



American Dutch Shepherd Association



AKC Illustrated Standard



This illustrated breed standard is for the national herding breed of The Netherlands, the Hollandse Herdershond, or in English, the Dutch Shepherd.

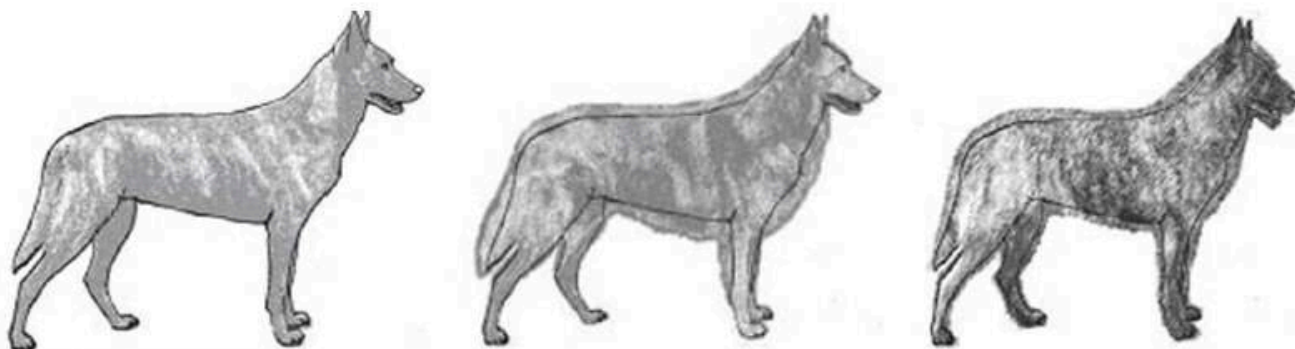
There are many dogs in the USA that are called “Dutch Shepherd”, but are actually mixed-breeds specifically bred to excel in certain sports. Sometimes they may even be registered in an AKC acceptable registry. This is why it is important that judges understand the correct conformation and temperament of the breed.

The Dutch Shepherd is primarily a farm dog, and is still used for herding in The Netherlands. It is also considered a companion by the Dutch Breed Club. But it is a versatile breed and can be found competing in many activities. However, the breed is still to be judged as a dog that has structure and endurance to trot a line all day, and with a temperament that is comfortable around livestock, large and small, plus social with people and children.

The AKC breed standard is written to match the Dutch standard (FCI) so as not to create a new breed here in the USA. Practically speaking, there should be no discernable difference between Dutch Shepherds in Dutch shows and AKC shows.

This book focuses on correct type, and the majority of the photos are of dogs in Europe. There are very few photos of faults, so any characteristic that deviates from the standard is a fault.

The first breed association for the Dutch Shepherd was formed in 1898 in The Netherlands.





The Dutch Shepherd (Hollandse Herdershond) is a natural land-breed, of Dutch origins. Long ago, shepherds and farmers needed a versatile dog, a "Jack-of-all-trades", well adapted to the harsh and sparse existence of the time. In addition to its role as a shepherd's dog, at the farm they kept the hens away from the kitchen garden, herded the cows together for milking, and pulled carts laden with milk or produce to market. They also watched the children and alerted the farmer if strangers entered the farmyard.



Sheepen op de Veluwe

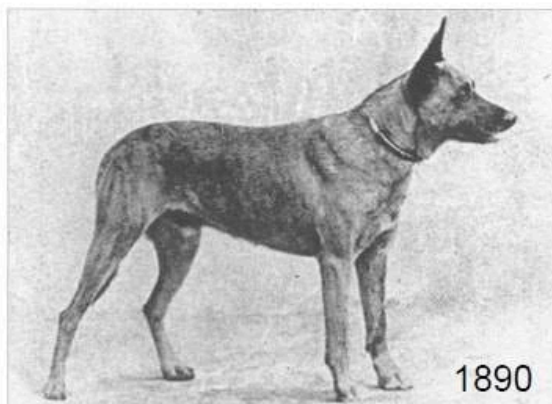


Around 1900, sheep flocks in The Netherlands, and the shepherd dogs which tended them, had been mostly replaced by industrialization, and the reclamation of land for other purposes. The versatile skills of the Dutch Shepherd made it suitable for new careers such as, police dog, search and rescue dog, and guide dog for the blind. The breed has retained its original herding ability, and is still used for this purpose. The first breed standard dates from June 12, 1898.

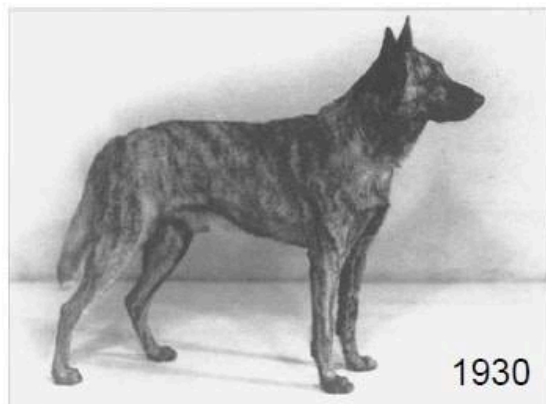




Consistency of type throughout the years.

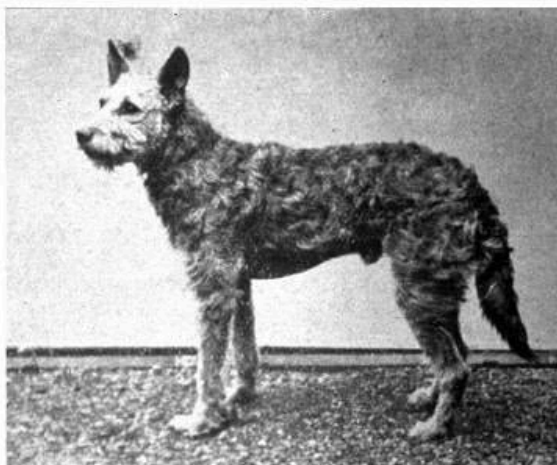


Spits van Kralingen 1890



Erik van Parmstein 1930





Kloek about 1930



About 1970



Today



By the mid-1930s the long hair variety was declared extinct. The only appearances of long hairs were by-products of short hair breedings.

Dr. Van de Akker, in his desire to own a long hair, worked in secret to revive the variety by traveling the countryside looking for farmers' dogs with correct type.

Dr. Van de Akker bred and sold dogs throughout the wartime, and in 1951 presented three long hairs of his breeding program at a show.

And so the long haired variety was entered again into the studbook.





The first impression of the Dutch Shepherd is of a medium-sized, middle-weighted, well-muscled dog of powerful and well-balanced structure.



MALE



FEMALE



His carriage is natural and relaxed, but alert. He is a dog with lots of endurance, and lively temperament and an intelligent expression. The breed is presented in three coat types, short-, long-, and rough-haired.



MALE



FEMALE



The difference between sexes is clearly recognizable, especially in the shape of the head and build of body. Both male and female should be judged equally.



MALE

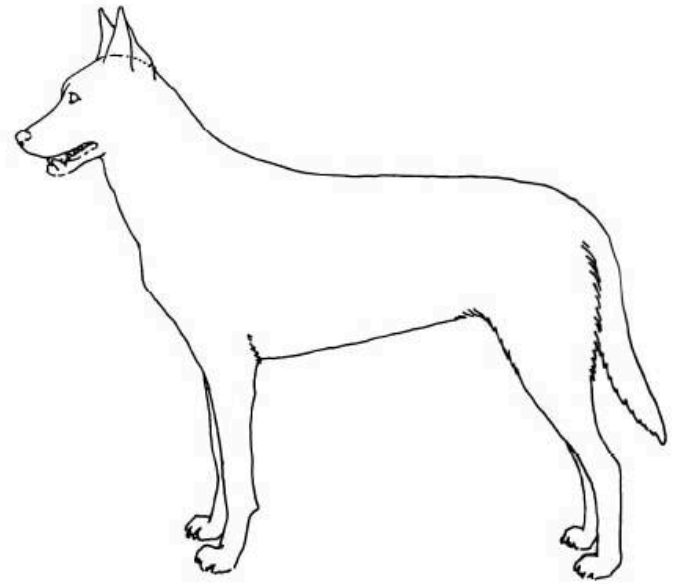
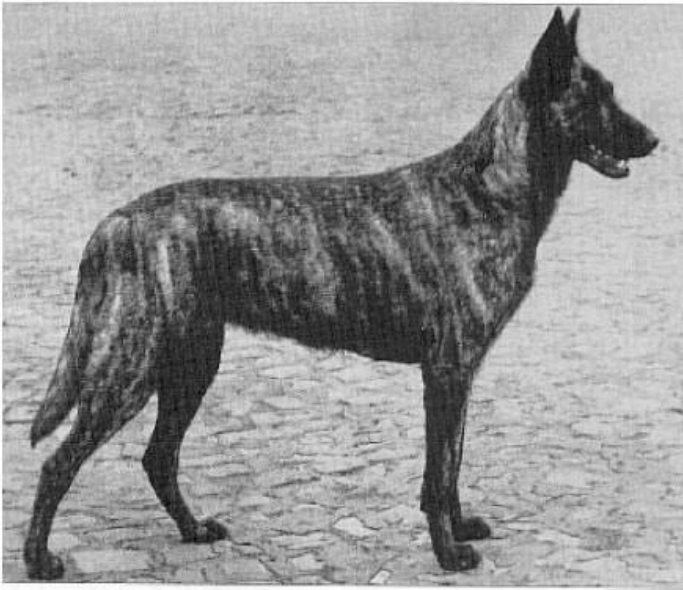


FEMALE



Bellaa

Bellaa was born 29 January 1958. She is a Dutch Champion, Junior Winner 1959, and Winner 1962. Bellaa is also the model for correct Dutch Shepherd structure. You can find Bellaa in the NHC's book, *Allemaal 'Hollanders'*, the book about the history of the breed.





Males should be 22 ½ to 24 ½ inches in height.

Females should be 21 ½ to 23 ½ inches in height, measured at the withers.

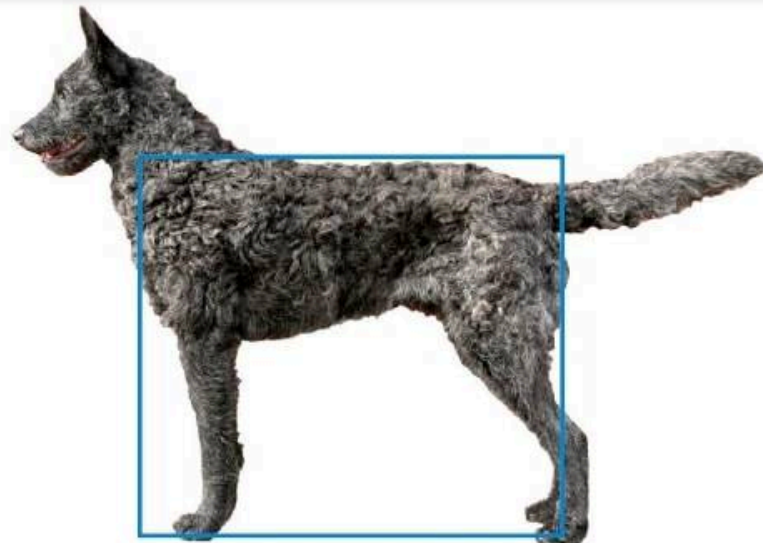
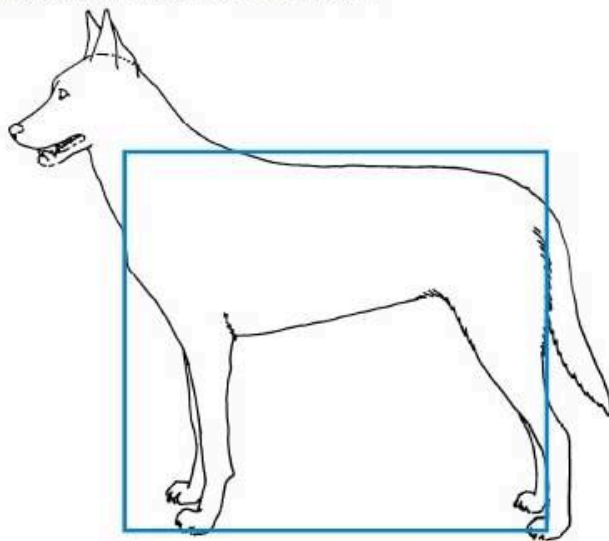
The length, measured from point of breastbone to point of buttock, compared to the height, should be a **10 to 9 ratio**.

Bone structure is solid and moderate weight in correct proportion to his height, appearance well balanced, neither too light or too heavy.

DQs:

Males under 21.0 or over 26.0 inches.

Females under 20.0 or over 25.0 inches.



Ratio of Length:Height 10 : 9



Additional comments:

The head of the rough-hair may look square, but that is an illusion due to the rough coat.



FAULTS



Square Muzzle



Round Skull



Insufficient Stop



Blocky Skull



Should be intelligent and lively, indicating alertness, attention and readiness for activity.



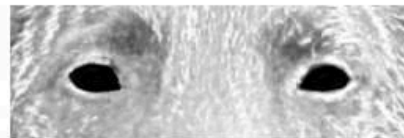


Eyes are dark colored and medium size, set slightly oblique, almond shaped and not protruding.

DQ: Dogs with distinctly yellow or blue eyes.



Correct—almond and oblique.



Correct—almond and oblique.



FAULT: Eyes too round.



FAULT: Almond but not oblique.





Are medium sized, stiff, and erect.

Additional comments:

The ears of the long-haired dogs are generally wider at the base. The breed club considers this a minor fault until the population's ear shape improves overall.

DQ: Dropping or hanging ears.

FAULT: Undesirable shape and too large



Beautiful Ears



Long hair ears are wider at the base. Minor fault.



NOTE LONG HAIRS: The ears of the Long Hair population as a whole are wider at the base. They have been improving gradually over generations, but the consensus is that they do not want to sacrifice genetic diversity for the sake of the ears, and so the ears will gradually improve.



Skull is flat and never rounded.

The **Stop** is moderate and distinct.

Muzzle – the bridge of the muzzle is straight and parallel to the top of the skull. The jaws should be strong and powerful.

The skull and muzzle are equal in length.

Also refer to page 11.





Nose – is black without spots or discoloured areas.

Lips – should be tight and black, with no pink showing on the outside.

Teeth – full complement of strong, white teeth, evenly set.

Bite – is Scissors. A level, overshot or undershot bit is a fault

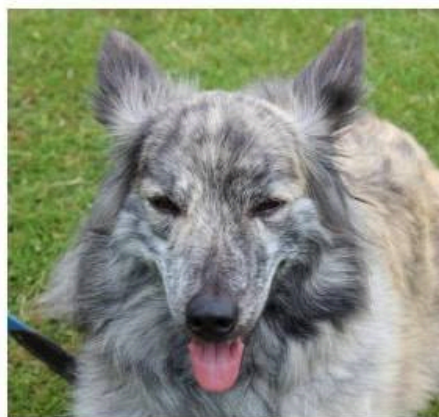
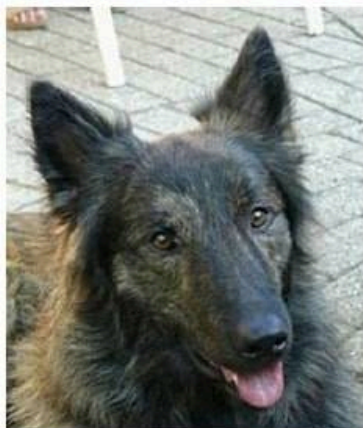
Additional Note: A wry bite is also a fault.





Example of typical heads.

The head of the rough-hair looks square, but that is an illusion.

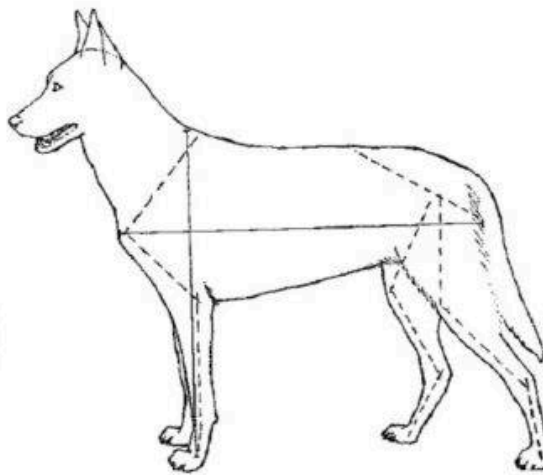
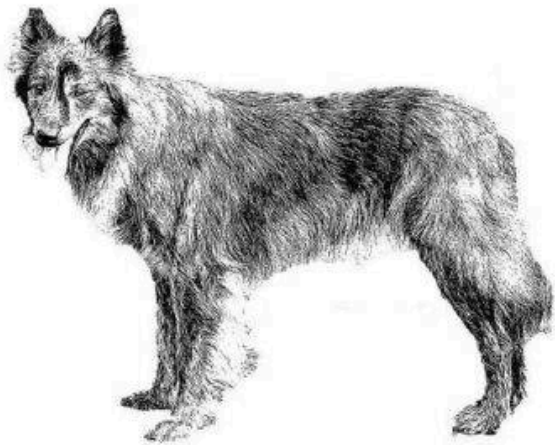




neck to the top line of the body, which should gradually merge into the body.

Topline – There is a smooth, gentle transition from the neck to the top line of the body, in which head and neck are carried in a natural pose.

The **withers** are slightly higher and slope into the **Back**, which must be level, straight, and firm from withers to hip joints.





Body – Firm, but not coarse.

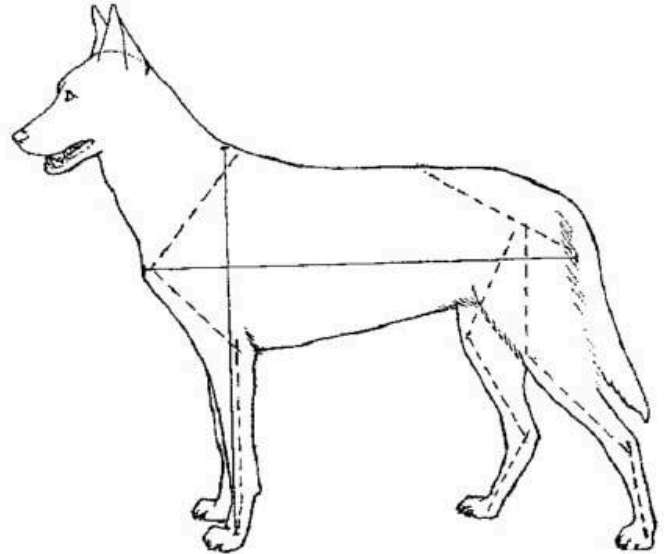
Chest – Deep and long, not narrow, ribs slightly sprung.

Fore chest – is fairly well developed.

Abdomen – Slight tuck up.

Loin – Firm and short with moderate depth.

Croup – is slightly sloping and moderate length.





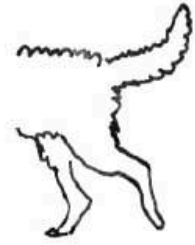
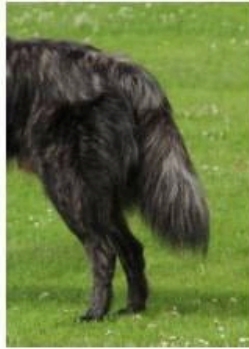
Tail – At rest, hangs straight down or with a slight curve.

Reaches to the hock.

In action, carried gracefully upwards, never curled or carried sideways.

DQ: Cropped or stump tail are disqualifications.

In action carried gracefully upwards.

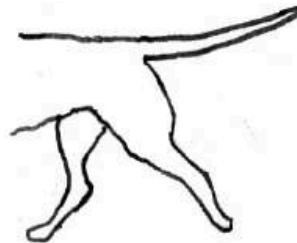


Curled over back



FAULTS

Lack of coat





Shoulder-blades are well joined to the body and well sloping.

The **forelegs** are powerful, of good length, well-muscled.

The **bone** is solid but not heavy. Always generally showing a straight line, but with sufficient suppleness of **pastern**.

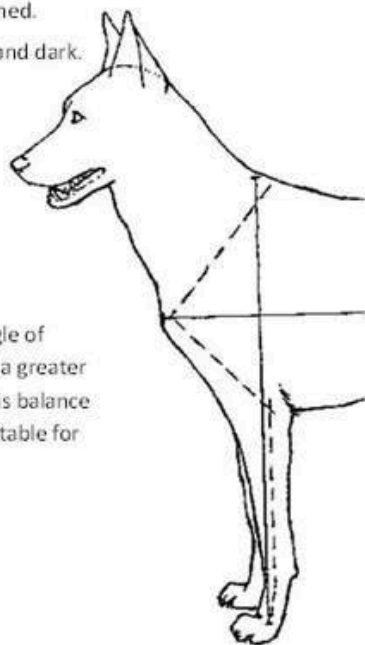
The **Upper arm** is approximately equal in length to the shoulder-blades and well angulated with the connecting bones.

The **Elbow** is well attached.

Forefeet are oval, well knit, toes arched.

Nails are black and **pads** are elastic and dark.

Dewclaws are permissible.



NOTE: The illustration shows an angle of approximately 90 degrees, however a greater angle is acceptable so long as there is balance within the dog as a whole, and is suitable for a trotting breed.





The **hind-legs** are powerful and well-muscled.

The **bone** is solid but never heavy.

Not excessively angulated. With a correctly angulated rear, a perpendicular line dropped from the point of rump will line up with the front of the rear pastern.

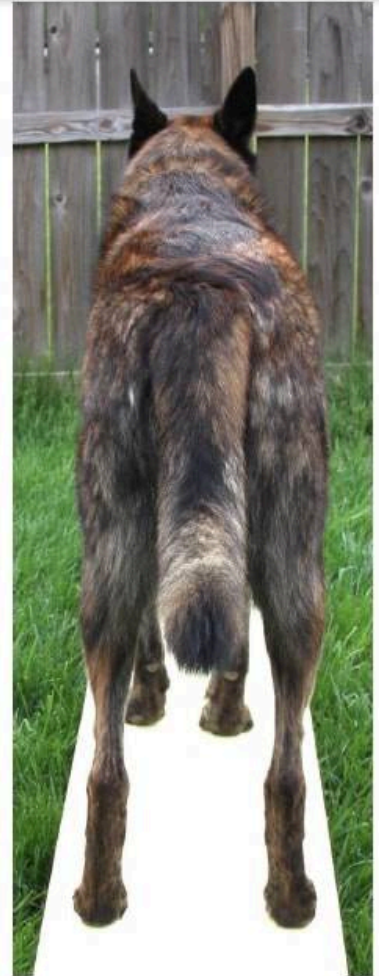
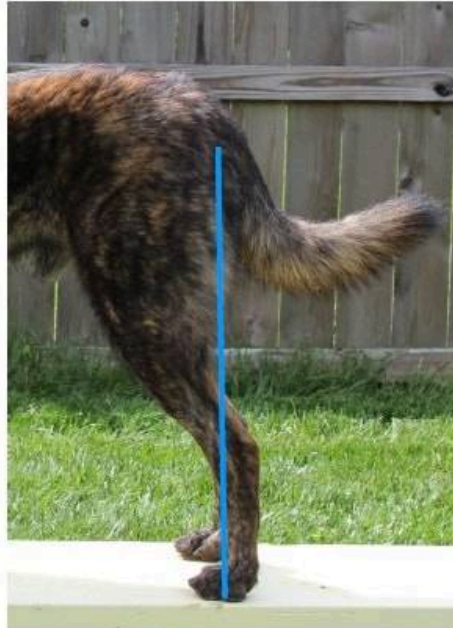
The **thigh and lower thigh** are of approximately equal length.

The **Hock** is perpendicular.

Dewclaws – none present.

The **hind feet** are oval and well-knit with arched toes, **black nails** and elastic dark pads.

NOTE: Excessive rear angulation is undesirable and should be penalized.





The dog is shown in natural coat without excessive grooming. Whiskers are present in all coat-types.

The **Short Hair** coat is uniformly quite hard, close fitting, and not too short coat with a woolly undercoat. The ruff, breeches and tail plume are clearly visible.

NOTE: The Short Hair's coat should not be short like a Doberman Pinscher.



Fotografie Moniek de Jager



Fotografie Moniek de Jager



The dog is shown in natural coat without excessive grooming. Whiskers are present in all coat-types.

The **Long Hair** coat is long, straight, and well fitting, harsh to the touch, without curls or waves also with a woolly undercoat. The ruff and breeches are distinct and the tail abundantly coated. The head, ears, feet and hind legs below the hocks are short and densely coated. The backsides of the forelegs show a strongly developed coat, the feathering shortening in length towards the feet. There are no fringes at the ears.





The dog is shown in natural coat without excessive grooming. Whiskers are present in all coat-types.

The **Rough Hair** coat is dense, harsh, tousled coat with a woolly, dense undercoat all over the body except for the head. The coat should be close fitting. The upper and lower lips should be well covered with hair, with beard, and two well defined, coarse rough eyebrows that are distinct but not exaggerated. Furnishings are not soft. The hair on the skull and on the cheeks is less strongly developed. In profile it seems as if the head has a more square appearance. Strongly developed breeches are desirable. The tail is covered all round with hair. The brindle color may be less pronounced because of the tousled coat. The rough hair oat should be hand-plucked on average twice a year.





The **Rough Hair** coat is a wire coat that is hand stripped (plucked) about twice a year, so you may see different coat lengths depending on when the dog was last stripped. Most people will “roll the coat” when they are actively showing in conformation. This process is the same as hand stripping, but it is done more often, and not as extreme as a fully stripped coat.

These photos show the same dog before and after stripping. The shorter coat shows off the brindle pattern, but it will likely be mostly the softer undercoat, depending on the timing of the process.

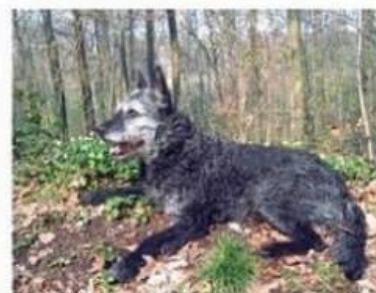
Having a full coat in the ring will make judging more difficult, but the dog should not be penalized.





Brindle. The base color is golden or silver. Golden can vary from light sand color to chestnut red.

The brindle maybe black or a dark brown and is clearly present all over the body and in the ruff, breeches and tail.





A small amount of white on chest or toes is permitted (see right). Too much black is a fault, as well as heavy white markings on the chest or feet.

A black mask is preferred.

DQ: Solid white markings elsewhere than on tips of toes, chest, or frosting on muzzle.

Additional comments:

Dilutes are not specifically addressed, but because the nose and eyes will have incorrect pigment, it is not a desired color.

When young, the **Rough Hair** will appear very dark, however the coat lightens as it ages.

White on chest acceptable.



White on chest too large.



Dark Puppy



Will lighten with age.



White on face due to age.





Dog is a trotter with free, smooth and supple movement, without exaggerated drive or stride.

The Dutch Shepherd tends to single track at a fast gait; the legs, both front and rear, converging toward the center line of gravity of the dog.

The backline should remain firm and level, parallel to the center of motion, with no crabbing.

Additional comments:

Note that the tail is often carried high when in motion.

Carriage is natural with the head in a lowered position, sometimes level with the back.

The head should never be carried high.





The Dutch Shepherd should reflect the qualities of loyalty and reliability, alertness, and watchfulness. He is active, independent, with persistence, intelligence, prepared to be obedient, and gifted with the true shepherding temperament.

The Dutch Shepherd Dog works willingly together with its owner and he deals independently with any task which is assigned to him. When herding larger flocks he must have the capacity to work together with several other dogs.

He should not show fear or shyness nor viciousness by unwarranted or unprovoked attack.

In 1910 the Dutch Shepherd is described as a combination of a “nice house dog”, and “afraid of nothing and nobody”. The breed retains its shepherding temperament throughout the decades, even though it has not been a selection criteria for the breeding program in The Netherlands.





FAULTS

Any deviation from these specification is a fault. In determining whether a fault is minor, serious, or major, these two factors should be used as a guide:

1. The extent to which it deviates from the standard,
2. The extent to which such deviation would actually affect the working ability and welfare of the dog.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Males under 21.0 inches or over 26.0 inches.

Females under 20.0 inches or over 25.0 inches.

Yellow or blue eyes.

Drooping or hanging ears.

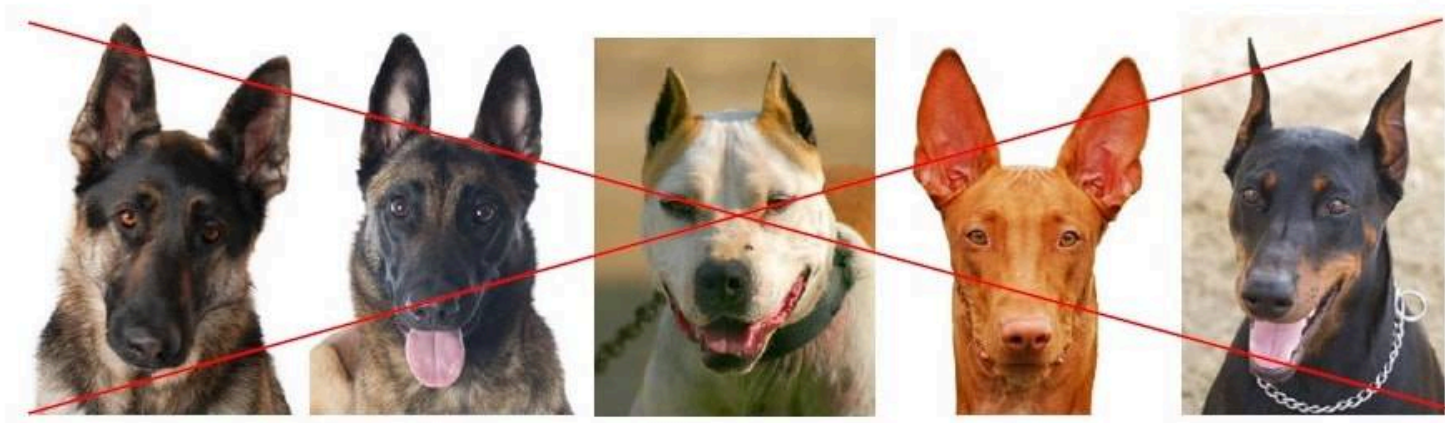
Cropped or stump tail.

Solid white markings elsewhere than on tips of toes, chest, or frosting on muzzle.



Correct type is of primary importance when judging the Dutch Shepherd.

The Dutch Shepherd should not have the appearance of another breed. Brindle is a dominant gene and common in many breeds.





Thanks to the Nederlandse Herdershonden Club members, Mieke van Viegen-Rappange, Lia Helmers-de Regt, Rob Cordes en Jan de Gids.and Nellie Nugteren for their contribution to this study guide,

To American Dutch Shepherd Association, Carole Goetzelmann, Kent Rupprecht, Brenda Lelli, Cindy Coombs, and Anita Arnold,

And to our other friends around the world who contributed photographs.

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