



A GLANCE AT THE IRISH TERRIER

"He must be All-of-a-Piece, a balanced vital picture of symmetry, proportion and harmony."

- **HEAD** long, but in nice proportion to the rest of the body. Flat, rather narrow between the ears. Narrowing slightly towards the eyes.
- **EARS** Small, V-shaped, dropping forward to the outside corner of eye. The top of the folded ear should be well above the level of the skull.
- **FOREFACE** must not fall away appreciably between or below the eyes. Foreface approximately equal in length to skull from the occiput to stop.

- **SHOULDERS** fine, long, sloping well into the back.
- **FORELEGS** moderately long, straight, with plenty of bone and muscle.
- **FEET** strong, round, moderately small, toes arched.

- **NECK** of fair length. Proudly carried.

- **BACK** strong, straight, free from dip behind shoulders.

- **LOIN** strong, muscular, slightly arched.

- **RIBS** fairly sprung, deep not round.

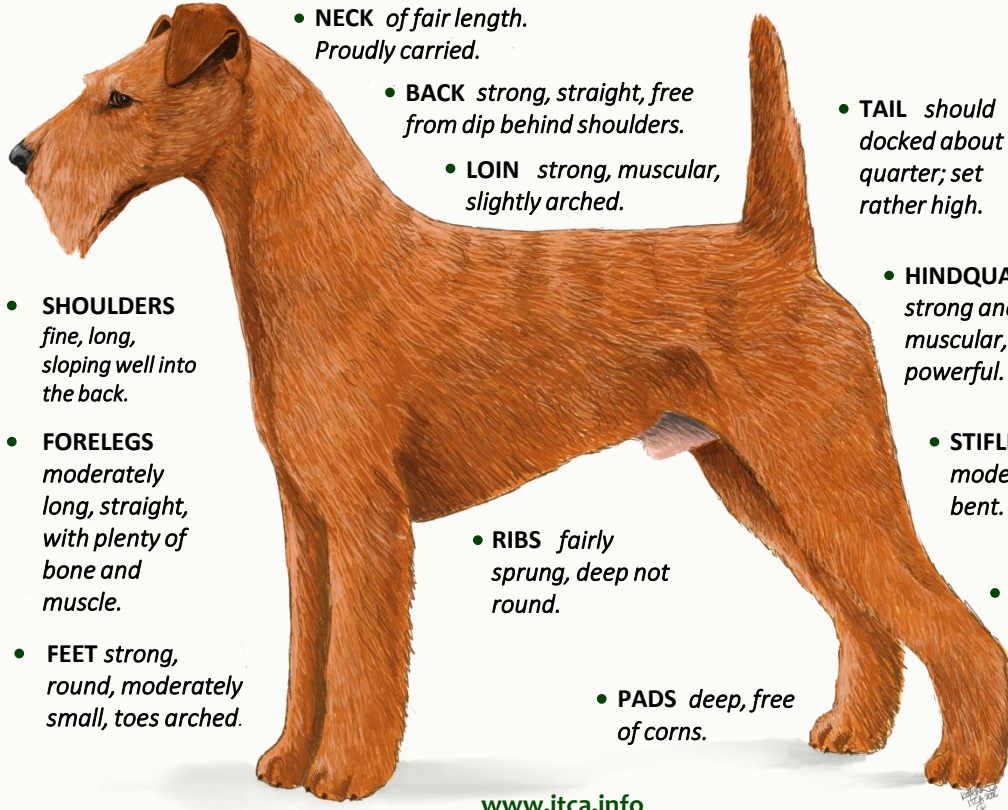
- **PADS** deep, free of corns.

- **TAIL** should be docked about one quarter; set rather high.

- **HINDQUARTERS** strong and muscular, thighs powerful.

- **STIFLES** moderately bent.

- **HOCKS** well let down.



KEY FEATURES TO JUDGING THE IRISH TERRIER

- **COAT AND COLOR** *“Dense, wiry coat texture, having a broken appearance, usually bright red, golden-red, red-wheaten, or wheaten. A small white patch on chest is permissible. Wavy coats are undesirable; the curly and the kinky coats are most objectionable.”*
- **SIZE** *“Approximately 18 inches (45.5cm) at the withers for both dogs and bitches. It is of the greatest importance to select, insofar as possible, terriers of moderate and generally accepted size.”*
- **TEMPERMENT** *“Irish terrier reflects his early background: he was family pet, guard dog, and hunter. It is of the utmost importance that the Irish terrier show fire and animation. Courageous, loyal, and ‘game,’ with a ‘reckless pluck’ that defines the breed. He has proudly earned the epithet of ‘Daredevil.’”*
- **OVERALL APPEARANCE** *“The Irish terrier must be active, lithe and wiry in movement, with great animation; sturdy and strong in substance and bone structure, but at the same time free from clumsiness, speed, power and endurance are most essential. The Irish Terrier must be neither ‘cobby’ nor ‘cloddy,’ but should be built on lines of speed with a graceful, racing outline.”*
- **SPARRING** *“It is a controlled confrontation between dogs which provides an opportunity to evaluate either a heightened aesthetic view of the dogs, or a test of one of their essential character qualities, namely their will to dominate. In the context of showing dogs a brief definition is: “to gesture without landing a blow.”*

IT MAY BE OPTIONAL FOR OTHER BREEDS, BUT NOT FOR THE IRISH.

- **NOTE** No DQ’s



Link to Judges Education