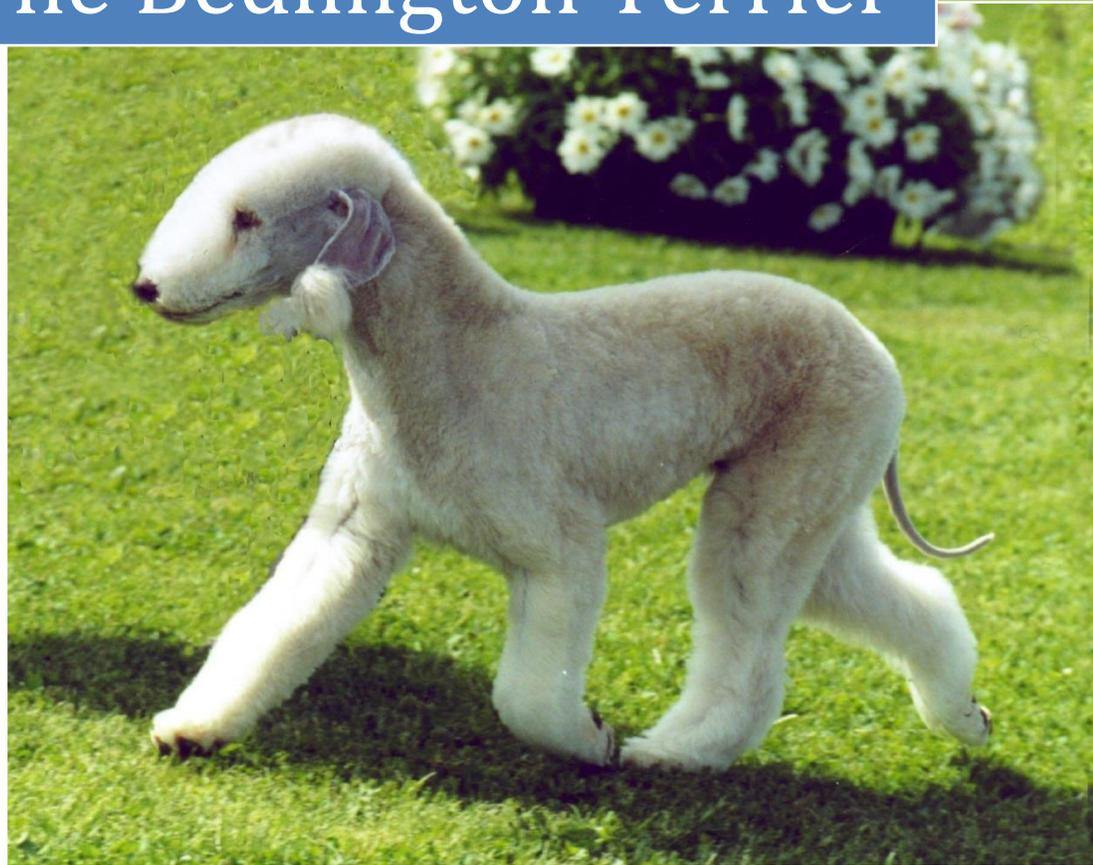


*The Bedlington Terrier  
Club of America, Inc*

The Bedlington Terrier



Illustrated Breed  
Standard with  
Judges and Breeders  
Discussion

*This Illustrated Breed Standard is dedicated to every student of the breed seeking knowledge for judging, breeding, showing or performance. We hope this gives you a springboard for your quest to understand this lovely and unusual terrier.*

*Linda Freeman, Managing Editor*



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Special thank you to everyone who contributed to this work, but especially Sandy Miles, Sandon Bedlingtons , Mr. Richard Reynolds, AKC judge and working terrier expert, Mr Ken Bounden, Tol-pedn Bedlingtons, Laurie Zembrzuski and Gaby Gilbeau, LAMZ Bedlingtons, and Malin and Patricia Eriksson, Isotop’s Bedlingtons.

-Linda Freeman, Managing Editor

# Bedlington Terrier Breed Standard

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**General Appearance** A graceful, lithe, well-balanced dog with no sign of coarseness, weakness or shelliness. In repose the expression is mild and gentle, not shy or nervous. Aroused, the dog is particularly alert and full of immense energy and courage. Noteworthy for endurance, Bedlingtons also gallop at great speed, as their body outline clearly shows.

**Head** Narrow, but deep and rounded. Shorter in skull and longer in jaw. Covered with a profuse topknot which is lighter than the color of the body, highest at the crown, and tapering gradually to just back of the nose. There must be no stop and the unbroken line from crown to nose end reveals a slender head without cheekiness or snipiness. Lips are black in the blue and blue and tans and brown in all other solid and bi-colors. **Eyes** - Almond-shaped, small, bright and well sunk with no tendency to tear or water. Set is oblique and fairly high on the head. Blues have dark eyes; blues and tans, less dark with amber lights; sandies, sandies and tans, light hazel; livers, livers and tans, slightly darker. Eye rims are black in the blue and blue and tans, and brown in all other solid and bi-colors. **Ears** - Triangular with rounded tips. Set on low and hanging flat to the cheek in front with a slight projection at the base. Point of greatest width approximately 3 inches. Ear tips reach the corners of the mouth. Thin and velvety in texture, covered with fine hair forming a small silky tassel at the tip. **Nose** - Nostrils large and well defined. Blues and blues and tans have black noses. Livers, livers and tans, sandies, sandies and tans have brown noses. **Jaws** - Long and tapering. Strong muzzle well filled up with bone beneath the eye. Close-fitting lips, no flews. **Teeth** - Large, strong and white. Level or scissors bite. Lower canines clasp the outer surface of the upper gum just in front of the upper canines. Upper premolars and molars lie outside those of the lower jaw.

**Neck and Shoulders** Long, tapering neck with no throatiness, deep at the base and rising well up from the shoulders which are flat and sloping with no excessive musculature. The head is carried high.

**Body** Muscular and markedly flexible. Chest deep. Flat-ribbed and deep through the brisket, which reaches to the elbows. Back has a good natural arch over the loin, creating a definite tuck-up of the underline. Body slightly greater in length than height. Well-muscled quarters are also fine and graceful.

**Legs and Feet** Lithe and muscular. The hind legs are longer than the forelegs, which are straight and wider apart at the chest than at the feet. Slight bend to pasterns which are long and sloping without weakness. Stifles well angulated. Hocks strong and well let down, turning neither in nor out. Long hare feet with thick, well-closed-up, smooth pads. Dewclaws should be removed.

**Coat** A very distinctive mixture of hard and soft hair standing well out from the skin. Crisp to the touch but not wiry, having a tendency to curl, especially on the head and face. When in show trim must not exceed 1 inch on body; hair on legs is slightly longer.

**Tail** Set low, scimitar-shaped, thick at the root and tapering to a point which reaches the hock. Not carried over the back or tight to the underbody.

**Color** Blue, sandy, liver, blue and tan, sandy and tan, liver and tan. In bi-colors the tan markings are found on the legs, chest, under the tail, inside the hindquarters and over each eye. The topknots of all adults should be lighter than the body color. Patches of darker hair from an injury are not objectionable, as these are only temporary. Darker body pigmentation of all colors is to be encouraged.

**Height** The preferred Bedlington Terrier dog measures 16½ inches at the withers, the bitch 15½ inches. Under 16 inches or over 17½ inches for dogs and under 15 inches or over 16½ inches for bitches are serious faults. Only where comparative superiority of a specimen outside these ranges clearly justifies it, should greater latitude be taken.

**Weight** To be proportionate to height within the range of 17 to 23 pounds.

**Gait** Unique lightness of movement. Springy in the slower paces, not stilted or hackneyed. Must not cross, weave or paddle.

**Approved September 12, 1967**

# History of the Breed

**Early History:** To understand the breed standard, we must first discuss the origin of the breed, the Northumberland County of England and the men who lived, worked and hunted in the region. The name Bedlington is of Saxon origin. There was a tribe of Saxons called Baedlings, and Bedlington would be the village where they lived. Now, fast forward to the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The Border Country of England is renowned for its beauty, remote hills, heatherlands, pastures and wildlife. Lured by the mines, Scots relocated to the region, bringing their rough coated terriers, seeking employment and the abundant hunting in the area. These rough coated Scotch terriers, along with local crossbred sighthounds and the early Otter Hound (before the infusion of Bloodhound) were combined to create the forerunner of the Bedlington Terrier. The recorded birth of the breed is 1825, when Coates' "Pheobe" was mated to Anderson's "Old Piper." The Bedlington Terrier has the most complete pedigree of any breed of dog. Originally called the Northumberland Terrier, it was first called the Bedlington Terrier in 1840. The breed grew steadily, but by 1873 fifty percent of the registered Bedlingtons were still living in Northumberland. The National Bedlington Terrier Club (UK) was recognized in 1898, and celebrated their Centenary Show in Bedlington, England on 3-28-98, with a worldwide gathering of breed fanciers.



The first Bedlington registered in the United States was "Ananian" in 1886. The Bedlington Terrier Club of America was formed in 1932. Other national and regional clubs can be found in the US, England, Europe and Australia.

**Early Function:** In 1849, badger baiting and cock fighting became illegal in England, but as we all know, laws don't stop certain men, and these illegal sports sadly continue even today. In the Northumberland region, some men saw the breed as a potential fighting dog and deliberately crossed "bull blood" into their stock. These breeders were often at odds with the genuine breed fanciers who cherished the steady temperament and fine working ability of the original dogs. The Bedlington Terrier, properly bred, was never and should never be a fighting dog, and is **never sparred**.

**The Performance Bedlington:** In the August 1998 issue of DOGS MONTHLY, John Holden writes, "It is fact that despite his image, the Bedlington is currently one of the most commonly worked of all K.C. recognized breeds." For those who own and love the breed, it comes as no surprise that these dogs can work! Although the breed has always been light on its feet, the Bedlington is not a small coursing dog, and this mistaken notion has led many a judge and breeder down the wrong path. *A dog should not be too exaggerated.* The breed must be able to go to ground (AKC trials allow for a nine inch square tunnel) and the breed must be able to run down a fleeing rabbit or rat. Too much brisket inhibits its ability to go to ground. Not enough brisket inhibits its swift chase, and its ample heart and lungs for endurance. Although there are dogs bred for show and dogs bred for field work, a dog bred true to the breed standard can excel at any event. Smart breeders have learned that instinct is not enough to make a dog hunt. A dog must be intelligent, it must be able to solve problems based on its training. Most of all, a good performance dog must be healthy, fit and sound.



**Why is the breed an ideal companion?** In 1825, it is unlikely that anyone was thinking of championships when they developed this breed, but they were certainly thinking of performance. Light on its feet gives us an agile dog; a correct protective coat gives us a warm and safe companion; tassels on the tips of the ears protect the ear leather from trauma and tearing; the fuzzy top knot protects the eyes from thorns and weather; a game temperament keeps the dog eager to learn and work; and the moderate size fits in most homes and cars. Best of all, the happy attitude makes the breed a joy to own.

-Linda Freeman, July 1998. Sources: Ian Phillips, NBTC, AKC, BTCA, John Holden

## General Appearance

**General Appearance** A graceful, lithe, well-balanced dog with no sign of coarseness, weakness or shelliness. In repose the expression is mild and gentle, not shy or nervous. Aroused, the dog is particularly alert and full of immense energy and courage. Noteworthy for endurance, Bedlingtons also gallop at great speed, as their body outline clearly shows.



The first sentence of any breed standard should dictate your first impression. A *“graceful, lithe, well-balanced dog with no signs of coarseness, weakness or shelliness.”* The definition of graceful is *“elegance, beauty and harmony of form and movement. That is the Bedlington Terrier.”* - Linda Freeman

*“Lithe – hard yet flexible. Similar to lathy. A builder’s lath in the old days was a strip of wood about an inch wide and ¼ inch thick. Strong yet flexible. Bedlingtons must be in hard, muscular condition but capable of bending and turning.”* –Ken Bounden, Exeter, England, 1997

*“In temperament, he is an exceptionally reserved and gentle dog, decidedly not yappy or excitable. Neither is he a one person dog but one who’s anxious to please everybody.”* Robert D. Wendel, 1982



The breed standard most similar to the Bedlington Terrier in description is the Whippet, *“the appearance of elegance and fitness, denoting great speed, power and balance without coarseness.”* What makes the Bedlington different? The Bedlington Terrier is a general purpose breed, not a single purpose specialist. –Linda Freeman

Many breeds of hunting dog were developed with a single purpose. Think of the English Foxhound which is a slow, indefatigable nose on legs. However, Bedlies don’t fit into a single class. They can do it all, although perhaps not as well as a specialist breed. The great terrier men of England have never been above combining breeds where type and substance are known to shine through. Bedlington “type” is apparent in the small lurcher (Bedlington sire, Whippet dam); fast powerful dogs that prove their worth when quarry bolts from the den. –Richard Reynolds



If your first impression is *“small, game, well-balanced, hardy looking terrier”* then you should be looking at a Westie.

If your first impression is *“small, sturdy, white powder puff of a dog”* then you should be looking at a Bichon Frise.



*“There is little doubt that the origin of the Bedlington Terrier was promoted, in part, by those fond of unholy pursuits, otherwise known as poachers. Unable to afford a pack, not wanting to risk buying hounds or larger dogs, these gentlemen needed a dog that could do it all. A Whippet may be fast, but has comparatively little endurance. A Dachshund can get underground to quarry but isn’t as fast or as good at dispatching it. A Norfolk or Westie excels at getting rats, but when the rats run...they win. Watch a Bedlie work. It can do all of this, perhaps not as well as a single-purpose breed, but adequately, because those characteristics that make up breed type have been preserved.”* Richard Reynolds, AKC/AWTA Earthdog & Conformation judge

A bad temperament is something to avoid introducing into a breeding program, ie, overly aggressive to other dogs; not friendly to people once introduced; will bite for no good reason. –Sandy Miles, 2010

# Head

**Head** Narrow, but deep and rounded. Shorter in skull and longer in jaw. Covered with a profuse topknot which is lighter than the color of the body, highest at the crown, and tapering gradually to just back of the nose. There must be no stop and the unbroken line from crown to nose end reveals a slender head without cheekiness or snipiness. Lips are black in the blue and blue and tans and brown in all other solid and bi-colors.

## Correct Heads



“The straight line from the occiput to nose is of course literally impossible and we need only use the old grey matter to see what our predecessors were trying to attain. Early terriers had small forefaces with pronounced stops – many were ‘apple-headed’ and the sporting lads set out to produce heads with really punishing jaws. We have a deep skull and, if we conjure up a picture of this depth being continued forward with a slight taper, but no appreciable stop, and with bone and muscle forward of the eye, large teeth and large nostrils we can visualize a powerful piece of machinery.” -Ken Bounden, Exeter, England 2002

## Incorrect Heads, short narrow muzzle, broad temples, high set small ears



“There are few items mentioned twice in the breed standard. Coat color, however, is defined twice, here and again in the Color section of the standard. The top knot must be lighter than the body.”

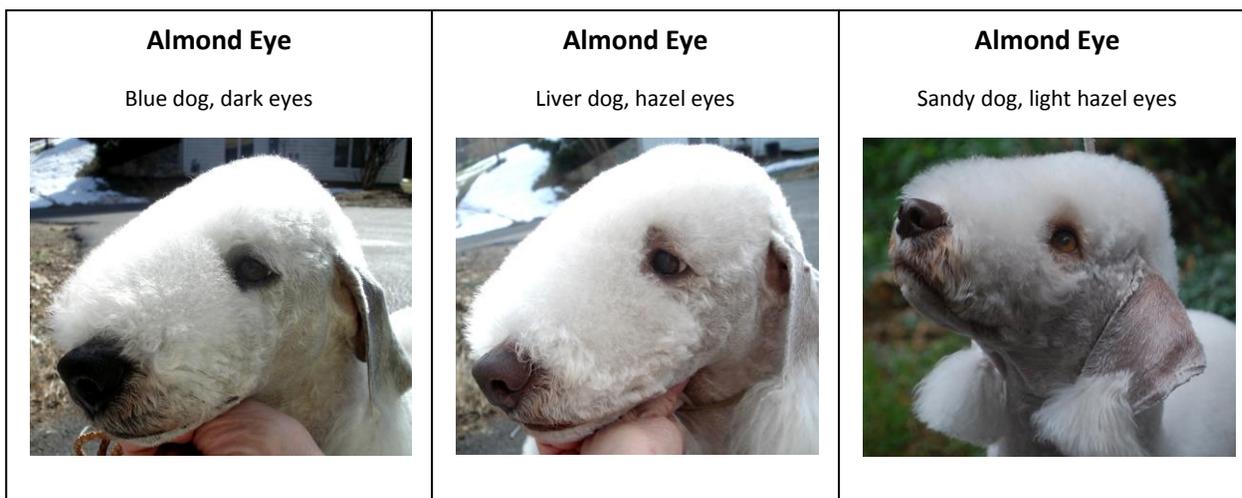
“They don’t run on their bloody heads.” - Fred Gent, aka Mr Bedlington, England, circa 1965

“The head must be refined, neither heavy nor broad. The skull is relatively narrow with no protruding malar bone, no ponderous muzzle, no jowl-ly, cheeky or snipey look but with a cleanly chiseled line both sides. On top, the head is rounded. Lengthwise, it should appear long but not overly so, only relative to the size of the dog. In a sense, the head should fit him like a built-in crown.” Robert D Wendel, 1982

Remember to feel for sufficient fill under the eyes during examination since it is easily hidden by hair. -Jackie Fogel, 2010

# Eyes

**Eyes** - Almond-shaped, small, bright and well sunk with no tendency to tear or water. Set is oblique and fairly high on the head. Blues have dark eyes; blues-and-tans, less dark with amber lights; sandies, sandies-and-tans, light hazel; livers, livers-and-tans, slightly darker. Eye rims are black in the blue and blue-and-tans, and brown in all other solid and bi-colors.



American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists BedlingtonTerrier Recognized Eye Disorders (1999)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Microphthalmia (defective small eye)</li> <li>2. Distichiasis (abnormal eyelashes)</li> <li>3. Imperforate lacrimal punctum (blocked tear duct)</li> <li>4. Cataract</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Retinal dysplasia – folds (usually resolves with maturity)</li> <li>6. Retinal dysplasia – geographic (abnormal retinal development)</li> <li>7. Retinal dysplasia – detached (detachment of the retina)</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

**Correct** – Blue-and-tan  
Bedlington with “amber lights”



**Round Eye – Incorrect**



**Teary Eyes – Incorrect**



Please note: The AKC standard called for a triangular eye until it was changed to almond in 1967.

“There are a lot of reasons that a Bedlington might tear. Most commonly, a puppy will often, but not always, tear when it teethes. This tearing stops when the pup is almost 12 months old, and has cut all its molars. Other benign reasons for tearing would be shampoo, chemicals or powders in the eye (by accident). However, there are genetic defects which can cause tearing too, some of which an ophthalmologists can correct. Since minor defects can be so easily corrected (whether inside or outside of AKC rules) it is recommended to think twice about a dog that is still tearing over the age of 12 months. There could be something quite serious and not correctable that is wrong with the dog.” –Linda Freeman, Vienna, VA 2009

Light eyes are a fault that you can breed out of a line (do not double up on this fault.) – Sandy Miles, 2010

# Ears

**Ears** - Triangular with rounded tips. Set on low and hanging flat to the cheek in front with a slight projection at the base. Point of greatest width approximately 3 inches. Ear tips reach the corners of the mouth. Thin and velvety in texture, covered with fine hair forming a small silky tassel at the tip.

**Correct ear.** Note the low set on the head, 3 inch wide



**Correct Width:** Approximately 3 inch wide ears, measure at the widest part across the ear.



**Correct Length:** Tip of ear leather should reach the corner of the mouth.



**Correct "Smiling ears"** Bedlingtons communicate with their ears



"The ear should be set low, never intruding upon the dome of the skull. It should fold out at the top, lie flat to the cheek at the bottom. The leather should be thin, never thick or heavy feeling. Right down to his ears, the Bedlington should be a genuinely refined animal in every sense of the word." – Robert D. Wendel, 1982

"Ears should fit the dog, being neither too big or too small. Tassels should always be in proportion to the size of the ear, the head and the dog without the look of a full blown powder puff." Robert D. Wendel, 1982

The leather should be thin enough that daylight can be seen through it when held up to sunlight. – Linda Freeman 2002



Things to breed out of a line (do not double up on these faults): Too big or too little ears. Sandy Miles, 2010

**Incorrect, high set ears**



**Incorrect, ears too wide**



**Incorrect, string ears**



## Nose

**Nose** - Nostrils large and well defined. Blues and blues-and-tans have black noses. Livers, livers-and-tans, sandies, sandies-and-tans have brown noses.



Black nose on a blue dog

Brown nose on a liver

Brown nose on sandy/tan

Black nose on blue/tan

Notes: "Twenty years ago many US dogs had large noses but they were round with pinched nostrils. This has changed for the better today." Ken Bounden, 2002

"The large nose, with well defined nostrils, usually goes with large teeth and deep jaws. The pretty button nose, too often, goes with small teeth and weak muzzles." - Ken Bounden, 2002

"A snow nose, butterfly or Dudley nose is uncharacteristic for the breed (a nose that has faded out to pink) such as this Bichon nose picture to the right. -Linda Freeman 2009



## JAWS

**Jaws** - Long and tapering. Strong muzzle well filled up with bone beneath the eye. Close-fitting lips, no flews

### Correct

Strong jaw, note the strength and depth of bone of the chin and the long muzzle.



Bitch whelped 1954

### Incorrect

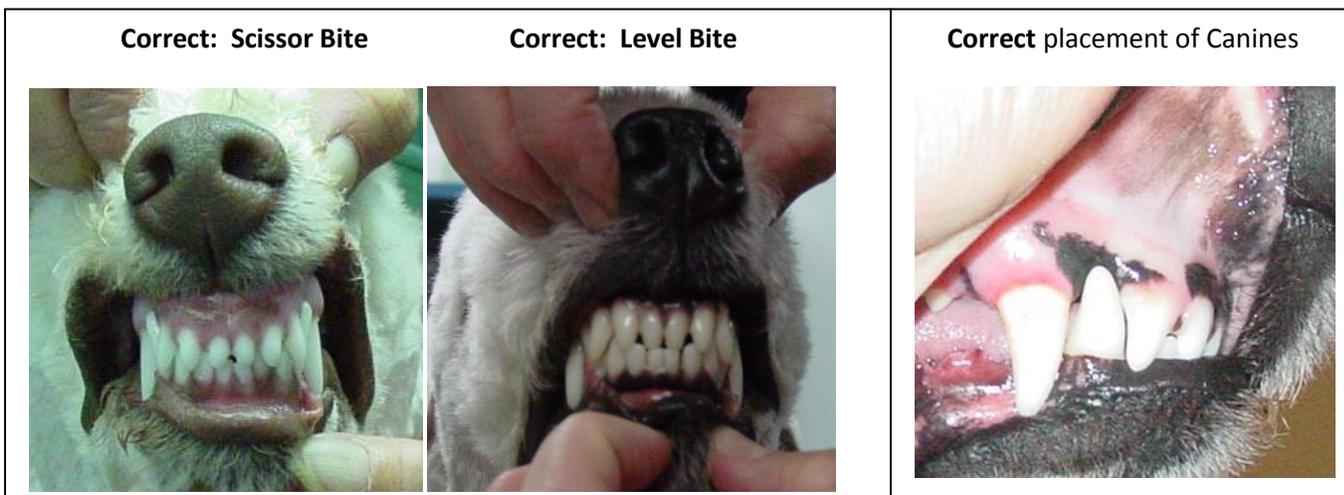
Weaker jaw, note less fill under the eyes and a chin with less strength and depth of bone.



Bitch whelped 1988

# Teeth

**Teeth** - Large, strong and white. Level or scissors bite. Lower canines clasp the outer surface of the upper gum just in front of the upper canines. Upper premolars and molars lie outside those of the lower jaw.



**Incorrect Bite: Misplaced Canine**



**Incorrect: Flue Bite**



**Incorrect: Undershot Bite**



“Very few judges look for anything but a scissors bite, including some breeder judges.” –Sandy Miles, Valdosta, GA, 2002

An undershot mouth is a fault to avoid introducing into a breeding program (avoid breeding dogs with this fault). –Sandy Miles, 2010

“Small teeth can be a problem in this breed.” –Linda Freeman , 2002

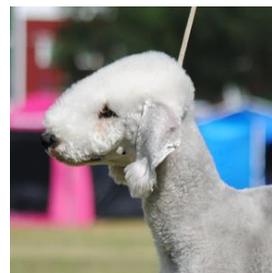
## Neck and Shoulders

**Neck and Shoulders** Long, tapering neck with no throatiness, deep at the base and rising well up from the shoulders which are flat and sloping with no excessive musculature. The head is carried high.

Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect
<p data-bbox="261 514 537 583">Long tapering neck and flat shoulder</p> 	<p data-bbox="672 514 786 541">Ewe Neck</p> 	<p data-bbox="915 514 1169 583">Short, thick neck with straight shoulders</p> 	<p data-bbox="1317 514 1409 541">Throaty</p> 

Note: The neck is groomed differently in the US from most of the world. In the US, we usually scissor a crest from the back of the head to the shoulders. Most of the world clippers a clean neck, the top knot stops at the back of the head. This is simply a grooming style, and should be judged as such.- Linda Freeman, 2010

Alternate grooming style for the neck



## Body

**Body** Muscular and markedly flexible. Chest deep. Flat-ribbed and deep through the brisket, which reaches to the elbows. Back has a good natural arch over the loin, creating a definite tuck-up of the underline. Body slightly greater in length than height. Well-muscled quarters are also fine and graceful.

Correct – Natural arch over loin	Correct
	

**Correct slab sides.** This dog has a correct V front with a rib cage that mirrors the shoulders. Please note that the slab sides do NOT drop from the spine to the elbow, but rather begin midpoint on the dog's body, where the ribs begin to flow to a gentle point. It is critical that there be sufficient lung/ heart space in the slab sides.



**Incorrect:** Shelly ribs. This dog is extremely narrow in the front. Note that the rib cage is sunken into the body, with almost a closed hand around the brisket. This dog suffers from extreme lack of heart/lung space. The side view illustrates the concave ribs, bowing into the body.

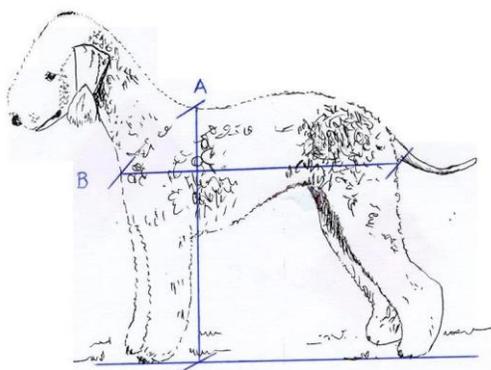


**Incorrect:** Barrel ribs. This dog has a wide front and rounded ribs. He cannot put his front feet together. Please note the wide open palm on the brisket. The side view shows a rounded rib with lack of tuck up.



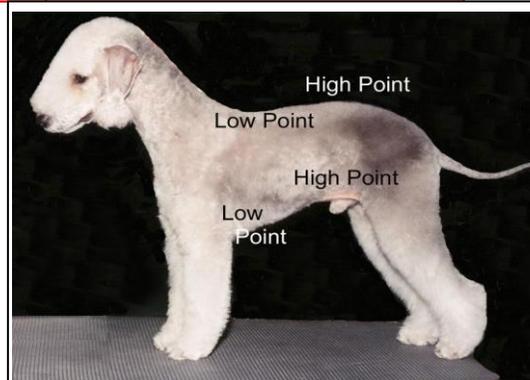
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Incorrect</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wheel back</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Incorrect</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Flat back, high croup</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Incorrect</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thick waist, lacks sufficient tuck-up, note excessive apron</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Incorrect</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Roach too far forward</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Incorrect</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Herring gut, insufficient brisket</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Incorrect</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Long back</p> 

Correct proportion –Length A should be slightly shorter than Length B



Long or short backs are faults you can breed out of a line (do not double up on these faults). –Sandy Miles

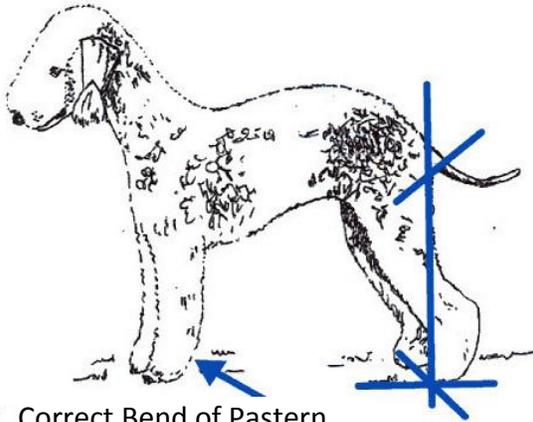
The top line and the bottom line should rise and fall together in a graceful and gentle line. The dog should not look created with careful scissoring, rather, you should say, “Do these dogs need haircuts?”



A shallow brisket does not allow ample room for the heart and lungs. A brisket too deep is awkward and cannot go to ground. A stiff top line will not bend and lengthen while working and galloping. It is not a coursing dog, it’s an all purpose dog. – Linda Freeman

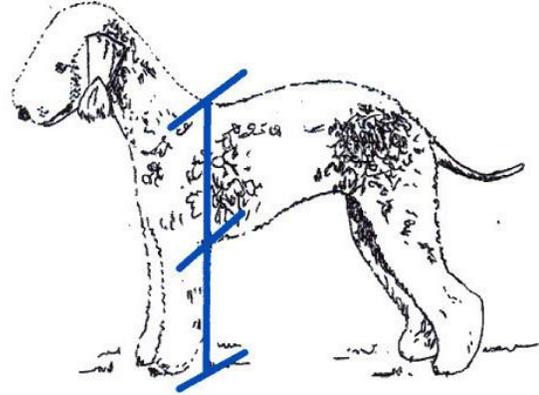
“The body of the Bedlington Terrier should be compact but never square or cobby. In fact, the term, “cobby” should never be associated with the breed at all. At the same time, the body is highly flexible to enable the dog to squirm into holes in the ground and out again quickly. His body is definitely flat-ribbed or slab-sided, never sprung or rounded.” –Robert D Wendel, 1982

### Correct Angulation pastern and rear



1. Correct Bend of Pastern
2. To determine the proper placement of the hindquarters, drop a plumb line from the ischium to the ground. The line should drop through the back toe nails.

### Correct proportions



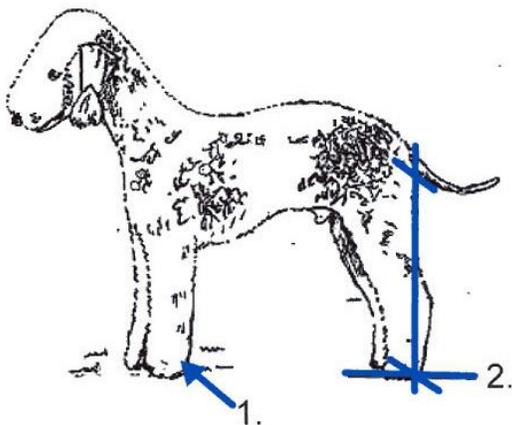
The distance from the shoulder to the elbow should be the same as the distance from the elbow to the ground.



Incorrect Proportion

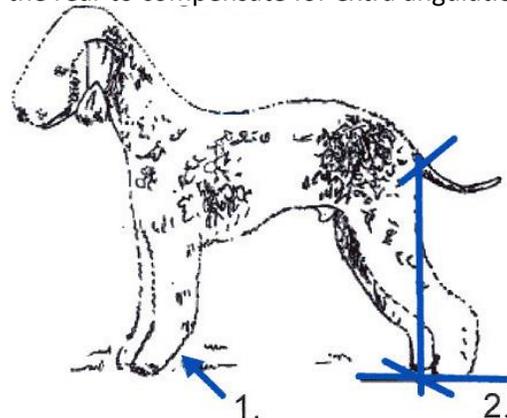
### Incorrect Straight pastern and rear

1. Straight fox terrier front, lacks proper slope of pastern
2. Straight rear, a plumb line dropped from the ischium to the ground falls through the back of the foot. This dog has a short tibia bone. Also, check for incorrect slope of croup.



### Incorrect Overangulated pastern and rear

1. Too much slope of pastern, weak pasterns.
2. Too much angulation in the rear. If you drop a plumb line from the ischium to the ground, the line will completely miss the front of the foot. Check for a defect in the croup, or a tibia bone that is much too long. Also check for a short back. This dog may hack, crab, or move very wide in the rear to compensate for extra angulation.



# Legs - Front

**Legs – Front** The hind legs are longer than the foreleg, which are straight and wider apart at the chest than at the feet. Slight bend to pasterns which are long and sloping without weakness.

Correct bend of  
Pastern.



**Incorrect** Too much  
bend of the pastern.



**Incorrect** straight  
pastern



Correct – straight toes



**Incorrect** – Toe out



Correct V Front



Correct V Front



**Incorrect** narrow front



**Incorrect** – Wide Front



Correct – proportion



**Incorrect** – Long front legs

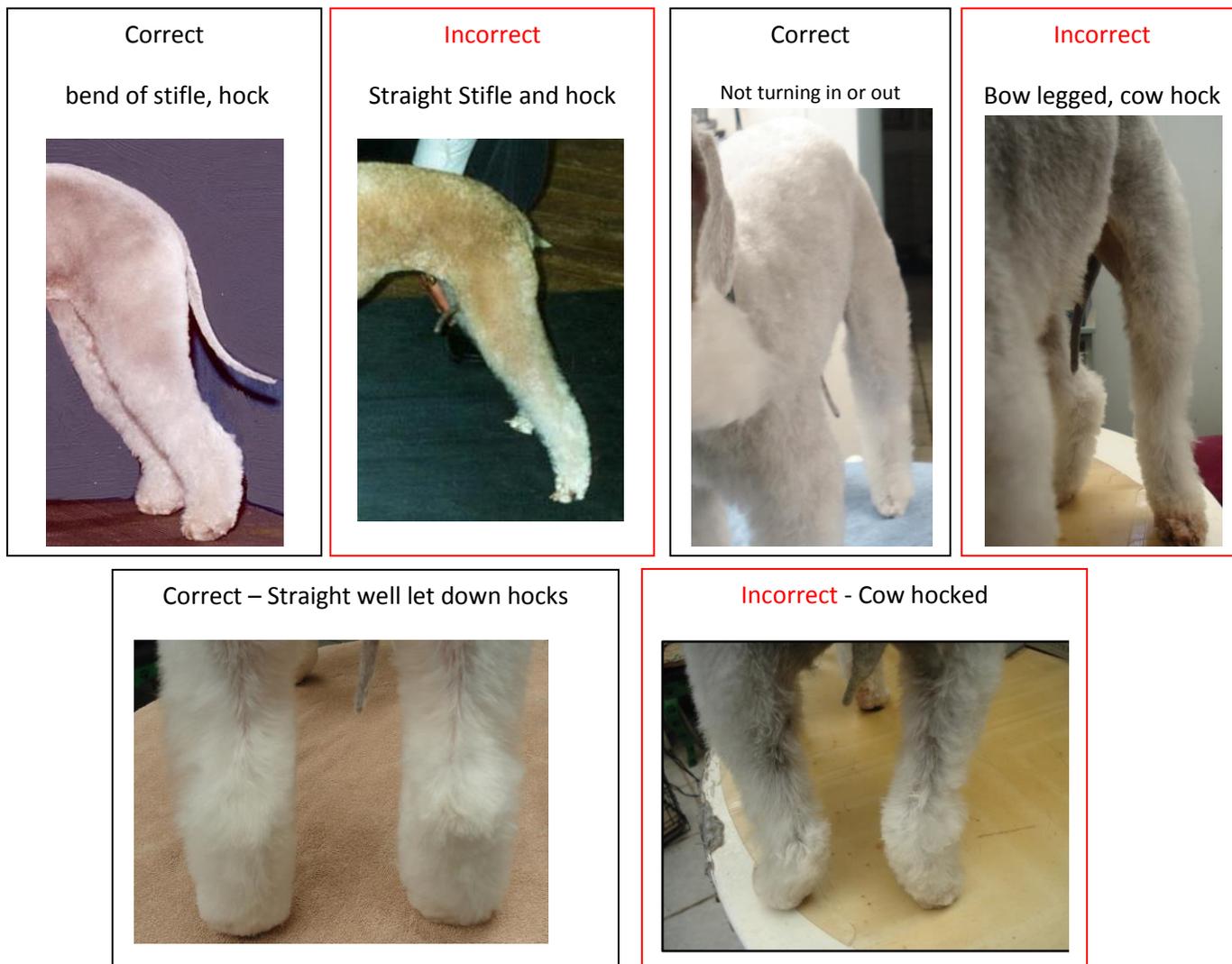


**Incorrect** – Short Front legs



## Legs - Rear

**Legs - Rear** .Lithe and muscular. The hind legs are longer than the forelegs. Stifles well angulated. Hocks strong and well let down, turning neither in nor out.

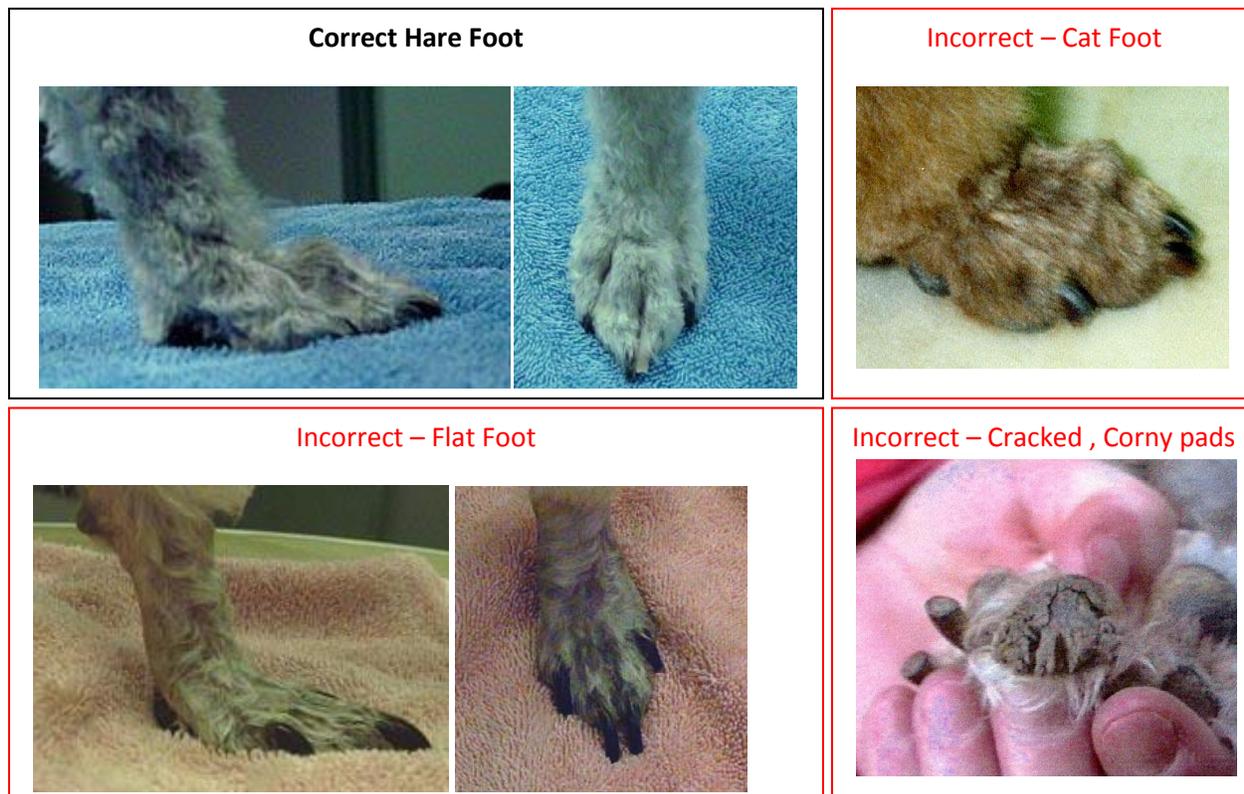


Slipped hocks, aka double jointed hocks, are a defect in which the hock will collapse forward, much beyond the normal bend of a correct hock joint. This defect is a soft tissue problem, and may be a dominant gene in the Bedlington Terrier. Although these dogs can often be stacked correctly, they will constantly want to move their back legs forward under their body for support, as shown in this photo. It is not recommended that these dogs be bred, and performance events will most likely lead to injury. – Linda Freeman



# Feet

**Feet** Long hare feet with thick, well-closed-up, smooth pads. Dewclaws should be removed.



A cracked and corny pad is the only fault that I recommend you not only neuter the dog, but neuter the parents. This is a recessive gene, and since it is so debilitating to the poor dog and since it requires such a high degree of owner maintenance, it makes the dog difficult to own as a pet. –Linda Freeman, 2010

# Tail

**Tail** Set low, scimitar-shaped, thick at the root and tapering to a point which reaches the hock. Not carried over the back or tight to the underbody.



**Correct Slope of Croup:** A helpful tool to determine the correct slope of the croup is your “hand span” measurement: the thumb of the right hand above a hip bone with the middle finger placed just above the root of the tail. There should be a definite slope to the hand, indicating the drop-off. – Dess June, 2010

**Average tail carriage****Correct tail length– Tail touches hock****Incorrect – curly tail****Incorrect – Gay Tail****Congenital Birth Defect - Kink**

“The tail of the Bedlington is used essentially as a balance staff. Carried too high or too low, it can serve as a tip-off that the dog has structural deficiencies he is compensating for – by shifting the weight of his tail forward. Temperament, too, may play a role in how a dog carries his tail. The tail is set low to begin with and carried down when the dog is idle but never between the legs. In motion, the dog elevates the tail but never to the point it is carried over the back. Ideally, it is positioned parallel to the ground when the dog is moving at a normal pace. He may, when aroused, carry it higher but still not over the back. The tail is shaped like a curved saber – without curl, crook, bend, droop or wry twist. It is never thick and it should taper gracefully from body to tip. When placed behind the rear leg, it reaches the hock joint, never above or below.” Robert D Wendel, 1982

## Coat and Color

**Coat** A very distinctive mixture of hard and soft hair standing well out from the skin. Crisp to the touch but not wiry, having a tendency to curl, especially on the head and face. When in show trim must not exceed 1 inch on body; hair on legs is slightly longer. **Color** Blue, sandy, liver, blue and tan, sandy and tan, liver and tan. In bi-colors the tan markings are found on the legs, chest, under the tail, inside the hindquarters and over each eye. The topknots of all adults should be lighter than the body color. Patches of darker hair from an injury are not objectionable, as these are only temporary. Darker body pigmentation of all colors is to be encouraged.

Correct Blue colors

Please note legs may be dark



Correct Sandy/Liver Colors

Please note legs may be dark



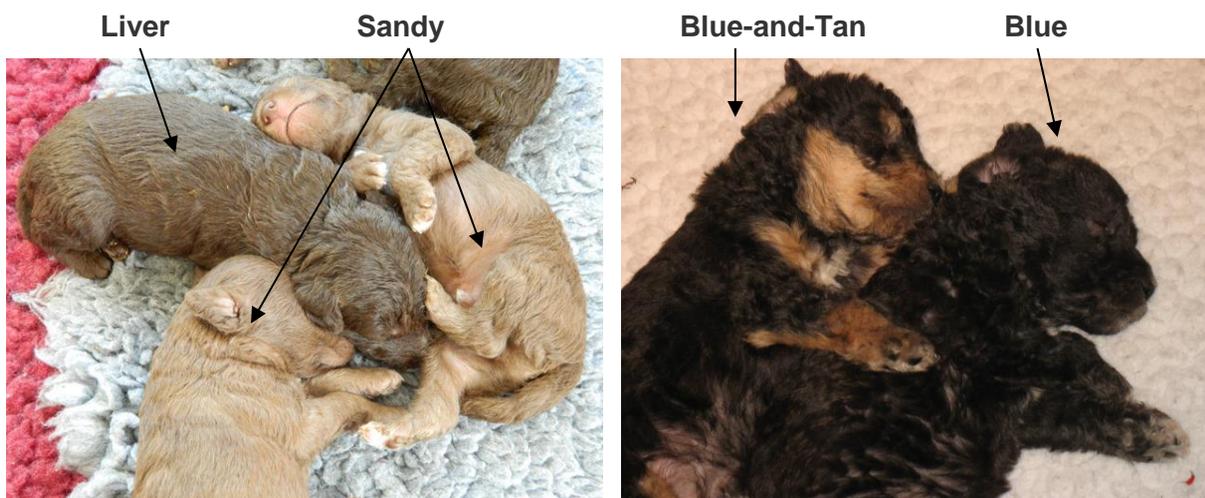
Correct: This young dog's white chest is acceptable.



Correct: Dark patches are acceptable.



### Correct puppy colors: Baby Bedlingtons



Correct puppy Color at 6 months →

Correct **Blue and Tan** Coat, marked much like a Doberman at birth, this is a color combination in which the tan will often fade to a near white color in the adult coat.



**Incorrect**  
Dark Head, Adult Coat



**Incorrect**  
Lacking Color



Note: Nowhere in the breed standard does the word “white” appear. The topknot must be lighter than the body, and this is mentioned twice in the standard.

Many dogs go “white” at 12 months, but should color back out by 24 months. Bedlingtons under 2 years old that are white should be considered immature in color.

“Straight hair and soft hair are dominant over curly crisp hair.” –Anna Neary, Aug 1953

**Rule of Thumb: If you have to look at a dog’s nose to see what color it is, that dog is too light.**

## Height and Weight

**Height** The preferred Bedlington Terrier dog measures 16½ inches at the withers, the bitch 15½ inches. Under 16 inches or over 17½ inches for dogs and under 15 inches or over 16½ inches for bitches are serious faults. Only where comparative superiority of a specimen outside these ranges clearly justifies it, should greater latitude be taken. **Weight** To be proportionate to height within the range of 17 to 23 pounds



**Incorrect** -Two inches of body coat



**Correct** - One inch of body coat

**Weight:** Weight and coat play a game together. The breed standard dictates that the coat **MUST** not exceed one inch on the body. If a dog has more than an inch of coat it should look heavy or coarse. – Linda Freeman, 2009

**Size:** Things to avoid introducing into a breeding program (avoid breeding dogs with these faults): way too big and coarse as well as dogs with a wide front. –Sandy Miles, 2010

### What is this box?

Master Earthdog tests require a Bedlington Terrier to navigate through a constriction the size of this box: 6" X 9". So, the brisket must be flexible enough to bend to this shape. All other earthdog tunnels are 9" X 9" which is *quite* generous. A large fox den tunnel would be 7" x 7.5".



Fox  
Den

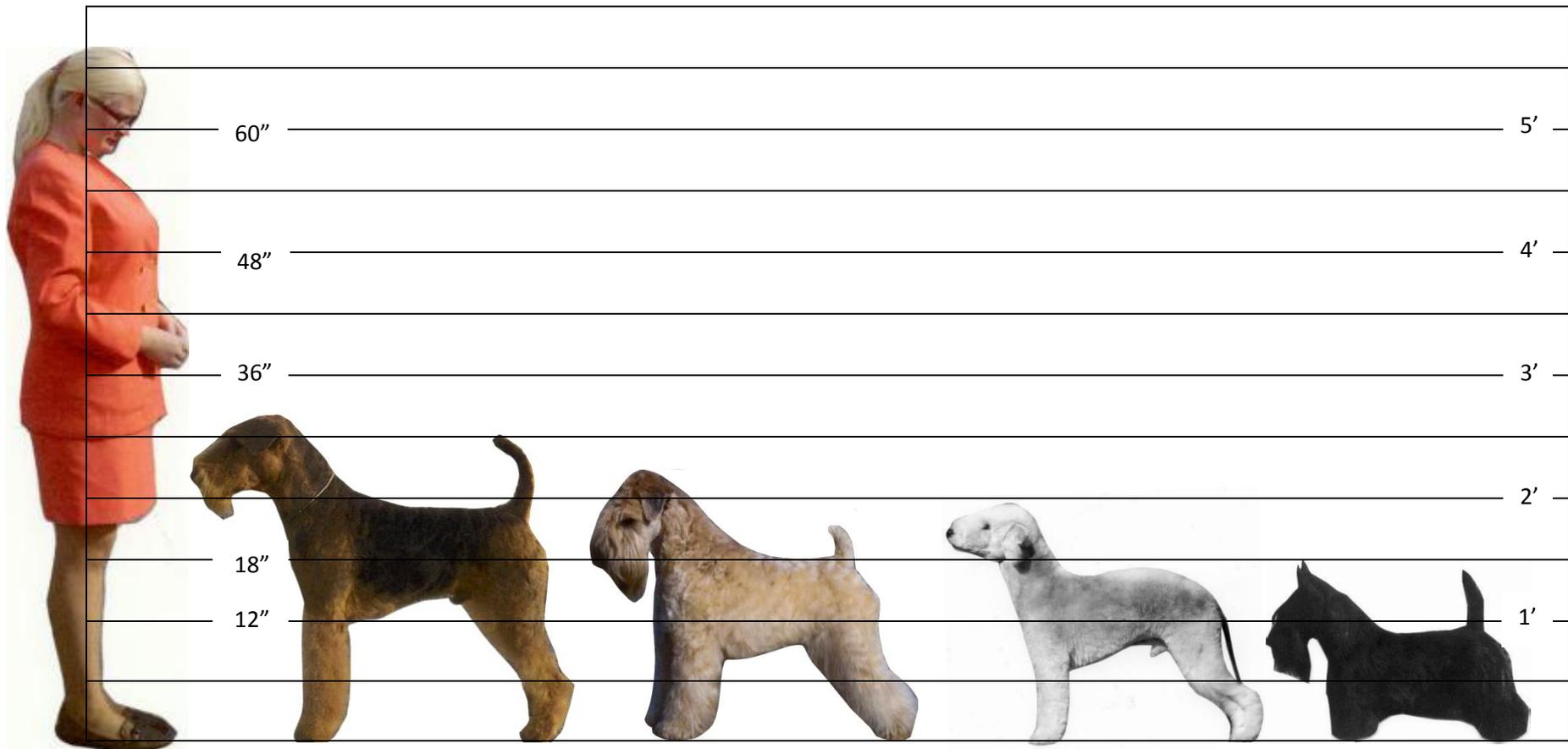


Bedlington exiting very  
large woodchuck den

**The Terriers' Workplace** The effects of size and weight can best be visualized by considering where the terrier will work. The largest fox girths are only 14 inches (a DVD is 14.83 inches) and it digs dens with little or no wasted space. The average Bedlington girths 19 to 20 inches. Correct size, weight and flexibility allow the Bedlington to work in this cramped environment. Bedlies stretch out to fit into tunnels. The hocks being "well let down" allow it to shift into reverse to evade attacking quarry in the tight tunnel. The "markedly flexible" body allows it to sometimes turn around in a large underground room. The flat shoulders with "no excessive musculature" allow easier passage through the confined space. Conversely, poorly constructed Bedlingtons incur serious muscle cramping when stretched out underground, even in the short time interval involved in Earthdog tests to say nothing of the several hours required in some digs. –Richard Reynolds, 2010

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# Gait

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**Gait** Unique lightness of movement. Springy in the slower paces, not stilted or hackneyed. Must not cross, weave or paddle

**Correct movement:** This champion bitch is shown moving in full show trim, and then shaved down with a 7F blade. Note how the dog lengthens her back as she extends her body into a trot. Legs move towards center of gravity, maintaining a proper V front throughout movement.



**Incorrect.** Note straight rear lacking angulation, stifles out, cow hocked rear and toed out front, dog cannot use rear.

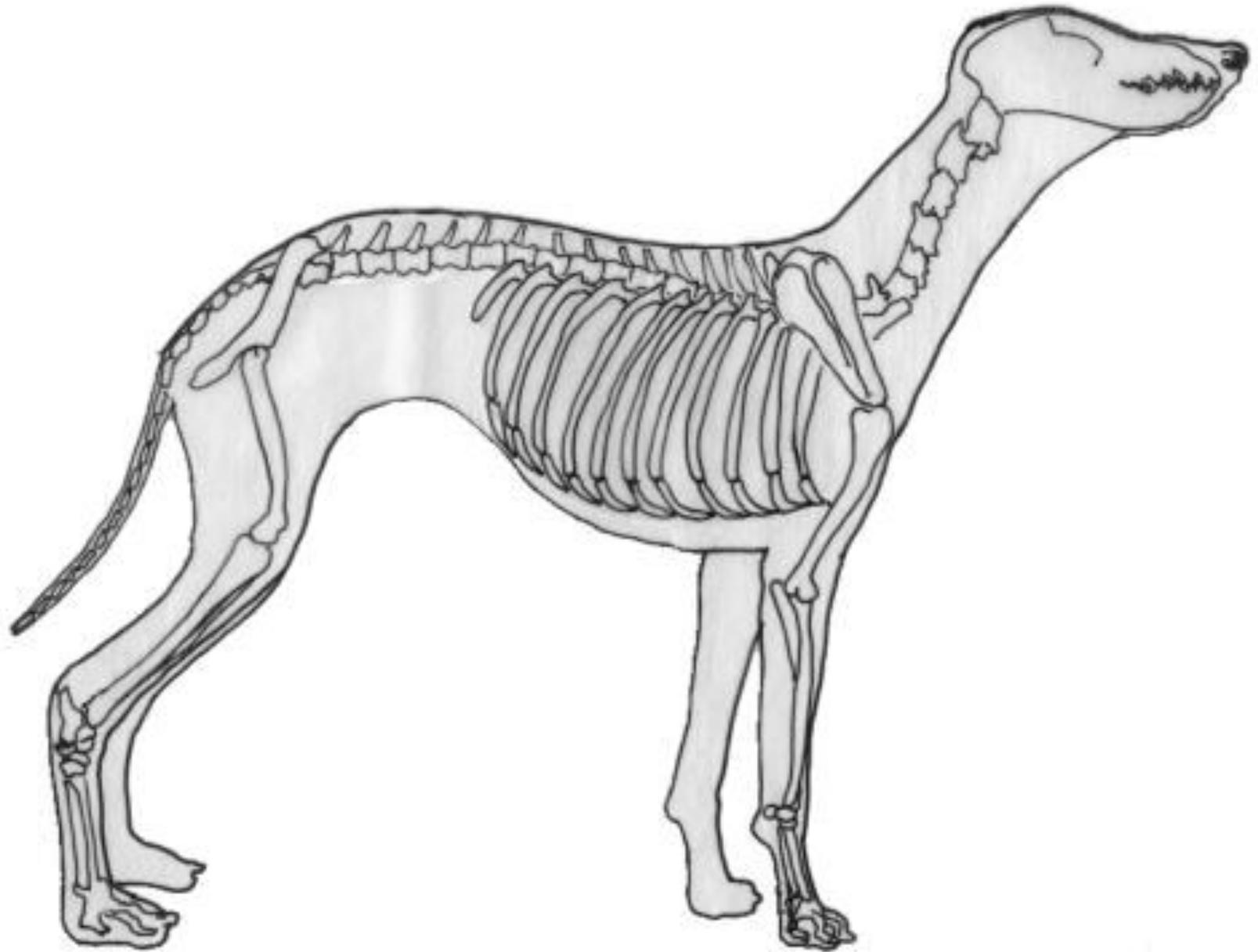


**Incorrect,** Note square proportions, lack of reach in front. Wide movement front and rear, back feet evade front feet.



Things to avoid introducing into a breeding program (avoid breeding dogs with these faults): extremely poor movement, no reach and drive or no spring to the gait. -Sandy Miles 2010

“In motion....Generally, the Bedlington is considered to be a ‘tight mover’ compared to other terriers, moving a little closer than might be expected for his length of leg – but always straight. Regardless of what you might be accustomed to in other terriers, the Bedlington is not a wide mover in the rear. In the front, he reaches out toward a center line without weaving or crossing over. Behind, his hocks are parallel, moving in a straight line, turning neither in nor out. His mincing gait is classic; he never moves with a hackneyed or padding motion. Some observers attribute a slight rhythmic roll to the Bedlington gait as his speed increases and he reaches toward that center line.” – Robert D Wendel, 1982



*"...as breeders, we have a responsibility. Let us be breeders, not just dog raisers. Let us be open and frankly discuss the present faults of the breed and help each other by sound advise. Only in this way are we worthy to be called breeders, and by cooperation we can be BETTER BREEDERS."*

*Carl Roth, 1953*