

DOGUE DE BORDEAUX

GROUP: Working

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Dogue de Bordeaux is a well-balanced, massive, powerfully-built dog with a very muscular body and a short coat. The Dogue is somewhat low in stature with a huge head, furrowed by wrinkles, topped with small, pendant ears. The tail is thick at the base and tapering to the tip and is set and carried low. The breed is presented in a completely natural condition and should be evaluated equally for correct conformation, temperament, gait, and structural soundness.

SIZE:

23 ½ to 26 ½ inches for males and 22 ½ TO 25 ½ inches for females measured at withers. Males, at least 110 pounds; females, at least 99 pounds. All other things being equal, the larger dog should be given preference over the smaller

COAT:

Short, fine, and soft to the touch.

COLOR:

Solid color in any shade of fawn, ranging from mahogany to Isabella. Color on the ears is somewhat darker than that on the body. Some white patches are permitted on the chest and feet. Good pigmentation is preferred. Dogs may or may not be masked, using the following patterns:

Black mask. There may be slight black shading on the ears, neck, top of the body, and skull, except that the mask may not extend past the supraorbital ridges to the top skull. Black-masked dogs have black nose pigment.

Brown mask (formerly called “red mask” or “bistre”). Brown shading the same as for a black-masked dog, with brown nose pigment.

No mask (also formerly called “red mask” or “bistre”). The coat is fawn, with the skin appearing red. A dog with no mask should have a nose that is reddish or pink.

Faults: White on the tip of tail or on the front part of the legs above the pasterns.

Disqualifications: White on the head or body. Albinism

HEAD:

The massive head of the Dogue de Bordeaux is an essential breed characteristic. In males, the circumference of the skull taken at the widest point is roughly equal to the dog’s height at the withers. In females, the circumference may be slightly less. Viewed from the front and from above, the head forms a trapezoid. The longer topline of the skull and the shorter line of the underjaw form the parallel sides of the trapezoid. ***Faults: Short, round head; “Bulldog” head, that is flat skull and muzzle shorter than one-quarter of the head length.***

Disqualifications: Long, narrow head with insufficiently pronounced stop.

Skull: Large, slightly domed, and broad between the ears. The volume and shape of the skull are a result of the crucial development of the temporal bones, the supraorbital ridges, the zygomatic arches, and the spacing of the mandibles. There is a deep median furrow that diminishes in depth from the stop to the occiput. This stop is very deep and abrupt, almost at a right angle with the muzzle. Despite the depth of the stop, the forehead is wider than it is high.

Muzzle: Broad, thick, short-moderately obvious folds. Almost no taper to the muzzle; square when viewed from above; circumference of muzzle is equal to two-thirds the circumference of the skull; top line of the muzzle rises slightly from the stop to the nose, forming a very obtuse angle with the line of the forehead. Maximum length of the muzzle is equal to one-third of the total length of the head; minimum length is one-quarter of the length of the head. The ideal is somewhere between the two extremes. When the head is held horizontally, the end of the muzzle extends beyond a vertical line drawn from the tip of the nose. The

jaws are very broad and powerful. Lips are thick and somewhat pendulous. When mouth is closed, the upper lip hangs over the side of the lower jaw. The chin is well defined and must neither overlap the upper lip nor be covered by it. **Disqualifications: Muzzle longer than one-third head length; muzzle parallel to top line of the skull or downfaced.**

Eyes: Large but not protruding; oval; set well apart—at least twice the length of the eye opening. Color ranges from hazel to dark brown. Lighter colored eyes are acceptable but not preferred in dogs without a mask or dogs with red masks. Haw not visible; pigment of eye rims should match nose pigment.

Ears: Pendant and relatively small; set high, level with the upper line of the skull, accentuating the skull's width. At the base, ears are slightly raised in front and hanging along the cheek; tip is slightly rounded. When pulled toward the eye, the ear should not extend past the inside corner of the eye. Color on ears is slightly darker than that of the body. **Faults: Protruding eyes**

Nose: Black on black-masked dogs; brown on brown-masked dogs; reddish pink on unmasked dogs; broad and well-pigmented with well-opened nostrils. Uprturned nose is permissible, but the tip of the nose must not be set back deeply between the eyes like that of an English Bulldog.

Bite: Full complement of teeth--large, strong, white, evenly spaced. The incisors are well-aligned, particularly the lower set, which forms an apparently straight line. An undershot bite is characteristic of the breed with the inside of the lower incisors extending in front of the upper incisors at least ¼ inch and no more than ¾ inch. Teeth are not visible when the mouth is closed.

Faults: Incisors always visible when mouth is closed. Disqualifications: Wry mouth; not undershot; Canines always visible when mouth is closed. Tongue protruding when mouth is closed.

NECK:

Thick, muscular; almost cylindrical with very little taper from shoulder to head; slightly arched at the crest, blending smoothly into well-laid-back shoulders; slight transverse furrow separating the neck from the head; average circumference of the neck is almost equal to that of the skull; well defined dewlap starts at throat level and forms folds down to the chest. **Faults: Excessive dewlap.**

BODY:

Chest is deep and broad; ribs well sprung from the spine and then flattening to form a deep body extending below the elbows. The topline inclines very slightly downward from well-developed withers to a broad, muscular back. Short, broad loin blends into a moderately sloping croup. The flank is somewhat tucked up and firm. **Faults: Barrel chest; roached back.**

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulders powerful and heavily muscled. The shoulder blade is well laid back and joins the upper arm to form an angle just slightly greater than 90 degrees. The forelegs are heavily boned and very muscular. The elbows are set on a plane parallel to the body, neither close to the body nor turned out. Viewed from the front, the forelegs are perpendicular to the ground or may, especially in a dog with a very broad chest, incline slightly inward. The pasterns are short, powerful, and slightly sloping when viewed in profile. Viewed from the front, the pasterns are either straight or may turn slightly outward in compensation where the foreleg inclines inward around a wide chest. **Faults: Toeing inward; extreme outward toeing; fiddle front.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Powerful but slightly less broad than the forequarters. The angulation of the hindquarters is in balance with the angulation of the forequarters. The thighs are well-developed with thick, well defined muscles. Stifles may turn slightly outward, and hocks may turn slightly inward. Lower thighs are muscular and short. Rear pasterns are sinewy and well let down with the angle of the hock moderately open. Viewed from behind, the rear pasterns are parallel. **Faults: Flat thighs; straight stifles; straight hock; sickle hock; cow hock or barrel hock.**

Feet: Feet are large, oval, strong, and tight, with hind feet slightly longer than front feet. Pads are well developed, with strong nails, preferably pigmented. Despite its weight, the Dogue de Bordeaux is well up on its toes.

Tail: Uncut, very thick at the base, tapering to the tip; set low at the base of the croup. When the dog is at ease, the tail is carried low, just reaching to the hock. When the dog is moving or excited, the tail is carried level with the back or only slightly above level, but never over the back or curled. ***Disqualifications:***
Kink or screw tail; atrophied tail

MOVEMENT:

Free, smooth, powerful. When viewed from the side, reach and drive should indicate maximum use of the dog's moderate angulation. As the gait quickens, the head tends to drop and the feet to converge toward the center line of balance but do not cross over. This breed is capable of great speed over short distances.
Faults: Stilted movement; serious rolling in the rear.

TEMPERAMENT:

Natural guardian; vigilant and courageous without being aggressive; very affectionate; devoted to its master; excellent with children. ***Faults:*** Overly aggressive; timid
Disqualifications: Viciousness, marked shyness or cowardliness.

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:

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid

Viciousness or extreme shyness or timidity

Long, narrow head with insufficiently pronounced stop

Muzzle longer than one-third head length

Muzzle parallel to top line of the skull or downfaced

Wry mouth

Mouth not undershot;

Canines always visible or tongue always protruding when mouth is closed

Kink or screw tail or atrophied tail

White on the head or body

Any identifiable disabling defect

Albinism.