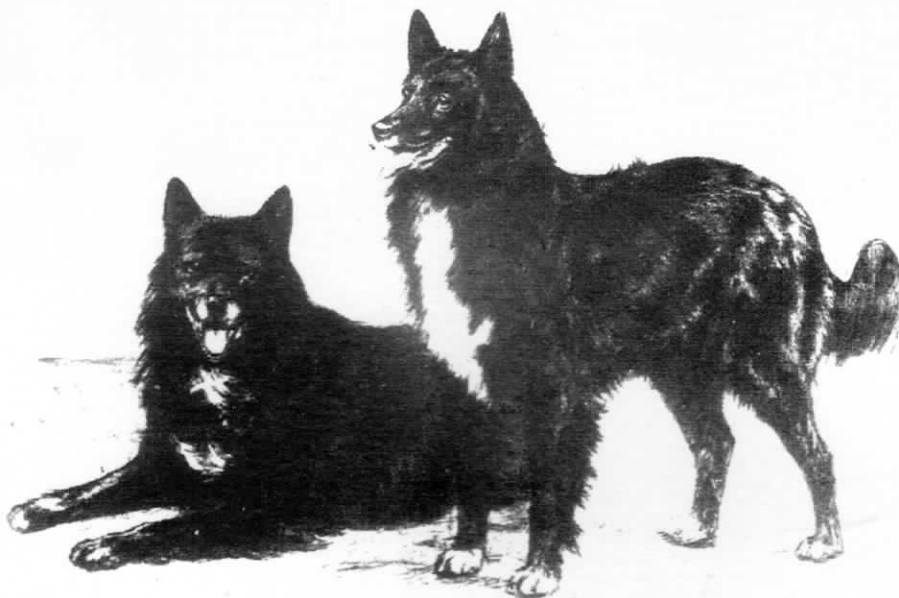


*COMPENDIUM
FOR THE
BELGIAN
SHEPHERD DOG*

*GROENENDAEL TERVUEREN
LAEKENOIS MALINOIS*



The beginning of the fairy tale. Here at Chateau de Groenendael outside Brussels mr Rose lived. He owned two of the first dogs which are the foundation of Belgian Shepherd Dogs. The names of the dogs were Petite and her son, with Picard d'Uccle, Duc du Groenendael.



Picard d'Uccle & Duc de Groenendael, 1888 - 1893

BREED COMPENDIUM FOR THE BELGIAN SHEPHERD DOG

**GROENENDAEL Tervueren
Laekenois Malinois**



Copper plate 1921

Put together by: © Anders & Carin Lyrholm, 2003

Comments: © Anders Lyrholm

Photo: © Riitta Tjörneryd

The standard: in bold type, Faults and disqualifying faults: in regular type, Comments: in Italics



GROENENDAEL MALE

BELGIAN SHEPHERD DOG

(Chien de Berger Belge)

TRANSLATION: Mrs. Jeans-Brown, revised by Dr. R. Pollet.

ORIGIN: Belgium.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD: 22.06.2001.

UTILISATION:

Originally a sheep dog, today a working dog (guarding, defence, tracking, etc.) and an all-purpose service dog, as well as a family dog.

CLASSIFICATION F.C.I.:

Group 1 Sheepdogs and Cattle Dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs).
Section 1 Sheepdogs.
With working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

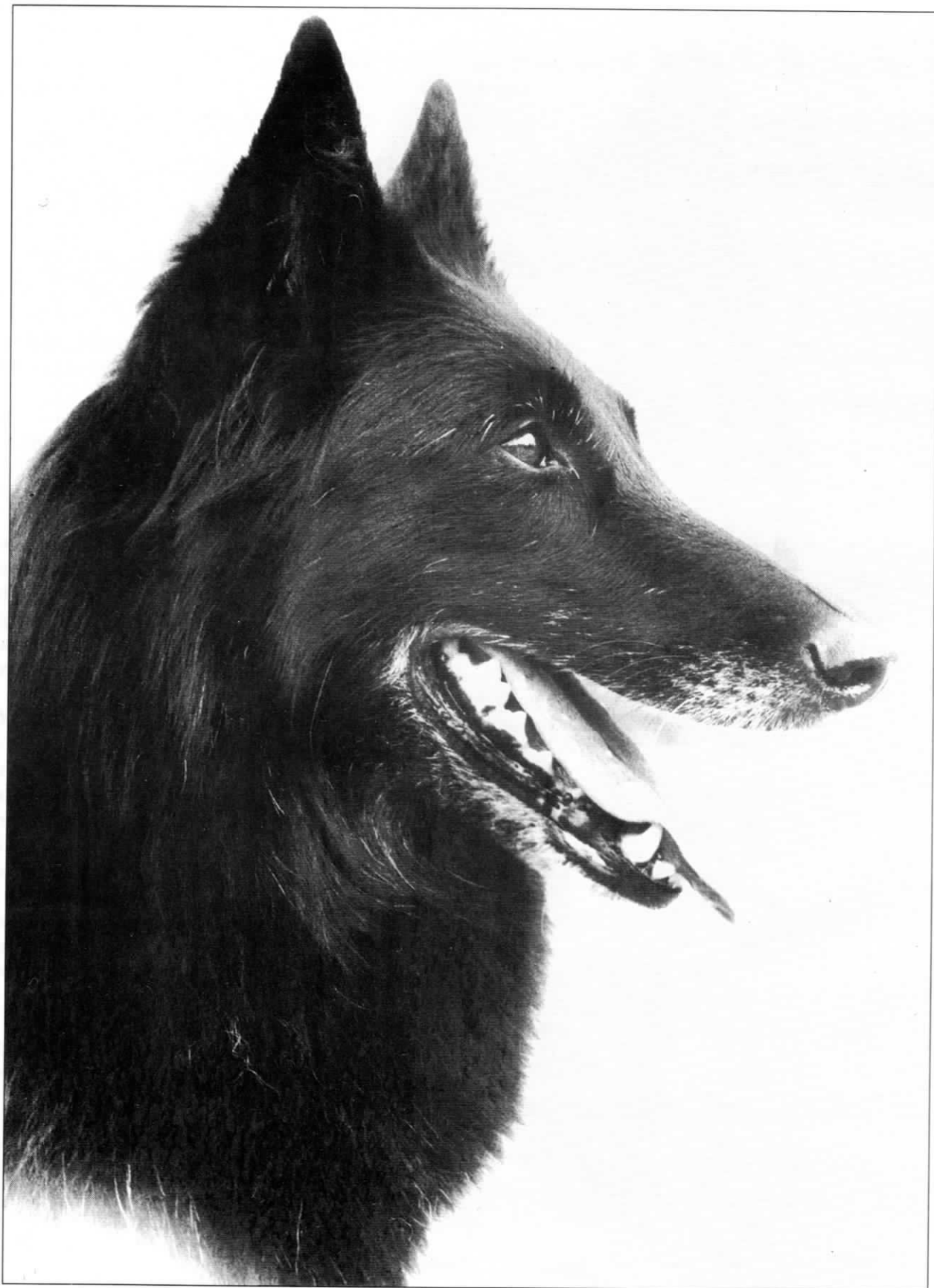
In Belgium, at the end of the 1800s, there were a great many herding dogs, whose type was varied and whose coats were extremely dissimilar. In order to rationalise this state of affairs, some enthusiastic dog fanciers formed a group and sought guidance from Prof. A. Reul of the Cureghem Veterinary Medical School, whom one must consider to have been the real pioneer and founder of the breed.

The breed was officially born between 1891 and 1897. On September 29th, 1891, the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club (Club du Chien de Berger Belge) was founded in Brussels and in the same year on November 15th in Cureghem, Professor A. Reul organised a gathering of 117 dogs, which allowed him to carry out a return and choose the best specimens. In the following years they began a real programme of selection, carrying out some very close interbreeding involving a few stud dogs.

By April 3rd, 1892, a first detailed breed standard had already been drawn up by the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club. One single breed was allowed, with three coat varieties. However, as was said at the time, the Belgian Shepherd only belonged to ordinary people and therefore the breed still lacked status.

As a result, it wasn't until 1901 that the first Belgian Shepherds were registered with the Royal Saint-Hubert Society Stud Book (L.O.S.H.).

During the following years, the prime movers among the Belgian Shepherd enthusiasts set to work with great determination to unify the type and correct the faults. It can be said that by 1910 the type and temperament of the Belgian



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Shepherd had been established.

During the history of the Belgian Shepherd, the question of differing but acceptable varieties and colours had led to many heated discussions. On the other hand, anything involving morphology, temperament and suitability for work has never caused any disagreement.

Comments:

The "Belgian" ancestors were herding dogs, used in Europe for many years. At first, bigger, heavier and more aggressive dogs were used. Their task was not primarily to look after the herd (the shepherd did that), but to chase away wild animals and enemies. After the end of the Thirty Years' War (17th century), Europe became a safer place with better and more stable living conditions. Most of the larger wild animals disappeared or decreased in number. A new type of herding dog evolved, an alert and intelligent dog that would herd the flock with inexhaustible energy and also respond immediately to his master's (the shepherd's) commands and signals. In addition, the dog needed to work independently and be sharp enough to, if necessary, protect the flock against enemies.... animals as well as people. There were no special breeds and those herding dogs could vary significantly in different areas of Europe. However, their size and shape were remarkably similar from place to place.

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Belgian Shepherd is a mediolineal dog, harmoniously proportioned, combining elegance and power, of medium size, with dry, strong muscle, fitting into a square, rustic, used to the open air life and built to resist the frequent atmospheric variations of the Belgian climate.

Through the harmony of its shape and its high head-carriage, the Belgian Shepherd should give the impression of that elegant strength which has become the heritage of the selected representatives of a working breed. The Belgian Shepherd is to be judged in its natural stance, without physical contact with the handler.

Faults:

Cloddy, lacking elegance; too light or too slender.

Disq. faults:

Lack of breed type.

Comments:

The silhouette of a Belgian Shepherd (in profile) shows a beautiful, soft unbroken line from the top of the head, via a softly curved neck, pronounced withers, a straight back and a softly rounded croup. It is also important that the dog gives the impression of a "square" dog. "Robust elegance" is also an attribute to strive for, in other words, a dog who is neither too heavy nor too light. It is likewise important that the distance from the withers to the bottom of the chest is the same as the distance from the bottom of the chest to the ground.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:

The Belgian Shepherd dog can be fitted into a square. The chest is let down to the level of the elbows. The length of the



TERVUEREN MALE

muzzle is equal to or slightly longer than half the length of the head.

Faults:

Longer than high; fitting into a rectangle.

**BEHAVIOUR /
TEMPERAMENT:**

The Belgian Shepherd is a watchful and active dog, bursting with energy, and always ready to leap into action. As well as its innate skill at guarding flocks, it also possesses the highly prized qualities of the best guard dog of property. Without any hesitation it is the stubborn and keen protector of its owner. It brings together all those qualities necessary for a shepherd, guard, defence and service dog.

Its lively, alert temperament and its confident nature, showing no fear or aggressiveness, should be obvious in its body stance and the proud attentive expression in its sparkling eyes.

When judging this breed, one should take into consideration its calm and fearless temperament.

Faults:

Specimens lacking in self-confidence or overly nervous.

Disq. faults:

Aggressive or timid specimens.

Comments:

When we look at the temperament of the Belgian Shepherd, we first must decide whether we want the same temperament in all breeds, where the exterior appearance is different. Many people feel that this would be very unfortunate. We must remember and be aware of the Belgian Shepherd's original work assignments. The Belgian Shepherd is considered a "working dog" which may make some of his original characteristics less tolerable. The Belgian Shepherd was originally a herding dog as well as a watchdog. The genes for these characteristics still remain to a greater or lesser degree today. In other words, the Belgian Shepherd is a herding dog with territorial instincts.

For comparison, let's consider the Border Collie, who is also a herding dog, but without the territorial instinct. This is one important characteristic that makes these two breeds different. This means that the Border Collie does not have the same social "problems" as the Belgian Shepherd.

So.... what are the characteristics of a Belgian Shepherd? First of all, a pronounced sensitivity to "signals". It is a natural characteristic for a Belgian Shepherd to be somewhat reserved, both in social and environmental situations. A Belgian Shepherd is naturally suspicious towards most new experiences.

Why then is it, in the show ring, that we meet both "good" as well as "bad" Belgian Shepherds?

The differences can be attributed to genes, but maybe more importantly to social and environmental conditioning or lack thereof. It is helpful to keep this in mind when we deal with Belgian Shepherds in the show ring. If we accept this, we also show acceptance of the special characteristics of this breed. This is important! But, of course, we must also, at the same time, expect from a Belgian Shepherd that he must be manageable and accept different environments.



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HEAD:

Carried high, long without exaggeration, rectilinear, well chiselled and dry. Skull and muzzle are roughly equal in length, with at the most a very slight bias in favour of the muzzle which puts the finishing touch to the whole head.

Comments:

The head of a Belgian Shepherd is very characteristic and should reflect both harmony and elegance. The length of the head should correspond to about 40% of the length of the body (somewhat more than 60% of the length of the back)

It is a common misunderstanding that a long and narrow head is a good head. However, this is not the case. The muzzle must also be filled out and chiselled (ciselé) under the eyes, where it should show a certain amount of "sculpturing", which largely consists of tendons and muscles, without getting too husky. This appearance creates a lively expression.

CRANIAL REGION:

Of medium width, in proportion with the length of the head, with a forehead flat rather than round, frontal groove not very pronounced; in profile, parallel to imaginary line extending muzzle line; occipital crest little developed; brow ridges and zygomatic arches not prominent.

Faults:

Heavy, too strong, lacking parallelism, not sufficiently chiselled or dry; forehead too rounded; brow ridges or zygomatic arches too prominent.

Comments:

The width of the skull should approximately correspond to the length of the head from the stop to the occiput. The length could possibly exceed the width somewhat. It is a common mistake to perceive the skull as being broad when, in fact, the muzzle is too short. The standard prescribes "forehead rather flat than rounded". This refers to the forehead between the ears (crosswise) and also the skull (lengthwise) from the stop to the occiput. The standard also prescribes that top of the skull should be parallel to the top of the muzzle. Normally this condition is determined when a Belgian is looking alert with his ears erect. The forehead visible in front of the ears should then give an impression of being parallel to the top of the muzzle. We must also be aware of a head too deep that causes a lack of elegance.

Stop:

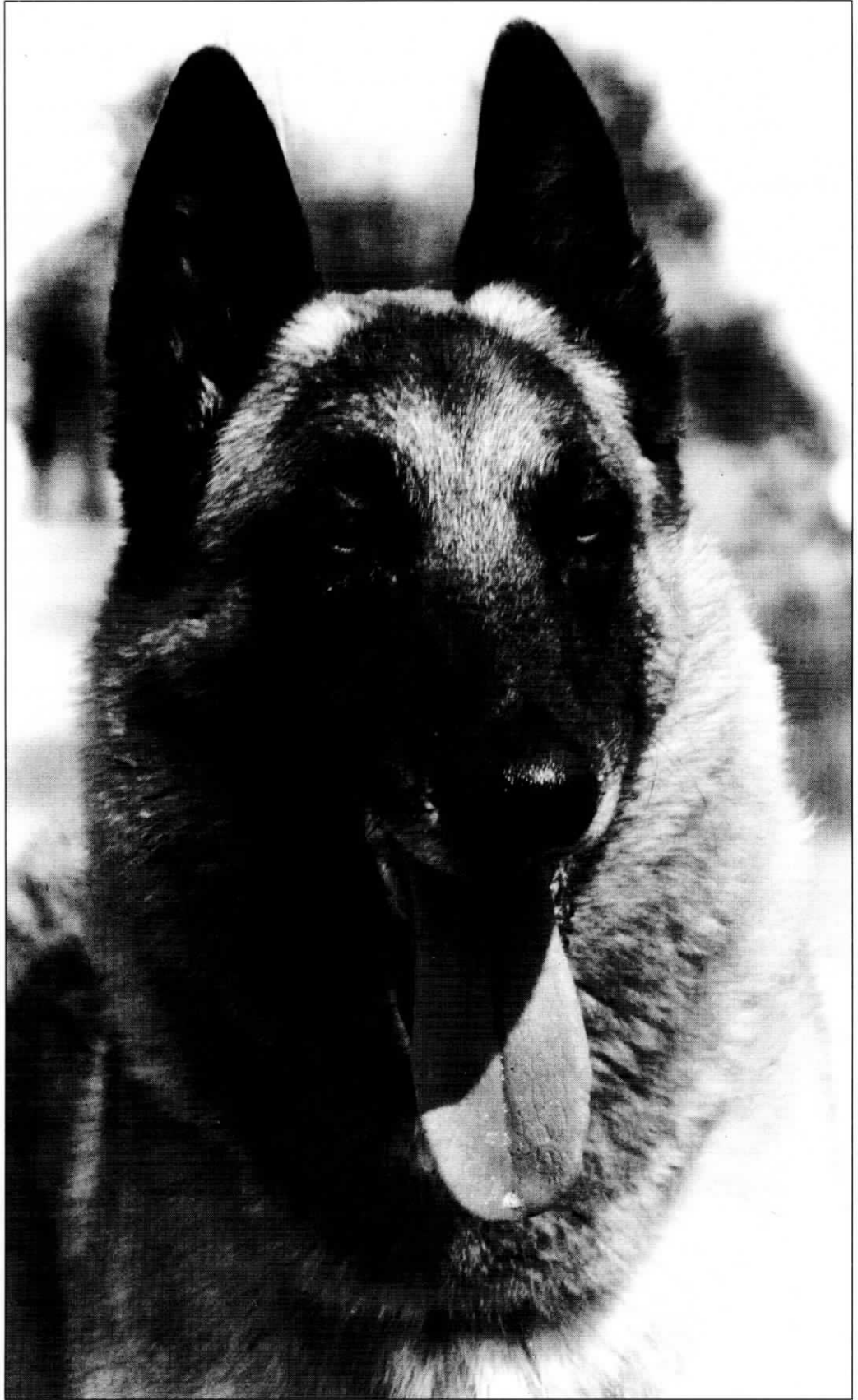
Moderate.

Faults:

Stop too accentuated or too flat.

Comments:

The stop is also an important feature on the Belgian Shepherd. The Standard states "moderately pronounced". A stop that is too pronounced will ruin the elegance. A slight stop will not give the right expression either. It is common to see a slight stop combined with eyebrows that are too pronounced. This gives the impression that there is in fact a stop. Therefore, check that there is a difference in the level between the top of the muzzle and the head. The stop should not be too long either. The centre of the stop should be located at the level of the corners of the eyes.



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FACIAL REGION:

Nose:

Black.

Faults:

Traces of depigmentation.

Disq. faults.

Strong depigmentation.

Muzzle:

Medium length and well chiselled under the eyes; narrowing gradually toward the nose, like an elongated wedge; bridge of the nose straight and parallel to the continuation of the topline of the forehead; mouth well split, which means that when the mouth is open the commissures of the lips are pulled right back, the jaws being well apart.

Faults:

Muzzle too short or pinched; roman nose.

Comments:

The muzzle should be well filled out under the eyes. This means, if you put an imaginary line on each side from the nostrils to the skull, there should be no space inside the lines. Also note the top of the muzzle should be straight. Convex or concave top of the muzzle is a fault. Another common fault we find if we view the muzzle from above, is that the width at the nostrils is too wide. The muzzle should not be too deep.

Lips:

Thin, tight and strongly pigmented.

Faults:

Traces of depigmentation.

Disq. faults:

Strong depigmentation.

Comments:

Upper lips may not be too deep at the nostrils as this gives a heavy impression. Loose lips are a common fault to be aware of.

Jaws/teeth:

Strong, white teeth, regularly and strongly set in well-developed jaws. Scissor bite; pincer bite, which is preferred by sheep and livestock herders, is tolerated. Complete dentition according to the dental formula; the absence of two premolars 1 (2 P1) is tolerated and the molars 3 (M3) are not taken into consideration.

Faults:

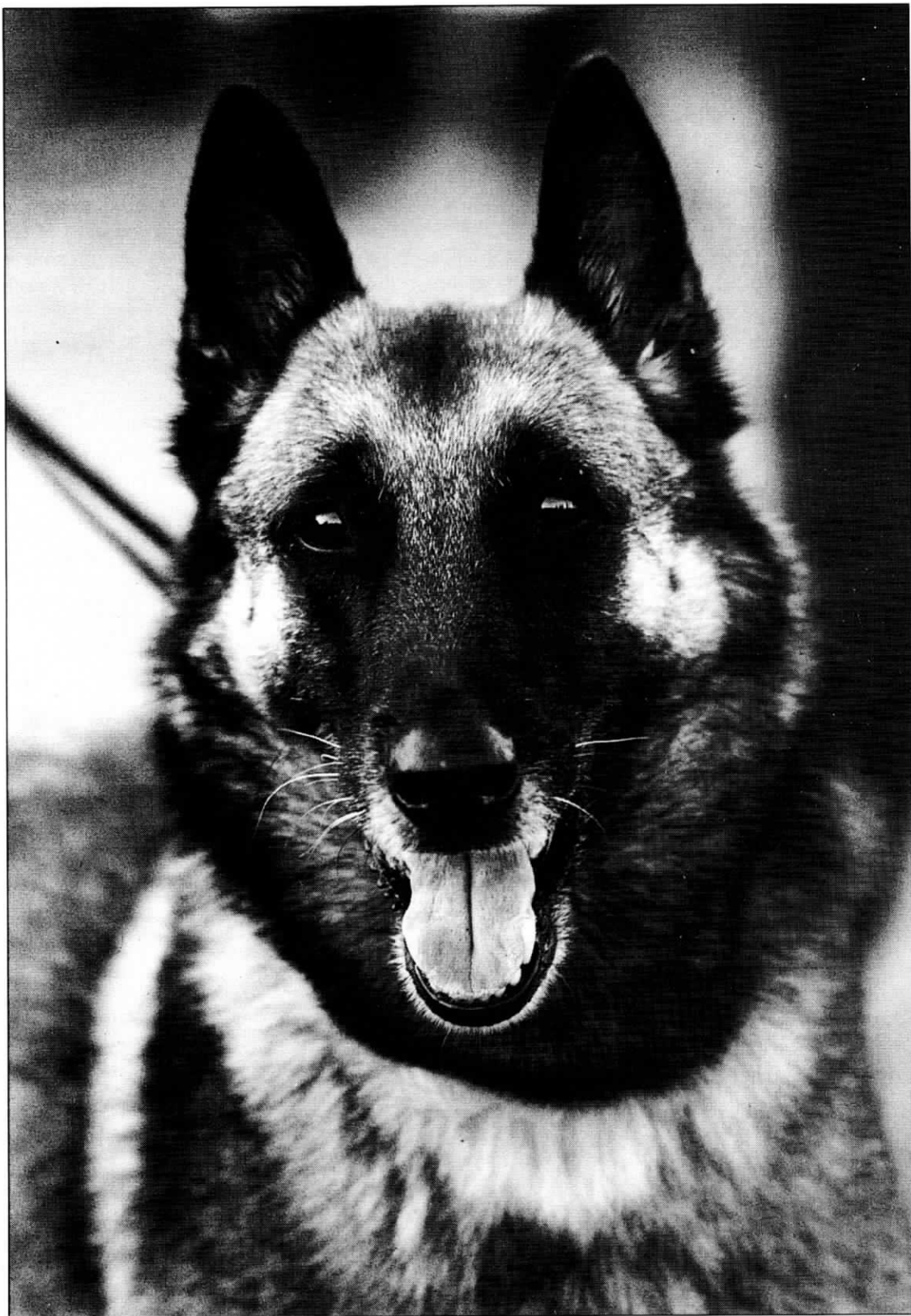
Badly aligned incisors.

Serious faults:

Lack of one incisor (1 I), one premolar 2 (1 P2), one premolar 3 (1 P3) or three premolars 1 (3 P1).

Disq. faults:

Overshot; undershot, even if contact is not lost (reverse scissor bite); crossbite; absence of one canine (1 C), one upper carnassial (1 P4) or lower carnassial (1 M1), one molar M1 or M2; (M3 are not taken into account), one premolar 3 (1 P3) plus one other tooth or a total of three teeth (excluding the premolars 1) or more.



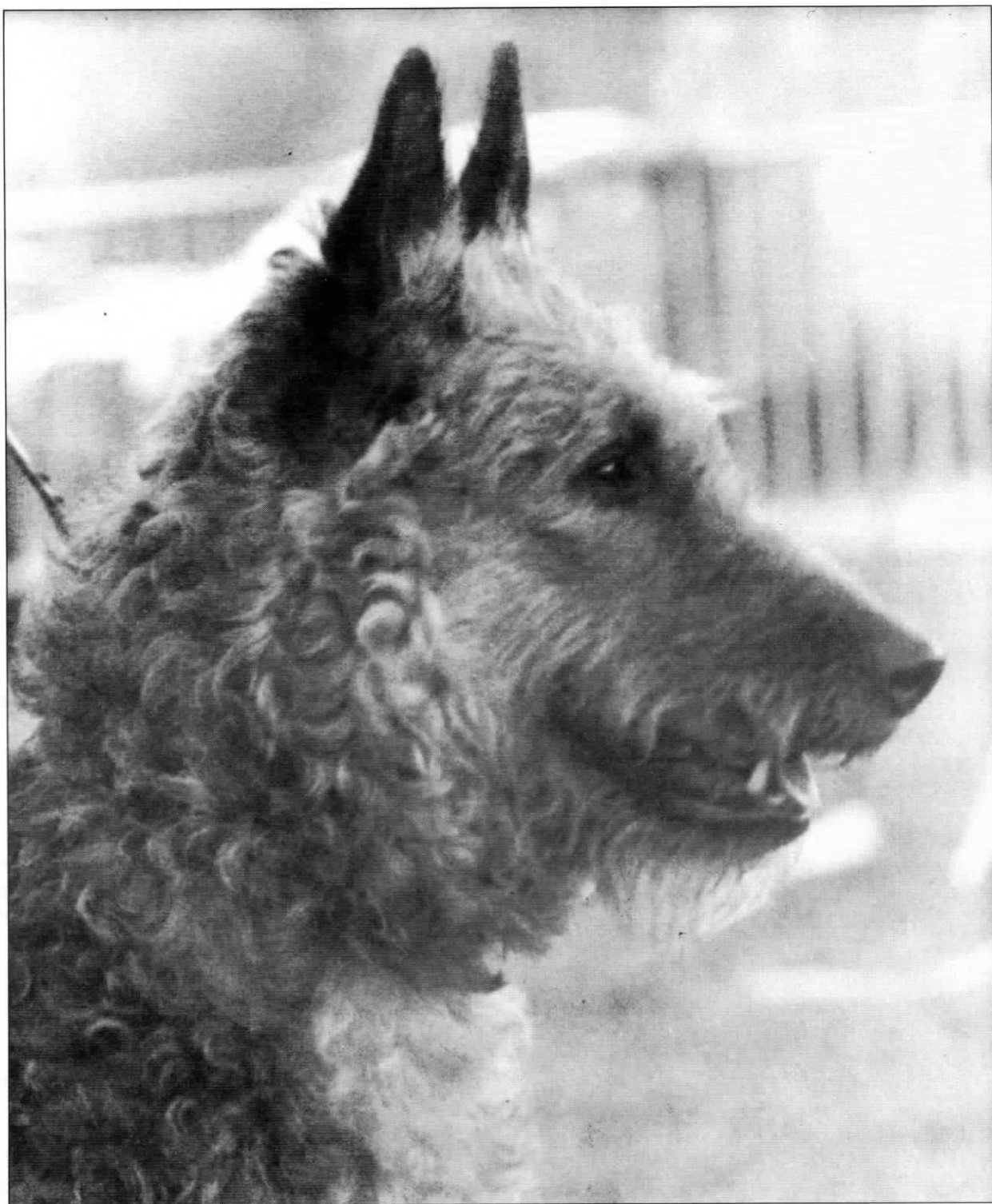
MALINOIS FEMALE

<i>Comments:</i>	<i>Look out for lower jaws that are too weak or too short</i>
Cheeks:	Dry and quite flat, although muscled.
Eyes:	Medium size, neither protruding nor sunken, slightly almondshaped, obliquely set, brownish colour, preferably dark; black rimmed eyelids; direct, lively, intelligent and enquiring look.
Faults:	Light, round. Eyelids, traces of depigmentation
Disq. faults:	Eyelids, strong depigmentation.
<i>Comments:</i>	<i>Note that the colour of the eyes is the same for all 4 varieties. It is common that we accept lighter eyes in the red varieties than in the black variety. However, all 4 varieties should have eyes that are as dark as possible.</i>
Ears:	Rather small, set high, distinctly triangular appearance, well rounded outer ear, pointed tips, stiff, carried upright and vertical when dog is alert.
Faults:	Large, long, too broad at the base, set low, carried outward or inward.
Disq. faults:	Drooping or artificially kept erect.
<i>Comments:</i>	<i>The size as well as shape and placement of the ears are a common problem with the Belgian Shepherd. "Triangular ears" can make us believe that they should be equilateral. In practice, this is not easy though they should be highly placed on a relatively narrow skull. The ears should be isosceles and rather small and be carried in a way that the contours of the head, seen from the front, should fit within an oval. A vertical line through the ear, from tip to base, should divide the ear in two parts of equal size. In other words, the inner edges and the outer edges of the ear should not be vertical or parallel. When seen from the side, the ears should not be leaning forward.</i>
NECK:	Well standing out, slightly elongated, rather upright, well muscled, broadening gradually towards the shoulders, without dewlap, nape slightly arched.
Faults:	Slender; short or deep set.
<i>Comments:</i>	<i>A common fault is the impression of a much too short neck that most often is due to a shoulder put forward. The standard prescribes "slightly elongated" neck. A nape too arched is also a common fault. The attachment of the neck is also very important. It must not be too steep although it is typical for a Belgian to have a proud stature. The transition from the neck to the body should be smoothly rounded via pronounced withers.</i>



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BODY:	Powerful without being heavy; length from point of shoulder to point of buttock approximately equal to height at withers.
Faults:	Too long; thoracic cage too broad (cylindrical).
Topline:	Upper line of back and loins is straight.
Faults:	Back and/or loins long, weak, sagging or arched.
Withers:	Pronounced.
Faults:	Flat, low.
Back:	Firm, short and well muscled.
Loins:	Solid, short, sufficiently broad, well-muscled.
Croup:	Well muscled; only very slightly sloping; sufficiently broad but not excessively so.
Faults:	Too sloping, overbuilt.
Chest:	Little broad, but well let down; upper part of ribs arched; seen from the front forechest little broad, but without being narrow.
Underline:	Begins below the chest and rises gently in a harmonious curve towards the belly, which is neither drooping nor tucked up, but slightly raised and moderately developed.
Faults:	Too much or too little let down; too much belly.
TAIL:	Well set on, strong at the base, of medium length, reaching at least to hock, but preferably further; at rest carried down, with tip curved backwards at level of hock; more raised when moving, although without passing the horizontal, the curve towards the tip becoming more accentuated, without ever at any time forming a hook or deviation.
Faults:	Set too low; carried too high, forming a hook, deviated.
Disq. faults:	Missing or shortened, at birth or by docking; carried too high and ringed or curled.
<i>Comments:</i>	<i>As mentioned earlier, the topline of the Belgian Shepherd is extremely important and should appear as one soft, unbroken line. The withers should be pronounced (however, often less pronounced for the female). The back should be horizontal. A back that is sloping is becoming more common, but should be considered a fault.</i>



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The anatomical croup should slope slightly (10°) towards the attachment of the tail. Too sloping and steep croups are very common in Belgian Shepherds. We have to look carefully for this. The pelvis from the pinbones to the point of buttock should be sloping approximately 30-40° and should also not be particularly long. This has to do with the fact that a Belgian Shepherd should be square and also moderately angulated. A long pelvis is often combined with more accentuated angulation.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General view:

Bone solid but not heavy; muscle dry and strong; front legs upright from all sides and perfectly parallel when seen from the front.

Shoulder:

Shoulder blade long and oblique, well attached, forming a sufficient angle with the humerus, ideally measuring 110-115 degrees.

Upper arm:

Long and sufficiently oblique.

Elbow:

Firm, neither turning out nor tied in.

Forearm:

Long and straight.

Wrist (carpus):

Very firm and clean.

Front pastern (metacarpus):

Strong and short, as perpendicular to the ground as possible or only very slightly sloping forward.

Feet:

Round, cat feet; toes arched and well closed; pads thick and springy; nails dark and strong.

HINDQUARTERS:

General view:

Powerful, but not heavy; in profile hindlegs are upright and seen from behind perfectly parallel.

Upper thigh:

Medium length, broad and strongly muscled.

Stifle:

Approximately on the plumb line from the hip; normal stifle angulation.

Lower thigh:

Medium length, broad and muscled.

Hock:

Close to the ground, broad and muscled, moderate angulation.

Back pastern (metatarsus):

Solid and short; dewclaws not desirable.

Feet:

May be light oval; toes arched and well closed; pads thick and springy; nails dark and strong.

Faults: forequarters/ hindquarters

Bone too light or too heavy; bad upright stance in profile (e.g. front pasterns too sloping or weak wrists), from the front (feet turning in or out, out at elbow, etc.), or from behind (hindlegs too close, too



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wide apart or barrel shaped, hocks close or open, etc.); too little or exaggeratedly angulated.

Feet spreading.

Comments:

Forequarters:

The forequarter consists of shoulder blade, upper arm, forearm, wrist, front pasterns and foot. The shoulder blade, which does not have a joint connection with the skeleton, is attached by muscles and ligaments between the 3rd and the 5th thoracic vertebrae. When the shoulder blade is located closer to the 3rd vertebrae, it is referred to as a shoulder put forward. This results in an apparently short neck.

When the shoulder blade is located closer to the 5th vertebrae, it is referred to as shoulder well laid back. The Belgian Shepherd should have a shoulder laid back, since the standard states "the neck should be slightly elongated". Note that the location of the shoulder and the angle of the shoulder is not the same thing.

The forearm should be vertical which means that its extension upward should end up in the highest point of the shoulder. The angle between the shoulder and the upper arm should be 110-115 degrees, according to the standard. A very common mistake on the Belgian Shepherd is an upper arm that is too steep, which means that the extension upward of the front leg ends up in the neck or in the head. We have to pay close attention to this phenomenon, as it affects the front leg's ability to move.

The wrist and the front pastern should be more or less vertical. A weak wrist and front pastern is a common fault.

Hindquarters:

The hindquarter consists of the pelvis, upper thigh, lower thigh, hock, pastern and hind foot. The hindquarters have a joint connection to the vertebrae of the croup. The joint has a very limited mobility due to strong muscles and ligaments that encircle it. The upper thigh and the lower thigh should have the same length. The knee should be located more or less in a vertical line under the hipbone and the rear pastern should be in a vertical line under the ischium. The conclusion derived from this is that the hind leg fits within the square. Hock angulation without exaggeration (moderate).

When these conditions exist on a dog that should be square, it often results in "proportionately moderate angles" and a somewhat limited stride. A German Shepherd's angles (especially in the hindquarter) seen on the Belgian Shepherd should be considered a serious fault. There are other square dog breeds, but they often have a longer second thigh and more pronounced angles. The hind legs will thus be located outside the square that would allow for a longer stride, due to the fact that the distance between front legs and hind legs becomes longer.



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GAIT / MOVEMENT:

Lively and free movement at all gaits; the Belgian Shepherd is a good galloper but its normal gaits are the walk and especially the trot; limbs move parallel to the median plane of the body. At high speed the feet come nearer to the median plane; at the trot the reach is medium, the movement even and easy, with good rear drive, and the topline remains tight while the front legs are not lifted too high. Always on the move, the Belgian Shepherd seems tireless; its gait is fast, springy and lively. It is capable of suddenly changing direction at full speed. Due to its exuberant character and its desire to guard and protect, it has a definite tendency to move in circles.

Faults:

Moving close, too short a stride, too little drive, poor back transmission, high stepping action.

Comments:

It is important to find balance in a dog when he moves. In other words, it is important that the length of steps are equal in the front and in the rear. Maximum length of steps within given conditions is of course preferable. It is also important to note that the dog really uses the angulations and the joints that he is blessed with. Important for this is the condition and alertness of the dog. The tendency of the breed to move in circles is probably due to its hereditary instinct for herding rather than its exuberant temperament.

SKIN:

Elastic but taut over all the body; edges of lips and eyelids strongly pigmented.

COATS AND VARIETIES:

Since the coat varies in length, direction, appearance and colour among Belgian Shepherds, this particular point has been adopted as the criterion for distinguishing between the four varieties of the breed: the Groenendael, the Tervueren, the Malinois and the Laekenois.

These four varieties are judged separately and can each be awarded a C.A.C., a C.A.C.I.B. or a reserve title.

HAIR:

In all the varieties the hair must always be dense, close-fitting and of good texture, with the woolly undercoat forming an excellent protective covering.

Faults:

All four varieties: insufficient undercoat.

Disq. faults:

Lack of undercoat.

Comments:

A good way to establish if the coat in the longhaired varieties is of a desirable texture is to push the coat in the wrong direction on the back of the dog. If the coat is of preferable quality it shall not at once fall back to its original place.

Somewhat wavy hair is not a major fault.



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LONG HAIR:

The hair is short on the head, the outer side of the ears and the lower part of the legs, except on the rear side of the forearm which is covered from elbow to wrist by long hairs called fringes. The hair is long and smooth on the rest of the body and longer and more abundant around the neck and on the forechest, where it forms a collarette or ruff and a jabot or apron. The opening of the air is protected by thick tufts of hair. From the base of the ear the hair is upright and frames the head. The back of the thighs is covered with very long abundant hair forming the culottes or breeches. The tail is furnished with long, abundant hair forming a plume.

The Groenendael and the Tervueren are the long-haired.

Faults:

Woolly, wavy, curly hair; hair not long enough. Insufficient undercoat.

Disq. faults:

Lack of undercoat.

SHORT HAIR:

The hair is very short on the head, the outer sides of the ears and the lower part of the legs. It is short over the rest of the body and fuller at the tail and around the neck where it forms a collarette or ruff which begins at the base of the ear, stretching as far as the throat. As well, the back of the thighs is fringed with longer hair. The tail is ear of corn shaped, but does not form a plume.

The Malinois is the short-haired.

Faults:

Hair half-long where it should be short; smooth-haired; harsh hairs scattered in the short coat; wavy coat. Insufficient undercoat.

Disq. faults:

Lack of undercoat.

ROUGH HAIR:

What especially characterises the rough hair variety is the roughness and dryness of the hair, which, moreover, is rasping and tousled. About 6 cm long over the whole body, the hair is shorter on the top of the muzzle, the forehead and the legs. The hair around the eyes and those furnishing the muzzle should not be so long as to disguise the shape of the head. However, it is essential to have furnishings on the muzzle. The tail should not form a plume.

The Laekenois is the rough-haired.

Faults:

Hair too long, silky, wavy, crisp-haired or short; filled with fine hairs, scattered in tufts in the rough hair; hairs too long around the eye or the lower end of the head (the chin); bushy tail. Insufficient undercoat.

Disq. faults:

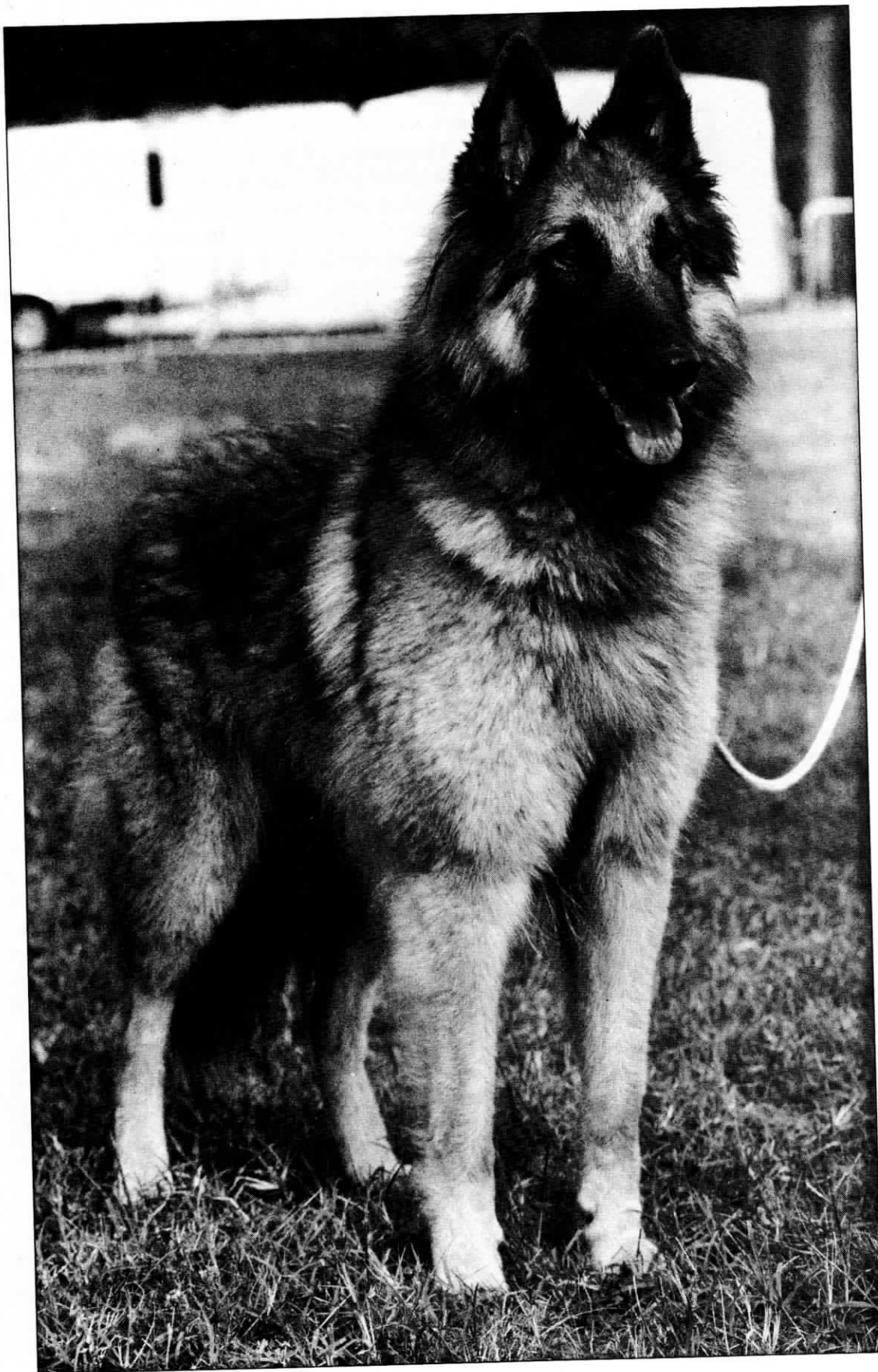
Lack of undercoat.

COLOUR:

For all varieties: a small amount of white is tolerated on forechest and toes.

Mask:

For Tervueren and Malinois the mask must be very pronounced and tend to encompass the top and bottom lip, the corners of the



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lips and the eyelids in one single black zone. A strict minimum of six points of skin pigmentation is called for: the two ears, the two upper eyelids and the two lips, upper and lower, which must be black.

Faults: Not enough.

Disq. faults: Lack of mask, including a muzzle of lighter colour than the rest of the coat in Tervueren and Malinois.

Comments: *A mask most desirable will make us believe that the whole muzzle including the eyes has been dipped in black paint.*

Black overlay: In Tervueren and Malinois, the black overlay means that the hairs have a black tip which shades the base colour. This blackening is in any case "flamed" and must not be present in great patches nor in real stripes (brindled). In the Laekenois the black shading is more discreetly expressed.

Faults: Not enough or too much black overlay or set in patches over the body.

Comments: *Puppies and young dogs do not necessarily need to show black overlay as this is often developed later.*

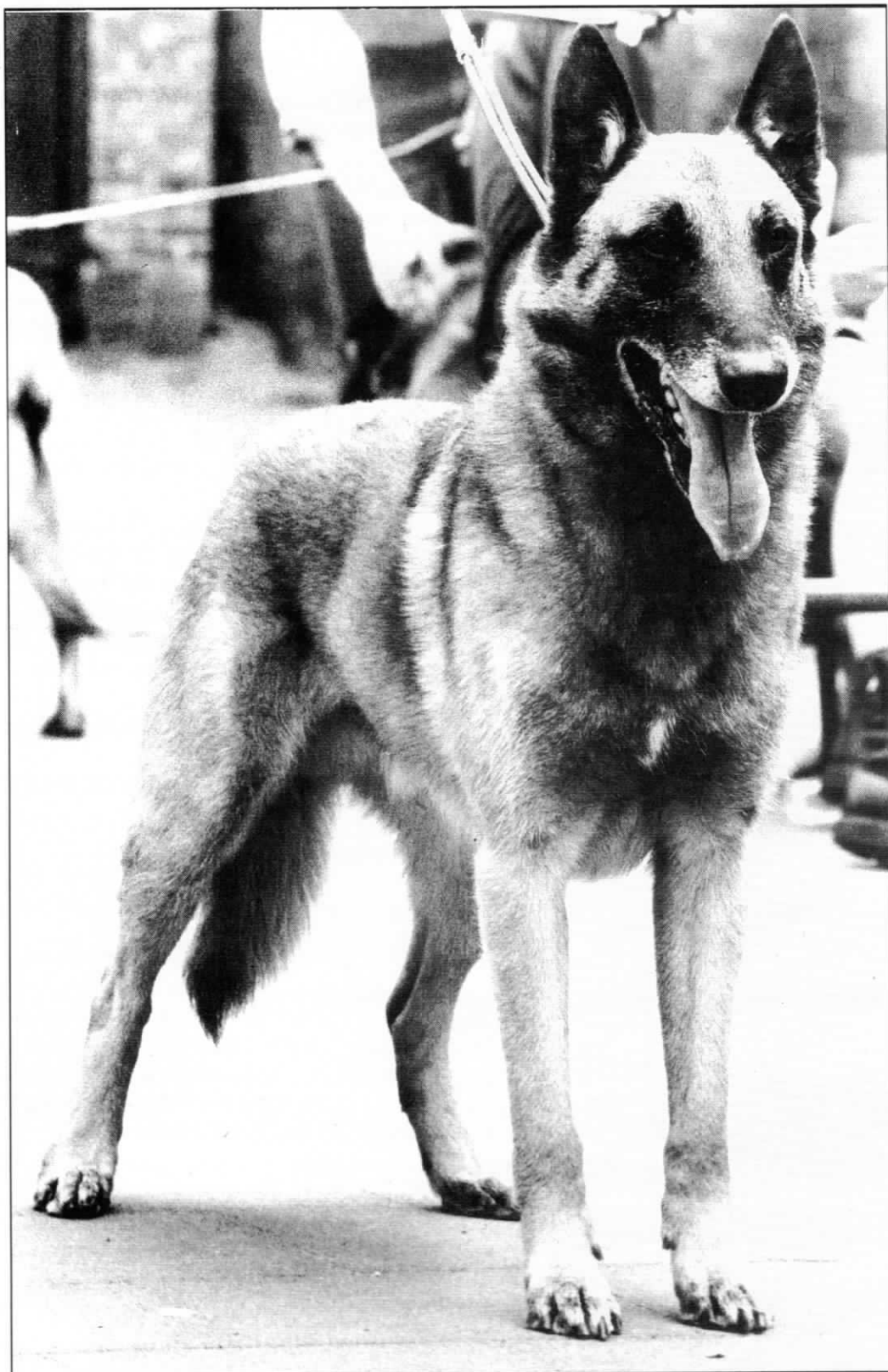
Groenendael: **Only uniform black.**
A small amount of white is tolerated on forechest and toes.

Faults: Reddish tinges in the coat; grey breeches.
White marking on chest forming tie; white on the feet going beyond toes.

Disq. faults: Any colours which do not correspond with those of the described variety; too widespread white markings on forechest, especially if they reach as far as the neck; white on feet going more than halfway up the front or the back pasterns and forming socks; white markings anywhere other than forechest and toes.

Tervueren: **Only fawn with black overlay or grey with black overlay, with black mask; however, the fawn with black overlay is still preferred. The fawn must be rich, neither light nor washed-out. Any dog whose coat colour is anything but fawn with black overlay or does not match the desired intensity of colour cannot be considered an elite specimen.**
A small amount of white is tolerated on forechest and toes.

Faults: Grey; too light a fawn; brindle; tints not warm enough; not enough or too much black overlay or set in patches over the body; not enough mask.
White marking on chest forming tie; white on the feet going beyond toes.



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Serious faults: A base colour which is very diluted, named washed-out.

Disq. faults: Any colours which do not correspond with those of the described variety; too widespread white markings on forechest, especially if they reach as far as the neck; white on feet going more than halfway up the front or the back pasterns and forming socks; white markings anywhere other than forechest and toes. Lack of mask, including a muzzle of lighter colour than the rest of the coat.

Malinois:

**Only fawn with black overlay and with black mask.
A small amount of white is tolerated on forechest and toes.**

Faults: Too light a fawn; brindle; tints not warm enough; not enough or too much black overlay or set in patches over the body; not enough mask.
White marking on chest forming tie; white on the feet going beyond toes.

Serious faults: A base colour which is very diluted, named washed-out.

Disq. faults: Any colours which do not correspond with those of the described variety; too widespread white markings on forechest, especially if they reach as far as the neck; white on feet going more than halfway up the front or the back pasterns and forming socks; white markings anywhere other than forechest and toes. Lack of mask, including a muzzle of lighter colour than the rest of the coat.

Laekenois:

Only fawn with traces of black overlay, mainly on the muzzle and the tail.
A small amount of white is tolerated on forechest and toes.

Faults: Too light a fawn.
White marking on chest forming tie; white on the feet going beyond toes.

Serious faults: A base colour which is very diluted, named washed-out.

Disq. faults: Any colours which do not correspond with those of the described variety; too widespread white markings on forechest, especially if they reach as far as the neck; white on feet going more than halfway up the front or the back pasterns and forming socks; white markings anywhere other than forechest and toes.

SIZE, WEIGHT AND MEASUREMENTS:

Height at withers:

The ideal height at withers is on average

- 62 cm for males

- 58 cm for females.

Disq. faults:

Limits:

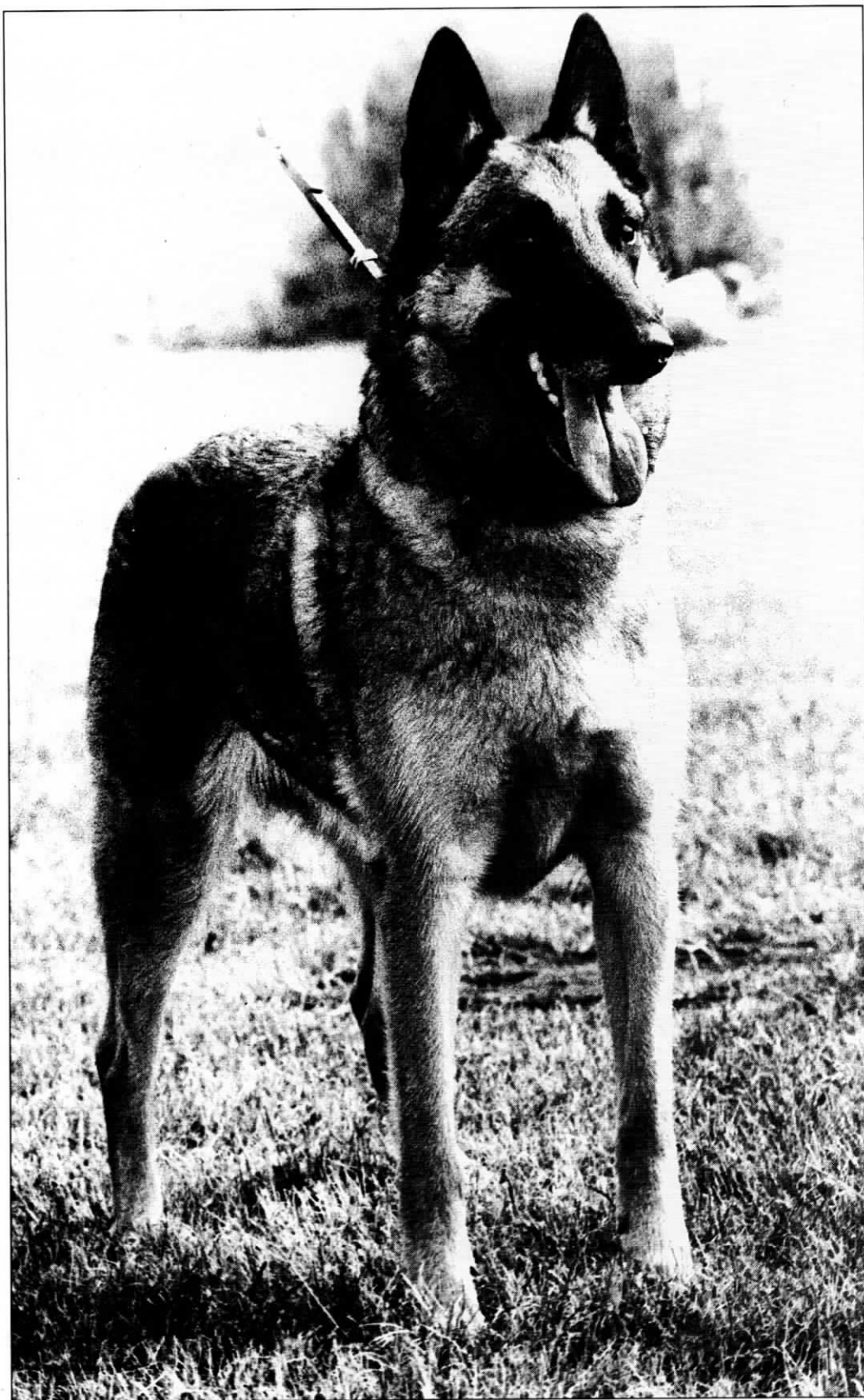
Size outside the limits.

2 cm less, 4 cm more.

Weight:

Males about 25-30 kg.

Females about 20-25 kg.



MALINOIS FEMALE

Measurements:	<p>Average normal measures for an adult male Belgian Shepherd of 62 cm at the withers:</p> <p>Length of body (from point of shoulder to point of buttock): 62 cm.</p> <p>Length of head: 25 cm.</p> <p>Length of muzzle: 12,5 – 13 cm.</p>
FAULTS:	Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.
General appearance:	Cloddy, lacking elegance; too light or too slender; longer than high; fitting into a rectangle.
Head:	Heavy, too strong, lacking parallelism, not sufficiently chiselled or dry; forehead too rounded; stop too accentuated or too flat; muzzle too short or pinched; Roman nose; brow ridges or zygomatic arches too prominent.
Nose, lips and eyelids:	Traces of depigmentation.
Dentition:	Badly aligned incisors. Serious fault: lack of one incisor (1 I), one premolar 2 (1 P2), one premolar 3 (1 P3) or three premolars 1 (3 P1).
Eyes:	Light, round.
Ears:	Large, long, too broad at the base, set low, carried outward or inward.
Neck:	Slender; short or deep set.
Body:	Too long; thoracic cage too broad (cylindrical).
Withers:	Flat, low.
Topline:	Back and/or loins long, weak, sagging or arched.
Croup:	Too sloping, overbuilt.
Underline:	Too much or too little let down; too much belly.
Tail:	Set too low; carried too high, forming a hook, deviated.
Limbs:	Bone too light or too heavy; bad upright stance in profile (e.g. front pasterns too sloping or weak wrists), from the front (feet turning in or out, out at elbow, etc.), or from behind (hindlegs too close, too wide apart or barrel shaped, hocks close or open, etc.); too little or exaggeratedly angulated.
Feet:	Spreading.
Gait:	Moving close, too short a stride, too little drive, poor back transmission, high stepping action.



LAEKENOIS MALE

Coat:	All four varieties: insufficient undercoat.
Groenendael and Tervueren:	Woolly, wavy, curly hair; hair not long enough.
Malinois:	Hair half-long where it should be short; smooth-haired; harsh hairs scattered in the short coat; wavy coat.
Laekenois:	Hair too long, silky, wavy, crisp-haired or short; filled with fine hairs scattered in tufts in the rough hair; hairs too long around the eye or the lower end of the head (the chin); bushy tail.
Colour:	For all four varieties: white marking on chest forming tie; white on the feet going beyond toes.
Groenendael:	Reddish tinges in the coat; grey breeches.
Tervueren:	Grey.
Tervueren and Malinois:	Brindle; tints not warm enough; not enough or too much black overlay or set in patches over the body; not enough mask.
Tervueren, Malinois and Laekenois:	Too light a fawn; a base colour which is very diluted, named washed-out, is considered a serious fault.
Temperament:	Specimens lacking in self-confidence or overly nervous.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

Temperament:	Aggressive or timid specimens.
General appearance:	Lack of breed type.
Dentition:	Overshot; undershot, even if contact is not lost (reverse scissor bite); crossbite; absence of one canine (1 C), one upper carnassial (1 P4) or lower carnassial (1 M1), one molar M1 or M2; (M3 are not taken into account), one premolar 3 (1 P3) plus one other tooth or a total of three teeth (excluding the premolars 1) or more.
Nose, lips, eyelids:	Strong depigmentation.
Ears:	Drooping or artificially kept erect.
Tail:	Missing or shortened, at birth or by docking; carried too high and ringed or curled.
Coat:	Lack of undercoat.
Colour:	Any colours which do not correspond with those of the described varieties; too widespread white markings on forechest, especially if they reach as far as the neck; white on feet going more than halfway up the front or the back pasterns and forming socks; white markings anywhere other than forechest and toes; lack of mask,



LAEKENOIS FEMALE

including a muzzle of lighter colour than the rest of the coat in Tervueren and Malinois.

Size:

Outside the limits laid down.

N.B.:

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

**CROSSBREEDING –
MATINGS BETWEEN
VARIETIES:**

Any matings between varieties are forbidden, except in exceptional circumstances, when this ban can be lifted by the appropriate and official breed councils (Text 1974, drawn up in Paris).

EXCELLENT HEADS AND EXPRESSIONS





Too much stop.
Rounded forehead.



Reversed mask.



Head lacking
elegance.
Deep muzzle.
Ears wide set.



"Foxy face."
Ears carried too
wide.
Weak underjaw.



Roman nose.



Insufficient stop.



Too much hair on
the face.



Unparallel lines
muzzle/skull.
(Head planes
convex.)



Excellent size, shape and placement of the ears.



Ears converging. Asymmetrical.
Ears somewhat tall.



Ears that are well carried but rather tall .



Ears that are wide set and carried incorrectly.
(The outer edges of the ears are vertical.)



Ears that are carried somewhat wide, broad
at base and with rounded ear tips.

The ears should be carried like this



not like this



nor like this





Excellent eyes. Dark and almond shaped.



Light eyes.



Light and somewhat round eyes.

EXCELLENT GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

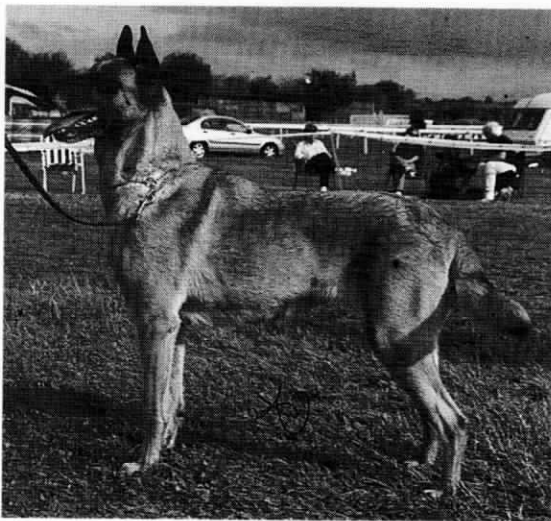




A body too long. Also low on the legs.



Short neck due to a shoulder put forward.



Steep upper arm. (The prolongation of the forearm should end up at the top of the withers.)
Lacking depth of chest.



Thin bones.



Heavy male that is lacking elegance. A skull much too strong. Smooth, flat hair lacking undercoat. A dog of insufficient type.



Sloping croup.



Correct croup.



GROENENDAEL FEMALE & MALE



LAEKENOIS FEMALE & MALE

