

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



## Extended Breed Standard of **THE TENTERFIELD TERRIER**

Produced by  
National Tenterfield Terrier Council (Australia)  
in conjunction with  
The Australian National Kennel Council

Standard adopted by ANKC 2000

Breed Standard Extension adopted by ANKC 2009

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## HISTORY OF THE BREED

The Tenterfield Terrier traces its origin back to the now extinct Old English White Terrier that was common in England as early as the 1700's. At that time an Old English Black and Tan Terrier also existed. These Terriers came in a wide variety of shapes and sizes as well as in a variety of coat types – from quite smooth through to rough or wire-haired.



*Fig 1. Old English White and Old English Black and Tan Terriers*

In the early 1800's when the various different terrier types began to emerge, there were no formal registration records. Terriers of various sizes were born in the same litter. At that time, any dog that was adept in a particular task was mated to another adept in that task. Huntsmen and farmers did not seem to care what the terrier looked like as long as it did the required job.



*Fig 2. Various terrier types of the 1800's*

Hence Terriers that specialised in killing rats came into existence. Rats carried disease for both dog and man and were a health threat to both country and city communities in the days before insecticides. Ratting terriers had to be quick and agile so that they killed the rat before they were bitten. These dogs were usually athletic, small in stature and smooth coated. As The rats being hunted generally lived in filthy conditions that would have become caked in long or rough coats, smooth coated terriers were preferred.

*Fig 3.*



*This police party travelled from Coolgardie to Halls Creek to search for drovers missing near the Canning stock route.*



*Fig 4. A hunting party probably in Western Victoria in the early 1900's*

Small ratting terriers that were used to kill the rats and mice on board early sailing ships came to Australia with our first settlers. Once the ships docked, rats and other vermin escaped into our pristine countryside. Originally, many of these dogs would have been left behind specifically to kill this foreign vermin. But as Australia became more populated, these little dogs became established throughout the country not only as vermin killers, but also a popular family companions. These terriers became known as the "mini foxies".

Around 1990, a group of interested owners held a meeting that resulted in a breed registry becoming established. By 1992 it became obvious that the name "mini foxie" was inappropriate as this implies miniaturization of the Smooth Fox Terrier. After consultation with those who had dogs registered, a ballot of owners was taken resulting in 85% favoring the name "Tenterfield Terrier". This was in recognition of George Woolnough, otherwise known as the "Tenterfield Saddler". George and his dogs were well known throughout the Tenterfield district in NSW. Additionally, he is commemorated in the song, 'The Tenterfield Saddler' written by his famous grandson Peter Allen.

## ● GENERAL APPEARANCE

*The Tenterfield Terrier is a strong, active, agile working terrier of great versatility and of pleasing proportion. The measurement of wither to ground and wither to rear point of buttock should be of equal proportions. The length of the head and neck should always be in balance to the whole of the dog. The coat is always smooth.*



*Fig 5. Tan and White*



*Fig 6. Tan and White*



*Fig 7. Tri colour*



*Fig 8. Tri colour*



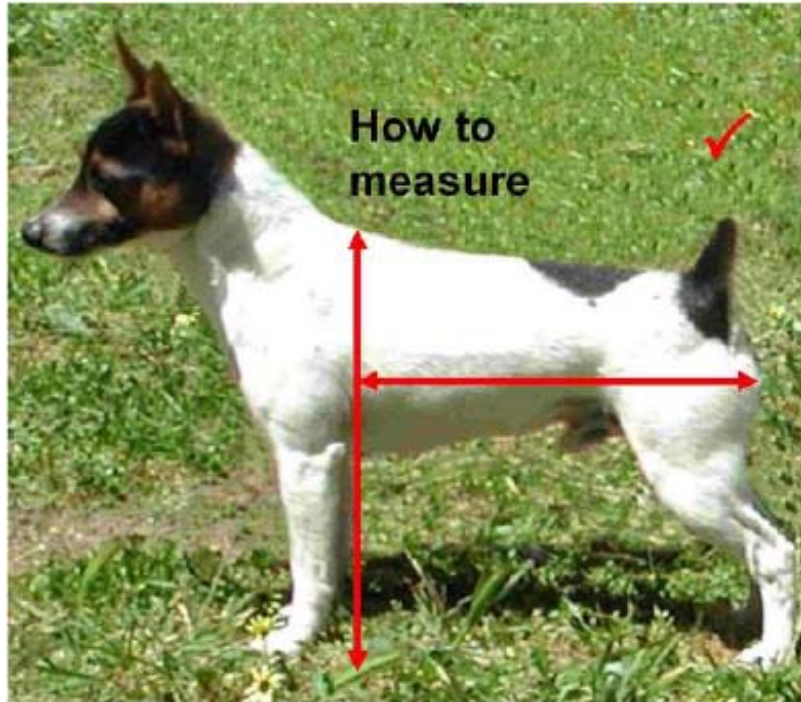
*Fig 9 Liver tri*



*Fig 10 Liver tri*

Correctly balanced adults and a baby puppy with different tail lengths in the three most common colour combinations. Note these examples lack exaggeration in any way including front and rear angulation, demonstrating the phrase 'of pleasing proportion'.

Fig. 11



- **CHARACTERISTICS**

*A keen, intelligent and alert expression, which is denoted by the carriage of the ears and erect tail.*

- **TEMPERAMENT**

*Confident, with an eagerness to learn, showing great loyalty to its owner and although fearless and bold at work, is an ideal companion dog in the home.*



Fig 12



Fig 13

The pictures above demonstrate how confident Tenterfield Terriers are in whatever they do. Above we have dogs doing what they were bred for - hunting and digging. On the next page they are participating in the formal modern disciplines of Lure Racing, Agility, Flyball and Earthdog activities.



*Fig 14 Lure racing*



*Fig 15 Agility spread hurdle*



*Fig 16 Agility weave*



*Fig 17 Fly Ball*



*Fig 18 Agility upright hurdle*



*Fig 19 Introduction to Earthdog Activities*

● **HEAD & SKULL**

**Medium sized head in proportion to body. The head is only slightly rounded from ear to ear. Domed or apple heads are highly undesirable. When viewed from the front and side, head is to be wedge shaped and well filled in under the eyes (as in Figs 21, 22 and Fig 24). The stop to be moderate and when measured from that point to occiput it equals the distance from the stop to the tip of the nose with parallel planes (Fig 20). The colour of the nose is preferably black, with the exception of a true liver, which will have a liver nose. There should be strength in the muzzle.**



Fig 21. Tan & White Dog



Fig 20. Parallel head planes



Fig 22. Tan & White Bitch



Fig 24 Tri colour dog



Fig 23 Liver Tri

Figure 23 is a liver tri Tenterfield Terrier with a liver nose and liver pigmented eye rims. Note that a lighter eye sometimes occurs in liver coloured dogs.



## ● EYES

*Not large, protruding or round, but slightly oval in shape. (Fig 25 & 26) As dark as possible with a keen expression and pigmented eye rims. Light eyes and wall eyes are to be discouraged.*



Fig 25

*For perfection these eyes could be darker*



Fig 26

*Correct eyes*

## ● EARS

*V shaped with slightly rounded tips, set high on the outer edge of the skull, erect or semi-erect. If semi-erect the top third of the ear tips forward. Not wide or large at the base, rather medium in size. The length of the ear to be roughly equal to the width between the ears. The ears are of a thin texture (not thick).*



Fig. 27

The length of the inside edge of the ear should be approximately the same as the distance between the ears. This bitch has correctly set and placed ears.

Note semi-erect ears with the top third of the ear tipping forward are also allowed in a mature Tenterfield Terrier. Semi-erect ears of most babies are likely to become erect once the puppy matures. Fig 28 demonstrates the way how ears on baby puppies within a single litter can develop.

*Fig. 28*



*Fig. 29*

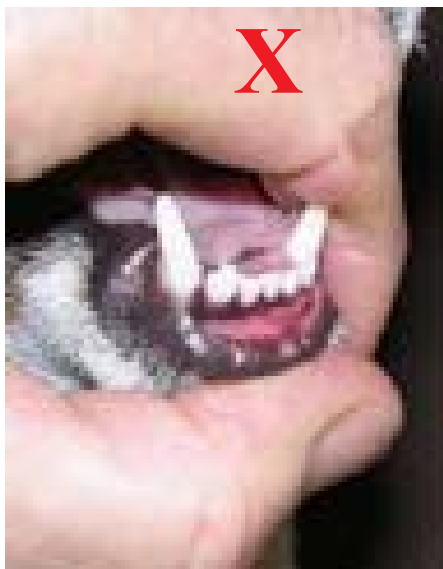
*Figs 29 and 30 are adult dogs with semi-erect ears, the top third of which correctly tip forward.*

*Fig. 30*



- **MOUTH**

**Strong jaws with full dentition and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth. Lips to be tight fitting and pigmented. A wry mouth should be heavily penalised.**



*Fig 31  
Five incisors in lower jaw*



*Fig 32 Complete dentition*



*Fig 33 Four incisors in upper jaw*

Incomplete dentition can be a problem in this breed.

Figure 31 has only five (5) instead of six (6) incisors in the lower jaw, whilst Fig 33 has only four (4) incisors instead of six (6) in the upper jaw. Fig 32 is correct with full dentition and a complete scissor bite.

- **NECK**

**Strong and clean of moderate length, allowing head to be carried proudly.**

## ● FOREQUARTERS

**Shoulders well sloped back and not too heavily muscled. Forelegs are of strong round bone (Fig 34) in keeping with the size of the dog, straight when viewed from any angle. With sufficient length of the upper arm, which is angled to the scapula ensuring the elbows, are set under the body with the sternum clearly in front of the shoulder blades. (Fig 35)**



Fig. 34



Fig. 35

## ● BODY

**A short, compact, level topline. A strong back without slackness and with powerful loins. (Fig 37) Ribs moderately sprung, back ribs deep and reaching well back with only a slight tuck up. (Fig 36) The chest is of moderate width and reaching in depth to the level of the elbow.**



Fig. 36



Fig. 37

- **HINDQUARTERS**

*Not too heavily muscled. The rump is well rounded with only a slight slope to the croup (Fig 38.) Long and powerful thighs. The stifle is well bent and hocks well let down (Fig 39). The pastern should be parallel when viewed from the rear and vertical viewed from the side (Fig 40).*



Fig 38



Fig 39



Fig 40

- **FEET**

*Compact, round shaped, toes moderately arched.*



Fig. 41

## ● TAIL

**Either docked or natural. If docked, docked at the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint. Sometimes a natural bob tail occurs. High set and erect when alert, but not carried over the back. Carried gaily, showing bold temperament. If natural, of moderate length, to the balance to dog. High set and erect when alert, but not carried over the back. Carried gaily, showing bold temperament.**

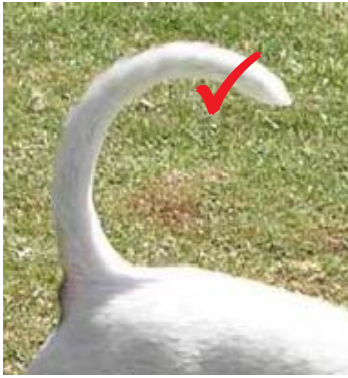


Fig. 42



Fig. 43



Fig. 44



Fig. 45



Fig. 46



Fig. 47



Fig. 48

The length of tail is the Tenterfield Terrier's most unique feature. It is the only terrier breed with tails that come in natural bobtails of various lengths, ranging from full tails (Figs 42 and 43) through to no tail vertebrae at all (Fig 47 'rumpy' bottom right). They also come in all the above range of lengths in between as shown (Fig 44, 45 and 46).

The natural bob tail results from a gene that has never been known to cause the breed any health issues.

The set on and carriage of the tail is most important, as it acts as the indicator of the Tenterfield Terriers mood and temperament.

However, if the tail is long (i.e. not a natural bob tail) it should not curl down over the loin as shown in Fig 48. Although a tail that is carried too gaily is undesirable, it is preferable to one that is carried horizontally behind the dog.

● **GAIT/MOVEMENT**

*Fore and hind legs straight forward and parallel (Fig 49). The elbows to move perpendicular to the body (Fig 50), working clear of the sides (Fig 51), stifles neither turning in nor out and the hocks not close, with good rear drive coming from the well flexing hindquarters (Fig 52).*



Fig. 49



Fig. 50



Fig. 51



Fig. 52

- **COAT**

*To be short and of smooth texture. The Tenterfield Terrier is a single coated dog.*

- **COLOUR**

*Predominantly white with black, liver and/or tan markings in its various tones. Tri colouring is common (i.e. white with black markings, and tan cheeks and/or tan above eyes and/or tan breeches). Brindle markings acceptable but not preferred. Full colour coats are not acceptable. Skin should always be pigmented.*



*Fig. 53*



*Fig. 54*

Fig. 53 and 54 are examples of tri coloured dogs with ticking whose markings are also correct.

Fig.. 55 and 56 show two dogs with correctly pigmented skin on their bellies.



*Fig. 55*



*Fig. 56*



- **SIZE**

***The height to be 25.5 to 30.5cms (10 to 12 ins) with ideal being 28cms (11ins) but not exceeding 30.5cms(12ins). The weight to be in proportion to the size of the dog.***

The parameters of 25.5 to 30.5 cms (10 to 12 ins) represents a permissible variation of 20% (Fig 57 & 58). The photographs below are examples of how length of leg can affect the general balance of an individual dog (Fig 59 & 60). Despite these permissible size variations, the essence of correct Tenterfield Terrier type is a 28cm (11ins) dog of pleasing proportions.



Fig. 57



Fig. 58



Fig. 59



Fig. 60

- **FAULTS**

***Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on the health and welfare of the dog.***

- **NOTE**

***Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.***

## CREDITS

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**Note:** The abbreviation TT's means Tenterfield Terriers.

Computer graphics by Maureen Schutt

This Breed Standard Extension was compiled by Jane Harvey and Maureen Schutt in collaboration with and on behalf of the National Tenterfield Terrier Council Australia