

THE LAKELAND TERRIER

“A Discussion of History and Type”



*Presented by Harold “Red” Tatro III
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ANALYZING THE LAKELAND TERRIER

by
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The following analysis is intended to assist judges and breeders in developing a more accurate image of the ideal Lakeland. It combines the knowledge that I have gained from over 25 years of studying and breeding Lakelands with information and opinions from several respected breeders. It is my hope that, when added to your existing knowledge and the opinions of others, it will assist you with interpreting the standard and enable you to more easily recognize correct Lakeland type.

INTRODUCTION

The Lakeland is one of five long-legged, wire-coated terriers that are somewhat similar in general appearance, balance & movement. The other breeds comprising this subgroup are the Airedale, Irish, Wire Fox and Welsh. Whether it is insufficient knowledge, a lack of commitment in the quest for winning or both, in the last few years these breeds have integrated to the point that type is disappearing. Many of the dogs we now see in the ring can be described as generic terriers. Too often, the only traits that separate these breeds are size, color and grooming styles.



Airedale



Welsh



Irish



Wire Fox

TERRIER TYPE

In spite of their similarities, these are wholly separate breeds and both judges and breeders have to be able to recognize the traits that are characteristic of each. There are three initial steps that are a benefit in developing an understanding of correct type in these particular terriers.

Step One: IGNORE THE SIMILARITIES!

Each of these breeds was developed for a distinct purpose. It was their differences that enabled them to perform their individual jobs and these differences **define breed TYPE**.

Step Two: To KNOW one is to UNDERSTAND the other!

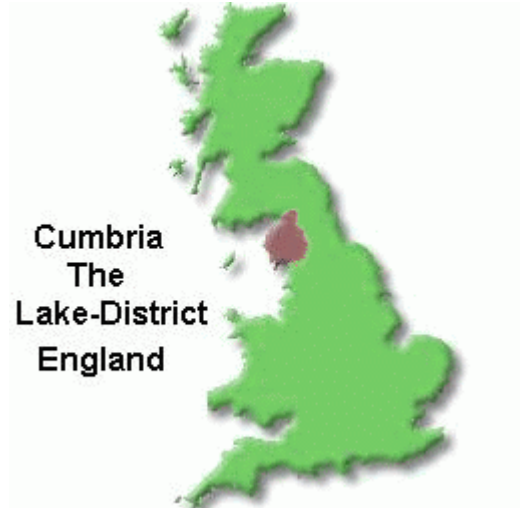
DO NOT overlook the **OBVIOUS**. The obvious differences of **size and color** are of lesser importance than the subtle differences in outline. If we were to make these breeds the same size and paint them the same color, we should still be able to recognize each one. Recognizing type in any one of these breeds requires a knowledge of all five and an understanding of how and why they differ.

Step Three: Concentrate on FORM and FUNCTION!

Knowing exactly what a dog was bred to do and how he performed his job allows one to develop a better picture of his ideal structure.



Hutchinson's Lakelands England circa 1930



FORM and FUNCTION in the LAKELAND

Obviously the best way to comprehend form and function is to go back to the roots of a breed and study, in detail, its history and original purpose. One source book on Lakeland history is Brian Plummer's "**The Fell Terrier**". Mr. Plummer provides a few details of the breed's development and a fascinating insight into the qualities that set the working Lakeland apart from all other terriers.

LAKELAND HISTORY

THE LAND:

Before one can begin to understand the Lakeland, it is necessary to have a visual image of the land where he worked. As Plummer states, "***the land has determined the shape of the terrier and its constitution***". In fact, it was the land that was solely responsible for the creation of the breed.

Romanticized in the poems of William Wordsworth and the stories of Beatrix Potter, the Lake District is now a popular tourist spot, known for its scenic splendor. At the time the early Lakeland was developed, however, it was more accurately described by Daniel Defoe as "***the wildest, most barren and frightful***" of any region he had ever seen in England.

For hundreds of millions of years, the region suffered the turmoil of nature's worst forces. Active volcanoes that made up the spectacular mountain range, spewed hot lava over the region for centuries. The force of moving ice from the ensuing ice age ravaged the land, carving huge sections out of the mountains, hollowing out the valleys and strewing shattered rock and enormous boulders everywhere. As the ice melted, the powerful force of erosion shaped a variety of landscapes, each one equally as treacherous.

The rugged mountains that remained were the **fells**. At one time England's highest peaks were composed of hardened volcanic rock. Laced with crevices and mazes of underground tunnels, this is where the region's fox and badger made their homes.

Making the valleys almost impossible to navigate by horseback were the thick layers of razor sharp, shattered rock (**scree**) and the **borrans**. These were the huge formations made up of gigantic, smoothly polished boulders. Lining the valley, their deep nooks and crannies provided another hiding place for the fox.

Equally as deadly were the parts of the region formed out of limestone. A fleeing fox would dive into swift flowing streams (**gills**) that disappeared underground into huge, freezing cold lakes. Small openings in the ground gave way to black, bottomless pits known as **swallow holes**. Wherever the fox went, the early ancestor of the Lakeland followed, battling his foe in the dark underground or in the frigid waters. The most brutal weather conditions combined to make the Lake District a deadly, unforgiving place where only the toughest survived.

THE FELLS

Composed of hardened volcanic rock and laced with crevices and mazes of underground mining tunnels. Shattered rock, like that in the foreground, covered the valleys.



BORRANS

Formations of these giant, smoothly polished boulders made deep nooks and crannies that provided excellent hiding places and dens for the fell fox.



PURPOSE:

The Lakeland is one of the oldest of the original working terriers. These are dogs whose purpose was not ratting but going to ground for large game such as badger, fox, otter and a variety of other fur bearing animals. Although he was used for badger digs, otter and even wildcats, the Lakeland's primary purpose was to **destroy** the mountain fox, which preyed on the farmer's sheep and poultry.

Sometimes called the 'dog fox', because of its size, this was a large fox, often weighing upwards of 18 pounds. Unlike the smaller plains fox that burrowed in the soft earth, the **fell** fox made his den high up the *fells* or deep inside the rocky borran. Using hounds and various terriers, the farmer hunted the fox by foot but once it reached the safety of the fells or plunged into a borran, both man and dog were unable to follow. The fox lived, not only to continue raiding the sheepfolds, but to multiply in great numbers. It was the desperate need for a dog that could pursue the fox into the fells and deep into his underground hiding places that brought about the creation of the Lakeland.

PERFORMING HIS JOB:

Hunting fox in the fells was not a sport, like it was in the more affluent south. The fell farmers were poor people who very existence depended on controlling predators that preyed on their livestock. Their dogs were working animals and had to earn their keep. While other terriers, particularly those used for sport, needed only to bold their prey or mark its location by "giving voice" (barking), the Lakeland was required to pursue the fox into the dark underground and to kill it.

The Lakeland did not ride in saddlebags, like the shorter legged terriers. Over the treacherous rocks, he traveled by foot, frequently accompanying the hound packs that were used to *trail* the fox and *run it to ground*. On other occasions, Lakelands were dispatched to a site after the hounds had *put a fox in*.

Often coupled in pairs or shackled, to prevent them from harassing the sheep or going off on their own and diving into an *earth*, they averaged upwards of 10 to 20 miles a day. When they reached the spot where the fox had taken refuge, the shackles were removed and the best dog or dogs for the situation was sent after it.

Working independently of the huntsmen, the Lakeland would go to ground in places too impossible to imagine. Scaling the jagged face of the fells with the dexterity of a cat, he sprang from ledge to rocky ledge. One misstep could hurtle him to his death. Inside the dark crevices and mine shafts, he navigated with the instincts of a mole, twisting and weaving his way trough the rocks. With incredible tenacity and courage, he battled both the fox and badger and anything else he encountered in the dark recesses.

In deadly limestone country, he followed the fox into the depths of the earth diving or falling into huge potholes and swimming though freezing cold, fast running streams. He fought and slayed his prey in icy underground waters or as he lay on his side in the cramped earth and "*traded blow for blow*".

On working the borran, Plummer writes, *“When a terrier goes to ground in such places, it is a duel ‘twixt dog and fox with only God as umpire, for the terrier man can do little to aid the dog once it has vanished after a fox into a crevice.”* Driving after his prey into these rocky depths, the Lakeland would squirm his way through the small gaps and fissures between the tightly packed boulders. Sometimes the fox would bolt to the waiting hounds, but more often than not the Lakeland battled and executed it alone. With the huntsmen helpless to free him, he had to possess enough strength to scale the polished surfaces or be left to freeze or starve to death.

The Lakeland functioned like a well-designed, finely tuned piece of machinery with every part of his body designed to assist him in performing his job. **His long legs, well laid back shoulders and powerful rear** gave him the **efficiency of movement** needed to travel huge distances. His **well-padded feet** allowed him to navigate over the sharp scree that covered the valleys. His **deep chest** provided ample heart and lung capacity while his great stamina gave him the strength to pursue the battle the fox after his long journey.

His **strength** and **dexterity** made him a **skillful climber** above or beneath the rocks. His **agility** and **sure-footedness** aided his great **jumping capability**.

Using his **head** as a **radar device** to determine where his **narrow body** would fit, he would wiggle and squeeze through the smallest of openings. The ability to flatten himself and his **extreme flexibility** allowed him to maneuver through the most constricted crevices, dragging himself along on either his belly or his side. Bracing his back against the wall of a vertical crag, he used his legs on the opposite wall to work himself upwards.

A **proficient swimmer**, the Lakeland’s **weatherproof coat** protected him from the freezing cold water underground and the driving rain, snow and bitter winds above ground. It was **loosely rooted** so that it would pull out in the teeth of his enemies but not so loose that it would rub off on the rocks and leave him unprotected. The furnishings on his face and legs ensured that a biting fox would choke on a mouthful of hair.

The **loose skin of his body** shielded vital organs from fatal bites but there was no slack skin at his throat for the fox to grab. A **keen sense of smell** and **acute hearing** assisted him in searching out the fox in the dark and his **long neck** allowed him to reach well into the rocks. His small, **deeply set eyes** safeguarded him from protruding rocks and other injury. Combining his **large teeth, powerful jaw** and **lightening speed**, he would kill the fox by first going for a throat hold and then, using a quick twisting action, he would finish it.

Above all else, the Lakeland was known for his courage and endurance, which were surely responsible for his high tolerance to pain. His stable temperament made him sensible and even-tempered, allowing him to **coexist peacefully with other dogs**. His **gameness and tenacity** were tempered with **shrewdness** and **discretion**, preventing the **fight to the death** mentality, which **was not favored** in the Lakes.

The Lakeland's reputation as a **fierce** and **fearless** hunter is legendary. Tales of his courage have been passed down through many generations in stories and ballads. So highly valued was a good dog that huntsmen would go to extraordinary lengths, including the use of dynamite, to free a trapped dog from what could, and countless times did, become an underground grave. The many accounts of great rescue attempts are evidence of the deep bond that existed between these terrier men and their dogs.

DEVELOPMENT:

Several theories exist as to the Fell Terrier's exact origins, but early photos and records point to a mixture of the harsh coated, old black and tan and a variety of other terrier types. Early Bedlingtons were used for tenacity and gameness, Borders for shrewdness and courage and early Irish to improve the coat. The Dandie was used for his strong jaw, and possibly the Airedale for stamina.

At the time the Fell was developed, dogs were bred solely for working ability. Appearance was not a priority and the Fell was a rough looking, leggy dog, bearing only a slight resemblance to today's Lakeland. Dog shows changed all of that! By the 1880's shows were being held regularly in the Lake District. These were agriculture events for working ability but despite their gameness, the poorer Fell types could not win. To improve appearance, breeders began to add Wire Fox to their bloodlines. The Fell took on a more compact look, becoming shorter on leg with fuller furnishings and in 1912 a group of breeders decided the new type should be renamed the Lakeland Terrier.

The use of Wire Fox and even smaller Irish types and Welsh continued. The formation of a Lakeland club eventually brought a halt to these breeding practices and began a movement to regain type. Lakelands were then bred only to their own kind and by the 1930's breed type had been set.

JUDGING THE LAKELAND

The Lakeland enjoys immense success in the show ring all over the world but all too often many of the dogs we see are closer to Wire and Welsh in type. The standard does little to alleviate the problem and in many cases adds to it with its use of general terms and wording that is almost identical to other terrier standards.

The standard, on its own, does little to allow one to develop a picture of type and should be viewed as a general description and an outline for determining faults. It is possible for a dog to conform quite closely to this description, possess few faults and yet look very little like a Lakeland. Hence, the ever popular **generic** "good terrier". Breeders and judges must be able to determine when a fault ceases to be a fault and becomes a deviation from type - taking away from that overall look that is typical of the breed.

TYPE AND THE STANDARD

By relating the standard to the work the dog performed (form and function) one can develop an idea of the *look* of the breed. There are several features key to Lakeland type. The **General Appearance** as stated in the standard is an excellent beginning for understanding the Lakeland:

The Lakeland Terrier was bred to hunt vermin in the rugged shale mountains of the Lake District of northern England. He is a small, workmanlike dog of square, sturdy build. His body is deep and relatively narrow which allows him to squeeze into rocky dens. He has sufficient length of let under him to cover rough ground easily. His neck is long, leading smoothly into high withers and a short topline ending in a high tailset. His attitude is gay, friendly and self-confident, but not overly aggressive. He is alert and ready to go. His movement is lithe graceful, with a straight ahead, free stride of good length. His head is rectangular, jaws powerful and ears V-shaped. A dense, wiry coat is finished off with longer furnishings on muzzle and legs.

HEAD

Nothing defines character and type more than the Lakelands headpiece. The importance of the dog's expression cannot be overstated.

The **SKULL** is flat on top and moderately broad, it should be **shorter & proportionally thicker throughout** than the heads of the other 4 breeds. There should be a barely perceptible stop. A strong full **MUZZLE** whose nose bridge is broad with good underjaw is required for the Lakeland to perform his duties. The head should have a **balanced blockish-rectangular shape in appearance** rather than the long rectangular shaped head with extra foreface.



The Lakeland head is often described as a brick but the same has been said of both the Welsh and Airedale heads, which are very different from that of the Lakeland.

It must be stressed that the Lakeland head is not as long as the heads of the other four breeds. The skull is more of a square with the width approximately equal in the length (from

stop to occiput), which is equal again to the length of the muzzle. It is moderately wide, **never** as narrow as the Wire. It should almost have a chunky appearance but without coarseness. The length of muzzle should **never** exceed the length of the skull. Cheeks should be clean and almost straight sided.

Untypical head: one that is as long as the Wire or Welsh, length of muzzle exceeding length of skull, length of muzzle shorter than length of skull (Border type), narrow skull (Wire), overly wide skull, snipey muzzle.

Important Note: One seldom sees a Lakeland being examined for the important quality of fill. The fullness of a Lakeland's fall can easily hide a weak muzzle or one that drops off beneath the eyes, therefore, a judge should run his hand down the skull, over the eyes and down the muzzle to ensure the dog has adequate fill and a broad nose bridge.

The **EARS** are often considered to be a cosmetic feature. The ear is an **important factor** in setting type.

The Standard calls for a *small, V shaped ear with the fold just above the level of the skull. The inside edge is close to the cheek and the flap points toward the outside corner of the eye.*



The tip of the ear should be approximately level with the corner of the eye. The Lakeland ear breaks just above the skull and points down by the outside corner of the eye. The Welsh ear is slightly higher set and points more to the center of the eye. The Wire Fox ear is the highest set of all and points more to the inside corner of the eye. It is important that the ears be **mobile** and not have the **dead, pasted too the head** look.

Untypical: large ear, hound ear – one that breaks below the level of the skull, one hanging down on the cheek, high set Wire Fox type ear, flying ears or prick ears.

Example of High Set Ears

The **EYES** reflect the general character and mood of the Lakeland.

They should be *moderately small and somewhat oval*. The eye of the Lakeland is somewhat larger



than that of the Welsh or Wire. This slightly larger eye creates the gentler inquisitive look so typical of the Lakeland. They should be black or dark brown, except that in liver or liver/tan dogs a lighter eye from hazel to warm brown is acceptable. The eye rims should be black with brown or liver colored rims for the liver colored dogs.

Untypical: A light or yellow eye is a serious fault. A large and/or round eye, overly small eye, light eye rims. An eye that was large or protruding was open to injury when the dog poked his head into small openings. Judges should ensure that an abundance of furnishings over the eye does not hide eye faults.

The **EXPRESSION** depending on the dog's mood can be intense, determined, gay or impish. It can also be disinterested but should never be one of fear. The relatively wide placement of the eyes and full "fall" of hair over the eyes tend to soften the Lakeland's expression.

Untypical: The hard expression of the Welsh or Wire

The **NOSE** is black and prominent. Liver colored noses and lips are acceptable in liver-coated dogs. The nose should be of good size. A pink nose shows a serious lack of pigment, which detracts from the typical. Although a "winter nose" or faded pigment is permitted (usually seen in solid Red and Wheaten colored dogs after periods of little or no sunlight) it is not desirable.

The **JAWS** *must be powerful and the teeth comparatively large and meet in either a level, edge to edge bite or a slightly overlapping scissors bite. Teeth that are undershot shall disqualify.* A wry mouth should be penalized according to the degree of severity. Due to the Lakeland's very large teeth, bites are a serious concern in the breed.

NECK, BODY and TOPLINE



The **NECK** *is reachy and of good length, refined but strong, clean at the throat, slightly arched and widens gradually into the shoulders.*

Untypical: A short neck (Welsh type), thick neck (Welsh type), extreme length (Wire type), ewe neck. Judges must view a short and/or thick neck as a **serious deviation from type**. They should also examine the point at which the neck meets the body. Skillful grooming and fill can give the appearance of a long neck and a better lay back of shoulder.

While the Lakeland's **FRONT** is narrow, it should never be pinched with the front legs coming out of the same hole. As well as determining how the shoulders are laid on, the rib cage influences how far apart the legs are set. In comparing the proportion of width-of-head to width-of front ***they should not be equal but the front should be narrow enough to follow where the head fits.***



Untypical: an overly narrow front, a wide front (Bull Terrier type).

FOREQUARTERS

An important feature which distinguishes the Lakeland front from other non-terrier breeds is the shorter upper arm. Although there should be some cutback so the front legs are set under the dog, the legs should not be set as far under as a sporting dog. The Lakeland should have **some fore chest** and his legs should never dangle off the front.

REMEMBER: Straightness in the terrier front refers to the forelegs.

The **FORELEGS** should be strong boned, clean and *absolutely straight when viewed from the front or side, devoid of appreciable bend at the pastern.*

Judges should always examine for thick, well-padded round **FEET**. The toes should be compact without splay and have strong nails.

The **SHOULDERS** are *sloping, well laid back*. The shoulder blade is long in proportion to the upper arm allowing for a reasonable angulation. The shoulder blades should be well knit or close together. The **flexible** shoulder assembly is **critical** for the Lakeland to jump, spring, dig and wiggle into the rocky dens. The **ELBOWS** must be held close to the body when standing or moving. To check for proper layback, a vertical plumb line dropped straight down from just behind the point at the top of the shoulder should fall just behind the elbow.

Untypical: Upright shoulders, over muscled and “loaded” or set too far apart.

The **CHEST** is moderately narrow, deep, extending to elbows. The **RIBS** are *well sprung and moderately round*.

How narrow is moderately narrow, how sprung is well sprung and how round is moderately round. The standard for the Wire Fox calls for ribs to be well sprung but his rib cage differs greatly from the Lakeland's.

Remember that the Lakeland had to get his body into any space where his head would fit. The Lakeland does this by wiggling and squeezing though, first one shoulder then the other.

Untypical: slab-sided, overly round or barreled rib cage.



Although his withers are noticeably higher, the Lakeland's **TOPLINE** should be level. Judges should check for fill to ensure that skillful grooming is not hiding a dip in the center of the top line or a low tail set. Conversely, a high rear can be camouflaged by keeping the hair shorter over the loin and in front of the tail. While moving, the dog's top line should remain level with no roll.

The overall length-to-height proportion dog is approximately square, the **BACK** is short and

level, the **LOIN** taut and short, although a slightly longer loin is permitted in bitches.

The Lakeland had to be **slightly longer through the loin** than the Wire, Welsh or Airedale to allow him to twist, turn and maneuver his way through the narrow crevices.

Untypical: too short in back (Wire type), too long in back (Irish type)

HINDQUARTERS

The **HIND LEGS** should be *strong and sturdy with the lower thigh long and nicely angulated at stifles and hocks*. The **HOCKS** should be *well let down (short)*. *When viewed from the rear, the bones from hock to toe must be straight and parallel to each other. Feet are the same as forefeet.*

The rear should be well muscled with an obvious ledge behind the tail. When standing freely, the hind legs should **not** be set underneath him. Viewed from the side, the hocks should be at a 90-degree angle to the ground. The toes should point straight ahead. Judges should ensure that skillful shaping of the furnishings is not hiding faults.

Untypical: a dog that is straight in stifle, or an over-angulated dog.

The **TAIL** is *set high on the body. The carriage is gay or upright, slight curve in the direction of the head is desirable*. Curled over the back is faulty. It is docked so that when set up, the tip of the tail is in line with the top of the skull. The tail that is docked too short is a man-made fault but detracts from the overall look. A tail that is carried anything but up is a

serious deviation from type and indicates an untypical attitude. Tail should be strong and of good substance. An upright tail or one that flops over to the side can indicate tampering.



Untypical: One, which curls over or lies on the back. Weedy or rat-like (Bedlington)

COAT AND COLOR

*A two-ply or double, outer **COAT** that is hard and wiry, the undercoat soft. Furnishings plentiful as opposed to profuse.*

The appearance should be neat and workmanlike. The body coat is approximately 1 to 1 1/2 inch in length and may be straight or slightly wavy. The legs are trimmed to appear cylindrical. The face is trimmed with full “fall” over the eyes to cover from above but with the eyes quite apparent from the front view. Thus giving the Lakeland his own unique expression. A Lakeland should never be shown in a clipped coat nor should it have been scissored. The under coat, while dense, should never overpower the wiry outer coat.

Untypical: a soft coat, clipped coat or scissored furnishings.

The Lakeland comes in the widest variety of **COLORS** of the Terrier breeds. All ten colors as described in the standard are equally acceptable. The **tan** as desirable in a Lakeland is a light wheaten or straw color and **should never be the rich red or dark mahogany of the Irish, Airedale or Welsh**. A small patch of white on the chest is permissible.

The furnishings on the legs and face are a lighter shade than the tan found elsewhere on the body, particularly the ears. Lighter colored hair appears less visible and may cause illusions that appear to be faults. A dog that is the same color all over, with no varying shades is quite possibly artificially colored. A judge must decide what he/she is willing to tolerate in the way of grooming preparations and he must be consistent. If chalk were to be accepted in Westies, it would be hypocritical to penalize color in Lakelands. Having said that, I want to stress the fact that a Lakeland should **never** be the color of a Welsh or Airedale.

Untypical: rich red or dark mahogany tan (Welsh type), white other than a small patch on chest.

TEMPERMENT

The typical **TEMPERMENT** is *bold, gay and friendly with a self-confident, cock-of-the-walk attitude. Shyness, especially shy-sharpness in the mature specimen is to be heavily penalized.*

Contrary to the beliefs of many, even some breeders, the Lakeland should **never** be aggressive. This was a dog that worked in packs and had to be able to coexist with other dogs. **Aggression in this breed should be discouraged and penalized. It is not typical.** A Lakie who is alert, focused and up on his toes is a sight to behold and although this effect can be achieved by sparring, it should be approached carefully. Few exhibitors have the experience and know how to spar their dogs and a Lakeland is not going to tolerate having another dog shoved in his face.

Please **REMEMBER** an air of boredom and disinterest towards other dogs, giving the impression that they are beneath him, is totally acceptable.

Untypical: shyness, fear and aggression. Shy-sharpness must be heavily penalized.



GAIT

The **MOVEMENT** should *be straight and free with a good length of stride*. The ability to cover ground efficiently, with a minimum number of steps, was essential for a dog that traveled so far. One with stilted movement or wasted action would not have endured. In ideal Lakeland movement, the front leg swings straight forward, like a pendulum, with little bend at the pastern. The rear foot should step into almost the same vacated by the front foot.

Viewed from the side, the front leg should extend no further than the tip of the nose. An upright shoulder will restrict the dog's reach, preventing the front leg from swinging back the necessary distance.

The hind leg provides the propulsion and as it pushes off the ground, the “**flex of hock**” thrusts the dog's body forward and the hind leg extends out behind the rear. It should not fly way out behind like many Kerry Blue Terriers do. This is wasted action and although it looks flashy in the ring, a dog moving in this fashion would collapse in a very short distance. The rear leg should not move in an up and down fashion.



Viewing the dog from the rear, as it moves away, only the hind legs should be visible. The hocks should be absolutely parallel and not overly far apart with toes pointed straight ahead. As he propels himself forward and the hock flexes, the pad of the foot is just visible. Watching the position of the pads can give clues to faults that have been disguised by grooming.

Viewed from the front, only the front legs should be visible and should swing straight ahead with the feet the same distance apart as the elbows. The elbows should be held close to but move free from the body. As the dogs' speed increases, the feet will converge slightly toward the center of the body.

A well-balanced dog should move true, in a straight line. Crabbing indicates a serious lack of balance. A skilled handler can conceal incorrect movement. Lakeland's should not be

moved too quickly – the handler should not run with the dog – and they should always be moved on a **loose lead**. Efficiency in covering ground is of primary importance and the smaller faults of toeing in or moving close should be accepted before the faults of stilted or wasted movement.

SIZE

The **IDEAL HEIGHT** is *14 ½” at the withers with a deviation of ½” either way. Bitches can be up to 1” less.* The Standard states *balance and proportion are of primary importance.* All too often judges forget this fact. The current winning fad seems to be to reward the 15 ½ to 16 ½ inch dogs.

Please **REMEMBER** for a desired 14 ½ inch dog, rewarding a 1 to 2 inch deviation is a substantial difference. Symmetry and proportion are paramount in visualizing the ideal Lakeland Terrier.

The Lakeland is the one of the smallest of the long-legged terriers. In keeping with type, he should not be larger than the Welsh nor should he be a great deal smaller. Although he should never approach the stockiness of the Welsh, he should have a good amount of bone and substance for his size to enable him to do his job. The weight of a mature 14 ½ “ Lakeland male should be around 17 pounds while a similar sized 15” Welsh male should be around 20 pounds and the 15 ½” Wire Fox male comes in at 18 pounds.

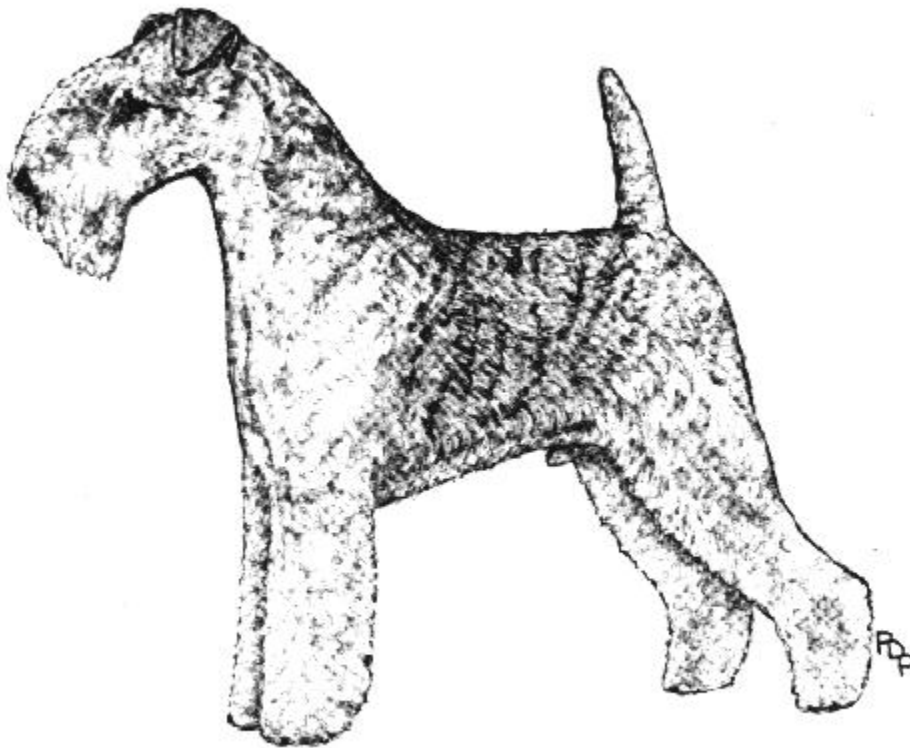


Untypical: too refined, racy, weedy, lacking substance, coarse, over muscled, overly large or small

METAMORPHOSIS



"IN THE ROUGH"



THE SAME DOG "RING READY"

AN OVERVIEW

I believe **TYPE** to be the single most important factor in judging the Lakeland. If other qualities were more important, it would not be necessary to separate dogs by breed. They could all be judged together with the soundest ones receiving the awards.

In breeds as uncommon as the Lakeland, judges do not have the opportunity to see enough dogs to develop a clear image of the ideal and have to work that much harder to grasp the essence of the breed. No amount of studying history and the standard is going to take the place of studying dogs and a judge should avail himself of every opportunity to see as many representatives of a breed as possible. I encourage each of you to attend the Montgomery County shows in Pennsylvania as well as the Great Western Terrier Association shows in California.

The first impressions that should come to mind when visualizing the Lakeland are of a **lithe, narrow** dog, of **good substance** and **strength for his size**. He is moderate, falling between the extreme elegance of the Wire and the extreme workmanlike build of the Welsh.

The Lakeland should give the appearance of being **swift, incredibly agile, alert, up on his toes and ready to go at all times**. The Lakeland's **character and expression** are immediately evident when viewing the **ears, eyes and nose**. His **friendly, bold** nature exudes **self-confidence** and, although he **knows no fear**, he is **never aggressive**.

Once a judge has determined which of the specimens before him are typical and have the "look" of the Lakeland, he can turn his attention to assessing virtues and faults. Careful attention must be paid to the grooming of the areas covered with furnishings. A judge must be sure he is viewing structure rather than an outline created by a talented artist. His hands must be his eyes.

In conclusion, I wish you much success in judging terriers in general and Lakeland's in particular. May you grow to enjoy this breed – his criminal mind, devilish sense of fun and good humor – and may you never have a dull moment in your Terrier ring.

Harold "Red" Tatro, III
Redglen Lakeland Terriers & Whippets

CREDITS

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SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS

An Illustrated Discussion of the Standard of the Lakeland Terrier, USLTC

Chronicles of the Lakeland Terrier, Frank Jones

The Fell Terrier, D. Brian Plummer

The Lakeland Terrier, Pat Rock

I'm a Lakeland Terrier, let me introduce myself, USLTC

The Lakeland Terrier Video, American Kennel Club

Terriers of the World, Their History and Characteristics, Horner, Farber

The Book of All Terriers, Marvin

Sport with Terriers, Patricia Lent

Working Terriers, JC Jeremy Hobson

Lakeland Terrier, Patricia Peters

The Lakeland Terrier, Seymour Weiss