

During my judge-career many persons asked me for my preferred type of Yorkie and I've always replied that it exists only one type for each breed. Also if the standard doesn't specify the characteristics of typicality we can draw them from the description of the general appearance and from the maximum score given to the coat, that is:

The type in the Yorkie has given from the elegance and from the combination of heavy-silky-texture and dark-steel-blue with rich-golden-tan of the coat. These are the first and principal things to value in a show-dog.

After that, we can proceed to examine the rest of the dog.

Of course the elegance depends from many things: the construction of body, the expression and the shape of the head and the temperament; all that manifest on a movement rich of style and distinction.

We must well keep in mind the exact proportions, the balance of the body that must be compact that doesn't mean square, the longer of the body is moderately greater than the height to withers. If this is not, the angulations of the shoulder and of the rears are too straight. Also the legs must be proportioned to the height of the thorax, with short hocks and the pasterns must be not flexed with closed cat-feet.

When the angulations are at best and the omerus has a good longer also the neck is rich and it permits to keep up the head giving elegance.

Referring to the head it's the same: good proportions, that is muzzle not too long but not too short, with a good "stop", flat skull and parallel axis skull-muzzle. That gives the exact positions to the eyes that will be not too round, not too big and well pigmented. The size of the head must be proportioned to the body: rather small not too small.

All that must be completed by a "soft" terrier temperament that produces a movement free and alert with a well carried tail.

Soon it happens to see tails too gay (terrier tail at 90° and more), over all now with undocked tails.

That means that soon the croup is too straight. We must select that, seen that until tails were docked, we paid not much attention to this fault. The root of the tail must be carried at 45°, no more no less, the rest of the tail until the point should be more straight than possible, not curled up.

The most important part of the type is the texture and the colours of the coat.

Have you ever tested to touch the coat of your dog? Well, it must be cold and heavy, straight without undercoat (the down that you find into the packets when you remake them); when you dry up after bath the coat must not appear swollen but must fall down heavily, shiny and straight. This means "heavy silky coat".

We find the right texture usually in steel-blue coats, it's more difficult to find in dark-steel-blue ones.

To produce dark-steel-blue is not easy because a breeder must build a bitch-park of strong colours, light bitches seldom produce strong colours and it's not enough to mate with a dark-steel-blue male.

It's not like mixing milk and coffee, to produce dark-steel-blue you must cross male and bitch of the same colour, being sure that also behind the lines there was it.

If it's, very rarely, useful to use a black (but silky) dog, it's not recommended to use a light dog.

Very important is to search for the right golden-tan. The greatest part of judges believe that Yorkies have the same tan than other terrier breeds, but it doesn't exist another breed that has the same shaded golden tan than Yorkies. It must be shiny and shaded gold, a rich deep tan must be only around the ears and on the muzzle.

To breed Yorkshire Terrier is very binding so it's better to start well and then make the exact choice in the matings, examining carefully all the lines behind.

The line-breeding is the best system of breeding that can exalt the values and reduce the faults, more hazardous is to use direct inbreeding because you exalt values and faults.

The practice of out-crossing is extraordinary useful only to put fresh blood but you must forget to see tangible improvements in the first generation, you'll see that only in the second or third generation, after to come into your line again.

*Sonia Pagani*