



FCI Standard No. 18
Artois Basset
Basset d'Artois; Basset de Artois
Standard Provided by ABIDS

FCI CLASSIFICATION:

Group 6.....Scent hounds and related breeds

Section 1.2.....Medium sized scent hounds.

With working trial.

FCI Standard 18, July 24 1996

Translated by Mrs Peggy Davis

UTILIZATION: The Artois Hound is a Briquet (small type), nowadays especially used in hunting with the gun. He drives the game closer taking advantage of the faults with cleverness, and his speed is average but maintained.

- In the country: Because of his acute sense of smell, he is capable of out maneuvering the tricks of the hare.

- In the wood: With his incontestable qualities of the hunter, in the sparse and well scattered groups of tall trees, he hunts a deer beautifully in the desired direction.

- In the thicket: His intrepidity and bravery means that he can stir up even an obstinate boar.

- Moreover: He is a hardy animal, endowed with a marvelous tongue in a high pitched voice which can be heard from far away.

Six to eight tricolor matching Artois hounds constitute a small pack susceptible of giving pleasure to a most demanding hunter.

ORIGIN: France

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: This breed, formerly named Picard, was much appreciated in ancient hunting at the time of Henri IV and Louis XIII and much sought after. Selincourt already made much of it, wondering and amazed to see these dogs pulling a hare which had passed by one hour ago in dry weather. Le Couteulx de Canteleu, in Manuel de Vénérerie Française (1890), (Manual of French Hunting - 1890), praises also the Artois hound. He reports that the artesian breed of his time was crossbred and difficult to find pure but, in spite of that, it still remained one of the best breeds for hare hunting. He had taken care, however, of placing representatives of the breed in the big kennel of the Jardin d'Acclimatation, so that it would be known by the general public.

At the end of the XIXth century and at the beginning of the 20th, M. Levoir in Picardy had attempted the re-establishment of the old Artois type without really succeeding. During that period and until the beginning of the First World War, it was another Picard breeder, Mr. Mallard, who dominated the raising of the breed. But if he produced very pretty dogs, as witnessed by his numerous awards in canine shows, they were not always in the type conformed with the description given by the old authors.

After the Second World War, it was believed that the Artois hound was one of the breeds lost forever. But at the beginning of the 1970's, Mr. Audrechy, of Buigny les Gamaches in the Somme, fixed as a task to reconstitute the stock. It is thanks to his efforts, and those of Mrs Pilat, that this breed has regained its place amongst the scent hounds.

General Appearance: Well constructed dog, muscled and not too long, giving an impression of strength and energy.

Important Proportions:

Size/Length of body: between 10:10 and 10:11

Depth of chest/size: about 1:2

Width of skull/length of head: about 5:9

Length of muzzle/length of skull: about 8:10

Behavior and temperament: Vigorous and hardy dog, with very fine nose, assembling well in the pack, balanced and affectionate.

HEAD CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Strong, broad, quite short, rounded and flat at its upper part but with the occipital protuberance only slightly pronounced.

Stop: Accentuated.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Black, strong, with well opened nostrils.

Lips: The upper lip largely covering the lower lip and must be rather important so as to give a square shape to the extremity of the muzzle, seen in profile.

Muzzle: Straight and, seen in profile, moderately elongated.

Cheeks: Lean.

Teeth: Scissor bite, the upper incisors covering the lower in a narrow contact and are well set squarely in relation to the jaws.

Eye: In relation to the width of the forehead, the eyes are not very close together; they are round, level with the head surface, with a melancholic and soft expression; dark brown in color. The mucous membranes of the lower lids must not be visible.

Leathers: Set at eye level, a little thick, broad, round at the tip, almost flat and quite long, reaching the beginning of the nose.

NECK: Moderately long, powerful, very little dewlap.

BODY:

Back: Broad and well supported.

Loin: Slightly arched.

Hips: Giving a slight inclination to the croup, which is well muscled.

Chest: Broad and long, rather let down so that the sternal line arrives at the elbow level. Flanks full.

Ribs: Well sprung.

Tail (stern): Strong, quite long; there should be some longer and coarser, slightly off standing hairs (like ears of grain) towards the tip; and carried sickle fashion, never falling forward.

FOREQUARTERS: View of the ensemble: The limbs are strong and vertical.

Shoulders: Oblique and muscled.

Elbows: Set well on the axis of the body.

Pastern: Slightly oblique.

Feet: Slightly elongated, strong but sufficiently tight; the pads are black, tough and compact.

HINDQUARTERS: View of the ensemble: Seen from behind, the point of the buttock, the middle of the leg, the hock, the metatarsal and the foot are on the same vertical line.

Thighs: Let down and well muscled.

Hock Joints: Strong and moderately angulated.

Metatarsals: Short and strong.

MOVEMENT/GAIT: Even and easy.

SKIN: Quite thick.

COAT Hair: Short, thick and quite flat.

Color: Dark fawn tricolor, similar to the coat of the hare or the badger, with mantle or large patches, the head usually fawn, sometimes with black overlay.

SIZE AND WEIGHT: Height at the withers: Males and females, 53 to 58 cm with a tolerance of 1 cm.

Weight: On the average, 28 to 30 kg.

FAULTS: *Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.*

Head: Narrow skull, dome shaped.

Muzzle too pointed

Upper lip insufficiently let down and tight.

Ears set below eye level, short, not flat enough.

Eye slightly light, conjunctiva visible.

Neck: Long reach of neck, light.

Body: Dorsal region too long, topline soft, hollow.

Tail too long, deviated.

Ribs flat.

Whippety flanks.

Forequarters: Straight shoulder.

Out of elbows.

Straight pastern.

Flat feet.

Toes splayed, too long.

Hindquarters: Flat thighs.

Hocks straight, either cow-hocked or barrel-hocked.

Color: Mottled

Behavior: Timid subject.

ELIMINATING FAULTS:

Lack of type (the dog on the whole not sufficiently resembling his fellow creatures of the same breed).

Under- or overshot mouth.

Eye very light.

Weak limbs.

Color other than those stated in the standard.

Distinctly mottled

Height at the withers other than that of the standard.

Shy or aggressive subject.

Anatomical anomaly.

Determined hereditary disabling defect.

Note: *Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.*