

# BULLTERRIER HEAD

Ana Androšević, Electric Bull's FCI 110/2011

English Bull Terriers have the canine world's most distinct face and they are the only registered breed with triangular shaped eyes. Their unusual appearance, mainly the shape of the head and all other features of quality Bull Terrier head, makes them easily recognizable among other breeds. The highest priority for experts is making the head completely filled and oval in outline. Not very often will you find somebody with no opinion about this unique feature of the breed. Bull Terrier fanciers, owners and breeders are madly in love with their chosen breed and when it comes to exterior features, especially with the shape of the head.



*Electric Bull's Criminal Mind, 4 weeks of age*

Electric Bull's Criminal Mind, 8 months

The modern Bull Terrier head was first described in 1915. With requirement for head to be **“oval, almost egg shaped, with almost an arc from occiput to tip of the nose, the more down-faced the better”**. Bull Terrier Bloomsbury Charlwood is noted to have possessed excellent head and ear placement. The original designer of egg- shaped head is Harry Monk who was producing dogs with preferred ear placement. Billie Tuck worked to perfect that skull shape and he is responsible for carrying on this head and improving it. Over the years breeders carried on the tradition to improve this unique heads and is still very important nowadays to be as close to the Standard as possible. The Standard of today no longer

demands more down-face and makes the length, strength and depth of both muzzle and under-jaw important. Heads that sacrifice adequate width and strength for a sensational profile are not desirable.



INT CH Electric Bull's Ace Ventura



*Electric Bull's Criminal Mind*

**“Skull: Top of skull almost flat from ear to ear.”**

**“The Head: Long, strong and deep right to end of muzzle, but not coarse. Viewed from front egg-shaped and completely filled, its surface free from hollows and indentations. Profile curves gently downwards from top of skull to tip of nose.”** The term “egg-shaped” stands for full face completely filled and oval in outline emphasizing the fullness of the head where the fill is important. “Down-face” refers to profile, the arc when viewed from the side extends from the top of the skull all the way to tip of the nose. With this unbroken profile there should be no “stop” or drop between the skull and the muzzle. A narrow head with a dippy profile and weak, shallow under-jaw also called “pig-jaw” is certainly not giving the picture of the gladiator of the canine race.



CH Electric Bull's Bulletproof

**“Nose: Should be black, bent downwards at tip. Nostrils well developed.”** The Bull Terrier should have Roman nose also called “Roman Finish” which stands for tip of the muzzle turning down in a shapely way to the nose bent down to the tip. For both coloured and white Bull Terriers, the nose should be well pigmented. With well developed nostrils the breed does not have any problems with breathing.

**“Lips: Clean and tight.”**



INT CH Electric Bull's Ace Ventura



CH Bullkayami Brown Sugar Candy

**“Jaws-Teeth: Under-jaw deep and strong. Teeth sound, clean, strong, of good size, regular with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite.”** Muzzle and under-jaw should be long powerful and of good width with a full set of large strong teeth with a perfect regular and complete scissor bite. Misplaced canines became a big problem in the breed, which is why we should breed from dogs with strong under-jaw and right positioned canines. Be sure to avoid using dogs with pig jaws, correct bite is preferable but if top incisors are not closely overlapping the bottom incisors in correct “scissor bite” Bull Terrier’s health is not going to be harmed and will still be able to eat perfectly normal.

**“Eyes: Appearing narrow and triangular, obliquely placed, black or as dark brown as possible so as to appear almost black and with a piercing glint. Distance from tip of the nose to eyes perceptibly greater than that from eyes to top of the skull. Blue or partly blue undesirable.”** The Bull Terrier’s eyes are that special something that gives this dog typical expression of piercing, wicked, mischievous look. It can give a devilish impression, but everybody that is familiar with the breed knows it’s just a hint that the Bull Terrier is ready to have a lot of fun. Usually the whites appear to have a more diabolical expression because their dark small eyes contrast sharply with the white face. The expression is not only the key feature of the Bull Terrier’s head, It is the key feature of the whole appearance of this dog. The shy cowardly Bull Terrier is mentally unsound and that will affect the right much needed expression with the impression of alert and courage.



Pick A Bull Cherry Bomb



Unfailing Lightning Electric

**“Ears: Small, thin and placed close together. Dog should be able to hold them stiffly erect, when they point straight upwards.”**

It is very important to stick to the Standard no matter the current “trends” of using adverb “gently” being largely ignored: “Profile curves gently downwards from top of skull to tip of nose.” As the head is the key feature of an ideal Bull Terrier we can’t consider a Bull Terrier without a typical head as an outstanding example of the breed. Also breeding only for heads and focusing on over exaggerated profiles should not be our goal as they usually appear lacking in some important virtues such as strength, depth, width, which leads to weak under-jaw and lower canine position problems. The head must be in proportion with the rest of the dog. It must match the whole picture of substantial animal with balance and agility giving the impression of strength and energy. The piercing look and intelligent expression of dark triangular eyes should match the muscular animal with graceful body lines moving with power and drive, as well as outgoing and fun temperament.