

BEAUCE SHEEP DOG [BEAUCERON]

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard have an effective date of 01/02/2017

ORIGIN

France.

UTILISATION

Sheepdog and guard dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

“Beauce Dog”, “Beauceron” and “Red-Stocking” were the names chosen at the end of the 19th century to designate these ancient French Sheepdogs of the plains, all of the same type, with smooth hair on the head, a harsh, short coat and ears normally cropped. The body had tan markings, notably at the extremities of the four legs, which led the breeders at that time to call these dogs “Red-Stockings”. The coat was commonly black and tan but there were also grey, entirely black, and even wholly tan dogs. These dogs were bred and selected for their aptitude to conduct and guard flocks of sheep.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Beauce Sheepdog is big, solid, hardy, powerful, well-built and muscular, but without lumber.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

The Beauce Sheepdog is medium in all its proportions.

- The length of the body from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock should be slightly greater than the height at the withers.
- The head is long: two-fifths the height at the withers. The height and width of the head are slightly less than half its total length. The skull and muzzle are of equal length.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Frank [*ed. honest*] approach and self-assured. The expression is candid, never mean, timid, or worried. The character of the Beauceron should be gentle and fearless.

HEAD

The head is well-chiselled with harmonious lines. Seen in profile, the topline of skull and muzzle lie roughly in parallel planes.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Flat or slightly rounded from one side to the other. The median groove is only slightly marked, the occipital protuberance can be seen on the summit of the skull.

Stop: The stop is only slightly pronounced and is equidistant from the occiput and the end of the muzzle.

Facial Region:

Nose: Proportionate to the muzzle, well-developed, never split, and always black.

Muzzle: Neither narrow nor pointed.

Lips: Firm and always well-pigmented. The upper lip should overlap the lower without any looseness. At their commissure, the lips should initiate a very slight pouch which should stay firm.

Jaws and teeth: Strong teeth with a scissor bite.

Eyes:

Horizontal, slightly oval in shape. The iris should be dark brown, and in any case never lighter than dark hazel even if the tan is light-coloured. For the harlequin variety, wall eyes are admitted.

Ears:

Set high. Ears are half-pricked or drop-eared. They should not be plastered against the cheeks. They are flat and rather short. The length of the ear should be half the length of the head.

NECK

Muscular, of good length, united harmoniously with the shoulders.

BODY

Topline: The back is straight. The loin is short, broad, and well-muscled. The croup is only slightly inclined.

Withers: Quite visible.

Chest: The girth of the chest is greater than the height at the withers by more than one-fifth. The chest is well let down to the point of the elbow. It is wide, deep, and long.

TAIL

Whole, carried low, it reaches at least to the hock, without deviating, forming a slight hook in the form of a "J". When in action, the tail can be carried higher as an extension of the topline.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Upright when seen from the front or in profile.

Shoulder: Sloping and moderately long.

Forearm: Muscled.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Upright when seen from profile and from behind.

Upper thigh: Wide and muscled.

Hock joint: Substantial, not too close to the ground, the point situated roughly at one-quarter of the height at the withers, forming a well-open angle with the second thigh.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Vertical, slightly further back than the point of the buttock.

Dewclaws: Dewclaws on hind legs. By tradition, shepherds are much attached to the conservation of double dewclaws. The dewclaws form well-separated "thumbs" with nails, placed rather close to the foot.

FEET

Large, round, compact. The nails are always black. The pads are hard but, nevertheless, resilient.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Supple and free. The limbs move well in line. The Beauce Sheepdog should have an extended trot with long reaching movement.

COAT

Smooth on the head, short, thick, firm, and lying close to the body, 3cm to 4 cm in length. The buttocks and the underside of the tail are lightly but obligatorily fringed. The undercoat is short, fine, dense, and downy, preferably mouse grey, very close, and can't be seen through the top coat.

COLOUR

- **Black and tan (black with tan markings):** "red stockings". The black is pure black and the tan, red squirrel-coloured. The tan markings are distributed as follows:
 - spots over the eyes
 - on the sides of the muzzle, diminishing gradually on the cheeks, never attaining [ed.reaching] under the ear
 - on the chest, preferably two spots
 - under the neck
 - under the tail
 - on the legs, disappearing progressively while rising without covering, in any case, more than one-third of the leg and rising slightly higher on the inside
- **Harlequin (blue mottled with tan markings):** grey, black and tan, the coat being black and grey in equal parts, the spots well-distributed, with sometimes a predominance of black. The tan markings are the same as for the black and tan.

* A faint white spot on the chest is tolerated.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 65cm – 70cm (approx. 25½" – 27½")

Females: 61cm – 68cm (approx. 24" – 26½")

***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.*

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.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Size outside the standard limits.
- Too light-boned.
- Eyes too light, or wall eyes (except for harlequins).
- Split nose, of a colour other than black, with unpigmented areas.
- Overshot or undershot with loss of contact, absence of 3 or more teeth (the first premolars not counting).
- Natural ears carried totally upright and firm.
- Rear feet turned excessively to the exterior.
- Simple dewclaws or absence of dewclaws on hind legs.
- Shortened tail or tail carried over the back.
- Coat: Colour and texture other than those defined by the standard. Complete absence of tan markings. Shaggy coat. Well-defined, quite visible white spot on chest. For the harlequin variety: too much grey, black on one side and grey on the other, head entirely grey (absence of black).

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FCI Standard No 44: BERGER DE BEAUCE (BEAUCE SHEEP DOG)

FCI Classification: Group 1 – Sheepdogs & Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)

Section 1. Sheepdogs

With Working Trial