

ADBA Conformation Standard

The Patterdale Terrier



Overall Appearance:

The ideal Patterdale Terrier should be slightly longer than they are tall when viewed from the side. That is, the measurement from the point of the shoulder to the point of his hip is slightly longer than the measurement from the dog's withers to the ground. The Patterdale is a working terrier, bred originally to go to ground and kill or bolt vermin. This requires a small, active, game terrier that is not big in chest, and is capable of squeezing through very small passages underground. The dog should present a compact, balanced image, but should never appear short backed or cobby. A little long in body can be tolerated better than a dog too tall or cobby. The dog should display balance of front angulations with back angulations and the head being balanced with the size of the dog. Dogs should be shown in hard, fit working condition, with no excess fat.

Height and Weight:

The ideal Patterdale ranges in height from 11 to 15 inches at the withers. Weight should be in proportion to height within a range of 10 to 17 lbs, as this terrier always weighs more than it looks. This is a guideline, as different sized dogs will excel at hunting different game; however the ability to go to ground is the essence of the breed, so much deviation from this range is to be discouraged.

Dogs outside of the ideal height and weight range will be evaluated by the judge in relationship to the dog's working ability and not solely by an arbitrary number.

Attitude:

The ideal Patterdale Terrier is a working terrier used to 'go to ground'. The dogs are willing to work, and have a high desire to please. Patterdales' are very active and have a strong prey drive after vermin. As a working terrier it is essential that the dog exhibit staying power at quarry, also known as gameness. They get along well with humans, livestock and other dogs.

Head:

The head should be in balance to the body, and should be strong and powerful. A number of different styles of the head are found within the breed but within each style certain characteristics appear to have advantages. The head is wedge shaped as viewed from the top and from the side. The skull is broad. The overall width of the head in a well proportioned dog would be about 2/3 the width of the shoulders. The stop should be defined and the distance from the back of the head to stop, should be about the same distance as from the stop to the tip of the nose. The depth from the top of the head to the bottom of the jaw is important, as the development of muscles here enable the dog to have a leverage advantage to close the jaw and to keep it closed. The bridge of the nose should be well developed which will make the area under the eyes wider than the head at the base of the ears. This fill in under the dog's eyes is essential in all working terriers as this stabilizes the canines and gives strength to the dogs bite. In dogs with adequate fill in under the eyes, the eyes will appear deep set and oval shaped. Muzzle should be strong with tight lips.

Teeth:

Teeth should be strong, meeting in a scissor or level bite. The canines should be broad based and tapered to the end. Dogs that have broken canines or missing incisors due to working are not to be penalized.

Ears:

Ears should be of moderate size, set on the corner of the skull with a tight fold to the side of the cheek.

Neck:

The neck is of moderate length and muscular. A strong neck is as important as a strong jaw in killing vermin. The neck should blend smoothly into the shoulders with tight fitting skin giving a clean appearance.

Faults: Ewe neck, neck too short or too thick

Front Assembly:

The shoulder blade (scapula) is long and moderately laid back, set approximately at a 45 degree slope to the ground. The upper arm (or humerus) should be at an equal angle in the opposite direction and of equal length, forming an angle of nearly 90 degrees with the shoulder blade. The front legs are strong, straight and moderately well boned. The elbows should lie flat, close to the body, but move freely. The dog's pasterns are strong and flexible with a compact foot, set high on the pasterns. The dog's feet should be strong with a thick pad.

Faults: bowed legs, fiddle front, down in pasterns, toes turned out, out at the elbows.

Chest:

Ideally, the dog should have a chest moderate in width and oval in shape. The ribcage should be flexible, deep and elliptical, extending well back into a slightly arched loin. The depth of the ribcage should extend to the elbow

Spanning:

Spanning is an important part of the judging process for a 'Go to Ground' terrier. The dog must be capable of being spanned directly behind the shoulder by an averaged-sized man's hand to test for size, compression and flexibility of the rib cage and front assembly. When spanning, the judge will lift the front legs off of the ground and gently squeeze the bottom of the chest to be certain that the chest will compress.

Serious fault: Chest too deep or wide, causing inability of being spanned or lacking the ability to compress. Barrel chest

Back:

The back should be of moderate length. There will be a slight arch to the loin and will be long enough to make the dog slightly longer than he is tall. Too short a loin will interfere with a dog's flexibility and will make the dog awkward underground. Too long a loin will interfere with a dog's quickness and agility. The loin should be well muscled with a slight to moderate tuck up. The topline should appear level when the dog is moving at a trot.

Rear Assembly:

The dog's hip should be broad and of moderate length with a high tail set. The broad hip permits a large surface area for muscle attachment of the loin and the gluteal and biceps

femoris muscle, the more powerful muscles of the drive train. This is essential for a strong and muscular back end. The upper thigh and second thigh (femur and tibia/fibula) should be of equal length with a well bent stifle. The bone, angulation and musculature should match that of the front assembly. The balance of the front angulation to back angulation can easily be judged when the dog is gaited at a trot. The hocks are short, flexible and well bent. When the dog is standing, the hocks are perpendicular to the ground and parallel to one another, when viewed from behind while standing or moving away.

Faults: cow hocked, sickle hocked, straight stifle

Tail:

The tail should be set high, length in proportion to body. If docked only 1/4th to 1/3rd removed. The tail should be strong, but not overly thick or carried over the back.

Serious fault: Gay tail, carried forward over the back

Color:

Permissible colors are black, red, chocolate (with a red nose) previously known as liver, grizzle, black and tan, seal (black that shines brown in the sunlight) previously known as bronze and blue. Blue dogs are rare, and are usually born black, but will fade to blue by two years of age. The nose should be black except for chocolate colored dogs. Chocolate dogs may have amber colored eyes, all other colors should have dark brown eyes. Dogs are solid in color. Any white markings will be confined to the chest and feet.

Serious faults: white markings other than confined to the chest and feet. This should not be confused with scarring which can cause white hairs to grow in.

Coat:

The coat can be smooth, broken or rough. The coats of all patterdale terriers should be thick and dense. This is critical to protect them against the wet, cold underground and underbrush and briars.

Smooth: Dense and stiff, falling back in place when lifted. A wave is not permissible. No indication of facial hair on a smooth coated dog

Broken: An intermediate coat having longer guard hairs over the face or body. A broken coated dog may or may not have face furnishings which form a beard, moustache and eyebrows. Base coat over the body is stiff and dense. A slight wave is permissible.

Rough: This coat may be slightly wiry but not overly stiff. Facial furnishings and furnishings on the body and legs accompany the thick dense base coat of the body. A slight wave is permissible.

Serious fault: coat in any climate that is soft, long or downy, a fine coat

Gait:

When trotting, the gait is effortless, smooth, powerful and coordinated, showing good reach and drive. The top line remains level, with no jarring or rolling. In judging the side movement, at the trot, foot fall of the front assembly and back assembly should meet, but not interfere. With movement of coming or going, legs should move straight, turning neither in nor out. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward the center line of balance.

Movement faults should be penalized to the extent that they would interfere with the terrier's ability to work efficiently.

Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Viciousness or extreme shyness. Albinism. Bob tail.

Conformation Judges should consider the weight of all faults in relationship to the dog's working ability, and not in the context of modern trends or innovations within the breed.

In judging the Patterdale Terrier, 100 points will be possible for the ideal dog. The breakdown is as follows:

Overall Appearance **15 pts**
 Conforming to breed type
 Overall body shape
 Balance (head, angulations, tail to body)
 Conditioning and presentation

Attitude/Temperament **15 pts**
 Active, outgoing
 Willingness to work
 Strong prey drive

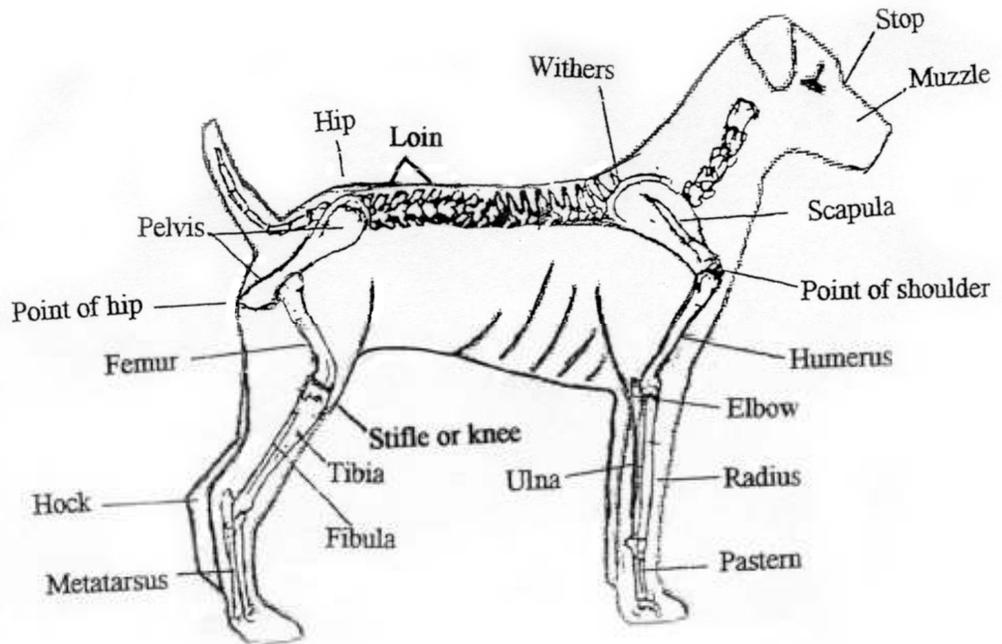
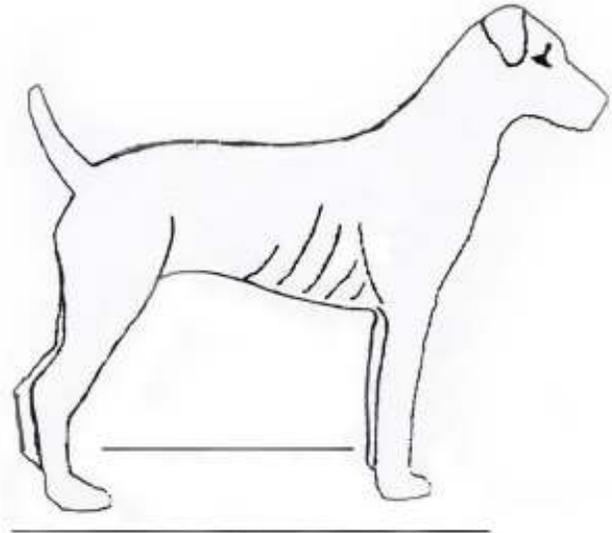
Head /Neck **15 pts**
 Overall shape and proportions
 Depth of head
 Fill in under the eyes
 Teeth
 Ears, (size, set and fold of ear leather)
 Length and strength of neck

Front Assembly **25 pts**
 Spannability
 Shoulders
 Chest
 Ribcage
 Front legs
 Feet

Rear Assembly **15 pts**
 Loin
 Hip (set of tail)
 Stifle
 Hock

Coat and Tail **15 pts**
 Character of coat, condition and gloss
 Length, shape and carriage of tail

Total **100 pts**



This breed standard is not a breed identifier. It may only be used to judge the standards of quality of the Patterdale Terrier, as set forth. It's purpose is for use by American Dog Breeders Association Inc. breeders, or American Dog Breeders Association Inc. sanctioned judges, in determining the quality of each animal being judged at an American Dog Breeders Association Inc. sanctioned show, or event and for awarding ADBSI points based upon individual quality as reflected by the breed standard of excellence.

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