



Border Terrier Information

Alert, active and agile, the Border Terrier is willing to squeeze through narrow holes and sprint across any terrain to capture his quarry: the fox. This persistence made him an excellent working terrier back in England, and allows him to succeed in Earthdog, Obedience and Agility trials today. Known for his "otter" head and game attitude, the Border is medium-sized with a wiry coat that may be red, grizzle and tan, blue and tan, or wheaten with a dark muzzle.

A Look Back

The Border originated in the border country between England and Scotland, and may be one of the oldest kinds of terriers in Great Britain. Purely a working terrier, the Border was bred to protect the stock of their owners. They had sufficient length of leg to follow a horse, but were small enough to follow a fox to ground. Borders on the farm in the 18th century also had to find their own food, so they had to be good hunters to survive.

Right Breed for You?

While he is as hard as nails in the field, the Border Terrier is good tempered and affectionate in the home. He learns quickly and responds well to obedience training, but must be kept engaged and well-exercised, as he's an active dog. The Border's weather resistant coat requires occasional brushing and hand stripping approximately twice a year.

- Terrier Group; AKC recognized in 1930.
- Ranging in size from 11½ to 15½ pounds.
- Fox hunter.

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Border Terrier Breed Standard

General Appearance

He is an active terrier of medium bone, strongly put together, suggesting endurance and agility, but rather narrow in shoulder, body and quarter. The body is covered with a somewhat broken though close-fitting and intensely wiry jacket. The characteristic "otter" head with its keen eye, combined with a body poise which is "at the alert," gives a look of fearless and implacable determination characteristic of the breed. Since the Border Terrier is a working terrier of a size to go to ground and able, within reason, to follow a horse, his conformation should be such that he be ideally built to do his job. No deviations from this ideal conformation should be permitted, which would impair his usefulness in running his quarry to earth and in bolting it therefrom. For this work he must be alert, active and agile, and capable of squeezing through narrow apertures and rapidly traversing any kind of terrain. His head, "like that of an otter," is distinctive, and his temperament ideally exemplifies that of a terrier. By nature he is good-tempered, affectionate, obedient, and easily trained. In the field he is hard as nails "game as they come" and driving in attack. It should be the aim of Border Terrier breeders to avoid such over emphasis of any point in the Standard as might lead to unbalanced exaggeration.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Weight Dogs, 13-15½ pounds, bitches, 11½-14 pounds, are appropriate weights for Border Terriers in hardworking condition. The **proportions** should be that the height at the withers is slightly greater than the distance from the withers to the tail, i.e. by possibly 1-1½ inches in a 14-pound dog. Of medium bone, strongly put together, suggesting endurance and agility, but rather narrow in shoulder, body and quarter.

Head

Similar to that of an otter. **Eyes** dark hazel and full of fire and intelligence. Moderate in size, neither prominent nor small and beady. **Ears** small, V-shaped and of moderate thickness, dark preferred. Not set high on the head but somewhat on the side, and dropping forward close to the cheeks. They should not break above the level of the skull. Moderately broad and flat in **skull** with plenty of width between the eyes and between the ears. A slight, moderately broad curve at the **stop** rather than a pronounced indentation. Cheeks slightly full. **Muzzle** short and "well filled." A dark muzzle is characteristic and desirable. A few short

whiskers are natural to the breed. **Nose** black, and of a good size. **Teeth** strong, with a scissors bite, large in proportion to size of dog.

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck clean, muscular and only long enough to give a well-balanced appearance. It should gradually widen into the shoulder.

Back strong but laterally supple, with no suspicion of a dip behind the shoulder. **Loin** strong. **Body** deep, fairly narrow and of sufficient length to avoid any suggestions of lack of range and agility. The body should be capable of being spanned by a man's hands behind the shoulders. Brisket not excessively deep or narrow. Deep ribs carried well back and not oversprung in view of the desired depth and narrowness of the body. The **underline** fairly straight. **Tail** moderately short, thick at the base, then tapering. Not set on too high. Carried gaily when at the alert, but not over the back. When at ease, a Border may drop his stern.

Forequarters

Shoulders well laid back and of good length, the blades converging to the withers gradually from a brisket not excessively deep or narrow. **Forelegs** straight and not too heavy in bone and placed slightly wider than in a Fox Terrier. **Feet** small and compact. Toes should point forward and be moderately arched with thick pads.

Hindquarters

Muscular and racy, with **thighs** long and nicely molded. **Stifles** well bent and **hocks** well let down. **Feet** as in front.

Coat

A short and dense undercoat covered with a very wiry and somewhat broken topcoat which should lie closely, but it must not show any tendency to curl or wave. With such a coat a Border should be able to be exhibited almost in his natural state, nothing more in the way of trimming being needed than a tidying up of the head, neck and feet. **Hide** very thick and loose fitting.

Color

Red, grizzle and tan, blue and tan, or wheaten. A small amount of white may be allowed on the chest but white on the feet should be penalized. A dark muzzle is characteristic and desirable.

Gait

Straight and rhythmical before and behind, with good length of stride and flexing of stifle and hock. The dog should respond to his handler with a gait which is free, agile and quick.

Temperament

His temperament ideally exemplifies that of a terrier. By nature he is good-tempered, affectionate, obedient, and easily trained. In the field he is hard as nails, "game as they come" and driving in attack.

Scale of Points

Head, ears, neck and teeth	...20
Legs and feet	...15
Coat and skin	...10
Shoulders and chest	...10
Eyes and expression	...10
Back and loin	...10
Hindquarters	...10
Tail	...5
General Appearance	...10
Total	..100