



# Banbury-Bedrock Bull Terriers



## Ear Taping

Some puppies will need help with their ears at around three to four months of age. If your puppy carries his ears high or at half mast, they will probably go up on their own, or with a short one or two day taping. Most breeders begin taping a puppy's ears at three months if they are especially heavy or large and lie flat like a Labrador Retriever's ears. Since the puppy begins to lose his puppy teeth at around three and a half months of age, ears that are already standing may droop for a while but will usually stand again without assistance, once the teething period is over and the body is less stressed. If your pup's ears don't seem to be going up at all by age three months, consult your breeder. He will know, from past experience with the bloodlines, whether you should begin to tape or let it go for a while. Your breeder is the best person to do the ear taping, or refer you to another qualified person. There are as many ways to tape ears as there are breeders, and every Bull Terrier person you talk to will have a different opinion on the matter. We've tried several methods, but find the procedure outlined below to be simple and easy on the dog's ears:

**BUY:** Package of Dr. Scholl's Moleskin (as used on human feet, available at drug stores.) Make sure to get the lightweight type that is flannel-like on one side and sticky on the other. Also buy a roll of 3-M Nylon-type first aid tape, also available at the drug store. Nylon tape doesn't pull the hair off the ears when you remove it. Don't use regular adhesive tape! If you can't find the nylon tape, masking tape is a better alternative. If you use masking tape, name brands in 1/2 or 3/4 inch widths work best. You will also need some rubbing alcohol, a few cotton balls and several wooden matches with the heads cut off or Q-tips.

- (1) Clean the inside of the ear flap (NOT the ear canal) with alcohol dampened cotton balls. The object is to remove any dirt or oils that will keep the moleskin from sticking.
  - (2) Cut FOUR pieces of moleskin exactly the same size and shape. It might help to have a pattern. You want a shape that is approximately the same size and shape of the inner ear flap, but round off the corners. Generally, a four month old pup would require a triangle that is roughly 1-1/4 inches or so at the base and perhaps 2 inches on the other two sides.
  - (3) Cut your matches or Q-tips to a length of 1-1/2 inches or so. Allow three for each ear brace. Place them on the sticky part of one piece of moleskin so that they meet at the top and fan out at the bottom. Place another piece of moleskin fuzzy side down over the matches so as to sandwich them in between the two pieces of moleskin. You should have one side with the fuzzy material exposed, the other side should be sticky.
  - (4) Fit the moleskin "brace" into the ear. If it extends too far into the inner ear, cut some off the bottom. You don't need to support anything except the ear flap.
  - (5) Gently fold the two sides of the ear inward together so as to form a sort of cone. Using nylon tape, wrap ear snugly, but NOT TIGHT from the bottom to the tip, leaving an opening at the bottom and at the top for air circulation. Repeat on the other ear, even if it is standing.
  - (6) You should now have two cone-shaped "appendages" protruding from your dog's head. More likely than not, these will stick out to the sides, so you must stabilize them on top of the head to aid in proper ear set. Using more nylon tape (or you can use adhesive tape here) wrap around the base of one ear, cross the top of the dog's head, encircle the base of the other ear, then back again to the starting point.
- Repeat. You need to form a "bridge" at the base of the two ears (1/2 inch adhesive tape makes an excellent bridge) to hold them in the proper position on top of the head. With a small piece of tape, wrap around the bridge between the two ears to keep it from unraveling.
- (7) Leave this on from three to five days. Keep the ears free from water. Your dog may dig at the tapes at first but will usually leave them alone if you distract him with a special toy or goodie. Repeat the taping if necessary, but allow a rest of a few days between tapings if the ears appear sore.

Making certain that your dog is in good health and nutritionally fit will aid in ear development. A dog with a deficiency in his diet will have problems developing properly.