



# Dogue De Bordeaux

## Judges Training Presentation

Dogue De Bordeaux - Judges  
Training Presentation



Trapezoid head  
Curved underjaw  
Visible chin  
Setback nose leather  
Undershot jaw  
Mobile wrinkle  
Low, wide eyeset  
Closed stop

# Dogue de Bordeaux Fundamentals

[www.dogueclub.com](http://www.dogueclub.com)

Please visit the website for further breed information, judges training material, DVD's, books, merchandise.



Mid sized athletic mastiff  
Balanced  
Harmonious  
Lion-like gait  
Head lowered on the move

Well angulated front & rear  
Straight topline  
Slight rise to the rear  
Harp underline  
Deep, broad chest  
Well sprung ribs



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# Clarification of Breed Standard

## Head:

- The perimeter of the head almost corresponds to the height at withers.
- It can, therefore, be slightly less or slightly more. This means that one must not select heads having a perimeter which exceeds the height at withers by 20% on the pretext that they are spectacular. They are monstrosities.

Muzzle : the standard stipulates that "the limits" (maximum one third and minimum one quarter of the length of the head) are admitted but not desirable. Muzzles of hunting breeds are to be avoided ; likewise those of Bulldogs.

The muzzle and skull are wrinkled but must not display profound, sweating furrows nor bloated folds. We saw one example which completely surrounded the foreface.

- Incisors : very small incisors set irregularly in the gums constitute a definite fault.

- Nostrils : Wide open nostrils are a quality.

A typical head is powerful, trapezoid (this seems to be disappearing), with the expression of a sphinx conveyed by the wide apart eyes, the well defined lower jaw and the inverted V shaped lips.

Height at the withers : Until now we have been very lax and some exhibits are the height of Mastiffs.

Remember that the old standard of 1921 stated : "The Dogue de Bordeaux is not a giant of the canine species". The maximum heights are 68 cm + 2 cm tolerance for males and 66 cm + 2 cm for females.

From now on a Dogue exceeding these heights should not be awarded an "excellent".

Colour : It is necessary to add a precision to the standard.

The Dogue de Bordeaux has a fawn coat. This coat may have a black or brown overlay. The hair is "banded" or "agouti": part of each hair is fawn or pale fawn (isabella) and the tip is black or brown.

We have already explained that a brown coat cannot be accepted (graded "insufficient" and not confirmed to standard). In this case each hair is entirely brown (chocolate). In genetics a brown coat is different to a coat with a brown overlay.

In Dogues de Bordeaux the coat called "mahogany" is in reality a fawn coat with a brown overlay (the true "mahogany" is a red coat – see the Irish Setter). The brown overlay should not invade all the body to the extent of giving an overall impression of brown. A Dogue de Bordeaux with a brown overlay should be of a lighter colour on the inclined parts of the body, with the hair more fawn than brown. The hair on the shoulders, the ribs etc... may even be completely fawn. In any case, the coat should never be dark brown (chocolate) but should remain luminous. The standard states: the coat is in the range of fawn.

- Chocolate coat : disqualified (hair brown in all its length)
- Coat with invading brown overlay giving an overall impression of dark : no "excellent"

For white, follow the standard: "non invasive white marks are permitted on the chest and the extremities of the limbs" (not on the throat = fault, not on the chin = disqualification, nor on the neck, head or body but everyone knows that).

Everyone also knows that "a tail displaying knotted vertebrae but without a deviation constitutes a severe fault".

It is therefore necessary to examine all the tails, which is not always the case. Exhibits meriting only a "good" grading are being awarded an "excellent".

To end, the standard states that females have "identical characteristics but less pronounced". Females which resemble males by their corpulence and over developed heads are not good for breeding purposes. They are perhaps spectacular for cynological music halls but judges should prefer females of good type, healthy, with a lively gait... and feminine.

Raymond Triquet  
Honorary President SADB  
President of the FCI Standards Commission  
September 9, 2006

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# Body Proportions

- Body to height ratio is 11:10, so the Dogue is always slightly longer than tall.
- Dogue should be thick-set, but not compressed like a Bulldog.
- “The distance between brisket and ground is slightly less than the depth of the chest”. The use of the word “slightly” should put stop to a tendency of exaggeration and from that of a lowered front.
- “Harmonic” is the Dogue de Bordeaux who possesses overall balance.

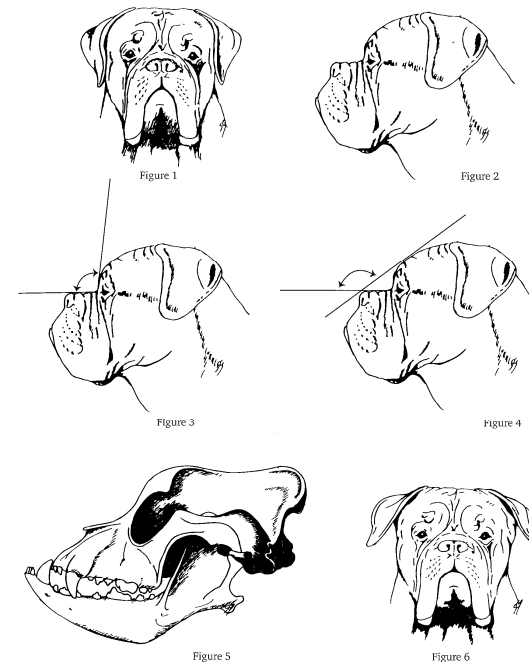
# The Head

- In the male, the circumference of the skull corresponds roughly to the height at the withers. Any dog exceeding the above proportion by 20% are not spectacular, just monstrosities.
- Muzzle length – maximum  $\frac{1}{3}$  and minimum  $\frac{1}{4}$  the length of head from nose to occiput. These are the “extremes” and between these points is what should be aimed for.
- Extremes in any regard are to be avoided; lack of type, hypertype etc; no matter how impressive.

# The Head

- When viewed from above or front on, the Dogue should appear “trapezoid”.
- The bite is undershot with a good curve of the “underjaw”. The “chin” should be clearly visible.
- The upper lips form an upside down wide open “V” (not a “U”).
- A strong stop is desirable being between 95 and 100 degrees, almost forming a right angle with the muzzle.

THE SAGA OF THE DOGUE DE BORDEAUX



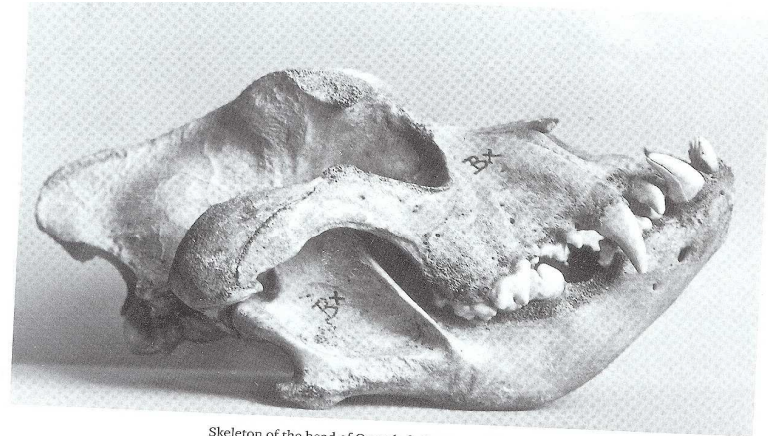
## Facial region

1. Good trapezoidal head from the front
2. Good head in profile
3. Fronto-nasal depression (or stop) forming an almost right angle (95°-100°) with the bridge of the nose
4. The bridge of the nose forms a very obtuse open angle upwards with the upper line of the skull
5. Correct prognathism with a good upward curve in the lower jaws
6. Ears sticking out

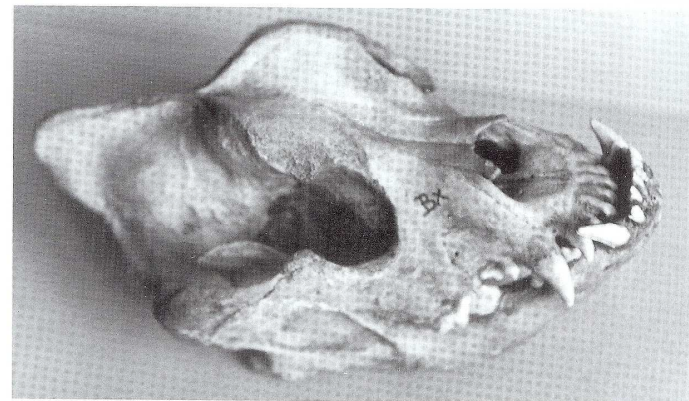


# Undershot bite (prognathism)

- Both photos display the “correct” undershot bite.
- Also noted in photo 1, the good curve of the underjaw
- Photo 2 shows the upper jaw sinking into the lower jaw.
- Forward face of upper incisors should not touch the rear face of the lower incisors.



Skeleton of the head of Orauch du Lupango d'Ostrevant  
National History Museum of Bordeaux, collection R. Triquet Pierre-D. M...



Prognathous condition (undershot) of Orauch du Lupango d'Ostrevant.  
Showing the alignment of the incisors in the lower jaw

# The Head

- The forehead should remain wider than it is high.
- The upper line of the muzzle is “very slightly dished”, and in relation to the mouth, the nose is set back, so that the end of the muzzle recedes slightly upwards. This is in no way comparable with the ‘layback’ of the Bulldog.
- Muzzle should display strength and be approximately 2/3 the perimeter of the skull.
- Incisors should form an apparently straight line and be large. Prof. Triquet advises they should not resemble grains of rice.
- Canines should be strong and well placed.
- Eyes are oval shaped and the haw not visible.
- Recently clarified, the placement of the eyes should be as wide apart as possible, but still facing directly forward and on the level of the muzzle not below.
- Ears are relatively small, triangular, dropping but firm reaching the outer corner of the eye.

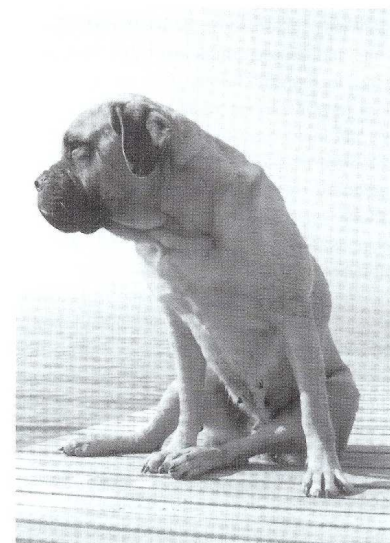


# The Head

- First photo shows a Dogue with a typical head. The head demonstrates a very obtuse open angle upwards between the bridge of the nose and the upper line of the skull.
- Second photo shows the muzzle to be parallel to the topline of the skull (downfaced) or lacking type. It is a disqualifying fault.



Excellent head profile

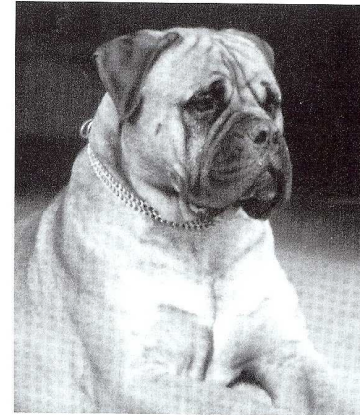


Profile of an atypical head

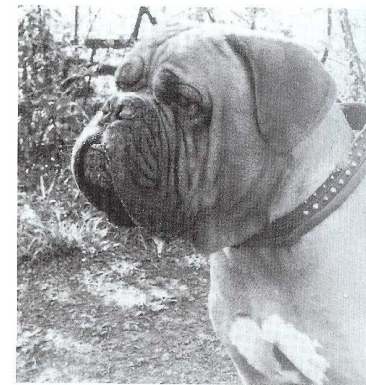
# The Head

- The difference between the Bullmastiff and the Dogue is clear in these photos.
- A well constructed black mask Dogue should be given equal consideration to his counterparts with brown or no masks.

THE SAGA OF THE DOGUE DE BORDEAUX



Bulstaff Festival, Bullmastiff owned by Leroy. Sometimes mistaken for a Dogue de Bordeaux (in France)



To compare: the black masked Dogue de Bordeaux San Petrucia aux Tamarin (breeder/owner: Gairard).  
Photo: Rolando Balestrini

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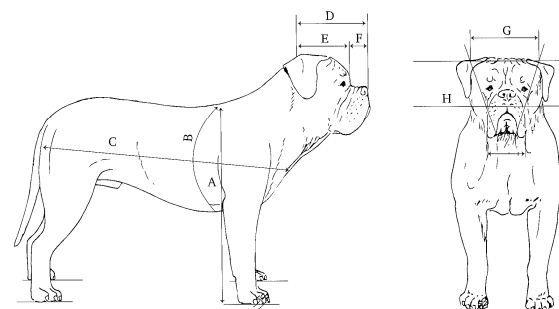
# Neck & Body

- The neck must widen to the base and then smoothly merge with the shoulders. Almost cylindrical.
- The neck should not be too short and can be spoiled by too much dewlap.
- The topline is considered the dorsal-lumbar (back and loins) area. In the Dogue we aim for it to be as straight as possible in a concave lined dog. The topline always has a “slight” or “very slight” dip at the withers.

# The Body

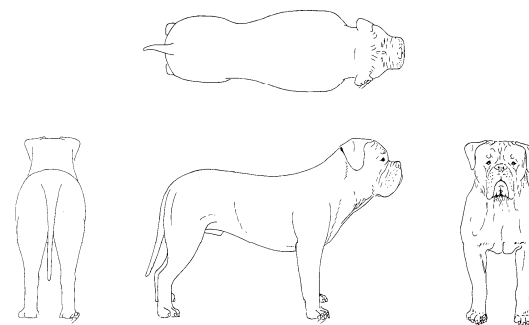
- The loin is wide, powerful and not too long.
- A saddle back isn't good but less serious (than a roached back) for the concavilinear.
- The idea of “bum being over shoulders” (or bum high) is not what we strive for in the adult Dogue.
- The croup is moderately sloping. If it is steep (tucked under), the gait is incorrect.

THE SAGA OF THE DOGUE DE BORDEAUX



Proportions in the Dogue de Bordeaux

- A. Height at the withers = circumference of the head
- B. Circumference of the chest taken at the level of elbows = height at the withers + 25 to 30 cm.
- C. Length of the body (scapulo-ischial)
- D. Length of the head from occiput to nose leather = 3 x F – E. Skull from occiput to stop = 2 x F
- F. Length of the muzzle (maximum D:3, minimum D:4)
- G. Width of the skull seen from the front = greater base of a trapezium
- H. Width at the end of the muzzle = smaller base of a trapezium



General aspects of the Dogue de Bordeaux

# The Body

- The chest is deep and well let down below the elbows. This creates the “near to ground” effect.
- Ribs must be well sprung.
- Forequarters are well muscled. The scapular is set at an angle approaching 45 degrees to the horizontal.
- Elbows in line with the body and supple.
- Feet are nearly in line with the body (at best), turning out slightly. Toes are relatively tight, but with his weight the Dogue can't have cat feet.
- Forearms must be as near vertical as possible although combined with a broad chest, they are often “slightly” inclined inwards.
- Hindquarters and pelvis must be sufficiently wide and well muscled, not weak or narrow.
- Hindquarters are well angulated, more so than the Bullmastiff. The second thigh descends low, which makes the hindquarter stronger. An impression of power is sought which sees the Dogue to drive from the rear.
- Tail is supple, preferably reaching the hock, but not below. It should be carried low and should not curve over the back.
- The Dogue is a “mid-sized” mastiff, not a giant one.

# Movement

- Movement is active, supple, free, far-reaching. Should exhibit drive from the hindquarters and a roomy swing of the forelegs.
- Pay particular attention to Dogues whose forelegs are trotting whilst the hind legs are doing a canter. This is a defect.
- The Dogue is constructed like a plough horse, not a thoroughbred.
- Although sometimes impressive, movement which differs from that called for in the standard is still incorrect for the Dogue.

# Coat

- Should be fine, short and soft to the touch.
- The Dogue is in the colour, fawn which ranges from Isabella (very pale fawn) to mahogany.
- Colourmania has seen the standard in France amended to state each hair carry “agouti” markings (the root lighter in colour than the tip which has a brown or black overlay).
- No chocolate coloured coats (hair brown along its entire length).
- White should not be extensive, not reaching beyond the wrist or the hock. White permitted on the chest, but is a serious fault on the throat, and tip of the tail. White on the chin is a disqualification.

# Breed Type

- Naturally there is variance in type. However, bear in mind that there must always be “type”.
- You should never look at a Dogue and see a likeness to another breed.

## The Juvenile Dogue

- From around 6 to up to 18 months, the Dogue typically goes through the “uglies”. It is difficult to judge these juveniles according to the breed standard.
- Caution should also be excised when presented with a very “finished” looking youngster. All too often, these pups will not ‘go on’ (males lack masculinity, females lack size) or in terms of their heads, they may become overtyped in maturity.