

# YouBe The Judge

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A short neck has been changed to a neck of moderate length. The word back has been changed to topline which is level or sloping slightly from the withers to the croup. The loin is now short and moderately drawn up rather than well drawn up. The croup is broad and rounded with the tail docked. No tail is visually discernible. ("Rump" well rounded has been deleted).

The chest is broad and deep and reaches to the elbows. The well sprung ribs in the form of a modified oval are wide behind the shoulders and taper to the sternum. The forechest extends in front of the shoulder between the front legs.

The shoulders are well laid back, the legs are straight viewed from the front. From the side the legs are placed well under the body (which suggests a sloping upper arm of good length). Pasterns are short, (did you notice Dog C's were long?) thick and strong but still flexible, showing a slight angle when viewed from the side. Feet are round, small and tight. The hindquarters appear slightly lighter than the forequarters but are well muscled and in balance with the front. Extreme angulation is to be penalized. (Did you notice Dog B's second thigh was long?)

Rear dewclaws must be removed. "Must" is a strong word. It is assumed that left on they could interfere with movement and the Standard is addressing breeders, however judges who are aware that the presence of hind dewclaws disqualify a Kerry Blue Terrier may wonder about the word "must."

## Skull

National descriptions differ: England has always to my knowledge described the skull as, "...flat, with little stop." America takes a different (revised) view, "...Seen in profile with the ears laid back, the skull is slightly rounded." Canada not to be outdone (and I can imagine my fellow countrymen" sitting as a committee debating the issue) came up with, "...when the ears are up in the alert position, the correct skull in profile will appear flat." All three are probably describing the same skull.

## Muzzle - Fig 1 Or Fig 2?

All three countries describe the ratio of length of muzzle to skull differently. England uses the non committal word "moderate" to describe muzzle length. Canada sees muzzle length as, "The length of muzzle from tip to stop is equal to the length of skull from the stop to the occiput," (which I believe is wrong). America prior to 1991 described the Schip's muzzle as, "...not too elongated..." but in 1991 changed the description to read, "The length of the muzzle is slightly less than the length of skull."

The English head could be either Fig 1 or Fig 2, but based on my photograph collection of British Schip heads Fig 2 would be more correct. The American Schip muzzle to skull ratio is about 3 to 4.

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