



The Belgian Shepherd Dog is a Moderate Breed

Dogs Queensland Exclusive

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When applying the word *Moderate* to the Belgian Shepherd Dog, what do we imply? It means that there is nothing exaggerated. The head is not as fine as the Collie Rough but also not as strong as in the German Shepherd Dog. The stop is moderate but defined. The Belgian Shepherd Dog is neither a large breed nor a small breed. The movement is not short coupled, nor is the reach and drive that of the German Shepherd Dog. The various parts of the breed are harmoniously proportioned. The body is well balanced with unbroken outline when looking at the silhouette.

The angulation of the Belgian Shepherd Dog is 'moderate'. Our breed does not aspire to the 90° angulations required of the German Shepherd Dog, rather somewhere between 105° to 110°.

The movement of the Belgian Shepherd Dog should be 'effortless', 'a moderately fast trot, exhibiting good reach and drive'. Our breed should not display the extreme reach and drive of the German Shepherd Dog. There is nothing wasteful about the movement of the Belgian Shepherd Dog. On extension, the front paw should reach only to the nose, with the head held slightly down and forward on the move. The hind leg should extend behind by the same distance. This will only happen if the dog is correctly angulated front and rear. On the move, the line from the tip of the ear to the tip of the tail should be fluent and smooth, with no excessive change of angle. When judging or examining a Belgian Shepherd Dog, all parts should be harmonious to each other.

Even the word 'chiselled' in reference to the head, infers smooth lines without any excess. The ears should be moderate to small. The neck should have sufficient length to support the overall impression of elegance of the breed. The skull and muzzle should be on parallel planes when viewed from the side. In proportion to the German Shepherd Dog, the Belgian Shepherd Dog is a lighter build while still displaying a robust elegance specific to this breed.

Even when exhibiting the Belgian Shepherd Dog, there is nothing extreme in its presentation. Stacked all four square in a natural stance, and moved at a moderate pace which displays the breeds ability to work for long periods. The top line should remain level on the move, without displaying any weakness of back and the movement should be smooth and without exaggeration of any part of the whole.

So, as they say, 'everything in moderation'.




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