

The Classic Lucas Terrier

The classic Lucas Terrier was created in the mid-20th century by British dog breeder, author and politician *Major Sir Jocelyn Morton Lucas*, 4th Baronet, KBE, MC, MP. A noted hunter, Lucas admired the keen, spirited character and working abilities of the Sealyham Terriers he bred at his famous Ilmer Kennels but encountered whelping difficulties with some of the larger studs of the day. To address this, Lucas mated a small Norfolk Terrier dog with a Sealyham Terrier bitch, and the Lucas Terrier was born.

Every classic Lucas Terrier in North America is descended from Lucas' original Ilmer Terrier lines and represents the original pairing combination. This distinguishes it from the so-called 'Sporting Lucas Terrier' – a mix that includes other breeds.

Standing between 10 – 12", with deep brown, almond-shaped eyes and a distinctive beard, the original Lucas Terrier's double coat comes in different shades of tan, black, and white. It is an attractive, intelligent and athletic dog, with an even temperament and high degree of trainability.

Long associated with British nobility and prominent American families, the classic Lucas Terrier remains true to its heritage as one of the 20th century's first purpose-bred terriers.

NORTH AMERICAN CLASSIC LUCAS TERRIER BREED STANDARD

General Appearance

Sturdy, symmetrically built, working terrier like an early 20th century Sealyham type. The original Lucas Terrier was created in 1949 by Sir Jocelyn Lucas by crossing small, Norfolk Terrier dogs with selected Sealyham Terriers from Lucas' Ilmer Kennels.

The type was set in the 1980's by early breed champion, Lucas Terrier Club president, and noted Sealyham Terrier enthusiast, Miss Anne (Jumbo) Frost, LVO. This physical type is the one recognized as the original Lucas Terrier, differing from the so-called "Sporting Lucas Terrier," which includes mixes from other breeds.

Characteristics

Friendly, without aggressive tendencies towards people or other dogs, and not fearful or nervous.

Head

Broad skull, a little curved between the ears, flattening to a slight but definite stop. The jaw should be strong, deep and well developed. A medium length, deep muzzle. The nose is black, irrespective of the color of the dog. Dark, almond shaped eyes, well set, with pigmented eye rims. The drop-ears should be of medium size and v-shaped.

Jaw

The teeth should be strong, sound and regularly placed, gripping with a scissor-like action, the lower incisors close behind and just touching the upper. Not to be overshot, undershot or wry.

Neck

The neck is strong, muscular and of medium length broadening to blend into the body.

Forequarters

The shoulders are broad of blade, sloping, muscular and well angulated to the upper arm and the point of the shoulder should not be too closely set. The forelegs have strong, round bone, extending to the feet without weakness of the pasterns. The forelegs should be perfectly straight when viewed from the front.

Hindquarters

The hindquarters are broad, strong and muscular. Thighs are long, broad and well let down. When viewed from behind the hind legs, from the hocks to the feet, are straight and placed neither close nor too wide apart.

Body

The length of the body from the point of the breast bone in a straight line to the buttocks is slightly greater than the height at the shoulder. The topline is level, back strong, with ribs well sprung and ribbed (not barrel ribbed). The chest is deep and muscular and moderately broad, loins are broad, deep and muscular with deep flanks strongly coupled between the fore and hindquarters.

Tail

Either docked or undocked. Docked: tail of medium length with one-third off, two-thirds on, with a rounded tip and preferably carried erect. Undocked: tail of moderate length and ideally carried erect, but not excessively over the back, and with no curl, kink or twist.

Coat

The coat should be fairly harsh, weather resistant and of medium length throughout the skirt and leg furnishings, with a hard, slightly layered jacket. The standard calls for hand stripping the coat over the back and closely over the shoulderline to the front of neck, and over the crown of the head, ears, and the cheeks, with a beard graduating to medium length. The brows are short and angled out. Long hair on the crown, ears, or a 'fall' of longer hair over the eyes is not in standard or encouraged.

Color

May be colored or white. In predominantly colored Terriers the color should be tan (all shades, including red) or saddle and tan (the saddle can be black or gristle). White markings may be elsewhere. Black or blue terriers, while rare, are permissible.

In predominantly white Terriers the color should be a base coat of white with colored markings, piebald or extreme white spotted pattern. Ticking is permissible. Markings may also be tan (all shades), black, badger-grey, black and tan or badger-grey and tan.

Height

Measured at the shoulder: Dogs and Bitches, 10-12 ins (25-30 cms).

Weight

Dogs, 14-20 lbs (6-9 kg); Bitches, 12-18 lbs (5-8 kg).

Movement

Soundness is essential. The action should be true, free and supple, and with capability of quick and sudden movement.