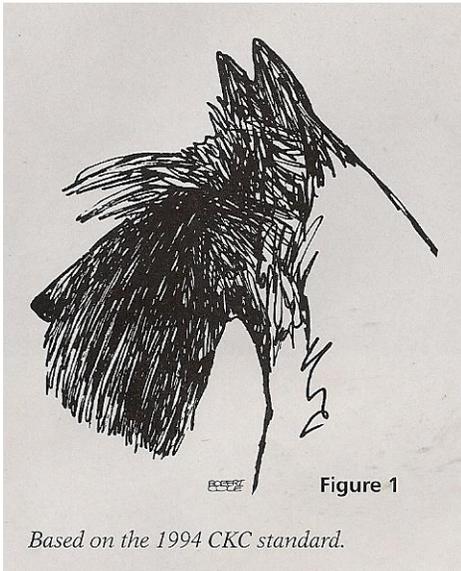


YOU BE THE JUDGE

By Robert Cole

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SCOTTISH TERRIER



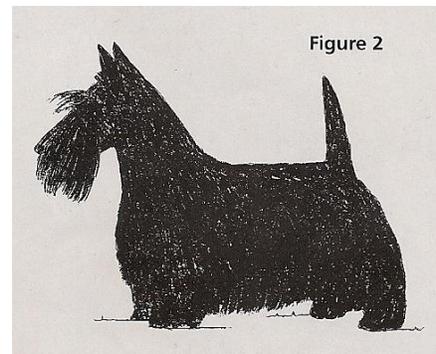
THE HEAD

Figure 1 has eight important features deserving of special consideration: 1) the ratio of the muzzle to skull; 2) the shape of the skull, both front and side view; 3) whether the planes of the skull and muzzle are parallel; 4) the amount of stop; 5) the shape, size and position of the ears; 6) the size and colour of the nose; 7) the shape, size, colour and position of the eyes; and 8) the size of the teeth and bite preference.

The standard addresses all these concerns; 1) the muzzle and skull are approximately equal; 2) the skull is slightly domed, viewed from the front, and appears flat in profile; 3) the muzzle and skull planes are parallel; 4) the stop is slight but definite; 5) the ears are small, prick, pointed and form a straight line up from the skull; 6) the nose is black and of good size, projecting somewhat over the mouth; 7) the eyes are almond shaped, small, dark brown or nearly black, set wide apart; and 8) the teeth are large, with a scissors bite preferred.

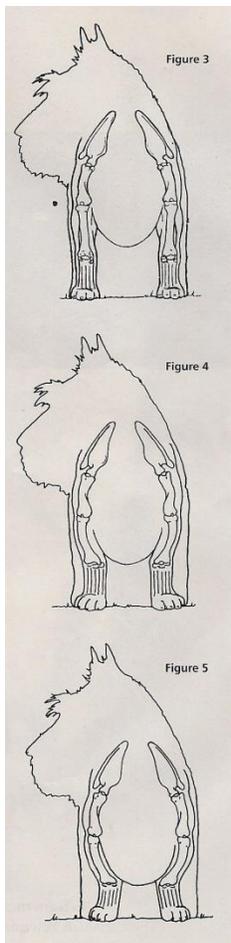
MY TYPICAL

Real life bitch, Figure 2, is drawn slightly longer (1/2 inch) than she actually appeared set up. She was a favourite top winner just a few years back. Her neck is moderately short, strong, thick and muscular, blending smoothly into well-laid-back shoulders. Her heart-shaped ribs are well sprung and extend rearward to a short, strong loin, deep flanks and very muscular hindquarters. Her topline is firm and level. Her tail is about seven inches long, never cut. It sets on high, is carried with a light curve forward, is thick at the base and tapers gradually to a point. The forelegs are very heavy in bone, the feet compact.



MYSTERIOUS FORELEGS

The CKC standard asks for the forelegs to be “straight or slightly bent” and “the chest broad and very deep, well let down between the forelegs”. In books and illustrated guides, artists are hesitant to portray the seemingly contradictory shape of the forelegs under the hard and wiry coat covering. “Slightly bent” is a mysterious turnoff and a “chest well let down between the forelegs” sounds too much like a Dachshund’s wraparound front. The next three see-through drawings dispel this mystery.



STRAIGHT FORELEGS

Based on W. Ellenberger, H. Dittrich and H. Barm's *An Atlas of Animal Anatomy* for a dog (resembling a Great Dane), I shrank certain bones in Figure 3 and not others, to arrive at what I believe the Scottie standard describes as short, straight forelegs, heavy bone, attached to a thick body, well let down between the forelegs. I have placed a dot to your left of his right elbow as a reminder of the higher-than-normal elbow position.

SLIGHTLY BENT FORELEGS

Using the same bones and the same breadth of body but a lower body depth, the upper arm on the Figure 4 Scottie curves around the lower chest wall (ribcage). The forelegs are straight, but only from the wrist down. The front feet toe out to the acceptable degree allowed for in the Scottie standard.

POOR FRONT

Again, the same bone and breadth, but instead of the toes, the weak front pasterns on Figure 5 turn the front feet out. This Scottie's body is resting on the inner part of its forearms with the whole front end supported on the elbows. The weak front pasterns are foreshortened because they slope forward to a greater degree than is required. This combination of foreleg weakness has lowered height.

SUMMARY

Facing the dog, I feel for a good spring of rib high up, which gradually lessens as my hands drop lower. I feel for the elbows to be close to and above the brisket. Seldom, if ever, have I found a straight forearm. However, if the bone is heavy and the forechest fills the hollow of my hand and there is room beneath to slide my clenched fist under the body between good feet, I expect the rest of the forequarters to be good and to be satisfied with front action coming and in profile.

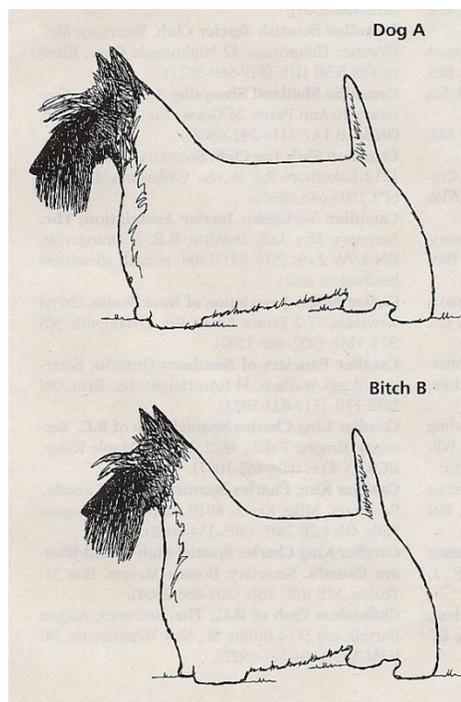
BEST OF BREED

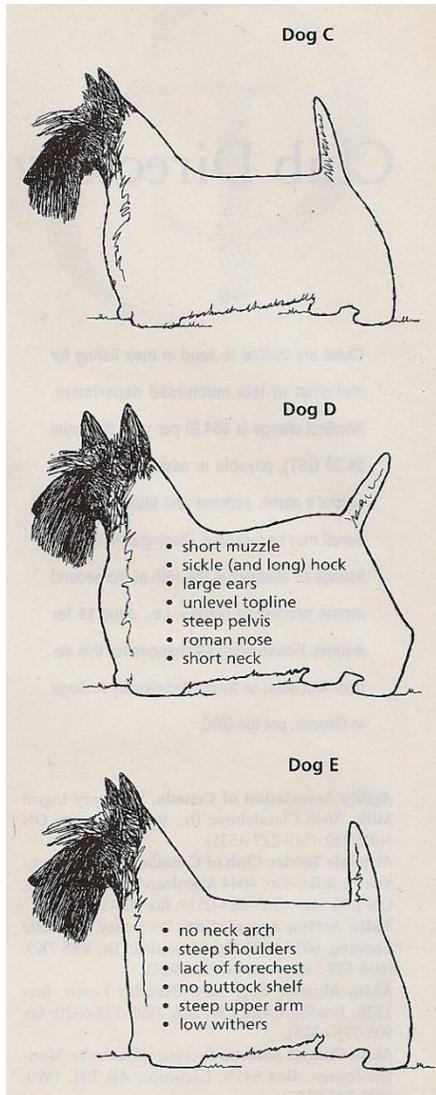
At this show, only two Specials, Dog A and Bitch B are entered. Both are in coat, both are good movers. Stacked in profile for your final decision, their soundness is apparent. However Bitch B has a large, light eye and overshot bite. Which is it going to be?

If Dog A's balance has appeal, he is your BB. If Bitch B's shorter body (the dog has a short loin) has more appeal, then you must forgive her large, light eye and overshot bite. Which is it going to be?

If you favour the bitch, but would like to double check the eye and mouth, then, unless by your actions you wish to draw attention to the bitch's hidden faults, you will need to go over both again and not stop with just an examination of the head.

During the second examination, you are more critical of the male, looking and feeling for that one departure that might swing the balance in favour of the bitch – it isn't there. The bitch's large eyes are still light and she is still overshot. The decision is yours. I would go with the male.





DOG C, DOG D AND DOG E

These three illustrations depict a class of three males, another day and miles away. One male catches your eye; however, he, like the two less impressive entries, doesn't move well, especially coming and going.

VISIBLE FAULTS

You have examined each Scottie, and since Dog D and Dog E's faults are visible, they are also listed for all to see. They have no other faults other than those listed.

HIDDEN FAULTS

The faults possessed by Dog C are not visible, aside from his downfaced muzzle – a serious fault that often goes unnoticed. After examining him more closely, you discover his many faults include round eyes, and undershot bite, poor feet, a body lacking spring of rib and depth, elbows out and a long loin.

DECISION TIME

It is easier to judge good and very good specimens than it is to judge poor ones, but this is where it gets interesting. This class is an easy one to judge from outside the show ring, especially for first place – everyone likes impressive Dog C. However, inside the show ring, you are aware of Dog C's seven faults plus his downface. In what order will you place these three?

My order of preference would be Dog E, Dog D and Dog C. As to whether Dog C is worthy of becoming a champion, that is your decision.