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**The dogs of the British Islands, being a series of articles on the points of their various breeds, and the treatment of the diseases to which they are subject /**

London : "The Field" Office, 1882.

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/32285>

**Item:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/76532>

Article/Chapter Title: Dog OTBI 4th

Author(s): Walsh

Page(s): Text, Illustration, Page 219, Page 220, Page 221, Page 222, Page 223

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MR. G. JAMISON'S IRISH TERRIER "SPUDS."

Of the oldest dogs of note of this breed were Walshaw's Sandy, Ramsden's Bounce, Inman's Don, Burgess's Kitty, and the celebrated Huddersfield Ben, represented in our engraving; and he, sharing the blood of three of the above, proved the best of his day, and there is now scarcely a dog exhibited that is not a descendant of Ben—his companion in the engraving, Lady Giffard's Katie, being also of his blood. Huddersfield Ben was the property of Mrs. M. A. Foster of Bradford, a very large and successful exhibitor of this breed; the dog was bred by Mr. W. Eastwood, of Huddersfield, and was sire to Benson, Bright, Bruce, Bounce, Cobden, Emperor, Mozart, and numerous other winners at first-class shows.

The classification of these dogs at shows and in the Kennel Club Stud Book is confusing and absurd, as shown by the fact that some of the above, all being of the same breed and blood, are classed as Yorkshire terriers; others as rough or broken-haired toy terriers. It would be much better to divide them by weight, and classify them as large and small Yorkshire terriers. In assessing the value of points, shape, coat, and colour absorb nearly all. I would, however, give ten points for ears, and five for tail, and deduct points for cropped ears and docked tail; also for carriage of the tail over the back. There is no reason for mutilating pet dogs, and perfect tails and ears should be bred, not clipped into shape with scissors. Lady Giffard's Katie, in the engraving, has natural ears, and very good ones.

VALUE OF POINTS.

Value.		Value.		Value.	
Symmetry .....	15	Length of coat .....	10	Tail .....	5
Clearness in blue .....	15	Texture of coat .....	10	Condition in which	
Distinctness and rich-		Straightness of coat ...	10	shown .....	10
ness of tan .....	15	Ears .....	10		
	45		40		15

*Grand Total 100.*

THE IRISH TERRIER.

By GEORGE R. KREHL.

I believe I am only repeating an admitted fact when I say that the progress of this breed in the last few years is almost without precedent. In 1878 the original supporters and discoverers of the breed were dropping off for want of encouragement. Amongst these I would name Messrs. Ridgway, Pim, Jameson, Erwin, and Crosbie Smith. The Messrs. Carey still owned a good kennel, and Mr. Wm. Graham bred them more for work than show. Mr. E. F. Despard was winning with his Sporter (now in the possession of the writer), and his sons Tanner and Tanner II. The mother of these pups, Belle, was a very large grey bitch of the old sort. The old dog Sport was still being exhibited, and Banshee, a big bitch with a generous amount of bull in her, was a *champion*. The show bench at this period presented anything but a level appearance. At the time my brother and I

entered the ranks of the Irish terriers' admirers, I believe there were not more than two English exhibitors besides ourselves. The many ridiculous awards of inexperienced judges exasperated the exhibitors, and at my suggestion the Irish Terrier Club was started. It is impossible to deny the influence exerted by the foundation of the club upon the improvement of the breed. In Ireland it awakened the interest that lay dormant; in England it served to reveal to fanciers the existence of a game and little known terrier. It is now one of the most powerful subsidiary clubs. An Irish nobleman, Viscount Castlerosse, is its president, there are Irish and English vice-presidents, two hon. secs., a treasurer, and a mixed committee of ten, and about eighty members. It has issued a code of points and a list of gentlemen qualified to act as judges.

The rise of the breed is most marked by the fact that in the days referred to one class was barely filled at the Kennel Club shows. At the last Alexandra Palace Show I had five classes to judge, with an entry of thirty-three. Besides the London shows, it was only in Ireland that classes were given for Irish terriers; now no show, English or Scotch, of any consequence issues a schedule without one or two for this breed. The appearance of Mr. Ridgway's paper in "Dogs of the British Islands" also gave a considerable fillip to the breed; and even now there is little to add to the information therein contained. Mr. Ridgway, in favour of the purity of the breed, tells us with authority that they are indigenous to their native country, and mentions that fanciers can remember them fifty and sixty years ago. He also bears testimony to their being "particularly hardy, and able to bear any amount of wet, cold, and hardship without showing the slightest symptoms of fatigue. Their coat also being a hard and wiry one, they can hunt the thickest gorse or furze covert without the slightest inconvenience." Modern fanciers are able to indorse the correctness of every word in this description of their working qualities, and his further evidence of their "usefulness, intelligence, and gameness." Mr. Ridgway also writes: "As to their capability for taking the water, and hunting in it, as well as on land, I may mention as one instance that a gentleman in the adjoining county of Tipperary has kept a pack of these terriers for years, with which he will hunt an otter as well as any pack of pure otterhounds can."

Mr. Ridgway's perfect knowledge of the breed is shown in his code of points. All the discussions in the newspapers that I have taken part in have been, not for the airing of any particular crotchets of my own, but for the maintenance and upholding in their integrity to the letter of the Ridgway points, as against the endeavours of others to convince the public that the Irish terrier is a red fox terrier. The Irish Terrier Club's points are Mr. Ridgway's elaborated and explained. Importance is placed on the shape and general appearance of the dog, which should be easy and graceful; the lines of the body should be *speedy*, without signs of heaviness or anything approaching the cobby and cloddy. Mr. T. Erwin truly said of them that, though game as fighting cocks, they should look more like running than fighting. A sufficient amount of substance is quite compatible with this structure. There is an extensive medium between the "bone" of the

whippet and that of a carthorse. It would not give a stranger a bad impression to describe them as a miniature Irish wolfhound in appearance. If I were asked to name the most prominent characteristics in the temperament of the Irish terrier, I should reply, "Courage and good temper."

Their courage is quite national in its quality, being of that dashing, reckless, "dare-devil" description that is associated with the human habitants of their native country. The Irish Terrier fears nothing that ever came on four legs with a furry skin. They have no caution in their gameness, but go straight at their enemy with a heedless pluck utterly regardless of consequences. They do not always conquer, but they do or die unless pulled off. It would occupy too much space to relate a few of the many instances of their courage publicly recorded.

I have read in the newspapers of a nine weeks' old pup killing a rat; of another puppy freshly cropped, with unhealed ears, rushing by older dogs of a different breed, and fiercely attacking and killing a fox, undergoing the whole time without a whimper the most terrible punishment. I know several that have killed their badger; and a letter in my possession describes an Homeric combat under water between an Irish terrier and an otter—the latter eventually succumbing. Their other quality is quite as bright a side to their character. Their good temper is remarkable in so game a terrier. Terrier men will bear me out that a quarrelsome dog is seldom truly game. I question whether any of my colleagues in the Irish Terrier Club can give an instance of one of the breed biting a human being. They are, therefore, peculiarly fitted for house-dogs where there are women and children. They make the most admirable companions, faithful, intelligent, and always full of high spirits. Whether accompanying their master out walking, following a trap or a bicycle, their never tiring liveliness will amuse their master and relieve his loneliness. The poaching blood they inherit from their ancestors gives them an instinctive love of a gun. Sportsmen have not failed to recognise their advantages as rabbiting dogs. They hunt mute. They are a peculiarly hardy breed and seldom succumb to the many ills that puppyhood is heir to. Shows have done much for their outward appearance, and without that softening effect on the temperament which usually follows in its wake. It would be a poor show where perfection could not be made up with different parts from the body of the exhibits. "Spuds," the subject of the illustration, was a beautiful bitch in her youth and when in proper coat, she shows the long, parallel, wolfhound-like head. Her coat was as hard as cocoa-nut fibre, the colour, a bright yellow red, the hue of September wheat, with the sun on it. She is properly leggy, long rather in body, and yet firmly knit together, and very full of the racing-build. The golden wheaten is also a good colour, but the mahogany red one sometimes sees is to be avoided as showing the bar sinister of the black and tan. Long legs and a smooth face are necessary characteristics; and short legs, profuse coat, and long hair on the face indicate mongrelism and Scotch blending. Much of the breed's recent advance is due to the improved knowledge of the judges. While such pitiful blunders in the awards were an every show occurrence, it was rather a wonder the breed did not deteriorate instead of only standing still. To-day I may safely say they rival in

popularity the oldest established breeds, and to the man who values qualities above looks, I would repeat that for a good-tempered and game dog, a rough-and-ready tyke that will fight anything and fear nothing there is no better than the Irish Terrier.

#### IRISH TERRIER CLUB'S CODE OF POINTS.

POSITIVE POINTS.	Value.	NEGATIVE POINTS.	Value.
Head, jaw, teeth and eyes .....	15	White nails, toes and feet .....	<i>minus</i> 10
Ears .....	5	Much white on chest .....	10
Legs and feet .....	10	Ears cropped .....	5
Neck .....	5	Mouth undershot or cankered .....	10
Shoulders and chest .....	10	Coat shaggy, curly, or soft .....	10
Back and loin .....	10	Uneven in colour .....	5
Hind quarters and stern .....	10		
Coat .....	15		
Colour .....	10		
Size and symmetry .....	10		
	<hr/> Total 100		<hr/> Total 50

Disqualifying Points:—Nose, cherry or red. Brindle colour.

#### DESCRIPTIVE PARTICULARS.

*Head.*—Long; skull flat, and rather narrow between ears, getting slightly narrower towards the eye; free from wrinkle; stop hardly visible, except in profile. The jaw must be strong and muscular, but not too full in the cheek, and of a good punishing length, but not so fine as a white English terrier's. There should be a slight falling away below the eye, so as not to have a greyhound appearance. Hair on face of same description as on body, but short (about a quarter of an inch long), in appearance almost smooth and straight; a slight beard is the only longish hair (and is only long in comparison with the rest) that is permissible, and that is characteristic.

*Teeth.*—Should be strong and level.

*Lips.*—Not so tight as a bull-terrier's but well-fitting, showing through the hair their black lining.

*Nose.*—Must be black.

*Ears.*—When uncut, small and V-shaped, of moderate thickness, set well up on the head, and dropping forward closely to the cheek. The ears must be free of fringe, and the hair thereon shorter and generally darker in colour than the body.

*Neck.*—Should be of a fair length, and gradually widening towards the shoulders, well carried, and free of throatiness. There is generally a slight sort of frill visible at each side of the neck, running nearly to the corner of the ear, which is looked on as very characteristic.

*Shoulders and chest.*—Shoulders must be fine, long, and sloping well into the back; the chest deep and muscular, but neither full nor wide.

*Back and loin.*—Body moderately long; back should be strong and straight, with no appearance of slackness behind the shoulders; the loin broad and powerful

and slightly arched; ribs fairly sprung, rather deep than round, and well ribbed back.

*Hind quarters.*—Well under the dog should be strong and muscular, the thighs powerful, hocks near the ground, stifles not much bent.

*Stern.*—Generally docked, should be free of fringe or feather, set on pretty high, carried gaily, but not over the back or curled.

*Feet and legs.*—Feet should be strong, tolerably round, and moderately small; toes arched, and neither turned out nor in; black toe-nails are preferable and most desirable. Legs moderately long, well set from the shoulders, perfectly straight, with plenty of bone and muscle; the elbows working freely clear of the sides, pasterns short and straight, hardly noticeable. Both fore and hind legs should be moved straight forward when travelling, the stifles not turned outwards, the legs free of feather and covered like the head, with as hard a texture of coat as body, but not so long.

*Coat.*—Hard and wiry, free of softness or silkiness, not so long as to hide the outlines of the body, particularly in the hindquarters, straight and flat, no shagginess, and free of lock or curl.

*Colour.*—Should be “whole coloured,” the most desirable being bright red; next wheaten, yellow, and grey, brindle disqualifying. White sometimes appears on chest and feet; it is more objectionable on the latter than on the chest, as a speck of white on chest is frequently to be seen in all self-coloured breeds.

*Size and symmetry.*—Weight in show condition, from 16lb. to 24lb.—say 16lb. to 22lb. for bitches and 18lb. to 24lb. for dogs. The most desirable weight is 22lb. or under, which is a nice stylish and useful size. The dog must present an active, lively, lithe, and wiry appearance; lots of substance, at the same time free of clumsiness, as speed and endurance, as well as power, are very essential. They must be neither “cloddy” nor “cobby,” but should be framed on the “lines of speed,” showing a graceful “racing outline.”

The subject of the illustration is Spuds (K.C.S.B. 6846), bred by Mr. George Jamison, Newtownards, Ireland. Spuds has won the following prizes: Cork, 2nd prize, 1876, Mr. Ridgway, judge; Newtownards, 1st prize and special cup for best in four Irish terrier classes, Mr. Skidmore, judge; Brighton, 2nd prize, Mr. Sam Handley, judge; Lisburn, 1877, 1st prize, Mr. Skidmore, judge; Newtownards, 1877, 1st prize and special cup for best in two Irish terrier classes, Mr. J. J. Pim, judge; Agricultural Hall, London, 2nd prize, Colonel Cowen, judge; Bristol, 1st prize, Mr. Percival, judge; Alexandra Palace, 1st prize, Mr. Handley, judge.