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BOLOGNESE



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ORIGIN : Italy.

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UTILIZATION : Companion dog.

CLASSIFICATION F.C.I. : Group 9 Companion and Toy Dogs.
 Section 1 Bichons and related breeds.
 Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY : Its origins are confused with those of the Maltese, because its distant ancestors are the same little dogs mentioned in Latin by Aristotle (384-322 BC) under the denomination of « canes melitensis ». Already known in the Roman era, the Bolognese appears most especially among the very appreciated gifts which were made during a whole era by the powerful of that world. Cosimo de Medici (1389-1464) brought no less than eight to Brussels as gifts to as many Belgian noblemen. Philippe II, king of Spain from 1556 to 1598, after having received two as a gift from the Duke d'Este, thanks the donor in writing saying « that these two little dogs are the most royal gifts one can make to an emperor ». Bolognese are represented in paintings of Titian, of Pierre Breughel called le Vieux and Goya.

GENERAL APPEARANCE : Small size, stocky and compact, covered with a pure white coat, long and fluffy.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS : Square built, the length of the body being equal to the height at the withers.

Bolognese has not long body and/or short legs. Many Bolognese nowadays are too long in body and/or too short in legs.

The proportions of the body is something very important in this breed.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT : Very serious, generally not very active. Enterprising, docile, very much attached to his master and his entourage.

Bolognese who are shies must be strictly penalized.

HEAD : Of medium length reaching 1/3 of the height at the withers. Its width, measured at the level of the zygomatic arches is the same as its length.

The head is of course one of the main part of the breed type, but people should never forget that there is not type without a sound construction and a sound movement.

CRANIAL REGION :

Skull : Of slightly ovoid (egg-shaped) shape in the sagittal direction and rather flat in its upper part, has rather convex sides; the protuberances of the frontal bones are well developed - The longitudinal axes of the skull and muzzle are parallel; the frontal furrow is only slightly accentuated and the occipital protuberance only slightly marked. The length of the skull is slightly more than that of the muzzle.

The proportion between muzzle-skull is very important, because, together with the position of the eyes and ears set, gives the typical expression of the breed.

Stop : Rather accentuated.

FACIAL REGION :

Nose : On the same line as the topline of the muzzle; seen in profile, its front side is on the vertical. Is large and must be black.

Often we see nowadays Bolognese with narrow nose and this could give problems to them for breathing properly.

Muzzle : Its length is equal to 2/5 of the length of the head; the topline of the muzzle is straight and the sides of the muzzle are parallel, so that the forepart of the muzzle is almost square. The lower orbital region is well chiselled.

As said before, the proportion of the muzzle keeps the right expression of the breed. It's common to find dogs which have too long muzzle and this is disturbing a lot their typical expression.

Lips : Upper lips being hardly developed in depth, they do not cover the bottom lips, and the lower profile of the muzzle is determined by the lower jaw.

Jaws/Teeth : Jaws normally developed, with top and bottom arches perfectly adapted. Teeth white, evenly aligned, with strong and complete dentition. Articulation of incisors as scissor bite; pincer bite tolerated.

Missing:

- 2 PM1
- 1 or 2 PM2
- M3

Should be not considered a severe fault.

Checks: not too much pronounced.

Eyes : Set on an almost frontal plan; well opened, of superior to normal in size. Eyelid opening is round; the eyeball must not be prominent; the white of the eye is not visible. The rims of the eyelids must be black, and the iris of a dark ochre colour.

The correct placement and the right colour of the eyes is very important for the Bolognese expression. Nowadays you can easily see Bolognese with too small eyes and/or with black eyes which give to the breed an arrogant and a wrong expression.

Ears : High set, they are long and hanging, but rather rigid at their base, so that the upper part of the external ear is detached from the skull, giving thus the impression of the head being larger than it really is.

NECK : Without dewlap; its length is equal to the length of the head.

Bolognese is a Toy breed and elegance is an important part of the toy breeds. For this reason a good length of neck must be appreciated.

BODY : The dog being of a square construction, the length of the body, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock bone is equal to that of the height at the withers.

To keep the correct proportions of the body seems not easy for the breed and breeders should put more effort on this. Bolognese is a square dog.

Withers : Only slightly prominent from the top line.

Top line : The straight profile of the back, and that of the loin, slightly convex, merge harmoniously in the line of the croup.

Straight topline.

Croup : Very slightly sloping; is very wide.

Brisket : Point of the sternum (manubrium) only slightly prominent.

Chest : Ample, let down to level of elbows, with well sprung ribs, the height reaching almost half of the height at the withers.

Chest must be well developed. Bolognese who have not chest and not body must be penalized.

Underline : Following the profile of the sternum, then rises slightly towards the belly.

TAIL : Set in the line of the croup, carried curved over the back.

LIMBS :

FOREQUARTERS : Considered on the whole, they are perfectly straight and parallel in relation to the median plane of the body.

Shoulders : The length of the shoulder blades is equal to 1/4 of the height of the withers; in relation to the horizontal, they are slanting and are near the vertical in relation to the median plane of the body. They are well free in their movements.

Upper arm : Well joined to the body, of an almost equal length to that of the shoulder, but less slanting.

Proportion between arm and upper arm is approximately the same. Bolognese is not short in legs. This is something where to focus more the attention as today we still see many Bolognese short in legs.

Elbows : They are on a parallel plane to the median plane of the body.

Forearm : Its length is equal to that of the upper arm; follows a perfect vertical direction.

Pastern joint and Pastern : Seen from the front, they continue the vertical line of the forearm. Seen in profile, the pastern is a little bit slanting.

Forefeet : Oval shaped, with well cushioned dark pads and very hard black nails.

HINDQUARTERS : Considered on the whole and viewed from the back, they must follow from the point of the buttock bone to the ground a perfectly vertical line - they are parallel to each other.

Upper thighs : Their length is equal to 1/3 of the height of the withers. They are slanting from top to bottom and back to front and perfectly parallel to the median plane of the body.

Lower thigh : Is longer than the upper thigh.

Hock joint : The tibia-tarsal angle is not very closed.

Hocks : The distance from the point of the hock to the ground is slightly less than a third of the height at the withers.

Hindfeet : Same characteristics as the front feet, but less oval.

GAIT / MOVEMENT : Free, energetic, with a noble and distinguished head carriage.

A good movement means a good construction and this is also an important part of the breed. Running in the ring is totally wrong.

SKIN : Well taut and welded to the body all over, the visible mucuous membranes and the third eyelids strictly pigmented black.

COAT

HAIR : Long all over the body, from head to tail, from the top line to the feet. It is shorter on the muzzle. Rather fluffy, thus not lying flat, but in flocks; never forms fringes.

COLOUR : Pure white, without any patches nor any shades of white.

We often find Bolognese with yellow marks and this is a fault that should be penalized. The right colour of the coat is the “white milk” and Bolognese coat is not so thick as the Bichon Frisé. Bolognese coat is not a shiny coat. The grooming has to be as natural as possible. Over groomed dogs must be penalized.

SIZE AND WEIGHT :

Height at the withers : Males 27 to 30 cm.
Females 25 to 28 cm.

Weight : from 2,5 to 4 kg.

Weight: from 3 to 5 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 and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

- Strabismus (Squinting).

SERIOUS FAULTS :

- Accentuated convergence or divergence of the upper longitudinal axes. (disqualifying fault)
- Convex muzzle (Roman nose). (disqualifying fault)
- Prognathism, if it alters the outer look of the muzzle. (disqualifying fault)
- Size under 25 cm and more than 33 cm in the males and under 22 cm or more than 32 cm in females (disqualifying fault)

ELIMINATING FAULTS

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Depigmentation of the nose.
- Nose of any other colour than black.
- Undershot mouth.
- Bilateral depigmentation of the eyelids.
- Wall-eyed.
- Tail less.
- Shortened tail whether natural or artificial.
- Any other colour than white.
- Patches and flecks.
- **Convergence or divergence accentuated**
- **Roman nose**
- **Flat coat**
- **Height at the withers for the males less than 25 cm and over 33 cm and for the females less than 22 cm and more than 32 cm.**

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

N.B. : Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.