

*Introducing*  
*the Berger Picard*

**Understanding  
the Breed &  
the AKC Standard**

Presentation sponsored by the  
Berger Picard Club of America



# *Berger Picard* (Bare-ZHAY Pee-CAR)



- Picardy Region, France
- Shepherd's dog, farm helper
- Wartime courier
- Numbers decimated by World War I & II

# Breed History: the 19<sup>th</sup> Century



Berger means Sheepdog

# Breed History: the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century



Berger Picard

Simply called **Picards** by fanciers

# Possibly Related Breeds



- Bouvier des Flandres
- Briard (Berger de Brie)
- Belgian Lakenois
- Bouvier d'Ardennes
- Beauceron (Berger de Beauce)



Similar function, same region

# Primary Function



# Other Activities

- Agility & Obedience
- Tracking
- Schutzhund
- Excellent babysitter!



# Post War Redevelopment

- Dwindled to only a handful of dogs
- Robert Montenot rebuilt from a few individuals





# Early French Champions 1950-1960's



# More European Dogs from 1970's



# Changing body type in the last quarter of the twentieth century

The old fashioned type in the seventies and eighties.



The upcoming modern type in the same time frame.



# More European Dogs from 80's & 90's



# Recent French Champions



# Recent French Champion 2016



# The Picard in North America



- Several early attempts to establish the breed
- Probably 20 or less in US prior to 2001
- “Because of Winn-Dixie” movie came out in 2005
- Internet helped potential owners find breeders
- Currently about 475 Picards registered with AKC

## Breed Parent Club

- Berger Picard Club of America established December 9, 2006
- Currently 132 members in 32 states & Canada
- At Jan 2012 AKC Board Meeting, approved move to Miscellaneous in January 2013
- July 1, 2015, Berger Picard moved into the herding group and full AKC recognition.
- September 2016, AKC delegates voted the BPCA as a member club.





# Picard Health Concerns

- Primary health concerns are hip dysplasia, eye problems (PRA) thyroid and heart issues.
- BPCA is tracking the incidence through OFA's breed survey.
- BPCA participates in OFA's CHIC program with a blood sample for DNA as a requirement.



## What Makes a Picard a Picard



- An athletically built dog of rustic appearance.
- Efficient gait demonstrating effortless, fluid movement.
- Head with ears held naturally erect, possessing an intelligent and alert expression.
- Has a crisp, harsh outer coat.
- Long tail, reaching the hock, ending with a J shaped hook.

# Berger Picard Breed Standard

- Standard based on the 2008 FCI standard
- Standard was Club approved December 2011



## General Appearance



The Berger Picard is an ancient breed developed by the farmers and sheep herders of the Picardy region of northern France.

They are medium-sized, sturdily built & well-muscled without being bulky, slightly longer than tall, with distinctive erect natural ears, wiry coat of moderate length, and a tail reaching to the hock and ending in a J-hook.

## General Appearance continued



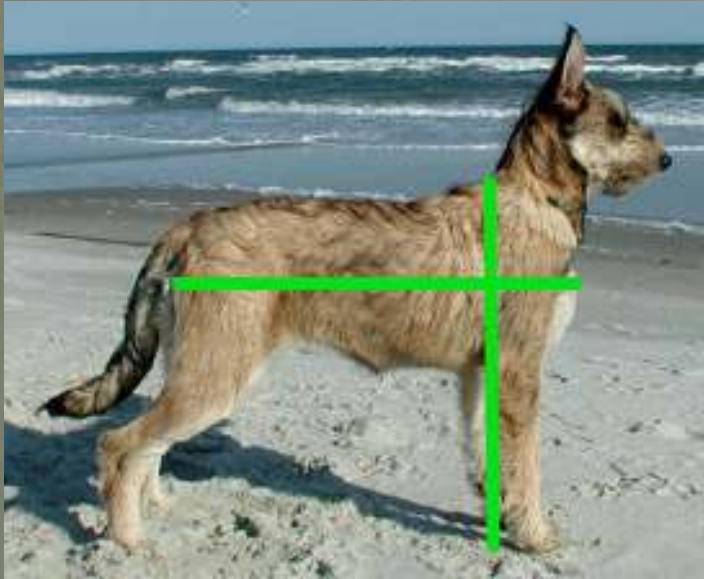
Movement is free and easy, efficient, and tireless to allow them to work all day on the farm and in the fields. They are lively and alert, observant, quietly confident, and can be aloof with strangers, but should not be timid or nervous. This is a rustic, working shepherd's dog, without exaggeration or refinement.

# Size, Proportion, Substance



- *SIZE*: Males, 23-½ to 25-½ inches, Females 21-½ to 23-½ inches at the highest point of the withers. Up to 1” above or below limits shall be faulted.
- ***DISQUALIFICATION:***  
**Males under 22-½ or over 26-½ inches, and**  
**Females under 20-½ or over 24-½ inches.**

# Size, Proportion, Substance



- *PROPORTION*: Measured from the point of shoulder to point of rump, the Picard should be slightly longer than the height at the highest point of the withers. Bitches may be slightly longer than dogs. Body length should be about 10% more than height. The distance from the withers to the elbow equals the distance from the elbow to the ground.

# Size, Proportion, Substance



- *SUBSTANCE*: Bone should be sturdy and strong, and this framework is well-muscled without ever being bulky or ponderous. Must be sufficient to support work in the field all day, but not so massive as to interfere with free, efficient, light-footed movement.



# Head

- *HEAD*: Strong, without being massive; rectangular overall and narrowing slightly from ears to the eyes, and again from eyes to nose when viewed from above. The correct length of head, measured from occiput to nose, should be about the same length as the neck. Muzzle and topskull should be of equal length, and form parallel planes when viewed in profile, separated by a slight, sloping stop.



## Head

- *Expression*: Alert and observant, spirited, confident, pleasant.
- *Eyes*: Medium size, oval shaped and turned forward; neither round nor protruding. Eye color is medium to dark brown, varying with the color of the coat but never lighter than hazel. Darker eye color is preferred. Eye rims are tight-fitting and fully pigmented.
- ***DISQUALIFICATION: Yellow eyes***



# Head

- *Ears*: Moderately large (4-5 inches long), broad at the base, tapering to a slightly rounded tip, and set rather high on the skull. Always carried naturally erect, and turned forward. Viewed from the front, carriage should be perpendicular or turned slightly out from perpendicular, at the 11 & 1 o'clock position. Coat on the ears should be short to moderate in length, not obscuring the shape of the ears. Ears tipped forward are to be severely faulted.
- ***DISQUALIFICATION: Ears not carried erect or not standing.***



# Head

- *Skull*: Width is slightly less than the length, and very slightly rounded. Coat on the top of the skull is naturally shorter and gradually becomes longer at sides of skull and on cheeks, which makes the skull appear to be flat when viewed from the front.



Cheek muscles are moderately strong and slightly rounded. There is a slight furrow between the bony arches over the eyes. The hair above the eyes falls forward, forming rough eyebrows that are not trimmed, nor are they so thick or long as to obscure the eyes.

## Head

- *Stop*: Slight, gradual stop between the parallel planes of the muzzle and skull. Furrow between brow ridges blends smoothly into upper plane of muzzle.
- *Muzzle*: Viewed from above, the muzzle tapers slightly from the stop to the nose, ending bluntly. It is powerful and never snipey. In profile, the bridge of the muzzle is straight, and parallel to the skull. Lips are thin and tight, with dark pigment. The hair on the muzzle forms a distinct mustache and beard, which is not overly long or bushy.



# Head

- *Planes*: Viewed from the side, the muzzle and skull are in parallel planes.
- *Nose*: Large, and always black.



## Head

- *Bite & Teeth:* A complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth set in strong jaws, and meeting in a scissors bite. Three or more missing molars or premolars is a severe fault.



***DISQUALIFICATION:* Undershot or overshot bite with loss of contact between upper and lower incisors.**

# Oval Eyes vs. Round Eyes





# Head Faults

- Round eyes, light color
- Wide-set or not erect ears



# Head Faults

- Planes not parallel
- Too much, too little coat
- Roman noses



## Neck, Topline and Body

- *NECK*: Strong and muscular, moderately long in length, blending smoothly into the shoulders and carried erect with a slight arch. Skin should fit cleanly without any dewlap.



# Neck, **Topline** and Body

- *TOPLINE*: Strong; level, from the withers, over a well-developed loin, to a slightly sloping croup.



# Neck, Topline & **Body**

- *BODY*: Chest deep but not exaggerated, reaching to the level of the elbow but not beyond. Prominent prosternum blends smoothly into the sternum. The lowest point of the sternum is at the level of the elbow, and from that point, the sternum slopes gradually up towards the loin to give good depth and length to the ribcage. Ribs are well sprung from the spine for the upper 1/3, then flattening as they approach the sternum, neither slab-sided nor barrel-shaped.

Belly slightly tucked up. Loin strong but not overly long.



*So what's under all that coat?*



# Tail



- *TAIL*: Strong at the base and tapering to the tip, flowing smoothly from the slightly sloping croup. At rest, hangs straight and reaches to the point of the hock, ending in a slight crook or “J” at the tip without deviating toward the right or left. When moving, carried as a natural extension of the topline. May be carried higher than the level of the topline, but never curled over the back. Coat is the same length and texture as the coat on the body. Tail curled over the back is a severe fault.
- ***DISQUALIFICATION: Tail absent, docked, or kinked.***

# Correct Tail Carriage





# Correct Tail Carriage

- Tail to hock, J-hook at end
- Carried at or slightly above topline when moving



# Incorrect Tail Carriage

- Should **NOT** curl over or touch back!
- Should **NOT** have gay tail set!



# Forequarters

- Shoulder blades are long and well laid back, covered by lean and strong muscle. The length of the upper arm balances the shoulder blade, placing the elbow well under and close in to the body. Forelegs are straight and strong, without being bulky. Viewed from the front, legs are parallel to each other with toes pointing straight forward. Pasterns slope slightly to compact, rounded foot with well arched toes and strong, black nails. Pads are strong and supple. Dewclaws may be removed or left on.



## Hindquarters

- Angulation of the thigh and stifle balance the front assembly, and are well muscled, providing powerful, tireless, and effortless movement. Rear pasterns are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the ground. With a correctly angulated rear, the toes of the hind foot land just behind a perpendicular line dropped from the point of rump. Feet are rounded with well arched toes and strong black nails, as in front. *There should be no dewclaws on the rear legs.*



## Coat

- Harsh and crisp to the touch, neither flat nor curly, often with a slight wave. Undercoat is soft, short, and dense. The shaggy, rough coat of the Picard is distinctive, and should never be woolly, soft, or so profuse that it hides the outline of the dog.



Ideal length is 2-3” over the entire dog, with coat naturally somewhat shorter on the top of the head. The coat accents on the head and neck which give the Picard its distinct look, known as “griffonage”, include rough eyebrows, moderate beard and mustache, and a slight ruff on the front and sides of the neck, framing the head, all of moderate length.

## Coat continued

- Coat length over 4" in any location should be penalized, with longer coats penalized more severely than those only slightly longer than ideal.



Coat on the ears should never be so long as to obscure the outline, or create a fringed appearance. The Picard is shown in its rustic, rough, natural coat which is not to be sculpted, shaped, or scissored. *Dogs whose coat has been altered by excessive grooming must be severely penalized.*

# Show Grooming a Picard

*This is the same bitch !*



## Natural Coat

- Very Rustic
- Coat has flames
- No grooming done
- Coat is harsh



## Show Groomed Correctly

- Brushed
- Hand Stripped lightly
- Coat still has texture



## Over Groomed

**UNACCEPTABLE**

- Scissored
- Shaved
- Sculpted
- Incorrect coat texture

# Show Grooming a Picard

*This is the same bitch !*



## Natural Coat

- Very Rustic
- Has fringe on ears
- No grooming done
- Eyebrows dense



## Show Groomed Correctly

- Either ear is acceptable
- Hand Stripped lightly
- Slight ear fringe
- Has mustache
- Has ruff on neck



## Over Groomed

**UNACCEPTABLE**

- Scissored eyebrows
- Shaved ears
- Sculpted head



# Progression of the Picard Coat on the Same Dog



# Incorrect Coats



## Coat Colors

- Fawn or brindle. Fawn may be a clear or true fawn with no dark markings, or fawn charbonne' (fawn with charcoal), which is fawn with dark trim on the outer edge of the ears and a grey underlay on the head and body. Grey underlay should not be so prominent that it “muddies” the overall fawn color.



# Coat Colors

- Fawn Charbonne
- True Fawn  
(or Clear Fawn)



## Coat Colors- Brindle

Brindle may be any shade of base color from almost black to light gray or fawn, with stripes or small patches of black, brown, red, gray, or fawn distributed throughout.

All allowed colors should be considered equally. A small white patch on the chest or tips of toes is allowed, but not ideal. Toes entirely white or a white patch anywhere on the body must be faulted.

***DISQUALIFICATION: Solid black or white, pied, spotted, or harlequin; entirely white foot or white “bib” on chest.***



## Coat Colors- Brindle

- Light gray to almost black, with brindling



## Coat Colors- Brindle



Easier to see brindling in puppies!

## Coat Colors- Brindle





# Coat Colors- Faults

- Too much gray in fawn
- Solid black, no brindling



# Gait

- Movement is fluid and effortless, easily covering a lot of ground with each smooth stride. Strong, supple, agile movement is essential for a working shepherd's dog. Head carriage lowers to near the level of the topline when moving. Limbs move in parallel planes when gaiting slowly, converging slightly towards the centerline with increased speed.



# Temperament

- Lively and alert, observant, confident, even-tempered. May be aloof with strangers, but should not be timid or nervous. *Aggressive or threatening behavior towards people or other dogs is a serious fault.*



# FAULTS

- Any departure from the foregoing description should be considered a fault. Those faults that would interfere with the dog's ability to function efficiently as a shepherd, guardian, and farmer's helper should be considered more serious than deviations that are cosmetic or would not alter the dog's ability to work.



# DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Males under 22-1/2" or over 26-1/2"
- Females under 20-1/2" or over 24-1/2"
- Undershot or overshot bite with loss of contact between upper and lower incisors.
- Color solid black or white, pied, spotted, or harlequin; entirely white foot, or white bib on chest
- Yellow eyes
- Ears not carried erect or not standing
- Tail absent, docked, or kinked



*Thanks for your interest!*

