The goals and purposes of this breed standard include:

to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain
the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance
this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world;
and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid
any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to
the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this
breed, and must take the responsibility to see that
these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following should be
considered a fault, and the seriousness with which the
fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion
to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare
of the dog and on the dog’s ability to perform its
traditional work.

HISTORY
The Airedale is the largest of all the Terrier breeds. Its
origins date back to the mid-1800s, when authorities on
the breed believe it was developed as a result of a cross
of the Otterhound and the now-extinct Black & Tan
Terrier. They were developed in the valley of the River
Aire in south Yorkshire, England. These early crosses
were called Working, Waterside or Bingley Terriers.
They were used for hunting fox, badger, weasel, otter
and river rats, plus other small game.

The patriarch of the breed is considered to be CH
Master Briar (1897-1906). Two of his sons, Crompton
Marvel and Monarch, also made important
contributions to the breed. The latter was imported to

The Airedale Terrier was recognized by United
Kennel Club in 1914.
FORELEGS - The forelegs are perfectly straight with plenty of muscle and bone. The elbows are perpendicular to the body, working free of the sides.

BODY
Chest is deep but not too broad. The back is short, strong and level. The ribs are well sprung. Loin is short, broad and muscular, giving little space between the last rib and the hip joint.

HINDQUARTERS
Well angulated, with long, muscular thighs. HIND LEGS – Well bent at the stifle, with short rear pasterns that are parallel when viewed from behind. 
Faults: Stifles turned in or out.

FEET
The feet are small, round and compact. They have a good depth of pad, and the toes are moderately arched. 
Faults: Toes turned in or out.

TAIL
The tail is customarily docked to a fair length. It is of good strength and substance and is carried high. 
Fault: Tail curled over the back.

COAT
The outer coat is moderate in length, hard, dense and wiry. It is straight and close, covering the dog over the body and legs. Some of the hardest coats are crinkling or just slightly waved. Undercoat is short and soft. 
Faults: Soft, curly or ragged outer coat.

COLOR
Body saddle, back of neck and top side of tail are black or grizzled. All other parts are tan. Ears may be a darker tan that the rest of the head and shadings may occur around the neck and the sides of the skull. A small white blaze on the chest is acceptable. 
Disqualifications: Artificial coloring. Artificial stiffening of the hair coat.

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT
Males 23-24 inches at the shoulder. Females, slightly smaller. Both sexes are sturdy, well muscled and well boned. Weight is commensurate with height.

GAIT
Movement is free. When viewed from the front, the forelegs should swing perpendicular from the body and free from the sides with the feet the same distance apart as the elbows. When viewed from the rear, the hind legs should be parallel with each other.

DISQUALIFICATIONS
(A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a conformation event, and must be reported to UKC.)
Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.
Viciousness or extreme shyness.
Artificial coloring.
Artificial stiffening of the hair coat.
Albinism.

The docking of tails and cropping of ears in America is legal and remains a personal choice. However, as an international registry, the United Kennel Club, Inc. is aware that the practices of cropping and docking have been forbidden in some countries. In light of these developments, the United Kennel Club, Inc. feels that no dog in any UKC event, including conformation, shall be penalized for a full tail or natural ears.