



GROUP V: TOYS

GRIFFON (BRUSSELS)

RECOGNIZED: 1889

Effective: July 2026

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A toy dog, intelligent, alert, proud, cheeky and full of self-importance. Sturdy with a short cobby body and a large round head. The Brussels Griffon has a smart carriage and set-up, attracting attention by its almost human expression.

SIZE

Weight: 3.75 to 4.5 kg (8 to 10 lb) and should not exceed 5.5 kg (12 lb)

Type and quality are of greater importance than weight.

COAT

There are two distinct types of coat: rough and smooth.

The *rough coat* is wiry, hard and straight. On no account should the dog feel woolly or silky nor should there be any wave in the coat. On the rough coat, the head is covered with wiry hair, longer around the eyes, nose, cheeks and chin, forming a fringe.

The *smooth coat* is short, tight and glossy.

COLOUR

The colours of the smooth and rough varieties are the same. They are:

- **Red:** Reddish brown, with a little black at the whiskers and chin allowable
- **Belge:** Black and reddish brown mixed, usually with black mask and whiskers
- **Black and Tan:** Black with uniform rich tan markings, appearing under the chin, on the legs, above each eye, around the edges of the ears and around the vent
- **Black:** Solid black

Occasional white hairs anywhere on the body and frosting on the muzzles of mature dogs should not be penalized.

HEAD

Skull: Large and round from all angles. **Nose:** Black with large wide, open nostrils, the stop deep. The nose is set at the same level as the eyes. The tip of the nose is tilted back so that in profile the chin, nose and the forehead are on the same plane. **Eyes** are set well apart, large, dark and round. Eyelids edged with black. The lips are edged with black, not pendulous but well brought together, giving a clean finish to the mouth. The jaw must be undershot, prominent and broad with an upwards sweep. **Teeth:** The incisors of the lower jaw should protrude over the upper incisors. Neither teeth nor tongue should show when the mouth is closed. **Ears:** Small and set rather high on the head. Cropped or natural ears are equally acceptable. If cropped they are pointed and erect. If natural they are semi-erect, set rather high, the smaller the better, not extending past the eye.

NECK

Medium length, slightly arched, blending harmoniously into the shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Forelegs of medium length, straight in bone, well-muscled, set moderately wide apart and straight from the point of the shoulders as viewed from the front. Pasterns short and strong.

BODY

The Brussels Griffon is a little dog, heavy for size. The back is level and short, brisket broad and deep, ribs well sprung. Short strong loin, little or no tuck-up. Square, cobby dog.

HINDQUARTERS

Thighs strong and well-muscled, stifles well bent. Hocks low to the ground, turning neither in nor out. **Feet:** Small, compact and cat-like with black toenails.

TAIL

Set and held high, emerging at right angles from a level topline. If docked, then to one-third of its length. If natural, of moderate length, curved gently over the back when moving. A curly tail is a fault.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed's traditional purpose.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Dudley or butterfly nose
- White spot or blaze anywhere on coat
- Hanging tongue
- Jaw overshot
- Wry mouth