

THE CAPE BULLMASTIFF CLUB

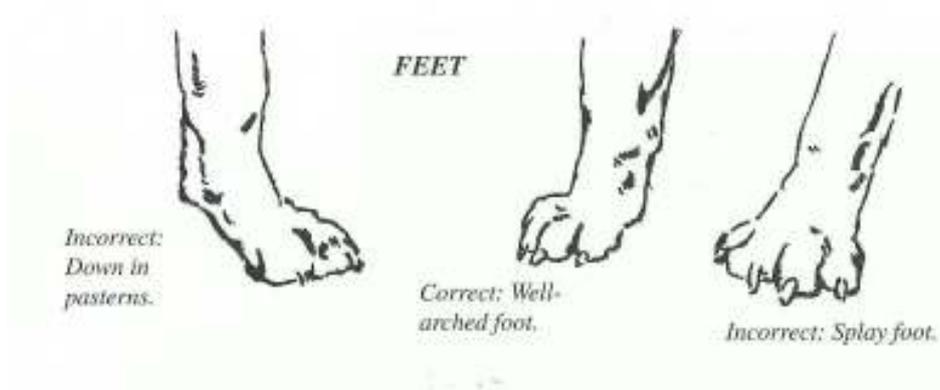
JULY 2015



FROM THE CHAIR: This Newsletter marks the end of the Bullmastiff Breed Evaluation. Any comments are welcome and may be addressed to info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za

The Feet:

Well arched, cat like, with rounded toes, pads hard. Dark toenails desirable. Splayed feet highly undesirable.



The dog had difficult terrain to operate in – rocky ground, bushes, gullies and so on. These adverse areas needed the full surface of the foot to move on and not just the digital pads. Splayed feet would obviously hinder the dog.

These days the dogs have the luxury of grass and carpet and their pads are soft and sometimes the nails are long. Very few Judges look at the feet never mind feel them.

The Tail

Set high, strong at root and tapering, reaching to hocks, carried straight or curved, but not hound fashion. Crank tails highly undesirable.

If the dog does not have an abnormal slope to the pelvis (a 30 degree slope is recommended) does it really matter how the tail is carried? Yes it does. The tail should be of the correct length and shape as it is used for steering and counterbalance as the dog moves.

Excessive dominance off his own territory, as demonstrated by a gay tail in the ring is not a desired characteristic of the Bullmastiff as is a tail tucked between the hindquarters. This may indicate subservience and nervousness.

It would be highly unlikely to find a crank tail in a conformation show ring.



Which tail would be considered correct? – You decide!

A gay tail (definition: “a ‘gay tail’ is one carried above the horizontal line of the back”)

Could this be construed as attitude or undesirable – You decide!



The ‘not hound fashion’ could relate to both extremes – straight up or straight under – both styles seen in hounds & other breeds as correct

The gait / movement

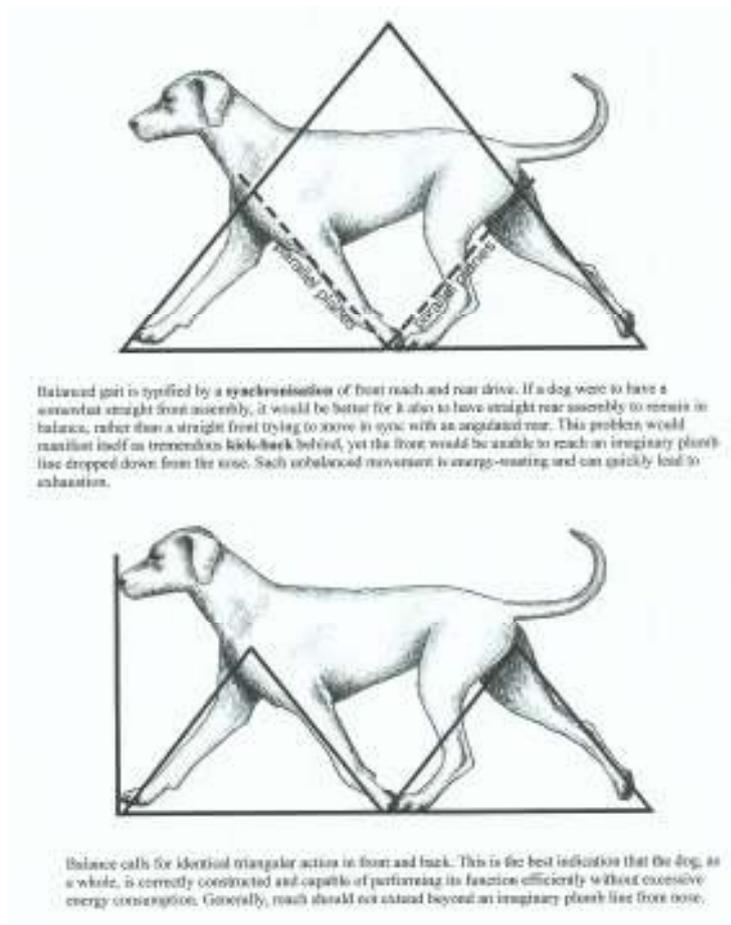
Movement indicates power and a sense of purpose. When moving straight neither front nor hind legs should cross or plait, right front and left rear legs rising and falling at the same time. A firm backline unimpaired by powerful thrusts from hind legs denoting a balanced and harmonious movement.

Here the Breed Standard asks for a harmonious trot with no gait impediments. A trot is a two-time gait of diagonal sequence as mentioned. This particular trot is unique to the Bullmastiff, whose movement cannot and should not be compared to the movements of the other dogs in the Working Breeds Group. The speed of the trot is irrelevant. Let the dog move at his own speed. In fact all good Judges know that faults can be picked up easier when the trot is slower and the lead is loose.

There should however, be good reach and drive both fore and aft with the required balance and harmony. Excellent muscle tone all over, observed as the dog moves, will indicate that the dog is active and not sedentary. Some Bullmastiffs tend to pace when they have to gait excessively. This can be either from habit or as a method to relieve muscles weary from trotting. It may also be a means to avoid leg interference because the back / backline is too short.

Note: the occipital foramen (the hole where the spinal cord goes into the skull) in the Bullmastiff – which is generally referred to as one of the modified brachycephalic breeds – is situated lower for example, than in the sight hounds. This means that in fact the Bullmastiff should lower his head to withers level or just below, when he moves. This should never be penalised during judging.

A good judge should be able to assess a dog past the ‘packaging and presentation’ to the contents.



* With thanks to the WCPC Judges Sub Committee notes



Featured above are two photos of the correct gait of the Bullmastiff. They show excellent head and tail positioning with a “smooth, harmonious, powerful” rear drive. The back line remains firm - every Judges dream!

Any Bullmastiff that runs with his head up voluntarily is using his trapezius muscle to keep his head up and is therefore not being economic with his energy expenditure. It is, however, not wrong.



Is this desirable – you decide!

The Coat

Short and hard, weather resistant, lying flat to body. Long silky or woolly coats highly undesirable.

Do keep in mind that this dog had to sometimes sit /lie for hours in inclement weather. Any coat other than weather resistant would have been unsuitable and a hindrance. Perhaps the word ‘dense’ should be incorporated into the standard. The dog needed (needs?) protection against bushes and thorns. Long silky & woolly coats are a throwback to undesirable elements in the past (Mastiff /St Bernard?) and need a lot of maintenance.

The Colour

Any shade of brindle, fawn or red, colour to be pure and clear. A slight white marking on chest permissible. Other white markings undesirable. Black muzzle essential toning off towards eyes with dark markings around eyes contributing to expression.



The colour purity mentioned in the Standard does not come about by chance. It is the brindle gene that is considered to be the key to the colouring, and breeders who continuously use the clear coloured Bullmastiffs in their breeding programmes will eventually lose the purity and clarity of colour. This can be seen as distinct darker shadings over the coat (dirty red / fawn) and a gradual loss of masking on the muzzle and around the eyes.

This should not be confused with the brindle carrying the masking gene, which may be poor as seen



above (left).



Clear fawn with correct masking



Clear red with correct masking

Can these markings be seen in the very dark brindles? These will be the brindles that have greater chevron markings than background colour. The brindles that some fanciers/ breeders are referring to as 'black Bullmastiffs' – a colour that is not stipulated in the breed Standards of KUSA /AKC /CKC/ or FCI countries. A small white patch (fist size) is acceptable on the chest – no other white markings are allowed. Originally the Gamekeepers favoured the brindle coloured coat as this dog could lie well camouflaged in the vegetation, the black muzzle & dark ears further aiding him to remain undetected even when his head was lifted up to sense, smell or sight the poacher.

The size

The size and weight of the Bullmastiff is a definite statement and is non- negotiable. Dogs larger or heavier &/or smaller than stipulated are, quite simply, out of the Breed Standard and the Judge should apply the Faults/ Degree paragraph when making their decision. Only exceptional specimens should be exempted & bitches should always be feminine

DOGS: Height at shoulder: 64-69cms (25-27 inches)

Weight: 50-59kg (110 -130lbs)

BITCHES: Height at shoulder: 61-66cms (24-26 inches)

Weight: 41-50kg (90-110lbs)

There are no disqualifying points in the KUSA Standard however Judges should also look out for the following points and make their decisions accordingly;

Pronounced reversal of sexual characteristics

Fearful, nervous, unreliable or vicious dogs

Complete lack of cosmetic markings

Dogs that are too light, racy, weedy, rangy or too cobby

Head not square enough or large enough

A narrow muzzle

Yellow eyes

Too large or too small in size with a variation of 2cm either way. Measurements to be done at the withers.



**OFFICIAL SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL CHARACTER AND BREED ASSESSMENT SHOW
FOR THE CAPE BULLMASTIFF CLUB**

Affiliated to the Kennel Union of SA

The CBA will be held at Delatro Kennels in Philadelphia

DATE: 12 & 13 September 2015

Time 09h00

Judges: Nicky Robertson & Jan van Rijswijk

All dogs entered should be 18 months or older on day of the assessment and in good health

Valid HD & CD certification & KUSA Certificate of Registration required

Positive identification – tattoo or microchip

Entry fees for members: R100 per dog / non-members R150 per dog

(Can be paid on the day)

Additional information: leather collar / lead / own chairs / water & bowl / umbrella

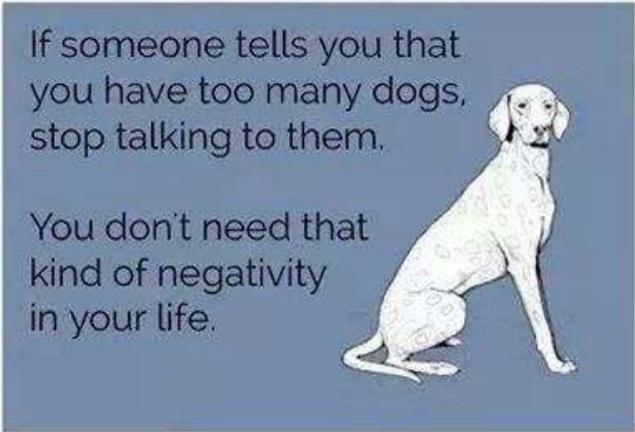
Toilet facilities limited / no catering

This CBA is only open to Bullmastiffs and Boerboels

**ALLEXHIBITORS/ HANDLERS ARE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL OF THEIR DOGS AT
ALL TIMES AND SHALL BE PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIMS WHICH MAY BE IN RESPECT OF
INJURIES WHICH MAY ARISE OR BE CAUSED BY THEIR DOGS**

Enquiries: info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za or 0829239702 Nicky

'FUNNIES'



Brown or white?



Boerboel or Bullmastiff?



Taking sides or taking it all ☺

WHAT A BOY!



A big thumbs up to "Gus" the Bullmastiff from Durban who came to the rescue of his owner Glen Bargate who was assaulted by a robber. In the process Gus was stabbed 4 times. Fortunately immediate response from the Kloof and Highway SPCA saved his life.

WHAT A GIRL!



Ch Figur Cynara of Haaita celebrating her 9th birthday

SHOW RESULTS

Durban & Districts Kennel Club Show 04/ 07/ 2015



Congratulations to Juohn Lord Rufus: RBOB, Best Junior in Breed & Best Junior in Working Group

Kennel Association Show 12/07/2015 – Cape Town

Congratulations to LaGratitude Boo Radley on his BOB win & second placing in the Working Group, to Sanniesebos Spooner for being awarded RBOB and to Sanniesebos Suri Sukani of Chizelhurst on taking BP in Breed and Best Puppy in Working Group



LaGratitude Boo Radley



Sanniesebos Spooner



Sanniesebos Suri Sukani of Chizelhurst

Bullmastiff Club of S A Show 12/07/2015 – Johannesburg



Congratulations to "Bella" who won her Puppy Class

POINT 52 CBC CODE OF CONDUCT: ALL CLUB MEMBERS WILL CONDUCT THEMSELVES WITHIN THE AMBIENT OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND REFRAIN FROM DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT FELLOW ENTHUSIASTS

DON'T FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS - CHASE THEM

The information in this magazine is confined to its members. Statements or opinions may be expressed in this communication that is personal to the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club.

The Cape Bullmastiff Club

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