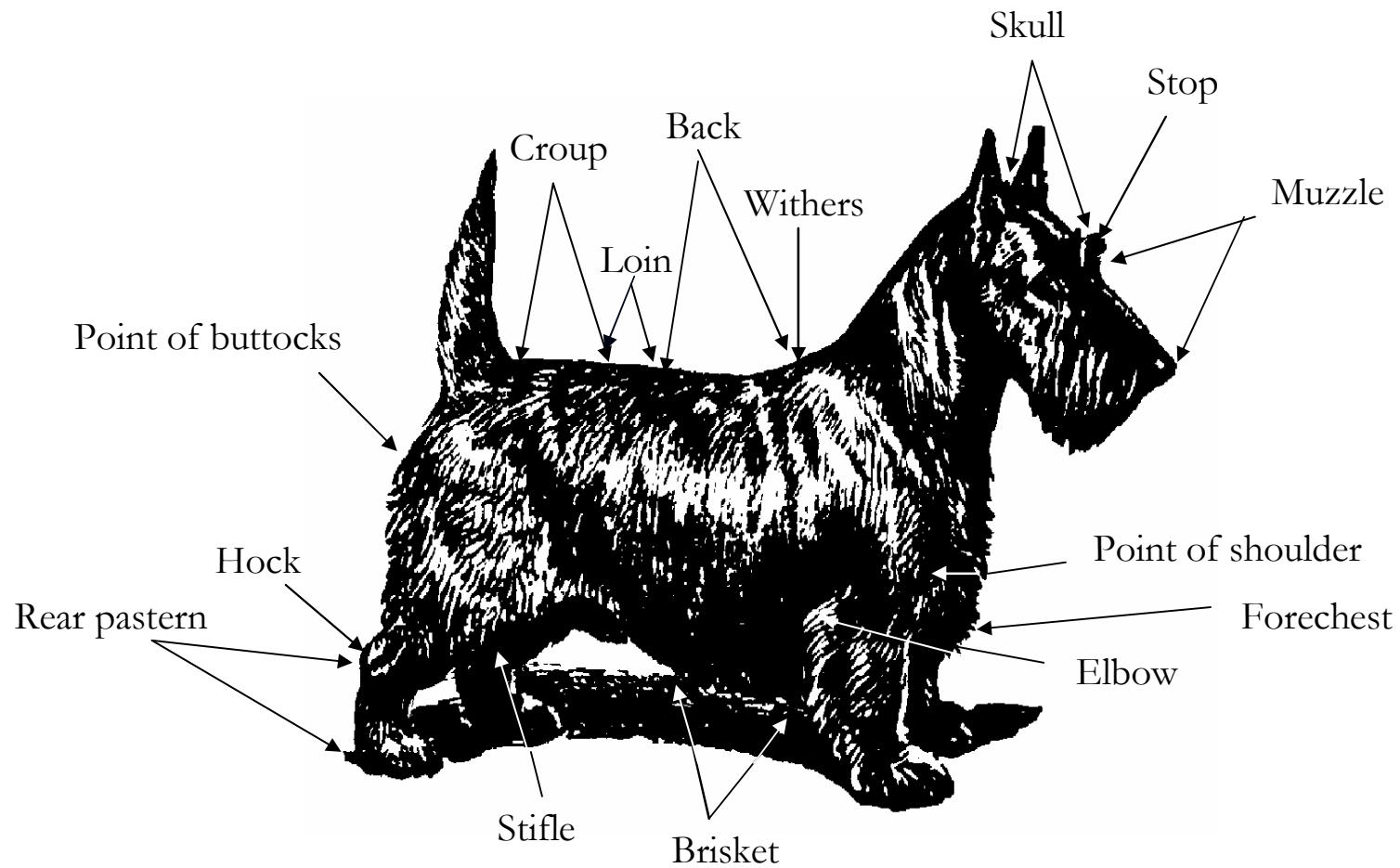


The Scottish Terrier Standard

1880 to the present

Terminology of the standard



- Scotland in the 1800s was very remote.
- Civilized world knew little about the Terriers of Scotland until the late 1800s.
- Breed characteristics had already been established but no written standard existed.
- 1880. J. B. Morrison wrote the first standard.

1880 Morrison standard

- **General Appearance** - Is that of a thick-set, compact, short-coated, active terrier, standing about nine and a half inches high, with body of moderate length and averaging about sixteen to seventeen pounds weight for dogs and two pounds less for bitches. Ears and tail uncut; although in reality no higher at the shoulders than the Skye or Dandie Dinmont, it has a leggier appearance from the fact that the coat is much shorter than in these two varieties. The head is carried pretty high, showing an intelligent face.



1880 Morrison standard

- **Temperament** - An incessant restlessness and perpetual action, accompanied by an eager look, asking plainly for the word of command; a muscular form, fitting him for the arduous work; and sagacity, intelligence and courage to make the most of the situation, qualify the Scottish Terrier for the role of "friend of the family," or "companion in arms," in a sense unsurpassed by any other dog, large or small.



1880 Morrison standard

- **Head** - Is longish and bald, and is full between the eyes. It is free from short or woolly hair and is smaller in the bitch than in the dog.
 - **Muzzle** - Is a most important point and should be long and very powerful, tapering slightly to the nose, which should be well-formed and spread over the muzzle, and black in colour; there must be no approach to snippiness. The teeth should be perfectly level in front, neither being under or over shot, fitting well together.
 - **Eyes** - Are small, well sunk in the head, bright and expressive, with heavy eyebrows.
 - **Ears** - Are very small and free from long hair, feather, or fringe; in fact, as a rule, rather bare of hair and never cut.



1880 Morrison standard

- “Bald” in this context does not mean



- It means “lacking usual covering of hair.”

1880 Morrison standard

- **Neck** - Is short, thick and very muscular, well set between the shoulders and showing great power.
- **Chest and Body** - The body gives an impression of great strength, being little else than a combination of bone and muscle. The chest is broad and deep; the ribs flat--a wonderful provision of nature, indispensable to dogs often compelled to force their way through the burrows and dunes, on their side. The back broad; the loins thick and very strong. This is a feature calling for special attention, as a dog in any degree weak in hind quarters lacks one of the main features of the breed and should on no account be used as a stud dog. The body is covered with a hard, weather resisting coat, about two inches long.



1880 Morrison standard

- **Legs.**--The forelegs are short and straight with immense bone for a dog of this size. Elbows well in, and not outside. The forearm particularly muscular. The hind legs are also strong; the thighs being well developed and thick; the hocks well bent and, below, straight.
- **Feet.**--Are small but firmly padded to resist the stony, broken ground. Nails strong, always black. Although free from feathering, the legs and feet are well covered with hair to the very toes.
- **Tail.**--Should not exceed seven or eight inches, covered with the same quality and length of hair as the body and is carried with a slight bend



First Scottish club standard - 1887

- First club standard – Hard-haired Scotch Terrier Club (Scotland)
- Height range increased from 9 ½ inches to 9-12 inches.
- Substantial increase in weight

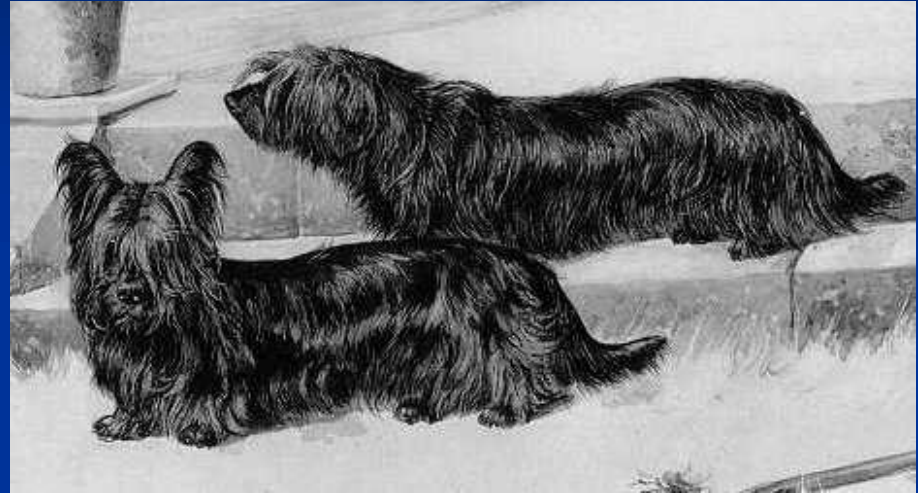
1880 Morrison standard	1887 Scottish standard
Males 16-17 lbs	Males 18-20 lbs
Females 14-15 lbs	Females 16-18 lbs

First Scottish club standard - 1887

- Removes description of head as “bald” and replaces it with “covered in short hard hair, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or less”
- Adds language requiring slight stop
- Describes projection of nose over lower jaw
- First mention of eye color—dark hazel
- Describes ears as prick or half prick

First Scottish club standard - 1887

- Body length - “Of moderate length, but not so long as a Skye’s”
- Allows for front legs to be straight “or slightly bent.”
- Tail – Carried with a slight bend “and often gaily.”



First Scottish club standard - 1887

- First mention of coat color:

“Steel or iron-grey, brindled or grizzled, black, sandy, and wheaten. White markings are objectionable, and can only be allowed on the chest, and that to a small extent.”

Difference between brindle & grizzled.

- Brindle: A pattern of coat pigmentation in which darker hairs form bands on a lighter background. Hairs of brindle dogs have bands of different colors.
- Grizzled: A pattern where white hairs are mixed with darker hairs.

First Scottish club standard - 1887

- **First list of faults:**
 - **Muzzle**--Either under or over hung.
 - **Eyes**--Large or light-coloured.
 - **Ears**--Large, round at the points, or drop. It is also a fault if they are too heavily covered with hair.
 - **Coat**--Any silkiness, wave, or tendency to curl is a serious blemish, as is also an open coat.
 - **Size**--Any specimens over 20 lbs. should not be encouraged.
- First scale of points: 25 points (total) to head, 15 to coat, 15 to body

First Scottish club standard - 1887

- No mention of temperament
- No mention of loin.
- No mention of broad body.
- No mention of tail set or croup.
- No mention of gait.

First English standard - 1888

- Hair length on skull changed to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or less
- Eye color: Dark brown added to hazel
- Ears: Preference for prick over half-prick ears
- Legs: Omits language allowing for bent forelegs.
- Weight: 15-20 pounds, smaller preferred.
 - Best weight for males: 18 pounds
 - Best weight for females: 16 pounds
- Grizzle omitted from color.

First American standard - 1900

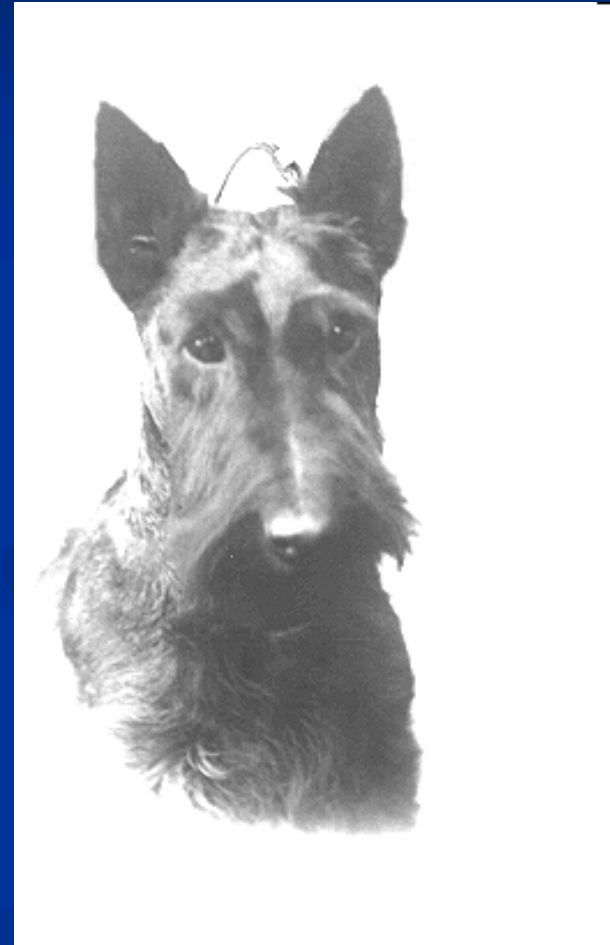
- STCA essentially adopted the language of the Scottish standard, but included one unique paragraph:

Disqualification

Evidences of the use of a knife or other instrument to correct any defects. (The removal of dew claws being excepted.) It should be the spirit and purpose of the judge in deciding the relative merits of two or more dogs to consider the approximation of nature to the standard rather than the effect of artificiality.

Second American standard - 1925

- Eye color – hazel omitted, eye color to be dark brown or nearly black
- Eye shape – defined as “almond”
- Ears – half-prick eliminated
- Muzzle – In proportion to skull length



Second American standard - 1925

- Height – Established at 10 inches.
- Body length – described as “moderately short” without reference to Skye Terrier.
- Weight – 18-20 lbs regardless of sex. Deleted language discouraging any specimen over 20 lbs.



Second American standard - 1925

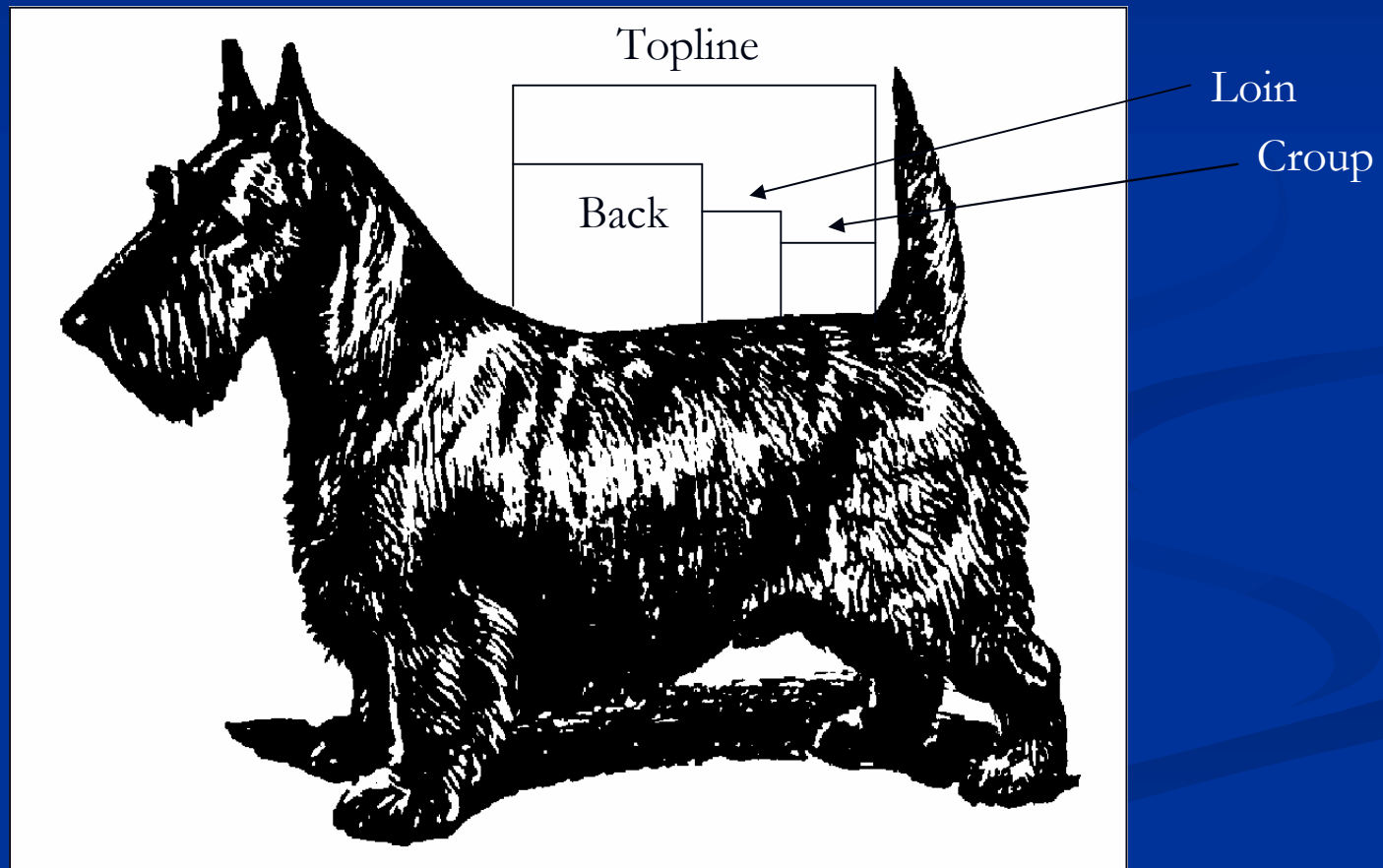
- Tail – “Carried gaily with a slight curve but not over the back.”
- Coat – First mention of “dense undercoat.”
- Loin – First described as “strong loin, deep flanks”
- Ribs – No longer described as “flat sided”
- Neck length – changed from “short” to “moderately short.”



Second English standard - 1933

- Hazel eye color deleted as acceptable
- First standard to specifically mention the topline: *In general, the top line of the body should be straight.*
- Back (not body, not topline) described as “proportionately short”

Second English standard - 1933



Second English standard - 1933

- Neck length changed from “short” to “of moderate length.”
- Expanded description of proper bite.
- Expanded description of front.
- Weight – ideal dog now described as 17-21 pounds.
- Color – Black, wheaten, or brindle of any color. No mention of grizzled.

Second English standard - 1933

- Tail carriage now described as “upright.”



Third American standard – 1947

- Weight increased slightly: 19-22 lbs for dogs, 18-20 lbs. for bitches.
- First approval of level bite, due to confusion between level jaw and level bite.



Third American standard - 1947

- The “peculiar” gait paragraph makes its appearance:

Note: The gait of the Scottish Terrier is peculiarly its own and is very characteristic of the breed. It is not the square trot or walk that is desirable in the long-legged breeds. The forelegs do not move in exact parallel planes - rather in reaching out incline slightly inward. This is due to the shortness of leg and width of chest. The action of the rear legs should be square and true and at the trot, both the hocks and stifles should be flexed with a vigorous motion.



Third American standard - 1947

- Temperament rule:

No judge should put to Winners or Best of Breed any Scottish Terrier not showing real terrier character in the ring.



Third English standard - 1950

- No mention of the muzzle.
- Height increased by 10%, to 11 inches.
- Weight significantly increased: 19-23 pounds.



Third English standard - 1950

- Scottish Terrier Club of England objected to the increase in size.

It is a mistake to tamper too much with fundamental things, and the Standard of a breed is fundamental. The Standards of our British breeds were drawn up by wise men, and aided and abetted by succeeding generations of breeders, the Scottish terrier became a power in the land, not only in the British Isles but in many parts of the world to which his popularity had carried him. He is world renowned, so why tamper with the basic rules laid down? If the weight were raised now, to suit those who wish to cross the T's and dot the I's, mark my words, in five years there will be bigger--but I much doubt better--Scottish terriers. Then it will be "up she goes again" and the grand little Diehard will no longer be a handy-sized terrier, but an awkward misfit, who will no longer be eligible to enter the category of low-legged Terriers, and may be dangerously near getting pushed into the long-legged section!! The Scot must retain his size in order to maintain type, and pray let us keep Scottish Terrier type as our main consideration.

From the Scottish Terrier Club of England Handbook, 1949.

Fourth English standard - 1987

- Added description of character and temperament: Loyal and faithful. Dignified, independent and reserved, but courageous and highly intelligent. Bold but never aggressive.
- Included description of the muzzle.
- Added objection of large, wide-based ears.
- Clarifies description of correct, scissors bite.

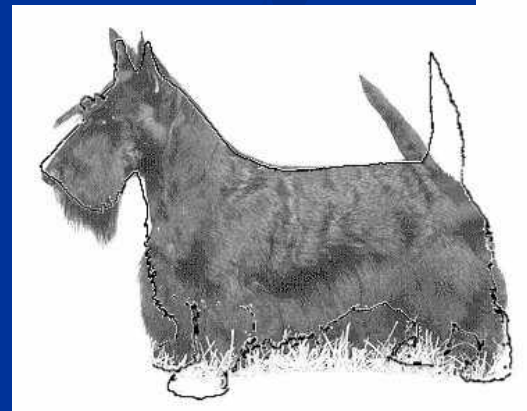
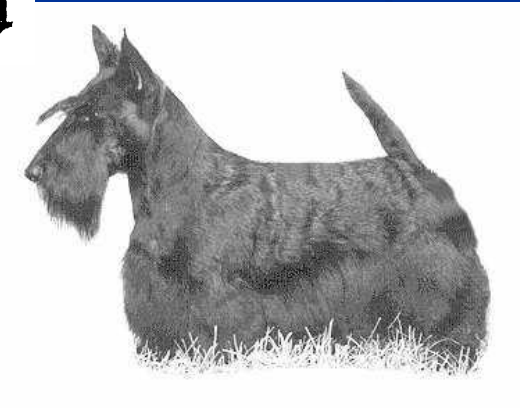
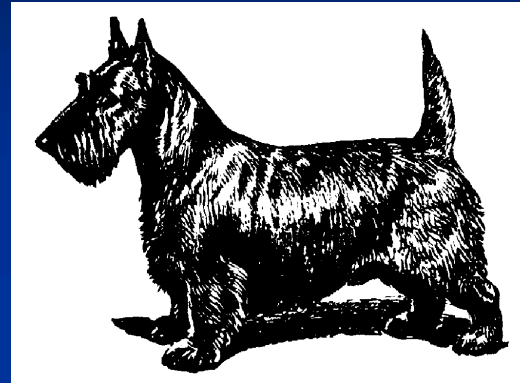
Fourth American standard - 1993

- Essentially the same as the 1947 standard.
- Clearer language.
- Three major amplifications/clarifications.

Fourth American standard - 1993

- At the request of the AKC, body proportions established:

Height at withers for either sex should be about 10 inches. The length of back from withers to set-on of tail should be approximately 11 inches.



Fourth American standard - 1993

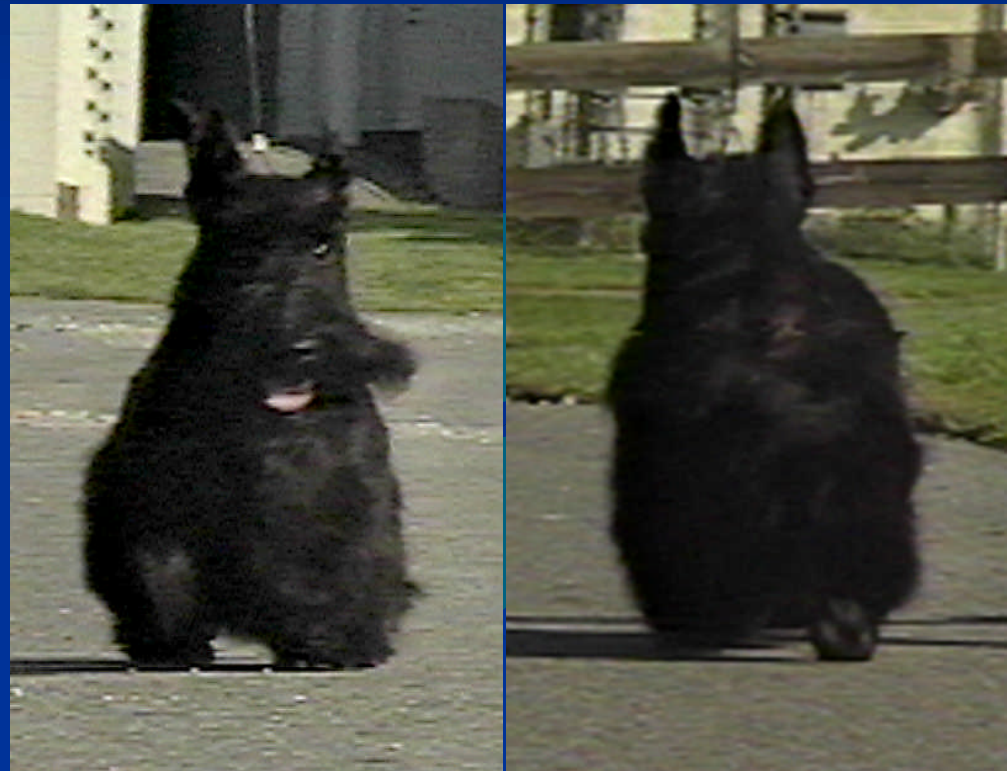
- First standard to mention grooming. Replaces the 2 inch coat with the following language:

The coat should be trimmed and blended into the furnishings to give a distinct Scottish Terrier outline. The dog should be presented with sufficient coat so that the texture and density may be determined. The longer coat on the beard, legs and lower body may be slightly softer than the body coat but should not be or appear fluffy.




Fourth American standard - 1993

- The “peculiar gait” sentence is gone. Better description of slight “roll” in front movement.



Significant changes since 1880

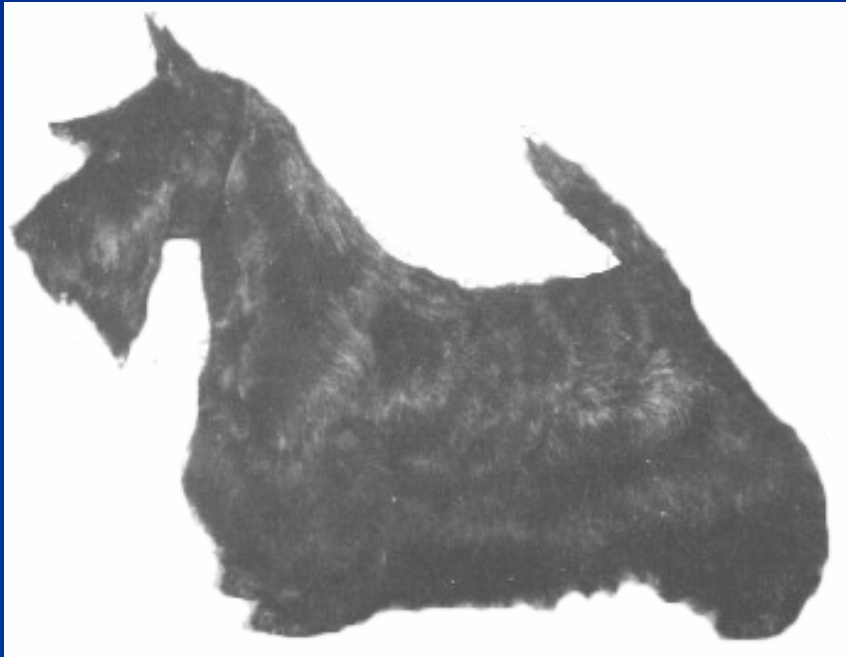
- Coat
 - More leg hair and face furnishings.
 - Trimming overemphasized.
 - Texture may be softer.
 - Croup and tail carriage.
 - From sloping croup to flat croup.
 - From 2:00 tail to 12:00 tail.
 - Size
 - From 14-17 pounds to 18-22 (US) & 19-23 (UK)
 - From 9 ½ inches (Morrison) to 11 inches (UK)
 - Neck
 - From “short” (Morrison) to “moderately short” (US) & “moderate length” (UK)
- 

Common exaggerations in US



Long
neck

Common exaggerations in US



Back too short
Head too short
(Usually found together)

Common exaggerations in US



Too tall

Goal

- Balance and symmetry, without exaggeration.

