

Auvergne Pointer

Braque d'Auvergne by Françoise Rinfret



A Brief History

From French origin, the Braque d'Auvergne is a very ancient breed present in the Cantal region for more than two centuries. However, his origin is hard to determine and questionable. This breed is the result of a selection to which the Chevaliers de Malte (1798) might have participated. Either produced from a breeding between the Braque Français, a Pointer bleu du Pays de Galles and other hounds, or from a multi-pointer common source, this breed is solid for over two centuries. He has a strong identity reinforced by his coat. His unofficial appellation of Bleu d'Auvergne comes from his elegant coat, black and white, with markings more or less of variable importance, flecked or greying. The morphologic standard, actually known today, was established since 1913.



PLOFF III, BRAQUE D'Auvergne, NÉ EN 1912, PAR CHAMPION PLOFF II DE S^t-FLOUR HORS DE FLOI DU PERCHE, APP^s A M. BIGOT, 1^{er} PRIX

Coming to Canada

It was at the beginning of the 1990s that a group of Quebec hunters became interested by the Braque d'Auvergne, primarily for their hunting qualities but also for their sturdiness and their magnificent temperament. After several visits to France, some dogs were imported to Canada (both males and females) to ensure descendants. In 1994, the first female was registered to the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. Unfortunately, as of now, this lineage is almost extinct.

Despite his versatility, the Braque d'Auvergne is above all a continental pointing dog, a woodcock specialist, ideal for Quebec territory. His usual hunting pace is an economic gallop, slightly rocking, with a short stride but with a well-sustained rhythm, which gives its notorious endurance. Given his ability to maintain contact with the leader, the density of the vegetation influences both the amplitude and the depth of his search and his gait. His head bearing is in the prolongation of the back and slightly inclined (like a hammer). Ground checks, if they are brief and justified, cannot be considered as a fault. Usually it will be followed by a cautious crawling to approach the game carefully.



Standing on point, firm but not cataleptic, he stands out by different attitudes depending on the game, the terrain, the way the scent could be perceived and the distance to the game; ranging from tense limbs and head high up to half-flexed limbs and taut neck. It will be followed by a generally cautious flushing of the game.

The Auvergne pointer is appreciated for his versatility and ease of adaptation and above all as a practical and cooperative hunting dog. Whether breeder, handler or judge, all are attracted by his great qualities as a hunting and companion dog.



General Appearance

This continental hunting dog, built for the hunting, is robust and strongly structured, without heaviness, accusing a characteristic Braque type, a lightness of pace and elegance enhanced by his dress and the harmony of his proportions.

Power and elegance



His solid conformation predisposes him to a background action carried out in flexibility and allows him to hold a whole day on the hardest ground. Conscientious and methodical, he naturally maintains contact with his master. He evolves well in a climate of confidence; a slow and no rough approach is desirable to win his heart so he will return it to you without counting.

Behaviour / Temperament

What best represent the breed is the desire to please!

He is calm, intelligent, obedient, very affectionate and sometimes a bit stubborn. If you cross the frank expression and gentleness of his gaze, you will discover the tenderness and boundless attachment that he vows to his master. It is not uncommon to see him shy and a little suspicious before strangers but in no case should be aggressive, grunting or showing teeth. A gentle examination will be appreciated as well as allowing the handler to show the teeth of his dog.

The handling should be carried out smoothly without too many restrictions and allow the dog to express himself freely. Positioning rather natural than forced. **DQ: Aggressive or overly shy.**
DQ: Any dogs clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.



Head

What differentiates the Braque d'Auvergne from the other Braques, is undoubtedly the characteristics of his head. Well typed, the ears and the lips should be well marked and well descended without too much heaviness.

CRANIAL REGION

Lines of the skull and muzzle: Slightly divergent towards the front (type Braque characterized). The head is long, proportionate to the size, a little lighter in females. Seen from above, the shape of the skull is nearly oval. The occipital protuberance is only slightly prominent. The skull width between the zygomatic arches is equal to his length.

Superciliary arches: Well pronounced
Stop: Moderately marked



Male head

FACIAL REGION

Nose: Always black, relatively broad, shiny, with well-open nostrils. His upper profile is in prolongation of that of the muzzle. **DQ:** Dudley nose

Muzzle: Length close to that of the skull or slightly shorter. The muzzle is level and never upward like a Pointer.

Lips: Relatively important. The upper lip covers the lower. Neat commissure, without important inner fold. Seen from the front, the lips form a square end to the muzzle. Never pinched.



Jaws/Teeth: Sturdy, of equal length. The teeth are strong. Scissors bite or level bite. An upper or lower prognathism is tolerated with an offset of less than 1 mm between the incisive arcades. The absence of PM1 is tolerated.

DQ: Undershot or overshot with more than 1 mm gap between the incisive arcades.



DQ: The lack of 2 other premolars (PM2 or PM3) or of any other tooth including PM4 is eliminatory.





Female head

Eyes: Relatively large, oval, of dark hazel color, well set in the orbit, giving an expressive candid and kind look. The well pigmented eyelid does not allow the conjunctiva to be seen.

DQ: Unpigmented eyelids.

DQ: Yellow eye (said “hawk eye”). Wall eyes.

DQ: Eversion or inversion of eyelids or traces of corrective intervention.

Ears: Attached rather towards the rear. At rest, the ear is set below a line running from the upper level of the nose to the eye. When attentive, the ear may move up to that line. Turned slightly inward, neither curled nor flat, the ear is supple and slightly satiny. Its extremity is moderately rounded.



Female head

Drawn forward, it should reach the root of the nose, without going further than the tip.

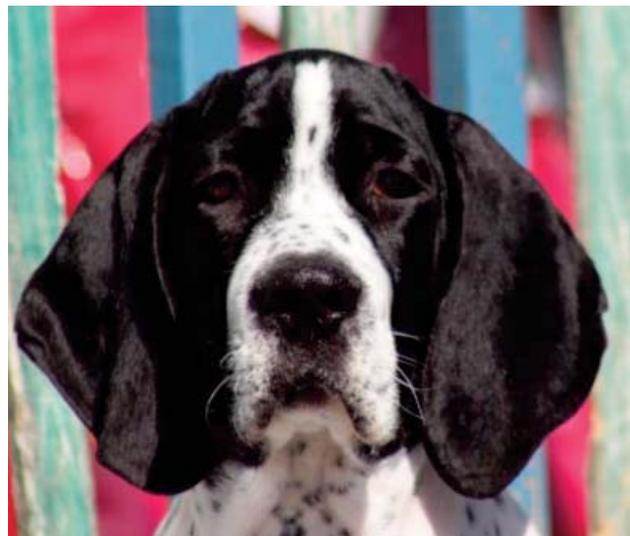
DQ: Lack of Braque type in the head (heaviness).

Length Ideal for adults

Quiet



Attentive



Neck

Relatively long, well inserted between the shoulders. Slightly arched. Presence of a slight dewlap. The length of the neck is roughly equal to that of the head.



HEADS COMPARISON

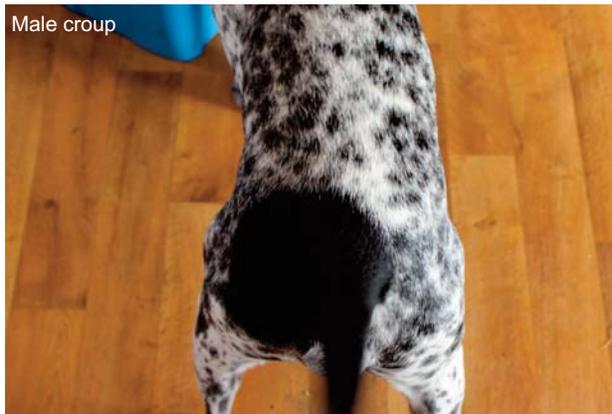


Body

Rectilinear, of medium proportions.

Topline: straight and taut. The withers is well marked. The back is narrow, flat and short. The spine column isn't sprung out. The loin is well attached, it is broad especially in females, very slightly convex. The croup is oblique, 35 degrees from the top line, points of hips visible.

Chest: long and deep, reaching elbow level. A transversal section is egg shaped, regularly sprung, without rupture in the lower part.



Underline and belly: rises gently towards the belly, not whippety. The flank is wide, only slightly hollowed, joined smoothly to the hips.



Tail

Set rather high. It should be carried horizontally. Cylindrical and not too fine. Docked, it has a length of 15 to 20 cm. (6" to 8") Undocked, it reaches the point of the hock without going further.



Limbs / Members

Forequarters: Upright to the ground. The shoulder is strong, well muscled, quite free in action, sloping at 45 degrees. The elbow is well in the axis of the body. The forearm is strong and long, muscular and straight. The carpus is strong without knots. The pasterns are short, slightly inclined seen in profile.

Hindquarters: Well angulated, they work in parallel planes. The thigh must be well muscled. The hock is lean and well defined. The rear pastern is short and never too thin. **DQ: Presence of dewclaws or traces of their removal for hindquarters.**

The foot, anterior and posterior, is a little longer than what's called a "cat foot" and a little shorter than a "hare foot". The nails are strong and short; the pads are hard and resistant and the toes are tightly knit.

Junior male



Junior female



Puppy male 6 months



Puppy female 5 months



Adult male



Adult female



Gait / Movement

A stride of average amplitude but with the sustained rhythm which confers to the Braque d'Auvergne his notorious endurance. His usual hunting pace is an average gallop, regular and slightly rocking.



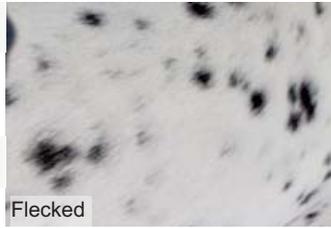
Skin

Fairly fine, rather loose without exaggeration.

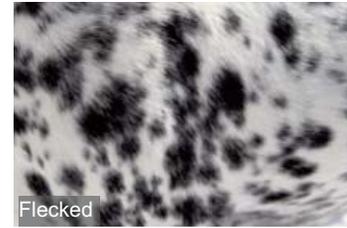
Color

Hair: Short, not too fine, never hard, shiny.

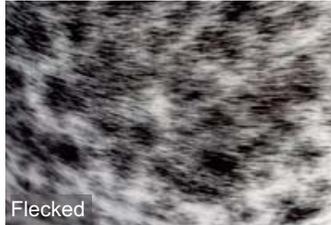
Black with white markings of variable importance. The particularity of the marking generates two recognized types: **Flecked** or **Greying** (charbonné). This difference cannot be used to separate two subjects of the same quality.



Flecked



Flecked



Flecked



Charbonné - Greying

The head should be black, preferably with a white blaze on the muzzle extending to the skull. The white of this blaze can extend laterally on the muzzle. A white and flecked ear or the side of the head white and flecked cannot be considered as faults. **DQ: Entirely black or entirely white. DQ: Absence of flecking. DQ: Tawny marks or "burnt bread" (fawn) glints.**

DIFFERENT MASKS



Charbonné (left)

Flecked (right)



Size

Height at the withers:

Males: 57 to 63 cm (22.5" to 24.8") (60 cm - 23.6" ideal height)

Females: 53 to 59 cm (20.9" to 23.3") (56 cm - 22" ideal height)

With a tolerance for both sexes of + 2 cm and - 1 cm

DQ: Outside of standard defined limits (official tolerance + 2 cm and - 1 cm)

The pups will have reached their adult height around the age of 8 to 10 months. The females will have reached their adult physical aspect towards the age of 18 -24 months, the males towards the age of 3 years. It is not uncommon to see a 2-year-old male still looking juvenile.



Faults

Any fault must be considered and penalized according to its severity and its consequences on the health and welfare of the dog.

- Parallel line of muzzle and skull.
- Head too loaded under the eyes.
- Apparent conjunctiva.

Severe Faults

- Convergent lines of muzzle and skull (towards the front).
- Concave or convex muzzle.
- Ear attached too high, too short, flat, too much corkscrew.
- Lips hanging or floppy, too short, muzzle tapering towards the end.
- Too narrow brisket.

Disqualifying Faults

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dogs clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

Head:

- Lack of Braque type in the head (heaviness).
- Undershot or overshot with more than 1 mm gap between the incisive arcades.
- Lack of first premolars is tolerate. The lack of 2 other premolars (PM2 or PM3) or of any other tooth including PM4 is eliminatory.
- Eversion or inversion of eyelids or traces of corrective intervention.

Legs:

- Presence of dewclaws or traces of their removal for hindquarters.

Coat:

- Entirely black or entirely white.
- Absence of flecking.
- Tawny marks or “burnt bread” (fawn) glints.
- Dudley nose.
- Unpigmented eyelids.
- Yellow eye (said “hawk eye”). Wall eyes.

Size:

- Outside of standard defined limits (official tolerance + 2 cm and - 1 cm)

N.B.

- Males animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.



Françoise Rinfret is a breeder of Auvergne Pointer under the prefix “Élevage du Chevalier Bleu” in St-Étienne-de-Lauzon near Quebec City since 2008.

Her motto is: “Braque d’Auvergne: my joy of life, my dogs, my love, my puppies... my passion!”

