

PARTY-APPOINTED ZOOTECHNICAL REPORT

*Comparative analysis of standards and morphological continuity between the Yorkshire
Terrier and the Biewer Terrier*

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*Party-appointed technical document of zootechnical and cynotechnical content.
The conclusions expressed herein constitute reasoned technical assessments based on the standards and sources examined.*

Subject and methodology of the report

This report concerns the technical-zootechnical comparison between the Yorkshire Terrier and the Biewer Terrier, with particular regard to the definition of morphological type, the variability of the standards adopted by different canine organizations, the historical origin of the Biewer Terrier, and the possibility of interpreting the two populations as varieties of the same breed matrix.

The analysis considers, for the Yorkshire Terrier, FCI Standard No. 86 and the American Kennel Club (AKC) standard, as well as the interpretative and health-related guidance of the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH). For the Biewer Terrier, VDH National Standard No. 990 and the United Kennel Club (UKC) standard are considered. For comparative purposes, reference is also made to the variety-classification model adopted in other breeds, with particular reference to the Dachshund.

The method adopted distinguishes three levels: 1) what the standards prescribe textually; 2) what emerges from the morphological overlap of the descriptions; 3) the party-appointed technical assessments deriving from the overall zootechnical interpretation. This distinction is essential in order to avoid confusing normative data with the technical-expert conclusion.

1. Comparative premise: the same Yorkshire Terrier, standards that are not perfectly superimposable

For the purposes of this analysis, FCI Standard No. 86 for the Yorkshire Terrier, the official American Kennel Club (AKC) Standard, and the interpretative and health-related guidelines adopted by the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH) in Germany are taken into consideration.

The first element emerging from the comparison is particularly significant from a cynotechnical and zootechnical standpoint: the different organizations describe a subject belonging to the same breed, with general characteristics that are largely overlapping, but not perfectly identical in the morphological and functional requirements demanded.

In other words, within the international canine landscape, subjects may be recognized as Yorkshire Terriers while meeting slightly different criteria depending on the standard applied. These differences are generally limited and do not alter the overall identity of the breed, but they demonstrate that the concept of “conformity to the standard” is not always absolutely uniform at international level.

1.1 Dental bite: a first concrete discrepancy

A first particularly evident example concerns the dental apparatus and bite. The FCI standard requires a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, with the upper incisors closely overlapping the lower incisors. The AKC standard, on the other hand, accepts both a scissor bite and a level bite, provided that neither an undershot nor an overshot bite is present.

It follows that a subject fully conforming to the American standard may present a dental characteristic which, when assessed according to the literal wording of the FCI standard, does not correspond to the ideal model provided for by the latter. This demonstrates that two canine systems can recognize the same breed while applying different requirements to an anatomically and functionally relevant characteristic.

Parameter	FCI	AKC / VDH	Technical finding
Maximum weight	Up to 3.2 kg	AKC: 7 lb (approx. 3.175 kg)	Minimal difference; substantial equivalence in weight.
Minimum weight	Not specified	Not specified; VDH highlights the risk of excessive miniaturization	The absence of a minimum does not imply the zootechnical desirability of ever lower weights.
Dental bite	Perfect, regular and complete scissor bite	AKC: scissor or level bite	Real technical discrepancy.
Dentition	Complete and regular dentition required	AKC more permissive in wording; VDH emphasizes healthy jaws/dentition	Different degree of strictness.
Tail	Includes an undocked tail and, historically, a docked tail	AKC describes the docked tail	Normative and cultural difference.
Coat	Silky, straight, must not impede movement	AKC more detailed on grooming; VDH emphasizes the functional limit	Same coat type, different practical emphasis.
Color	Dark steel blue and tan	AKC introduces more explicit disqualifications and tolerances	Different regulation of the same characteristic.
Functional health	Only clinically and functionally healthy subjects should be used for breeding	VDH develops the principle against extremes of selection	Strengthened health-oriented approach.

1.2 Technical-zootechnical consideration

The comparison highlights three different interpretative levels. The FCI describes the morphological type and introduces a general principle of health and functionality; the AKC regulates certain aspects of presentation, color and grooming in greater detail, but is more permissive with regard to the bite; the VDH, while operating within the FCI system, places greater emphasis on the functional limit to overtyping, with particular attention to excessive miniaturization, robustness of the stomatognathic apparatus and freedom of movement.

From this derives a principle that will be central to the continuation of this report: belonging to the same breed does not necessarily imply absolute identity of the parameters used to define its ideal phenotype. Subjects genealogically attributable to the same breed may be bred, registered and judged in different systems while presenting small variations in the selective criteria admitted.

2. Biewer Terrier: recognition of the breed in different canine systems and comparison between UKC and VDH standards

The case of the Biewer Terrier represents a particularly significant example for understanding how recognition of a breed is not necessarily uniform among different canine organizations. The breed is recognized as autonomous by the United Kennel Club (UKC) in the United States and, in parallel, also by the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH) in Germany.

This fact is particularly significant because the VDH is the German national canine organization that is a member of the Fédération Cynologique Internationale. The VDH Biewer Terrier standard itself expressly

specifies that it is a “breed nationally recognized by the VDH”, included in Group 3, but “not recognized by the FCI”, with Standard No. 990.

We are therefore faced with a cynotechnical situation of considerable interest: a national federation belonging to the FCI autonomously recognizes a breed which the FCI, at international level, does not recognize as one of its official breeds. The VDH nevertheless defines a complete standard, a classification and judging criteria for it.

2.1 Origin of the breed according to the VDH standard

The VDH standard expressly reconstructs the origin of the Biewer Terrier. In 1984, from a litter produced by two purebred Yorkshire Terriers from the Biewer kennel, puppies were born with white markings. Such markings were not provided for by the Yorkshire Terrier standard; Mr. and Mrs. Biewer therefore began an intentional selection of this phenotype.

The same VDH document adds that, over time, the population would also have differentiated from the original breed in its genetic composition, thus justifying, according to that organization, consideration of the Biewer Terrier as an autonomous breed. This statement is important because it explicitly places the Biewer within a selective sequence originating from the Yorkshire population.

Parameter	VDH Biewer Terrier	UKC Biewer Terrier	Technical finding
Height	21–26 cm at the withers	Not defined in the same manner	VDH is more prescriptive regarding morphometric data.
Weight	2.2–3.8 kg; >3.8 kg = serious fault	4–8 lb preferred (approx. 1.8–3.6 kg)	Broad overlap, with different normative value.
Dental bite	Scissor or level bite	Scissor or level bite	High degree of coincidence.
Skull/muzzle	Slightly rounded skull; muzzle approx. 1/3 of head length	Substantially similar structure	Substantially common craniofacial type.
Body	Slightly longer than high; square accepted	Square or slightly longer	Coincidence of the proportional model.
Tail	Undocked, high-set, arched over the back; kink not penalized	Undocked, high-set, curved over the back	Same general model, different descriptive tolerance.
Coat	Long, flowing, silky, without undercoat	Same type, greater functional flexibility	Substantial identity of coat type.
Color	White + blue/black + gold/tan with detailed distribution	Same general pattern, greater freedom of distribution	Same chromatic identity, different normative strictness.
Faults	Fault / serious fault / disqualification	Fault / eliminating fault / disqualification	Different grading of penalties.

2.2 Concluding consideration of this section

The Biewer Terrier demonstrates that the concept of breed and its recognition can differ between national and international levels. UKC and VDH recognize the same population as an autonomous breed and have developed their own official standards, but those standards are not perfectly identical. The VDH, although belonging to the FCI system, nationally recognizes a breed that the FCI does not recognize internationally.

This second case introduces a further level compared with the previous section: it is no longer merely a matter of different interpretations of the standard of a breed recognized by multiple systems, but also of the possibility that the very concept of breed recognition may vary among organizations and between national and supranational level.

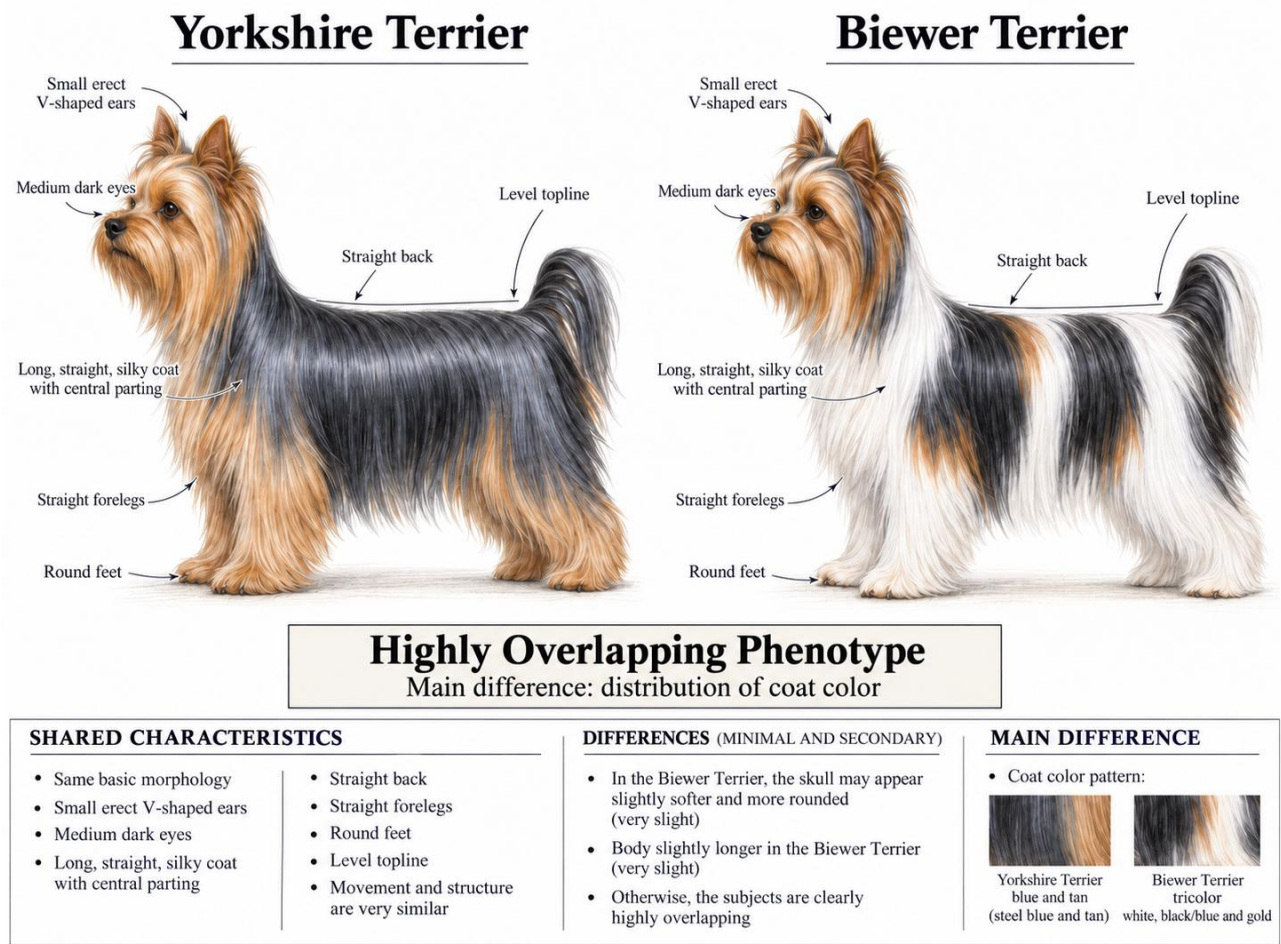


Figure 1 – Technical-morphological overlap between the Yorkshire Terrier and the Biewer Terrier, highlighting shared characteristics and the main chromatic difference.

3. Morphological overlap between Yorkshire Terrier and Biewer Terrier: phenotypic analysis independent of color

After separately analyzing the standards of the Yorkshire Terrier and the Biewer Terrier, it is possible to temporarily remove from the comparison the main immediately distinguishing element, namely coat color, and superimpose the morphological descriptions provided by the different canine organizations.

This overlap produces a result of considerable zootechnical interest: the two phenotypes present an extremely high degree of morphological coincidence. The strong overlap demonstrates a very close continuity of type and makes understandable the difficulty of distinguishing certain subjects when color is excluded from the assessment.

From a methodological standpoint, phenotypic similarity alone does not automatically amount to genetic identity or to breed identity in a taxonomic or registry sense. However, for the purposes of this party-appointed technical opinion, it constitutes a central datum for assessing the consistency of the separation between the two populations.

Characteristic	Yorkshire Terrier	Biewer Terrier	Degree of overlap
Size and mass	Toy terrier; weight up to approx. 3.2 kg	Toy terrier; approx. 1.8–3.8 kg depending on standard	Very high
Ears	Small, V-shaped, erect	Small, V-shaped, erect	Practically total
Eyes	Medium, dark, expressive	Medium, dark, expressive	Very high
Skull	Flatter in the FCI wording	Slightly rounded in the VDH wording	Slight/moderate difference
Muzzle	Not too long	Approx. 1/3 of head length	Compatible, with different descriptive precision
Body	Compact, straight/level back	Square or slightly rectangular, straight back	Very high
Forequarters	Straight	Straight	Total
Hindquarters	Straight from behind, moderate angulation	Straight from behind, well angulated	Very high
Feet	Round	Round	Total
Movement	Free, straight, with drive	Flowing, straight, with good drive	Very high
Coat	Long, straight, fine, silky	Long, straight, soft, silky	Almost total
Parting	Longitudinal/central	Longitudinal/central	Almost total
Tail	Carriage varies according to standard	Undocked, arched over the back	Real but non-structural difference
Color	Blue & tan	White + black/blue + gold/tan	Main visible difference

3.1 Zootechnical interpretation of the overlap

If two correctly constructed adult subjects are considered, one Yorkshire Terrier and one Biewer Terrier, and coat color is ideally neutralized, numerous parameters normally used to define breed type do

not permit an immediate and certain separation. The subjects share size, body mass, general type, coat texture and fall, ears, eyes, limb structure, feet, topline, movement, carriage and a large part of their body proportions.

The similarity is consistent with the same historical reconstruction contained in the VDH standard, which derives the Biewer Terrier from a litter of two purebred Yorkshire Terriers in which white markings appeared and were then intentionally selected. Morphological continuity, therefore, is not accidental but has a precise basis in the declared selective history.

The conclusion of this section is that, excluding color, the standards analyzed describe Yorkshire Terriers and Biewer Terriers through a very high number of coincident or strongly overlapping characteristics. The residual differences mainly concern certain cranial and body proportions, dimensional limits, tail carriage and details of wording, without outlining two radically separate morphological silhouettes.

4. Technical-zootechnical assessment of morphological unity and proposal for classification by varieties

In light of the previous analyses, the datum that emerges most clearly is the extraordinary morphological and phenotypic overlap between Yorkshire Terrier and Biewer Terrier. The differences found in the various standards do not describe two radically different anatomical models, but populations that share almost all of the principal type characteristics.

From a zootechnical standpoint, a population selected over multiple generations can progressively modify some of its characteristics. Selection directed toward specific body proportions, dimensions, cranial shapes, coat textures or other characteristics can, over time, produce statistically appreciable differences between lines that were originally closely related. This does not automatically imply that every consolidated difference must necessarily result in the establishment of an autonomous breed.

4.1 The role of color in the historical separation

In the case under examination, the historical separation between Yorkshire Terrier and Biewer Terrier appears to have initially developed mainly around an immediately visible phenotypic characteristic: the presence of white and the consequent tricolor pattern. The VDH standard itself states that the first Biewers were born from Yorkshire Terriers and that selection was initiated from puppies carrying white markings not provided for by the Yorkshire standard.

Color is certainly a genetically determined phenotypic characteristic and may assume great importance in selection. However, color, considered in isolation, does not necessarily coincide with the zootechnical concept of breed. The definition of a breed is the combined result of genealogical continuity, population stability, morphological uniformity, selective criteria, possible reproductive isolation and, when available, population genetic data.

When two populations present an almost total overlap of morphological type and the main immediately discriminating characteristic is the distribution of color, it is technically legitimate to assess whether they constitute two completely separate breeds or different varieties belonging to the same breed matrix.

4.2 “Color” Yorkshire Terrier and continuity of phenotype

Within the Yorkshire Terrier population, outside the classic colors admitted by the principal standards, there are subjects commonly referred to in breeding circles as “Color Yorkshire Terriers”, characterized by different chromatic expressions. Within these populations there are also combinations in which white, black or blue and gold/tan occur, capable of producing an appearance extremely close to that of the Biewer Terrier.

In a ring assessment in which genealogy and registry documentation are not available, a correctly constructed particolored Yorkshire and a typical Biewer Terrier may be very difficult to distinguish if both share the same morphological structure. This reinforces the thesis, supported in this opinion, of the strong zootechnical continuity between the two populations.

4.3 The precedent of varieties within a single breed

The international canine system includes numerous examples in which even very marked differences do not result in the establishment of autonomous breeds. A paradigmatic case is the Dachshund, considered a single breed divided into multiple size and coat varieties.

In the Dachshund, different size categories are recognized – Standard, Miniature and Kaninchen/Rabbit Dachshund – and, for each, different coat types – short/smooth, long and wire-haired. The differences can be immediately visible and, in some cases, more significant than those separating the Yorkshire Terrier and the Biewer Terrier, yet the system maintains a single breed identity divided into varieties.

Color patterns may also be treated as varietal expressions within the same breed. The zootechnical principle that follows is clear: differences in size, coat and color do not necessarily entail breed separation when type, genealogy and the selective matrix remain common.

4.4 Crosses, introgressions and selective function

This opinion also takes into consideration the hypothesis, to be verified through documentary evidence by means of pedigrees and genealogical registers, that historical and recent genealogies may contain matings or introgressions among Yorkshire Terriers, Biewer Terriers and Yorkshire Color lines. If such data are confirmed, they would constitute a technical element of particular significance.

The reciprocal use of the two populations in selection, aimed at recovering or correcting type, size, cranial conformation, dentition or coloration, would in fact be compatible with the existence of a strongly related gene pool and a reproductive barrier less clear-cut than that suggested by the formal classification into two separate breeds.

From this perspective, crossing would not be an element foreign to selection, but could represent a zootechnical tool for bringing a line back toward certain type parameters or for fixing new chromatic expressions. However, this assertion will have to be supported, in any evidentiary setting, by verifiable genealogies and cannot be regarded as established solely on the basis of reported breeding practice.

4.5 Proposal for zootechnical reclassification

On the basis of the historical continuity and strong morphological overlap identified, the solution considered technically most coherent, within the scope of this party-appointed opinion, consists in the preparation of a single breed standard divided into varieties, while maintaining separate and transparent genealogical traceability.

Proposed breed	Variety	Summary description
Yorkshire Terrier	Classic	Subjects conforming to the traditional classic coloration: dark steel blue and tan/gold, according to the parameters of the reference standard.
Yorkshire Terrier	Color	Subjects belonging to the same morphological and genealogical matrix with colors differing from the Classic variety, to be classified and documented in chromatic subcategories.
Yorkshire Terrier	Biewer	Subjects with the typical pattern characterized by a significant presence of white and the tricolor combination white–black/blue–gold/tan, while maintaining the general morphological type of the breed.

This approach would not eliminate the selection of the different lines. On the contrary, it would allow it to be documented more transparently, distinguishing the varieties in the genealogical registers while maintaining a single breed matrix. The system should accurately record ancestry, matings between varieties, selection results and, where available, genetic information useful for traceability.

Conclusions

The comparative analysis of the standards examined leads to a series of mutually coherent technical considerations. First, the internal comparison within the Yorkshire Terrier demonstrates that the same breed may be recognized and judged according to standards that are not perfectly identical: FCI and AKC differ, for example, on the dental bite, while further differences concern the tail, grooming, color and the wording of health and functionality criteria.

Second, the case of the Biewer Terrier demonstrates that recognition of a population as an autonomous breed is not necessarily uniform across different organizational levels. The VDH, although a member of the FCI, nationally recognizes the Biewer Terrier and has its own standard, while the FCI does not recognize the breed at international level. In parallel, the UKC also recognizes the Biewer Terrier through its own standard, which presents differences from the VDH standard while unequivocally describing the same population.

Third, the morphological overlap between Yorkshire Terrier and Biewer Terrier, once color is neutralized, is extremely high. The two types share size, general structure, ears, eyes, limb structure, feet, topline, movement, coat texture and fall and a large part of their body proportions. The residual differences appear secondary compared with the number of shared characteristics.

The historical reconstruction contained in the VDH standard itself places the origin of the Biewer Terrier within a litter of purebred Yorkshire Terriers and identifies the presence of white markings as the initial characteristic around which subsequent selection was built. This element, read together with the persistent morphological proximity, constitutes the basis of the thesis supported in this opinion.

The party-appointed technical-zootechnical conclusion is therefore that Yorkshire Terriers and Biewer Terriers represent populations so closely connected by origin and phenotype that they can, in a technically sustainable manner, be traced back to the same breed matrix divided into varieties. From this perspective, color is not denied as a selective characteristic, but is brought back to the level of variety rather than being assumed, by itself, as the decisive element for breed separation.

Accordingly, as a model of zootechnical classification, a single Yorkshire Terrier breed with at least three varieties is proposed: Classic, Color and Biewer. Such an approach would allow selective programs

and chromatic identities to remain distinct without losing the genealogical and morphological continuity of the original population.

The evidentiary strength of this conclusion may be further reinforced through the acquisition of comparative pedigrees, historical genealogical reconstructions, mating data between the populations and, above all, population genetic or genomic studies capable of quantitatively measuring the degree of differentiation and genetic sharing among Yorkshire Terrier, Yorkshire Color and Biewer Terrier.

Technical and normative sources examined

- Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), Standard No. 86 – Yorkshire Terrier, English version 22.02.2012; valid official standard published on 10.11.2011.
- American Kennel Club (AKC), Official Standard of the Yorkshire Terrier, approved 10.07.2007, effective 01.10.2007.
- Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH), Standard des Biewer Terrier, Standard No. 990, publication of the valid standard 19.02.2024.
- United Kennel Club (UKC), Biewer Terrier – official breed standard (web consultation).
- Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH), Breed Specific Instructions / health and functional guidelines for breed evaluation (web consultation).
- Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), Standard No. 148 – Dachshund, used as a comparative reference for the variety system.
- Italian Wikipedia, “Yorkshire terrier”, used exclusively as a general-information and orientation source, not as a primary normative source.

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