

The Terrier front from Jane Dogs for discussion.

After posting this segment some people question the order of the long legged terriers length of upper arm. What are your thoughts? For example does the Kerry Blue even have a short upper arm? Which dogs should not even be on the list as having a shorter upper arm. I will give my answer in 24 hours as to what is correct.

In normally constructed breeds, theoretically the shoulder blade and upper arm are the same length. This section discusses the 'Terrier Front' which has the upper arm shorter than the shoulder blade.

In breeds other than terriers where a 'showy' high head carriage is desired, the upper arm is shortened, either correctly or incorrectly, to enable this 'showy' head carriage to occur. But in the case of all long legged terrier breeds, because of a functional use of this short upper arm, it is a requirement. That is why this front is called a 'terrier front'.

Terrier Front

For the purposes of discussing the Terrier Front, it is necessary to divide terriers into 3 sub-groups:

The Bull Terrier Breeds

The short legged Terrier Breeds

The long legged terriers which are discussed below.

All terrier breeds that are not in categories 1 and 2 above fit into this section. These are:

Kerry Blue Terrier

Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

Bedlington Terrier

Manchester Terrier

Airedale Terrier

Irish Terrier

Border Terrier

Lakeland Terrier

Parson Russell Terrier

Tenterfield Terrier

Welsh Terrier

Fox Terrier (Smooth and Wire Coat)

These breeds are roughly in order. Those at the top of the list have a humerus or upper arm which is closer to equal in length to the scapula than the breeds at the bottom of the list. But all of these terrier breeds should have a somewhat shortened humerus when compared to a dog with a normal length humerus like the Greyhound below: diagram 1

Long Legged Terrier

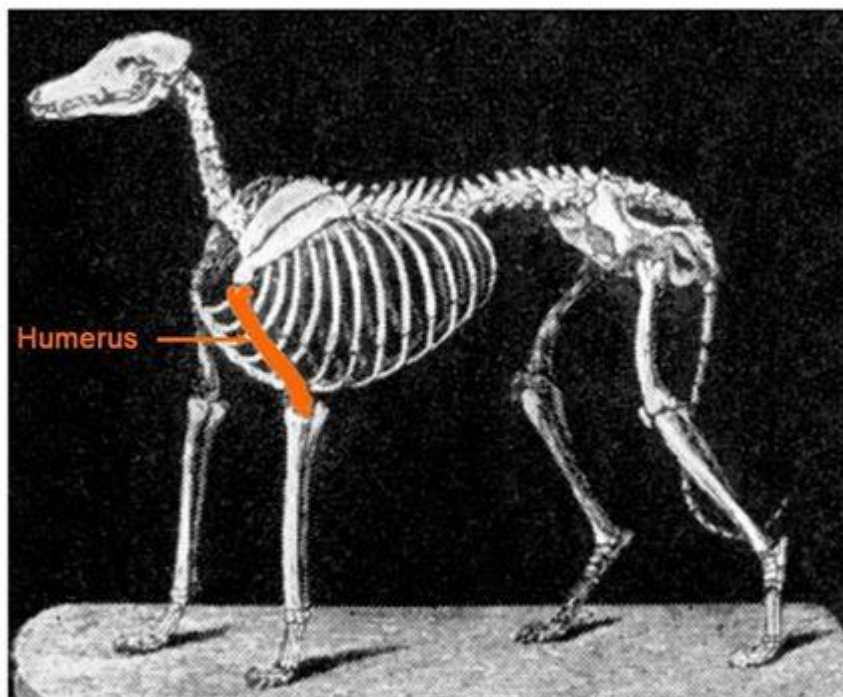
So the length of the humerus of any long-legged terrier should be shorter than its shoulder blade or scapula. This has nothing to do with the physical size of these terriers. Also the shortening of the humerus is independent of the length or angle of the shoulder blade. In other words the shortening of the humerus is independent of the 'lay of shoulder (diagram 2)

Terrier Digging in Burrow

Remembering terrier breeders selected dogs whose function was to dig, this shortened humerus allowed the terrier's elbows to work clear of the deepest part of the chest when digging within the confines of a tunnel. Here the terrier digs whilst lying on its chest as shown in the diagram. In this position, the terrier's elbow must not impede the terrier's ability to dig within this confined space (diagram 3)

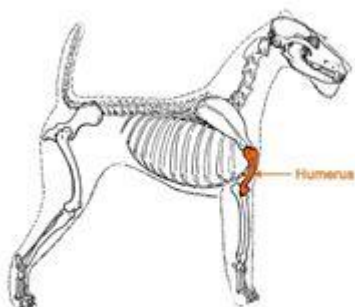
Note also the pasterns are shortened to assist not only the terrier's ability to dig, but also its ability to maintain kinetic balance when moving above ground.

Greyhound



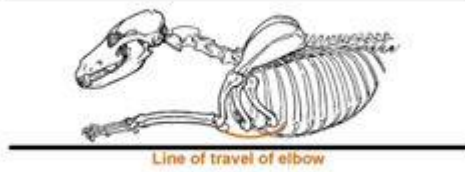
(Graphics by Bob Harvey)

Long Legged Terrier



(Graphics by Bob and Jane Harvey)

Terrier Digging in Burrow



(Graphics by Bob and Jane Harvey)

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