



August 2023

The Judges' Education Committee of the American Belgian Malinois Club (ABMC) has been asked to bring to your attention concerns recently expressed by some exhibitors of our breed. A revised standard was approved July 13, 2021 by the AKC, effective as of October 6, 2021. COLOR continues to be an ongoing concern. The CURRENT STANDARD reads ;

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.

The standard describes the ideal color of the Belgian Malinois as "rich fawn to mahogany, with black tips on the hairs giving an overlay appearance". If in a judge's opinion the black tipping is so pronounced that it gives the appearance of a dog that looks more black than fawn to mahogany as described in the standard then it should be disqualified. Colors other than those identified in the standard or those with a distinct pattern in their coat color would be considered an unacceptable color in accordance to the AKC approved breed standard.

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