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(Kyōn Press)

Judging the Irish Terrier
(Kyōn Press)

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DISCOVERING THE IRISH TERRIER

By Anne M. Tureen

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Introduction

This book takes the reader on a journey to discover the Irish Terrier. We will start with an overview of the native land of the breed—Eire, the Emerald Isle: the terrain, climate, and the animals it encountered. These are the conditions in which this breed originally lived and worked, shaping the qualities that define it today.

The social and political events of the time provide an essential framework for understanding how men and women developed a dog to suit their needs, resources, and, as we will see, their identity and ambitions. For the Irish Terrier this requires a long step back into a time of myths and legends. Approximately thirty pages are dedicated to Irish history to better understand why, during a moment of cultural awakening—after centuries of occupation and cultural suppression—the Irish proudly promoted this emissary to England. This breed is intrinsically linked to the political history of Ireland.

A separate section is devoted to the development of the Irish Terrier as a recognized breed and how the breed club sought to establish the value of this dog as both the ideal hunting companion and a dog show star—two of the most fashionable spheres of the Victorian leisure classes. Notably, the breed's promotion became a remarkable instance of Irish nationalists collaborating with their English counterparts to form the first Irish Terrier breed club.

To complete the picture, you will also briefly meet the other native breeds that developed alongside the Irish Terrier.

The specific literature on the Irish Terrier—detailing the events, dogs and people who shaped the breed—will reveal exactly how it came to be, set against the broader panorama of 19th-century Britain and the emerging world of purebred dogs.

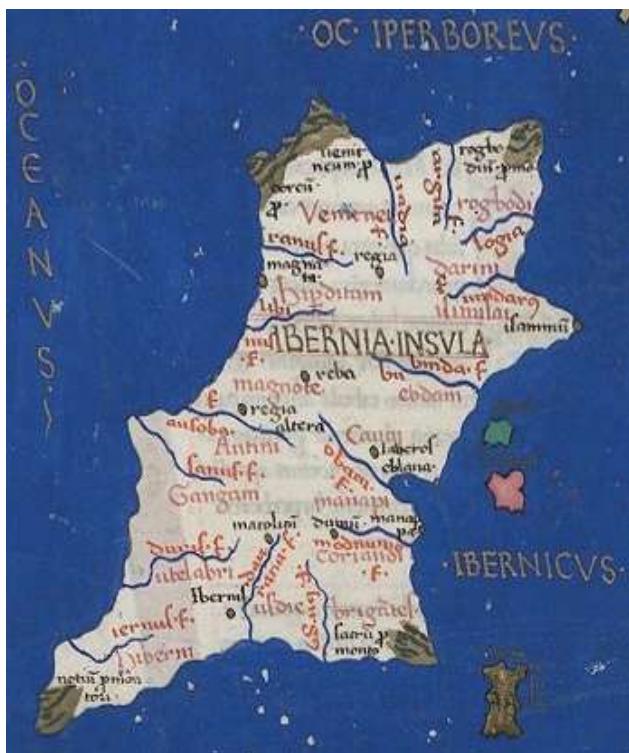
I have dedicated a few pages to exploring the first five years of Crufts, introducing Charles Cruft and his unique Terrier shows, where the Irish Terrier was a dominant player.

The two most technical chapters of this book examine the breed standard drafted in Ireland, which defines the Irish Terrier. This section approaches the standard from a breeder's perspective—not merely to win ribbons, but to develop a deep understanding of the dog's purpose, beauty, and functional anatomy.

Following this is a gallery of images illustrating sections from the three major standards (Irish Kennel Club, Royal Kennel Club, and American Kennel Club), allowing readers to evaluate the breed through visual comparison.

My final comments address the presentation of the breed—how it was originally intended and how it is sometimes misinterpreted today, as well as a few notes on reproduction and specific challenges we face in breeding.

It is my sincere wish that this text brings pleasure to those who already know an Irish Terrier, inspiration to those who do not, and serves as a starting point for further inquiry and exploration into this soulful breed—so well suited to represent Ireland.



Above: Map of Ireland from 1467 published by Ptolemy in his *Cosmografica*.

Below: Pink areas are Ulster in Northern Ireland and part of the UK. Green areas are Ulster but politically part of The Republic of Ireland. Yellow is the Republic of Ireland.



TOPOGRAPHY

The Irish Terrier originated in the province of Ulster, specifically in County Antrim. Today, the region is politically divided, with six counties forming Northern Ireland and three belonging to the Republic of Ireland. The capital of Northern Ireland is Belfast, a city located at sea level along Belfast Lough, a large inlet of the North Channel. County Antrim has a predominantly Protestant population, and while English is the official language, pockets of Gaeltacht—Irish-speaking communities—exist throughout Northern Ireland, particularly in Donegal.

All of Ireland has experienced at least two glacial periods. As the ice advanced and retreated, it shaped the landscape, carving mountain lakes and glacial valleys. The soil is composed of a mixture of clay, sand deposits, and gravel, bearing evidence of the glacier's passage (Levy, 2000).

While the southern part of the island features east-west red sandstone hills interspersed with limestone valley basins, the west and northwest rest on a geological foundation of granite. Most of Ulster lies on basalt plates. Northern Ireland's major mountain ranges include the Mourne, Sperrins, Croaghgorms, and Derryveagh Mountains.

Nearly at the center of Northern Ireland is Lough Neagh, the largest lake in the British Isles (385 sq km), which connects to the North Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea via the Bann River. Other significant freshwater bodies include Lower Lough Erne and Upper Lough Erne in the southwest. Strangford Lough, an inlet of the Irish Sea, cuts deeply into County Down, separating a large stretch of land known as the Ards Peninsula.

CLIMATE

In winter, average temperatures range from 0 to 8°C, with precipitation between 200 and 400 mm and relative humidity between 84% and 86%, though it is lower along the coast. In summer, temperatures range from 7° to 19°C, precipitation decreases only slightly to 200–300 mm, and relative humidity remains between 80% and 84%.

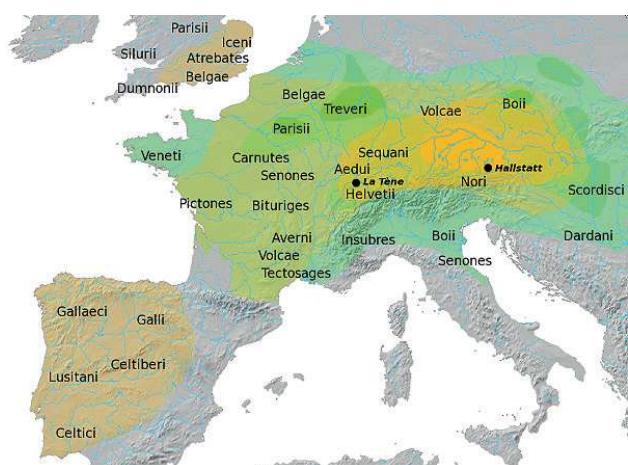


Dolmen



La Tène artifact

La Tène culture sites



ANTIQUITY

THE CELTIC WORLD

Historians had a much clearer picture of Celtic culture fifty years ago than today. This is because much has come to light from continuing research in archeology, historical linguistics, and DNA research, thus, a new theory has evolved that disassociates the various elements of 'Celticness'. Art style, customs, religion, military tactics, and language varied among different cultures from the Iron¹ Age to the Medieval period across Central Europe and the British Isles.

Groups that adopted one or more of the 'Celtic' ways may not necessarily be related genetically to another group of people who shared various aspects of 'Celtic' culture - also termed Hallstatt culture or La Tène culture. Historians now refer to 'The Celtic World', (Paxton, 2018) which includes various cultures, in a broad geographic area where one or more aspects of Celtic culture have been part of the lifestyle of the residents. One major characteristic that can identify a culture as Celtic is its distinctive artistic style. Artifacts such as jewelry and weapons decorated with what we now recognize as Celtic motifs are classified as La Tène-style art. This name originates from an archaeological site where significant examples of this style were discovered. Another key factor in identifying a group as Celtic is language. Celtic languages developed differently across various geographical regions over time. Evidence of these languages has survived in written inscriptions on stone and in their evolved spoken forms, which are still used in some Celtic regions today.

THE CLASSICAL WORLD AND THE CELTS

Historians gain valuable insight into the past through texts written by the Greeks and Romans, who were contemporaries of the Celtic tribes to the north. These ancient writers referred to these groups by various names, including barbarians, Gauls, and Kel-

¹ During the Stone Age, which preceded the Iron Age, Ireland was inhabited by tribal societies whose stone megaliths and earthworks still stand today.

THE MIDDLE AGES

THE ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH

In the mid-12th century, Ireland was a patchwork of small kingdoms, though four of the most powerful—Ulster, Leinster, Bréifne, and Connacht—had formed two major alliances: Ulster/Leinster and Bréifne/Connacht. While these kingdoms vied for dominance and bickered among themselves, the outside world seemed far away.

Henry II ruled England, controlling vast territories that included much of Wales and western France. Although there had been English incursions into Ireland, Henry's primary focus was on consolidating his rule and maintaining stability in his French and Welsh possessions. As a result, Ireland remained outside the English sphere of interest. However, internal conflicts among Irish rulers would soon provide an opportunity for English involvement.

In 1155, Pope Adrian IV issued the Bull¹⁶ Laudabiliter authorizing Henry to invade Ireland. The Pope was hoping this would provide an incentive for Henry to go over and get the Catholic Church in line for him, but Henry ignored the Bull. Meanwhile, in Ireland, Diarmait Mac Murchada (Di'-ar-mat Mac-murha), King of Leinster had got himself into a scrape, having abducted Derbfgaill, the wife of Tigernan O'Rourke who was allied with the powerful Rory O'Connor King of Connacht¹⁷. Moreover, after a short time, Diarmait, essentially, sent her back home, by arranging her 'recapture'. This was a deep offense from start to finish, but social order was maintained by the alliances. Unfortunately, in 1166 Diarmait's ally, the King



King Henry II (1133-1189)

Example of a Papal Bull



¹⁶ Bull is a term derived from the Latin word Bulla (Bubble), which refers to the puffy metal seal affixed to authenticate the authority of the document.

¹⁷ Ruaidri Ua Conchobair, arguably the only true native High King of Ireland, had successfully dominated by battle or negotiation all the most powerful kingdoms of Ireland. He held power starting in 1166, but after 11 years he found that he had to recognize Henry as his Lord at the Treaty of Windsor 1175. He continued as Henry's representative, but the other Norman Lords increasingly encroached upon his power until he finally abdicated in 1183.

THE 19TH CENTURY

For generations, Ireland had seen cycles of sacrifice in its resistance to English rule, ranging from large-scale rebellions to countless acts of localized defiance. However, the deeply factional nature of Irish society hindered the development of a unified national movement. Clan loyalties, regional divisions, and competing political interests undermined efforts at coordinated resistance. Each attempt ended in bloody defeat and punitive reprisal by the British.

Beginning with the widely read descriptions of Gerald of Wales (1188) describing the Irish people in the most lurid terms, the educated British saw the Irish as repulsive. The negative image of the Irishman was also continued in theatre productions, which portrayed him popularly as a buffoon, unreliable, shifty, and careless.

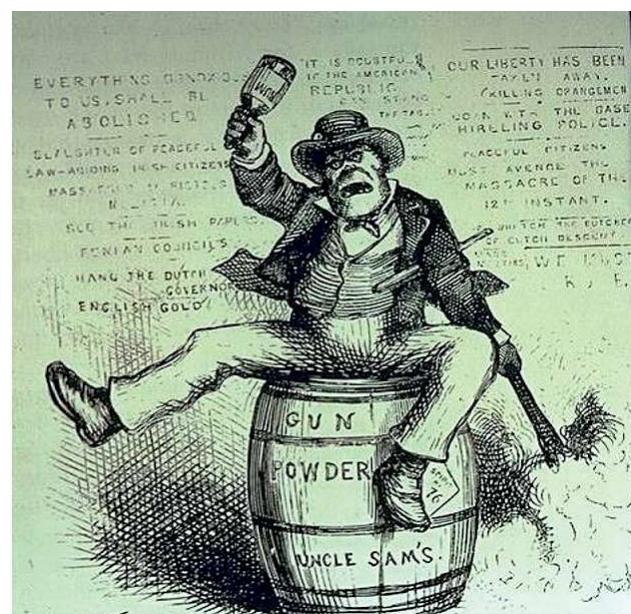
1792 was the year of a seminal event for Ireland. Among the first laws relaxed by the English had been those concerning music and poetry, regulated by law since the Statutes of Kilkenny. Now the Belfast Harper's festival could be organized. The harp - Clairseach (clair-sa) - was a cultural icon of celtic Ireland. Every clan chief had his File or poet who wrote, the reciter who performed, and the harpist who accompanied, thus the harp hearkened to traditions far deeper than religious affiliation. This instrument spoke to the heart of every Irishman.

Musicians from all over the country played and attended the festival including Denis O'Hampsey³⁴, 90 years old, with his vast repertoire of the old songs of Ireland. Edward Bunting, a music transcriber, was present and captured this event in three volumes of Irish music. This document served as the basis for Thomas Moore's (1779-1852) *Irish Melodies* which became hugely popular in England. Every drawing room had a bound volume of this music and Moore became a national hero in Ireland. This phenomenon brought the Irish tradition into a positive light for the first time, not only in England, but in Ireland itself, renewed value



The Irish Parliament House was the first purpose built two chamber Parliament in the world. Following the Union Act which dissolved the independent Irish Parliament, it became the Bank of Ireland.

Stereotypes of the Irish as sly, drunken, lazy and clownish still persist today



³⁴ For a technical analysis of this music please see: (Heymann)



The Irish today maintains the instinct to hunt vermin to a good degree and can be trained for his original function

EMERGENCE OF THE BREED

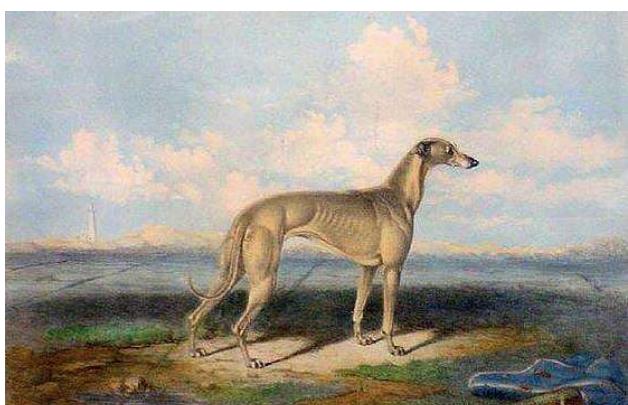
SETTING THE SCENE

Let us set the scene for the entrance of the Irish Terrier by considering the world from which the breed emerged with other Terriers and dog breeds in a general way. Terriers in Ireland were a native variety of dog, kept by humans to clear rats in the farmyard and exterminate any other vermin¹. Nature was by far the leading breeder. If a dog was good at a job, it was kept on, if a bitch came into whelp, the pups that no one wanted were usually dropped in a bucket of water, especially during the famine years, when there was no food to give to children, so keeping a dog was beyond a family's resources. A farmer who managed to scratch out a subsistence might keep one dog for night time poaching on the Lord's estate - a small quiet² animal, racy enough to run down a hare, sturdy enough to tackle a small deer and rugged enough to resist the climate.

"Few people in those early days gave much attention to the appearance of their Terriers, and if they were game and good at destroying rats and other vermin, they would be kept and bred from, and as these Terriers were principally owned by farmers and cottiers, who kept one or two roaming about their houses and farms, they were hardly likely to be very select in the matter of breeding" (Lee, 1893, p 214)

Bed of Stone, whelped in 1868 -- she became the first Greyhound ever to win all three Waterloo divisions: the Waterloo Purse (1870), the Waterloo Plate (1871) and the Waterloo Cup (1872)

Wealthier families In Britain would keep sighthounds, and, in Ireland, the Kerry Beagle perhaps a Setter. When fox hunting came into vogue toward the end



¹ Note: Vermin is a relative term in that a creature is considered a pest because it presents an annoyance to the population. The universally annoying 'vermin' are rats and mice, which raided larders, cultivations, and were believed to spread sickness. Other members of the category are thieving hares, rabbits, weasels and badgers, as well as any animal invading farmyards or fields. For example, otters were also commonly included in this group in lake areas where they abounded.

² *Irish terriers are not noisy enough, fighting and taking their punishment in silence, nor do they 'bay' their game like other terriers. ...as a rule run mute* (Lee, 1893, p208-9)

CLASS XXX.—WIRE-HAIRED TERRIERS AND
IRISH TERRIERS.

DOGS AND BITCHES.

3522. CHAPLIN.—Mr. J. Denton's, Reindeer Tap, Doncaster; breeder, Mr. H. Chaplin, M.P.
Chief Performance: Manchester, Free Trade Hall, 2nd prize, 1873.

582

KENNEL CLUB STUD BOOK.

3523. DAISY.—Mr. J. Connor's, 44, Ranelagh, Dublin; breeder, owner; born 1872 (Irish terrier).
Pedigree: By P. Flaming's *Young Stinger* out of *Granne*, by *Toby* out of *Daisy*, by *Old Squeezie*, by *Bryan's Nut*.
Chief Performance: Dublin, 1st prize, 1873.

3524. FLY.—Mr. N. Morton's, Brookville, Ballymena; breeder, Mr. Mickey Dooly (Irish terrier).
Pedigree: By *Sailor* out of *Gilmores* bitch.
Chief Performance: Dublin, 2nd prize, 1873.

3525. TIP.—Mr. T. Wootton's, Mapperley, Notts; breeder, Mr. G. Sanderson, of Cottenham; born 1872.
Pedigree: By Kendall's *Old Tip* of the Sinnington Hounds.
Chief Performances: Crystal Palace, 1st prize, 1873; Birmingham, 2nd prize, 1873; Nottingham, 4th prize, 1873.

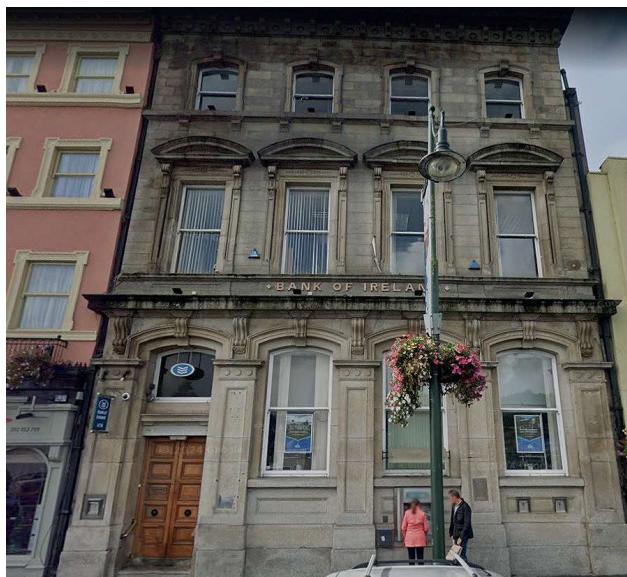
3526. TURPIN.—Mr. T. Wootton's, Mapperley, Notts; breeder, Mr. G. Sanderson.
Chief Performances: Manchester, Free Trade Hall, 3rd prize, 1873; Nottingham, 3rd prize, 1873.

3527. VENTURE.—Mr. T. Wootton's; breeder, Mr. G. Sanderson; born 1871.
Pedigree: By Kendall's *Old Tip*.
Chief Performances: Birmingham, 2nd prize, 1872; 1st prize, 1873; Crystal Palace, 2nd prize, 1873; Manchester, Free Trade Hall, 1st prize, 1873; Nottingham, 2nd prize, 1873.

3528. WASP.—Mr. T. Wootton's, Mapperley, Notts.
Chief Performance: Nottingham, 1st prize, 1873.

Very early entry of the Irish Terrier in the Kennel Club stud book pp 581 and 582

Bank of Ireland, Waterford, built by Sandham Symes (1807-1894)



FIRST TRACES

The unionist North of Ireland enjoyed slightly more stability than the South due to the general desire of the people to maintain the status quo and the presence of a few major industries which brought some life into the economy. Gentlemen of those parts looked to London as their capital, and, to a certain degree, lived the life of the English country gentry. When they read of the newly styled 'dog shows', they were anxious to try this out for themselves. Ireland had native Setters, Pointers, Hounds and Terriers and they were certainly not to be found behindhand to their English counterparts. The first news of the existence of an 'Irish Terrier' was a rumor circulating in 1870, 'claims ...made that a most ancient breed of Terrier was rediscovered...' (Montgomery, 1948, p. 9).

In the first KC stud book of 1874, Mr. Wootton's Venture (whelped 1871 by Sanderson) won second place⁹ at the Birmingham show of 1872 which is the earliest show record under the heading 'Wire haired and Irish Terrier'. 1873 saw Mr. Wootton's Tip, Turpin, and Wasp all bred by Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Connor's 'Daisy' bred by himself, and Mr. Morton's 'Fly' bred by Mr. Dooly. These first records are retrospective registrations of dog shows at the opening of the English Kennel Club¹⁰ stud book. (The activities of showing began before the emergence of the regulating body which came to preside over them, so it was decided that 15 year's worth of results prior to the foundation of the KC were to be part of their records.) Since Montgomery¹¹ only mentions Fly and Daisy, we can suppose that the earlier Venture was not recognized by later generations as an Irish Terrier but only a generic wire haired Terrier.

Mr. R. J. Ridgway of Waterford¹² published the first

9 Seond to whom we know not - no other entry is listed for 1872.

10 Note that the Irish Kennel Club was not yet founded, and that even today they do not keep a stud book

11 Dr. E. S. Montgomery, author of *The Complete Irish Terrier*

12 The Waterford Genealogy group on social media mentions a Mr. Henry Ridgway. In 1864, his daughter Eliza married a banker. There may be some connection between this family and this Richard J. Ridgway.

POPULARITY IN THE USA

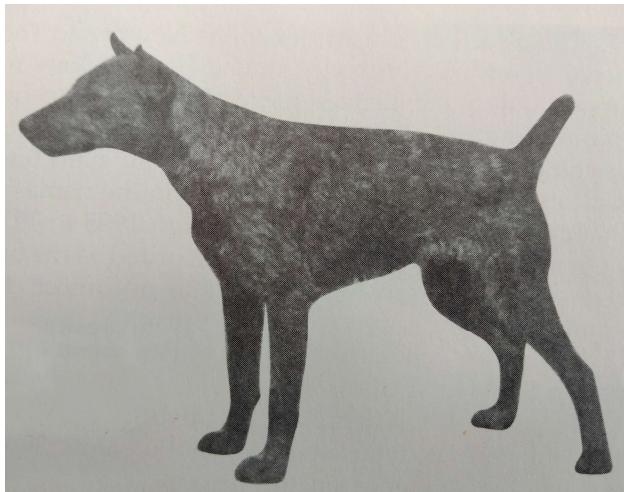
'From an exhaustive search of old sporting magazines, old dog periodicals, and the personal papers of several of the oldest and best known 'dog people' on both sides of the Atlantic, the author has come to the conclusion that the Hibernian Red Terrier emerged conspicuously upon the American shores in divers forms and variegated colors in the late seventies and early eighties of the past century.'

(Montgomery, 1948, p. 35)

If the conclusions of Dr. Montgomery in the paragraph above are correct, the USA began developing the Irish Terrier with an eclectic group of Terriers from Ireland at about the same time England and Ireland began with an equally eclectic group of native Terriers.

Enthusiasts of the breed followed sporting matters in the UK and were perfectly tuned in to developments such as the fashion of dog shows, the establishment of the Kennel Club and the various breed clubs. That they had detailed knowledge of Irish Terriers is indicated by the first important acquisition of two dogs from no other personage than William Graham, the year prior to the foundation of the Irish Terrier breed club and the subsequent publication of the UK breed description.

The first Irish registered with the AKC in 1885, was Aileen n°3306, owned by Mr. Niven, out of Norah, by Joe. The finger of the US kennelmen was right on the pulse of Irish Terriers as they continued to buy from Graham and Krehl. US enthusiasts imported with care to collect from the best blood possible. The most important importations were documented by Dr. Montgomery.



Milton Droleen a bitch sent from the USA to a successful career in the UK

1878 - Joseph Kelly - Two dogs were bought from Billy Graham, Jack and Fanny.

1880 - Mr. James Watson - Kathleen from Graham. This bitch had been bred to Mr. Krehl's Sporter and whelped Five pups while on the boat in Staten Island harbor, making them the first litter of Irish whelped in the USA.

This Show is Disinfected with "SANITAS."**IRISH TERRIERS.**

Description by Mr. C. J. BARNETT.—Head long, rather narrow; punishing jaw; eyes small and dark; ears fairly small, not set on too high; legs straight and strong; feet round and thick, with good heels; chest narrow, with good depth of brisket; back strong and straight, with tail set on rather high; loins strong; neck long and muscular; coat very hard and straight, shorter on head. Colour yellow red, darker on ears. Expression wicked but intelligent.

143. THE "CRUFT" CHALLENGE CUP, No. 1, value 25 GUINEAS, offered by Mr. Chas. Cruff, for best team of Four Irish, Bedlington, Black-and-Tans, or Bull Terriers. (*See Conditions.*)
 144. GOLD MEDAL, offered by Mr. Chas. Cruff, to the winner of above, in commemoration of the first or second win.
 145. SPECIAL PRIZE, Bronze Medal, for best (Dog or Bitch), in the Open or Novice Classes.
 146. SPECIAL PRIZE, Bronze Medal, for best of opposite sex to winner of above.
 147. SPECIAL PRIZE, value two Guineas, offered by W. Moat, Esq., for the best Dog or Bitch in the Limit Classes.
 148. The *Sporting Mirror* "CHALLENGE TROPHY," value 35 GUINEAS, for the best Irish Terrier in the Show. The conditions upon which this Cup is offered will be published in the *Sporting Mirror*.

IRISH TERRIERS—OPEN CLASSES.

For Open Class Prizes and Definition of Classes see page 11.
 CLASS 359.—DOGS.

2nd & 1638 Mr. T. Wallace. **Treasurer.** Born May 16, '92. Sp. 147 Breeder: Exhibitor. By Ch. Brickbat—Bumtuous Biddy. 1st, Birmingham, Darlington and Durham. Not for sale.
 HC 1639 Mr. B. Vick. **Ulster Idol** (reg.) Born June 5, '92. Breeder: Mr. R. S. Knox. By Red Idol—Kriffel. 1st, Easfield; 3rd, Cirencester and Kew. Not for sale.
 1st & 1640 Mrs. Butcher. **Bawnboy.** Born April 15, '92. Sp. 145 Breeder: Exhibitor. By Ch. Brickbat (28920)—Lotion (30332). 1st, Birmingham, Liverpool, Cruff's, &c. Price £250.
 3rd 1670 Mr. F. M. Jowett. **Crow Gill Tartar.** Born June 11, '92. Breeder: Mr. H. Stafford. By Ben IV. (25,921)—Heywood Kitty. 1st Open, 1st Novice, and Two Specials, Birkenhead, &c. Price £100.

CLASS 360.—BITCHES.

3rd 1641 Mr. Henry Benner. **Sternfield Vic** (K.C.S.B. 25995). Born November 28, 1886. Breeder: Mr. C. R. Longe, By Nabocloch II.—Fox. 1st, Cruff's, Crystal Palace, Bath, Bristol, &c. Not for sale.
 1st & 1642 Mr. H. Day. **Kerry Diamond.** Born September 15, '89. Breeder: Mr. R. G. Lewis. By Paddy—Magic. 1st and Special (Bath), Birkenhead, Crystal Palace, &c. Not for sale.
 1643 Mr. A. R. Battam. **Bernice** (reg.). Born December 5, '92. Breeder: Mr. Wiener. By Ch. Brickbat—Bodice. Price £50.

Classes list Crufts catalogue 1894 p 233

Advertisement for a kennel in Crufts catalogue 1887

COMPOSITE KENNELS.



This is specially suited for Terriers, but can be made for larger dogs. The top of bed forms a day shell for the dog to lie upon. It is hinged for cleaning out the inside of the kennel.

Size, 2ft. 6in. long, 2ft. 6in. high, Price £1. 10s.

From FRED. W. CHURCHILL, Esq., Books.

"DEAR SIR,—The kennel sent is the best I ever saw, and am more than pleased with it."

take their dogs home early on the last day could do so at 4 pm on payment of 5s (25p) and at 7 pm on payment of 2s 6d (12.5p). Otherwise, dogs were expected to remain within the show for all three days. Of course, they were not confined, unattended, to their benches throughout this period. They were exercised by attendants provided by the show, before 9 am or after 5:30 pm on each day and this service was free of expense to the exhibitor, though on payment of 2s 6d (12.5p) an exhibitor might purchase a special keeper's pass so that he or his kennel man might have the privilege of caring for their dogs themselves. (Jackson, 1990, p. 26)

THE TERRIER SHOWS

At the first Terrier show the breeds participating were: Bedlington, Black and Tans, Bull Terriers, Airedales, Skye Terriers, Scotch Terriers, Irish Terriers, Fox Terriers, Old English, Welsh, Dandie Dinmont, English smooth-haired, Yorkshires, Toys and selling classes. J. C. Barnett Esq. judged the three classes of Irish, but there is no record of the winners.

The second show, in 1887, took place on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of March in St. Stephens Hall, Westminster using Kennel Club rules published earlier that year for the first time. The catalogue is now 51 pages long and there are 701 total entries (500 dogs circa). On the first page, it is termed 'The Second Great Show of Terriers'. The number of patrons has almost doubled and many breed clubs support it, among these, the Irish Terrier Club. The Irish Terrier judge this year is Mr. A. F. W. Krehl and one of the ring stewards is his brother George. Eleven breeds were presented in this show.

A kennel advertisement appears to have an Irish Terrier (along the lines of the image presented in Vero Shaw's text) enjoying his new kennel.

There were 260 exhibitors in the show, two of which were women. Mrs. Barton Mc Guckin exhibited her four Irish Terriers in team as well as in the classes, all bred by the exhibitor. There were 59 entries for Irish Terriers. The challenge class was won by Mr. Graves with his dog, Extreme Carelessness (out of Sport). First

"In 1934, at the World Dog Congress in Monaco, speaking out against the imprecision of standards, Professor Sola-ro (Italy), Mr. Huge (Belgium) and Dr. Herout (France) had the following wish admitted regarding the standard model:

"To enable the organizations gathered in Monaco, for these purposes;

- to give instructions to breeders,

- to set the limits between which a dog's conformation can vary;

- to minimize the amplitude of a breed's oscillations,

we ask that essential measurements (from one bone point to another bone point) of the prototype of each breed be indicated in the standard. Believing that measurements are the essential complement to a standard, we desire all champions to be measured."



Irish Terrier doing what they were developed to do

HANDSOME IS AS HANDSOME DOES

All of the early individuals from which the Irish Terrier was developed represented a tool for a job more than a pet. People evaluated and appraised dogs according to their success in the field and their esthetic appeal. Specimens of excellence were traded frequently and for large sums, due to their working ability or their show record and, in both cases, to earn recognition of the owner's acumen as a person with a 'good eye for a dog', - very much like horsemen.

The breed standard is based on 'Sporter' an Irish Terrier used in his original capacity. Thus, the points made in this document have functional validity. It covers the morphofunctional and biomechanical⁵ elements that can be assessed by the naked eye. Medical and genetic testing are tools that can now be added to conformation judging, field trials and sports competitions, as well as the all-important whelping box to complete our estimate of the excellence of a dog.

We know much more about canine anatomy biomechanics and physiology than did people in the Victorian era, but in some respects, we know less about dogs than early cynologists, since we no longer use our breeds for

⁵ Morphofunctional elements fit the animal for a specific purpose, while biomechanics are the functioning and study of the function of movement and locomotion.

pheus (Atlantis) which permits pivotal and rotational movements. A well-constructed neck has a slight arch through the first few vertebrae. Carried at approximately 45° from the horizontal: a more vertical position could be paired with an ewe³⁴ neck conformation and/or a vertically placed scapula.

A neck is of correct length if it is equal to, or only slightly longer than the total length of the head, bringing the carriage of the head above the level of the topline. The neck of the Irish is elegant due to the correct proportions, width and arched form rather than from additional length. This is an important consideration since the breed kills rats by flicking their head (which breaks the neck of the rat), excessive length of neck is not functional in this terrier.

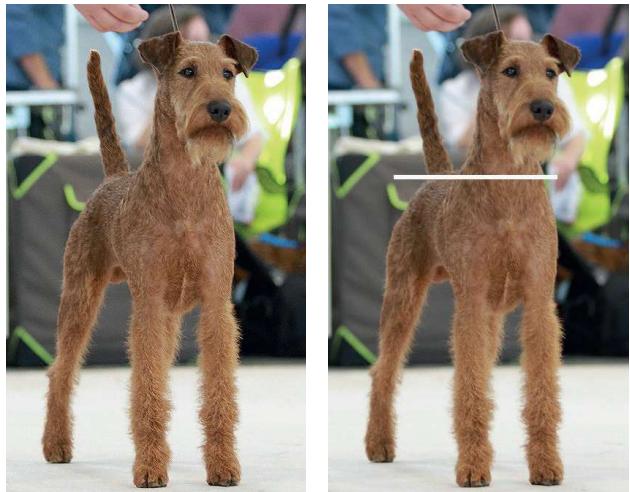
The neck should widen gradually and melt smoothly into the shoulder and withers without pronounced dip, step, sharp angle or folds of skin at the base. There should be no throatiness³⁵, which is loose skin along the ventral line of the throat³⁶. The coat meets along the lateral planes of the neck to form a herringbone pattern cowlick for about 16 cm (6.30 in) that starts at the base of the ear and disappears before reaching the edge of the scapula.

The base of the neck is the withers which is examined in this text under the heading 'Back'.

BODY

Should be symmetrical, neither too long nor too short³⁷.

Symmetrical is a term that is no longer used today, but it means 'balanced in a functional way' (Spira, 2015, p. 129) in zoognostic jargon of the 19th century. A functional axial structure is well developed,



The neck should be approximately as long as the head, enough to carry the head above the topline when resting at about 45°



The neck should not be shorter than this, and not much longer. Notice the topline which descends very slightly, like a Roman aqueduct, an absolute virtue



³⁴ An ewe neck has a reverse curve at the base. Rather than rising gradually from the back, the vertebrae of the spine continue forward to begin with, then develop vertically creating an inward curve at the withers and an outward curve along the ventral profile.

³⁵ Dewlap - loose skin

³⁶ This is also termed a wet neck which is desirable in many breeds such as the Bloodhound.

³⁷ If the Irish is about 10% longer than tall at withers, the total length should be about 50 cm.

moorland cut through by steep valleys, the Irish benefits from a pelvis sloping at the lower end of this range (20° - 25°) to help with push when running up hills. In fact, as we saw, the tail is described as set on rather high instead of 'set high' as in the Wire Fox Terrier which has an even more level croup.

Thigh: Powerful.

The thigh is attached to the pelvis by a ball and socket joint, and the femur is positioned at circa 70° - 75° from the horizontal. The longer the femur, the more angulation will occur both in the femoral-tibial angle and in the tibial-tarsal angle. This is the area where the muscular development of the Irish should be most evident. A long level pelvis will result in the appearance of a wider thigh while a short, and/or sloping pelvis will result in a narrower thigh.

Stifle (Knee): Moderately bent.

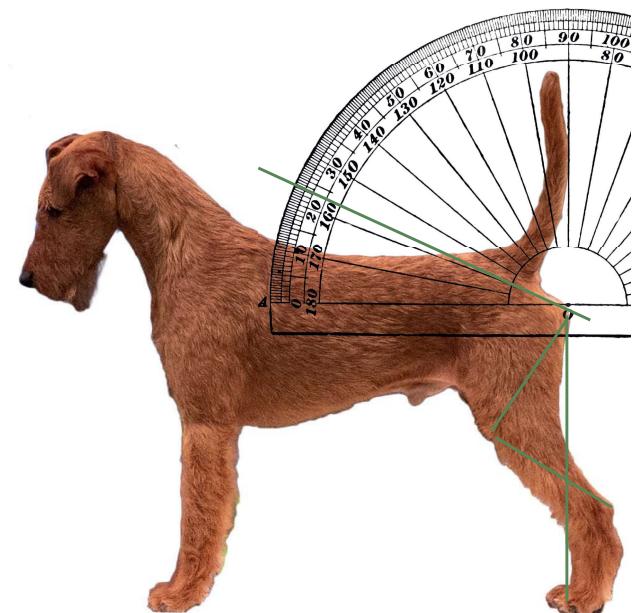
The knee should be visible and easily felt. Moreover, it should be in the center of and equidistant from the point of buttocks and the point of hock, indicating that the femur and tibia are approximately the same length. The genicular (knee) angle should mirror the scapulohumeral angle if the dog is to be balanced and ergonomic.

Hock joint: Near ground

The hock joint unites the tibia to the metatarsus bones. The calcaneal apophysis acts as a lever pulled by the gastrocnemius muscle to initiate movement (drive). The load is the body weight, the fulcrum is the pes on the ground surface, the effort is the gastrocnemius muscle contraction from the crus tied to the calcaneal process by the achilles tendon. The low hock places the load nearer to the fulcrum, increasing efficiency.

Hind feet: Should be strong, tolerably round and moderately small, toes arched and neither turned out nor in, black toenails most desirable. Pads sound and free from cracks or corny excrescence.

Please see front feet (manus).

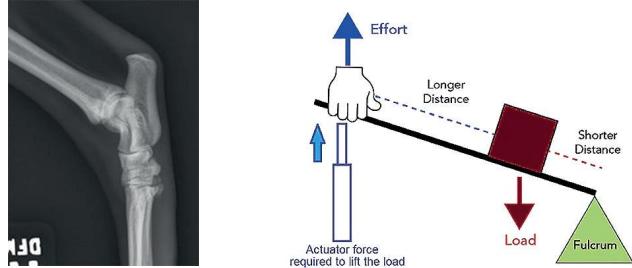


The croup slopes about 23°

The femur and tibia are approximately equal

The plumb line off the point of buttocks hits the pes

The hock has second degree lever dynamics





Ideal: Racy, versatile, moderate

COMPARISON OF STANDARDS

General Appearance

FCI-Ireland: The dog must present an active, lively, lithe and wiry appearance; lots of substance, at the same time free of clumsiness, as speed and endurance as well as power is very essential. The Irish Terrier must be neither “cloddy nor cobby” but should be framed on the “lines of speed” showing a graceful racy outline.

RKC: An active, lively and wiry appearance; plenty of substance but free of clumsiness. Neither cloddy nor cobby but showing a graceful racy outline.

AKC: The over-all appearance of the Irish Terrier is important. In conformation he must be more than a sum of his parts. He must be all-of-a piece, a balanced vital picture of symmetry, proportion and harmony. Furthermore, he must convey character. This 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, for 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.

Finer points



The underline is a key ingredient for racy, these otherwise quality dogs have limited breed type due to the underline



On the left the chest depth and loin tuck up are both limited. On the right, the racy quality is beyond moderate - a bit Sighthoundy

Too overdone to be racy, the muscular development of the first is excessive - the second has heavy bone



Modest tuck up, is typical of a Dachshund.
Defined tuck up is the hallmark of Sighthounds





The show trim should be fully functional in a working or playing environment

Keep the width between the eyes free of eyebrows for a broader muzzle



ZERO IN ON TYPE

The ridiculous fad of showing Irish Terriers with an abundance of soft leg furnishings is in direct contradistinction to the Standard and to the original purpose of the dog. This tonsorial camouflage serves no purpose other than to disguise fine bone, bad pasterns and flat feet. The quality of the leg hair should be stiff and wiry as in the case of correct facial hair. The hair on legs and quarters should be of only sufficient length to add the finishing touch to the part.

(Montgomery, 1948, p. 60)

This passage was written in the 1940's, but the passion for outlandish grooming continues today. The Fox Terrier is a much more common dog and has a specific shape of grooming that most qualified professionals encounter in their training. If you take your comparatively rare Irish Terrier to the groomers, they will gleefully pull out their 'Terrier' notes (Fox) and get started. Insist that your Irish Terrier comes home looking like an Irish Terrier!

The beard is not a goatee at the tip of the chin. It starts along the muzzle at the corner of the mouth, blending up to the corner of the eye then lengthening slightly toward the nose. If the facial hair starts at 1 cm, the beard will increase at the corner of the mouth (for the entire circumference of the muzzle) lengthening by a few millimeters down to the nose where it will reach 2/2.5 cm in length - tops. The beard ends with the muzzle. It is not brushed forward of the nose to create a 'long look' with locks of hair flapping about like a paintbrush at the end of the muzzle. The crisp, hard hair of the beard will simply form a slight cushion, which masks the line of the mouth and completes the straight lines of the head.

The same effect is correct for the anterior legs. There should be a finish of 2 centimeters of coat, 1 cm longer than that on the body all up and down the front legs blending into the elbow. The blending is the most 'artistic' part of stripping. The objective is not to see exactly where the coat starts lengthening into the longer parts.

When you have become handy with furnishings, the upper arm will fall straight down to the foot in two