

THE JACK RUSSELL TERRIER



A BREED LECTURE BY MRS LYN BROWN

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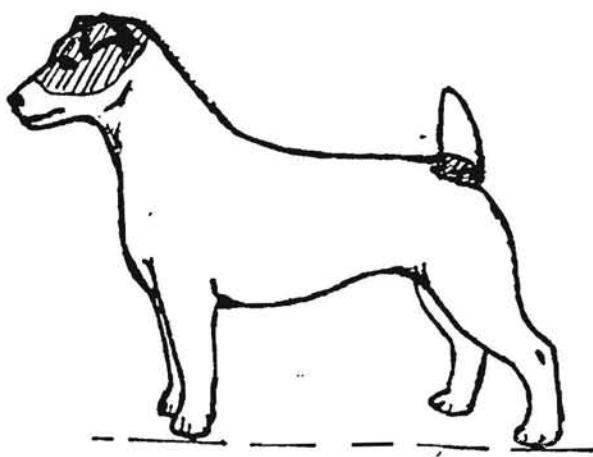
Introduction - Jack Russell Breed Lecture

You would all be aware that the evolution and history of a breed is intrinsically linked to the form and function of a Breed. This is no less true of the Jack Russell than any other breed that has been developed for a specific purpose. When judging breed it will be of great assistance to you to always be keenly aware of the purpose of this breed. Not only will this assist you to identify "correct type": you will also be preserving over 100 years of breeding. The Jack Russell Terrier although only recognised by the ANKC in 1991 is now taking the world by storm. Enthusiasts globally are looking to Australia for breeding stock, advice and direction on developing their own breed standards. Always be aware the title of "Australian Champion" indicates an exhibit of "Outstanding Quality" to the international market in search of foundation breeding stock.

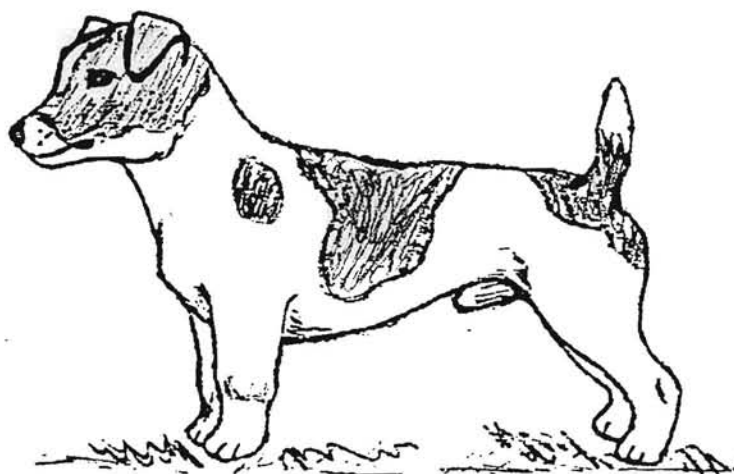
Moves to rename the Jack Russell terrier the "Australian Jack Russell!" have been recently fought off by stalwarts of the breed wishing to preserve the "correct type" and not allow the breed to go down the road of changing the standard to the type that some influential people, claim is the correct type. The old adage can apply here, if you can't breed it to the standard then change the standard. Fortunately the Standard remains, the name unchanged with no license to redevelop the JR, and a new Extended Breed Standard developed by the ANKC which, clearly demonstrates the requirements of "correct type". Now there can be no doubt, or arguments as to interpretation of the Breed Standard. It is imperative that in the formative years of this breed, in this Country, you, as new judges in the Terrier Ring, understand the Jack Russell Standard and always judge accordingly. This may at times prove to be a difficult task, but as long as you are mindful of the hallmarks of this breed, the challenge will prove to be worth the effort, as it evolves overwhelmingly toward the correct type.

The dog, with the balance of a Norfolk Terrier and a few white markings, whilst may appear attractive, no doubt loveable and is very often a game little dog, does not fulfill the requirements of the Standard. The ANKC with advice and assistance from the various breed clubs in Australia, have developed a Breed Standard and an extension and one should NOT budge from it.

CORRECT.



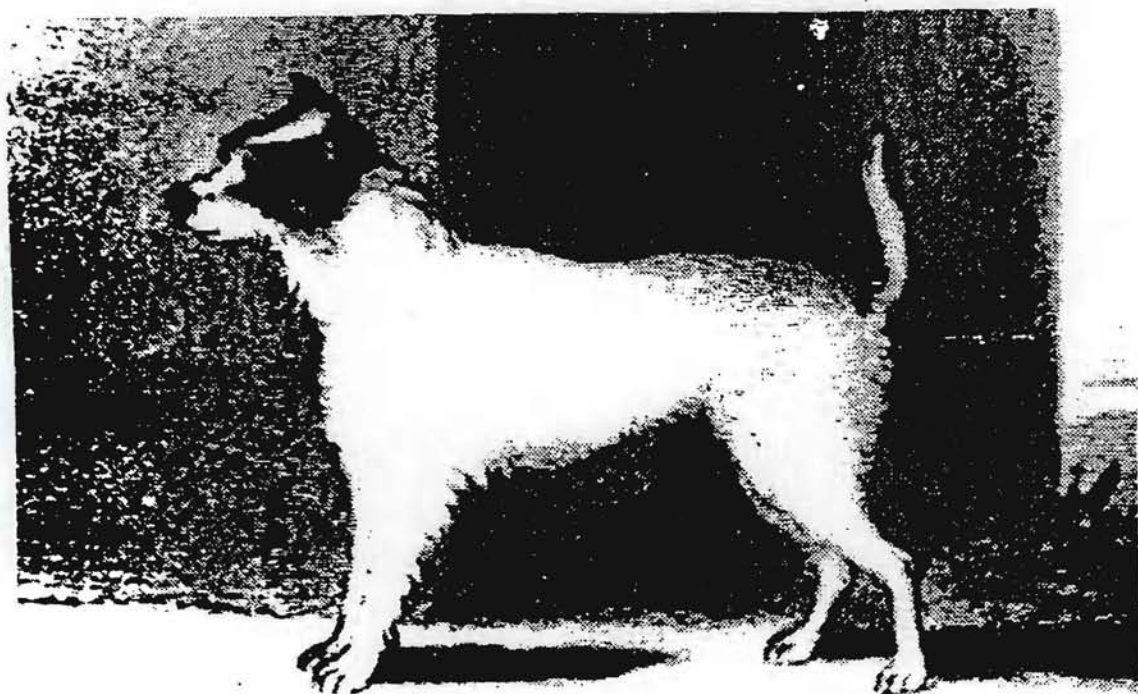
INCORRECT



History

The Jack Russell terrier was developed over 100 years ago by a gentleman named Reverend John Russell in Devon UK, for going to ground in pursuit of the fox. Also, they were used to extinguish vermin such as badger and rats. Two sizes evolved, the taller now known as the Parson Jack Russell, who also now has some structural differences to the Jack Russell Terrier.

As the main function of this dog was to bolt the fox from his underground lair, a heavy set dog with barrel ribs and loaded shoulders would soon meet his demise wedged in the underground, unable to turn, unable to flush out his quarry. Even today these dogs are still used by some for this purpose and "Earthdog tests" are now an approved activity by the ANKC. Herein lies the essence of the breed and the importance of the preservation of the "Slimly built", lithe, flexible body.



TRUMP - Jack Russell's first Terrier.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A strong, active, lithe working terrier of great character with flexible body of medium length. His smart movement matches his keen expression. Tail docking is optional and the coat may be smooth, rough or broken.

In this context "strong" is not meant to imply bulging bunched muscle, but long, flat muscle in hard condition. "Active, lithe" implies an agile, athletic, exuberant dog. Lithe indicating a supple, flexible, slimly built dog with the ability to turn on itself. His movement should not display any "peculiarities", and he may have any one of the three coats mentioned but all must be coarse, thick and weatherproof

CHARACTERISTICS

A lively, alert and active Terrier with a keen, intelligent expression.

This is the essence of the Jack Russell Terrier and contributes largely to his charm and appeal.

"keen, intelligent expression" which is an essential characteristic of all Terriers and is personified by the carriage and form of the ear and the shape and size of the eye.

Lively – Brisk, agile

Alert – Brisk agile, full of pep.

He should always appear "on his toes" and enjoying himself.



TEMPERAMENT

Bold and fearless, friendly but quietly confident.

The Jack Russell is a highly intelligent dog who is readily trainable. His character is such that his handler should be able to keep undivided attention. Whilst he should not back down from a challenge an overly aggressive temperament should not be tolerated nor should nervousness or timidity. He must always be totally reliable both with children and adults alike.

It has been said the John Russell placed the temperament and courage of his terriers on par with their conformation. A working terrier must have plenty of courage, but must be tempered with discretion. A hard dog which goes to ground and gets hold of his fox is of little use to anybody. The fox cannot bolt, the dog cannot bark or give voice, and he will spend half his time in hospital. Also if another hard terrier manages to slip his lead and get to ground, the two will fight to the death. Russell liked his dogs to find their fox underground by scent and then lie a little way away and bay at him and keep on baying. Now and again the dog would dart in, nip his fox, and get back out of danger. Thus the fox was not injured, only ever "worried" by the terrier until he was "bolted".

In the show ring, the Jack Russell is not a dog who will stand still for too long and should not be expected to do so. Even though he is essentially a "pack dog", dogs who are unfamiliar to him, he does not recognise as a member of "his" pack and this can lead to the odd altercation, these should never be vicious or savage, just a warning to stay away.



HEAD AND SKULL

The skull should be flat and of moderate width gradually decreasing in width to the eyes and tapering to a wide muzzle with very strong jaws. There should be a well defined stop but not overly pronounced. The length from the stop to the nose should be slightly shorter than from the occiput with the cheek muscles well developed. The nose should be black.

The skull should not appear domed or apple headed, (whilst some puppies can display some doming this should disappear by maturity). Head should appear balanced, i.e., the skull and muzzle should appear to complement each other. An overly "cheeky" head with a narrow foreface lacking strength presents a foreign appearance and lacks type. The length from stop to the nose should be marginally shorter than from the stop to the occiput. A long foreface, will usually indicate a down face lacking in strength and fill under the eye. This also presents an expression foreign to this breed. A foreface which is too short is reminiscent of the Border Terrier.

The muzzle is described as wide, which indicates a muzzle with strength and power for biting ability. A WELL DEVELOPED UNDERJAW IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. This is where the rough or broken coat can have an advantage over the smooth coat as additional coat can be left on the foreface giving the appearance of added strength. It takes a discerning eye to detect this fault in the rough and broken coated dogs. Feel for the strength of the underjaw and watch for cramped incisors and situations where an incisor has been extracted to alleviate cramping. Good fill under the eye should also be present for added strength, a foreface which falls away under the eye indicates a weak, narrow muzzle.

A well defined stop, should accompany parallel plains with strength of back skull, a receding backskull being undesirable.

The bridge of the nose should appear level presenting no roman nose or dish face characteristics.



Photos 1 & 2
Correct, Wedge
shape with good
fill & proportions



3. Incorrect proportions
Down-faced
lacking fill
lacking strength
light eye.
Insufficient stop.



EYES

Small dark and with keen expression. MUST not be prominent and eyelids should fit closely. The eyelid rims should be pigmented black. Almond shape.

Large, protruding, full eyes spoil the expression and are of little use to a dog required to work underground.

The eye should always appear dark as is preferred in all Terriers, a light eye also spoiling the expression.

Eyelids fitting closely, is also vital, when the function of the dog is again considered.

The pigmentation of the eyelid rim is important for cosmetic reasons and because of the effects of our harsh sun, pigmented eyerims should always be encouraged. However, it is in no way a fault for a dog to have a white face or a partially white face and unpigmented eyerims do occur occasionally.

What is a judge to do – penalise an otherwise well constructed dog, only because its left eye is not pigmented? May I suggest, that as stated in the standard that any departure from the Standard be considered a fault and the seriousness be regarded in exact proportion to its degree.

Eyes should always be set into the skull and not protruding. Apple heads seem to go together with a round protruding eye, whilst a head lacking sufficient stop may tend to create insufficient brow over the eye which causes the eye to not be set deeply. This expression can be likened to a crocodile and is totally foreign in this breed.

The eye should always be an almond shape.



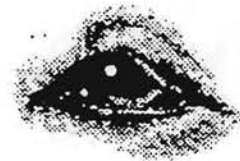
ALMOND



OVAL



FULL, ROUND, GLOBULAR



TRIANGULAR



EARS

Button or dropped of good texture and great mobility

Ears should be set on the corners of the skull. They should not be set too high which gives a surprised expression or appear as a bow on the top of the skull. Nor should they be set low with the tips extending beyond the corner of the eye.

A button ear presents with the fold of the ear just above the level of the skull.

A drop ear has a fold which breaks at the level of the skull.

Both are equally correct. Although, we all seem to develop our own preference in this area, when judging you should always remember this point.

The fold of the ear should never break below the level of the skull, this will give a "houndlike" appearance which is totally undesirable. Also, the tips of the ear should be V shape and on no account rounded, as seen in the Norfolk and Sealyham Terriers.

Erect or Semi pricked ears are totally undesirable and are to be penalised heavily.

The leathers of the ears should not be thick, falling in folds nor should they be too fine and "flyaway".

Some dogs have very mobile ears which can thrown back in pleasure or in fear. The ear should always fall forward pointing straight toward the ground not towards the eye as is required in the Fox Terrier and Lakeland Terrier. This is best assessed when the dog is alert.



Button Ear - Correct



Drop Ear - Correct



Semi Pricked - Fault



Hound Ear - Fault

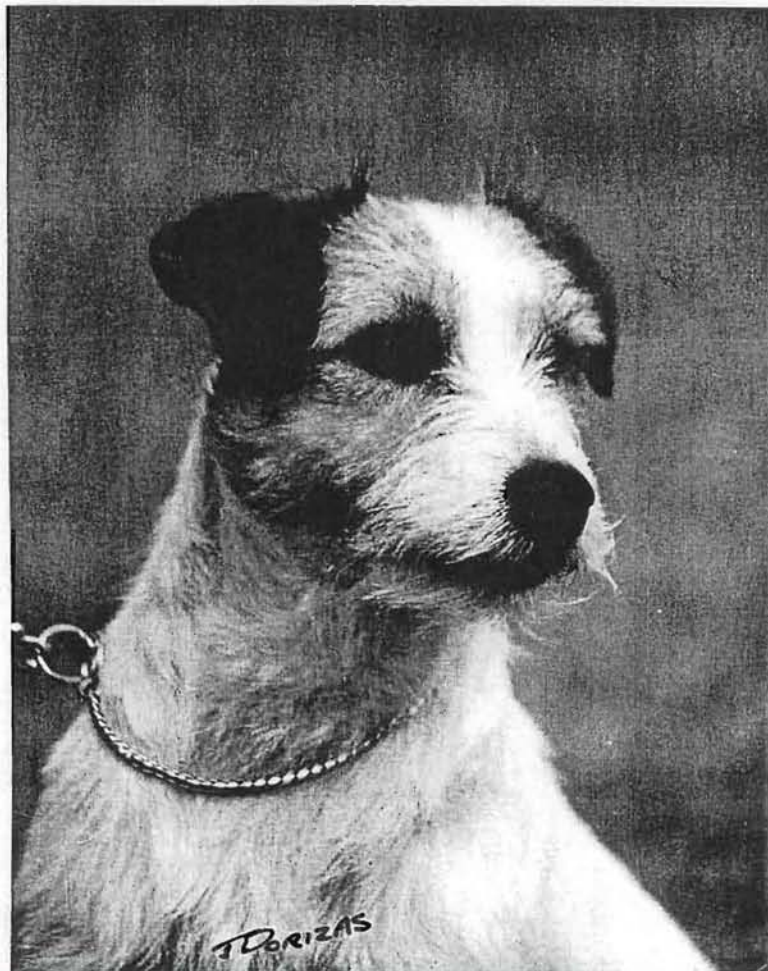
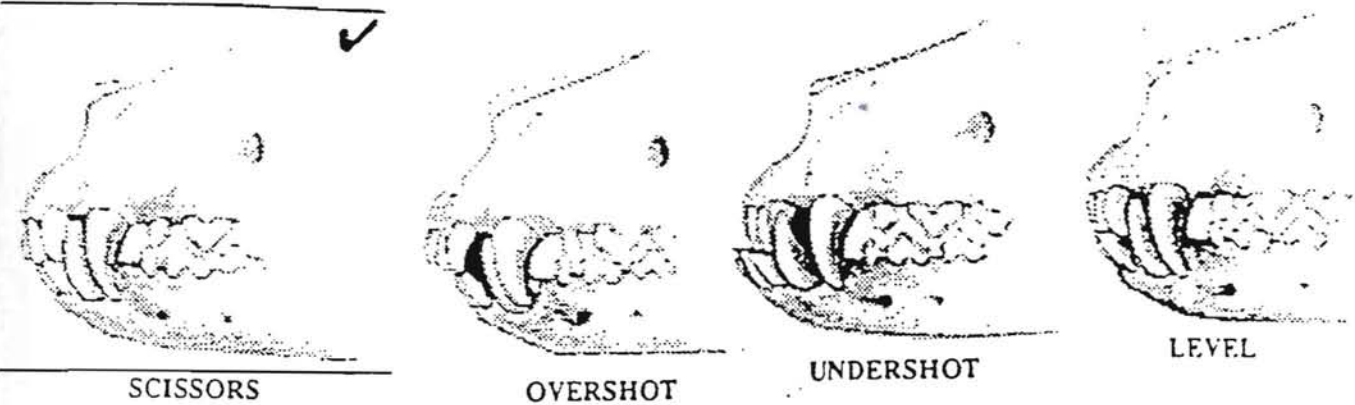
MOUTH

Deep wide and powerful jaws with tight-fitting pigmented lips and strong teeth closing to a scissor bite.

The Jack Russell should always present with "full dentition" with no cramping of the teeth. Teeth broken damaged or missing, which is clearly due to accident should not be penalised.

The jaws should appear squarish. a pointed, weak jaw, undesirable. As stated previously the strength of underjaw and foreface is of vital importance.

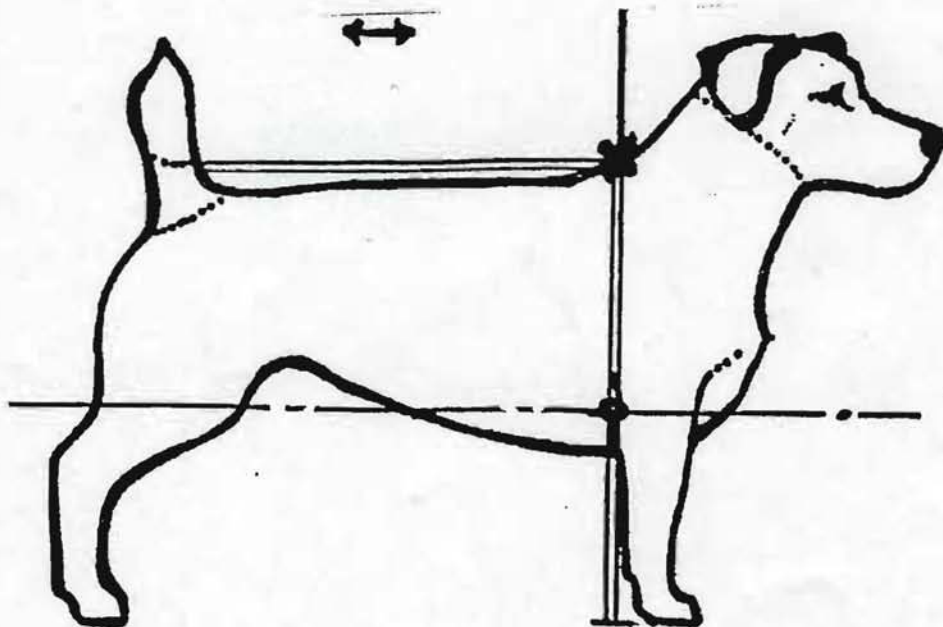
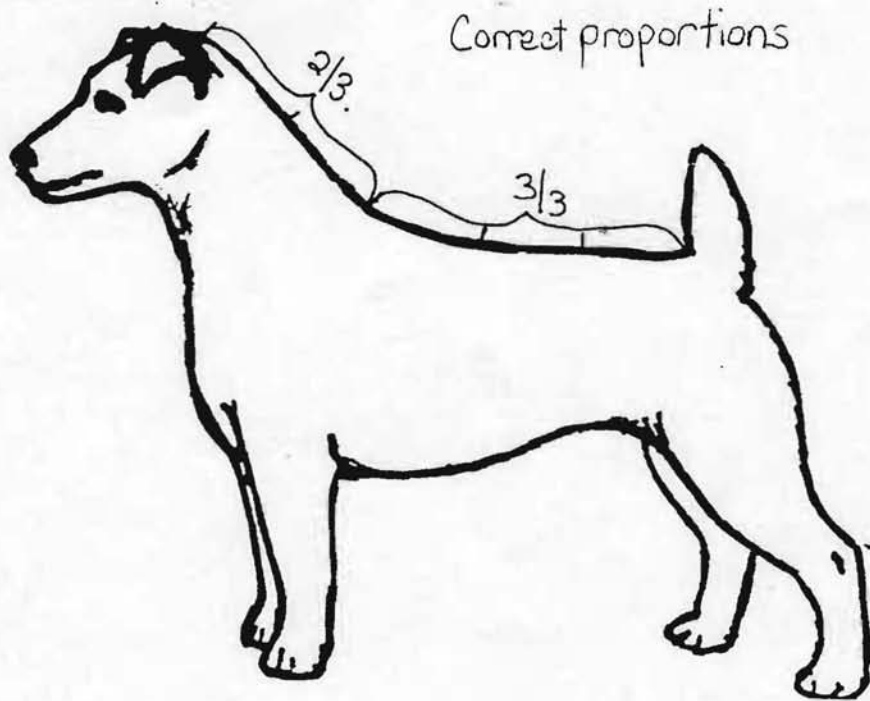
As with any working terrier lips should tight and clean. The lips completely pigmented black as is the nose.



NECK

Strong and clean allowing head to be carried with poise.

As with other terrier breeds, if the shoulder is upright, the neck will be shortened. In the balanced Jack Russell the length of the neck should appear approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the back. If the neck is set on correctly and the carriage of the head is correct an arch or crest should appear in the neck behind the ears. A ewe neck, swan neck, or a neck lacking in strength is not desirable, as is also a heavy neck. The neck should conform to the overall balanced appearance of the dog. Correct head carriage is synonymous with his "Smart movement"



Incorrect
Insufficient
neck.
Too deep inches
ie. brisket below
elbow.

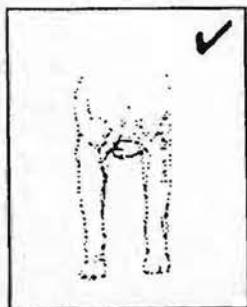
FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well sloped back and not heavily loaded with muscle. Forelegs straight in bone from the shoulder to the toes whether-viewed from the front or the side and with sufficient length of upper arm to ensure elbows are set under the body with the sternum clearly in front of the shoulder blades.

The anatomy of the Jack Russell Terrier is straightforward and as with most breeds the same requirements apply. For sufficient reach he must have a well laid back shoulder. His front should not resemble a "Terrier Front" as demonstrated by the Fox Terrier. His upper arm should be of equal length to the shoulder blade. The elbows set under the body, well attached and never loose. The whole frontal construction should not be forward placed, giving him a steeple front, but should be set well back on the ribs so that he stands with his feet under his body and exhibits a degree of forechest.

Legs should always be straight from the elbow to the feet and he should stand "well up on his pasterns".

Rough coated dogs seem to grow extra hair on the joints on the legs, [probably for natural protection]. If this extra hair is not removed by the trimmer the leg can appear cabriole even though the legs may be straight.



EYE SOCKET OR ORBIT

OCCIPUT

ATLAS

AXIS

CERVICAL VERTEBRAE

THORACIC VERTEBRAE

LUMBAR VERTEBRAE

SHOULDER BLADE OR SCAPULA

PELVIS

HUMERUS

FEMUR

RADIUS

TARSUS OR HOCK

METACARPUS OR PASTERN

TIBIA

FIBULA

METATARSUS

CARPUS

RIBS

BODY

Chest deep rather than wide, with good clearance and the brisket located at the height mid-way between the ground and the withers. The body should be proportioned marginally longer than tall, measuring slightly longer from the withers to the root of the tail than from the withers to the ground. Back level, Ribs should be well sprung from the spine, flattening on the sides so that the girth behind the elbows can be spanned by two hands – about 40 cms to 43cms. The loins should be short, strong and deeply muscled.

The Jack Russell should always be spanned when judging, spannability is a hallmark of the breed and is a handy tool in detecting the dog who is off type and too deep.

The Chest should never appear wide, this is usually indicated by a rocking motion when the dog moves toward you. Also, the chest should never extend beyond the elbow. On the Rough coated dog, check carefully the depth of the brisket, sometimes excess - hair may be left on this area by inexperienced trimmers. {Note the standard also states that the JR coat should preferably be unaltered, this I will address later}.

The chest is described as deep rather than wide, yet the brisket is midway between the ground and wither i.e. level with the point of elbow. When it is considered that the depth, which only extends to the elbow is not particularly deep, then it can be appreciated as the chest is described as deep rather than wide, the width of the chest can best be described as "slim". This would indicate that when the area between the front legs and under chest is measured, it should appear as an upright rectangle and not a square.

The back should be marginally longer than the height from the withers to the ground and should ALWAYS be level. A dip behind the withers usual indicating an upright shoulder, also there should be no rise over the loin with a level croup meeting at a right angle to the set on of the tail.

Ribs should be heart shape, the top half always being well sprung to allow for sufficient heart and lung space. The coupling should be short, strong and level.

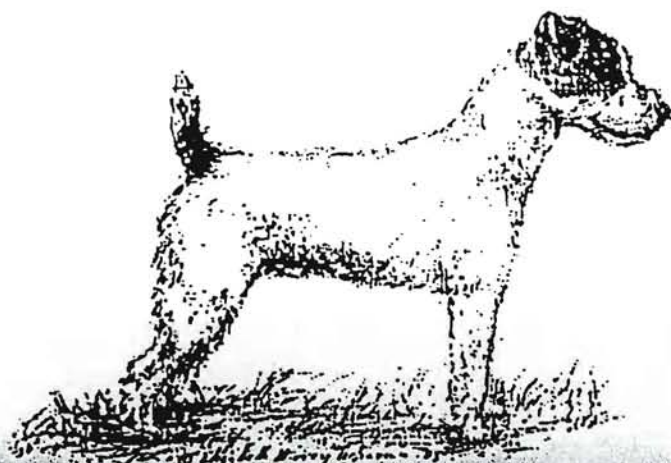
It is an important point to always remember that the length of the leg should be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the dogs overall height

HE IS NOT A SHORT LEGGED DOG.

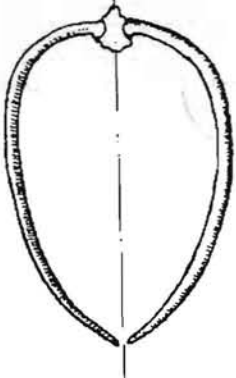
The angulation of the hindquarter should allow the dog to have the appearance of a "bum behind the tail". If this is not present then the dog is most likely straight in stifle and has a poor tail set.

THE MOST IMPOTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER ARE:

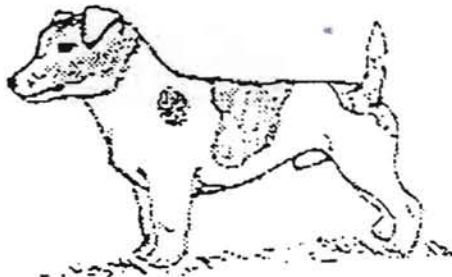
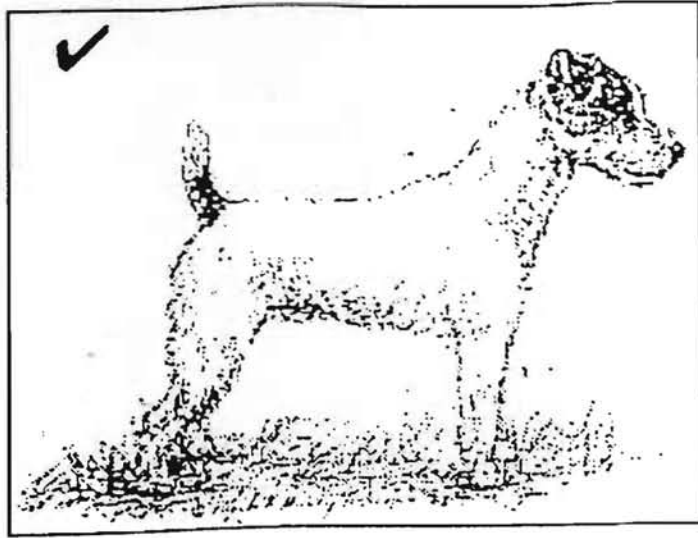
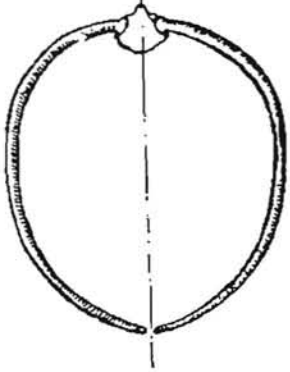
1. THE JACK RUSSELL TERRIER MUST BE SPANNABLE.
2. HE IS NOT A SQUARE DOG.
3. HIS PROPORTIONS SHOULD ALWAYS BE 50% LEG TO 50% BODY.



Correct heart shape
ribcage



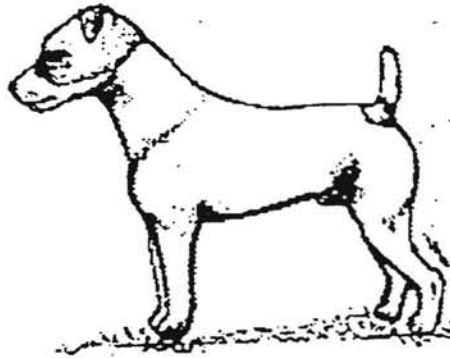
Incorrect - barrel rib.



Too short on leg



Too long in loin



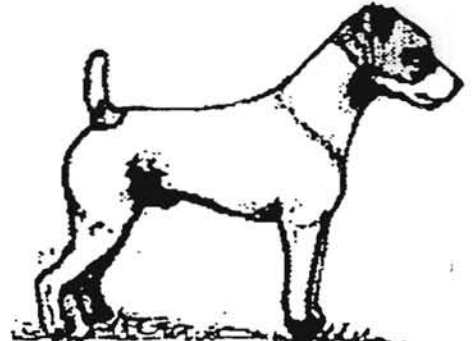
Slim balanced dog



Too heavy in chest



Roached back



Too short in back

HINDQUARTERS

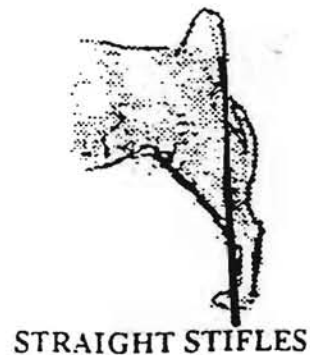
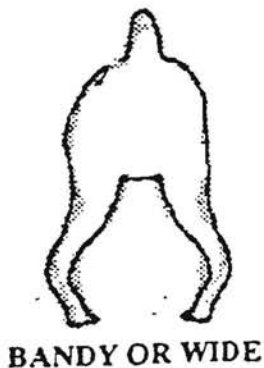
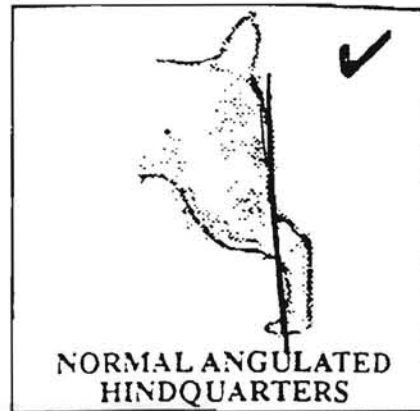
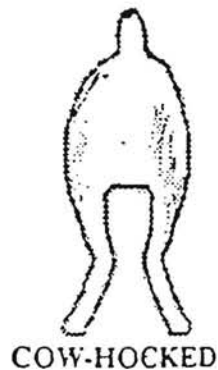
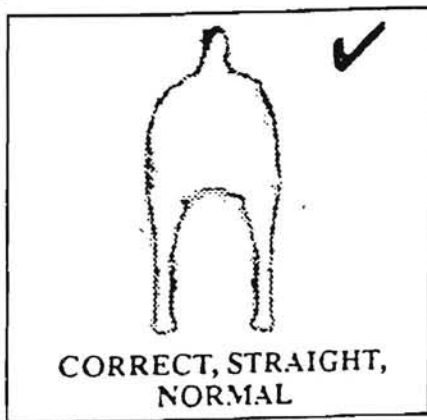
Strong and muscular, balanced in proportion to the shoulder, hind legs parallel when viewed from behind while in free standing position. Stifles well angulated and hocks low set.

Again strong and muscular. mean long flat muscle in hard condition.

The angulation of the rear should be complimentary to the shoulder angulation so the movement will appear true. Angulation should be such, if a line was draw from the back of the tail - it should run down the front of the hock.

The stifles should appear well bent. Straight stifles often leading to "Slipping Patellas", this being indicated by a hopping or skipping action during movement

There should be no hint of cow hocks or a bandy rear end with a "normal" rear construction. The hocks should be short and straight.



FEET

Round, hard, padded, not large, toes moderately arched, turned neither in nor out.

As with any working terrier the correct feet are of vital importance to the dog if he is going to be able to fulfill his function. Weak, splayed feet being totally useless to a dog which is required to move over rough terrain and then go to ground and dig.

Round indicating cat-like, short and compact.

Feet should point forward and he should stand well up on his pasterns.

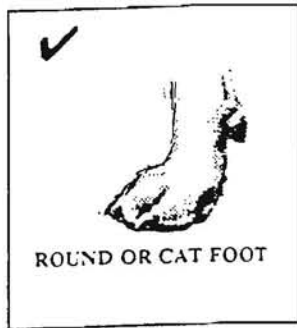
Nails should always be kept short and neat being important to the ongoing care of the feet.



PADS



BONES OF THE FOOT



ROUND OR CAT FOOT



HARE FOOT



FLAT FOOT OR
DOWN IN PASTERN



SPLAY FOOT

FEET

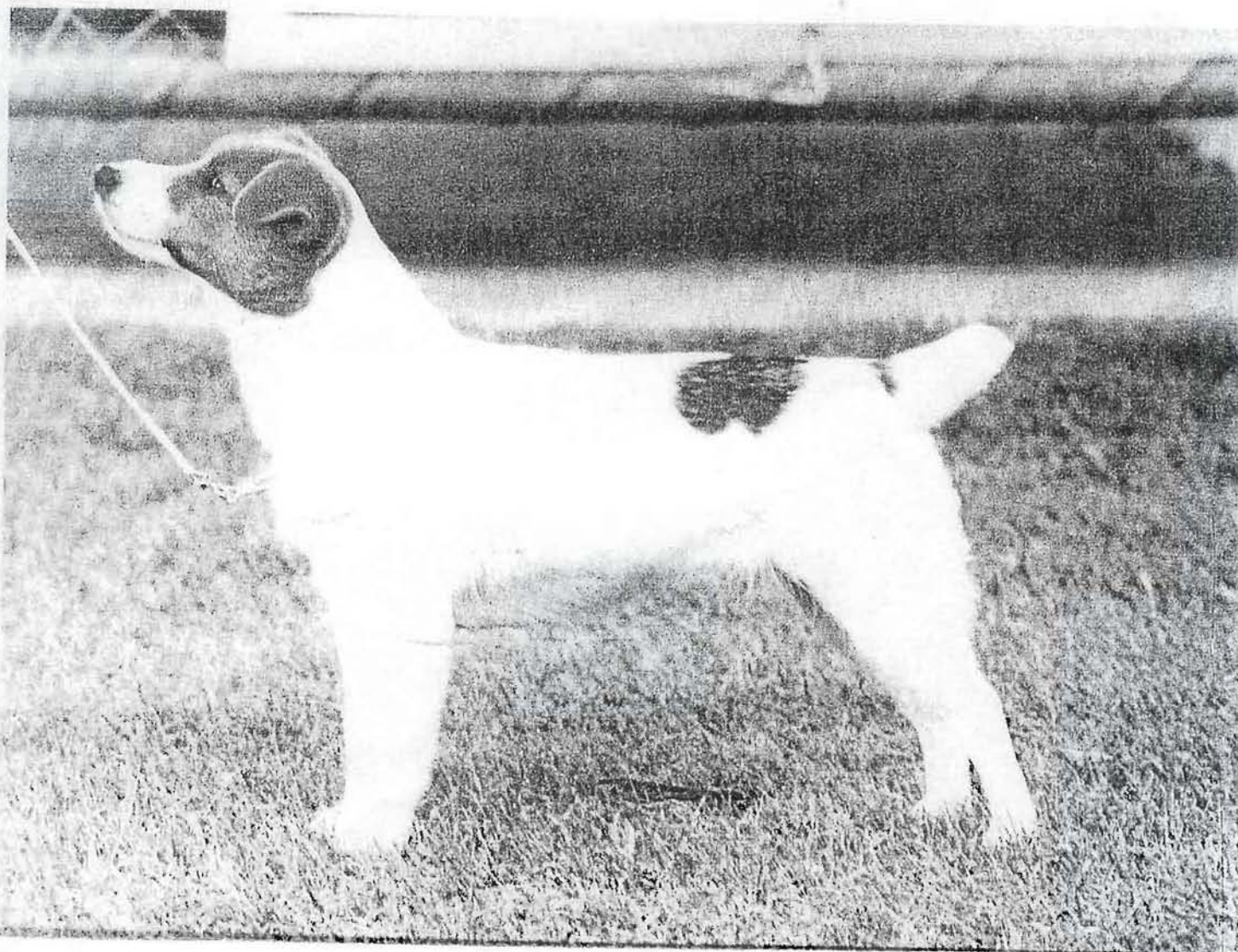


TAIL

May droop at rest. When moving should be erect and if docked the tip should be on the same level as ears.

On the move, the tail should always appear "erect", when it does not this usually indicates faulty rear construction, particularly when the tail appears late. The tail may droop at rest particularly in the hot weather. However, on the move, the tail should always appear erect.

The ideal length is level with the ears but bearing in mind that they are usually docked, human error can cause the tail to be docked too short. The most important feature is the set on and carriage. That said, the preferred length of the tail is about the width of the palm of your hand. The tail was used as a "handle" when the huntsman would reach down in the hole and grab the dog and pull him out by the tail. A tail, which was too short, would therefore prove useless.



GAIT / MOVEMENT

True, free and springy.

As in most breeds, movement is the crucial test of conformation and is best assessed when the dog is moved on a loose lead.

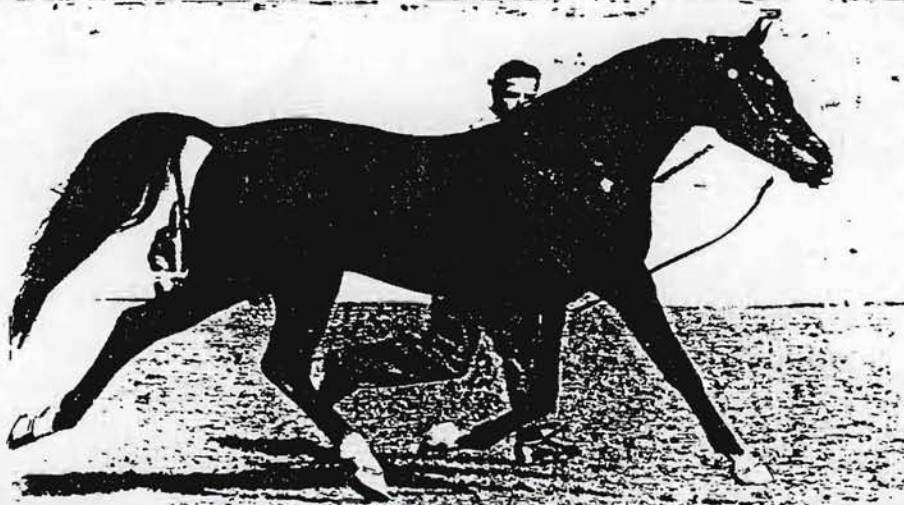
True – Straight for and aft, not crossing or paddling. The rear movement should not be too close or too wide. Hocks should always remain parallel during movement.

Free – Movement should never appear stilted, always exhibiting good reach and drive with the necessary extension.

Springy – Indicates a buoyant, cocky movement best described as an extended trot, which has a period of suspension. Springy does not indicate a hackney or choppy movement. Movement should always demonstrate an effortless economy and fluidity.

The front should swing straight through from the shoulder with forward reaching low movement with no bending of the pasterns.

The propulsion comes from the rear, hocks supplying the drive, the hind legs coming well forward under the body.



COAT

May be smooth, broken or rough. Must be weatherproof, preferably unaltered.

As you can see there are three different coats which are typical of the Jack Russell.

Although again we may have our own personal preferences, when judging these should be set aside, the dogs conformation becoming our first priority.

1. Smooth - Should be dense hard and weatherproof a sparse, soft coat would not be weatherproof.
2. Rough - Harsh and dense not linty or fine should reassemble a close fitting jacket to be weatherproof.
3. Broken - Is similar to a smooth, but a little longer. Whiskers, eyebrows and sometimes a beard are present.

The most important point is that the coat no matter what type should always be weatherproof.

"Preferably Unaltered". is stated to discourage the practice of overstripping the rough coat. The rough coated dog for the show ring will also require a degree of trimming. As in all hand stripped terriers the dead must always be removed to encourage new growth. Also excess hair will need to be removed from various areas which can give the illusion of a fault which is not present.

Rough Coat

In need of tidying up!



COLOUR

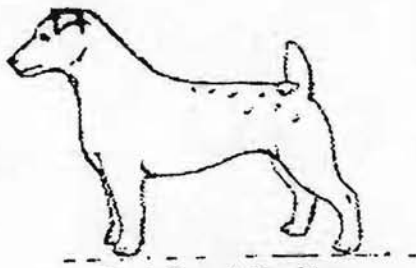
White must predominate with black, tan or brown markings.

The Jack Russell as you are already aware was to locate and bolt the fox. Around the hole in which he disappeared would be a pack of "Fox Hounds" waiting the escape of the fox from his lair with the Jack Russell in hot pursuit. In the frenzy which ensued if the Jack Russell was not predominately white he could easily be mistaken for the fox and quickly meet his demise. Also, in the field a dog which was not predominately white, could be mistaken by the shooter for the fox and a hunter could shoot his own dog. This is why the Standard states that white **MUST** predominate. There will be those that tell you the underside of the dog is completely white so he is predominately white. I have yet to see a dog run around on his hind legs showing everyone that he is white underneath.

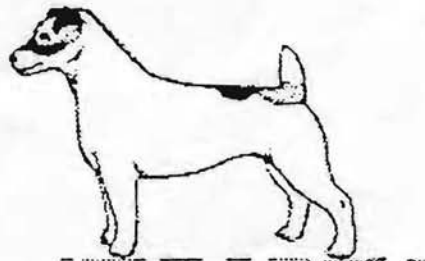
White must predominate, refers to the viable coat colour, particularly the area on the back which would be the part visible to the hound, when the Jack Russell was emerging from the foxhole.

Tri Colour is acceptable. White with any of the accepted colours, black, tan or brown. Brown can vary from lemon to mahogany.

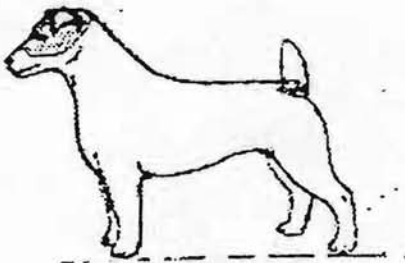
SEE ATTACHED INFORMATION ON COLOUR.



Black Nose & Eye Rims.
Lightly marked but **CORRECT**



TRI. Black, Tan & White



Classic or Ideal



Point of no Return



White no longer predominates
Against the Standard



The beginnings of a Brown Dog

SIZE

Ideal Height 25cms (10ins) to 30 cms (12ins)

The weight in kg being equivalent of 1Kg to 5 cms or 1 inch in height, i.e. a 25cm or 10in high dog should weigh approximately 5kg and a 30 cm or 11in high dog should weigh 6kg.

A 2 inch difference in size is quite significant and generous in a dog of this size. Therefore, it is reasonable to say that any dog under 10 inches is not acceptable as is any dog over 12 inches. Under 10 inches the dog would be bordering on toyish, and, over 12 inches he would be encroaching on the Parson Jack Russell standard and totally untypical.

PICK THE MOST CORRECT!

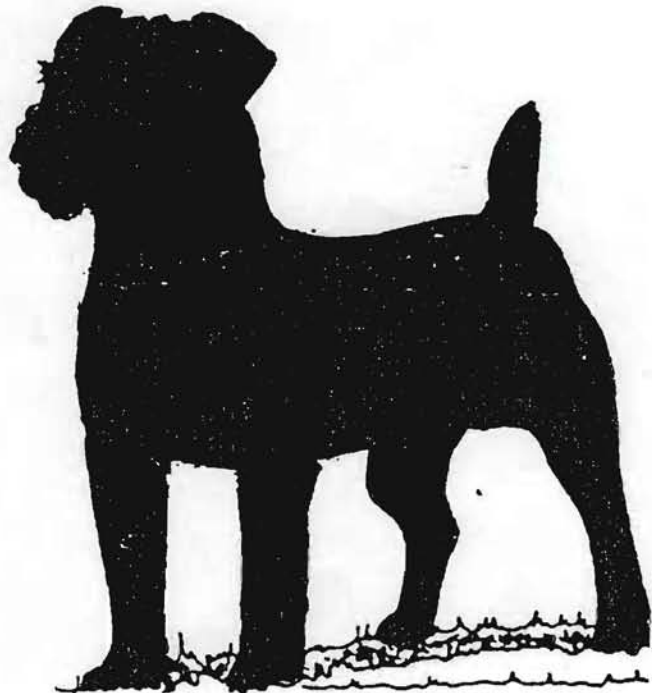
B



A



C



(A) IS CORRECT

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. However, the following weaknesses should be particularly penalised:

- a. Lack of true Terrier characteristics
- b. Lack of balance, i.e. over exaggeration of any points.
- c. Sluggish or unsound movement
- d. Faulty mouth.

NOTE Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

HALLMARKS

Lithe, flexible body

Active and lively

Strong wedge shape head

Proportions to be $\frac{1}{2}$ leg, $\frac{1}{2}$ body.

MUST BE SPANNABLE

MUST BE PREDOMINATELY WHITE



QUALITY HEAD
STUDY OF SMOOTH
COAT.
*NOTE
STRENGTH OF
UNDERJAW.

TYPES OF JACK RUSSELLS



TOY TYPE



PARSON LIKE TYPE



DEEP IN BRISKET —
LACK OF BALANCE
NOT 50% LEG —
50% BODY—

NOT TO BE ENCOURAGED

TYPES OF JACK RUSSELLS



TOO LONG



TOO HEAVY-SOLID



TOO SHORT ON LEG
HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE



CORRECT BALANCE - ANKC STANDARD; "BODY MARGINALLY LONGER THAN TALL."
A. 10 inch (25cm.) BITCH.



CORRECT BALANCE - A. 12 inch (30 cm.) TALL DOG.

HEADS



SMOOTH COAT
DOG

BROKEN COAT
DOG



EARS



BUTTON



SEMI - PRICKED



DROP EARS

HOUND EARS

