

The Belgian Malinois

Presented by

**The
American Belgian
Malinois Club**



©ABMC

History



History



- 1891 - Belgium proclaimed the Berger Belge as a Breed
- 1892 - The first standard defined 3 coat types; Short, Long and Rough Haired.



ERRAN, groenendael mâle, appartenant à M. BRIOT, de la brigade de gendarmerie de La Hulpe, 1^{er} prix du Concours national



DIANE, à M. PIERRARD, 3^e prix.

Concours national de chiens ambulanciers - 10 mai 1914



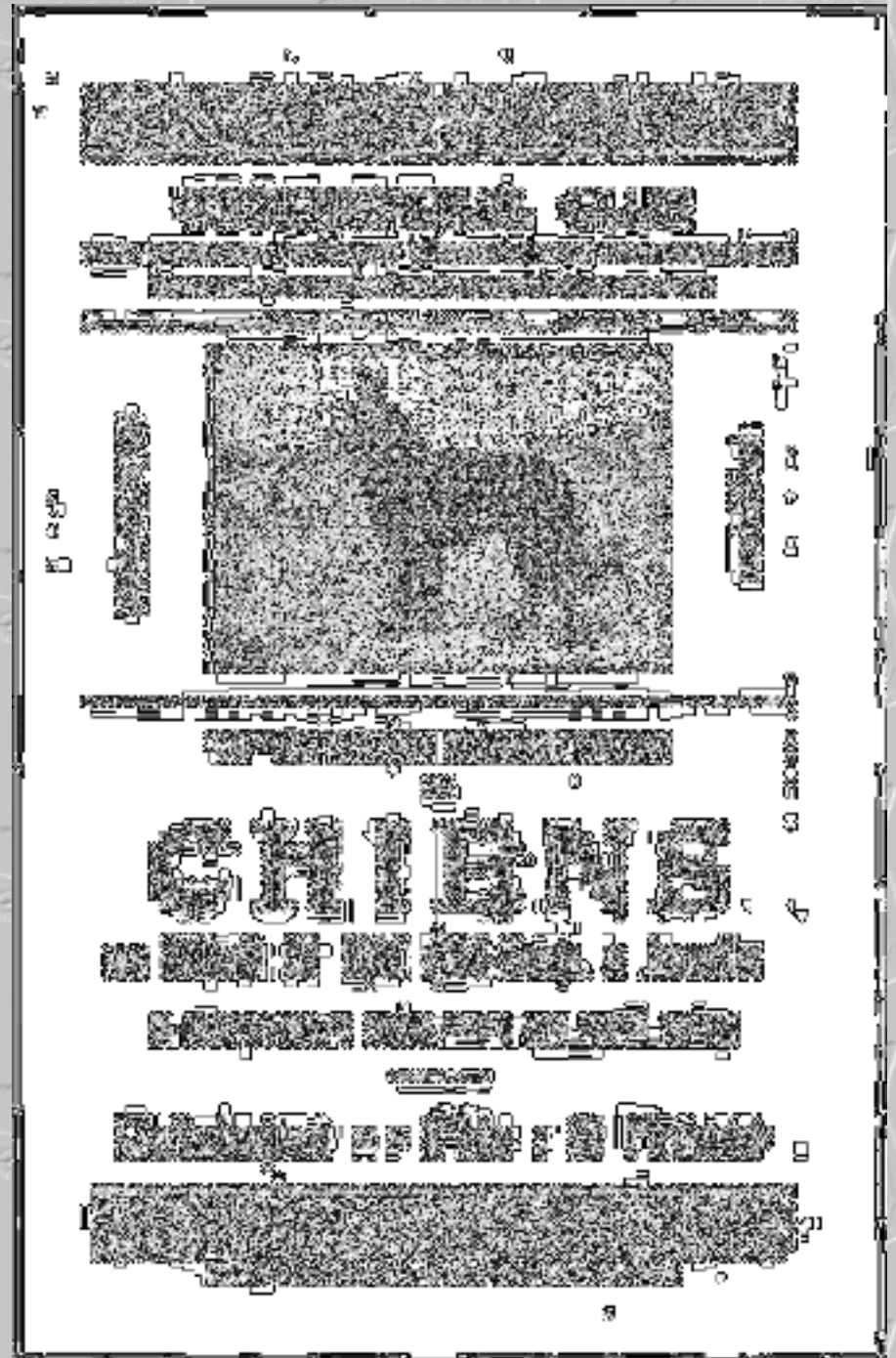
LISE, à M. STEVENS, 5^e prix.



DUC, à M. CROISIAUX, 9^e prix.

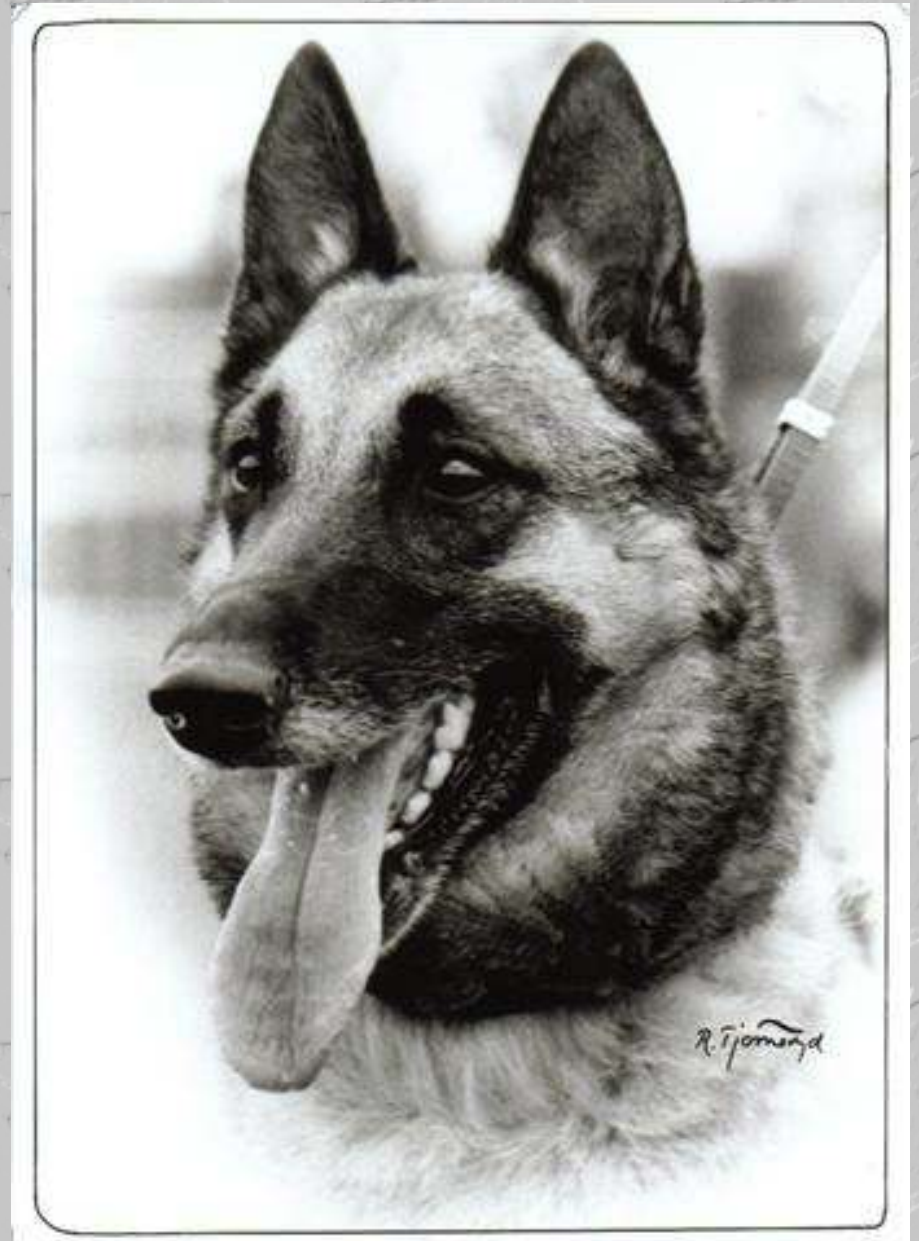
11. - Nos Douaniers à la Frontière. - Rencontre d'Embascade - E. C.







Cora I (L.O.S.H. 6134)



Arriving in America



- The first Belgian Sheepdogs arrived in the United States in 1908
- They were shown along with other shepherd breeds as Continental Shepherds
- Both World Wars almost wiped out the Belgians

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.

History

This photo is from the 1912 book “Dogs of All Nations” – where it describes the breed as a “very intelligent and rustic dog built to withstand the changeable climate of Belgium. His sagacity, activity, and enduring strength and dauntless courage fit him as a protector for his Belgian master.”

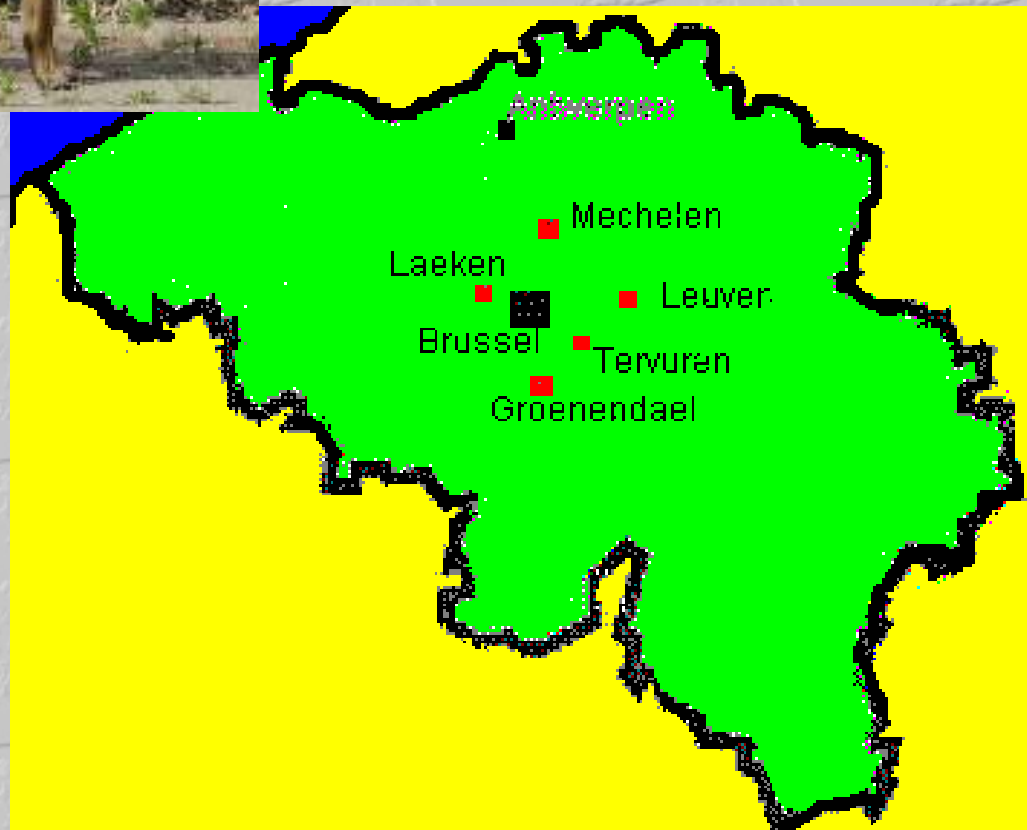


BELGIAN SHEEPDOG

Development of the Breed



Specific development of each of the coat types of Belgians occurred in different areas surrounding Brussels



Development & Distinction

- Coat type & color distinguish the four:
 - **Malinois** - short coat, fawn to mahogany
 - **Tervuren** - long coat, similar in color to the Malinois
 - **Belgian Sheepdog** - long coat, black
 - **Laekenois** – wire coat, similar in color to the Malinois
- 1965 moved from miscellaneous to working group
- 1983 all were moved to the herding group
- Popularity rose dramatically in the mid '80s
- Recent popularity increase is a concern to the parent club

The Elegant Belgians



Belgian Sheepdog - Groenendael

“Groan-en-dahl”



- Nicholas Rose owned a famous hotel called “Chateau de Groenendael”, 10 km south of Brussels
- Mr. Rose began a breeding program that established a distinct line of long haired black sheepdogs.

Belgian Tervuren



“Ter-Vuer-en”

- The Tervuren name is from the town of Tervuren, where a brewer established an early line of the fawn colored Belgian herders.
- Both World Wars almost wiped out the Belgians, particularly the Tervuren. With a handful of loyal supporters, the Tervuren was born anew after the wars from the lines of other Belgians.

Belgian Laekenois

“Lack-en-wah”



The Belgian Laekenois has a small but growing fancy in the US. Laekenois are now a recognized AKC breed. Malinois have been vital to it's survival.

Belgian Malinois

“Mal-in-Wah”

- The short haired Malinois is named for the Malines (Mechlin) region.
- A Laekenois ‘VOS I’ was the great grandsire of TJOP, most influential in the first part of the 20th century.



TJOP

Malinois Type

What Defines it ?



- ✓ Silhouette – Square, elegant
- ✓ Structure – Moderate, power without bulkiness
- ✓ Head - Clean, chiseled, parallel planes, balanced
- ✓ Expression – Intelligent, alert, ready for action
- ✓ Coat/Color – Medium-harsh, warm hues, masking
- ✓ Movement - Effortless, agile, efficient, moderate
- ✓ Temperament – confident, watchful, stable, biddable



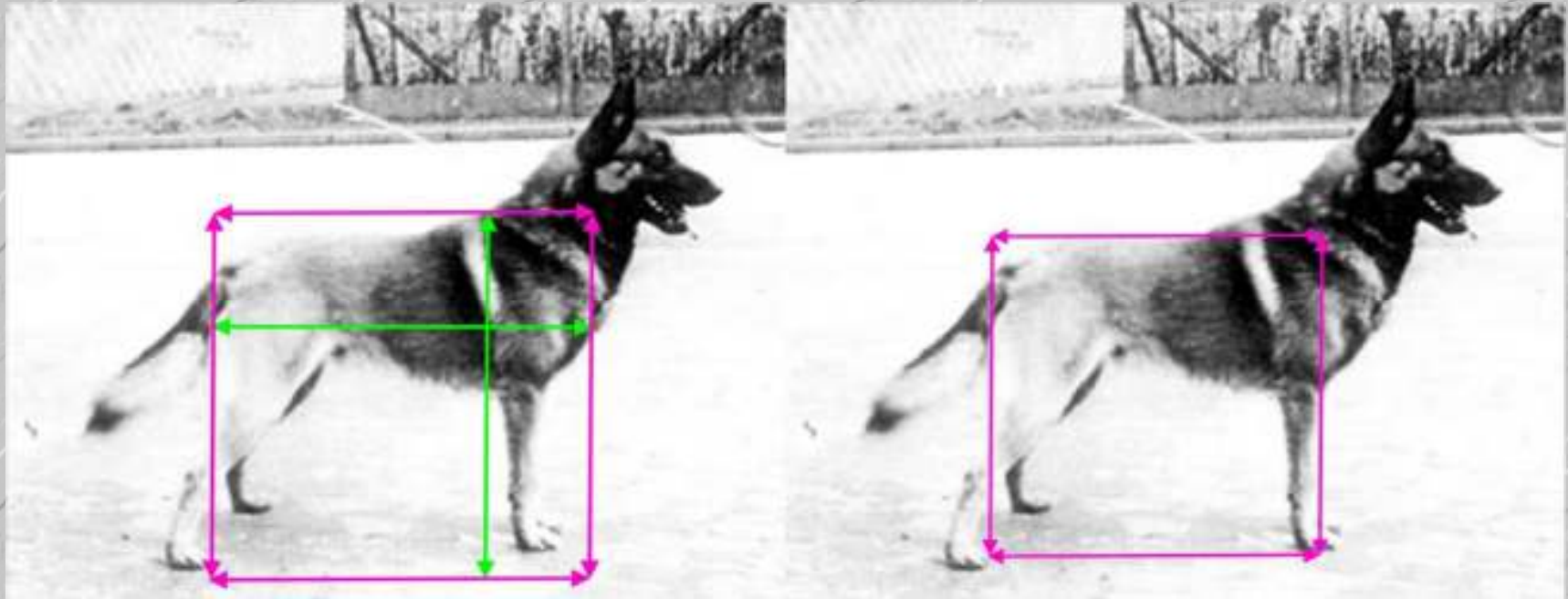
Malinois Type... What Defines it ?

“The Belgian Malinois is a well-balanced square dog, elegant in appearance with an exceedingly proud carriage of head and neck. The dog is strong, agile, well-muscled, alert, and full of life. He is hardy and built to withstand the rugged Belgian climate. His elegance and expression denote great strength of character reflecting his heritage as a herding breed.”

Malinois Type...What Defines it ?

Silhouette: *“He stands squarely on all fours and viewed from the side, the topline, forelegs, and hind legs closely approximate a square. The whole conformation gives the impression of depth and solidity without bulkiness.”*





- Square – chest to rump approximates withers to ground, with length of leg equal to depth of chest
- Proud carriage – head is held high, showing interest, alertness, confidence
- Withers are pronounced, the back is firm
- Croup is very slightly sloped
- Moderate bone in proportion to height



Silhouette



Silhouette



Topline

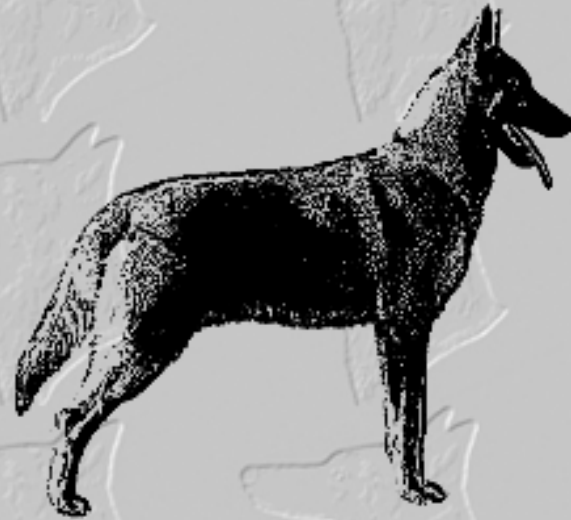
“The withers are pronounced, and the back is firm. The loin is solid, short, and sufficiently well-muscled. The croup is very slightly sloped..”



Underline



Correct Underline



Too Much Paunch

“The underline rises gently in a harmonious curve toward the abdomen, which is neither tucked-up nor paunchy.”

Tails



“The tail is strong at the base, reaching to the hock, and carried down at rest. It is curved, raised when moving, but not passing the horizontal or forming a hook or deviation.”

Malinois Type...What Defines it ?

Structure: *“Bone structure is moderate in proportion to the height so that the dog is well balanced throughout and neither spindly or leggy nor cumbersome and bulky.”*



Size, Proportion & Substance

- Males - 24 to 26 inches
- Females - 22 to 24 inches
- *“Length, measured from point of breastbone to point of rump, should equal the height”*
- *Bone structure is moderate in proportion to height so the dog is well-balanced throughout – neither spindly or leggy nor cumbersome and bulky”*
- *“The male should appear unquestionably masculine; the female should have a distinctly feminine look and be judged equally with the male.*

Angulation



Angulation



Forequarters

- *“Muscular without excessive bulkiness”*
- *“Shoulder blades are long and sloping laid flat against the body, forming a sufficient angle with the upper arm to ensure free and efficient movement”*
- *“Legs straight, strong & parallel”*
- *“Bone is solid but not heavy, more oval than round”*
- *“Pasterns are short, strong, very slightly sloped”*
- *“Feet are cat-like, well padded, toes curved close together”*
- *Nails are strong & black, except they may be white to match the white toe tips*

Forequarters







Hindquarters

- *“In balance with the forequarters”*
- *“Upper and lower thigh bones should approximately parallel the shoulder blade and upper arm”*
- *“Legs parallel, thighs well-muscled”*
- *“Hocks are short, strong, parallel and moderately angulated”*
- *“Metatarsi are strong & short”*
- *“Dewclaws may be removed”*
- *“Hind feet are oval”*

Hindquarters







Feet



Young Malinois



Adolescents





Malinois Type...What Defines it?

Head: *“The head is carried high. It is long without exaggeration, rectilinear, well-chiseled and dry.”*

This is what unmistakably identifies the dog as a Belgian.



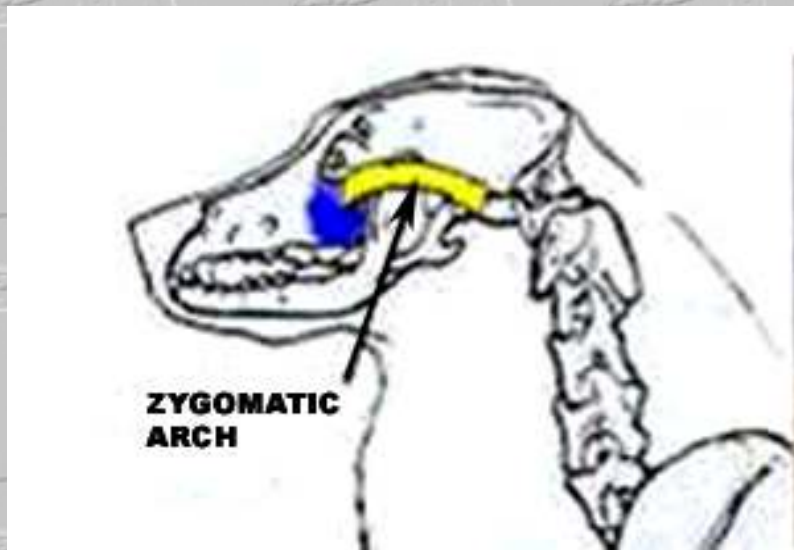
Head

- **Eyes** are brown, preferably dark brown, slightly almond shaped.
- **Ears** are small, high-set and triangular.
- **Top skull** is flattened rather than rounded
- **Top Skull & Muzzle** roughly equal in length, slight bias to the muzzle
- **Stop** is moderate.
- **Muzzle** well-chiseled under the eyes, narrowing like a wedge
- **Planes** of the muzzle and topskull are **parallel**.
- **Mouth** is well-split
- **Lips** are thin, tight and strongly pigmented black



Chiseling

Zygomatic arch is kept tight to the head and does not bow out. Cheeks are flat and clean.



Eyes *“The eyes radiate attentiveness and readiness for action. The eyes are of medium size, neither protruding nor sunken, slightly almond shaped, and obliquely set. They are brown, preferably dark brown with black rimmed upper and lower eyelids. Light eyes are a fault.”*



Eyes

“The gaze is intelligent and questioning”



Eye Faults



Ears

“The ears are rather small, set high and distinctly triangular with a well-cupped outer ear and pointed tips.

They should be stiff and carried upright and vertical when the dog is alert.

Ears hanging as on a hound or semi-prick are a DQ.”



Good Ears



Ear Faults



Skull & Muzzle



“Skull and muzzle are roughly equal in length, with at the most a very slight bias in favor of the muzzle.

The top skull is of medium width, in proportion with the length of the head, with a forehead flat rather than round, frontal groove not very pronounced; “

Skull & Muzzle

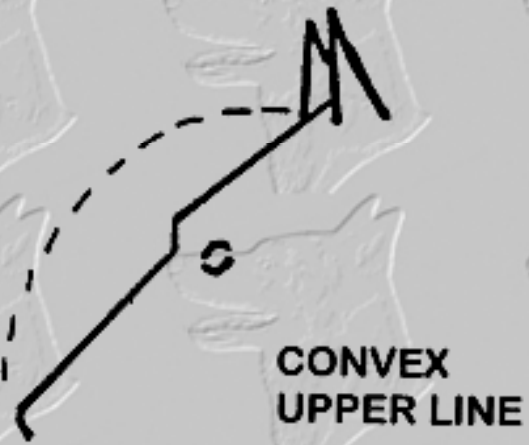
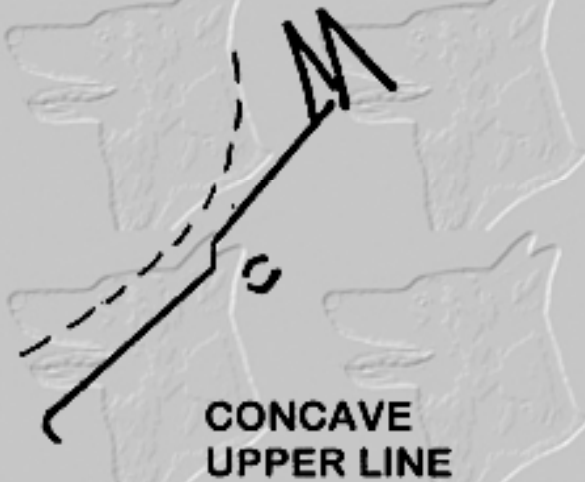
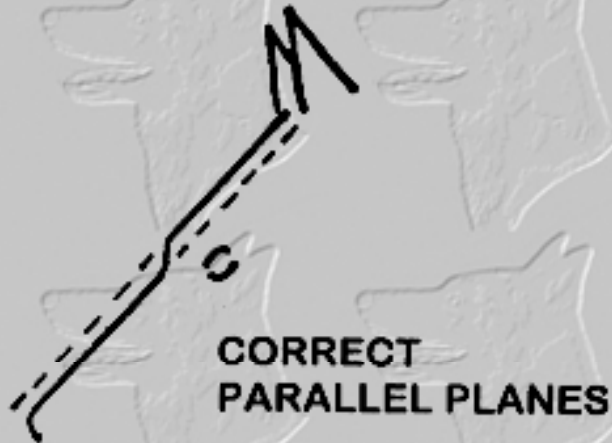


Head Planes



“in profile, the head planes are parallel; occipital crest, brow ridges and zygomatic arches not prominent.”

Parallel Planes



Moderate Stop

"The stop is moderate."



Too Much Stop



“The nose is black.

The muzzle is of medium length and well chiseled under the eyes; narrowing gradually toward the nose, like an elongated wedge.”



*“The mouth is well split,
which means that when the
mouth is open the commissures
of the lips are pulled right back,
the jaws being well apart.*

*The lips are thin, tight and
strongly pigmented black”*



Coarseness / Lack of Elegance

- Head appears heavy
- Ears too large or wide set
- Eyes too round or light
- Lack of chiseling under the eyes
- Heavy jowls
- “Bully” look
- Domed topskull

Dentition



“The Belgian Malinois has a full complement of strong white teeth that are evenly set and meet in a scissors or level bite. Overshot or undershot bites are a fault. An undershot bite in which two or more of the upper incisors lose contact with two or more of the lower incisors is a disqualification. Complete dentition is preferred. Missing teeth should be faulted.”

While the standard calls for a “full complement of strong white teeth” it is not necessary to open the entire mouth

Having the handler gently lift the lips will allow you to see side dentition





- Lifting the sides of the mouth to examine our bites will allow you to check for full dentition.
- If teeth are missing, it is usually the premolars.
- Please DO NOT pry open the mouth.

Malinois Type...What Defines it ?

Expression – The sum of the features of the head.
Intelligent, questioning, alert, ready-for-action



Head & Expression Dog & Bitch



Feminine Females



Masculine Males



Elegance is Ageless



Vibrant Veterans



Malinois Type...What Defines it ?

Coat - *“the coat should be comparatively short, straight, hard enough to be weather resistant, with dense undercoat.”*







“The Belgian Malinois is a natural breed and there is no need for excessive grooming.”



Color

“The ideal coloring is a rich fawn to mahogany, with black tips on the hairs giving an overlay appearance.”



Range of Color





White Patches



Masking

“The mask and ears appear black”



Range of Masking



Frosting



Malinois Type...What Defines it ?

Movement – “The movement is smooth, free and easy, seemingly never tiring, exhibiting facility of movement rather than a hard driving action. The Belgian Malinois single tracks at a fast gait, the legs, both front and rear, converging toward the center line of gravity, while the topline remains firm and level, parallel to the line of motion with no crabbing”



Movement



Movement



Movement



Movement



Movement



Movement Coming & Going



Faulty movement



Malinois Type...What Defines it ?

Temperament - *“Correct temperament is essential to the working character of the Belgian Malinois. He is alert, intelligent, inquisitive, and confident, showing neither fear nor aggression.”*



“He is energetic, ready for action, yet highly responsive to his owner’s direction. His lively character should be evident in his proud carriage and the sparkling attentive eyes.”



“The Belgian Malinois is an exceptional watchdog. Vigilant, yet responsive, he balances all the qualities needed in a stock dog, protector, and sensible working partner.”



“He is firmly loyal to those he loves but may be indifferent with strangers.”



Temperament - working ability starts young



Temperament- they love their families



They excel in obedience



They excel in agility



They excel in tracking



They excel in herding



Whatever your game
they will perform



Temperament - they love to PLAY



They love to WORK



Seal Team War Dog Preparing for Jump



....and WORK hard - there is a proud history of service and trainability.



That work ethic is very evident and active in today's world. A U.S. soldier with the 10th Special Forces Group and his dog leap off the ramp of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during water training over the Gulf of Mexico as part of exercise Emerald Warrior



The nose knows: A canine's olfactory powers are well known -- dogs are now even being used to sniff out rare types of cancer -- and that natural ability hasn't gone unnoticed by the U.S. military. More remarkable still are vapor-wake dogs.



Fierce protectors: Military dogs and their handlers often form deep bonds -- it's an essential part of the canine-handler relationship that is specifically built into their training regimen. The personal attachments are often so intense that it can take weeks of training before a dog can begin working with a new handler.



100 years later, this quote still rings true, “His sagacity, activity, and enduring strength and dauntless courage fit him as a protector for his Belgian master”.



Temperament and the ATTITUDE that says “I’m ready for Anything!”



Judging



- Most dogs are owner handled
- Most are free baited and not hand stacked
- Approach confidently without hesitation from the front
- The dogs are very focused on the handler make sure they know you are coming
- Avoid prolonged eye contact
- Dogs that approach you and seem to greet you usually have great temperament
- 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 21" or more than 25"
 - When in doubt – please measure
- Ears – hanging as on a hound or semi-prick
- Undershot bite, in which two or more of the upper incisors lose contact with two or more of the lower incisors
- Tail - cropped or stumped
- Color – any color or color combination not described in the standard

Four Belgian Breed Standards DQ/LISTED FAULT COMPARISON CHART

<p>FAULTS, GENERAL: When taking faults or deviations of the ideal into consideration, these standards essentially state, "The degree to which a dog is penalized should depend upon the extent to which the dog deviates from the standard and the extent to which the particular fault would actually affect the working ability of the dog."</p>				
<p>SIZE, Ideal for all Males 24"- 26", Females 22"- 24"</p>	<p>LAEKENOIS DQ Males < 23, >27 Females < 20%, >25</p>	<p>MALINOIS DQ Males < 23, >27 Females < 21, >25</p>	<p>SHEEPDOG DQ Males < 22%, > 27% Females < 20%, > 25%</p>	<p>TERVUREN DQ Males < 23, > 26% Females < 21, > 24%</p>
<p>EARS: Correct for all: triangular shaped, high set ears. DQ for all standards: hanging ears. The Malinois standard also DQs semi prick ears.</p>				
<p>EYES: correct for all: brown, preferably dark brown and slightly almond shaped, not protruding. Tervuren standard FAULTS: light, yellow or round eyes. Malinois standard FAULTS: light eyes</p>				
<p>BITE Correct for all Scissors or level (even) bites Full complement of strong white teeth, evenly set.</p>	<p>LAEKENOIS DQ Four or more missing teeth. Undershot or overshot such that contact with two or more upper incisors lose contact with two or more lower incisors. (loss of contact caused by short incisors shall not be judged as undershot in an otherwise correct bite). SERIOUS absence of 2 premolars or molars FAULT Over/under (see DQ) <i>1 missing premolar (PM1) not to be penalized</i></p>	<p>MALINOIS DQ An undershot bite in which two or more of the upper incisors lose contact with two or more of the lower incisors. FAULT Overshot & undershot Missing teeth</p>	<p>SHEEPDOG FAULT – NO DQ Should not be overshot or undershot</p>	<p>TERVUREN DQ Undershot such that there is a complete loss of contact by all incisors. SERIOUS FAULT Four or more missing teeth FAULT Overshot & undershot Missing teeth <i>Broken or discolored teeth should not be penalized</i></p>
<p>TAIL: DQ for ALL cropped or stump</p>				
<p>COLOR</p>	<p>LAEKENOIS DQ Solid white markings elsewhere than on tips of toes, chest or frosting on muzzle</p>	<p>MALINOIS DQ Any color or color combination not described in the standard.</p>	<p>SHEEPDOG DQ Any color other than black</p>	<p>TERVUREN DQ Solid black, solid liver or any white except as specified on the chest, toes, chin & muzzle.</p>

Summary

- Consider the overall dog
- Remember the beautiful elegant Belgian type
 - Head – elegant
 - Expression - intelligent
 - Silhouette -square
 - Structure – moderate
 - Coat/Color – harsh, warm
 - Movement - effortless
 - Attitude - confident



Given that no perfect dogs exist, which of the dogs in your ring will best improve this breed?

You be the judge....



You be the judge.....



You be the judge....



You be the judge....



You be the judge....



You be the judge....



You be the judge....



You be the judge.....



You be the judge.....



You be the judge.....



You be the judge.....



You be the judge....



You be the judge.....



Karon P Johnson

The **American Belgian Malinois Club** wants to thank you for your interest in our breed and taking the time to attend this presentation.

An additional thank you to the members who graciously gave their photos for our presentation.



For more information you can visit our website:

Malinoisclub.com