
Berger Picard (Picardy Sheepdog)

Origin and Purpose

The Berger Picard has very ancient origins. It is believed to have been developed in Europe by the Celts around 400 BC. It is not certain that the Berger Picard originates strictly from the Picardie region in Northern France. It is possible that it was more widely spread as harsh-coated sheep and cattle dogs were typical throughout northwestern Europe. The modern-day Berger Picard was bred by the farmers of the Picardie region, as hard-working farm dogs, sheep guardians and herders, as well as cattle drovers. The diversity of their job required versatility and intelligence, a keen sense of initiative and loyalty, as well as strength, speed and endurance to work long days in the fields.

General Appearance

The Berger Picard is a medium-sized dog. It is solid, hardy, well muscled and well built without ever being heavy. Slightly longer than tall, with distinctive erect natural ears, wiry coat of moderate length, rough eyebrows, moderate moustache and beard, and a tail reaching to the hock and ending in a J shape. Movement is free and easy, efficient, and tireless to allow them to work all day. Bone should be sturdy and strong, but not so massive as to interfere with free, efficient, light-footed movement. Its lively and alert expression is characterized by its rugged appearance. This is a rustic, working shepherd's dog, without exaggeration or refinement.

Temperament

The Berger Picard is even tempered, lively, alert, observant, and confident; may be aloof with strangers, but should not be timid or nervous. It should be both obedient and fearless. These qualities enable it to easily accomplish its work which consists of driving and protecting flocks of sheep. It is also a very good guard for the home and an excellent family dog who enjoys close contact with children.

Size

At the highest point of the withers:

- Dogs: 60-65 cm (23.5-25.5 in)
- Bitches: 55-60 cm (21.5-23.5 in)

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The length of the body, from the point of the shoulder to the point of buttock, should be slightly more than the height at the withers (from 5% to 8%). Bitches may be slightly longer than dogs.
- The skull (from occiput to the stop) and muzzle (from the stop to the tip of the nose) are of equal length.
- The distance from the elbow to the ground is equal to half the height at the withers.

Coat

The coat is wiry, semi-long, neither flat nor curly, often with a slight wave. It should feel harsh and crisp when touched. Ideal length is from 5-7 cm (2-3 in) over the entire body including the tail, except on the top of the head, where it can be as short as 4 cm (1.5 in). The coat accents on the head and neck, which give the Picard its distinctive look, known as “griffonage”, include rough eyebrows, moderate beard and moustache, and a slight ruff on the front and sides of the neck, framing the head, all of moderate length. The undercoat is fine and dense. The shaggy, rough coat of the Picard is distinctive, and should never be woolly, soft, or so profuse that it hides the outline of the dog. The Picard is shown in its rustic, rough, natural coat, which is not to be sculpted, shaped, or scissored. Dogs whose coats have been altered by excessive grooming must be severely penalized.

Colour

Fawn, fawn charbonné (fawn with charcoal), fawn or grey brindles. Fawn may be a clear or true fawn with no dark markings; the adult fawn charbonné must have most of its body covered with fawn hair. The double pigmentation hair; fawn at the root and more or less dark grey at the tip (fawn charbonné), is mainly found on the ears and tail. The charbonné tinge found on the ears and tail can be more or less pronounced. Some fawn charbonné hair may be found elsewhere in the Berger Picard's coat but their presence should be very discreet so as not to blur or wash out the overall fawn colour. Charbonné hair is tolerated on the forehead, muzzle, chin and neck of the Berger Picard from Baby Puppy to Senior Puppy classes but must disappear in adulthood to be found almost only on the ears and tail. Too much charbonné hair on the shoulders and thighs is not desired and should be slightly penalized if it

is more pronounced than the fawn. Brindles may be any shade of base colour from almost black to light grey or fawn, with stripes or small patches of black, brown, red, grey, or fawn distributed throughout. All allowed colours should be considered equally. A small white patch on the chest or tips of toes is allowed, but not ideal.

Head

In proportion to the size of the dog, strong, without being massive; delicately chiseled, overall rectangular. Narrowing slightly from ears to the eyes, and again from eyes to nose when viewed from above, without giving the impression of being pointed. Viewed from the side, the muzzle and skull are in parallel planes separated by a slight, sloping stop, which is equidistant from the occiput and the tip of the nose. The type is stamped by the rugged aspect; distinct eyebrows along with beard and moustache.

Skull: The forehead should not be flat but slightly convex with a slight depression in the center of the frontal sinuses, blending smoothly into the muzzle. Coat on the top of the skull is naturally shorter and gradually becomes longer each side of skull and on cheeks, which makes the skull appear to be flat when viewed from the front. The hair above the eyes falls forward, forming rough eyebrows that are not trimmed, nor are they so thick or long as to obscure the eyes.

Cheeks: Cheek muscles should be moderately strong and slightly rounded.

Muzzle: Strong and not too long. Viewed from above, the muzzle tapers slightly from the stop to the nose, ending bluntly. In profile, the plane of the muzzle is straight, and parallel to the skull. The hair on the muzzle forms a distinct moustache and beard, which is not overly long or bushy.

Nose: Well developed. Always black, well opened nostrils.

Lips: Thin and tight-fitting, with dark pigment.

Bite and Teeth: A complete set of evenly spaced, white teeth set in powerful jaws. Scissors bite, in which part of the inner surface of the upper teeth meets, and engages part of the outer surface of the lower teeth. Teeth broken by accident should not be penalized but worn

teeth, especially the incisors, are often indicative of the lack of a proper scissors bite and should be penalized, although some allowance should be made for age.

Ears: Moderately large, 10-12 cm (4-4.5 in) long, broad at the base, tapering to a slightly rounded tip, and set rather high on the skull. Always carried naturally erect, and turned forward. Viewed from the front, carriage should be perpendicular to the head or turned slightly out from perpendicular, at the 11 and 1 o'clock position. Coat on the ears should be short to moderate in length, not obscuring the shape of the ears.

Eyes: Horizontally set, of medium size, oval in shape, neither round nor prominent. Dark brown in colour (the colour can be more or less dark depending on that of the coat, but never lighter than hazel). Darker eye color is preferred. Eye rims are tight-fitting and fully pigmented.

Expression: Alert and observant, spirited, confident, pleasant.

Neck

The neck is strong and muscled, of reasonable length, blending smoothly into the shoulders, to allow proud head carriage. Skin should fit cleanly without any dewlap. A slight ruff on the front and sides of the neck, framing the head. The correct length neck should be about the same length as the head, measured from occiput to nose.

Forequarters

Shoulder blades are long and well laid back, covered by lean and strong muscle. The length of the upper arm balances the shoulder blade, placing the elbow well under and close in to the body. Forelegs are straight and strong, without being bulky. Viewed from the front, legs are parallel to each other with toes pointing straight forward. Pasterns slope slightly forward into a compact, rounded foot with well arched toes and strong, black nails. Pads are strong and supple.

Body

The bone structure is solid, without exaggeration, and the muscles are lean.

Topline: Strong, level, descending very slightly from the withers to

the croup. The back is straight, the loin is strong and the croup slopes slightly into the buttocks.

Chest: Deep but without exaggeration, reaching the elbows but not beyond. Prominent prosternum blends smoothly into the sternum. The lowest point of the sternum is at the level of the elbow, and from that point, the sternum slopes gradually up towards the loin to give good depth and length to the ribcage. The correct chest perimeter measurement, taken immediately behind the elbows, is superior by 1/5th to the height at withers.

Ribs: The ribs are well sprung from the spine for the upper third, then flattening as they approach the sternum, neither slab-sided nor barrel-shaped.

Underline and Belly: Belly slightly tucked up.

Hindquarters

The upper thigh is long and well muscled. Well-turned stifle with strong articulation. The angulation of the thigh and stifle balance the front assembly, providing powerful, tireless, and effortless movement. The hock is moderately bent and the rear pasterns are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the ground. With a correctly angulated rear, the toes of the hind foot land just behind a perpendicular line dropped from the point of the rump. Feet are rounded with well arched toes and strong black nails, as in front. There should be no dewclaws or supernumerary digits on the rear legs.

Tail

Naturally long. Strong at the base and tapering to the tip, flowing smoothly from the slightly sloping croup. At rest, it should reach the point of the hock joint and be slightly curved at the tip in a “J” shape without deviating toward the right or left. In action, it is carried as a natural extension of the topline. May be carried higher than the level of the topline, but never curled over the back. Coat is the same length and texture as the coat on the body.

Gait

Movement is fluid and effortless, easily covering a lot of ground with each smooth stride. Strong, supple, agile movement is essential for a working shepherd's dog. Head carriage lowers to near the level of the topline when moving. Limbs move in parallel planes when gaiting

slowly, converging slightly towards the centerline with increased speed.

Faults

- (a) Temperament: Aggressive or overly shy.
- (b) Size: Up to 2 cm (1 in) over or under the limit.
- (c) Coat:
 - A coat which has tendency to curl, or is too flat.
 - Length less than 5 cm (2 in) or more than 7 cm (3 in), except on the head where 4-7 cm (1.5-3 in) is allowed.
 - Limp or woolly coat.
 - Any alterations to the coat including, eyebrows, beard and moustache by sculpting, shaping, or scissoring, other than a light stripping of the ears.
- (d) Type: Lack of type.
- (e) Colour: Reverse coat on fawn charbonné dogs (predominant charcoal colour rather than fawn) or with charcoal saddle marking.
- (f) Bite: Absence three or more missing molars or premolars (The PM1 are not taken into consideration). Reverse bite without loss of contact of the incisors. Abnormally worn down incisors.
- (g) Eyes: Eyes very light in colour.
- (h) Tail: Tail curled over the back, excessively short or kinked.
- (i) Limbs: Very irregular conformity of limbs; especially, faulty hind-quarters, excessively turned out feet, cowhocked.

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog. The faults that could interfere with the dog's ability to function efficiently as a shepherd, guardian, and farmer's helper or have an effect on the health and welfare of the dog should be considered more serious than deviations that are strictly cosmetic.

Disqualifications

- (a) Heights under or over the following: Males under 58 cm (23 in) or over 67 cm (26.5 in), female under 53 cm (21 in) or over 62 cm (24.5 in)

- (b) Colour: Solid black or white, harlequin or pied; white spreading too much over the forechest, completely white feet, white patches in the coat in any areas other than those indicated.
- (c) Bite: Overshot or undershot with loss of contact of incisors.
- (d) Eyes: Wall eyes or yellow eyes.
- (e) Ears: Not naturally erect.
- (f) Tail: Rudimentary or absent tail.

Scale of Points

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|---|----|
| General appearance and conduct..... | 20 |
| Expression | 5 |
| Gait..... | 25 |
| Head, ears and coat | 20 |
| Shoulder, hindquarters, forequarters and angulation | 20 |
| Tail | 10 |

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| TOTAL | 100 |
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