

# Breed Compendium for Broholmer

Drawn up by the Breeding committee of the  
"Broholmerselskab"

In co-operation with  
"Broholmerföreningen Sverige/Norge"



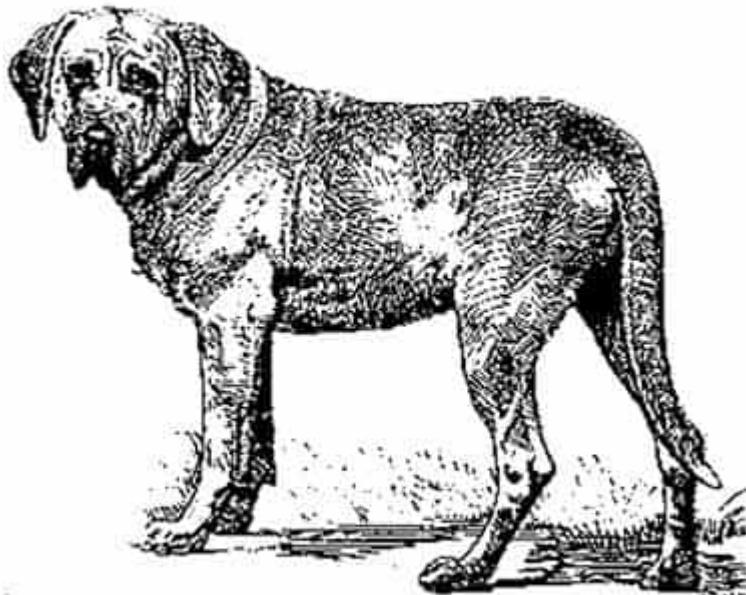
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# Breed Compendium for Broholmer

The first version of this Breed Compendium for the Broholmer is prepared by Trine Birkekær from the Breeding Committee of the “Broholmerselskab” in cooperation with “Broholmerföreningen Sverige/Norge”, whose breed club Svenska Molosser och Herdehundsklubben (Swedish Molossian and Shepherd Dog Club) was tasked to prepare a breed compendium for the Broholmer breed for show judges’ use. Newer version are revised only by the “Broholmerselskab”.  
“Broholmerselskabet” and the then Chairman of the Danish Kennel Club’s (DKK) Committee for National and Forgotten Breeds, Bo Lasthein Andersen, have reviewed and approved the breed compendium.

Any images of recognisable dogs appear with the consent of the dog’s owner.



***“Broholmerselskabets” Breed compendium for Broholmer.***

***Version 1.1—July 2025***

**Breed Standard**

FCI no 315

From 22.09.2000

**Classification**

FCI-grp 2, section  
2.1: Molossians, ma-  
stiftype.

**Utilization:**

Companion and  
guard dog

**History:**

As a type this breed has been known since the Middle Ages, when it was used for hunting (staghunting). Later on it was mainly used as guard dog for large farms and manors.

At the end of the 18th century these dogs were purebred and increased in numbers thanks to the Chamberlain Sehested of Broholm from whom the breed inherited its name.

After the Second World War they became almost extinct, but around 1975 a group of committed people - later organized as "The Society for Reconstruction of the Broholmer Breed" supported by the Danish Kennel Klub, began the work of reviving the breed.

**Background**

It was not until the 1970s that the Danish Kennel Club (DKK) became aware that there were still a number of individual Broholmer dogs in Denmark. The DKK launched a search for Broholmer dogs via an article in its members' magazine, "Hunden". Happily, the article produced several responses, and established contact with the owners of Bjørn, a yellow male dog aged 11, who was unfortunately sterile and a black male, Manne, aged 7. We know that Manne had Broholmer genes and it transpired that he had sired many puppies over the years, including a litter out of a St. Bernard dam.

Later, Manne was mated with a granddaughter descended from the above-mentioned St. Bernard dam and a Boxer. The match produced a yellow male dog of the desired Broholmer type that was named C. Bastian. It proved difficult to find suitable dams for C. Bastian. The DKK launched an appeal in all the national and dailies and local newspapers. After a time, a bitch called Muffe was located. She was mated with C. Bastian, and produced a litter of 12, of which four puppies were suitable for use in reconstructing the breed. All four (three males and one bitch) were registered in DKK's so-called "X-registry", a registry that contains studbooks for pedigree breeds not recognised by the FCI. These four dogs were the gene pool for the breed reconstruction programme

By 1978, the breed needed new blood. Two siblings from the same litter, the product of the mating of a Spanish mastiff with an English Mastiff, were acquired from The Netherlands. The bitch was mated with one of the first Broholmer males in the Danish X-registry studbook. The breeding strategy consistently avoided crossing siblings but was obliged of course to employ line breeding, as the gene pool was extremely small.

In 1979, an association, "Selskabet til rekonstruktion af Broholmerracen", was founded to reconstruct the Broholmer breed. This would later be renamed "Broholmerselskabet". Initially managed by DKK's Committee for National and Extinct Dog Breeds (UNGR), the association was not a breed club, although it did function as a support organisation for UNGR. In 1982, the old breed standard, dating from 1886, was updated and approved by the FCI.

Throughout the 1980s, the DKK began screening dogs for breeding, and the UNGR screened the dogs to assess if they were suitable for future breeding work. As the number of dogs gradually increased, "Broholmerselskabet" sought to exert influence on the breeding programme, managed until then by UNGR. In 1994, a member of "Broholmerselskabet" was nominated to represent the association in the UNGR, and a year later, a further two representatives of the association gained seats in the UNGR.

In 1996, the DKK and "Broholmerselskabet" entered an official partnership agreement, according to which it was possible to obtain X-registry pedigree records, i.e. pedigree records not recognised by the FCI.

Over the years, it became obvious that maintaining the black variant was difficult so, in 1996, the DKK encouraged "Broholmerselskabet" to focus more on the black variant. There was another widespread search, this time for black dogs. In 1996, a black male was located. He was related to the founder dam, Muffe. He was screened and found to be a suitable breeding subject. In 1997, he sired his first litter.

**Breed Standard**

FCI no 315

From 22.09.2000

**Classification**

FCI-grp 2, section

2.1: Molossians, mastiff-type.

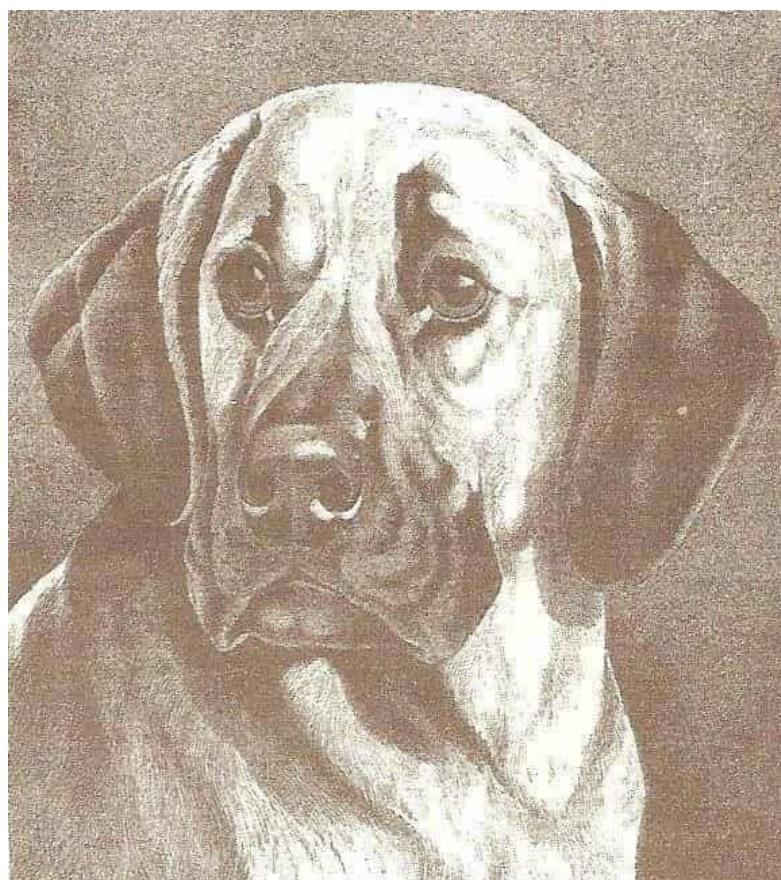
**Utilization:**

Companion and  
guard dog

“Broholmerselskabet” subsequently lobbied for international recognition of the breed. Finally, in 1998, this great milestone was achieved. The breed was internationally recognised by the FCI and became eligible to receive DKK/FCI pedigree. Meanwhile, “Broholmerselskabet” was officially recognised as a Breed Club under the auspices of the DKK, and granted full responsibility for future breeding work. FCI recognition also meant that the stud book was now closed, which meant that new registrations would be accepted only from the descendants of dogs already listed in the studbook.

Until 1 January 2015, the DKK classified the breed as being under reconstruction, for which reason “Broholmerselskabet” remained responsible for the breeding. After 1 January 2015, responsibility for the breed was returned to UNGR. Breeding was de-restricted, i.e. breeders were now free to plan and retain responsibility for their own breeding programmes, if matches complied with breeding restrictions introduced by the DKK for the breed.

It was no longer possible to achieve approval for breeding by means of exterior assessment. Show requirements for the breed were introduced instead. After 1 January 2015, a dog had to be awarded at least a Very Good at an FCI-sanctioned show by a judge serving on a specially nominated panel of judges. After 1 January 2018, stricter requirements were introduced, which mean that a dog cannot be approved for breeding until it is at least 24 months old.



**Ideal Dänscher Dogge.**

(Nach einer Zeichnung von J. Bungartz.)

(Illustration aus dem *Illustrierten Muster Hunde Buch.*)

## BREED STANDARD

### General Appearance:

A mastiff-type of dog, of large size, rectangular and strongly built, with a composed and powerful movement. Its appearance is dominated by the powerful forequarters. The head is massive and wide, the neck is sturdy with some loose skin, the chest is broad and deep. The dogs must show a distinct gender identity, the males must be distinctly masculine and the females feminine. At rest the head is carried rather low and stooping, and the tail is hanging down sabrelike. When moving the tail is carried higher but not over the topline. When the dog is attentive or aroused, the head is carried higher and the tail is raised above horizontal.

### Faults:

- ◆ Square proportions
- ◆ Insufficient in substance, forechest and depth of chest
- ◆ Too light and elegant in head and body
- ◆ Movement too elegant

### Size

#### Height at withers

Male ca 75 cm

Bitch ca 70 cm

#### Weight

Male 50 - 70 kg

Bitch 40 - 60 kg

### General appearance:

To illustrate the difference between a correct and an incorrect general appearance, three male dogs, each showing a very different general appearance, are illustrated below:

1. A male dog of the correct type and correct proportions
2. An overtyped male
3. A male dog that is too light and elegant.

Please note that being overtyped is just as undesirable as being too light and elegant.



A

five-year-old male dog, excellent type, correct general appearance with correct proportions, where the height from the withers to the elbow—and from the elbow to the ground is 1:1



A three-year-old substantial but exaggerated and overtyped male dog.

## BREED STANDARD

### General Appearance:

A mastiff-type of dog, of large size, rectangular and strongly built, with a composed and powerful movement. Its appearance is dominated by the powerful forequarters. The head is massive and wide, the neck is sturdy with some loose skin, the chest is broad and deep. The dogs must show a distinct gender identity, the males must be distinctly masculine and the females feminine. At rest the head is carried rather low and stooping, and the tail is hanging down sabrelike. When moving the tail is carried higher but not over the topline. When the dog is attentive or aroused, the head is carried higher and the tail is raised above horizontal.



2½-year-old male dog that is too light and elegant and has square proportions

### Male dogs of the correct type, and correct proportions and only minor deviations from the breed standard:



2½-year-old male dog of correct type. He has a correct, heavy general appearance. His croup is a little too sloping.

### Size

#### Height at withers

Male ca 75 cm

Bitch ca 70 cm

#### Weight

Male 50 - 70 kg

Bitch 40 - 60 kg

## BREED STANDARD

### General Appearance:

A mastiff-type of dog, of large size, rectangular and strongly built, with a composed and powerful movement. Its appearance is dominated by the powerful forequarters. The head is massive and wide, the neck is sturdy with some loose skin, the chest is broad and deep. The dogs must show a distinct gender identity, the males must be distinctly masculine and the females feminine. At rest the head is carried rather low and stooping, and the tail is hanging down sabrelike. When moving the tail is carried higher but not over the topline. When the dog is attentive or aroused, the head is carried higher and the tail is raised above horizontal.



Seven-year-old male dog of correct type. He has a correct, heavy general appearance. He is cow-hocked.

### Faults:

- ◆ Square proportions
- ◆ Insufficient in substance, forechest and depth of chest
- ◆ Too light and elegant in head and body
- ◆ Movement too elegant

### Size

#### Height at withers

Male ca 75 cm

Bitch ca 70 cm

#### Weight

Male 50 - 70 kg

Bitch 40 - 60 kg



Five-year-old male dog of correct type. He has a correct, heavy general appearance. The tail is a little low set

## BREED STANDARD

### General Appearance:

A mastiff-type of dog, of large size, rectangular and strongly built, with a composed and powerful movement. Its appearance is dominated by the powerful forequarters. The head is massive and wide, the neck is sturdy with some loose skin, the chest is broad and deep. The dogs must show a distinct gender identity, the males must be distinctly masculine and the females feminine. At rest the head is carried rather low and stooping, and the tail is hanging down sabrelike. When moving the tail is carried higher but not over the topline. When the dog is attentive or aroused, the head is carried higher and the tail is raised above horizontal.

**Bitches of correct type and correct proportions with only minor deviations from the breed standard:**



### Faults:

- ◆ Square proportions
- ◆ Insufficient in substance, forechest and depth of chest
- ◆ Too light and elegant in head and body
- ◆ Movement too elegant

### Size

#### Height at withers

Male ca 75 cm

Bitch ca 70 cm

#### Weight

Male 50 - 70 kg

Bitch 40 - 60 kg

A four-year-old bitch of correct type. She has a correct, heavy general appearance. Lips slightly too pendulous.



A 1½-year-old bitch of correct type, although her ears are slightly too big and low set.

## BREED STANDARD

### General Appearance:

A mastiff-type of dog, of large size, rectangular and strongly built, with a composed and powerful movement. Its appearance is dominated by the powerful forequarters. The head is massive and wide, the neck is sturdy with some loose skin, the chest is broad and deep. The dogs must show a distinct gender identity, the males must be distinctly masculine and the females feminine. At rest the head is carried rather low and stooping, and the tail is hanging down sabrelike. When moving the tail is carried higher but not over the topline. When the dog is attentive or aroused, the head is carried higher and the tail is raised above horizontal.

### Faults:

- ◆ Square proportions
- ◆ Insufficient in substance, forechest and depth of chest
- ◆ Too light and elegant in head and body
- ◆ Movement too elegant

### Size

#### Height at withers

Male ca 75 cm

Bitch ca 70 cm

### Weight

Male 50 - 70 kg

Bitch 40 - 60 kg



A 2½-year-old bitch of correct type. She has a correct, heavy general appearance. Has excessive, yet acceptable, white markings on left foreleg.



## BREED STANDARD

## Head and Skull

### Proportions:

Skull and muzzle are of equal length.

### Head:

**Skull:** Broad and rather flat. Topline of skull is parallel to topline off muzzle and set a little higher.

**Stop:** Not too pronounced.

**Nose:** Full and black.

**Muzzle:** Massive, looking rather short due to the heavy head. Upper and lower jaw are of equal length.

**Lips:** Pendulous, but not excessively so.

**Jaws/teeth:** Powerful jaws with well developed muscles. Scissor or pincer bite.

### Faults:

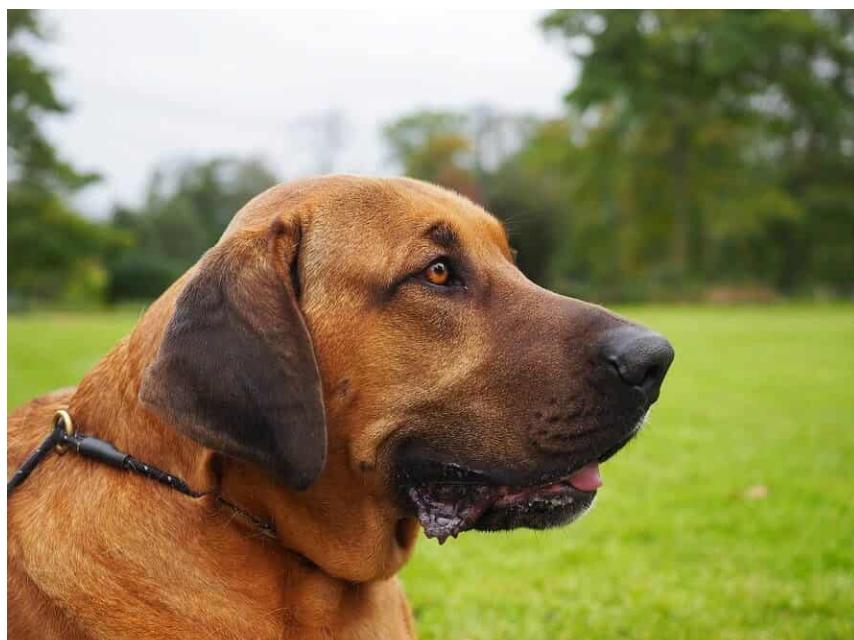
- ◆ Too light and elegant in head
- ◆ Stop too marked, muzzle too light, corners of mouth pendulous

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ Nose other than black
- ◆ Over - or undershot mouth
- ◆ Eyes of different colours



Male dog, five years old with correct flat, broad skull, correct slightly marked stop and correct black nose.



Male dog, three years old, showing correct head profile with parallel lines between skull and muzzle, and correctly proportioned skull and muzzle lengths.

## BREED STANDARD

### Head and skull

#### Proportions:

Skull and muzzle are of equal length.

#### Head:

**Skull:** Broad and rather flat. Topline of Skull is parallel to topline of muzzle and set a little higher.

**Stop:** Not too pronounced.

**Nose:** Full and black.

**Muzzle:** Massive, looking rather short due to the heavy head. Upper and lower jaw are of equal length.

**Lips:** Pendulous, but not excessively so.

**Jaws/teeth:** Powerful jaws with well developed muscles. Scissor or pincer bite.

#### Faults:

- ◆ Too light and elegant in head
- ◆ Stop too marked, muzzle too light, corners of mouth pendulous

#### Disqualifying faults

- ◆ **Nose other than black**
- ◆ **Over - or undershot mouth**
- ◆ **Eyes of different colours**



Bitch, 4½ years old, correct feminine bitch head seen in profile, with correct parallel skull and muzzle. Skull and muzzle are equal in length. However, she has somewhat small ears.



Bitch, 2½ years old, correct feminine bitch head seen from the front. Deep-set eyes and ears on the large side.

## BREED STANDARD

### Incorrect head/skull proportions

#### Proportions:

Skull and muzzle are of equal length.

#### Head:

**Skull:** Broad and rather flat. Topline of Skull is parallel to topline off muzzle and set a little higher.

**Stop:** Not too pronounced.

**Nose:** Full and black.

**Muzzle:** Massive, looking rather short due to the heavy head. Upper and lower jaw are of equal length.

**Lips:** Pendulous, but not excessively so.

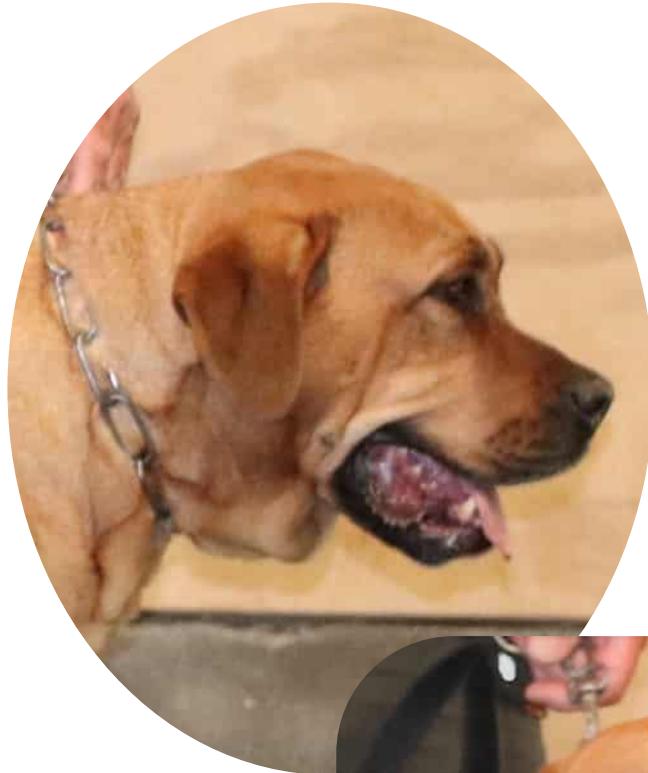
**Jaws/teeth:** Powerfull jaws with well developed muscles. Scissor or pincer bite.

#### Faults:

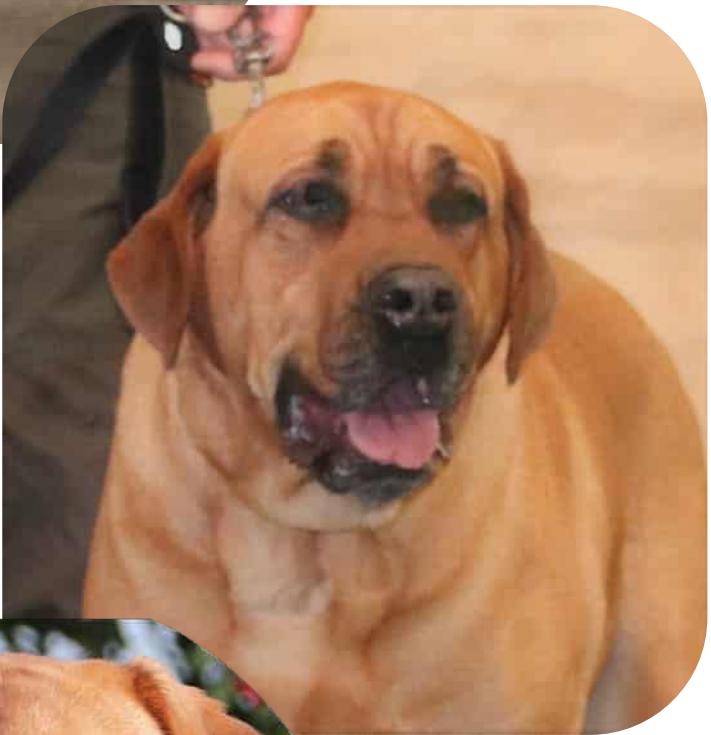
- ◆ Too light and elegant in head
- ◆ Stop too marked, muzzle too light, corners of mouth pendulous

#### Disqualifying faults

- ◆ Nose other than black
- ◆ Over - or undershoot mouth
- ◆ Eyes of different colours



A five-year-old bitch, skull and muzzle are not parallel.



A 2½-year-old bitch, head is too light and elegant – and wedge-shaped. Skull is too narrow.

## BREED STANDARD

**Eyes:** Round not too big, or too deep-set and not too slanted—The eyerims are tightly fitting.

Colour from light to dark amber. Expression should show great self-confidence.

**Ears:** Medium sized, rather high set. Carried hanging close to cheeks.

**Neck:** Very powerful and muscular with some throatiness yet not excessive.

### Faults:

- ◆ Ears too big or too small.  
Rose ears.

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Eyes of different colours**
- ◆ **Erect ears**

## Eyes

In the following, all of the male dogs shown have correct eye colour but represent the extremes of the colour palette.



A 2½-year-old male dog with correctly positioned light amber-coloured eyes and correct, high-positioned, large ears.



A five-year old male dog with correctly positioned round amber-coloured eyes, the ears are correctly positioned but carried a little low in the picture.



A five-year-old male dog with correctly positioned round, dark amber-coloured eyes and correct, high-positioned ears. He is squinting in the sunlight so his eyes do not seem to be completely round.

## BREED STANDARD

**Eyes:** Round not too big, or too deep-set and not too slanted—The eyerims are tightly fitting.

Colour from light to dark amber. Expression should show great self-confidence.

**Ears:** Medium sized, rather high set. Carried hanging close to cheeks.

**Neck:** Very powerful and muscular with some throatiness yet not excessive.

### Faults:

- ◆ Ears too big or too small.  
Rose ears.

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Eyes of different colours**
- ◆ **Erect ears**

## Eyes - faults

The following images illustrate different incorrect eye shapes and positions.

The breed includes individuals with very slanting eyes and eyes that are set fairly deep. Some individuals have loose skin around the eyes. Neither of those traits are desirable in the breed.



A 14-week-old puppy. The eyes are excessively slanted, even for its age.



A 2½-year-old male dog with slanting eyes and wedge-shaped head.



A three-year-old male dog. His eyes are somewhat too large and his nose is reddish.

## BREED STANDARD

**Eyes:** Round not too big, or too deep-set and not too slanted—The eyerims are tightly fitting.

Colour from light to dark amber. Expression should show great self-confidence.

**Ears:** Medium sized, rather high set. Carried hanging close to cheeks.

**Neck:** Very powerful and muscular with some throatiness yet not excessive.

### Faults:

- ◆ Ears too big or too small.
- ◆ Rose ears.

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Eyes of different colours**
- ◆ **Erect ears**

## Ears

A Broholmer must have medium-sized, fairly high-set ears, carried such that the ears hang close to the cheeks.



Two bitches – daughter on the left, mother on the right – very different types but both have correctly positioned and correctly carried ears. The ears on the bitch on the right are too big.



Young male dog with correctly positioned ears. They are not carried correctly, as there is a fold on both ears and a tendency for rose ears.



## BREED STANDARD

### Lips

**Lips:** Pendulous, yet not excessively.



Young bitch with correct, slightly loose-hanging lips.



A five-year-old bitch with excessively loose-hanging lips.

**BREED STANDARD****Nose**

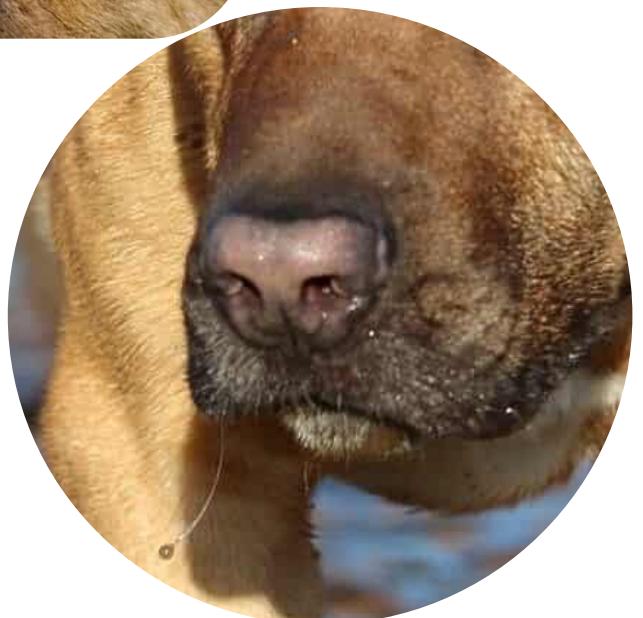
**Nose:** Full and black.

**Disqualifying faults:**

- ◆ **Nose other than black**



Correct black nose



Nose not black - disqualifying fault in the breed



Nose not black - disqualifying fault in the breed

## BREED STANDARD

**Eyes:** Round not too big, or too deep-set and not too slanted—The eyerims are tightly fitting.

Colour from light to dark amber. Expression should show great self-confidence.

**Ears:** Medium sized, rather high set. Carried hanging close to cheeks.

**Neck:** Very powerful and muscular with some throatiness yet not excessive.

### Faults:

- ◆ Ears too big or too small.  
Rose ears.

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Eyes of different colours**
- ◆ **Erect ears**

## Neck and dewlap:

The following pictures of dogs show correct loose dewlap. Note that the dewlap starts on the neck, not from the lips.



A five-year-old bitch with correct loose dewlap seen in profile.



A seven-year-old bitch with correct loose dewlap.

## BREED STANDARD

### Body - topline:

#### Body:

**Topline:** Straight.

**Withers:** Strong and clearly defined.

**Back:** Rather long.

**Croup:** Medium length, slightly sloping.

**Chest:** Powerful and deep, with a well developed forechest.



#### Faults:

- ◆ Square proportions
- ◆ Insufficient in substance, forechest and depth of chest

Bitch with an acceptable topline and well-defined withers, long spine and correct slightly sloping croup. She is a bit too soft in the back.



Bitch with correct spine length, good well-defined withers but excessively sloping croup.



A seven-year-old male dog with correct long back, defined withers and correct slightly sloping croup.

## BREED STANDARD

### Body:

**Topline:** Straight.

**Withers:** Strong and clearly defined.

**Back:** Rather long.

**Croup:** Medium length, slightly sloping.

**Chest:** Powerful and deep, with a well developed forechest.

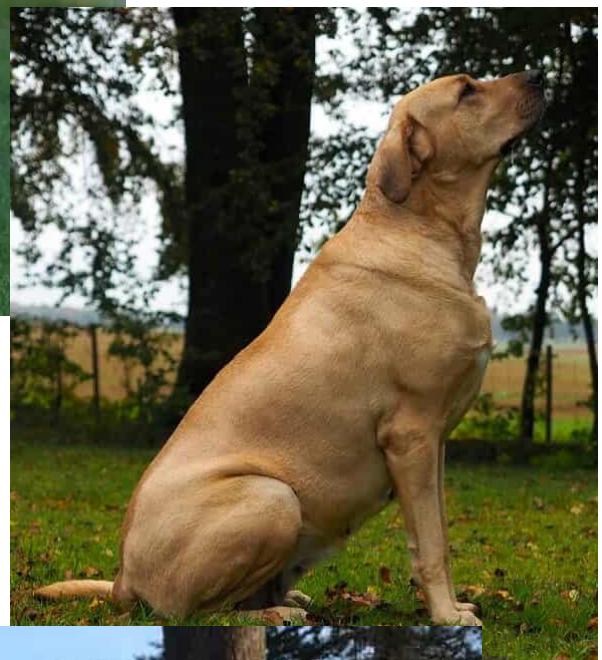
### Faults:

- ◆ Square proportions
- ◆ Insufficient in substance, forechest and depth of chest

### Body - forechest:



A four-year-old bitch with well-defined forechest and correct deep rib cage.



A four-year-old bitch with correct defined forechest.



A two-year-old male dog with correct defined forechest.

## BREED STANDARD

### Limbs:

#### Forequarters:

Strong, straight and powerful forelegs with muscular upper-arms. The length and angulation of the bones should produce a free movement with good reach walking and trotting.

**Upper arm:** Very muscular.

**Elbows:** Moving closely to the body.

**Forearm:** Straight and powerful.

**Pastern:** Not too long.

**Front feet:** Rounded and tight fitting

### Faults:

- ◆ Long and weak in pasterns, splayed feet

### Body - forequarters:



A two-year-old male dog with correct heavy forequarters typical of the breed.

Strong and powerful straight forelegs with good musculature, well-defined forechest and correct loose dewlap.

In the picture, one foreleg bends slightly outwards.

Due to his young age, the elbows are not yet completely adjoining.



A 2½-year-old bitch with correct heavy forequarters typical of the breed.

Strong and powerful straight forelegs with good musculature and elbows close to body, well-defined forechest and correct loose dewlap.

She is standing slightly crooked in the picture. Even so, the sturdiness of her forequarters is unmistakeable.

## BREED STANDARD

### Limbs:

#### Forequarters:

Strong, straight and powerful forelegs with muscular upper-arms. The length and angulation of the bones should produce a free movement with good reach walking and trotting.

**Upper arm:** Very muscular.

**Elbows:** Moving closely to the body.

**Forearm:** Straight and powerful.

**Pastern:** Not too long.

**Front feet:** Rounded and tight fitting

#### Faults:

- ◆ Long and weak in pasterns, splayed feet

### Body - forequarters:

The breeding standard states that the Broholmer must have powerful forequarters: a heavy neck with loose dewlap and a deep, broad chest. One precondition for the desired powerful forequarters is that the dog has a rounded rib cage that allows the chest to develop. The pictures below show dogs that do not have the heavy forequarters that are characteristic of the breed.



A 2½-year-old male dog with flat rib cage. His forequarters lack the desired breadth, depth and heaviness. His forearm is short and his front angulation is therefore steep.



Above: A 2½-year-old bitch whose forequarters lack the desired breadth, depth and heaviness that are characteristic of the breed. Her forearm is short and her forequarters are consequently steeply angulated.



Male dog, almost three years old, lacks the heaviness, breadth and depth of forequarters required for the breed. His forearm is short and his forequarters are consequently steeply angulated.

## BREED STANDARD

### Limbs:

#### Forequarters:

Strong, straight and powerful forelegs with muscular upper-arms. The length and angulation of the bones should produce a free movement with good reach walking and trotting.

**Upper arm:** Very muscular.

**Elbows:** Moving closely to the body.

**Forearm:** Straight and powerful.

**Pastern:** Not too long.

**Front feet:** Rounded and tight fitting

#### Faults:

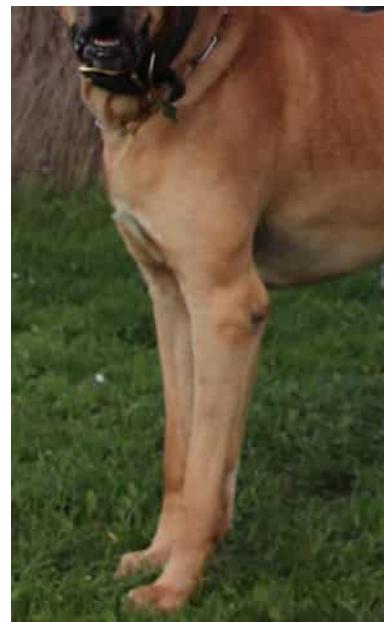
- ◆ Long and weak in pasterns, splayed feet

## Body - forequarters:

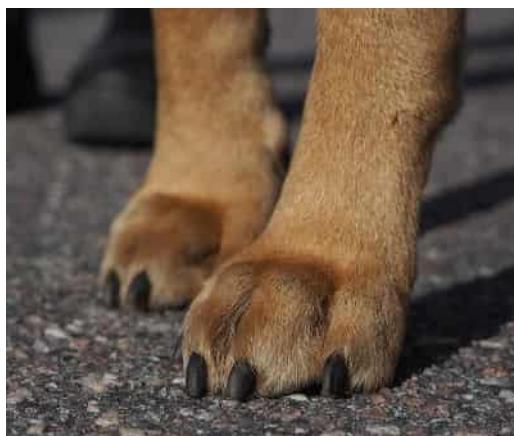
The examples below are of dogs whose forequarters lack in breed type:



A three-year-old bitch, too light in the leg. Moreover, she lacks forechest and depth of chest, therefore her elbows are not adjoining. Has short upper arm.



A three-year-old male, too light in the leg. Moreover, he lacks forechest and depth of chest, therefore his elbows are not adjoining. Has short upper arm.



Correct rounded and tight fitting paws.



Incorrect paws, weak and soft in pasterns, and feet are somewhat outwards-turned. Flat paws with splayed and too long toes.

## BREED STANDARD

### Limbs:

#### Hindquarters:

**Powerful and strong hindlegs with angulation able to produce good driving power.**  
**Seen from behind the hindlegs are straight and parallel.**

**Upper thigh:** powerful and muscular.  
Distinct knee angulation

**Rear pastern:** not too long.

**Hind feet:** Tight ,and the same lenght as the front feet.

### Faults:

- ◆ Long and weak in pasterns
- ◆ splayed feet
- ◆ Cowhocks

## Body - hindquarters

Powerful, strong and heavy forequarters and slightly lighter hindquarters are characteristic of the Broholmer breed. This does not mean, however, that the hindquarters should be weak and lack angulation. Unfortunately, many a Broholmer dog has relatively weak hindquarters, lacks correct stifle joint angulation, and is said to "stand under itself" and/or is cow-hocked.



A 2½-year-old male dog with a correct angulation, muscular, broad upper thigh.



A four-year-old bitch with inadequate stifle angulation. She stands under herself.

A 1½-year-old bitch with steep hindquarters due to inadequate stifle angulation.

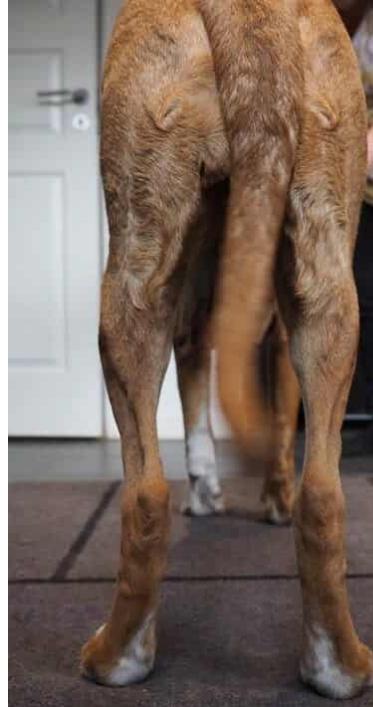
## BREED STANDARD

### Body - hindquarters

#### Limbs:

#### Hindquarters:

**Powerful and strong hind legs with angulation able to produce good driving power.** Seen from behind the hindlegs are straight and parallel.



**Upper thigh:** powerful and muscular. Distinct knee angulation

**Rear pastern:** not too long.

**Hind feet:** Tight ,and the same lenght as the front feet.

#### Faults:

- ◆ Long and weak in pasterns
- ◆ splayed feet
- ◆ Cowhocks

A 2½-year-old bitch with straight, parallel back legs seen from behind.



A two-year-old, cow-hocked male dog with a weak musculature and bowed knees and feet, and hocks that almost touch = cow-hocked



A three-year-old bitch with narrow thighs and a very sloping croup. She stands under herself.

## BREED STANDARD

### Tail:

Set on rather low. Is carried drooping and has no flag or feathering. When moving the tail is raised to a horizontal position, preferably not higher. It should never be carried over the back or in a curl.

### Body - tail

The Broholmer breed has a great tendency for "gay tails", i.e. the dog carries its tail high and almost curled in over its back as it trots around in its customary environment. This is not regarded a fault, rather as an expression of the dog's mood.

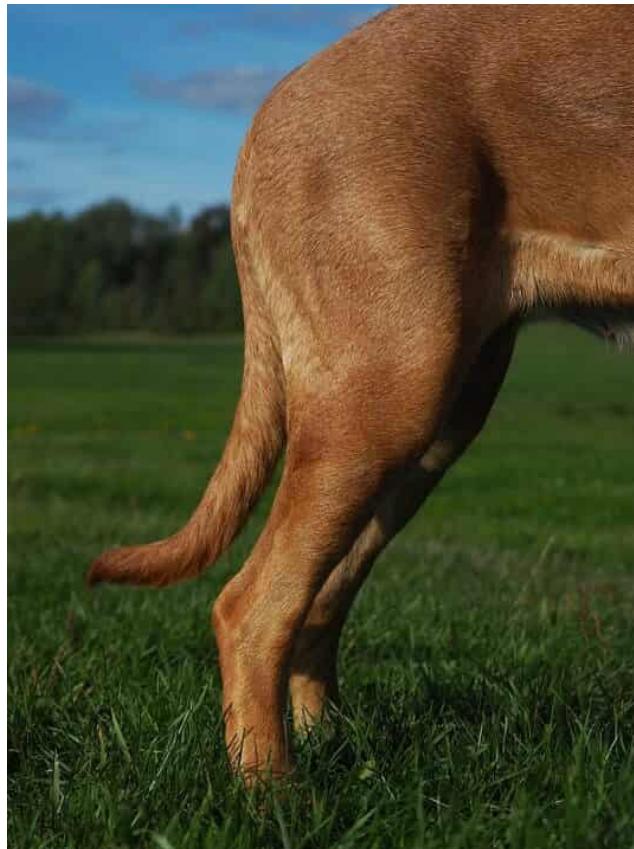
However, there is also a growing tendency for faulty tails, i.e. tails with kinks, hooked tails, even curled tails (like a Husky). It appears that tail carriage is inherited very strongly in the breed.

### Faults:

- ◆ Tail set too high or too low. Hook or kink tail

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ Tail curled up



Bitch with correct tail

## BREED STANDARD

### Body - tail

#### Tail:

Set on rather low. Is carried drooping and has no flag or feathering. When moving the tail is raised to a horizontal position, preferably not higher. It should never be carried over the back or in a curl.



#### Faults:

- ◆ Tail set too high or too low. Hook or kink tail.

Male dog with a tendency to a hooked tail.

#### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ Tail curled up



Female puppy with high set tail that is carried curled up over the back - disqualifying fault in the breed.



Bitch with a "gay" tail in her familiar surroundings.

## Coat and colours

### BREED STANDARD

**Skin:** Well pigmented and thick, generally profuse, especially at the neck.

**Coat:** hair: short and dense with a thick undercoat.

**Colours:** Yellow with or without a black mask. Red with or without a black mask. The mask should only be seen on the muzzle. Black. White markings on chest, feet and tip of tail are optional.

### Faults:

- ◆ Fringes/flag on the buttocks and tail
- ◆ White markings elsewhere than on the chest, feet and tip of tail
- ◆ Soot

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Coat: Colour faulty; long-haired**

The coat structure of a Broholmer is such that the dog can be outdoors in all kinds of weather conditions all year round, i.e. the dog must have a good thick undercoat. However, the tendency is that fewer dogs have the desired thick undercoat.

Colour testing reveals that, genetically speaking, the Broholmer has sable colouring that varies in intensity, ranging from very light, almost white sable, to a deep red sable. All variants of sable colouring are permitted. With regard to coat colour, very light-coloured Broholmers are just as correct as very dark-red individuals are.

A separate gene codes the dog's mask. As we now know that red and yellow Broholmers are colour-genetically identical, it no longer makes sense to categorise variants as "yellow with mask" or "Golden red without mask".

There are two ways in which a dog can develop white markings:

- 1: via a piebald gene that codes for extreme white markings.
- 2: via the body running short of pigment before the red colour covers the dog's entire body. We can compare this phenomenon to a cardigan that can no longer extend around the girth and therefore cannot be buttoned in the middle. Variant 2 is a random mutation.

Piebald, on the other hand, is a gene that can produce a completely white dog. A dog that possesses only one piebald gene may have undesirable white markings on its head, neck or legs. A dog can also carry the piebald gene hidden. It has the gene but no white markings. A dog that receives a piebald gene from each of its parents and therefore has two piebald genes, has a piebald appearance (mostly white). In the Broholmer, the term used is "blomstret" (translates "floral").

It is easy to DNA-test the dog and establish if it carries the piebald gene.

There are two ways in which a dog can develop black coat:

1: dominant black: The presence of just one gene for dominant black means that the dog has a black coat. If a black Broholmer that only has one gene for dominant black is mated with a genetic sable (red/yellow) Broholmer, they can produce both puppies that are sable (no inherited gene for black) and also puppies that are black with only one gene for dominant black. Two genes for dominant black in just one of the parent animals will always produce a litter of black dogs, regardless of the colour of the other breeding partner.

2: recessive black: For puppies to be recessive black, they must inherit two genes for recessive black – one from the dam and one from the sire. Both parents may be sable (yellow/red) but if both carry a hidden gene for recessive black, they can produce recessive black puppies if the puppy receives a gene for recessive black from both dam and sire. The mating of two recessive black Broholmers will never produce dominant black puppies. All the black puppies of such a mating will be recessive black.

Due to the relatively small number of breeding animals in the gene pool, to avoid incorrectly coloured Broholmers, we recommend that breeding animals are colour-tested before entering the breeding programme.

## BREED STANDARD

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**Colours:** Yellow with or without a black mask. Red with or without a black mask. The mask should only be seen on the muzzle. Black. White markings on chest, feet and tip of tail are optional.

### Faults:

- ◆ Fringes/flag on the buttocks and tail
- ◆ White markings elsewhere than on the chest, feet and tip of tail
- ◆ Soot

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Coat: Colour faulty; long-haired**

## Coat and colours

Unfortunately, there is a tendency for recessive black Broholmer dogs to fail to develop the desired pure black colour. They often develop brown markings in their coat. The brown markings most often become more visible as the dog ages so the dog ends up looking like a poorly coloured black and tan.

Project “Black Broholmer” was launched to focus on and maintain the black Broholmer. The project will therefore be based on dominant black dogs in the breed.



A 2½-year-old recessive black bitch seen from the side and back. The brown markings are very visible on her neck and skull, but particularly on her legs. Below, the same bitch at six weeks old. The brown markings are beginning to become apparent on the ears.



## BREED STANDARD

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**Colours:** Yellow with or without a black mask. Red with or without a black mask. The mask should only be seen on the muzzle. Black. White markings on chest, feet and tip of tail are optional.

### Faults:

- ◆ Fringes/flag on the buttocks and tail
- ◆ White markings elsewhere than on the chest, feet and tip of tail
- ◆ Soot

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Coat: Colour faulty; long-haired**

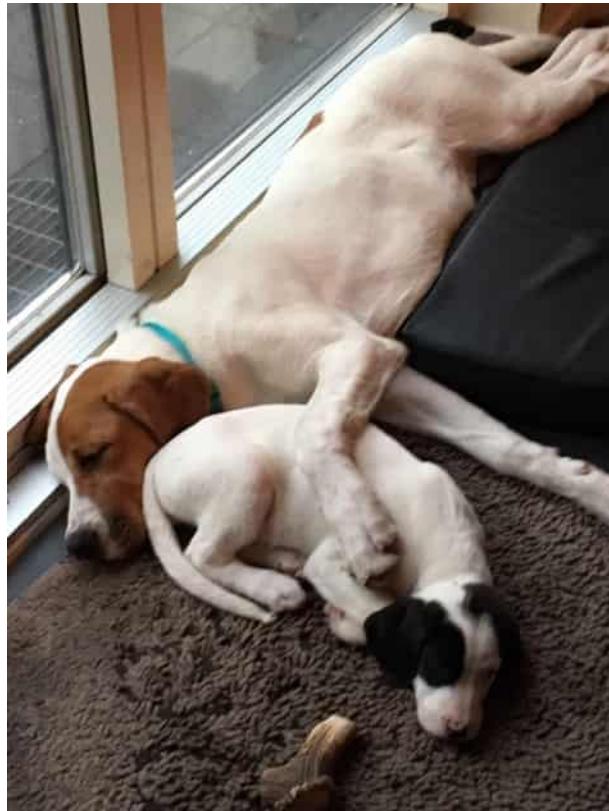
## Coat and colours

There are black and tan variants of the breed. Black and tan is considered an undesirable colour. The gene that codes for a long coat is also found in the breed. To date, two Broholmer litters are recorded that included longhaired puppies. See pictures later in this section.

Similarly, some dogs of the breed have a very sooty coat, i.e. genetically sable dogs that have many black hairs in their coat on the body and head. A little soot is acceptable but exaggerated soot in the coat, particularly on the head, is undesirable in the breed



Litter born in 1981



2 puppies from 2 different litters born in 2019

## BREED STANDARD

**Skin:** Well pigmented and thick, generally profuse, especially at the neck.

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### Faults:

- ◆ Fringes/flag on the buttocks and tail
- ◆ White markings elsewhere than on the chest, feet and tip of tail
- ◆ Soot

### Disqualifying faults:

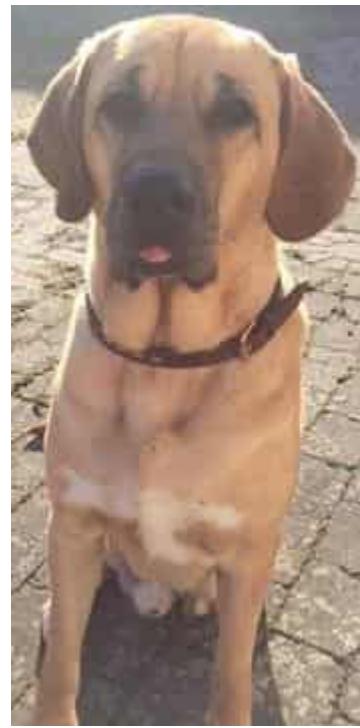
- ◆ **Coat: Colour faulty; long-haired**

## Coat - correct colours

The pictures below show variants of correctly coloured sable dogs ranging from light yellow to dark red. In terms of colour, all are equally correct.



Yellow, no mask



Yellow, mask



Red, no mask



Red, mask

## BREED STANDARD

**Skin:** Well pigmented and thick, generally profuse, especially at the neck.

**Coat:** hair: short and dense with a thick undercoat.

**Colours:** Yellow with or without a black mask. Red with or without a black mask. The mask should only be seen on the muzzle. Black. White markings on chest, feet and tip of tail are optional.

### Faults:

- ◆ Fringes/flag on the buttocks and tail
- ◆ White markings elsewhere than on the chest, feet and tip of tail
- ◆ Soot

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Coat: Colour faulty; long-haired**

## Coat - dominant black

The pictures below show three dominant black dogs, all with the desired deep black colour.



Correct dominant black male



Correct dominant black female



Six-year-old dominant black male seen in profile

## Coat - white markings

### BREED STANDARD

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**Colours:** Yellow with or without a black mask. Red with or without a black mask. The mask should only be seen on the muzzle. Black. White markings on chest, feet and tip of tail are optional.

#### Faults:

- ◆ Fringes/flag on the buttocks and tail
- ◆ White markings elsewhere than on the chest, feet and tip of tail
- ◆ Soot

#### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Coat: Colour faulty; long-haired**



A two-year-old bitch with excessive, but yet acceptable white markings on forequarters and forelegs. She has one gene for piebald



A two-year-old bitch with too excessive white markings. She has one gene for piebald. To protect the breed's gene pool, it is not recommended to be too strict on markings like these when judging this breed



A three-year-old bitch. Like the other two, she has one gene for piebald. This bitch has disqualifying white markings in the shape of a white collar, white markings on the head and one completely white foreleg.

## BREED STANDARD

**Skin:** Well pigmented and thick, generally profuse, especially at the neck.

**Coat:** hair: short and dense with a thick undercoat.

**Colours:** Yellow with or without a black mask. Red with or without a black mask. The mask should only be seen on the muzzle. Black. White markings on chest, feet and tip of tail are optional.

### Faults:

- ◆ Fringes/flag on the buttocks and tail
- ◆ White markings elsewhere than on the chest, feet and tip of tail
- ◆ Soot

### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Coat: Colour faulty; long-haired**

### Coat - soot

Soot (black hairs in the coat) is often seen in the breed but not considered a fault as such, as it is a natural occurrence in sable dogs.

From time to time, a dog's coat is so sooty that it distorts the general appearance. In particular, a very sooty head can disrupt the friendly and welcoming facial expression that is characteristic of the breed.



Adult bitch with exaggerated soot on the head. Her black mask is not limited to the muzzle but extends right up to the eyes and skull. This is considered a fault in the breed



A three-year-old male dog, mask correctly limited to the muzzle.



A nine-month-old bitch with exaggerated soot on body and skull.



Young bitch with exaggerated soot on chest and neck.

## BREED STANDARD

### Coat - disqualifying faults

**Skin:** Well pigmented and thick, generally profuse, especially at the neck.

**Coat:** hair: short and dense with a thick undercoat.

**Colours:** Yellow with or without a black mask. Red with or without a black mask. The mask should only be seen on the muzzle. Black. White markings on chest, feet and tip of tail are optional.

#### Faults:

- ◆ Fringes/flag on the buttocks and tail
- ◆ White markings elsewhere than on the chest, feet and tip of tail
- ◆ Soot

#### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Coat: Colour faulty; long-haired**



Adult bitch that has two genes for piebald and therefore is piebald. In the Broholmer, the term used is "floral". This is a disqualifying fault.

Black and tan bitch – disqualifying fault in the breed.



Longhaired adult bitch – disqualifying fault in the breed.

## BREED STANDARD

### Movement

#### Gait:

Composed and stooping with a long stride.

Natural gaits are walking and trotting.

At rest the head is carried rather low and stooping, and the tail is hanging down sabrelike.

Movements must be free and ground covering.

#### Faults:

- ◆ Movement too elegant
- ◆ Pacing

The Broholmer must have powerful, docile and stooping movements with a long stride. The body stance must be stooping with head lowered to reflect the sturdy forequarters.

The breed must not move with a noble forward carriage, e.g. like the Great Dane.

Pace is not desirable in the breed but unfortunately often observed, and some genetic disposition is observed.



Senior bitch with correct long, stooping gait and correct stooping stance.



A five-year-old bitch with the correct stooping stance.



A 3 1/2-year-old bitch with the correct stooping gait and correct stooping stance seen at an oblique angle/from the side.

## BREED STANDARD

### Behaviour/

#### temperament:

Calm, good tempered, friendly yet watchful. Must show great self-confidence

#### Disqualifying faults:

- ◆ **Aggressive, or overly shy dogs**
- ◆ **Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities**

### Mentality

The Broholmer is a guarding dog at the mildest end of the watchdog scale.

Key to the breed temperament is ample self-confidence. An adult Broholmer must be well balanced and exude calmness, amicability and confidence.

The dog guards solely based on its self-confidence, size and bark. The dog is never aggressive.

Aggression towards other dogs of the same gender is observed in the breed, both males and bitches, although mostly the males.

Most Broholmer dogs get along well with other dogs and other domesticated animals. Today, the breed is primarily a popular family dog.

When the new owner acquires a Broholmer, it is important that he spend a great deal of time socialising, training obedience and introducing the dog to a variety of environments. The adult is a large, heavy dog and it is therefore important to train obedience and handling from an early age.

Completed mental description is a requirement in order for a dog to be approved for breeding.

