



## Official Standard of the American Morkshire Terrier

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### General Appearance

The American Morkshire Terrier is an exceptional and rare toy breed, distinguished by its remarkable warm affectionate nature and a keen sensitivity to their owners' feelings, that differentiates it from other toy terriers. Their sharp intelligence enables them to pick up new skills quickly, which helps build a strong bond of loyalty with their families. Morkshires can have a solid ground color or a mix of colors in a pied pattern, giving them a striking appearance. Their long, flowing coat is not only soft and silky but also hypoallergenic, adding to their charm. With a delightful temperament, the Morkshire can be gentle and playful, making it an excellent for therapy and service roles. It moves gracefully, with its head held high and a tail that arches elegantly over its back. As a notable member of the toy breed category, which includes two weight classifications, the Morkshire is celebrated for its loving and cheerful nature earning it the endearing nickname of "the heartthrob of toy breeds."

**Head:** The head of this breed is characterized by a compact and gently rounded skull, featuring a distinct stop and a *muzzle* that maintains a moderate length, ensuring that the *bite* is neither undershot nor overshot, aligning perfectly with well-formed teeth. The *ears* are particularly remarkable, exhibiting two distinct configurations: one type is wide-set and drooping, while the other is V-shaped, standing erect and relatively close together. Both ear styles are small and convey a sense of expressiveness, with no particular bias towards one style over the other. The *eyes* are of medium size, round in shape, and not overly prominent, yet they convey an alert and attentive expression. The *headfall* may be permitted to hang loosely, creating a relaxed appearance, or it can be fastened into a neat topknot positioned at the crown of the head for a more polished and structured look.

**Neck:** The neck possesses an adequate length that facilitates an elevated position of the head, contributing to a dignified and graceful appearance.

**Body:** The body is characterized by a compact and harmoniously balanced structure, featuring a straight *topline* that corresponds precisely to the distance from the withers to the tail. The measurement of height is taken from the withers down to the ground.

**Legs and Feet:** The *forelegs* are distinguished by their straight configuration, with the *elbows* aligned in a neutral position, neither turned inward nor outward. The *hind legs* also display a straight stance, accompanied by a moderate angle at the stifle joints. The *feet* are well-formed, compact, and rounded, often exhibiting nails that may be entirely black, entirely white, or a combination of both colors. It is common practice to remove dewclaws, if present, to ensure a cleaner appearance and prevent potential injury.

**Tail:** The tail is characterized by a long, flowing plume that is elegantly arched over the back, with its tip gently resting to the side, creating a cascading that drapes over the hindquarters.

**Coat and Color:** The *coat* of the breed is characterized by a single layer that is moderately long, silky, and straight, gracefully draping over the body without hindering movement, often reaching close to the ground. Any indication of kinkiness, curliness, or a woolly texture is considered undesirable. The acceptable *colors* are primarily solid base shades, including black or blue and tan, as well as combinations arranged in a pied pattern featuring two or more colors. Variations may appear in creams, whites, browns, blacks, black or blue and tans, sables, and apricots, showcasing different shades of the same hue, particularly noticeable in the feathering of the ears and eye brows in pied patterns and black or blue and tans. While clear and distinct colors are preferred, the natural variation in coat shading is not regarded as a fault. Morkshires with brown and sable pied patterns typically exhibit liver-colored noses, eye rims, lips, and self-colored pads with amber eyes. In contrast, solid-colored creams, whites, blacks, sables, and apricots feature black noses, eye rims, and lips, with toenails that may be black, white, or a combination of both, accompanied by dark eyes. Although the aforementioned colors are favored, incomplete coloration of the lips, eye rims, and nose is permissible, albeit not ideal.

**Weight and Size:** The guidelines concerning weight and dimensions outline two specific weight classifications, indicating that the overall weight must not exceed 12 pounds. In this framework, a small toy is defined as having a weight ranging from 3.5 to 8 pounds, whereas the standard weight classification is set between 9 and 12 pounds. Additionally, the height of the animal is assessed by measuring from the withers to the ground.

**Gait:** The carriage is of a confident manner, should give the appearance of self-importance for the satisfactory companion.

**Temperament:** The temperament of this breed is characterized by a warm and affectionate nature, demonstrating a remarkable responsiveness to their human companions. They possess a high level of intelligence, which not only enhances their ability to learn but also fosters a deep sense of loyalty. Their devotion to their family is profound, making them not just pets, but cherished members of the household.

**Disqualifications:** *Size*, a dog over the weight limits specified shall be disqualified. *Colors*, any solid color or combination of colors other than specified shall be disqualified. *Eyes*, Blue eye(s) shall be disqualified. *Body*, rounded or roached back shall be disqualified.

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