

Special Breed Specific Instructions (BSI)

regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs

The task of a dog show judge is to preserve the characteristics of each breed within the frames of the approved breed standard. This must never be done at the expense of soundness. It is the responsibility of the judge to be acquainted with the breed standard as well as health issues which exaggerations can cause for the individual dog and for the development of the breed as a whole.

A breed standard does never describe exaggerations but the wording of breed typical characteristics can mislead judges and breeders to such interpretations that specimen with extreme type will be preferred at shows and in breeding.

A judge shall evaluate the exhibits as a result of previous generations of breeding and must be particularly observant towards trends of exaggerations which in a time perspective may threaten soundness and health. It is the trends towards exaggerations which must be identified and observed before they have given rise to problems. The dog show judge is in an excellent position to prevent unsound breeding by avoiding to award dogs of extreme type highly.

The Breed Specific Instructions identify areas of risk and aim at preventing possible future problems. The BSI document is a complement to the breed standard and

aims at reminding the show judge and to alert his/her awareness about the risks of exaggerations.

These instructions are the result of an inventory made possible through extensive collaboration between dog show judges, breed clubs, veterinary surgeons and health insurance statistics.

This inventory constitutes the basis for the selection of the high profile breeds and for the written directions for each individual breed.

The first edition of the BSI was applied in practice and evaluated during 2009 at all the shows arranged by the regional kennel clubs affiliated to the Swedish Kennel Club(SKK).

The basis for the revised edition presented below is made up by:

1. The initial selection done by ten Scandinavian all-rounders 2006 and the continuous correspondence with them
2. The continuous dialogue with the breed clubs in question during 2007-2010
3. The veterinary medical expertise involved and the insurance statistics from 1995-2006
4. The consensual result from the general dog show judges conference 2007...

Belgian Griffon ●	Havanese	Phalène
Bichon Frise	Japanese Chin ●	Prázký krysarík
Bolognese	King Charles Spaniel ●	Pug ●
Boston Terrier ●	Kronhörländer	Russian Toy, long-haired
Brussels Griffon ●	Lhasa Apso	Russian Toy, smooth-haired
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel ●	Little Lion Dog	Shih Tzu ●
Chihuahua, long-haired ●	Maltese	Small Brabant Griffon ●
Chihuahua, smooth-haired ●	Medium size Poodle	Standard Poodle ●
Chinese Crested Dog ●	Miniature Poodle	Tibetan Spaniel
Coton de Tular	Papillon	Tibetan Terrier
French Bulldog ●	Pekingese ●	Toy Poodle

Breeds marked with an ● are listed in the BSI.

About the breeds in group 9 / Toy Group

Several breeds in this group have extreme conformation with shortened skull and underdeveloped muzzle. Further exaggeration of these points would give rise to serious health problems.

Brachycephalic head type is part of correct breed type in breeds such as Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs, the Griffon breeds, Japanese Chin, King Charles Spaniels, Pugs, Pekingese and Shih Tzus. This can lead to problems if exaggerated causing, for instance, overly large, protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets, which in turn may cause prolapses of the eyes. Such eyes are also very vulnerable to injuries of the cornea if surrounded by excessive skin or coat.

Wry under jaw and/or lame tongue, so called tongue fault are not uncommon in toy dogs and are disqualifying faults.

Narrow respiratory channels with restrained breathing and pinched nostrils are serious problems which must be noted.

The majority of these breeds should have well-developed, long ribcages with well sprung ribs extending far back giving good protection to heart and lungs and ample support to the diaphragm. Unsound deviations are short, open (ribs too short) ribcages with short sternum, but also ribs pointing inwards and narrow ribcages – all serious faults. Some of the breeds in this group are also heavily coated which in some cases has resulted in incorrect, woolly and excessive coats, so heavy that they impair movement.

Belgian Griffon, Brussels Griffon and Small Brabant Griffon (Griffon Belge, Griffon Bruxellois and Petit Brabançon)

Areas of risk are

★ breathing problems caused by insufficient room in throat cavities and/or ribcage and/or pinched nostrils

★ overly short bridge of nose can give rise to eye injuries

Particular attention must therefore be paid to breathing, nose and sound eyes.