

GRIFFON BRUXELLOIS

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

Franco-Belgian.

UTILISATION

Companion dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 80]

The three breeds (Griffon Bruxellois, Griffon Belge, and Petit Brabançon) all descend from a small rough-coated dog called a "Smousje", which, for centuries, has been found in the Brussels area. In the 19th century, bringing in bloodlines from the Ruby King Charles Spaniel and the Pug,

produced the short black coat and fixed the current breed type. These little dogs are very alert and were bred to guard carriages and keep stables free from rodents. In 1883 the first Griffon Bruxellois were registered at L.O.S.H. (The St. Hubert stud book). They were "Topsy" (L.O.S.H. nr.163) and "Foxine" (L.O.S.H. nr.164). By about 1900, they had become very popular, together with other breeds, thanks to the royal interest shown in them by Queen Marie-Henriette of Belgium. Many specimens were exported abroad, which helped the spread and popularity of the breed.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A cobby, well-balanced, square little dog, giving appearance of measuring the same from withers to tail root as from withers to ground.

CHARACTERISTICS

Smart little dog with disposition of a Terrier. Two varieties: rough-coated, the Griffon Bruxellois, and smooth-coated, the Petit Brabançon. Both with pert, monkey-like expression, heavy for size.

TEMPERAMENT

Lively and alert.

HEAD

Head fairly large in comparison to body, rounded but in no way domed; moderately wide between the ears. Hair on skull, in roughs, rather coarse. Nose black, with large wide-open nostrils and definite stop between muzzle and skull. Relatively short, wide muzzle, neat lips, with good turn-up. Chin prominent, in roughs furnished with beard.

Eyes:

Black-rimmed, very dark, round, clear and well-spaced. Moderately large; size should be in proportion to size of skull. Alert expression.

Ears:

Semi-erect, high-set, the smaller the better.

Mouth:

Slightly undershot with even teeth, not showing teeth or tongue.

NECK

Medium length, slightly arched, springing from well laid back shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Chest rather wide and deep; legs straight, of medium length and bone.

BODY

Short back, level from withers to tail root, neither roaching nor dipping; deep, well-sprung ribs; short, strong loin.

HINDQUARTERS

Well-muscled thighs of good length, hocks low to ground, turning neither in nor out, stifles well-bent.

FEET

Small, thick, cat-like with black toenails.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Docked short, high-set, emerging at right-angles from level topline.

Undocked: High-set, emerging at right angles from level topline. Of moderate length, curved gently over back when moving.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, with good drive from rear. Moving true coming and going. High-stepping front movement undesirable.

COAT

Roughs: harsh, wiry, free from curl, preferably with undercoat.

Smooths: short and tight.

COLOUR

- Clear red, black, or black and rich tan, without white markings. In clear red, a darker shade on mask and ears desirable. Ideally each hair should be an even red from tip to root.

* Frosting on muzzles of mature smooths permissible.

* Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Weight:

3.2kg – 5kg.

Most desirable: 3.6kg – 4.5kg.

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

***Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.**

FAULTS

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 upon the health and welfare of the dog, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 80: GRIFFON BRUXELLOIS

FCI Standard No. 81: GRIFFON BELGE

FCI Standard No. 82: PETIT BRABANÇON

