



The Belgian Tervuren

Illustrating the
AKC Standard



The Illustrated Belgian Tervuren 2012

Prepared by the American Belgian Tervuren Education Committee
Edeltraud Laurin, Chairman
Karen Johnson, Co-Chair
Leslie Earl
Linda Friedow
Janina Laurin
Sharon Redmer
Linda Robey

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This body of work is fluid.

The Education Committee looks forward to updating and perfecting the information herein as an aid to judges and fanciers in understanding the Belgian Tervuren.

Special acknowledgement to:

Jeanne Flora for the beautiful illustrations

Text of the Official Written Standard (approved 2007)

For more information on the Belgian Tervuren and the American Belgian Tervuren Club, Inc., visit the website at <http://www.abtc.org>

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G

ENERAL APPEARANCE

*The first impression of the Belgian Tervuren is that of a well-balanced, medium-size dog, elegant in appearance, standing squarely on all fours, with proud carriage of head and neck. He is strong, agile, well-muscled, alert and full of life. He gives the impression of depth and solidity without bulkiness. The male should appear unquestionably masculine; the female should have a distinctly feminine look and be judged equally with the male. The Belgian Tervuren is a **natural** dog and this is no need for excessive posing in the show ring. The Belgian Tervuren reflects the qualities of intelligence, courage, alertness and devotion to master. In addition to his inherent ability as a herding dog, he protects his master's person and property without being overtly aggressive. He is watchful, attentive, and usually in motion when not under command. The Belgian Tervuren is a herding dog and versatile worker. The highest value is to be placed on qualities that maintain these abilities, specifically, correct temperament, gait, bite and coat.*



MALE

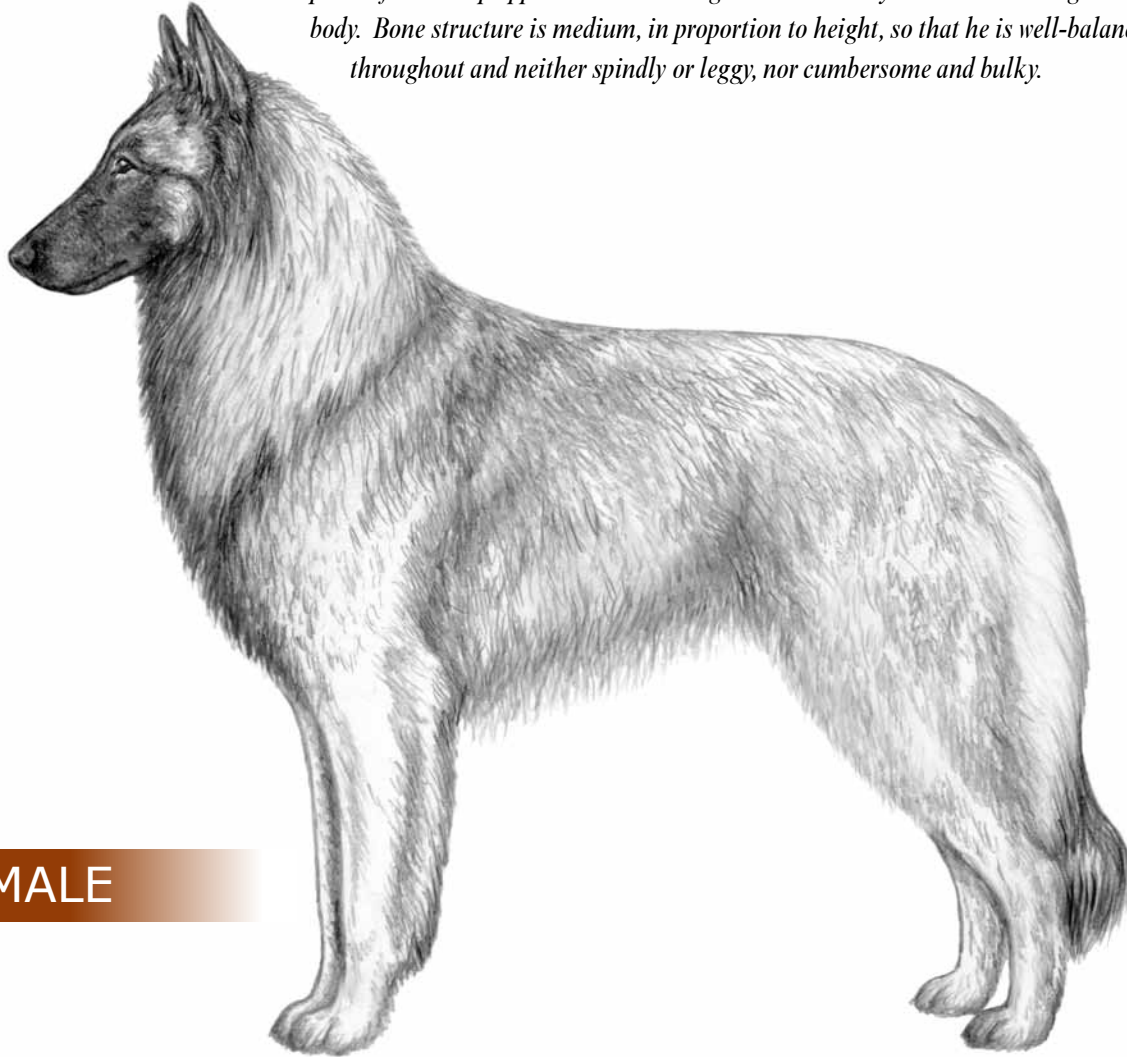
- Balance is critical. Best assessed initially by observing from across the ring.
- No quality in the parts, however great, makes a superior specimen if the dog is markedly out of balance.
- Significant elegance in both males and females within their gender.
- Correct temperament is vital to maintaining the breed's versatile working talents.
- Proper weight and well-muscled condition are essential.
- An active breed which should not be required to stack and remain motionless.



S

IZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

The ideal male is 24 to 26 inches and the female 22 to 24 inches in height measured at the withers. Dogs are to be penalized in accordance to the degree they deviate from the ideal. Males under 23 inches or over 26.5 inches or females under 21 inches or over 24.5 inches are to be disqualified. The body is square; the length measured from the point of shoulder to the point of the rump approximates the height. Females may be somewhat longer in body. Bone structure is medium, in proportion to height, so that he is well-balanced throughout and neither spindly or leggy, nor cumbersome and bulky.



FEMALE

- Medium-size breed with min/max height limits, but no preference for a particular height within those specified limits.
- Height limits are different for dogs vs. bitches.
- Measure any dog which appears to be outside of the standard limits.
- A square breed – incorrect to have a rectangular dog in either direction – horizontally or vertically oriented. Coat can fool the eye when assessing proportions.

SILHOUETTE & PROPORTIONS

CORRECT silhouette & proportions followed by illustrations showing an increased degree of faults at right.



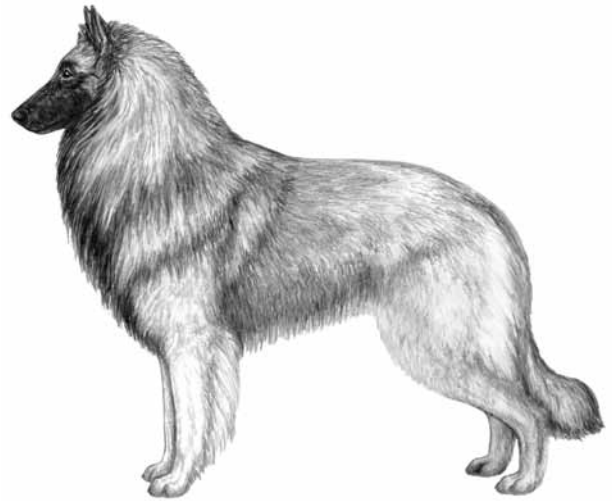
CORRECT proportions with underlying bone structure

The body is square; the length measured from the point of shoulder to the point of the rump approximates the height.





A Square dog with short legs



D Long body with overangulated rear



B Longer legs on a square dog



E Short legs on a longer body



C Taller than long



F Square but very faulty. Long legs, straight forward front, straight rear

H EAD



MALE



FEMALE

Well-chiseled, skin taut, long without exaggeration. Expression intelligent and questioning, indicating alertness, attention and readiness for action. Eyes dark brown, medium-size, slightly almond shape, not protruding. Light, yellow or round eyes are a fault. Ears triangular in shape, well-cupped, stiff, erect; height equal to width of base. Set high, the base of the ear does not come below the center of the eye. Hanging ears, as on a hound, are a disqualification.

- Expression is intelligent and alert to its surroundings.
- Eyes are calm, dark and attentive.
- Ears are small, in balance with the head, triangular and set high, carried erect. Proper ear set and carriage contributes to the elegant look of the head.
- Ears are mobile, illustrating alertness and curiosity.



Skull and Muzzle measuring from the stop are of equal length. Overall size is in proportion to the body, top of skull flattened rather than rounded, the width approximately the same as, but not wider than the length. Stop moderate. The topline of the muzzle is parallel to the topline of the skull when viewed from the side. Muzzle moderately pointed, avoiding any tendency toward snippiness or cheekiness. Jaws strong and powerful. Nose black without spots or discolored areas. Nostrils well defined. Lips tight and black, no pink showing on the outside when the mouth is closed.

- Skull and the muzzle – same length and in balance. Stop is approximately at the midpoint. Muzzle blends smoothing into back skull. Head is strong, yet elegant.
- Skull should NOT be broad, short or blocky.
- Nose is black. Lips are fully pigmented and black. Okay if pink shows on the inside of the mouth if lips are black.



MALE



FEMALE

EYES



CORRECT eyes,
faults below



Round eyes



Light eyes



E ARSET & HEAD



CORRECT earset above, faults at right



Highset but tall



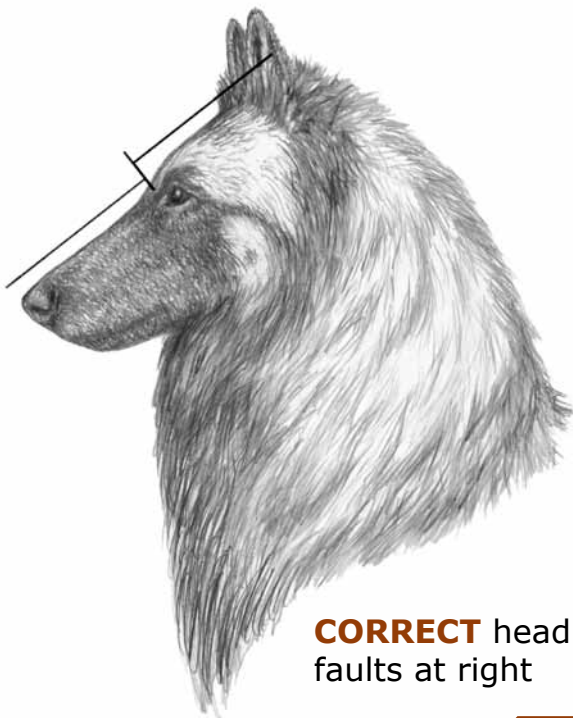
Rounded ear tips



Wide set ears



Wide and low set ears



CORRECT head faults at right



Convex head with Roman nose



Concave head



CORRECT earset & head above, faults at right

Faults rarely occur alone, this shows a progression of faults. **Dog A** has large ears, a wide base, and a lack of cupping. **Dog B** adds a wider top skull. **Dog C** pronounced zygomatics.



A



B



C

T EETH

Full complement of strong white teeth, evenly set, meeting in a scissors or a level bite. Overshot and undershot teeth are a fault. An undershot bite such that there is a complete loss of contact by all the incisors is a disqualification. Broken or discolored teeth should not be penalized. Missing teeth are a fault. Four or more missing teeth are a serious fault.

- Scissors or level bite.
- Teeth are strong; missing teeth should be penalized. Typically missing teeth are at P1, occasionally P2.
- Discolored teeth are not specifically penalized, but teeth should be clean with good dental hygiene.
- Check for full dentition. Check from the sides by lifting the lips, do not pry the mouth open.

N

ECK TOPLINE BODY



MALE



FEMALE



CORRECT neck extension and body length with proper level topline.

Neck round, muscular, rather long and elegant, slightly arched and tapered from head to body. Skin well-fitting with no loose folds. Withers accentuated. Topline level, straight and firm from withers to croup. Croup medium long, sloping gradually to the base of the tail. Chest not broad without being narrow, but deep; the lowest point of the brisket reaching the elbow, forming a smooth ascendant curve to the abdomen. Abdomen moderately developed, neither tucked up nor paunchy. Ribs well-sprung but flat on the sides. Loin section viewed from above is relatively short, broad and strong, but blending smoothly into the back. Tail strong at base, the last vertebra to reach at least to the hock. At rest the dog holds it low, the tip bent back level with the hock. When in action, he may raise it to a point level with the topline giving it a slight curve, but not a hook. Tail is not carried above the backline nor turned to one side. A cropped or stump tail is a disqualification.

- Silhouette is best assessed from across the ring with dogs being free-baited and standing naturally.
- Elegant and rather long neck is a hallmark of the breed. Correct carriage contributes to the ideal outline and should not be overlooked.
- Faulty short-necked look alters the outline so that the head appears out of balance with the body, sometimes appearing to almost “sit” on the shoulders generally due to a forward set front – a very unattractive non-Tervuren look and should be penalized.
- Less commonly seen, also unattractive is a neck which appears too long. This may indeed be a ewe neck, also incorrect and another departure from the ideal.
- Withers are accentuated just ahead of the otherwise straight and level topline, and the croup has a gradual slope.
- Chest is deep, not broad. Abdomen should rise gently being neither flat nor cut-up. Loin is short, broad, strong, and NEVER long.
- Tails of correct length give balance to the dog in motion. Last vertebra of tail should reach to the hock. Check tail length.

F OREQUARTERS

Shoulders long, laid back 45 degrees, flat against the body, forming a right angle with the upper arm. Top of the shoulder blades roughly two thumbs width apart. Upper arms should move in a direction exactly parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body. Forearms long and well-muscled. Legs straight and parallel, perpendicular to the ground. Bone oval rather than round. Pasterns short and strong, slightly sloped. Dewclaws may be removed. Feet rounded, cat footed, turning neither in nor out, toes curved close together, well-padded, strong nails.



- Correct placement/angulation of the shoulder assembly, slightly sloping pasterns and well developed feet help dogs maintain stamina and flexibility.

CORRECT Male, faults below



Forward set front



Steep shoulder, straight upper arm



F RONT S

Pinched front



CORRECT front,
faults at right



Wide front, short legs



Very wide front, short legs

HINDQUARTERS

Legs powerful without heaviness, moving in the same pattern as the limbs of the forequarters. Bone oval rather than round. Thighs broad and heavily muscled. Stifles clearly defined, with upper shank at right angles to hipbones. Hocks moderately bent. Metatarsi short, perpendicular to the ground, parallel to each other when viewed from the rear. Dewclaws are removed. Feet slightly elongated, toes curved close together, heavily padded, strong nails.

- Rear legs work in harmony with the forequarters.
- Short metatarsi – typical of dogs built for stamina and able to work all day at a comfortable trot, with bursts of speed.
- Strong feet with thick pads to aid in working over various terrains.
- Thin flat feet (front and rear) are objectionable.



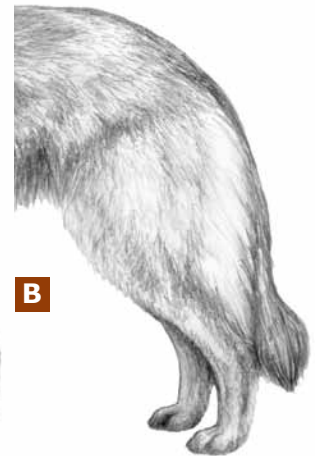
CORRECT rear view



CORRECT
side view,
faults at right



A



B



C



D

- A** Overangulated rear
- B** Steep croup
- C** Tall hock
- D** Flat croup

COAT

The Belgian Tervuren is particularly adaptable to extremes of temperature or climate. The guard hairs of the coat must be long, close-fitting, straight and abundant. The texture is of medium harshness, not silky or wiry. Wavy or curly hair is a fault. The undercoat is very dense, commensurate, however, with climatic conditions. The hair is short on the head, outside the ears, and on the front part of the legs. The opening of the ear is protected by tufts of hair. Ornamentation consists of especially long and abundant hair, like a collarette around the neck, particularly on males; fringe of long hair down the back of the forearm; especially long and abundant hair trimming the breeches; long, heavy and abundant hair on the tail. The female rarely has as long or as ornamented a coat as the male. This disparity must not be a consideration when the female is judged against the male.

COLOR

Body rich fawn to russet mahogany with black overlay is ideal and preferred. Predominate color that is pale, washed out, cream or gray is a fault. The coat is characteristically double pigmented whereby the tips of fawn hair are blackened. Belgian Tervuren characteristically become darker with age. On mature males, this blackening is especially pronounced on the shoulders, back and rib section. Blackening in patches is a fault. Although allowance should be made for females and young males, absence of blackening in mature dogs is a serious fault.

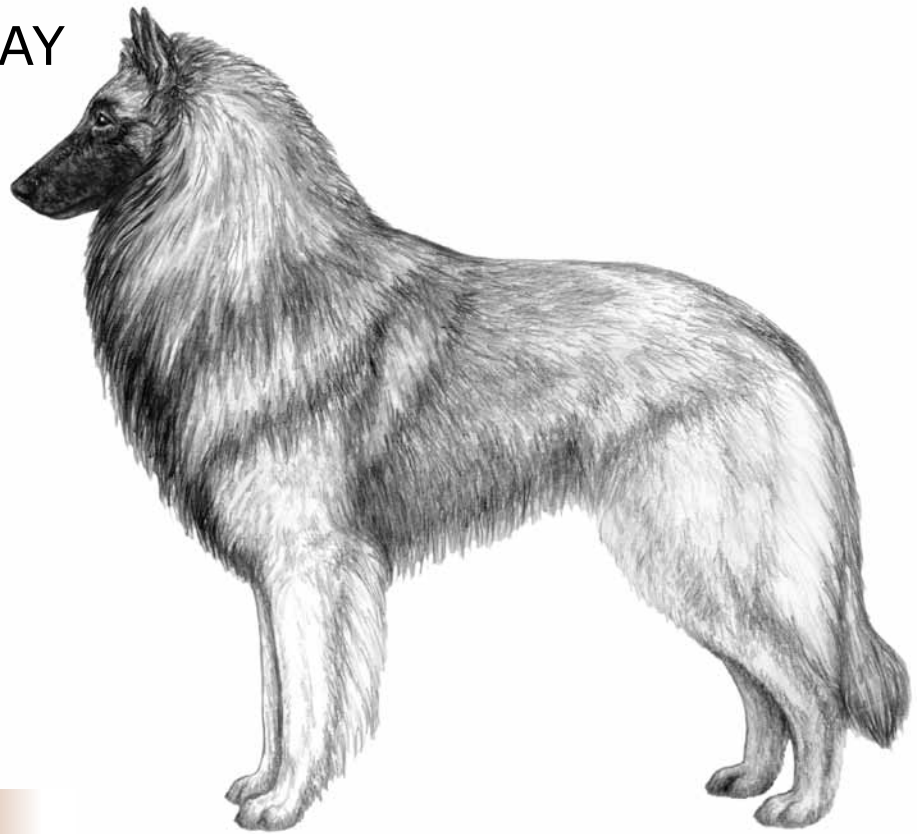
Chest is normally black, but may be a mixture of black and gray. White is permitted on the chest/sternum only, not to extend more than 3 inches above the prosternum, and not to reach either point of shoulder. Face has a black mask and the ears are mostly black. A face with a complete absence of black is a serious fault. Frost or white on chin or muzzle is normal. The under parts of the body, tail, and breeches are cream, gray or light beige. The tail typically has a darker or black tip. Feet – the tips of the toes may be white. Nail color may vary from black to transparent. Solid black, solid liver or any area of white except as specified on the chest, tips of the toes, chin and muzzle are disqualifications.

- Double coated breed. Outer coat is straight, and harsh. Lengthens with maturity in adult males and should lay naturally with the body contours.
- Females do not carry as long or abundant a coat as males.
- Consideration must be given for geographical and climatic conditions.
- Trimming is limited to neatening of feet and lower legs only. Any sculpting should be penalized.

- Colors range from the ideal rich fawn through deep mahogany to the paler, not ideal, shades of body color (beige, gray-beige, cream, pale fawn and gray). Base colors with a definite warm (fawn to red) hue are preferred, while the cooler (cream to gray) tones are faulted.
- All base colors should possess an overlay of blackening as if the dog were caressed by soot. The amount of blackening will vary from males to females and even within one gender. A complete absence of blackening in fully mature adults is a serious fault.
- Note any white markings to determine if they are within the permissible range. Coat, particularly the mane on males, can cover chest markings – lift to evaluate for allowable white at the skin.

O VERLAY

Typical overlay
on male



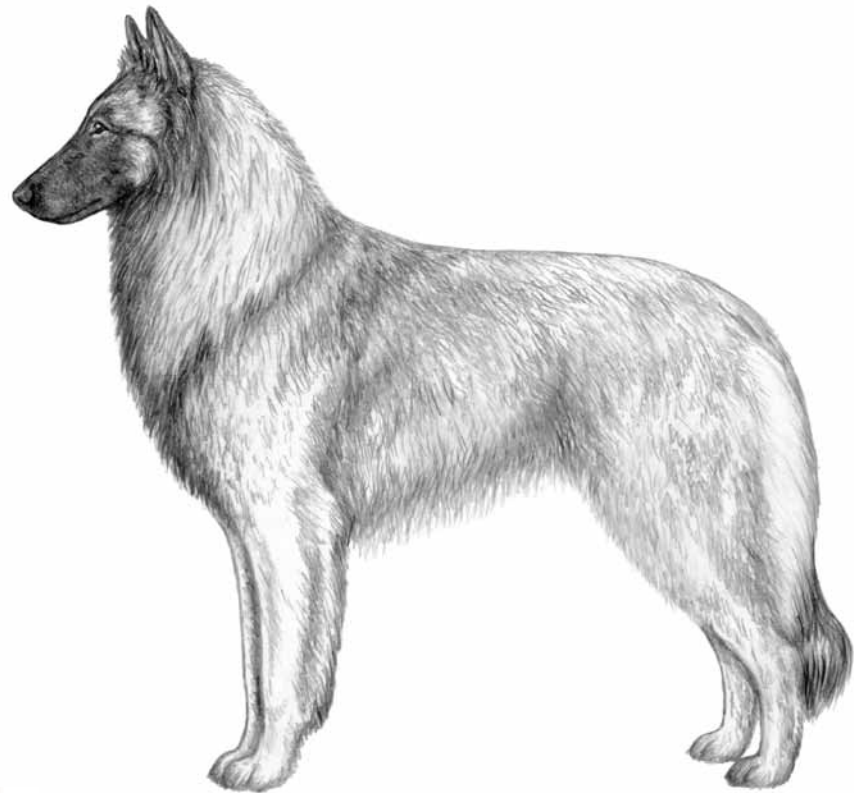
MALE

Heavier overlay,
but also acceptable
(within range)



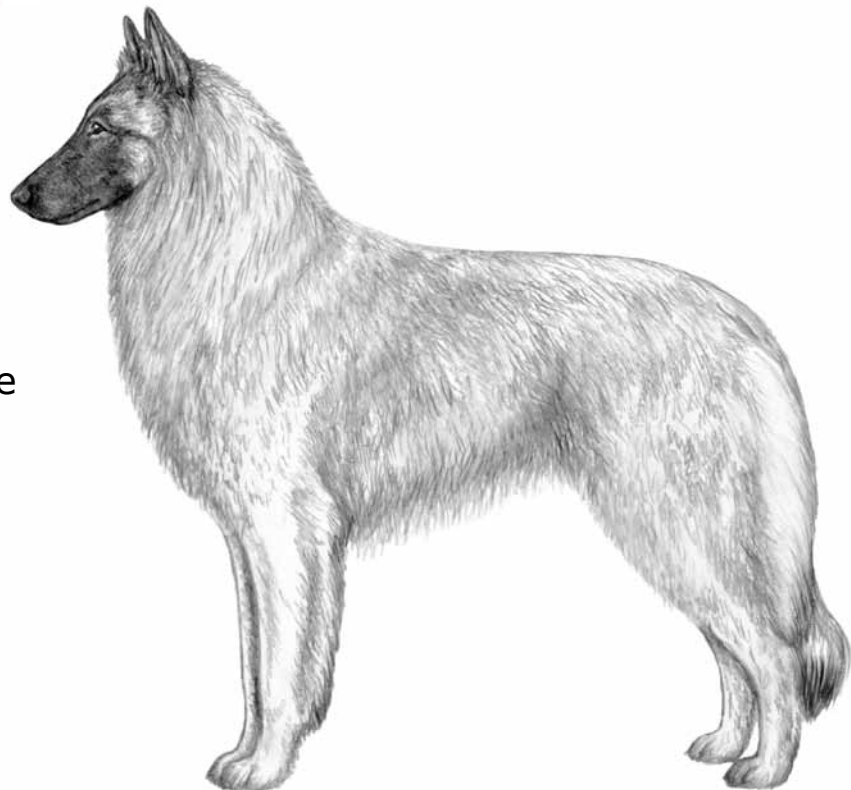


Typical overlay
on female



FEMALE

Less overlay,
but also acceptable
(within range)



C OAT & COLOR FAULTS



Lack of masking – a fault



Too much white extending to neck, and a white foot. Each is a **disqualification**. (white on toe tips is acceptable)



Too much white, extending to point of shoulder – Also a **disqualification**.



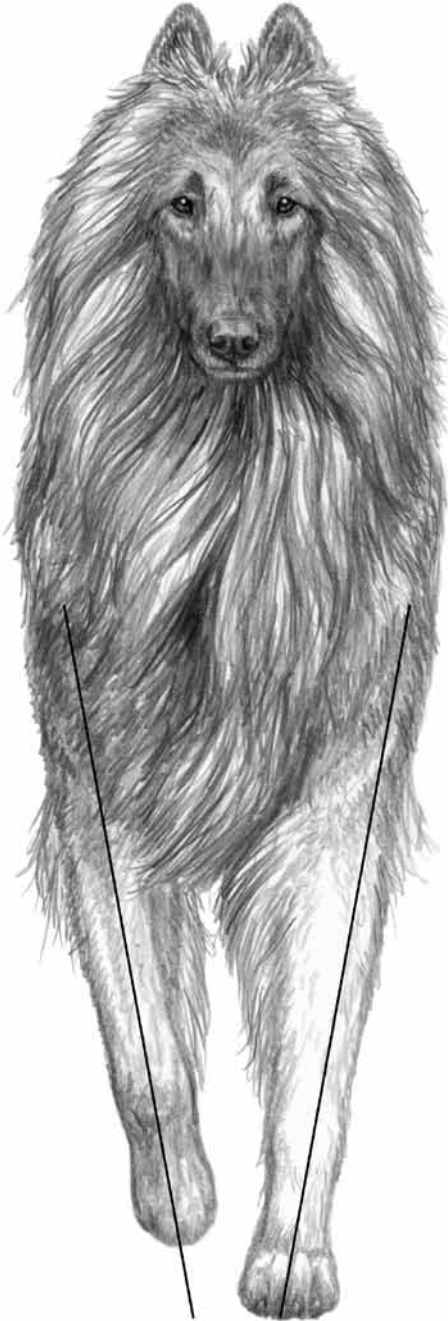
Heavy blackening with patches – a fault



Male with no overlay – a serious fault



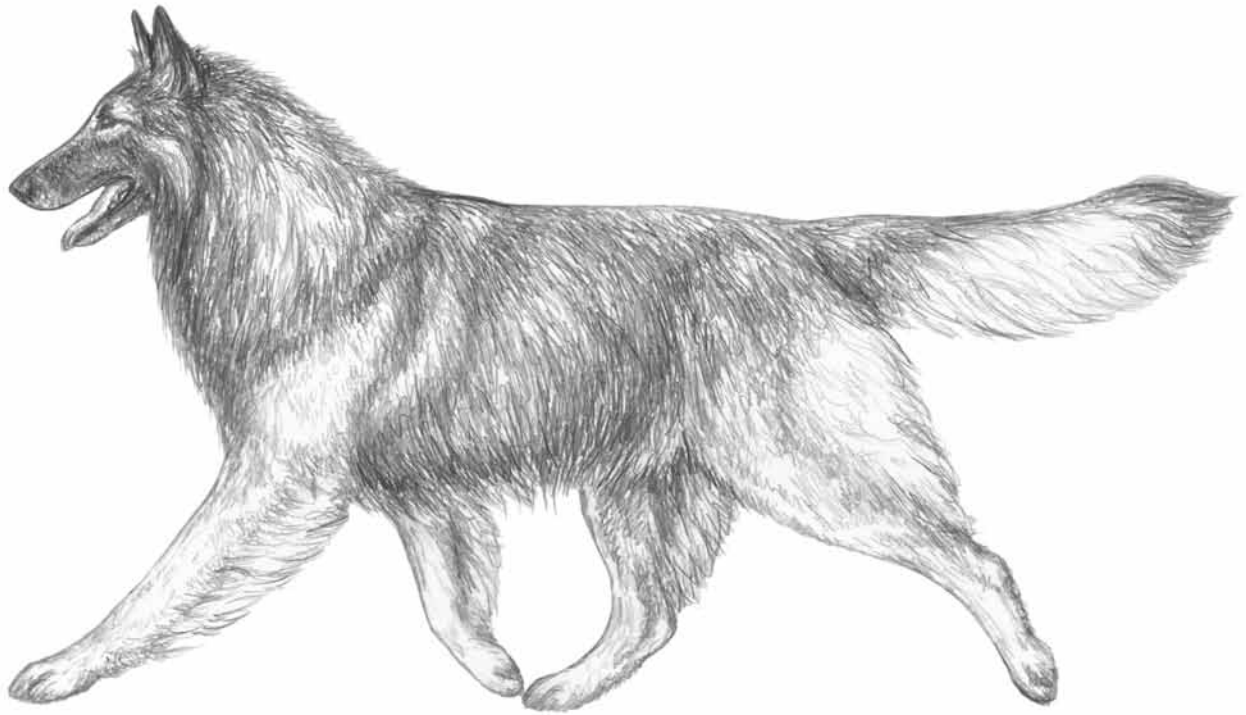
GAIT



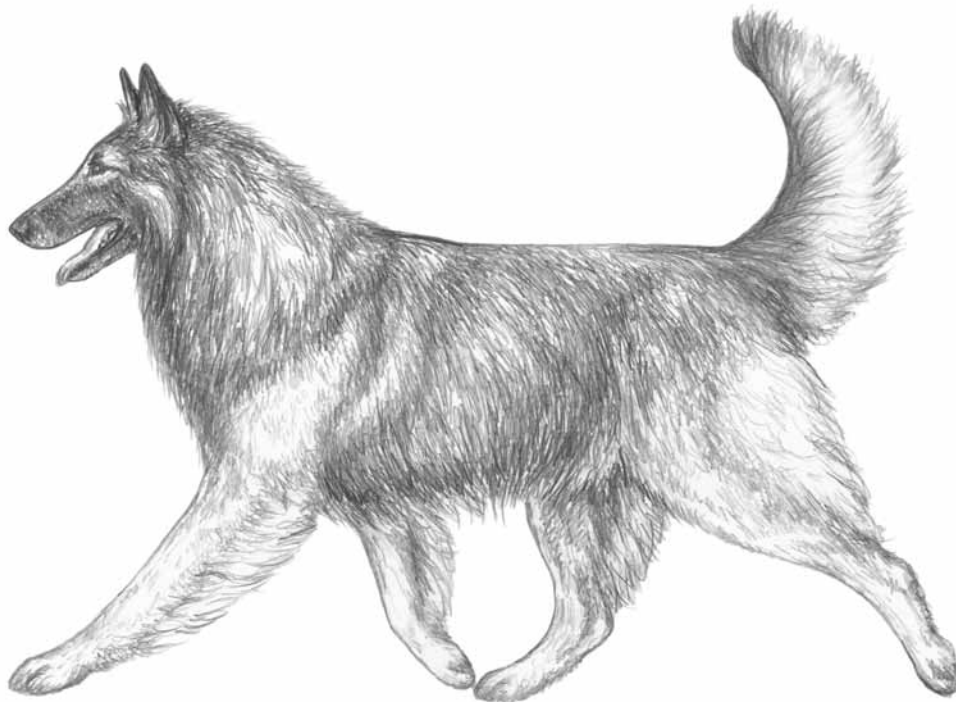
Lively and graceful, covering the maximum ground with minimum effort. Always in motion, seemingly never tiring, he shows ease of movement rather than hard driving action. He single tracks at a fast gait, the legs both front and rear converging toward the centerline of gravity of the dog. Viewed from the side, he exhibits full extension of both fore and hindquarters. The backline should remain firm and level, parallel to the line of motion. His natural tendency is to move in a circle, rather than a straight line. Padding, hackneying, weaving, crabbing and similar movement faults are to be penalized according to the degree with which they interfere with the ability of the dog to work.

- Movement is to be free and smooth with minimal effort. Balance combines good reach in the forequarter with balanced drive in the hindquarters to show effortless gait.
- Trot should be at a moderate speed and the feet should lift only enough to clear the ground.
- Any movement fault which affects the ability of the dog to herd must be penalized commensurate with the degree of its effect.
 - With increasing speed, the legs should converge towards a single track.
 - From the side, look for a clean, level topline with head carriage almost level with the body and with a level or slightly lower extended tail.
 - Correct, ground covering, effortless, lively movement can only be achieved with proper front and rear construction.





CORRECT side gait



Correct side gait, but tail carriage too high (due to a flat croup)

T EMPERAMENT

In his relationship with humans, he is observant and vigilant with strangers, but not apprehensive. He does not show fear or shyness. He does not show viciousness by unwarranted or unprovoked attack. He must be approachable, standing his ground and showing confidence to meet overture without himself making them. With those he knows well, he is most affectionate and friendly, zealous for their attention and very possessive.

- Watchful and reactive to the environment.
- Every dog should stand for examination but is not required to bait or animate for someone they do not know or to show expression constantly.
- Dog is not required to be friendly to strangers but must stand its ground with poise and confidence when meeting a new person.
- Confidence should be present on the exam and on the move.
- Excuse any dog which cannot be examined safely. Dogs that are constantly fearful or nervous in the ring, or that need to be firmly “propped up” for exam should be faulted to the point of not being considered above competition, and should never be awarded points.

F AULTS

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

- *The extent to which it deviates from the standard.*
- *The extent to which such deviation would actually affect the working ability of the dog.*

D ISQUALIFICATIONS

- *Males under 23 inches or over 26.5 inches or females under 21 inches or over 24.5 inches.*
- *Hanging ears, as on a hound.*
- *An undershot bite such that there is a complete loss of contact by all the incisors.*
- *A cropped or stump tail.*
- *Solid black, solid liver or any area of white except as specified on the chest, tips of toes, chin and muzzle.*



The End.....