

MANCHESTER TERRIERS

The Gentleman's Terrier

By Dr. Jennifer Tomes
Canadian Manchester Terrier Club



Darling c2006

Athletic. Strong. Elegant. Intelligent. Loyal. These are the qualities that have endeared the Manchester Terrier to dedicated fanciers for hundreds of years. From the historic rat pit, shipyard, tavern and hedgerow to the modern show ring, agility course and living room – no breed can match the Manchester when it comes to gameness, heart and devotion.

Breed History

Breed historians maintain that the Manchester is one of the oldest of all identifiable terrier breeds. Its progenitors were not only described in Dr. Caius' *Encyclopedia of Dogs* (circa 1570) and *Bewick's A History of Quadrupeds* (1790), but also appeared in illuminated manuscripts dating as far back as the 15th century. Dubbed the Black and Tan Terrier, a name the Manchester would bear until well into the 20th century, these dogs were used to control vermin populations on farms and in local taverns. Smaller Black and Tans were also sometimes carried in leather satchels by mounted hunters in order to flush out game or even to route the occasional fox from its hiding spot on the hedgerow.

With the growth of larger cities and ports during the Industrial Revolution came an explosion in England's rat population and the rise in popularity of terriers built to contain their numbers. By the mid-1800s rat baiting had become a particularly popular pastime. Famed as "rattng machines," the Black



and Tan excelled in the rat pit where avid breeders and fans would bet large sums of money on the number of rats a dog might kill in a given timeframe or the amount of time a dog might take to kill a set number of rodents. Black and Tan Terriers were especially prized as a result of the innate strength, agility and endurance that allowed them to easily out-manuever their prey and outlast their competition.

It was around this time that breeder John Hulme reportedly introduced Whippet to the Black and Tan Terrier in order to create a dog that was also able to course small game. Hulme's work had such an impact on breed type that the name "Manchester Terrier" began to emerge in the 1860s, reflecting the fact that he and other breeders in the Manchester area of England were producing the best examples of the breed.

The Black and Tan truly came into its heyday, however, during the latter half of Queen Victoria's reign. Popular among sporting enthusiasts and townfolk alike for their gameness, the breed was also recognized as a handsome companion, earning the nickname "Gentleman's Terrier". As it became fashionable for ladies to carry a small dog on their arm, small examples of the breed became all the rage, giving rise to a split between the Toy Black and Tan Terrier and its larger counterpart.

Manchesters in Canada

The breed has a long history in Canada, with the first Black and Tan Terriers and Toy Black and Tans registered by the CKC in 1889. During the early 1900s specimens were registered as both Black and Tan Terriers and Manchester Terriers, with the

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name gradually changing to the modern Manchester Terrier. One of the most notable breeders in North America during this period was a Canadian named Fred C. McLean. McLean bred under the prefix "Willowdale" and was fondly assigned the moniker Mr. Manchester. His son, Mac, continued the family tradition, successfully breeding and showing Manchester Terriers through mid-century, and even today his descendants remain involved with the breed.

The breed's popularity suffered a blow when both blood sports and ear cropping were banned in England around the turn of the century. The number of Manchester Terriers declined steadily over the following decades and by the end of the Second World War the breed was in crisis.

In North America a unique solution was found to aid the survival of the breed. In 1958, the AKC reunited the Toy and Standard Manchester Terrier into a single breed with two varieties, and the CKC followed suit the next year. Interestingly, the CKC chose not to adopt the AKC's revised breed standard as it contained a controversial size DQ for the Standard Manchester Terrier. Many top breeders of the day, including Mac McLean and Mrs. R. Turner of Canyon Crest kennel fame, protested passionately against the inclusion of the DQ and the adoption of the new standard. In response, the CKC decided to retain its existing breed standards.

Today in Canada, all individuals are registered as Manchester Terriers, with their variety being specified only when they are exhibited. Elsewhere in the world the Manchester Terrier and the Toy Manchester's equivalent, the English Toy Terrier, are separate breeds with very distinct breed standards and attributes.

Form for Function

Any discussion of judging the Manchester must begin with recognition of the fact that, as a single breed with two varieties represented by two separate breed standards, the Manchester Terriers' situation in Canada is a unique one. Although the current standards are exceedingly similar, the Canadian Manchester Terrier Club is working to revise and unite the breed standard for the Toy and Standard varieties in order to more accurately reflect pursuit of the same ideal.

The Manchester Terrier is a long-legged, short-coated, black and tan terrier. Overall, the breed should convey strength, agility, endurance, and yet still be an elegant animal worthy of its role as a gentlemen's companion. The modern Manchester retains those characteristics that have allowed the breed to be successful ratters for hundreds of years. They should have sufficient bone as to not be fragile and be muscular without being coarse. The ideal size range for the Standard variety is 12 to 22 pounds, with the Toy version weighing less than 12 pounds. In Canada, there is no disqualification for animals over 22 pounds, rather judges are encouraged to fault dogs over the upper range to the degree that they deviate from the ideal. Also of note is the fact that the Toy is a diminutive version of the

standard, differing only in size and ear type.

The Manchester headpiece should be clean, wedge-shaped and well-filled under the eyes. The planes of the muzzle and back skull are of the same length and parallel. Any suggestion of a definite stop is incorrect. Overall, the head should appear elegantly powerful, being neither coarse nor weak and snikey. The eye should be dark and almond shape. It is thought that this dark eye, paired with the tan point over the eye and the kiss mark on the cheek, was helpful in protecting the Manchester while ridding as angry rats would attempt to bite the lighter marking above or beside the eye rather than the eye itself.

The cropping of ears was also initially undertaken for safety reasons and, in fact, until it was banned in England in 1897 both Toy and Standard Manchesters were typically cropped. Today, while the Toy may be exhibited with naturally erect ears alone, there are three acceptable ear types for the Standard variety (cropped, naturally erect, or button) and no preference is assigned



to any over the other. It should be noted that it is easier to achieve an ideal cropped ear than an ideal natural ear (either buttoned or naturally erect) and judges should not hesitate to award natural ears when they find good examples of them.

When evaluating the Manchester Terrier, one should look for a clean silhouette, with a slight rise over the loin and a moderate tuck up. The correct rise to the topline is not as extreme as that found in the Whippet and is best judged when the dog is in motion. Overall, the dog should appear slightly longer than tall.

The key to angulation in the Manchester is moderation and balance. In order to course small game the breed must not be as straight as some other Terrier breeds, but neither can it be overly angulated as excessive angulation would be detrimental to a Manchester's agility in confined spaces, like the rat pit. For this reason, though they should use everything they have as efficiently as possible, the generic, flashy side movement seen in some other breeds is entirely incorrect for the Manchester Terrier. Instead, the Manchester's gait should be free and effortless with an emphasis on good, balanced reach and drive. Any suggestion of a hackney gait or "goose stepping" should be penalized.

The tail is moderately short and set on where the arch of the back ends, appearing as a seamless continuation of the topline. Proper tail set and carriage is important as the tail plays a vital role in maintaining balance while coursing and ratting. The tail should extend smoothly from the topline and should not be carried over the back.

Many note the Manchester Terrier's markings, drawing special attention to the distinctive black "thumbprint" found on the front legs as an important characteristic – a hall-

mark even – of the breed. Breeders and judges must take care to balance the historical importance of markings with the unquestionable need for proper structure and soundness in a working dog.

Health Issues

Thankfully, the Manchester Terrier is a relatively healthy breed. This is in part because they are not an overly popular breed, but also because breeders and Manchester Terrier breed clubs are committed to the health of the breed. The CMTC has been particularly active in researching health issues, conducting health surveys and sponsoring research projects. There are a number of health conditions the Manchester Terrier has been associated with, such as von Willebrand's disease (vWD), Legges-Perthes, and Thyroid disease. More recently, cardiomyopathy has also been found in Manchester Terriers, occurring mostly in the Toy variety. An investigation of how this serious disorder is inherited is one of the research projects

the CMTC Health Committee is currently sponsoring. More detailed information about health issues can be found on the Health Committee page of the CMTC website.

Temperament

Manchester Terriers are exceptionally loyal to their people, a fact that at once endears them to their devotees and presents unique challenges. This is not a dog that will love everyone; they have a tendency to be discerning with strangers and they do bark. Saying this, to watch the close connection between a Manchester Terrier and its owner - whether it is in



Photo by Martin Hershberg





Photo by Steve Surfman

the conformation or obedience ring, the agility field, or simply at the park - is a wonderful thing. A Manchester is typically confident but aloof with strangers. Excessive shyness or aggression is not appropriate for the breed and owners must properly socialize young dogs to ensure a well-adjusted, confident dog.

Quick and intelligent, because of their athleticism the breed is particularly attractive to those interested in performance sports like agility and flyball. Like most Terriers, Manchesters also have a mind of their own and can be a challenge to train. There are many examples of outstanding Manchesters excelling in obedience, agility and flyball however, proving that the rewards are as great for patient trainers as they are for enamoured owners. If there is one thing that can be guaranteed when it comes to a Manchester, it is that to own one is to be well and truly in love.

For more information on the Manchester Terrier, visit the Canadian Manchester Terrier Club on-line at www.kismet.net/cmtc

What the Stats Say

By: Barry Truax

Single Year Record Holder

Standard:

Ch. Salulaire Wildest Dreams 4963 (2004)

Toy:

Ch. Salulaire Can We Talk 9616 (1986)

Career Points: 1986-2007

Standard:

Ch. Salulaire Foolhardy 11,042

Ch. Salulaire Wildest Dream 9,676

Ch. Kreuzritters Once In A Bluemoon 7,984

Ch. Rainsong's Stairway To Heaven 4,325

Ch. Salulaire's Word Games 2,782

Toy:

Ch. Burmack Gaenja Crusader at Fwaggle 9,573

Ch. Salulaire That's My Man 6,262

Ch. Salulaire All The Rage 4,844

Ch. Fwaggle Burmack Clear As Mud 4,130

Ch. Saint Lazar's Sir Lancelot 3,210

Group Judging: 1986-2007

Standard:

	#SHO	G1	G2	G3	G4	BIS	%GRP
E. St. Hilaire (New Westminster, BC)	24	14	3	1	2	7	83.3%
J. Glendinning (Delta, BC)	21	4	4	6	3	2	81%
E. Wild (Blenheim, ON)	20	5	9	2	0	1	80%

Toy:

E. St. Hilaire (New Westminster, BC)	25	9	4	3	2	1	72%
H. Glendinning (Delta, BC)	35	11	5	4	4	1	68.8%
G. Jeavons (Ancaster, ON)	22	4	4	3	3	1	63.6%



Photo by Laura Savoie