

KUSA



Official Breed Standard

Briard (Herding Group)



A Breed Standard is the guideline which 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 which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

UTILIZATION: 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.

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: $\frac{2}{5}$ th of the height at withers. The width of the skull is slightly less than $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

Nosebridge: Straight.

Lips: Lips are tight fitting

Jaws/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.

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.

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.

HINDQUARTERS: Upper thigh : Muscled.

Hock joint: Not too low down and well angulated.

Metatarsus (Rear pasterns): Perfectly vertical, seen from behind.

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

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

GAIT/MOVEMENT: Regular, supple, harmonious, in a manner which 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

Hair: 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 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:

Males: 62 – 68cm at the withers Females: 56 – 64cm at the withers.

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.

SEVERE FAULTS:

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

DYSQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.
- 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

NB

- 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.



Copyright FCI 04/11/2008 Re-printed with permission

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.

FCI Standard No. 113 (Group 1)

Fedco 12/2018/DR/updated 10/12/2018

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/01/2019

[Click here to download the PDF version of the official KUSA breed standard.](#)

Download