

**Ringside Evaluation of the Welsh Terrier:
Introduction to Welsh Terrier Type
WTCA Membership Education
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What is Ringside Assessment?

Ringside assessment is the assessment made by observers sitting ringside. It does not allow for hands-on assessment of the dog and therefore does not allow for an assessment of the entire essence of the breed.

This short tutorial is intended to be an introductory overview of breed type. It is not an in-depth discussion of every aspect of the Welsh Terrier Breed Standard. It focuses primarily on features that can be easily seen from ringside.

Throughout this tutorial, text in *italics* comes directly from the Welsh Terrier Standard or Annotated Standard.



Recognizing Breed Type is Essential in Ringside Evaluation

In judging dogs, breed type is fundamental.
The question is – What is type?



What is Breed Type?

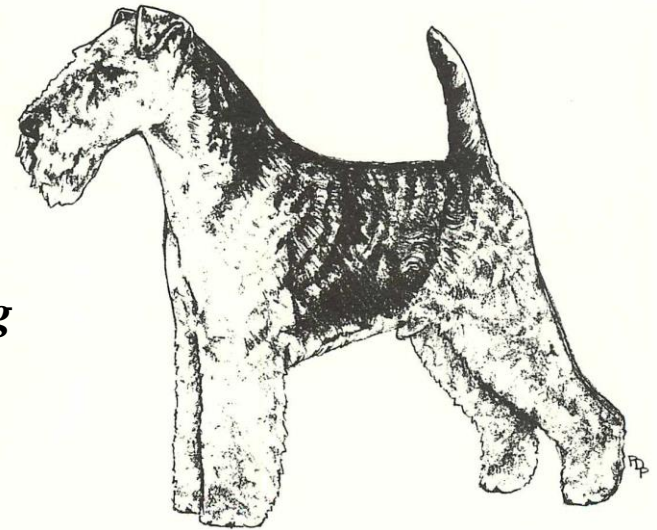
- Type infers that a set of features listed in the Standard are all present and in the right proportion. (Robert W. Cole)
- Type is the essence of a breed and may be defined as the picture or image of a breed derived from those characteristics that make the breed different and distinctive from all others. Type characteristics are often overlooked in evaluating dogs, but one must remember that without type, the identity of the breed is lost. (Ed Bivin)
- Type is the sum of those points that make a dog look like its own breed and no other. (Tom Horner)
- Type should have an unmistakable present at first glance. It must be specific, it should not be subtle, and it will never be generic. (Dennis O'Connor)
- Type is the sum of qualities that distinguish dogs of one breed. (AKC)



The Welsh Terrier - General Appearance

The Essence of Welsh Terrier Breed Type

A sturdy, compact, rugged dog of medium size with a coarse wire-textured coat. The legs, underbody and head are tan; the jacket black (or occasionally grizzle). The tail is docked to length meant to complete the image of a "square dog" approximately as high as he is long. The movement is a terrier trot typical of the long-legged terrier. It is effortless, with good reach and drive. The Welsh Terrier is friendly, outgoing to people and other dogs, showing spirit and courage. The "Welsh Terrier expression" comes from the set, color, and position of the eyes combined with the use of the ears.

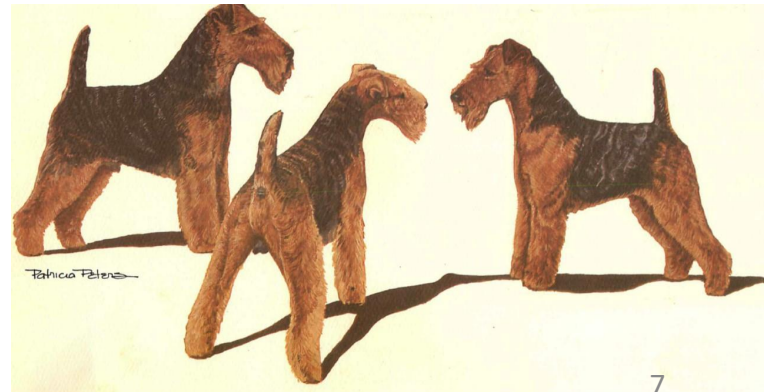


(From Welsh Terrier Breed Standard; Illustration from WT Annotated Standard)

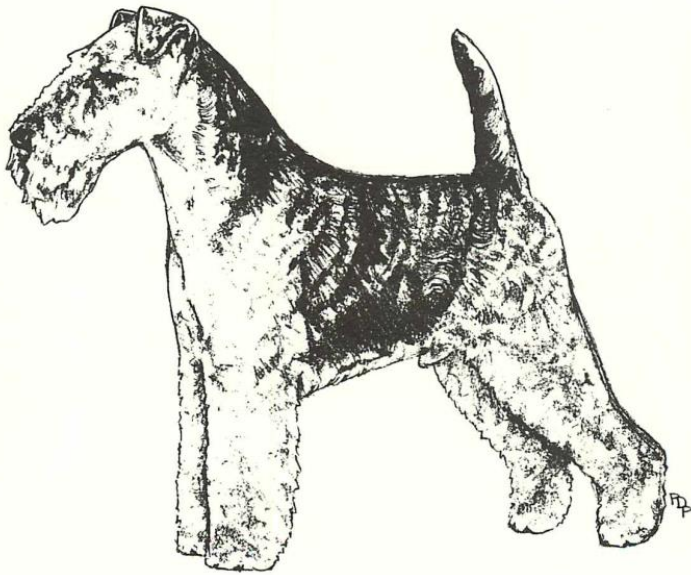
Elements of Breed Type*

- Outline or silhouette
- Head
- Movement at trot
- Coat - color, texture, markings

*from Robert W. Cole, An Eye for a Dog



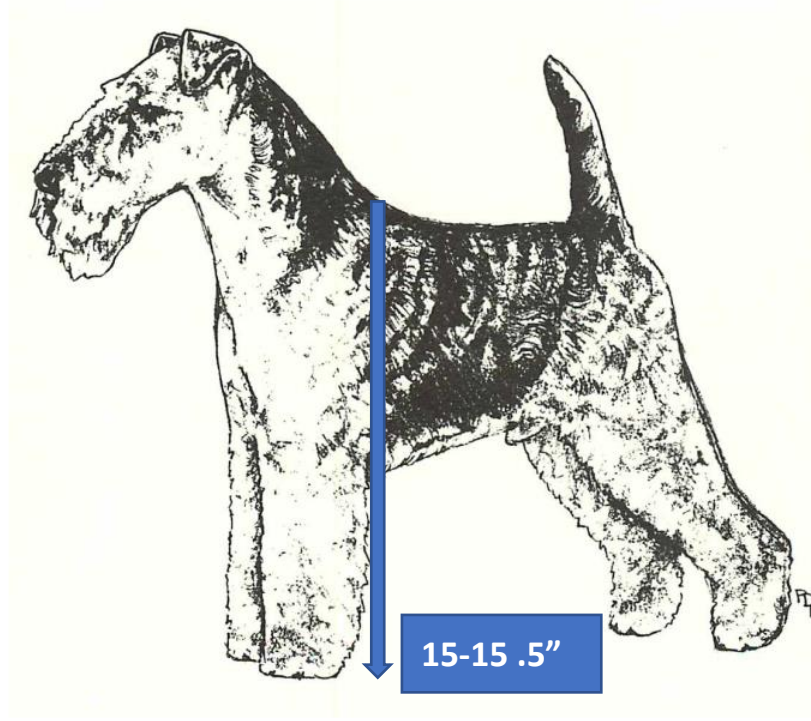
The Welsh Terrier Outline



Compact, sturdy, rugged. Of medium size (male 15 - 15 ½ inches) and good substance. Neck moderate in length and thickness, slightly arched and sloping gracefully into the shoulders, which are well laid back. Well ribbed. Good depth of brisket and moderate width of chest. Loin strong and moderately short. Hindquarters strong and muscular. Legs straight and muscular with upright and powerful pasterns. Stifles well bent, hocks short and parallel. Tail docked to a be level with occiput and to complete the image of a "square dog." Root of tail set well up on the back. Tail carried upright.

(From WT Standard; Illustration from WT Annotated Standard)

The Welsh Terrier Outline: Size and Substance

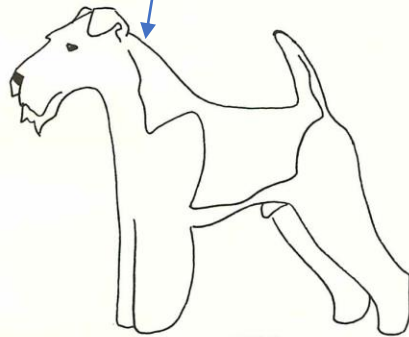


Medium size (male 15 to 15 ½ inches) and good substance (male 20 pounds but may vary a few pounds based on height and bone density). (WT Standard; Illustration from WT Annotated Standard)

Note: Measurement is from the withers or the highest point of the shoulders right behind the base of the neck. Withers are often called the upper tips of the scapula.

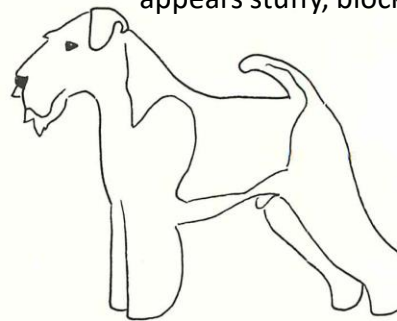
The Welsh Terrier Outline: Neck and Shoulders

Ideal neck is slightly arched



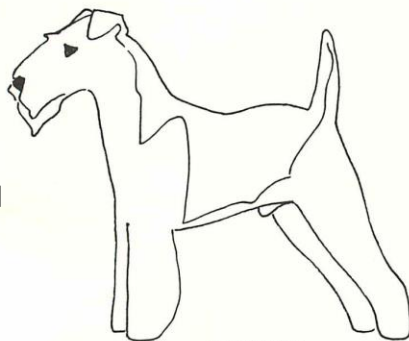
IDEAL

Thick neck set onto steep shoulders is short and out of proportion. Neck appears stuffy, blocky.

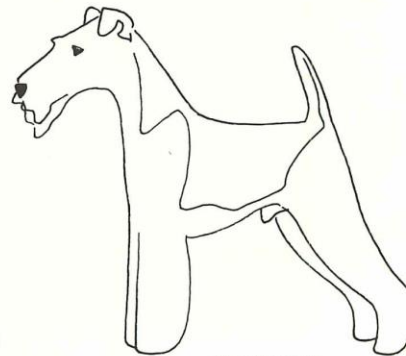


THICK NECK

Ewe neck is concave on the neckline and abruptly joins the shoulders and back. Usually lacks muscle support



EWE NECK

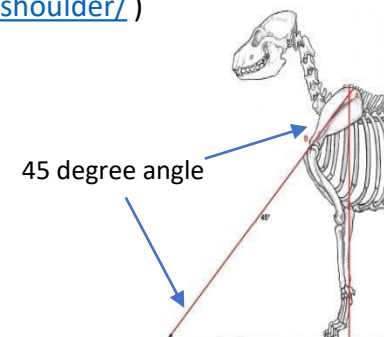


SWAN NECK

Swan neck is elongated and tubular shaped

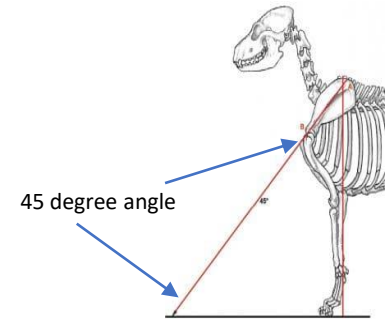
Neck moderate in length and thickness, slightly arched and sloping gracefully into the shoulders, which are well laid back. (WT Standard; Illustration on left from WT Annotated Standard)

Note: A well laid-back shoulder is at about a 45-degree angle to the ground and is laid against the upper front section of the chest. This angle allows the dog to stand well over its forelegs. (Illustration below from <https://showsightmagazine.com/canine-front-laid-back-shoulder/>)



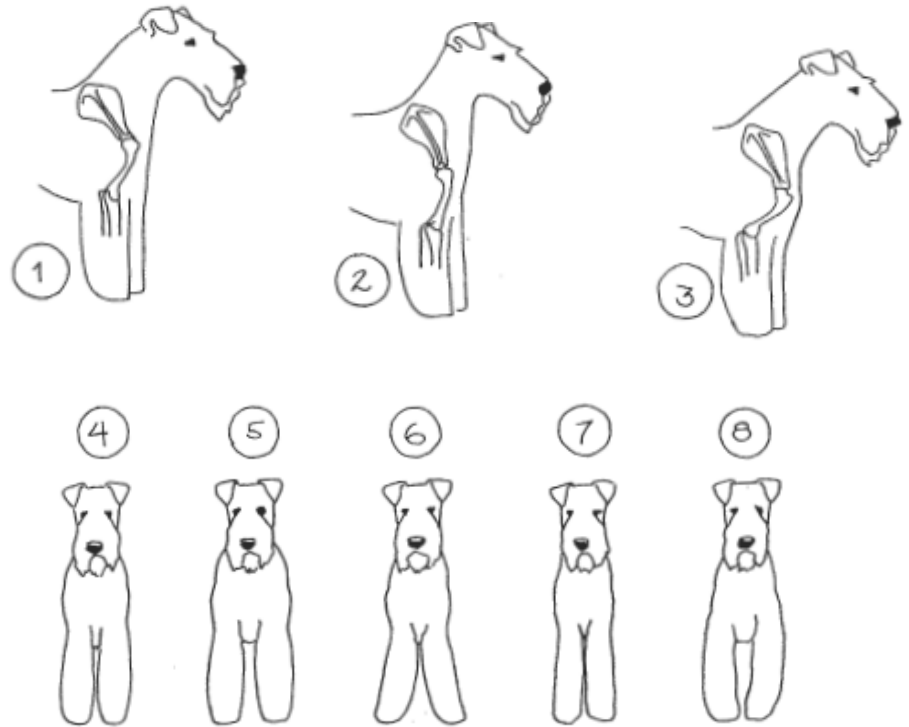
The Welsh Terrier Outline: The Front

The front is straight. The shoulders are long, sloping, and well laid back



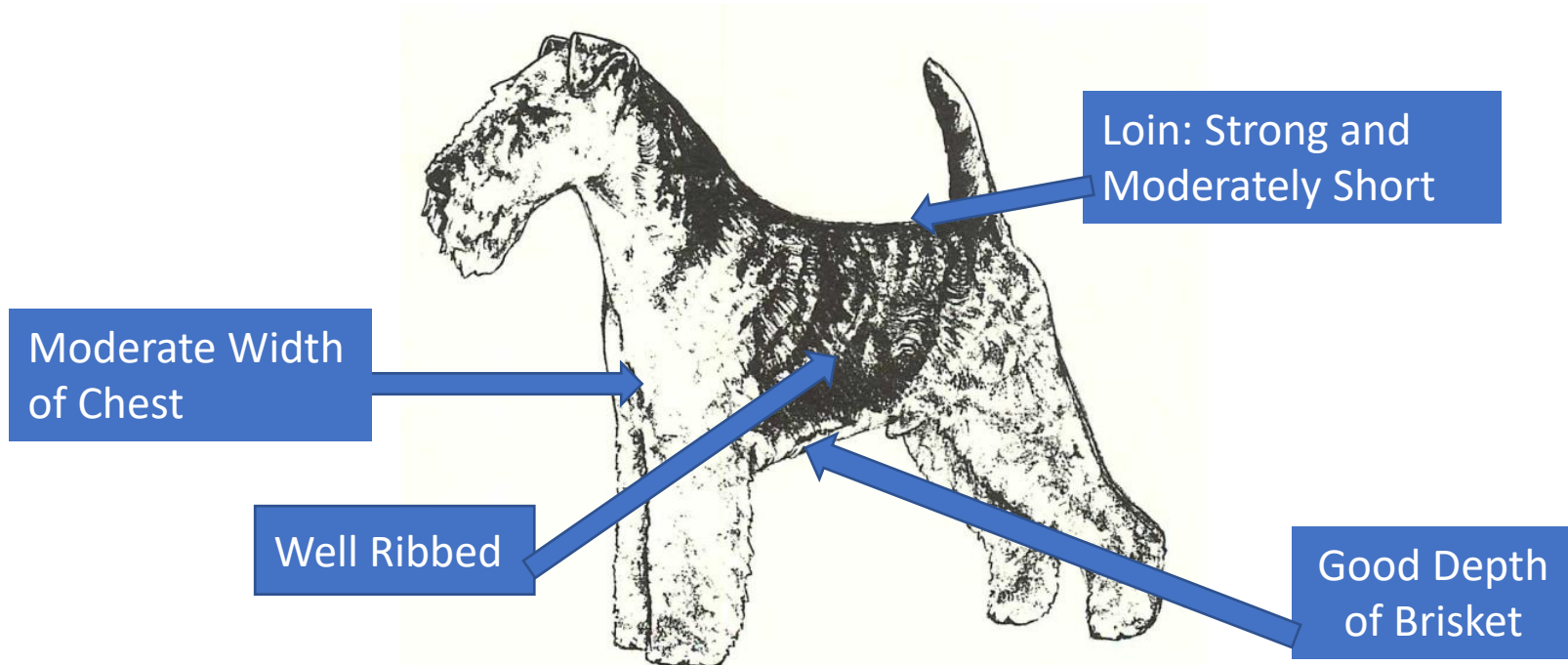
Standing

1. Correct
2. Shoulder and upper arm (humerus) lack angulation
3. Shoulders upright, humerus over-angulated (chicken-breasted, head and neck thrust forward)
4. Correct
5. Loaded in shoulders, too wide
6. A-Frame, often toe out, bound in at elbows
7. Too narrow, lacks forechest and body
8. Bow-legged, often toe-in, out at elbows



From WT Standard and Welsh Terrier Annotated Standard

The Welsh Terrier Outline: Body

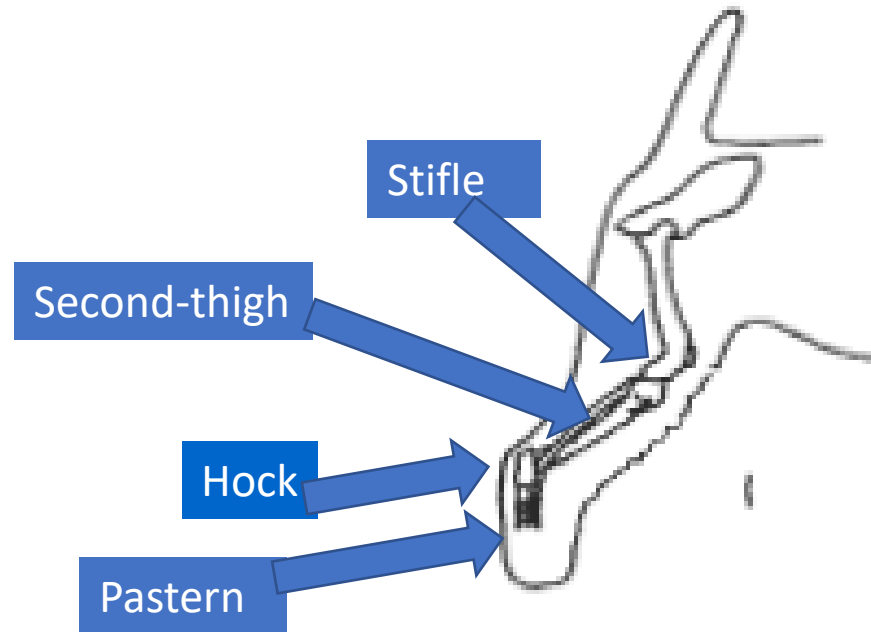


Well ribbed. Good depth of brisket. Moderate width of chest. Loin strong and moderately short. (WT Standard; Illustration from WT Annotated Standard)

Notes: Well ribbed means the length of the ribcage, measured from most forward part of the first rib (prosternum or the first rib making up the most forward part of chest) to the last rib (located at the most forward part of the coupling or loin). A well-ribbed dog is short coupled (little space between the ribs and hips). Spring of Rib is the degree of curvature of the ribs. How the ribs come off the vertebrae. Brisket – Also called the keel or sternum is the lower curve outline of the chest or ribcage. Loin – the back between the end of the rib cage and the beginning of the pelvic bone

Welsh Terrier Outline: Hindquarters

The hindquarters are strong and muscular, with well-developed second thighs and the stifles well bent. Legs straight and muscular with upright and powerful pasterns. Hocks are moderately straight, parallel and short from joint to ground (WT Standard; Illustration from WT Annotated Standard)



Stifle – The knee on the back leg. Turn of stifle is the angle made by the bones making up the stifle (femur, tibia, fibula). Second Thigh – Located from the stifle to the hock (includes the tibia and fibula). Hock – The ankle. The joint at the lower junction of the tibia and fibula and the bones of the rear pastern. Length of hock is the distance from the top of the hock joint to the ground. Pastern – the area between the hock and foot

Welsh Terrier Outline: Hindquarters — Correct vs Faults

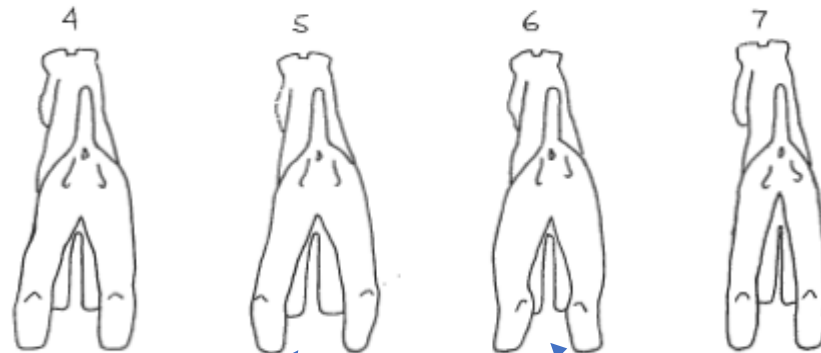
1. *Correct*
2. *Straight*
3. *Over-angulated, sickle hocked*



3 Sickle hocked – rear pasterns sloping inward under body

Standing

4. *Correct*
5. *Open-hocked*
6. *Cow-hocked*
7. *Narrow*

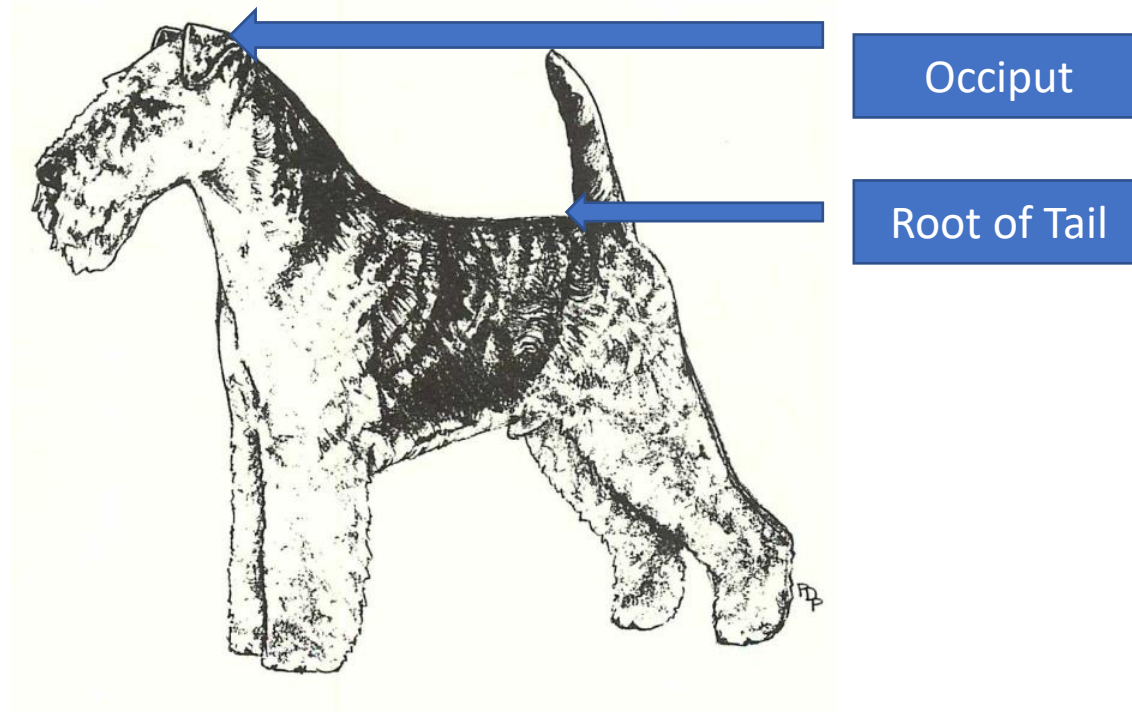


Open-hocked (also barrel hocked or spread hocked) – hocks turned outward, causing feet to toe in

Cow-hocked – point of hocks pointed inwards, causing the feet to turn out

WT Standard; Illustration from WT Annotated Standard

The Welsh Terrier Outline: Tail



Tail is docked to a level with occiput. Root of tail set well up on the back. Tail carried upright. (Welsh Terrier Standard; Illustration from WT Annotated Standard)

Note: Occiput - The bump or protuberance seen/felt at the back of the skull.
Root of tail – Where the tail sets onto the dog's body

Welsh Terrier Outline: A Square Dog

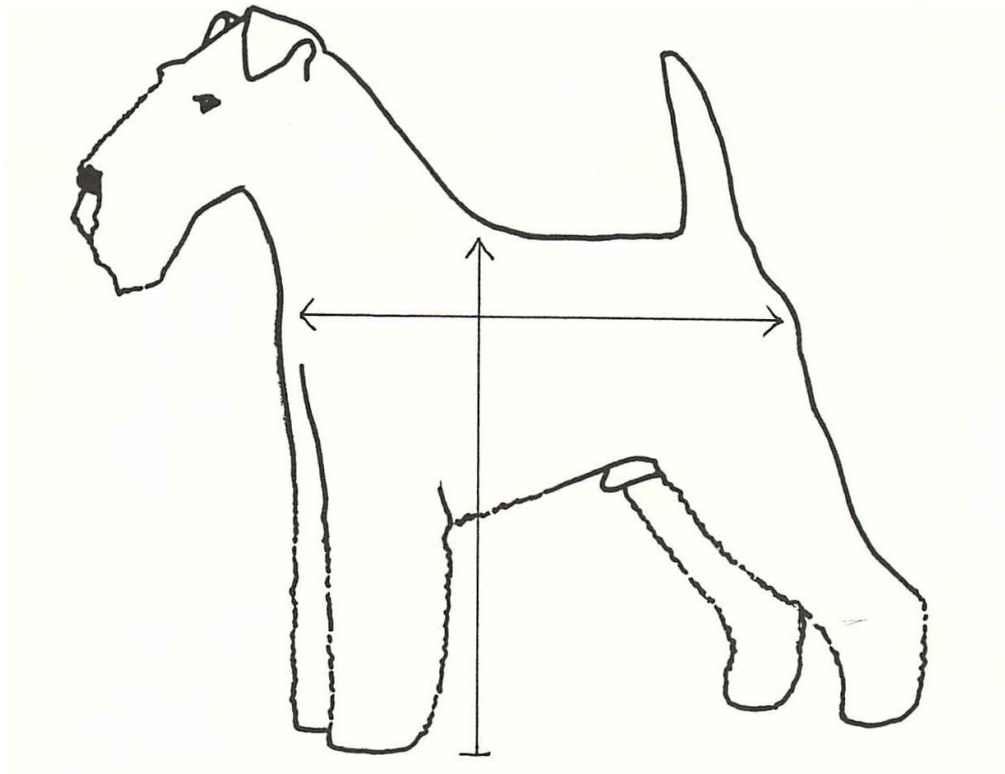
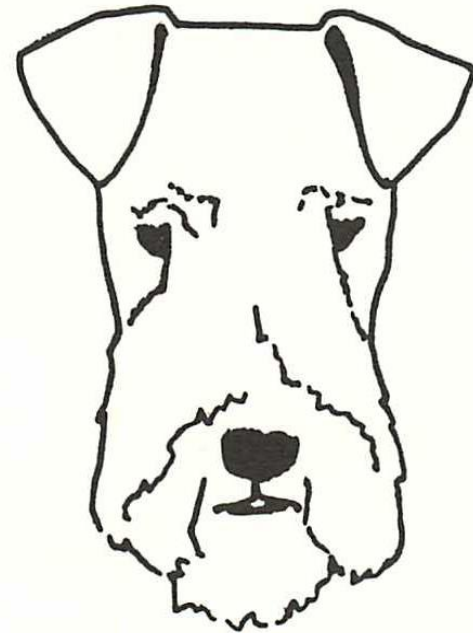


Illustration from WT Annotated Standard

The Welsh Terrier Head: Overview

- *Rectangular (entire head)*
- *Eyes Almond Shaped, Small, Dark Brown, Well Set in Skull, Fairly Wide Apart*
- *Ears Small, V Shaped, Not too Thin, Fold just Above Topline of skull, Carried Forward Close to Cheek, Tips of Ears Falling to or Toward Outside Corner of Eyes when at rest. Ears move slightly up and forward when at attention.*
- *Back Skull Smooth and Flat (not domed) between ears. No wrinkles between ears.*
- *Foreface Strong with Powerful, Punishing Jaws. Slightly Narrower Than Back skull. Foreface in Front of Eyes Well Made Up.*
- *Foreface and Back Skull on Parallel Planes in Profile and Equal in Length. Slight Stop*
- *Cheeks Flat and Clean (Not Bulging)*
- *Muzzle Strong and Squared off. Never Snipy*
- *Nose Black and Squared Off*
- *Lips Black and Tight*
- *Bite – Scissors Bite Preferred. Complete Dentition. Teeth Large and Strong, Set-in Powerful Vise-Like Jaws.*

Note: Many of the above cannot be assessed from ringside and are listed here for completeness

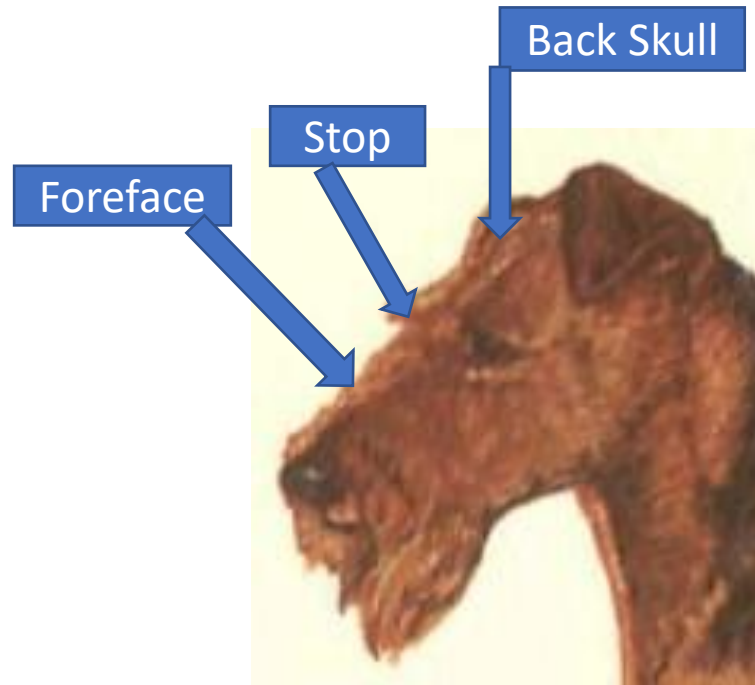


From Welsh Terrier Standard.
Illustration from WT Annotated Standard

The Welsh Terrier Head

- *Back skull Smooth and Flat. Equal in Length to Foreface.*
- *Back Skull/Foreface: Parallel Planes in Profile.*
- *Foreface Slightly Narrower Than Back skull. Foreface in Front of Eyes Well Made Up.*
- *Slight Stop*

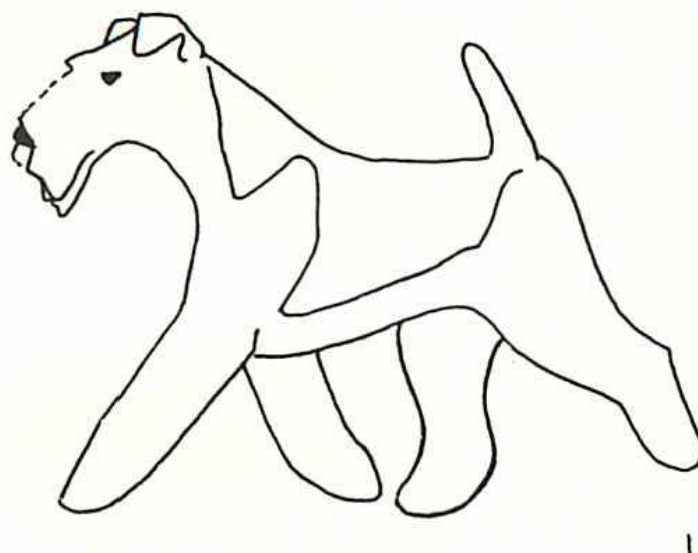
From Welsh Terrier Standard. Illustration from WT Annotated Standard



Back skull –From the stop to the back point of the skull. Foreface or muzzle – Comprised of the upper and lower jaw. Measured from the stop. Stop – The slight indentation between the foreface and back skull. Well Made Up as used above means there is fill or substance to the boney structure under the eyes.

The Welsh Terrier Gait

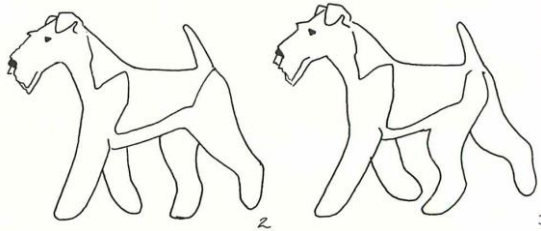
- *Movement is straight, free and effortless*
- *Good reach in front and strong drive behind*
- *Feet naturally tending to converge toward a median line of travel as speed increases.*



Correct Gait

From Welsh Terrier Annotated Standard

Examples of Incorrect Side Gait



2. *Mincing short stride, lacking angulation at both ends.*

3. *Pacing*

4. *Sickle-hocked behind, padding (striking with the back of forefoot causing a jolt every time a foot hits the ground). Also running downhill. All created by too much angulation behind and straight in front.*



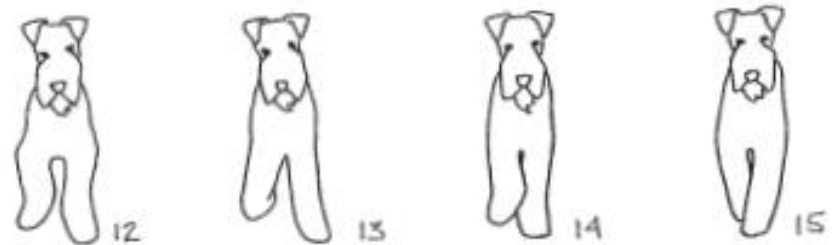
5. *Hackney gait. Prancing, inefficient exertion. Doesn't cover ground. Too busy going up and down.*

6. *Crabbing or side-winding.*

From WT Annotated Standard

Welsh Terrier Front Movement

- 9. *Correct, moving on parallel planes, toeing neither in nor out. Elbows close to body*
- 10. *Correct, as the dog picks up speed there is a tendency to converge toward a median line of travel – not single tracking*
- 11. *Too wide, bowed*
- 12. *Weaving*
- 13. *Tied at elbows, paddling*
- 14. *Towing out – narrow front*
- 15. *Single tracking*



From Welsh Terrier Annotated Standard

Welsh Terrier Hindquarters Movement

8. *Correct, parallel tracking, hocks straight*
9. *Correct, as the dog picks up speed there is a tendency to converge toward a median line of travel*
10. *Moving too wide, "breach" rear*
11. *Cow-hocked*
12. *Moving close, stifles turning out, hocks rotated*
13. *Moving close, brushing or crossing*
14. *Open-hocked*



From Welsh Terrier Annotated Standard

The Welsh Terrier Coat

- *Jacket – black, spreading up the neck, down onto tail and into the upper thighs. A grizzle jacket is acceptable.*
- *Legs, quarters, and head are clear tan. The tan is a deep reddish color, with slightly lighter shades acceptable.*

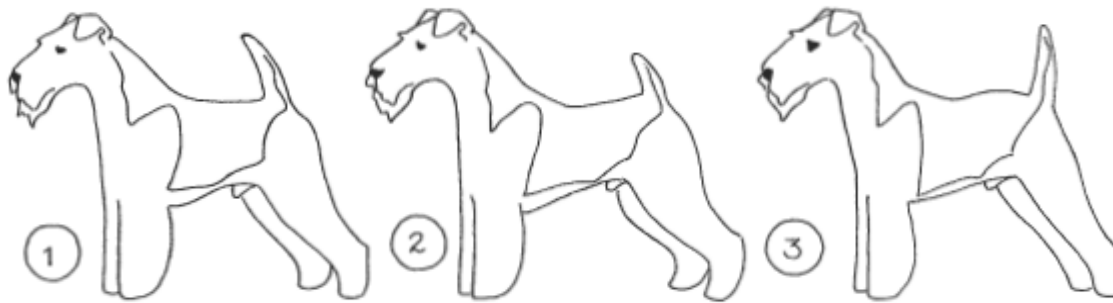
Source: Welsh Terrier Standard



Faults

- Any deviation from the standard is a fault, with the seriousness dependent upon the extent of the deviation.
 - The Welsh Terrier Breed Standard has no disqualifying faults.
 - AKC Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges addresses unforgiveable/disqualifying faults applicable to all breeds (<https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/REJ999.pdf>) JEAN
- All faults are not created equal.
 - The amount penalized for a fault should be relative to the amount of deviation from the standard.
 - There are no guidelines that prioritize faults nor are there standards for degree of deviation and amount penalized. Therefore, judges may justifiably differ in their decisions.
- Fault judging is eliminating a dog based solely on his shortcomings, however slight, rather than selecting a dog based on his virtue. Fault judging can compromise type.
- No dog is free of faults. Judging is about give and take and selecting the dog with the most virtue.

Comparison of Faults in Profile



1. *Ideal – Well balanced and constructed*
2. *Soft topline, long backed, high in the rear, tail docked too short, high in the hock and sickle-hocked*
3. *Ewe-necked, straight shoulder, roached back, poor tail set, straight in stifle. This type is often narrow and lacking substance*

From Welsh Terrier Annotated Standard

Comparison of Faults in Profile



4. *Houndy ear, short thick neck, loaded shoulder, low on leg, gay tail*
5. *Fox-terrier expression, high ears, head too long, swan neck, too short backed, weak hindquarters, narrow front and upright shoulder*
6. *Straight-shouldered, chicken-breasted, sloping topline and straight in stifle, shallow-chested and lacking body. Slightly curved tail acceptable*

From Welsh Terrier Annotated Standard

Silhouette: Welsh vs Wire vs Lakeland



Welsh Terrier



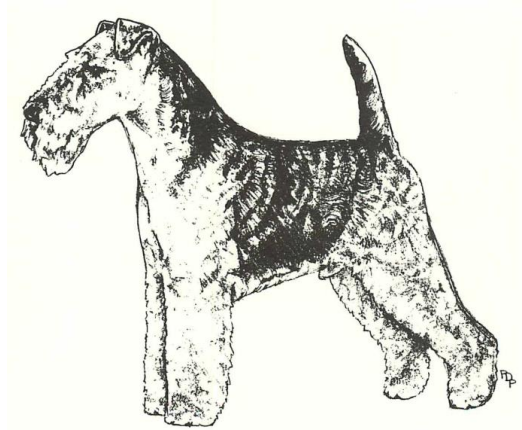
Wire Fox Terrier



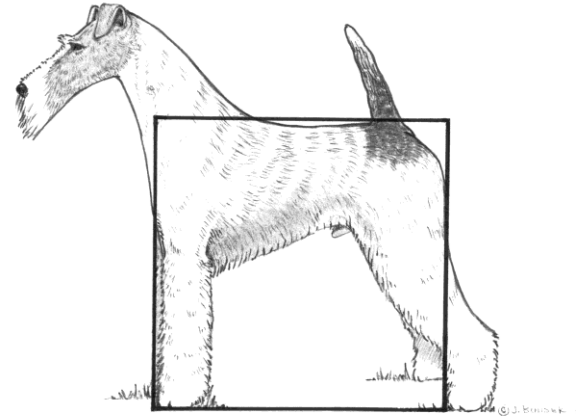
Lakeland Terrier

The Welsh Terrier, Wire Fox Terrier and Lakeland Terrier share many similarities, but there are also important differences that define breed type and can be seen from ringside.

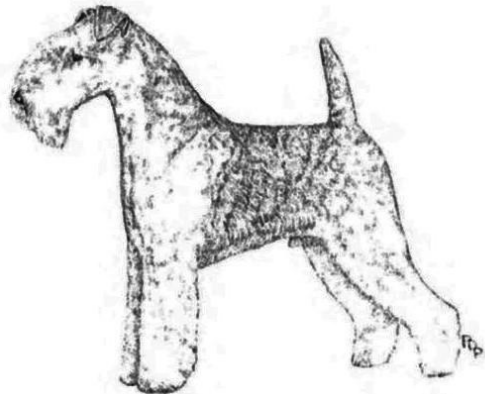
Profile: Welsh vs Wire vs Lakeland



Welsh Dog: 15-15 1/2 inches; 20 pounds (varies). Square



Wire Dog: 15 1/2 inches; 18 ± 1 pound. Square



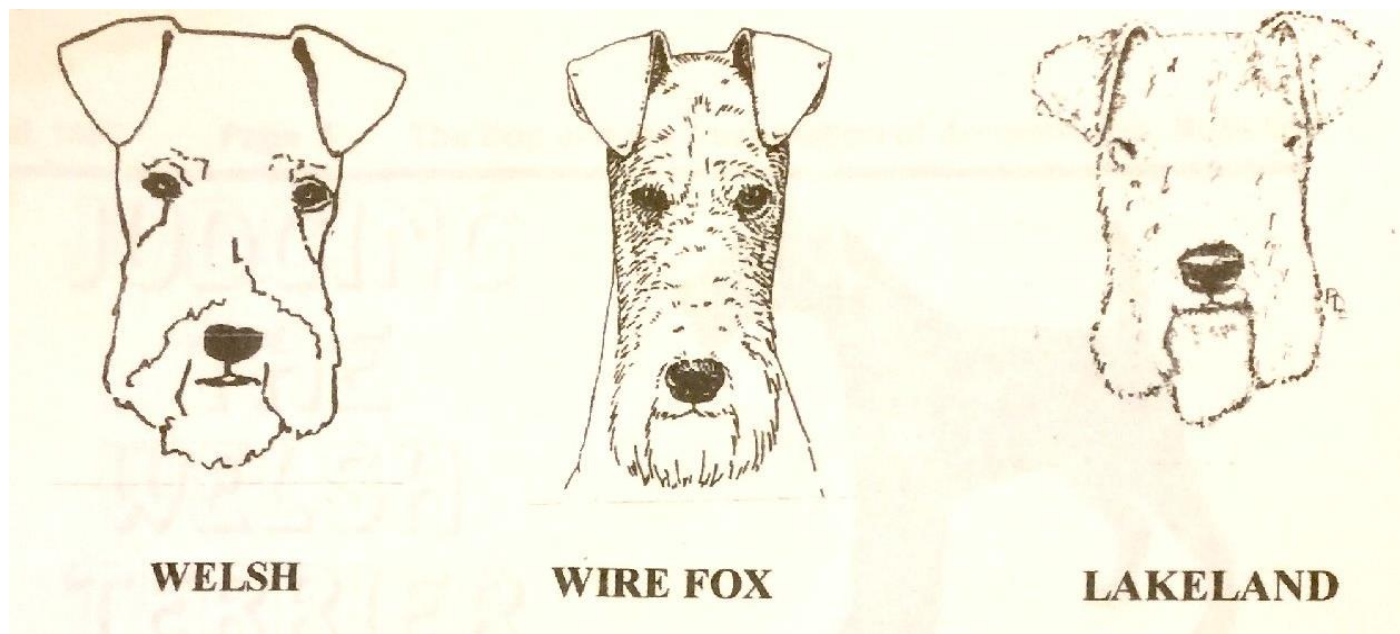
Lakeland Dog: 14 1/2 inches ± 1/2 inch; 17 pounds (varies). Square

Characteristics from Breed Standards.

Illustrations as follows:

- Welsh Terrier from Welsh Terrier Annotated Standard
- Wire Fox Terrier from AFTC Amplification Standard
- Lakeland Terrier from USLTC Illustrated Standard

Head: Welsh vs Wire vs Lakeland



Note differences in head shape, eyes (position and shape), and ears!
Expression comes from set, color and position of the eyes and ears.

Illustrations from:

- Welsh Terrier from Welsh Terrier Annotated Standard
- Wire Fox Terrier from AFTC Amplification Standard
- Lakeland Terrier from USLTC Illustrated Standard

Final Notes

- When evaluating a dog, reward type
 - Correct type is the most important criterion in evaluating the dog
 - The standard is your guide to type
 - It takes time and experience to truly appreciate breed type
- Look for balance - the overall look should be pleasing when standing still and when moving
- Don't be taken in by clever trimming
- There is no perfect dog. Avoid the temptation to focus only on faults (fault judging)
 - For this reason, when keeping type foremost in your mind, your first impression may be the most honest because it is made before you begin picking the dog apart for faults

