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FCI-Standard N° 236

AUSTRALIAN SILKY TERRIER

ORIGIN: Australia.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD: 08.10.2012.

UTILIZATION: Toy Terrier / companion dog.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 3   Terriers.
Section 4   Toy Terriers.
Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: **The two main ancestors of this breed were the Australian Terrier and the Yorkshire Terrier. During the period 1820-1830 a Broken Coated Terrier bitch of a blue sheen colour, which was bred in Tasmania, was taken to England and mated to a Dandy Dinmont Terrier. A Mr Macarthur Little of London purchased some puppies from this litter and experimented with further breeding to produce the soft silky coat. Later Mr Little migrated to Sydney Australia and continued his breeding programme using both Australian Terriers and Yorkshire Terriers. These dogs soon spread though out the Colonies of Australia and the Australian Silky Terrier was establishes as a breed. A standard for the breed was first drawn up in the early 1900's.**

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The dog is compact, moderately low set, of medium length with a refined structure but of sufficient substance to suggest the ability to hunt and kill domestic rodents. The parted, straight silky hair presents a well-groomed appearance.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT: It should display Terrier characteristics, embodying keen alertness, activity and soundness. **A courageous and dignified Toyterrier, that is second to none as a companion**.

HEAD: Of moderate length, slightly shorter from the tip of the nose to between the eyes than from the same position to the occiput. The head must be strong and of Terrier character, being moderately broad between the ears.

CRANIAL REGION:
Skull: Flat and without fullness between the eyes, with fine silky top-knot, not falling over the eyes, (a long fall of hair on the foreface or cheeks is very objectionable).
Stop: **Defined but moderate.**

FACIAL REGION:
Nose: Black.
Lips: Tight and clean.
Jaws/Teeth: Strong jaws, teeth even and not cramped, the upper incisors fitting closely over the lower (scissor bite).

EYES: Shall be small, oval never round or prominent, dark as possible in colour with a keen intelligent expression.

EARS: Should be small, V-shaped with fine leather, set high on the skull, pricked, and entirely free from long hair.

NECK: Medium length, refined and slightly crested, fitting gracefully into the shoulders. Well covered with long silky hair.

BODY: Should be moderately long in proportion to the height of the dog.
Topline: Level topline at all times (both standing and moving).
Loin: Strong.
Chest: Of moderate depth and breadth. Ribs well sprung extending back to strong loins.

TAIL: **If** docked, set on high and carried erect but not over-gay. Should be free of feathering.

Undocked: the first three vertebrae to be carried erect or slightly curved but not curved over back. Must not be curled. The length to give an overall balanced appearance.

In accordance with the description of the docked tail the undocked tail also to be free of feathering.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:
General appearance: The forelegs have refined, round bone and are straight and set well under the body with no weakness in the pasterns.
Shoulder: Fine and well laid back, fitting with well angulated upper arms snugly to the ribs.
Elbow: Turned neither in nor out.
Forefeet: Small, well padded, cat-like with closely knit toes, the toenails must be black or very dark.

HINDQUARTERS:
Thighs: Must be well developed.
Stifle (Knee): Should be well turned.
Hock joint: Well bent. When viewed from behind the hocks should be well let down and parallel with each other.
Hind feet: Small, well padded, cat-like with closely knit toes, the toenails must be black or very dark.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: The movement should be free and true without slackness at shoulders or elbows, there should be no turning in or out of the feet or pasterns. The hindquarters should have strong propelling power with ample flexibility at stifles and hocks. Viewed from behind the movement should be neither too close nor too wide.

COAT

Hair: Must be flat, fine and glossy and of a silky texture. The length of coat must not be so long as to impede the dog's action and should allow daylight to be seen under the dog. The front and rear feet to be free from long hair.

Colour: All shades of blue and tan are acceptable, the richer these colours and more clearly defined the better. Silver and white not acceptable. Blue on the tail to be very dark. Silver blue or fawn top-knot desirable. Distribution of blue and tan as follows : tan around the base of the ears, muzzle and on the sides of the cheeks; blue from the base of the skull to tip of tail, running down the forelegs to near the wrists and down the thighs to the hocks; tan line showing down the stifles and from the wrists and hocks to the toes and around the vent. The blue body colour must be free from tan or bronzing. Tan markings must be free from smuttiness. Black colouring is permissible in puppies, blue colour must be established by 18 months of age.

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Height at the withers: Males: 23 to 26 cms.
                            Females: can be slightly less.
Weight: Weight in proportion to height.

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 upon the health and welfare of the dog.

SEVERE FAULTS:
- **Topline showing roach or dip**.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:
- **Aggressive or overly shy dogs.**
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

N.B:
- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding.

The latest amendments are in bold characters.

Surface Anatomy

forehead
skull
ear
nape
eye
stop
nose bridge
neck
nose
topline
foreface / muzzle
shoulder
upper jaw
withers / top of shoulder
chin
back
loin
lower jaw
croup / rump
commissure of the lips /
corner of the mouth
set of tail
cheek
throat

point of shoulder
point of buttock

prosternum / point of chest
thigh (upper)

upper arm

sternum / brisket
tail

forearm
elbow
belly
flank
point of the hock

carpus / wrist
chest/ribcage
knee / stifle

metacarpus / pastern
underline
lower thigh
metatarsus /
hind pastern

forefoot
hind foot