

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



Extended Breed Standard of **THE AIREDALE TERRIER**

Produced by

The Airedale Terrier Clubs
of Queensland and Victoria
in conjunction with
The Australian National Kennel Council

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HISTORY

The Airedale Terrier, or the “King of Terriers”, is a relatively young breed in comparison to many other breeds of dogs, with its origins being traced back to a little over 150 years ago. The Airedale Terrier (often shortened to “Airedale”) was developed by the workingmen from the Aire valley of Yorkshire in England. These men spent time hunting along the river valleys of the area and wanted a dog that could run with the hunters, was obedient to their masters, courageous and versatile and then return home at night as a companion to their families. The workmen of the day, not being well off, appreciated that the Airedale was not a greedy eater and only needed a nutritious meal to support their growth and maintain the dog’s substance.

It is generally accepted that the dogs produced by breeding using the Black and Tan Terrier and the Otterhound, which provided the Airedale’s size and bone, fulfilled this need. The result of this matching enabled the dog to “swim down” river otters during a hunt, and a dog also capable of controlling vermin such as a quarry of rats, badgers, otters, polecats, martens, weasels, rabbits, hares, badgers, ducks, fox, weasel and small game in the valleys of the rivers. Selective breeding using other breeds such as the Old English Terrier and Irish Terrier, helped to diminish the “coarseness” of its Hound-Terrier features to be more Terrier like and eventually produced the Airedale from which our breed of today has developed.

Over the years many have speculated to what breeds dominated in the development of the Airedale Terrier. The breed has been recognised as one which improved faster than almost any other breed with the result being a black and tan, long legged, game dog with a broken coat. In the early days of the breed it ranged in size from fifteen to twenty-four inches, and weighed between thirty and eighty pounds (13 to 36kgs).



“Airedale Jerry,” the forefather of the modern Airedale. Every Airedale today can theoretically trace its lineage back to Jerry. (Photo taken from The New Complete Airedale Terrier by Gladys Edwards Brown.)

The first Airedale was exhibited in England in 1864 at a championship dog show sponsored by the Airedale Agricultural Society. In 1886, the Kennel Club of England formally recognised the Airedale Terrier breed. The breed first began to appear regularly in shows in England during the 1870's and just 20 years later Airedale Terriers appeared in Australia. The centenary of the breed in Australia was celebrated in 1976.

By the 1920's the number of breeders had gradually grown and the first Airedale Championship Show was held in 1931 in Victoria with the breed reaching its height in popularity in the 1950's.



PURPOSE

The Airedale Terrier is recognised as a versatile dog, bred to work independently, and known to be used as a working dog, a hunter, retriever, and reliable messenger during war times. It is also known for its use in guard and schutzhund work, search and rescue amongst many other attributes. Airedales also exhibit some herding characteristics having no problem working with cattle and livestock. Strong-willed, with the tenacity commonly seen in terriers, the Airedale is a formidable opponent.

During the middle of the 19th century, regular sporting events took place along the Aire River in which terriers pursued the large river rats that inhabited the area. A terrier was judged on its ability to locate a "live" hole in the riverbank and then, after the rat was driven from its hole by a ferret brought along for that purpose, the terrier would pursue the rat through water until it could make a kill. As these events became more popular, demand rose for a terrier that could excel in this activity. The result was a long-legged dog which eventually developed into the dog that is recognisable today as the Airedale Terrier. Unlike smaller working terriers which were designed to go to ground, the Airedale was considered too big for this purpose, however, it was ideal for other purposes expected of a sporting terrier, especially when working in fast flowing rivers.

During WW1 this breed was used extensively as a police dog as well as serving a very important purpose as Red Cross rescue dogs and as "four legged spies" on the front lines. The Airedale's size, dedication and stoicism when injured made them well suited to the job. As ambulance dogs, they saved lives by helping to locate wounded soldiers from among the casualties on the battlefield.

The Airedale has been known to excel in obedience, agility and schutzhund work, however, the Airedale can often be difficult to train. Being a highly intelligent and a quick learner, he is often stubborn and unforgiving of harsh treatment.

Because of the Airedale's hound ancestry it has extraordinary hunting abilities with the capability to scent game and it has been used extensively in countries such as Canada, Africa and the USA. Because of its size it is able to tackle larger animals such as mountain lions, boar and bear to woodchuck on New England farms. It could be broken to gun and taught to retrieve game. A Hunting/Working committee was formed by the Airedale Terrier Club of America in 1985. This committee holds an annual workshop in conjunction with hunting tests such as the Upland Bird, the Hunting Dog Fur and the Hunting Dog Retriever tests which require the Airedale to hunt and retrieve a shot bird on land or water or for the dog to follow a track of raccoon scent, bark or "bay," to declare the find.



The Airedale developed his ability to protect and guard by being devoted to his owner and his family. They are very loving, always in the middle of the family activities with some fanciers claiming that the Airedale is the only breed that has the ability to babysit young children. Thus, the Airedale we have today is as much at home hunting vermin and larger game, as he is being a police dog, or a never tiring playmate, guard dog and family companion.

REFERENCES

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- **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

Largest of the terriers, a muscular, active fairly cobby dog, without suspicion of legginess or undue length of body.

A large, sturdy, compact terrier, having a long, lean head with punishing jaws and neat, well-carried ears, the Airedale has the size, strength, substance and vitality required to be a competent hunter of larger game able to cover considerable distances on foot in tough terrain without excessive fatigue. “Fairly cobby” implies a compact and short-coupled structure with plenty of bone and substance, but not being barrel ribbed.

Cobby should not be interpreted as cloddy. The Airedale was bred to hunt, swim and be a family companion and house guard, and is built the same way as the smaller, going to earth, straight fronted Terriers (i.e. the Wire Fox Terrier).

His body hard to the feel, his tail carried on high, terrier fire glinting in his small dark eyes, strong and active with plenty of reach and drive, the Airedale is full of quality and intense terrier character. Both dog and bitch should clearly be the largest and tallest exhibit in any Terrier Group lineup. (See Figs. 1 & 12).

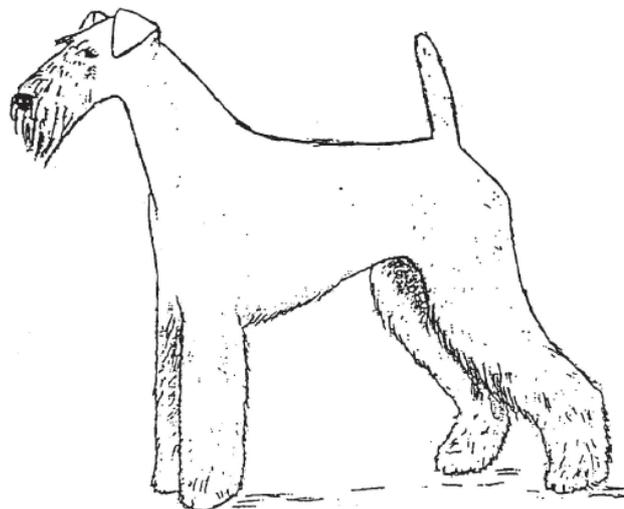


Fig. 1

● CHARACTERISTICS

Keen of expression, quick of movement, on the tiptoe of expectation at any movement. Character denoted and shown by expression of eyes, and carriage of ears and erect tail.

Outside the ring the Airedale's alert curiosity and capacity for quick reaction are easy to observe. Airedales will exhibit the use of eyes, ears, nose and tail when moving and sparring, but judging is conducted in the ring not outside it. In the ring it is easier to observe these important characteristics when dogs are standing freely, showing off other dogs or on the move, than when being held on the stack by the handler. Keeness of expression requires small dark eyes, alert and sensitively used V-shaped ears, confident tail carriage and a self-possessed, adventurous and extroverted personality. Judges can achieve this by sparring or 'facing up' the dogs or showing off to one another in groups of two or three, taking care not to have them so crowded together as to start a fight.

● TEMPERAMENT

Outgoing and confident, friendly, courageous and intelligent. Alert at all times, not aggressive but fearless.

Temperament of the kind outlined by the Standard is an absolute necessity for a dog of the size and power of the Airedale. It is, moreover, what this man-made breed was carefully selected to produce. The Airedale was designed to be the ideal family dog, as well as a one man's all-round hunting assistant. Often called "the baby's dog", they guard the young and defenseless with tender solicitude, play with the older children and adults, and guard the home against intruders.

Shyness should be severely penalised, and no shy dog should receive a major award. A degree of assertiveness with other dogs is to be expected, especially in adult male classes, and can emphasise the attractiveness of the dogs themselves and the spectacle in the ring. However, any hint of savage behaviour towards people is a serious matter and a dog whose mouth and body cannot be freely and safely examined by the judge should be excused from the ring. Some dogs will however "talk" or "rumble" without any aggressive intent towards the judge, especially in a ring full of other Airedales, including one or two rivals. The judge standing in front of the dog or placing it in such a way that it cannot see its enemy will usually stop the "talking". The Airedale is an extremely intelligent animal capable of quick thought and reactions and will easily be bored if expected to be a statue.

● HEAD AND SKULL

Skull long and flat, not too broad between ears, and narrowing slightly to eyes. Well balanced, with no apparent difference in length between skull and foreface, free of wrinkles, with stop hardly visible; cheeks level and free from fullness. Foreface well filled up before the eyes, not dish faced, nor falling away quickly below eyes, but a delicate chiselling prevents appearance of wedginess or plainness. Upper and lower jaws deep, powerful strong and muscular as strength of foreface is greatly desired No excess development of

the jaws to give a rounded or bulging appearance to the cheeks, as “cheekiness” is undesirable. Lips tight. Nose black.

The Standard is full and explicit covering the requirements for head and skull. In hunting, the Airedale relies on the strong “rat-trap” action of its jaws to seize game, and the correct fore-assembly, to enable it to throw its quarry with such force that the game’s back is usually broken. Thus the jaws must be long and strong, the lower jaw deep and well developed (See Fig. 3). The snap of the jaws is powered by deep strong temporal muscles, which arise from the bony parietal crest and the top surface of the skull. The cheek or masseter muscles, which have a chewing action, play a very minor role in hunting, and consequently the zygomatic arch (cheek bone) is not prominently developed, and the cheek muscles themselves are flat and thin. The occiput should not be prominent. When viewed in profile the top surface of the skull and the top surface of the muzzle should ideally present closely parallel planes (See Fig. 3). When viewed from the front, the skull should form a straight line between the bases of the ears (See Fig. 4). In the correctly proportioned head, viewed in profile, the corner of the mouth should be approximately below the eye when the jaws are open, as the jaws should have a very wide gape.

The correctly shaped head is normally shown in quite severe trim with the retention of only small areas of cosmetic moustache and goatee beard. Judges should feel, thoroughly and critically, the heads of all exhibits, particularly those presented with a great profusion of facial furnishings, and check head planes and proportions, and strength of foreface. The judge should check that the lower jaw is also deep and well developed, and square in front (See Figs. 3 and 4). The outline of the head is roughly a long oblong viewed from above and (in profile, the whole presenting the long, strong, lean head so characteristic of the Airedale.

Common faults are: foreface too short (See Fig. 5e), stop too deep (it should be very slight), cheeks rounded and bulging instead of flat (See Fig. 5f), apple dome skull, excess development of the frontal sinuses causing a bony ridge above the eyes, hence the skull not appearing flat, down face, snipeyness, prominent occiput, receding skull and weak underjaw. The lips should be tight and well pigmented, and the nose should be large and black.

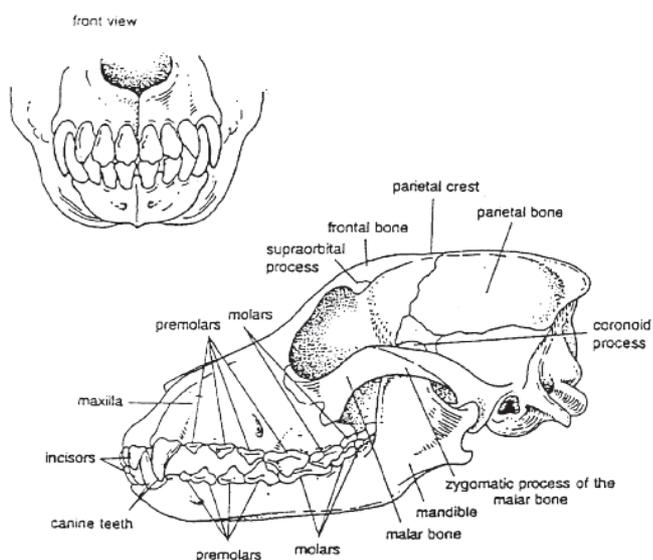


Fig. 2

Skull and dentition of the Airedale

● EYES

Dark in colour, small, not prominent, full of terrier expression, keenness and intelligence. Light or bold eye highly undesirable.

1. The deep-set eye should be oval or somewhat triangular in shape and set horizontally in the skull (See Fig. 4 and 5a). This structure protects the eyes from injury in deep cover, and from its hunting activities. No haw or white should be visible. The eye therefore appears small. The colour must be from dark brown to apparent black for the eyes to have the correct hard glint or “fire” characteristic of the terrier clan.

2. The desirable eye is small, dark and almond shaped and the size should be commensurate with the animal’s skull. A black or overly small eye can cause loss of expression and character. An Airedale does not have a triangular eye, as does a Bull Terrier due to the difference in bone formation of the skull.

Luxuriant eyebrows may be cultivated and trimmed in such a way as apparently to diminish the size of the eyes, and mask their size and shape. Round and/or light and/or prominent eyes are objectionable.

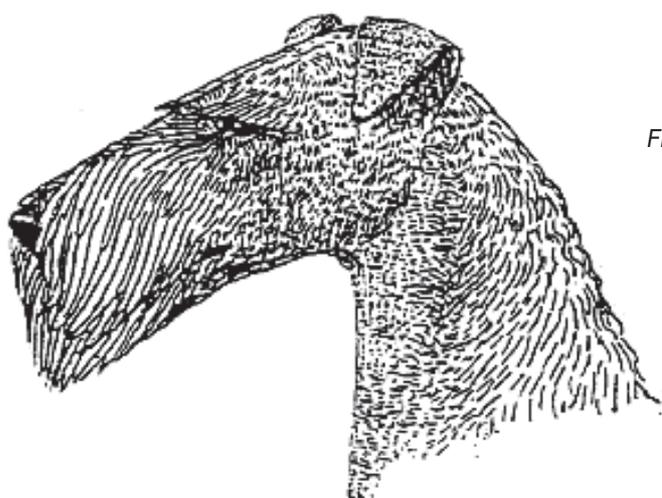


Fig. 3. Airedale head and proportions

Fig. 3a. Airedale head in profile correct size ears

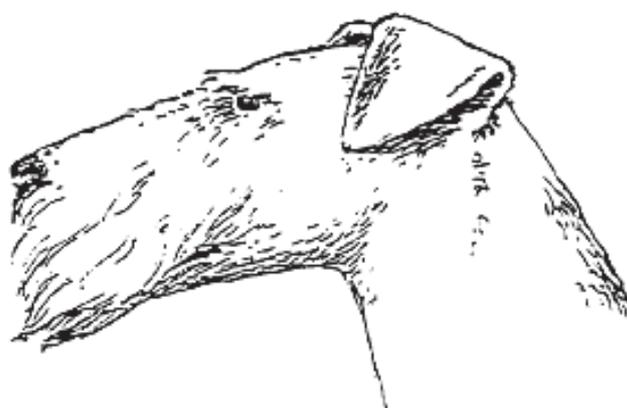




Fig. 4 Airedale head, ears and expression viewed from front.

● EARS

“V” shaped, with a side carriage, small but not out of proportion to size of dog. Top line of folded ear slightly above level of skull. Pendulous ears or ears set too high are undesirable.

The subtle differences in expression typical of the individual terrier breeds have to do with type and therefore are of great importance. Judges who like very high Fox Terrier-like ears (See Fig. 5a) on all terrier breeds with button ears do not appreciate this. The well set and well shaped and carried ear is found on the correct skull discussed above. The natural fold or break of the dropped ear is slightly above the skull line, with the inner surface of the ear lying snugly in to the flat cheek (See Fig. 4). The ears should be mobile and sensitive in their use, a barometer of the dog's feelings. A judge should observe the ear carriage before the head is gone over.

The relaxed carriage should be typical as well as the alerted carriage. Some dogs have “wrap-around” ears which hang out to the side of the head like ugly canopies unless the dog is alert, when the tips will be pulled around the head and a passably alert expression be achieved. These ears are incorrect, and are often found on dogs with rather round and heavy skulls (See Figs. 1 & 4). The tip of the Airedale ear should be quite narrow, an acute angle, not broadly lobed or rounded as in Sealyham Terriers. The ear should be relatively small but in keeping with the size of the head. When viewed from the side, the tip of the ear is approximately level with the outer corner of the eye and points towards the ground (Figs. 1, 3 & 3a).

The tan of the ear may be darker than that of the skull. Puppies may have quite a lot of black on their ears without penalty till 12 months, although most will have cleared by 6 months. Puppies may also be allowed a little skull wrinkle when their ears are alert.

Judges should examine the edges of the ears to feel for scars and look and feel for cartilage breaks caused by illegal ear fixing. A.N.K.C. Rules cover the illegality of ear and tail surgery.

Head and expression

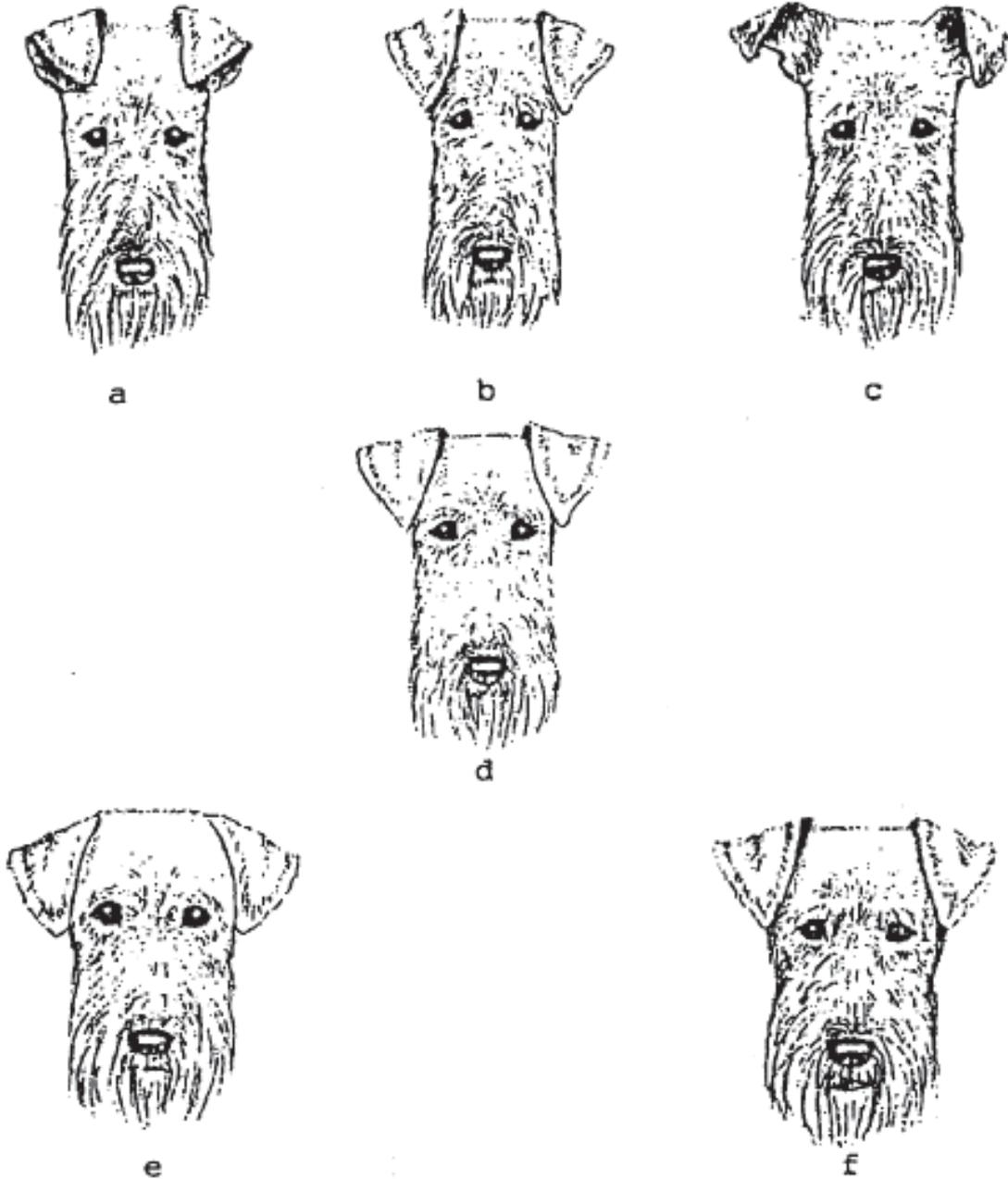


Fig. 5

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| a. | “Fox Terrier” Ears too small. Carried too high | b. | Head too narrow. |
| c. | Flying ears | d. | Correct head. Good eye and ear carriage. |
| e. | Very broad skull, large heavy ears, eyes too prominent. | f. | Poor head. Short, coarse skull. Over-developed cheeks |

● MOUTH

Teeth strong. Jaws strong. Scissor bite i.e. Upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws preferable, but vice-like bite acceptable. An overshot or undershot mouth undesirable.

Strength of jaws and strong even teeth meeting cleanly in a tight scissor bite are essential to a hunting terrier (See Fig. 2). The vice-like or edge-to-edge bite has its exponents, although incisor wear occurs earlier in this type of mouth. Vice-like bites are common and acceptable. Too many judges put up almost overshot mouths with narrow lower jaws with small incisors, almost totally hidden by their upper counterparts - hence the importance of checking the length, strength and depth of the lower jaw. Dropped lower centrals slightly maloccluded in an otherwise perfect mouth represent a minor fault only. Judges should check for full dentition.

● NECK

Clean, muscular, of moderate length and thickness, gradually widening towards shoulders, and free from throatiness.

As mentioned previously, the neck is part of the killing apparatus of this breed. As such, it is strong and muscular, with well-developed vertebrae and attached muscles. The shape and make of the neck depends upon the forehand structure (See Figs. 6a & 6b) and if this is correct and the shoulder blade long and well laid back the neck will be strongly developed, of moderate length, and viewed in profile widening significantly as it flows smoothly into its scapular attachment. (See Fig. 6a). Viewed from the front, the sides of the neck appear almost parallel, widening slightly at the base (See Fig. 6).

The skin of the neck should be firm and no ugly rolls of loose skin (a heritage of the breed's hound ancestry) should be evident. Bulges at the front of the neck (ewe or swan neck) will be seen on some specimens with upright shoulders (See Fig. 7). Such dogs can be trimmed to look very attractive, but inspection will show that the shoulder is too far forward and much of the "wither" may in fact be coat. Also, the legs in such specimens are placed too far forward, virtually in front of the body. Excess coat left on the lower front neck may also visually disguise the ewe or swan neck (See Fig. 7). The junction of the head and neck in such dogs will be at or near a right angle, whereas this angle should be approximately 60 degrees.

The correctly conformed neck will arch gracefully from the back of the skull at all times.

Showing off against another dog will enhance the outline of the neck (See Fig. 8).

1: The length of the neck, in a dog with a correct head, will be approximately the same length as the head.

2: Neck and head length are not commensurate and there is no historical evidence that equality of these two features was ever intended. The neck should be graceful in profile, being of sufficient length to compliment the balance and quality of the dog, and looking down on the dog should blend snugly into the shoulders.

● FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders long, well laid back, sloping obliquely, shoulder blades flat, forelegs perfectly straight, with good bone. Elbows perpendicular to body, working free of sides.

The shoulder blades should be long enough, and sufficiently well laid back, that a line dropped vertically to the ground from the withers should have a good deal of dog in front of it - approximately 1/3 (See Fig. 9). In profile: *

* 1: The dog with the correct forehand construction will have a small amount of prosternum or forechest visible, (See Figs. 10a & 10b) and it will stand on its front legs with the front feet under the centre of gravity.

* 2: The front of the dog (looking from side on) should form a straight line from under the throat to the feet with no keel.

Correct, long, well laid-back shoulders will have muscles which are long but not over bulky, as they have sufficient area of bony origin and sufficient bony leverage to do their work without bulkiness. This correct structure places the withers well back, allows all the cervical vertebrae to be included in the neck, which leads to the desired outline of the neck, as well as facilitating its function in the dog's hunting and tracking activities.

The leg bone should be strong and round in section; the same good bone should follow on down to the feet.

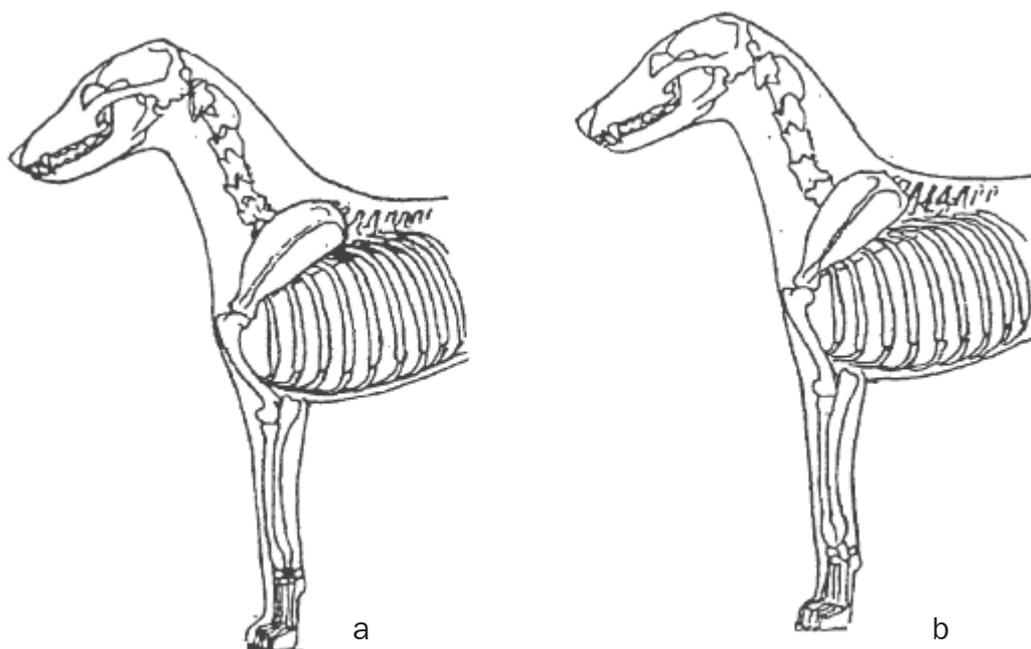


Fig. 6

Correct and incorrect shoulder-lay

- a. Correct shoulder-lay and neck structure, Small tight feet.
- b. Incorrect shoulder. Upright, short humerus (upper arm). Upright neck carriage.

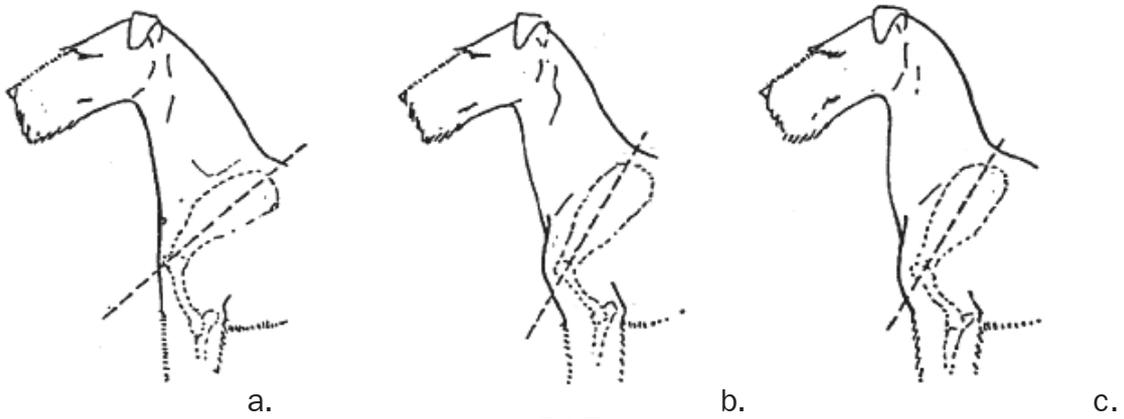


Fig. 7

Angulation of shoulders

a. Correct

b. Ewe neck

c. Swan neck



Fig. 8

Showing off against another dog will enhance the outline of the neck.

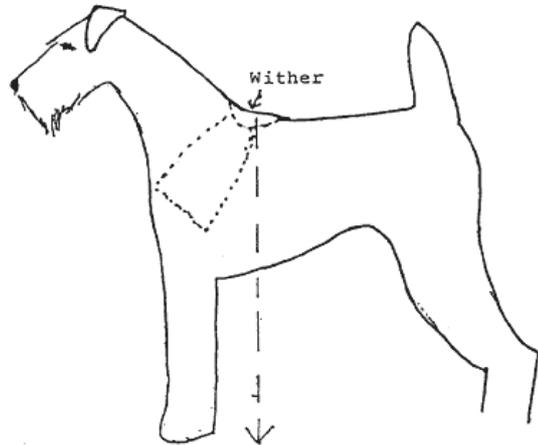


Fig. 9

Well laid shoulder with 1/3 of the dog in the front.

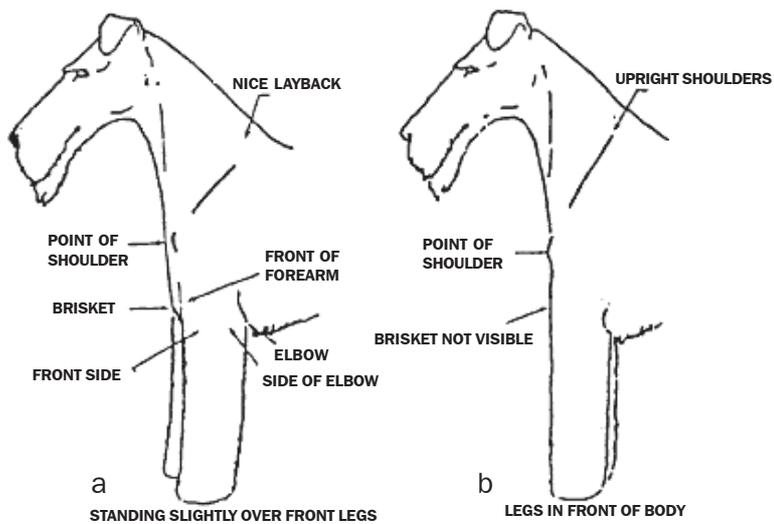


Fig.10

Correct and incorrect lay back on Airedale front.

a. Correct

b. Incorrect.

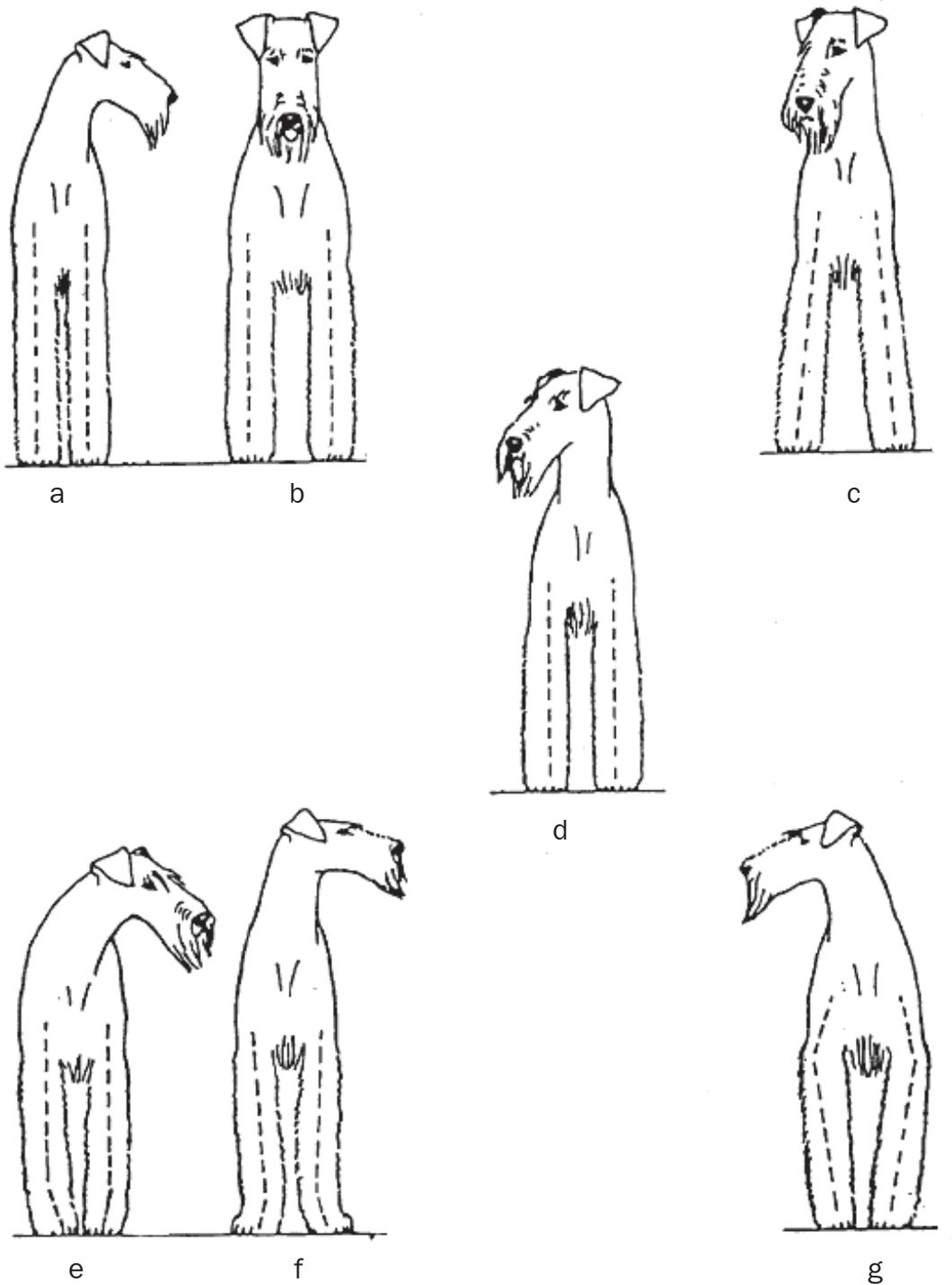


Fig. 11

Airedale front

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|------------|
| a. | Too narrow | b. | Too wide |
| c. | Base wide (tied in shoulder) | d. | Correct |
| e. | Toeing in | f. | Toeing out |
| g. | Out at elbow. | | |

● BODY

Back short, strong, straight and level, showing no slackness. Loins muscular. Ribs well sprung. In short-coupled and well ribbed up dogs, there is little space between ribs and hips. When the dog is long in couplings, some slackness will be shown here. Chest deep (i.e. approximately level with elbows) but not broad.

This is a clear and unambiguous statement, and spells out what is meant by “fairly cobby” in General Appearance. Well-sprung ribs after leaving their particular attachment to the vertebrae actually rise before turning over and descending. The ribs in the anterior section of the body are then flattened, (i.e. descend more vertically before joining the sternum) to allow for free movement of the shoulder blades and reach of the front legs. The bony valley created by the “spring” is filled with thick bands of postural muscle which run on either side of the vertebra from the first thoracic to the last lumbar vertebra and are responsible for the “straight and level” characteristics required by the Standard. (See Fig. 1)

If the backbone when examined feels like a row of cotton reels, the ribs are not well sprung. Such a dog will have a flexible spine and when sitting will often show in outline an arch similar to that of a cat, whereas a properly ribbed-up animal will have a straight back, similar in outline to that of a frog, when sitting.

If the side of the ribcage is sufficiently flattened in its forward section to allow free play for the shoulder blades, the chest will be as required, - deep but not wide. When viewed from the front it can be compared with a capital “H”, the central crossbar representing the level of the elbows and the brisket. (See Fig. 11)

The final floating ribs should be very well developed and very well sprung. There should be difficulty in the well developed and firm animal in determining where the last rib ends and the anterior section of the pelvis begins. (See Fig. 12)

From the structure described above, it follows that the tuck-up on the Airedale Terrier is definite but moderate, the body having depth right through. (See Figs. 1 & 12)

Because in coated breeds clever trimming may create some illusions, depth of brisket must be felt for. In some weedy specimens the brisket may be well up, but also some barrel ribbed animals will give the impression of substance and have well sprung ribs which fail to flatten as they descend, with the result usually that the brisket will not reach to the elbows, and the front will be excessively wide (often bearing a cosmetic “apron” of longer coat to minimize the undesirable width of chest visually) and sometimes such dogs will also be out at elbow. Either way, the barrel-ribbed structure limits the forward reach of the front legs, and leads to short stepping.

A bitch does not necessarily have a longer back than a dog. The Standard explicitly does not differentiate in length of back between dog and bitch. The chest is moderately deep, at least to the level of the elbow, and the whole front (as viewed from the front) is moderately narrow.

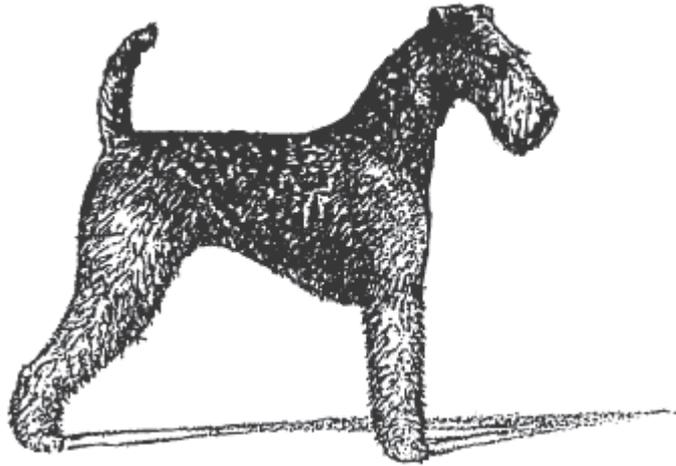


Fig. 12

The Airedales outline showing level back and close coupling.

● HINDQUARTERS

Thighs long and powerful with muscular second thigh, stifles well bent, turned neither in nor out. Hocks well let down, parallel with each other when viewed from behind.

Rear angulation in the Airedale should be good but not excessive. The length of the first and second thighs should be approximately equal and the hock relatively short (See Fig. 13). The muscle inside and outside the thighs must be felt for - it should be bulky and hard. As in the front limbs, the hind limbs should have strong round bone all the way down to the feet. The front to back measurements of the thigh should be felt for through the furnishings, which can visually obscure the breadth of the thigh.

Hindquarters are best assessed with the dog standing naturally (See Fig. 1), sparring up to another dog, and on the move. If the stifles are too straight (a common problem), there may be good or even somewhat excessive muscular development of the second thigh with insufficient length and muscular development of the second thigh, and the dog will be too high on hock. Another undesirable variant is the short upper thigh and long lower thigh with high hock, a potentially unsound combination. It should be noted that whereas abundant furnishings may be sculpted to create the impression of correct proportions and substance in the hindquarters all that is needed to set off the rear end of a good and honest specimen is a cosmetic fringe of hair on the front of the thigh, the hair elsewhere on the thighs being short to very short. The judge should be particularly suspicious of long hair down the back of the upper thighs, which may be left to create the visual illusion of well-developed hindquarters. The “terrier shelf” and the buttocks should be real, not artifacts. This strong development of muscle on the correct bony scaffolding accounts for the “terrier behind the tail” of which there should be a plentiful amount.

Cow hocks and open hocks are most undesirable (See Fig. 14). The well let down, or short hock should be assessed on the free standing or moving dog and not on the posed one.

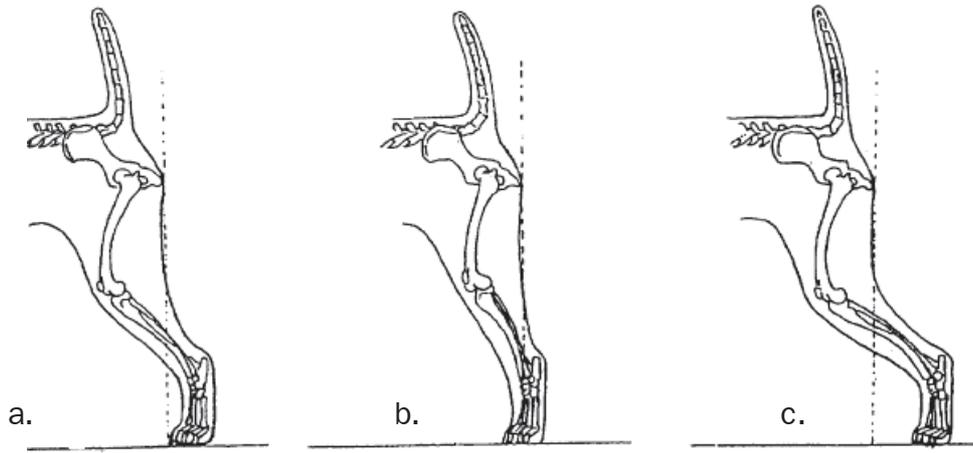
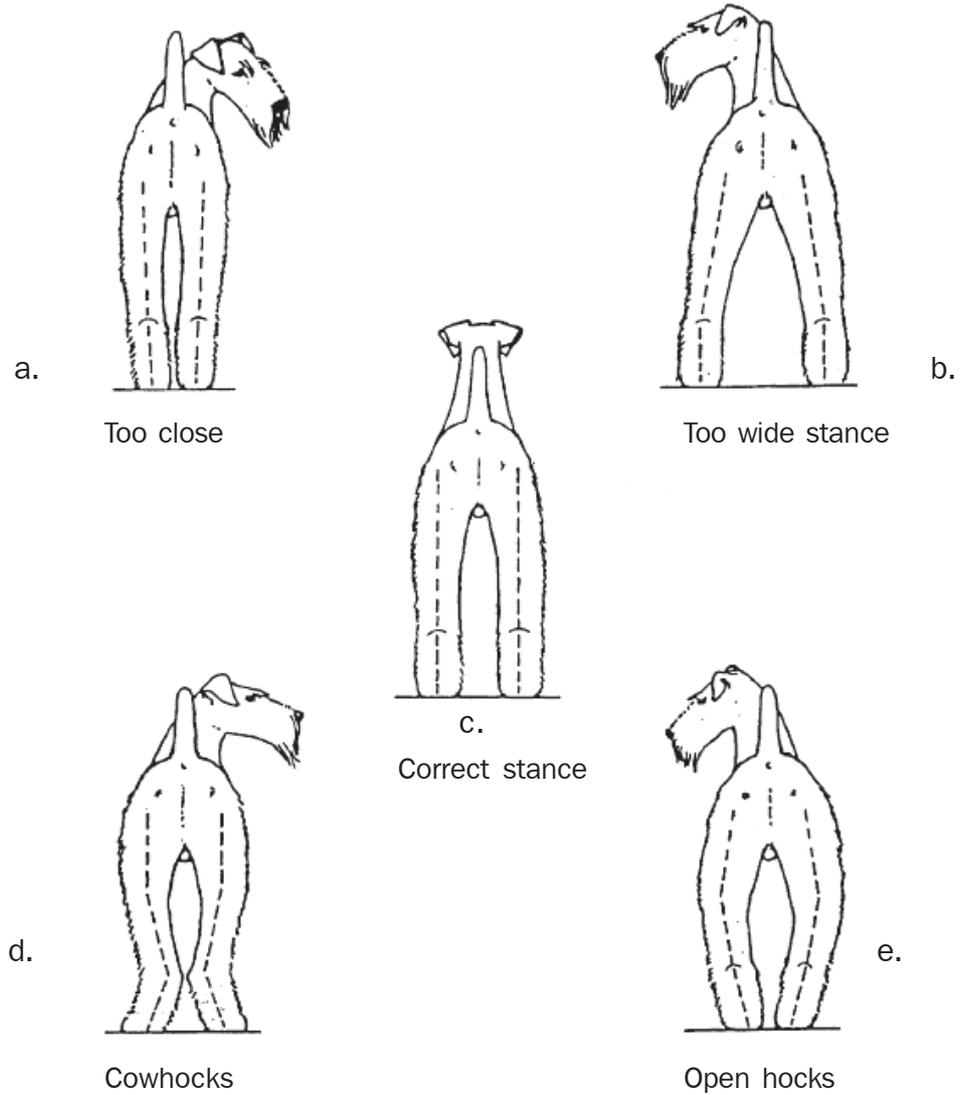


Fig. 13

a. Correct angulation

b. Angulation too straight (under-angulated)

c. Over-angulated



a.

Too close

b.

Too wide stance

c.

Correct stance

d.

Cowhocks

e.

Open hocks

Fig. 14
Hindquarters

● FEET

Small, round and compact, with good depth of pad, well cushioned, toes moderately arched, turning neither in nor out.

The Airedale should have cat feet. Not all do, nor do all judges examine the exhibits' feet. The Airedale has a fairly upright pastern and stands up over its feet (See Fig. 15). When the dog is in show trim the feet are almost invisible below the cylindrical column of furnishings (See Fig 15b). Clever trimming can hide many faults here. The novice trimmer can also create apparent faults on perfect feet. The feet should be lifted and examined thoroughly. The hind feet should be noticeably smaller in diameter than the front feet. To a breed developed to run on rough terrain, snow and ice for many hours without tiring, the deeply padded tight foot is an absolute essential. Platter paws (flat, broken down feet) are a serious problem and must be penalised. The correct "cat-like" feet will give the appearance of the Airedale's leg being shaped like a peg, without any hint of sloping pasterns.



Fig. 15

Good foot correctly trimmed



● TAIL

Docked: Set on high and carried gaily, not curled over back. Good strength and substance. Tip approximately at the same height as top of skull.

Undocked: Set on high and carried gaily. Not curled over back. Good strength and substance.

"No tail, no terrier" runs the adage. Working terrier folk emphasised the need for a tail of strength and substance, considered a barometer of the dog's substance and vitality. Terriers (of the smaller varieties) were pulled out of burrows by their tails. Which to restrain the dog also used the Airedale tail as a handle. Judges must however remember that no dog over 18kg (40lbs) should ever be lifted by its tail because of the likelihood of causing spinal injury.

Good tails are set on top. Feel the set-on; there could be a dip in front of it filled with coat. See (Fig 16). Look behind the tail. Are the shelf and bottom cleanly trimmed? Check that there are no bunches of longer hair (e.g. on back of top thighs) designed to create the illusion of a correctly high set tail. As tails are docked at 3 or 4 days, their ultimate length is an informed guess. A very short tail may have been docked that way to avoid it squirrelling over the back (See Fig. 16b). The shape of the correct tail is either straight or banana shaped, with the concavity forwards (See Figs. 16a & 16e). Carriage is best assessed when the dog is showing off others. Remember that tails can be "fixed" in various ways.

Dogs with straight shoulders and straight stifles may have a balanced action, but they will take seven steps to their better-angulated competitors' five, or even four. Watch for this as the dogs run round the ring, and when observed from the side (See Fig. 17).

Dogs should be gaited in a triangle individually as well as round the ring. The judge must insist they be moved on a loose lead (See Fig. 17). The outline of the dog on the move should be carefully noted. When moving, the correctly built specimen will extend head and neck forward somewhat, dropping the head very slightly to allow for the altered centre of gravity due to his reach in front and his drive from behind (See Fig 17a). The topline should move steadily forward as one unit, it should not dip (See Fig. 17c), nor roach (See Fig. 17d), nor bounce up and down. A dog in good condition, correctly conformed, and blessed with small, tight, deep padded feet will display strong smooth resilient movement which tells it all about construction, fitness, health and temperament. It is movement, which can give the lie to misleading cosmetic trimming.

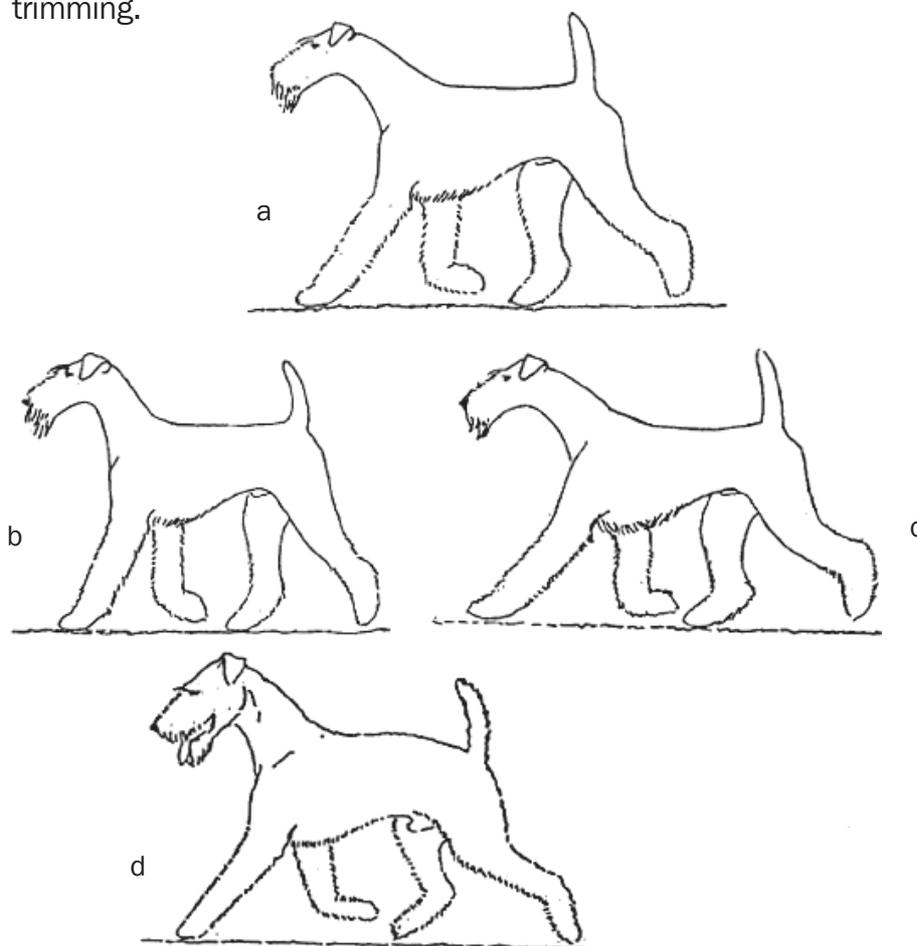


Fig. 17
Movement across the line of sight

- a. Correct action — good reach and drive.
- b. A short stepper — upright shoulder, too straight behind.
- c.. Poor movement, soft dipping back and rubber-legged rear action.
- d. Ugly roach when moving — weak hindquarters.

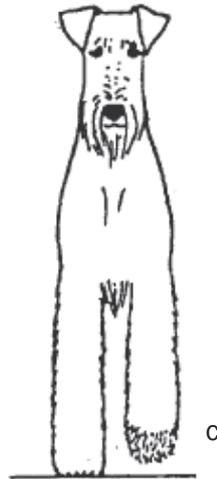
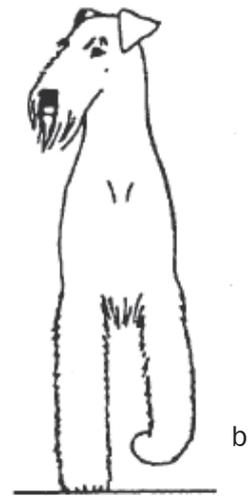


Fig. 18
Front action in the Airedale

- a. Winging
- b. Dishing
- c. Correct action
- d. Out at elbow
- e. Crossing over (plaiting)

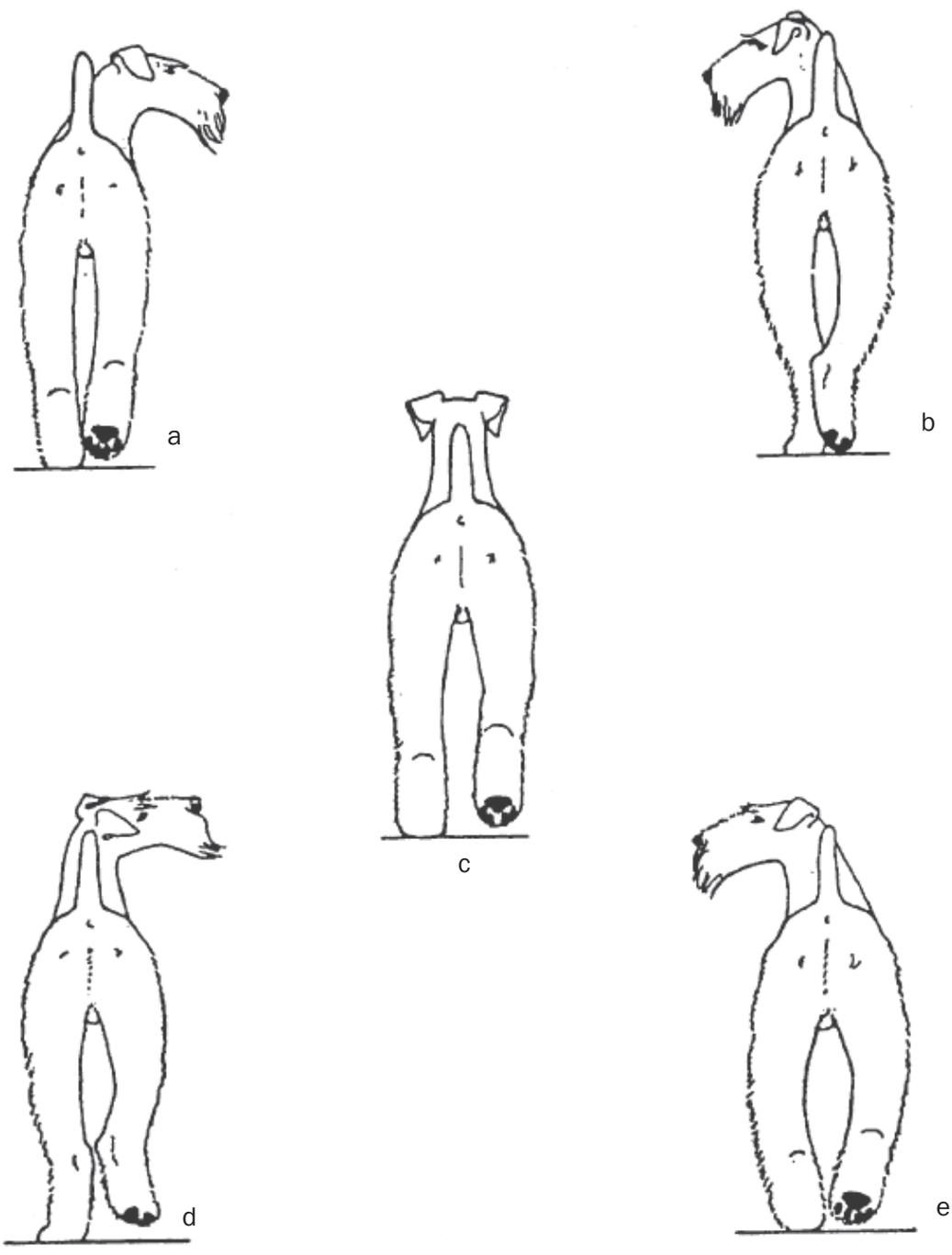


Fig. 19
Rear action in the Airedale

- a. Too close
- b. Crossing, hock knocking
- c. Correct action
- d. Cow hocked
- e. Open hocked

● COAT

Hard, dense and wiry, not so long as to appear ragged, lying straight and close, covering the body and legs; outer coat hard, wiry and stiff, undercoat shorter and softer. Hardest coats crinkling or just slightly waved; curly or soft highly undesirable.

The Standard does not mention that the coat is groomed. The Airedale has the typical broken terrier coat. The description above is a picture of the desired coat. Some dogs totally lack undercoat, their single wire coat often being not quite as hard as it ought to be. These dogs are pincoats and incorrect. Such dogs could not work in cold weather, rain and snow and keep dry. The double coat is weatherproof, the pincoat is not. No pincoat should receive a major award. Other dogs have no topcoat but have a voluminous soft, pale coloured mass of curly grey and cream coat -, which cannot be stripped out. Such dogs must be clipped, are known as sheep coats, and also should not be given any major award. Sheep coats often do not clear. That is, the adult dog will carry grey or black hair on skull, ears, shoulders and thighs.

The length of the coat in all areas is dictated by the trimmer, the aim being to make it look completely natural, as if it grew that way. The experienced trimmer uses long hair to enhance and/or disguise, and very short hair to show off or minimise, so that putting it all together, his work represents his best effort at approximating his dog to the picture required by the Standard. The hair must have been plucked (hand stripped), not clipped or topped (cut back) and obvious clipping and topping should be penalised. Unfortunately the judge is more often fooled by faults manufactured inadvertently by the novice trimmer than by the cosmetic efforts created by the experienced groomer.

For it to be possible to assess the Airedale's coat properly, the dog should be carrying sufficient jacket to allow texture to be assessed, always remembering that the true wire coat is always hard on the sides and not just along the dog's back. The coat should be checked for stiffening agents. If these are deemed to be present, the dog should not gain a top award. Undercoat must be present. In very closely trimmed specimens it may be necessary to search for undercoat in the long hair on the thigh. If no undercoat can be found, the dog should be penalized.

The correct coat is so dense and harsh that it requires effort to part it and see the dog's skin. *

* 1: The feel is similar to that of a coir mat.

* 2: The Airedale's coat texture is not as hard as some terriers which require a coat like 14 coir matting".

The hair of the furnishings is usually not as hard as the body-coat, but if it is, the furnishings will appear somewhat short and sparse compared to those of dogs with softer and more voluminous furnishings.

● COLOUR

Body-saddle black or grizzle as is the top of the neck and top surface of tail. All other parts tan. Ears often a darker tan, and shading may occur around neck and side of skull. A few white hairs between forelegs acceptable.

Grizzle means a mixture of black and another colour or colours. A mixture of white (blue grizzle), or tan (red grizzle), or both, in the black jacket are equally correct. The best texture is found in grizzle coats, some of which are extremely harsh, and unless some grizzle dogs are included in breeding plans, coat quality will suffer. A good black and tan coat is striking, but it should not be preferred over a good grizzle coat simply on the basis of colour. Tan is specified in the Standard for parts other than saddle, back of neck and front of tail. All shades of tan are equally correct, the depth of tan is quite irrelevant to the quality of the dog.

Some strains of Airedales usually have a white chest blaze, others do not.

- * 1: If present, the blaze should not exceed the area of a 20-cent piece.
- * 2: A reasonable white blaze on the chest is acceptable. White feet, nails and legs are unacceptable.

Look for white hair on feet. In puppies, if the white hairs are not up to the pastern, they are quite likely to disappear, but in adult dogs white toes are unacceptable, although white toenails should not be heavily penalised, even though dark nails are preferable.

The jacket and furnishings should be checked for artificial colouring and stiffening agents. No dog artificially coloured should obtain a top award.

● SIZE

Height about 58-61 cm (23-24 ins) for dogs, taken from the top of the shoulders; and bitches about 56-59 cm (22-23 ins).

Height in the Airedale is approximate (“about”). Most authorities translate this as 1.25 - 2.5 cm (1/2 - 1 in) either way. If the dog gets too much below or too much above the height standard it is likely to go out of type. Hence, 1.25 cm is probably safer than 2.5 cm in most cases. It follows that the winning bitch could be taller than the winning dog. This is of no consequence, so long as the best specimen of each sex has been selected.

No weight standard is suggested, but the Standard pictures a sturdy dog of good bone and substance, whose weight should be commensurate with its height, if its type is correct. Bitches are slightly lighter in bone than dogs, appearing strong but feminine.

● FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

● **NOTE**

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

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