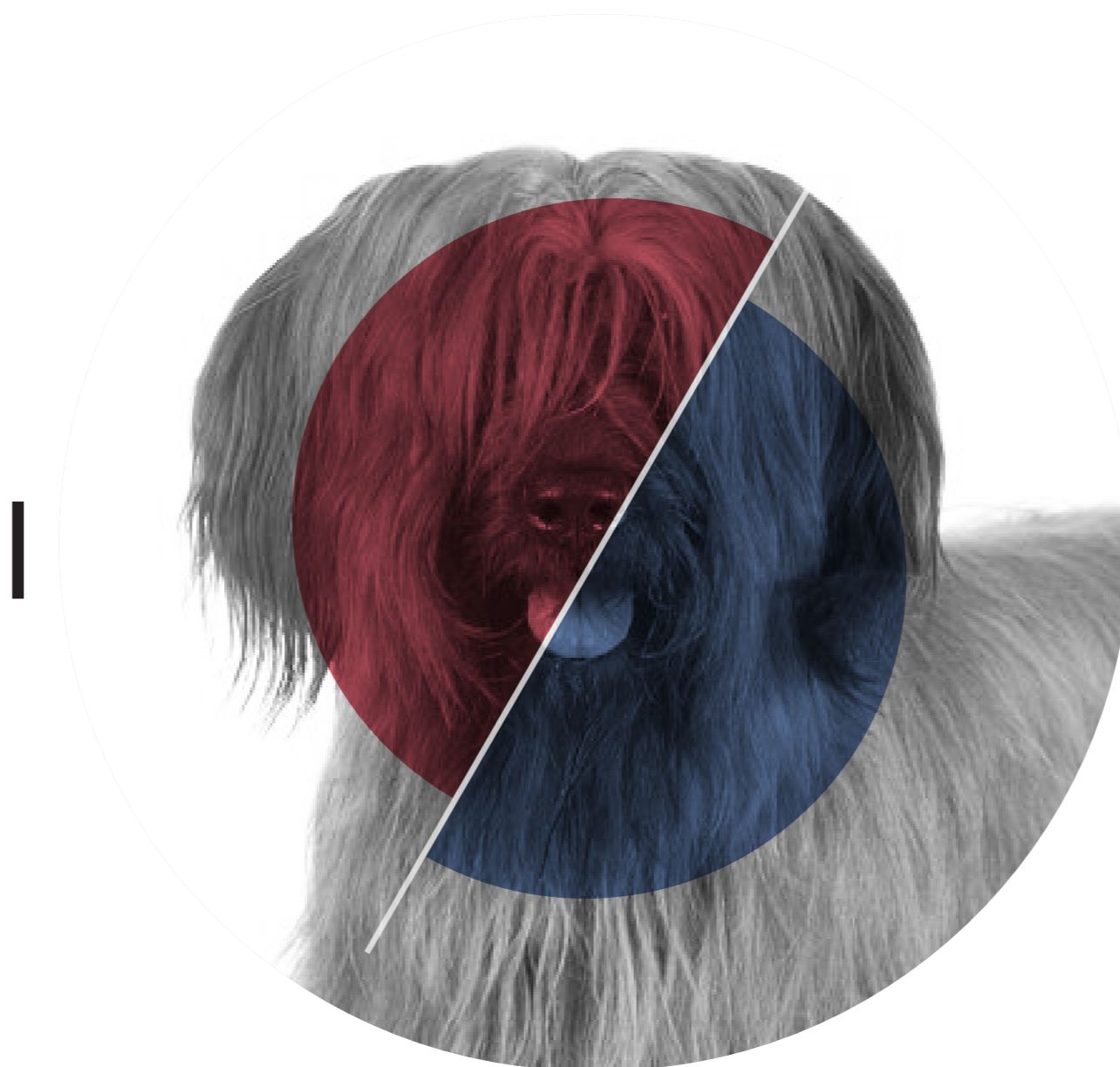
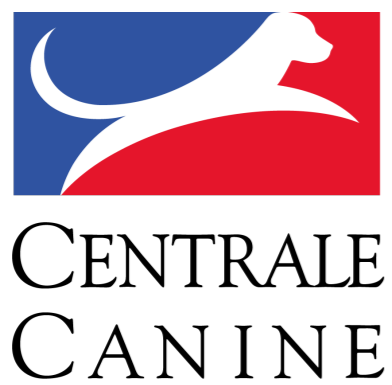
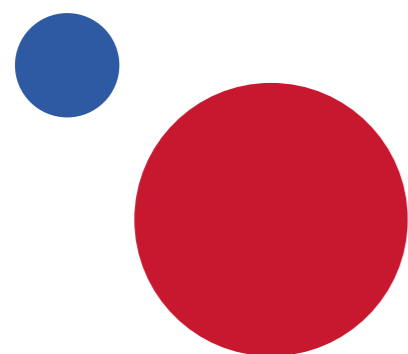

THE BRIARD

. Standard and comments .





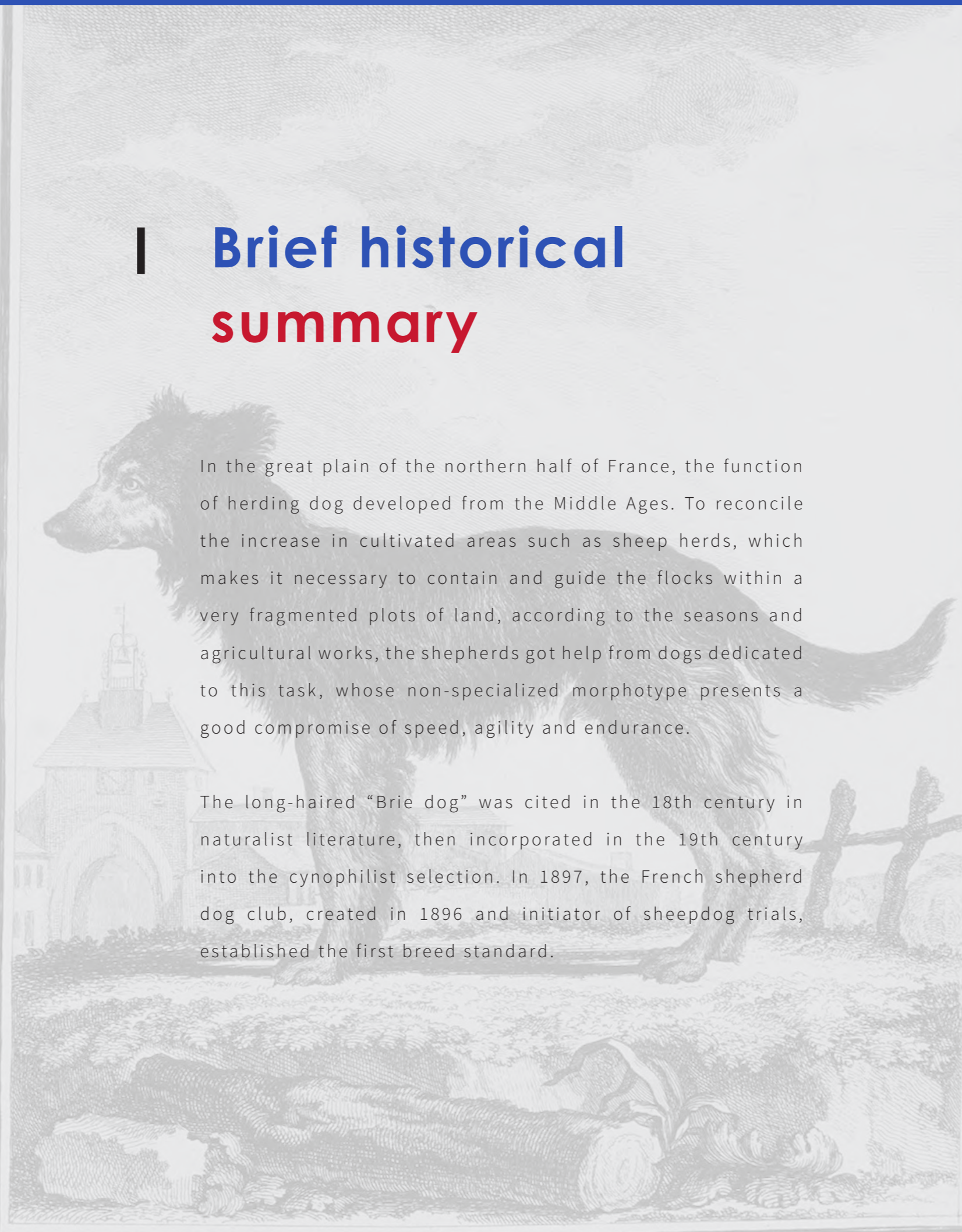
SUMMARY

Brief historical summary	3
General appearance	4
Proportions	5
Head	6-7
Neck - Body - Tail	8
Limbs	9
Gait - Movement	10
Coat	11-12
Size - Faults	13

I Brief historical summary

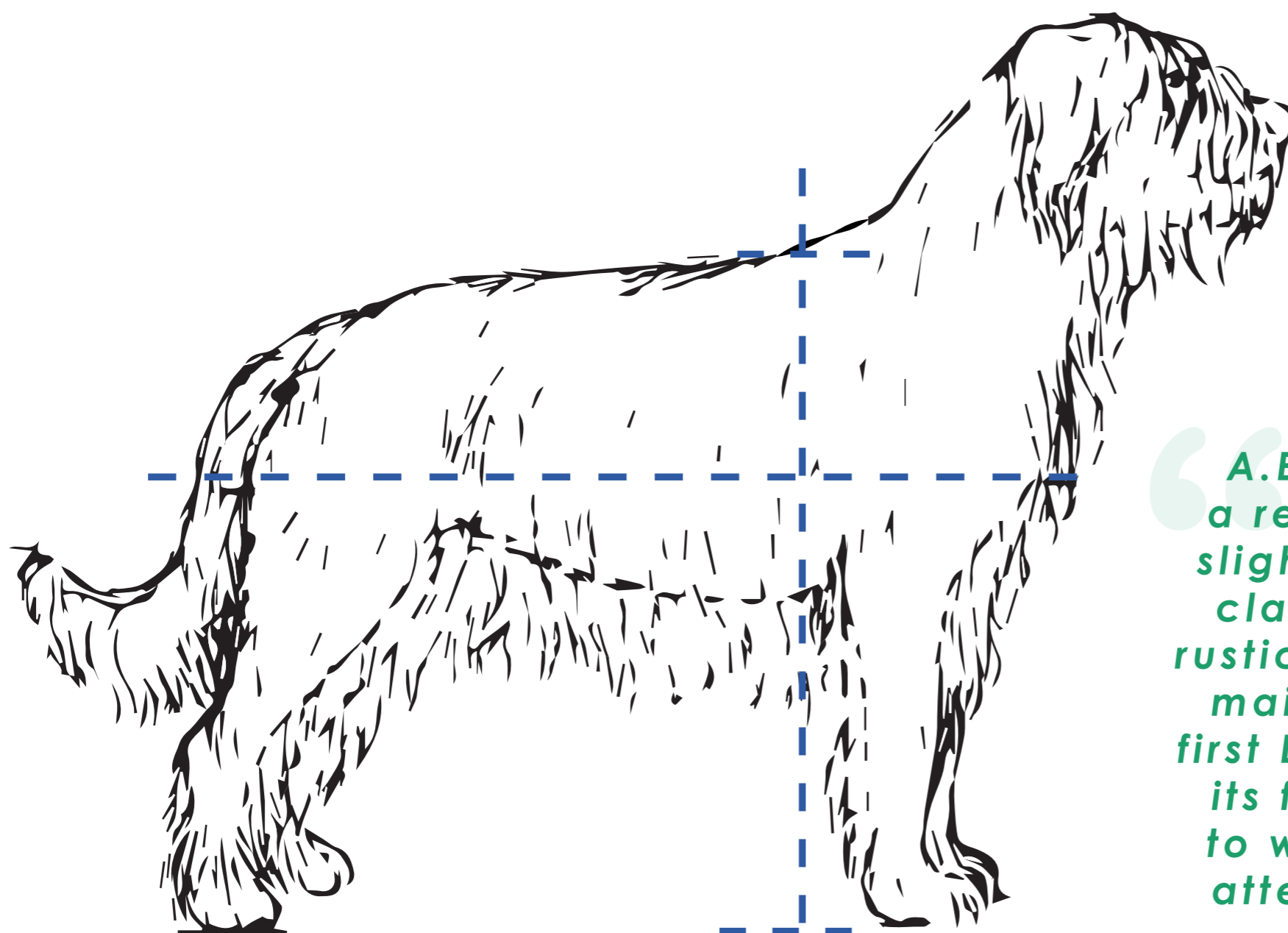
In the great plain of the northern half of France, the function of herding dog developed from the Middle Ages. To reconcile the increase in cultivated areas such as sheep herds, which makes it necessary to contain and guide the flocks within a very fragmented plots of land, according to the seasons and agricultural works, the shepherds got help from dogs dedicated to this task, whose non-specialized morphotype presents a good compromise of speed, agility and endurance.

The long-haired “Brie dog” was cited in the 18th century in naturalist literature, then incorporated in the 19th century into the cynophilist selection. In 1897, the French shepherd dog club, created in 1896 and initiator of sheepdog trials, established the first breed standard.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

- The Briard is hardy, supple, muscled and well proportioned.



A.B.B.: it is a medium built dog in a rectangular format, that is to say slightly longer than it is high, with a classic construction. The notion of rusticity is important because it is the main thread in the selection of the first Briards, in direct connection with its function of herding dog, having to work in all conditions. Particular attention during judgments must be paid to it.

I PROPORTIONS



- The length of the body, from the point of shoulder to the point of buttock, should be slightly greater than the height at withers.
- The head is long: $\frac{2}{5}$ th of the height at withers.
- The width of the skull is slightly less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the length of the head.
- The skull and the muzzle are of equal length.

A.B.B.: there is a trend towards chamfers that are a little too short. We are working on it in particular in National Specialty shows: we notify it, and penalize it depending on the severity.

HEAD

- Strong, long, covered with hair forming beard, moustache and eyebrows slightly veiling the eyes.

A.B.B: *the hair is not supposed to form an impenetrable curtain in front of the eyes, which must be seen; otherwise the dog may be surprised by not seeing what is happening near him. A fringe that is too dense is therefore not sought after, and it must in any case be notified on the National Specialties judgment sheet.*

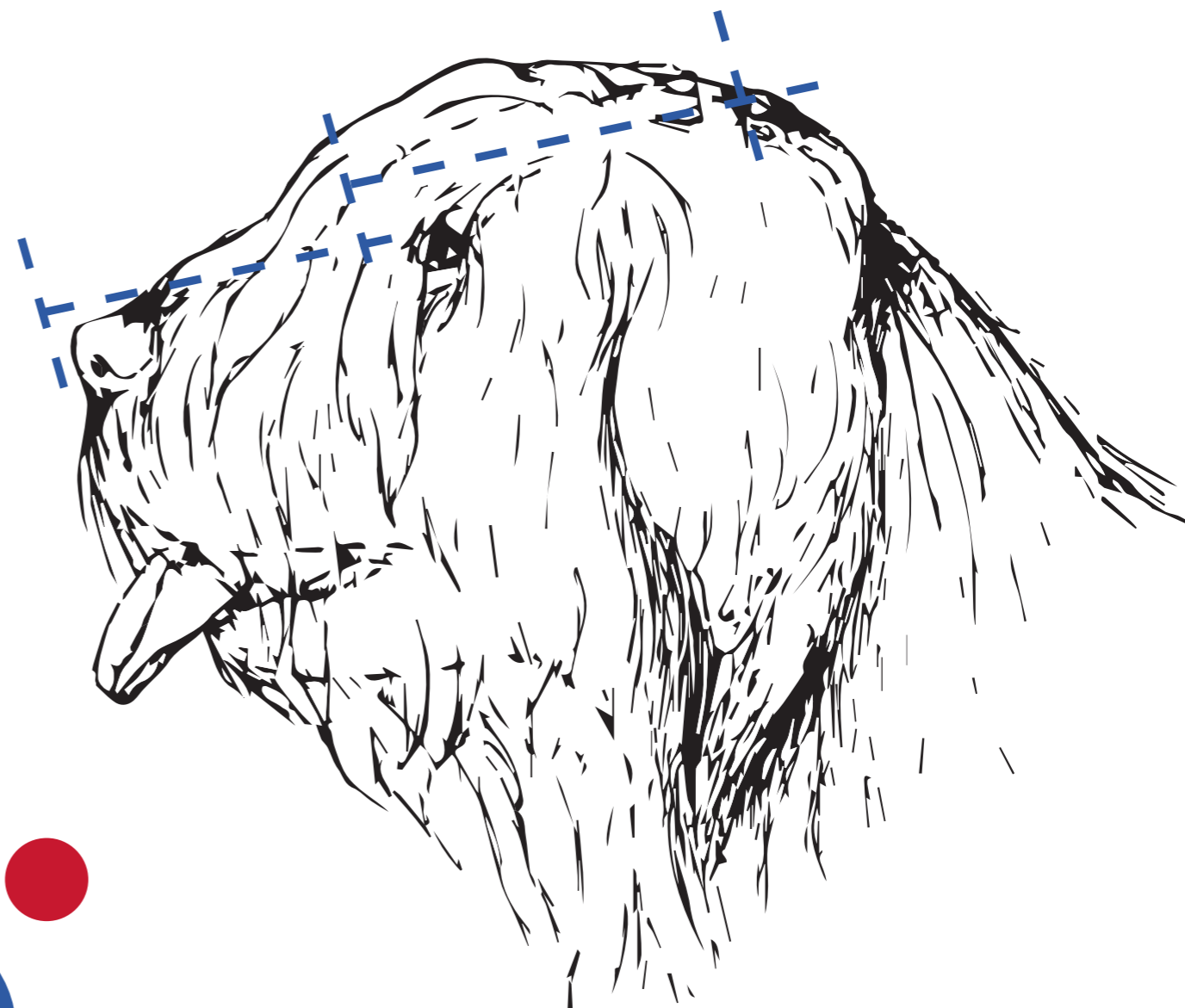
- Seen from the side, the lines of the skull and muzzle are parallel.



CRANIAL REGION

Standard and comments

- Skull: strong, very slightly rounded seen from the side.
- Stop: pronounced; at equal distance from the occiput and the tip of the nose.



FACIAL REGION

- The nose is always black except in blue dogs which have either a blue or bluish nose.
- The end of the muzzle is rather square. Muzzle strong, sufficiently broad and never pointed.

A.B.B.: The head must be powerful, commensurate to the sex. Seen in profile, it fits into two rectangles (skull, muzzle), delimited by a marked stop.

- Nosebridge: straight.
- Jaws/Teeth: scissors bite.

A.B.B.: the bite should be monitored in males, where the pincer bite is currently seen, more often than in females. Important point, the dentition must be complete

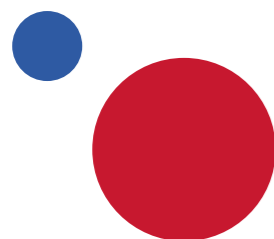


- Oval. Horizontal, well open, rather large and of dark colour. In blue dogs, paler coloured eyes are permitted.

A.B.B.: in blue dogs (which are born blue, while grays are born black and then lighten), we also seek after dark eyes while accepting an eye color in relation to the coat color. A yellow eye is penalized in all three colors. It is noteworthy that a lot of work has been done by breeders for many years on this variety to meet the standard that requires a dark color.

- Set on high, not plastered, rather short if left natural, flat and covered with long hair. If cropped, in countries where this practice is not forbidden, they should be carried erect, neither divergent nor convergent.

A.B.B: the conformation and the carriage of the natural ears are important breed criteria, contributing greatly to the typical expression of the Briard; and this is all the more important as with the long hair, the ears would not be visible if they were not well carried. Flat, fairly short and set on high, they should be well mobile depending on the dog's interest in what it sees and hears. There is still progress to be made in the selection to generalize the good carriage of the ears.



NECK

- Muscled and springing well up from the shoulders

BODY

- The back is straight.
- The loin is short and firm.
- Croup : Only slightly sloping, of slightly rounded shape.
- Chest: Wide and long, well let down to the elbows.
- Ribs well sprung.

A.B.B.: beware of certain drifts which, because it would be “more spectacular”, would modify the characteristic silhouette of the Briard. The back must be solid, straight, neither rising nor plunging.

TAIL

- Natural, carried low, it reaches at least the hock joint, without deviation, forming a slight hook like a “J”.

A.B.B: two faults tend currently to become widespread: shorter or shorter tails, and the gradual erasure of the J-hook at the end of the tail. Care must be taken to maintain these two characteristics.

- In action, the tail may be carried at the highest in prolongation of the topline.

A.B.B: correct tail carriage contributes to the effectiveness of the typical gait of a herding dog. Indeed, when the dog carries the tail too high, it influences the power and the amplitude of the thrust from behind. The tail, in its function of balance, allows more flexibility and reactivity in the changes of direction



LIMBS

- Bien musclés avec forte ossature et aplombs réguliers.

FOREQUARTERS

- Shoulder: Oblique, well angulated.

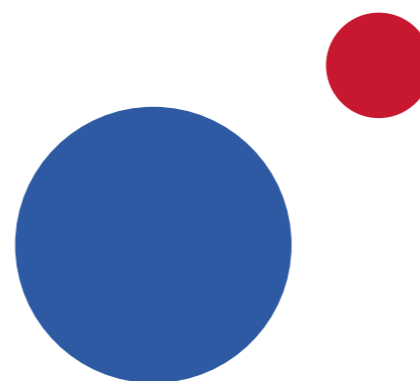
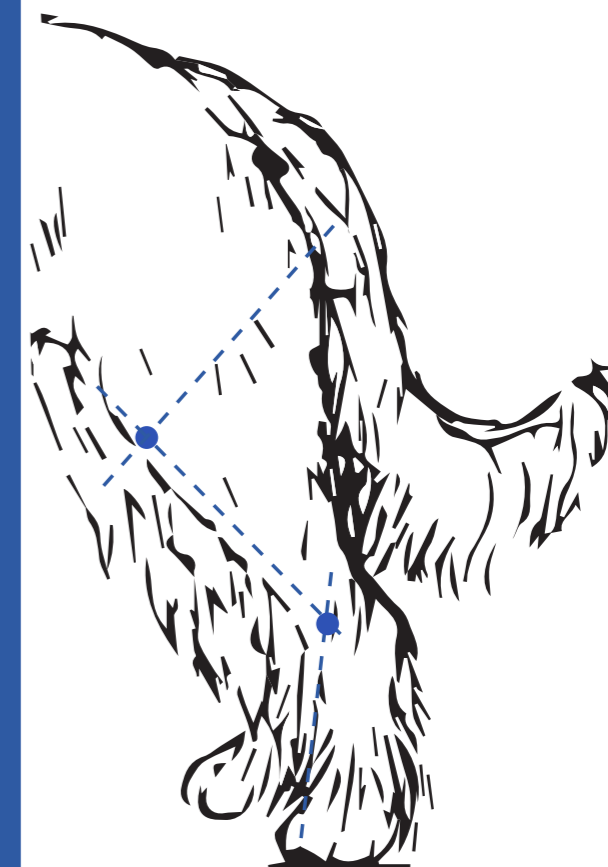
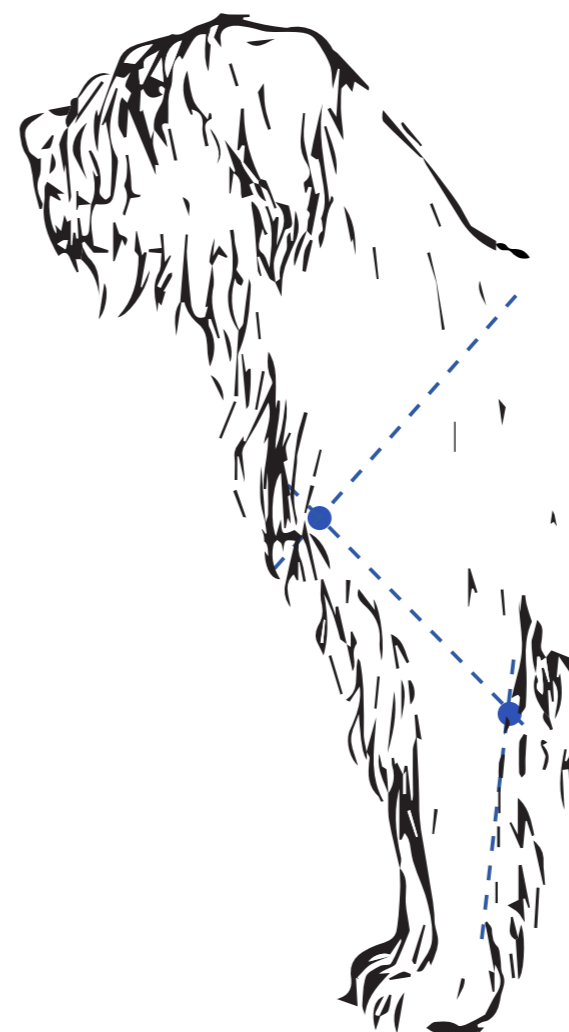
A.B.B : *the well-angulated shoulder is important for the construction; a shoulder too straight is often accompanied by a chest too narrow, a neck too straight, as well as gait too limited in the front.*

- Forearm: Straight and muscled.
- Metacarpus (Pastern): Slightly sloping, seen from the side.
- Forefeet: Strong, round, nails always black (except in blues).
- Toes well knit and arched.

HINDQUARTERS

- Upper thigh: Muscled.
- Hock joint: Not too low down and well angulated.
- Hind feet: Strong, round, nails always black (except in blues).
- Toes well knit.
- Dewclaws: thumbs well separated and with nails, relatively close to the foot.

A.B.B.: *hyper-extension presentations should be avoided*



GAIT/MOVEMENT

- Regular, supple, harmonious.
- Long trot with good reach and good thrust from behind.

A.B.B. : *the movement of the briard is characterized by natural gait known as “shepherd gait”. For a dog who is expected to trot around a herd all day, these gaits are a fundamental characteristic. With a great amplitude forward, a strong thrust from behind, a back remaining very straight and a tail carried low, the Briard makes at each step the least possible effort, giving the feeling, reinforced by the length of hair, that it only grazes the ground and can change directions easily. It’s flowing, fluid, harmonious. It is a good overall construction that allows the dog to have this gait.*



COAT

- Goat-like texture, dry, supple, long, with slight undercoat.

A.B.B. : this “big coat”, thick, with a very dry texture, is a very important breed criterion. As supple, this means that the hair is not straight, but very slightly wavy. For specialists, a good way to assess the quality of goat hair is to rub two strands together and feel the “screeching”.

A.B.B.: with a long-haired breed it is tempting to give it a very sophisticated appearance, but it is a drift, seen much more abroad than in France, that should be avoided. It is important to never forget that this is a shepherd dog. The rustic nature of our breed is not opposed to aesthetics: we can have a “nicely dressed” Briard, with good lengths of coat exceeding the minimum required of 7 cm, but without an excess which would result in masking its silhouette. A good goat hair does not lend itself well to this excess; hairs that are too fine and dragging on the ground do not therefore comply with the standard and the club is particularly attentive to this point in its breeding policy.

With a good texture, a Briard is not difficult to maintain in everyday life. In show, presenting a clean and well-brushed dog is enough



COAT

- Black, fawn, fawn with black overlay, often with mask, grey or blue.
- A coat of warm fawn colour and black, grey and blue coats may show a lighter colour on the points and on the inclined parts of the body. All colours may show different degrees of greying.

A.B.B.: whatever the colour, it goes through a more or less long phase of evolution. The black color can have various variations depending on the appearance of gray hairs, from a deep black to grayish reflections (slate colour). Regarding gray and blue, these are two colours subject to strong evolution from puppy to adult; they can take time to stabilize.

The fawn colour can also go through a light phase in youth and then darken again. The fawns can have black overlay, but it must remain light; they can be masked in black. In all colours, the limbs, up to the elbows, may possibly have a lighter tone than the rest of the coat; it is neither mandatory nor prohibited.

A.B.B.: all the colours can officially mate, but we do not recommend pairing the fawn with the blue, to avoid the appearance of very diluted fawns, the fawn having to keep a warm tone. Genetically, black is dominant over other colours. One CACIB per sex is awarded, and two CAC per sex: one for blacks, grays and blues, one for fawns. In some FCI countries, all the colours are judged together, or even the blue with the fawn, but it would be preferable, for reasons of harmonization and given the fact that the breed is French, that the aforementioned rule is applied.



SIZE

- Males: 62 - 68 cm at the withers.
- Females: 56 - 64 cm at the withers

FAULTS :

A FEW IMPORTANT POINTS

- Severe faults in limbs.
- Overall coat colour too light
- Coat: insufficient length (less than 7cm), hair soft or woolly.



FAULTS :

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Stop absolutely not marked.
- Nose of colour other than black or blue; presence of pink (unpigmented areas).
- Overshot or undershot with loss of contact of incisors; absence of 2 lower PM4 or absence of 3 teeth or more whichever they are (except for PM1).
- Eye too light (yellow), wall eye.
- Ears curling inwards, set on too low beneath eye level, covered with short hair, naturally erect.
- Tail curled up or carried vertically.
- Single dewclaw or total absence of dewclaws on hindlegs.
- White, brown or mahogany colour; coat of two distinct colours; white blaze, white hairs on the extremities of the limbs, fawn coat with saddle.
- Size outside the limits of the standard with tolerance of +2cm or -1cm.
- Fraudulent modification of the dog or evidence of such practice by use of substances or surgery

THE BRIARD

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