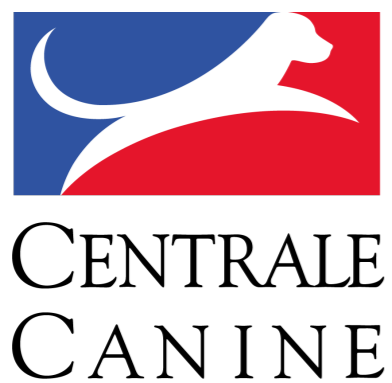
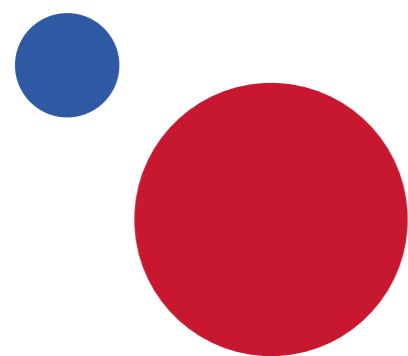

THE BEAUCE SHEPHERD

. Standard and comments .





SUMMARY

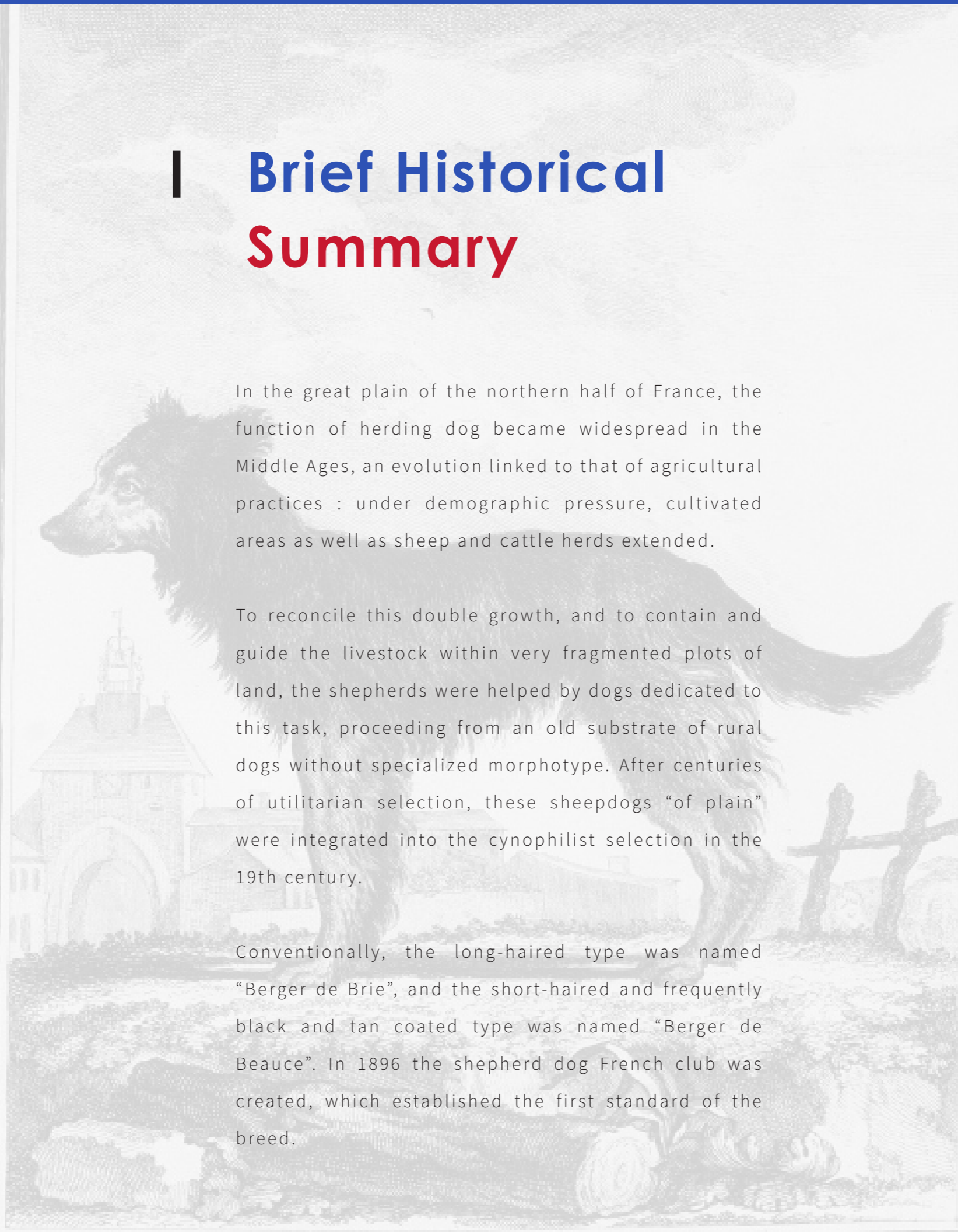
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| Brief Historical Summary

In the great plain of the northern half of France, the function of herding dog became widespread in the Middle Ages, an evolution linked to that of agricultural practices : under demographic pressure, cultivated areas as well as sheep and cattle herds extended.

To reconcile this double growth, and to contain and guide the livestock within very fragmented plots of land, the shepherds were helped by dogs dedicated to this task, proceeding from an old substrate of rural dogs without specialized morphotype. After centuries of utilitarian selection, these sheepdogs “of plain” were integrated into the cynophilist selection in the 19th century.

Conventionally, the long-haired type was named “Berger de Brie”, and the short-haired and frequently black and tan coated type was named “Berger de Beauce”. In 1896 the shepherd dog French club was created, which established the first standard of the breed.



General Appearance



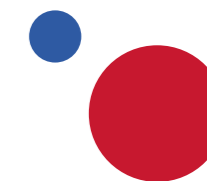
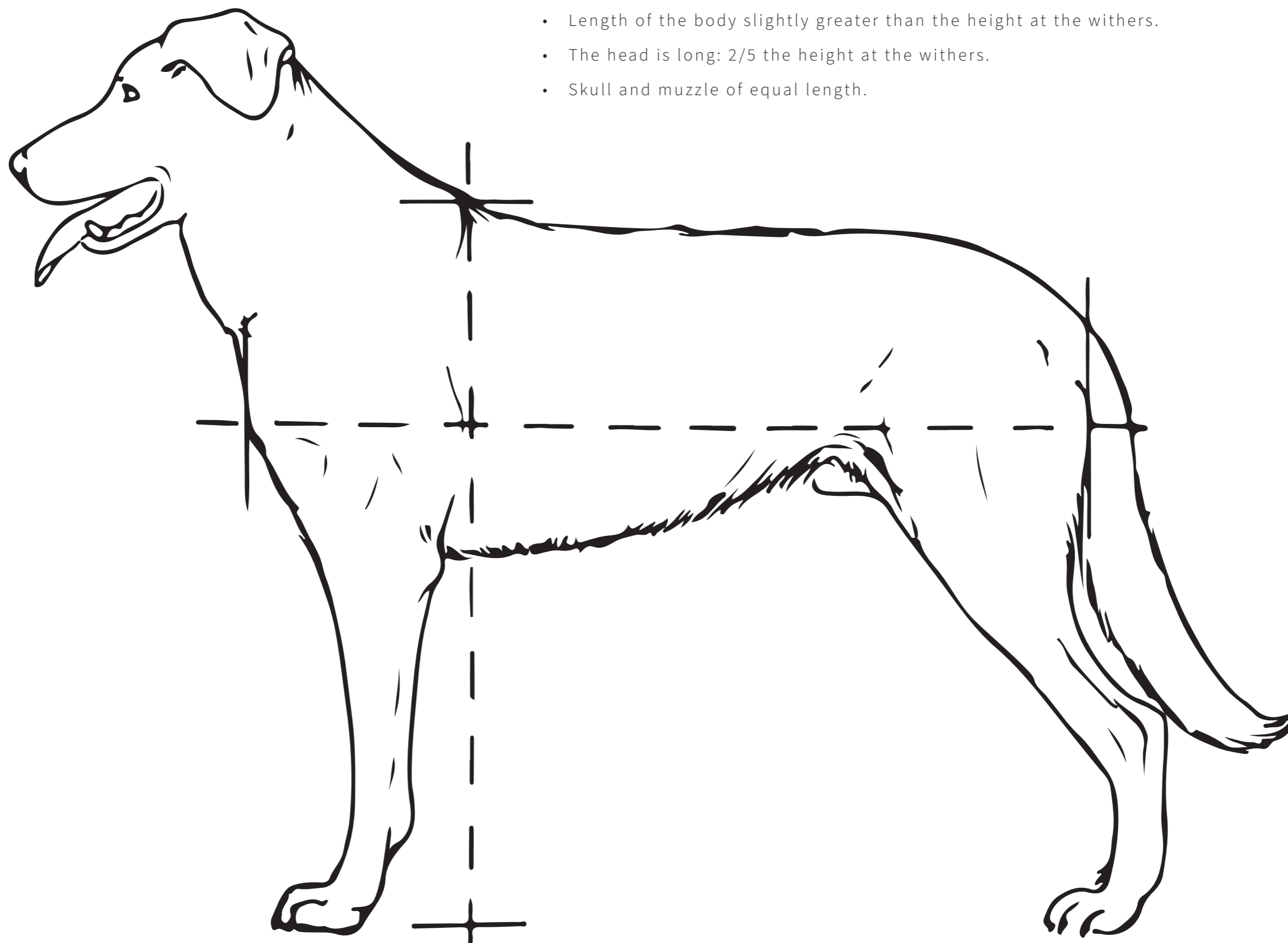
- Big, solid, hardy, powerful, well-built and muscular, but without lumber.

J-P. Kérihuel : nowadays, many more subjects than previously are employed for herding (mainly on cattle), which is welcome. But a number of Beaucerons overall show too light bone structure and musculature, and a too tucked up lower line. This construction is favored by users because on the ground, lightness increases vivacity.

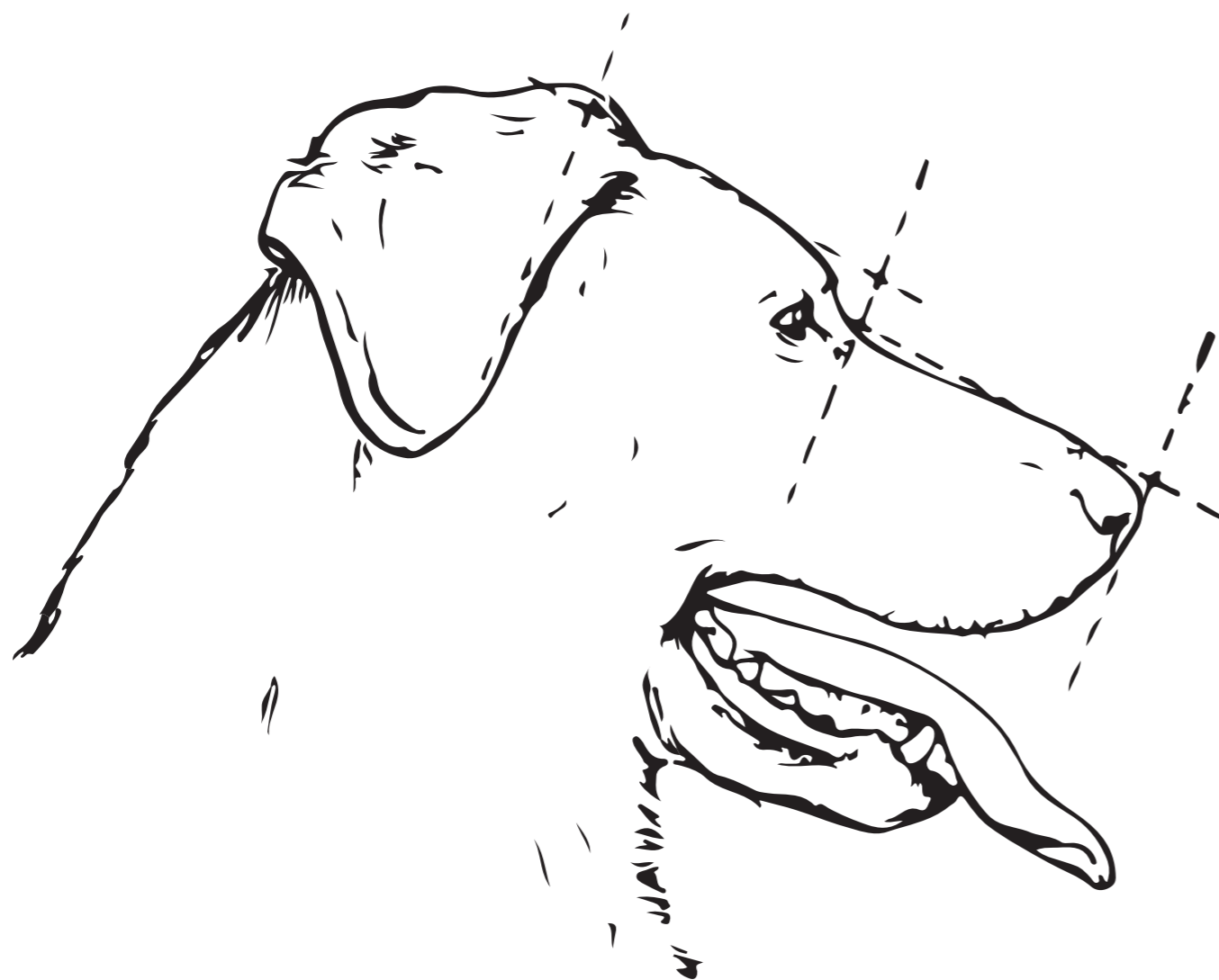
However, the coexistence of two types should be avoided and the compliance with the standard ensured. Fifteen years ago, the Beauceron was often too heavy, and the breeders rightly wished to lighten it; but now we see the opposite excess.

I PROPORTIONS

- Length of the body slightly greater than the height at the withers.
- The head is long: $\frac{2}{5}$ the height at the withers.
- Skull and muzzle of equal length.



HEAD



- The head is well chiselled with harmonious lines.
- The top lines of skull and muzzle lie roughly in parallel planes

CRANIAL REGION

- Flat or slightly rounded skull.
- The stop is only slightly pronounced.

FACIAL REGION

- Black nose.
- Neither narrow or pointed muzzle
- Firm and always well pigmented lips: the upper lip should overlap the lower without any looseness. At their commissure, the lips should initiate a very slight pouch.
- Teeth : scissor bite.
- Eyes : slightly oval in shape.

J.-P. Kérihuel : the muzzle is not rectangular in shape, but stronger than in more lupoid breeds.

HEAD

- The iris should be dark brown, and in any case never lighter than dark hazel. For the harlequin variety, wall eyes are admitted.
- Ears: Set high, half-pricked or drop, but not plastered against the cheek.

J-P. Kérihuel : Beauceron traditionally had cropped ears. The otectomy was banned in 2004. LOF births declined in the following years, before returning to their previous level; the measure therefore did not durably distance the breed's lovers. When the dog is assertive and attentive, its ears are half raised forward, which gives it a beautiful expression. It is the ideal way to carry them. In judgment, however, we are fairly forgiving on this point.

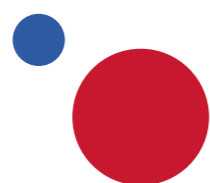


COU

- Muscular, of good length, united harmoniously with the shoulders.

BODY

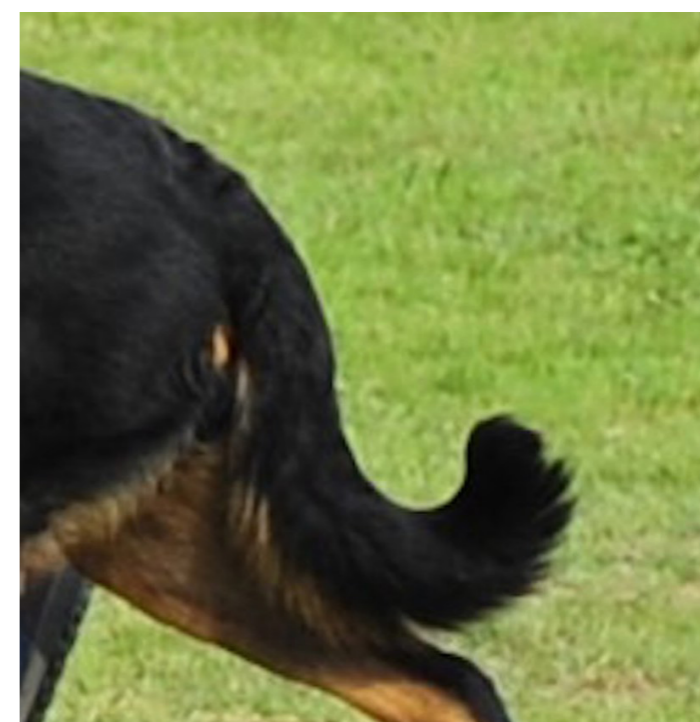
- Straight back.
- The loin is short, broad and well muscled.
- Slightly inclined croup.
- Withers : quite visible.
- Wide, deep and long chest. Well let down to the point of the elbow.
The girth of the chest is greater than the height at the withers by more than one fifth.



TAIL

- Whole, carried low, without deviating, forming a slight hook. When in action, the tail can be carried higher, an extension of the top line.

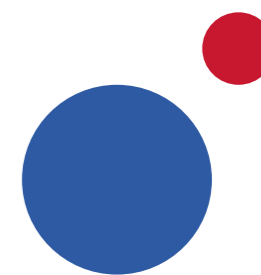
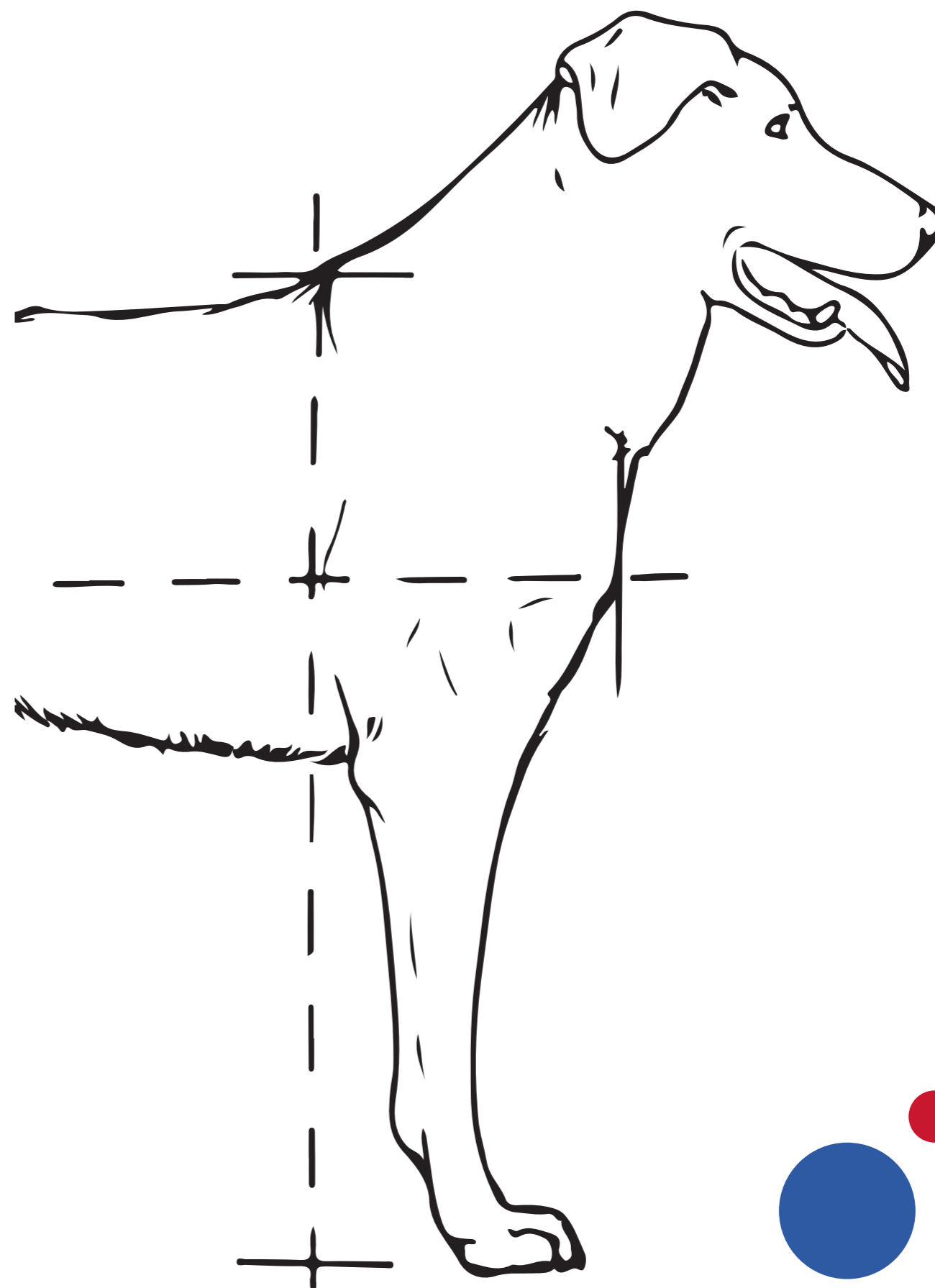
J.-P. Kérihuel : in a show ring, a male who wants to assert himself will sometimes have a “gay” tail. We can be lenient, as long as it is still not too erected and especially not curled on the back as a hunting horn.



LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS

- Upright when seen from the front or in profile
- Muscled forearms.
- Feet: Large, round, compact. The nails are always black



LIMBS

HINDQUARTERS

- Upright when seen from the front or in profile.
- Thigh: Wide and muscled.
- Hock joint: Substantial, not too close to the ground, forming a well open angle with the second thigh.

J.-P. Kérihuel : but currently, the hind angulations are often only “just” enough, that is to say not sufficiently pronounced.



- Metatarsals: vertical, slightly further back than the point of the buttock.
- Feet: Large, round, compact.
- The double dewclaws form well separated thumbs with nails, placed rather close to the foot.

J.-P. Kérihuel : this characteristic, which is also mandatory for Briard and Montagne des Pyrénées, has been included in the Beauceron's standard since 1911. Well established in the stock, its absence is rare. The double dewclaw has no use, but is a well-established tradition in the Beauceron. It had been probably perpetuated in the ancestral stock because very good workers carried it and that the choice of the users, among their descendants, fell on puppies which looked like them.



I GAIT/MOVEMENT

MOVEMENT

- Supple and free. The limbs move well in line.
- Extended trot with long reaching movement

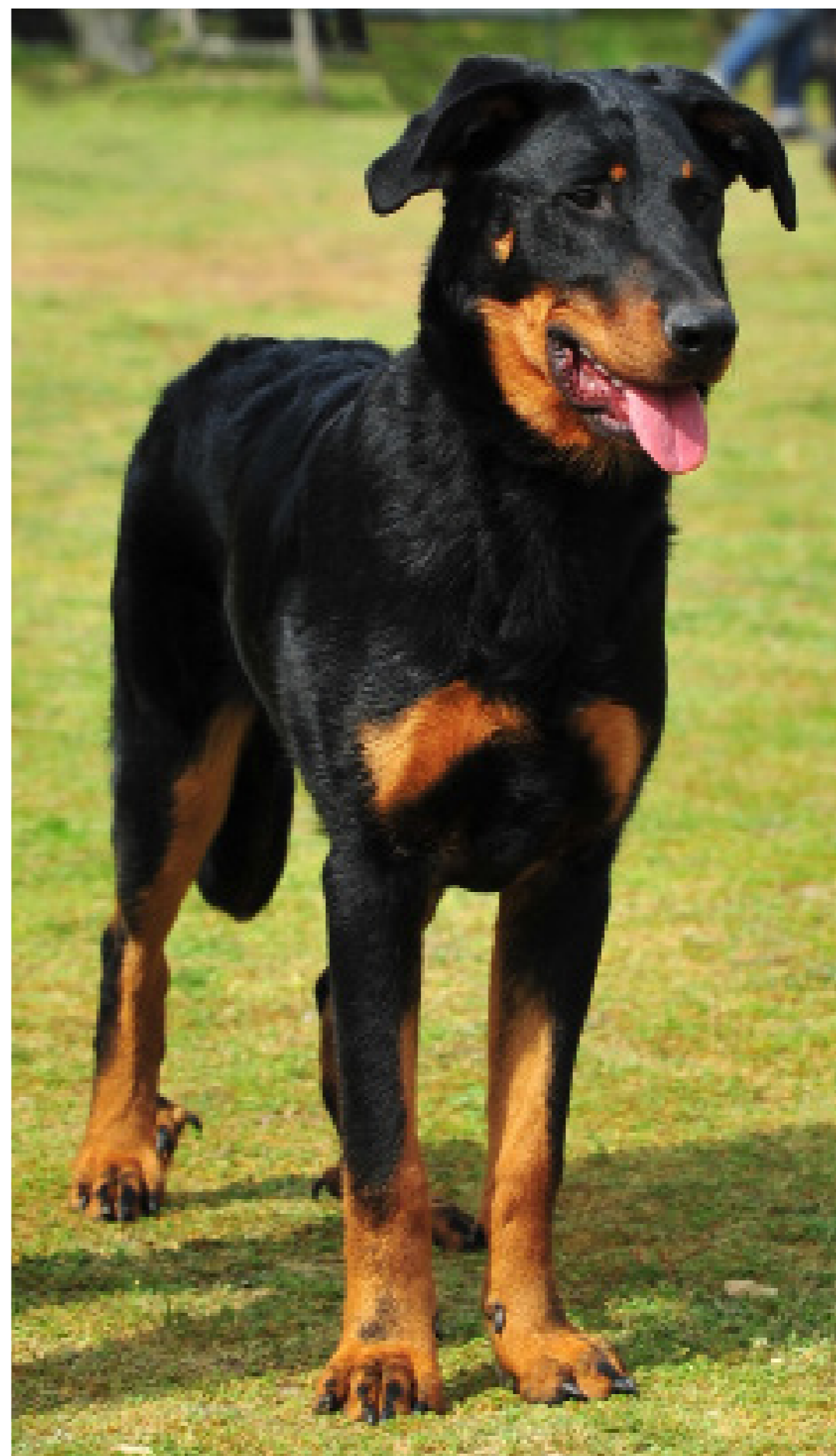
J.-P. Kérihuel : the subjects whose hind limbs are not angulated enough, tend to “stand about”, that is to say to have a less elongated trot.



COAT

- Short on the head, 3 to 4 cm in length on the body.
- The buttocks and the underside of the tail are lightly fringed.
- The undercoat is short, fine, dense and downy, preferably mouse grey.
- Colour :
 - o Black and tan. The tan markings are red squirrel coloured and distributed as follows: spots over the eyes, sides of the muzzle (never attaining under the ear), chest (two spots), under the neck, under the tail, limbs (without covering more than 1/3 of the leg, slightly higher on the inside). A faint white spot on the chest is tolerated.

J.-P. Kérihuel : we are currently seeing a lot of too blackened subjects; the tan spots disappear, especially those above the eyes. Care should be taken to reverse the trend.



COAT

HARLEQUIN

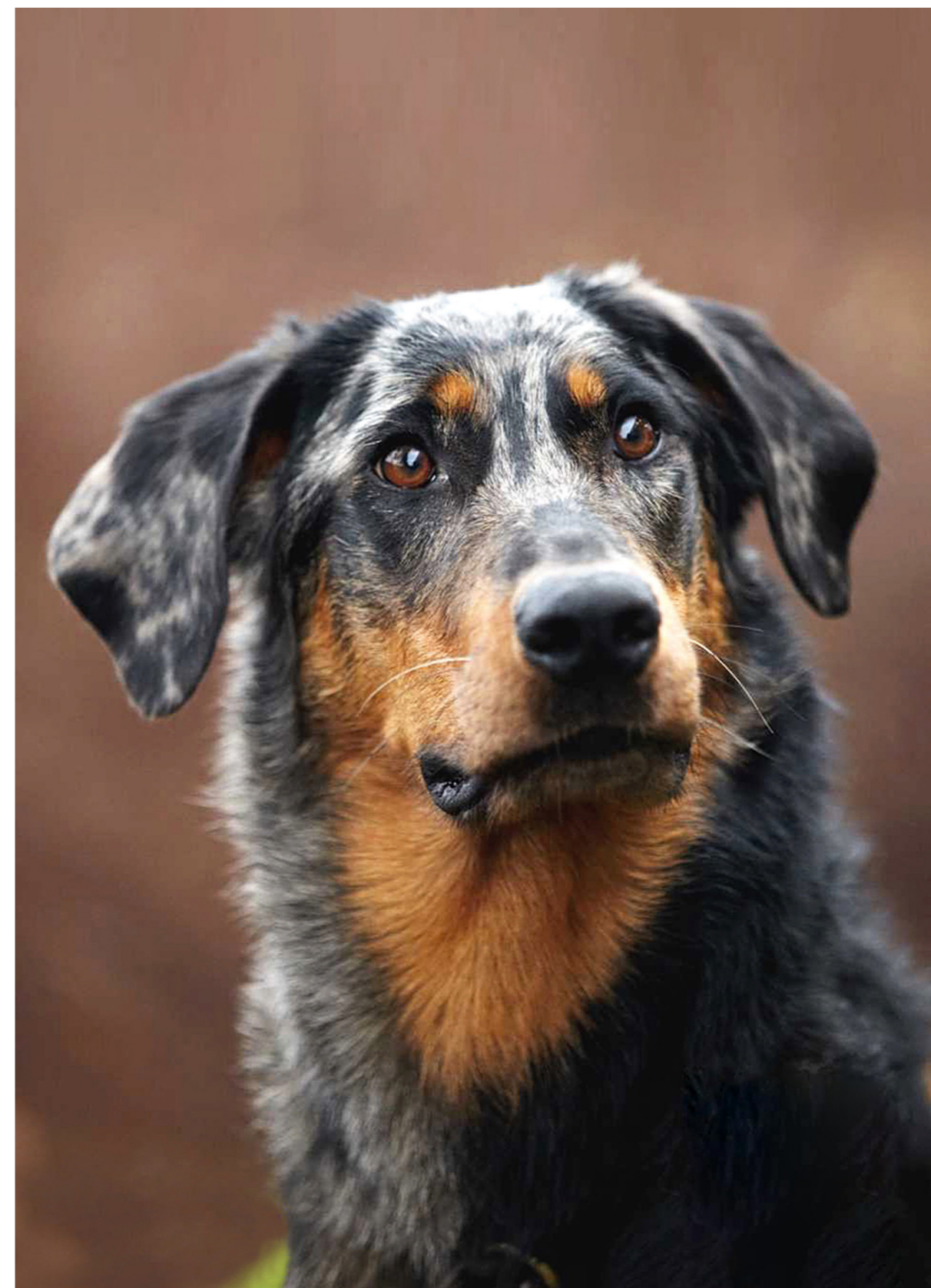
- (grey, black and tan), the coat being black and grey in equal parts. The tan markings are the same as for the black and tan.

J.P. Kérihuel : the action of the merle gene draws on the black mantle jagged blue gray parts, ideally harmoniously distributed.

Currently, there is a rarefaction of harlequin subjects; we don't even see one in fifty. This is probably due to the fact that important breeders of the variety have slowed down or stopped their production.

SIZE

- Male: from 65 cm to 70 cm at the withers.
- Female: from 61 cm to 68 cm at the withers.



FAULTS :

A FEW IMPORTANT POINTS

SEVERE FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy

J.P. Kérihuel : a Beauceron must be self-confident. However, one can be more lenient in judgment towards a working dog, rarely coming out of the farm, and which would show itself to be, not fearful, but a little shy.

- Too light-boned
- Eyes too light, or wall eyes (except for harlequins).
- Natural ears carried totally upright and firm.
- Rear feet turned excessively to the exterior.

J.P. Kérihuel : the feet of the Beauceron have always been slightly turned outside. We do not therefore require rigorously straight hindquarters, but toeing-out should of course remain light.

- Simple dewclaws or absence of dewclaws on hind legs
- Shortened tail or tail carried over the back.
- Coat: Complete absence of tan markings. Shaggy coat. Quite visible white spot on chest. Harlequin variety: too much grey, black on one side and grey on the other, head entirely grey.



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