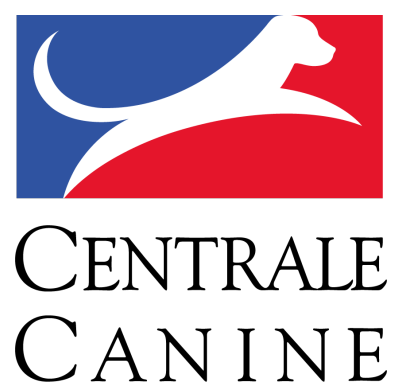
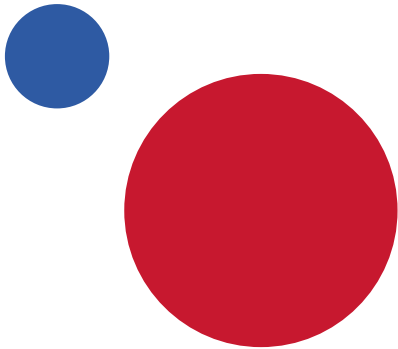


THE DOGUE DE BORDEAUX

. Standard and comments .





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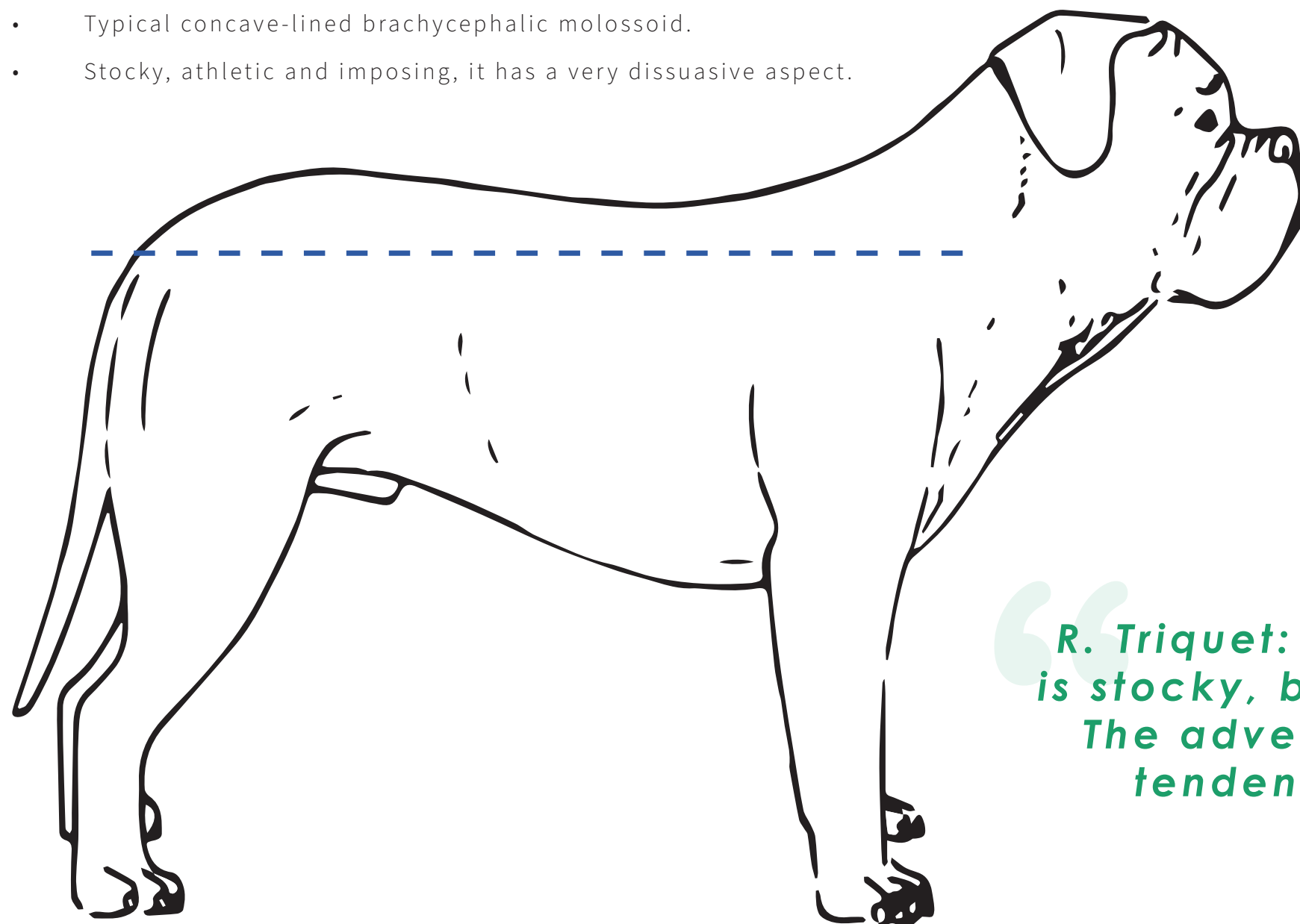
| Brief Historical Summary

The Dogue de Bordeaux is one of the most powerful current representatives of the molossoid morphotype, whose emergence is set in the Ancient Near East. In the Western Middle Ages, the molossian dogs continued to be divided between the protection of livestock and properties, hunting with the aristocratic elite, and animal-baiting. The word “dogue” is introduced in French in the 14th century, from England.

In addition to the rural mastiff, naturalists of the classical age distinguished two sizes of dogues. In the 18th century, animal-baiting took off particularly in France, notably in the south-west. In the 19th century, cynophilist authors mentioned several types of dogues present in this region, before the Dogue de Bordeaux was formalized under its current name and appearance. The breed became scarce after the Second World War, then experienced a major revival from the 1960s.

I GENERAL APPEARANCE

- A very powerful dog, but well balanced and with a harmonious general outline.
- Built rather close to the ground: the distance sternum-to-ground is slightly less than the depth of the chest.
- Typical concave-lined brachycephalic molossoid.
- Stocky, athletic and imposing, it has a very dissuasive aspect.



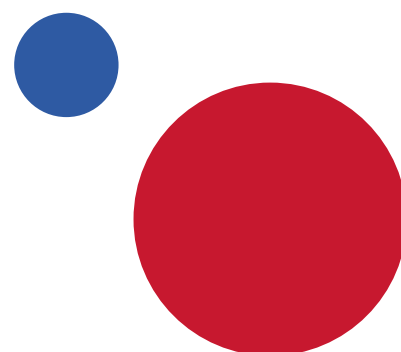
R. Triquet: "The Dogue de Bordeaux is stocky, but without being lowered. The adverb "slightly" stops any tendency to exaggeration".

PROPORTIONS



- The length of the body, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock, is superior to the height at the withers, in the proportion of 11/10.
- The depth of the chest is more than half the height at the withers.
- The maximum length of the muzzle is equal to one third of the length of the head, its minimum length to one quarter of the length of the head.
- In the male, the perimeter of the skull corresponds more or less to the height at the withers.

R. Triquet: The ideal length of the muzzle is between these two extremes: a third of the head is too long, and a quarter is too short.



HEAD

- Voluminous, angular, broad, rather short, trapezoid when viewed from above and in front.

R. Triquet: The head forms a trapezium whose great base is the nape, the small base the end of the muzzle - which is very broad, almost as wide as its root.

- The longitudinal axes of the skull and the muzzle are convergent.
- Profound and symmetrical wrinkles each side of the median groove, mobile depending on whether the dog is attentive or not.

The wrinkle which runs from the inner corner of the eye to the corner of the mouth is typical. If present, the wrinkle running from the outer corner of the eye to either the corner of the mouth or the dewlap should be discreet.



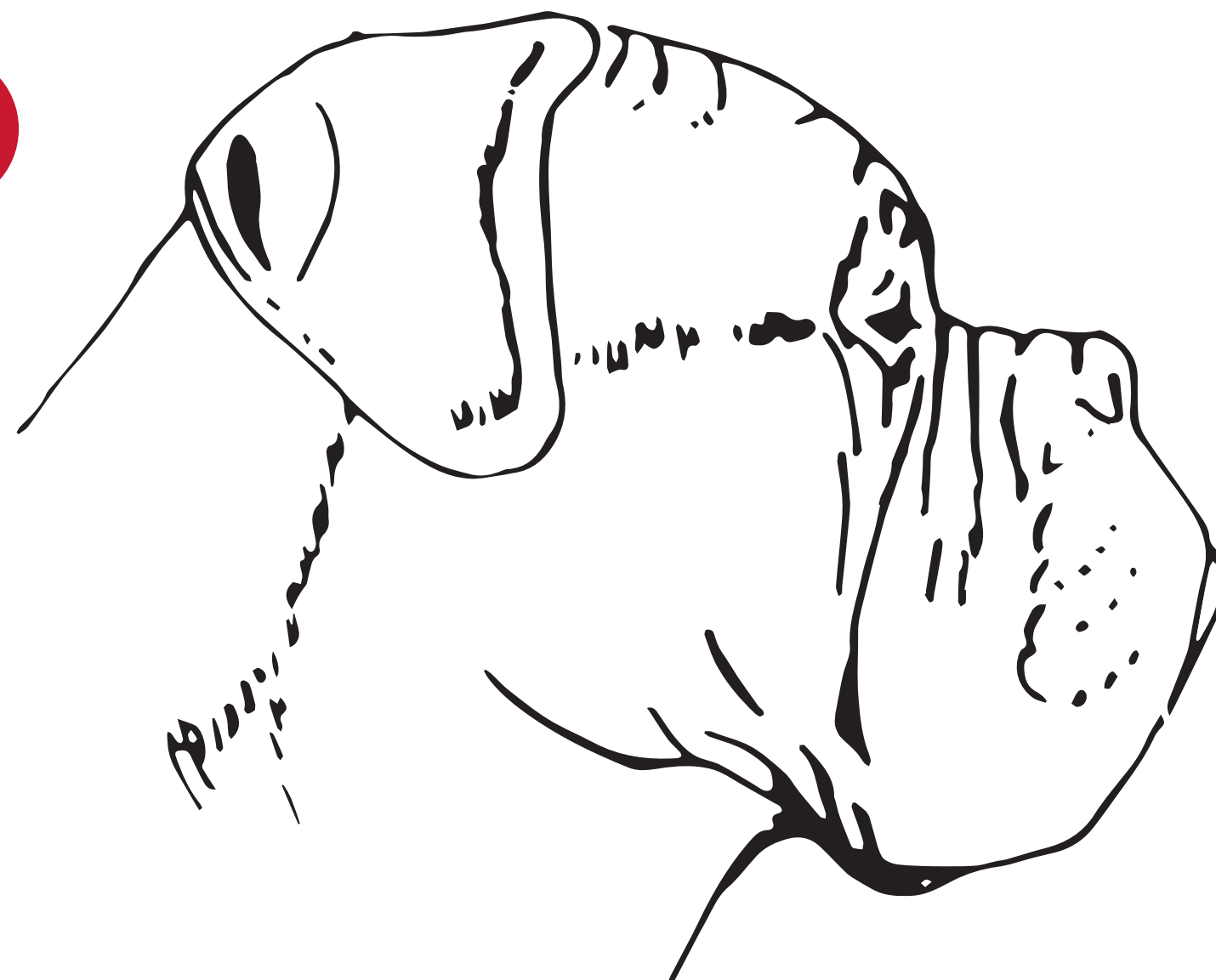
I CRANIAL REGION

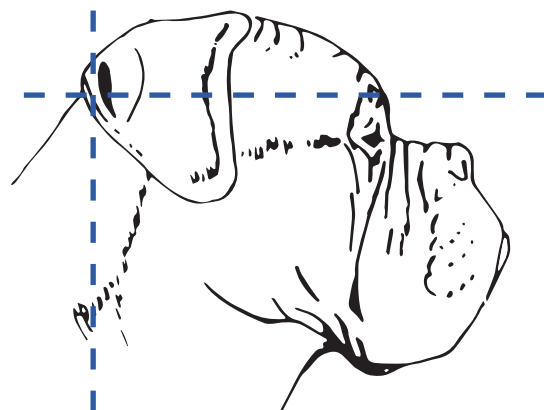
- In the male, the perimeter of the skull measured at the level of its greatest width corresponds roughly to the height at the withers. In bitches, it may be slightly less.
- The upper region of the skull is slightly convex from one side to the other.
- The forehead is still wider than high.
- Very pronounced stop, almost forming a right angle with the muzzle (95° to 100°).

I FACIAL REGION

- Powerful, broad, thick muzzle, but not fleshy below the eyes.

R. Triquet : not fleshy below the eyes, it means that it is not overloaded, "meaty" at the root.





- When viewed from above, it has the general shape of a square.
- Its upper profile is very slightly concave.
- The tip of the muzzle is in front of a vertical tangent to the anterior face of the nose.

R. Triquet : the tip of the muzzle is in a slightly inclined plane from the bottom up, but much less than in the Bulldog.

- Nose: Broad, well opened nostrils, well pigmented according to the colour of the mask. Upturned nose permissible but not if it is set back towards the eyes.
- Jaws: powerful, broad. The lower jaw curves upwards.
- The Dogue is undershot: the back of the lower incisors is in front of and not in contact with the front face of the upper incisors.
- Teeth: Strong. Lower canines set wide apart and slightly curved. Incisors well aligned especially in the lower jaw where they form an apparently straight line.
- The chin is well marked and must neither overlap the upper lip exaggeratedly nor be covered by it.
- Lips: Upper lip thick, moderate pendulous. When viewed in profile it shows a rounded lower line. It covers the lower jaw on the sides. In front, the edge of the upper lip drops on either side forming an inverted wide V.

R. Triquet : the V with an acute angle is the characteristic of the Neapolitan Mastiff, and the U-shaped lip is that of the Bulldog. The lips should not hang too much, and the upper lip should not cover the lower lip.

- Cheeks: Prominent, due to the very strong development of the muscles.
- Eyes: Oval, set wide apart. The haw must not be visible.
Colour: hazel to dark brown for a dog with a black mask, lighter colour tolerated but not sought after in dogs with either a brown mask or without a mask



R. Triquet : a drooping lower eyelid, in other words ectropion, is undesirable.

- Ears : Relatively small, set rather high, at the level of the upper line of the skull, thus appearing to accentuate its width even more. At its set on, the front of the base of the ear is slightly raised



R. Triquet : excess in everything is to be rejected. By the time the breed started again from scratch, there were dogs with too long muzzles. Later on, we could see over stocky dogs, with too many wrinkles. But since then, judges and breeders have worked well and restored the typical head of the Dogue de Bordeaux.



NECK

- Very strong, muscular, almost cylindrical. Its average circumference almost equals that of the head. Its upper edge is slightly convex. The dewlap forming folds down to the chest, without hanging exaggeratedly. The neck, very broad at its base, merges smoothly with the shoulders.

R. Triquet : the neck should not be too short; it is longer than in the Mastiff, for example.



BODY

Standard and comments

- Well sustained topline, as straight as possible for a concave-lined dog

R. Triquet : the topline is not perfectly horizontal. No mastiff-like dog has a straight topline. After the "dip" behind the withers, the line gradually rises to melt into the loin.

- Withers: Well marked.
- Back: Broad and muscular.
- Loin: Broad. Rather short and solid.

R. Triquet : the loin is only slightly arched, otherwise the line would dip too much forward. It should not be too long.

- Croup: Moderately sloping down to the root of the tail.
- Chest: Powerful, long, deep, broad, let down lower than the elbows. Its circumference must be between 25 cm to 35 cm greater than the height at the withers.

R. Triquet : viewed from the front, the lower line of the forechest is convex. When it is concave, it means that the chest is insufficiently let down.

- Ribs well let down and well sprung but not barrel shaped.
- Curved underline, from the deep brisket to the rather tucked up, firm abdomen, being neither pendulous nor too tucked up.

R. Triquet : the belly is much higher than in the Neapolitan Mastiff, for example.

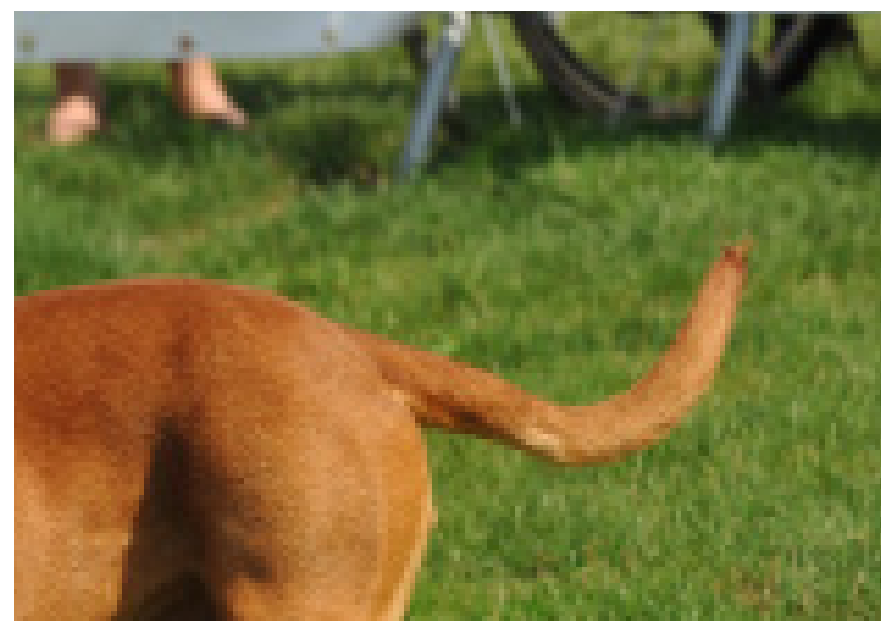


I TAIL

- Very thick at the base. Its tip preferably reaching the hock and not below.
- Carried low, generally rising by 90° to 120° from that position when the dog is in action, without curving over the back or being curled.



R. Triquet : « the tail must be flexible. No kinked tail. Rigid parts would indicate a bone abnormality. As for the carriage in action, we penalize if the tail is carried erect or if it is curled. »



LIMBS

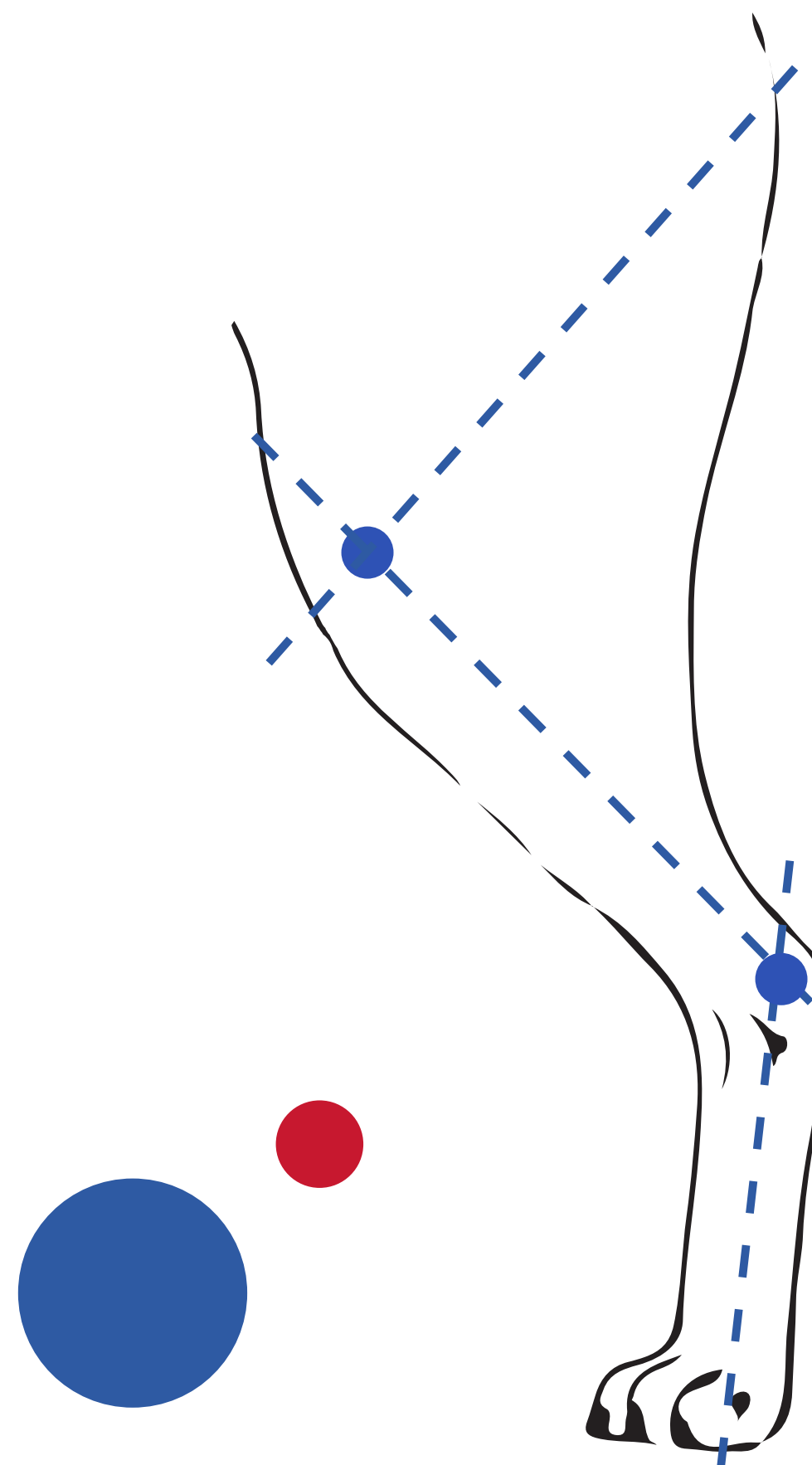
• FOREQUARTERS

- Strong bone structure, very muscular legs.
- Shoulders: Powerful, prominent muscles
- Upper arms: very muscular.
- Elbows: In the axis of the body, neither too close to the ribcage nor turned out.
- Forearms: Viewed from the front, straight or inclining slightly inwards, especially in dogs with a very broad chest. Viewed in profile, vertical.
- Metacarpus (Pastern): Powerful. Viewed in profile, slightly sloping. Viewed from the front, sometimes slightly outwards compensating for the slight inclination of the forearm inwards.

R. Triquet : there should be no fiddle front (forearms inclining inwards, metacarpals and feet turned outwards)

- Forefeet: Strong. Toes tight. The Dogue is well up on his toes despite his weight.

R. Triquet : splay feet with too much weight on the back part of the pads, and wide open toes, are very undesirable. But still the Dogue de Bordeaux cannot have cat's feet.



• HINDQUARTERS

- Robust legs with strong bone structure; well angulated. When viewed from behind the hindquarters are parallel and vertical, thus giving an impression of power even though the hindquarters are not quite as broad as the forequarter.

R. Triquet : the difference in width between the front (chest and shoulders) and the back (croup and thighs) should not be exaggerated; it is not the pear shape we observe in the Bulldog. In fact, the thighs are very well muscled

- Stifle: In a parallel plane to the median plane or very slightly out.

R. Triquet : normally the stifle is in the axis of the body, but it is often slightly turning outside. " Slightly " is important, otherwise the hocks would be closed – which is called cow hocks.

- Hock: Short, sinewy, angle of the hock joint moderately open.

R. Triquet : seen from the side, the angulation is closer than in the Bullmastiff, for example.

- Hind feet : Slightly longer than the front feet, toes tight.



GAIT - MOVEMENT

- Quite supple for a molossoid.
- When walking the movement is free and supple, close to the ground. Good drive from the hindquarters, good extension of the forelegs, especially when trotting. Canter with rather important vertical movement.
- Capable of great speed over short distances.

R. Triquet : I knew a time when in dog shows, one saw Dogues that one had to drag dogs in to motion. Since then, the dogs have a much better movement. From 1984, when the SCC formalized the Natural Aptitude Tests, the club set up a test: "triangle des allures". Three judges, one at each vertex of the triangle. Each judge watches the dog walking, trotting, galloping, from the front, from the side, from behind. Breathless dogs are dismissed. We wanted a functional dog, moving normally. Nowadays, such is the case.



SKIN

- Thick and sufficiently loose fitting, without excessive wrinkles.

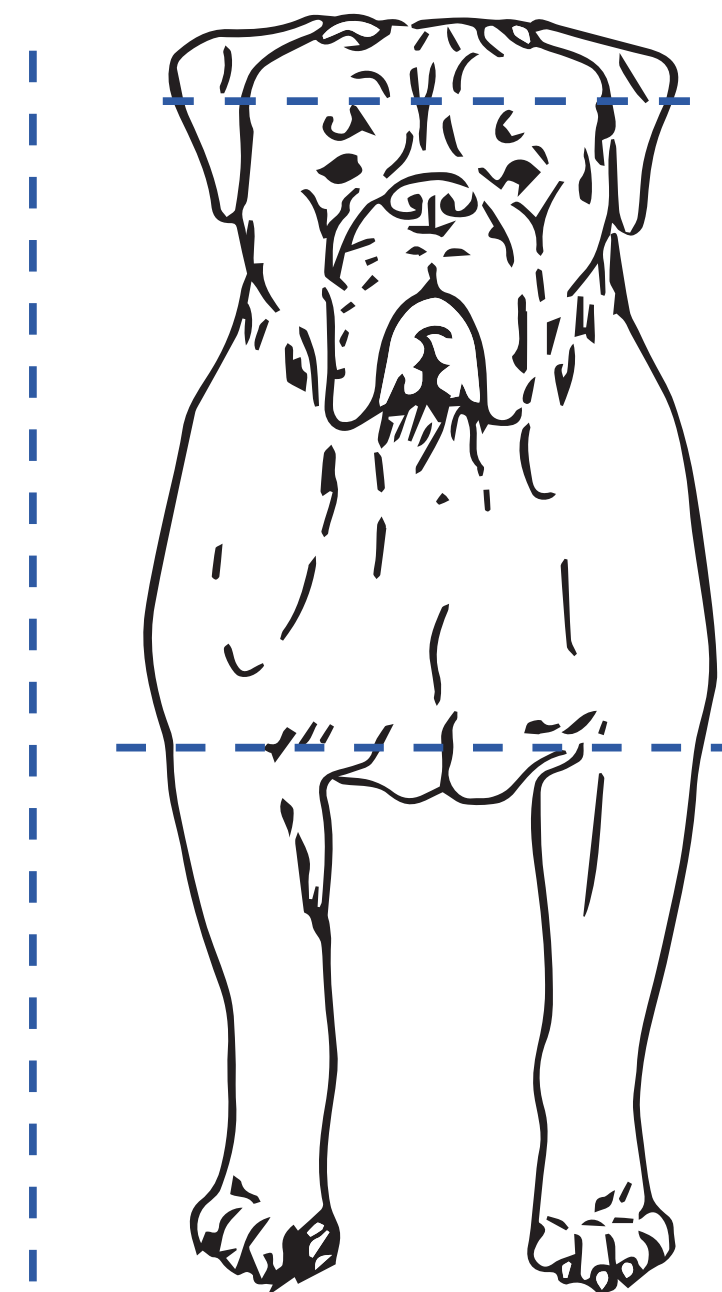
R. Triquet : in molossian dogs, the skin is not taut, but in the Dogue de Bordeaux there should not be dead folds on the body.



SIZE & WEIGHT

Standard and comments

- Male: 60-68 cm at the withers, at least 50 kg.
- Female: 58-66 cm at the withers, at least 45 kg.
- Tolerated: 1 cm under and 2 cm over.



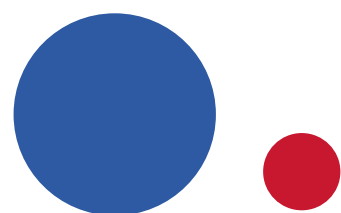
I COAT

- Hair : Fine, short and soft to the touch.
- Colour: Self-coloured, in all shades of fawn, from mahogany to isabella. Limited white patches are permissible on the forechest and the extremities of the limbs.

R. Triquet : mahogany has always been appreciated; the lightest tone is isabella, a light fawn, but not as light as sandy. Considering the patching, it has always remained very limited. No white above the carpus in front, no white above the hock on hindlegs.

- Black mask : only slightly spread out and must not invade the cranial region. There may be slight black shading on the skull, ears, neck and top of body.
- Black nose

R. Triquet : this black mask is much less extensive and dark than in the Mastiff. It is genetically dominant over the brown mask.



- Brown mask: Nose, eyerims and edges of the lips are also brown. There may be non-invasive brown shading.

R. Triquet: « today we have many more brown masks than black ones. But we should not indulge in colour mania. A brown shaded coat is lighter on the sloping parts of the body (shoulders, etc.)

- No mask: The coat is fawn. the skin appears red. The nose can then be reddish.

R. Triquet: « formerly they said that there were two kinds of red masks. But one is a brown mask, the other is no mask at all, which is rare nowadays.



FAULTS :

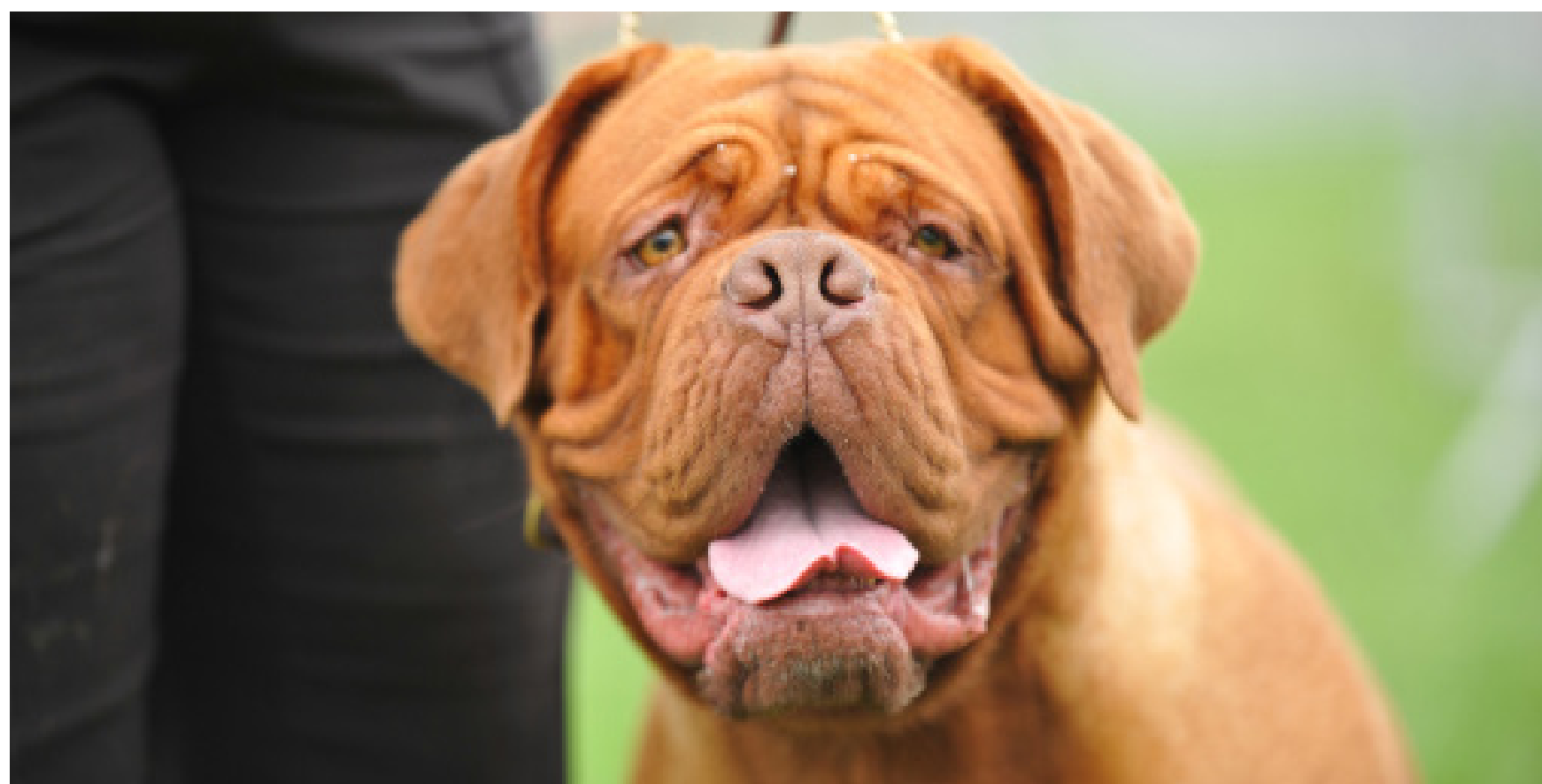
A FEW IMPORTANT POINTS

• SEVERE FAULTS

- Disproportioned head (too small or exaggerately voluminous).
- Bulldoggy hypertype.
- Important lateral deviation of the lower jaw.
- Incisors constantly visible when the mouth is closed.
- Very small incisors, unevenly set.
- Flat thighs.

R. Triquet : the dog may be badly undershot, the mandible may be too straight, incisors lay be tilting, or a pendulous lower lip showing teeth.

R. Triquet : it is serious for the absence of thrust, but also the condition may be painful, which compels the dog to carry his weight to the front



I FAULTS :

A FEW IMPORTANT POINTS

- Stilted movement or serious rolling of rear.

R. Triquet : the stilted movement in a dog means with insufficiently angulated hindquarters and a raised back. The hindquarters are stiffle. As for the roll, a heavy dog like the Dogue de Bordeaux always has light a tendency to roll, but it must remain a light one.

- Excessive shortness of breath, rasping.

R. Triquet : it is quite abnormal for a Dogue, after a few turns in a ring, to breathe noisily and have a blue tongue. Every dog must be able to run without being immediately out of breath and rasp.



FAULTS

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Long, narrow head with insufficiently pronounced stop, with a muzzle measuring more than a third of the total length of the head (lack of type in head).
- Twisted jaw.
- Mouth not undershot.
- Canines constantly visible when the mouth is closed.

R. Triquet : this indicates that the lower prognathism is too pronounced

- Tongue constantly hanging out when the mouth is closed.

R. Triquet: « this indicates that the mandible is strongly deviated, or even twisted

- Tail knotted and laterally deviated, twisted, or atrophied.
- Fiddle front and down on pasterns.

R. Triquet : the forelegs are going too much inwards; the carpals are close, the feet completely turning out, the metacarpals close to the ground. The dog is disabled.



FAULTS

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- Angle of the hock open towards the rear (inverted hock).

R. Triquet : they are dogs with "straight" hindquarters, with very open angles. In this case, the hock flexes forward. Such laxity is inadmissible in the Dogue de Bordeaux.

- White on the head or body, any other colour of the coat than fawn (shaded or not) and in particular brindle or solid brown called "chocolate".

R. Triquet: fawn shaded coat with brown is not to be confused with chocolate coat



THE DOGUE DE BORDEAUX

. Standard and comments .

