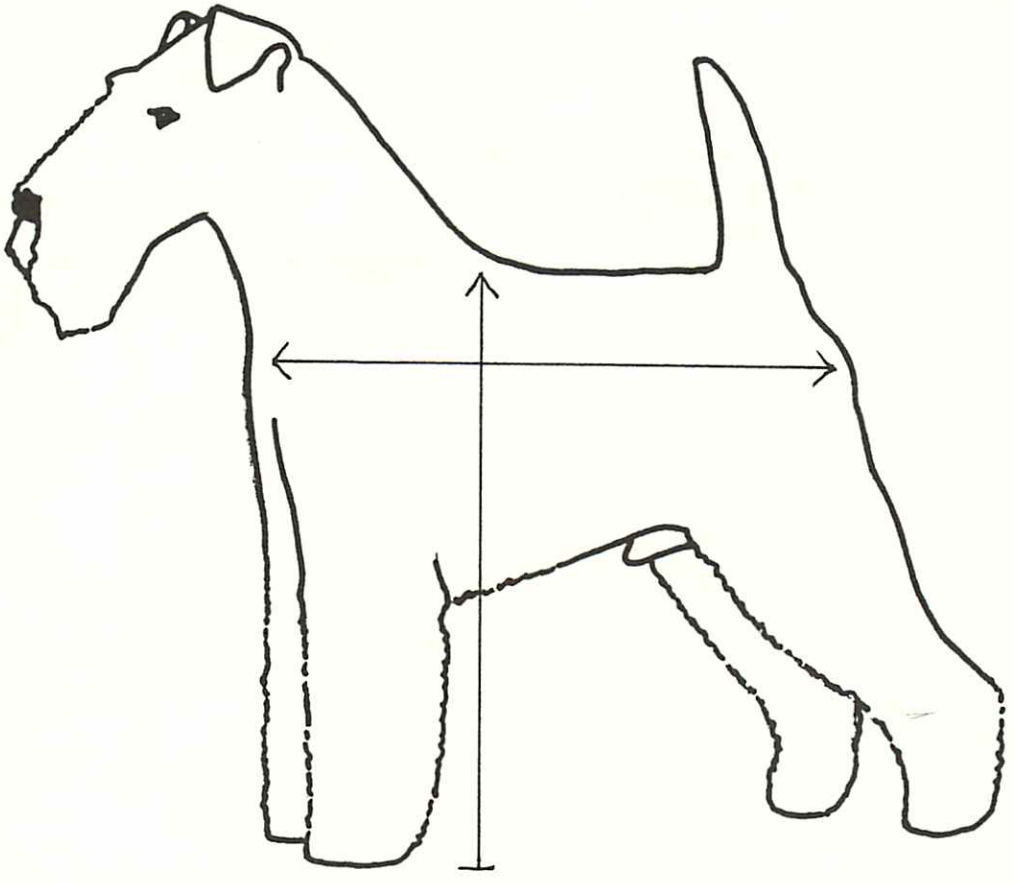
Coat

The coat is hard, wiry and dense with a close-fitting, thick jacket. There is a short, soft undercoat. Furnishings on muzzle, legs and quarters are dense and wiry.

Show coat length varies according to the needs of the finished dog to best fit the General Appearance of the Standard. However, a jacket length of ¾" is considered to be correct. The Standard does not specify length, but does refer to "dense" and "thick" which indicates a substantial coat. Some coats are hard and flat, while others have a loose wave, and still others feel like thick steel wool. Sometimes one sees a very close jacket, giving a dog the appearance of a smooth Fox Terrier which is incorrect. This can be a single coat which is a fault, or the result of incorrect grooming. A flat close-fitting jacket with a black undercoat is most desirable. The double coat is a protection against cold, wet or windy weather. Under all the wire, there is a soft undercoat of matching color. Furnishings should be crisp and thick.

Size

Males are about 15 inches at withers, with an acceptable range between 15 and 15½.* Bitches may be proportionally smaller. Twenty pounds is considered an average weight, varying a few pounds depending on the height of the dog, and the density of bone. Both dog and bitch appear solid and of good substance.



**This measurement is made from the surface on which the dog is standing to the top of the withers.*

Color

The jacket is black, spreading up onto the neck, down onto the tail and into the upper thighs. The legs, quarters and head are clear tan. The tan is a deep reddish color with slightly lighter shades acceptable. A grizzle jacket is also acceptable.

When puppies are born, they are almost all black with a white marking sometimes appearing on the chest. This may be a pencil line, a spot almost as big as a dime, or just a couple of white hairs. Usually this disappears in two or three months. Black on the head or legs should disappear as the puppy matures and grows an adult coat. No black should reamin below the hocks, nor any black on the head. Such coloring in the adult dog is considered mismarking. Occasionally a few hairs or a small "thumbprint" of white remains on the chest. This is not disqualifying, but is undesirable. A black undercoat beneath the jacket is preferred, but shades of gray are also found especially under a grizzle jacket.

A grizzle coat should not be penalized, nor should the red hairs that sometimes appear in the jacket near the tail.

Cover Discussion

The three dogs appearing on the cover have the same tonal quality with different intensities.

The dog appearing on the LEFT is an example of the depth of color most frequently seen. The dark black jacket extends into the upper thigh and over the shoulders, mixing with the reddish brown color.

The dog appearing in the CENTER depicts the lighter variety, (with almost a golden cast), noticeable on the furnishing and head. Note how the color intensifies as the coat gets shorter and tighter. In certain lights the color appears paler or less intense. This dog is also grizzle. Note the red hairs in the jacket.

The bitch on the RIGHT has a coat of deep reddish brown. Note the uniformity and intensity of this reddish coloring. Note how the rear furnishings continue up into the upper thigh. Also the deep red ear on the bitch compared to the dog on the left.

Observe the difference of eyes in the dog and bitch.

Breeders should make every attempt to enforce the AKC ruling against falsifying the color of the dog.

Temperament

The Welsh Terrier is a game dog — alert, aware, spirited — but at the same time, is friendly and shows self-control. A specimen exhibiting an overly aggressive attitude, or shyness, should be penalized.

Temperament is determined by genetics, experience and environment (good and bad). Breeders need to socialize their young pups to develop the stable, friendly disposition that is the mark of the Welsh Terrier. While it is natural and normal for two stud dogs to show signs of aggression when on their own turf, they should not be overly aggressive when meeting on neutral ground (i.e. at a dog show). Encouraging such a display by bringing dogs too close together should be discouraged. This only defeats the Breed Standard which specifically defines the gentlemanly temperament called for in a Welsh Terrier.
Since heredity is most important, breeders should investigate the temperament of all breeding stock, including past lineage and new generations.

Faults

Any deviation from the foregoing should be considered a fault. The seriousness of the fault depending upon the extent of the deviation.

It's important for breeders to have a good basic understanding of genetics in order to improve their line. Our Breed Standard no longer lists faults, emphasizing instead the perfect dog. However, breeders — with the aid of the Standard, and the AKC-WTCA video, and now this Annotated Standard — should be able to recognize any faults that do occur in their dogs.
Here are just some of the faults that would eliminate a Welsh Terrier from an ethical breeding program:

Sickle hocks
Prick ears
Dudley (pink) nose
Yellow eyes
Poor temperament
Mismarkings
Under or Over-shot mouth
Missing teeth
Squirrel tail

Type

Type — Although our standard does not include type — judges do!

Defined by the American Kennel Club —

Type: The characteristic qualities distinguishing a breed; the embodiment of a standard's essentials.

Keeping this in mind, noted terrier judge William Kendrick stated the following:

> *"Let it not be forgotten that the standard weight for a Welsh exceeds standard weight for a Fox Terrier by two pounds. Yet standard height for a Welsh is one-half inch less at the shoulder than a Fox Terrier. It can be seen, therefore that a Welsh of the true type must carry considerable bulk. Ample bone and big rib cages with flat skulls of reasonable width and correct Welsh ears (a far cry from the overdone, tiny ears, set high on the head) cannot go with shelly bodies, legginess and narrow skulls with overdone long forefaces."*
>
> *William Kendrick*
> *From a Parent Club critique*

Glossary

Almond Eyes—The eye set in surrounding tissue of almond shape.
Angulation—The angles formed by a meeting of the bones, mainly, the shoulder, upper arm, stifle, and hock.
Brisket—The forepart of the body below the chest, between the forelegs, closest to the ribs.
Bull-Neck—A heavy neck, well muscled.
Brushing—A gaiting fault, when parallel pasterns are so close that the legs brush in passing.
Chest—The part of the body or trunk that is enclosed by the ribs, fore part of the body above the brisket.
Cheeky—Cheeks prominently rounded, thick, protruding.
Chicken-Breasted—The protrusion of forechest anterior - to the point of the shoulder.
Cow-Hocked—Hocks turn toward each other.
Crabbing—Dog moves with his body at an angle to the line of travel. Also referred to as "sidewinding."
Dish-Faced—When the nasal bone is so formed that the nose is higher at the tip than at the stop or a slight concaveness of line from the stop to the nose tip.
Drive—A solid thrusting of the hindquarters, denoting sound locomotion.
Dome-Headed—Evenly rounded in topskull, convex instead of flat-domy.
Docked—Tail shortened by cutting.
Dentition—Reference to the number of teeth characteristic of a species, and to their arrangement in the jaws.
Double-Coat—An outer coat resistant to weather and protective against brush, brambles, together with an undercoat of softer hair for warmth and waterproofing.
De-Claw—An extra claw or functionless digit on the inside of the leg, a rudimentary fifth toe.
Ewe-Neck—Concave curvature of the top neckline.
Expression—The general appearance of all features of the head as viewed from the front and as typical of the breed.
Foreface—The front part of the head, before the eyes (muzzle).
Forearm—The bone of the forelegs between the elbow and the pastern.
Forequarters—The combined front assembly from its upper most component, the shoulder blade, down to the feet.
Furnishings—The longer dense and wiry tan hair on legs and muzzle.
Gait—The pattern of footsteps at various rates of speed, each pattern distinguished by a particular rhythm and footfall. The two gaits acceptable in the show ring are walk and trot.
Gay Tail—The tail carried up and curved.
Grizzle—Bluish-gray color
Hackney Action—A high stepping movement of the front legs.
Hindquarters—Rear assembly of dog (pelvis, thighs, hocks and paws).
Hock—The tarsus or collection of bones of the hind leg forming the joint between the second thigh and the metatarsals, the dogs true heel.
Height—Vertical measurement from the withers to the ground, referred to as shoulder height.
Loaded Shoulders—When the shoulder blades are shoved out from the body by overdevelopment of the muscles.
Lay Back of Shoulder—When the shoulder blades are set at enough of an angle that the tops are back far enough to be over the elbow and not up in the neck.
Layback—The angle of the shoulder blade as compared with the vertical.
Loin—The region of the body on either side of the vertebral column between the last rib and the hindquarters.
Level Bite—The front teeth (incisors) of the upper and lower jaws meet without overlapping.
Muzzle—The head in front of the eyes-nasal bone, nostrils, and jaws. Foreface.
Occiput—Upper back point of skull.
Overshot—The front teeth (incisors) of the upper jaw overlap and do not touch the front teeth of the lower jaw when the mouth is closed.
Pad—Tough, shock-absorbing projections of the underside of the feet. Soles.
Paddling—An action of the forelegs seen with the dog coming on. The feet have an outward swing or flip to the side when moving.
Pacing—A gait which tends to promote a rolling motion of the body. The left foreleg and left hind leg advance in unison, then the right foreleg and right hind leg.
Reach—Length of forward stride taken by forelegs without wasted or excessive motion.
Roach Back—A convex curvature of the back toward the loin.
Scissors Bite—A bite in which the outer side of the lower incisor touches the inner side of the upper incisors.
Sickle Hocked—Inability to straighten the hock joint on the back reach of the hind leg.
Side Winding—See crabbing.
Single Tracking—All footprints falling on a single line of travel. When a dog breaks into a trot, his body is supported by only two legs at a time, which move as alternating diagonal pairs to acheive balance, his legs angle inward toward a center line beneath his body, and the greater the speed, the closer they come to tracking on a single line.
Stifle—The joint of the hind leg between the thigh and the second thigh. The dog's knee.
Stop—The step up from muzzle to skull indentation between the eyes where the nasal bone and skull meet.
Straight Shoulders—The shoulder blades rather straight up and down, as opposed to sloping or "well laid back"
Swan-Neck—Long curved neck.
Snipy—A pointed weak muzzle.
Splayfoot—A flat foot with toes spreading.
Spread Hocks—Hocks pointing out.
Topskull—That part of the skull between the stop and the back of the skull.
Tied at the Elbows—See paddling.
Trot—A rhythmic two beat diagonal gait in which the feet at diagonally opposite ends of the body strike the ground together (see single tracking).
Withers—The point at the top of the shoulder where the neck joins the body - highest point of shoulders.
Weaving—Unsounded gaiting action which starts with twisting elbows and ends with crisscrossing and toeing out.
Wirehair—A coat of hard, crisp, wiry texture.
Undershot—The front teeth (incisors) of the lower jaw overlap or project beyond the front teeth of the upper jaw when the mouth is closed.

"Therefore to this dog will I,

Tenderly, not scornfully,

Render praise and favour

With my hand upon his head

Is my benediction said

Therefore, and for ever."

E.B. Browning

1993
2nd Printing