

Belgian Malinois Breed Standard

Former Belgian Malinois Breed Standard	New Belgian Malinois Breed Standard
<p>General Appearance: The Belgian Malinois is a well balanced, square dog, elegant in appearance with an exceedingly proud carriage of the head and neck. The dog is strong, agile, well muscled, alert, and full of life. He stands squarely on all fours and viewed from the side, the topline, forelegs, and hind legs closely approximate a square. The whole conformation gives the impression of depth and solidity without bulkiness. The male is usually somewhat more impressive and grand than his female counterpart, which has a distinctly feminine look.</p>	<p>General Appearance: The Belgian Malinois is a well-balanced square dog, elegant in appearance with an exceedingly proud carriage of head and neck. The dog is strong, agile, well-muscled, alert, and full of life. He is hardy and built to withstand the rugged Belgian climate. He stands squarely on all fours. The whole conformation gives the impression of depth and solidity without bulkiness. His elegance and expression denote great strength of character, reflecting his heritage as a herding breed. The male should appear unquestionably masculine; the female should have a distinctly feminine look and be judged equally with the male.</p>
<p>General Appearance Rationale: <i>While much of this section remains the same, it does include two additional sentences. One reflects the historical importance of character, the other refers to sex traits. It also adds that the female should be given equal consideration when judged.</i></p>	
Former Belgian Malinois Breed Standard	New Belgian Malinois Breed Standard
<p>Size, Proportion, Substance: Males are 24-26 inches in height; females are 22- 24 inches; measurement to be taken at the withers. Males under 23 inches or over 27 inches and females under 21 inches or over 25 inches are to be disqualified. The length, measured from the point of the breastbone to the point of the rump, should equal the height, but bitches may be slightly longer. A square dog is preferred. Bone structure is moderately heavy in proportion to height so that the dog is well balanced throughout and neither spindly or leggy nor cumbersome and bulky.</p>	<p>Size, Proportion, Substance: Males are 24 - 26 inches in height; females are 22 - 24 inches; measurement to be taken at the withers. Males under 23 inches or over 27 inches and females under 21 inches or over 25 inches are to be disqualified. The length, measured from the point of the breastbone to the point of the rump, should equal the height. Bone structure is moderate in proportion to the height so that the dog is well balanced throughout and neither spindly or leggy nor cumbersome and bulky. When viewing the silhouette, the topline, front legs and back legs should closely approximate a square.</p>
<p>Size, Proportion, Substance Rationale: <i>The Belgian Malinois is a moderate breed, so the word Heavy was removed. The Belgian Malinois is a square breed, so the reference allowing bitches to be longer was removed. The silhouette statement from the general appearance section was moved here to better fit the category – it defines the correct proportion.</i></p>	
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<p>Head: The <i>head</i> is clean-cut and strong without heaviness: overall size is in proportion to the body. The <i>expression</i> should indicate alertness, attention and readiness for activity, and the gaze is intelligent and questioning. The <i>eyes</i> are brown, preferably dark brown, medium size, slightly almond shaped,</p>	<p>Head: The <i>head</i> is carried high. It is long without exaggeration, rectilinear, well-chiseled and dry. The <i>eyes</i> radiate attentiveness and readiness for action. The eyes are of medium size, neither protruding nor sunken, slightly almond shaped, and obliquely set. They are brown, preferably dark brown with black</p>

not protruding. Eye rims are black. The *ears* approach the shape of an equilateral triangle and are stiff, erect and in proportion to the head in size. The outer corner of the ear should not come below the center of the eye. Ears hanging as on a hound, or semi-prick ears are disqualifications. The top of the skull is flattened rather than rounded with the width approximately the same as the length but no wider. The stop is moderate. The *muzzle* is moderately pointed, avoiding any tendency to snipiness, and approximately equal in length to the topskull. The planes of the muzzle and topskull are parallel. The jaws are strong and powerful.

The nose is black without discolored areas. The lips are tight and black with no pink showing on the outside. The Belgian Malinois has a full complement of strong, white teeth that are evenly set and meet in a scissors or level *bite*. Overshot and undershot bites are a fault. An undershot bite in which two or more of the upper incisors lose contact with two or more of the lower incisors is a disqualification. One or more missing teeth is a serious fault.

rimmed upper and lower eyelids. Light eyes are a fault. The *ears* are rather small, set high and distinctly triangular with a well-cupped outer ear and pointed tips. They should be stiff and carried upright and vertical when the dog is alert. Ears hanging as on a hound, or semi-prick ears are disqualifications. *Skull* and *muzzle* are roughly equal in length, with at the very most a very slight bias in favor of the muzzle. The top skull is of medium width, in proportion with the length of the head, with a forehead flat rather than round, frontal groove not very pronounced; in profile, the head planes are parallel; occipital crest, brow ridges and zygomatic arches not prominent. The stop is moderate.

The nose is black. The muzzle is of medium length and well chiseled under the eyes; narrowing gradually toward the nose like an elongated wedge. The mouth is well split, which means that when the mouth is open the commissures of the lips are pulled right back, the jaws being well apart. The lips are thin, tight, and strongly pigmented black. The Belgian Malinois has a full complement of strong white teeth that are evenly set and meet in a scissors or level *bite*. Overshot and undershot bites are a fault. An undershot bite in which two or more of the upper incisors lose contact with two or more of the lower incisors is a disqualification. Complete dentition is preferred. Missing teeth should be faulted.

Head Rationale: *This section added language to better clarify the ideal, utilizing positive descriptive statements. (well-chiseled, dry, well-cupped, well-split, strongly pigmented, complete dentition) It adds that light eyes are a fault.*

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Neck, Topline, Body: The *neck* is round and of sufficient length to permit the proud carriage of the head. It should taper from the body to the head. The *topline* is generally level. The withers are slightly higher and slope into the back which must be level, straight and firm from withers to hip joint. The croup is medium long, sloping gradually. The *body* should give the impression of power without bulkiness. The chest is not broad but is deep with the lowest point reaching the elbow. The underline forms a smooth ascendant curve from the lowest point of the chest to the abdomen. The abdomen is moderately developed neither tucked up nor paunchy. The loin section, viewed from above, is relatively short, broad and strong, and blends smoothly into the back. The

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Neck, Topline, Body: The *neck* is slightly elongated, well-muscled, broadening gradually towards the shoulders, without dewlap, slightly arched, permitting the proud carriage of the head. The withers are pronounced, and the back is firm. The loin is solid, short, and sufficiently well-muscled. The croup is very slightly sloped. The underline rises gently in a harmonious curve toward the abdomen, which is neither tucked-up nor paunchy. The chest is neither broad nor narrow, but well let down, with the lowest part reaching the elbow. The body should give the impression of power without bulkiness in proportion to the overall dog. The *tail* is strong at the base, reaching to the hock, and carried down at rest. It is curved, raised when moving, but not

<i>tail</i> is strong at the base, the bone reaching to the hock. In action it is raised with a curve which is strongest towards the tip, without forming a hook. A cropped or stumped tail is a disqualification.	passing the horizontal or forming a hook or deviation. A cropped or stumped tail is a disqualification.
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Neck, Topline, Body Rationale: *This section was rewritten to provide a better flow from neck to tail.*

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Forequarters: The forequarters are muscular without excessive bulkiness. The shoulder is long and oblique, laid flat against the body, forming a sharp angle with the upper arm. The legs are straight, strong, and parallel to each other. The bone is oval rather than round. Length and substance are well in proportion to the size of the dog. The pastern is of medium length, strong and very slightly sloped. Dewclaws may be removed. The feet are round (cat footed and well padded with the toes curved close together.	Forequarters: The forequarters are muscular without excessive bulkiness. The shoulder blades are long and sloping, laid flat against the body, forming a sufficient angle with the upper arm to ensure free and efficient movement. The legs are straight, strong, and parallel to each other. The bone is solid but not heavy; it is more oval than round. Muscle is dry and strong. The pastern is short, strong, and very slightly sloped. Dewclaws may be removed. The feet are cat-like, well padded with the toes curved close together. The nails are strong and black except that they may be white to match the white toe tips.

Forequarters Rationale: *The ideal Belgian Malinois has a shoulder angle that ensures free and efficient movement. Pasterns are **short**. Muscle description is added.*

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Hindquarters: Angulation of the hindquarters is in balance with the forequarters; the angle at the hock is relatively sharp, although the Belgian Malinois should not have extreme angulation. The upper and lower thigh bones should approximately parallel the shoulder blade and upper arm respectively. The legs are in proportion to the size of the dog; oval bone rather than round. Legs are parallel to each other. The thighs should be well muscled. Dewclaws, if any, should be removed. Metatarsi are of medium length, Strong and slightly sloped. The hind feet may be slightly elongated with toes curved close together and well padded. Nails are strong and black except that they may be white to match white toe tips.	Hindquarters: The hindquarters are powerful without heaviness. Angulation of the hindquarters is in balance with the forequarters. The upper and lower thigh bones should approximately parallel the shoulder blade and upper arm, respectively. Legs are parallel to each other. The thighs should be well muscled. The hocks are short, strong, parallel, and moderately angulated. Metatarsi are strong and short. Dewclaws, if any, may be removed. The hind feet are slightly oval, toes are arched and compact. Pads are thick and well padded. Nails are dark and strong, although they may be white to match white toes.

Hindquarters Rationale: *Minor changes that accentuate the ideal utilizing positive descriptive statements. Removal of dewclaws is a personal choice.*

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Coat: The coat should be comparatively short, straight, hard enough to be weather resistant, with dense undercoat. It should be very short on the head, ears, and lower legs. The hair is somewhat	Coat: The coat should be comparatively short, straight, hard enough to be weather resistant, with a dense undercoat. It should be very short on the head, ears and lower legs. The hair is somewhat

longer around the neck where it forms a collarette, and on the tail and backs of the thighs. The coat should conform to the body without standing out or hanging down.	longer around the neck where it forms a collarette, and on the tail and backs of the thighs. The coat should conform to the body without standing out or hanging down. Lack of sufficient undercoat to form a double coat is a fault. Hair that is too long, silky, or wiry is a fault. The Belgian Malinois is a natural breed and there is no need for excessive grooming.
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Coat Rationale: *The Belgian Malinois is a double-coated breed, with a **straight** outercoat. As a natural breed there is no need for excessive grooming.*

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Color: The basic coloring is a rich fawn to mahogany with black tips on the hairs giving an overlay appearance. The mask and ears are black. The underparts of the body, tail and breeches are lighter fawn, but washed-out fawn color on the body is a fault. Color should be considered a finishing point, not to take precedence over structure and temperament. The tips of the toes may be white, and a small white spot on the breastbone/prosternum is permitted, not to extend to the neck. White markings, except as noted, are faulted.	Color: The ideal coloring is a rich fawn to mahogany, with black tips on the hairs giving an overlay appearance. The blackening must not appear as patched or brindled. The underparts of the body, tail and breeches are lighter fawn. Washed out fawn color on the body is a fault. The mask must be pronounced and tends to encompass the top and bottom lip, the corners of the lips and the eyelids in one single black zone. The mask and ears appear black. The tips of toes may be white, and a small white spot on the breastbone is permitted, not to extend to the neck. White markings, except as noted, are faulted. Any color or color combination not described in the standard should be disqualified.

Color Rationale: *The ideal color does not appear brindled or patched. The mask is now clearly defined. While the section on color did describe the preferred and ideal, it has caused confusion to judges, breeders & owners. By adding this statement as a disqualification, it is very clear that colors other than described in the standard are not correct and are to be disqualified.*

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Gait: The movement is smooth, free and easy, seemingly never tiring, exhibiting facility of movement rather than a hard driving action. The Belgian Malinois single tracks at a fast gait, the legs, both front and rear, converging toward the center line of gravity, while the topline remains firm and level, parallel to the line of motion with no crabbing. The breed shows a marked tendency to move in a circle rather than a straight line	Gait: The movement is smooth, free and easy, seemingly never tiring, exhibiting facility of movement rather than a hard driving action. The Belgian Malinois single tracks at a fast gait, the legs, both front and rear, converging toward the center line of gravity, while the topline remains firm and level, parallel to the line of motion with no crabbing. The breed shows a marked tendency to move in a circle rather than a straight line.

Gait Rationale: *There is no change to this section.*

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Temperament: Correct temperament is essential to the working character of the Belgian Malinois. The breed is confident, exhibiting neither shyness nor	Temperament: Correct temperament is essential to the working character of the Belgian Malinois. He is alert, intelligent, inquisitive, and confident, showing

<p>aggressiveness in new situations. The dog may be reserved with strangers but is affectionate with his own people. He is naturally protective of his owner's person and property without being overly aggressive. The Belgian Malinois possesses a strong desire to work and is quick and responsive to commands from his owner. Faulty temperament is strongly penalized.</p>	<p>neither fear nor aggression. He is energetic, ready for action, yet highly responsive to his owner's direction. His lively character should be evident in his proud carriage and the sparkling attentive eyes. The Belgian Malinois is an exceptional watchdog. Vigilant yet responsive, he balances all the qualities needed in a stock dog, protector, and sensible working partner. He is firmly loyal to those he loves but may be indifferent with strangers. Displays of fear or aggression are to be severely penalized.</p>
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Temperament Rationale: This section was rewritten to describe the character of the Belgian Malinois in positive terms and reflect the working heritage of the breed.

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<p>Faults: The degree to which a dog is penalized should depend upon the extent to which the dog deviates from the standard and the extent to which the particular fault would actually affect the working ability of the dog</p>	

Faults Rationale: *This section has been removed.*

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<p>Disqualifications: <i>Males under 23 inches or over 27 inches and females under 21 inches or over 25 inches. Ears hanging as on a hound, or semi-prick ears. An undershot bite in which two or more of the upper incisors lose contact with two or more of the lower incisors. A cropped or stumped tail</i></p>	<p>Disqualifications: <i>Males under 23 inches or over 27 inches and females under 21 inches or over 25 inches. Ears hanging as on a hound, or semi-prick ears. An undershot bite in which two or more of the upper incisors lose contact with two or more of the lower incisors. A cropped or stumped tail Any color or color combination not described in the standard.</i></p>

Disqualifications Rationale: *Includes the added color disqualification.*