

Health Symposium Bernese Mountain
Apollo Hotel, Kennemerboulevard 25, NL- 1976 EG Umuiden

17.08.2018

Regula Bürgi

- Grown up with Bernese Mountain Dogs
- Over 45 years 67 litters
- FCI judge since 16 years for BMD
- In the meantime also special FCI judge for Appenzeller and Great Swiss Mountain Dogs
- Last but not least the Entlebucher in education
- Member of the breeding commission of the Swiss BMD Club, responsible for kennel inspections and the judges
- Over the many years in Bernese, regularly judged at national and international shows, club shows (National Specialties) in Europe like Scandinavia, Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, Holland, Czech Republic, Slovakia. In 2007 the honor to judge at the huge celebration of the 100th anniversary club show for the Swiss Bernese Mountain Club. This show had more than 450 dogs. Another great experience was to judge the breed at the Euro Dogshow in Geneva 2013, the World Dog Show 2017 in Leipzig, 2018 the 50 Jubilee Show in Sweden and last month the special Club Show in Australia, Sydney NSW



International

Introduction

Switzerland

„FCI SHOW JUDGES **CODE OF COMMITMENT** TO THE WELFARE OF PURE BRED DOGS“

Health and behaviour of the dogs

Article 4:

- a. For the preservation and the further development of the breeds he judges, the show judge must, in addition to the conformation and movement qualities, consider as well the **health aspects** of the breed or the dog and its fitness for functionality. This assessment should be clearly reflected in his critique of the dog.
- b. Under no circumstances shall **aggressiveness** and **anxious** behaviour during the judging of a dog be tolerated. They will result in the disqualification of the dog(s) concerned.

Judging according to the standard

Article 5:

- a. A show judge will apply and take in consideration the official FCI standard of the breed concerned while he is judging.
- b. He has to be aware that under all circumstances his judgment has to take into account that **extreme features** which can cause health, behaviour or movement problems have to be severely punished. These dogs should, by no means, obtain the qualification of excellent and/or a championship title.
They can never be awarded a Best of Breed win.

- It is prohibited at the show to use any means other than brushes & combs to prepare the dogs for the ring. The same applies to the keeping of a dog on a so-called gallows (**and since 2017 showing a dog with a slip leash!**). The wrapping or braiding of hair is prohibited at the show. Compliance with these rules will be monitored. The inspectors are empowered to draw the exhibitor's attention to a failure in complying with these rules. Non compliance may result in being ask to leave the show.
- No powder, no spray, no problem!
- Since 2016 the judges in Switzerland are sensitized in further education "**Fit for Function**".
- That means back to the roots – back to the original utilization of every breed!

Our new Animal Rights law orders

1

Nobody is allowed to wrong-fully inflict pain, suffering or injury to an animal, frighten it or disregard it's dignity in any other way

2

This paragraph, which specifically the animal's dignity, must also be enforced at dog shows

3

Therefore we want to point out again the following rules:

4

The show leash must not be a slip leash with a choke collar

5

Do treat your dog with respect, for example, don't lift it up and put it down by it's lead and tail.

6

If your dog doesn't want to move with you: encourage it, don't drag it behind you.

7

Snoods and suits are, according to the Swiss Animal Rights law. In contract the dignity of the animals. We ask you to refrain from using them.





BMD FCI Standard No 45 Country of Origin

Do we follow it as judges?



Standart Nr. 45, Utilization : Originally used as a guard,- draught – and cattle dog on farms in the Canton Bern, today also family dog and versatile working dog.



Draught dog BMD



Is this dog able to pull a cart?



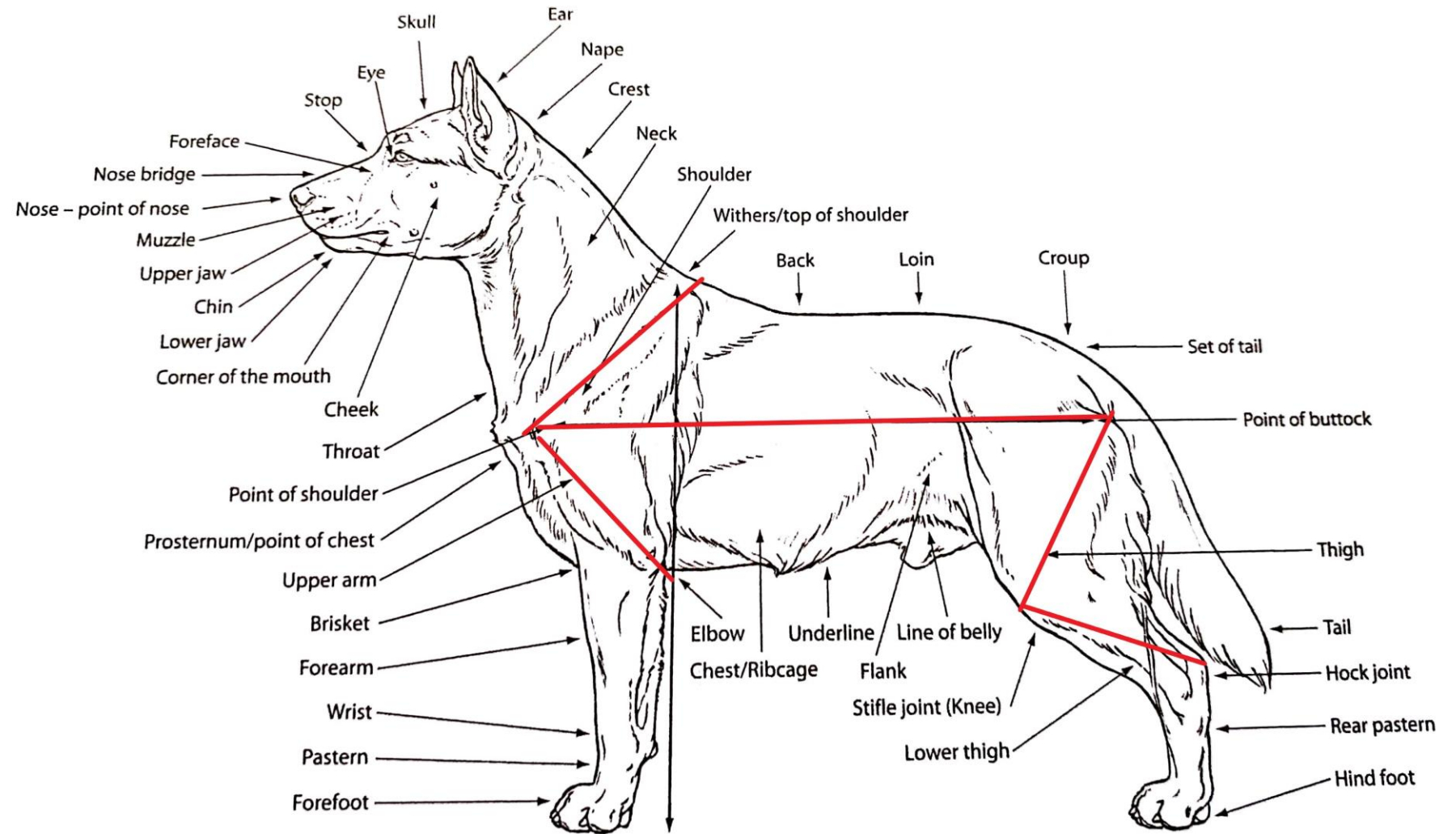
Or this dog?

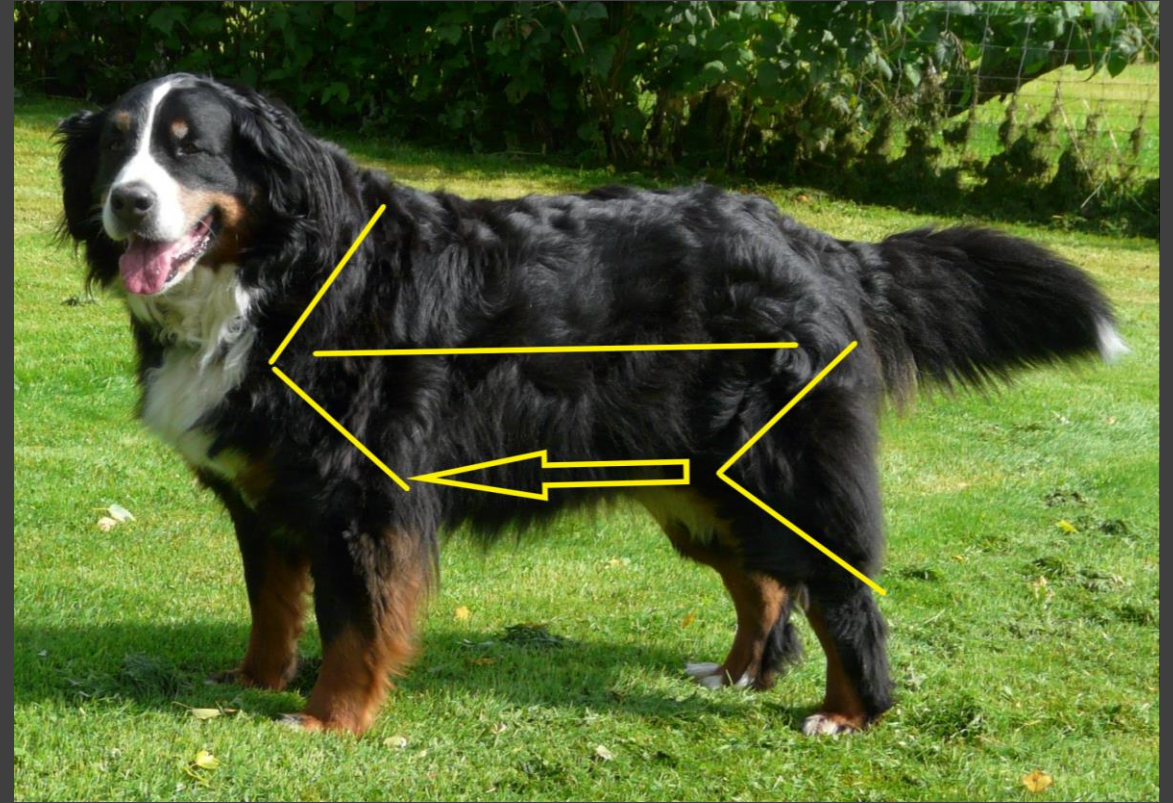
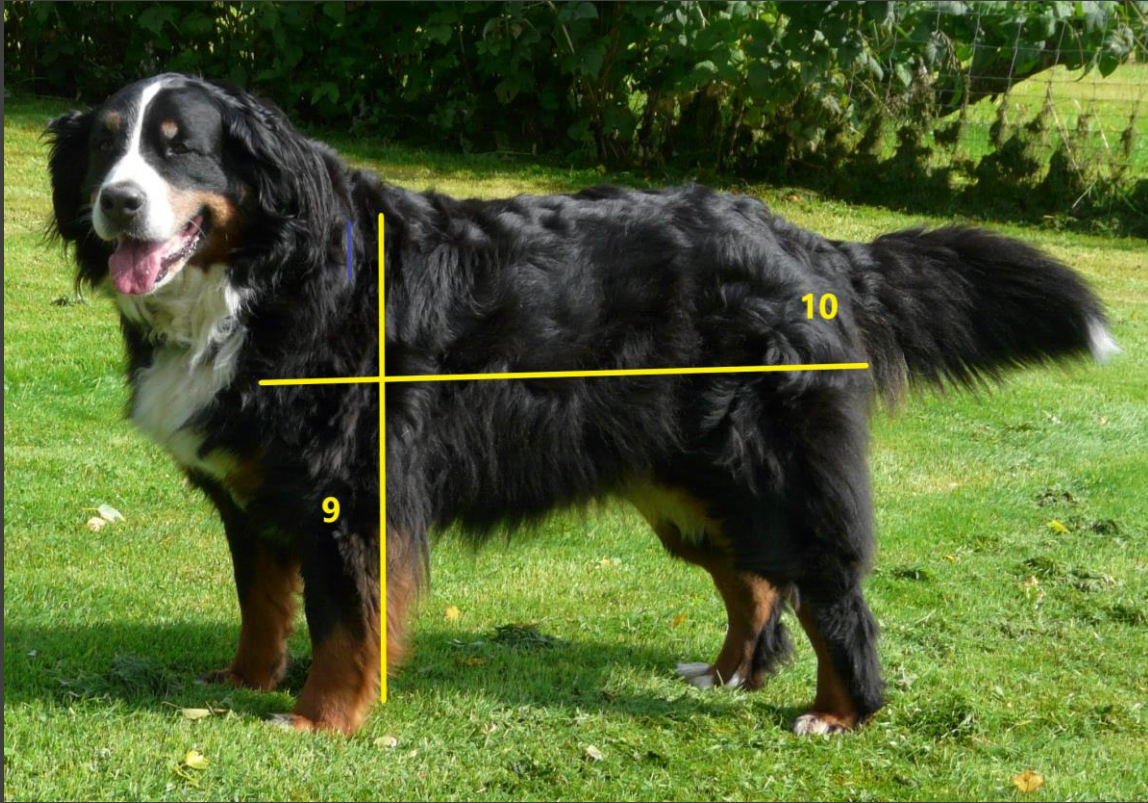
Do we follow it as judges? – Do we consider the anatomy of the BMD to the original utilization?
(«Fit for Function»)

Standard Nr. 45, Utilization : Originally used as a guard-, draught-and cattle dog on farms in the Canton Bern, today also family dog and versatile working dog.

These are
the
anatomical
features on
the last
page of the
standard

ANATOMICAL FEATURES





Correct silhouette of BMD

Silhouette development over the recent years

Long shoulderblade

Short upperarm

Not enough forechest

Angle in the front too obtuse

Hindquarters extended far behind

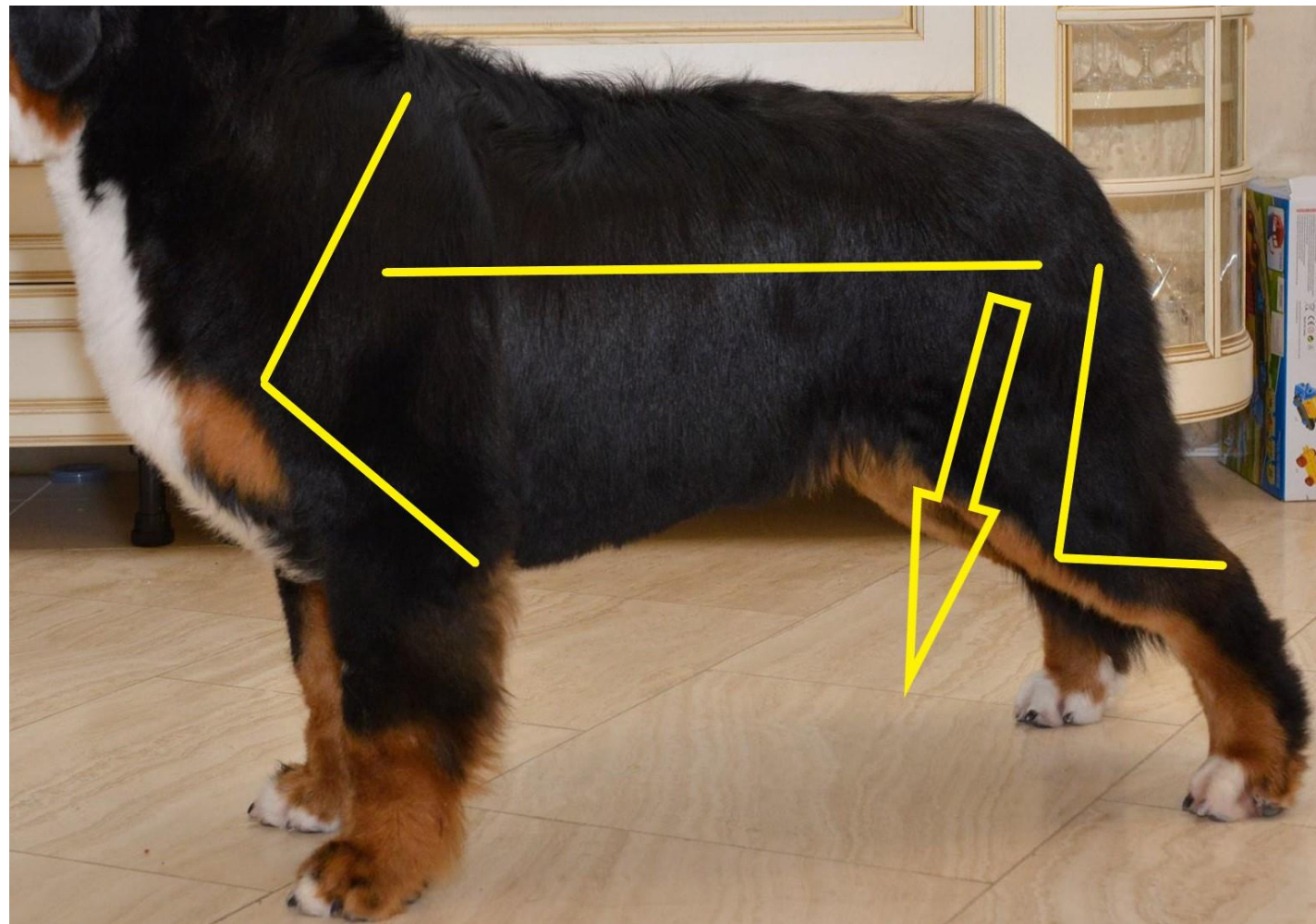
Flat croup

Sloping backline

Long upper thigh, short lower thigh

The dog seems to be tilted forward

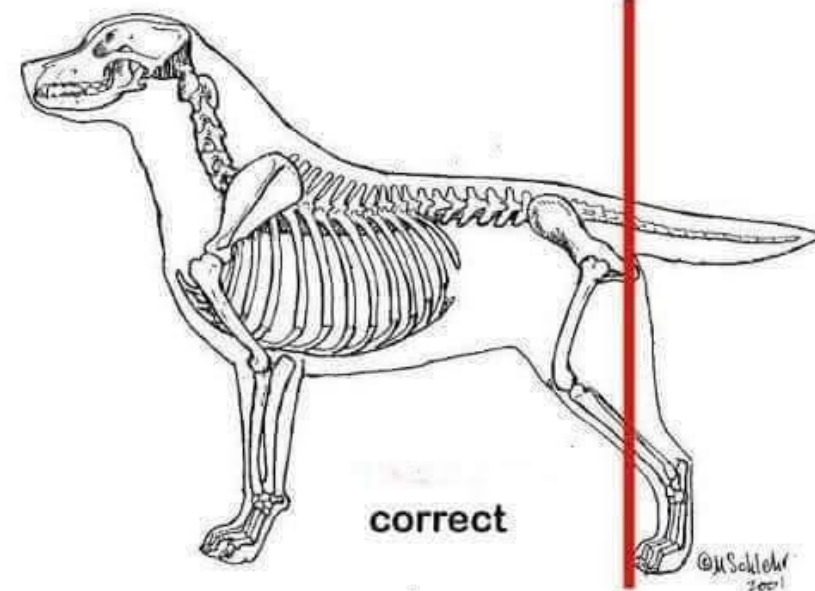
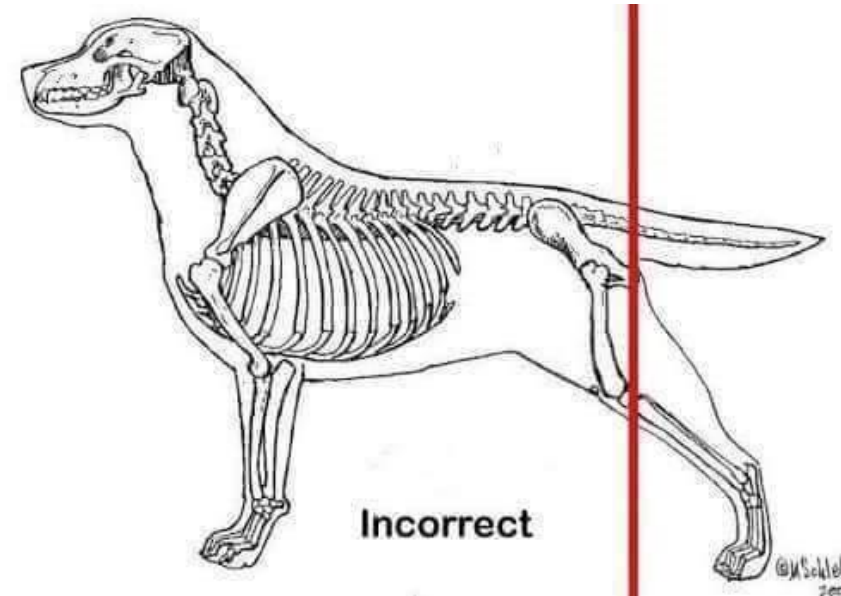
Incorrect silhouette of a BMD





Is that standard?

Incorrect/correct silhouette for a BMD?



Long in format,
long shoulder
blade and upper
thigh, sufficient
angulations



- Prof. Dr. Martin S. Fischer had a speech about the movement study from over 300 different breeds
- In this study he found that, all breeds had the same ratio of the shoulder to the upper arm / forearm, except the BMD ! The BMD had the longest shoulder blade and he asked, if that happened intentionally in a breeding program !!! (-> standard: shoulder blade long and upperarm long -> means same length!) The answer is therefore NO !
- *Prof. Dr. Martin S. Fischer ->*

Here are no sex-specific differences with regard to the segment proportions, only the upper arm is slightly longer for the male, the forearm a little shorter than for the bitches. As a result, the relative length of the scapula and the upper arm in males is the same length. In bitches, on the other hand, the scapula is longer. The thigh is, regardless of gender, slightly longer than the lower leg. The Bernese Mountain Dogs have a relatively longer shoulder blade than the average of all breeds, a longer thigh and a shorter hind foot. The variability of the length of the upper arm in bitches is relatively high, in the males, the length of the thigh varies greatly within the breed.

- Over the last five years is not really an improvement in this problem, because too little attention was paid for and not mentioned in the reports

Health Symposium 2014 in Versoix /SWI



Is this a typical silhouette of a BMD ?



What happened with the front?

Chest development over the last 10 years

- Not broad, deep and oval enough
- Pointed in the ribcage, looks more like a (icecream) cornet
- Not enough angulation and no forechest
- Just strong in the shoulder part but not really a chest between



No forechest and no chest depth





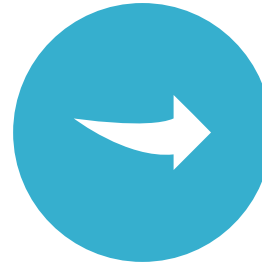


Same breed -> different types

The coat -> Grooming? Trimming?



The BMD is a farmer dog with natural shining long coat



The undercoat is for the very important temperature exchange and affects the volume depending on the density



In the ring the question from the judge: Did you trim the hair from your dog? -> Nooooo, just washed my dog!!! Its has no longer hair!



What happened? -> Overgrooming! That means that too much undercoat has been removed with too strong blowers and brushes. The long hair get dry and light and the result -> the hair lift up from the skin and lose the volume. The more the dog is washed and tanned, the more the coat loses its natural hair structure!!



Natural coat against overgrooming



Correct silhouette with excellent coat -> standard



Incorrect silhouette and unnatural coat -> not standard

Movement front



Movement from the side and back





Junior
Champion !



BOB !



How can that happen?

What judges have given these dogs an excellent?

Have been the judges enough knowledges of the breed or anatomy?

Is the junior or intermediate class a class for generous qualifications?

Do the judges a favour to the exhibitors not to be strict?

Will understand the exhibitors in next show a very good or good?

Did the judges consider the breed standard?



What can judges
do to come back
to the standard?

To go the very important way with «Fit for function» of the BMD!

Imagine the dogs in the ring for their multi function purposes and judge according for that in the ring

There is not a American, Australian or European type. There is just one type from the country of origin and this is Switzerland with the FCI Standard Nr. 45 and not to a current fashion

Breeding test and rules in the country of origin of the BMD

- The test is divided in two different categories -> Exterior and character
- Specially educated judges are available for both categories
- It is possible to pass three times the breeding test of each part
- After the third failed test, the dog is finally not allowed for breeding.
- For the exterior are two FCI special judges and for the character two special judges as well responsible
- The conditions to register the dog for the tests are : the dogs must have FCI pedigrees, not younger than 15 month, be x-rayed -> hips not worse than C and elbows than 1, must be shown at least once before the test at a show
- The character must be on the place as described in the standard and shot resistant
- There is the ability to pass the test just for one litter with a progeny control

Mating rules

- After passing the test, the tests for DM and SH must be completed before first mating
- Males can not have more than 6 litters a year (except dogs from abroad)
- Females one litter a year
- For the tests are still no mating rules, but recommendations
- Dogs with C-hips can only be mated with A or B-hips and 1-elbows with 0-elbows
- It is not allowed to repeat a combination more than once
- The average of the breeding value according to dogbase cannot be more than 100 for a combination
- Each litter is checked by the club before handing over
- For each litter, depending on the litter size, a number of puppies must be determined, which must be x-rayed from the age of 14 months. At the same time, all puppies have been receiving blood for the Swiss blood database for five years.



Thank you for your attention