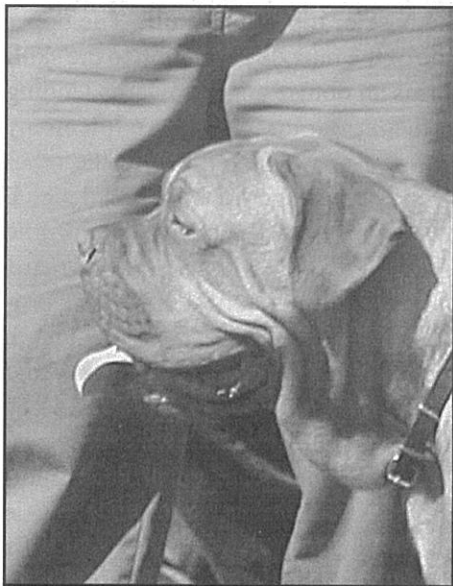


The Dogue must be undershot, but the standard gives little measure as to the desired amount. The undershot coupled with the upwards curve of the

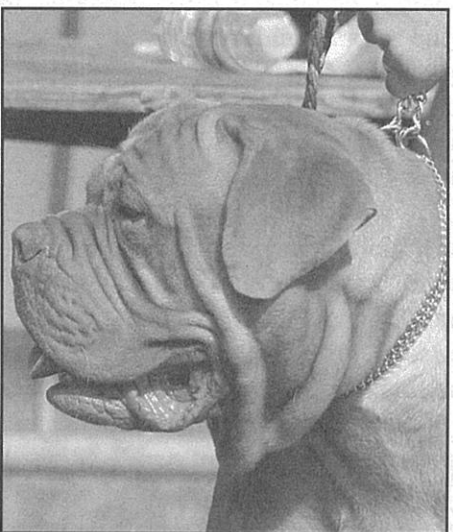


Dogue showing parallel planes or downfaced

jaw has an important role in the appearance of the chin mark, so those dogs with more apparent chins will generally be more undershot. If the undershot is not coupled with the repandous (the jaw is flat) then often you have the undesirable situation where canines will show. A large degree of undershot is perfectly acceptable as long as the canines do not show.

Be aware that dogs with a straighter jaw and lesser undershot often have the mouths which appeal to the All-rounder Judge, but it is far from the ideal. The jaw should also be broad with the incisors forming an apparent straight line and canines should be well set. When judging the Dogue canine placement and the curvature of the jaw should always be checked.

The lower lip should be visible at the peak of the reversed, wide V formed by the upper lip. This can be affected by a combination of factors such as the de-



Muzzle measuring more than 1/3 the length of the head

gree of undershot, the amount of curve (or lack of) to the jaw and the length of the upper lip.

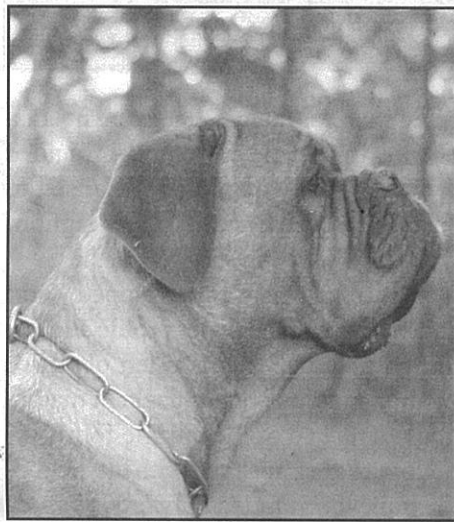
The length of the muzzle is given as a maximum of one third and minimum of one quarter of the length of the skull with the ideal being in between. It should be noted that the maximum and minimum are extremes, neither of which are ideal.

The oval shaped eyes are set forward and wide apart, separated by at least two eye spaces. They should be

on or above the level of the root of the muzzle, although the correct expression of the Dogue with the slightly higher set nose may give the appearance of the eyes being lower set as it looks over or through the top of the muzzle. This coupled with the chin mark give a defiant and almost arrogant look. The eye colour should tone with that of the coat and will be slightly darker in Black masked dogs.

Moving away from the head, it should be recognised that while the Dogue is powerful and muscular, it is not a massive dog and should not possess the bone or mass which desirable in the Neapolitan Mastiff. This is a current deviation in the breed which it seems the French Breed Club is attempting to guard against.

Coupled with this deviation head type is often lost along with dogs



Female Dogue showing correct head planes and correct type

becoming increasingly larger and flat sided.

It has been noted during the last few years that colour has also become an issue, with the appearance of some chocolate coloured 'Dogues' and as such, breeders are warned to avoid breeding for the deepest red as the hair must always show an agouti pattern (darker tipped with lighter root). The standard shows no preference for colour with all shades of fawn from isabella to mahogany allowable.

In summary, the trapezoid skull shape, the amount of wrinkle and the degree to which the other aforementioned characteristics are present give rise to the perfectly allowable variation in type seen within the breed, however, it should be noted that the above characteristics relating to the head need to be present for there to be true breed type.

Dogues with incorrect skull shape, overly long or short in muzzle, lacking in muzzle development, lacking chin mark and repandous, with the lower lip completely covered by the upper lip and/or without the closed profile with the higher set nose (showing undesirable parallel planes) etc should be penalised accordingly as the lack of any or all of these characteristic shows some crossover in type towards that of the other Mastiffs.

If you can see any other breed when looking at a Dogue de Bordeaux, you should question if breed type is present.

POLICE LEARN HOW TO TREAT THEIR DOGS

USA. Police dogs face a variety of dangers while performing their duties, including some that human officers don't.

Any law-enforcement officer could be shot or stabbed, but it's rare that a human would ingest narcotics or explosives while in the line of duty.

Which is why K-9 officers gathered in Douglas County in the USA last month to receive training on how to help their dogs should the animals be injured in the field.

Reserve police officer and veterinarian Mike Laffins taught the Aug. 18 class at the Law Enforcement and Judicial Building in Minden.

"If a dog is going to get hurt in the line of duty, it will most likely be at night," said Douglas County Deputy Brian Howard, who is the K-9 trainer for the sheriff's office. "No veterinarian is open at night, so the class is about how to stabilize the dog's condition in the field, keep the dog alive until the

vet can work on them."

Howard said he is not aware of any recent incident when a K-9 has been stabbed or shot in Douglas County.

"We are very fortunate," he said. "But we all want to be prepared. Our dog is our partner."

Among other things, deputies learned about a powder in use by American troops in Iraq that immediately coagulates blood to stabilize bleeding wounds and would let an injured dog be transported without losing more blood.

Among the departments invited to participate in the training were the San Francisco Police Department, Hayward Police Department, U.S. Park Police, Washoe County, Washoe County Airport Authority, the Washoe County School District, Carson City Sheriff's Department and the University of Nevada, Reno, police.

In Nevada, it's a felony to injure or interfere with a law-enforcement dog.

YAWNING DOGS SHOW HUMAN EMPATHY

A study reported in the Los Angeles Times found that human yawns are contagious to dogs, a sign that man's best friend might be capable of a rudimentary form of empathy.

While dogs are extremely good at visual learning (read Patricia McConnell's *The Other End of the Leash* for a study on this topic), they have consistently puzzled scientists for their lack of obvious self-awareness.

Unlike chimpanzees and possibly elephants, it has not been shown that dogs are able to recognize themselves

in mirrors, for instance, one sign of a self-aware animal.

Quoted in the article, the latest study demonstrates that dogs possess "some low-level attending to what others feel," said Duke University anthropologist Brian Hare, who was not involved in the research.

"What's fascinating about this study is that you would not expect to find contagious yawning where you did not have self-awareness," he said. Watch a movie of a dog watching a researcher yawn and yawning in response.

DOG NEWS Australia

How do you get it?

- Dog News Australia is a **monthly** publication distributed by **Gordon & Gotch**.

It is sent to selected **NEWSAGENTS** around Australia.

If your newsagent doesn't have it, just ask them to order you a copy and in most cases it will be there within 48hrs.

- From **SHOW VANS** at Dog Shows in all States.
- By 12 issue **SUBSCRIPTION** - simply email, phone or mail your name, mailing address and phone no. and include your credit card or alternative payment for \$49

SUBSCRIPTION FORM: \$49 FOR 12 ISSUES

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

If you would like to subscribe simply enclose a cheque or money order payable to Dog News Australia, P.O. Box 3151, Austral, NSW 2179.

You can also pay by Credit Card and telephone or email your details.