



# • BREED FEATURE • FOX TERRIER



## Development, Changes & recent History

By **Ken & Jan Campbell**

When we were invited to do an article on Fox Terriers with a brief history, development and changes over the last few decades, we found this is a really mammoth task and something that we could not go into with as great detail as we would like in the limited amount of time. Apologies to the Wire fanciers as we have focused on the Smooths. To do justice to both would be enough to fill many books.

The following article is a small trip down memory lane showing the slow change in style with the careful selective breeding of more than a century of



passionate and devoted breeders.

More than most other breeds, Fox Terriers have had a great number of famous identities since the beginning of dog shows, recording the breeding and development of smooths and wires and with all the famous prefixes involved. Many of the famous judges of the past were Fox Terrier fanciers.

The Fox Terrier Club (England) was founded in 1876 and is still one of the most respected clubs in U.K. where the first standard was drawn up. The Standard of Points originally drawn up in 1876 is still printed as a guide these days and it is well worth keeping these points in mind when assessing a fox terrier.

1. Head and Ears - 15
2. Neck - 5
3. Shoulders and Chest - 10
4. Back and Loins - 10
5. Hind Quarters - 15
6. Stern - 5
7. Legs and Feet - 15
8. Coat - 10
9. Symmetry, Size & Character-15

The popularity of the Fox Terrier quickly grew and they soon became one of the most popular breeds around the world right up to the middle of the last century, they are still very popular although the numbers are far less.

“The short backed hunter covering a lot of ground, with bone and strength in a small compass”. We still look for the alert expression on the tiptoe of expectation and the square outline with

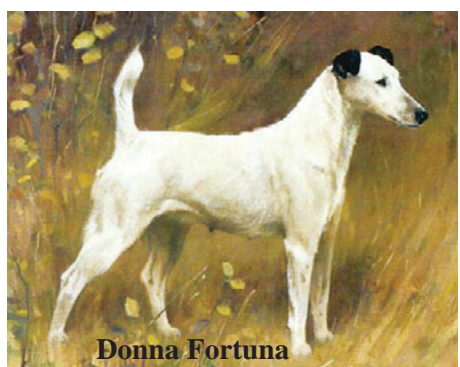
short back, quality bone in legs and feet and “bang on” tail set. It is interesting to look at fox terriers today and almost see the same outline, features and character as the original breed standard, however the breed has improved considerably in appearance since the early days but not lost any of his courage or ability to do the work he was called upon to do. The work he has been called upon to perform for many generations included, follow the fox to earth besides possessing activity, pluck, dash and stamina with a constitution strong enough to battle with the stable and yard life he had to lead. All this and still possess good manners, intelligence and aristocratic bearing combined with beauty of conformation. He is an excellent companion, faithful and a first class house guard and is one of the most popular breeds of the terrier family.

The great breeders of over 100 years ago were very clever in their breeding programs with the selection of the ideal type which best fitted the standard. Usually the kennels consisted of over 50 dogs with others in selected pet homes which were also bred from where many great ones made it to the show ring.

“The best terrier they ever bred (and possibly no one ever bred a better dog) was” Result,” a beauti-



ful example of great substance and strength, [Winner of the Fox Terrier Club, England Challenge Cup 1884-86, 1888] combined with ample liberty and highest quality. He weighed 17lb., had ample bone, and was the most perfect Fox-terrier behind the saddle I ever saw. His head was good, although a shade round on top of his skull. For years he held



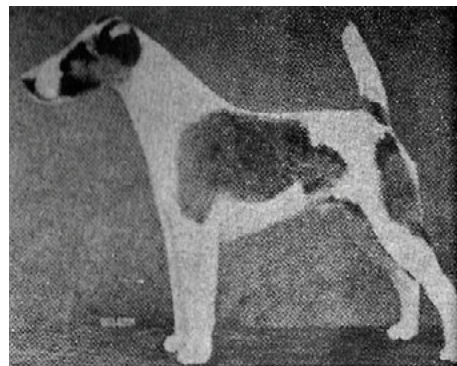
the Fox-Terrier Club Challenge Cup, and it was only Anno Domini that enabled others to beat him.” *Quote from Monograph of the FT - Castle, Marples and Hughes*

It would be impossible to do this article without mentioning Donna Fortuna w. 1896. She has been preserved in the Walter Rothschild Museum at Tring in the UK where we visited a few years



ago and took the above photo of Donna Fortuna at right which also shows an early Wire. Donna Fortuna was never beaten in the show ring over a period of 5 years. She won the CC at Crufts in 1897 at 7 months of age and retired on the 12th November 1902 after winning the CC from the veteran class at the Fox Terrier show at Cheltenham.

The photos below of Chs Lethal Weapon and his son Laurel Wreath w.1946 and Ch Watteau Chorister w. 1954 - Cam Milward’s choice as the



**CH. LAUREL WREATH**



**CH. LEATHAL WEAPON**

greatest, all show examples of correct breed type.

The quality of fox terriers world-wide is due to the generosity and fore-



**CH WATTEAU CHORISTER**

sight of our early breeders exporting and allowing many of their best dogs to be used at stud and sold to other enthusiasts who have maintained the essence of the breed and produced the excellent type we see in many countries today.

In the early 1970s and 80s the United Kingdom was the first place to look when searching for new bloodlines from the many excellent breeders, and many great dogs were exported to European countries, America, Australia, South Africa as well as many other countries.



Australia also imported and exported some excellent dogs and probably



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the most famous who went to America in 1979 was Ttarb the Bratt, sire of distinction with 139 champions, bred by Don and Laura Bratt of Tasmania. The Bratt held the breed record for the most Best in Show wins, he won his 60th and last All Breeds Best in Show and was then permanently retired, taking the crown from Nornay Sadler,



Ch. Nornay Saddler, the dominant show dog of his era. A fine producer and a wonderful friend. Whelped March 12, 1936.

whelped in England in 1936 and who was later exported to America in 1936. At Saddler's very first show at under 7 months of age he won several classes, Best of Breed and Runner up to the Best in show winner, Mrs Hughes the judge, said he was the loveliest terrier she had seen.

The most well performed dog in the UK in recent times is Am/Int. Ch Sunrise Rascal Fair, owned by Claire



Ch/Am Ch Sunrise Rascal Fair b.20/12/01  
Breeder: Hoffman & Braithwaite, Owners: Hoffman & Johnson

Hoffman USA, who won all five Fox Terrier Specialty shows in 2005, the first dog to do so. In the same year he was the UK's top terrier and was group 2nd at Crufts. His progeny has continued the success of the sire.

Together with many of our top home bred dogs we now see dogs of the highest calibre from America and New

Zealand and imported to Australia and blending the bloodlines back to many of the early greats. The convenient air and road travelling with the showing of dogs in many countries allows for the careful selection of the stud dog who is more readily available.

Victoria used to be the stronghold of Fox Terrier's. Not so many years ago there were several All Breeds Judges showing and breeding Fox terrier's, and they were all famous dog people, amongst them were Cam Milward, Gill Brown, Bob Mushet, Bert Keenan, Steve Creek, Peter Luyten, Keith Braithwaite, Jack Rowles, John Rowles and more!

The name Cam Milwood and "Grenpark" are synonymous with fox terriers in Australia and recognised worldwide. Cam Milward began breeding dogs and poultry when he was only 10 years old. It would be difficult to find an Australian Smooth pedigree without a Grenpark influence somewhere. The Bratt, on his dam's side has Grenpark champions. Cam was a leader in his

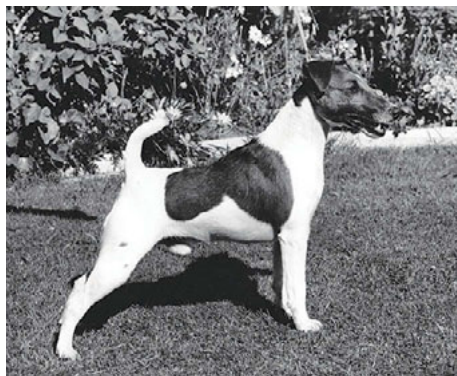


field and bred over 100 champions and was an outstanding breeder and judge. In his book "Grenpark Fox Terriers" Cam states that "Grenpark Solo", top dog Victoria 1965, was possibly the best bitch he bred.

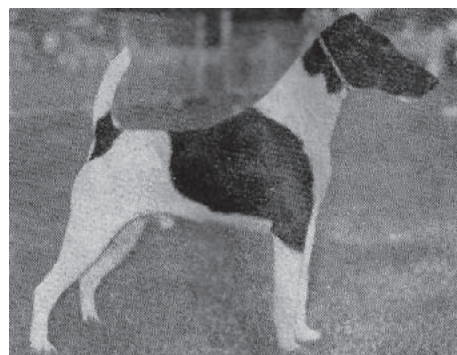
Then there is the famous Rowles dynasty established in 1912 and still being carried on today in NSW by John Rowles, "Selwor". New South Wales also had Alan Mooney, and the late Bill Polley who campaigned fearlessly his home bred Jerry Ideal, whelped in 1930 and who won his last CC in 1939, along the way he won 60 Best in shows including three successive Best in shows at the 1932-34 Sydney Roy-

als. A wonderful record for those times.

The 1960s and 70s saw the emergence of two big winning Australian smooths, Connie Wapshott's Ch Gar-



rleigh Golden Sands (pictured above) the winner of Best in show at the 1969 Melbourne Royal and Ch Farleton Don



GROUP 2 — Judge: Mr H. Murray  
Best dog and best exhibit: A. Bailey's Fox Terrier (Smooth). Ch Farleton Don Pedro.

Pedro bred and owned by Alan Bailey who won the 1975 Melbourne Royal Show.

Jerry Ideal's record has recently been surpassed by Ch Wyninebah Checkmate who has amassed 70 Best



in Show wins to his credit, he was bred by Neil & Lea Rushforth and owned by Doug and Annette Bowe.

So, has the Smooth Fox Terrier

changed much in over a century? Well it certainly is still capable of doing what it was bred for, but is now a much more streamlined dog. Breeders still need to remain vigilant and read the writings of our forebears and be prepared to return to the standard and be willing to appreciate something new at the next show.

There have been so many wonderful dogs and breeders over the years that it is impossible to name them all in this article who have contributed significantly to the breed, we have named just a few of the major winning dogs. It is an exciting time in Australia with the recent imports of Smooths in several states with breed numbers and breeders increasing in New South Wales, ACT, and Queensland which helps keeps our wonderful breed in the forefront of the terriers. It is pleasing to see new breeder judges emerging and we certainly wish them well with a long and fulfilling career.

References: Fox Terriers by J H Pardoe, New Fox Terriers by Harold Nedell, Dog Showbiz by Gary Jameson

Jan and Ken Campbell



OLD JOCK — GROVE NETTLE — OLD TARTAR  
Whelped 1859. Whelped 1862. Whelped 1862.



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## They answered

A.1. My family and I have been breeding and showing Fox Terrier smooths for 30 years.

It is our chosen breed due to my father's influence. When he was a boy Keven wanted a Fox Terrier, so he had to save some money to buy one. He collected horse manure from the horses that walked the streets in the early morning delivering milk.



**Robyn Price**

He placed the manure in his little cart and sold it for a penny a load to the locals for their gardens. He got the runt of the litter from a local breeder and called him Littlee because he was so tiny. The irony was that the pup grew quite large. Littlee became his constant companion and my dad took him rabbit hunting. His dog would run along the side of his bicycle to their hunting spot.

We purchased a smooth bitch Grenpark Reva from Mr Cameron Milward when I was in my early twenties She was for sale only because her tail was too short. We bred her to Ch. Grenpark Keepers and she produced our first showdog BIS BISS Ch Ecirp Reward who went on to win 36 Best in Groups, 2 Best Exhibit In Shows and a Best in Specialty show. As you can imagine that was more than enough to get our family hooked on showing and breeding Fox Terriers. Since then I have also branched out and become a licenced judge in terriers and gundogs and am aspiring for

working dogs.

My children also joined in showing and were quite successful in child handlers. I'm very proud of my son Anthony who has now become a licenced judge of terriers and working dogs. Many happy days have been spent as a family travelling to dog shows with great wins and memories. My dad and I have dedicated our lives to being custodians of this marvellous breed. My cousin Nicole Price in Tasmania has also joined us at Ecirp kennels. I have recently married John Killeen of the successful Frenchpark wire Fox Terrier kennels in USA. It seems our family will have a lifelong involvement in Fox Terriers.

A.2. The written standards continue to be revised. As a result judges must look to the extended standards for clarification. One problem is that judges are only tested on the revised standards thus decreasing their depth of knowledge. As the saying goes a little bit of knowledge can be dangerous.

If referring to the quality of dogs in the ring I believe it has decreased. Many breeders in Australia are looking to USA and New Zealand to improve their bloodlines. Time will tell in the next generations how effective this has been. Some breeders have outcrossed too many times and lost their overall quality. Breeding is an art of genetics and must be understood if one is to succeed.

Our kennel is slightly different as we have not outcrossed for thirty years yet we still have had great success. I guess this is the result of having strong Grenpark bloodlines to begin with. We have 70 years of tail female line. I'm not sure if this would exist anywhere else in the World.

Our kennel has bred over 70 champions and many Grand Champions, Supreme Champions and International Champions. I guess the success of our kennel is that we have a family of winners. My son Anthony once said the proof of a great dog is what he or she leaves behind.

A.3. No exaggeration of stated measurements. (I would also like to see a World standard. It seems ridiculous that different countries have different standards.)

A.4. Well this depends on the

## We asked Breeders

- Q.1. How long have you been breeding Fox Terriers? Why are they your chosen breed?
- Q.2. How do you feel the standard of Fox Terriers today compares with say 10 years ago?
- Q.3. If you were allowed to add a sentence to the Fox Terrier breed standard – what would it be?
- Q.4. Does the Fox Terrier have any health problems, and what are they like to live with?
- Q.5. Could you list in order of priority the 5 most important points you think a judge should look for in the Fox Terrier?
- Q.6. What is your 'pet hate' when looking at a Fox Terrier, and what do you think is the hardest fault to breed out?

bloodlines of each kennel. On the whole Fox Terrier smooths are a hardy breed. Luxating patella is an issue that needs to be monitored in Smooth Fox Terriers. Some wire Fox Terrier lines may have a problem with itchy skin.

Living with Fox Terriers is not for everyone. They are high energy dogs and have natural hunting instincts. However they are great companions and loads of fun. They have a sense of adventure and love to play.

- A.5.
1. Breed type
  2. Balance
  3. Movement
  4. Show condition
  5. Show performance and attitude on the day

Note: It's important that the judge looks at the dog as a whole and doesn't get hung up on fault judging. A judge should always be looking for outstanding qualities that will take the breed forward.

A.6. My pet hate would be exaggeration. The standard doesn't call for pencil long heads or necks like a giraffe with the resulting toothpick bone. Front assemblies tend to show our number one fault. Over the years looking into the ring we have seen goose stepping. Now there seems to be no reach in many exhibits. Wide fronts tend to go unnoticed by many judges also. The three finger rule is a good indicator. A man should be able to place 3 fingers breadth between the front legs, not two hands. Also the fashion of today in smooths is seeing an increase in split faces and white heads. Breeders must be aware of pigment as white faces can

produce pink eye rims which are not desirable.

**Robyn Price  
Ecirp Kennels**

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A.1. Jan has been in Smooth Fox Terriers for approximately 40 years. Her Mother had Australian Terriers so when looking for a terrier puppy a Smooth Fox Terrier was available, but on the condition he be shown. That was over 40 years ago.

A.2. There were a lot more good dogs ten years ago but in the last year or two there are some up and coming ones, in Victoria we have lost a lot of really good breeders over the last few years with retirement and some have passed on, luckily there are still several famous kennels producing quality stock in all states. There are quite a few relatively new breeders and exhibitors of Smooth Fox Terriers in NSW, ACT, Queensland and Western Australia with exciting youngsters, they may produce greater numbers in the breed and strive for high quality following on from some of the famous breeders of the past so we are well on the way to cementing the future.

A.3. The breed standard is closely based on the first written standard in 1876 which describes the Fox Terrier excellently. We would just emphasise bone and strength in a small compass possessing the best of legs and feet. Not to be taken as cloggy or coarse, speed and endurance must be looked to as well as power and symmetry.

A.4. Fox terriers are a very

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healthy breed and most do not suffer major health problems.

Smooths are funny, infectious, endearing and love the company of people, a beautiful size, hardy and intelligent, they are also very



**Ken & Jan Campbell**

inquisitive and lively with almost never ending energy but still like nothing better than to sit on your lap.

**A.5.**

1. Balance - head, neck and short

back with well set on tail.

2. Alert temperament - standing on tiptoe of expectation - which is sometimes very difficult to achieve when there is little of interest for the terrier to look at!! Always be willing to walk around the dog to see him/her at the best advantage and also not be misled by markings.

3. Correct front and rear angulation - short upper arm with good lay of shoulder showing virtually no forechest, called a fish hook front by some.

4. Legs and feet - good bone with round well padded cat like feet

5. Free movement - with front legs swinging in a pendulum fashion and strength in hind movement.

**A.6.** Actually we have two pet hates.

1. The "Goose stepper", this is a short stepping high lifting front movement which is so totally incorrect, some judges seem to think a Fox Terrier should move like this and forgive it, they are so wrong, Smooth Fox Terriers

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should have a good front extension. 2. There is also a tendency in the breed with some dogs having a forechest which is undesirable, and most of these dogs then tend to have a tubular body without any tuck up. This is not a correct fox terrier front or underline which

should have a gentle tuck up. The hardest fault to breed out is possibly the incorrect front with the high stepping front movement, it can keep coming back to haunt breeders for generations.

**Ken & Jan Campbell**  
**Optimo Kennels**