



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL

Extended Breed Standard of **THE BOSTON TERRIER**

Produced by

Mrs Ann Mitchell from
The Boston Terrier
a Pictorial and Illustrated Standard
with kind permission of the
Boston Terrier Club of America Inc
in conjunction with
The Australian National Kennel Council

American Kennel Club Standard dated 28/02/1990
FCI Standard No:140
Standard adopted by ANKC 1994
BSE adopted by ANKC 1997
Copyright Australian National Kennel Council 1997
Country of Origin — United States of America

Extended Standards are compiled purely for the purpose of training Australian judges and students of the breed.

In order to comply with copyright requirements of authors, artists and photographers of material used, the contents must not be copied for commercial use or any other purpose. Under no circumstances may the Standard or Extended Standard be placed on the Internet without written permission of the ANKC.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BOSTON TERRIER

The Boston Terrier is one of the few truly American breeds.

The Boston originated in the vicinity of the city whose name it bears. It is therefore distinctly AMERICAN. In an amazingly short time it became one of the most popular of breeds.

The Boston is the result of a cross between the Bulldog and the old-fashioned Brindle and White Bull Terrier, the purpose of the cross being to produce a dog that had the best attributes of both breeds, namely the short and blocky head of the Bulldog and the style and finely turned body of the Terrier.

In 1889, about thirty fanciers, in and around Boston, organised what was known as the American Bull Terrier Club, and they exhibited the dogs as Round Heads or Bull Terriers. As time went on, they met considerable opposition from Bull Terrier breeders, who did everything possible to discourage them. The Boston Terrier fanciers, however, refused to be discouraged. As their dog was bred in Boston, they changed the name to Boston Terrier and in 1891 formed the Boston Terrier Club of America.

In 1893 the Boston Terrier was accepted for registration in the American Kennel Club and through the years, because of the sincere efforts of the breeders around Boston, we have the breed that we today know as the Boston Terrier.

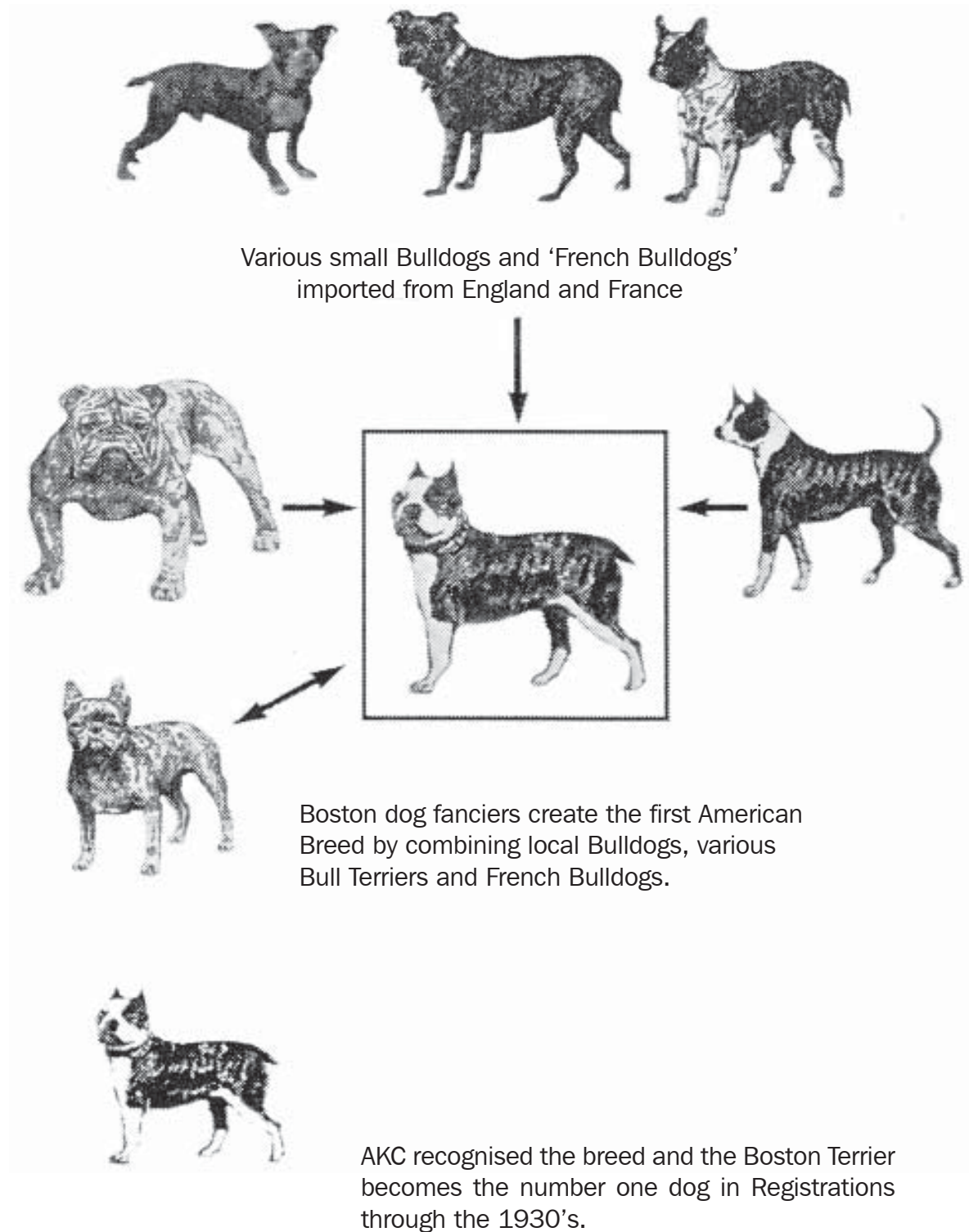
● GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Boston Terrier is a lively, highly intelligent, smooth coated, short headed, compactly built, short-tailed, well balanced dog, brindle, seal or black in colour and evenly marked with white. The head is in proportion to the size of the dog and the expression indicates a high degree of intelligence.

The body is rather short and well knit, the limbs strong and neatly turned, the tail is short and no feature is so prominent that the dog appears badly proportioned. The dog conveys an impression of determination, strength and activity, with style of a high order; carriage easy and graceful. A proportionate combination of 'Colour and White Markings' is a particularly distinctive feature of a representative specimen.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOSTON TERRIER IN THE USA

Fig. 1



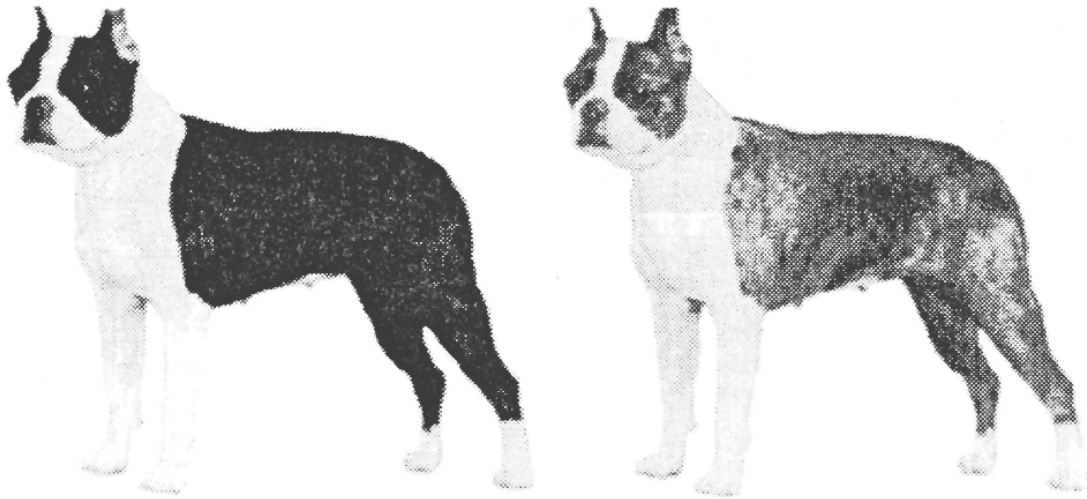


Fig. 2

'Balance, expression, colour and white markings' should be given particular consideration in determining the relative value of GENERAL APPEARANCE to other points.

Proportions, Substance: The length of leg must balance with the length of body to give the Boston Terrier its striking square appearance. The Boston Terrier is a sturdy dog and must not appear to be either spindly or coarse. The bone and muscle must be in proportion as well as an enhancement to the dog's weight and structure.

Fault: Blocky or chunky in appearance.

Influence of Sex: In a comparison of specimens of each sex, the only evident difference is a slight refinement in the bitch's conformation.

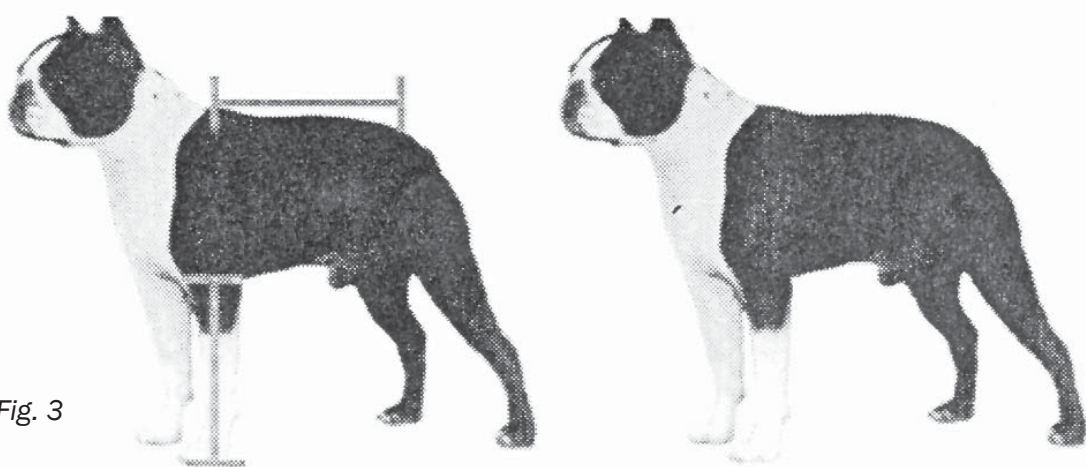


Fig. 3

The length of leg equals the length of body

STRUCTURE

Fig. 4

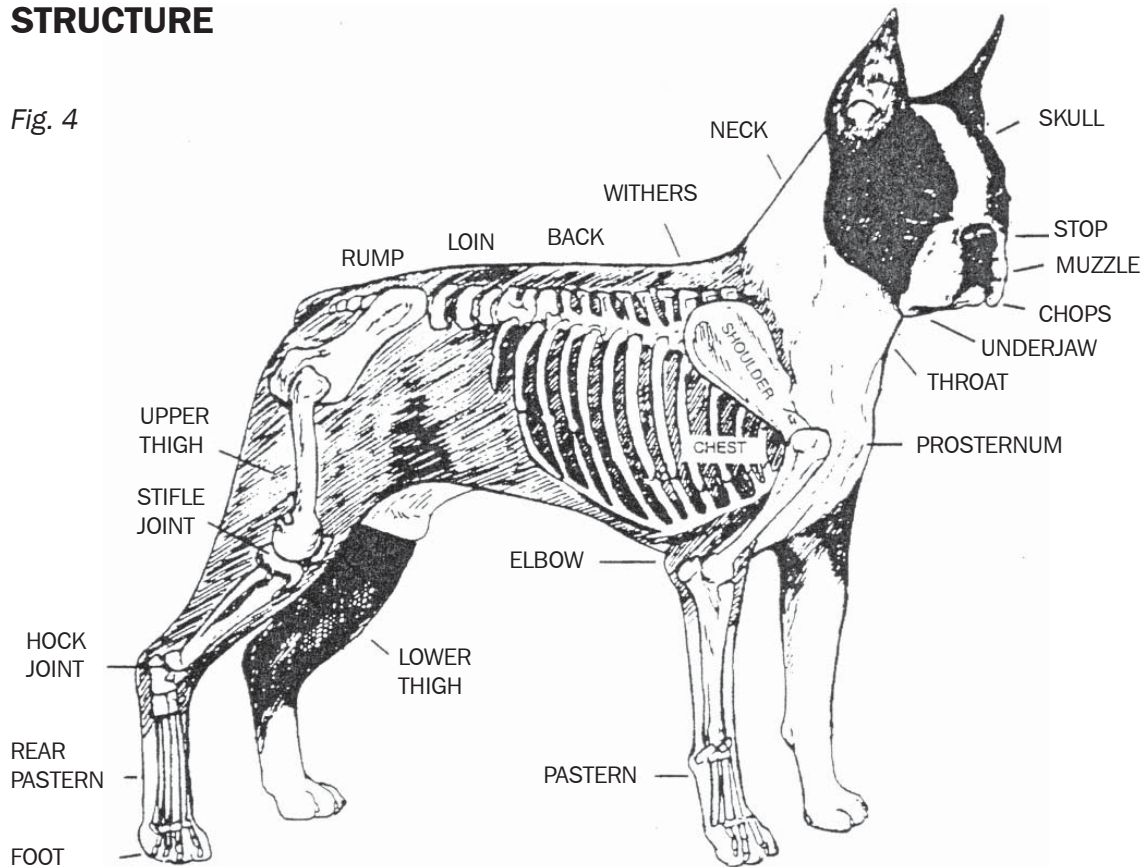
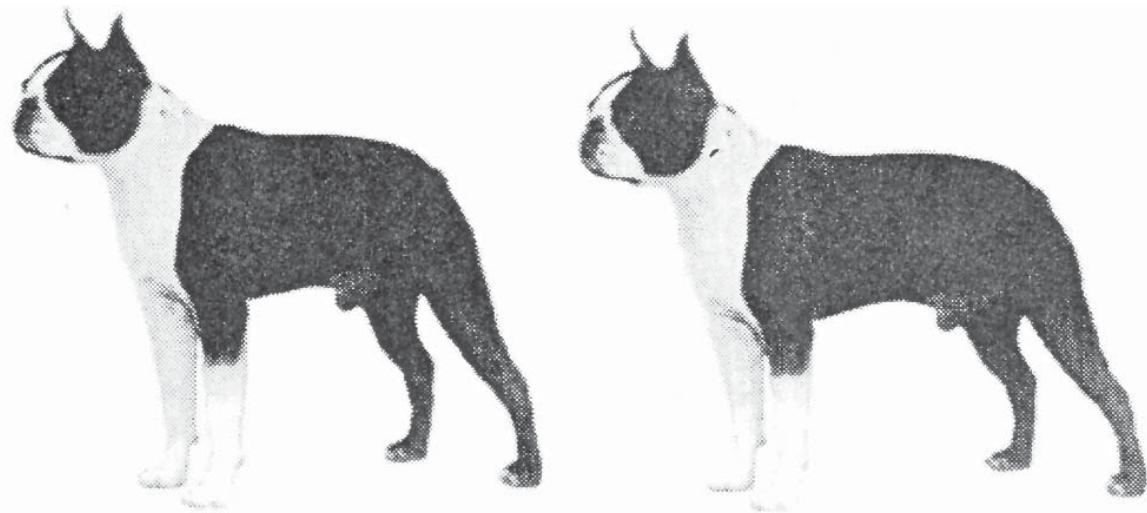


Fig. 5



Too high on leg

Too long in body

The length of leg
does not equal the
length of body

● CHARACTERISTICS

Summary: The clean-cut, short backed body of the Boston Terrier, coupled with the unique characteristics of his square head and jaw, and his striking markings have resulted in a most dapper and charming American original: The Boston Terrier.

The previous paragraphs describe a number of points. They give an outline of the dog, show us the character of the breed and artistically requires that the dog not only be in balance, but must be well proportioned. It gives a synopsis of the breed and tells us, without actually using these words, that the perfect Boston is a bright, sound, elegant, beautifully moving, typey dog with prescribed colour and markings.

General appearance is affected by all parts of the dog. For example, if the dog is faulty in hindquarters, it cannot move with determination and an easy and graceful carriage; neither can a dog with too much white showing in his eyes look intelligent.

The most important point about the weight classification is that each size be in proportion in bone and muscle. That does not mean that because a dog is 9 kgs (20 lbs), it should be coarse and bulky. Conversely, an under 6.8 kgs (15 lbs) dog must also be in proportion to its size. Owners and breeders can have a size preference in the dogs they own or breed, but judges cannot. The Standard does not state that one size is preferred over another. However, this section does state that the length of leg must balance with the length in body, to give the dog its striking, square appearance. It will be noted that when other parts of the dog's conformation are correct, it will also help to make the dog appear square.

The influence of sex is self-explanatory. It should not be interpreted to mean that a slight refinement in the bitch's conformation allows the muzzle to be snipey or the body long.

● TEMPERAMENT

The Boston Terrier is a friendly and lively dog. The breed has an excellent disposition and a high degree of intelligence, which makes the Boston Terrier an incomparable companion.

The temperament of the Boston Terrier is a most important requirement of the breed and care must be taken not to lose it. Without their friendly disposition and intelligence, they would not be Boston Terriers.

● HEAD AND SKULL

The skull is square, flat on top, free from wrinkles, cheeks flat, brow abrupt and the stop well defined. The ideal Boston Terrier expression is alert and kind, indicating a high degree of intelligence. This is a most important characteristic of the breed. The muzzle is short, square, wide and deep and in proportion to the skull. It is free from wrinkles, shorter in length than in depth; not exceeding in length approximately one-third of the length of the skull. The muzzle from stop to end of the nose is parallel to the top of the skull. The nose is black and wide, with a well defined line between the nostrils.

Disqualify: Dudley nose. Fault: Pinched or wide nostrils.

It is difficult to imagine a square head on a dog, but when the skull is square, it will be determined by the set of the ears and eyes.

While the muzzle should be short, square, wide and deep, it cannot be correct unless the jaw is broad with an even or slightly undershot bite.

Fig.6



Correct nose



Ears held erect and set in skull correctly to form a square with the eyes. Good expression.



Fault: Stenotic nose



Fault: Butterfly nose



*Disqualification:
Dudley nose (lacking
or insufficient pigment)*

● EYES

The eyes are wide apart, large and round and dark in colour. The eyes are set square in the skull and the outside corners are on a line with the cheeks as viewed from the front.

Disqualify: Eyes blue in colour or any trace of blue.

Fault: Eyes showing too much white or haw.

The eye should be round and large with a very minimum of white showing. The eyes should be as dark as the coat colour, otherwise they will appear even lighter by contrast. The eye placement and the muzzle should both form the lower square of the head.

Fig. 7



*Correct: Eye placement
size and colour*



*Fault: Too much white
around eyes*



Fault: East-west eyes



Correct: Dark eyes



Fault: Light eyes



*Disqualify: Eyes blue in
colour or any trace of blue*

● EARS

The ears are small, carried erect, and situated as near to the corners of the skull as possible.

Fault: Size of ears out proportion to the size of the head.

Fig. 8



Ears held erect and set in skull correctly to form a square with the eyes. Good expression.

The squareness of the head will be determined by the set of the ears and eyes. The ears should be as close to the corners of the skull as possible, with the outside corners of the eyes in line with the cheeks. Not only should the ears be set properly at the corners of the skull, they must be in proportion to the size of the skull and the muscles that hold the ear erect must be strong so that the ears are held as tightly as possible. Ears like this make the dog appear alert and, of course help to square the head. Ears that are set badly, are too large or too small, or without good muscles are still apparent to the experienced eye.

The correct Boston Terrier expression comes, not only from the eyes, but also from his upright ears and that exceptional bearing that the Boston has that says 'I'm something special!'

● MOUTH

The jaw is broad and square with short, regular teeth. The bite is even or sufficiently undershot to square the muzzle. The chops are of good depth, but not pendulous, completely covering the teeth when the mouth is closed.

Serious faults: Wry mouth, any showing of the tongue or teeth when the mouth is closed.

The muzzle is short, square, wide and deep and in proportion to the skull. It is free from wrinkles, shorter in length than in depth; not exceeding in length approximately one-third of the length of the skull. The muzzle from stop to end of the nose is parallel to the top of the skull. The jaw is broad and square with short, regular teeth. The bite is even or sufficiently undershot to square the muzzle.

Fig. 9



A normal bite



Incorrect overshot bite



Slightly undershot bite



Correct short muzzle viewed from the side. Stop to end of nose is parallel to top of skull.



Correct chops with good depth



Fault: Chops are too pendulous

Fig. 10



Muzzle too short



Muzzle too long

EARS

Fig. 11



Ear set too wide



Ear too big



Correct: Uncropped ear set

Correct: Cropped ear set



- **NECK**

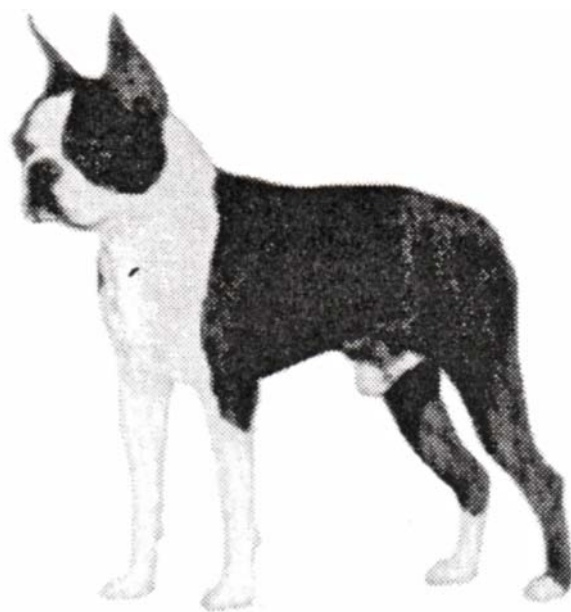
The length of neck must display an image of balance to the total dog. It is slightly arched, carrying the head gracefully and setting neatly into the shoulders.

The neck, topline and body should blend smoothly together, with the length of neck in balance with the body, so that the head is carried gracefully.

Fig. 12



*Good length of neck with
well laid back shoulders*



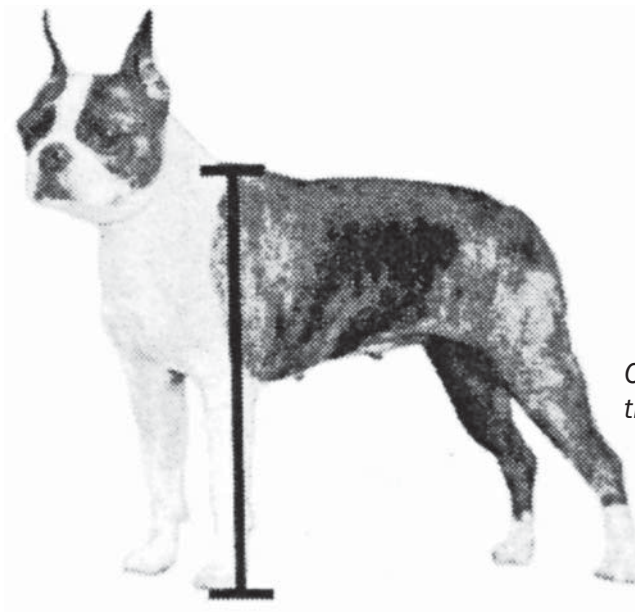
*Neck too short – back
too short to square body*

● FOREQUARTERS

The shoulders are sloping and well laid back, which allows for the Boston Terrier's stylish movement. The elbows stand neither in nor out. The forelegs are set moderately wide apart and on a line with the upper tip of the shoulder blades. The forelegs are straight in bone with short, strong pasterns. The dewclaws may be removed.

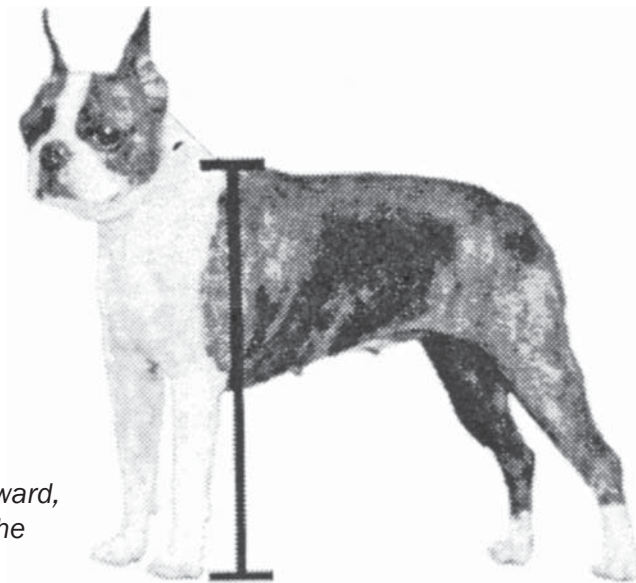
Fault: Legs lacking in substance.

The forequarters help to give the Boston Terrier its stylish movement. The shoulders are sloping and well laid back. An angle of 90 degrees is required, which gives the dog the proper reach in front. When the shoulders are well laid back, the neck will usually be the proper length. A dog with straight shoulders will usually have a neck that is too short, with a shorter reach of the front legs. When the front legs are 'dropped', they should drop perfectly straight, without toeing in or out.



Correct front: Legs on a line with the upper tip of the shoulder blades

Fig. 13



Incorrect front: Legs set too far forward, not on a line with the upper tip of the shoulder blades

Fig. 14



*Incorrect front:
Front too narrow,
legs under body*



*Correct front: Elbows stand
neither in nor out, set
moderately wide apart*



*Incorrect front:
Front too wide,
shoulders loaded*



*Incorrect proportion:
Legs too short*



*Correct proportion:
In good proportion to
general height of dog*



*Incorrect proportion:
Legs too long - gives
impression of leggy dog*

• BODY

The back is just short enough to square the body. The topline is level and the rump curves slightly to the set-on of the tail. The chest is deep with good width, ribs well sprung and carried well back to the loins. The body should appear short.

Serious faults: Roach back, sway back, slab-sided.

The chest should be deep, and, as a rule, in line with the elbows. Aside from aesthetics, the main reason for requiring a level back, is that the power generated in the hindquarters is delivered forward by thrust, through the spinal column to the forequarters. A straight column of bones delivers thrust to a better advantage than one that is curved.

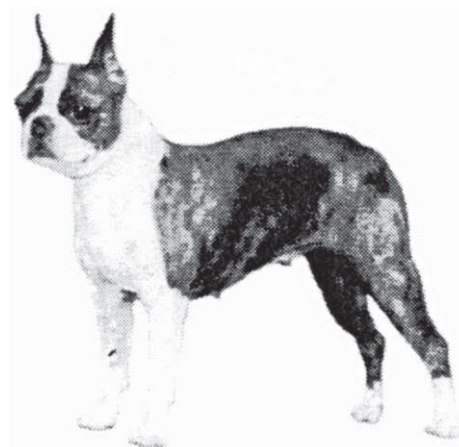
When the ribs are carried well back, the loins will be short. If you think of the loins as a bridge between the front and rear of the dog, you will understand that a short bridge will be stronger than a long one. It will also help to square the body.

The rump curves slightly to a low tail set. A too flat rump usually gives a dog a higher tail set and consequently, straighter stifles.



Fig. 15

Good topline – rump curving slightly to the set-on of tail



Poor topline – too much of a rise over the rump



Poor topline – roach back – rise starting at withers

Serious body faults:

Roach back, camel back, sway back (concave curvature between the withers and the hip bone).

• HINDQUARTERS

The thighs are strong and well muscled, bent in the stifles and set true. The hocks (rear pasterns) are short to the feet, turning neither in nor out, with a well defined hock joint.

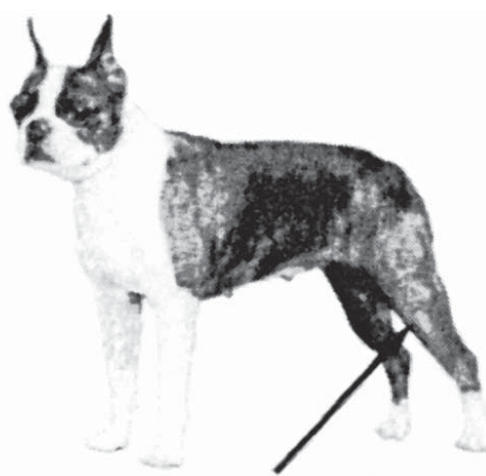
Fault: Straight in stifle.

The hindquarters provide the power that is needed to give a dog the drive or push to propel the front. The stifle must be well angulated, with a long upper and lower thigh and the hocks (rear pasterns) should be well let down, or short, to give the dog endurance.

Fig. 16



*Poor rear angulation:
Note straight stifle, weak hock joint.
These hindquarters will lack drive*



*Correct hindquarters with good proportion.
Note the angulated stifle, short from hock
joint to feet and well defined hock joint*



*Correct hindquarters
viewed from rear*



*Hindquarters too
narrow when
viewed from rear*



*Hindquarters too
wide when
viewed from rear*



*Hindquarters cow-
hocked. Hocks turn
in and feet turn out*

● FEET

Front feet are small, round and compact, turned neither in nor out, with well arched toes and short nails.

Hind feet are small and compact with short nails.

Fault: Splay feet.

Whilst the feet are not termed 'cat feet', they are cat-like, small round and compact.

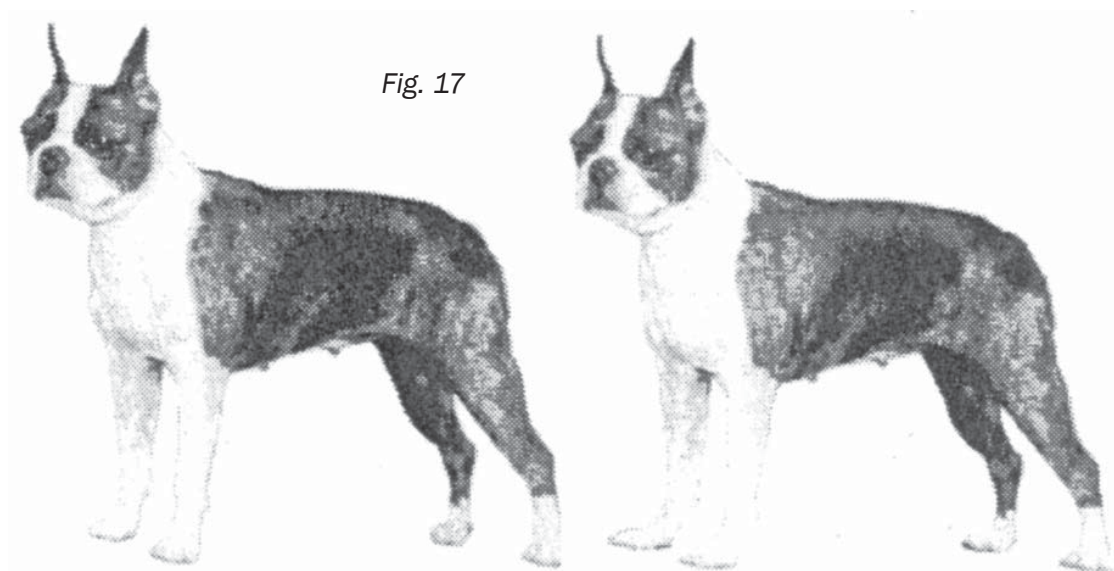


Fig. 17

Good feet: Round, small compact feet with well arched toes. Note strong pasterns

Poor feet: Large toes. Note weak pasterns

● TAIL

The tail is set on low, short, fine and tapering, straight or screw and must not be carried above the horizontal.

(Note: The preferred tail does not exceed in length more than one-quarter the distance from set-on to hock.)

Disqualify: Docked tail. Fault: Gaily carried tail.

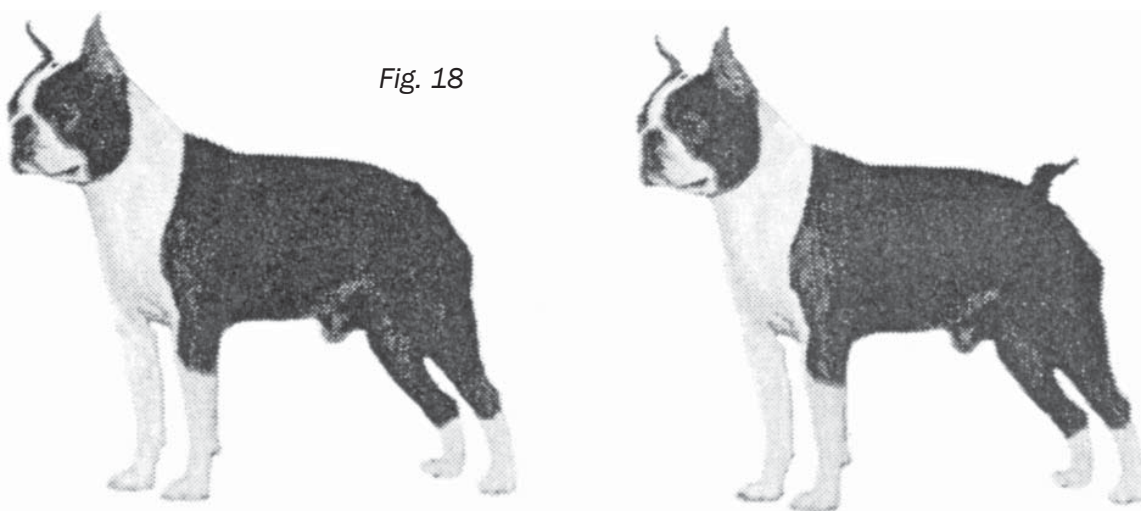


Fig. 18

Tail set correctly

Gay tail

● GAIT/MOVEMENT

The gait of the Boston Terrier is that of a sure footed, straight gaited dog, forelegs and hindlegs moving straight ahead in line with perfect rhythm, each step indicating grace and power.

Faults: There will be no rolling, paddling, or weaving when gaited. Hackney gait.

Serious Faults: Any crossing movement, either front or rear.

The key words in the description of the movement are 'grace and power'. If he does not move correctly he cannot convey an 'impression of determination, strength and activity, with style of high order, carriage easy and graceful'.

● COAT

The coat is short, smooth, bright and fine in texture.

Coat texture is often determined by the colour of the coat. Brindle coats are usually finer than darker colours. Even though some coats may not be as fine as others, the quality of the coat is usually determined by the condition of the dog.

● COLOUR

Brindle, seal or black with white markings. Brindle is preferred ONLY if all other qualities are equal. (Note: SEAL DEFINED. Seal appears black except it has a red cast when viewed in the sun or bright light.)

Disqualify: Solid black, solid brindle or solid seal without required markings. Grey or liver colours.

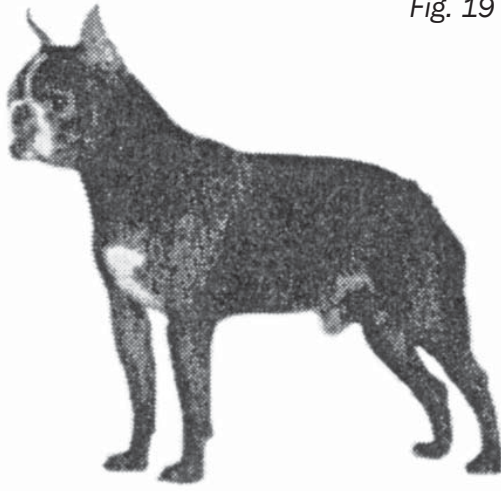
Required markings: White muzzle band, white blaze between the eyes, white forechest.

Desired markings: White muzzle band, even white blaze between the eyes and over the head, white collar, white forechest, white on part or whole of forelegs and hindlegs below the hocks. (Note: A representative specimen should not be penalised for not possessing 'Desired Markings'). A dog with a preponderance of white on the head or body must possess sufficient merit otherwise to counteract its deficiencies.

Colour and markings are very important. They make a Boston look like a Boston.

'A representative specimen should not be penalised for not possessing 'Desired Markings'.

Fig. 19



Required markings



Desired markings



Example of correct even white blaze between the eyes



White blaze between eyes is not even

● SIZE

Weight is divided by classes as follows:

Under 6.8 kgs (15 lbs)

6.8 kgs (15 lbs) and under 9.1 kgs (20 lbs)

9.1 kgs (20 lbs) and not to exceed 11.4 kgs (25 lbs)

● FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Disqualifying:

Eyes blue in colour or any trace of blue

Dudley nose

Docked tail

Solid black, solid brindle, or solid seal without required markings

Grey or liver colours

Serious faults:

Any showing of the tongue or teeth when the mouth is closed

Wry mouth

Roach back, sway back, slab-sided

Any crossing movement, either front or rear

Faults:

Eyes showing too much white or haw

Pinched or wide nostrils

Size of ears out of proportion to the size of the head

Legs lacking in substance; splay feet

Straight in stifle

Gaily carried tail

There will be no rolling, paddling, or weaving when gaited. Hackney gait.

Scale of Points (for interest only):

General appearance -----	10	
Expression -----	10	
Head (Muzzle, Jaw, Bite, Skull & Stop -----	15	
Eyes -----	5	
Ears -----	5	
Neck, Topline, Body & Tail -----	15	
Forequarters-----	10	
Hindquarters -----	10	
Feet -----	5	
Colour, Coat & Markings -----	5	
Gait -----	10	
-----		Total 100

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Permission from the Boston Terrier Club of America Inc. to use their 'Pictorial and Illustrated Standard' in the production of this Extended Standard is very much appreciated by the Australian National Kennel Council.

The contents of this BSE are taken entirely from their publication.