

BRIARD

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 01/01/2019

ORIGIN

France.

UTILISATION

Sheepdog and guard dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Known for a long time as Chiens de Berger Français de Plaine (French Lowlands Sheepdog). It was in 1809, in the Abbot Rozier's "*Complete Agricultural Course*", that the name "Chien de Brie" appeared for the first time. It was bred and selected for its herd-driving and guarding aptitudes. The French army also used it during the two World Wars as, among other activities, sentinel and ambulance dog searching for the wounded in the war fields.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Briard is hardy, supple, muscled, and well-proportioned; lively and alert.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

The Briard is of medium build.

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

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Balanced temperament, neither aggressive nor timid. The Briard should be steady and fearless.

HEAD

Strong, long, covered with hair forming beard, moustache, and eyebrows slightly veiling the eyes. Seen from the side, the lines of the skull and muzzle are parallel.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Strong, very slightly rounded seen from the side.

Stop: Pronounced; at equal distance from the occiput and the tip of the nose.

Facial Region:

Nose: Strong. The nostrils are well-open. The nose is always black except in blue dogs, which have either a blue or bluish nose.

Muzzle: The end of the muzzle is rather square. Muzzle strong, sufficiently broad, and never pointed. Nose-bridge straight.

Lips: Lips are tight fitting.

Jaws and teeth: Strong jaws; white teeth. Scissors bite.

Eyes:

Oval. Horizontal, well-open, rather large and of dark colour. In blue dogs, paler-coloured eyes are permitted.

Ears:

Set on high, not plastered against the head and rather short if left natural. The length of the cartilage of the uncropped ear should be equal to or slightly less than half the length of the head. The ears are always flat and covered with long hair. If cropped, in countries where this practice is not forbidden, they should be carried erect, neither divergent nor convergent.
[*refer note below]

NECK

Muscled and springing well up from the shoulders.

BODY

Topline: The back is straight. The loin is short and firm.

Croup: Only slightly sloping, of slightly rounded shape.

Chest: Wide and long, well let down to the elbows: ribs well-sprung.

TAIL

Natural, carried low, it reaches at least the hock joint, without deviation, forming a slight hook like a "J". In action, the tail may be carried at the highest in prolongation of the topline.

LIMBS

Well-muscled with strong bone and upright.

Forequarters:

Shoulder: Oblique, well-angulated, moderately long, fitting closely to the thoracic wall.

Elbow: In line with the body.

Forearm: Straight and muscled.

Metacarpus (pastern): Slightly sloping, seen from the side.

Hindquarters:

Upper thigh: Muscled.

Hock joint: Not too low down and well-angulated.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Perfectly vertical, seen from behind.

Dewclaws: Dewclaws on hind legs. By tradition, the shepherds want to keep the double dewclaws. The dewclaws form thumbs, well-separated and with nails, relatively close to the foot.

FEET

Forefeet: Strong, round, and well in axis with the body. The nails are always black (except in blues) and the pads hard. Toes should be well-knit and arched.

Hind feet: Strong, round. The nails are always black (except in blues) and the pads hard. Toes should be well-knit.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Regular, supple, harmonious, in a manner that allows the dog to cover ground and accomplish its work with a minimum of effort and fatigue. The Briard should have a long trot with good reach and good thrust from behind.

COAT

Goat-like texture, dry, supple, long, with slight undercoat.

COLOUR

- Black, fawn, fawn with black overlay (slight to medium) often with mask, grey or blue.

* A coat of warm fawn colour may show a lighter colour on the points and on the inclined parts [*ed. angled surfaces*] of the body (fawn marked with sandy colour).

* Black, grey, and blue coats can likewise display zones of a lighter shade.

* All colours may show different degrees of greying.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 62cm – 68cm (24½" – 26½").

Females: 56cm – 64cm (22" – 25").

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.

Note: Cropped ears – KUSA Schedule 2 Regulation 7:

“Any dog with cropped ears born within the jurisdiction of the KUSA, imported into it and cropped within it, shall not be registered or recorded by the Kennel Union, and if any such dog is registered or recorded in contravention of this Regulation, upon discovery, its registration or recording shall be cancelled.

7.1. Any dog with ears cropped before importation into the KUSA area of jurisdiction is not eligible for competition at any Kennel Union event.”

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.

Severe faults:

- Severe faults in limbs.
- Overall coat colour too light.
- Coat: insufficient length (less than 7cm), hair soft or woolly.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Stop absolutely not marked.
- Nose of colour other than black or blue; presence of pink (unpigmented areas).
- Overshot or undershot with loss of contact of incisors; absence of 2 lower PM4 or absence of 3 teeth or more, whichever they are (except for PM1).
- Eye too light (yellow), wall eye.
- Ears curling inwards, set on too low beneath eye level, covered with short hair, naturally erect.
- Tail curled up or carried vertically.
- Single dewclaw or total absence of dewclaws on hindlegs.
- White, brown or mahogany colour; coat of two distinct colours; white blaze, white hairs on the extremities of the limbs, fawn coat with saddle.
- Size outside the limits of the standard with tolerance of +2cm or -1cm.
- Fraudulent modification of the dog or evidence of such practice by use of substances or surgery.

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FCI Standard No 113: BERGER DE BRIE (BRIARD)

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

Section 1. Sheepdogs

With Working Trial