

Cane da Pastore Bergamasco

Bergamasco Shepherd Dog

Standard Comment



The FCI Standard No. 194, published on September 15th, 2020, describes in detail the ethnic characteristics of the Bergamasco Shepherd dog and should be the morphological reference for the breed. In the commentary, some standard excerpts are highlighted in *blue color*. Drawings are created by Alberto Marengoni.

CHARACTERISTICS

The Bergamasco is an ancient Italian breed, selected by Alpine shepherds to herd livestock, and move their flocks from the mountains to the Po Valley as the seasons change. It is classified by the FCI as a working herding breed. A rustic dog with an ancient appearance, eyes that express depth and sweetness, and a personality that makes it an affectionate and attentive guardian. Its coat distinguishes it from all other breeds. It does not moult seasonally, but grows with age and is particularly abundant and woolly on the rear, forming mats that are impervious to water and weather. Characteristic is the tuft over the eyes raised by the long eyelashes that forms a protective visor from the sun. Coat maintenance and care are very simple and should be done by washing the coat periodically and keeping the beard and whiskers in order.

The colour is solid grey or merle with grey patches of all possible shades from the softest of grey to a lighter shade of grey on to black. With eyes expressing sweetness and attentiveness, the Bergamasco establishes a very close relationship with humans, always ready for action and to take orders. Its remarkable temperamental balance is reflected in the breed's characteristics as a herder and guide, as well as an attentive guardian, capable of regulating its own strength, quickly becoming aware of its opponent's, and intervening effectively only when necessary. Bred for outdoor living, they also live peacefully in living rooms as they are calm, clean dogs, obedient to commands and always attentive to the cues of its family.

It is a healthy, long-lived, and fertile breed, that has retained its natural aptitudes.

HISTORICAL NOTES

It is an ancient Italian herding breed whose habitat encompassed the Alps and pre-Alps, with a particular concentration in the most pastoral areas, such as the Bergamo valleys, from which the breed takes its name. Bergamascos were indispensable to shepherds as they

wandered through the mountains and the Po Valley with the changing seasons, in search of pastures. This work required an agile, fast, and resilient physique, but above all, a strong mentality and discernment.

The Bergamasco is depicted in a painting attributed to Lorenzo Lotto, a famous 16th- century painter, testifying to its ancient origins. The first dogs registered in the Italian Stud Book date back to 1891. Over time, Bergamascos have maintained their natural aptitude as herding dogs, herding sheep and cattle, and as excellent guardians of animals, huts, and household goods.



Alpino di Valle Imagna owner Piero Rota 1941

The Bergamasco's function was to graze livestock, herd them, and guide them along roads and paths, protecting crops. It was used for both sheep and cattle, but also goats, horses, and donkeys. The other

important function that shaped its character was the shepherd-dog relationship, a very close bond of mutual companionship where dog and shepherd found themselves alone, surrounded by the environment and nature, and by an infinite number of obstacles they had to overcome together. With his dog by his side, the shepherd felt far less alone.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Bergamasco shepherd is a medium-sized dog of rustic appearance with an abundant coat covering all parts of the body; powerfully constructed but very well proportioned. Conformation is that of a dog of medium proportions (mesomorphic), the body is square in outline, with

well-balanced proportions in relation to size and the profiles of the head and body.

Natural selection favours individuals with average morphological and biological characteristics. It is important to note that the Bergamasco is a normotype of the species and, as such, has proportions that reflect the average characteristics of *Canis familiaris*. Its genotype has adapted to its environment through centuries of natural selection resulting in optimal vital traits, including good fertility, longevity, and disease resistance. Altogether, this makes it a healthy dog.



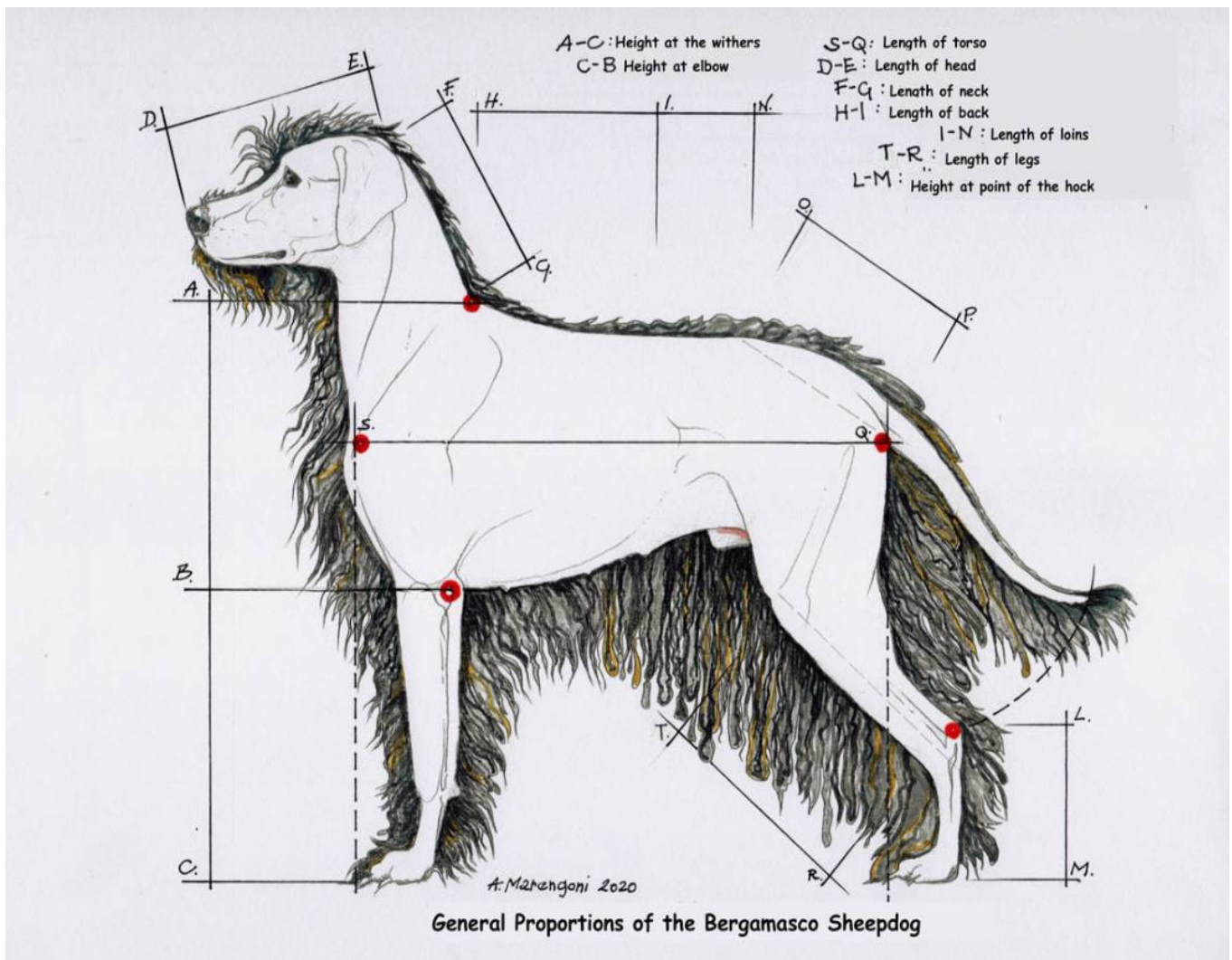
***Bergamasco
is a
mesomorphic
dog with
medium
proportion
and size***

24 months old male

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

The length of the body from the tip of the scapulo-humeral joint to the tip of the buttocks is equal to the height at the withers (i.e. square).

Judging a standing dog, it is important not to be misled by the presence of an abundant coat on the chest and buttocks, which can give the impression of a longer body and lead to incorrect assessments. By palpating the the chest and rump, we can more easily understand the dog's true build. The importance of a compact body will be discussed further in the section on movement.



BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT

The function of the Bergamasco shepherd dog is to drive and guard

herds and livestock in general, a task for which the breed expresses consummate behaviour thanks to the vigilance, concentration and harmonious built. The capacity for learning and the determination combined with moderation and patience make the dog an excellent guard and companion, suited to various functions. Known to establish a close relationship with man.

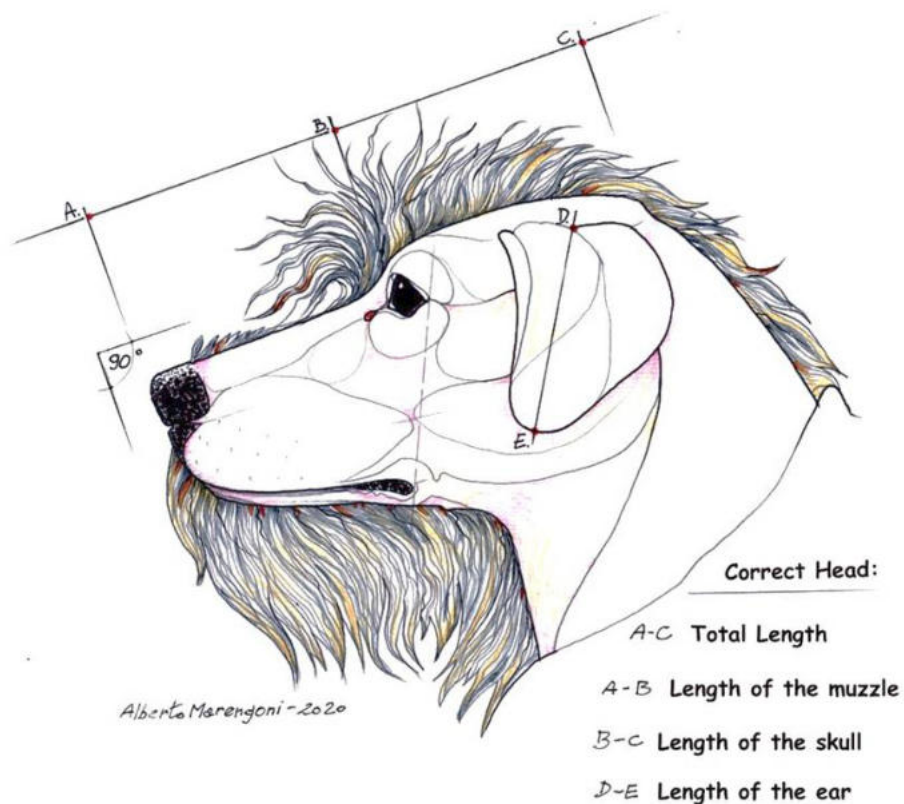
The Bergamasco is a livestock herding dog used to guide and manage flocks of sheep and cattle in the Po Valley during the cold months and on mountain pastures in the Alpine and Pre-Alpine valleys during the warmer months.

This is the work for which the Bergamasco was bred and which it still performs admirably today, as demonstrated through the NHAT and HWT aptitude and working tests in working trials organized in collaboration with the CLB: www.clbdog.org. Like other herding dog breeds, it can be somewhat diffident, but should never be aggressive.



***Bred for the outdoors,
Bergamasco live happily on your
Family Home.***

***They are calm, clean dogs,
obedient to commands, and
always ready to understand the
stimuli coming from their
family.***



HEAD

The length of the muzzle equals that of the skull.

When evaluating muzzle length, we must not be misled by the tuft of hair falling over the eyes or by its grooming. Abundant tufts give the impression of a shorter muzzle, and sparse tufts can have the opposite effect. Photographs of the same dog at one year old, with sparse fur, and at a more mature age, with an abundant tuft, clearly illustrate this issue.



The length of the muzzle is

equal to that of the skull.

The muzzle is often slightly shorter than the

skull, as is the case in

most dog breeds.

CRANIAL REGION

If we place a hand on the skull of a Bergamasco, we feel a nearly flat surface, and before the neck begins, is clearly palpable the external protuberance of the occipital bone. The occipital process must be well-

defined and pronounced, serving as the base for the masseter muscles.

The upper longitudinal axes of the skull and muzzle are parallel. The width of the skull should be slightly less than half the total length of the head. It is important to understand what lies beneath the coat: the hair can be deceptive and make the head appear more voluminous than it actually is. To observe this more clearly, one can wet the coat during a bath, revealing the finesse and chiseled structure of the Bergamasco's head. Palpation provides a more accurate assessment.

***STOP:** The stop is evenly sloping, but accentuated due to the marked bones of the nose and forehead, the frontal protuberances and the superciliary arches.*

FACIAL REGION

Nose: In line with the muzzle with curved upper profile, wide open nostrils, humid, fresh and large. Viewed in profile it must not appear protruding. The colour of the nose leather is black.

The muzzle is not pointed but rather blunt; well developed and proportionate throughout, it allows for a good grip. The jaws are well developed, and the dental arches are well- aligned. The nose, of considerable size, is a striking feature; it must always be black, voluminous, well-pigmented, fresh, and moist.

TEETH

White, complete in development and number; incisors regularly aligned. The teeth are scissor-bite. The dentition is generally complete, comprising 42 teeth.

The premolars P1 or P2 may be absent in some subjects; however, this is a defect that should be penalised as it is uncommon in the breed and genetically transmitted. The scissor-bite, with the inside of the upper incisors touching the outside of the lower ones, so that when the dog bites the hock of a sheep, it does not cut the wool.

It is rare to see dogs with missing teeth or with overshot bites (upper

incisors protruding and separated from the lower ones); however, cases of undershot bites (lower incisors protruding) or misaligned incisors are not uncommon, and should be penalised according to the severity of the deviation.

EYES

Rather large; neither bulging nor sunken, iris of a darker or lighter shade of chestnut colour depending on the colour of the coat. They are set forward looking; expression is soft, serene and attentive. The shape of the rim of the eyelid is slightly oval and the angle of the eyelid towards the horizontal is only slightly oblique. The eyelids fit tightly over the eye, with black-pigmented rims; eyelashes are particularly long so that they can lift the hair falling from the forehead over the eyes.

The iris, like the skin, nose, and eyelid margins, can be depigmented from birth (congenital). Depigmentation is considered a defect, with its severity depending on the extent of pigment loss. The decrease in colour is due to a reduction in pigment (melanin). There may be a decrease in color intensity, resulting in pale eyes, or uneven pigment distribution in the iris, or even a completely depigmented iris, which may occur unilaterally or bilaterally (commonly referred to as wall-eyed or “vairon”). A wall-eyed iris is defined as

one in which the entire eye ranges in colour from slate to blue. In cynognostics, depigmentation is generally considered a defect, as pigment deficiency may be associated with hormonal or functional abnormalities, as well as aesthetic deviations. The severity of the defect depends on the level of depigmentation. In the Bergamasco, a partially or completely depigmented iris is linked to the merle gene (Mm or MM), which irregularly limits pigment distribution in the skin, coat, and iris. This gene is dominant, with variable penetration depending on whether it is homozygous (MM) or heterozygous (Mm), therefore its effect can be moderated by mating a merle dog (Mm) with a solid-colour dog (mm). According to the breed standard, a wall-eyed iris is considered a disqualifying defect, even if unilateral. A partially depigmented iris (heterochromia), limited to one area, is considered a fault, with severity

proportional to the extent of depigmentation. In dogs with a uniform black or grey coat (mm), total or partial depigmentation of the iris is considered an even more serious, disqualifying fault. Historically, shepherds often sought the merle colour and wall-eyed eyes in Bergamascos, considering them a characteristic of the breed, though they are technically characterising defects. *Does a wall eye or a poorly pigmented iris diminish or impair vision?* No, neither a wall-eyed iris nor partial depigmentation appears to impair vision. There is no scientific evidence suggesting visual deficiency, and many working shepherd dogs perform effectively until old age. The fact that shepherds actively selected for these traits indicates that eyesight remained normal, which was essential for their work in open pastures and unfamiliar terrain.

EARS

Semi-drop ears set high, i.e. the last two thirds of the ear leather is pendant. When the dog is alert, the ear lifts slightly at the base. Triangular shape. Length is between 11 and 13 cm, width 6.5 to 8 cm. The base is wide, extending at the back to the point where the head sets into the neck, while frontally reaching to the middle of the skull. The tip is slightly rounded.

The ears are set high and small in size, making them quite mobile. It is good practice to keep them combed and clean on the inside as well, to prevent the formation of felt.

NECK

Upper profile is slightly convex. The neck is slightly shorter than the head. The skin is never loose, consequently always without dewlap. Hair must be thick. When the Bergamasco moves at a trot in the ring, with the neck carried naturally and not erect. The handler should not force its posture, as is sometimes observed, and the leash must be kept loose.

BODY

Topline: Straight topline. Withers: Prominent and long, well

defined. Back: Straight, well muscled and of good width. Loin: Slightly convex, firmly joining the back and the croup. Loin decidedly shorter than the back (measured from the loin to the withers). The width of the loin is nearly the same as its length; muscles of the whole region are well developed. Chest: Must be broad and deep, reaching to the elbows not rounded like a barrel. Underline and belly: The lower profile of the belly is only slightly tucked up. The hollowness in the flanks is minimal.



CROUP

Broad, strong, well-muscled and slanting, with an inclination of

approximately 30° below the horizontal.

The croup is a very important anatomical region, as it transmits the thrust of the hind limbs to the trunk through a series of powerful muscles. Its skeletal base consists of the pelvis (ilium, ischium, pubis) and the three fused sacral vertebrae. Its inclination is measured by tracing an imaginary line from the tip of the hip (ilium) to the tip of the buttock (ischium) relative to the horizontal plane. The inclination and length of the croup varies considerably from breed to breed. In the Bergamasco, the inclination of the croup relative to the horizontal varies from 20° to 30°. A correct inclination determines the effectiveness of the hind limb's thrust and the length of the stride. Croups that are too horizontal result in stiff hindquarters, with strides that cover little ground because they are carried too little forward and too far backward, giving the impression of kicking during movement; the tail is generally set high and often poorly carried. Conversely, an excessively sloping croup reduces muscular action and propulsion, with the hindquarters positioned under the dog, resulting in strides that cover little ground. A good croup should be broad, allowing for strong muscle insertion, robust, and of appropriate length. The section from the hip joint to the tip of the buttock acts as the power arm of a first-class lever, with the joint serving as the fulcrum and the dog's body as the resistance; therefore, a longer power arm provides a more favourable mechanical advantage. When a dog tucks its hindquarters and raises its forequarters before leaping, it benefits from a long croup and a very compact, square trunk, which reduces the resistance arm. The topline of the croup should connect smoothly with the loin line without interruption and the hip bones should not protrude from the upper profile.

TAIL

Set on the lower third of the croup, thick and strong at the root, it gradually tapers towards the tip. Covered with slightly wavy goat- like hair. Length of tail often reaches the hock when the dog is standing;

preferably it should be shorter. At rest the tail is carried sabre fashion i.e. pendant in the top two thirds, with the end third slightly curved. In action the dog waves his tail flag-like laterally.

Anatomically, the tail is an extension of the spine, consisting of 18 to 22 vertebrae with highly mobile joints that allow a wide range of movement. Tail set varies according to the inclination of the sacrum, so a correct croup inclination ensures a properly set tail. The tail serves multiple functions: it is expressive, protects the perianal area and genitals, and acts as a rudder during running, balancing the dog when turning (e.g. when the dog turns right, the tail moves to the left, and vice versa). Correct tail carriage is typical of the breed; poorly carried tails, especially those held too high, disrupt the aesthetics of the topline. Tails carried trumpet-like over the back are an eliminating fault, but tails carried high over the back should also be penalised. In the show ring, tail carriage may be affected by temperament: shyness can result in tails carried between the legs, while excitement, particularly in the presence of other dogs, can lead to excessively high tails. Judges must interpret tail carriage carefully, noting that young, dominant dogs tend to carry their tails higher, and differences in carriage may also reflect sex-related temperament. Occasionally, tails that appear lifeless and rest on the hocks may be seen; these could indicate manipulation and should be penalised immediately. The tail communicates a dog's temperament and emotional state and is therefore an important element in evaluation. It is protected by abundant fur, including both goat hair and wool, which may form small flocks; these should be properly spread and maintained through brushing.



Correct tail when stationary



Correct tail while moving



Defective carriage of tail

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS: *General appearance: Legs are straight when viewed from the front and side and well-proportioned in relation to the size of the dog.*

The forelimbs receive thrust from the hindquarters. To allow for a natural and harmonious gait, they must be capable of supporting the dog's weight, not only when moving in a straight line but also during sudden and frequent changes of direction, as is typical in sheepdogs. A solid forelimb is therefore essential.

The height at the elbow varies from 52 to 53% of the height at the withers (Biometric Analysis SAB 1988) and is proportionally slightly higher in females than in males. The forelimbs must move harmoniously with the hindquarters to ensure balanced and efficient movement.

SHOULDER

The scapula length is slightly more than a quarter of the height at the withers (15 to 17 cm), with an inclination ranging from 45° to 55° relative to the horizontal plane. In dogs, the thoracic or shoulder girdle is reduced to a single bone, the scapula; unlike humans, there is no clavicle. The scapula is a flat, isosceles-triangle-shaped bone, with its base facing dorsally and its axis slanting forward, forming an angle of

45° to 65° with the horizontal. The lateral surface has a longitudinal crest, the spine of the scapula, which divides it into two parts and serves as a reference for assessing shoulder inclination.

Much has been written on this topic, and it is clear that a well-sloped shoulder allows for good extension and adequate forward reach of the forelimb. Ideally, the shoulder inclination on the horizontal plane should tend towards 45°, though this is difficult to achieve in most dog breeds. A slightly less inclined scapula can better absorb impact with the ground during jumps. In the Bergamasco, an optimal shoulder inclination is approximately 55–60°.

The shoulder must be highly mobile to allow full range of motion, which is essential for herding dogs that work in mountainous terrain at varying paces. The shoulder must be able to support movements that include extension, flexion, abduction, adduction, and circumduction. The shoulder's excursion along its axis is approximately 15°, resulting in an effective limb extension of 45° at maximum forward flexion ($60 - 15 = 45^\circ$), when the limb is brought forward and the foot reaches the height of the vertical projection of the nose. The power and harmony of movement during running depend on this shoulder inclination.

UPPERARM

Well-muscled, strong in bone and well angulated. The angle formed by the scapula and upper arm (scapulo-humeral) ranges between 105° and 125°.

The humerus length is approximately 30% of the height at the withers, with an inclination relative to the horizontal between 60° and 70°. The skeletal base of the forelimb is formed by the humerus, which must be long to facilitate a wide stride and efficient ground coverage. The humerus is obliquely positioned, forming an angle with the scapula that ideally tends toward 105°. A slightly less inclined humerus results in a more erect neck and a striking but inefficient stepping gait. Conversely, an excessively inclined humerus is generally associated with a straight shoulder, causing the dog to appear unbalanced forward, under-slung,

and giving the impression of falling forward during movement.

ELBOW

Set on a plane parallel to the median plane of the body. The point of the elbow is located on an imaginary vertical line lowered from the back end of the scapula. The humero-radial angle (between upper-arm and forearm) ranges from 150° to 155°. The hair hanging down from the elbows should be abundant, long and thick, tending to flocks.

This joint, particularly in young dogs, is most susceptible to traumatic after-effects and may experience dislocation, either unilateral or bilateral, potentially resulting in lameness.

FOREARM

Straight; at least as long as the upper arm. Well developed muscles and bone

The skeletal base of the forearm consists of the radius and ulna. Its apparent length may vary depending on the depth of the chest; in dogs with a deep chest, it may appear shorter, though the abundance of the coat can also be misleading. The forearm is positioned perpendicular to the ground.

CARPUS (WRIST) *In a straight line extending from the forearm; mobile and lean with the pisiform bone clearly protruding.*

The metacarpal flexor muscles insert on the pisiform bone.

METACARPUS (PASTERN)

Lean and mobile. Seen from the front, must be placed on the same vertical plane as the forearm. Viewed in profile has a slight inclination from the back to the front.

The pastern must be lean and flexible. Viewed from the side, it is slightly sloping forward, acting as a shock absorber for the body's weight. Seen

from the front, a pastern that deviates outward is referred to as “left-handed,” while the opposite defect, with inward deviation, is called a slump and is generally accompanied by elbows turning outward.

FOREFEET

Oval shaped, arched with tight toes. Strong nails, curved and well pigmented and of dark colour, hard pads

The forefeet are oval in shape, not overly elongated, with close-knit, arched toes. The feet, often overlooked in the show ring, are very important, as they must support the weight of the body in motion, even over long distances.



The foot requires periodic care by eliminating the excess hair that grows between the pads.

HINDQUARTERS GENERAL APPEARANCE *Hind quarters in proportion to the size of the dog. Straight limbs seen from behind.*

When viewed from the side, the perpendicular line starting from the tip of the buttock dropped from the tip of the buttock should reach the ground at the tips of the toes, following a vertical line parallel to the metatarsus. If the line falls in front of the foot, the dog is positioned too far forward; the tibial angle increases, movement becomes more fluid, but strain on the hip joint, which acts as a fulcrum during movement, is greater. Therefore, excessive forward positioning should be avoided to prevent coxo-femoral joint problems. Conversely, if the line falls behind the foot, the dog is positioned too far backward.

When viewed from behind, a vertical line from the tip of the buttock should pass through the hock, metatarsus, and foot, dividing the hindquarters into two equal halves. Deviations from this alignment indicate structural faults: if the feet are close together and the hocks turn outward, this is a fault called “post-legged” (hindquarters too close). Conversely, if the feet turn outward and the hocks are close together, the fault is called “cow-hocked”.

The hind legs should be well spaced, and during a fast trot, single tracking is only occasionally observed, with footprints generally forming parallel lines.

THIGH

Long, broad, well muscled with a slightly convex rear profile. The coxo-femoral angle (between

pelvis and upper thigh) ranges between 100° and 105°

The skeletal base is made up of the femur which must be long and inclined to form an angle with the coxal bone, which allows good opening and power in movement.

LOWER THIGH

Strong bone, lean muscles with marked leg groove. Inclination below the horizontal is about 55°

The bone base is made up of the tibia and fibula. The length of the lower leg is approximately one-third of the height at the withers.

STIFLE (KNEE)

Perfectly in line with the limb, neither turned in nor out

The femoral-tibial angle is open and its value is approximately 130°-135°.

HOCK JOINT

The external surface is very broad. Joint well angulated.

The height from the point of the hock to the ground should not be less than 25% of the height at the withers. The angle of the tibio-tarsal joint varies between 140° and 145°.

HIND FEET

Like the forefeet, but slightly smaller.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free with long steps. The preferred gait is a rather extended trot, maintained for quite long periods. Due to his conformation, the dog can easily go into an ordinary gallop, which can be maintained for a relatively long period of time.

The Bergamasco is a highly agile dog that adapts its movement effortlessly to the terrain. Its general conformation and compact, "square" trunk allow for a free, effortless rearing and surprisingly agile leaps. In mountainous terrain, even among rocks, it moves with the utmost confidence, and is equally capable in tight spaces.

Its build reflects selection for work in the mountain pastures: reaching livestock at a gallop, surrounding, herding, or blocking them to prevent

accidents, guiding them back safely onto the correct path. A square trunk with short, muscular loins facilitates the transition from trot to gallop and enables lateral obstacle negotiation. Dogs with a rectangular trunk frequently exhibit a loose topline when moving, with a tendency to shimmy laterally.

When trotting in the show ring, the head should be level with the back rather than carried erect, to balance the gait and compensate for shifts in the center of gravity. The forelimbs must move harmoniously with the hind limbs to ensure a well-balanced movement.

COAT

Hair: *Very abundant and very long, varies depending on the region of the body. Rather harsh (similar to goat hair) with wavy flocks on the front part of the body, while from the middle of the chest region to the rear it is woolly and forms broad strands of varied length depending on the age of the dog; the woolly coat does not moult and traps the undercoat which is quite long and soft forming mats of felted hair which are very protective. The flocks start from the topline falling down the sides of the body. The hair on the head is less harsh and falls over the face. The hair on the ears is slightly wavy and soft forming pointed fringes at the tip. The hair on the limbs must be evenly distributed all over with soft flocks on the forelegs and matted flock on the hind legs. The coat is soft in puppies and the flocks begin to form at 12–15 months. Their length depends on the age hence young dogs must not be penalised for a coat, which has not yet lengthened. In old dogs, too thick and long a coat that hampers normal movement and compromises the dog's welfare should be avoided. The coat should be cared for and kept clean; avoiding in particular matted flocks on the beard, muzzle and ears flaps.*



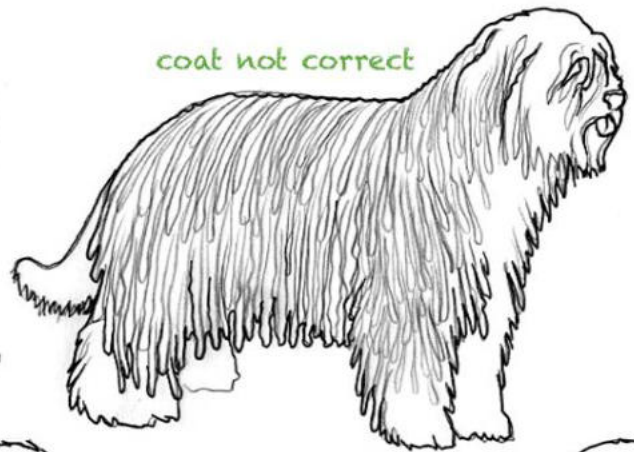
At 11-12 months, the mats begin to form. The merle color is typical of the breed.

The standard is clear and precise. The coat must have the correct texture, being coarser on the front of the body and woollier on the back to facilitate the formation of felt (mats).

Wool has a different structure from hair and, unlike hair, does not shed seasonally, but grows continuously. Therefore, the length of the hair varies with the dog's age. In shows, coats with excessive wool and little differentiation between coat types are often seen. While these coats may be visually striking, they are poorly functional and should be penalized, as they are detrimental to the breed and do not contribute to the dog's well-being. The coat must always be clean and properly groomed.



correct coat



coat not correct



correct coat of a young dog



too much coat



The filament structure: wool and hair are different in quality and quantity in different body areas

Colour: *Solid grey or with grey patches of all possible shades from the softest of grey to a lighter shade of grey on to black. Tinges of isabella and light fawn permitted. An all-black coat is allowed providing the black is really opaque.*

Patchy grey is the merle color, characterised by irregular patches of various shades of grey and black with unclear edges. The merle effect is caused by the M gene in the heterozygous Mm state, which is dominant over the solid color (mm). Lighter areas result from a mixture

of normally pigmented hair and non-pigmented hair, or from hair with alternating pigmented and non-pigmented sections. When the M gene is homozygous (MM), large depigmented patches appear (white exceeding 1/5 of the body surface, see standard), often accompanied by depigmentation of the iris and mucous membranes, which is a disqualifying defect. For this reason, mating two merle dogs is not allowed, to avoid producing homozygous MM offspring. This coat was particularly sought after by shepherds and is present in many herding breeds other than the Bergamasco (Collie, Border Collie, Bobtail, Welsh Corgi, Mudi, Pumi, Vallée Shepherd, Beauce, Pyrenean Shepherd, Scharpendoes, Gos s'Atura, Serra de Aires) while it is rare in breeds of other groupings. The black coat must be a dull shade. Black fur exposed to sunlight may have

reddish-brown highlights, but the base color must always be black. A solid grey coat is black at birth and gradually lightens after two to three months, producing shades ranging from very light to dark grey. Small white markings on the chest or feet are not considered faults. Shades of isabella or fawn are permitted in merle or solid-colored coats, provided grey is also present.

SIZE:

The ideal height at the withers for males is 60 cm, with a tolerance of 2 cm above or below. For females, it is 56 cm, with a tolerance of 2 cm above or below. Height, as in all breeds, is increasing, therefore it is best to be more severe in judging subjects that are undersized than those at the upper limit, even if the standard includes among the serious faults a height outside the tolerance limits.

Weight:

Males 32-38 kg. Females 26-32 kg.

DEFECTS

They are clearly listed in the official standard and divided into severe defects and disqualifying faults. Any departure from the foregoing points constitutes a defect, and the severity of the fault should be assessed in proportion to its degree and its effect on the dog.

The images are taken from the book: the Bergamasco - from Italian Alps to the family Home, Ed. Altea

Prof. Luigi Guidobono Cavalchini

Arch. Alberto Marengoni

Translated by Martina Sandra Rudelli

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SAB Associazione Amatori del Cane da Pastore Bergamasco

www.pastore-bergamasco.net

