


**Random Quotes on Type by Ernest Eberhard, AKC Gazette, 1954.**

*“Any breeder should want to make his dogs look as much as possible like the breed ideal, first, last and all the time. If into that breed ideal we can also fix soundness, substance, balance and character, then surely the millennium will have arrived.” ....*

“But what is true Bull Terrier type? We hear it said, ‘I like this kind of a Bull Terrier and so that’s what I breed for’. Which for all practical purposes means that if anybody likes a Bull Terrier twice as long as it is high, or twice as high as it is long, then that is what he feels justified in breeding” ....

“Over the years we find that certain ideals of type have remained unchanged – dark, small eyes; long heads but not at the expense of strength; even bite; short backs, in fact the word ‘cobby’ is often mentioned; an active, strong appearance. Evolution has tended to continually refine and improve other points, working towards a stronger looking dog with an overall refinement of show points such as shape of eye, an egg-shaped head instead of a flat one, a wider chest etc. There has always been argument between those who prefer a terrier type and those who prefer a Bulldog type – cart horse as the English call it. Let’s look at the Standard, which says that there shall be no exaggeration. (Note - *This statement was removed in the 1957 revision of our standard*) This means that a dog which is too much terrier, or too much Bulldog has too much exaggeration in that particular direction. The Standard also says, ‘an embodiment of agility, grace, strength and determination’. In other words, a Bull Terrier should give the impression of being a strong, active dog. But if it leans too much towards the terrier, it loses the impression of power that should be typical of Bull Terrier type. And if it leans too much towards the Bulldog it loses the impression of activity. A clumsy, awkward Bull Terrier is as much of an abomination as is a leggy, narrow-chested specimen. If we look at the Standard with that thought in mind, then it begins to make sense. A long, narrow head, no matter how beautiful the profile, is essentially too weak in appearance. A head too short and broad seems coarse and clumsy. Too high on leg suggests weakness. The Bull Terrier is not a dog intended to win a foot race – its work is accomplished in a small space. Therefore, it must be compact, strong, active, with as much power packed into it as possible. Looking back into the past, we see how the Bull Terrier has been developing to more and more give the impression of power, without loss of balance and agility.” .....



”Any breed is like a table. The table top might be likened to type, the four legs to soundness, substance, balance and breed character. Remove the four legs and you still have a table top that can serve its purpose. But you can’t remove the table top and still have a table from the four legs, no matter how strong and sturdy they may be. Because by removing the table top you remove all semblance of a table. So, with any breed. Remove the table top of type and you have removed what makes a dog a Bull Terrier, a Boxer, a Collie, no matter how much soundness, substance, balance and even breed character you have left. You get a mongrel, which may be a very fine, substantial dog with great qualities, but the stamp of a definite breed is gone. Of course, I’d rather have a table with a top and four good legs. So would anybody. And likewise, if I had my choice I would prefer a Bull Terrier with type, soundness and substance, balance and breed character. And so would anybody. But it seems to me, and I feel entirely safe in saying also to the great majority of our American breeders, that the characteristics of type which make a Bull Terrier a Bull Terrier must always remain of the very greatest importance. To get better Bull Terriers it seems obvious that we must consistently strive for the very best in type, or else we will either stand still or go backwards.”

“What has been written here is extremely controversial, and some will agree and others will disagree – **violently**. But if the breed is to progress then we have got to give more thought as to what goes to make up a good Bull Terrier according to the Standard and the evolution of breed... we do not want to have allowed the breed to degenerate because we paid more attention to the faults of structure than to the virtues of type.”

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