

**As produced and adopted by the Boston Terrier Club of America  
Effective February 28, 1990**

( Revisions to this standard are currently being considered by the BTCA.  
This page will be updated as soon as the revisions are approved by the membership  
and adopted by the American Kennel Club)

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(Drawings and photos have been re-formatted for Internet use)

**Realizing that the Printed word is open to individual interpretation, The Boston Terrier Club of America hopes that this latest effort will allow a clearer visual interpretation of the accompanying written standard for the Boston Terrier.**

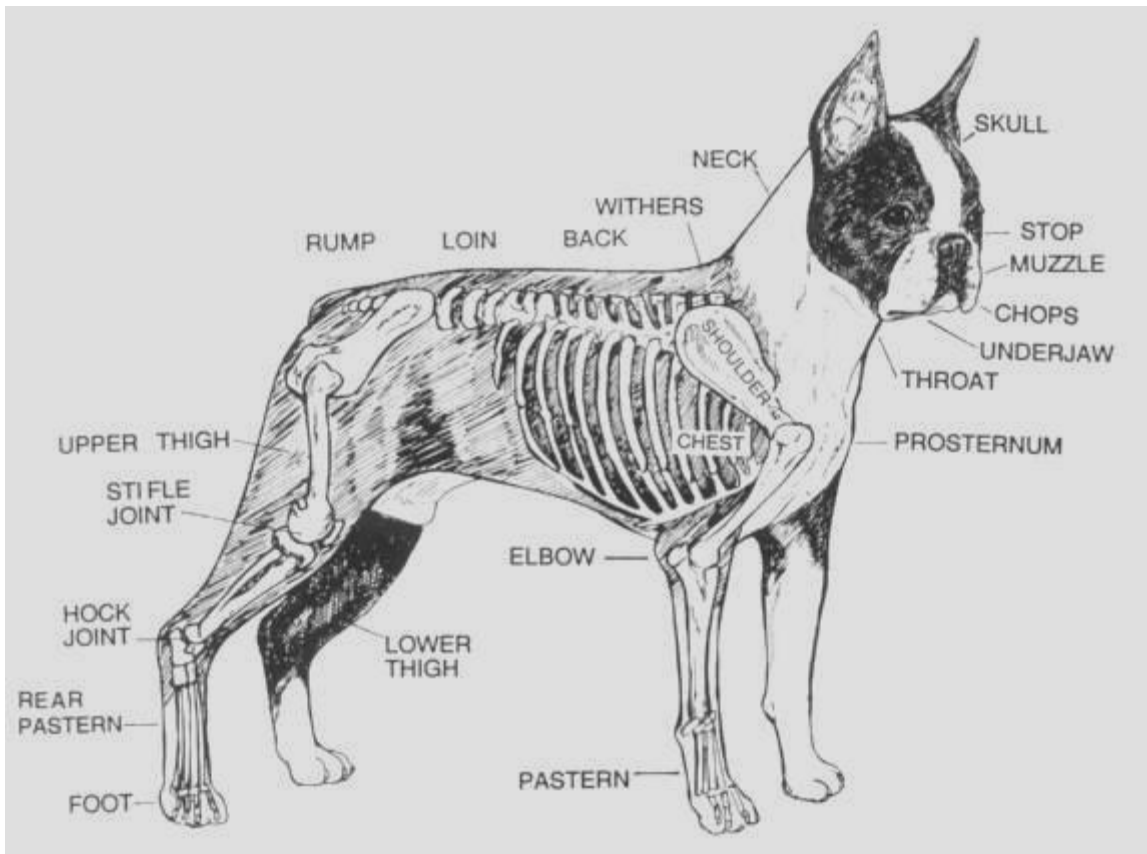
## **OFFICIAL STANDARD FOR THE BOSTON TERRIER**

*General Appearance* - The Boston Terrier is a lively, highly intelligent, smooth coated, short-headed, compactly built, short-tailed, well balanced dog, brindle, seal or black in color and evenly marked with white. The head is in proportion to the size of the dog and the expression indicates a high degree of intelligence.

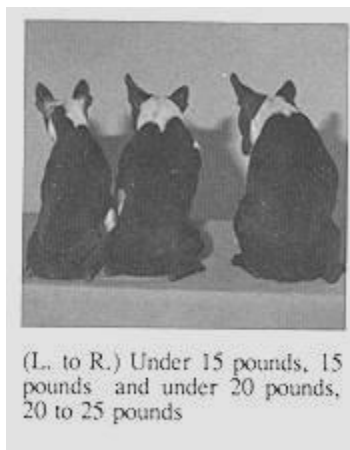
The body is rather short and well knit, the limbs strong and neatly turned, the tail is short and no feature is so prominent that the dog appears badly proportioned. The dog conveys an impression of determination, strength and activity, with style of high order; carriage easy and graceful. A proportionate combination of "Color and White Markings" is a particularly distinctive feature of a representative specimen.

"Balance, Expression, Color and White Markings" should be given particular consideration in determining the relative value of GENERAL APPEARANCE to other points.





***Size, Proportion, Substance* - Weight is divided by classes as follows: Under 15 pounds; 15 pounds and under 20 pounds; 20 pounds and not to exceed 25 pounds.**

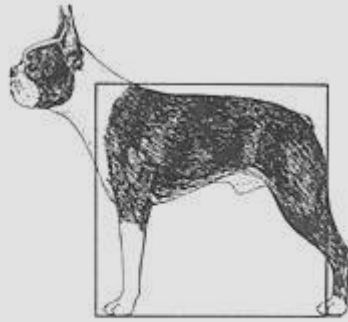


**The length of leg must balance with the length of body to give the Boston Terrier its striking square appearance. The Boston Terrier is a sturdy dog and must not appear to be either spindly or coarse. The bone and muscle must be in proportion as well as an enhancement to the dog's weight and structure. *Fault:* Blocky or chunky in appearance.**

***Influence of Sex:* In a comparison of specimens of each sex, the only evident difference is a slight refinement in the bitch's conformation.**



A slight refinement in the bitch's conformation



The length of leg equals the length of body



Too refined or spindly



Too coarse or bulky

**Head:** - The *skull* is short, flat on top, free from wrinkles, cheeks flat, brow abrupt and the stop well defined. The ideal Boston Terrier *expression* is alert and kind, indicating a high degree of intelligence. This is a most important characteristic of the breed. The *eyes* are wide apart, large and round and dark in color. The eyes are set square in the skull and the outside corners are on a line with the cheeks as viewed from the front. *Disqualify:* Eyes blue in color or any trace of blue. The *ears* are small, carried erect, either natural or cropped to conform to the shape of the head and situated as near to the corners of the skull as possible.



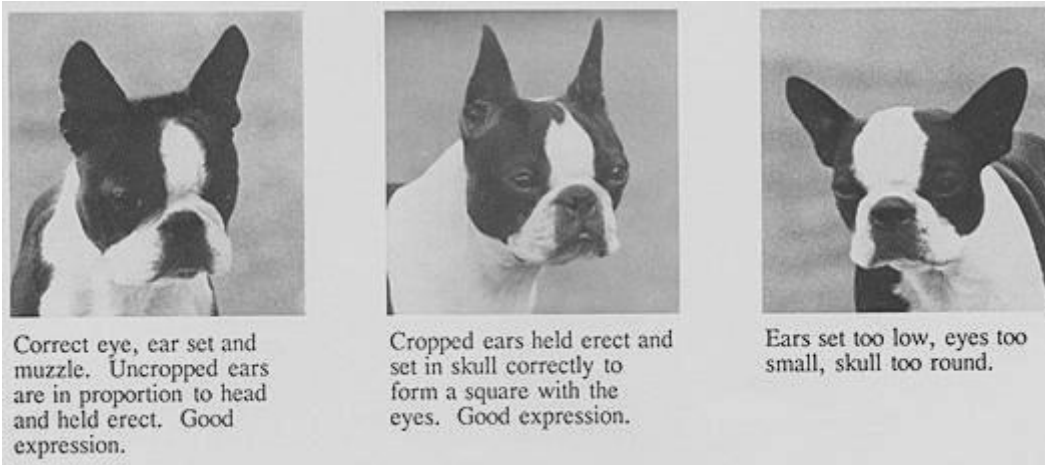
Cheeky; muzzle too narrow in comparison to skull.



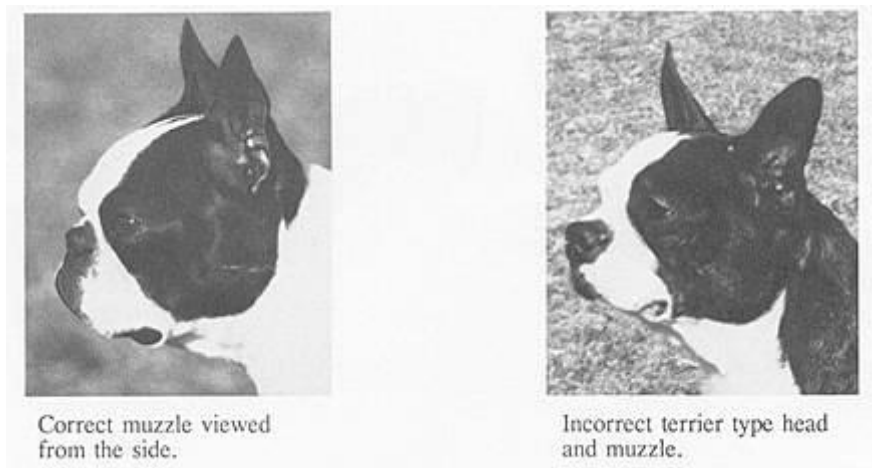
Correct eye, large and round with excellent expression. Muzzle in proportion, but ears too large for head.



Ears set too far back; too much white showing in eyes, narrow muzzle.



The *muzzle* is short, square, wide and deep and in proportion to the skull. It is free from wrinkles, shorter in length than in width or depth; not exceeding in length approximately one-third of the length of the skull. The muzzle from the stop to end of the nose is parallel to the top of the skull



The *nose* is black and wide, with a well defined line between the nostrils. *Disqualify: Dudley nose.*

The *jaw* is broad and square with short regular teeth. The bite is even or sufficiently undershot to square the muzzle. The chops are of good depth, but not pendulous, completely covering the teeth when the mouth is closed. *Serious Fault: Wry mouth.*



*An even bite.*



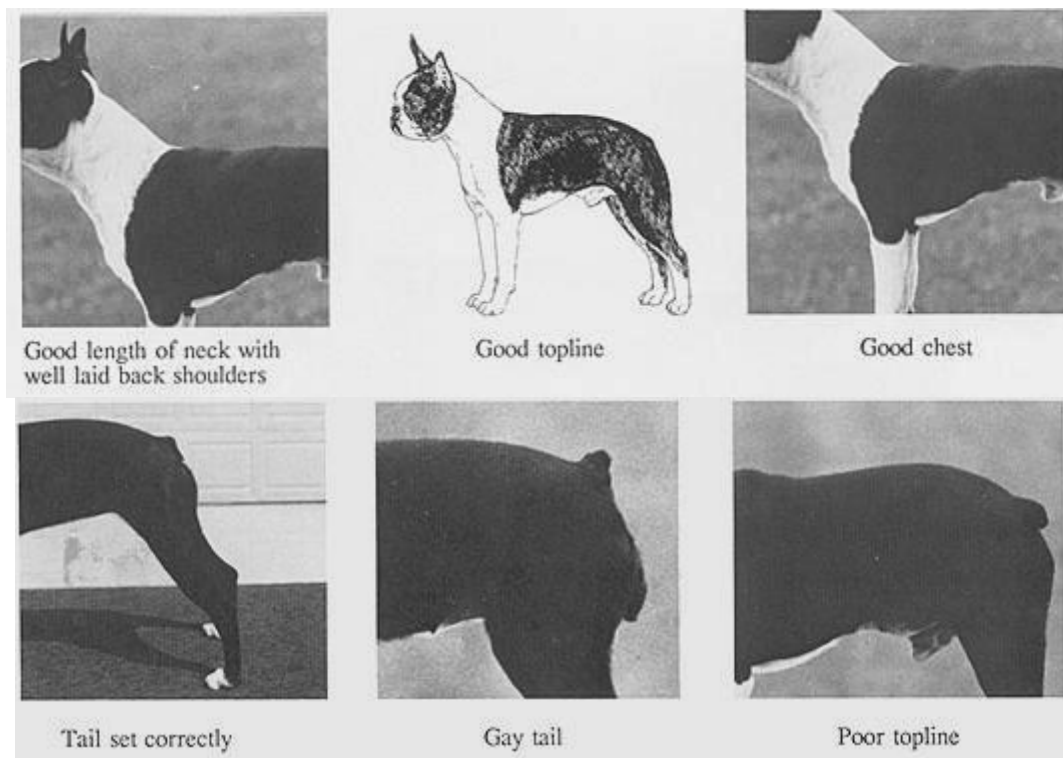
*Incorrect overshot bite.*



*Slightly undershot bite.*

**Head Faults:** Eyes showing too much white or haw. Pinched or wide nostrils. size of ears out of proportion to the size of the head. **Serious Head Faults:** Any showing of the tongue or teeth when the mouth is closed.

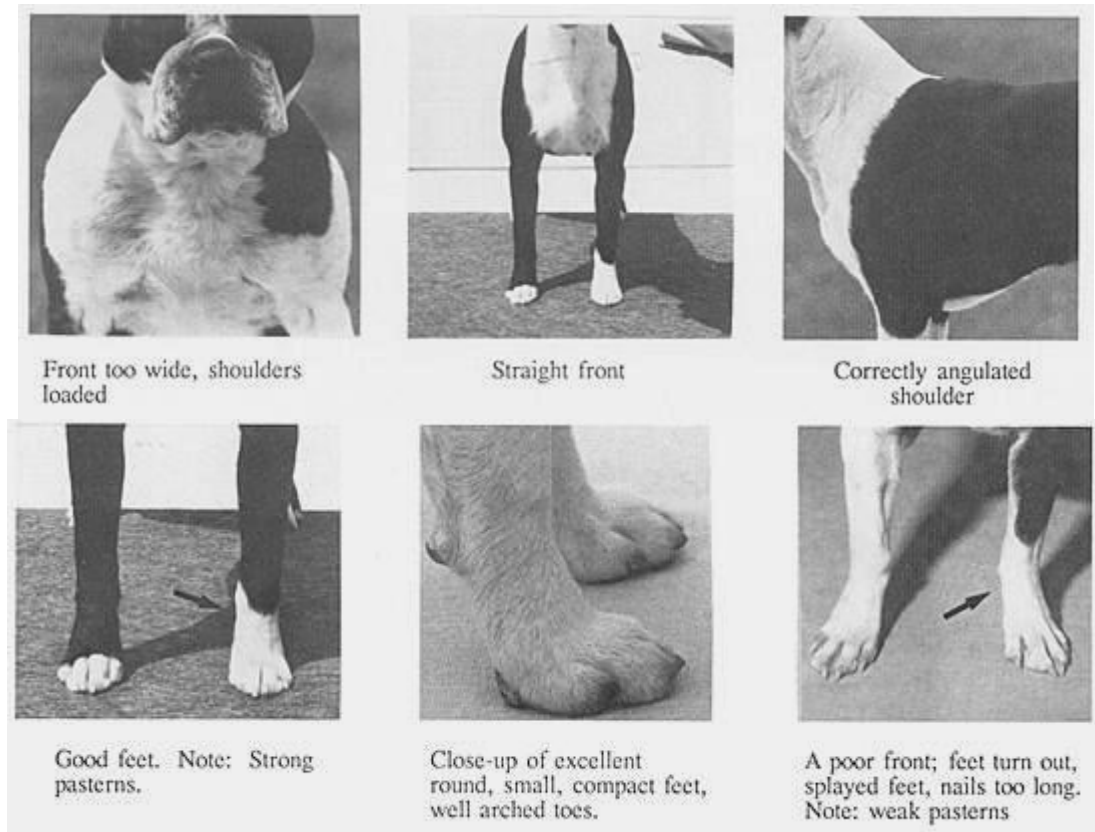
**Neck, Topline and Body** - The length of *neck* must display an image of balance to the total dog. It is slightly arched, carrying the head gracefully and setting neatly into the shoulders.



The *back* is just short enough to square the body. The *topline* is level and the rump curves to the set-on of the tail. The *chest* is deep with good width, ribs well sprung and carried well to the loins. The body should appear short.

The *tail* is set on low, short, fine and tapering, straight or screw and must not be carried above the horizontal. (Note: The preferred tail does not exceed in length more than one-quarter the distance from setting on to hock.) **Disqualify:** Docked tail. **Body Faults:** Gaily carried tail. **Serious Body Faults:** Roach back, sway back, slab-sided.

**Forequarters** - The *shoulders* are sloping and well laid back, which allows for the Boston Terrier's stylish movement. The *elbows* stand neither in nor out. The *forelegs* are set moderately wide apart and on a line with the upper tip of the shoulder blades. The forelegs are straight in bone with short, strong pasterns. The dewclaws may be removed.



Front too wide, shoulders loaded

Straight front

Correctly angulated shoulder

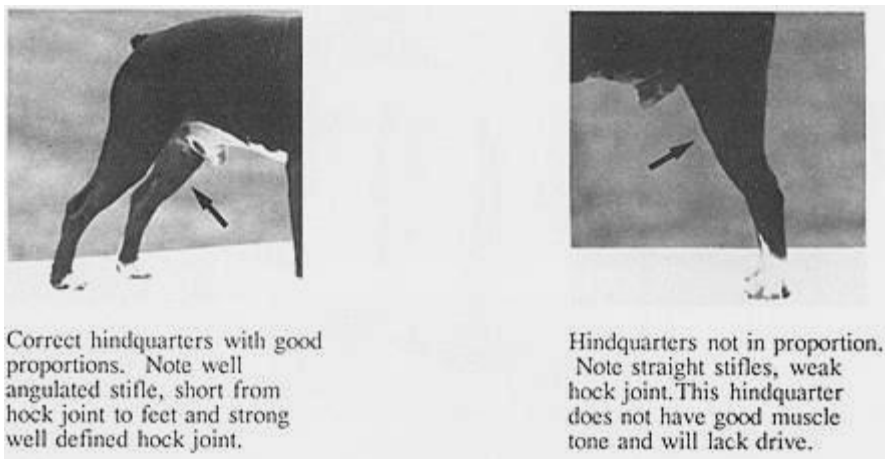
Good feet. Note: Strong pasterns.

Close-up of excellent round, small, compact feet, well arched toes.

A poor front; feet turn out, splayed feet, nails too long. Note: weak pasterns

The *feet* are small, round and compact, turned neither in nor out, with well arched toes and short nails. *Faults:* Legs lacking in substance; splay feet.

*Hindquarters* - The *thighs* are strong and well muscled, bent at the stifles and set true. The *hocks* are short to the feet, turning neither in nor out, with a well defined hock joint. The *feet* are small and compact with short nails. *Faults:* Straight in stifle.



Correct hindquarters with good proportions. Note well angulated stifle, short from hock joint to feet and strong well defined hock joint.

Hindquarters not in proportion. Note straight stifles, weak hock joint. This hindquarter does not have good muscle tone and will lack drive.

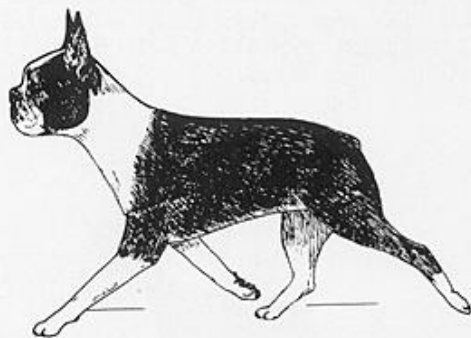


Correct hindquarters viewed from the rear.



Cowhocked hindquarters. Hocks turn in and feet turn out.

**Gait** - The gait of the Boston Terrier is that of a sure footed, straight gaited dog, forelegs and hind legs moving straight ahead in line with perfect rhythm, each step indicating grace and power. **Gait Faults:** There will be no rolling, paddling, or weaving, when gaited. **Hackney gait.** **Serious Gait Faults:** Any crossing movement, either front or rear.



Level topline, good reach of front assembly



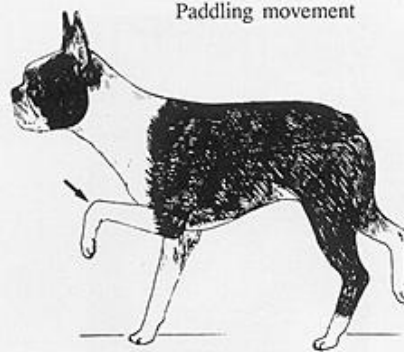
Crossing of front feet



Paddling movement



Good movement - head on

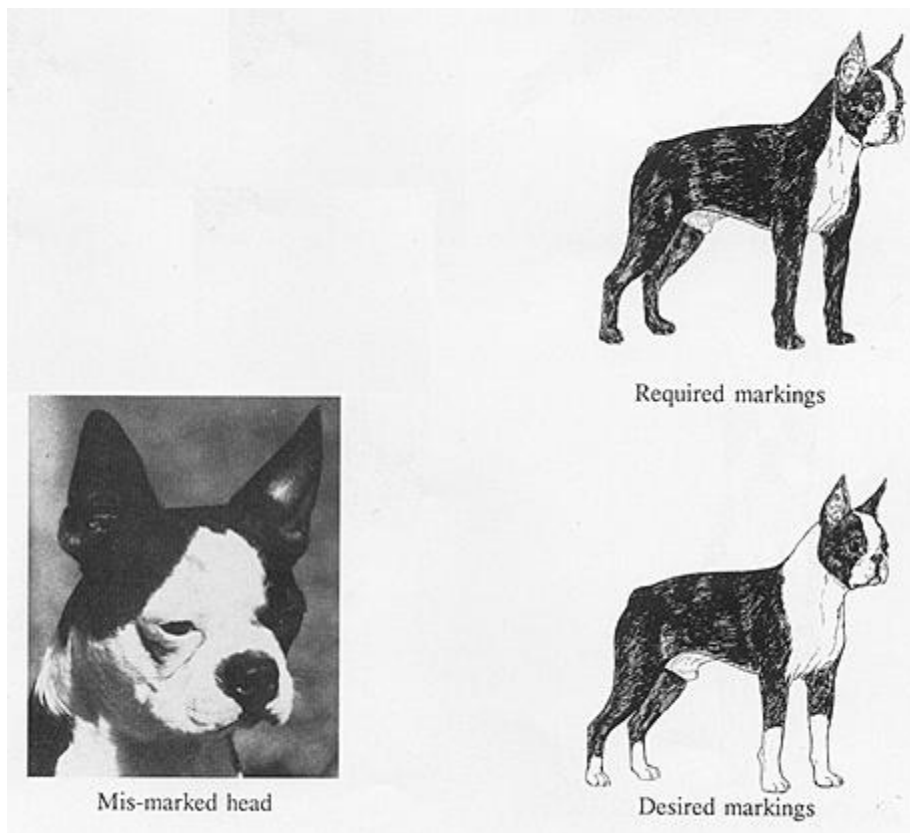


Hackney gait

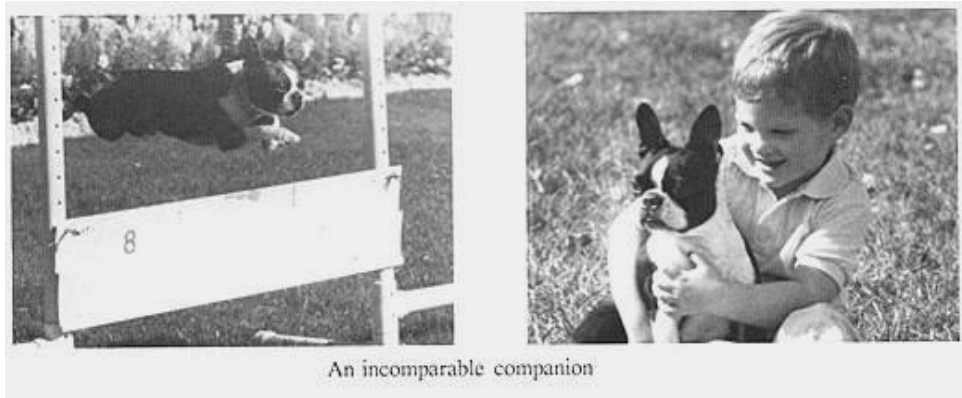
**Coat** - The coat is short, smooth, bright and fine in texture.

**Color and Markings** - Brindle, seal, or black with white markings. Brindle is preferred ONLY if all other qualities are equal. (Note: SEAL DEFINED. Seal appears black except it has a red cast when viewed in sun or bright light.) **Disqualify:** Solid black, solid brindle or solid seal without required white markings. Gray or liver colors.

**Required markings:** White muzzle band, white blaze between eyes, white forechest. **Desired markings:** White muzzle band, even white blaze between the eyes and over the head, white collar, white forechest, white on part or whole of foreleg and hind legs below the hock. (Note: A representative specimen should not be penalized for not possessing "Desired Markings".) A dog with a preponderance of white on the head or body must possess sufficient merit otherwise to counteract its deficiencies.



**Temperament** - The Boston Terrier is a friendly and lively dog. The breed has an excellent disposition and a high degree of intelligence, which makes the Boston Terrier an incomparable companion.



**Summary:** The clean-cut, short backed body of the Boston Terrier coupled with the unique characteristics of his square head and jaw, and his striking markings have resulted in a most dapper and charming American original: **THE BOSTON TERRIER.**

### Scale of Points

General Appearance	10
Expression	10
Head (Muzzle, Jaw, Bite, Skull & Stop)	15
Eyes	5
Ears	5
Neck, Topline, Body & Tail	15
Forequarters	10
Hindquarters	10
Feet	5
Color, Coat & Markings	5
Gait	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Disqualifications

*Eyes blue in color or any trace of blue.*

*Dudley nose.*

*Docked tail.*

*Solid black, solid brindle, or solid seal without required white markings.*

*Gray or liver colors.*