

# **The Bull Terrier**

## **Illustrated Standard**



**Drawings by Cynthia Lord Ruddy**

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## **FOREWORD**

The Bull Terrier presents difficulties for breeder and judges striving to achieve the qualities called for in the Breed Standard. These stem principally from the necessity to see the animal as a whole, because the whole is far more important than the parts or details. The serious student must be able to see perfection standing and moving in the mind's eye. Once the ideal is visualized, the animal which comes closest to that ideal in POSITIVE virtues is the one which should achieve success in the show ring and which will ultimately achieve success in breeding. It is only animals which possess virtues of head, bone, substance, shapeliness, soundness and temperament which will pass these on to the next generations. Faults in Bull Terriers are departures from the ideal construction, and the seriousness of the fault is in direct proportion to its degree of departure. Ours is not a breed in which success or failure hinges on a few odd-colored hairs, an extra dewclaw, or a misaligned incisor. The writers of the Bull Terrier Standard took a positive attitude toward the virtues which should be present. This shifts the responsibility to breeders and judges to develop a visualization of the ideal Bull Terrier, and then to develop the skill to find those animals whose sum of virtues most nearly fulfills the ideal. Very little is written in the Bull Terrier Standard about faults, and fault-judging has no place except when deciding between two animals of equal virtue, or when the fault is to a degree which severely mars the health, function or appearance of the dog.

We have illustrated these essential virtues in this book, which some commonly seen deviations. No individual dog is depicted. We hope that this will aid the reader in developing an understanding of breed type and appropriate conformation, with the ultimate effect of improving Bull Terriers!

W.E. Mackay-Smith

White Post, VA.

October, 1991

## **BACKGROUND OF THE BREED**

By T.J. Horner

In order to appreciate to the full every implication of the standard it is necessary to know a little about the background of a mixture of the old fashioned Bulldog, the White English Terrier (now extinct but resembling a Manchester Terrier in all but color), the Dalmatian and possibly one or two other breeds, with the Bulldog and Terrier characteristics predominating and still making their presence felt today.

We must thank the Bulldog for the Bull Terrier's courage and determination, his substance and heavy bone, his barrel ribs and deep brisket, the strong jaws and the fine

close coat. Also for the brindle, red, fawn, and fawn smut and the black and tan colourings and possibly for obedience. We must, however, blame the Bulldog for certain undesirable features of body, legs and feet that have bedeviled the Bull Terrier throughout his history; for the over-broad skull, undershot jaw, round eyes and also for the Dudley nose and other faults of pigmentation.

White English Terriers were refined Terriers which gave many points indicative of quality, the small dark eyes, neat ears, varminty expression, the clean outline, with straight legs and cat feet, tight shoulders, well bent stifles, low set hocks and the whip tails, together with agility, intelligence, and the pure white coat.

But from the Terrier the breed also derived a tendency for lightness of build, light bone and the excitability still sometimes encountered.

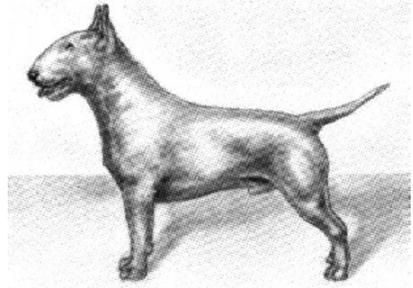
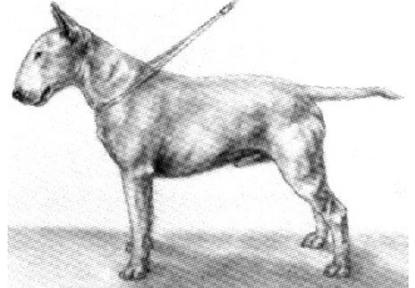
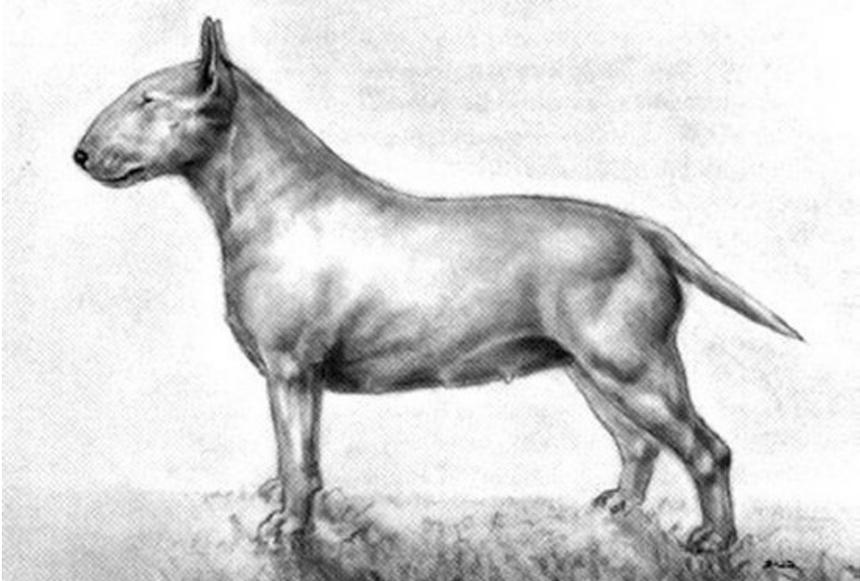
Conformation was improved by the use of the Dalmatian whose leggier type, good legs and feet and movement can still occasionally be recognized in the Bull Terriers of today. Here again there were disadvantages as no doubt the ticked coat came from this source and perhaps also the mild expressions still found in the breed.

Bull Terriers reminiscent of all these three types are still to be seen, all of them complying with the somewhat broadly based requirements of the Standard and all acceptable and useful for correcting exaggerations of type or deviations from the Standard. Thus the Bulldog type will give substance, the Terrier type will add quality and agility and the Dalmatian type improve conformation and movement. Excess of any of these types is undesirable, the ideal being a blend of the good points of all three.

Soundness as it refers to dogs has never been precisely defined. In Bull Terriers it refers to the general skeletal and muscular perfection as laid down in the Breed Standard.

## THE THREE INGREDIENTS

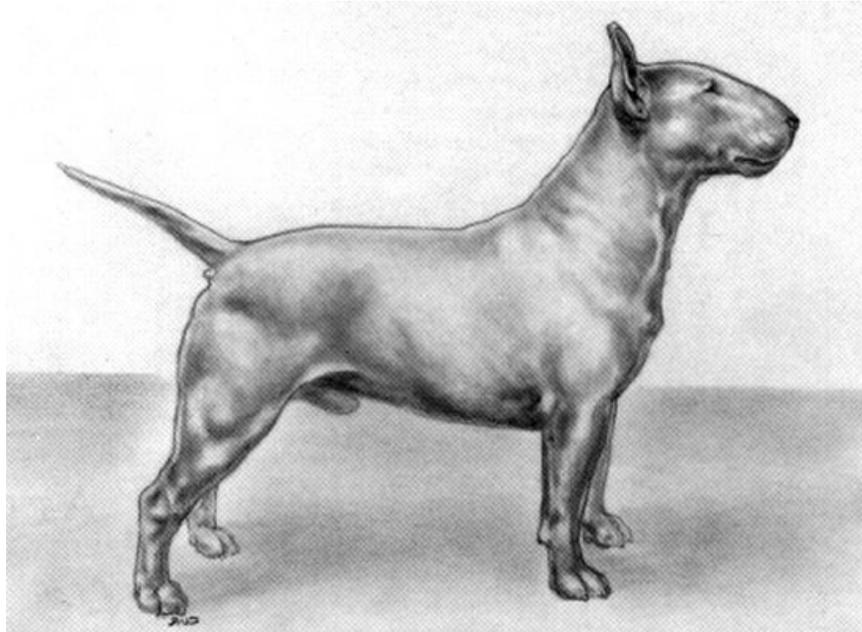
These three subtypes are essential for providing the genetic ingredients which produce the ideal combination of substance, soundness and shapeliness called for in the Bull Terrier Standard.

<b>BULLDOG TYPE</b>	<b>TERRIER TYPE</b>	<b>DALMATIAN TYPE</b>
		
<p>Body, substance density, and heavy bone are exaggerated in the "Bulldog" type.</p>	<p>Quality, agility and soundness are the primary virtues in the tidy, compact "Terrier" type.</p>	<p>More leg, sweeping body lines and a free long stride are hallmarks of the "Dalmatian" type.</p>
		
<p>A good combination of all three types with quality, shapeliness, soundness and density.</p>		

## GENERAL APPEARANCE

### STANDARD

*"The Bull Terrier must be strongly built, muscular, symmetrical and active, with a keen, determined and intelligent expression, full of fire but of sweet disposition and amenable to discipline."*



### Discussion

The standard opens with a general description of a positive and charismatic dog. The Bull Terrier should be the maximum dog in the available space; a dense, substantial animal, but with balance and agility. He should give the impression of strength, energy and quickness. The expression should reflect these body projections; a positive, glinting, intelligent eye set in a triangular opening which produces a "varminty" outlook. Temperament is paramount in a Bull Terrier. He must be outgoing, friendly, interested in his surroundings and on his toes, but **NEVER** bad tempered or shy.

## **Standard**

### **THE HEAD**

*"The HEAD should be long, strong and deep right to the muzzle, but not coarse. Full face it should be oval in outline and be filled completely up, giving the impression of i.e. egg-shaped. In profile it should curve gently downwards from the top of the skull to the tip of the nose. The forehead should be flat across from ear to ear. The distance from the tip of the nose to the eyes should be perceptibly greater than that from the eyes to the top of the skull. The underjaw should be deep and well-defined.*

*The LIPS should be clean and tight.*

*The TEETH should meet in either a level or a scissors bite. In the scissors bite the upper teeth should fit in front of and closely against the lower teeth and they should be sound, strong and perfectly regular.*

*The EARS should be small, strong and thin and placed close together. They should be capable of being held stiffly erect, when they should point upwards.*

*The EYES should be well-sunken and as dark as possible, with a piercing glint and they should be small, triangular and obliquely placed; set near together and high up on the dog's head. Blue eyes are a disqualification.*

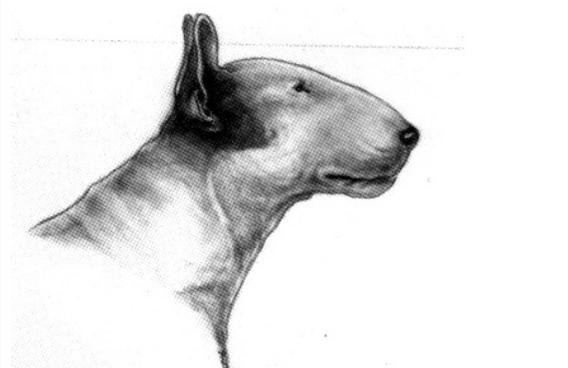
*The NOSE should be black, with well-developed nostrils bent downward at the tip."*

### **Discussion**

The overall shape and proportions of the Bull Terrier head are very important. It must have virtues of strength, egg shape and piercing expression for the animal to approach the ideal

### **THE PROFILE**

From the side the head should demonstrate the clean, sweeping, unbroken profile called for in the standard and should also have depth and strength of muzzle and underjaw.

	<p><b>An excellent head in strength and proportion; the distance from eye to nose tip is noticeably longer than from the eye to the top of the skull. The profile demonstrates a clean sweeping curve with a noticeable downturn at the nose, called "roman finish".</b></p>
	<p><b>A weak snipey head with a dippy profile and short shallow underjaw often called "pig jaw".</b></p>
	<p><b>The head has a good but unexaggerated profile with excellent strength of muzzle carried all the way to the end. Clean tight lips and a full deep underjaw complement the great virtues of strength and balance in this head.</b></p>

## Standard

### THE HEAD

*"Full face it should be oval in outline and be filled completely up, giving the impression of fullness with surface devoid of hollows or indentations, i.e. egg-shaped..."*

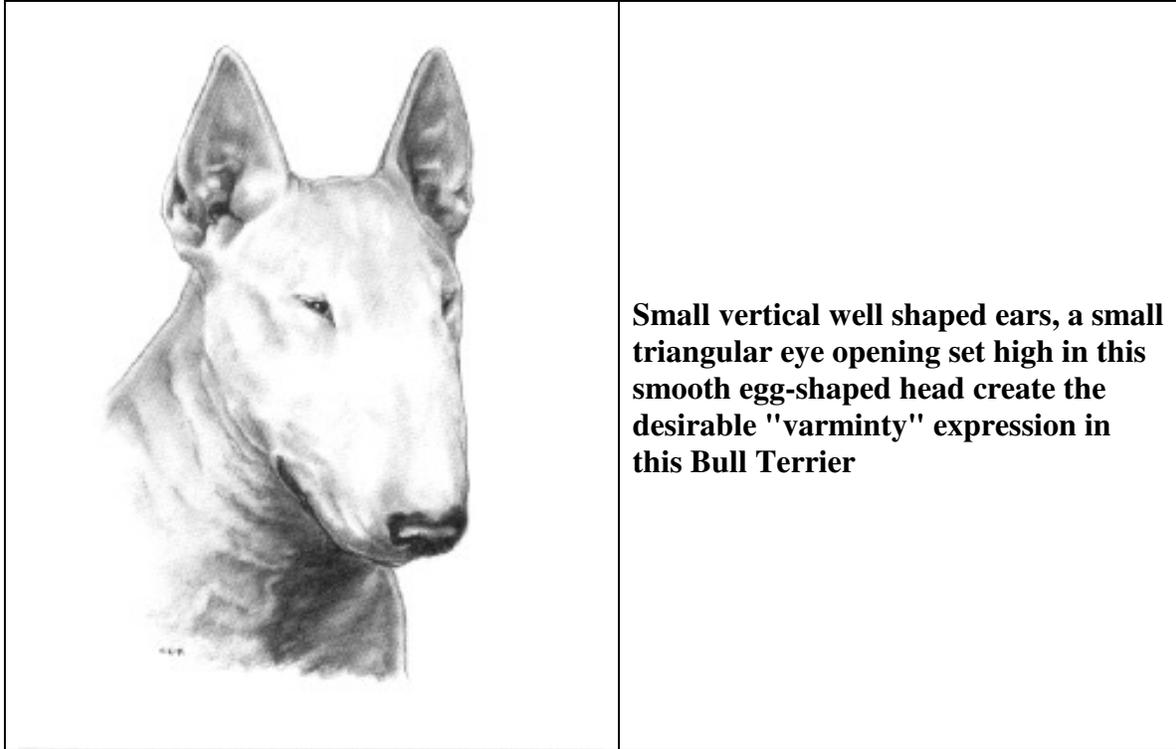
#### Discussion

From the front, the head should be egg-shaped with no indentations from the base of the ear to the end of the muzzle. The end of the muzzle should be strong and broad. More strength of muzzle with less curve of profile is preferable to a pronounced profile with a narrow muzzle that tapers to a point.

	
<p><b>An ideal head with fill, strength and balance. The skull is flat across the top with small, well placed ears which point upwards. No indentations detract from the smooth egg-shape. The eyes are well set, small, dark and triangular.</b></p>	<p><b>This head lacks fill under the eyes, so it is not egg-shaped. The eyes are large and placed low in the in the head. The skull is round and the ears are badly placed on the side, pointing outwards. The large, low set eyes and "donkey" ears give this head a poor expression.</b></p>

#### Discussion

The expression is a key feature of the Bull Terrier. Together with the dense, muscular, shapely body and correctly shaped head, the "varminty" look is responsible for making the dog a BULL TERRIER and not just a strong, chunky dog. The eye openings should be slanted and triangular, set relatively high in the head, with a dark, keen eye. The ears add to the alert expression and should be close together and pointing upwards. A Bull Terrier with donkey ears and a round, "kind" or pale eye loses the intense, alert "varminty" look so valued in the breed.

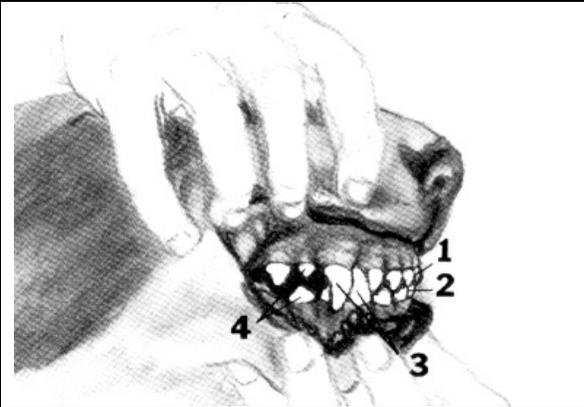


## **THE TEETH**

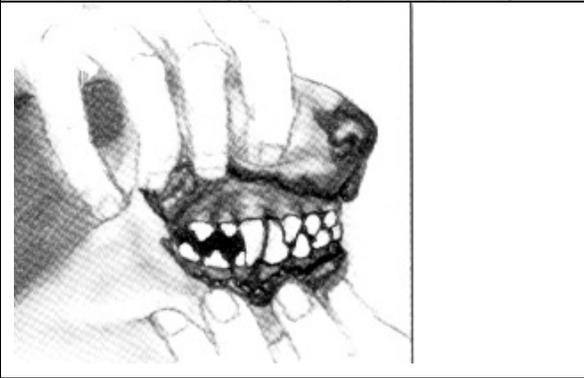
### **Discussion**

The teeth have become more of a problem as the profile has become more exaggerated. In order to accommodate a very curved (and therefore somewhat shortened) nose profile, the underjaw has either remained deep, long and broad producing undershot dentition, or become narrow and shortened (pig-jawed) which allows the front incisors to meet in the preferred scissors, but crowds the lower canines inward where they can prevent the mouth from completely closing, and damage or puncture the hard palate above. Premolars are often missing in Bull Terriers as well, possibly as a result of this progressive genetic shortening of the lower jaw to achieve a more exaggerated profile and retain a scissors bite. A deep strong underjaw can be appropriately balanced by a long, wide muzzle with the correct profile to accommodate proper dentition.

This is a correct mouth with the top incisors (1) closely overlapping the bottom incisors (2) the canine teeth (3) properly placed and fully visible, with the premolars (4) present just posterior to the canines.

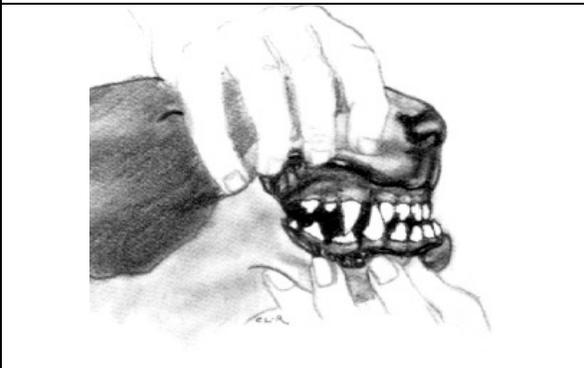


This is also a correct mouth with the upper and lower incisors meeting with no overlap, hence the description "level".



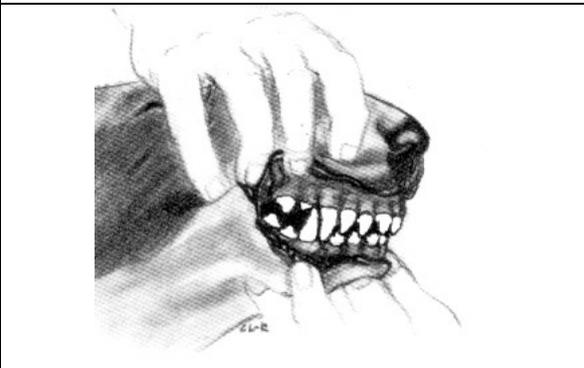
A slight mouth fault with one or more of the bottom incisors just forward of the upper incisors with no space in-between.

**UNDERSHOT BITE**

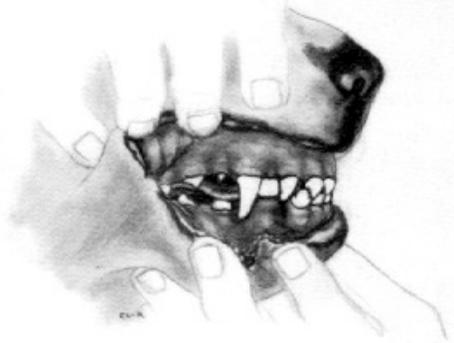


A more severe mouth fault with the lower incisors well forward of the uppers and the lower canine beside or forward of the top lateral incisor.

**OVERSHOT BITE**



The upper incisors forward of the lower incisors with a space in between. This fault is more severe when the lower canine falls behind the upper canine as pictured here.

MISPLACED CANINE TOOTH	A "WRY" MOUTH
	
<p>A scissors bite with a misplaced lower canine. The top half of the canine is not visible when the jaws are closed.</p>	<p>This mouth looks scissors from one side and undershot from the other resulting from a crooked line of dentition.</p>

## Discussion

Any mouth fault should be penalized only and precisely according to its degree; a proper assessment should include the strength and width of the underjaw, the size and regularity of the teeth, the severity of malocclusion, and the placement of the lower canines. These should be fully visible with the tips in front of the upper canines and outside of the upper gum. Inward displacement of the lower canines can be damaging and painful to the dog as well as preventing correct closure of the upper and lower jaw.

## Standard

*"The CHEST should be broad when viewed from in front, and there should be great depth from the withers to brisket, so that the latter is nearer the ground than the belly. (The underline from the brisket to the belly should form a graceful upward curve.)"*

*The BODY should be well rounded with a marked spring of rib.*

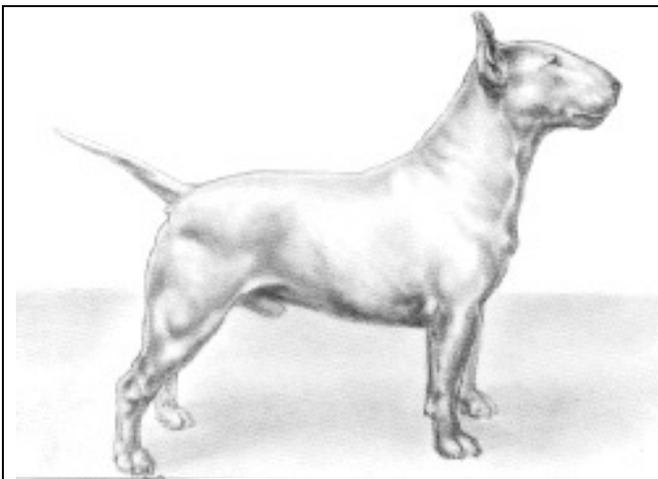
*The BACK should be short and strong. The back ribs deep. Slightly arched over the loin,*

*The SHOULDERS should be strong and muscular but without heaviness. The shoulder blades should be wide and flat and there should be a very pronounced backward slope from the bottom edge of the blade to the top edge. Behind the shoulders there should be no slackness or dip at the withers."*

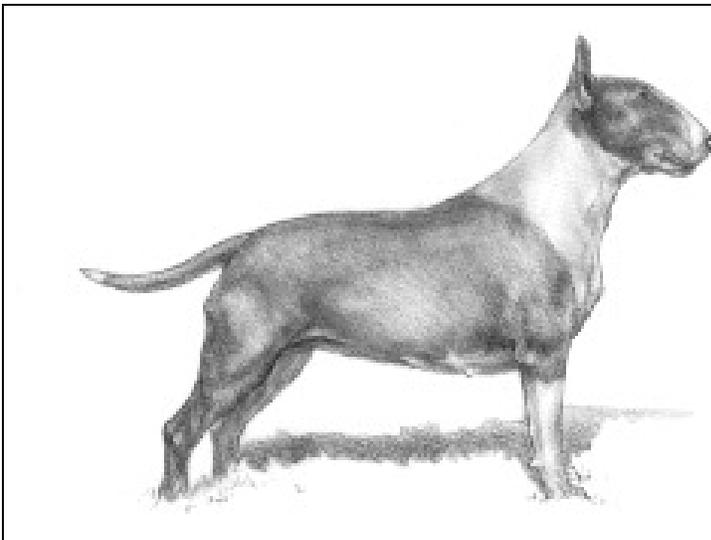
*"The NECK should be very muscular, long, arched and clean, tapering from the shoulders to the head and it should be free of loose skin.*

## **Discussion**

The overall impression of the Bull Terrier's body should be one of short-backed, well-knit strength with graceful lines. The topline should flow continuously from the base of the ears over a graceful neck, tying smoothly into the level withers and thence back to a slight rise over a muscular loin, finishing in a gentle curve over the croup to a low-set tailhead.



**A ttypy dog with a smooth athletic build. His neck, is well set on, his topline continuous with no pronounced dips or abrupt change in angle. A deep brisket and good tuck-up complete the lines of this shapely athlete.**



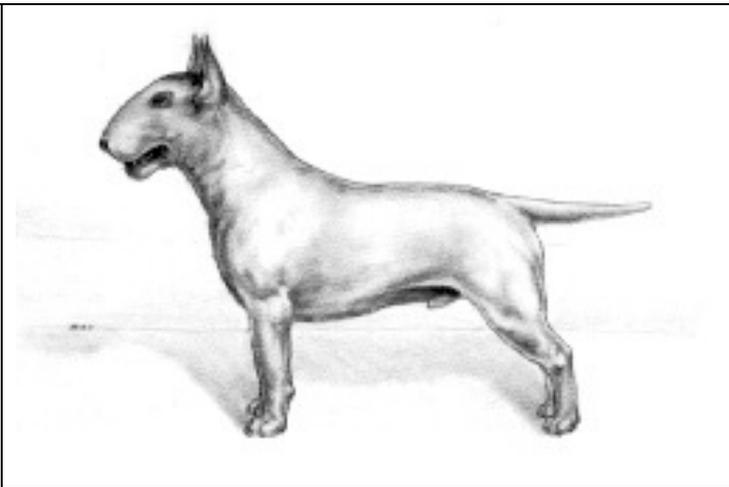
**A shapely bitch with graceful body lines. Her topline sweeps without a break from the neck over the withers with a slight arch over the croup, ending with a well set on tail. Her underline carries smoothly backward under her deep brisket, curving upward behind the rib cage to the belly.**

## Discussion

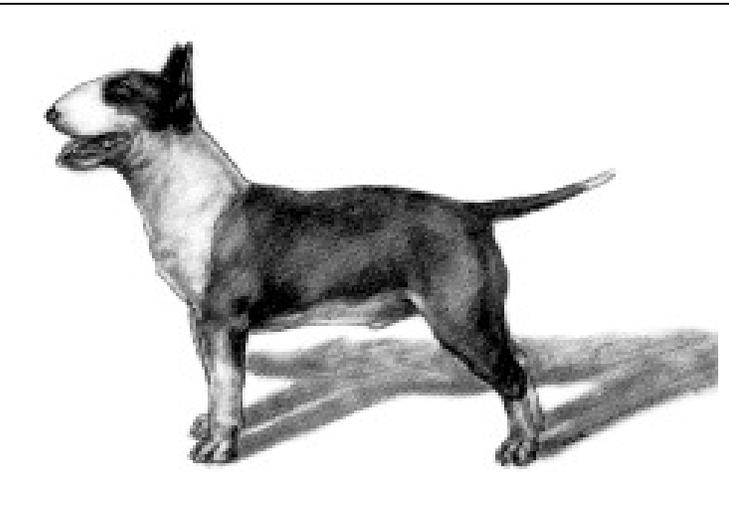
A long, arched, tapering neck rising from a well angulated shoulder is a very pleasing feature and one which is a valued component of the overall balance and symmetry. A short, upright or "ewe"

neck caused by an upright shoulder breaks the topline which should give the impression of gentle integrated curves rather than abrupt changes in angles and direction.

**This dog has the correct neck, shoulder and topline. The neck is well set on and gives a smooth transition from the sloping shoulder to the head. The withers are behind a vertical line from the elbow.**

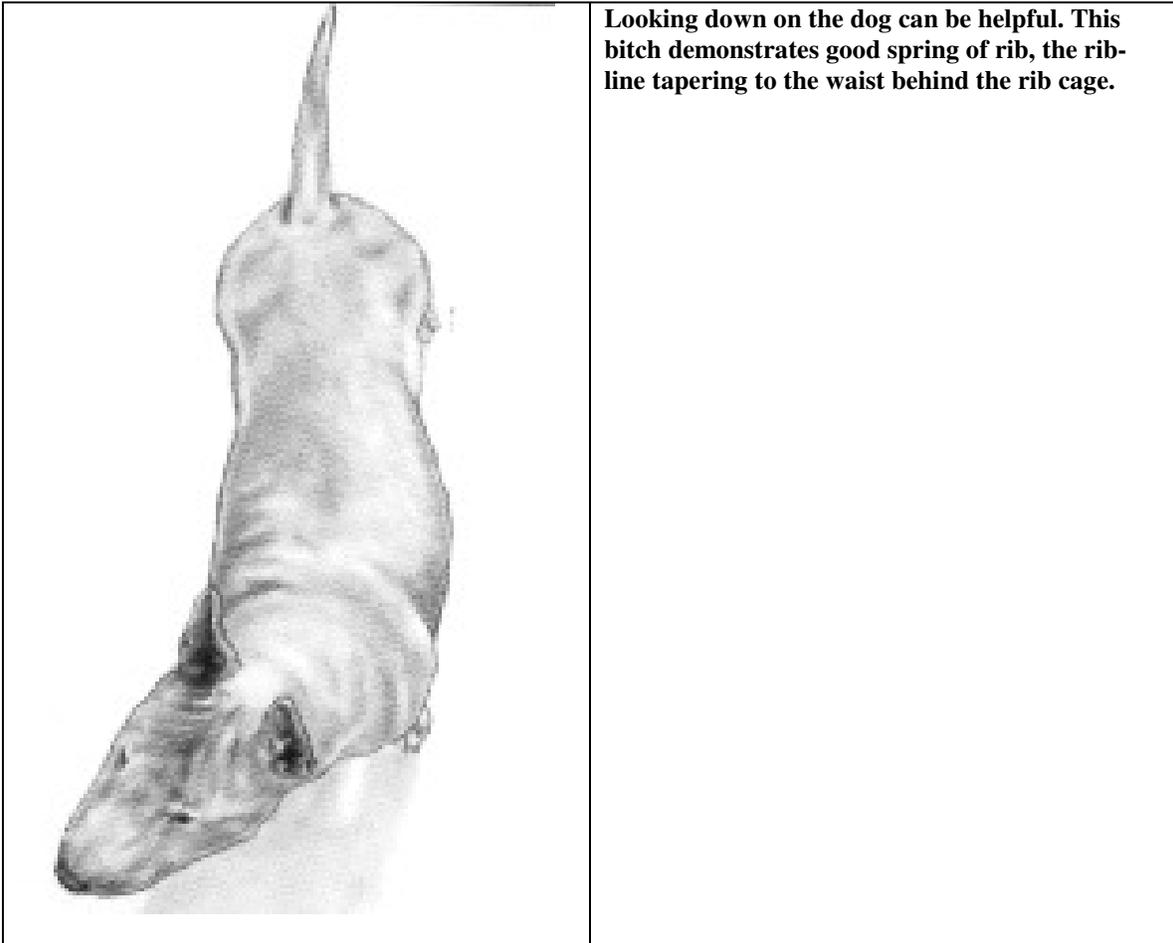


**A straight shoulder with a badly set on neck rising from withers forward of a vertical line from the elbow.**

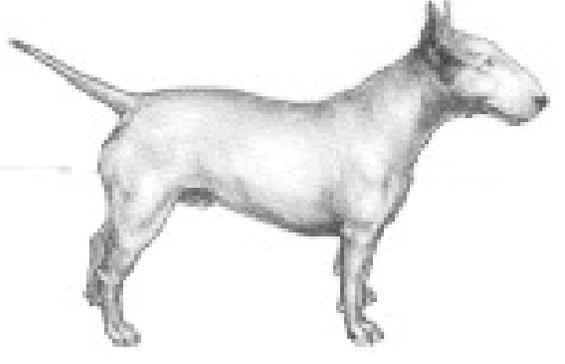


## Discussion

The rib cage can easily be assessed from a top view, the sides of the dog curving outwards to accommodate the well sprung ribs, and curving in behind the ribcage to make a discernible waist.



The Bull Terrier should be a combination of dense but smooth parts connected by graceful curves. Beware the heavy, ill-made animal who has a long, straight-cut body which lacks the graceful quality of the well-knit athlete. Also beware the individual who lacks substance and spring of rib.

	
<p><b>Lacking substance and spring of rib this dog is also upright in shoulder and high in the rear.</b></p>	<p><b>A short neck, upright shoulder and long straight body contribute to this animal's lack of shape.</b></p>

## **Standard**

*"The LEGS should be big-boned but not to the point of coarseness; the forelegs should be of moderate length, perfectly straight, and the dog must stand firmly upon them.*

*The ELBOWS must turn neither in nor out, and the pasterns should be strong and upright.*

*The HIND LEGS should be parallel viewed from behind. The thighs very muscular with hocks well let down. Hind pasterns short and upright. The stifle joint should be well bent with a well-developed second thigh.*

*The FEET round and compact with well-arched toes like a cat."*

## **Discussion**

The Standard calls for straight front legs with elbows pointing straight back and the middle toes straight forward. Most deviations from this ideal are characteristics stemming from the bulldog ancestry; out at the elbows, curved or bowed front legs, feet pointing "east and west:.



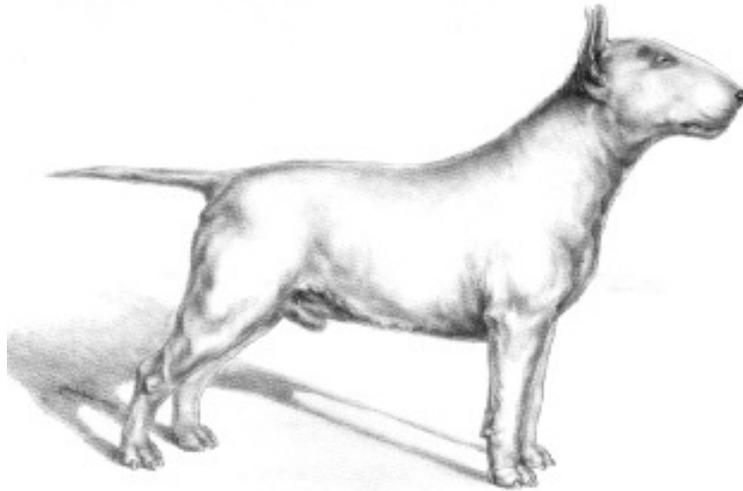
**A correct front showing a broad chest and straight forelegs properly attached to the shoulders, feet pointing straight ahead.**



**A bulldog front, with curved forelegs and elbows pointing outward, wrists and feet pointing "east and west".**

## **Discussion**

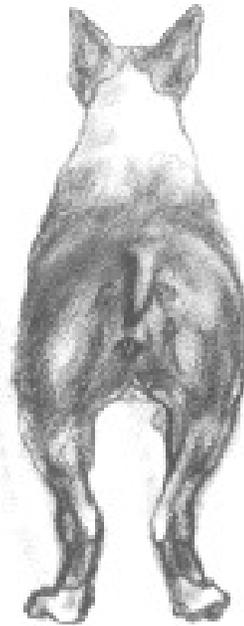
The hind legs can reflect the bulldog ancestry by being straight in stifle, lacking a muscular second thigh, and bowing out at the stifle or in at the hocks. Faulty conformation of the hindquarters can be not only an unsightly weakness in a muscular, agile dog, but can be a harbinger of arthritis or joint disease, whereas straight shoulders and crooked front legs are not so pathological.



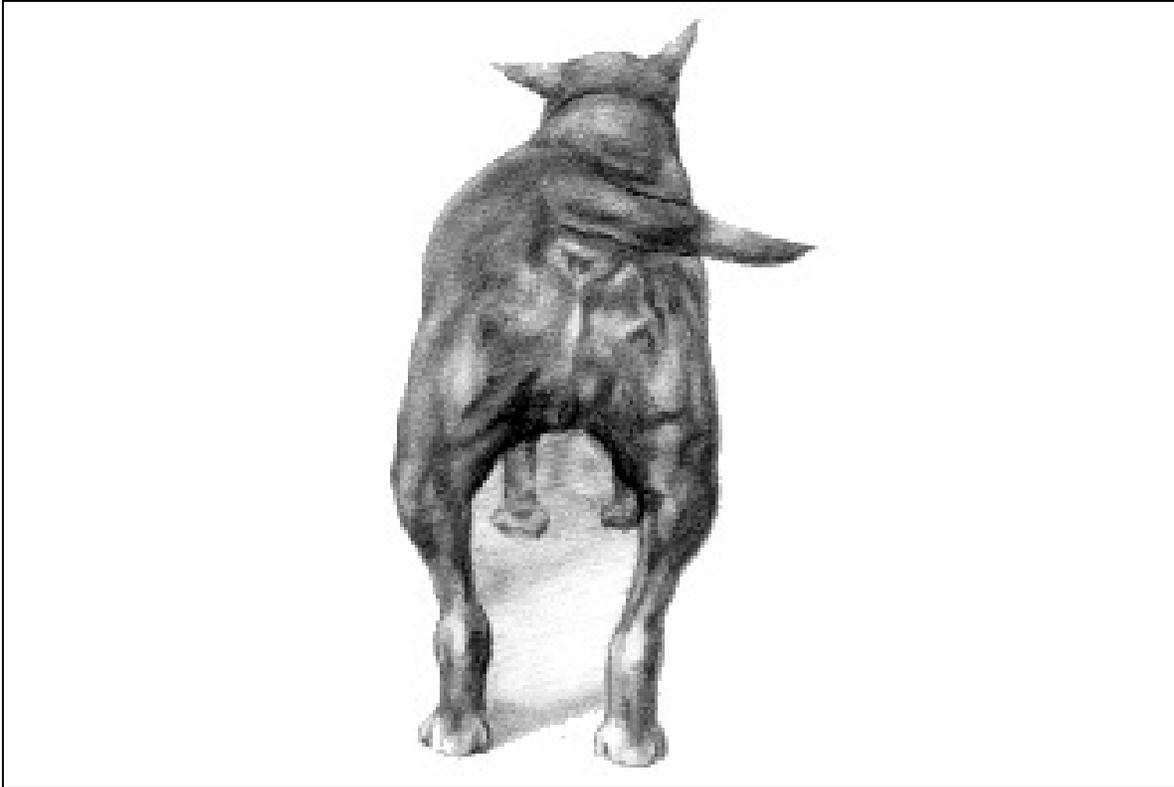
**A muscular hind leg with a well developed second thigh, nicely angulated at the stifle. The bone between the hock and the foot is short and strong in this excellent example.**



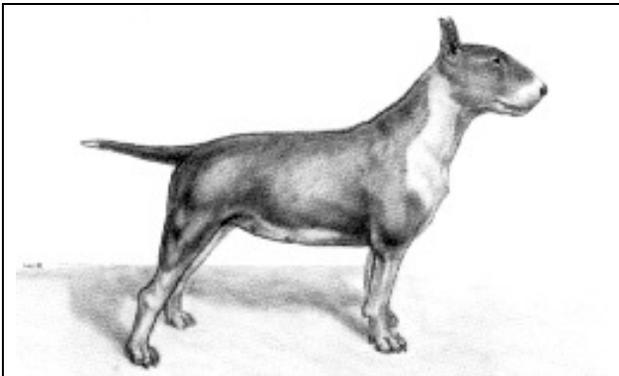
**Correct hindquarters from the rear. The legs are muscular, straight and parallel with the front legs.**



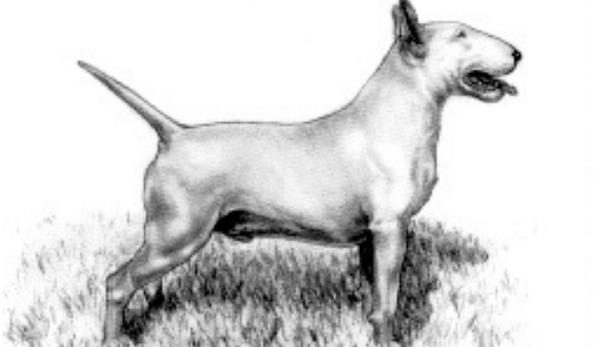
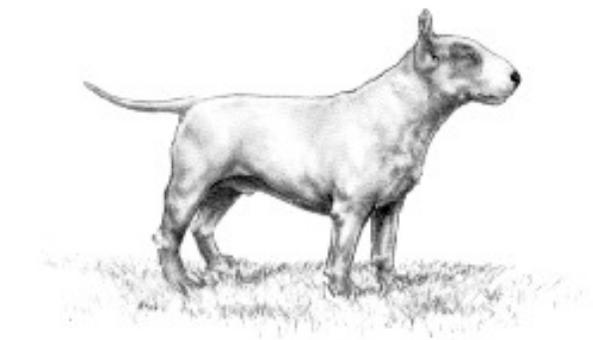
**Incorrect hindquarters with "cow hocks". The hocks are closer together than the feet, which point outwards.**



**Bowed stifles viewed from the rear. This is a weak, unsound construction usually inadequately muscled and characterized by short, choppy hind action.**



**A straight hind leg lacking over- all muscling and showing very little angulation at the stifle joint.**

	<p><b>This stifle joint is overbent and while seemingly desirable is actually a weak construction often associated with "cow hocks"</b></p>
	<p><b>A weak hind leg bowed laterally at the stifle joint. been the hock and the foot is short and strong in this excellent example.</b></p>

## **Standard**

*"The TAIL should be short, set on low, fine and ideally should be carried horizontally. It should be thick where it joins the body, and should taper to a fine point."*

## **Discussion**

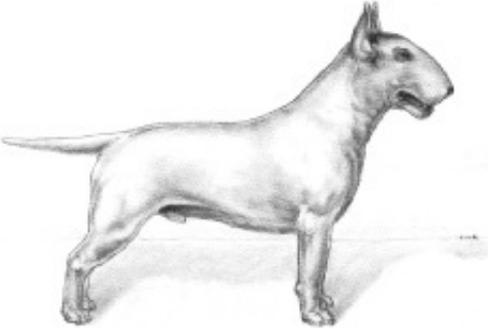
A properly set on, tapered tail carried horizontally gives a finish to the topline which is essential to our visualization of the ideal Bull Terrier. Unfortunately, most of today's dogs have dogs have varying degrees of "gay" tail which brings the lines of an otherwise ideal animal to an abrupt, angular termination. While "gay" tails have not been considered a serious fault, they are often associated with a short pelvis and flat croup which detracts from the finishing lines of this muscular yet gracefully agile dog.

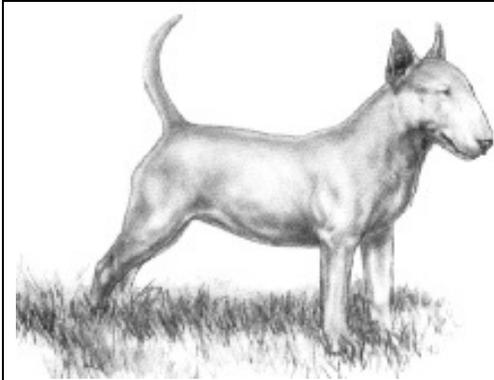
## **Standard**

*"The COAT should be short, flat harsh to the touch with a fine gloss. The dog's skin should fit tightly. The COLOR is white though markings on the dog's head are permissible. Any markings elsewhere are to be severely faulted. Skin pigmentation is not to be penalized."*

## Discussion

While hair texture is not generally regarded as important in the overall picture of the ideal Bull Terrier, a thin, patchy or dull coat detracts from the impression of a vibrant, healthy animal. Coats marred by bouts with allergies are also a sign of less than ideal health in addition to being unsightly. Ticking, which occurs in the undercoat and is more prevalent in the thicker winter coat, is a fault as described in the standard. The severity of the fault can be minimal, with a few odd ticks in the undercoat, or more heavily penalized if the coat is heavily ticked. Mismarks, involving both the undercoat and the longer guard hairs, are also a fault which carries a penalty under the rules of this Standard. Skin pigmentation, which takes the form of dark spots on the skin which show through the white hair in a thin coat, are not to be penalized. It has been the usual practice, when judging Bull Terriers, to view light ticking and small mismarks as a relatively minor fault in an otherwise worthy animal, and while it is important to be aware of the desirability of a clear coat in our visualization of the ideal Bull Terrier, it is also important not to "throw the baby out with the bathwater" and disregard an otherwise virtuous animal due to minor coat faults.

	<p><b>A correct topline, tailset and carriage. The tail is broad at the base and tapers to a point. It does not reach beyond the hock when held downward against the back of the hind leg.</b></p>
	<p><b>A short croup with high set-on tail, with a high or "gay" carriage.</b></p>



An extremely high set "gay" tail set on a flat, shallow croup.

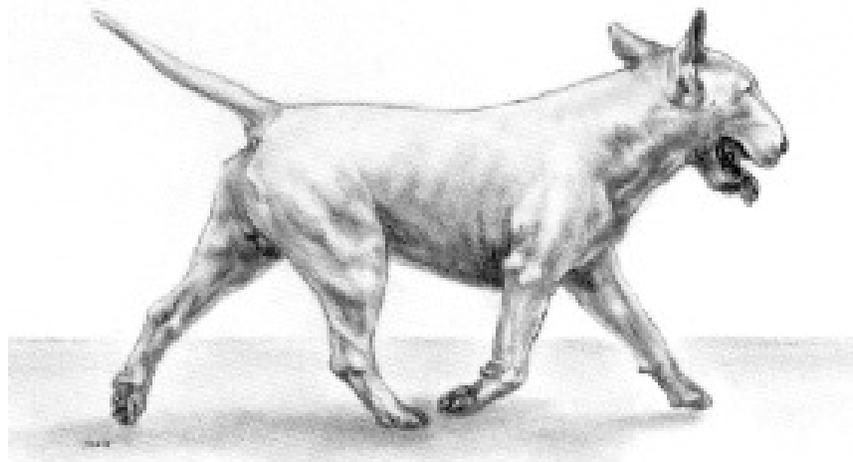
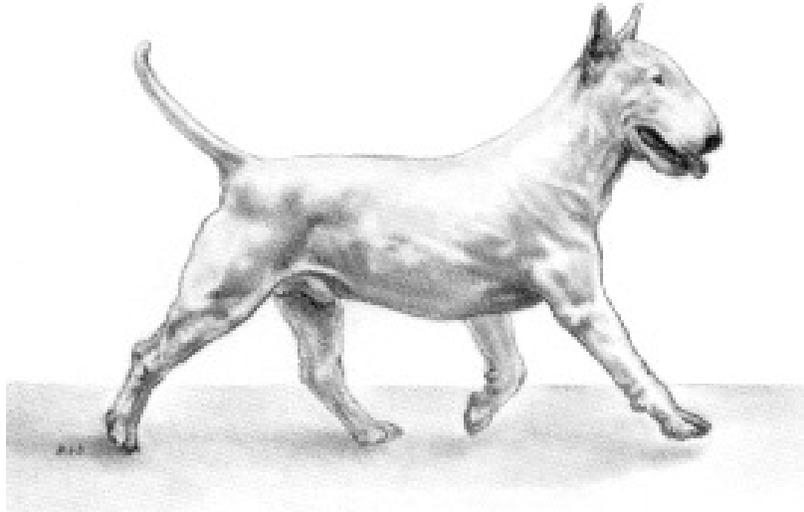
## Standard

*MOVEMENT-- "The dog shall move smoothly, covering the ground with free, easy strides, fore and hind legs should move parallel to each other when viewed from in front or behind. The forelegs reaching out well and the hind legs moving smoothly at the hip and flexing well at the stifle and hock. The dog should move compactly and in one piece but with a typical jaunty air that suggests agility and power."*

## Discussion

A Bull Terrier which is made well is likely to move well, and it is in motion that the animal passes the true test of construction. From the front (coming toward) the forelegs should be perfectly straight, with the feet the same distance apart as the elbows. If the shoulders and elbows are not properly constructed the elbows will visibly turn outward and the feet will be closer together than the elbows. Any deviations in the straightness of the forelegs will be noticeable, and these are often accompanied by a crossing or weaving gait. From the rear (going away) the hind legs should also be parallel. Bowed-out stifles and hocks will cause the hind feet to turn in and they will sometimes actually cross as the dog puts one in front of the other. "Cow-hocks", or hocks which turn in toward the center line, will cause the stifles and hind feet to turn out with a resulting loss of impulsion or drive. From the side, animals with straight shoulders will usually show some slackness or a dip behind the withers. A straight hind leg and a badly made croup will cause the hind end to be higher than the front, giving the impression that the animal is "running downhill." Because the standing Bull Terrier can be cleverly "stacked" to minimize these basic construction problems, it is essential for breeders and judges alike to familiarize themselves with the ideal Bull Terrier in motion. It is in the movement phase of assessment that the crucial tests are met and passed or failed, and a Bull Terrier which moves correctly should be recognized and rewarded both in the ring and in a progressive breeding program.

## MOVEMENT FROM THE SIDE



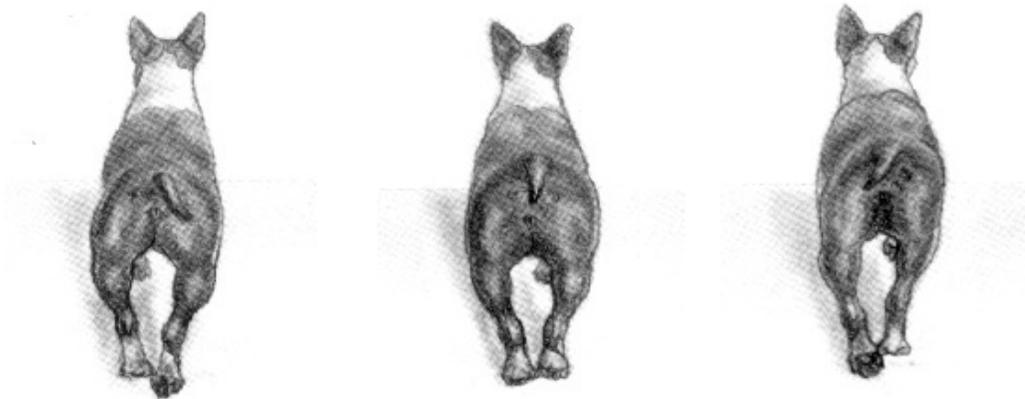
**This dog is moving correctly, with good extension of the forelegs and flexion and drive behind. This produces a ground covering gait which is powerful but does not appear stilted or choppy from the side.**

## **MOVEMENT FROM BEHIND**



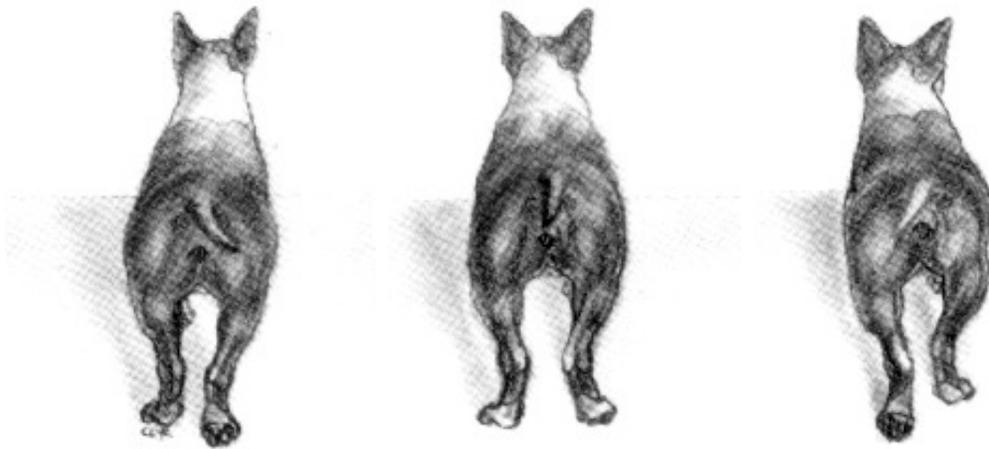
### **Correct Movement**

**Hind legs are moving squarely away, parallel with the forelegs.**



### **Base Narrow**

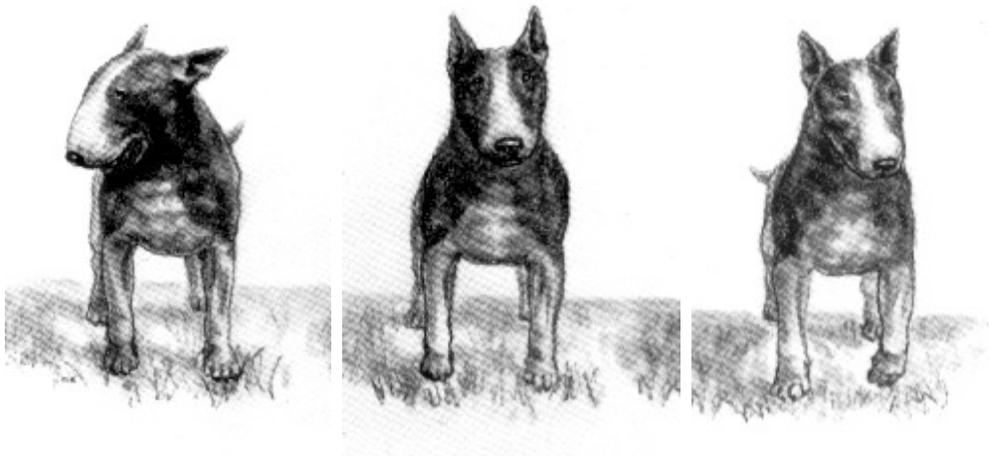
**Hind feet are put down toward the center line as the dog moves away.**



### "Cow Hocks"

The stifles are flexed toward the outside and the hocks are pulled inward as the dog moves, producing a weaving effect sometimes called "knitting and purling".

### MOVEMENT FROM THE FRONT



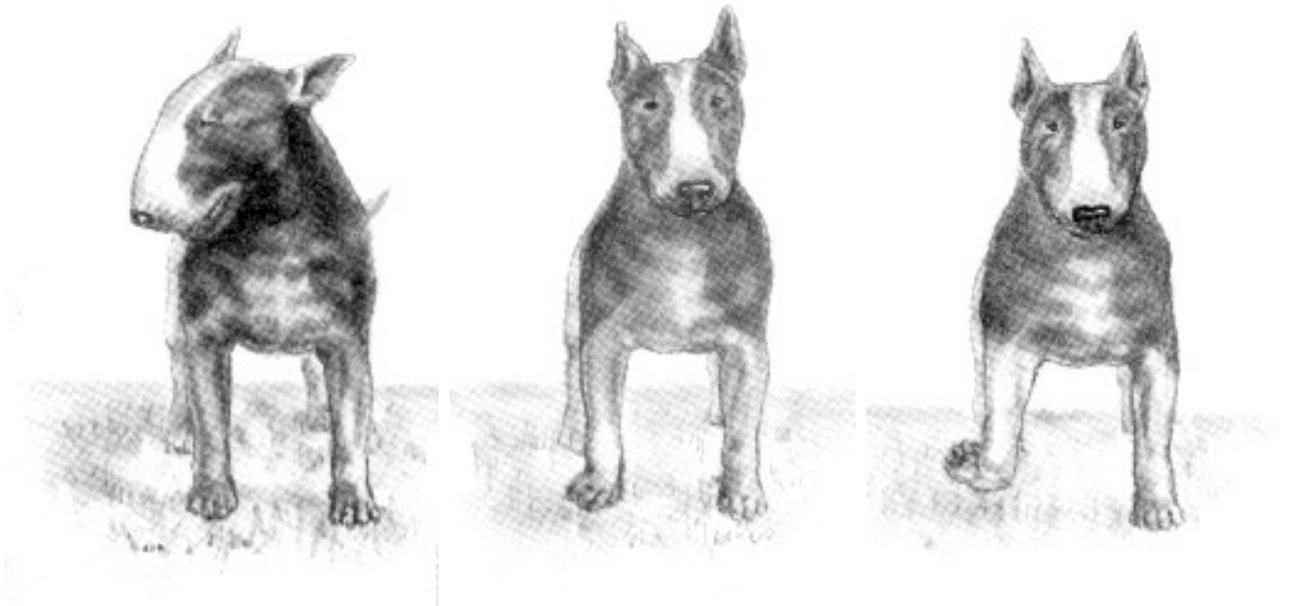
*Correct*

Fore legs moving straight forward, parallel to the hind legs.



*Base-Narrow*

**Forefeet hit the ground toward the center line**



**"Paddling"**

**The rotation of the wrist throws the pastern and foot out to the side as the foreleg is advanced.**

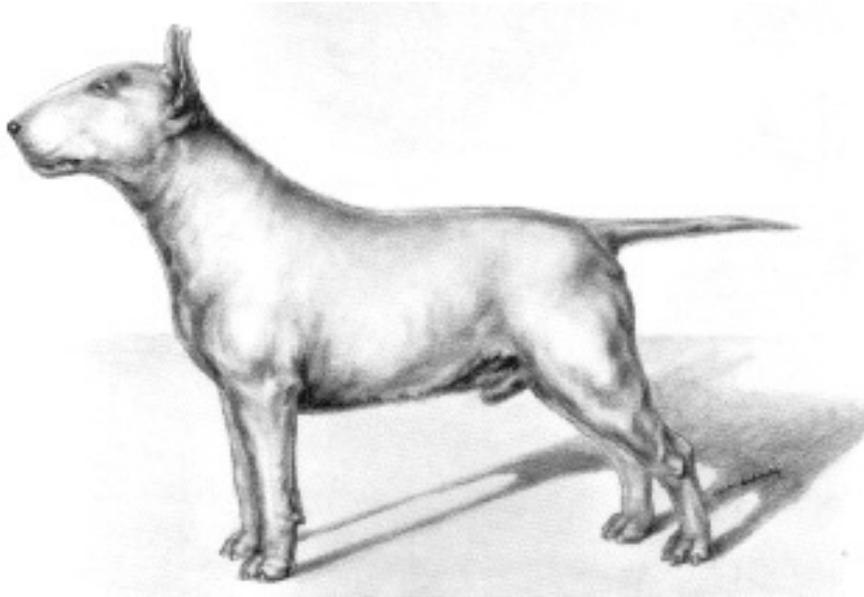
## Standard

*FAULTS-- "Any departure from the foregoing points shall be considered a fault, and the seriousness of the fault shall be in exact proportion to its degree, i.e., a very crooked front is a very bad fault; a rather crooked front is a rather bad fault; and a slightly bad front is a slight fault."*

*DISQUALIFICATION Blue eyes*

## Discussion

The Bull Terrier standard is explicit in describing the virtues which the ideal Bull Terrier should possess. It is virtually unique in stating that a fault is a deviation from the described virtue, and is faulty in proportion to its degree. Therefore we are charged with finding that animal, in any group presented for assessment, which possesses the best combination of breed virtues -- Head, Construction, Movement and Temperament -- which bring it closest to our visualization of the ideal Bull Terrier.



**A properly constructed Bull Terrier which combines the essential virtues giving an impression of strength and agility.**

## **Standard**

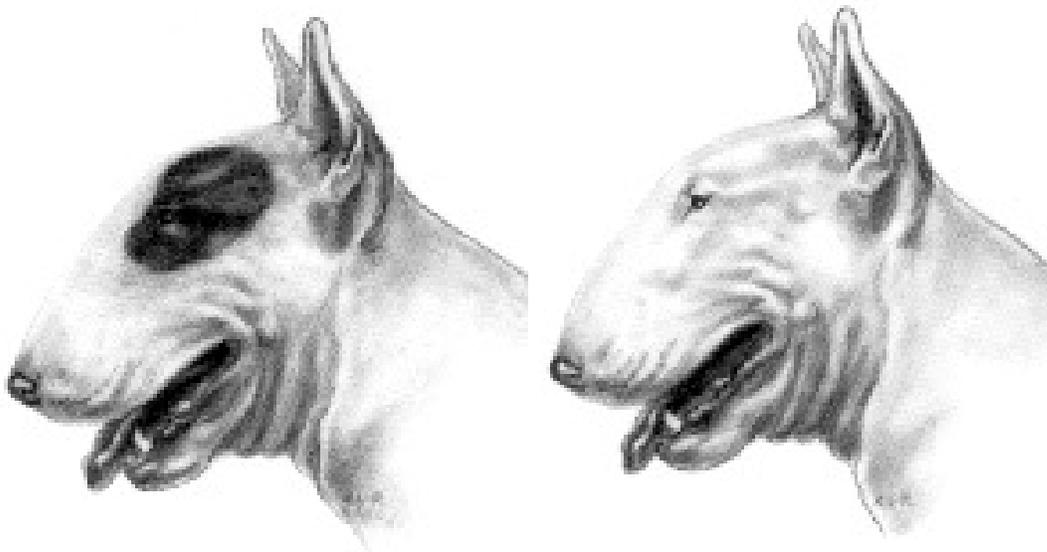
*COLORED-- The standard for the Colored Variety is the same as for the White except for the subhead "Color" which reads: "Color: Any color other than white, or any color with white markings. Other things being equal, the preferred color is brindle. A dog which is predominantly white shall be disqualified."*

## **Discussion**

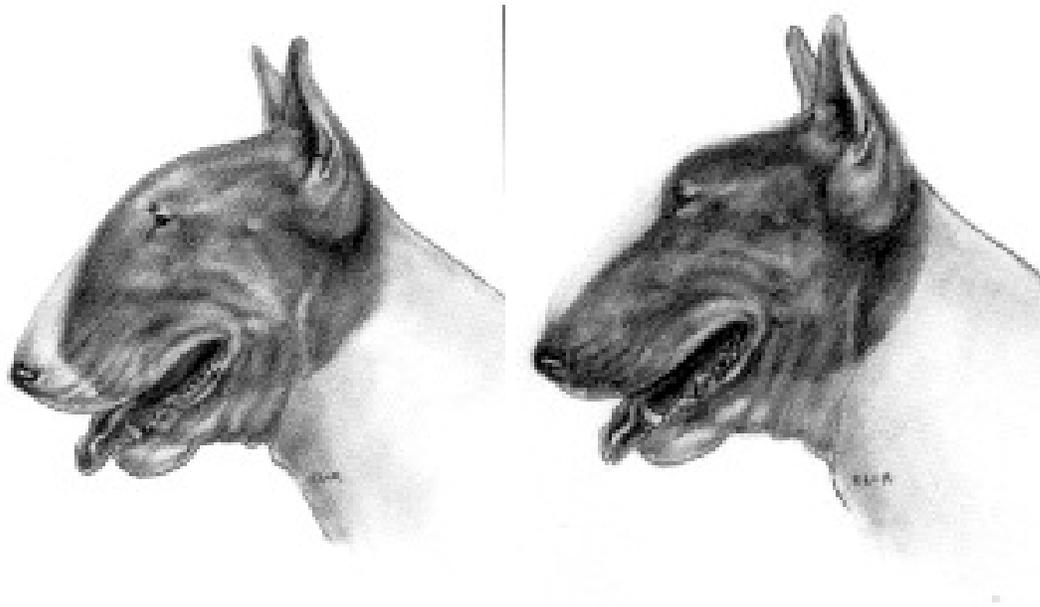
When assessing a colored Bull Terrier one must be alert to the optical illusions which can be caused by the lines and areas of the white markings. On the head, a crooked blaze can give the impression of a dippy profile, or, conversely produce the illusion of curved profile.

### **SOME OPTICAL ILLUSIONS**

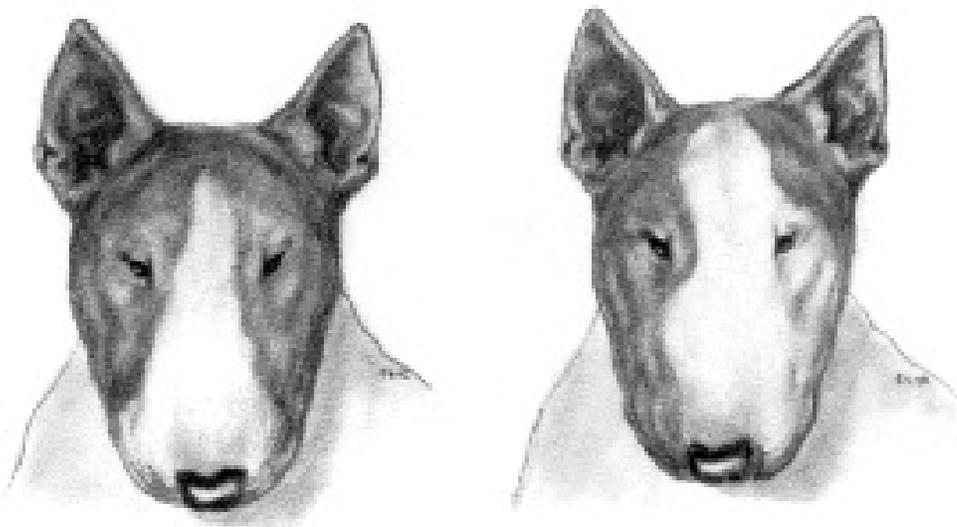
**Compare the effects of these head markings on the profile and fill of these pairs of identical heads!**



**An eyepatch on a White can affect the impression of fill and downface. This marking changes the profile impression.**



**The blaze on a Colored often deceives the eye an creates a false profile.**



**The wide white blaze on the right makes the same head look more filled.**



**The same dog from different angles!**

## **Discussion**

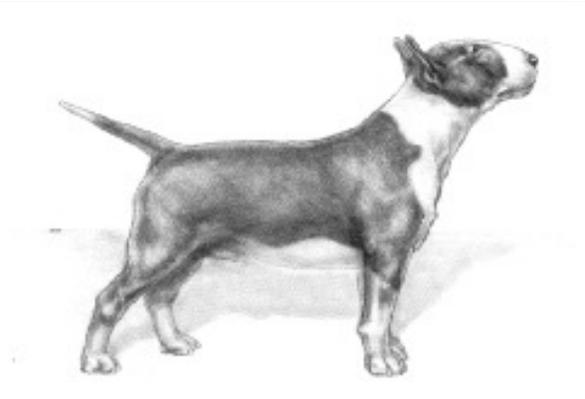
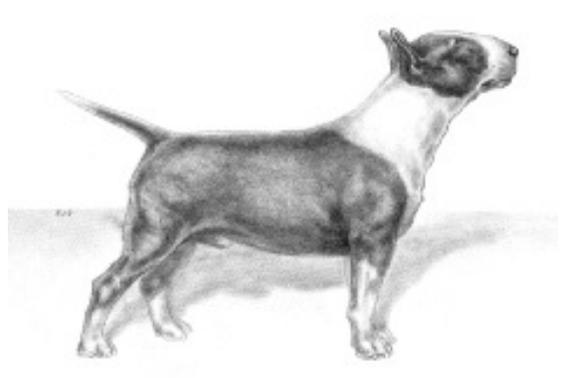
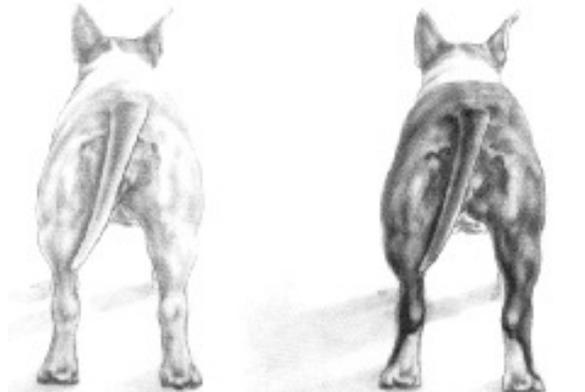
White markings on the chest and belly can extend upward toward the sides to interrupt the underline and give a false impression of shallowness in body depth and substance. Markings on the limbs can be particularly deceptive by carrying the eye in a crooked line. This is especially true on the hind legs as the pattern of the Bull Terrier's "socks" is almost always in a diagonal line across the back of the leg, making the leg look "cow-hocked," especially when moving. White splotches on the body of the Colored Bull Terrier are not considered a fault according to the standard unless they are so numerous as to cover more than half the surface area of the animal. If more than half of a Colored Bull Terrier is white, it is disqualified from competition. Since the dog cannot be skinned and the areas measured, this is usually a judgment call. Remember, however, that the head and limbs are in most cases about half color and half white, and the chest and belly are usually totally white, so that if over half of the visible body area is white, this should be grounds for disqualification.

Brindle is the preferred color in Bull Terriers due to the genetic facts of inheritance. Since the brindle gene is dominant, it is visible in the coat color when it is present. Due to the character of dominant genes, once this color is lost from the breed there is no way to replace it. The "brindle preferred" clause in our Standard is a recognition that breeders wish to preserve this color pattern in the breed. Currently there does not seem to be any danger of losing this color pattern and according to the Standard, the brindle color should only be used as a deciding factor between two animals which have an equal sum of breed

virtues. Since this is an unlikely event, the clause stands to remind us of the importance of maintaining brindle as a color option in the breed.

## Standard

*DISQUALIFICATION--Blue eyes. Any dog which is predominantly white.*

 A black and white illustration of a dog, likely a pit bull type, shown in profile facing right. The dog has a white chest and neck, with dark patches on its body. Its shoulder is upright, and its brisket is shallow.	<p>The markings on the neck and underbelly of this dog create the impression of an upright shoulder and a shallow depth of brisket.</p>
 A black and white illustration of the same dog as in the first panel, shown in profile facing right. The dog has a sloping collar and dark markings on its underbelly, which visually enhances its shoulder, shortens its back, and deepens its brisket.	<p>The same dog with a sloping collar and dark under belly which visually enhances his shoulder, "shortens" his back and "deepens" his brisket.</p>
 A black and white illustration showing the hind legs of the dog from a rear perspective. The dog's hind legs appear more "cow hocked" due to the diagonal markings on its body.	<p>The same hind legs appear more "cow hocked" on the Colored due to the diagonal markings.</p>

## Discussion

The Bull Terrier Standard is simple and straightforward, just as the ideal Bull Terrier should be. Each section is a description of how the dog should look, move or behave. The skillful judge will be able to select those animals which represent the best combination of virtues as described in the standard, and which carry the least harmful deviations from these virtues. The judge should always carry in mind, along with that essential visualization of the ideal Bull Terrier, an alarm system which alerts him to those deviations from the ideal which are most likely to signal bad news for the physical and mental integrity of the animal standing before him. We must give high priorities to four essential categories of our assessment.

The HEAD is a key feature of the ideal Bull Terrier and must demonstrate the correct shape with mass and power. Without the correct shape and strength, the animal fails this category. Slight deviations eye and ear placement, pink spots on the nose, and minor dentition faults are not considered to be as serious as severe malocclusion or deficiencies in the mass, power and egg-like shape of the head.

BODY SHAPE, CONSTRUCTION AND DENSITY is the second category in which the ideal Bull Terrier must demonstrate a combination of virtues as described in the Standard. While the Standard does not specify any ideal height or weight, we know that the Bull Terrier, "the maximum dog in the available space" and his body must be short-coupled with graceful curves and lines connecting his muscular parts. A light "whippety" body, insufficient bone, or poorly constructed and loosely integrated parts would be tantamount to a failing grade in this category.

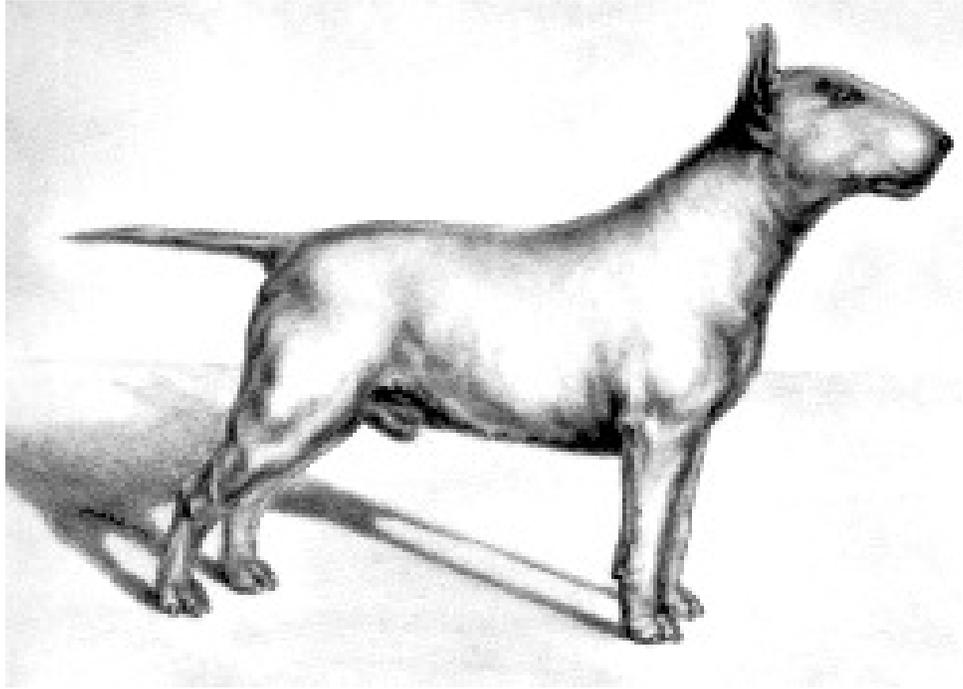
MOVEMENT is the third category and is the test of construction and soundness. While few Bull Terriers move absolutely to the standard, defects of construction which may compromise the soundness and health of the animal are emphasized in the moving dog, and if these are present the dog should fail this category.

TEMPERAMENT is the fourth category which is essential to breed type. Our standard describes the ideal temperament, and any animal which deviates from this ideal to the extent that it is exceptionally timid or overly aggressive will fail this category.

Bull Terriers usually exhibit a degree of animation and individuality in the ring. They should not be penalized for their exuberant approach to life if they are not overly disruptive or aggressive. They should, of course be under control at all times and be amenable to handling by the judge.

TYPE: To sum up, the ideal Bull Terrier is the integrated sum of the above described parts. **TO BE AN OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL, IT MUST DEMONSTRATE POSITIVE VIRTUES IN EVERY CATEGORY AND MAY NOT "FAIL" IN ANY CATEGORY.** It must also be free of such faults as are detrimental to its health and to those of the breed at large. We expect some deviation from the ideal in some pieces of the whole, but the overall dog must exhibit virtues of head shape and power, strength and

agility of construction, soundness, and an outgoing yet amenable temperament which marks it, above all, a BULL TERRIER



**THE END**



