

**CELEBRATE!**



**BELGIAN LAEKENOIS**



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### BELGIAN LAEKENOIS

A new breed in the house!

We welcome our cousin the Belgian Laekenois to the AKC world family of dogs. A herding dog, the Laekenois is also a guardian, protecting his people and property, a messenger during war time, and a war dog when needed. And it's not a new dog; the Laekenois was the basis for all the Belgian breeds.

Q: What do Laekenois look like?

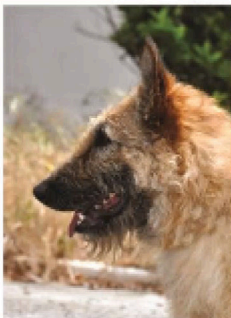
A: Their coats are rough and coarse, with a distinctly rounded look.

Q: Is that a beard we see?

A: Yes, a beard must be present on the muzzle. The hair on the head should not hide their eyes, but add to their scrappy and disheveled appearance. These should not be silky or soft dogs.

Q: What color are they?

A: All shades of red or fawn to greyish tones are acceptable with traces of black appearing principally on the muzzle and tail. They must look like big, ruddy bears or crows. But, these are rough dogs, smart, agile, and full of life.



# Belgian Laekenois

“Lack-en-wah”



“Welcome “ from ABLA to the wonderful world of the Belgian Laekenois. We are excited to have entered the AKC Miscellaneous Class on June 30, 2011. The Belgian Laekenois has a very small breed pool worldwide and has been close to extinction on several occasions. We believe AKC recognition will be a big step in the survival of this breed.

# History



All Belgians were registered as one breed with the American Kennel Club until 1959 when the breed was split into three.

Good breed type has not changed over the years – this illustration is from a 1928 Belgian pedigree.

# Breed Type

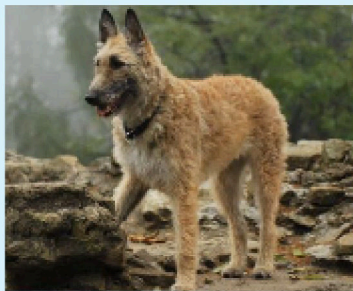
*“Breed Type”* refers to the combination of specific features that gives an overall impression to distinguish a group of dogs as a breed. Breed type can first be recognized by looking at the overall outline.



Kevin P. Johnson



# The Elegant Belgians



*Shutterstock Alexander's Light*

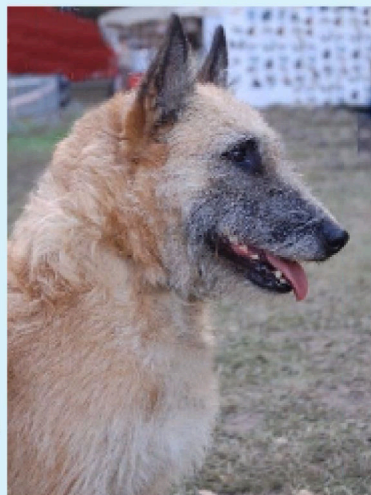


# Size, Proportion, Substance

- Males – 24-26”
- Females – 22-24”
- Square – females can be slightly longer
- Bone – moderately heavy in proportion to height – neither spindly nor bulky
- DQ –
  - Males under 23 or over 27”
  - Females under 20.5 or over 25”

# Head

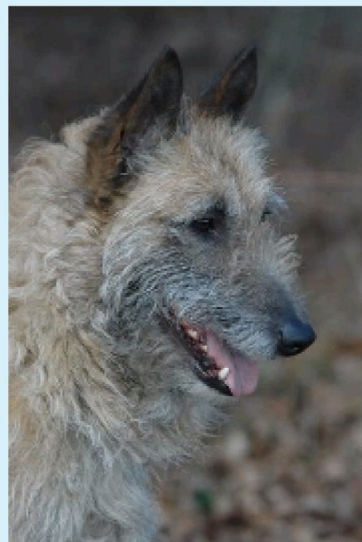
- Clean cut, strong, long, lean
- Skull & muzzle approximately equal, with slight advantage to muzzle
- Size in proportion to body
- Skull flattened, width not wider than length
- Stop – moderate
- Muzzle not snipey – approximately equal in length to topskull



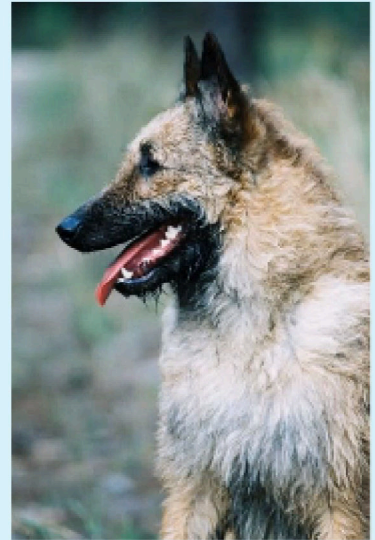
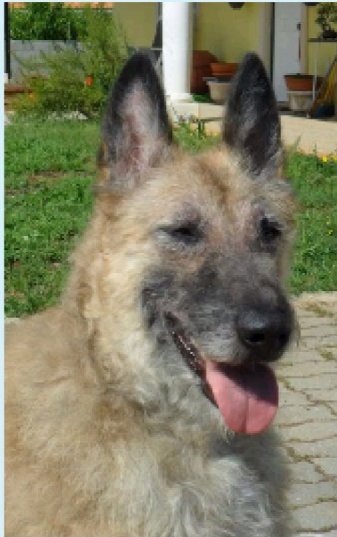


# Head

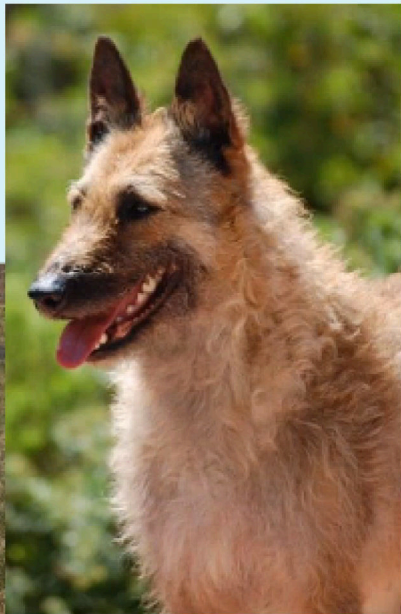
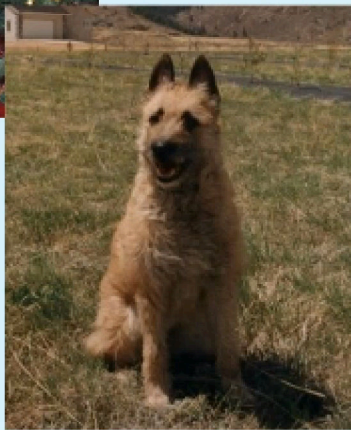
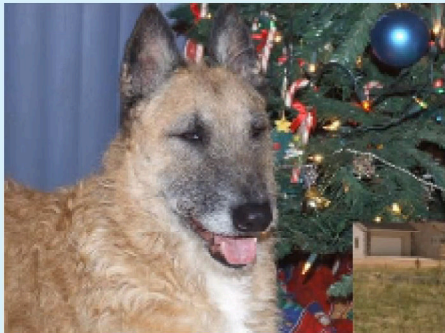
- Expression – Intelligent, alert, questioning, attentive and ready!
- Eyes – brown, prefer dark brown, medium size, slightly almond
- Ears – Triangular, stiff, erect, in proportion to head, & base of ear should not come below center of eye
- Nose - Black



# Masculine Males

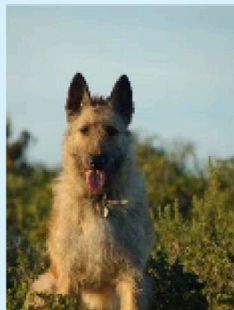


# Feminine Females



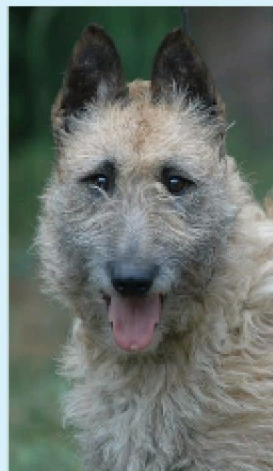
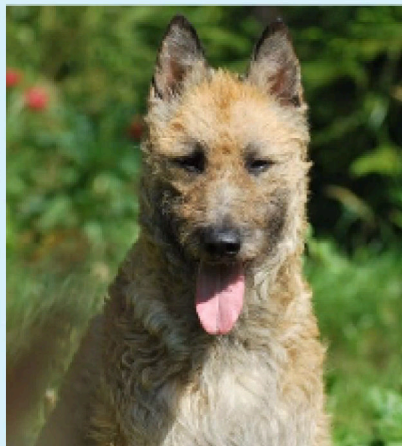
# Coat

- Rough and coarse – disorderly and tousled look
- Length – approximately 2-1/2" over body
- Beard must be present on muzzle
- Hair on head should not be excessive as to hide eyes nor lines of head and skull nor make the head appear square or heavy
- Tail should not form plume
- Penalize silky, soft or lacking a double coat



# Color - Range

*All shades of red or fawn to grayish tones with blackening*





## Color – White

- “A small to moderate white patch is permitted on the chest and the tips of the toes may be white.”
- “White or gray frosting on the chin and muzzle is normal and acceptable.”

**That being said.....**

# Color - White

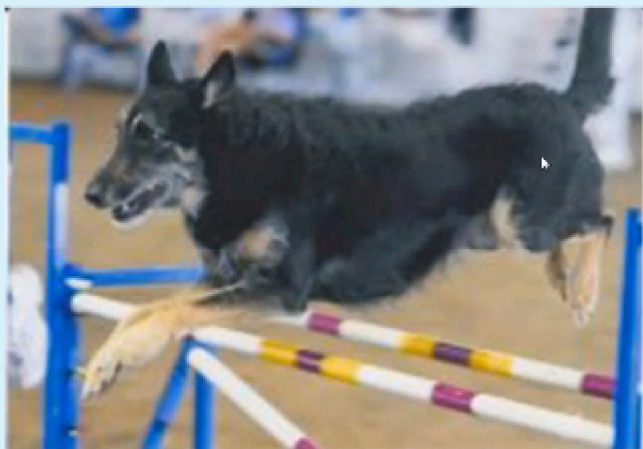
- The DQ is for “Solid white markings elsewhere than on tips of toes, chest, or frosting on muzzle.”  
You be the judge!



# Color - Black

"The degree of blackening varies considerably from dog to dog with all variations being equally acceptable."

You be the judge!



## Color

So it's not always a matter of  
"black or white."

# Movement - Gait

- Smooth, free & easy, never tiring, exhibiting facility of movement rather than hard driving action
- Tends to single track at fast (converge)
- Backline level – no crabbing – tends to move circular



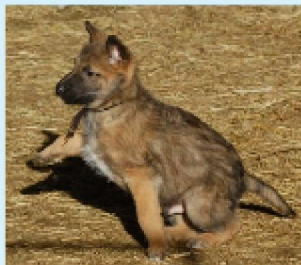


# Movement - Balance



# Temperament

- “Intelligence, courage, alertness and devotion to master.”
- Protective of his person and property of master
- Guardian of flock and field
- Watchful, attentive and always in motion when not under command
- Observant and vigilant with strangers, but not apprehensive, fearful or shy with humans
- “Extreme shyness severely penalized
- DQ: Viciousness



# Judging

- Most dogs are owner-handled (& many exhibitors have not been in ring before)
- As a herding breed, they should be free-baited and not hand-stacked
- Must have confident approach without hesitation from the front.
- Dogs are focused on handler so make sure they know you are there
- Avoid prolonged eye contact
- Aloof or reserved, if not fearful, should not be penalized
- NEVER accept questionable temperament



# Disqualifications

- Size
  - Males - less than 23" or more than 27"
  - Females - less than 20.5" or more than 25"
- Ears – drooping or hanging ears
- Teeth - Undershot or overshot bite such that contact with two incisors is lost (note: loss of contact caused by short center incisors shall not be judged as undershot in an otherwise correct bite).  
Four or more missing teeth
- Tail - cropped or stumped
- Color – Solid white markings elsewhere than on tips of toes, chest, or frosting on muzzle
- Viciousness

# Summary

- Consider the overall dog
- Keep in mind - beautiful elegant Belgian type
  - Head – elegant
  - Expression - intelligent
  - Silhouette -square
  - Structure – moderate
  - Coat/Color – coarse & tousled/red to fawn to gray
  - Movement - effortless
  - Attitude - confident



**With no perfect dogs existing, which of the dogs in your ring will best improve this breed?**