

OFFICIAL STANDARD FOR THE MANCHESTER TERRIER

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 variety 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: 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 muscle of the Manchester Terrier is of sufficient mass to ensure agility and endurance.

The toy variety over 12 pounds shall be excused. Disqualification: Standard Variety - Weight over 22 pounds.



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. Eye lid and rim pigmentation is black.

Correct *ears* for the *Standard variety* are 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 button ear are wider at the base tapering to pointed tips and carried well up on the skull. Cropped ears are long, pointed and carried erect. The only correct *ear* for the *Toy variety* is the naturally erect ear. They are wider at the base tapering to pointed tips and carried well up on the skull. The *head* is long, narrow, tight skinned and almost flat with a slight indentation up the forehead. It resembles a blunted wedge in frontal and profile views. The *muzzle* and *skull* are equal in length. There is a visual effect of a slight **stop** as viewed in profile. 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 black **lips** lie close to the jaw. The *bite* is a true scissors bite. Level bite is acceptable. The jaws are powerful with full and proper dentition. The **teeth** are white and strongly developed.

Wide, flaring, blunt tipped or “bell” ears are a serious fault for both varieties.

Disqualification: Toy Variety – Cropped or button ears.

Neck, Topline, Body: The slightly arched *neck* is slim, graceful and of moderate length. It gradually becomes larger as it approaches and blends smoothly with the sloping shoulders. The *topline* shows a slight subtle arch over the robust loins falling slightly to the tail set. While standing or in motion, a flat or roached back is a serious fault for both varieties. The **chest** is narrow between the legs and deep in the brisket. The forechest is moderately defined. The **ribs** are well sprung, flattened in the lower end to permit clearance of the forelegs. The **underline** is 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 carried no higher than the back.

While standing or in motion, a flat or roached back is a serious fault for both varieties

Forequarters: The **shoulder blades** and the upper arm are relatively the same length. The distance from the *elbow* to the withers is approximately the same as the distance from the elbow to the ground. The elbows 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** are almost perpendicular. **Dew claws** may be removed.

The front **feet** are compact and well arched. The two middle **toes** are slightly longer than the others. The **pads** are thick and **toenails** are jet black.

Hindquarters: The **thigh** is muscular with the length of the upper and lower thighs being approximately equal. The **stifle** is well turned. The hindquarters are in balance with the well laid back shoulders. The **hocks** are well let down. Dew claws may be removed.

The hind **feet** are shaped like those of a cat with thick **pads** and jet-black **nails**.

Coat: The coat is smooth, short, dense, tight and glossy.

Color: The coat is jet black with rich mahogany tan which does not blend into each other, but abruptly form clear, well defined lines of color. There is a very small tan spot over each eye and a very small tan spot on each cheek. On the head, the muzzle is tanned to the nose. The nose and nasal bone 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 are tan spots, called “rosettes” on each side of the chest above the front legs. These are more pronounced in puppies than in adults. There is a black “thumb mark” patch on the front of each foreleg at the pastern. The remainder of the foreleg is tan to the carpus joint. There is a distinct black “pencil 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 is black. There is 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 a disqualification whenever the white forms 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. Soundness and type supercede color and markings.**

Gait: The gait is free and effortless with good reach of the forequarters. Rear quarters have strong, driving power to match the front reach. Hocks fully extend. Each rear leg moves in line with the foreleg of the same side, neither thrown in nor out. When moving at a trot, the legs converge toward the center of gravity of the dog.

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

Toy Variety: over 12 pounds shall be excused.

Faults: Both Varieties:

- Wide, flaring, blunt tipped or “bell” ears.
- Flat or roached back while standing or in motion.
- Excessive shyness or aggressiveness.
- White on any part of the coat.

Disqualifications:

- Standard Variety - Weight over 22 pounds.
- Toy Variety – Cropped, or button 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.



apple heads, thinning coats, and poppy eyes. Inbreeding further diminished size yet the smaller version, though delicate and sickly, remained popular for some time.

CHARACTER AND TEMPERAMENT

Manchesters 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 Manchesters 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 friends. Manchesters 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.

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



FEEDING, EXERCISE AND HEALTH

The Manchester will over eat if permitted to do so. Feeding does require some care. Manchesters 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.

Manchesters are an active breed of dog. They need daily exercise to stay fit and healthy. Exercise requirements will vary according to the dog's age and lifestyle. Manchesters living and playing with children enjoy a stimulating, challenging lifestyle, as do those living with other dogs. Manchesters are very adaptable. Those living in seemingly less stimulating environments 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, lure coursing, 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 thyroid disease, an eye disease called Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA), a genetic bleeding disorder caused by protein deficiencies that are needed to clot blood (vWD), and Legg-Calve-Perthes, a deterioration of the femur head, all of which can and should be tested for and documented prior to breeding. Other health issues of concern are Juvenile Dilated Cardiomyopathy and Xanthinuria, both diseases that can be completely eradicated from breeding programs with genetic testing. JDCM is a "silent heart disease" more commonly found in the Toy variety and often, affected dogs show no sign of a heart ailment. JDCM typically results in sudden cardiac death in dogs under a year old. Xanthinuria is a genetic disorder diagnosed when too much xanthine is in the bladder. Surgery is the only treatment. A Manchester should also be screened for patella luxation and deafness, prior to breeding.



The Manchester Terrier

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 Hulme, enthusiastic devotee to the sport of rat killing and rabbit coursing, crossed a Whippet to a cross-bred terrier to produce a tenacious, streamlined animal infinitely suited to the sport. (Perhaps the Whippet influence explains the unusual topline 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 the 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 innkeeper.

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 ½ pounds! This resulted in numerous problems including