

Section 1 Introduction

Since 1986 the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA), a member club of the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the breed's Parent Club, through its official Hunting/Working Committee, has been seeking admission to AKC Hunt Tests for Airedale Terriers. This proposal documents our position that the Airedale Terrier should be allowed to participate in AKC Hunt Tests because the breed, in its history and current practice, is a versatile hunting dog that can ably flush and retrieve birds as well as hunt large and small furred game.

This proposal further documents the efforts of the ATCA Hunting/Working Committee to re-establish the Airedale as a recognized hunting dog by working with suggestions, standards, and test guidelines provided by the AKC. The increasing involvement of the Airedale fancy with hunting Airedales is shown both by media coverage and the demographics of those choosing Airedales as hunting dogs.

The success of Airedales in hunting events is supported by the listing of ATCA Hunt Test qualifiers. Furthermore, the many images of hunting Airedales included in this proposal are evidence that the breed can and does work capably in the field. Note that dogs pictured throughout this proposal are varied in type and grooming. We are showing not just one or two token hunters, but rather a range of dogs indicating hunting Airedales coming from "show lines," pet homes, and "hunting strains." Our experience has shown that whatever its conformation and short-term history, the Airedale maintains a hunter's heart.

