

VDH BREED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS



Preface to the introduction of the VDH Breed Specific Instructions (BSI)

In March 2014, Breed-Specific Instructions (abbreviated “BSI”) were published for the first time by the Nordic Kennel Union. The breeds included in the BSI were selected on the basis of the estimated risk of health-endangering exaggerations of the pedigree characteristics and the possibility of misleading interpretation of the breed standards. The board of the VDH has decided to also apply the BSI in Germany. To this end, the Nordic Kennel Union has very kindly placed its extensive, revised BSIs at our disposal and in doing so has assisted us greatly in adapting them to our sphere of jurisdiction.

The VDH judge coordinators of the individual FCI groups have revised the BSI and submitted them to the VDH show judge committee for their consideration. The committee has recommended to the VDH board that the BSI should be introduced. The indicated evaluation criteria and the choice of breeds included are not a static guideline. Rather, the BSI are a dynamic tool which we aim to continually develop further. Suggestions of judges, the pedigree dog breeding associations and the scientific advisory board are welcome and will be incorporated into the BSI as appropriate.

The questionnaire form that is shown in the appendix hereto, which should be completed for the relevant breeds at show events and sent in to the VDH, will assist in ensuring that the latest developments relating to individual dog breeds are taken into account.

Our goal with the BSI is to ensure that we continue to see sound and healthy pedigree dogs that are free of health-impairing exaggerations in the show ring and so help to ensure the future existence of our breeds.

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Breed-specific instruction relating to the exaggeration of type characteristics in pedigree dogs caused by breeding

The breeds currently covered by the BSI have been selected on the basis of the estimated risk of health-impairing exaggeration of the typical breed characteristics and the possibility of misleading interpretation of the standard.

Introduction

One of the tasks of a dog show judge is to prevent exaggeration of the typical characteristics of a breed, with its negative impact on health. Account must be taken of this aspect in the show ring by avoiding high awards to such representatives of the breed, and instead awarding prizes to specimens possessing the optimum combination of breed characteristics, soundness and functionality.

The BSI provide a comprehensive overview of the problems associated with exaggeration in pedigree dogs. This knowledge is of fundamental importance for all dog show judges and applies to dogs of all breeds.

The primary task of a dog show judge is to preserve the characteristics of each breed within the framework of the approved FCI breed standard. This must, however, never take place at the expense of health. It is the responsibility of the judge to be thoroughly acquainted with the breed standard as well as the anatomical and constructional areas of risk for possible health problems arising from exaggeration of the breed type characteristics.

Such exaggerations may be harmful to the individual animal, and also interfere with the development of the breed as a whole. A breed standard does not describe exaggerations, but the formulation of the breed-typical characteristics may mislead judges and breeders to interpret them to the effect that specimens of extreme type are given preferred at shows and, as a consequence, also in breeding.

Judges primarily evaluate the dogs as the outcome of former generations of breeding. However, trends towards exaggeration must be identified before they give rise to problems.*

The BSI identify areas of risk that are associated with breed type. The intention of the BSI is to increase the judges' awareness of problems associated with exaggerations in breed types. The BSI are thus primarily a complement to the breed standard, and not a listing of deviations and faults, nor a manual of rules linking the observed issues to a specific quality grading. The BSI contain recommendations to the judge to pay attention to the breed-specific areas of risk and to take note of issues as well as soundness in these areas. The general approach is preventive rather than critical, by not only noting deviations but also focusing on soundness in the areas of risk. Frequently occurring faults which are not linked to exaggerations in the breed type are not a reason for listing and regularly mentioning the breed in the BSI.

The BSI are largely based on the experience gathered at dog shows in the Nordic countries during the last decade regarding the identification of areas of risk in a selected number of high-profile breeds. They are the result of extensive collaboration between dog show judges, breed clubs and veterinary surgeons in the NKU countries, and supported by veterinary health insurance statistics. This is the basis for the selection of the listed breeds and for the respective written instructions.

** FCI GC 2013, FCI Model standard: "Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding."*

Application

A judge should familiarize him/herself with the breed specific instructions for the breeds he or she has been invited to judge, and also the text introducing the breed group concerned. All judges should be well acquainted with the sections "Basics for all breeds" and "Breed types". It is of utmost importance that in

quality grading and competition assessment, judges should continue to evaluate every dog in a positive manner regarding breed type and overall merit. However, exaggerations and faults which may jeopardize soundness and health must be carefully examined and noted. This is relevant for all breeds, but especially for the BSI-listed breed

It is important to remember that all dogs should be healthy and typical of the breed. However, a dog that is healthy but lacks the breed type is NOT a good representative of the specific breed concerned.

BSI issues and quality grading

Observations regarding the BSI issues (areas of risk that are specific for each listed breed) should influence quality grading and competition assessment both positively and negatively.

As with other faults, the influence should depend on the degree and severity of the deviation. It is the judge's personal general evaluation of type, quality and soundness that is expressed in the quality and competition awards.

The BSI are not a set of rules that link issues with fixed quality grades, except where such observations are mentioned in the breed standard as disqualifying faults.

Judges should pay particular attention to BSI issues when awarding CK (certificate quality), since this indicates that the judge has considered the dog to be worthy of the title of champion.

It is very important to remember that deviations from the overall health and soundness standard are much more serious than cosmetic failings (see FCI GC 2013 Basic Statement for Show Judges).

Written critiques

In their written critiques, judges should comment on the BSI issues both positively and negatively, and these observations should influence the grading of each dog. It is particularly important to highlight when dogs exhibit soundness and quality in relation to the breed-specific areas of risk. In this way, dog shows can support positive selection for future breeding through the combination of show qualities and health. In this way, the preventive intention of the BSI concept is fulfilled **

Judges' BSI reports

The judges' reports are of crucial value for the BSI concept. Each breed has its own report form where, in addition to the general assessment, judges can note their observations regarding areas of risk. These reports are essential for following up the BSI-listed breeds and for continuously updating the BSI document. These forms should also be made available to the breed clubs in the interest of building a consensus between judges and the clubs representing the breeds.

It is, however, up to the VDH to decide on the practical implementation of the reporting process. The judges are invited to express any further personal views and comments they may have, and to suggest other breeds for the BSI list. The report form is also available to judges for breeds that are not BSI-listed.

Exaggerations in presentation

Exaggerations in presentation may negatively influence the way the public views dog shows and be detrimental to the respect in which our sporting and pedigree dogs are held. Judges are therefore asked to point out in their critiques any exaggerations in handling and presentation which may make examination difficult or, more importantly, are detrimental to the dog and unethical in relation to health and function. Coat preparation and grooming may lead to unacceptable living conditions for the dogs of some breeds.

These topics are therefore mentioned in the BSI text, although they may not directly concern the BSI concept or affect breeding.

Movement should be evaluated at a breed-specific speed and manner.

*** FCI Show Judges Code of Commitment to The Welfare of Purebred Dogs: "At shows, FCI show judges are responsible for choosing and placing the best dogs in each breed and thus for enabling these dogs to form the basis for the individual breed gene pool and a tool for selective breeding for all responsible dog breeders."*

Basics for all dogs

If the judge wishes to draw attention to a certain breed, the form for reporting BSI observations can also be used for breeds that are not-BSI-listed. It is important to emphasize that a severe deviation in any of the areas stated below should cause the judge to consider disqualifying the dog in question even if the deviation concerned is not specifically mentioned in the standard as a disqualifying fault. The judge is requested to state explicitly in the report what observation gave rise to the disqualification.

Breathing

All dogs should be able to breathe normally, also when moving. For the assessment of respiratory distress symptoms ([see Appendix 1](#)).

Eyes

All dogs should have healthy, clear eyes, with no signs of irritation ([see Appendix 2](#)).

Bite and teeth

All dogs should have healthy teeth and a well-functioning bite in conformity with the requirements of the breed standard. Incorrectly positioned teeth may cause damage to the gums. The jaws should close normally. The gums should not display any signs of injury, irritation or damage. Any such deviations could be clinical signs of impaired health and should be treated accordingly.

Weight

No dog should be obese/overweight or overly thin. All dogs should be in good muscular condition.

Skin and coat

All dogs should have healthy skin without any signs of irritation. The volume and the presentation of the coat should be in line with the requirements of the breed standard and not be so profuse as to affect the dog's well-being or ability to move freely and soundly, also in daily life.

Movement

All dogs should move in the ring in a breed-specific manner, with no breathing distress.

Behaviour

All dogs should have a temperament that allows them to adapt to all manner of situations in modern society. Breed-typical behaviour should be noted and respected but should not obstruct social behaviour and accessibility.

Excessive responses, such as fear or shyness, are never desirable. Uncontrolled aggressive behaviour or panic attempts to flee are not tolerable and must consequently give rise to disqualification. Behaviour issues are specifically mentioned in the BSI text in cases where they are stated as an area of risk.

Breed types

In a number of breeds, the type and characteristics are a result of genetic mutations (defects) that cause specific anatomical features, and should not be considered as normal canine variations.

Such breed types are the result of human intention to create breeds with specific physical traits. It is therefore very important that, in order to preserve the breed type characteristics, judges and breeders foster the selection of animals that constitute an optimum combination of breed type and vitality.

Brachycephalic breeds

The short-headed (brachycephalic) breeds are represented in FCI Groups 2 and 9 and form a group of breeds in which the typical features are expressed to a varying degree in the skull, muzzle, jaws, eyes,

ribcage and skin. In these breeds, exaggerations in the specific physical build can lead to serious health problems, especially, but not exclusively, in relation to breathing and regulation of body temperature.

- See [Appendix 1: Assessment of breathing distress](#)

- See [Appendix 2: Eye problems](#)

Toy breeds

Small-sized breeds, sometimes called dwarfs, are categorized in FCI Group 9, but can also be found in Groups 2, 3, 4 and 5. When dwarfism is carried to the extreme, it leads to general debilitation, with poor skeletal and muscular development.

Further exaggerations of dwarfism can give rise to serious health problems. Some of the toy breeds are also brachycephalic (see above) and/or chondrodystrophic (see below).

Protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets occur in the brachycephalic toy breeds. Conditions such as open fontanel, wry lower jaw and lame tongue can also occur. Dwarfism may also cause ribcage malformations, with shortened or open ribcages with short sternal bone, rib deformations and narrow ribcages.

Feeble shuffling movement can be observed in some of the breeds due to poor muscle condition.

- See [Appendix 1: Assessment of breathing distress](#)

- See [Appendix 2: Eye problems](#)

Breeds with chondrodystrophic (disproportionate) growth retardation

Breeds with chondrodystrophic (disproportionate) growth retardation are to be found in FCI Groups 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9. If the chondrodystrophic traits are exaggerated, the results are serious skeletal deformities and the inability to move soundly. Inadequate ground clearance, which interferes with the working function of the breed, is a further negative consequence. -

Molossoid breeds

This group includes the mastiff breeds and the mountain dogs, descendants of the ancient molossoid dogs. These are dogs of giant size, with accentuated body volume and skin, and are to be found in FCI Groups 1 and 2. These dogs must be of strong physical build and have considerable muscular strength and an appropriate volume of skin in order to move well and be able to display the special characteristics required by the breed standards. The specific molossoid traits must not be exaggerated, resulting in grotesque dimensions. This group also includes the small molossoid-type breeds of Group 9.

- See [Appendix 1: Assessment of breathing distress](#)

- See [Appendix 2: Eye problems](#)

GROUP 1

Collie (Short-Haired or Smooth)

Collie (Long-Haired or Rough)

German Shepherd Dog

Saarloos Wolfhond

Czechoslovakian Wolfdog

Rassebezogene Beurteilungshinweise

Collie Rough (Long-Haired Collie)

Collie Smooth (Short-Haired Collie)

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

Behaviour

Unduly anxious.

Mouth

Narrow lower jaw, crowding of canine teeth and other severe malpositioning of the canine teeth.

Eyes

Very small, deep-set eyes.

Movement

Relatively inefficient trotting gait.

A collie should have a friendly disposition, with no trace of nervousness or aggressiveness, and be particularly well suited as a companion dog. It should have normally developed jaws and teeth. One of its important characteristics are medium-sized eyes with a good-natured expression. Flowing movements with powerful drive are of high importance.

German Shepherd Dog

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

Behaviour

Unbalanced character

Top line

Strongly sloping topline, taut or tucked up back. .

Hindquarters

Excessively angulated hindquarters with a hacking, in extreme cases cow-hocking walk and generally unstable hindquarters with disproportionately long lower legs.

In the German Shepherd Dog, attention should be paid to a well-balanced temperament. The topline should run from the base of the neck over the high long withers and over the straight back to the slightly sloping croup without visible interruption. The position of the hind legs should be slightly backward. The hind limbs should be parallel when viewed from behind. Exaggerated forms of presentation with extreme presentation counteract the establishment of correct standard characteristics.

Saarloos Wolfhond

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

Behaviour

Aggressiveness, undue anxiousness and shyness.

The standard states that “Towards its master, the Saarloos Wolfhond is devoted and subordinate to a very high degree. Towards strangers, it might be reserved and usually does not seek contact. The reserved and wolf-like manner of avoiding unknown situations is typical of the Saarloos Wolfhond”. Breed-typical behaviour must be noted and respected, but should not be allowed to stand in the way of social behaviour and accessibility.

Czechoslovakian Wolfdog

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

Behaviour

Aggressiveness, undue anxiousness and shyness.

The standard states that “The Czechoslovakian Wolfdog is suspicious. It is reported to show tremendous loyalty towards its master.”

Breed-typical behaviour must be noted and respected, but should not be allowed to stand in the way of social behaviour and accessibility.

GROUP 2

Saint Bernhard Dog
Dogue de Bordeaux
Continental Bulldog
Bulldog
Bullmastiff
Great Dane
German Boxer
Mastiff
Neapolitan Mastiff
Rottweiler
Shar Pei

This group includes various brachycephalic breeds, mastiffs, as well as Swiss mountain breeds. It is of utmost importance that the dogs should not be of grotesque dimensions or excessive weight. They must have a sound, powerful constitution in order to carry the typical heavy body and head in keeping with the requirements of the standards. They must be able to move without effort and without distress. Heaviness of breathing and an excessively heavy head that is carried too low are faults in both the small and large breeds. See also [Appendix 1](#) regarding the assessment of breathing distress.

Narrow fronts, arched forelegs with weak pasterns, along with cow-hocks and lack of angulation or over-angulation of the hindlegs are a fault in any breed, but should be paid particular attention to in the heavy breeds of Group 2.

The dogs of mastiff type have an excessive, loose-fitting skin, but this must never be exaggerated. Excessive quantities of skin can give rise to inflammation in the skin folds as well as problems with the eyes and/or flews ([see also Appendix 2](#)).

A dog's skin of a dog must be healthy and show no sign of disorders.

Many breeds in the group show traces of original mental sharpness and protective instinct. The typical breed characteristics should be preserved, but must never go beyond the general basic recommendations for all breeds or the provisions of law.

Bulldog

Brachycephalic and molossoid type

The extreme physical build of this breed, with short skull and short muzzle, the underdeveloped bridge of the nose and an excessive quantity of skin, can result in problems if it is exaggerated.

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

Breathing problems

Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in the pharyngeal cavities and airways). Dogs showing difficulties in breathing are undesirable. Pinched nostrils and heavy over-nose wrinkles are unacceptable and should be heavily penalized ([see Appendix 1](#)).

Exaggerated type conformation

Insufficient angulation of fore- and hindquarters, resulting in unsound movement/lameness. The standard stipulates “soundness of movement” as being of the utmost importance!

Face and eyes

Excessively short bridge of the nose, excessively loose facial skin and loose eyelids can be a cause of injury and inflammation of the eyes ([see Appendix 2](#)). Roll of skin overhanging the nostrils can be a cause of infection.

Tail

A rigid tail carried tightly over the anus may disturb the defecation function. Wrinkles of skin in the anal region can cause infections. Lack of tail, inverted or extremely tight tails are undesirable.

The standard explicitly states the importance of unconstrained breathing. Dogs with free, sound breathing and sound, breed-typical movement along with normally developed skin and healthy eyes should be preferred. It is of utmost importance that the dog can freely move its tail.

Bullmastiff

Brachycephalic and molossoid type

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Facial skin

Excessive amount of facial skin, which can cause eye problems and conjunctivitis.

2. Skin problems

3. Hindquarters

Lack of angulation, which can cause knee problems.

4. Top line

Exaggerated height over rear and very steep croup can cause locomotion problems.

5. Type and size exaggerations

Look for unconstrained breathing. The muzzle should be not shorter than one-third of the length of the head. Soundness of movement and correct angulation in hindquarters should be rated highly, as should also an evenly developed skin and coat. Sound, balanced specimens with correct construction should be given preference over those with exaggerated type and size characteristics.

Dogue de Bordeaux

Brachycephalic and molossoid type

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. General anatomical construction

Exaggeration of the standard characteristics of the front, angulation of the hindquarters and the high croup can cause unsound movement, with lack of drive and vigour.

2. Loose eyelids ([see Appendix 2](#))

Look for functional anatomy and soundness of movement.

Continental Bulldog

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Mouth

The lower lip can cover the lower jaw incisors (rolled in lip). If this is permanently the case or if there are any signs of injury, swelling or inflammation of the mucosa of the lower lip, this is a disqualifying fault.

German Boxer (Deutscher Boxer)

Brachycephalic and molossoid type

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Breathing problems

Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in the pharyngeal cavities and airways) ([see Appendix 1](#)).

2. Skin

Skin irritations and discolorations.

The standard describes that the length of the muzzle in relation to the skull as 1:2; the muzzle must therefore not be overly short. Dentition should be sound and according to the breed standard. Look for sound breathing, correct physical proportions, correct dentition, and healthy skin.

Great Dane (Deutsche Dogge)

Molossoid type

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Exaggeration of molossoid type

2. Fore- and hindquarters

Knuckling-over of pasterns, weak hindquarters.

3. Loose eyelids ([see Appendix 2](#))

4. Rolled in lip

The lower lip can cover the lower jaw incisors (rolled in lip). If this is permanently the case or if there are any signs of injury, swelling or inflammation of the mucosa of the lower lip, this is a disqualifying fault.

5. Feet

Toe pads which do not touch the ground.

6. General behaviour

Anxiousness, undue shyness

Look in particular for correct fore- and hindquarters, correct feet and healthy eyes.

Mastiff

Molossoid type

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Hindquarters

Too high at the rear, with straight stifles and very steep croup, may cause incorrect and impaired movement.

2. Loose eyelids ([see Appendix 2](#))

3. Breathing problems ([see Appendix 1](#))

Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds, due to overly short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in the pharyngeal cavities and airways).

4. Skin

Skin irritations and discolorations.

Look in particular for the typical strong conformation of this breed, supported by heavy bones and a powerful physical structure. The massive head should be carried in the breed-typical way. Movement must be sound and without discomfort.

Neapolitan Mastiff (Mastino Napoletano)

Molossoid type

The breed is described as “large and heavy with a massive, powerful presence”, but must not be allowed to become grotesque. The breed-typical skin as required by the standard, in particular an exaggerated abundance of the loose skin that covers the whole body, may promote health risks.

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Skin

Exaggerated amount of skin in general. Pronounced wrinkles on the head. Skin which impairs the eyes, e.g. through oversized eyelids, which may cause ectropy or entropion (i.e. eyelids folding inwards or outwards) ([see Appendix 2](#)). Clearly hanging, open jowls.

2. General physical construction

Anatomical weakness of the legs and generally poor anatomy may cause unbalanced movement.

Look for healthy skin and sound eyes, but also correct movement. Exaggerated quantities of skin and incorrect movement should not be promoted. Dogs with the required typical cat-like, agile, somewhat slow and even movement, with good drive from the hindquarters and proper reach in front, should be given preference.

Saint Bernard Dog (Short-Haired and Long-Haired)

Molossoid type

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Head

Over-dimensioned and overly heavy head, too much facial skin and loose jowls.

2. Eyelids

Loose and/or ectropic or entropic eyelids ([see Appendix 2](#)).

Look for healthy skin and healthy eyes. The standard calls for sound dentition. The body proportions of the dog must be correct. Sound movement is called for.

Rottweiler

Molossoid type

General appearance

Overly heavy molossoid appearance with extremely strong bones, rangy, light, weedy and leggy overall appearance with very weak bones.

Head

Very voluminous and/or broad cranium, very pronounced stop, deep frontal groove, relatively small muzzle volume in relation to cranium and/or relatively short and/or relatively narrow muzzle, relatively poorly developed cheekbones, round eyes, loose eyelids, excessively strongly developed masticatory muscles. The combination of the features is of great importance.

Skin

Relatively pronounced wrinkles on the upper head, forehead, cheeks or muzzle, loose throat skin.

Gait/Movement

Relatively inefficient trotting action.

The Rottweiler is a medium-sized to large dog of sturdy build, neither heavy nor light, nor leggy or weedy. Its well-proportioned, bulky and powerful form are indicative of great strength, agility and endurance. The head of the Rottweiler should never be exaggeratedly formed. The stop is relatively well-defined, i.e. neither weak nor very marked. The relation between muzzle length and head length should be about 1 to 1.5. The skin on the head should be close-fitting all over, but may form slight brow wrinkles when dog is highly attentive. The neck should be dry, with no dewlap and without loose skin. The Rottweiler is a trotter. In movement, the back should remain firm and relatively steady. Movement should be harmonious, sure-footed, powerful and uninhibited and have good step length.

Shar Pei

The extreme type and exaggerated skin development are a cause of health problems.

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Skin

Exaggerated quantities of skin, causing folds over the eyes, can be a cause of eye and skin problems.

2. Eyes

Excessive quantities of skin can give rise to irritation and damage to the eyes (see Appendix 2).

4. Rolled in lip

The lower lip can cover the lower jaw incisors (rolled in lip). If this is permanently the case or if there are any signs of injury, swelling or inflammation of the mucosa of the lower lip, this is a disqualifying fault.

The breed standard also names the following disqualifying faults:

- Skin folds or eyebrows that disturb the normal function of the eyes.
- Heavy folds of skin on body (except withers and base of tail) and on the lips.

Look for dogs without exaggerated quantities of skin, correct lips, and sound/clear eyes and sound ears.

GROUP 3

Bull Terrier

Miniature Bull Terrier

Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Yorkshire Terrier

About the breeds in Group 3

The chondrodystrophic type is also known in this group. Some breeds in the group may show skin problems, some have problems with incorrect bite, and some have tendencies towards exaggerated breed type. Hairless patches and sparse coat occur in some of the breeds. Some breeds in this group are toys (such as the Yorkshire Terrier), so the introductory text to Group 9 is also relevant.

Bull Terrier / Miniature Bull Terrier

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Jaws/Teeth

Narrow lower jaw with canine teeth protruding up into the upper palate (canine teeth crowding).

2. Skin/Hair

Skin irritation, and sparse coat without gloss.

3. Eyes

Noticeably undersized eye openings ([see also Appendix 2](#)).

The unique form of the head explains the tendency to bite faults. Look for a correct head and a strong lower jaw.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Jaws/Teeth

Lower canine teeth going up into the upper gum (base narrow canines).

2. Skin/Coat

Sparse coat and skin irritation.

Look for correct bite, correct length of muzzle, normal breathing and healthy skin.

Yorkshire Terrier

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Teeth/Jaws/Tongue

Weak jaws and dentition.

2. Exaggerated dwarfism

The standard states: "Weight up to 3.2 kg. Skull: Rather small and flat, not too prominent or rounded. Eyes: not prominent."

3. Coat

Long coat "must never impede movement" or the development of good muscular condition.

Look for sound breathing and normally developed muscles. The muzzle, healthy teeth and correct jaws and tongue are important.

GROUP 4

Dachshunde

Dachshund Rabbit

Smooth-Haired

Long-Haired

Wire-Haired

Dachshund Miniature

Smooth-Haired

Long-Haired

Wire-Haired

Dachshund Standard

Smooth-Haired

Long-Haired

Wire-Haired

About the breeds in Group 4

This group consists of one breed with nine varieties of chondrodystrophic type. Although none of the varieties is listed, it is important to note that in short-legged breeds, attention must be paid to poor front construction and also asymmetry, as well as inadequate ground clearance that interferes with the working function.

For more information concerning areas of risk – see Breeds with chondrodystrophic (disproportionate) growth retardation.

GROUP 5

Chow Chow

Toy Spitz

About the breeds in Group 5

The group has breeds of great variation in size, but two comparatively homogenous basic types, which are not inviting to exaggerations. Nevertheless, the type characteristics in some of the breeds do give rise to areas of risk.

In several of the spitz breeds, incorrect coats can be observed, with poor top coat and an abundance of undercoat hair or persisting puppy coat.

Chow Chow

Excessive quantities of skin and the construction/structure of the hindquarters can cause problems.

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Breathing problems

Forced breathing with pronounced (snoring) noises, often with the mouth constantly open, caused by excessive loose tissue in the pharynx and resulting in restriction of the airways and throat ([see Appendix 1](#)).

2. Hindquarters

Look for stable construction of the hock joints and free, flowing movement. Stifles and hocks that knuckle over are highly undesirable.

3. Face

Excessive quantity of skin embedding the eyes. Small eyelid openings. According to the standard, the eyes should be “Dark, oval in shape, medium-sized and clean” ([see Appendix 2](#)).

Look for easy breathing, healthy eyes and skin, and correct movement. Unconstrained breathing, sound eyes not showing any signs of irritation, and breed typical yet sound movement should be highly rated.

Toy Spitz

This is a toy breed, and some of the risks associated with exaggerated dwarfism mentioned in the introductory text to Group 9 should be considered,

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Head

Pronounced apple head, large round eyes, very short muzzle.

2. Coat

Exaggerated abundance of undercoat in combination with faulty or deficient top coat, resulting in lack of the elasticity that characterizes a correct double coat.

3. Movement

Feeble shuffling movement due to poor muscular condition.

The standard stipulates: “Long, straight, stand-off top coat and short, thick, cottonwool-like undercoat.” A faulty coat may indicate the presence of a condition that can result in hairlessness. Correct coat quality is therefore essential.

Also look for correct size, muzzle, jaws and teeth, as well as soundness of movement.

GROUP 6

Basset Hound
Bloodhound

Information on the breeds in Group 6

This group contains working dogs with high demands in terms of resilient body construction. The Basset breeds are chondrodystrophic animals with a predisposition to unsound construction of the forequarters, e.g. toe pads not touching the ground properly. A particular area of risk is the ribcage, with the possibility of deformed ribs and shortened back legs.

In the short-legged breeds, stable, sound and symmetrical construction of the forequarters, along with adequate ground clearance, must be seen in the context of the required work function.

Basset Hound

Chondrodystrophic type

Exaggerations of the breed type and some breed characteristics constitute the risk of health problems.

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Skin

Unsound and/or exaggerated quantities of loose skin may cause inflammation in skin folds.

2. Fore- and hindquarters

Poor construction and inadequate ground clearance resulting from exaggerated shortness of the legs may cause incorrect movement and be incompatible with the demands made of a working dog.

3. Eyelids

Too loose, exaggerated, and therefore open, with the risk of inflammation.

4. Ears

Exaggeratedly long ears.

Pay close attention to the typical proportions and to the eyes, ears and skin. Of no less importance is soundness of movement, as described in the standard. It is important to bear in mind that this is a working dog used for hunting purposes and it must therefore possess the requisite endurance and vitality.

Bloodhound (Chien de Saint-Hubert)

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Skin and eyes

Exaggerated quantity of skin and loose eyelids that allow only inadequate closure of the eyes are a common cause of inflammation.

GROUP 7

Bracco Italiano
Spinone Italiano

Information on the breeds in Group 7

This group contains gundogs which, because of the demands made on them, must be of sound physical construction, with no exaggerations in respect of either weight or elegance, with no excessive coat, and with a ribcage that is neither too shallow nor too deep.

There are some breeds in this group with an exaggerated quantity of skin, however.

Bracco Italiano

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Skin of the head and eyelids

Exaggerated quantities of skin in the area of the head may cause unsound lip folds and loose eyelids, giving rise to inflammation and injuries when working.

Spinone Italiano

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Skin of the head and eyelids

Exaggerated quantities of skin in the area of the head may cause unsound lip folds and loose eyelids, giving rise to inflammation and injuries when working.

GROUP 8

American Cocker Spaniel
Clumber Spaniel

About the breeds in Group 8

This group contains gundogs. Endurance and soundness of movement are therefore particularly important, as is good muscular condition. It is important to distinguish between substance and obesity/overweight. Some of the spaniel breeds in this group show problems with their eyes and ears due to excessive skin and large, heavily coated outer ears ([see Appendix 2 - Eyes](#)).

American Cocker Spaniel

Areas of risk are mostly related to tendencies towards brachycephaly, expressed on page 12:

1. Head

Overly short muzzle, overly short, rounded skull, and bite problems.

2. Eyes

Protruding eyes and shallow eye sockets, profuse flow of tears. Loose eyelids and unsound lip folds ([see Appendix 2.](#)).

3. Coat

Exaggerated volume of coat and incorrect coat texture.

Look for correct proportions of head and muzzle, sound eyes, normal tearing, and correct bite. Good length of ribcage and sternum bone and correct coat are also highly importance. The standard states that the coat should be “...of a texture which permits easy care” and stipulates as a characteristic that the breed should have the “...appearance and function of a moderately coated sporting dog”.

Clumber Spaniel

This should be an agile working dog in good condition, without overweight or exaggerations in head and skull.

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Head

Excessively heavy, with an abundance of loose skin and loose eyelids, which may cause eye problems.

2. Exaggerated size and heaviness

Look for powerful, sound, typical movement in dogs with correct proportions, correct size and correct head.

GROUP 9

Belgian Griffon

Boston Terrier

Brussels Griffon

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Chihuahua

Chinese Crested Dog

French Bulldog

Japanese Chin

King Charles Spaniel

Pug

Pekingese

Small Brabant Griffon

Shih Tzu

About the breeds in Group 9

Most of the breeds in this group are toy breeds. Some have extreme characteristics such as a shortened skull and underdeveloped muzzle (brachycephaly). Some of the breeds are prone to premature ageing of the intervertebral discs and wear of the skeleton (“chondrodystrophy”). Further exaggeration of these standard breed features and exaggerated dwarfism would give rise to serious health problems (See also “Toy breeds”).

The brachycephalic head is part of the breed type in Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs, the Toy Griffon breeds, Japanese Chins, King Charles Spaniels, Pugs, Pekingese and Shih Tzus. This can give rise to breathing problems and impaired body temperature regulation. Narrow respiratory channels with restricted breathing and pinched nostrils are serious problems, which must be noted ([see also Appendix 2](#) regarding assessment of breathing distress).

Several of the breeds have protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets, creating a disposition for eye injuries ([see also Appendix 2](#) regarding eye problems).

An open fontanel is an anomaly and is a disqualifying fault in all breeds.

An overly short lower jaw and/or lame tongue, or “paralysed tongue”, are disqualifying faults.

A deviant pattern of movement in some breeds, with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain in the neck and shoulder area, may indicate a serious neurological disorder, syringomyelia. Feeble, shuffling movement can be seen in toy breeds as an effect of unhealthy keeping conditions, leading to loss of muscles.

Some of the breeds in this group are heavily coated. This has, in some cases, resulted in incorrect, woolly and excessive coats which are so heavy that they impair movement and affect the quality of life of the dogs (see also “Exaggerations in presentation”).

Belgian Griffon, Brussels Griffon and Small Brabant Griffon

(Griffon Belge, Griffon Bruxellois and Petit Brabançon)

Brachycephalic type

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Head

A small head with an overly short muzzle can give rise to eye injuries and neurological disorders.

2. Breathing

Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds caused by insufficient room in throat cavities and/or pinched nostrils and/or ribcage ([see Appendix 1](#)).

3. Movement

A specific deviant pattern of movement, with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain in the neck and shoulder area, may indicate a serious neurological disorder, syringomyelia.

Particular attention must be paid to breathing, nose and sound eyes, and also the pattern of movement.

Boston Terrier

Brachycephalic and small molossoid breed

Areas of risk are related to the dwarf type and the brachycephaly, expressed in [Appendix 3](#).

1. Breathing problems

Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds due to a short muzzle, pinched nostrils and narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in the pharyngeal cavities and airways) and/or the ribcage ([see Appendix 1](#)).

Overly short body, roach back, diminutive tail, lack of tail, overly short muzzle, and head overly heavy and large.

2. Eyes

Protruding eyes and shallow eye sockets ([see Appendix 2](#)).

3. Underdeveloped tail

Lack of visible/palpable tail vertebrae is a disqualifying fault.

Look for sound breathing, correct formation of the head/skull, and the anatomy of the dog.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Areas of risk are related to the tendency towards brachycephaly ([see Appendix 2 and 3](#)).

1. Head

Overly short muzzle, exaggerated stop, as well as very short, apple-round skull.

2. Breathing problems

Shortness of breath. Muzzle too short, pinched nostrils and/or restricted respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways) ([see Appendix 1](#)).

3. Eyes

Protruding eyes increase the risk of injuries. Loose eyelids. Profuse tearing. Skin folds showing signs of irritation ([see Appendix 2](#)).

4. Movement

A specific deviant pattern of movement with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain in the neck and shoulder area may indicate a serious neurological disorder (syringomyelia).

Look for soundness of breathing, eyes and movement. The wording of the standard explicitly warns against promoting a brachycephalic tendency: “Head, cranial region: Skull: Almost flat between the ears. Stop: Shallow. The eyes shall be large, dark, round but not protruding, spaced well apart”.

Chihuahua, Smooth-Haired and Long-Haired

The areas of risk are all associated with exaggerated dwarfism:

1. Head

Problems, such as an underdeveloped muzzle (too short or narrow), give rise to faulty bite, jaws and mal-positioning of the dentition. Canine teeth running up into the roof of gums (base narrow canines).

2. Lamé (paralysed) tongue

3. Eyes

Protruding eyes increase the risk of eye injuries ([see Appendix 2](#)).

4. Hindquarters

Unstable due to unsound construction of the joints.

5. Open fontanel has been a disqualifying fault since 2010.

In previous standards, it was a typical breed characteristic. A minor dimple that may be observed prior to closure of the fontanel in dogs that are not yet adult is not a disqualifying fault.

Particular attention must be paid to the formation of the skull, the jaws and the general anatomy; “Hind legs well-muscled with long bones”.

Chinese Crested Dog – Hairless Variety

The show preparation and a lack of skin care can be an area of risk:

1. Skin injuries

Caused by ethically unacceptable removal of hair (epilating and chemical hair removal) in order to present the dogs in conformity with the standard.

2. Skin impurities such as pimples and blackheads

Are the result of lack of skin care or failure to keep the dog in line with the requirements of the breed.

French Bulldog

Brachycephalic and small molossoid breed

The special conformation of this breed, with its short muzzle and very short bridge of its nose, along with the underdeveloped tail, cause significant health problems, even if not affected by further breeding measures.

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Breathing problems

Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds due to the overly short nose, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways) and/or ribcage ([see Appendix 1](#)).

2. Face and eyes

Overly short bridge of the nose and protruding eyes, which increase the risk of eye injuries ([see Appendix 2](#)).

3. Proportions and construction

Overly short proportions in the neck and back as well as insufficient angulation of the fore- and hindquarters can result in feebleness of movement.

4. Underdeveloped tail

The lack of visible/palpable tail vertebrae is a disqualifying fault.

Look for soundness of breathing, muzzle, eyes, skin, tail, and movement. The breed standard reads; “Length of muzzle about one-sixth of the total length of the head”. The breed standard calls for an “active” dog which is “powerful for its small size, short, compact in all its proportions”. The French Bulldog must, however, not be excessively short in the neck and back. The gait should be free and active.

Japanese Chin

Brachycephalic type

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. Breathing

Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds, caused by overly small skull which limits the room for the upper respiratory cavities, pinched nostrils, and overly short ribcage ([see Appendix 1](#)).

2. Eyes

Protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets may predispose for injuries ([see Appendix 2](#)).

Look for sound breathing and the correct formation of the head/skull and the ribcage.

King Charles Spaniel

Brachycephalic type

Pay attention to the following areas in particular:

1. General construction

Poor, underdeveloped, narrow ribcage; bent front legs and feet turning out.

2. Muzzle

Too short.

3. Eyes

Protruding eyes increase the risk of injuries ([see Appendix 2](#)).

4. Movement

A specific deviant pattern of movement with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain in the neck and shoulder area may indicate a serious neurological disorder (syringomyelia).

Particular attention must be paid to sound breathing and the general anatomy.

Pug

Brachycephalic and small molossoid breed

Areas of risk are:

1. Breathing problems

Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils and narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways) and/or short ribcage with short ribs and sternal bone, also obesity/overweight ([see Appendix 1](#)).

2. Head

Overly short muzzle. Incorrect dentition. Excessive quantity of loose skin. The standard does in fact not ask for a nose wrinkle – whether broken or unbroken.

3. Eyes

Protruding eyes increase the risk of injuries ([see Appendix 2](#)).

Look for sound breathing, healthy skin and eyes, a sufficiently long and correctly formed neck, the form of the ribcage, and the size and weight. The standard states the ideal weight to be 6.3-8.1 kg. The standard calls for: “Muzzle: relatively short”.

Pekingese

Brachycephalic and chondrodystrophic (short-legged) type

The special conformation of this breed, with the shortened skull, overly short bridge of nose and jaws, can cause health problems if exaggerated. Areas of risk are associated with exaggerated dwarfism, brachycephaly and chondrodystrophy:

1. Eyes

Protruding eyes, which increase the risk of eye injuries ([see Appendix 2](#)).

2. Breathing problems

Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways) ([see Appendix 1](#)).

3. Nose wrinkle

Overhanging nose wrinkle can obstruct the nostrils, and can cause skin inflammation.

4. General construction

Weakly developed ribcage, short sternal bone and poor muscle condition.

5. Coat

Coat which is too profuse and/or woolly, and exaggerated. The standard reads “Length and volume of coat should neither obscure the shapeliness of the body nor impair the activity of the dog. Excessive coat must be heavily penalized.”

Untypical/unsound movement must not be confused with “Typically slow, dignified rolling gait”. “Any signs of inability to move soundly are unacceptable and should be heavily penalized. All signs of respiratory distress are unacceptable and should be heavily penalized”. Breathing shall be assessed with the dog in action.

Shih Tzu

Brachycephalic and chondrodystrophic type

Areas of risk are:

1. Breathing problems

Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds, caused by brachycephaly and overly small head (which limits the room for the upper airways), overly short muzzle and/or pinched nostrils ([see Appendix 1](#)).

2. Eyes

Protruding eyes, which increase the risk of eye injuries ([see Appendix 2](#)).

3. Mouth

Narrow lower jaw and dentition not in conformity with standard (standard calls for slight underbite or pincer bite).

4. Hair

The coat must not interfere with the dog's vision or impair its movement.

Look for healthy breathing, correct head proportions, eyes, jaws and dentition, and a coat without exaggerations.

GROUP 10

About the breeds in group 10

The breeds of this group are characterized by homogeneity of type and function. Problems with teeth and bite are found in some of the breeds, as well as poor and sparse coats.

There are some Oriental breeds with particular behaviour (socially reserved, aloof and positively supercilious in manner). Nevertheless, these dogs must always be approachable; these traits must never turn into exaggerated inaccessibility.

Appendix 1

Assessment of dogs with breathing distress in the show ring

Basic for all dogs:

All dogs must be able to breathe normally, also when moving.

With regard to the dogs' ability to breathe normally in the show ring, also when moving, three levels of breathing distress should be taken into consideration in quality grading and competition assessment

Three levels of breathing distress

1. Insignificant /temporary signs of affected breathing, but without causing any difficulty to the dog: Such signs should be noted, but should not necessarily affect the quality grading. They should, however, be taken into account in the competition rating between dogs which are otherwise equal.
2. Mild impairment of the ability to breathe (mild respiratory problems), whereby attention should be paid to anatomical conditions that potentially affect respiration (pinched nostrils, overly short nose, overly small head and/or very short proportions, underdeveloped ribcage and so on): This must be included in the quality grading
3. Obvious signs of respiratory problems, which must lead to disqualification.
Such signs of breathing distress are present/evident if the dog already shows signs of laboured respiration while standing still and without any "provoking external factors" (such as hot temperature, exciting stimuli and so on); they include, for example:
 - Mouth breathing with obvious retraction of the corners of the mouth and/or very pronounced panting with a protruding tongue
 - Pronounced breathing sounds (rattling/snoring) during inspiration and/or expiration
 - Retractions in the area of the forechest and/or belly behind the ribcage in synchrony with the breathing
 - Nodding movements of the head and neck in synchrony with the breathing.

The assessment of breathing must always include evaluation of any respiratory distress symptoms occurring before, during and after evaluation of the movement exercise.

Movement should be typical for the breed and be of appropriate speed and duration. General signs of exhaustion (weakness, blue discoloration of the mucous membranes etc.) as well as difficulty in returning to normal breathing after the end of the movement exercise are very severe indications of serious respiratory problems.

Appendix 2

Eye problems

Basic for all dogs

All dogs should have healthy, clear eyes with no signs of inflammation

Anatomical features that may cause eye problems

Anatomical features that cause eye problems and must be observed by the show judge are commonly related to the ocular adnexa (the tissues surrounding the eye).

Attention must also be paid to sunken (“enophthalmic”) eyes and/or eyes that are smaller than normal (“microphthalmic”), as well as to protruding eyes. Protruding eyes are often mistaken for over-sized eyeballs, which in fact hardly ever occur. Protruding (“exophthalmic”) eyes are due, among other things, to shallow eye sockets and/or large eye openings. They may also be the result of serious medical conditions, such as severely elevated intraocular pressure.

Examples of adnexal features that may injure the eye:

- the anatomy of the skull,
- the position of the eye in the eye socket,
- the shape of the lid opening, and the presence of facial wrinkles and excessive amounts of loose skin surrounding the eyes
- folds and wrinkles on the muzzle or in the face that touch the cornea and cause irritation and damage.

These anatomical features of the face, which increase the risk of eye problems, are observable for the show judge.

- The form and depth of the eye socket affects the position of the eyeball, i.e. it may lead to too deeply set eyes or to protruding eyes. A too deeply set eye may cause the eyelid to turn inward (“entropion”). A wide skull increases the risk of entropion.
- Protruding eyes are due, among other things, to shallow eye sockets, and are more prone to injury, especially in combination with a short nose where the rhinarium (wet part of the nose) is positioned between and close to the eyes.
- An abundance of skin and hair adjacent to the eye may cause irritation or damage to the ocular surface, especially if the eye is protruding. This is often the case when the muzzle is very short.
- Thick and heavy folds in or around the face as well as heavy lips and ears may distort the lid opening significantly. Depending on the extent of these features, hair/eyelashes may rub on the cornea and cause irritation or damage to the surface of the eye. Different parts of the eyelid may turn inwards (entropion).
- The lower eyelid may also droop outwards, exposing the conjunctiva (“ectropion”)
- A special form is seen in the diamond-shaped eye, where the eye opening is rhomboid and can cause a combination of entropion and ectropion.

Signs of eye disease

Signs of eye disease can be visual problems, including even blindness, but these can be difficult to evaluate in the show ring.

Signs of discomfort, irritation or pain related to the eye or its adnexa are:

- Copious tearing, accumulation of mucous and brownish stain below the eye
- Wet eye/eyelid margins, redness of the conjunctiva
- Repeated action of the third eyelid and increased blinking (blepharospasm)
- Lack of corneal lustre, pigmented or opaque cornea.

Specific features in brachycephalic breeds

The wide and short skull, short nose and bridge of the muzzle, loose facial skin, skin folds and wide-open eyelids can cause dryness, injury and inflammation.

Specific features in breeds with excessive and loose skin

The problems are closely related to the breed characteristics:

- Size and shape of the eyelids
- Excessive quantities of loose skin
- Heavy ears and lips

These breed characteristics can, when exaggerated, result in the edges of the eyelids becoming too tight or too loose (ectropion and/or entropion, diamond eye and/or macroblepharon = oversized eyelid), as well as in hanging upper eyelids, allowing the lashes to irritate the cornea (“trichiasis”). Changes to the eyelids prevent the normal eye protection.

Assessment of eye problems in the quality grading

Depending on their severity, perceptible eye problems should influence the quality grading.

- A dog that is evidently blind must always be disqualified, regardless of the possible causes.
- Damage to the eyeball, indicated by cloudiness and/or pigmentation of the cornea, is a disqualifying fault regardless of its cause
- Signs of irritation, such as repeated action of the third eyelid and frequent blinking should be taken into account in the quality grading.

Anatomical features related to increased risk of eye problems (overly short nose, overly loose skin and so on) are areas of risk.

Assessment

The assessment of these risk areas should be reasonably taken into account in the quality grading of the dog and the competition assessment. Even mild signs of irritation, such as excessive tearing and staining of the facial hair, should influence the competition assessment.

Appendix 3

REPORT

Observations of areas of risk in the BSI-listed breeds

This evaluation form will be available at the show. Please fill out and forward to the ring steward after assessing one of the breeds listed in the BSI



REPORT

Observations of areas of risk in the BSI-listed breeds

This form can also be used to report areas of risk observed in any breed.
Please complete the report in connection with your judging activity and forward it to the ring steward.

Organizing club:

club

You have been invited to judge this breed that is listed in the BSI:

Breed

at the dog show:

on (date)

in (place)t

Special show

Various Breeds show

National show

International show

This breed is listed in the BSI for breeds under observation in relation to exaggerations and risks of illness as well as poor general health.

Did you receive written information about the BSI before the show?

YES

NO

You are requested to study the whole BSI document, paying special attention to the text relating to the specific breed(s) you will judge and the introductory text for the pertinent FCI group.

We kindly ask you to answer the following questions to enable us to verify the correctness of the breeds listed and identify the areas of risk stated.

Die Anzahl der Hunde der betreffenden Rasse, die Sie beurteilt haben:

Number of dogs

Mark with a cross if no dogs of the breed were shown.



Did you notice any of the issues and areas of risk mentioned for the breed?

YES NO

If YES, which of the areas of risk/issues did you observe?

Area of risk (e.g. breathing distress, eye problems):

Number of dogs Area of risk

Other areas of risk:

Number of dogs Area of risk

Did you gain the impression that the dogs on show were of very good quality in the breed-specific areas of risk raised?

YES NO

Please state below and give your comments.



Do you find it appropriate that this breed is listed in the BSI?

Please answer this question from your overall experience with the breed, and not only from the present show.

Please indicate and make comments below!

Yes, it's appropriate that this breed is listed.

No, it's not appropriate that this breed is listed.

I am unable to express an opinion at the present time. (Please state why)

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about other breeds which you feel should be considered for listing in the BSI?

Date

Signature

Name in block letters