The Manchester Terrier is one breed with two varieties: the Standard and the Toy. The Toy variety can weigh up to 12 pounds and has only naturally erect ears. The Standard Variety weighs over 12 pounds and not exceeding 22 pounds. The Standard may have three ear types, naturally erect, cropped or button. In both varieties, the only allowable color is black and tan. The Manchester’s short, dense, glossy, black coat with rich mahogany tan markings accounts for the breed’s original name — the Black and Tan Terrier.

Overall, the Manchester is a hardy breed. They are very adaptable and make an excellent companion for most people. This adaptability has prompted breed fanciers to conclude that “As a sagacious, intelligent house pet and companion, no breed is superior to the well-bred Manchester Terrier” (*AKC’s Complete Dog Book*).

**HISTORY**
Manchester Terriers are considered by most to be the oldest of all identifiable terrier breeds, finding mention in works dating from as early as the 16th century. In 1570, Dr. Caius (Encyclopedia of Dogs) gives mention to the “Black and Tan Terrier,” though he referred to a rougher-coated, shorter-legged dog than we are now accustomed to.

By the early 1800s a closer facsimile to the current Manchester Terrier had evolved. In *The Dog in Health and Disease* by J.A. Walsh, a full chapter was devoted to the Black and Tan, for the first time recognizing it as an established breed. The description Walsh set forth might, in fact, serve well today: Smooth haired, long tapering nose, narrow flat skull, eyes small and bright, chest rather deep than wide, only true color Black and Tan.

**ENGLISH HISTORY**
The early 1800s saw times of poor sanitation in England, rats soon became a health menace and rat killing became a popular sport. John Manners, the lord of the manor, devoted to the sport of rat killing and rabbit coursing, crossed a Whippet to a cross breed terrier to produce a tenacious, streamlined animal infinitely suited to the sport. (Perhaps the Whippet influence explains the unusual toile of the Manchester still required today.) This cross proved so successful that it was repeated, resulting in the establishment of a definite type — thus the Manchester Terrier was born.

By 1827, the breed’s fighting spirit had made it equally handy along a hedge row as in a rat pit. The Manchester could tackle, with silent determination, an opponent twice its size. Ears were cropped to save risk of being torn in frequent scraps. (This also enhanced the sharp appearance of the expression.) When rat killing became illegal in England rat pits were supplanted by dining halls or public inns, all of which were infested by rats. To combat the rodent problem each inn kept kennels. When the taprooms closed, who do you think took command? The little Black and Tan rat killers who proved their worth 100 fold to the inn keeper.

The year 1860 saw the Manchester district of England as the breed center for these “Rat Terriers” and the name Manchester Terrier surfaced. Smaller specimens began to gain appeal, unethical persons were known to introduce Chihuahuas in order to reduce size to as small as 2-1/2 pounds! This resulted in numerous problems, including apple heads, thinning coats, and poppy eyes. Inbreeding further diminished size yet the smaller versions, though delicate and sickly, remained popular for some time.

**CHARACTER AND TEMPERAMENT**
Manchester are active, energetic dogs, with above average intelligence and true terrier spirit. The breed is affectionate and makes an exceptionally loyal companion, best suited when an integral part of the family. They love to snuggle and make an excellent lap dog for the elderly! Most Manchester love being with children. They share a similar outlook on life and capacity for play. It is so very important to teach children how to treat dogs and how to behave when with them.

A well bred and properly socialized Manchester will be affectionate to its family, but wary of strangers. Being exceptionally loyal and responsive companions to those they consider as friends. Manchester have a desire for living life to the fullest, always ready to go for a walk or play a game with their owner. A properly socialized and trained Manchester should be no trouble with other dogs or humans, but will not tolerate harsh treatment.

Manchester are usually not noisy dogs and are not yappy. However, their bark is difficult to ignore. They usually always bark for reason. It may be excitement, warning or to gain the attention they desire.

**FEEDING, EXERCISE AND HEALTH**
The Manchester will eat of permitted to do so. Feeding does require some care. Manchester's are greedy, and will eat almost anything. They put on weight very quickly, so their food intake must be carefully controlled to avoid obesity. They need a fairly low protein, high fiber, high fat diet. Fresh water should be made available to them at all times.

Manchester are an active breed of dog. They need daily exercise to stay fit and healthy. Exercise requirements will vary according to the dog's lifestyle.

Manchester’s living and playing with children enjoy a stimulating, challenging lifestyle, as do those living with other dogs. Manchester are very adaptable. Those living in a seemingly less stimulating environment can enjoy an equally good quality of life provided by the constant companionship of their human family. The breed can excel in dog show conformation, obedience, tracking, agility and flyball trials.

Equally at home in the country or city, the Manchester’s keen intelligence is admired, along with the breed’s cleanliness and versatility. These dogs do shed, but they rarely need to be bathed. Their nails grow quickly, and should be kept short. This can be accomplished with weekly trimmings.

Overall, the Manchester is a hardy breed. With proper food, shelter from the cold, exercise, training and love, your Manchester may live 15 years or more. As with other breeds, there are a few ailments to be alerted to, which include possible Thyroid problems, a sight problem called Progressive Retina Atrophy (PRA), a genetic bleeding disorder (vWD) and Legga-Perthes, a deterioration of the femur head, all of which can and should be tested for and documented prior to breeding.
General Appearance—A small, black, short-coated dog with distinctive rich mahogany markings and a taper style tail. In structure the Manchester presents a sleek, sturdy, yet elegant look, and has a wedge-shaped, long and clean head with a keen, bright, alert expression. The smooth, compact, muscular body expresses great power and agility, enabling the Manchester to kill vermin and course small game. Except for size and ear options, there are no differences between the Standard and Toy varieties of the Manchester Terrier. The Toy is a diminutive version of the Standard variety.

Size, Proportion, Substance—The Toy variety shall not exceed 12 pounds. It is suggested that clubs consider dividing the American-bred and Open classes by weight as follows: over 7 pounds and under, over 7 pounds and not exceeding 12 pounds. The Standard variety shall be over 12 pounds and not exceeding 22 pounds. Dogs weighing over 22 pounds shall be disqualified. It is suggested that clubs consider dividing the American-bred and Open classes by weight as follows: over 12 pounds and not exceeding 16 pounds, over 16 pounds and not exceeding 22 pounds. The Manchester Terrier, overall, is slightly longer than tall. The height, measured vertically from the ground to the highest point of the withers, is slightly less than the length, measured horizontally from the point of the shoulders to the rear projection of the upper thigh. The bone and substance of the Manchester Terrier is of sufficient mass to ensure agility and endurance.

Head—The Manchester Terrier has a keen and alert expression. The nearly black, almond shaped eyes are small, bright, and sparkling. They are set moderately close together, slanting upwards on the outside. The eyes neither protrude nor sink in the skull. Pigmentation must be black. Correct ears for the Standard variety are either the naturally erect ear, the cropped ear, or the button ear. No preference is given to any of the ear types. The naturally erect ear, and the button ear, should be wider at the base tapering to pointed tips, and carried well up on the skull. Wide, flaring, blunt tipped, or “bell” ears are a serious fault. Cropped ears should be long, point-
ed and carried erect. The only correct ear for the Toy variety is the naturally erect ear. They should be wider at the base tapering to pointed tips, and carried well up on the skull. Wide, flaring, blunt tipped, or “bell” ears are a serious fault. Cropped, or cut ears are a disqualification in the Toy variety. The head is long, narrow, short skinned, and almost flat with a slight indentation up the forehead. It resembles a blunted wedge in frontal and profile views. There is a visual effect of a slight stop as viewed in profile. The muzzle and skull are equal in length. The muzzle is well filled under the eyes with no visible cheek muscles. The underjaw is full and well defined and the nose is black. Tight lips lie close to the jaw. The jaws should be full and powerful with full and proper dentition. The teeth are white and strongly developed with a true scissor bite. Level bite is acceptable.

Neck, Topline, Body—The slightly arched neck should be slim and graceful, and of moderate length. It gradually becomes larger as it approaches, and blends smoothly with the sloping shoulders. Thorax is undesirable. The topline shows a slight arch over the robust loins falling slightly to the tail set. A flat back or rucked back is to be severely penalized. The chest is narrow between the legs and deep in the brisket. The forechest is moderately defined. The ribs are well sprung, but flattened in the lower end to permit clearance of the forelegs. The abdomen should be tucked up extending in an arched line from the deep brisket. The taper style tail is moderately short reaching no further than the hock joint. It is set on at the end of the croup. Being thicker where it joins the body, the tail tapers to a point. The tail is carried in a slight upward curve, but never over the back.

Forequarters—The shoulder blades and the upper arm should be relatively the same length. The distance from the elbow to the withers should be approximately the same as the distance from the elbow to the ground. The elbows should lie close to the brisket. The shoulders are well laid back. The forelegs are straight, of proportionate length, and placed well under the brisket. The pasterns should be almost perpendicular. The front feet are compact and well arched. The two middle toes should be slightly longer than the others. The pads should be thick and the toenails should be jet black.

Hindquarters—The thigh should be muscular with the length of the upper and lower thighs being approximately equal. The stifle is well turned. The well let down hocks should not turn in nor out as viewed from the rear. The hind legs are carried well back. The hind feet are shaped like those of a cat with thick pads and jet black nails.

Coat—The coat should be smooth, short, dense, tight, and glossy; not soft.

Color—The coat color should be jet black and rich mahogany, tan, which should not run or blend into each other, but abruptly form clear, well defined lines of color. There shall be a very small tan spot over each eye, and a very small tan spot on each check. On the head, the muzzle is tanned to the nose. The nose and nasal bone of the Manchester are jet black. The tan extends under the throat, ending in the shape of the letter V. The inside of the ears are partly tan. There shall be tan spots, called “rosettes,” on each side of the chest above the front legs. These are more pronounced in puppies than in adults. There should be a black “thumbprint” patch on the front of each foreleg at the pastern. The remainder of the foreleg shall be tan to the carpus joint. There should be a distinct black “pencile mark” line running lengthwise on the top of each toe on all four feet. Tan on the hind leg should continue from the penciling on the toes up the inside of the legs to a little below the stifle joint. The outside of the hind legs shall be black. There should be tan under the tail, and on the vent, but only of such size as to be covered by the tail. White on any part of the coat is a serious fault, and shall disqualify whenever the white shall form a patch or stripe measuring as much as one half inch at its longest dimension. Any color other than black and tan shall be disqualified. Color and/or markings shall never take precedence over soundness and type.

Gait—The gait should be free and effortless with good reach of the forequarters, showing no indication of hackney gait. Rear quarters should have strong, driving power to match the front reach. Hocks should fully extend. Each rear leg should move in line with the foreleg of the same side, neither thrown in nor out. When moving at a trot, the legs tend to converge towards the center of gravity line beneath the dog.

Temperament—The Manchester Terrier is neither aggressive nor shy. He is keenly observant, devoted, but discerning. Not being a sparring breed, the Manchester is generally friendly with other dogs. Excessive shyness or aggressiveness should be considered a serious fault.

Disqualifications:
Standard variety—Weight over 22 pounds.
Toy variety—Cropped or cut ears.

Both varieties—White on any part of the coat whenever the white shall form a patch or stripe measuring as much as one half inch at its longest dimension. Any color other than black and tan.