

BELGIAN TERVUREN

GROUP: Herding

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

This breed is an elegant, well-proportioned, medium-sized square dog. He has depth and solidity without bulkiness. Males should appear masculine while females should have a distinctly feminine look and be judged equally with the male. His majestic carriage and harmony of form gives the Belgian Tervuren the impression of elegant robustness. He is hardy, accustomed to living in the open air and built to resist inclement weather and drastic atmospheric variations.

SIZE:

Ideal male is 24 to 26 inches; female is 22 to 24 inches in height, measured at the withers. Dogs are to be penalized to the degree that they deviate from the ideal. **Disqualification: Males under 23 or over 27 inches and females under 21 or over 25 inches.** PROPORTIONS: Body is square; length measured from the point of shoulder to the point of the rump is approximately the same as the height of the dog. Females may be somewhat longer in body. Bone structure should be medium in proportion to height so that the dog is well-balanced, not being either spindly and leggy nor cumbersome and bulky.

COAT:

Coat hair should be rich and dense, giving good protection against wet and cold. The outer guard hairs of the coat must be long, close fitting, straight and abundant with a medium harsh texture, neither silky nor wiry. Wavy or curly hair is undesirable and to be penalized. The undercoat is very dense, varying, however, with the climate the dog is in. The hair on the head is short, as it is outside the ears and on the front part of the legs. The rear of the lower forelegs, from elbow to pastern is garnished by long hairs called feathering. Ear openings are protected by tufts of hair. The hair around the neck, especially on males, is long and abundant, forming a sort of collarette around the neck; there is a fringe of long hair down the back of the forearm; especially long and abundant hair trimming the breeches; long, heavy, and abundant hair on the tail, forming a plume. *The female rarely has as long or as ornamented a coat as the male. This disparity must not be a consideration when the female is judged against the male.* **Faults: Lack of sufficient undercoat to form a double coat; Wavy hair**

COLOR:

Body—rich fawn to russet mahogany with black overlay. The coat is double pigmented with the tip of each fawn hair blackened. The Belgian Tervuren characteristically becomes darker with age. On mature males, this blackening is pronounced on the shoulders, back, and rib section. **Patches of blackening are unacceptable and to be faulted. Serious Faults: Allowances should be made for females and young males, but the absence of blackening in mature dogs is a serious fault. Excessive charcoling, tending to a black saddle. Washed out, predominant color, such as cream or gray is to be severely penalized.** Chest—normally black, but may be a mixture of black and gray. A small to moderate white patch on the chest is permitted, not extending to the neck or breast. Face—black mask with ears mostly black. **Serious Fault: Face with complete absence of black. Frost or white on chin or muzzle is normal. Underparts of body, tail, and breeches are cream, gray, or light beige. Tail typically has a darker or black tip. Feet—tips of toes may be white; nail color may vary from black to transparent. Disqualification: solid black, solid liver; or any area of white except as specified on the chest, tips of toes, chin and muzzle.**

HEAD:

Finely chiseled, long but without exaggeration, and lean. Skull and muzzle are approximately the same length with, at most, a very slight advantage for the muzzle; all this gives the whole head a finished impression. Skull is medium width in proportion to the length of the head; forehead is more flat than round; occiput is not accentuated; in profile, the upper line of the skull is parallel to an imaginary line drawn from the muzzle. Muzzle is approximately equal in length to length of skull, narrowing gradually toward nose; upper line of muzzle is straight and is parallel to that imaginary line; mouth is well-split; when mouth is open, corners are well-drawn back and in line with the eyes; muzzle is well-chiseled under the eyes; stop is moderate; cheeks are clean and flat, although very muscular. **Faults: Too broad or too heavy a head or a too pointed, foxy head; Excessive, or lack of, stop.**

Eyes: Medium in size, neither prominent nor deep set; almond shaped; brown, preferably dark; look is direct, lively, intelligent, and questioning; eyelids are edged in black. **Faults: Very light or round eyes.**

Ears: High set, triangular, stiff, erect, height equal to width at base; base of the ear does not come below the center of the eye. **Disqualification: Hanging ears, as on a hound.**

Nose: Black with well-opened nostrils, without spots or discolored areas.

Bite: Full complement of strong, white teeth, evenly set, meeting in a scissors or level bite. **Fault: Overshot and undershot teeth; missing teeth. Disqualification: Undershot to the point that contact with the upper incisors is lost by two or more of the lower incisors.** Loss of contact caused by short center incisors in an otherwise correct bite is not considered undershot. Broken or discolored teeth should NOT be penalized.

BODY:

Powerful without heaviness; length, measured from point of shoulder to the end of the rump, is approximately equal to the height at the withers.; in bitches the length can go slightly beyond the height of the withers. Chest is not too broad, but in compensation, deep and inclined; thoracic cage is encircled by ribs which are arched in the upper part, but flat on the sides; lowest point of the brisket should reach the elbow, forming a smooth curve to the abdomen, which is moderately developed, neither tucked up nor paunchy. Loin section when viewed from above is relatively short, broad, and strong, but blending smoothly into the back.

Topline: Level, straight, and firm from withers to croup. Croup is medium long, sloping gradually to the base of the tail.

NECK:

Round, muscular, rather long and elegant, slightly arched and tapered from head to body. Skin fits well with no loose folds; withers are accentuated

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders are long, laid back 45 degrees, flat against the body, forming a right angle with the upper arm. Top of shoulder blades are roughly two thumbs width apart; Upper arms should move in a direction exactly parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body; Forearms are long and well-muscled; legs straight and parallel, perpendicular to the ground; bone is oval rather than round; pasterns short and strong, slightly sloped. Dewclaws may be removed; feet are rounded, cat-like, turning neither in nor out; toes curved close together, well-padded; strong nails.

HINDQUARTERS:

Powerful but not heavy; legs perpendicular to the ground, moving in the same plane as the forequarters; dog single tracks as speed increases; thighs broad and well-muscled; stifle long, broad, well-muscled, and moderately angulated, without exaggeration; hocks should be short, broad, and muscled—seen from the rear, they will be perfectly parallel to each other; rear pasterns are solid and short; dewclaws should be removed; hind feet are slightly oval with toes curved and very compact; dense and elastic pads; nails are black and strong.

Tail: Well set and of medium length, extending to the hocks; at ease, the dog carries it at the level of the hock, with the tip slightly curved toward the rear. In action, the dog raises it higher and accentuates the curve towards the tip, without at any time forming a hook or a deviation; tail is held without deviating from the center line.

MOVEMENT:

Lively and graceful, covering the maximum ground with minimum effort; always in motion, capable of working livestock all day; seemingly never tiring; shows ease of movement rather than hard, driving action; single tracks at a fast gait, both front and rear legs converging toward the center line of gravity of the dog; because he was developed as a herding dog, and because of his exuberant temperament, the Belgian Tervuren tends to move in circles around his owner rather than in a straight line, except when moved at a fast gait.

TEMPERAMENT:

In his relationship with humans he is observant and vigilant with strangers, but not apprehensive, showing no fear or shyness; neither does he show any viciousness by unwarranted or unprovoked attack; he must be

approachable, standing his ground and showing confidence to meet overtures without himself making them.
With those he knows well, he is very affectionate, eagerly desiring their attention and very possessive of it..

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard

Disqualifications:

Height over or under stated allowances

Bilateral or unilateral cryptorchid

Extreme viciousness or shyness

Undershot or overshot bit so that contact with two incisors is lost (Note: loss of contact caused by short center incisors shall not be judged as undershot in an otherwise correct bite)

Hanging or drooping ears

Solid white markings elsewhere than on tips of toes, chest, or frosting on muzzle

Albinism

Absence of or docked tail

Absence of black in one or more of the following points: ear bases, eyebrows, sides of muzzle, underjaw