

THE AUSTRALIAN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

The Board of Directors of the Australian Terrier Club of America (ATCA) voted on May 28, 2014 to expand upon the letter previously sent to all those judging Australian Terriers in AKC conformation. The previous letter discussed the current Standard for the Australian Terrier which calls for a docked tail and this new letter amplifies and clarifies the intent of the ATCA Board of Directors with regard to judging the Australian Terrier.

At the beginning of the Standard, under General Appearance, the following paragraph ends this section:

*The following description is that of the ideal Australian Terrier. Any deviation from this description must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.*

The following wording is the complete text from the Standard regarding the Tail:

*Tail set on high and carried erect at a twelve to one o'clock position, docked in balance with the overall dog, leaving slightly less than one-half, a good hand-hold when mature.*

When a dog with an undocked tail is shown in conformation, the tail should be evaluated "...to the extent of the deviation" as would any other fault or deviation from the Standard. As with any other aspect of the Standard, in judging the Australian Terrier, the whole dog must be considered, weighing the positive aspects against the negative. In all cases, the overall best example of the breed should be your choice.