

Judging the Bouvier des Flandres

There are no disqualifications in our breed standard.

The main point is type:

“The Bouvier des Flandres is a power- fully built, compact, short-coupled, rough coated dog of notably rugged appearance. He gives the impression of great strength without any sign of heaviness or clumsiness in his overall makeup. He is agile, spirited and bold, yet his serene, well-behaved disposition denotes his steady, resolute and fearless character. His gaze is alert and brilliant, depicting his intelligence, vigor and daring By nature he is an equable dog.”

When moving, the normal head carriage for the Bouvier is that of a head extended forward, not carried up high.

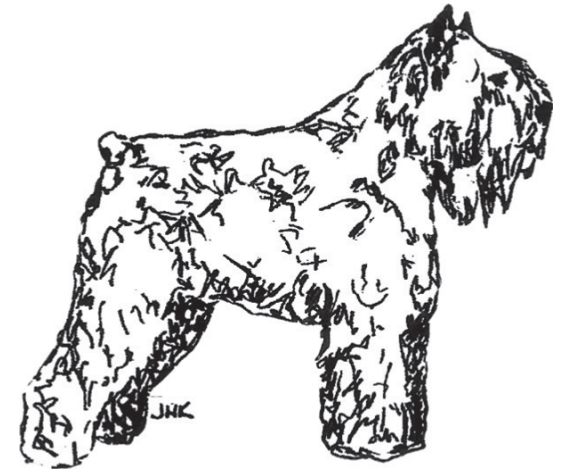
The Bouvier is a vocal dog. They grind their teeth, and grumble under their breath. This should not be mistaken for growling. Adult males often do not get along, especially in their ‘teenage years’. Plenty of space between them should be permitted in the ring.



Distributed by the
American Bouvier des Flandres Club
Judges Education Committee
www.bouvier.org

Judges Education Chairperson
Lee Calhoun - California
frontierbouvs@gmail.com
(209) 451-3988
(916) 712-9737

Illustration Copyright: Judy Higgins-Kasper
Updated June 2021



A Quick Guide To Breed Type in the Bouvier des Flandres

Bouvier des Flandres

Square

- Moderate angulation

Balanced

- Front and rear angulation appear to match

Impressive Head

- Heavy mustache, thick and rough beard give the gruff expression so characteristic of the breed
- In proportion to body and build
- Parallel planes
- Skull — flat and well developed, wide between the ears
- Ratio: Muzzle (2) to Skull (3)
- Skull — slightly less wide than long
- Broad muzzle
- Big, black nose
- Dark brown, oval shaped eyes
- Eye rims black, haw barely visible
- Ears set high
- Scissors bite

Body

- Powerfully built
- Strong muscular neck, gracefully arched
- Shoulders slightly more open than 90 degrees
- Ribs well-sprung and reach to the elbow
- Level topline, tailset off the spine
- Short loin
- Short hocks

Height

- Dogs, from 24 ½ to 27 ½ inches
- Bitches, from 23 ½ to 26 ½ inches

Ideal height is the median of the two limits, i.e., 26 inches for a dog & 25 inches for a bitch.

Correct Double Coat

- Topcoat is harsh, dry
- Undercoat fine, soft and dense

Color

- From fawn to black, passing through salt and pepper, gray and brindle
- A small white star on the chest is allowed

Balanced Movement

- Free, bold and proud
- Balanced, harmoniously proportioned
- Reach of forequarters in balance with drive of hindquarters

Note: This is a square breed which will have the reach and drive of a square breed.

- Front foot reaches to the nose
- Back remains firm and level in movement
- Tends to single track at a fast trot

Sound Temperament

- Agile, spirited and bold
- Steady, resolute, fearless, serene and equable

Final Thoughts

- The words 'well muscled' are used eight times in the standard: Back, Shoulders, Forearms, Hindquarters, Thighs and Legs, Flanks and Loins.
- The word 'strong' is used six times in the standard: Muzzle, Teeth, Neck, Boned, Black Nails and Hocks.