

SAINT BERNARD

GROUP: Working

SIZE:

Males, minimum 27½ inches at withers with 30 inches being ideal; females, minimum 25½ inches at withers with 28 inches being ideal; one inch taller at withers is acceptable. A Saint Bernard must be massive, powerful and well boned with hard, firm muscles and moderately dry skin. Females are of finer and more delicate build. Weight should be proportionate to size.

COAT:

Dense, insulating double coat with thick outer coat, close lying and resilient without being coarse; outer coat is straight but some waviness over the loin and pelvis is acceptable; undercoat is short, very dense, and soft. Two coat types: shorthaired and longhaired.

Shorthaired: Coat is short over entire body except that hair on thighs and tail is longer and thicker; longer coat at base of tail gradually shortens toward tip.

Longhaired: Coat is medium length except that it is longer, but not abundant, on ears, neck, back of legs, brisket and lower chest, back of thighs, and tail; a ruff should be formed around the neck; feathering on forelegs and belly; coat on thighs and tail is very bushy.

Trimming is allowed on feet and stray hairs may be trimmed for neatness, but neither the natural appearance of the coat nor the outline of the dog should be altered by trimming.

Faults: Open or standoff coat; excessive hair length; soft coat.

COLOR:

All shades of red and white; brindle and white; or any shade of brown and white; red and brown-yellow colors are of entirely equal value. The following white markings are required: white chest, white feet and tip of tail, white nose band, and white collar or white spot on the nape of the neck. The following white markings are very desirable: white collar, white muzzle, white blaze between the eyes, white belly and legs, and white on the lower half of the tail. A dark mask around the eyes and dark color on the ears are highly desirable, but their absence is not a fault. **Fault: Black color anywhere except on the ears and mask around the eyes. Disqualifications: Solid-colored dog; absence of white; black and white dog; albinism.**

HEAD:

Large, imposing, and well chiseled, nearly as deep as it is long and wider than long; viewed from the side, the ratio of length of skull to muzzle is 2:1; median furrow should extend from occiput to nose with furrow deepening from occiput to stop where it is strongly marked, then becomes wider and shallow running down the bridge of muzzle. **Serious fault: Absence of median furrow.**

Skull: Massive, broad, and gently arched laterally and longitudinally; broadest at the very prominent (zygonmatic) cheekbone arch; moderately developed occiput; supraorbital arches are strongly developed and form a nearly right angle with the horizontal axis of the head; when dog is alert, skin above eyes will form wrinkles, constituting the proper Saint Bernard expression. **Serious fault: Excessive skin on the head.**

Muzzle: Broad, blunt, and deep with no taper in any direction; relatively short, about one-half length of skull, and deeper than wide with a ratio of 11:8; width of muzzle is approximately equal to length; viewed in profile, bridge of muzzle is straight; upper jaw flews are strongly developed and slightly overhanging, forming a gentle curve into lower edge. Lips are black. **Faults: Roman nose, lumps on bridge of nose, folds of skin on top or sides of muzzle, curved bridge of muzzle. Serious faults: Absence of median groove on muzzle; flews hanging more than 1½ inches below lower edge of underjaw; flews too sharply cut back.**

Teeth: Complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth meeting in scissors bite; level bite is acceptable, but not preferred; black roof of mouth is desirable.

Nose: Very substantial, broad, with wide open nostrils; in profile, the top of the nose does not rise above the bridge of the muzzle; nose leather is always black. *Fault*: Incomplete nose pigment. **Disqualification: Nose color other than black.**

Eyes: Medium size and dark, set more to front than sides; set moderately deep; intelligent, friendly expression; lower eyelids do not normally close completely; eyelids have a slight fold causing the eye to have a diamond-shaped appearance. **Faults: Light eyes; very visible haw; exposed lachrymal (tear) glands.** **Serious faults: Abnormal function of eyelids or eyelashes; bulging, round eyes.** **Disqualification: Blue eyes.**

Ears: Medium sized, fairly high set, drop ears; stand slightly away from head, dropping with a sharp bend to the side and cling to the head without a turn; tender flap forms a rounded triangle; slightly elongated toward the point; front edge lies firmly to the head, whereas the back edge may stand somewhat away from the head, especially when dog is at attention; strongly developed ear base gives the skull a square, broader, and much more expressive appearance. **Serious fault: Low-set ears.**

Lips: Black.

NECK:

Extremely muscular and thick, slightly arched, and, when alert or at attention, carried erect; otherwise, carried horizontally or slightly downward; junction of head and neck is distinctly marked by an indentation; moderate length, but appears short due to its extreme thickness; dewlap of throat and neck is well pronounced. **Fault: Excessive dewlap or neck or throat.**

BODY:

Massive and muscular, but sufficiently agile to navigate mountainous terrain; properly proportioned, the Saint Bernard is square with the body (measured from posternum to point of buttocks) equal to height (measured from the withers to the ground).

Topline: Inclines very slightly downward from well-developed withers to a very broad and level back, merging imperceptibly into root of tail. **Faults: Sloping backline; roach, sway or long back.**

Loin: Short, broad and so distinctly muscular that there is a well-defined break between the muscles of loin and belly.

Croup: Slightly sloping. **Fault: Flat or steep croup.**

Chest: Very well arched, moderately deep, not reaching below the elbows. **Faults**: Slab-sidedness, narrow or shallow chest.

FRONT AND REAR QUARTERS:

Muscular and moderately angulated; flat shoulder blades approximately equal in length to the upper arms; tips of shoulder blades are fairly close together.

Foreleg length (measured from point of elbow to ground) is equal to half the dog's height; upper arms are very powerful and extraordinarily muscular with straight and strong lower leg; viewed from front, forelegs are parallel and moderately wide; viewed from side, pasterns are short, powerful and slightly sloping. Dewclaws are preferred removed. **Faults: Excessive or lack of adequate angulation.**

Hindlegs have hocks of moderate angulation in balance with angulation of forequarters; viewed from the rear, when dog is standing, the short, thick rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other. All dewclaws should be removed. **Faults: Cowhocks; open hocks; sickle hocks.** **Serious fault: Lack of muscle mass.**

Feet: Broad, with strong toes, moderately closed, and with rather high knuckles

Tail: A natural extension of topline, the tail starts broad and powerful and is long, very heavy, and ends in a powerful tip; hangs straight down in repose, turning gently upward in the lower third; often carried with the end slightly bent and therefore hangs down in the shape of an “f;” in action, all dogs carry the tail more or less turned upward. ***Serious faults: Tail carried vertically, curled, or tucked between the legs.***

MOVEMENT:

When trotting, the gait is effortless, smooth, powerful and well coordinated, showing moderate reach in front and similar moderation behind. When moving, the dog’s head moves slightly forward and downward, while the backline remains level with only a slight flexing to indicate suppleness. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward the centerline of balance. It is recommended that dogs be shown on a loose lead and moved at a moderate speed to reflect true gait.

TEMPERAMENT:

A gentle giant; friendly and eager to please; affectionate with the family; typically never aggressive with other dogs regardless of sex.

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:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Deviation of more than one inch in height.

Overbite or under bite.

Nose color other than black.

Solid colored dog.

Absence of white.

Black and white dog.

Albinism.

Blue eyes.

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid (except when neutered).