

Bernese
Mountain Dog
Breed
Standard

January, 1973
Swiss Club
for Bernese
Mountain
Dogs

General Appearance Above middle-sized, sturdy, mobile working dog. Harmonious and beautiful in proportions, with straight, strong body structure.

Size Dogs: 64–70cm (25.2–27.6in) at withers; best size 66–68cm (26–26.75in). Bitches: 58–66cm (22.8–26in) at withers; best size 60–63cm (23.6–24.8in).

Head Strong with flat crown and slightly developed furrow, well defined not too pronounced stop, strong, straight muzzle. Middle sized ears set high, triangular shaped, lying flat in repose. Dark brown eyes, almond shaped, eyelids tight. Lips (flews) slightly developed.

Teeth Complete shearing dentition (shears means scissors).

Neck Strong, muscular and of middle length.

Body Rather compact than long. Ratio height to length: 9:10. Deep, broad, forwardly arched chest, reaching at least to the elbows, strong loins, rib cage with round-oval cross section. Back firm and straight, rump smoothly rounded off.

Tail Bushy, reaching to hock, carried slightly suspended.

Forelimb Shoulders long, strong and slanting with the upper arm forming an obtuse angle, flat lying and well muscled. Appears straight from all sides. Pastern (ankle) giving slightly.

Hind Limb Upper thigh wide, strong and well muscled. Thigh rather long and seen from the side reaching obliquely (slanting) to the shank. Hock well angulated, wide and strong. Position straight, neither turned in nor out. Dewclaws must be removed in the first few days of life.

Paws Short, round and compact.

Colour Deep black ground colour with rich reddish-brown on the cheeks, over the eyes, on all four legs and on the chest. White slight to middle sized symmetrical marking (blaze) and white chest markings (cross). Preferred but not a condition: white paws (with white reaching at the highest to the pastern) and white tip of the tail. Small white patch at nape of neck and white posterior patch (anal) undesirable but tolerated.

Coat Long, smooth or slightly wavy.

Movement Stride reaching out well in front, following well through in back; balanced, even ground covering stride in all gaits.

Basic Character Self-confident, good natured, friendly.

Character Confident, with little sharpness desired, unfrightened, not gunshy.