



# The Norfolk Terrier Club

## Judging the Norfolk Terrier with a Natural Tail

The **Norfolk Terrier Club standard** calls for a tail to be medium docked, of sufficient length to ensure a balanced outline. Straight set on high, the base level with the topline. Not a squirrel tail. (Official Standard approved October 13, 1981)

The Norfolk Terrier Club has no immediate plans to change the Standard as written above, however, the Club does understand that in accordance with AKC rules (Chapter 7, Section 15), a judge may either choose to excuse a Norfolk Terrier with a natural tail as being inconsistent with the standard, or judge the dog, considering the tail to be a fault. Given this conflict, the Judges Education Committee with an eye towards alleviating the uncertainty that these exhibits will present, has come up with the following recommendations to judges:

*“When presented with an undocked dog, we would prefer that the judge evaluate the dog on its merits as outlined in the AKC standard. The presence of an undocked tail should not be a reason to dismiss an exhibit. We feel that the overall type, structure, movement and temperament of the dog should be the primary factors to consider when judging the exhibit. It should be noted, however, that the set of the tail and placement of the tail are important and should be considered. It should be noted that the tail should not curl over the back; it should be thick at the root tapering towards the top and carried as straight as possible.”*

It should be noted that the club has prepared this recommendation because members feel strongly that there is a need for breeders to import dogs from other countries to boost the genetic strength of our breed. We have a small gene pool and the club wishes to encourage the importation of, and exhibition of, dogs from abroad. The club understands that this means that judges will see more dogs being exhibited with a natural (undocked tail) and we hope that this recommendation helps to clarify our position.

Thank you for considering our recommendation.

The Norfolk Terrier Club

Nancy Ann Wise  
President

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Corresponding Secretary