

The TRUE JRT

The JRT as recognized by the JRTCA (JACK RUSSELL TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA) is a type of working terrier that meets those conformational standards that are functionally sound for earth work.

The True Jack Russell Terrier may be any height between 10" and 15" (at the shoulder), it may vary in coats, markings, type, and for sure personality... they are ALL real Jack Russell Terriers. There is no "ideal"... the "ideal" is what suits their owner for what they want/need to do with their terrier. That is the uniqueness of this diverse terrier. The diversity within the [JRTCA breed standard](#) is what makes the Jack Russell Terrier suitable for a variety of working and performance abilities - in contrast with the narrow, cosmetic breed standards of many show breeds.

The "**Russell Terrier**" and the "**Parson Russell Terrier**" are both variants of the Jack Russell Terrier made into "separate breeds" by the American Kennel Club (AKC). They are variants of the original Jack Russell Terrier as always supported by the JRTCA. The [JRTCA standard](#) includes the full range of sizes needed for earth work. It is to be known our standard is to allow a terrier to follow the red fox to ground. The dog needed the drive and structure to mirror the agile intelligent fox. The Jack Russell Terrier had to be able to outsmart the fox and have the courage to do so for the handler as a team.

The true Jack Russell Terrier has been preserved as a working dog. Every effort has been made to eliminate and prevent genetic defects/faults within the [JRTCA registry](#). Close inbreeding is prohibited for the mental and physical protection of the terrier.



JRTCA judging, and all aspects of [JRTCA Terrier Trials](#), is focused on the working ability of the terrier. JRTCA Judges are specifically trained and sanctioned by the JRTCA. Because of this, the true Jack Russell Terrier remains virtually unchanged for over 200 years... it still has the structure, brain and heart to work underground, and is a mentally and physically sound dog.

The working structure, brain and heart of the true Jack Russell Terrier is what gives this terrier the astounding character, athleticism and versatility that make it a great companion. It is for sure "the dog that does"... from hunting to doing agility, racing, surfing, flyball, bird retrieval, skate boarding, search and rescue, therapy dog... and forever entertaining pet and companion.

The working brain and heart makes the Jack Russell Terrier such an intensely loyal, alert, affectionate, profound companion like no other. The Jack Russell Terrier wants to keenly interact with people... to be with you every moment of life... sharing and helping at every step. The true Jack Russell Terrier does not sit on the sidelines of life.

The JRTCA's [essential mission](#) is to **Preserve, Protect and Work the Jack Russell Terrier**. This mission equally preserves the breed

integrity for the most versatile, healthy, highly intelligent, loyal and affectionate companion you will ever find... the true Jack Russell.

Keep in mind that the "Fox Terrier" and the "Jack Russell Terrier" were the same dog at one point in history. The strain that went to the show ring quickly changed in structure and most lost the drive to hunt. Fashions of the ring changed the dog and soon an upright shoulder became a feature that impeded movement for working below ground. The Fox Terrier became the show ring dog and the Jack Russell Terrier remained as it is loved today and protected by the JRTCA.

It is history repeating itself. It is how the modern Fox Terrier of today once evolved from the original working fox terrier (now known as the Jack Russell Terrier). The original type of working fox terrier, the Jack Russell, will continue on with the Jack Russell Terrier Club of America and the Jack Russell Terrier Club of Great Britain as its protectors.

Everything about the Jack Russell has fox hunting in mind... coloring, conformation, character, and intelligence. The body is compact, of totally balanced proportions, the shoulders clean, the legs straight, and most importantly, a small chest (easily spannable by average size hands at the widest part behind the shoulders). The Jack Russell must also be totally flexible, allowing him to maneuver underground. This conformation allows the terrier to follow his quarry down narrow earths. The fox is a good model for the Jack Russell-where the fox can go, so must the terrier.

JRTCA Breed Standard

Characteristics



The terrier must present a lively, active and alert appearance. It should impress with its fearless and happy disposition. It should be remembered that the Jack Russell is a working terrier and should retain these instincts. Nervousness, cowardice or over-aggressiveness should be discouraged and it should always appear confident.

General Appearance

A sturdy, tough terrier, very much on its toes all the time, measuring between 10" and 15" at the withers. The body length must be in proportion to the height, and it should present a compact, balanced image, always being in solid, hard condition.

Head



Should be well balanced and in proportion to the body. The skull should be flat, of moderate width at the ears, narrowing to the eyes. There should be a defined stop but not over pronounced. The length of the muzzle from the nose to the stop should be slightly

shorter than the distance from the stop to the occiput. The nose should be black. The jaw should be powerful and well boned with strongly muscled cheeks.

Eyes

Should be almond shaped, dark in color and full of life and intelligence.

Ears

Small "V" shaped drop ears carried forward close to the head and of moderate thickness.



Scissor Bite

Upper incisor teeth fit closely over lower ones, with lower canines in front of the upper.



Level

Teeth meet edge-to-edge.



Overshot

Top jaw protruding over lower jaw leaving a gap. Position of canines is also reversed.



Undershot

Lower incisors protrude beyond upper incisors leaving a gap between upper and lower canines.

Mouth

Strong teeth with the top slightly overlapping the lower. The left two bites are acceptable; the far left bite (scissor) is preferred.

Neck



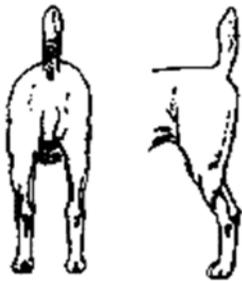
Clean and muscular, of good length, gradually widening at the shoulders.

Forequarters

The shoulders should be sloping and well laid back, fine at points and clearly cut at the withers. Forelegs should be strong and straight boned with joints in correct alignment. Elbows hanging perpendicular to the body and working free of the sides.

Body

The chest should be shallow, narrow and the front legs not too widely apart, giving an athletic, rather than heavily chested appearance. As a guide only, the chest should be small enough to be easily spanned behind the shoulders, by average sized hands, when the terrier is in a fit, working condition. The back should be strong, straight and, in comparison to the height of the terrier, give a balanced image. The loin should be slightly arched.



Hindquarters

Should be strong and muscular, well put together with good angulation and bend of stifle, giving plenty of drive and propulsion. Looking from behind, the hocks must be straight.

Feet

Round, hard padded, wide, of cat-like appearance, neither turning in nor out.

Tail

Should be set rather high, carried gaily and in proportion to body length, usually about four inches long, providing a good hand-hold.

Coat



Smooth, without being so sparse as not to provide a certain amount of protection from the elements and undergrowth. Rough or broken coated, without being woolly.

Color

White should predominate (i.e., must be more than 51% white) with tan, black, or brown markings. Brindle markings are unacceptable.

Gait

Movement should be free, lively, well-coordinated with straight action in front and behind.

Special Notes

Old scars or injuries, the result of work or accident, should not be allowed to prejudice a terrier's chance in the show ring unless they interfere with its movement or with its utility for work or stud. A Jack Russell Terrier should not show any strong characteristics of another breed.

Faults

Shyness, Disinterest, Overly aggressive, Defects in bite, Weak jaws, Fleshy ears, Down at the shoulder, Barrel ribs, Out at elbow, Narrow hips, Straight stifles, Weak feet, Sluggish or unsound movement, Dishing, Plaiting, Toeing, Silky or woolly coats, Too much color (less than 51% white), Shrill or weak voice, Lack of muscle or skin tone, Lack of stamina or lung reserve, Evidence of foreign blood

The JRTCA Registry:

The JRTCA Registration system is one of the most unique canine registries in the world. It was developed by Ailsa Crawford, the founder of the [JRTCA](#). It is designed for the protection and preservation of a healthy, sound terrier that meets the JRTCA/JRTCGB [breed standard](#).

The JRTCA's registry is unlike all-breed kennel clubs who generally register any offspring of registered parents, regardless of genetic or structural faults. It is designed for the protection and preservation of a healthy, sound terrier that meets the JRTCA/JRTCGB breed standard. It has been continually improved over many years of experience with the breed, and assistance from medical professionals, breeders and owners.

To be accepted for JRTCA Registration

- 1. The terrier must be a minimum of one year of age (there is no maximum age a dog is eligible).**

- Ensures maturity of the animal in size and structure, at which time most genetic traits/defects can be noted.
- 2. The terrier must pass a vet examination designed by the JRTCA specifically for the Jack Russell Terrier.**
 - The vet exam precludes terriers from registration for genetic faults such as incorrect bites, luxating patellas, heart murmurs, Legg-Perthes, and other genetic defects known to exist in this terrier.
 - By refusing registration to animals with genetic health issues, these animals are eliminated from JRTCA breeding, further protecting the breed overall.
 - 3. The terrier must generally meet the [JRTCA breed standard](#).**
 - Structural faults such as prick ears, bad bites, crooked legs, are rejected for registration (but may be [recorded](#) if spayed/neutered).
 - 4. The terrier may not be closely inbred.**
 - The maximum inbreeding coefficient allowed is 16%; this precludes father/daughter, mother/son or brother/sister matings which can lead to many serious health problems.
 - Close inbreeding may proliferate genetic health problems; the JRTCA's inbreeding policy is designed to keep the breed healthy in body and mind.
 - 5. The terrier must have a 4-generation (minimum) pedigree, signed by the breeder.**
 - Ensures that you know the lineage (family tree) of your terrier; important for planning breedings.
 - The JRTCA maintains a database of pedigrees, and provides a 5-generation JRTCA pedigree with each registration, showing as much information as available.
 - This ensures that any errors in the breeder-provided pedigrees are found and corrected.

6. The terrier must have a stud certificate, signed by the owner of the terrier's sire.

- Ensures that the pedigree, date of breeding, and date of birth are correct.

Terriers that DO NOT meet the JRTCA breed registry may be **RECORDED** if spayed/neutered, provided they are within the 10-15" height standard, thereby making them eligible to participate in all JRTCA trials and certificate programs, and a permanent part of the JRTCA's records. ALL JACK RUSSELL TERRIERS ARE WELCOME IN THE JRTCA.

This is a unique registry that means to you, the prospective owner, that the terrier/puppy you are purchasing is likely to be a Jack Russell Terrier that is mentally and healthy sound and meets the breed standard.

JRT HEALTH REGISTRY

The JRTCA also maintains it's own Health Registry that was developed by the Jack Russell Research Foundation and works closely with the Genetic laboratory at the University of Missouri.