

Kerry Blue Terrier Foundation of Canada

A NONPROFIT CHARITY DEDICATED TO PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF THE KERRY BLUE TERRIER BREED IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, RESCUE, AND HEALTH.



HOW TO IDENTIFY A KERRY BLUE TERRIER

A publication to help shelter personnel identify our breed

Kerry Blue Terriers can be difficult to identify in shelters because (1) They are relatively uncommon and not often seen,, (2) they may be found in an advanced state of neglect giving the appearance of another breed, and (3) many of their physical characteristics are shared with other breeds. This publication is intended to help shelter personnel correctly identify our breed.



The Kerry Blue Terrier Foundation of Canada is a non-profit charitable organization supporting education, health, and rescue of our breed nationwide. In our rescue effort, we take responsibility for any Kerry or Kerry mix needing a home regardless of age or health. See our web site for more information about our organization and the work we do.

PLEASE CALL US - WE CAN HELP

- We are not associated with any breeder club.
- We are the only independent charity dedicated to the Kerry Blue Terrier.
- We offer breed identification, advice, pickup and payment to shelters with impounded Kerries.
- We maintain a network of responsible Kerry people nationwide who recover, vet and foster our dogs
- We spay-neuter every dog placed
- We provide full medical screening and testing of every dog and treatment of any medical condition
- We require completion of an 8-page Adoption Questionnaire, conduct extensive interviews and perform home checks on all adopters.
- We do follow-up on every placement and provide life-long support to every adopter.
- We will pay full adoption fees and can make a generous donation to your organization.

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Size: Height ranges from 17 to 21 inches and weight from 25 to 45 pounds.

Tail: Docked to approximately 6 inches, set well up on the back, and carried erect. *Variations:* may lay on the back or be carried horizontally or between the legs; some Kerries have been found undocked or with Cocker-length tails.

Ears: Small, thin, triangular; set high on the head and carried forward. *Variations:* May be "fly-away", hang down or be held back

Head: Long, but not exaggerated; flat skull, with a very slight stop. The head should be "brick-like" - flat on top and sides.

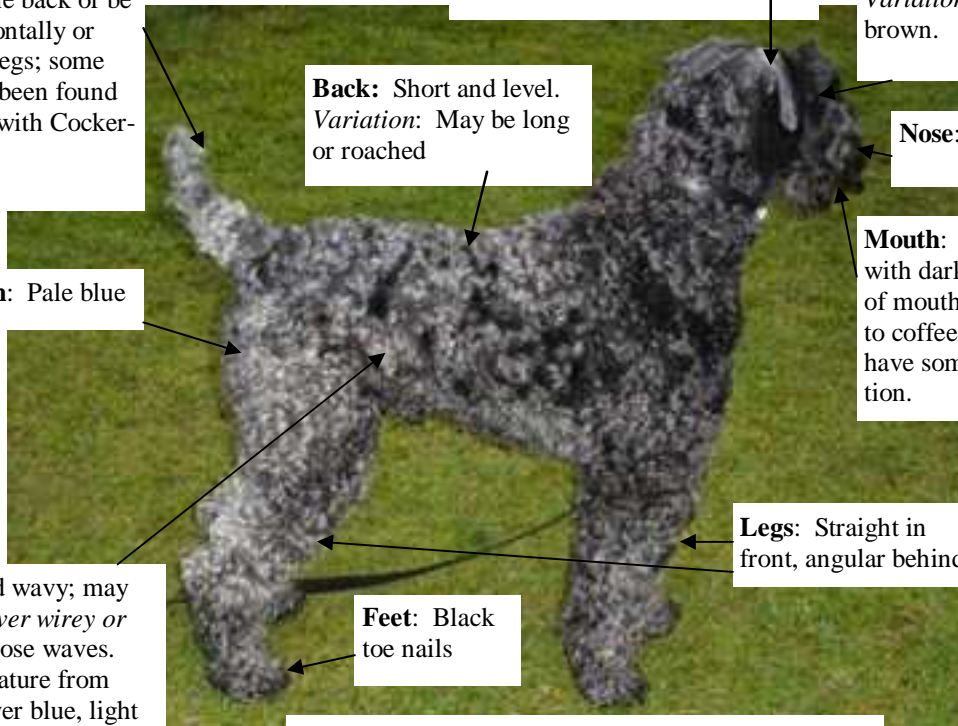
Eyes: Dark brown to dark hazel, small, almond-shaped. *Variation* May be light brown.

Back: Short and level. *Variation:* May be long or roached

Nose: Black

Skin: Pale blue

Mouth: Tongue is pink, with dark spots possible; roof of mouth and gums are black to coffee-coloured and may have some pink pigmentation.



Legs: Straight in front, angular behind

Feet: Black toe nails

Coat: Dense, soft, and wavy; may be silky or cottony (*never wirey or harsh*) from curly to loose waves. Born black, puppies mature from black to slate gray, silver blue, light pearly gray or sometimes tints of tan or brown, especially on young adults in the process of "clearing" to adult colour. The Kerry has a non-shedding single coat. A neglected Kerry may have long hair all over, which may be matted or corded.

Proportions: Overall length from the fore chest to the buttocks is approximately equal to the height at the withers, giving it a square appearance.

Temperament: Dog aggression is common in the breed, giving the false impression in a shelter that the dog is aggressive with people. Most Kerries are friendly and affectionate with humans, and extremely people-orientated. They are typically fearless, alert, and intelligent.

Breeds that Kerry Blue Terriers may be mistaken for:



Poodle Miniature Poodles are smaller than Kerries and Standard Poodles are larger. Poodles have large hanging ears set at or below eye level - Kerries ears are smaller and set high, carried forward. Poodles have long, fine muzzles - Kerries have boxier muzzles.



Schnauzer may have cropped ears - Kerries have natural drop-down ears. Schnauzers have a shorter docked tail and a harsh, wire-haired outer coats and soft undercoat. - Kerries have soft single coats. Schnauzers may be salt & pepper where each strand of hair is banded in shades of gray - Kerries have only one color on each strand of hair.



Airedale. Black and tan - Kerries are gray or black. Airedales are wire-haired - Kerries are soft-coated. Airedales are taller and have proportionally longer tails than Kerries.



Portuguese Water Dog PWDs are stockier and heavier than Kerries. PWDs have webbed feet, a prominent stop, domed and ridged skull and Kerries do not. PWDs have round eyes - Kerries almond shaped. PWDs have low set ears - Kerries high. PWDs are slightly longer than they are tall - Kerries are as long as they are tall.



Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier SCWTs are always wheat or blonde in color - Kerries are always black or gray. SCWTs have silky coats with gentle waves - Kerries wavy to curly coat with more body. SCWTs have shorter docked tails and lower ears.



Bouvier weigh up to 80 lbs - Kerries 45 or less. Bouviers have broad square heads - Kerries rectangular. Bouviers have harsh straight double coats - Kerries have soft wavy single coats.



Pulik smaller than Kerries with shorter foreface and lower set ears. Pulik have broad domed skulls - Kerries have flat. Pulik have double coats - Kerries have single. The wavy, curly or corded Pulik coat can resemble the coat of an unkempt, neglected Kerry.



Scottish Terrier Scotties are short (10 inches) - Kerries are 17+ inches. Scotties have short legs in proportion to their body - Kerries do not. Scotties have natural prick ears - Kerries have natural drop-down ears. Scotties have hard wire-haired outer coats and soft undercoats - Kerries have soft single coats.