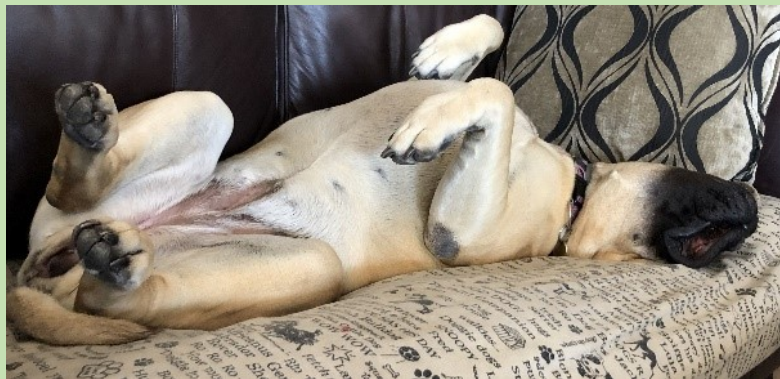
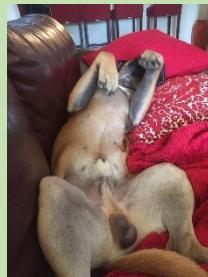


## CBC NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

From the chair: JUST HOW LAID BACK CAN WE GET?

Guard dog, Gamekeepers asset, spoilt brat etc. – life is certainly good!



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## AND ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE!

### The importance of the brindle gene and its penetration variation.

All the available literature on the Bullmastiff informs breeders about the importance of using the brindle Bullmastiff in long term breeding programmes. Some breeders are adamant that there can be no clarity and purity of colour without brindle somewhere in the line, as it is the brindle that is the key to the cosmetic colouring in the dog.



*A clear fawn and a clear fawn brindle both with correct masking & chevrons*



*A clear red and a clear red brindle both with correct masking & chevrons*

And indeed the early breeders were quick to realise (working on a practical trial and error basis?) that when they did incorporate brindle into their long term breeding programmes, the dirty smudging seen regularly between the clear colours, disappeared from their stock and the mask on the muzzle was clearer.

What they perhaps did not know was the genetics involved in the inheritance of the mask and the brindle coat in the Bullmastiff.

There are actually two kinds of brindle Bullmastiffs. There is what is called a true or pure brindle with the genetic code of  $e^{br} e^{br}$  & what is called a brindle with a masking gene, which carries the genetic code of  $E^m e^{br}$ .

It is not always possible to visibly tell the difference between the two as the brindle colouring of the dog sometimes obscures the masked portions of the muzzle, but the difference can be seen clearly in the red and fawn coloured dogs that also normally carry this masking gene.

Occasionally there are dogs that do not carry this masking gene, or the mask is a poor one. This can be seen especially in the clear colours. As the Breed Standard calls for specifications in respect of the mask, dogs that are deficient in this quality will not readily be displayed in the breed show ring and knowledgeable breeders will probably not breed with such stock unless they have other positive qualities. This could explain why we see so few of them.




*Two brindles with poor masking – only the area around the nose is masked.*



*Brindle, fawn and red with correct masking*

Apart from expensive blood tests, a way to positively determine the one brindle from the other is to mate that particular brindle to a clear colour and the colours of the offspring will provide the answer. If the dog is a true brindle, all the puppies will be brindle regardless of the colour of the other dog.



To understand more fully the concept of the involved genetics, let us look at what Clarence C. Little says in his book *The Inheritance of Coat Colour in Dogs*. This should help the reader understand the possibilities available in relation to the Bullmastiff colour coding.

“Mating two pure brindles having no masking gene ( $e^{br}e^{br}$ ) would produce only pups that are pure brindle ( $e^{br}e^{br}$ ).

“Mating a pure brindle ( $e^{br}e^{br}$ ) to a brindle with a masking gene ( $E^m e^{br}$ ) would produce all brindles, 50 percent pure brindles and 50 percent with masking genes.

“Mating a pure brindle ( $e^{br}e^{br}$ ) to a red or fawn ( $E^m E^m$ ) would result in all brindle pups, but all would carry a masking gene ( $E^m e^{br}$ ).

“Mating two brindles both with a masking gene would result in 25 percent pure brindle, 50 percent brindle with a masking gene and 25 percent red or fawn ( $E^m E^m$ ).

“Mating a brindle with a masking gene ( $E^m e^{br}$ ) to a red or fawn ( $E^m E^m$ ) would result in 50 percent brindle with a masking gene ( $E^m e^{br}$ ) and 50 percent red or fawn ( $E^m E^m$ ) but none of the brindle would be pure brindle.

“Mating two fawns/reds would result in a litter of all fawn/red puppies and no brindles”.

How then do we explain the phenomenon of Wellmeadow Inkunzi of Anubis – a brindle dog out of two clear coloured parents?

Was this conception and birth a genetic mutation? or is there more to this than thought?

Is this litter then a landmark in the history of the Southern African Bullmastiff or not?

Furthermore, there are two other known KUSA registered litters where the parents were clear coloured and some of the puppies registered as brindle! There was however a resident brindle male on the premises in both of the latter two cases. Without attacking the integrity of these breeder’s mistakes can and do happen.

As happened in the case of the “Rare Black Bullmastiff” pictured below. This pup, out of two clear coloured parents was on the verge of being KUSA registered as such. Fortunately, DNA testing was done, and the father was not the resident Bullmastiff. It was a Labrador Retriever.!

However, **had he been registered as such** the question of the penetration variation of the brindle gene would have come under the limelight once again – as in “Inkunzi’s” case.



*Black Bullmastiff ? No - but initially thought to be one and on the point of being registered with KUSA as such – until DNA was done at the request of the CBC.*

*The resident Bullmastiff sire was not the daddy!! It was a Labrador !!\**

**So the question must be asked are there other irregularities out there?**

What are your thoughts?

A google search for “Black Bullmastiffs” and the pronouncements are HORRENDOUS “ 😞

**PLEASE FOLKS LET US PROTECT OUR BULLMASTIFF HERITAGE**

### ASSESSING THE BRINDLE MARKINGS

The Breed Standard does not specify whether the brindle stripes should be in a chevron pattern or not, it only states that the colour should be clear and pure :- That would mean a background colour of either red or fawn which must be visible. However it does not say in what quantity this background colour should be.

Some dogs are so heavily pigmented that there can be an appearance of a black colouring all over (  $e^{br} e^{br}$  ) which may be producing a very strong penetration variation. Or in opposition a dog that is so lightly patterned that the background colour is the dominant colour as shown in the photo's below.



A 50 /50 combination of chevrons and background colour is an option as is both fawn and red showing through the chevrons in different places. It would be unusual to have matching sides.

In specialist judging of the Bullmastiff for Best Brindle Coat I feel the Judge should take the original purpose of the dog into consideration and that the darker the brindling, the better. After all the dog had to avoid detection in the undergrowth, and just as a large white spot is an undesirable feature on the dog, a fawn coloured dog with only a slight amount of light brindling would be easier to detect than an almost black dog. However, as in everything, moderation is the key and perhaps a compromise of 40 % background colour to 60% chevrons could be a guideline for the interpretation of the words “pure and clear”.

We must bear in mind that the original Gamekeeper’s Night Dog was depicted as brindle . it is therefore assumed that the brindle was the original colour of choice. These dogs could blend well with the vegetation whereas the black muzzle and ears further aided the dog to remain undetected even when its head was raised up to sense, smell or sight the poacher.

In Richard Ansdell’s painting of “the Poacher’ dated 1865 this can be seen clearly.

The original brindle colouring stems from the incorporation of the brindle Mastiff and the brindle Bulldog in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century when the breed typing was being done.



*The Poacher*, painted by Richard Ansdell.

Taken from *The Bullmastiff : A Breeders Guide* , Vol 1, p.iv. David Hancock

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- THANK YOU TO THE CBC MEMBER AND BREEDER WHO BROUGHT THIS ISSUE TO THE FORE BUT WHO WISHES TO REMAIN ANONAMOUS

## QUIZ TIME

### GET TO KNOW THE HERITAGE OF THE BRINDLE

**Question 1.**

Name the first brindle Bullmastiff imported into Southern Africa and the year in which this took place.

**Question 2.**

Name the first brindle Bullmastiff to be registered with KUSA (pictured below)

Hint: Not the the same dogs!!!



**Question 3.**

Name the newest brindle to be imported into RSA (pictured below)



First correct answer gets a years free subscription to the CBC and free entry into our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trophy Show **and** a full colour page advert of their Bullmastiff/s. 😊 send your answers to [info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za](mailto:info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za)

**YES YOU CAN DO THIS!**



And a bonus! This brindle goes flying!!!!



And last but not least “the big Mac” from Plett! Just love these brindles!

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**WHEN A BREED’ S MOST PROLIFIC BREEDERS CONCENTRATE MORE ON WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE BREED RATHER THAN WHAT SEEMS RIGHT FOR THE SHOW RING THE BREED IS BETTER FOR IT!**

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**BULLMASTIFFS WORKING FOR HUMANITY / THERAPY DOGS**

And in the Eastern Cape we have three more Bullmastiffs excelling themselves!

Story and photo’s submitted by Andrea Mento of East London. Photographs authorized for publication.

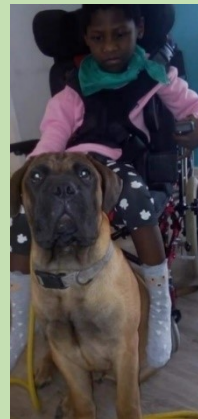




“Zara”

“Canaan Care Centre is a centre for kids with disabilities mainly cerebral palsy and autism. They approached me in June last year interested in getting a therapy puppy and initially wanting a Labrador. Of course I suggested a Bullmastiff as the breeds docile nature would be more suited to the job as opposed to a bouncy Lab.

We introduced “Zara” who is my two year old female and she was an instant hit although her size did seem to scare some of the kids.



“Axl”

A week later “Axl” arrived and the kids and “Axl” fell in love immediately.”Axl” went to school every day and he proved my theory that Bullmastiffs were the right fit. He slept next to the immobile kids and ran with the ones that could.

If the kids fussed and were not happy with him being around he would quietly remove himself and adapted quickly to what was required of him.

“Axl” also does a lot of charity work collecting money for all sorts of charities and has become somewhat of a local celebrity.

Later the school decided to get a Bullmastiff of their own and that’s when “Obi” came in. “Obi” will be a permanent resident at the school once his 18 months of training is completed This will

consist of obedience, extreme exposure and socialising , visiting hospitals aand airports etc. everything that will make him bomb proof when out in the public with the kids."



And baby puppy "Obi"



The power of touch



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**Kennel Association Championship show : 10 Bullmastiffs: Judge Lois Wilson KZN**

**BOB, CC Dog, Best Breed Puppy & 3<sup>rd</sup> in Puppy Group : Bluken the Blue Chip for Chizelhurst**

**RBOB & CC Bitch : Eumali Laylah**

**Best Baby Puppy & 3<sup>rd</sup> in BP Group: Safety of Flatland Tiger**



**The fawns ruled today!!**

**Liesbeek Kennel Club Championship show: 7 Bullmastiffs: Judge Richard Dempsy KZN**

**BOB: Ch. Ikangwa Benjamin Leo of Leoguard**



"Ben"



"Wuka"

RBOB & CC Dog: Sargethrust Sambo Hano of Sanniesebos CBA

CC Bitch: Eumail Laylah

Best Puppy & 3<sup>rd</sup> in Group: Bluken the Blue Chip for Chizelhurst

Best Baby Puppy & 2<sup>nd</sup> in Group Safety of Flatland Tiger

Today it was the reds and fawns. !!

Whale Coast Kennel Club show 7 March: 4 Bullmastiffs present

BOB & CC dog at both shows went to Aire Del Norte De El Guardian Bosque of Lemietrivier

RBOB & CC Bitch to Eumali laylah

Best Baby Puppy to Safety of Flatland Tiger

### **CRUFTS 2020**

WE ARE ALL DELIGHTED THAT A BULLMASTIFF WON THE WORKING GROUP 😊

However on a sombre note, we take cognisance of the fact that the Dogue de Bordeaux (a Molloser breed like the Bullmastiff) and the Bulldog (40% input to the making of the Bullmastiff) FAILED their health checks. 😞

Breeders take note!!!. These 'Vet checks' are on their way to all shows worldwide.

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CBC AUDIT FROM KUSA: there is a request from KUSA to change the Constitution to allow for Chair and Secretary to be on the same profile. It will be done!! Otherwise "all clear" .

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The CBC will proceed with a **second CBA in November**. This will be with the Working & Herding Breeds Club Golden Reef (**Gauteng**) and will be on the 15<sup>th</sup>. This to enable the Gauteng Bullmastiffs a chance to attend. More details when contracts finalised.

The CBA for the Western Cape Region has been liscenced and will proceed 26/27<sup>th</sup> September with the venue being Strand High School. Show schedule attached to News letter.

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The CBC Trophy Show and AGM for 2021:- this was discussed a length at the Committee meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Where as the AGM date is flexible the Trophy Show date was not so. What ever dates were suitable for us were already spoken for. Thus the CBC Committee decided to keep the date as is. The AGM will be held the day before on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. Venue still to be decided.

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The information in this magazine is confidential to its members. Statements or opinions may be expressed in this communication that are personal to the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club.

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