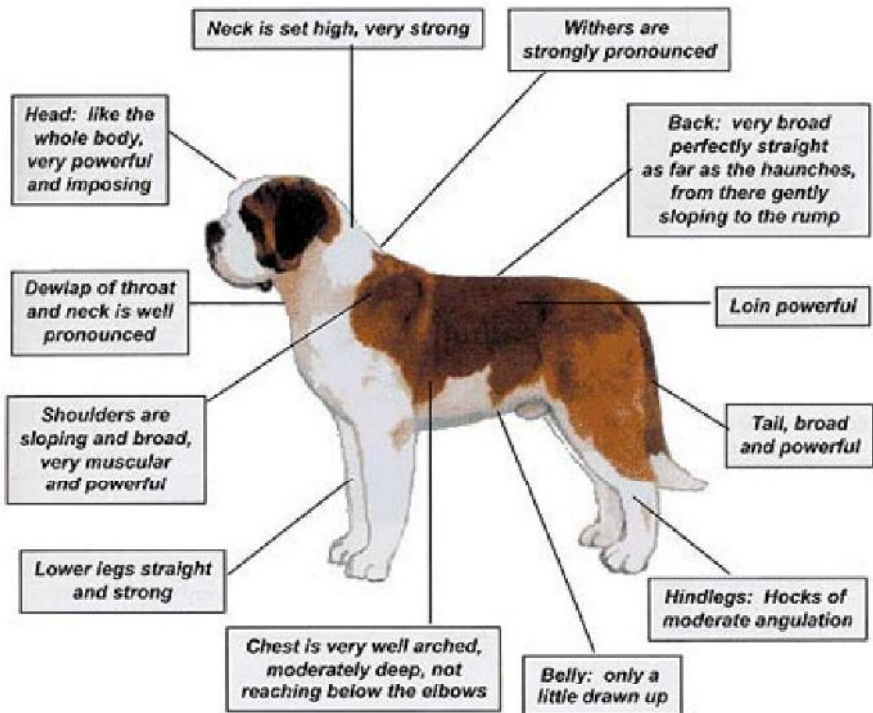


**DESIRABLE QUALITIES OF A SAINT BERNARD,
AS CONDENSED FROM THE STANDARD**

*"General-- Powerful, proportionately tall figure,
strong and muscular in every part with
powerful head and most intelligent expression."*



HEAD FRONT VIEW

"Head -- Like the whole body, very powerful and imposing"

Slope from skull to muzzle sudden and rather steep

The massive skull is wide, slightly arched

Ears, rather high set

Noticeable wrinkles converge toward the furrow

Deep furrow

Supra-orbital ridge is very strongly developed

Wide, shallow furrow

Lower lids form angular wrinkle towards inner corner

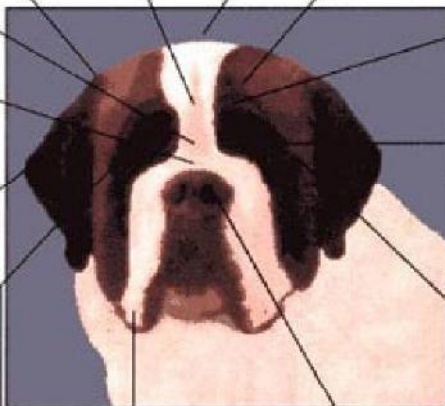
Very strongly developed burr

Very strongly developed high cheek bones

Dark brown medium-sized eyes, set more to the front than to the sides, moderately deep

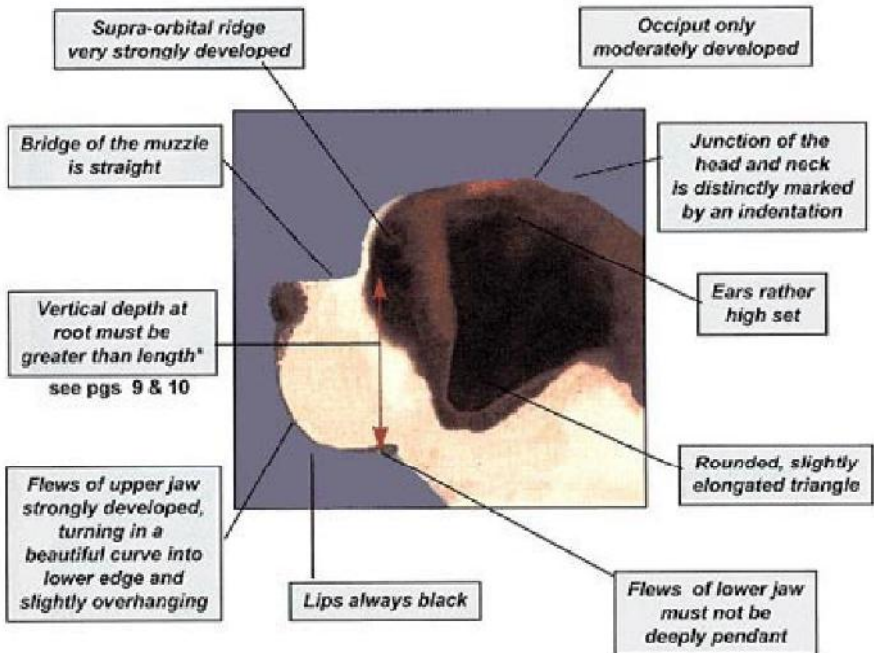
Flews of upper jaw slightly overhanging

Black nose very substantial and broad



HEAD PROFILE VIEW

*"Head – Like the whole body,
very powerful and imposing."*



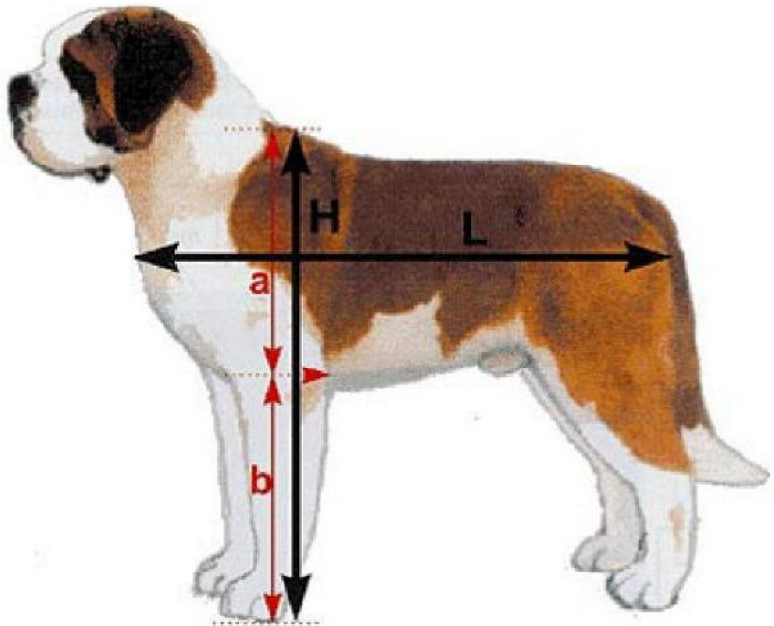
K
E
Y

official standard

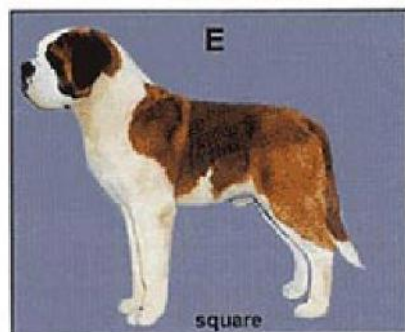
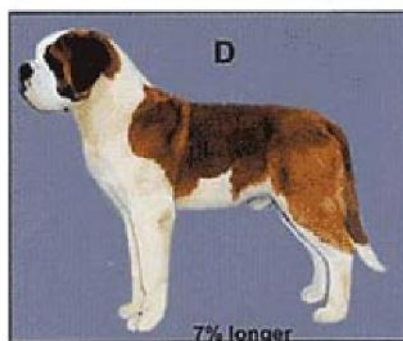
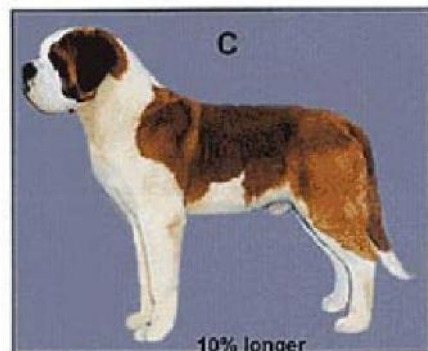
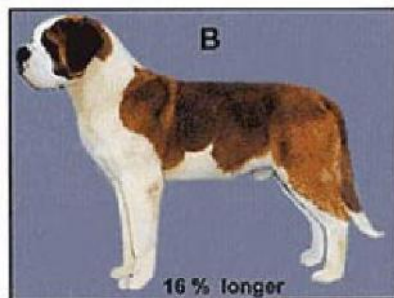
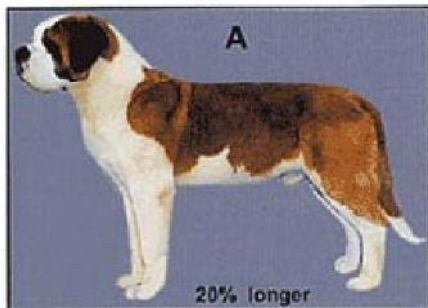
commentary

BODY PROPORTIONS

"Powerful, proportionately tall figure"



BODY LENGTH



Which of these dogs has the preferred body length? Dogs C and D are preferred (see page 4 for measurement details). Dog A with a 20% longer body is clearly too long while the square dog E is too short in back. Dog B also is too long at 16%. Measurements are approximate.

K official standard

E
Y commentary

BODY MARKINGS

"Color--White and red or red with white, the red in its various shades; brindle patches with white markings. The colors red and brown-yellow are of entirely equal value. Necessary markings are: white chest, feet and tip of tail, nose band, collar or spot on the nape; the latter and blaze are very desirable. Never of one color or without white. Faulty are all other colors except the favorite dark shadings on the head (mask) and ears."



torn mantle



splash coat



full mantle



full mantle extended

The three body color patterns are described as mantle, torn mantle, and splash coats. Consideration of these patterns is trivial. It should be noted that body markings may affect the perception of proportions as illustrated in the bottom two photos, which are the same dog.

HIND LEGS

"Hocks of moderate angulation"



proper angulation



proper angulation



too much angulation



too little angulation

CROUP

"Back--Very broad, perfectly straight as far as the haunches from there gently sloping to the rump, and merging imperceptibly into the root of the tail."



correct croup



croup too flat



croup too steep

PASTERNS & LOWER LEG

"Lower leg-- Straight, strong."

"Considered as faults are all deviations from the standard, as for instance...weak pasterns."



correct



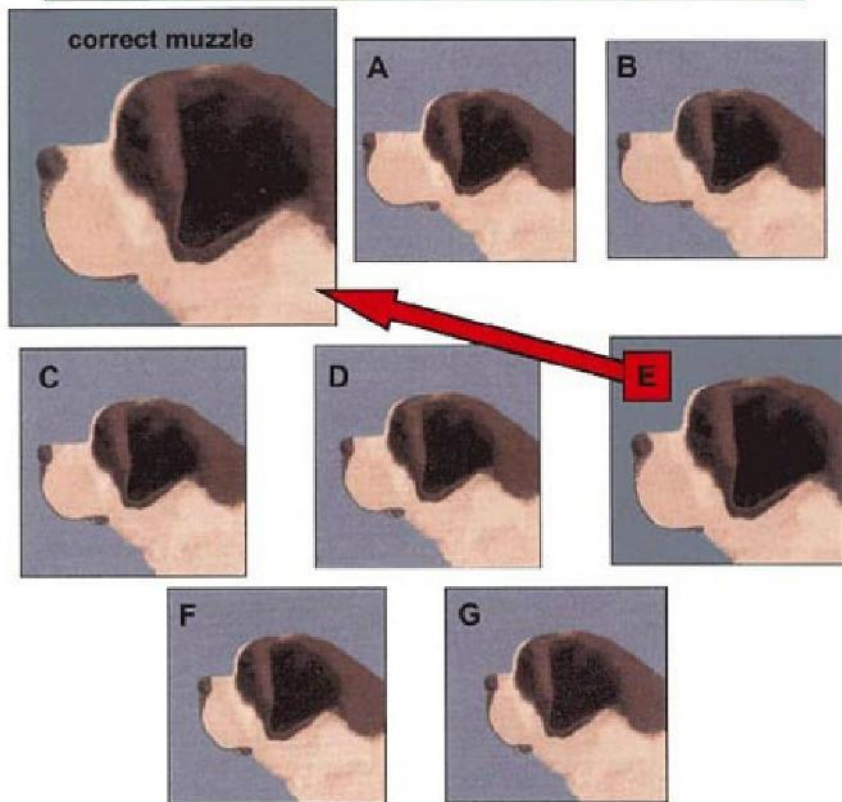
too straight



weak pasterns

MUZZLE

"The muzzle is short, does not taper, and the vertical depth at the root of the muzzle must be greater than the length of the muzzle."

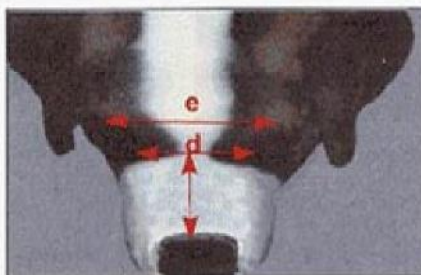
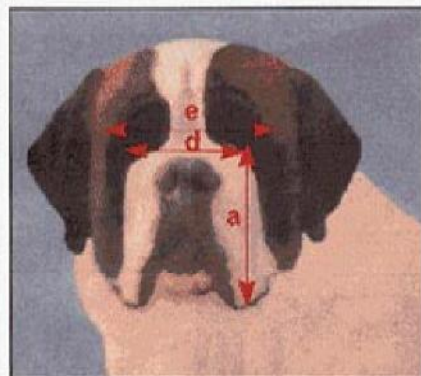
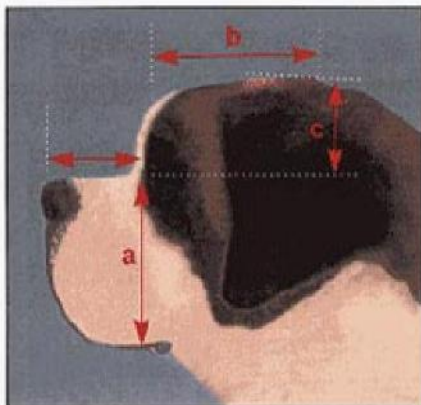


All of these muzzles give the appearance of being deeper than they are long. Yet some are clearly unacceptable. **A** and **B** are too long while **G** is obviously too short. **C** is a bit too long and **F** is a bit too short. **D** and **E** are preferred, with **E** being closest to the ideal. Why?

The evaluation of these muzzles is based on a sense of proper head proportions. The next two pages will attempt to show how the muzzle fits in a well proportioned head.

HEAD PROPORTIONS

K	official standard
E	
Y	commentary



The standard requirements are:

- 1) The head should be powerful and imposing.***
- 2) The muzzle is short, does not taper, and the depth is greater than the length.***
- 3) The flews of the upper jaw are slightly overhanging.***
- 4) The flews of the lower jaw must not be deeply pendant.***

Red letters on the photos refer to items a through e in the box below

Most Saint Bernard fanciers agree that the following proportions are desirable in meeting the requirements listed above:

- The flews of the upper jaw are approximately twice as deep as the muzzle is long.
- The length of the head is approximately twice the length of the muzzle.
- The rise of the skull above the top of the muzzle is approximately equal to the length of the muzzle.
- The width of the muzzle at its base is approximately equal to its length.
- The width of the skull, measured at the widest point of the cheekbones, is approximately twice the length of the muzzle.

FLEWS

K official standard

E commentary

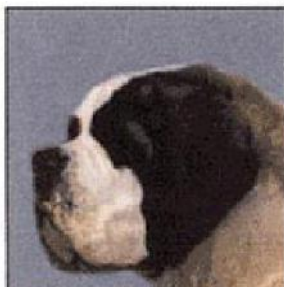
Y

"The flews of the upper jaw are strongly developed, not sharply cut, but turning in a beautiful curve into the lower edge, and slightly overhanging."

The correct proportions of the muzzle (length to depth to width) must also demonstrate a proper balance between lower jaw and overhanging lips. This is clearly seen in the frontal views below where the correct condition shows the flews of the upper jaw *slightly overhanging* the chin or lower jaw while the incorrect condition shows the flews extending well below the jaw.



correct with flews slightly overhanging lower jaw or chin (bitch)



incorrect with flews excessively overhanging lower jaw or chin (dog)



correct overhang



incorrect - excess overhang

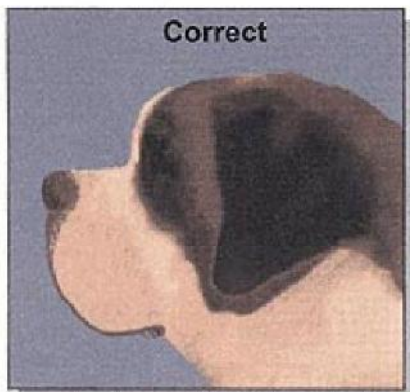


very incorrect
extreme overhang

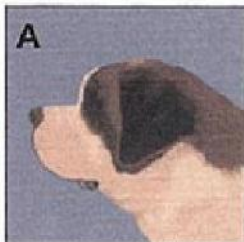
HEAD STRUCTURE PROBLEMS

Although each of the dogs A through G meets the requirement of a muzzle that is deeper than it is long, all display objectionable features. The lip of dog A cuts back too quickly, B's muzzle is too short, and C's is too long. The down-face of D contrasts with the dish-face of E. F lacks stop and top skull. Finally, dog G exhibits a flattened forehead or an extra plane separating the stop and top skull.

Correct

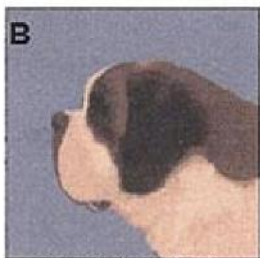


A



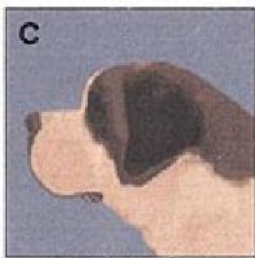
lip cutback

B



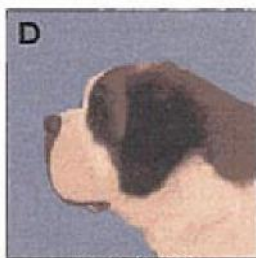
muzzle too short

C



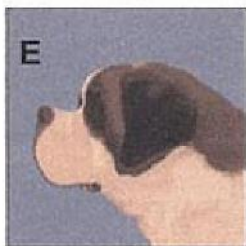
muzzle too long

D



down-faced

E



dish-faced

F



lacks stop & top skull

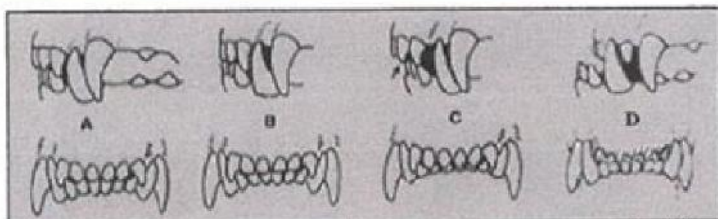
G



flattened forehead or
extra-plane

BITE AND TEETH

"The teeth should be sound and strong and should meet in either a scissors or an even bite; the scissors bite being preferable. The undershot bite although sometimes found with good specimens is not desirable. The overshot bite is a fault."



scissors bite

even or level bite

overshot bite

undershot bite



sound strong teeth with scissors bite

"Illustrations of teeth and bite above by Marcia R. Schlehr (Copyright 1982, 1984 by Marcia R. Schlehr) and used by permission of the artist."



even bite



undershot bite

EARS

"Ears- Of medium size, rather high set, with very strongly developed burr (Muschel) at the base... The flap is tender and forms a rounded triangle, slightly elongated toward the point, ...Lightly set ears, which at the base immediately cling to the head, give it an oval and too little marked exterior, whereas a strongly developed base gives the skull a squarer, broader and much more expressive appearance."

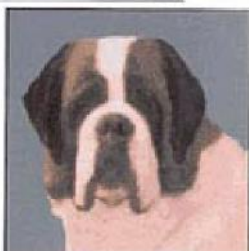
The shape of the top skull combined with proper earset should create the appearance of a continuous arch. This is illustrated by comparing the three variants below.



correct continuous arch



earset too low

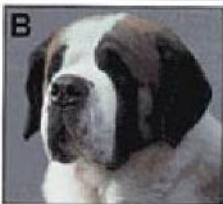


earset too high

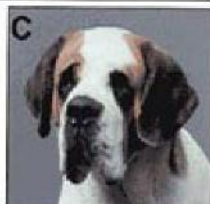
Dog A below illustrates how expression is enhanced by alert ears. Dog B shows the correct ear shape of a rounded triangle which is slightly elongated at the point. Dog C forms a triangle which is too rounded. Dog D's ears are too small, and dog E's ears are set too high. Dog F's ears are set too low, lack burr and droop, creating a faulty dome-like appearance. The tip of the desirable medium-sized ears should reach or extend slightly below half the muzzle depth, as seen in dogs A and B.



correct earset, alert



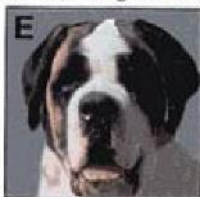
pointed, elongated triangle



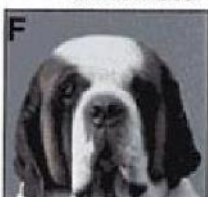
too rounded



too small



earset too high



too low set and drooping

K
E
Y

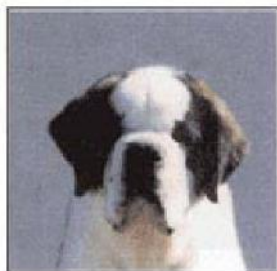
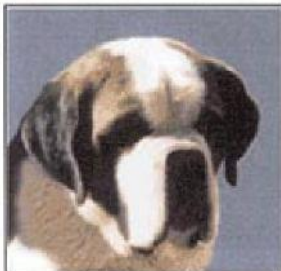
official standard

commentary

FURROWS

"Deeply imbedded between the eyes and starting at the root of the muzzle, a furrow runs over the whole skull. It is strongly marked in the first half, gradually disappearing toward the base of the occiput."

A rather wide, well-marked, shallow furrow runs from the root of the muzzle over the entire bridge of the muzzle to the nose."



Correct furrows between the eyes and along the bridge of the muzzle are important to good head type in that they accentuate the planes of the head and enhance expression. A correct furrow on the muzzle is discernible to the touch but is usually not visible because hair fills it in. However, when present, the furrow is unmistakable, for the muzzle will appear to be flat across the top, never rounded. Without the furrow, the bridge tends to be rounded. All photos on this page show correct flat-topped muzzles.

NOSE

"Nose (Schwamm) –Very substantial, broad, with wide open nostrils, and, like the lips, always black."



These two bitches have the desired very substantial, broad, black nose which is in correct proportion to the broad muzzle.



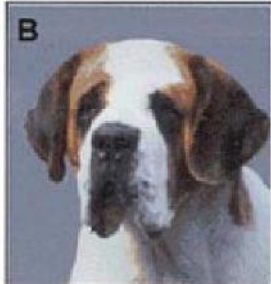
CHEEKS

"The massive skull is wide, slightly arched and the sides slope in a gentle curve into the very strongly developed, high cheek bones.

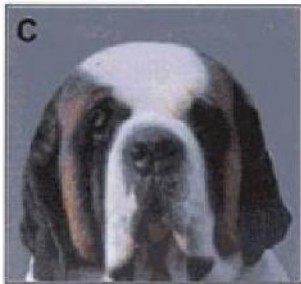
The lines at the sides of the head diverge considerably from the outer corner of the eyes toward the back of the head."



correct



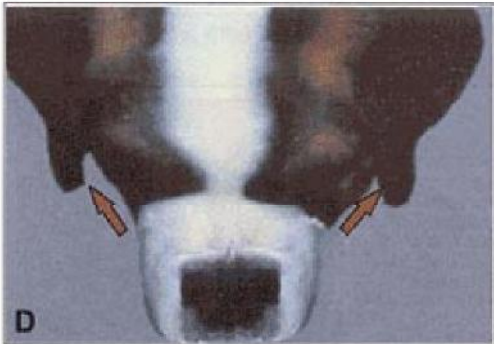
incorrect



incorrect

Dog A has the proper strongly developed, high cheekbones. **Dog B** lacks cheekbone. **Dog C** has excessive cheekfold which is often mistaken for proper cheekbone.

When viewed from above, the skull widens as it progresses from the point at the outer corners of the eyes toward the rear part of the head. **Dog D** shows proper divergence. The lines of the skull on **Dog E** fail to diverge sufficiently, resulting in too narrow a head.

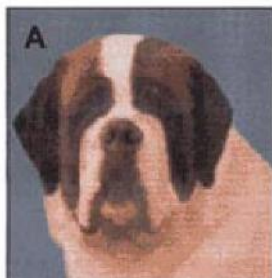


correct

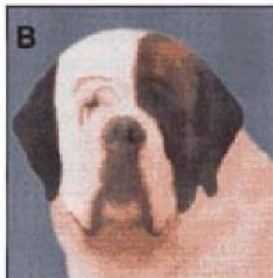


incorrect

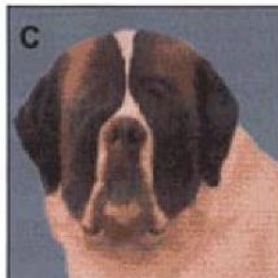
HEAD MARKINGS



moderately wide blaze



half-masked



narrow blaze



well-marked, but mediocre head



white head, hospice ears

Because of the importance of the head to the Saint Bernard breed, markings must always be **secondary** to correct head type.

Markings can be deceiving because dogs **B** and **C** are the same dog as **A**. When evaluating the head, note that dogs with correct conformation should always take precedence over lesser-headed dogs with more desirable markings as illustrated by dog **D**. The white-headed bitch (**E**), although lacking a mask, not only exhibits proper head type but also desirable heavy dark pigment around the eyelids, lips, and nose.

EYES

"Eyes--Set more to the front than the sides, are of medium size, dark brown, with intelligent, friendly expression, set moderately deep. The lower eyelids, as a rule, do not close completely and, if that is the case, form an angular wrinkle toward the inner corner of the eye. Eyelids which are too deeply pendant and show conspicuously the lachrymal glands, or a very red, thick haw, and eyes that are too light, are objectionable."



correct -- eyes set more to the front than the sides



correct eye

← examples below are incorrect →



entropion



ectropion and red haw



light eye



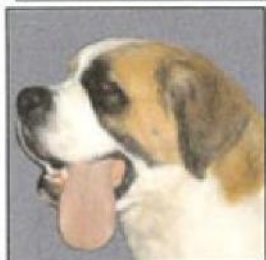
bulging or "bug eye"

Other incorrect conditions, which are difficult to illustrate clearly in photographs, include an eye that is too deeply set, droopy upper lids, and a wrinkle in the upper lid. All detract from the intelligent, friendly expression required in the standard.

DISTRACTIONS FROM CORRECT EXPRESSION

"...with powerful head and most intelligent expression. In dogs with a dark mask the expression appears more stern, but never ill-natured."

Expression should be intelligent and friendly. Pictured here and on the previous page are several of the many conditions which detract from a correct appearance or expression. Two of the most important structures influencing expression are ears and eyes. Ears are considered on page 14; eyes on page 18. When considering two dogs equal in all aspects, the dog free of these conditions should be favored. We emphasize that proper type or structure should always take precedence over these somewhat cosmetic distractions from noble expression.



long tongue



excess wrinkle



pink lips



white or pink nose plate



extended mask



excess freckling



narrow blaze, stern



wrinkles on bridge of muzzle

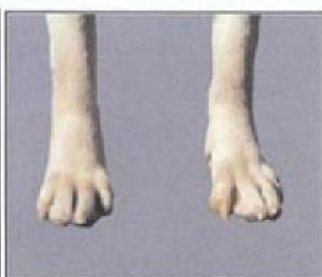
KEY	official standard
	commentary

FEET & TOES

"Feet-- Broad, with strong toes, moderately closed, and with rather high knuckles."



correct front foot



incorrect splay foot & long toes
(also lacking bone)



correct rear foot

The Saint has neither a cat foot nor a hare foot, but rather a large, round foot with short toes, strong knuckles and thick pads.

UPPER ARMS & LOWER LEG

"Upper Arms--Very powerful and extraordinarily muscular."



shorthaired male

"Lower Leg--Straight, strong."

The forequarters should have ample bone and powerful musculature. The forelegs are straight from elbow to pastern and do not turn in or out.



longhaired bitch

K official standard

E commentary

Y

CHEST

"Chest-- very well arched, moderately deep, not reaching below the elbows."

A proper chest contributes both function and beauty in the Saint Bernard. The chest houses the large heart and lungs required in the giant breeds. A barrel chest, however, interferes with movement. A chest that is too deep not only destroys the required image of a *"proportionately tall figure,"* but also hinders the function for which the dog was bred. Note that the phrase "chest not reaching below the elbows" refers to skeleton and not the flesh, skin and hair.



Proper chest
(long-haired bitch)



Incorrect Examples

barrel chest



too narrow



too shallow



too deep

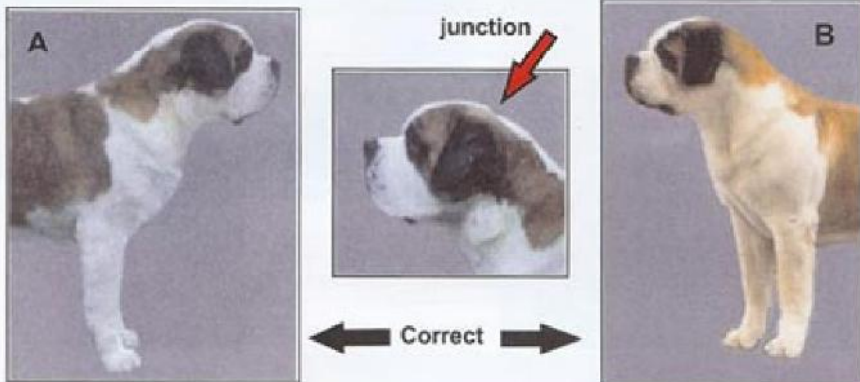


K official standard

E commentary

NECK

"Neck--Set high, very strong and when alert or at attention is carried erect, otherwise horizontally or slightly downward. The junction of head and neck is distinctly marked by an indentation. The nape of the neck is very muscular and rounded at the sides which makes the neck appear rather short. The dewlap of throat and neck is well pronounced; too strong development, however, is not desirable."



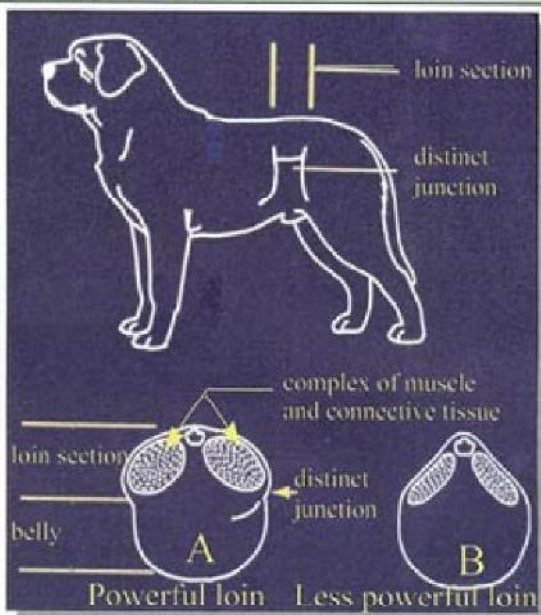
The neck must be powerful and in balance with the rest of the dog. The neck should be of moderate length. **Dog A** has a correct neck. It appears short only because of the desired powerful musculature. The musculature also accents the junction of the head and neck. **Dog B** has a powerful neck in proportion with her legs and body. **Dog C's** short neck is faulty as is **Dog D's** long neck. A ewe neck, or a neck with little or no arch, is faulty as is a neck with too much or too little dewlap.



When gaitting the head may be held level or slightly lowered, as is natural in climbing or draft work.

LOIN AND BELLY

"Belly-- Distinctly set off from the very powerful loin section, only little drawn up."



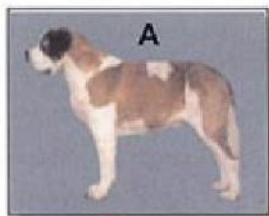
In keeping with the requirement for a powerful loin section, the loin muscles (actually a complex of muscles and connective tissue), which lie on either side of the spinal column, should be so powerful that they protrude out beyond the width of the belly below. In the diagram above, **A** shows a cross-section through a correctly developed loin section and **B**, a poorly developed loin section.



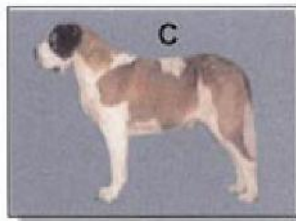
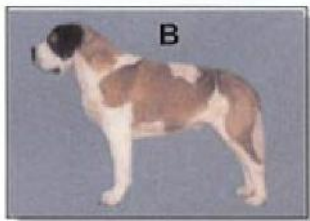
KEY	official standard
	commentary

TOPLINE

"Back--Very broad, perfectly straight as far as the haunches, from there gently sloping to the rump, and merging imperceptibly into the root of the tail."



The topline of **A** is correct (level) although the dog lacks the substance required of a powerful dog (see pg. 27). Dog **B**'s topline is sloping towards the rump while Dog **C** is high in the rear.



TAIL

"Tail--Starting broad and powerful directly from the rump is long, very heavy, ending in a powerful tip. ...In action all dogs carry the tail more or less turned upward. However it may not be carried too erect or by any means rolled over the back."



correct tail



incorrect-not powerful



incorrect-"gay tail"

The role of the tail is often overlooked in creating the image of a "powerful" dog. A small, weakly-tipped tail detracts from an overall sense of power while a gay tail destroys the image of a powerful animal moving forward efficiently.

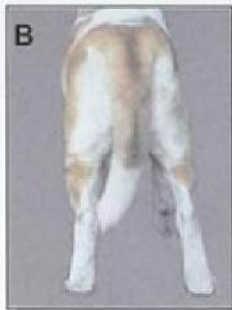
K official standard

E
Y commentary

HINDQUARTERS

"Hindquarters--Well-developed. Legs very muscular."

Saints should have powerful, well-muscled thighs. Side view **A** and rear view **B** show good muscle mass and width at the first and second thighs. Shorthaired bitch **B** and longhaired bitch **C** correctly show that the hindlegs are straight from hip joint to ground when viewed from the rear. They do not toe-in, nor are they cow-hocked.



COAT

"Coat--Very dense, shorthaired (stockhaarig), lying smooth, tough, without however feeling rough to the touch....The longhaired type completely resembles the shorthaired type except for the coat which is ...of medium length, plain to slightly wavy, never rolled or curly and not shaggy either. Usually, on the back, especially from the region of the haunches to the rump, the hair is more wavy... The tail is bushy with dense hair of moderate length. Rolled or curly hair, or a flag tail, is faulty."



correct shorthaired coat



correct longhaired coat

DOG AND BITCH



Correct shorthaired dog



Correct shorthaired bitch

"Female animals are of finer and more delicate build."

K official standard

E commentary

Y

POWERFUL

One essential component of breed type is encompassed by the word "powerful." The word "powerful," as used in the standard, has two interpretations -- strength and substance. Both strength and substance are specifically applicable to correct Saint Bernard type.

• "*Powerful, proportionately tall figure...with powerful head...*

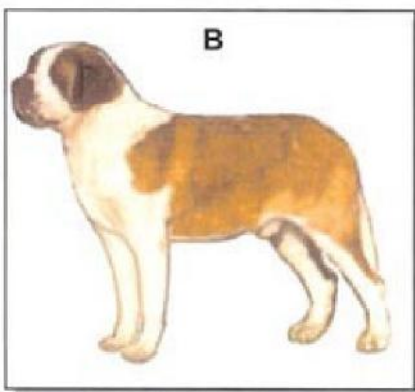
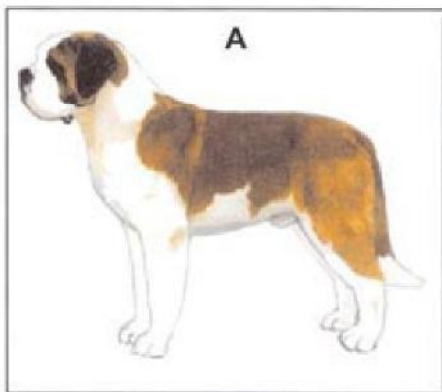
• *Head--Like the whole body, very powerful and imposing.*

• *Shoulders --Sloping and broad, very muscular and powerful.*

• *Belly-- Distinctly set off from the very powerful loin section...*

• *Tail--Starting broad and powerful directly from the rump is long, very heavy, ending in a powerful tip.*

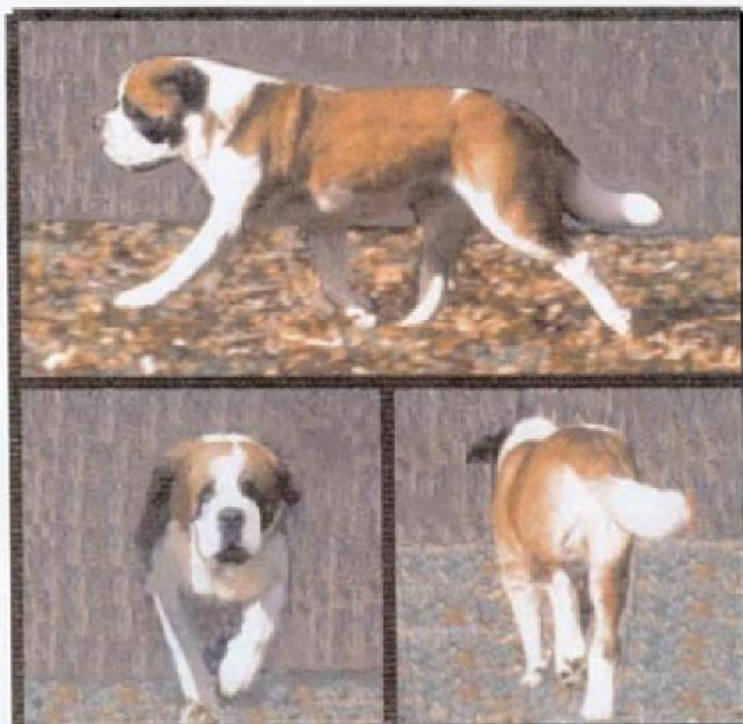
• *Upper arms--Very powerful and extraordinarily muscular."*



Dog A conveys a sense of power. **Dog B**, representing winning dogs of past eras, lacks the substance required of a powerful dog.

To be powerful, a Saint Bernard must have an imposing head, great substance, and real strength. He will lack breed type if the head lacks adequate size or if the body or limbs have insufficient substance. It is important to note, however, that any Saint Bernard that fails to combine this large head and great substance with real strength and athleticism is incorrect.

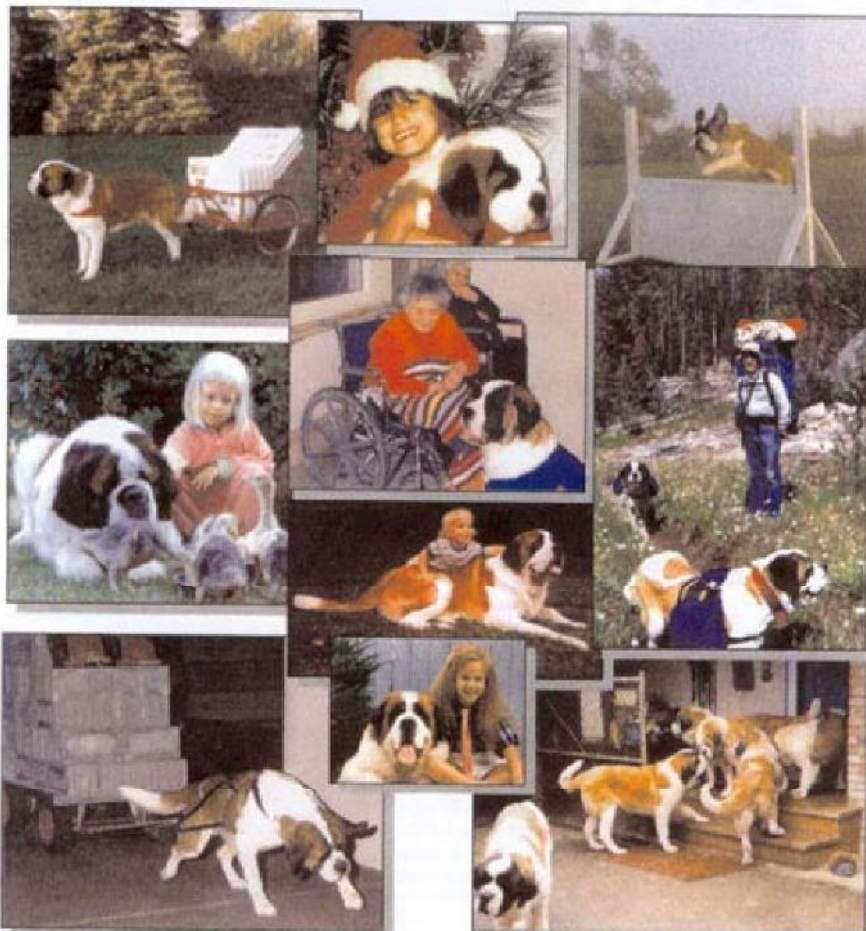
MOVEMENT



Although the standard does not specifically discuss movement or gait, the conformation described dictates correct movement for a Saint Bernard. A correctly made Saint will move with good reach in front and balanced drive from the rear. Saints should not shuffle, amble, or lumber, nor should they overreach or take short, mincing steps. These dogs should move with a firm, level back and with the head carried more forward than erect. In action all dogs carry the tail more or less turned upward. However, it may not be carried too erect or by any means rolled over the back. A Saint Bernard will tend to single track while trotting. Front and rear action will be smooth and straight forward without signs of looseness or weakness in the joints. The gait should be that of a massive, efficiently moving, powerful athlete. The gait should be evaluated while the dog is traveling at a moderate speed on a loose lead; fast speeds and/or tight leads can only render a distorted picture of the dog's true movement.

TEMPERAMENT

Correct temperament is an extremely important aspect of the breed. The Saint Bernard was bred to protect life and to seek lost persons, thus requiring an even, congenial temperament, even under stress. It is characteristic of correct Saint Bernard temperament to be gregarious in non-threatening situations, to be noble, steadfast and benevolent, and to display a desire to please his owners. This Saintly temperament is the feature that enables the Saint Bernard to be so readily employed in today's many activities and lifestyles.



CLOSING



longhaired dog



shorthaired bitch



shorthaired dog



shorthaired bitch



longhaired dog



longhaired bitch

If breeders can strive to produce dogs equal to or better than those above and judges can recognize and reward such quality, the Saint Bernard breed will prosper.
We wish all success in their pursuit of that admirable goal.

Table of Figures



Fig. 1
cow-hocked rear
(incorrect)



Fig. 2
front toeing-out
(incorrect)



Fig. 3
out at elbows
(incorrect)

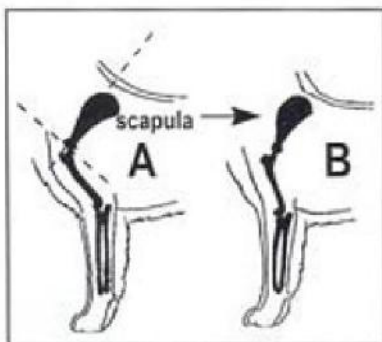


Fig. 4

A. correct shoulder B. incorrect—straight shoulder
Scapula does not have the required lay back (too steep).



Fig. 5
Roach back (incorrect)



Fig. 6
Sway back or soft topline (incorrect)