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 Dandie Dinmont Terrier is descended from the
rough native terriers that were kept in the border
country between England and Scotland. They were first
recorded as a distinct type around 1700, and were used
to hunt otter and badger. Sir Walter Scott discovered
them during his travels and made the breed famous in
his book *Guy Mannering* published in 1814. In the book,
a character named Dandie Dinmont kept six of these
terriers, and since the time of the book, the breed has
been known by this name.

The Dandie Dinmont Terrier was recognized by the
United Kennel Club in 1918.

GENERAL APPEARANCE
The Dandie Dinmont is a breed with distinctive physical
characteristics. He is long and low, has a large head and
a weaselly body, heavily boned legs and a weatherproof
coat.

CHARACTERISTICS
The Dandie is an intelligent, affectionate and dignified
companion, yet is very game and workmanlike, and has
great persistence and determination.

HEAD
The strongly made head is large, but not out of
proportion to the dog’s size. The muscles of the head
show extraordinary development, especially in the
upper jaw (maxillary). Head is covered with soft, silky
hair.

SKULL - broad between the ears, gradually tapering
toward the eyes, and approximately the same width as
length. The forehead is well domed.

MUZZLE - approximately three inches in length, deep
and strongly made. The proportion to the skull being as
3 is to 5. The muzzle is generally bare for about an inch
from the back part of the nose. The bareness comes to
a point toward the eye; is about one inch wide at the
nose.

TEETH - A full complement of very strong, evenly-
spaced, white teeth meet in a tight scissors bite. The
canines are of an extraordinary size for a dog of this
size. The canines mesh well to provide the greatest
available holding and punishing power.

EYES - The large, full, round eyes are set wide apart,
low, and look straight forward. They are a rich, dark
hazel in color and have a wise, intelligent expression.

NOSE - The nose is black.

EARS - The pendulous ears are set well back, wide apart
and low on the skull; hanging close to the cheek. Ear
length is from three to four inches. They are broad at
the top, tapering nearly to a point. The leather is thin.

NECK
Very strong and muscular.

FOREQUARTERS
Shoulders are well laid back and not coarse.

FORELEGS - The short forelegs are set well apart. They
have immense muscular development and heavy bone.
Forefeet point straight ahead or slightly out when
standing.

BODY
Chest is well developed and well let down between the
forelegs. Ribs are round and well sprung. Body is long,
flexible and gently curves from rather low shoulders, to
an arch over the loin, then gently drops from the top of
the loin to the root of the tail.
HINDQUARTERS
HIND LEGS - The hind legs are slightly longer than the forelegs. They are set wide apart, but not spread in an unnatural manner. The thighs are well developed. Stifles are well bent and rear pasterns are short. Dewclaws are removed from the hind feet.

FEET
Round and well padded, the front feet are considerably larger than the hind feet. Nail color varies according to body color. White nails are acceptable.

Serious Fault: Flat feet.

TAIL
The tail is eight to ten inches in length, and set as a natural continuation of the gradual drop off the loin. It is thick at the base, then even thicker for about four inches, before tapering off to a point. It is curved like a scimitar, with the tip carried on a perpendicular line with the base, or somewhat more gaily when the dog is excited.

COAT
The double coat of the Dandie Dinmont is an important breed characteristic. Body coat is crisp to the touch, a combination of hard outer hair and soft undercoat. It is not wiry. It appears to pencil down the back due to the combination.

The entire head is covered with very soft, silky hair.

The ear has a thin feather of light hair, of nearly the same color and texture as the hair on the head, starting about two inches from the tip; giving the ear the appearance of a distinct point. The dog is often one or two years of age before the ear feather is shown.

The hair on the under part of the body is lighter in color and softer in texture than on the top. The forelegs have a nice feather, approximately two inches in length, that is lighter in color than the hair on the forepart of the legs. The hair on the hind legs is of the same color and texture as that on the forelegs, but there are no feathers.

The upper side of the tail is covered with wiry hair of a darker color than that of the body. The underside of the tail is light in color and not so wiry, with nice feathers about two inches long that get shorter nearer to the tip.

COLOR
The acceptable colors are Pepper or Mustard. Pepper ranges from a dark bluish-black to a light silvery gray, with the intermediate shades being preferred. The body color comes well down the shoulders and hips and gradually merges into the leg color, which varies from rich tan to pale fawn. Profuse silvery white topknot.

Mustard varies from a reddish brown to a pale fawn. The head is a creamy white and the legs and feet are a shade darker than the head.

Some white on chest acceptable, but white feet are undesirable.

Ear color is in harmony with the body color. In a Pepper dog, the ears are covered with soft, straight, dark hair, in some cases nearly black. In a Mustard dog, the ears are mustard in color; a shade darker than the body, but not black.

HEIGHT & WEIGHT
Height, measured at the top of the shoulder, is from eight (8) to eleven (11) inches.

Body length, measured from the top of the shoulder to the root of the tail, is not more than twice the dog's height; preferably one (1) or two (2) inches less.

The preferred weight range, for dogs in good working condition, is from 18 to 24 pounds.

GAIT
Strong and straight with a free, easy stride. There is good propulsion from the hindquarters.

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. Extreme viciousness or shyness. Albinism.