

ATIBORDEAUX





«The Dogue de Bordeaux »

Standard and comments

FCI-Standard N° 116 / 30 .06. 1995 / GB

TRANSLATION : Tim TAYLOR and Raymond TRIQUET.
Revised by Jennifer Mulholland 2007.

ORIGIN : France.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD : 14.04.1995.

UTILIZATION : Guard, defence and dissuasion.

CLASSIFICATION F.C.I.:

Group 2 Pinscher and Schnauzer-Molosoid breeds-

Swiss mountain and Cattle Dogs.

Section 2.1 Molosoid breeds. Without working trial.

The Jerusalem model was adopted in Jerusalem in June 1987 by the General Assembly of the F.C.I.. It was proposed by Dr PASCHOUD, chairman of the FCI standards commission. It was in fact the 1971 standard of the Dogue de Bordeaux about which Pr QUEINNEC in France and Dr. PASCHOUD in SWITZERLAND were enthusiastic

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY :

The dogue de Bordeaux is one of the most ancient French breeds, probably a descendant of the Alans and, in particular, the alan vautre of which Gaston Phebus (or Febus), Count of Foix, wrote in the 14th century, in his Livre de Chasse that "he holds his bite stronger than three sighthounds". The word "dogue" appeared at the end of the 14th century.

In the middle of the 19th century these ancient dogues were hardly renowned outside the region of Aquitaine. They were used for hunting large game such as boar, for fighting (often codified), for the guarding of houses and cattle and in the service of butchers. In 1863 the first French dog show took place in Paris in the Jardin d'Acclimatation. The Dogues de Bordeaux were entered under their present name. There have been different types: The Toulouse type, the Paris type and the Bordeaux type, which is the origin of today's Dogue. The breed, which had suffered greatly during the two world wars, to the point of being threatened with extinction after the Second World War, got off to a fresh start in the 1960's.

The word « dogue » was an insult (French Dogs!)

XVth century : « les dogues d'Angleterre » (dogues from England). This was repeated in all dictionaries. XIVth century : Gaston PHEBUS described:

- Alans gentils (meaning « noble »)
- Alans vautres (hunting the wild boar)
- Alans de boucherie (Bulldogs of the time)



1st standard (“Caractère des vrais dogues”) in Pierre MEGNIN, Le Dogue de Bordeaux, 1896.

2nd standard in J. KUNSTLER, Etude critique du Dogue de Bordeaux, 1910.

3rd standard by Raymond TRIQUET, with the collaboration of Vet. Dr. Maurice LUQUET, 1971.

4th standard reformulated according to Jerusalem model (FCI) by Raymond TRIQUET, with the collaboration of Philippe SEROUIL, President of the French Dogue de Bordeaux Club and its Committee, 1993.

Precisions were added in 2007 by Raymond TRIQUET (Honorary President of the SADB),

Sylviane TOMPOUSKY (President of the SADB) and

Philippe SÉROUIL (committee member of the SADB).



GENERAL APPEARANCE

Typical concave lined brachycephalic molossoid. The Dogue de Bordeaux is a very powerful dog, with a very muscular body yet retaining a harmonious general outline. It is built rather close to the ground, the distance sternum-ground being slightly less than the depth of the chest. Stocky, athletic and imposing, it has a very dissuasive aspect.

The FCI standard says that the Dogue de Bordeaux is a “concave-lined molossoid» “Molossoid” dogs (Pierre MEGNIN’s classification, 1897) have a “massive body, rather low to ground”. “Concaviligne” (concave- lined, BARON) animals show a concave outline (not only the head but also the body). The skull is broad, the muzzle turned up, the topline hollow, the “extremities” (paws, tail, tip of muzzle) are thick, the feet turn out and the skin is thick.



CONCAVE (# CONVEX # STRAIGHT) : Not only the head but the whole body. feet have a natural tendency to turn out.

BRACHYCEPHALIC means head short and wide and thick. Imagine a dog in plasticine. To make it shorter, you make it thicker. Likewise a brachymorphic animal is short but also wide and thick.

DISSUASIVE (# vicious) The dogue by its appearance is a deterrent.

MOLOSSOÏD (Pierre MEGNIN) the built of the Molossian Dogs Pierre MEGNIN had probably seen in the Bristish Museum as opposed to « lupoid » (like a wolf (*lupus*)) « braccoïd » (like a braque) and « graioïd » (like a greyhound).

Yet retaining a HARMONIOUS general outline (to avoid exaggeration).

HARMONIOUS = « pleasantly arranged » (O.E.D.).

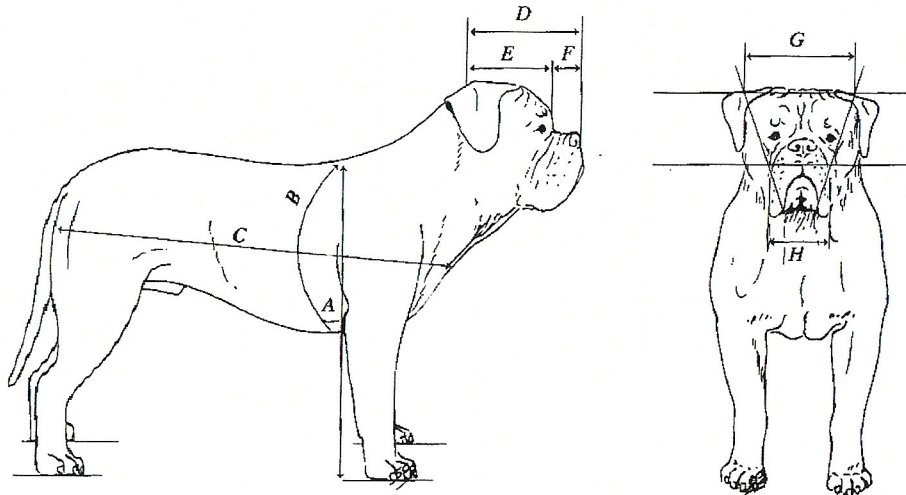
HARMONIC (Baron) = all the parts of the body conform to each other and to the whole.

A harmonic dog is: + = convex, slender, tall (greyhound) or - =concave, stocky, small (Bulldog) or 0 = straight, medium proportions, medium size and weight (Setter).

The bulldog is harmonic, not harmonious. The Dogue de Bordeaux is a bit long in the body (11 : 10) to be perfectly harmonic. If one feature is exaggerated the dog is no longer « harmonic » but becomes a monster.

| | OUTLINE | PROPORTIONS | SIZE & WEIGHT | |
|------------------|---------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| HARMONIC ANIMALS | + | + | + | Greyhound |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | Setter |
| | - | - | - | Bulldog |

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS



The length of the body, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock, is superior to the height at the withers, in the proportion of 11/10.

The depth of the chest is more than half the height at the withers.

DEPTH OF CHEST: from the top of shoulder - the top of the shoulder blade to the sternum.

HEIGHT AT THE WITHERS or size, a vertical line from the top of the shoulder blade to the ground.

POINT OF SHOULDER: summit of the scapular-humeral angle.



POINT OF BUTTOCK:
Strictly speaking, the horse, the dog have no « buttock ». When we refer to the "buttock", we mean the rear edge of the thigh. The point of buttock is the rear part of the ischium. We can easily feel this « point ».

N.B. a straight line from the point of shoulder to the point of buttock in dogs is not horizontal but slightly oblique (slightly rising from the point of shoulder to the point of buttock)

« The bigger the better »
to be avoided.

The maximum length of the muzzle is equal to one third of the length of the head

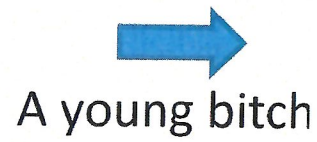
The minimum length of the muzzle is equal to one quarter of the length of the head.

In the male, the perimeter of the skull corresponds more or less to the height at the withers

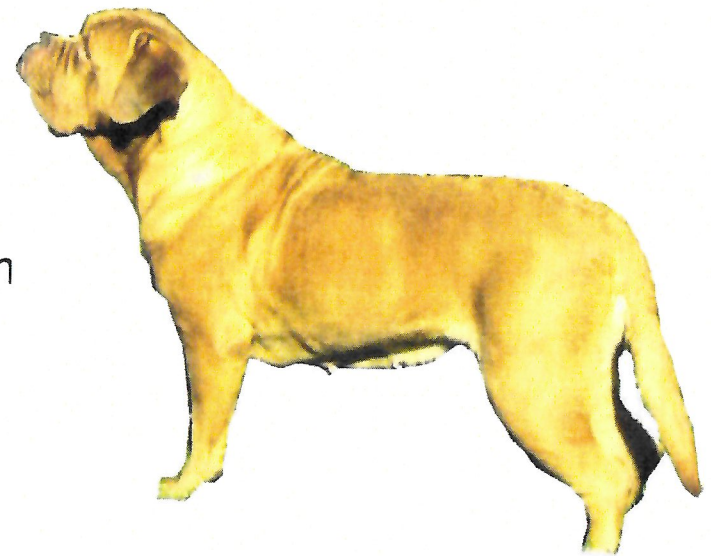
Silhouette



An adult dog



A young bitch



A 3 month old puppy



A young dog



BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

An ancient fighting dog, the Dogue de Bordeaux is gifted for guarding, which it assumes with vigilance and great courage but without aggressiveness. A good companion, very attached to its master and very affectionate. Calm, balanced with a high stimulus threshold.

The male normally has a dominant character.

DISQUALIFYING FAULT:

Aggressive or overly shy.

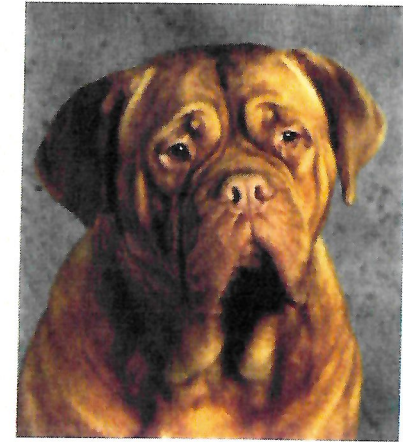
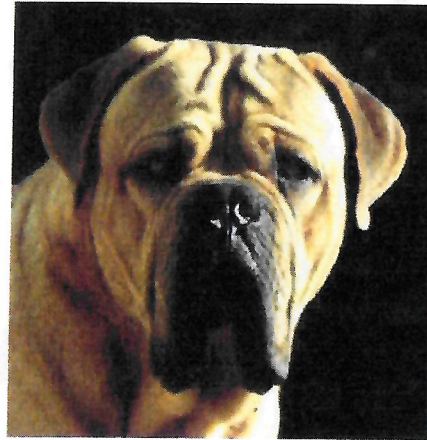
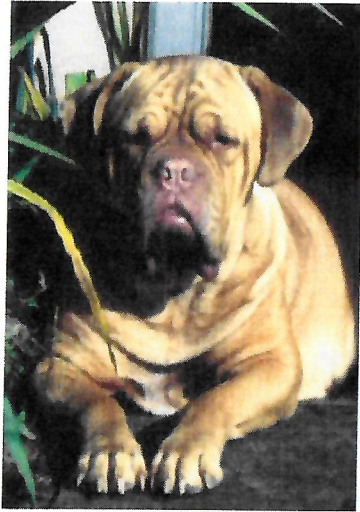


First mentioned in July 1995: « Stimulus threshold » : (Reizschwelle, seuil absolu de réponse) : »The strength of a stimulus which just results in a measurable characteristic response » (Armin HEYMER).

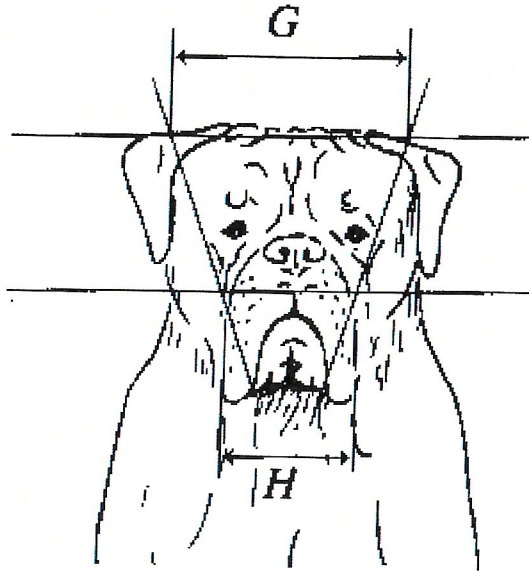
A low stimulus threshold means that the excitability is great. (The « stimulus » being a noise, a cry, a movement, a provocation, etc.).

The Dogue de Bordeaux is like a steam engine : it slowly gets up to pressure (il monte lentement en pression).

The Head



HEAD



The perimeter of the head almost corresponds to the height at withers. It can, therefore, be slightly less or slightly more. This means that one must not select heads having a perimeter exceeding the height at withers by 20% on the pretext that they are spectacular. They are monstrosities.

Voluminous, angular, broad, rather short, trapezoid when viewed from above and in front. The longitudinal axes of the skull and of the bridge of nose are convergent (towards the front). The head is furrowed with symmetrical wrinkles, each side of the median groove. These deep ropes of wrinkle are mobile depending on whether the dog is attentive or not. The wrinkle which runs from the inner corner of the eye to the corner of the mouth is typical. If present, the wrinkle running from the outer corner of the eye to either the corner of the mouth or the dewlap should be discreet.

FAULT:

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on the health and welfare of the dog.

SEVERE FAULTS:

Disproportioned head (too small or exaggeratedly voluminous).
Swollen fold (roll) behind the nose. Important fold around the head (like a "hose pipe").

DISQUALIFYING FAULT:

Long, narrow head with insufficiently pronounced stop, with a muzzle measuring more than a third of the total length of the head (lack of type in head).



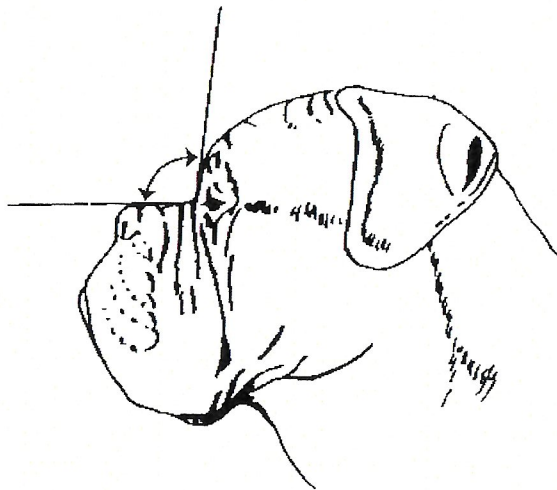
Good trapezoid head



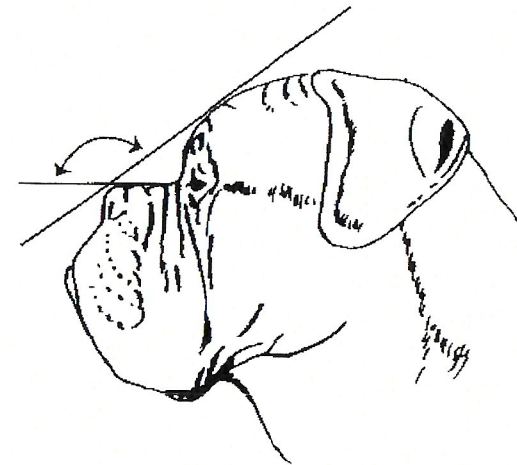
Good head seen in profile



Sticking-out ears



Stop forming an almost right angle (95° to 100°)



The muzzle forms a very obtuse angle open upwards with the upper line of the skull.



Photo 1 shows an attentive dog, with beautiful expression. Wrinkles are typical. The eyes are of good colour. The nostrils are correct. The lines of skull and muzzle are typical (they converge).

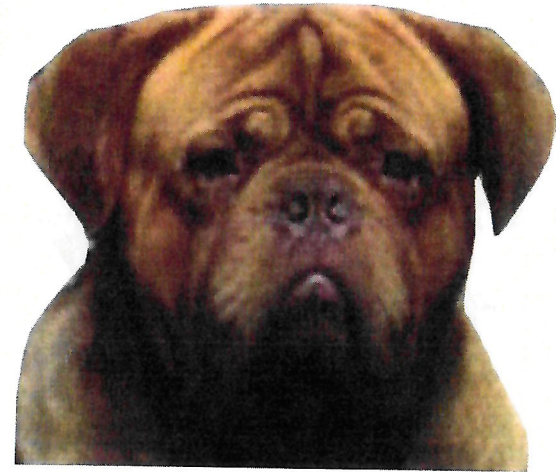


Photo 2 shows a dog from the front, the head is trapezoidal, wrinkles are correct, the cheeks are free from folds and wrinkles



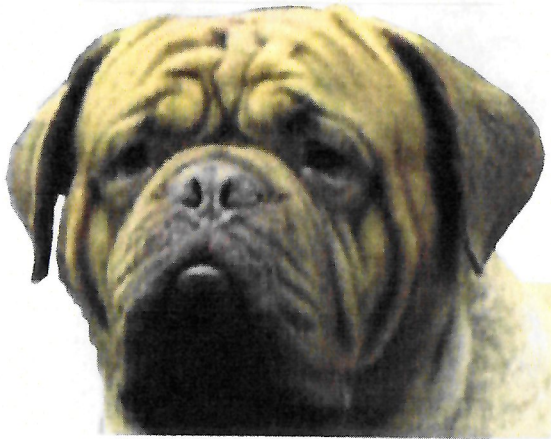
Photo 3 shows a dog in profile, the lines of the head are typical, the eyes are of good colour and shape, good overall expression, wrinkles are correct, the wrinkle that goes from the outer edge of the eye to the commissure of the lips is discreet.



Photo 4 shows a dog, with good expression. The lines of the head are typical. The eyes are of good colour and good shape. Wrinkles are correct, they seem a bit pronounced because the dog is attentive.



CONCLUSION :
The four heads are excellent



↑ **Photo 5:** Head, front view, looks slightly too rounded. Wrinkles are quite important, especially in the eye area with a loose lower eyelid. The wrinkle that goes from the outer corner of the eye to the corner of the lips is relatively thick.

CONCLUSION :
These heads cannot receive an excellent rating.

Photo 6: The head shape is quite similar to the dog in photo n° 5 but wrinkles are heavier, → thicker.



Photo 8: The head does not fit within a trapezium. The lower lip is a little loose; the cheek is relatively flat, whereas the standard says: prominent cheeks are a result of a strong muscle development. The thick wrinkle from the outer corner of the eye goes beyond the corner of the lips to get lost into the dewlap →



← **Photo 7:** Again, the head has a rounded shape. The cheek is relatively flat. The wrinkle that goes from the outer corner of the eye to the corner of the lips is thick; it really damages the expression.





← **Photo 9 :** The length ratio skull/ muzzle is correct. The topline of the muzzle is almost parallel to the topline of the skull (the standard says: in relation to the upper region of the skull, the line of the muzzle forms a very obtuse angle upwards) A thick wrinkle round the brows extends to the corner of the lips.

Remember: A muzzle parallel to the topline of the skull or descending is a disqualifying fault.



Photo 10: The Line of muzzle goes slightly downward. The wrinkle starting from the inner corner of the eye is very pronounced. An unusual wrinkle from the middle of the forehead to the external angle of the eye. The cheek has a double fold where there should be no wrinkle or only a slight wrinkle.



Photo 12: The lines of the head are parallel, the dog lacking stop and the ear is located at the back of the head, the lower eyelid is loose.



Photo 11: The length of the muzzle is 1/5. An extremely heavy fold crosses the cheek. In relation to the head, the ear is set a little too high and it is too broad.

CONCLUSION : These heads are not typical.



CRANIAL REGION: Skull

In the male: the perimeter of the skull measured at the level of its greatest width corresponds roughly to the height at the withers.

In bitches: it may be slightly less.

Its volume and shape are the consequences of the very important development of the temporals, supra-orbital arches, zygomatic arches and the spacing of the branches of the lower jaw. The upper region of the skull is slightly convex from one side to the other. The frontal groove is deep, diminishing towards the posterior end of the head. The forehead dominates the face but does not overhang it. However it is still wider than high.

Stop: Very pronounced, almost forming a right angle with the muzzle (95° to 100°).

FAULT: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on the health and welfare of the dog

SEVERE FAULTS: flat skull



Flat skull. The picture shows an overhanging forehead.

FACIAL REGION: Nose

Broad, well opened nostrils, well pigmented according to the colour of the mask. Uprturned nose permissible but not if it is set back towards the eyes.

FAULT:



Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on the health and welfare of the dog.



Closed nostrils



SEVERE FAULT:

Excessive shortness of breath, rasping

DISQUALIFYING FAULT:

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

FACIAL REGION: Muzzle

Powerful, broad, thick, but not fleshy below the eyes, rather short, upper profile very slightly concave, with moderately obvious folds. Its width hardly decreasing towards the tip of the muzzle, when viewed from above it has the general shape of a square. In relation to the upper region of the skull, the line of the muzzle forms a very obtuse angle upwards. When the head is held horizontally the tip of the muzzle, truncated, thick and broad at the base, is in front of a vertical tangent to the anterior face of the nose. Its perimeter is almost two thirds of that of the head. Its length varies between one third and minimum one quarter of the total length of the head, from the nose to the occipital crest. The limits stated (maximum one third and minimum one quarter of the total length of the head) are permissible but not sought after, the ideal length of the muzzle being between these two extremes.

SEVERE FAULT:

Bulldog hypertype (... , muzzle measuring less than a quarter of the total length of the head ...)

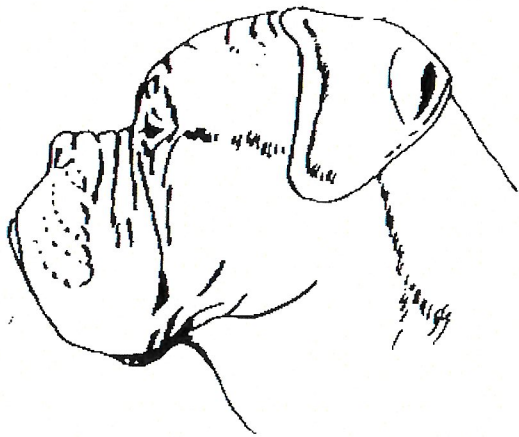
DISQUALIFYING FAULTS :

...muzzle measuring more than a third of the total length of the head (lack of type in head).

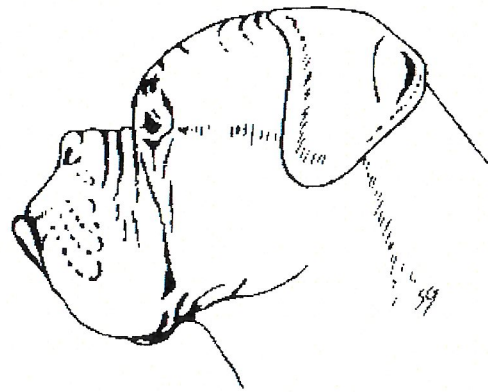
Muzzle parallel to the top line of the skull or downfaced, Roman nose (convex).



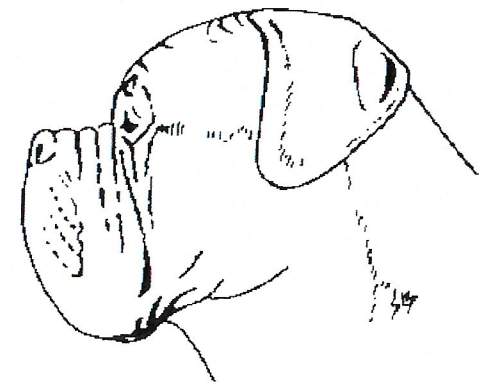
Downfaced, too long muzzle



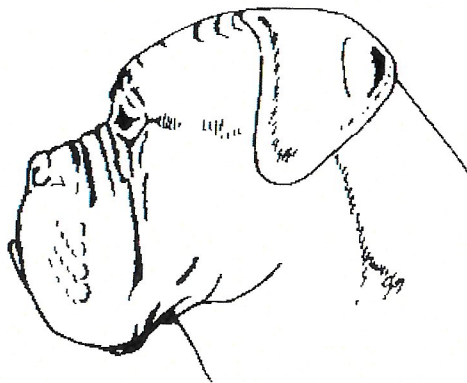
Good head seen in profile



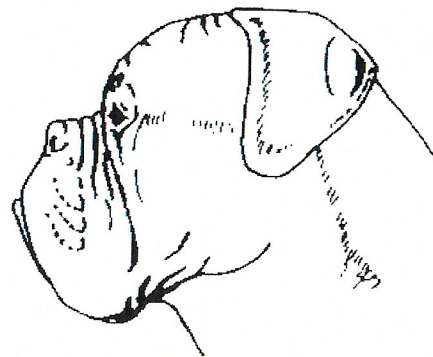
Exaggerated prognathism



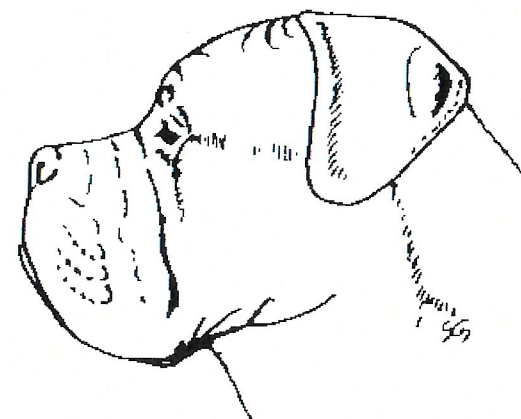
Jaws of equal length



Bridge of the nose almost parallel with the upper line of the skull



Bulldoggy head, slightly too short muzzle with padded bridge.



Long muzzle with insufficiently pronounced stop.



Photo 1 shows a typical muzzle, powerful, with good length, not too thick below the eyes; the lips form a typical wide inverted V. Nostrils are well opened. The chin is clearly visible.



Photo 2 shows a dog With too short a muzzle, less than a quarter of the length of the head

the standard stipulates that “the limits (maximum one third and minimum one quarter of the length of the head) are admitted but not desirable. Hunting dogs muzzles are undesirable as well as bulldoggy faces

Photo 3 shows a dog with a narrow skull and small eyes, pinched nostrils and pendulous chops.

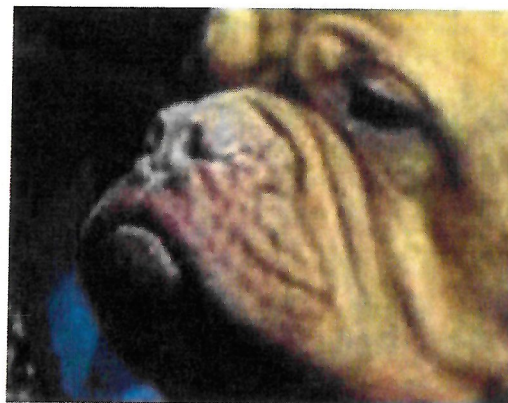
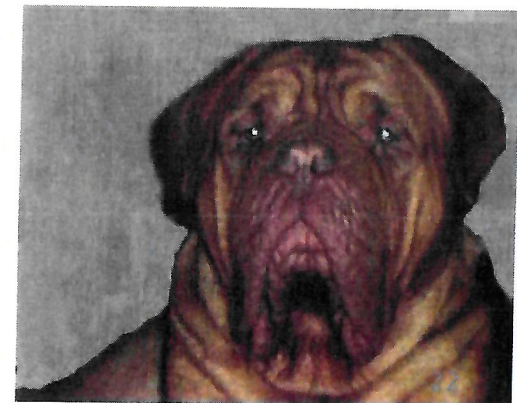


Photo 4 shows a dog with a bad muzzle upper line and lips forming an inverted U. Lips forming a wide inverse U are not typical in the Dogue de Bordeaux but they are in the English Bulldog.



FACIAL REGION: Jaws

Jaws powerful, broad. Undershot (the undershot condition being a characteristic of the breed). The back of the lower incisors is in front of and not in contact with the front face of the upper incisors.

The lower jaw curves upwards. The chin is well marked and must neither overlap the upper lip exaggeratedly nor be covered by it.

SEVERE FAULT:

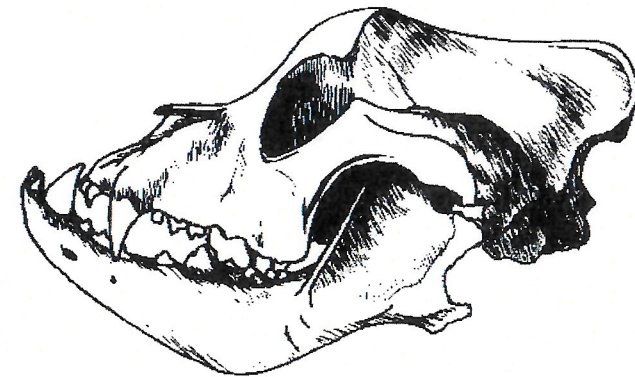
Important lateral deviation of the lower jaw.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

Twisted jaw.

Mouth not undershot.

Shows a dog with an insufficient chin and probably not undershot



Correct undershot jaws with good curve of the lower jaw.



FACIAL REGION: Teeth

Strong, particularly the canines. Lower canines set wide apart and slightly curved. Incisors well aligned especially in the lower jaw where they form an apparently straight line.

Excellent row of incisors

The « corner » incisors may be very strong and curved or hooked, like canines. They are said to be caniniform (normal in Dogue)

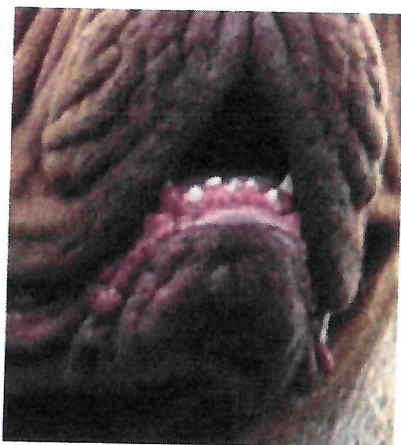
Remember: In dogs with jaws of equal length , the tip of the lower canine is lodged between the upper corner and the upper canine. In undershot dogs, it is situated slightly forward.



Incisors constantly visible.

SEVERE FAULT:

Incisors constantly visible when the mouth is closed. Very small incisors, unevenly set.



Tiny and badly aligned incisors (called « pearls »).



Tongue constantly visible



Lateral deviation of the lower jaw.



DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

Mouth not undershot.

Canines constantly visible when the mouth is closed.

Tongue constantly hanging out when the mouth is closed.

Hanging Tongue Syndrome is a condition when a dog's tongue constantly hangs out of his mouth. The dog is unable to bring his tongue in.

This could be due to a mouth or jaw injury, or deformities of the mouth or teeth, among other things.





Comments on the standard

The standard is a methodical description of the archetype, which means the ideal model. Please read and reread the standard. Each word is important.

The lack of P1 or M3 has no importance at all

Certainly, the standard does not describe all the features of the dog. Thus, in the standard of the Dogue de Bordeaux, nothing is said about missing teeth. Should we conclude that the set of teeth must be complete or on the contrary that missing teeth are of no importance? The Dogue de Bordeaux is a French breed and should be evaluated as such (and not the English way by only checking the front bite). If two or three premolars are missing, the fault is not so important in our Molossian dog. But if 6 or more are missing the judge should be severe. A dog with so many missing teeth should not be eligible for championship titles!

Incisors: very small incisors set irregularly in the gums constitute a fault.

FACIAL REGION: Lips

Upper lip thick, moderately pendulous, retractile. When viewed in profile it shows a rounded lower line. It covers the lower jaw on the sides. In front the edge of the upper lip is in contact with the lower lip, then drops on either side thus forming an inverted wide V.

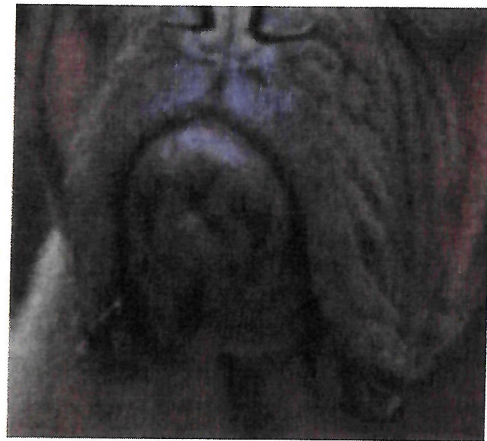


Photo 2 the lips form an inverted U.



Photo 1 the lips form a typical wide inverted V.



Photo 3 the lips form an inverted U and the upper lips are heavy and drooping.

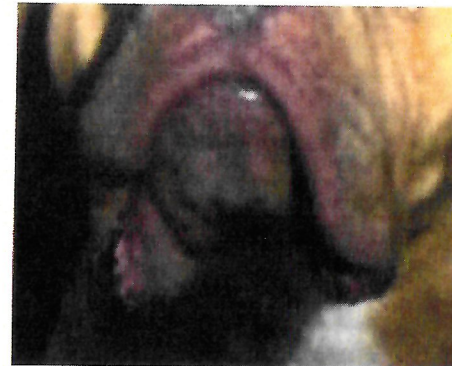


Photo 4 the lips form a V with an acute angle. This is not typical and this dog is probably not undershot



Photo 5 the lower lip is prominent in too long and narrow a face



You must prefer lips which, seen from the front, form a wide inverted V (neither a closed angle as in the Neapolitan mastiff nor a U as in the Bulldog).



Photo 6 This dog shows its folded tongue. This not typical.



FACIAL REGION: Cheeks

Prominent, due to the very strong development of the muscles

Normally free from wrinkles
and folds



Comments on the standard wrinkle and expression

A typical head is powerful, trapezoid (this seems to be disappearing), with the expression of a sphinx conveyed by the eyes set wide apart, the well defined lower jaw and the inverted V shaped lips.

The muzzle and skull are wrinkled but must not display profound, sweating furrows nor bloated folds. We have already seen a fold which completely surrounded the foreface.

For the continuity and the health of the breed, hypertypes must not be preferred nor awarded first placements.



Comments on the standard wrinkle and expression

Adhering to the standard is sufficient to avoid drifting toward exaggerated types. Judges are required not to award a CAC or a CACIB (which means not to allow a specimen to become a Champion) to Dogues de Bordeaux displaying:

- In the middle of the stop, a deep indentation and a nose set backward with brows overhanging the face. According to the standard, the forehead dominates the face, it does not overhang it.
- A very thick fold of skin from the outer corner of the eye to the corner of the lips, across the cheek. There can be a discreet wrinkle across the cheek, not a “roll”
- A bloated skin fold from the inner corner of the eye to the the lips. One or two wrinkles are normal at this place, not bloated folds.
- A swollen roll behind the nose leather.

A very important skin fold from over the eye to the corner of the lips.



These heads deserve to be described as :



Insufficient wrinkle.



Would be excellent if the folds were less pronounced.



Excellent.

The picture shows a rather rounded head and long and flat ears close to the cheeks.

**Too many folds ,
half closed eyes.**



**Stop not deep
enough**



FACIAL REGION: Eyes :

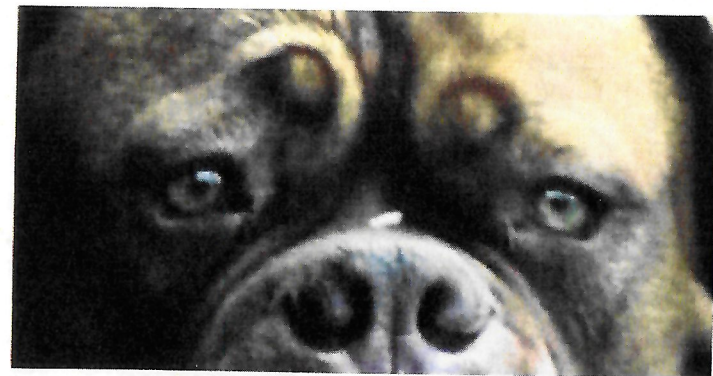
Oval, set wide apart. The space between the two inner corners of the eyelids is equal to about twice the length of the eye (eye opening). Frank expression. The haw must not be visible. Colour : hazel to dark brown for a dog with a black mask, lighter colour tolerated but not sought after in dogs with either a brown mask or without a mask.



Too light eyes even in a Dogue with a brown mask. The left lower eyelid is loose.

ELIMINATING FAULTS :
Blue eyes, bulging eyes

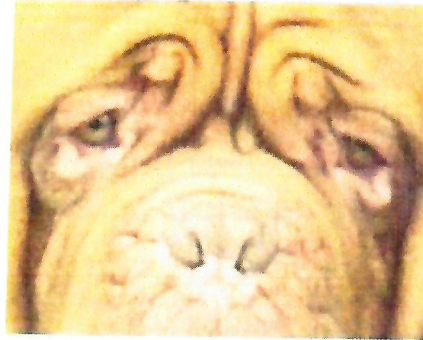
FAULT: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect on the health and welfare of the dog.





← **Photo 1:** Excellent eye colour in a well pigmented Dogue.

Photo 2: Excellent eye colour in a light coated Dogue. →



← **Photo 3:** the subject presents a laxity of the lower eyelid; furthermore, the nostrils are pinched.

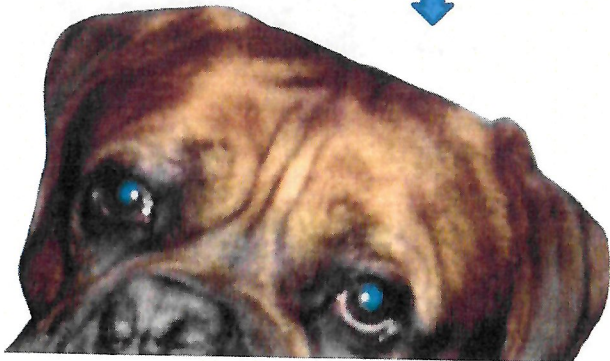
Oval eyes set wide apart.
Many concaved lined dogs have round eyes. Our Dogue de Bordeaux is an exception. Its eyes are oval.

So round eyes are a fault, as well as eyes too close together.

Remember:

- A hanging lower lid showing haw is highly undesirable;
- So-called triangular eyes or eyes with a fold in the middle of the lower eyelid are not correct.

When judging it is difficult to strongly penalize the presence of entropion. If the dog has had surgery, disqualifying a dog because of entropion means the operation has been unsuccessful..



Remember : Entropion and ectropion are more often present in dogs with too many wrinkles and folds on the head..

FACIAL REGION: Ears

Relatively small, of a slightly darker colour than the coat. At its set on, the front of the base of the ear is slightly raised. They must fall back, but not hang limply, the front edge being close to the cheek when the dog is attentive. The tip of the ear is slightly rounded; it must not reach beyond the eye. Set rather high, at the level of the upper line of the skull, thus appearing to accentuate its width even more.



Photo 2 shows a dog with ears slightly too long (nostrils are open, the eyes of good colour but the eyelids may have been operated upon).

Photo 3 shows a dog with very big ears (again, the wrinkle running from the outer corner of the eye to the corner of the lips is too important and is not typical of the breed).



Photo 1 shows correct ears (and well opened nostrils and well pigmented eyes).



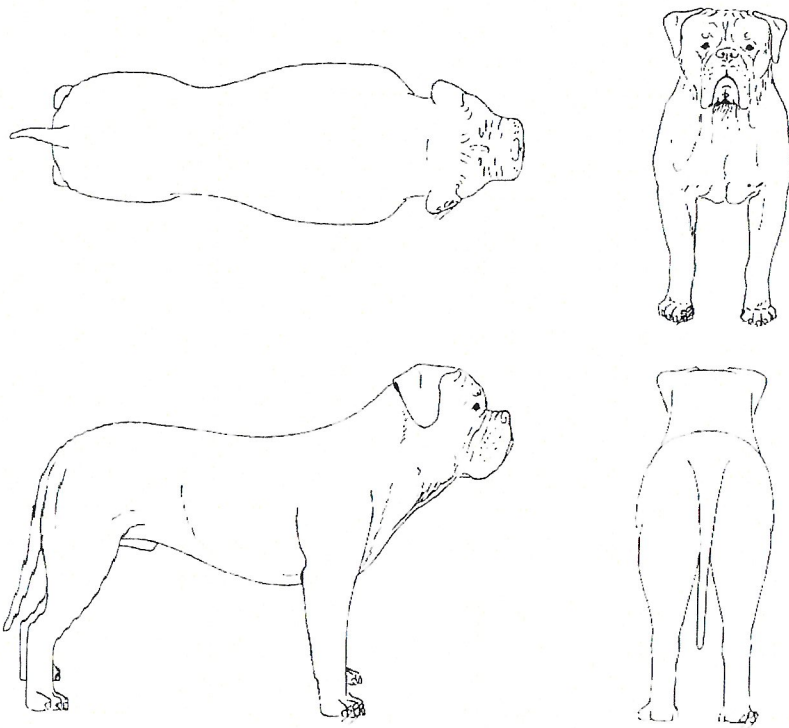
Photo 4 shows a dog with very large and low set ears. This is very much against its expression. (note: the eye is a little light, but with a good oval shape).

NECK:

Very strong, muscular, almost cylindrical. This skin is supple, ample and loose. The average circumference almost equals that of the head. It is separated from the head by a slightly accentuated transversal furrow, slightly curved. Its upper edge is slightly convex.



The well defined dewlap starts at the level of the throat forming folds down to the chest, without hanging exaggeratedly. The neck, very broad at its base, merges smoothly with the shoulders.



General appearance

BODY:

The Dogue de Bordeaux is basically a concave dog, but breeders have tried for a century to avoid all the exaggerated features. Consequently the standard says “a very muscular body yet retaining a harmonious general outline”, “built rather low to the ground”.

In 1910, KUNSTLER
already hated monsters.

BODY: Topline

Topline : Well sustained.

SEVERE FAULT: Arched back (convex).



No hollow or sway back.

Several dogs with straight backs are said to have “well marked withers” or “pronounced withers”: the Doberman, the Belgian shepherd, the German Pointer, the Auvergne Pointer, etc. Then there is a slight or very slight dip behind the well-marked withers. The back slopes slightly down (except in dogs “camped behind” in the show ring like the Doberman or the Boxer when the “slope” is much steeper) towards the loin which is always slightly or very slightly arched. Let us not speak of the croup which is not a part of the “topline”.

In the Dogue de Bordeaux, the back never slopes down to the rear (it would be against its nature). The topline is never perfectly “straight” in a mathematical sense, nor is it horizontal. At best, after the “dip” behind the withers, the line rises insensibly to melt into the slightly arched loin.

This is what we call a “well-sustained” topline. This is why in my Saga of the Dogue de Bordeaux I said in the commentaries to the standard “No molossus has a rectilinear topline. In the Dogue de Bordeaux we aim for it as straight as possible in a concave-lined dog”

Should we describe the topline as dipping from the rear to the front? Certainly not! A standard being the description of the ideal model, we would rapidly obtain roach-backed bulldogs. See what the (British) Kennel Club says about our Dogue’s cousin (or brother) the Bullmastiff: “Roach and sway backs highly undesirable”. The British standard for the Bulldog says: “top of loin higher than top of shoulder” (which is the top of the withers). It should never be the case in the Dogue de Bordeaux.



(PERFECTION DE LA SILHOUETTE
Eros de l’étang de Mirloup à M. GUIGNARD)

In the Dogue de Bordeaux, the back never slopes down to the rear (it would be against its nature).

Don’t forget: we want no exaggerated features. This is why I suggest to illustrate this paper with what I called formerly: “the perfect silhouette”, showing the meaning of the expression; “a topline as straight as possible.



↑ Sway back.

Roach back with straight hindquarters.



→ Arched topline. A very severe fault.



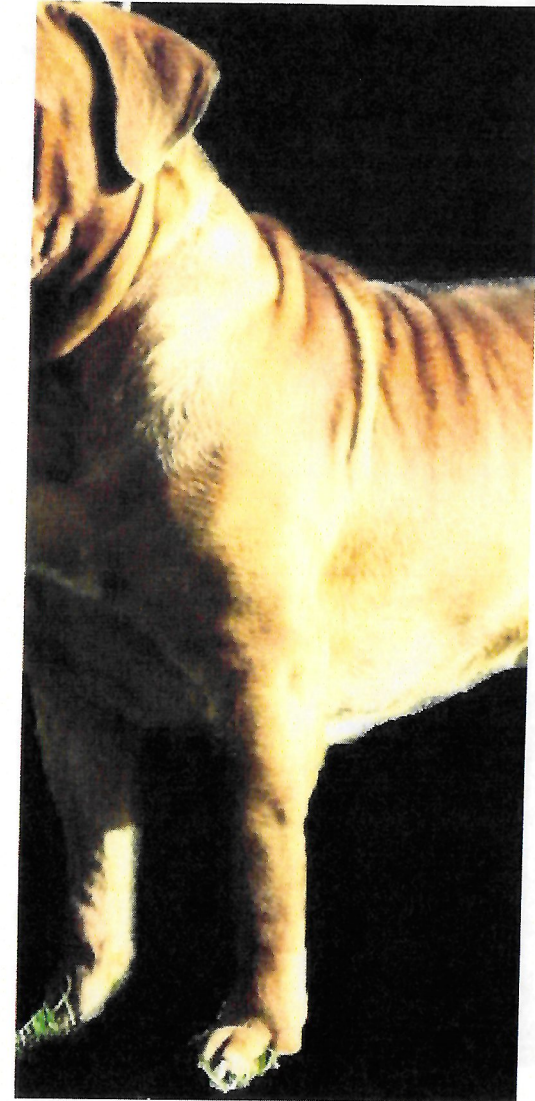
← « bulldog type » : Shoulder being "tacked on body, slight fall to back close behind shoulders whence spine should rise to loins".



BODY: Withers

Well marked.

In concave dogs, the withers are not marked or only very slightly marked. In our dogue, on the contrary, the withers are “well marked”.



BODY: Back and Loin



Excellent

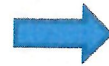
Back :Broad and muscular..

Loin: Broad. Rather short and solid

Acceptable
topline

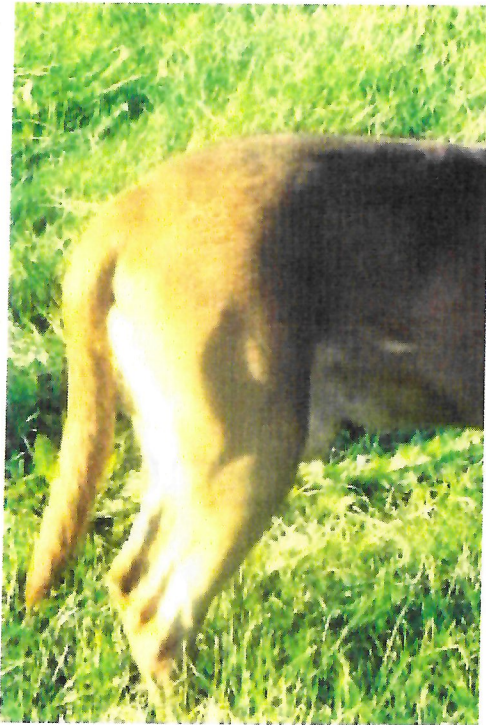


Disqualified : too long body
with a saddle back, too high
and closed hocks.



BODY: Croup

Moderately sloping down to the root of the tail.



the croup is not a part of the "topline".

A Bordeaux dog with a « goose rump » (steep croup) is often under itself behind.

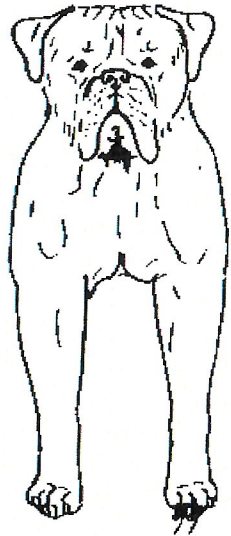
A dip at the set-on of tail is not to be bred for.

Goose rump : is not typical in the breed. Such a dog cannot be classified « excellent »





Good front



Concave forechest

BODY: Chest

Powerful, long, deep, broad, let down lower than the elbows.

Ribs well let down and well sprung but not barrel shaped.

Broad and powerful forechest whose lower line (inter-axillae) is convex towards the bottom.

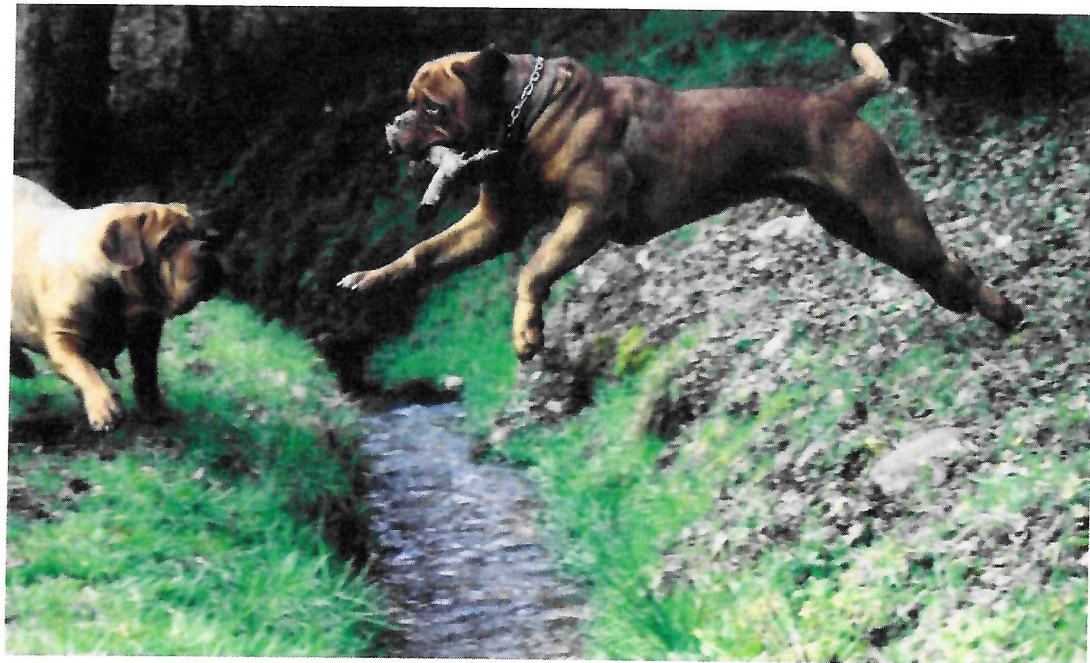
The circumference of the chest must be between 25 cm to 35 cm greater than the height at the withers.



Barrel ribs

BODY: Underline

Curved from the deep brisket to the rather tucked up, firm abdomen, being neither pendulous nor whippety.



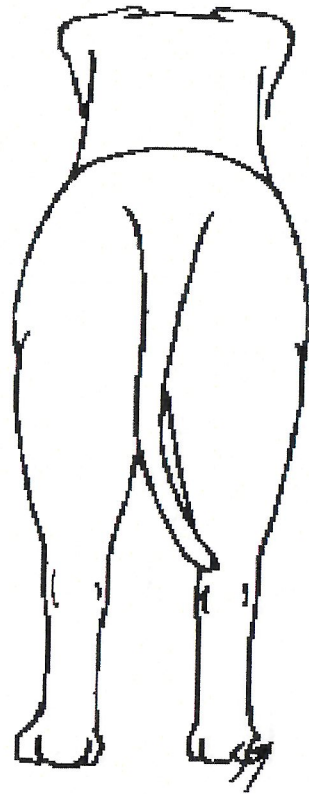
TAIL:



Very thick at the base. Its tip preferably reaching the hock and not below. Carried low, it is neither broken nor kinked but supple. Hanging when the dog is at rest, generally rising by 90° to 120° from that position when the dog is in action, without curving over the back or being curled.



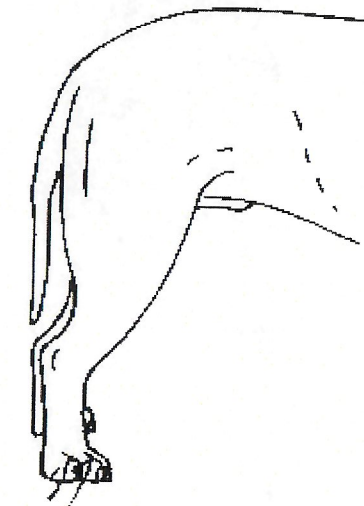
Good tail carriage



Deviated tail

SEVERE FAULTS:
Fused but not deviated
vertebrae of the tail.

A tail displaying knotted vertebrae, but not deviated, constitutes a severe fault (any severe fault prohibits awarding an “excellent” grading). In Dogues de Bordeaux it is common to observe this fault on the underside of the base of the tail: therefore the examination by palpation must be carried out from this point.



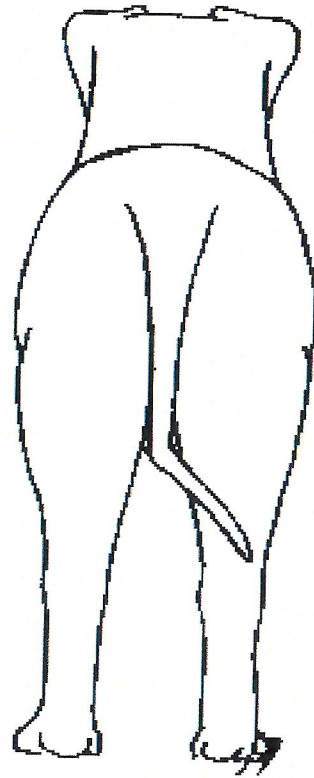
Knotty tail



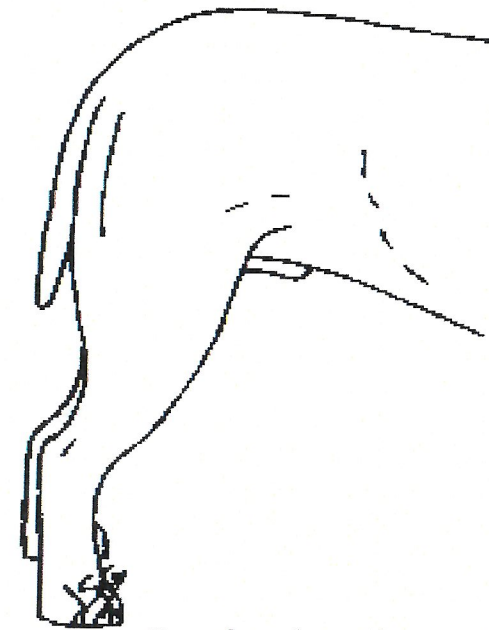
DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

Tail knotted and laterally deviated or twisted (screw tail, kink tail).

Atrophied tail.



Kink tail



**Docked tail
(disqualifying fault)**

LIMBS: FOREQUARTERS

Strong bone structure, legs very muscular.

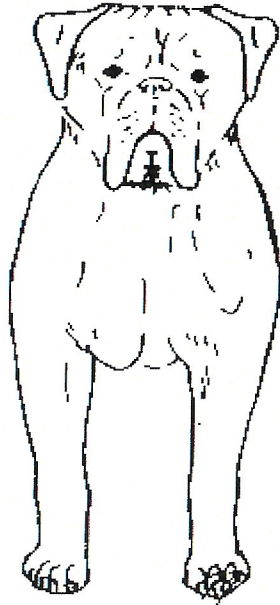
Shoulders : Powerful, prominent muscles. Slant of shoulder-blade medium (about 45° to the horizontal), angle of the scapular-humeral articulation a little more than 90°.

Upper Arms : Very muscular.

Elbows : In the axis of the body, neither too close to the thoracic wall nor turned out.

Forearms: Viewed from the front, straight or inclining slightly inwards thus getting closer to the median plane, especially in dogs with a very broad chest. Viewed in profile, vertical.





Correct stand

Forearms: Viewed from the front, straight or inclining slightly inwards.

Influence of selection to limit a natural tendency :

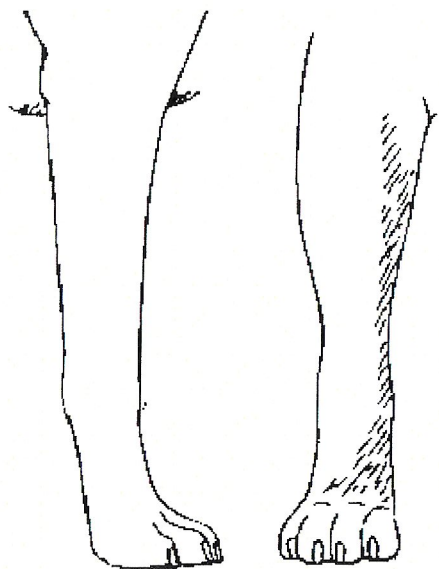
- Compare with the forearms of the Bullmastiff (upright)
- The front is never perfectly upright as in a Terrier
- The shoulder is mobile to allow a good reach.

Metacarpus (Pastern) : Powerful.

Viewed in profile, slightly sloping.

Viewed from the front sometimes slightly outwards compensating for the slight inclination of the forearm inwards.

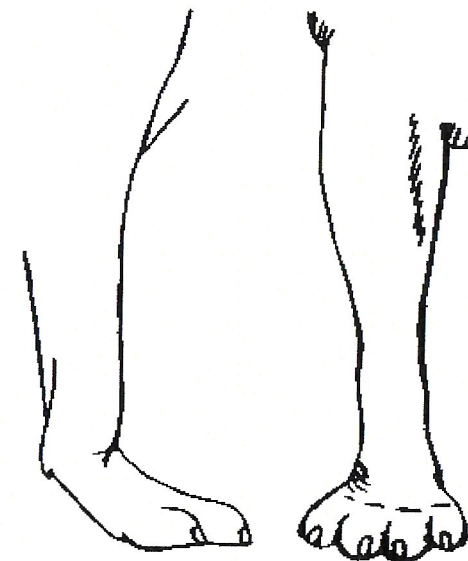
- Forefeet : Strong. Toes tight, nails curved and strong, pads well developed and supple: the Dogue is well up on his toes despite his weight.



Correct feet



Down on pasterns

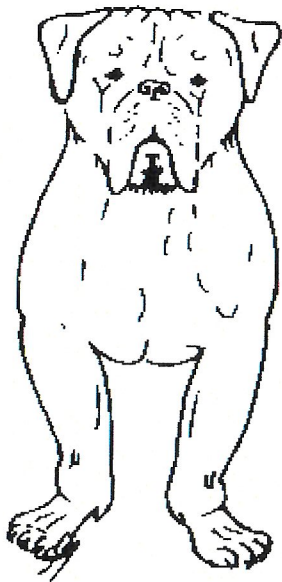


Weak pasterns
Splay foot

SEVERE FAULTS :

Forefeet turning inwards (even slightly).

Forefeet turning outwards too much.



**Outbow-footed
(crooked)**

Forefeet turning inwards = it is against the nature of the Dogue de Bordeaux



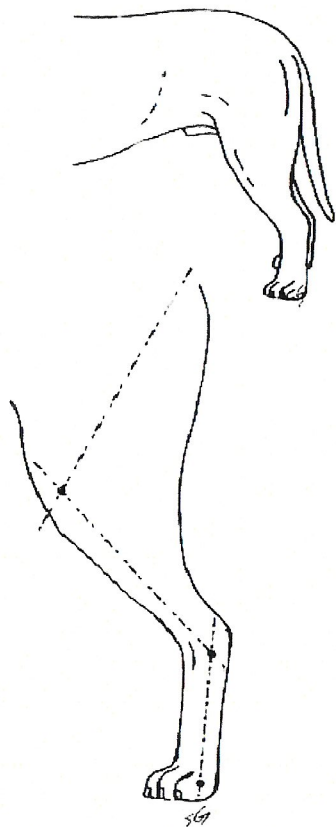
In-toed

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS :

Fiddle front and down on pasterns.

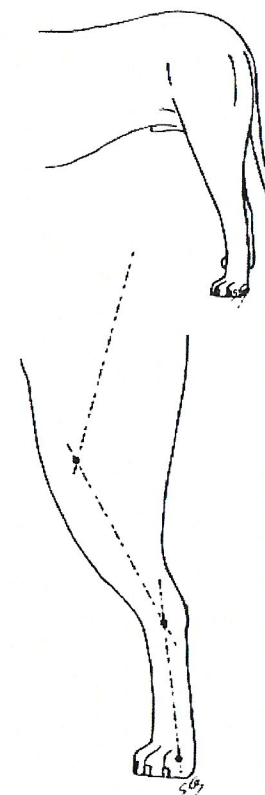
LIMBS: HINDQUARTERS

Robust legs with strong bone structure; well angulated. When viewed from behind the hindquarters are parallel and vertical thus giving an impression of power even though the hindquarters are not quite as broad as the forequarters.



Well angulated hinqquarters

If they are « vertical » they are parallel!
“the hindquarters are not quite as broad as the forequarters” : not be exaggerated (dangerous). Avoid the bulldog’s hindquarters.



Straight angulations

Upper Thigh: Very developed and thick with visible muscles.

Stifle: In a parallel plane to the median plane or very slightly out.

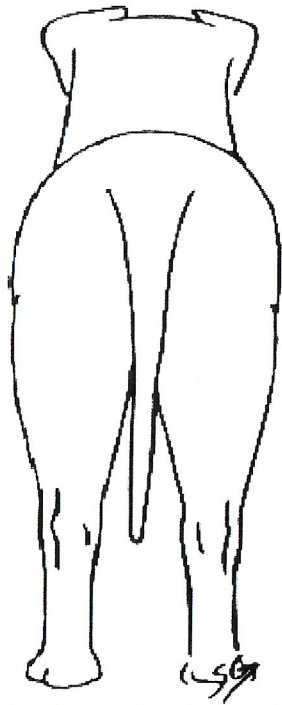
Second thigh: Relatively short, muscled, descending low.



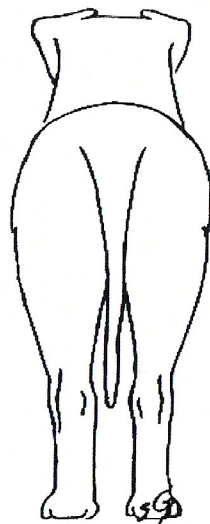
Hock: Short, sinewy, angle of the hock joint moderately open.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern) : Robust, no dewclaws.

Hind feet: Slightly longer than the front feet, toes tight.



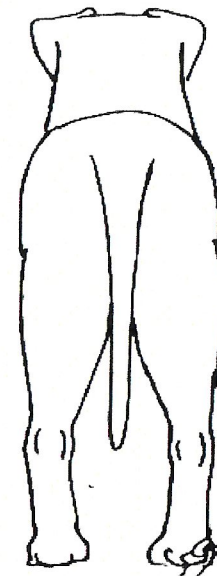
Correct parallel hindquarters



Close hindquarters



Cow hocks



Spread hocks

SEVERE FAULTS :

Forefeet turning inwards (even slightly).

Forefeet turning outwards too much.

Flat thighs.

Angle of hock too open (straight angulation).

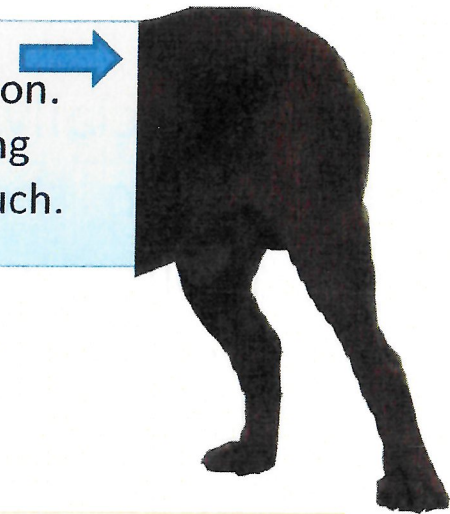
Angle of the hock too closed, dog standing under himself behind.

Cow hocks or barrel hocks.

Flat thighs : It means the hind leg is weak. Insufficient thrust. Weak muscles raise a suspicion about a possible hip problem.

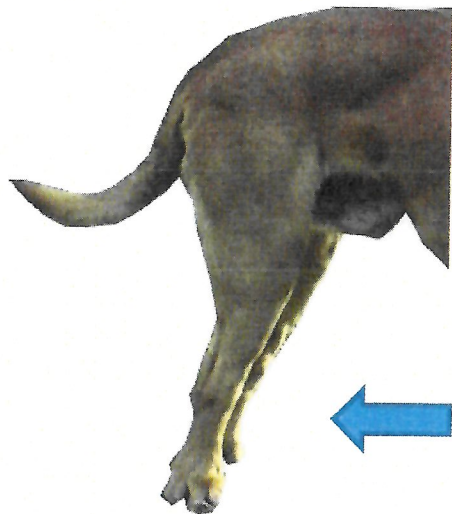
« Angle of hock too open » = bulldog. In the Bullmastiff, the rear angulation is straighter than in the Dogue de Bordeaux.

Straight angulation.
Hindfeet turning outwards too much.



DISQUALIFYING FAULTS :

Angle of the hock open towards the rear (inverted hock).



This dog is a cripple.

« too close hocks » or , on the opposite, « spread hocks » widely open hocks, seen from the rear.
The dog waddles like a duck. Not many nowadays. Also rare nowadays : the « double jointed hock » (lateral laxity of the hock).

GAIT / MOVEMENT:

Quite supple for a molossoid. When walking the movement is free and supple, close to the ground. Good drive from the hindquarters, good extension of the forelegs, especially when trotting, which is the preferred gait. When the trot quickens, the head tends to drop, the topline inclines towards the front, and the front feet get closer to the median plane while striding out with a long reaching movement of the front legs. Canter with rather important vertical movement. Capable of great speed over short distances by bolting along close to the ground.

« For a molossoid », in spite of its weight. Molossian dogs cannot walk like Afghan hounds.

“the head tends to drop, the topline inclines towards the front” = typical movement in the Dogue de Bordeaux.

“while striding out with a long reaching movement of the front legs” = single tracking. See lions from the front on television.

The movement of our Dogue de Bordeaux has much improved these last years, perhaps because breeders train their dogs better and sooner. Dogs that are only taken from their kennels to be placed in the show ring cannot have a free gait.

Dogs do not spend their whole lives in show rings where no one ever gallops.

Happily the SADB carries out a gait analysis when the Bordeaux Dog walks, trots and gallops.

The four gaits are walk, trot, gallop (canter) and jump.

SKIN:

A molossian dog never has a close fitting skin. Loose skin was formerly a protection in dog-fights. Wrinkles and folds in excess, all over the body are highly undesirable.

Thick and sufficiently loose fitting, without excessive wrinkles.

COAT:

HAIR: Fine, short and soft to the touch.

COLOUR : Self-coloured, in all shades of fawn, from mahogany to isabella. A good pigmentation is desirable. Limited white patches are permissible on the forechest and the extremities of the limbs.

« Fawn » means « all the shades from yellow to red ». No dog is yellow in France. Yellow is the colour of the betrayed husband or of the strike-breaker (called a blackleg in England).

«Isabella»: is « coffee with plenty of milk ». It is a warmer colour than mat sandy coats in other breeds.

REMEMBER: white is not a « colour », properly speaking. It is an absence of pigment. Each hair is full of air. White has been limited by selection.

SEVERE FAULTS:

White on tip of the tail or the front part of the forelegs, above the carpus and the tarsus or white covering the front of the trunk without interruption from the chest to the throat "

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

White on the head or on the body, any other colour of the coat than fawn (blackened or not) and in particular brindle coat and solid brown coat normally called "chocolate" (each hair is then completely brown). "

The lighter colour of the « inclined parts » (shoulders, arms, sometimes the front part of the ribcage) is typical in « brown overlaid » Dogues de Bordeaux.

Black overlaid Dogue de Bordeaux: The black pigment must never cover the whole body. It is restricted to some areas: ears, top of the skull, top of the neck, a few hairs on the top of the trunk or on the tail.

The brown coat suddetly appeared a few years ago. Whether it is the result of a mutation or not, it must be rejected.

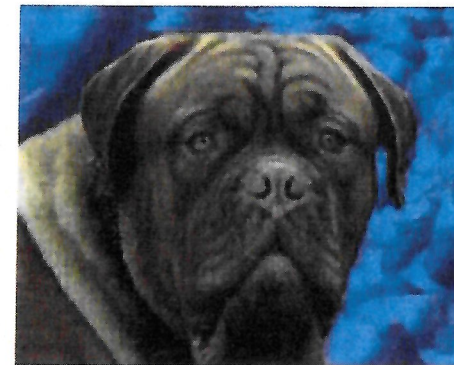
Comments on the Standard:



The Dogue de Bordeaux has a fawn coat. This coat may have a black or brown overlay. The hair is “banded” or “agouti”: part of each hair is fawn or pale fawn (isabella) and the tip is black or brown. In Dogues de Bordeaux the coat we call “mahogany” is in reality a fawn coat with a brown overlay (the true “mahogany” is a red coat : see the Irish Setter).



The brown overlay should not invade all the body to the extent of giving an overall impression of being brown. A Dogue de Bordeaux with a brown overlay should be of a lighter colour on the inclined parts of the body, with the hair more fawn than brown. The hair on the shoulders, the ribs etc... may even be completely fawn. In any case, the coat should never be dark brown (chocolate) but should remain a warmer colour. The standard states: the coat is in the range of fawn.



The brown colour has never been described in the Dogue of Bordeaux. Every hair is then completely brown (chocolate).



Formerly before research was done on the colour of animal coats and especially before C.C. LITTLE's famous book: *The Inheritance of Coat Color in dogs*, 1957, widespread in France in its 1973 edition, the description of dogs' coats was based on appearance. The Bordeaux Dogue had a black mask or a "red" mask, which I personally called "bistre" in the seventies. The expression "red mask" still appears in my 1981 *English-French Dictionary*.



In France, after Bernard DENIS and Patrick COSTIOU's book, *Les couleurs de robes chez le chien*, 1982, we divided our breed into three categories : no mask, black mask, brown mask. The dog with a black mask could be "slightly overlaid with black". Not a word was said about brown-masked dogs overlaid with brown. Bernard DENIS recently explained: "the coat with brown overlay had not been identified". This was done by B.DENIS in Nantes championship show in 2004.

Scientifically, there are three categories in the Dogue de Bordeaux breed:

- 1) Fawn – no mask
- 2) Fawn with black mask (including coats with slight black overlay)
- 3) Fawn with brown mask, moderately overlaid with brown.

Let us add that in some countries the "brown mask" is classified as "no mask". This is an erroneous, unjustifiable position.





Fawn coats, blackened or shaded fawn coats (fawn overlaid with black or brown) and brown are genetically different. In accordance with the standard only fawn coats (overlaid or not with black or brown) will be admissible.



Let us summarize:

- Chocolate-brown coat (brown hair on all the length) = highly undesirable (each hair is then brown on its whole length).
- Very invasive brown –shaded coat , giving a dark appearance = no “excellent”
- Piedbald coat on head or trunk = highly undesirable



Consequently any coat other than fawn (from red fawn to isabella) and brown coats in particular will be rejected. In France, Dogues de Bordeaux with such coats will not be “confirmed”. They will be pronounced “insufficient”.



In recent years, we have seen more and more dogs with invasive white on chests, throats and white going up to the chin . As the standard says it is a serious fault.

Severe faults: "White on tip of tail or on the front part of the forelegs, above the carpus and tarsus or white continuously covering the front of the trunk, from chest to the throat."

Breeders must be aware of this fact and only keep for breeding Dogues de Bordeaux free from this fault. Otherwise, in the next 5 to 10 years, the coat of the Dogue de Bordeaux will look like that of a boxer.

How could a dog with a severe fault be awarded a CAC - CACIB?

Remember : only “excellent dogs” can be awarded a CAC – CACIB

JUDGES ARE REQUIRED TO STICKLY ADHERE TO THE STANDARD.

COAT:

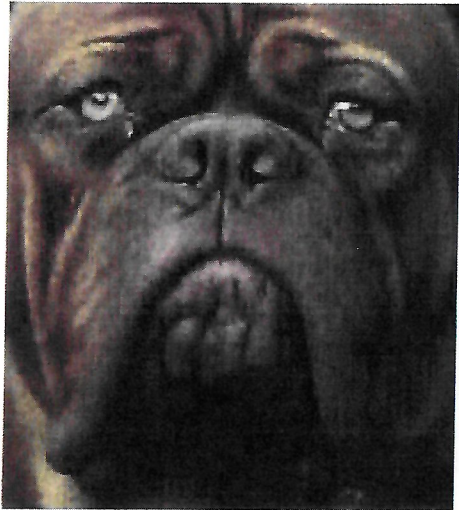
MASK:

- **Black mask:** The mask is often only slightly marked. It must not invade the cranial region. There may be slight black shading on the skull, ears, neck and top of body. The nose is black.
- **Brown mask:** (used to be called red or bistre). The nose is then brown; the eyerims and edges of the lips are also brown. There may be non-invasive brown shading; each hair having a fawn or sandy zone and a brown zone. In this case the inclined parts of the body are a paler colour.
- **No mask:** The coat is fawn: the skin appears red (also formerly called “red mask”). The nose can then be reddish or pink.

REMEMBER: No dog can be both black and brown (eumelanine)

- Black is dominant over brown
- The opposite of a dominant trait is a recessive trait. Fawn is recessive to black. A brown mask can only appear if the dog is homozygous for this trait (so called « pure »).
- A brown-masked bitch mated to a brown-masked dog cannot give birth to black-masked puppies, even if both sire and dam have black-masked parents.
- Deep black masks and blackened skull give what has been called a « sombre » expression in the Mastiff. It is alien to our Dogue de Bordeaux.
- Why «red mask»? Formerly, people had no idea of genetics. Mendel laws were adopted in France long after the First World War (Mendel was an Austrian monk and France was antigermanic and anticlerical. They also confused the colour of the skin (red) and the colour of the hairs.
- Do not confuse an unpigmented nose (leather) and a temporarily depigmented (decoloured, faded, reddened) nose.

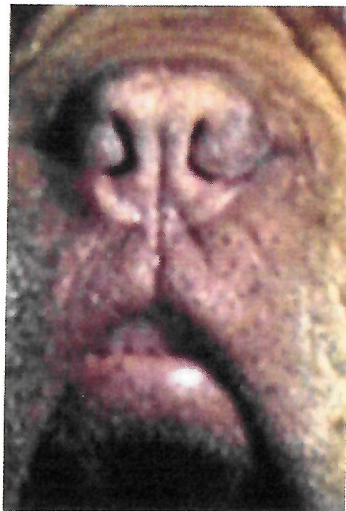
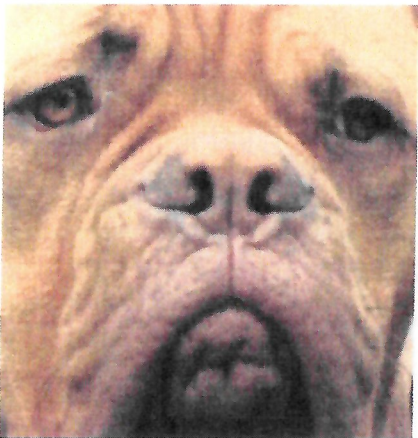
N.B. The nose of a fawn-coated dog can be any colour except «pink» (flesh-coloured pink), totally unpigmented nose in some white-coated dogs (sometimes called « dudley nose »). See Bernard DENIS, *génétique et sélection chez le chien*, p.68 or *coat colour in dogs*, Royal canin p.54-57.



MASK



Brown mask

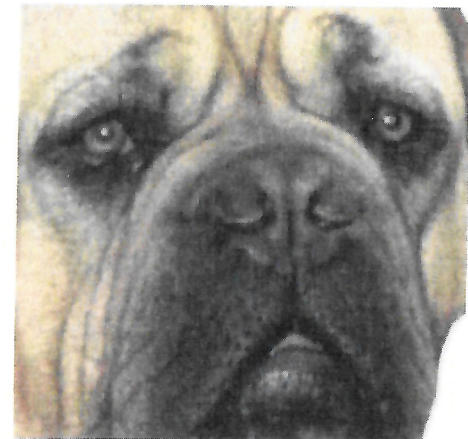
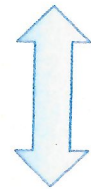


No mask



Decoloration

Black mask



SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Height should more or less correspond to the perimeter of the skull.

Height at the withers: For dogs : 60-68 cm. For bitches: 58-66 cm.

1 cm under and 2 cm over will be tolerated.

Weight: Dogs: at least 50 kg. Bitches: at least 45 kg.

Bitches: Identical characteristics but less pronounced.

Height at the withers: Until now we have been very lenient and some exhibits are the height of Mastiffs.

Remember that the old standard of 1921 stated: "The Dogue de Bordeaux is not a giant of the canine species". The maximum heights are 68cm + 2cm tolerance for males and 66cm + 2 cm for females.

From now on a Dogue exceeding these heights should not be awarded an excellent rating.

REMEMBER that the "format" of a dog is not its shape and size nor its height and length but the combination of its size and its weight. A dog may look tall when it is only lean or relatively small when it is only too fat.

Lisbeth Mach, Oberwiesenthalstr. 18, 6062 Willem

FOR A HEALTHY DOG

SEVERE FAULTS:

Excessive shortness of breath, rasping.

Whatever its causes, rasping is a severe fault.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS :

Identifiable disabling defect.



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Réalisation : S. TOMPOUSKY & R. TRIQUET



ATIBORDEAUX