

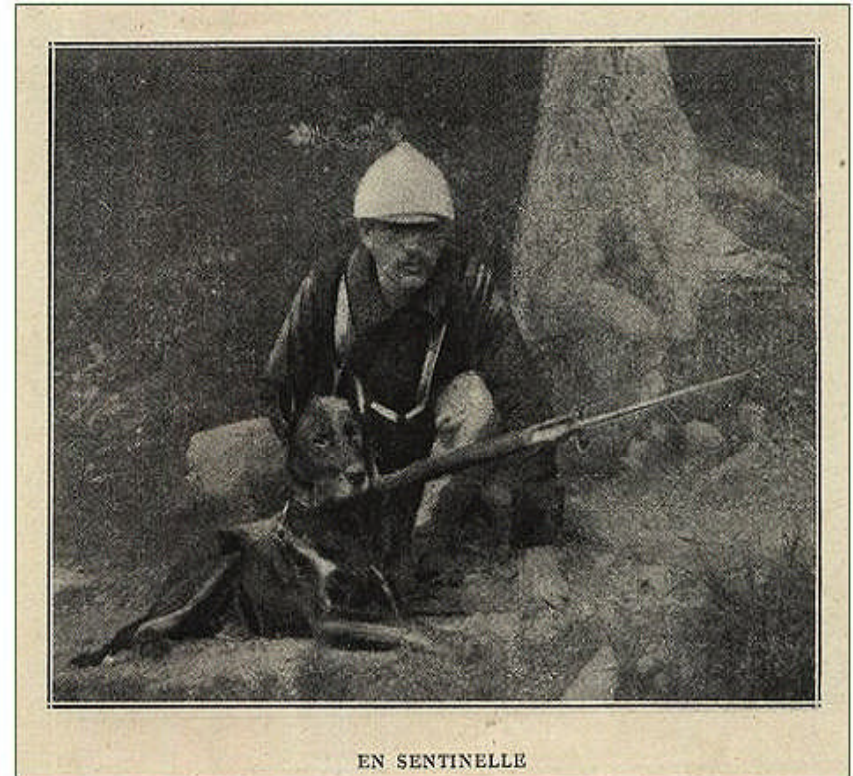
American Beauceron Club



Judges Education

Breed History

- Old breed developed solely in France with no foreign crosses originating in the plain areas where tending, herding shepherds were used.
- In 1809, a priest, Abbe' Rozier distinguished between two types of shepherds – one for herding and one for protecting livestock against predators.
- In 1863, first dog show coinciding with the Universal Exposition in Paris in which 13 dogs of lupoid type with upright ears, black coat with rust markings were entered.
- In 1888, Pierre Megnin differentiated with precision two types of these sheepdogs – one with a long coat and the other with a short coat.
- In 1896, the Club Francais du Chien de Berger was created to promote the French shepherd breeds. The short-coated shepherd dogs were called the Berger de Beauce “Beauceron” while the long coated shepherds were called the Berger de Brie “Briard.”
- In 1911, a separate club for the Berger de Beauce – Les Amis du Beauceron was founded.
- Calmness and ability to follow commands without hesitation was well illustrated during both major wars in Europe to pass messages, detect mines, pick up trails, and support commandos. They are still used by the military and police.
- Today's Beauceron excels in Herding and Guarding, Tracking, Search and Rescue, Competitive Agility and Obedience, French Ring, Schutzhund, Skijoring, Police Work, Service, and as a loyal family companion.



General Appearance

Used to move large herds of sheep and cattle up to 50 miles per day, the Beauceron is a well balanced solid dog of good height and well muscled without heaviness or coarseness. Conformation gives the impression of depth and solidity without bulkiness exhibiting the strength endurance and agility of a herding dog. He is alert and energetic with a noble carriage. A formidable dog with a frank and unwavering expression, he always demands respect wherever he goes. Dogs are characteristically larger throughout with a larger frame and heavier bone than bitches. Bitches are distinctly feminine without weakness in substance or structure. The Beauceron should be discerning and confident. He is a dog with spirit and initiative, wise and fearless with no trace of timidity. Intelligent, easily trained, faithful, gentle and obedient. The Beauceron possesses an excellent memory and an ardent desire to please his master. He retains a high degree of his inherited instinct to guard home and master. Although he can be reserved with strangers, he is loving and loyal to those he knows. Some will display a certain independence. He should be easily approached without showing signs of fear.



Size, Proportion, Substance

Size: Males 25^{1/2} to 27^{1/2} inches, Bitches 24 to 26^{1/2} inches.

Disqualification: Over or under size.

Proportion: “Medium” in all proportion.

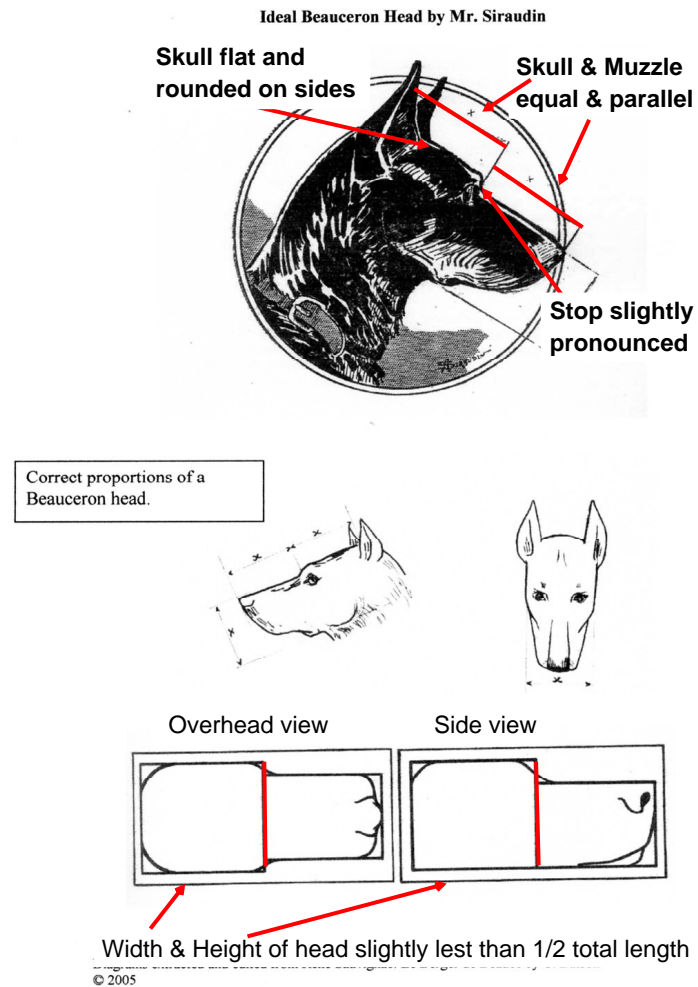
Length of body slightly greater than height. Bitches can be slightly longer than dogs.

Substance: Powerful, well built, well muscled, without sign of heaviness or clumsiness. Dogs lacking substance should be severely penalized.

Head

Head - Long and well chiseled, in proportion with the body. The tip of the nose to the occiput is 40% the height of the dog at the withers. The height and width of the head are each slightly less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the total length. The skull and muzzle are of equal length.

Expression - Gaze is alert and confident.



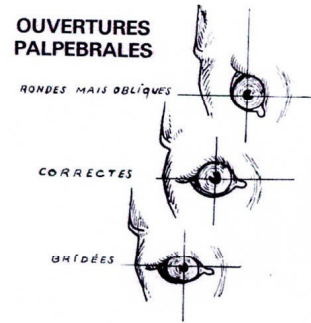
EYES

Eyes: Horizontal and slightly oval.

Dark Brown never lighter than dark hazel.

Walleye acceptable in harlequin.

DQ: Yellow eyes or walleye in the black/tan.

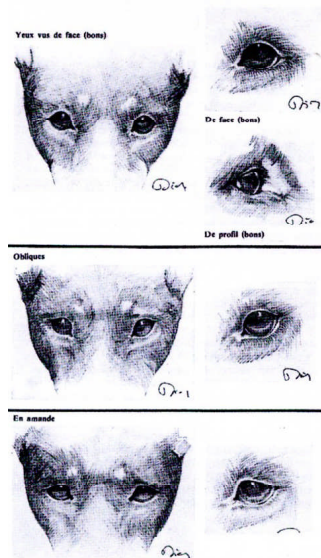


From top to bottom:

Correct eye shape but poor set

Correct eye shape and set

Correct eye set but poor shape (eyes too elongated)



From top to bottom:

I- **Correct set and shape of eyes** (front and profile view)

II- Correct eye shape but incorrect set too oblique.

III- Correct set but incorrect eye shape (too almond shaped)

Ears

Set high and either
cropped or natural.
Natural ears are drop and
stand off the side of the
head.
Ears are $\frac{1}{2}$ length of
head.
DQ – Natural ears carried
upright and rigid



Correct ear crop and set (elegant & rustic)



Incorrect ear crop and set



Ears set high



Center above: Correct set
Left: Ears set too low and
diverging
Right: Ears set too high and
converging

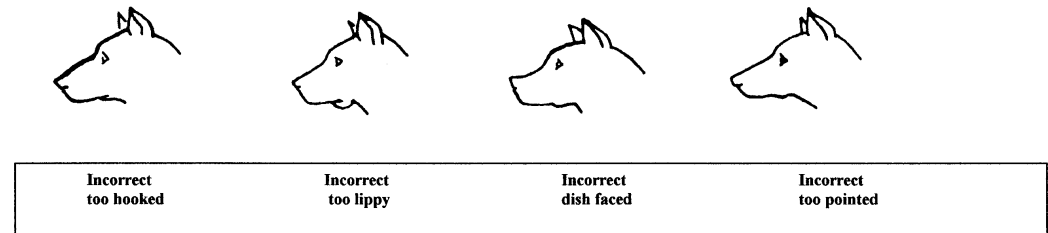
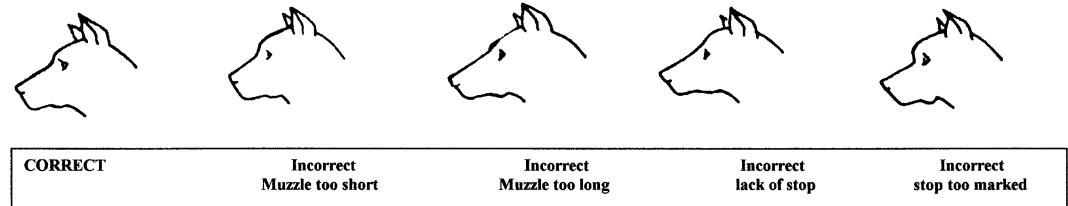


Skull – Stop - Muzzle

Skull – Flat or slightly rounded near side of head.

Stop – Slightly pronounced and equidistant from occiput to tip of nose.

Muzzle – Not narrow, pointed, or excessively broad.



Nose – Lips - Teeth

Nose – Always black. DQ – Split nose or color other than black.

Lips – Firm and well pigmented. Slight but firm flews.

Teeth – Scissors bite. DQ – Overshot or undershot with loss of contact. Absence of 3 or more teeth. First premolars do not count.

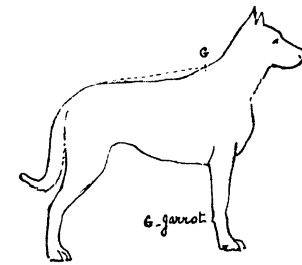


Neck - Topline

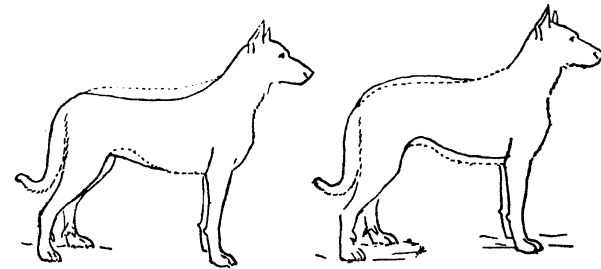
Neck – Muscular and of good length. United harmoniously with shoulders.

Topline – The back is straight and strong. Withers are well defined. Loin is broad short and muscular. Croup is slightly sloped in direction of tail attachment.

TOPLINE



1. Construction normale.



2. Dos ensellé
et ventre descendu.

3. Dos voussé,
ventre levretté et poitrine
insuffisamment descendue.

Diagram #1 Correct structure of the back

The correct structure of the topline and bottom line is surimposed in a dotted line in the diagrams #2 and 3.

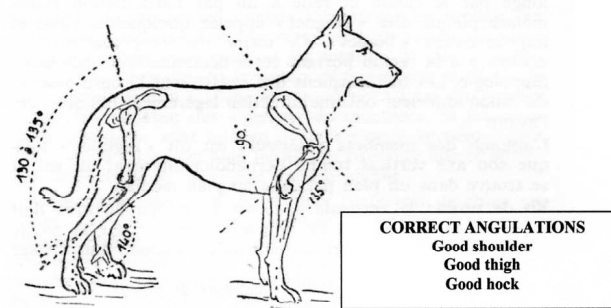
Diagram #2: Back is sagging (concave) and belly is too low

Diagram #3: Back is too arched (convex), belly is too tucked in and chest is not deep enough

Body

Body – The length of the body from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock is slightly more than the height of the dog at the withers.

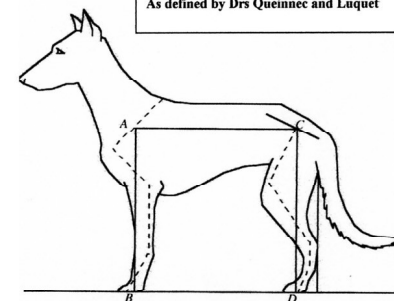
ANGULATIONS



The perpendicular line A-B must line up with the middle of the arm and the middle of the foot.

The perpendicular line C-D must line up with the hip joint and the middle of the foot.

CORRECT ANGULATIONS
As defined by Drs Queinnec and Luquet



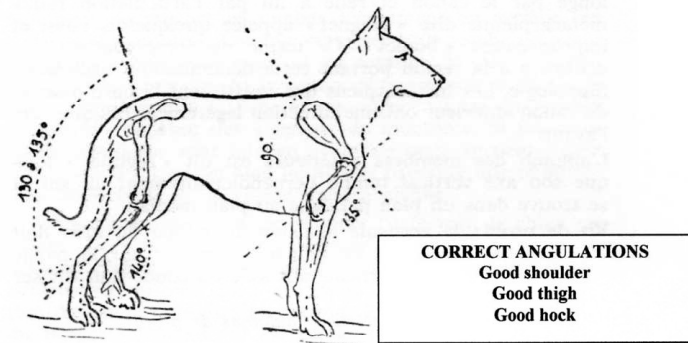
Diagrams extracted and edited from Maurice Luquet: Le Berger de Beauce by C. Batson
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Chest - Ribs

Chest – The chest is wide, deep, long, and descends to the point of the elbow. The girth of the chest is greater than the height at the withers by 20%.

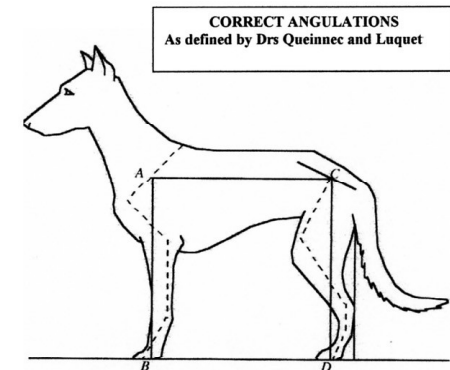
Ribs – Ribcage extends well back with long, flexible, and moderately curved ribs.

ANGULATIONS



The perpendicular line A-B must line up with the middle of the arm and the middle of the foot.

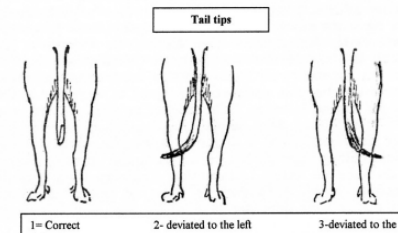
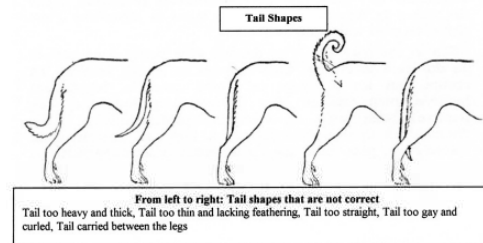
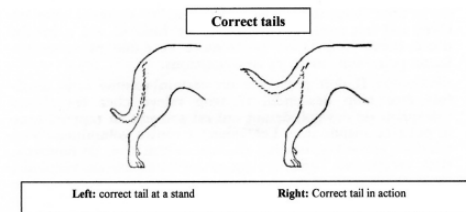
The perpendicular line C-D must line up with the hip joint and the middle of the foot.



Tail

Tail – In repose the tail is carried down and descends at least to the point of the hock. Forms a slight “J” without deviation to the left or right. In action the tail can be carried higher, becoming an extension of the topline. **DQ** – A docked tail or tail carried over the back.

TAIL SHAPE AND CARRIAGE



Diagrams extracted and edited from Maurice Luquet: Le Berger de Beauce by C. Batson
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Forequarters

Forequarters – Legs are vertical when viewed from front or in profile.

Shoulders – Moderately long with good layback.

Feet – Large, round, and compact with black nails.

FOREQUARTERS FRONT VIEW



CORRECT



Incorrect
Pigeon-toed



Incorrect
Elbows out, pigeon-toed,



Incorrect
Elbows out, feet turned out

Hindquarters

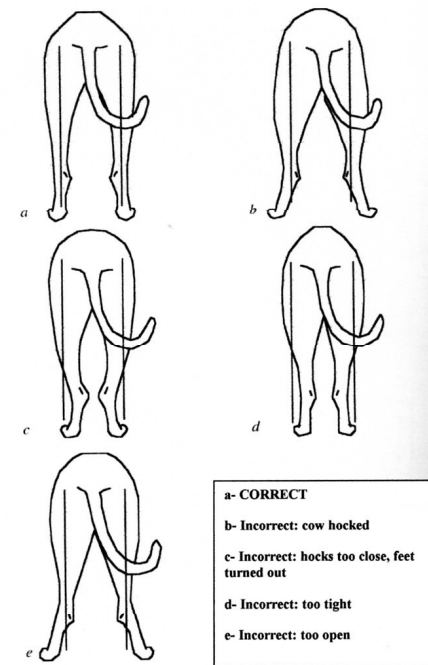
Hindquarters – Angulations are balanced with forequarters.
Vertical when viewed from rear or side.

Hock - point situated roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ height of withers.

Leg – Viewed from behind, metatarsals are perpendicular to ground and parallel to each other.

Feet – Large, round, and compact.
The rear toes turn out very slightly.

HINDQUARTERS REAR VIEW



Dewclaws

Dewclaws – Double dewclaws form will separated “thumbs” with nails placed rather close to foot.

DQ – Anything with less than double dewclaws on each rear leg.



Diagrams extracted and edited from René Sauvignac: Le Berger de Benuce by C. Batson
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Coat

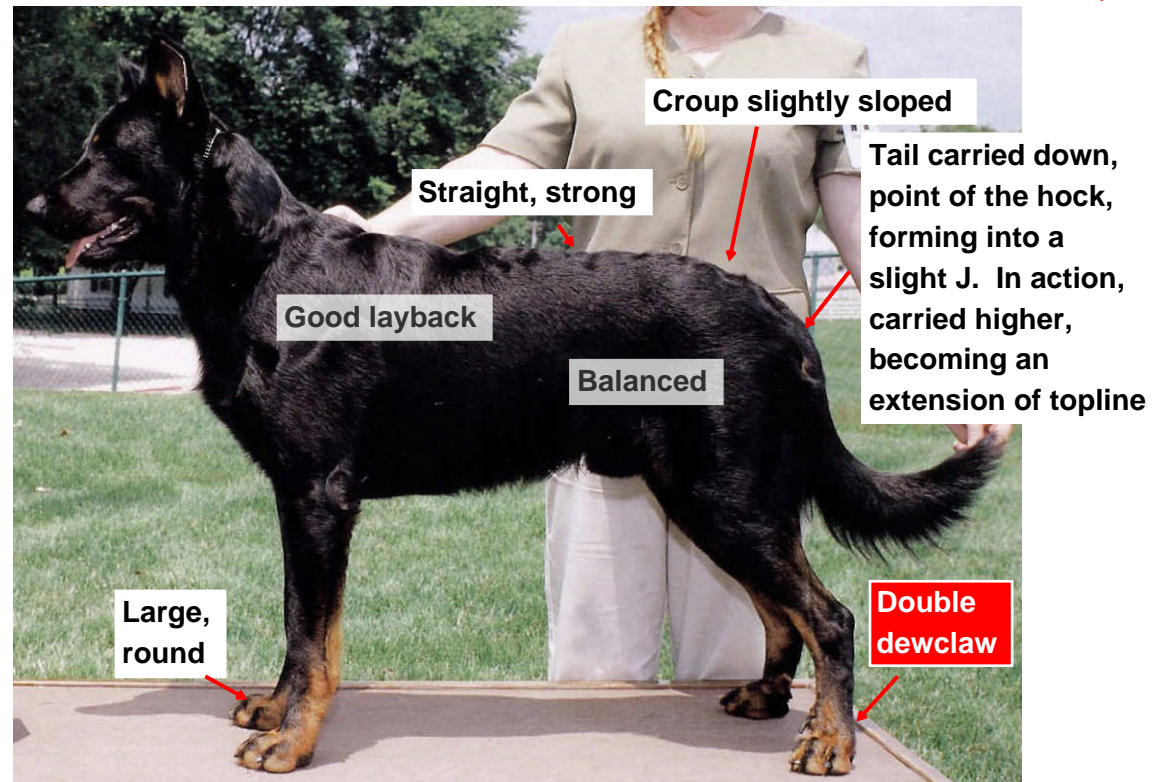
Slightly longer than tall
point of shoulders to buttocks
withers to ground

Back straight and strong

Croup slightly sloping

Coat is 1¼ to 1½ inches, coarse, and double coated. It is short and smooth on head, lower legs, and ears. May be longer around neck. Tail and thighs are lightly fringed.

The Beauceron is shown in a natural condition. Chest to elbow trimming. DQ – Shaggy coat.

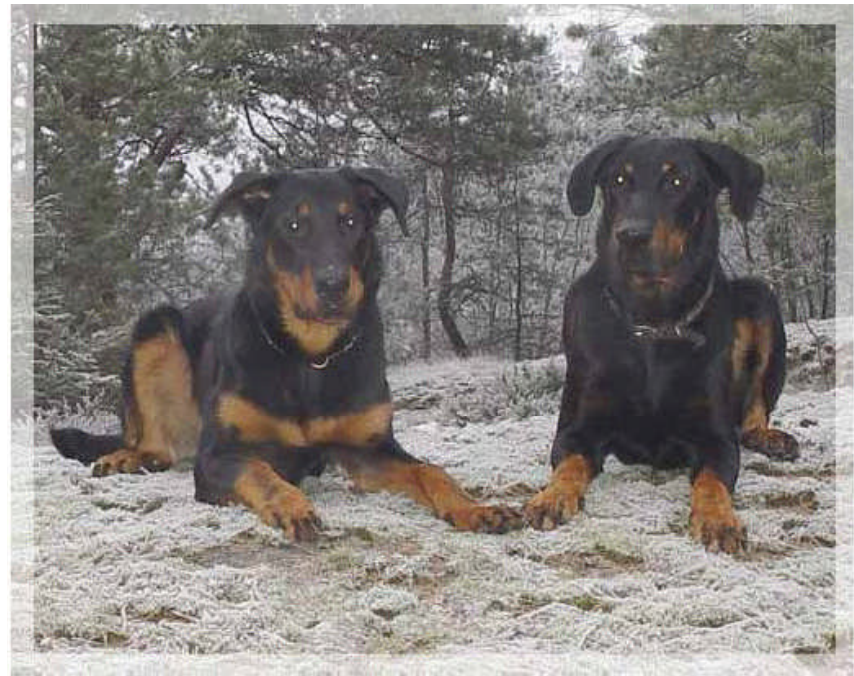


Colors

Black/Tan – Black is pure. Tan is squirrel red. Tan markings over eyes and sides of muzzle. Tan on chest, throat, under tail, and legs. Some white hairs on chest are tolerated.

Harlequin – Black/Tan base color with Blue/Gray patches distributed evenly over body.

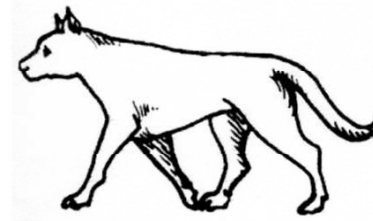
DQ – Any color other than Black/Tan or Harlequin. Complete absence of markings. White spot on chest 1 inch or larger. In Harlequin too much gray, black on one side of body and gray on the other, head entirely gray.



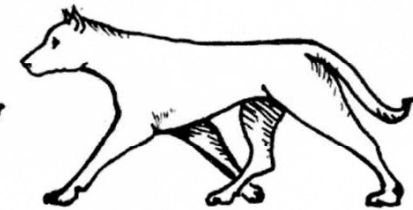
Gait

Movement is fluid and effortless. The head is lowered approaching the level of the topline. Dogs with clumsy or inefficient gait must be penalized.

THE WALK



CORRECT WALK



Incorrect walk: Over-reaching

Temperament

The Beauceron is self assured with a frank approach. It is never mean, timid, or worried. Although reserved with strangers, the Beauceron should be gentle and fearless. Any display of fear or unjustifiable aggression is not to be tolerated.

Disqualifications

Height outside minimum or maximum.

Split nose, color other than black, or unpigmented areas.

Overshot or undershot teeth with loss of contact. Absence of three or more teeth (first premolars not counting).

Yellow eyes. Walleye in the Black/Tan.

Natural ears carried upright and rigid.

Docked tail or tail carried over the back.

Anything less than double dewclaws on each rear leg.

Shaggy coat.

Any color other than Black/Tan or Harlequin.

Complete absence of markings.

Well defined white spot on chest 1 inch or larger.

In the Harlequin too much gray, black on one side of body and gray on the other, head entirely gray.