

**The Nordic Kennel Clubs 2018
(second edition)**

Breed Specific Instructions (BSI)

regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs

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Preface to the second edition

The first edition of the NKU BSI document was published in March 2014. It was decided that the document should be evaluated every 3rd year. An evaluation has been performed by each of the Nordic kennel clubs, based on either online questionnaires or seminars.

All judges, not only the allrounders, have been asked to give their opinion and comment on the breeds they are authorised to judge. The breed clubs has been contacted with online questionnaires or by direct contact. The BSI document has been discussed on several judge seminars and breed club seminars in our countries, and has also been presented and discussed on seminars outside Scandinavia.

This new edition is based on results from the questionnaires, as well as information and feedback from seminars. The judges' reports that have been filled out by the judges in the show ring, are also included in the evaluation.

The breeds listed in this document are chosen based on the estimated risk for unhealthy exaggerations of the breed characteristics

and possible misleading interpretation of the standard. The listed breeds satisfy the four basic pillars: Suggestions from the judges, veterinary experience, dialogues with the breed clubs, and evaluation of the judges' reports from the shows. Frequently occurring construction faults, which are not connected to exaggeration of the breed standard, are principally not listed.

Five breeds are removed from the first edition: West Highland White Terrier, the Dachshunds, Flat Coated Retriever, Borzoi and Irish Wolfhound. New breeds on the list are Czechoslovakian Wolfdog, Saarloos Wolfdog and Azawakh.

The judges' report form has been revised, making it easier for the judges to fill it out, and for the kennel clubs to handle the information and results. The new report form can be found at the last pages of this document. It will also be available for the judges at the dog shows where the national kennel club are asking for your report.

We want to thank all the judges and the breed clubs for their contribution to the second

edition of the NKU BSI document, and hope for your future contribution. Healthy pedigree dogs without exaggerations are vital for the sustainability of the dog breeds and motivation for the future of dog shows – and for the future existence of several of our breeds in many countries!

Thank you so much for your cooperation!

March 2018

NKU BSI Working group

on behalf of the Nordic Kennel Union

Introduction

The dog show judge has an excellent opportunity to prevent unsound breeding by avoiding giving high awards, and instead merit the specimen with the optimal combination of breed type and soundness.

The present document is a comprehensive survey of problems connected to exaggerations regarding pedigree dogs. This knowledge is of basic importance for all dog show judges, and concerns dogs of all breeds. Judges are requested to study the whole document. They should pay special attention to the specific text regarding the breed(s) they are judging, as well as the introduction for the for the pertinent FCI group. Please see “Application” for principles of advice.

The primary task of a dog show judge is to preserve the characteristics of each breed within the frames of the approved breed standard. This must, however, never be done at the expense of soundness. It is the responsibility of the judge to be thoroughly acquainted with the breed standard as well as the anatomical and constructional risk areas for possible health problems caused by exaggeration of the breed type characteristics. Such exaggerations may harm the individual dog, and interfere with the development of the breed as a whole.

A breed standard does not describe exaggerations, but the wording of breed typical characteristics can mislead judges and breeders to such interpretations that specimen with extreme type will be preferred at shows and, as a consequence, in breeding.

A judge shall primarily evaluate the exhibits as a result of previous generations of breeding. However, *trends towards exaggerations* must be identified before they have given rise to problems.*

The BSI identify *areas of risk* related to breed type. The intention of the document is to increase the judges' awareness of problems related to *exaggerations in breed types*. BSI is thus primarily a complement to the breed standard, and not a listing of deviations and faults, nor a manual of rules connecting the observed issues to a fixed quality grading. The BSI implies recommendations to the judge to observe the breed specific areas of risk, and note issues as well as soundness in these areas. The general perspective is preventive more than criticizing, by not only noting deviations, but also focusing on soundness in the areas of risk. Frequently occurring construction faults, which are not connected to exaggeration in breed type, are principally not motivating for a breed to be listed nor regularly mentioned in the BSI.

INTRODUCTION

The NKU BSI is based on the dog show experiences in the Nordic countries during the last decade, regarding identification of areas of risk in a selected number of high profile breeds. These instructions are the result of inventories made possible through extensive collaboration between dog show judges, breed clubs, veterinary surgeons and supported by veterinary health insurance statistics. This constitutes the basis for the selection of listed breeds and for the written directions for each breed. The structure of the inventory allows for a continuous follow up and dynamic revisions of the BSI.

The breeds listed constitute 37 of the approximately 300 FCI breeds represented in Nordic countries. They are selected from breeds deemed, by Scandinavian kennel clubs, as possibly challenged with a negative development due to exaggerated features.

See Appendix 1 regarding the criteria for listing breeds in the BSI.

** FCI GC 2013, FCI Model standard; "Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding."*

Application

A judge should familiarise himself/herself with the breed specific instructions for the breeds he or she has been invited to judge, and also the text introducing the pertinent breed group. All judges should be well acquainted with the sections “Basics for all dogs” (page 10) and “Breed types” (page 12).

It is of utmost importance that judges in quality grading and competition assessment continue to evaluate every dog in a positive manner regarding breed type and overall merit. However, exaggerations and faults, which may jeopardize soundness and health, must be scrutinized. An actual inspection of each dog is emphasized. This is relevant for all breeds, but especially for the BSI listed breeds.

It is important to remember that all dogs should be healthy and sound. However, a dog that is sound but lacking in breed type, is NOT a good representative of that particular breed.

BSI issues and quality grading

Observations regarding the BSI issues (areas of risk specific for each listed breed) should influence quality grading and competition assessment positively and negatively. The influence should depend on the degree and severity of the deviation, just like other faults.

It is the judge’s personal general evaluation of type, quality and soundness that motivates the quality and competition awards.

BSI is not a manual of rules connecting issues to fixed quality grades, except when these observations are mentioned in the breed standard as disqualifying faults.

Judges are instructed to particularly consider the BSI issues when awarding CK (certificate quality), since this indicates that the judge has considered that the dog is worthy of the title of champion, and not only excellent. It is very important to remember that deviations from overall health and soundness are much more serious than cosmetic failings.

See Appendix 1 regarding FCI GC 2013 Basic Statement for Show Judges.

The written critiques

In written critiques, judges should comment on the BSI issues both positively and negatively, and how these observations influence the grading of each dog.

It is particularly important to highlight when dogs exhibit soundness and quality regarding the breed specific areas of risk. In this way, dog shows may support positive selection for

future breeding regarding the combination of show qualities and soundness. The preventive intention of the BSI concept is thus fulfilled**.

The judges' reports

The judges' reports are of essential value of the BSI concept. Each breed has its own report form where the judges note observations regarding areas of risk in addition to the general evaluation. These reports are necessary for the follow-up of the BSI listed breeds and for the continuous updating of the BSI document. These forms should also be communicated to the breed clubs in order to create consensus between judges and breed expertise. It is, however, up to the national kennel clubs to decide the practical implementation of the reporting.

The judge is invited to give his/hers further personal views and comments, and to suggest other breeds for the BSI list. The report form is also available to judges for breeds that are not BSI-listed.

Exaggerations in presentation

Exaggerations in presentation may negatively influence the way the public view dog shows, and harm the respect for our sport and pedigree dogs.

Judges are therefore asked to point out in their critiques any exaggerations in handling and presentation which may make examination difficult and, more important, being detrimental to the dog, and unethical in relation to health and function. Coat preparation and grooming may lead to unacceptable living conditions for the dogs of some breeds. These topics are thus mentioned in the BSI text, although not directly concerning the BSI concept and affecting the breeding.

Movement should be evaluated at a breed specific speed and manner.

*** FCI Show Judges Code of Commitment to The Welfare of Purebred Dogs: "At shows, FCI show judges are responsible for choosing and placing the best dogs in each breed and thus for allowing these dogs to be the base of the individual breed gene pool as well as the tools for selective breeding for all responsible dog breeders."*

Basic for all dogs

The form for reporting BSI observations may also be used for breeds that are not listed in the BSI, if the judge wants to draw the attention to a specific breed.

It is important to stress that serious deviations in the functions listed below should make the judge consider disqualification, even if that special deviation is not mentioned as a disqualifying fault in the standard.

The judge is asked to make it explicitly clear in the report which observation has motivated the disqualification.

Breathing

All dogs should be able to breathe normally, also when moving.

About assessment of respiratory distress symptoms, see Appendix 2.

Eyes

All dogs should have sound, clear eyes without signs of irritation. *See Appendix 3.*

Bite and teeth

All dogs should have healthy teeth and well-functioning bite corresponding to what the

breed standard requires. Incorrectly placed teeth may cause damage to the gums. Jaws should close normally.

The gums should not display any signs of injury, irritation or damage. Such deviations could be clinical signs of impaired health and should be handled accordingly.

Weight

No dogs should be obese/overweight or overly thin.

All dogs should be in good muscular condition.

Skin and coat

All dogs should have healthy skin without any signs of irritation.

The extent and presentation of the coat should follow the requirements of the breed standard and not be so profuse that it affects the dog's wellbeing and ability to move freely and soundly, also in daily life.

Movement

All dogs should move without effort and distress, and in a breed specific manner.

Behaviour

All dogs should have a temperament which allows them to function in the modern society. Breed typical behaviour is to be noted and respected, but should not prevent social behaviour and accessibility. Excessive reactions of fear or shyness is never desirable.

Uncontrolled aggressive behaviour or panic attempts to flee, should not be tolerated, and shall consequently motivate the award “disqualified”.

Behaviour issues are especially mentioned in the BSI text where it has been indicated to be an area of risk.

Breed types

In a number of breeds, the type and characteristics are due to genetic mutations (defect-genes) causing specific anatomical features, and should not be considered as normal canine anatomic variations.

Such breed types are the result of human intention to create breeds with specific physical breed characteristics. It is thus very important that judges and breeders, when preserving breed type characteristics, promote selection of dogs with optimal combination of breed type and vital constitution.

Brachycephalic breeds

The short skulled/faced (brachycephalic) breeds are represented in FCI groups 2 and 9. They constitute a group of breeds where the typical features are expressed to a varying degree in skull, muzzle, jaws, eyes, ribcage and skin. Exaggerations in the specific conformation might lead to serious health problems in these breeds; especially, but not exclusively, referring to problems in breathing and regulation of body temperature.

See Appendix 2:

Assessment of breathing distress

See Appendix 3: Eye problems

Toy breeds

Small sized breeds, sometimes called dwarfs, are found in FCI group 9, but also in groups 2, 3, 4 and 5. When dwarfism is carried to the extreme, it leads to a devitalizing overall weakness and poor skeletal and muscular development. Further exaggerations of dwarfism would give rise to serious health problems. Some of the toy breeds are also brachycephalic (see above) and/or chondrodystrophic (see below).

Protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets occur in brachycephalic toy breeds. Open fontanel, wry lower jaw and lame (paralyzed) tongue also occur. Dwarfism can also cause ribcage malformations; shortened or open ribcage with short sternal bone, rib deformations and narrow ribcage. Powerless shuffling movement as a result of poor muscular condition, is seen in some breeds.

See Appendix 2:

Assessment of breathing distress

See Appendix 3: Eye problems

Breeds with chondrodystrophic (disproportionate) growth retardation

Breeds with chondrodystrophic (disproportionate) growth retardation are seen in FCI groups 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9. If the chondrodystrophic traits are exaggerated, it leads to serious skeletal deformities and inability to move soundly. Inadequate ground clearance interfering with the working function of the breed is also a negative consequence.

The molossoïd breeds

This group includes the mastiff breeds and the mountain dogs, descendants of the ancient molossoïd dogs. These are dogs of giant size with accentuated body volume and skin, and are seen in FCI groups 1 and 2. These dogs must have a sound conformation of muscular strength and suitable amount of skin in order to function well and being able to carry out the specific traits required by the breed standards. The specific molossoïd traits must not be exaggerated creating grotesque dimensions. To this group belongs also the small molossoïd type breeds of group 9.

See Appendix 2:

Assessment of breathing distress

See Appendix 3: Eye problems

BREED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (BSI)

FCI GROUP 1

Sheepdogs and Cattle Dogs

Ardennes Cattle Dog	Collie, smooth-haired	Portuguese Sheepdog
Australian Cattle Dog	Croatian Sheepdog	Puli
Australian Kelpie	Czechoslovakian Wolfdog	Pumi
Australian Shepherd	Dutch Shepherd Dog, long-haired	Pyrenean Sheepdog - smooth faced
Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog	Dutch Shepherd Dog, rough-haired	Romanian Carpathian Shepherd Dog
Bearded Collie	Dutch Shepherd Dog, short-haired	Romanian Mioritic Shepherd Dog
Beauceron	Flanders Cattle Dog	Saarloos Wolfdog
Belgian Shepherd Dog/ Groenendael	German Shepherd Dog	Schapendoes
Belgian Shepherd Dog/Laekenois	Komondor	Schipperke
Belgian Shepherd Dog/Malinois	Kuvasz	Shetland Sheepdog
Belgian Shepherd Dog/Tervueren	Long-haired Pyrenean Sheepdog	Slovakian Chuvach
Bergamasco Shepherd Dog	Majorca Shepherd Dog	South Russian Shepherd Dog
Berger Picard	Maremma and Abruzzes Sheepdog	Tatra Shepherd Dog
Border Collie	Mudi	Welsh Corgi Cardigan
Briard	Old English Sheepdog	Welsh Corgi Pembroke
Catalan Sheepdog	Polish Lowland Sheepdog	White Swiss Shepherd Dog
Collie, rough-haired		

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 1

This group contains several working breeds, for which soundness and the spirit to move are of paramount importance. Movement should therefore be evaluated with particular attention regarding capacity, soundness and breed type.

Breeds of the molossoïd type, as well as chondrodystrophic breeds, are represented in this group.

There are breeds in this group with problems of exaggerated shyness and inaccessibility. Excessive reactions of fear or shyness is never desirable. Uncontrolled aggressive behaviour or panic attempts to flee should motivate disqualification.

BSI listed breeds in group 1

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards

Collie, rough-haired and smooth-haired

Areas of risk are:

1. **Mouth:** Narrow lower jaw resulting in inverted canine teeth going up into the upper palate. *“The lower jaw shall be strong and well marked”*
2. **Eyes:** Excessively small and very deeply set eyes. Eyes shall be *“Medium sized (never very small)”*. See Appendix 3.
3. **Behaviour:** Anxiousness and undue shyness.

Look for correct lower jaw, bite, teeth and eyes as well as correct behaviour. The standard notes *“Friendly disposition with no trace of nervousness or aggressiveness.”*

Czechoslovakian Wolfdog (Ceskoslovenský Vlcíak)

Areas of risk are:

1. **Behaviour:** Aggressiveness, anxiousness and undue shyness.

“Lively, very active, capable of endurance, docile with quick reactions. Fearless and courageous. Suspicious. Shows tremendous loyalty towards his master.” Breed typical behaviour is to be noted and respected, but should not prevent social behaviour and accessibility. Uncontrolled aggressive behaviour or panic attempts to flee should motivate disqualification.

German Shepherd Dog (Deutscher Schäferhund)

Areas of risk are:

1. **Hindquarters:** Over-angulated and cow hocked hindquarters with instability in hocks.
2. **Top line:** Arched and cut away in loin and croup.

Exaggeration in presentation with extreme handling precludes assessment of the demands of the standard: *“the position of hind legs is slightly backwards whereby the hind limbs are parallel to each other when seen from the rear”*. Evaluation of the movement should be made at both trot and walk.

Saarloos Wolfdog (Saarlooswolfhond)

Areas of risk are:

1. **Behaviour:** Aggressiveness, anxiousness and undue shyness.

“A lively dog, bursting with energy, with evidence of a proud independent character. Known to foremost obey his own will. Towards his master he is devoted and reliable to a high degree. Towards strangers he might be reserved and usually does not seek contact. The reserved and wolf-like manner to avoid unknown situations is typical.” Breed typical behaviour is to be noted and respected, but should not prevent social behaviour and accessibility. Excessive reactions of fear or shyness is never desirable. Uncontrolled aggressive behaviour or panic attempts to flee should motivate disqualification.

FCI GROUP 2

Pinscher and Schnauzer - Molossoïd Breeds - Swiss Mountain and Cattle Dogs

Affenpinscher	Dutch Smoushond	Miniature Schnauzer, white
Alentejo Mastiff	Entlebuch Cattle Dog	Neapolitan Mastiff
Anatolian Shepherd Dog	Fila Brasileiro	Newfoundland
Appenzell Cattle Dog	German Boxer	Pyrenean Mastiff
Atlas Mountain Dog - Aïdi	German Pinscher	Pyrenean Mountain Dog
Austrian Pinscher	Giant Schnauzer, black	Rottweiler
Bernese Mountain Dog	Giant Schnauzer, pepper and salt	Russian Black Terrier
Bosnian -Herzegovinian -Croatian Shepherd Dog	Great Dane	Saint Bernard Dog, long-haired
Broholmer	Great Swiss Mountain Dog	Saint Bernard Dog, short-haired
Bulldog	Hovawart	Schnauzer, black
Bullmastiff	Italian Corso Dog	Schnauzer, pepper and salt
Cao Fila de Sao Miguel	Karst Shepherd Dog	Serra da estrela Mountain Dog, long-haired
Castro Laboreiro Dog	Landseer (Continental -European type)	Serra da estrela Mountain Dog, smooth-haired
Caucasian Shepherd Dog	Leonberger	Shar Pei
Central Asia Shepherd Dog	Majorca Mastiff	Spanish Mastiff
Cimarron uruguayo	Mastiff	Tibetan Mastiff
Danish-Swedish Farmdog	Miniature Pinscher	Tosa
Dobermann	Miniature Schnauzer, black	Yugoslavian Shepherd Dog- Sharplanina
Dogo Argentino	Miniature Schnauzer, black and silver	
Dogo Canario	Miniature Schnauzer, pepper and salt	
Dogue De Bordeaux		

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 2

This group includes several brachycephalic breeds, breeds of mastiff type as well as mountain dogs. It is of utmost importance that dogs are not of grotesque dimensions or overweight. They must have a sound, strong constitution in order to carry the typically heavy body and head according to the demands of the standards. They must move without effort or dis-

comfort. Heavy breathing as well as overly heavy heads carried too low is incorrect in both small and large breeds. See also Appendix 2 regarding assessment of breathing distress.

Narrow fronts, bent forelegs and weak pasterns as well as cowhocks, lack of angulation or overangulation in hind legs are incorrect for any breed, but particularly important regarding the heavy breeds of group 2.

The mastiff type dogs have excessive, loose skin, which must never be exaggerated. Exaggerated amounts of skin may cause inflammation in skin folds, eye or lip problems. See also Appendix 3 about eye problems.

A dog's skin must be healthy without any sign of discomfort.

Many breeds in the group have traces of original mental sharpness and guarding instincts. Breed typical characteristics should be preserved, but must never exceed general basic recommendations for all breeds, nor judicial regulations.

BSI listed breeds in group 2

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards

Bulldog – brachycephalic and molossoïd type

The extreme conformation of this breed with shortened skull and muzzle, underdeveloped bridge of nose and excessive amount of skin, causes health problems if exaggerated.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing:** Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways). *“Dogs showing respiratory distress highly undesirable.” “Pinched nostrils and heavy over nose wrinkle are unacceptable and should be heavily penalised.”* See Appendix 2.
2. **Exaggerated type conformation** and insufficient angulation of fore- and hindquarters might result in unsound movement/lameness challenging the standard's demand: *“Soundness of movement of the utmost importance.”*
3. **Face and eyes:** Excessively short bridge of muzzle, excessively loose facial skin and loose eyelids can cause injury and inflammation of the eyes. See Appendix 3. Overhanging nose roll can cause inflammations.
4. **Tail:** Rigid tail carried tightly over anus may disturb the function to defecate. Skin wrinkles in the anal region can cause inflammations. *“Lack of tail, inverted or extremely tight tails are undesirable.”*

The standard explicitly states the importance of unconstrained breathing.

Dogs with free, sound breathing and breed typical sound action as well as sound skin and eyes

shall be particularly appreciated. It is of utmost importance that the tail is movable within the frame of the standard.

Bullmastiff – brachycephalic and molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Facial skin:** Exaggerated amount of facial skin, which can cause eye and eyelid problems.
2. **Skin problems.**
3. **Hindquarters:** Lack of angulation, which can cause knee problems.
4. **Top line:** Exaggerated height over rear and very steep croup, which can cause locomotion problems.
5. **Type and size exaggerations.**

Look for sound breathing and that the muzzle is not shorter than one third of the length of the head. Sound movement and correct angulation in hindquarters should be praised highly, as well as sound skin and coat. Extreme type and size should not be preferred over soundness, balance and correct construction.

Dogue De Bordeaux – brachycephalic and molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **General anatomical construction:** Exaggeration of the standard points regarding the front, hindquarter angulation and the high croup, which can cause unsound movement without drive and vigour.
2. **Loose eyelids.** [See Appendix 3.](#)

Look for functional anatomy, sound movement and sound eyes.

German Boxer (Deutscher Boxer) – brachycephalic and molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing problems:** Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways). [See Appendix 2.](#)
2. **Skin:** Irritation and discoloration.

The standard prescribes that “*Length of nose bridge in relation to skull should be 1:2*” and muzzle must thus not be overly short. Dentition should be sound and according to the breed standard.

Look for sound breathing, the correct proportions in head, the correct teeth, and healthy skin.

Great Dane (Deutsche Dogge) – molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Exaggeration in molossoïd type.**
2. **Fore- and hindquarters:** Pasterns knuckling over, and weak hindquarters.
3. **Loose eyelids.** [See Appendix 3.](#)

4. **Feet:** Toe pads which do not meet the ground.
5. **Behaviour:** Anxiousness and undue shyness.

Look for accessibility, correct fore- and hindquarters, correct feet, and sound eyes.

Mastiff – molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Hindquarters:** Too high at the rear, straight stifles and very steep croup may cause incorrect and impaired movement.
2. **Loose eyelids.** [See Appendix 3.](#)
3. **Breathing problems:** Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds, often with mouth constantly open, due to overly short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways). [See Appendix 2.](#)
4. **Skin:** Irritation and discoloration.

Look for the typical strong, sound conformation supporting the strongly made body and heavy bone of this breed. The massive head shall be carried in a breed typical way. Movement must be sound and without discomfort.

Neapolitan Mastiff (Mastino Napoletano) – molossoïd type

The conformation of the breed is creating a “*large heavy massive and bulky dog*” which, however, must not be grotesque. The typical skin “*thick abundant and loose all over the body*” makes pronounced exaggerations risky.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Skin:** Exaggerated amount of skin in general. On head: Forming wrinkles surrounding the eyes, and/or oversized eyelids, which may cause eyelids folding inwards or outwards. [See Appendix 3.](#) Lips: Unsound lip folds.
2. **General construction:** Incorrect construction of the legs and poor overall anatomy and conformation can cause unsoundness and discomfort of movement.

Look for healthy skin and sound eyes, but also correct movement. Exaggerated amount of skin and incorrect movement should not be encouraged.

Dogs with the required typical cat-like, agile, somewhat slow movement, with good drive from sound hindquarters and proper reach in front, should be highly appraised.

Saint Bernard Dog, short-haired and long-haired (St. Bernhardshund) – molossoïd type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Head:** Over dimensioned and too heavy. Exaggerated amount of facial skin and too loose lip folds.
2. **Eyelids:** Loose and/or oversized or inverted eyelids. [See Appendix 3.](#)

Look for the correct amount of skin and sound eyes. Dentition should be sound and according to the breed standard. The proportions of the dog must be correct and the construction powerful and movement sound.

Shar-Pei

The extreme type and character of the skin (mucinosis/hyaluronosis) of this breed may give rise to health problems when exaggerated.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Skin:** Exaggerated amounts of /and loose wrinkled skin, which may lead to eye, ear and skin problems.
2. **Eyes:** Irritation and damage resulting from excessive amounts of skin. [See Appendix 3.](#)
3. **Mouth:** The padding of the lower lip can fold over the teeth. When the lower lip is constantly rolled in and *“interfering with the bite”*, it is a disqualifying fault according to the standard. (Constant tight lip interferes with the development of the lower jaw).

Nota bene: The following are some other disqualifying faults mentioned in the breed standard: *“Skin folds or hair disturbing the normal function of the eye”*, *“Heavy folds of skin on body (except withers and base of tail) and limbs”*.

Look for dogs without exaggerated amount of skin, correct lower lip, and sound/clear eyes and sound ears.

BREED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (BSI)

FCI GROUP 3 Terriers

Airedale Terrier	Fox Terrier, smooth	Norfolk Terrier
American Staffordshire Terrier	Fox Terrier, wire	Norwich Terrier
Australian Silky Terrier	German Hunting Terrier	Parson Russell Terrier
Australian Terrier	Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier	Scottish Terrier
Bedlington Terrier	Irish Softcoated Wheaten Terrier	Sealyham Terrier
Border Terrier	Irish Terrier	Skye Terrier
Brazilian Terrier	Jack Russell Terrier	Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Bull Terrier	Japanese Terrier	Welsh Terrier
Cairn Terrier	Kerry Blue Terrier	West Highland White Terrier
Cesky Terrier	Lakeland Terrier	Yorkshire Terrier
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	Manchester Terrier	
English Toy Terrier	Miniature Bull Terrier	

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 3

The chondrodystrophic type is known in this group. Some breeds in the group might show skin problems, some have problems with incorrect bites, and some with tendencies towards exaggerated breed type. Hairless patches and sparse coat occur in a couple of the breeds. Some breeds in this group are toy breeds (as the Yorkshire Terrier), and thus the introduction text to group 9 is partly relevant.

BSI listed breeds in group 3

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards

Bull Terrier/ Miniature Bull Terrier

Areas of risk are:

1. **Mouth:** Narrow lower jaw with canine teeth going up into the upper palate.
2. **Skin:** Irritation, and sparse coat without gloss.
3. **Eyes:** Undersized eye openings. [See Appendix 3.](#)

The unique type of head explains the tendency for faulty bite. Look for a correct head and a strong lower jaw.

Norwich Terrier

Areas of risk are: Related to a tendency towards dwarfism, as well as abnormal conditions in throat/larynx causing forced and noisy respiration.

1. Apple head, protruding eyes and a tendency to dish face, which can cause **eye problems and breathing problems**. Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds and noisy respiration. [See Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.](#)
2. **Movement:** Excessively short neck and extremely short body negatively affecting movement.

Look for a correct head type and body, but also sound and free movement and sound breathing.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Areas of risk are:

1. **Mouth:** Lower canine teeth going up into the upper palate.
2. **Coat and skin:** Sparse coat and skin irritation.

Look for a correct bite, correct length of muzzle, normal breathing and healthy skin.

Yorkshire Terrier – toy terrier

Areas of risk are:

1. **Mouth:** Poor jaws and dentition as well as lame (paralyzed) tongue, which is a disqualifying anomaly.
2. **Exaggerated dwarfism:** The standard points out: *“Weight up to 3,2 kgs. Skull: Rather small and flat, not too prominent or round. Eyes; not prominent.”*
3. **Coat:** Long coat *“must never impede movement”* or the development of good muscular condition.

Look for sound breathing and normal development of muscular condition. The muzzle, healthy teeth and correct jaws and tongue are important.

BREED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (BSI)

FCI GROUP 4

Dachshunds

Dachshund miniature,
smooth-haired
long-haired
wire-haired

Dachshund rabbit,
smooth-haired
long-haired
wire-haired

Dachshund standard,
smooth-haired
long-haired
wire-haired

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 4

This group consists of one breed with nine varieties of chondrodystrophic type. Although none of the varieties is listed, it is important to notice that in short-legged breeds, poor front construction and asymmetry must be observed, as well as inadequate ground clearance that interfere with the working function. For more information concerning Areas of risk – see *Breeds with chondrodystrophic (disproportionate) growth retardation – page 13.*

BREED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (BSI)

FCI GROUP 5

Spitz and Primitive types

Akita	Icelandic Sheepdog	Portuguese Warren Hound - Portuguese Podengo, wire-haired/large
Alaskan Malamute	Japanese Spitz	
American Akita	Kai	Portuguese Warren Hound - Portuguese Podengo, wire-haired/medium-sized
Basenji	Karelian Bear Dog	
Canaan Dog	Kishu	Portuguese Warren Hound - Portuguese Podengo, wire-haired/miniature
Canarian Warren Hound	Korea Jindo Dog	
Chow Chow	Norrbottenspitz	Russian-European Laïka
Cirneco dell'Etna	Norwegian Buhund	Samoyed
East Siberian Laïka	Norwegian Elkhound, black	Shiba
Eurasian	Norwegian Elkhound, grey	Shikoku
Finnish Lapphund	Norwegian Lundehund	Siberian Husky
Finnish Reindeer Herder	Peruvian Hairless Dog (also coated), large	Swedish Elkhound
Finnish Spitz	Peruvian Hairless Dog (also coated), medium-sized	Swedish Lapphund
German Spitz/Keeshond	Peruvian Hairless Dog (also coated), miniature	Swedish Vallhund
German Spitz/Giant Spitz	Pharaoh Hound	Taiwan Dog
German Spitz/Medium size Spitz	Portuguese Warren Hound - Portuguese Podengo, smooth-haired/large	Thai ridgeback dog
German Spitz/Miniature Spitz	Portuguese Warren Hound - Portuguese Podengo, smooth-haired/medium-sized	Volpino Italiano
German Spitz/Pomeranian	Portuguese Warren Hound - Portuguese Podengo, smooth-haired/miniature	West Siberian Laïka
Greenland Dog		Xoloitzcuintle (hairless & coated), medium sized
Hokkaido		Xoloitzcuintle (hairless & coated), miniature
Ibizan Warren Hound - Ibizan Podenco, rough-haired		Xoloitzcuintle (hairless & coated), large
Ibizan Warren Hound - Ibizan Podenco, smooth-haired		

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 5

The group has breeds of great variation in size, but two comparatively homogenous basic types, which is not inviting to exaggerations. Some type characteristics make up areas of risk in a couple of the breeds. In several of the spitz breeds there is occurrence of incorrect coats with poor top coat and an abundance of under coat or persisting puppy coat.

BSI listed breeds in group 5

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards

Chow-Chow

Exaggerations regarding the amount of skin and the construction of the hindquarters can cause problems.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing problems:** Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds, often with mouth constantly open, caused by insufficient room in respiratory channels and throat.
See Appendix 2.
2. **Hindquarters:** The breed typical restricted angulation of stifles and hock joints are requirements for the desirable breed typical movement, but these constructions also constitute an important area of risk. Stifles and hocks that knuckle over are anatomically incorrect and are highly undesirable.
3. **Face:** Excessive amount of skin embedding the eyes. Small eyelid openings. Eyes should be *“Dark, oval shaped, medium sized and clean”*. *See Appendix 3.*

Look for sound breathing, sound eyes and skin, and correct movement.

Unconstrained breathing, sound eyes not showing any sign of irritation, and breed typical, yet sound, movement, should be highly appreciated.

German Spitz/Pomeranian (Deutscher Spitz/Zwergspitz) – toy spitz

This is a toy breed, and some of the risks regarding exaggeration of dwarfism mentioned in the introduction text to group 9 should be considered,

Area of risk is:

1. **Coat:** Exaggerated amount of undercoat in combination with faulty or deficient topcoat causes lack of the elasticity characterizing a correct double coat.
2. **Movement:** Powerless shuffling movement due to poor muscular condition.

Standard reads; *“Long, straight, stand off top coat and short, thick, cottonwool-like undercoat”*. A faulty coat might indicate development of hairlessness. Correct coat quality is thus essential!

Look also for correct size, nose, jaws and teeth, as well as sound movement.

FCI GROUP 6

Scenthounds and Related Breeds

Alpine Dachsbracke	French White and Orange Hound	Poitevin
American Foxhound	Gascon Saintongeois	Polish Hound
Anglo-Francais de Petite Vénerie	German Hound	Polish Hunting Dog
Ariégeois	Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen	Porcelain
Artesian-Norman Basset	Grand Griffon Vendéen	Posavaz Hound
Artois Hound	Great Anglo-French Tricolour Hound	Rhodesian Ridgeback
Austrian Black and Tan Hound	Great Anglo-French White and Black Hound	Schiller Hound
Basset Hound	Great Anglo-French White and Orange Hound	Serbian Hound
Bavarian Mountain Scenthound	Great Gascony Hound	Serbian Tricolour Hound
Beagle	Griffon Nivernais	Slovakian Hound
Beagle-Harrier	Halden Hound	Småland Hound
Billy	Hamilton Hound	Small Blue Gascony Hound
Black and Tan Coonhound	Hanoverian Scenthound	Small Swiss Hound/Bernese Hound
Bloodhound	Harrier	Small Swiss Hound/Jura Hound
Blue Gascony Basset	Hellenic Hound	Small Swiss Hound/Lucerne Hound
Blue Gascony Griffon	Hygen Hound	Small Swiss Hound/Schwyz Hound
Bosnian Coarse-haired Hound - called Barak	Istrian Coarse-haired Hound	Spanish Hound
Dalmatian	Istrian Short-haired Hound	Styrian Coarse-haired Hound
Drever	Italian Hound, coarse-haired	Swiss Hound/Bernese Hound
English Foxhound	Italian Hound, short-haired	Swiss Hound/Jura Hound
Fawn Brittany Basset	Medium Griffon Vendéen	Swiss Hound/Lucerne Hound
Fawn Brittany Griffon	Montenegrin Mountain Hound	Swiss Hound/Schwyz Hound
Finnish Hound	Norwegian Hound	Transylvanian Hound
French Tricolour Hound	Otterhound	Tyrolean Hound
French White and Black Hound	Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen	Westphalian Dachsbracke

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 6

This group contains working hunting dogs with high demands for a sound construction. The Basset breeds are chondrodystrophic, which can predispose to unsound front construction; for instance causing toe pads not meeting the ground properly. A particular area of risk is the ribcage, which can be deformed with defect ribs and a short sternal bone.

In the shortlegged breeds, poor front construction and asymmetry must be observed, as well as inadequate ground clearance that interfere with the working function.

BSI listed breeds in group 6

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards

Basset Hound – chondrodystrophic type

Exaggerations of the breed type and some breed characteristics constitute risks for health problems.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Skin:** Unsound and/or exaggerated amount of loose skin may cause inflammations in wrinkles. *“Skin is supple and elastic without any exaggeration”.*
2. **Fore- and hindquarters:** Poor construction and inadequate ground clearance, resulting from exaggerated shortness of legs, may cause incorrect movement and interfere with the working function of the breed.
3. **Eyelids:** Too loose, oversized, and/or inverted eyelids. [See Appendix 3.](#)
4. **Ears:** Exaggeration of length of ears.

Look for typical proportions, eyes, ears and skin. Heavy ears and skin may cause eyelid problems. Of even greater importance is the correct movement. The standard reads *“Smooth, powerful and effortless action with forelegs reaching well forward and hind legs showing powerful thrust, hound moving true both front and rear. Hocks and stifles never stiff in movement, nor must any toes be dragged”.*

“It is important to bear in mind that this is a working hound and must be fit for purpose and therefore should be strong, active and capable of great endurance in the field.”

Bloodhound (Chien de Saint-Hubert)

Area of risk is:

1. **Skin and eyes:** Exaggerated amount of skin and loose or inverted eyelids may cause problems. [See Appendix 3.](#)

BREED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (BSI)

FCI GROUP 7

Pointing Dogs

Ariege Pointing Dog	French Spaniel	Picardy Spaniel
Auvergne Pointing Dog	French Wire-haired Korthals Pointing Griffon	Portuguese Pointing Dog
Blue Picardy Spaniel	German Long-haired Pointing Dog	Pudelpointer
Bohemian Wire-haired Pointing Griffon	German Rough-haired Pointing Dog	Slovakian Wire-haired Pointing Dog
Bracco Italiano	German Short-haired Pointing Dog	Small Münsterlander
Bourbonnais Pointing Dog	German Wire-haired Pointing Dog	Spaniel de Pont-Audemer
Brittany	Gordon Setter	Spinone Italiano
Burgos Pointing Dog	Hungarian Short-haired Pointing Dog	Stabyhoun
Drentse Partridge Dog	Hungarian Wire-haired Pointing Dog	St. Germain Pointing Dog
English Pointer	Irish Red and White Setter	Weimaraner, long-haired
English Setter	Irish Red Setter	Weimaraner, short-haired
French Pointing Dog - Gascogne type	Large Münsterlander	
French Pointing Dog - Pyrenean type	Old Danish Pointing Dog	

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 7

This group contains gundogs with high demands for soundness in construction, which must not show extreme tendencies such as heaviness, overly lymphatic conformation, nor too elegant construction with excessive coat or ribcages that are too deep or too flat.

There are some breeds in this group with exaggerated amount on skin.

BSI listed breeds in group 7

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards

Bracco Italiano

Area of risk is:

1. **Facial skin and eyelids:** Exaggerated amounts of skin may cause unsound lip folds and/or eyelid problems. [See Appendix 3.](#)

Spinone Italiano

Area of risk is:

1. **Facial skin and eyelids:** Exaggerated amounts of skin may cause unsound lip folds and/or eyelid problems. [See Appendix 3.](#)

BREED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (BSI)

FCI GROUP 8

Retrievers - Flushing Dogs - Water Dogs

American Cocker Spaniel

American Water Spaniel

Cheasapeake Bay Retriever

Clumber Spaniel

Curly Coated Retriever

English Cocker Spaniel

English Springer Spaniel

Field Spaniel

Flat Coated Retriever

French Water Dog (Barbet)

German Spaniel

Golden Retriever

Irish Water Spaniel

Labrador Retriever

Nederlandse Kooikerhondje

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever

Portuguese Water Dog

Romagna Water Dog

Small Dutch Waterfowl Dog

Spanish Waterdog

Sussex Spaniel

Welsh Springer Spaniel

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 8

This group contains gundogs. Endurance and sound movement are therefore particularly important, as is good muscular condition. It is important to distinguish between substance and obesity/overweight. Some of the spaniel breeds in this group show problems with eyes and ears due to excessive skin and large heavily coated outer ears. See also Appendix 3 about eyes.

BSI listed breeds in group 8

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards

American Cocker Spaniel

Areas of risk are mostly related to tendencies towards brachycephaly expressed in p. 12:

1. **Head:** Overly short muzzle, too short rounded skull and bite problems.
2. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes and shallow eye sockets, profuse flow of tears.
Loose eyelids and unsound lip folds. *See Appendix 3.*
3. **Coat:** Exaggerated volume of coat and incorrect coat texture.

Look for correct head and muzzle proportions, sound eyes, normal tear drainage, and correct bite. Good length of ribcage and sternal bone and correct coat are also highly estimated. The standard reads about the coat: *“...of a texture which permits easy care”* and indicating the breed’s *“...appearance and function as a moderately coated sporting dog”*.

Clumber Spaniel

This should be an agile working dog of good condition, without overweight or exaggerations in head and skull.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Head:** Excessively heavy with an abundance of loose skin and loose eyelids, which may cause eye problems.
2. **Exaggerated size and heaviness.**

Look for powerful, sound, typical movement in dogs with correct dimensions, size and head.

BREED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (BSI)

FCI GROUP 9

Companion and Toy Dogs

Belgian Griffon

Bichon Frisé

Bolognese

Boston Terrier

Brussels Griffon

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Chihuahua, longhaired

Chihuahua, smooth-haired

Chinese Crested Dog

Coton de Tuléar

French Bulldog

Havanese

Japanese Chin

King Charles Spaniel

Kromfohrländer

Lhasa Apso

Little Lion Dog

Maltese

Papillon

Pekingese

Phalène

Poodle, standard, medium sized,
miniature, toy

Pug

Russian Toy, longhaired

Russian Toy, smooth-haired

Shih Tzu

Small Brabant Griffon

Tibetan Spaniel

Tibetan Terrier

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 9

Most breeds in this group are toy breeds. Some have extreme conformation such as shortened skull and underdeveloped muzzle - brachycephalic. Some of the breeds are also chondrodystrophic. Further exaggeration of these standard correct features and exaggerated dwarfism would give rise to serious health problems. *See also page 12 Breed types - Toy Breeds.*

The brachycephalic head is part of the breed type in Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs, the Griffon breeds, Japanese Chin, King Charles Spaniels, Pugs, Pekingese and Shih-Tzus. This may give rise to breathing problems and impaired body temperature regulation. Narrow respiratory channels with restrained breathing and pinched nostrils are serious problems, which must be noted. *See also Appendix 2 regarding assessment of breathing distress.*

Several of the breeds have protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets disposing for eye injuries. *See also Appendix 3 regarding eye problems.*

Open fontanel is an anomaly and a disqualifying fault in all breeds.

Wry lower jaw and/or lame tongue, so called paralyzed tongue, are disqualifying faults.

A deviant pattern of movement in some breeds with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain when on leash, may indicate a serious neurological disorder, syringomyelia.

Powerless shuffling movement can be seen in toy breeds as an effect of unsound living conditions causing poor muscles.

Some of the breeds in this group are heavily coated. This has, in some cases, resulted in incorrect, woolly and excessive coats, so heavy that it impairs movement and affects quality of daily life for the dogs. **See also Exaggerations in presentation page 9.**

BSI listed breeds in group 9

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards

Belgian Griffon, Brussels Griffon and Small Brabant Griffon

(Griffon Belge, Griffon Bruxellois and Petit Brabançon) – brachycephalic type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Head:** A small head with an overly short muzzle can give rise to eye injuries and neurological disorders.
2. **Breathing:** Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds caused by insufficient room in throat cavities and/or pinched nostrils and/or ribcage. *See Appendix 2.*

3. **Movement:** A specific deviant pattern of movement with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain when on leash may indicate a serious neurological disorder, syringomyelia.

Particular attention must be paid to breathing, nose and sound eyes as well as the pattern of movement.

Boston Terrier – brachycephalic and small molossoïd breed

Areas of risk are related to toy type and brachycephaly, expressed in page 12:

1. **Breathing problems:** Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds due to a short muzzle, pinched nostrils and narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways) and/or ribcage. *See Appendix 2.*
2. **General construction:** Overly short body, roach back, diminutive tail, and too short and flat in muzzle. Heavy and coarse head.
3. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes and shallow eye sockets. *See Appendix 3.*
4. **Underdeveloped tail:** Lack of visible/touchable tail vertebrae is a disqualifying fault.

Look for sound breathing, the correct formation of the head/skull, and the dog's proportions.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Areas of risk are related to tendency towards brachycephaly, expressed in page 12:

1. **Head:** Overly short muzzle, exaggerated stop, as well as very short, rounded skull (which may lead to a serious neurological disorder - syringomyelia).
2. **Breathing problems:** Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways). *See Appendix 2.*
3. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes increase the risk for injuries. Loose eyelids. Profuse flow of tears. Skin folds showing sign of irritation. *See Appendix 3.*
4. **Movement:** A specific deviant pattern of movement with a frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain when on leash, may indicate a serious neurological disorder (syringomyelia).

Look for soundness of breathing, skin, eyes and movement. The wording of the standard explicitly warns for prevents a brachycephalic tendency: "*Head, cranial region: Skull: Almost flat between ears. Stop: Shallow.*" The eyes shall be "*Large, dark, round but not prominent; spaced well apart*".

Chihuahua, smooth-haired and long-haired (Chihuahuëño)

Areas of risk are all related to exaggerated dwarfism:

1. **Mouth:** Problems like underdeveloped muzzle giving rise to faulty bite, dentition and jaws. Also canine teeth going up into upper palate.
2. **Lame (paralyzed) tongue.**

3. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes increase the risk for eye injuries. [See Appendix 3.](#)
4. **Hindquarters:** Weedy and unsound in construction.
5. **Open fontanel** is since 2010 a disqualifying fault, changed from being a characteristic feature. A minor dimple noticeable as the result of the closure of the fontanel is not a disqualifying fault.

Particular attention must be paid to the formation of the skull and the jaws and the general anatomy; *“Hind legs well muscled with long bones”*.

Chinese Crested Dog/hairless variety

The show preparation constitutes the area of risk:

1. Skin injuries caused by ethically unacceptable removal of hair (epilating and chemical hair removal) in order to present the dogs in agreement with the standard.

French Bulldog (Bouledogue francais) – brachycephalic and small molossoïd breed

The special conformation of this breed with shortened skull and overly short bridge of nose, as well as underdeveloped tail, cause health problems if exaggerated further.

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing problems:** Forced breathing, with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways) and/or ribcage. [See Appendix 2.](#)
2. **Face and eyes:** Too short muzzle and protruding eyes, which increase the risk of eye injuries. [See Appendix 3.](#)
3. **Proportions and construction:** Overly short proportions in neck and back as well as insufficient angulation in fore- and hindquarters can cause powerless dragging movement.
4. **Underdeveloped tail:** Lack of visible/touchable tail vertebrae is a disqualifying fault.

Look for sound breathing, correct bridge of nose, eyes, skin, tail, and movement. Breed standard reads; *“Length of muzzle about 1/6 of the total length of the head”*.

The breed standard calls for an *“active”* dog which is *“powerful for its small size, short, compact in all its proportions”*, but the French Bulldog must not be excessively short in neck and back. Gait should be free and active.

Japanese Chin – brachycephalic type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing:** Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds caused by too small skull, which limits the room of the upper respiratory cavities, pinched nostrils, and too short ribcage. [See Appendix 2.](#)
2. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes in shallow eye sockets may predispose for injuries. [See Appendix 3.](#)

Look for sound breathing and the correct formation of the head/skull and the ribcage.

King Charles Spaniel – brachycephalic type

Areas of risk are:

1. **General construction:** Poor, underdeveloped ribcage with a keel; bent front legs and feet turning out.
2. **Muzzle:** Too short.
3. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes increase the risk for injuries. [See Appendix 3.](#)
4. **Movement:** A specific deviant pattern of movement with frantic scratching behaviour and signs of unmotivated pain when on leash, may indicate a serious neurological disorder (syringomyelia).

Particular attention must be paid to sound breathing and the general anatomy.

Pekingese – brachycephalic and chondrodystrophic type

The special conformation of this breed by the shortened skull, overly short bridge of nose and jaws, may cause health problems if exaggerated.

Areas of risk are related to exaggerated dwarfism, brachycephaly and chondrodystrophy:

1. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes, which increase the risk for eye injuries. [See Appendix 3.](#)
2. **Breathing problems:** Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils and/or narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways). [See Appendix 2.](#)
3. **Nose wrinkle:** Overhanging nose wrinkle can obstruct the nostrils, and can cause skin inflammation.
4. **General construction:** Weak with poor ribcage, short sternal bone and bad muscle condition.
5. **Coat:** Coat which can be too profuse and/or woolly, and cause discomfort. The standard reads *“Length and volume of coat should neither impair the activity of the dog nor obscure the shapeliness of body. Excessive coat must be heavily penalized.”*

“All signs of respiratory distress are unacceptable and should be heavily penalized”. Breathing shall be assessed with the dog in action.

Untypical/unsound movement must not be confused with *“Typically slow, dignified rolling gait in front”.* *“Any signs of inability to move soundly are unacceptable and should be heavily penalized”.*

Pug – brachycephalic and small molossoïd breed

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing problems:** Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds due to short muzzle, pinched nostrils, narrow respiratory channels (insufficient room in pharyngeal cavities and airways) and/or short and open ribcage with short ribs and sternal bone. Obesity/overweight. [See Appendix 2.](#)
2. **Face:** Overly short muzzle with improper dentition, excessive loose skin, and hair on a nose wrinkle disturbing the function of the eyes as well as the nose. The standard does in fact not ask for a nose wrinkle – neither unbroken nor broken.
3. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes, which increase the risk of eye injuries. [See Appendix 3.](#)

Look for sound breathing, sound skin and eyes, the formation of the ribcage, and the size and weight. The standard mentions the ideal weight to be 6,3-8,1 kg. The standard calls for: *“Muzzle: relatively short”*.

Shih Tzu – brachycephalic and chondrodystrophic type

Areas of risk are:

1. **Breathing:** Forced breathing with pronounced snoring sounds, caused by brachycephaly and too small head (which limits the room of the upper respiratory cavities), too short muzzle and/or pinched nostrils. [See Appendix 2.](#)
2. **Eyes:** Protruding eyes, which increase the risk of eye injuries. [See Appendix 3.](#)
3. **Mouth:** Narrow lower jaw and poor dentition.

Look for sound breathing and correct head proportions, eyes, jaws and teeth.

BREED SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (BSI)

FCI GROUP 10

Sighthounds

Afghan Hound

Arabian Greyhound

Azawakh

Borzoi

Deerhound

Greyhound

Hungarian Greyhound

Irish Wolfhound

Italian Greyhound

Polish Greyhound

Saluki

Spanish Greyhound

Whippet

Breeds in bold types are listed in the BSI

About the breeds in group 10

The breeds of this group are characterized by a homogenous type of construction. Problems with teeth and bites are found in some of the breeds, as well as poor and sparse coats. There are some Afro-Asian sighthounds with exotic mentality (aloof and supercilious). However, these traits must never turn into exaggerated inaccessibility.

BSI listed breeds in group 10

The text within inverted commas are quotations from the breed standards

Azawakh

Areas of risk are:

1. **Weight:** Standard asks for a particular slim and elegant dog, but it should not be overly slim. Extreme general thinness is described as a disqualifying fault in the breed standard.
2. **Behaviour:** Aggressiveness, anxiousness and undue shyness.

Appendix 1

Background for the BSI

The NKU BSI is the result of inventories made possible through extensive collaboration between dog show judges, breed clubs, veterinary surgeons, and health insurance statistics.

The BSI work was initiated by the Swedish Kennel Klubb (SKK), and the Swedish BSI document was applied in practice at dog shows from 2009. In 2012 the Nordic Kennel Union agreed on making a common Nordic BSI document, based on the SKK inventories, routines and experience, as well as studies from the other Nordic kennel clubs.

The first edition of the NKU BSI was finished Mars 2014. The basis for this first edition was an integrated evaluation of six different factors:

1. The initial selection of high profile breeds made by ten Scandinavian allrounders 2006 and the follow-up done 2012 with 20 Scandinavian allrounders.
2. The dialogue with the pertinent Scandinavian breed clubs during 2007-2013.
3. a) The evaluation of the health situation by information from a questionnaire to all Swedish Small animal specialists in 2010, and Swedish insurance statistics (Agria Breed Profiles) for these breeds 1995-2011.

b) Information from a questionnaire to all members of the Norwegian Veterinary Association for Small Animal Practice, Norwegian championship show judges, and breed clubs in 2011-2012.

4. The consensual result regarding the selection of listed breeds achieved at the Swedish general dog show judges' conferences in 2007 and 2012. The BSI document was supported by the Norwegian General Show Judge Conference in 2014.

5. The evaluating reports of the BSI application made by judges at all the SKK shows in 2009-2012.

6. The final selections and elaborations made by the NKU-BSI working group 2012-2014.

The compound information from the six factors thus motivates the listing of the breeds assessed as at risk for a negative development due to exaggerations of type characteristics. These breeds should attract the judges' special attention at dog shows, regarding soundness and health in relation to exaggerations of breed type.

The evaluation of the BSI document will be done every 3rd year. The following points are the basis for this revised BSI document (second edition, 2018), together with the pillars mentioned above:

1. The opinion of all show judges, not only the allrounders. An online questionnaire was sent by the kennel clubs in Finland, Norway and Sweden to all their show judges, asking for their opinion regarding the breeds they are licensed to judge.
2. The dialogue or online questionnaires to the breed clubs in the NKU countries.
3. The evaluation of the judges' reports from the shows.

The NKU BSI working group has had the survey responsibility for the selection of the listed breeds and verbal formulations in the BSI document, as well as the information to the NKU and the Nordic kennel clubs.

The evaluation was performed in 2017, and the second edition of the NKU BSI document is ready for use in the show ring in the spring.

The BSI document is in accordance with the *FCI Basic Statement for Show Judges, Dogs fit for their original function*, approved by the FCI General Committee in Helsinki October 2013 and further discussed at the FCI Show and Judges Commission's meeting in Paris, February 2014. The attitude of the BSI to be recommendations to the judges and not strict compulsory rules, was highly acclaimed.

Appendix 2

Assessments of breathing distress in the show ring

Basic for all dogs:

All dogs should be able to breathe normally, also when moving.

Three levels of breathing distress

should be taken into consideration in quality grading and competition assessment, with regards to the dogs' ability to breathe normally in the show ring, also when moving.

1. Nonsignificant/temporary signs of affected breathing, but without causing any difficulty to the dog: This should be noted, but not necessarily affect the quality grading. This should, however, be considered at the competition assessment.

2. Milder affection of the ability to breath (milder respiratory problems), as well as anatomical conditions that potentially affect the ability to breathe (pinched nostrils, too short nose, overly small head and/or very short proportions, underdeveloped ribcage and so on): This should influence the quality grading.

3. Obvious signs of respiratory problems should motivate disqualification. Those signs of breathing distress are at hand if the dog already while standing still and without any "provoking external factors" (like hot temperature, exciting stimuli and so on) shows laboured respiration such as:

- Mouth breathing with obvious retraction of the mouth angle, and/or very protruding tongue
- Pronounced breathing sounds (snoring); inspiratory and/or expiratory
- Retractions in the forechest area and/or behind the ribcage synchronous with the respiration
- Nodding movements of the head and neck synchronous with the respiration

The assessment of breathing should always include evaluation of possible respiratory distress symptoms during and after evaluation of movement. Movement should be of breed adequate speed and duration.

General signs of exhaustion, as well as difficulties and prolongation of recovery after action, are very serious findings, and serious signs of lack of respiratory capacity.*

* SKK 2012 dvd *Making assessments of dogs' respiration.*

Appendix 3

Eye problems

Basic for all dogs:

All dogs should have sound, clear eyes without signs of irritation.

Anatomical features that may cause eye problems

Eye problems observed by the show judge are commonly related to the ocular adnexa (tissues surrounding the eye). Attention should also be paid to sunken eyes and/or eyes that are smaller than normal (microphthalmic), as well as to protruding eyes. Protruding eyes are often mistaken for over sized eye balls, a thing which hardly exists. Protruding eyes are due to shallow eye sockets and/or big eye openings.

Examples of adnexal features that may injure the eye: The anatomy of the skull, the position of the eye in the eye socket, the shape of the lid opening, and the presence of facial wrinkles and excessive amounts of loose skin surrounding the eyes. Folds and wrinkles on the muzzle, or in the face, may touch the cornea and cause irritation and damage. These anatomical features of the face, which increases risks for eye problems, are observable for the show judge.

The form and depth of the eye socket affects the position of the eyeball, i.e. may lead to too deeply set or protruding eyes. A too deeply set eye may cause in an inwards turning of the eyelid (entropion). A wide skull increases the risk of entropion at the outer corner.

Protruding eyes are due to shallow eye sockets,

and are more prone to injury, especially in combination with a short nose where the rhinarium (wet part of the nose) is placed between and close to the eyes. Abundance of skin and hair adjacent to the eye may cause irritation or damage to the ocular surface, especially if the eye is protruding. This is often seen when the muzzle is short. Thick and heavy folds in or around the face as well as heavy lips and ears, may distort the lid opening.

Depending on the extent of these features, hair/eyelashes may rub on the cornea and cause irritation/damage to the surface of the eye. Different parts of the eyelid may turn inwards – *entropion*. The lower eyelid may also droop outwards, exposing the conjunctiva – *ectropion*. A special form is seen in the *diamond shaped eye* where the eye opening is rhomboid, which can cause combined entropion and ectropion.

Signs of eye disease

Visual problems, even blindness, are difficult to evaluate properly in the show ring.

Signs of discomfort, irritation or pain related to the eye or its adnexa, are:

- Overflow of tears, accumulation of mucus and brownish stain below the eye.
Wet lid margins. Redness of the conjunctiva.
- Repeated squinting and blinking.
- Lack of corneal lustre, pigmented or opaque cornea.

Specific features in brachycephalic breeds

The wide and short skull, short nose and bridge of muzzle, loose facial skin, skin folds and long (wide open) eyelids can cause dryness, injury and inflammation.

Specific features in breeds with excessive and loose skin

The problems are related breed characteristics: The size and shape of the eyelids, the looseness of the skin, the heavy ears and lips. These breed characteristics can, when exaggerated, weigh down the tissues, and give rise to loose or inverted eyelids (ectropion and/or entropion, diamond eye and/or macroblepharon = oversized eyelid), as well as to upper eyelids overhanging the eye, and lashes rubbing on the cornea. Kinks on the lid margin affect the blink mechanism.

Assessing eye problems in the quality grading

Signs of eye problems should influence the quality grading, depending on the degree and severity of the deviation.

The obviously blind dog must in all cases be disqualified, irrespective of possible reasons. A dog that has removed an eye due to trauma shall not be penalized, unless the dog seem to be obviously impaired by a defect vision.

Damage to the eyeball indicated by cloudiness and/or pigmentation of the cornea is a disqualifying fault regardless of its cause.

Signs of irritation like repeated squinting and blinking should be taken into account in quality grading.

Anatomical features related to increased risk of eye problems (too short nose, too loose skin and so on) are areas of risk. They should, in relation to their extent, be taken into account in quality grading, and the competition assessment in relation.

Considerations in competition assessment

Milder signs of irritation like excessive tear flow and staining of the facial hairs should influence the competition assessment.

Appendix 4

Report – observations of areas of risk in the BSI-listed breeds

This evaluation form will be available at the show. Please fill out and forward to the ring ste-

ward after judging any breed listed in the BSI.



REPORT – observations of areas of risk in the BSI-listed breeds or in any other breed

Please complete the report in connection with the judging and forward it to the ring steward.

ORGANIZING CLUB:

You have been invited to judge(breed)

at the dog show in:..... date:.....

This breed is listed in the BSI for breeds under observation as described and explained in the NKU BSI document.

Were you familiar with the NKU BSI before this show? YES NO

You are requested to study the whole BSI document with special attention to the text regarding the breed(s) you will judge and the introduction text for the pertinent FCI group. We ask you also to pay special attention to the section "Basic for all dogs" Instruction for application is described in the first pages.

The number of dogs of the breed in question which you judged were:

Mark with a cross if no dogs were shown

Did you notice any of the issues and topics mentioned for the breed? YES NO

If YES, which of the areas of risk/issues did you observe and in how many dogs?

Breathing problems, number..... Exaggeration in type, number.....

Eye problems, number..... Unhealthy movement, number.....

Bite and teeth problems, number..... Behaviour problems, number.....

Weight, number..... Exaggeration in presentation, number.....

Unhealthy construction, number..... Skin and coat problems, number.....

Other issues, specified, number.....

Comments.....

.....

.....

How many dogs did you award ck? (Number of dogs in best male and bitch classes).....

Do you find it appropriate that this breed is listed in the BSI?

Please answer this question from your overall experience, and not only from the present show.

Please indicate and make comments below!

- Yes, it's appropriate that this breed is listed
- No, it's not appropriate that this breed is listed
- I can not, at present, state an opinion (please comment why)

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about other breeds you feel ought to be considered for listing in the BSI?

Date and signature.....

Name in block letters.....

Thank you for your cooperation!

NKU BSI – a collaboration between the Nordic kennel clubs







Breed Specific Instructions (BSI)

regarding exaggerations in pedigree dogs

