

## = Parson Russell Terrier =

The Parson Russell Terrier is a breed of small white terrier that was the original Fox Terrier of the 18th century . The breed is named after the person credited with the creation of this type of dog , the Reverend John " Jack " Russell . It is the recognised conformation show variety of the Jack Russell Terrier and was first recognised in 1990 in the United Kingdom as the Parson Russell Terrier . In America , it was first recognised as the Jack Russell Terrier in 1997 . The name was changed to its current form in 1999 in the UK and by 2008 all international kennel clubs recognised it under the new name .

A mostly white breed with either a smooth , rough or broken coat , it conforms to a narrower range of sizes than the Jack Russell . It is a feisty , energetic terrier , suited to sports and able to get along with children and other animals . It has a range of breed @-@ related health issues , mainly relating to eye disorders .

## = = History = =

This breed shares a common history with the Jack Russell Terrier until the early 1980s .

This type of small white terrier dates back to the work of the Reverend John Russell , born in 1795 . In 1819 he purchased a small white and tan female terrier named Trump from a milkman in the hamlet of Elmsford . She formed the basis for his breeding program , and by the 1850s the dogs were recognised as a distinct type of Fox Terrier .

In 1894 , the Devon and Somerset Badger Club was founded by Arthur Blake Heinemann who created the first breed standard for this type of terrier . The club was formed with the aim of promoting badger digging , rather than fox hunting . By the turn of the 20th century , the name of John Russell had become associated with this type of terrier . The Devon and Somerset Badger Club would go on to be renamed the Parson Jack Russell Terrier Club and continued until just before World War II when the club folded .

The Jack Russell Terrier Club of Great Britain was established in 1974 as the parent club for the Jack Russell Terrier in the UK . The club has actively opposed recognition of the Jack Russell Terrier by Kennel Club ( UK ) . In 1983 , the Parson Jack Russell Terrier Club ( PJRTC ) was reformed with the aim of seeking Kennel Club recognition for the breed . The initial application was turned down , but after several further rejections , the Parson Jack Russell Terrier was recognised on 9 January 1990 as a variant of the Fox Terrier , with the United Kennel Club following suit in 1991 . The American Kennel Club recognised the breed as the Jack Russell Terrier effective 1 November 1997 .

On 1 August 1999 , the PJRTC successfully petitioned the Kennel Club ( UK ) to change the name of the breed to the Parson Russell Terrier , with the name of the breed club following suit . The international kennel association , the Fédération Cynologique Internationale , recognised the Parson Russell Terrier on 4 June 2001 . The American Kennel Club updated the name of the recognised breed from Jack Russell Terrier on 1 April 2003 . The United Kennel Club adopted the new name on 23 April 2008 .

The Australian National Kennel Council ( ANKC ) , New Zealand Kennel Club and United Kennel Club ( UKC ) are the only three major kennel clubs to recognise both the Jack Russell Terrier and the Parson Russell Terrier separately . In 2009 , there were 18 Parsons registered with the ANKC compared to 1073 Jack Russells .

## = = Description = =

The Parson Russell Terrier is bred to conform to a conformation show standard . Unlike its close relative , the Jack Russell Terrier , Parson Russell Terriers have noticeably longer legs that are about as tall as the length of the Terrier 's body . It is a predominantly white breed with black , tan or tricolour markings and an easy to groom coat which is either smooth or broken ( similar to a smooth coat , but with some longer hair on the head , face , legs or body ) . The breed standard does not

recognise a Parson Russell with a curly or rough coat . There is a clear outline with only a hint of eyebrows and beard should the dog be broken coated . They possess moderately thick small " V " shaped drop ears with the tip pointed towards the eyes . The nose of the dog should be black . The normal range of sizes is between 13 ? 14 inches ( 33 ? 36 cm ) tall at the withers , with a weight around 13 ? 17 pounds ( 5 @. @ 9 ? 7 @. @ 7 kg ) .

The Parson Russell has a relatively square outline , with a body about as long as the dog is tall . Compared to the Jack Russell Terrier , the Parson Russell has a longer head and a larger chest along with overall a slightly larger body size . The Parson retains the flat skull but not the elongated shape of the Fox Terrier , and with lower set ears . In addition , the Jack Russell Terrier has a greater variation in size , ranging between 10 ? 15 inches ( 25 ? 38 cm ) in height at the withers .

Two hands should be able to span the chest of the dog behind its elbows , with the thumbs at the withers . This is required in show judging , with the judge lifting the dog 's front legs gently off the ground in this motion in order to measure the size of the chest . The judges fingers should meet under the chest and the thumbs on top of the spine . The American Kennel Club describes this as a " significant factor and a critical part of the judging process . " It is not done to measure the size of the chest , but rather to feel for the correct shape .

Under the show standard , there are several physical points which would be treated as faults in the show ring . These are for the height of the dog at the withers to be outside of the standard range , or for the dog to possess either pricked up ears , a liver or brown coloured nose , an overshot or undershot jawline or to have brindle markings .

= = Temperament = =

The Parson is a feisty and energetic type of Terrier . They can excel in dog sports such as flyball or agility and require vigorous exercise in order to prevent them from becoming bored and potentially destructive in the home . They can be suited to live with children but as they have a typical Terrier temperament , they will not tolerate rough handling . The AKC describes them as being single minded , tenacious and courageous when at work , while at home they can be exuberant , playful and affectionate . However , it is unusual for dogs of this breed to be involved in work , such as fox hunting , typical of a small white terrier , as they are more adapted to the show bench .

They can be playful with other dogs , and get along with horses . The breed standard requires that shyness be treated as a fault , although it states that this should not be confused with submissiveness which is not treated as such . Overt aggression towards another dog is not accepted and is a criterion for disqualification in the show ring .

= = Health = =

Eye conditions which affect the Parson Russell Terrier include primary lens luxation , a heritable condition . This disease causes the zonular fibres to be abnormal and begin to disintegrate in affected dogs . The fibres support the lens of the eye , and their destruction can cause the lens to fall into the wrong location within the eye . If the lens falls into the anterior chamber of eyeball then a secondary glaucoma can occur , causing loss of vision . National kennel associations such as the Kennel Club ( UK ) publish DNA screening results on Parson Russell Terriers , broken down into three groups ; clears , carriers , and affecteds .

Other eye conditions which appear in the breed include cataracts in juveniles , corneal dystrophy , progressive retinal atrophy and posterior vitreous detachment . Non @-@ eye breed related conditions which may affect a Parson are deafness and patella luxation . The average lifespan of a Parson Russell Terrier is between 14 and 15 years .