

# The Norwich Terrier

Dianne Ivey



## HISTORY

The Norwich Terriers originated in England in the days when these terriers required two important traits. One was to have a great deal of courage and the other was the ability to get to the quarry. This courageous dog had to be small and active, with strong teeth and jaws and neck, and must also possess a capable brain. This is the stock that our modern Norwich Terriers originated from. Different terriers were developed in various areas of Great Britain to do the work that was required in a particular area. Hence the reason why we have totally different terriers within what we consider today, to be small distances of each other.

In the case of the Norwich, the area in which they were developed was a fertile farming region around Norwich, England. Small ratter terriers were needed to work in and under stables, farm buildings, and hedgerows to control rabbits and rats, which destroyed the crops and the places in which the crops were stored. So the best ratters in this area were bred from to produce a dog for the purpose. They became known as the Norwich Terrier and later when division occurred between the drop ears and the prick ears, they became known as Norwich and Norfolk Terriers.

I will begin *my interpretation* of the Norwich Terrier Standard with emphasis on **type**, which is extremely important in our breed. *"A dog lacking type is a common dog with little to offer his breed, even though he may be well balanced, sound and beautifully presented. A dog*

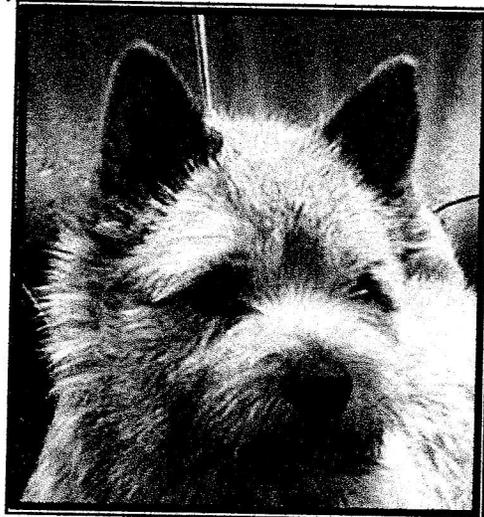
*excelling in type is a valuable asset to his breed, even should he possess minor flaws in other respects."* From **The Nicholas Guide to Dog Judging**, by Anna Katherine Nicholas.

## TYPE

The essentials of a Norwich Terrier that make up Norwich type are: correct head, expression, compact short body, with good bone, correct temperament, and movement particular to the Norwich Terrier.

## HEAD

On the head, the standard is fairly clear on the fact there should be good width of skull, good width between the ears, just slightly rounded in skull with a good (definite) stop and strong muzzle *slightly shorter* than the skull. The muzzle should definitely not be snipey, as this fault leads to lack of strength of the foreface. They should have large teeth and a strong jaw.



EYES should be dark and oval in shape with dark rims, and not prominent. A large prominent eye would be much more prone to injury than a small deep set eye.

EARS should be medium in size and the leather thin.

*“Does the picture created by the head, ear, and eye project the character of the breed?”* from **Born to Win**, by Pat Craig.

### **SIZE, PROPORTION AND SUBSTANCE**

The ideal height *should not exceed 10 inches* at the withers.

The back should be short from withers to set on of the tail. The AKC standard describes this, as *“Distance to from the top of the withers to the ground and from the withers to base of tail is approximately equal.”*

### **WEIGHT**

The weight should be approximately 12 pounds, in proportion to the individual dog. Fit working condition should be a prime consideration.

### **BODY, NECK AND TOP LINE**

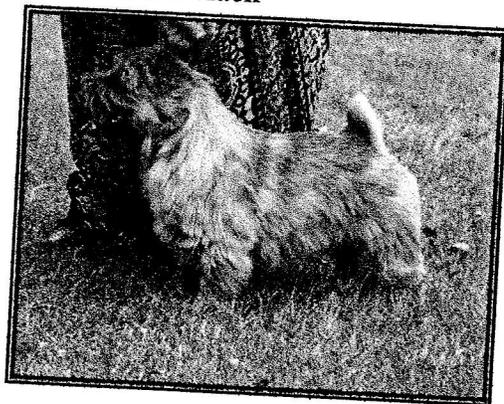
The body is compact, and deep, short-backed, with ribs well sprung and a level top line. They should be *short in the loin*. Beware of the short rib cage and long loin—a serious fault in a terrier. This combination leaves the vital organs exposed to attack.

The Norwich has reasonable length from the point of shoulder through the thigh to the point of rump to provide good angulations to shoulders and hindquarters. You should see some fore chest and some shelf under the tail. The standard asks for a neck of good length.



### **FOREQUARTERS**

Well laid-back shoulders, Elbows close to the ribs. The forelegs are short, powerful and straight with round, thick padded feet. They should have good thick pads, which are required in a working terrier. Nails are black



### **COAT**

The coat is double & should be weatherproof. They have a thick undercoat and a wiry topcoat. The harder coats do not get the same amount of furnishings as the softer coats do. Look carefully if you see a mature dog without much leg and head furnishings—it's likely his is a correct coat. The rain, dirt and mud just shake off a correct type of coat.

COLOURS are all “equal”. There are no preferences in colours in the Norwich Terriers. They can be any shade of red, grizzle or black and tan. The younger black and tans usually are a deeper, darker black and tan than the adult dogs. However, if or when they grizzle out they are as “equally acceptable” as the very solid black and tan. No preference is given to colour other than white marks are not desirable.

### **TEMPERAMENT**

The standard calls for a gay and fearless temperament. They should be fearless, but not quarrelsome. A quarrelsome Norwich is not typical. The working terriers were bred to work in packs, and

imagine the problems that would be encountered in a pack if the terriers were prone to fighting each other. The men of old did not want the terriers fighting among themselves, but instead to concentrate their efforts against the quarry. Fighting dogs that had to work in packs were not tolerated. They were soon disposed of.

### **GAIT**

The Norwich should move with a true low, driving gait with the hind legs following though the track of the fore. The pads of the hind legs should be seen when moving away.



In the show ring Norwich Terriers are not meant to gait with their head held high like Poodles or Afghans. The normal carriage when they are gating is to lower their head slightly to change the center of gravity to allow for better balance at faster speeds. Look for the best movement possible taking into consideration what the dog was bred to do. A Norwich should move like a *small, low on leg, well boned, working terrier*—that was meant to hunt in dens and under buildings though briar patches, facing his prey with much enthusiasm.

Judge the overall picture, but always put type first.

*“But type is of even more importance, as soundness, although desirable, does not distinguish one breed from another. For there to be a reason for its existence a breed must be recognizable as its own, and where breeds are similar in type – such as the Cairn and Australian are to the Norwich – distinctive features must never be lost.”* From **The Norwich Terrier**, by Marjorie Bunting.

*Dianne Ivey, along with her husband Ray, have bred and shown both Australian and Norwich Terriers since 1982 under the prefix Maralinga—beginning with Australian*

*Terriers. They bred the all time top winning Australian Terrier in Canada, Maralinga's Magic in Motion, an outstanding bitch, who was awarded 5 All Breed Bests in Shows and was the top Canadian Australian Terrier in 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989, always owner handled. They have bred other Australian and Norwich Terriers that have placed in the top five since that time and have been awarded the Top Breeder Award for both Norwich and Australian Terriers. Dianne judges the complete Terrier and Toy groups.*

~ The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment...

~ It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions...