

THE NORWICH HEAD

P.E. & D.E.

WHAT IS FOXY? . . . "Over the years too many people have been inclined to [mis-read the Standard], especially when it comes to the word 'foxy.' This word appears once . . . in the Standard, but it has been quoted and mis-quoted to such an extent that there are people who think that the whole dog should be fox like! The word is used in the description of the muzzle and even then is qualified by the addition of the words 'and strong,' and as the description continues by asking for a comparatively short muzzle to the length of skull, the word 'foxy' does become a bit anomalous in this context, as a fox has a muzzle which could be described by dog people as snipey and is certainly not short in relation to the rest of the head.

"Personally I have always thought that this description originated because breeders, trying to draw up the first Standard, were concerned that the head of the Norwich should be pointed and not square in muzzle and the use of the word 'foxy' was merely to indicate this."

FURNISHING . . . "Many people are fooled by the modern trend to excess furnishing, and one should always keep in mind that the Standard does ask for a smooth head, ears and muzzle, although with slight eyebrows and whiskers. We have had a few in the last year or two with this correct smooth appearance, only to have them criticised as being untypical, which just goes to show how far we had got away from the original concept of the breed."

LENGTH OF MUZZLE . . . "If the Standard is read correctly it can be seen that the muzzle should be one third less than a measurement from the occiput to the bottom of the stop, or if you take the length of muzzle as one part and length of skull from occiput to bottom of stop as another, the muzzle should be two thirds to the skull's three thirds. So here you have the correct Norwich head, with muzzle neither as short as a cat (a description which has been used about the Norwich head), nor as long as a Cairn, which has a head with these measurements of equal length."