



# The Affenpinscher

## A Judge's Study Guide

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# Name Description

“Affen-pinscher” literally means “Monkey-terrier” in German. This name should be considered a figure of speech, not a literal description. However, when people see an Affenpinscher for the first time, they often remark that this particular breed of dog does resemble a monkey. This is primarily because an Affenpinscher has a unique comical expression: an Affen’s round eyes, standoff hair on his face, protruding lower jaw, and whimsical expression give him the appearance of a little monkey. His attitude and agility also remind people of the actions of a monkey. If you are not immediately reminded of a monkey when you view an Affenpinscher on the ground or approach him on the table, it is probably not a good representative of the Breed.





# History



Affenpinschers are one of the most ancient of all Toy Breeds. The first visual record of an Affen is a 16<sup>th</sup> century German woodcut. The original function of the Affenpinscher was that of a barn ratter and as a small farm watchdog. He was known for his ability to slay the large European rats found in just about every barn and granary. His small size, agility, rough coat, and fiery temperament made him very suitable for this task. He has an inquisitive nature and quick reflexes--able to twist and turn in tight spaces. In Germany, the Affenpinscher was thought of as being a street urchin--he was a little ruffian with an attitude. He started his move into the households of Central Europe when the housewives of that era discovered he also made a good mouser. But the Affenpinscher had more to offer than just being a good ratter. His comic look and self-important swagger brought him to the attention of many new households. These people quickly found that he also made a good watchdog and was fun to have around. Affenpinschers are seldom barkers and are generally quiet, yet can be excellent watchdogs and get most vehement when excited or when danger is apparent.



# History (continued)



When the Breed first became known in Germany, he was often referred to as a "Wire-Haired Pet Terrier". Some historians indicate there were two types of "Pet Terriers". One was very small and was found in a variety of colors such as yellow, reddish yellow, gray, or black. The larger type was black or gray and considered to be the ancestor of the Standard Schnauzer. (It is thought that long ago the Affenpinscher was used to bring down the size of the Standard Schnauzer and thus is in the background of the Miniature Schnauzer.) The smaller type that included the other colors was considered to be an "Affenpinscher". The first mention of the word "Affenpinscher" was at a dog show in Frankfurt in 1902 where the judge mentioned in his report their "beautiful apple heads". They were registered as a separate Breed for the first time in the Pinscher Schnauzer Club registration books of 1903-1907.



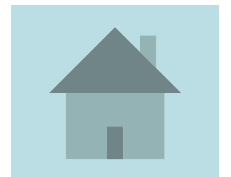
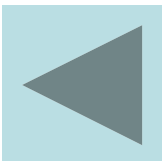


# History (continued)



There were 14 entries: 4 yellow, 3 reddish-yellow, 2 black, 2 black with gray markings, 1 black-gray, 1 gray-brown, and 1 color unknown. Though the originals were in many colors, mainly blacks were bred in Germany after WWII. This was because it was thought that the black color matched his snappy black eyes and his temperament. Today only black Affenpinschers may be shown in Germany and England.

The first Affenpinschers came to the United States in the mid-1930's, and Affens were admitted to the AKC Stud Book in 1937. At that time, much attention was given to the arrival of the "monkey-dog" in this country. From then on the Affenpinscher has gained in popularity, but still continues to be considered a "rare" Breed.



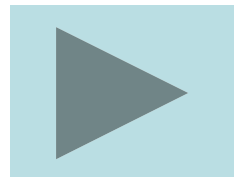
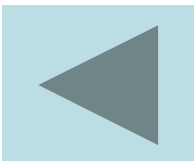
# Breed Standard

- **General Appearance**—The Affenpinscher is a balanced, wiry-haired terrier-like toy dog whose intelligence and demeanor make it a good house pet. Originating in Germany, the name Affenpinscher means “monkey-like terrier”. The breed was developed to rid the kitchens, granaries, and stables of rodents. In France the breed is described as the “Diablotin Moustachu” or moustached little devil. Both describe the appearance and attitude of this delightful breed. The total overall appearance of the Affenpinscher is more important than any individual characteristic. He is described as having a neat but shaggy appearance.
- **Size, Proportion, Substance**—A sturdy, compact dog with medium bone, not delicate in anyway. Preferred height at the withers is 9 ½” to 11 ½”. Withers height is approximately the same as the length of the body from the point of the shoulder to point of the buttocks, giving a square appearance. The female may be slightly longer.
- **Head**—The head is in proportion to the body, carried confidently with monkey-like facial expression. **Eyes**--Round, dark, brilliant, and of medium size in proportion to the head but not bulging or protruding. Eye rims are black. **Ears**--Cropped to a point, set high and standing erect; or natural, standing erect, semi-erect or dropped. All of the above types of ears, if symmetrical, are acceptable as long as the monkey-like expression is maintained. **Skull**--Round and domed, but not coarse. **Stop**--Well-defined. **Muzzle**--Short and narrowing slightly to a blunt nose The length of the muzzle is approximately the same as the distance between the eyes. **Nose**--Black, turned neither up nor down. **Lips**--Black, with prominent lower lip. **Bite**--Slightly undershot. A level bite is acceptable if the monkey-like expression is maintained. An overshot bite is to be severely penalized. A wry mouth is a serious fault. The teeth and tongue do not show when the mouth is closed., The lower jaw is broad enough for the lower teeth to be straight and even.



# Breed Standard (continued)

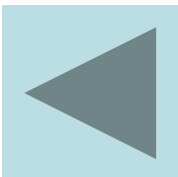
- Neck, Topline, Body--Neck--Short and straight. Topline--Straight and level. Body--The chest is moderately broad and deep; ribs are moderately sprung. Tuck up is slight. The back is short and level with a strong loin. The croup has just a perceptible curve. Tail may be docked or natural. A docked tail is generally between 1" and 2" long, set high and carried erect. The natural tail is set high and carried curved gently up over the back while moving. The type of tail is not a major consideration.
- Forequarters—Front angulation is moderate. Shoulders--with moderate layback. The length of the shoulder blade and the upper arm are about equal. Elbows--close to the body. Front legs--straight when viewed from any direction. Pasterns--short and straight. Dewclaws--generally removed. Feet--small, round, and compact with black pads and nails.
- Hindquarters—Rear angulation is moderate to match the front. Hind legs--Straight when viewed from behind. From the side, hind legs are set under the body to maintain a square appearance. The length of the upper thigh and the second thigh are about equal with moderate bend to the stifle. Hocks--Moderately angulated.





# Breed Standard (continued)

- Coat—Dense hair, rough, harsh, and about 1” in length on the shoulders and body. May be shorter on the rear and tail. Head, neck, chest, stomach and legs have longer, less harsh coat The mature Affenpinscher has a mane or cape of strong hair which blends into the back coat at the withers area. The longer hair on the head, eyebrows and beard stands off and frames the face to emphasize the monkey-like expression. Hair on the ears is cut very short A correct coat needs little grooming to blend the various lengths of hair to maintain a neat but shaggy appearance
- Color—Black, gray, silver, red, black and tan, or belge are all acceptable. Blacks may have a rusty cast or a few white or silver hairs mixed with the black Reds may vary from a brownish red to an orangey tan. Belge has black, brown and/or white hairs mixed with the red. With the various colors the furnishings may be a bit lighter Some dogs may have black masks. A small white spot on the chest is not penalized, but large white patches are undesirable. Color is not a major consideration.
- Gait—Light, free, sound, balanced, confident, the Affenpinscher carries itself with comic seriousness Viewed from the front or rear while walking, the legs move parallel to each other Trotting, the feet will converge toward a midline as speed increases Unsound gait is to be heavily penalized.
- Temperament—General demeanor is game, alert, and inquisitive with great loyalty and affection toward its master and friends The breed is generally quiet, but can become vehemently excited when threatened or attacked, and is fearless toward any aggressor.



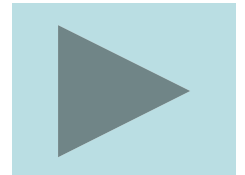
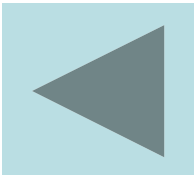
# Judging Points

- General Appearance--The Affenpinscher is a balanced, wiry-haired terrier-like toy dog whose intelligence and demeanor make it a good house pet. Originating in Germany the name Affenpinscher means “monkey-like terrier”. The breed was developed to rid the kitchens, granaries, and stables of rodents. In France the breed is described as the “Diablotin Moustachu” or moustached little devil. Both describe the appearance and attitude of this delightful breed. The total overall appearance of the Affenpinscher is more important than any individual characteristic. He is described as having a neat but shaggy appearance.
  - Note that the total overall appearance is more important than any one characteristic. Remember that you should think MONKEY when you take your first look! “The Affenpinscher should be “neat but shaggy “. He should NOT be sculpted and sprayed up, but rather, should be shown with a natural-looking appearance.
- Size, Proportion, Substance--A sturdy, compact dog with medium bone, not delicate in any way. Preferred height at the withers is 9 1/2” to 11 1/2”. Withers height is approximately the same as the length of the body from the point of the shoulder to point of the buttocks, giving a square appearance. The female may be slightly longer.
  - An Affenpinscher should give the impression of being sturdy, but never heavy nor weedy. A rat-killing dog such as an Affen needs to be agile, to be able to twist and turn and pounce in restricted spaces. His size puts him the middle range of dogs in size in the Toy Group. His body shape should be a square. A rectangular body shape is the drag of the Breed and should be heavily penalized.



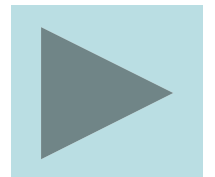
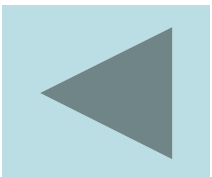
# Judging Points (continued)

- Head....The head is in proportion to the body, carried confidently with monkey-like facial expression. Eyes: Round, dark, brilliant, and of medium size in proportion to the head, but not bulging or protruding. Eye rims are black. Ears: Cropped to a point, set high and standing erect: or natural, standing erect, semi-erect or dropped. All of the above types of ears are acceptable as long as they are symmetrical and the monkey-like expression is maintained. Skull: Round and domed, but not coarse. Stop: Well defined. Muzzle: Short and narrowing slightly to a blunt nose. The length of the muzzle is approximately the same as the distance between the eyes. Nose: Turned neither up nor down. Black. Lips: prominent lower lip. Black. Bite: Slightly undershot. A level bite is acceptable if the monkey-like expression is maintained. An overshot bite is to be severely penalized. A wry mouth is a serious fault. The teeth and tongue do not show when the mouth is closed. The lower jaw is broad enough for the lower teeth to be straight and even.
  - Since the name Affenpinscher means “monkey-terrier” the head and expression are very important. The size of the head has to be felt as it is hidden under the loose, shaggy head hair. The skull is gently domed, as wide as it is long. The marked stop should not be indented and if it is, it may indicate that the muzzle is too short. A muzzle that is too long will give the dog the look of a terrier rather than that of a monkey. The muzzle is meant to be horizontal (NOT down-faced), blunt and short, but not flattened. The chin should be prominent with a protruding lower lip. The slightly protruding lower lip adds to the monkey look There is NO upturn of lower jaw. It is IMPORTANT to notice that all of the various types of ears are to be equally acceptable, as long as the ears themselves are symmetrical and lend themselves to the monkey-like expression.



# Judging Points (continued)

- **Neck, Topline, Body--Neck: Short and straight. Topline: Straight and level. Body: The chest is moderately broad and deep; ribs are moderately sprung. Tuckup is slight. The back is short and level with a strong loin. The croup has just a perceptible curve. Tail may be docked or natural. A docked tail is generally between 1" and 2" long, set high and carried erect. The natural tail is set high and carried curved gently up over the back while moving. The type of tail is not a major consideration.**
  - Unlike many breeds, the neck is short, carried rather upright, and is quite muscular. Toplines can be a problem in the Breed A topline should ALWAYS be level and straight. The tailset should be as high as the slight curve of the croup allows it to be. The slight croup is a Breed characteristic, but it is not meant to be exaggerated--it should flow directly into the set-on of the tail. It is IMPORTANT to notice that either a docked tail or a natural tail are to be given EQUAL consideration.
- **Forequarters-- Front angulation is moderate. Shoulders: Moderate layback. The length of the shoulder blade and the upper arm are about equal Elbows: Close to the body. Front Legs: Straight when viewed from any direction. Pasterns: Short and straight. Dewclaws: Generally removed. Feet: Small, round and compact with black pads and nails.**
  - The moderate angulation does not allow for tremendous reach and drive.
- **Hindquarters....Rear angulation is moderate to match the front, Hindlegs: Straight when viewed from behind. From the side, hindlegs are set under the body to maintain a square appearance. The length of the upper thigh and second thigh are about equal with moderate bend to the stifle. Hocks: Moderately angulated.**
  - The hindlegs should be set under the body with the rear feet directly under the set-on of the tail. This accents the correct square appearance of the Affenpinscher. If the hindlegs extend out behind the set-on of the tail, it is an indication that there is too much rear angulation.





# Judging Points (continued)

- **Color-- Black, gray, silver, red, black and tan, or beige are all acceptable. Blacks may have a rusty cast or a few white or silver hairs mixed with the black. Reds may vary from a brownish red to an orangey tan. Beige has black, brown and/or white hairs mixed with the red. With all colors, the furnishing may be a bit lighter. Red or beige dogs may have a black mask. A small white spot on the chest is not penalized, but large white patches are undesirable. Color is not a major consideration.**
  - It is important to note here that ALL colors are EQUALLY acceptable and should be given equal consideration.
- **GAIT--Light, free, sound, balanced, confident, the Affenpinscher carries itself with comic seriousness. Viewed from the front or rear while walking, the legs move parallel to each other. Trotting, the feet will converge toward a midline as speed increases. Unsound gait is to be heavily penalized.**
  - Moderate angulation dictates that Affenpinscher movement does not include an overlong stride and that over-reaching is therefore a major fault. The movement is brisk, quick, and light-footed without being bouncy or jerky. The requirements of a good mover are the same as for most other breeds. Affenpinschers should always be shown on a loose lead: a tight lead distorts both front movement and head carriage. Lethargic, shy, disinterested Affenpinschers are not typical. The light-footed strut across the ring demonstrates their total belief in their own importance, and shows the comic seriousness which is much of their charm. They should not be allowed to “race” around the ring.
- **Temperament-- General demeanor is game alert and inquisitive with great loyalty and affection towards its master and friends, the breed is generally quiet, but can become vehemently excited when threatened or attacked and is fearless toward any aggressor.**
  - The Affenpinscher is very attached to its owner and family, and not all of them immediately welcome strangers. However, this does not mean that they should be either nervous or aggressive, both of which should be penalized. The Affen also sees himself as a very large dog in a small package, and will often think he can hold his own with other dogs that are much larger--in those instances his terrier background will be most evident.



# Critical Elements of Breed Type

## What Makes an Affenpinscher Unique Among Toys:

- **1--Expression**

“Affenpinscher” means “monkey-like Terrier”. By its demeanor and appearance, it should remind you of a monkey. This is accomplished by the medium dark eyes, its prominent lower lip, an undershot bite, and the stand-off coat on the head.

- **2--Outline**

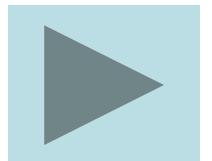
The Affenpinscher is a square dog. From the side, the moderate rear angulation ensures that its hindlegs are positioned almost directly under its set-on of tail to maintain its square appearance.

- **3--Topline**

Straight and level

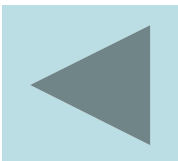
- **4--Coat**

The hair is dense, harsh and about 1” long on the body. Hair on the legs, head, neck, chest, and stomach is longer and less harsh. It should have a “neat, but shaggy” appearance. The longer hair on the head, eyebrows and beard stands off and frames the face to emphasize the monkey-like expression.



# Critical Elements of Breed Types

- **5--Color**  
Black, gray, silver, red, black and tan, or belge are all equally acceptable.
- **6--Gait**  
Light, free, sound, with a “jaunty” gait. It is NOT a driving gait that covers a lot of ground.
- **7--Tail and Ears**  
Natural tail and ears or docked tail and cropped ears are all equally acceptable.
- **8--Temperament**  
The Affenpinscher is alert and inquisitive and conducts itself with an air of “comic seriousness”. Its “monkey- like” demeanor will make you smile!
- **These 8 elements of breed type listed above are NOT listed in order of importance. All should be given equal weight when judging the Affenpinscher.**



# Color

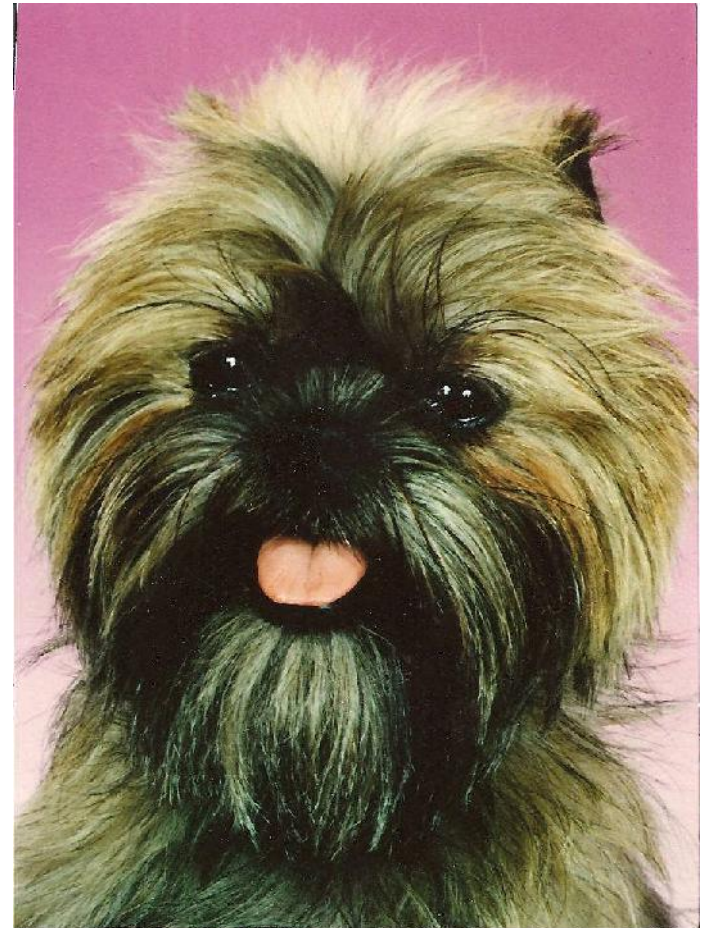


Examples of silver and/or gray.

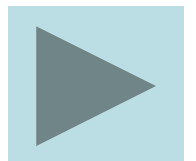




# Color (continued)



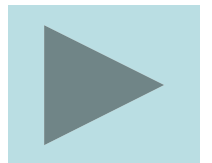
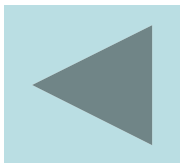
Belge is a mixture of black, brown and/or white hairs mixed with the red.



# Color (continued)



These are examples of black and tan Affens.





# Color (continued)



Two examples of red Affens— one with a black mask and one without.



# Shape



Note the beautiful square shape with moderate angles front and rear.





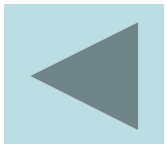
# Shape (continued)



Beautiful square shape of two deceased  
Multi-BIS winners

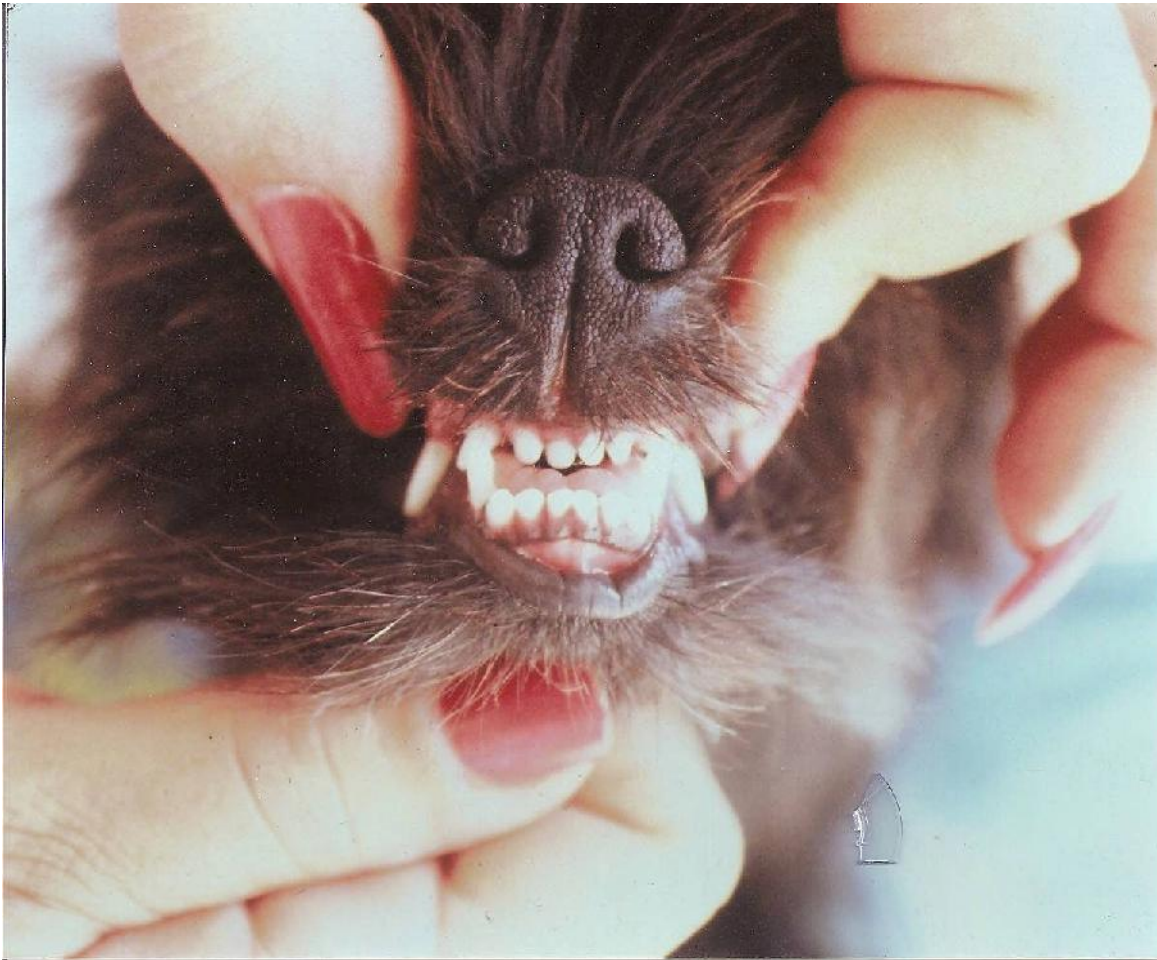


# Shape (continued)





# Bite



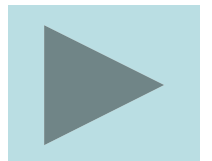
An ideal undershot mouth.



# Head Studies

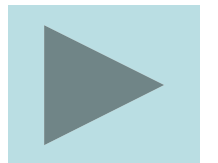
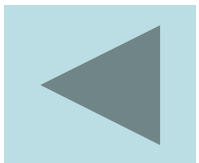
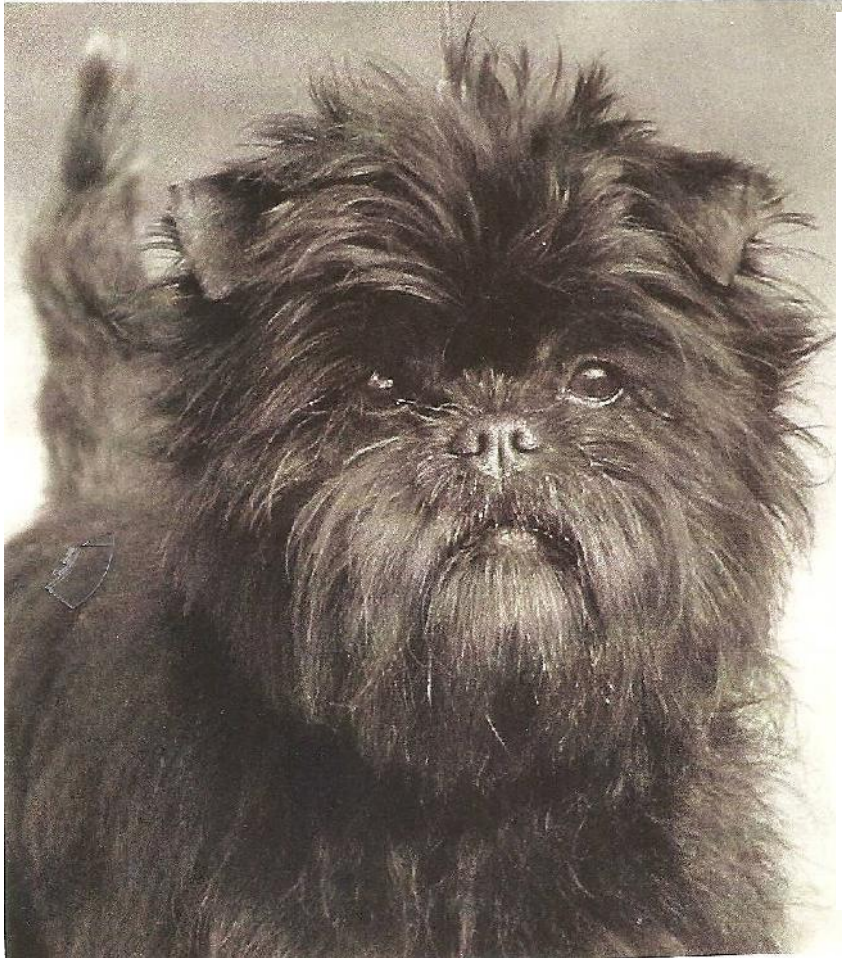


Compare these two head studies.  
Which one is more monkey-like?

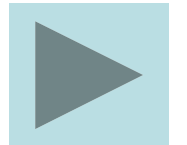




# More Head Studies

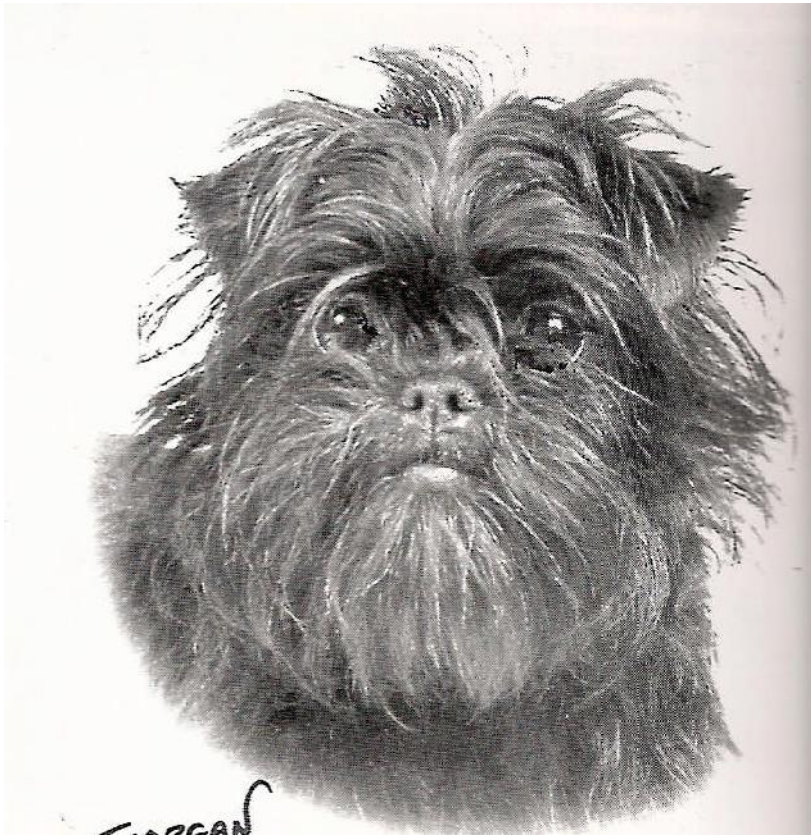


# Another head study



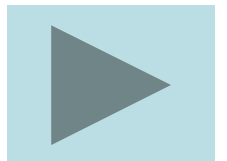


# More Head Studies



# Questions and Answers

- 1. Q. Does the Affenpinscher Standard have any disqualifications?  
A. No
- 2. Q. Should Affenpinschers always be black?  
A. No. The Standard also allows gray, silver, black & tan, belge (red, black & white hairs mixed together), and red (which can vary from a brownish red to an orangey tan). All colors should be considered equally—there is no “preferred” color.
- 3. Q. What size should an Affenpinscher be?  
A. The range of acceptable height is 9 1/2 to 11 1/2 inches for dogs and bitches. There is no weight recommendation.
- 4. Q. How hard and wirey should an Affenpinschers coat be?  
A. On the shoulders, body, and back the hair should be dense, rough, harsh-textured and approximately 1” in length, but longer, shaggier, and less harsh on the legs, neck, and head. In any case, it is not as hard and wirey as the Brussels Griffon or some terrier coats.
- 5. Q. Should an Affenpinscher have a “flat” face?  
A. No. The Standard indicates the muzzle is short and narrowing slightly to a blunt nose. The length of the muzzle should be approximately the same as the distance between the eyes.





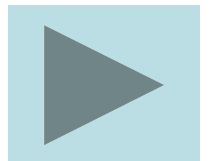
# Questions and Answers (continued)

- 6. Q. How much white can be in an Affenpinschers coat?  
A. They may have white hairs mixed in the coat and furnishings. Even a small white patch on the chest is permissible but large white patches are undesirable.
- 7. Q. What kind of bite should an Affenpinscher have?  
A. An undershot bite is called for in the Standard, but a level bite is acceptable if the monkey-like expression is maintained A wry mouth is a serious fault.
- 8. Q. What about the under-jaw on an Affenpinscher?  
A. The under-jaw protrudes slightly to add to the monkey-like expression. It is NOT upturned like the Brussels Griffon nor should it “down-faced”.
- 9. Q. How does an Affenpinscher look like a monkey?  
A. Monkey-like expression is indicated in the standard in several places. Most monkeys do not have a chin tuft of hair or a moustache like the Affenpinscher, so it must be the comic look or expression that make people think of monkeys Not only do his round eyes and the standoff quality of the hair on his face with a protruding jaw and whimsical expression give him the appearance of a little monkey, but his attitude and agility also remind people of a monkey.
- 10 Q. Should any preference be given to either natural or cropped ears? A natural or docked tail?  
A. No. All types of ears are acceptable as long as they are symmetrical. A natural or docked tail are equally acceptable



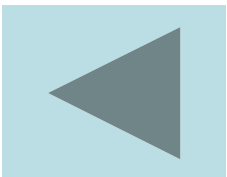
# True and False

- 1. The most recent Standard has a disqualification.
- 2. According to the Standard the best color for the breed is black.
- 3. Belge is red, black, tan, and white hairs mixed together.
- 4. The 11 ½" dog is better than the 9 ½" dog.
- 5. The Affen coat should be as hard and wiry as most terriers and the Brussels Griffon.
- 6. The length of the muzzle is equal to the distance between the eyes.
- 7. The Affen should have no white on it
- 8. The scissors bite is acceptable.
- 9. The expression of the Affen is very important.
- 10. Cropped ears are preferred.



# True or False (continued)

- 11. The natural tail destroys the monkey-like appearance of the breed.
- 12. The ears should be symmetrical
- 13. The lower lip should be prominent.
- 14. The Affen should have good reach and drive like a Herding Breed.
- 15. Color is a major consideration when judging this breed.
- 16. An Affen should have a mane that stands off from the neck and shoulders.
- 17. The skull is round and domed with a well-defined stop.
- 18. The eyes should be large, round, and prominent--comparable to the Pug.
- 19. The natural tail should always be curved up over the back.
- 20. The preferred natural ears should be bent forward at the tip.



# Movement



Note light, lively movement with little reach and drive.





# Contact Information



- For additional information visit the Affenpinscher Club of America's website at [www.affenpinscher.org](http://www.affenpinscher.org).

