

# Identifying The Manchester Terrier



The vast majority of Canadian breeders register all their puppies, therefore, any suspected Manchester Terrier should be checked carefully for a tattoo or microchip. There are two varieties of Manchester Terriers, the standard (SMT) and the toy (TMT). Both are very similar to each other, with the exception of size and ear carriage.

## Size

- for show purposes a TMT should be *up to 12 pounds, however, pet TMTs can weigh as much as 15-17 pounds*
- it is rare to find TMTs weighing less than 7 pounds, so adult animals smaller than that are usually either Chihuahuas, Miniature Pinschers or mixed breeds
- for show purposes, SMTs range from *12-22 pounds, however, pet SMTs can weigh as much as 30 pounds*

## Colour & Markings

- Manchester Terriers, of both varieties, are *black and tan*. Manchester Terriers *do not come in any other colour variations* (i.e. red, blue, or other dilutions). If the colours are not black and tan, it is not a Manchester Terrier. Even in Manchester mixes, the MT black and tan colour pattern is dominant.
- Occasionally some MTs will have a white patch of hair. This typically is found on the chest or under the belly. A dog with extensive white (i.e. more than a single patch, or white on the paws, head and body) is likely not a Manchester Terrier

## Physical Characteristics

- Manchester Terriers are generally quite elegant and have sleek, racy bodies, however, it is not uncommon to find overweight MTs
- Manchester Terriers *have a tail*. We have only heard of two cases where a Manchester had it's tail docked, both were for medical reasons. If the animal has a docked tail it is likely a Miniature Pinscher or some other breed, not a MT.
- Manchester Terriers are a *short coated* breed. If the animal has long or shaggy hair it is likely another breed or a mixed breed.
- Manchester Terriers typically have a small black mark on the front leg called a *thumbprint*. Although this is an important characteristic of the breed, not all MTs have clear thumbprints. Some are missing them entirely, others have very small ones, and some have blended thumbprints. Although it is less common to see thumbprints in other breeds, they do occur occasionally in Miniature Pinschers and Doberman Pinschers. MTs also typically have black markings on their toes called *penciling*. Again, this is something that is occasionally seen in other breeds.
- Manchester Terriers have *tan rosettes* on their chest. However, these markings may be quite faded or not present in some MTs



- Manchesters typically have tan “*kissmarks*” on their cheeks. In some cases (especially with puppies) these marks may not be fully separated from the tan on the muzzle. MTs also have *small tan spots over each eye*.
- In older MTs, the tan markings (on the muzzle, above the eye, on the legs) often turn grey.
- According to the breed standard, eyes should be as dark as possible, but there are many Manchesters with light brown eyes.
- Manchester Terriers generally do not have any white marking on their heads (except for the occasional single white hair).
- Manchester Terriers have *a variety of ear types*: naturally erect, cropped, or button. With pet MTs you will also often find an ear that is more like a Whippet/Italian greyhound ear.



### Temperament

- Manchester Terriers are described as *wary of strangers*. This should not imply they are aggressive, as generally they are not. However, it is typical for the breed to take a little while to warm up to new people. Once they have bonded they are loyal family members.
- A well socialized Manchester Terrier will get along well with other dogs, and often with children as well. However, the MTs entering rescue are not always well socialized and there may be a need for re-training. MTs can also often get along with cats when raised with them. Manchesters should not be expected to live harmoniously in close proximity to pet rodents. In some individuals the terrier nature is very strong and there is a keen prey drive. Individuals with a high prey drive should not be placed in homes with cats or very small children.
- Many Manchester Terriers are dominant and therefore should be placed in experienced homes.
- Manchester Terriers are generally very responsive to training and obedience classes are highly recommended. With this breed we find a little training goes a long way!

If you would like help in identifying a potential Manchester Terrier please contact the CMTC rescue co-ordinator,  
 Jennifer Tomes  
[MerseySMT@aol.com](mailto:MerseySMT@aol.com)  
 506-536-1957

### **Additional Identification Resources:**

Manchesters Are Forever <http://www.geocities.com/manchestersforever/identify.html>  
 TMT vs Min Pin <http://www.ebetmanchesters.com/TMTVMinPin.htm>