

THE PARSON RUSSELL TERRIER



A Buyer's Guide...
(Or... How to Pick the RIGHT puppy!)





TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Slide 1- Questions a Reputable May Ask you
- Slide 2 – Starting Point...A Reputable Breeder
- Slide 3 – Socialization Is Vital Early Learning
- Slide 4 – What You Can Do to Create Your Perfect Pet
- Slide 5 – The Next Step
- Slide 6 & 7 – Three Ways to Check the Puppy's Temperament
- Slide 8 – Do You Want a Pet Or Performance/conformation?
- Slide 9 – The Perfect Parson Russell
- Slide 10 – Correct...Nearly Perfect
- Slide 11 – Few Additional Considerations
- Slide 12 – How to Get from This...to This
- Slide 13 – From Poor to Best and Why...Poor and Why
- Slide 14 – Average and Why
- Slide 15 – Almost Good and Why
- Slide 16 – Good and Why
- Slide 17 – Best and Why
- Slide 18 – From Pup to Adolescent to Adult
- Slide 19 – Summary
- Slide 20 & 21 – What Your Puppy Needs & What You Need to Do



QUESTIONS A REPUTABLE BREEDER MAY ASK YOU

❖ **Do you have children – how old?**

- ❖ Many breeders prefer to not sell a pup to families with children under 5.
- ❖ Sometimes an adolescent pup 5-14 months old is the best choice for families with very young children. The ultra sharp baby teeth have been shed and the pup will have a little more control over jumping and using its teeth.

❖ **Breeders with young litters may require you remove your shoes to prevent introducing bacteria into the environment.**

❖ **Do you have other pets?**

- ❖ PRTs are hunters and families with pet rabbits, guinea pigs, etc., may have trouble.

❖ **Do you have other dogs? How old?**

- ❖ Terriers are usually same sex aggressive. Therefore, if you have a male Lab, you should only buy a female terrier.
- ❖ Dogs of advanced age may not be tolerant of young pups. If this turns out to be the case, you will need to pay close attention to the interaction of the two dogs or adopt a young adult of the opposite sex.

❖ **Is your yard fenced in?**

- ❖ The PRT is an escape artist, without adequate fencing your pup will escape, and may well be hit by a car no matter how far off the road you are.
- ❖ The use of overhead trolleys or tie outs is usually prohibited by contract – physical or invisible fencing are the only acceptable form of containment

❖ **Do you understand the necessity of attending formal obedience classes or Canine Good Citizen classes with your pup?**

- ❖ These classes usually will forge a strong bond between human and dog. Under the critical eye of a good instructor many common problems can be averted. Seeing other breeds at class will tend to make your pup more acceptable of other dogs on walks and in the homes of family and friends.

❖ **Our pups have been raised with love and are released with care. We need to know that the pup will be a welcome addition to your family.**



THE STARTING POINT... A REPUTABLE BREEDER

How will you know if a breeder is reputable? Here are some questions to think about and ask.

- ❖ **How long has the breeder been breeding this breed?**
 - ❖ If you are new to the breed; be sure the breeder is well established and participating in a venue of the dog world.
- ❖ **Where are the puppies being raised?**
 - ❖ Hopefully in a home where they have received plenty of socialization.
 - ❖ Are they friendly to strangers?
 - ❖ Are they clean?
 - ❖ Do they look healthy?
 - ❖ Shiny healthy coats.
 - ❖ Normal chubby looking.
 - ❖ Have they been wormed every 2 weeks?
 - ❖ **Have they been to a vet for a health check?**
 - ❖ Have they received their first shot?
 - ❖ **Are the parents BEAR (hearing) Normal and CERF (eyes) clear?**
 - ❖ Are you able to meet and interact with, at least the Mother?
 - ❖ Is the breeder willing to give you references, including his/her vet.
- ❖ **Will the breeder give you a written contract that includes;**
 - ❖ Pedigree and Registration papers (possibly for Limited Registration)
 - ❖ Health guarantees
 - ❖ Declaration of Genetic testing and Vet history
 - ❖ Statement requiring attendance in a certified Obedience School
 - ❖ Statement requiring the pup come back if the placement doesn't work out.
 - ❖ Promise to aid you in resolving issues and offer help as needed.

If the answer to any of the above is NO – look elsewhere!



SOCIALIZATION IS VITAL EARLY LEARNING

❖ What is Socialization?

It is a process which allows your puppy to develop a bonding relationship with other humans within and outside its immediate environment. Primary socialization for your pup started at birth and slowly diminishes by 12 – 14 weeks. Peak sensitivity is about 6-9 weeks. Your pup needs to maintain its social contact with its mother and littermates from 6-9 weeks of age. Primary Socialization is a vitally sensitive period. It is when your pup develops social attachments with their own kind, and should start to bond with humans. These events can determine your pup's future interaction with other canines as well as social attachment to people. It avoids the negative habituation

❖ What is Habituation?

As puppies develop, there are numerous stimuli, which if unfamiliar can lead to anxiety, stress and FEAR. This is another process where by your puppy gets used to repeated stimuli (i.e. vacuum cleaners, door bells, loud noises, etc.) and in time does not react to it. This especially includes be handled by people! Puppies raised in kennels and barns usually lack this important experience during a primary developmental stage that can negatively affect them for the rest of their lives.

❖ What is Localization?

It is a process whereby your puppy develops an attachment to the familiar, like home or certain people. Puppies whose socialization does NOT include multiple away from home experiences may become overly protective of the “home place”. The lack of “strangers” in its life may cause it to fear or become aggressive toward other humans and canines.

This is why WHERE your pup is raised is SO important!



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO CREATE THE PERFECT PET

- ❖ To reduce the possibility of fearful / shy responses as your puppy grows and matures, it is very essential to continue to expose your young puppy to many stimuli. Hopefully these stimuli have been effectively handled by the breeder during the first 2 months.
- ❖ There are critical factors in the social development of your puppy from the time you take your pup home to 6 months. Pups who receive insufficient exposure to people, other animals, new environments during this time may develop irreversible fears, leading to shyness or aggression or fear aggression. Puppy kindergartens handle this very effectively.
- ❖ The 6 – 9 month period is another important milestone in time for socialization. To develop a healthy social relationships with other canines and humans throughout life, your new pup should continue to have regular social interactions with other dogs and humans of all ages, sizes and ethnic origins.
 - ❖ For example - NO children in your home? You may arrange a regular play session with children in your neighborhood. If you live in the country, make a few trips into the city, so the pup can be taken for walks on city streets or through neighborhood plazas. Introduce your puppy to as many new people and situations as possible. Similarly, car rides, elevators, stairs, TV and typical household noises.

Do NOT raise your pup in a vacuum!

If you can't commit to “socializing” your pup ~ STOP here!



THE NEXT STEP...

After you have seen the entire litter, ask the breeder to allow you to spend some time one on one with each puppy that catches your eye. Why?

- ❖ Puppies have a pack order within the litter. When you meet the entire litter, you are meeting puppies who are secure in their "position" in the litter. Therefore, they may appear more outgoing or shy than they actually are. Working with a pup one on one allows you to evaluate the pup's reaction to your individual family. Not all pups are appropriate to all families. Suitability can be difficult to evaluate when all the pups are together.

If you are looking for a quality pet;

- ❖ Be sure the pup comes to you willingly, with tail wagging.
- ❖ Be sure the pup is willing to follow you with a happy, outgoing attitude.
- ❖ Make a moderately loud noise - the pup should show some curiosity, not fear. A startle reaction is OK, then the pup should be curious.
- ❖ Is the pup contented to be held for 3-5 minutes?
- ❖ Does the puppy lick, maybe mixed with a few nibbles, or does it only bite at exposed skin?

If you are looking for a puppy to show;

- ❖ be sure the puppy is confident and happy. No matter how beautiful or structurally correct, a puppy who is shy and lacks curiosity will usually not make a show dog.
- ❖ Watch for a pup who stops in a "Natural Stack". This pup is built correctly and will probably retain the correct angles and movement into adulthood.
- ❖ Ask if the parents have been shown and have achieved their Championships.
- ❖ If the breeding has been done before, are previous siblings Champions?

To check the puppy's willingness to accept "discipline and training", here are three simple tests you can do

THREE WAYS TO CHECK THE PUPPY'S TEMPERAMENT



Most breeders will not allow you to do these tests without supervision.

Test One

- ❖ Gently place the puppy on its back on the floor. Place your index finger on one side of the neck and your remaining fingers on the other side. Shape the rest of your fingers, gently but firmly, around the chest. Hold the puppy down for a full 30 seconds.
- ❖ It is OK for the puppy to:
 - ❖ Struggle, cry, and attempt to get up.
 - ❖ Lie relaxed and not struggle.
 - ❖ At some point during the 30 seconds the pup should make brief eye contact to you
- ❖ It is **NOT OK** for the pup to:
 - ❖ Try to bite you.
 - ❖ Glare at you
 - ❖ Refuse to look at you
 - ❖ A pup who does any of the above will need an experienced owner.

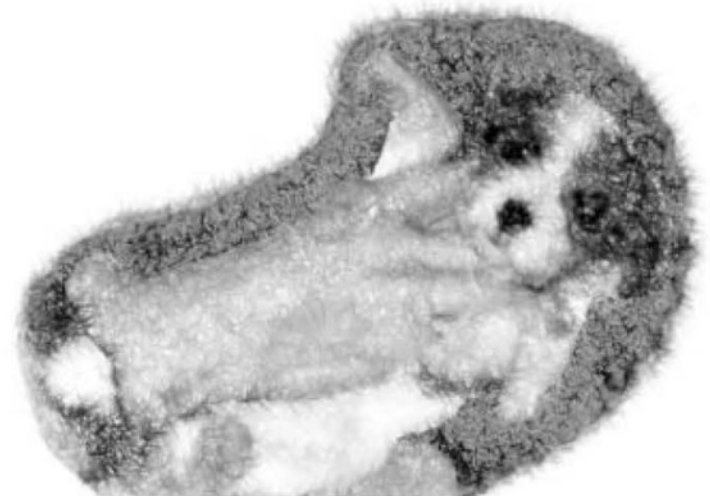




Test Two

❖ Pick the puppy up and cradle it in your arms like a baby.

- ❖ Ideally it will lie there and look at you adoringly. This pup is willing to accept you as the dominant force in its life and will probably be easy to train as long as you are consistent. Consistency is necessary to train any dog!
- ❖ Conversely, if the pup won't look at you and looks at the ground or anything other than you, that pup will probably make a good show dog as it is curious about everything.



Test Three

❖ Place the pup in front of you. Reach under the pup by the ribs and interlace your fingers to make a sling. Raise the pup a few inches off the floor.

❖ It is OK for the pup to:

Hang there relaxed.

Struggle a bit and then relax

Both of these reactions indicate the pup is willing to accept physical domination and discipline.

❖ It is NOT OK for the pup to:

Bite at your hands.

Frantically struggle to get away.

Freeze.

These reactions indicate a pup who will not be easy to train and will challenge you.



These tests are an indication only – not a guarantee!



DO YOU WANT A PET OR TO DO PERFORMANCE/CONFORMATION?

- ❖ If you are searching for a quality pet, you should now have enough information to start your search! Be sure to check out the last 2 slides that will help you determine what you need; what you need to do; and a few suggestions
- ❖ If, however, you are interested in the finer points of the breed, or, possibly in the future, to breed or show, the rest of the presentation should be of help.



Those of you who are, “only looking for a pet”, shouldn’t settle for the least in the litter – you should shoot for the BEST. That is the dog who will remain the healthiest and the most active well into old age (13-16 and maybe beyond).



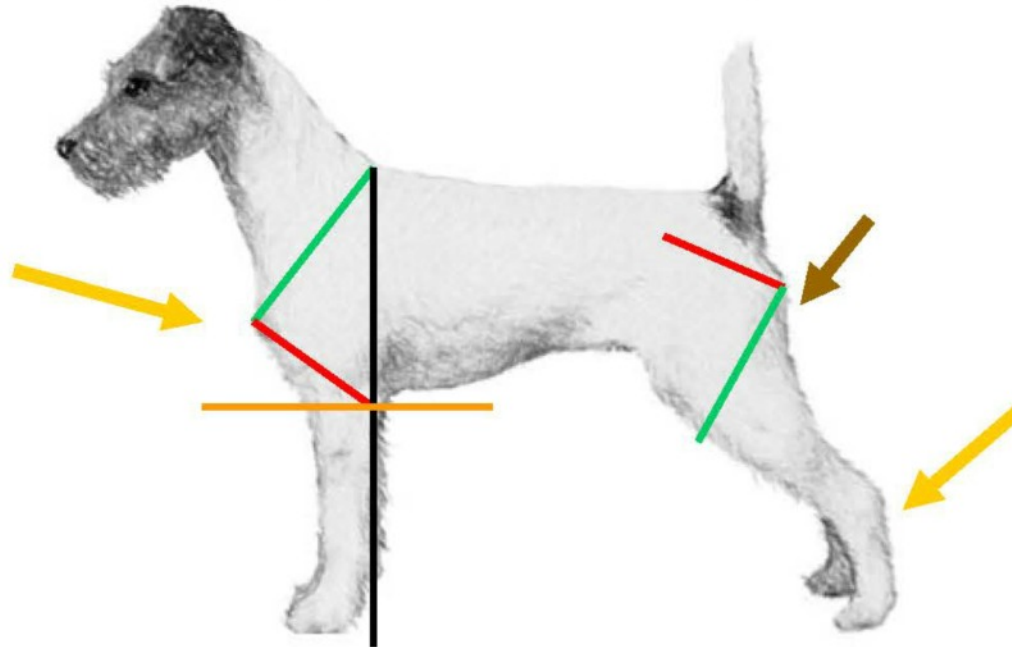
THE PERFECT PARSON RUSSELL

The bitch that this drawing is based on, is NOT perfect, only the drawing serves perfection. Nor will you pup grow into the perfect PRT. You should, however, seek a pup with as perfect a personality temperament and structure as possible. The following slides will attempt to show you how to get as close to perfection as possible in your choice of a pup.

Good luck in your search! I hope you enjoy this presentation and find it helpful!



CORRECT...NEARLY PERFECT



Perfect: According to the official Standard for the breed, “*The shoulder blade and upper arm are of approximately the same length*”. In “Perfect”, one can see that is, in fact, the case. In addition, almost the same equality can be seen in the rear. This configuration will allow for maximum reach and drive resulting in the, “*...tireless ground covering trot displaying good reach in front with the hindquarters providing plenty of drive*”. The red lines are approximately equal; the green lines are also approximately equal. More important, however, is that red almost equals green in length in both the shoulder and the rear. The yellow line divides the height of the dog in half; the length of leg equals depth of chest giving the dog the correct proportions.

Always be sure the black line DOES go from the withers (top) through the elbow and graze the front legs to the ground. Note also what the yellow and brown arrows signify; good prosternum, nice low hocks, and good amount of “dog behind the tail”.

The **Top Line** has no lumps or irregularities and the **Underline** is smooth without a swoop to the rear as seen in a whippet.

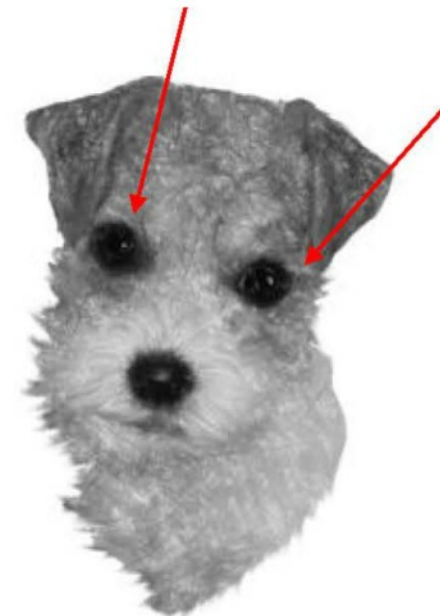
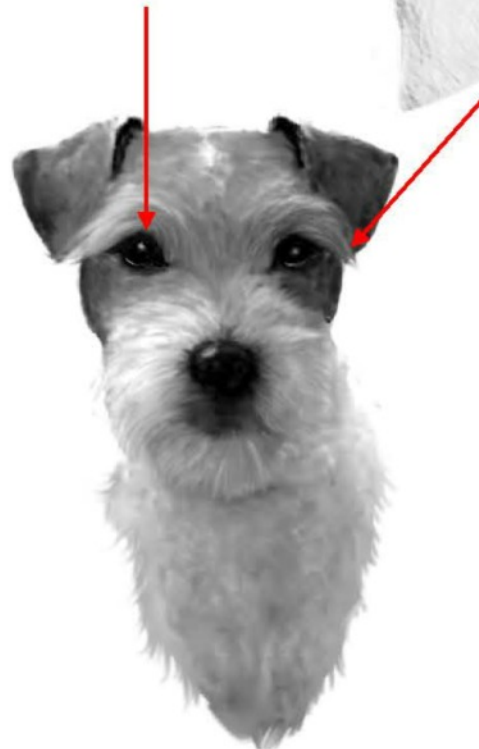
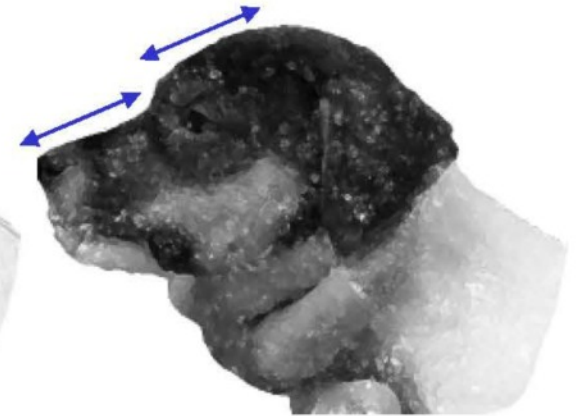
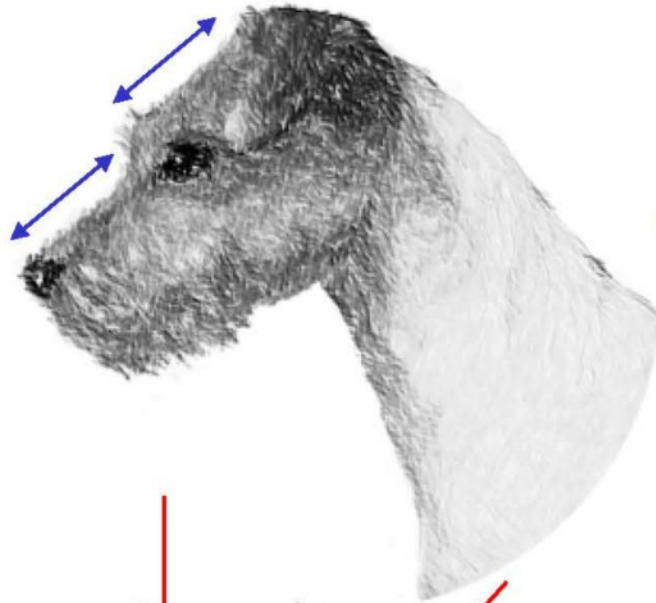
Notice the nice long, gracefully arched neck. This is not just a pleasant visual. A dog can only place its front feet at a trot directly under the chin. A short neck means a short stride in front. Regardless of the abundant and correct angles; the dog CANNOT use them when it has a short neck.

[The best way to “see” these subtle differences is with your hands – close your eyes and let your fingers do the “seeing”.](#)



A FEW ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS...

- ❖ **The PRT is NOT a head breed, and should not be bought or bred with the primary focus being on the head.**
- ❖ That said; some consideration should be given to:
 - ❖ Length of muzzle should be equal to the distance from the stop to the occiput.
 - ❖ Top of muzzle and top of head should be on parallel planes.
 - ❖ The Width of Back Skull should be generous keeping the insertion of the ears above the center of the eyes.
 - ❖ Placement of ears should place the ear tips near the outside corner of the eyes.
 - ❖ Expression, which should be bright and curious.
 - ❖ Age is NOT much of a variable





HOW TO GET FROM THIS...

But you aren't buying a "Finished Product", you are buying a puppy! So what do you look for; how do you evaluate what you see and feel? Surprisingly enough, a pup at 8 weeks is usually the image of the adult he will be. Try to see the pup at 8 weeks plus or minus 3 days. If you are lucky enough to be using a breeder who uses both the Temperament Test that appears in many books and Pat Hasting's *Puppy Puzzle*, You will actually have written documentation to look at. Be sure to ask for copies of these documents, they offer invaluable information over the coming month-



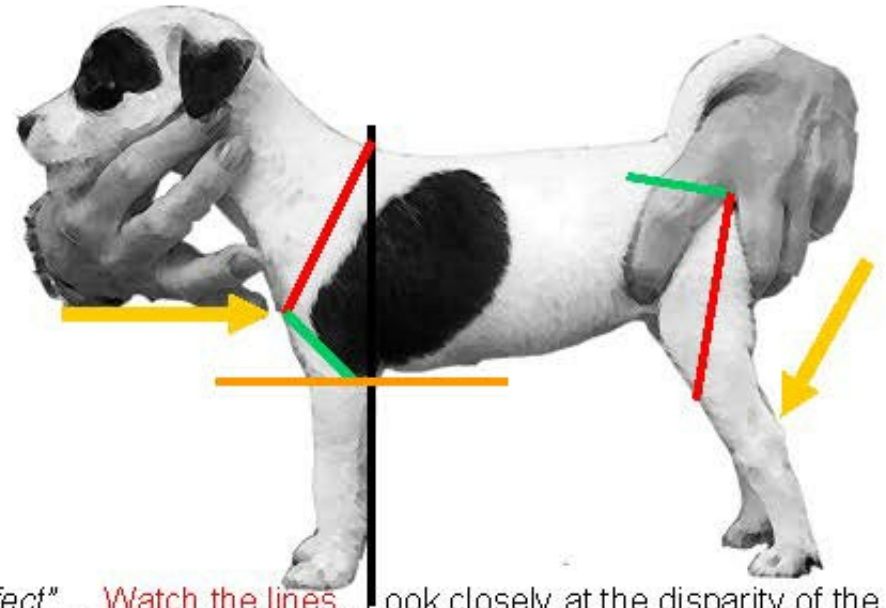
TO THIS..



FROM POOR TO BEST...AND WHY

POOR...AND WHY

This is a side view of the puppy on the previous slide. She is adorable with a cute expression and a way of making you just want to pick her up and love her – of course she pleads with you and plays Miss Pathetic to the hilt. Do not be deceived – she will still manipulate you to get her way!



Let's review what you saw in the slide "Correct... Nearly Perfect". **Watch the lines.** Look closely at the disparity of the length of the red and green lines in her shoulder. Nor are the green lines approximately equal in the front and rear. This pup is "unbalanced" Not mentally, but physically. She has neither the ability to reach OR drive. As a pet this will probably not matter, but for show or breeding it will! The lack of balance will make her less physically sound and should not be used to something like agility or racing. Her extreme lack of bone as compared to the following pups also would preclude her from any performance events. Obedience, at the lower levels, would probably be OK.

Notice the 2 yellow arrows. The one pointing to her shoulder shows a very open angle as well as no forechest. In addition, the distance from the ground to her hocks is far too great. These disparities of open and unequal angles coupled with high hocks would make her a poor prospect for show or breeding. Breeding or showing dogs with severe faults and structural insufficiencies damages the breed!

Her "Feel Sorry for Me" attitude may make her a charming pet for an adult, but not for an active family with small children! A confident, happy pup makes the best family pet.



AVERAGE...AND WHY

Here is a nice, average puppy. You can see he is standing for "inspection" with no struggle- just looking around.

Lets see the lines on this pup. They may be a bit skewed because the shot is not a full side view!

You can see that the green lines are approximately equal, but the red lines are not. This pup will probably move with more reach than drive – an unbalanced way of moving. For a pet this would be no issue, for a show dog or a breeding animal it would.

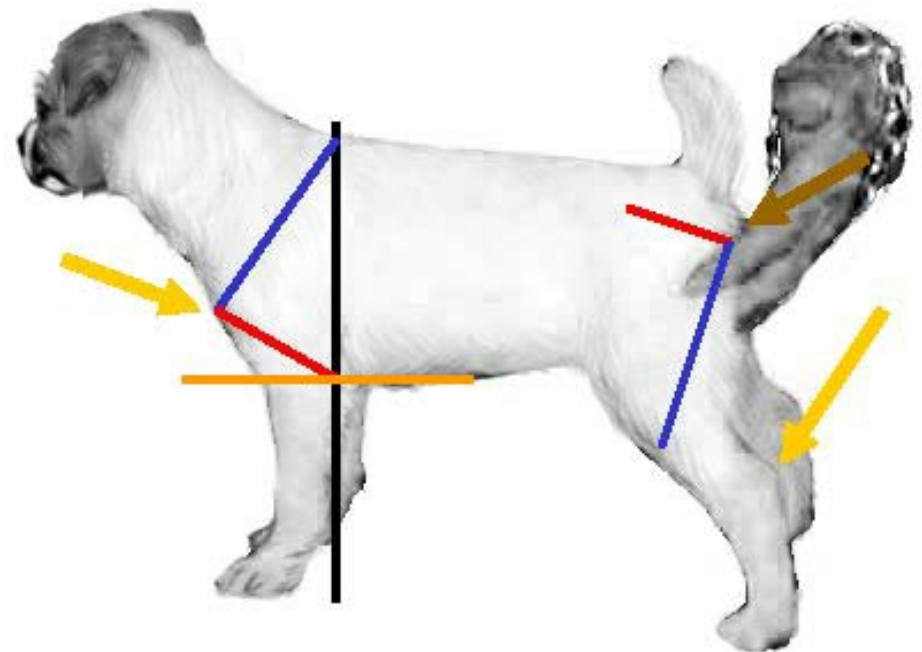
The chest is also a bit deep, but still within the "acceptable" range as can be seen by the orange horizontal line.

The yellow arrows show less prosternum than one would like – again no issue for a pet but an issue for show or breeding. They also show that the hocks are too high

The brown arrow show a lack of enough "dog behind the tail".

The lines and arrows, in summary, show a nice average pup but not a star anywhere.

This pup should be chosen depending on this personality and temperament matching the families life style. He will live a long and active life, giving his family many hours of joy!





ALMOST GOOD...AND WHY

See the difference in the attitude? This puppy is confident and ready to meet the world. She has a cute head and correct ear set with the ears lying where they should according to the standard. Her cuteness will attract the uneducated. These attributes could take her far...

BUT...

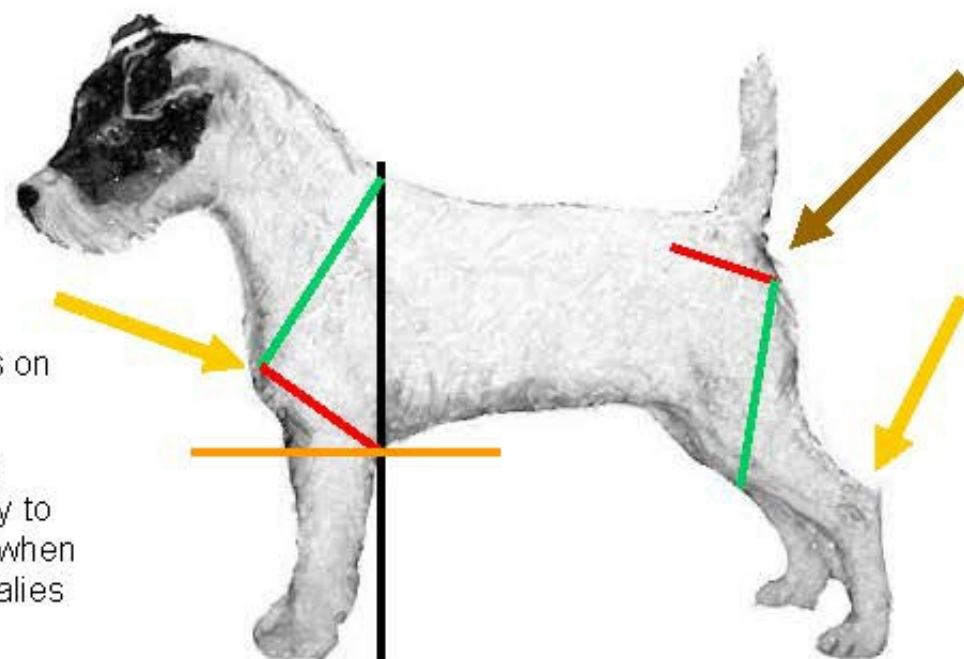
Now let's look at the lines showing length of bone and angles on this pup.

You can see that the green lines are approximately the same length, but the red are not. Her drive will not match her ability to reach. A dog uses EQUAL energy in both the front and rear when moving. When the front and rear don't match, moving anomalies are created.

Notice the yellow arrows. This pup has a forechest indicating she will keep her front angles and, hence, her movement as an adult. Beware of dogs who have no prosternum, (the bone that sticks out in the center on the chest), that usually indicates a very forward shoulder, which is NOT desirable and definitely adversely affects movement. Her hocks are much lower to the ground helping give her the ability to drive – but only moderately.

Look at the brown arrow, notice that there isn't much, "*dog behind the tail*". A good "*shelf*" under the tail gives power and drive to the rear assembly. Her ability to move correctly will only be "moderate" because the short red line in the rear will inhibit her drive, possibly causing her to "prance" in front.

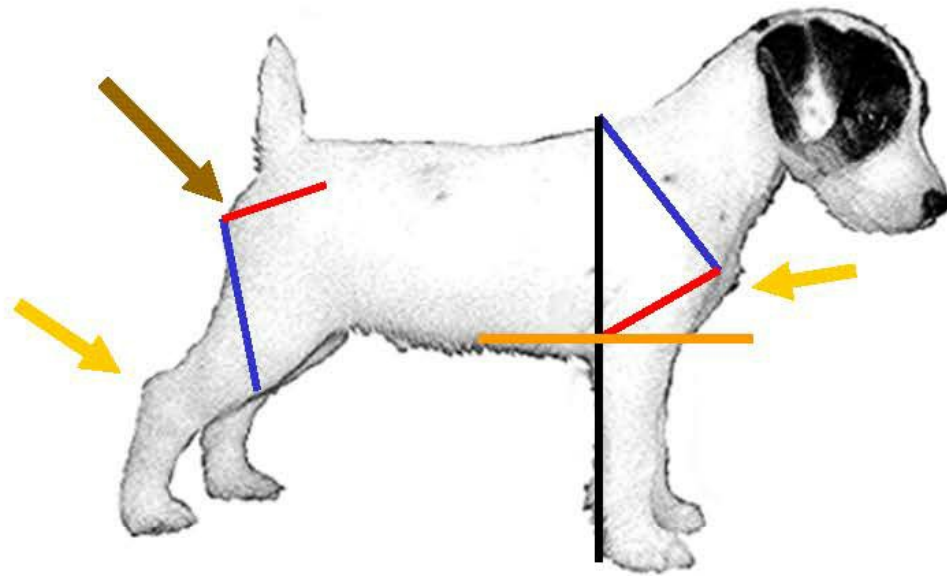
The criticism of this pup is that she is a little short on leg, which can be seen by the intersection of the orange and black lines. She is also a bit too deep in the chest – the distance from her withers to her elbow is greater than the distance from her elbow to the ground. She is also a bit on the coarse side and over developed for her age..





GOOD...AND WHY

Here is another pup with a positive attitude. He is willing to stand quietly but with a pleasant demeanor. His coat displays a little ticking which is perfectly acceptable in moderate amounts.



This is a very well balanced pup. The red lines are approximately the same, the green lines are also approximately the same. The intersections of the lines makes approximately equal angles. The orange line approximately bisects the height of the pup. Notice the nice length of neck which will allow the pup to make the most of his positive attributes.

The yellow arrows point out a well placed prosternum and a nice low hocks. The brown arrow points out a nice amount of “dog-behind-the-tail”. This pup has all the ingredients to make a wonderful show/breeding dog AND a healthy, athletic pet.

A dog, when trotting, can only place the forefoot on the ground under the chin. The longer the neck – the longer the possible stride. That said; the dog must also possess the conformation (i.e., angles and equality of certain bones to use that length of neck. This pup does.

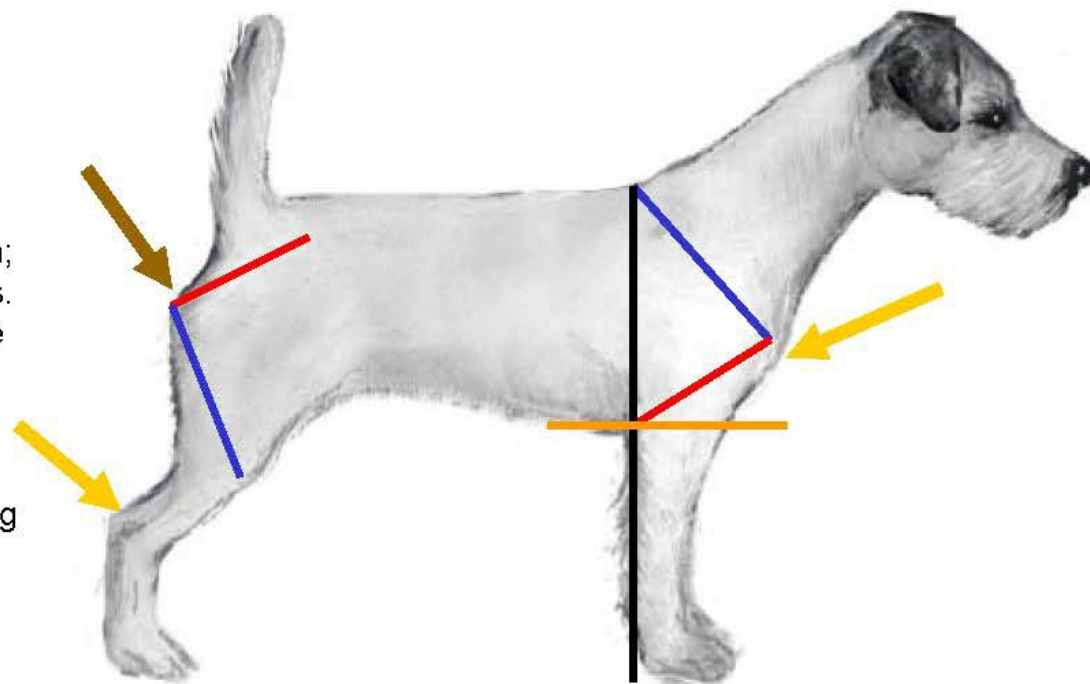


BEST...AND WHY

While this pup is a little older, you can see that the positive attributes have all remained. Watch The lines again.

Look how equal the red lines are; how equal the green; how equal the angles made by the red and green lines. The orange line equally bisects her height. You will be hard pressed to find better!

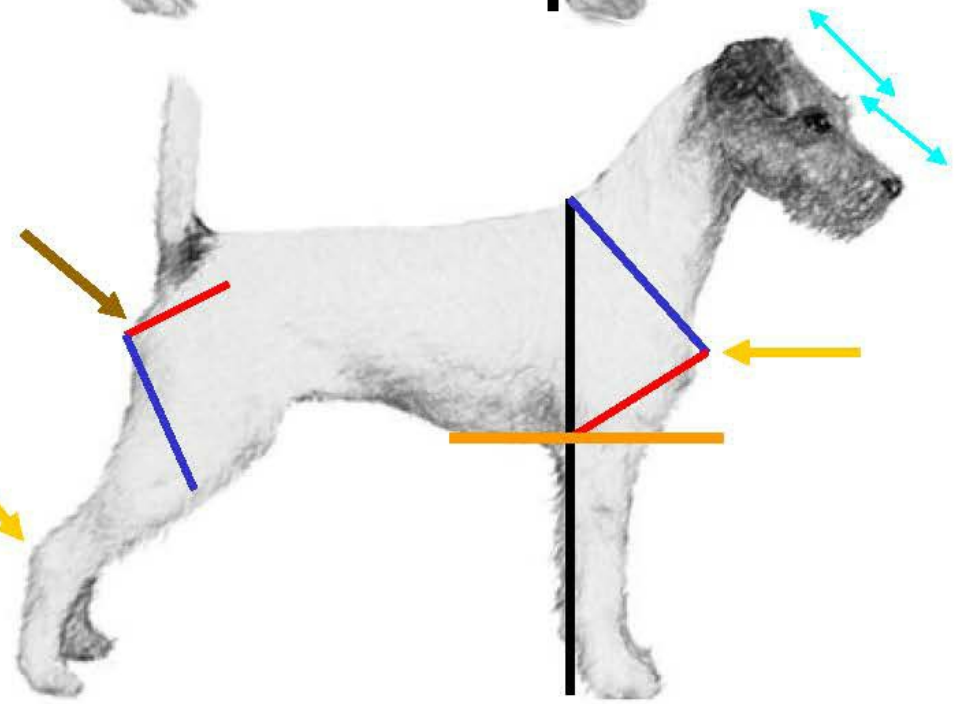
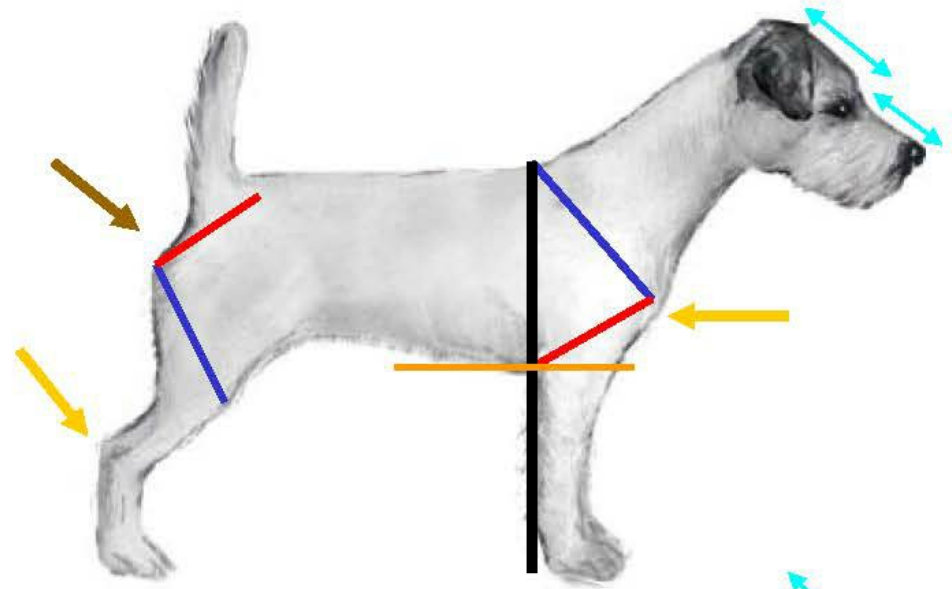
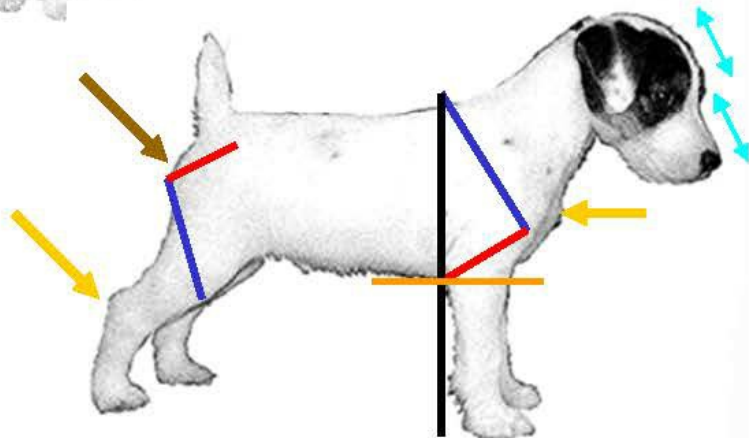
Look at the yellow arrows; nice forechest; nice low hocks. The brown arrow shows a nice amount of dog behind the tail.



The wonderful length of neck will give her balance to use the excellent angles, allowing her to cover the greatest amount of ground with each stride. The breed is supposed to have the structure to enable them to work tirelessly in the field all day (or play with you and your kids!) – this pup has all that and more!

She will make an excellent performance dog in Agility and/or Obedience. Her future in the show ring should also be assured. As a brood bitch, you couldn't find better. As the family pet, she should share many, many years as an active and healthy pet!

FROM PUP TO ADOLESCENT TO ADULT



Three pups, three ages. Eight weeks, 4 months, and one year. Yet all have the correct length of certain bones, angles, proportion. All are built to be healthy, active dogs for many years to come. This presentation can ONLY assess the physical attributes – YOU must assess the personality and temperament!

Here come those “lines” again (for the last time)! You will see they don’t change, regardless of age.

As with all living things, each dog has points that are a little better than another’s. ALL will make outstanding show, performance, or pets.

Structure AND temperament SHOULD be of equal importance to achieve your goal whatever it is!



SUMMARY

I hope this presentation has been helpful in giving you hints on how to pick a pup. Let me review some of the salient points.

- ❖ Be sure you are ready to commit to a pup; to provide the socialization, time, vet care and training that will be required. Good pets and/or show dogs don't just happen; time, attention, and training along with discipline are necessary! Start with the best you can find and then work to make that pup even better, the rewards will far outweigh the effort!!
- ❖ Hopefully your new family member will be with you for the next 16-18 years – be sure it is the RIGHT pup! **There is no substitution for an outgoing personality and an excellent temperament! Do NOT settle for less!**
- ❖ **DO NOT BUY FROM A PET SHOP!** Pick your breeder with care, **ask and expect to be asked** questions. Answer truthfully, the breeder is only trying to match the right pup to you and your family, not pry. Some pups require more discipline and/or attention than others, it's important that you can provide what the pup needs and that the pup is innately a good match for your family. A reputable breeder will support you for the life of the pup, answering your questions and providing advice. Be wary of the breeder who doesn't answer your questions!
- ❖ Not all good breeders use the standardized tests, but they should be able to help you do the 3 basic tests to help you determine which pup is best for you. Weigh the results with the general personality and structure BEFORE you buy.
- ❖ A reputable breeder should have **BOTH** BAER and CERF tests on the parents – and you should ask to see them! Some eye and ear problems are genetic and if the parents are affected you could be asking for trouble. Testing helps a breeder produce healthy, long lived pets and future breeding animals that help the genetic health of the breed.
- ❖ Many breeders have a waiting list for their pups. Plan ahead, go visit the breeder, see the adults and pups that live there. If you like the potential Moms and Dads, chances are you will find a pup that is perfect for your family when the time comes. When you are ready make the commitment and get on the breeders list so you have a better chance of purchasing a pup from that breeder.
- ❖ **Do not be impetuous! Take time to consider before you commit! After you commit to purchase then commit to making this addition to your family all it can be with training, time and love seasoned with a just amount of discipline!**



WHAT YOU PUPPY NEEDS

OK, now you know how to pick a puppy, here is what you need to have and do when you bring your pup home!

What You Need to Get...

- ❖ Vari-Kennel - Size #200 It will be a comfortable for your pup when it reaches adulthood and is Airline acceptable for flying.
- ❖ Food / Water Dish – non-spill type. These guys like to play in water.
- ❖ Collar & leash for walking No chains or choke collar. Light weight lead (4-6 foot) & a retractable lead).
- ❖ Grooming tools, nail clippers, small brush, comb grooming glove
- ❖ A few used / old towels for bedding inside the crate.
- ❖ A Toy Box to keep all the chewies and toys in. The soft kind of kitty beds Work well for a toy box (Not the foam kind). The type you can throw in the wash.
- ❖ TOYS- a collage of chew toys. Raw-hides, stuffed animals, kong toy, NO vinyl toys. Be careful of bells and squeakers.

What You Need to DO...

- ❖ Designate an area of confinement within the house for times you are out or simply cannot watch your puppy.
- ❖ Select your veterinarian. Be sure to ask who covers emergencies after hours. Post the telephone number on your refrigerator.



MORE WHAT YOU PUPPY NEEDS

More Things to Do...

- ❖ Start checking out Dog Training Schools. Meet the Trainers, watch some of their classes. See how their attitude is with Terriers.
- ❖ Suggested reading:
Complete IDIOTS Guide to JRT by Deborah Britt-Hay
Living with a JRT edited by Rani MorningStar”

Suggestions...

- ❖ ANY questions, CALL the breeder when the problem **begins**, **NOT** when it has become a **habit**.
- ❖ REMEMBER, Structure, Patience, Love, Patience, Play, Train & Patience during this beginning & your Terrier will adore you. You will survive this.
- ❖ Do not smother your puppy; be sure to teach him how to be alone for short and gradually longer period of time in a safe puppy-proofed area. If you don't, when you go back to work you may have to deal with separation anxiety.
- ❖ Quantity of time is as important as Quality when pups are really young.
- ❖ Understanding that your puppy is a canine, not a human. They put things in their mouth to identify them; they only know how to play with their mouth. Everything in their world so far has come into contact with their mouth.
- ❖ TEACH them new rules; don't punish their natural behavior.
- ❖ Enjoy puppy-hood while it lasts !!! Puppyhood can seem like it is forever when you're in it, but it goes by very quickly in retrospect. So, make it count.