



THE JACK RUSSELL TERRIER CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA™

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www.jackrussellsa.co.za
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INTRODUCTORY LETTER

ABOUT THE JACK RUSSELL TERRIER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jack Russell Terriers are a breed of working terrier who take their name from the Reverend John Russell who bred one of the finest strains of working fox terriers in Devonshire, England in the mid to late 1800s. The Rev Russell, apart from his church activities, had a passion for fox hunting and the breeding of fox hunting dogs. Jack Russell's first terrier, the immortal *Trump*, acquired in 1819, is said to have been the foundation of his strain of working terriers.

Everything about the Jack Russell Terrier has fox hunting in mind ... conformation, character, colouring and intelligence. The body is sturdy, compact, of balanced proportions, with a clean shoulder, straight legs, and most important, a small, shallow chest (easily spannable by average sized hands at its widest part just behind the shoulders). The Jack Russell must also be very flexible, allowing it to manoeuvre underground. This conformation allows the terrier to run with hounds if necessary and follow its quarry down narrow earths; in all respects, the fox is a good model for the Jack Russell – where the fox goes, so the terrier must be able to follow – “form is function!”. Although originally bred as a baying terrier for fox hunting, the Jack Russell is a versatile working terrier, used to a variety of quarry including rats, jackal and other vermin.

The fox terrier, accepted as a kennel club breed in the late 1800s, has undergone many conformational changes as a result of the whims of the show ring to become what is known today as the modern Fox Terrier. These conformational changes, such as size, a deep chest, a long narrow head and extremely straight (upright) shoulder, make it very unlikely that a fox terrier meeting today's standard would be able to follow a fox to earth, even if the instinct to do so remains. John Russell's strain of fox terriers was bred strictly for work, and the terrier we know today as the Jack Russell is much the same as the pre-1900 fox terrier.

It is interesting to note that John Russell was one of the original founder members of the Kennel Club in 1873; in 1874, he judged Fox Terriers in the first Kennel Club sanctioned show in London. While he remained a Kennel Club member for the rest of his life, he did not exhibit or register his own terriers with the KC and discontinued judging for them on the grounds that the Fox Terrier had been changed from a working terrier into a strictly show terrier. The Jack Russell Terrier has survived the changes that have occurred in the KC fox terrier because it has been preserved by working terrier enthusiasts in England on its merit as a worker for more than 150 years. It is the foremost goal of the JRTCSA that the Jack Russell continues in this tradition.

With this goal in mind, and like the majority of JR Clubs around the world who are members of the JRT United World Federation, we prefer to continue the tradition of protecting and working our terrier under our own banner preferring not to join any Kennel Club, Union or Council. Just as it happened to the Fox Terrier many years ago, those who have formed splinter movements and joined the Kennel Club are already seeing changes in their “breed”.

In recent years there has been a marked increase in interest in the conformation showing of Jack Russell's. This has been very effective in promoting correct conformation according to the British breed standard, thereby improving the quality of breeding stock around the world. Whilst showing is beneficial to the breed in this respect, it is also a major concern to us that the working instinct of the terrier be preserved and kept to the forefront. To this end, the highest award a terrier can obtain is JRTCSA Working Certificate, gained in the field under natural conditions. Our stringent judge's training programmer emphasizes the working aspect of the terrier. In order to qualify, student judges must have first-hand, in-depth knowledge of working terriers in the traditional manner. Thus they understand the importance of the physical characteristics necessary for a terrier to be capable of doing the work it was bred to do – go to earth after fox and bolt or bay its quarry.

CHARACTER OF THE JACK RUSSELL TERRIER

The Jack Russell Terrier is a happy, bold, energetic dog, extremely loyal and bred for intelligence. Its greatest attribute is its working ability, closely followed by its excellent qualities as a companion. A Jack Russell can be equally adept or content bolting a fox or sleeping on your living room sofa, killing a sock in the lounge or a rat in the stables. Their high-spirited antics will continually amuse (or horrify) you, their intelligence seems boundless, and their affectionate nature is frequently overwhelming. Their unique personality captures the hearts of many, but it must be noted that they are not the dog for everyone. Even seasoned dog owners often find them difficult to manage. City, apartment and townhouse living, a confined or sedate lifestyle is not going to satisfy the needs of a Jack Russell. Those interested in the breed must understand that these little dogs have a great need for exercise (far more than the majority of large breeds) and human companionship (not for those out at work all day), a significant amount of physical and mental activity and human contact is essential.

While they will adapt to a variety of environments, it must NEVER be forgotten that first and foremost they are bred to be working terriers. They should not be, but can be intolerant of other dogs (they may not start a fight but will not run away from one !), in fact more than two should never be left together unattended. They are known to harass and even kill other small animals (cats, rabbit's guinea pigs, mice, birds etc.) purely because of their strong working instinct. It has been said that the courage of the Jack Russell is "never in doubt" – surely a true statement, as they are quite capable of taking on an adversary twice (or more) their size. As they are very intelligent, often stubborn, determined and bold, they require very firm, consistent, responsible handling and discipline.

While a lot of outdoor activity and exercise is essential, the Jack Russell should never be permitted to roam unattended, even in the most remote country setting. The Jack Russell is above all, a working dog – and most will go to ground at every given opportunity – they are seldom afraid of anything. Many a Jack Russell Terrier has been known to stay in an active earth for days without food or water because of their sheer determination and keen working instinct.

Nevertheless, a Jack Russell can make a terrific family pet, and gets along well with children who are old enough to have been taught to respect animals. One of the Jack Russell's most surprising qualities is a gentle and kindly nature. Instances of bad temper can usually be traced to incorrect early socialization, or to owners who have knowingly encouraged displays of aggression. Having the natural assertive terrier characteristics, the Jack Russell will not put up with abusive behavior – even unintentionally from a child.

The Jack Russell Terrier has been a popular breed in rural England for many years and is now attracting a variety of followers with varied interests around the world. The JRTCSA strongly encourages all those interested in the breed to study all aspects of this terrier very thoroughly and carefully assess if this unique little dog will fit into their lifestyle. They should also consider if they, in turn, can offer the terrier the right sort of environment to accommodate its special characteristics and needs. A frustrated terrier can be very destructive!

The Jack Russell is a very special breed; it has been kept sound, totally functional, intelligent and relatively unchanged because responsible people have cared deeply about its heritage. The major goal and purpose of the JRTCSA, and the JRT United World Federation, is to maintain it as the wonderful working terrier it has been for nearly 200 years. The real future of the breed, however, depends on all Jack Russell owners and breeders who will hopefully share the JRTCSA's desire to preserve the Jack Russell Terrier as the sound working breed it has been for past generations for many more generations to come.

With the above in mind it must be stressed that all members of the Jack Russell Terrier United World Federation (some 20 000) are opposed to the recognition of our breed by any Kennel Union/Club or Council. We are opposed to breeding merely for the show bench and will not allow our terrier to be changed by show ring criteria as has happened to other working breeds. We fully intend to continue to protect, preserve and work our unique Jack Russell Terrier in the traditional manner, exactly as it has been done over the past 200 years.

Our terrier is a feisty canine super-star and we are committed to keeping it that way!

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH THE PUPPY YOU PURCHASE?

Your Jack Russell Terrier should enter your life with the following:

At least the first inoculation, administered at 6 weeks of age.

At least been de-wormed three times, preferably with broad spectrum de-wormers.

A five-generation Certificate of Origin (pedigree) issued on JRTCSA stationary.

A Listing Number (LN ...) on the Certificate of Origin which means that both parents have been examined and passed as breeding stock – both parents should possess at least "BR" numbers (see glossary below).

The puppy should not be under 8 weeks of age

A JRTCSA membership application form

Extensive advice as to the nature of a Jack Russell Terrier, as well as advice on house training, general handling, feeding regime etc.

The ability to phone your breeder at any time during the pup's life for advice.

The right to give your pup back to the breeder at any time during its life if there are changes in your situation and you cannot keep the terrier.

FORMAT OF THE JRTCSEA

The Jack Russell Terrier Club of South Africa is run by a National Committee elected by the members present at the Annual General Meeting. The Club is run from a Regional level, each Region has a Regional Committee, elected at the Regional AGM, and a Regional Representative who represents the Region at National level.

All certificates pertaining to the terriers are issued and controlled by the Breed Records Officer. Breeders' Licenses are also issued by this officer.

Members receive Club news updates via email. This is an educational tool as well as a means of keeping members abreast of local and international JR news and events. Some Regions periodically issue their own updates too, to keep members abreast of local news and regional club and social events.

Each Region hosts "Meets", as our Trials are called, each year including a Regional Championship. Our Meets consist not only of conformation classes, but also include earth trials, occasional obedience and agility sections and in KZN, racing. The Regional Committees also organize "fun days" for the terriers and owners plus periodically include an educational or training seminar.

Trained Working Inspectors are available to lead hunts for members and their terriers, and it is these Inspectors who help members develop their terrier's working ability, assess the terriers' performance and grant Gameness or Working Certificates to qualifying terriers.

Each April/May, one of our Regions hosts the JRTCSEA National Championships. For this event an experienced overseas terrier man or woman of note, usually from the UK, is invited to judge the conformation classes.

Because the special needs of this unique little terrier are often not fully explained or appreciated until it is too late, the JRT Rescue plays an important part in our Club's activities. Unfortunately many terriers often need re-homing at some stage of their lives often through no fault of the owner(s) whose circumstances may change. We usually know of some terriers desperately in need of a caring home and such terriers can be an ideal choice for someone not having the time or inclination to house train a new puppy. Jack Russell's are very adaptable and, given a loving home, usually settle in and quickly bond with the new owners. It may well be worth considering this option if you are thinking of acquiring a Jack Russell.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED WITHIN THE JRTCSEA

LISTED is simply a descriptive recording of a terrier and its parentage in Breed Records. The number allocated is a Listing Number (LN ...) and is only allocated to pups whose parents have been approved for breeding.

BREEDING APPROVAL (BR ...) is granted to terriers over 12 months of age that, having been examined by one of our qualified judges, or a Registration Inspector & conforms to the British Breed Standard. Certificates of Origin cannot be issued for pups whose parents have not been "approved for breeding". In this way any terrier that has a conformation or visible genetic defect or is "not up to standard" can be removed from the breeding pool.

REGISTRATION (numbered e.g. 81/DSO/01) A fully Registered Jack Russell Terrier is one that has not only passed the BR test, but has also obtained either a Gameness or a Working Certificate. Such a terrier is a true example of this working breed as it not only conforms to the breed standard, but has proved its ability to do the job it was bred to do - going to earth and baying its quarry.

GAMENESS CERTIFICATE Any terrier over the age of 10 months is eligible once it has proved it is game by going to earth and baying its quarry. A terrier may be tested under controlled artificial conditions or in the field.

WORKING CERTIFICATE is the real thing! Awarded to terriers who work consistently in the field, either by going to earth and bolting their quarry or holding it at bay in the earth baying, until the quarry can be dug to and recovered by the handler. This is the highest accolade a Jack Russell Terrier can earn.

MFH CERTIFICATE: is a "Master of Foxhounds Certificate" (i.e. a working certificate) is given to deserving terriers by the Master of the pack of foxhounds, in the UK, with which the terrier has worked.

JRTUWF is the Jack Russell Terrier United World Federation to which Jack Russell Terrier Clubs world-wide are affiliated.

JRTCGB is the Jack Russell Terrier Club of Great Britain – the parent body to which the JRTCSEA and members of the JRTUWF are affiliated, and whose breed standard we adhere to.

TADWA is the Terrier and Dachshund Working Association. This organization's Trial and Working Certificates are accepted by the JRTCSA towards full registration. TADWA's Natural Hunting Certificate is a special award for terriers that have gained four working certificates to different quarry.

JRTCA is the Jack Russell Terrier Club of America, the largest JRT club in the world.

JRTCN is the Jack Russell Terrier Club of Namibia whose registration numbers are prefixed Nam Reg.

JRTCGB in Zimbabwe is the Jack Russell Terrier Club in Zimbabwe – this means that they are regarded as a Region of the JRTCGB. There are a number of such "regions" around the world, i.e. Sweden, Finland and so on.

JACK RUSSELL TERRIER BREED STANDARD

Characteristics: The terrier must present a lively, active and alert appearance. It should impress with its fearless and happy disposition. It should be remembered that the Jack Russell is a working terrier and should retain these instincts. Nervousness, cowardice or over aggression should be discouraged and it should always appear confident.

General Appearance: A sturdy, tough terrier, very much on its toes all the time, measuring between 10" (255mm) and 15" (380mm) at the withers. The body length must be in proportion to the height and it should present a compact, balanced image, always being in a solid, hard condition.

Head: Should be well balanced and in proportion to the body. The skull should be flat, of moderate width at the ears, narrowing to the eyes. There should be a definite stop but not over pronounced. The length of the muzzle from the nose to the stop should be slightly shorter than the distance from the stop to the occiput. The nose should be black. The jaw should be powerful and well boned with strongly muscled cheeks.

Eyes: Should be almond shaped, dark in colour and full of life and intelligence.

Ears: Small "V" shaped drop ears carried forward close to the head and of moderate thickness.

Mouth: Strong teeth with the top very slightly overlapping the lower (*Scissor bite*)

Neck: Clean and muscular, of good length, gradually widening to the shoulders.

Forequarters: The shoulders should be sloping and well laid back, fine at points and clearly cut at the withers.

Forelegs should be strong and straight boned with joints in correct alignment. Elbows hanging perpendicular to the body and working free of the sides.

Body: The chest should be shallow, narrow and the front legs set not too widely apart, giving an athletic, rather than heavily chested, appearance. As a guide only, the chest should be small enough to be easily spanned behind the shoulders, by average size hands, when the terrier is in a fit, working condition. The back should be strong, straight and in comparison to the height of the terrier, give a balanced image. The loin should be slightly arched.

Hindquarters: Should be strong and muscular, well put together with good angulation and bend of stifle, giving plenty of drive and propulsion. Looking from behind the hocks must be straight.

Feet: Round, hard padded, of cat-like appearance neither turning in or out.

Tail: Should be set rather high, carried gaily and in proportion to body length, usually about 4" (100mm) long providing a good hand hold.

Coat: Smooth, without being so sparse as not to provide a certain amount of protection from the elements and undergrowth. Rough or broken coated, without being woolly.

Colour: White should predominate with tan, black or brown markings. Brindle markings are unacceptable. (50% overall white required)

Gait: Movement should be free, lively and well-coordinated with straight action in front and behind.

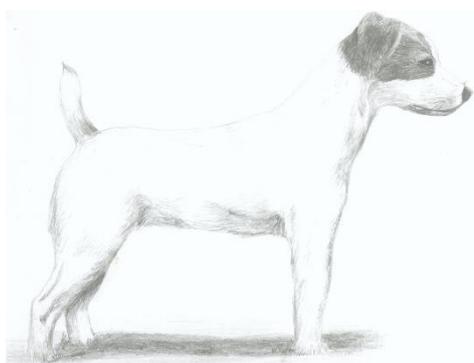
Please note: For showing purposes terriers are classified in two groups:
Under 12.5" - 10" (255mm) to 12.5" (318mm)
Over 12.5" - 12.5" (318mm) up to 15" (380mm).

Old scars and injuries, the result of working or accident, should not be allowed to prejudice a terrier's chance in the show ring unless they interfere with its movement or with its utility for work or stud.

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. A Jack Russell Terrier should not show any strong characteristics of another breed.

We are the Club for the ORIGINAL Jack Russell Terrier.

CORRECT



General appearance: A sturdy, tough terrier, very much on its toes all the time, measuring between 10" (225mm) and 15" (380mm) at the withers. The body length must be in proportion to the height and it should present a compact, balanced image, always being in solid, hard condition.

INCORRECT:

An example of typical faults:

(Long back, deep chest, incorrect front, heavy shouldered)

Genetic defect; Achondroplasia = foreshortening and distortion of long bones, a form of dwarfism



SO YOU STILL WANT A JACK RUSSELL TERRIER?

Many experienced, let alone inexperienced, dog owners are overwhelmed by the demands of a Jack Russell Terrier, leading to terriers being abandoned or having to be re-homed well before they reach adulthood!!

If you know of someone wanting to purchase a Jack Russell Terrier, you **MUST** ensure that the unique needs and character of this feisty little working terrier are fully understood and appreciated **BEFORE** the terrier is purchased or adopted

Many people underestimate life with a Jack Russell Terrier!!!

JACK RUSSELLS

Are first and foremost **very active** (often hyper-active) working terriers – **never** forget this!

Need **a lot of space** (preferably over an acre!) and **a lot more regular exercise than most big dogs** (5 km twice a day is nothing to a Jack Russell)!!

Are bred as a baying terrier, to go to earth (i.e. go underground), following scent to locate and **bay** (i.e. bark persistently at) quarry until they are dug down to or the quarry bolts; i.e. they are **not** a quiet dog!

Are a **big** dog in a little body and very intelligent;

Should not be, but can be aggressive with other dogs, especially the “bull breeds”;

Are **NOT** a non-hair shedding breed! (Smooth coats are far worse than broken coats in this respect);

Require **very firm, consistent** discipline;

Can become very possessive of their owner, a favorite family member or of what they consider to be their personal property;

Are commonly known to harass, injure or kill other small pets, such as cats, birds (including chickens), rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, mice, snakes etc., simply due to their strong natural hunting instinct
Remaining very active well into their □15 year life-span;

Should attend puppy socialization classes and **at least** a basic obedience training course,

Require an **absolutely securely** fenced property – they climb over as well as dig under fences!

Can be **very** destructive if left unattended and unemployed (**not** for folk out at work all day)!

Are rural/country dogs – **NOT** suitable for the average **urban** environment and are certainly **NOT** apartment, town house or complex dogs!

The majority will **NOT TOLERATE** even unintended mistreatment from a child;

Are **NOT** as portrayed in movies, on TV or other forms of media;

Require a long-term commitment to obedience, activity, exercise and entertainment.

SUGGESTED READING

Jack Russell Terriers Today

by Sheila Atter published by Ringpress Books, Ltd., 1995

The Jack Russell Terrier: Courageous Companion

by Catherine Romaine Brown published by Howell Book House, 1999

The Real Jack Russell Terrier

by Eddie Chapman published in USA, 1993

The Working Jack Russell Terrier

by Eddie Chapman published by Dorset Press, 1985

Jack Russell Terriers: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual

by Dr Caroline Coile published by Barron's Educational Series NY, 2000

The Jack Russell Terrier Handbook

by Dr Caroline Coile published by Barron's Educational Series NY, 2000

Working Terriers: Management and Training

by J C Jeremy Hobson published by Crowood Press, 1989

The Making of the Parson Jack Russell Terrier

by Jean & Frank Jackson published by Boydall Press, 1986

The Complete Jack Russell Terrier

by Brian Plummer published by Howell Book House, 1980

Jack Russell and his Terriers

by Dan Russell published by JA Allen, 1979

The Ultimate Jack Russell Terrier

by Mary Strom published by Howell Book House, 1999