AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

Extended Breed Standard of

THE BOXER

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THE BOXER

Other breeds have pronounced specialised talents . . . . hunting, herding, trailing, and so on . . . but for a combination of the outstanding virtues of many with the faults of a few, our Boxer is the most gifted of canines. For the man, woman or child who wants an all-round dog, he has no equal. No other dog is more individual in appearance, more keenly intelligent or sanely even-tempered. These virtues alone are priceless if the dog is to become part of his master's family, which he should for the well being of all concerned. The Boxer has a faculty of worming his way into the good graces and the hearts of an entire household. He seems to offer something special to each person he meets. It's astonishing, but true . . . John Wagner, *The Boxer (5)*

HISTORY

John Wagner's Book, The Boxer, first published in 1939, contains one of the most detailed histories of development of this breed. The history of the Boxer as a unique breed begins late in the 19th century in the area of Munich, Germany. The Germans did not begin to breed dogs seriously and scientifically until that time, although various types of dogs had existed in Germany—as in England and the Continent—from time immemorial. According to Denlinger, "As far back as the time of the ancient Assyrians, more than 2000 B.C., a strain of dogs with powerful build, heavy head and great courage was bred and used in war. Centuries later the name of Molossian was given to dogs of this type, named from the city of Molossis in Epirus, in what is today Albania." These dogs spread across the continent and became the ancestors to the German Bullenbeisser. In England, selective breeding produced a taller, stronger dog than the original Molossis and this formed the foundation of the modern Mastiff. Later, the English crossed their Mastiff with fast running hounds to produce the Englische Dogge, or Great Dane, the German national dog. However the Germans continued to use the Bullenbeisser as a hunting dog.

Boxer Ancestors of the Middle Ages to the Late 1700's

According to Wagner: ". . .a smaller Bullenbeisser of the purest stock was bred from the larger one by natural selection, due to the spreading popularity of the animal fights from England to the mainland and thence to Germany. Through comparison of Spanish and French authors of the 12th to 14th centuries with authentic English and German sources we find that the so-called "Dogge" title was used as a collectivism for all strongly built, short-haired chase dogs with large heads, powerfully developed muzzles and triangle-like, stubbed and drooping upper lip, strong bodies and teeth

and that the Doggen forms of all European countries from the middle ages up to the present day are limited to three types which have in the course of time developed into national breeds. They are:

- **The heavy Bullenbeisser (Mastiff).**
- **The large hound evolved by crossing the Bullenbeisser with the old type Wolf or Deerhound (The Great Dane).**
- **The small Bullenbeisser which represents a smaller form of the heavy Bullenbeisser through natural selection (The Boxer and the English Bulldog)."**

(Bullenbeisser head types)

Head studies – note the distinctive Boxer characteristics in the three drawings.

The Old English Mastiff.
From a 19th century engraving.

Small or Brabanter Bullenbeisser

Wagner quotes John E. L. Riedinger of Augsburg (1698-1767): "The main portion of most old time German hunting packs were made up of coarse haired, big dogs with bush tails and wolfish heads called 'Rüden.' They were supplied to the courts by the peasants in immense numbers and suffered great losses at every hunt, therefore no particular pains were taken to breed them. The Doggen and Bullenbeisser, however, knew instinctively how to tackle the game from behind and hold it in a way that kept them from serious injury yet gave the hunters time to reach the kill therefore they were more valuable to the hunt and were accordingly highly prized and painstakingly bred." It is generally accepted that a smaller Bullenbeisser bred in Brabant, an area in Northeast Belgium, is a direct ancestor of today's Boxer. To add historical perspective to current practice Wagner quotes Hans Friedrich v. Flemming of Leipzig (1719), who writes of the Brabanter Bullenbeisser: "Their ears are clipped while they are still young and also the tail…."

Bullenbeissers from about 1800 to 1900

The noble estates on which the Bullenbeisser was bred were broken up in Germany during and after the Napoleonic wars and the dogs which had heretofore formed the hunting packs of the nobility, hunting wild boar and small bear, became the butcher's and cattle dealer's dog. It might be considered a reduction in stature of the dog, but it kept him from becoming extinct.

By 1800 after the dispersion of the hunting Bullenbeisser mentioned above, the small Bullenbeisser was found as a family and guard dog where "his remarkable intelligence and tractability endeared him to so large a group of individuals that he carried on when so many breeds completely disappeared."

During the time that a smaller Bullenbeisser was being bred for the wild game hunts, the English Bulldog was being bred in England as early as 1632 for the same purpose.

That English Bulldog did not have the extreme characteristics of today's English Bulldog—he was much more like the Brabanter Bullenbeisser in body type, but often was either white, or did have white markings.

Wagner states: "The literature and paintings previous to 1830 indicate that all Bullenbeisser up to that time were fawn or brindle with black masks. There is never any mention of white. About this time there came a great influx of English dogs to Germany including the English Bulldog. His entry into the country quickly followed by numerous crosses with the Bullenbeisser resulted in an eventual similarity of type that made it very difficult to distinguish where any degree of Bulldog blood was present except that white color began to appear in the Boxers.

This is easily understood if we bear in mind that the English Bulldog of that time was very like the Boxer, more of a small mastiff than anything else. Still there were certain peculiarities introduced that for years caused lack of uniformity in type, shape and color in the Boxer. But lasting characteristics were not impregnated although it took years of selective breeding to eliminate some undesirable traits and to this day minor discrepancies appear at rare intervals."

The Modern Boxer in Germany

A Boxer Club had been formed in Munich in 1895, and the founders drew up the first Boxer Standard as a guide for their future breeding. Much of this first standard still remains in the Boxer standards of today.

As any good dog club should, they held a dog show as soon as possible. A picture of the Boxers in that show still survives.

The modern Boxer began in the late-nineteenth century in Germany with Alt's Flora, a brindle bitch imported from France by George Alt of Munich. Flora was bred to a local Boxer whose name was never recorded.

A fawn and white male from this litter, Lechner's Box, was then bred back to his mother who produced Alt's Flora II and Alt's Schecken.

Schecken, when paired in 1895 with a white bulldog called "Dr Toneissen's Tom" in the records, became the dam of the first Boxer registered in the first studbook in 1904, Mühlbauer's Flocki.

Boxer bench at one of the earliest German Shows (Before 1900 A.D.)

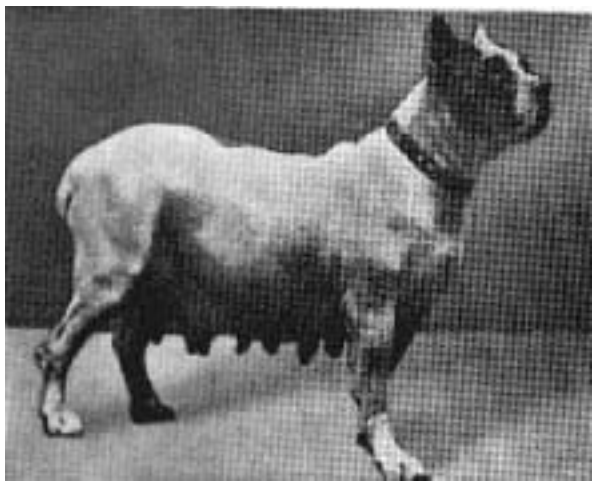
Alt's Schecken No.50

Muehlbauer's Flocki, the first Boxer ever registered in a stud book (1904)

Maier's Lord No.13

Piccolo vom Angertor

Champion Blanka vom Angertor



Meta von der Passage

It is worth quoting Wagner here:
“Meta v. d. Passage played the most important role of the five original ancestors. Our great line of sires all trace directly back to this female.

She was a substantially built, low to the ground, brindle and white parti-color, lacking in underjaw and exceedingly lippy. As a producing bitch few in any breed can match her record. She consistently whelped puppies of marvelous type and rare quality. Those of her offspring sired by Flock St. Salvator and Wotan dominate all present-day pedigrees. Combined with Wotan and Mirzl children, they made the Boxer.”

Flock St. Salvator, of whom no picture exists, was one of the sires of puppies from Meta. He is not out of the line of Flora/Box but rather a different one. According to Dan Gordon his breeding with Meta produced Hugo v. Pfalzgau. Hugo v. Pfalzgau was the great-grandfather of Rolf v. Vogelsberg, the foundation sire of the great German Vom Dom line and thus a foundation sire of nearly all Boxer lines.

Friederun and Philip Stockmann and the Vom Dom Boxers.

The names Stockmann and Vom Dom are the most important ones in the history of Boxers. Friederun Stockmann was a young woman from Riga, in the Baltic region of Germany.

In the beginning pages of her book, *My Life With Boxers*, she gives us her belief that she was destined to spend her life with dogs – she was born in 1891 under the star sign Sirius, the Dog Star.

At the age of 18, she says, she was led by the Dog Star to Munich where she began her art studies at the Academy in Munich. It was in Munich that Friederun met and was owned by her first Boxer, Pluto, and, oh yes, she met and married Pluto’s owner, Philip Stockmann. Frau Stockmann was not on the Boxer scene at the very beginnings of the breed, but she was a major force in the breed very soon thereafter. Frau Stockmann must have been around five when the first Boxer show was held in Munich in 1895. She showed her first Boxer, Laska, a bitch in about 1910.

Frau Stockman with her Boxers.

Rolf v. Vogelsberg was one of the major Boxer sires. Because Frau Stockmann does not give specific dates early in her book, we have to do some figuring to determine when she must have purchased Rolf v. Vogelsberg. According to Denlinger, Rolf began his show career at the age of two in 1910. Frau Stockmann says that she bought him

at three years of age. She must have bought him in 1911 when she was about 20 or 21 and married to Philip Stockmann. Her first homebred champion and Rolf's son was Dampf vom Dom, whelped September 28, 1912.

Rolf v. Vogelsberg earned the German title of Sieger five times, the last time at the age of eleven after four years of service with Philip Stockmann on the front lines in World War I.

He was the only Boxer of the ten that Stockmann took with him to return alive. Rolf's descendants from 1910 to 1925 were some of the major sires of the German lines. In direct line of descent from Rolf they were: Ch. Rolf Walhall, Ch. Moritz v. Goldrain, Ch. Casar v. Deutenkofen, Ch. Buko v. Biederstein, to Ivein v. Dom.

Champion Rolf v. Volgelsberg

Sieger Dampf v. Dom, later purchased by Herbert Lehman, who became Gov of NY. In the left corner is a notation "11 months old."

Training Boxers near Berlin for duty on the lines of World War 1

Ivein v. Dom, whelped in January, 1925, represented Frau Stockmann's renaissance in the breeding of Boxers after World War I. Ivein's dam was Zwibel, granddaughter of Rolf v. Vogelsberg and his sire was Buko v. Biederstein a great-great-grandson of Rolf. Iwein never earned a German championship, but Frau Stockmann says that her sixth sense told her to keep Ivein and to breed him. He became the sire of the great German sire, Sigurd v. Dom.

During the five years that he remained in Germany, Sigurd attained a rank as a show dog and sire equal to the great Rolf v. Vogelsberg. At the age of five he was then sold to America to become a part of the Barmere Kennels in Van Nuys, CA.

Of him Wagner said: “To Sigurd, more than to any other individual dog we owe the tremendous advance in consistent perfected balance of power and elegance.”

It was one of the twists of fate that two of the greatest dogs that the vom Dom kennels produced were sold to America. Sigurd’s grandson, Ch. Lustig v. Dom was also sold to America and became Ch. Lustig v. Dom of Tulgey Woods. Lustig was sold only because a great price was offered for him at a time when the Stockmann family fortunes had reached a nadir. Ironically, though Frau Stockmann never saw him again, the year after Lustig left Germany her husband Philip was invited to judge the show at Westminster and Lustig was there.

Ivein vom Dom

The Four Horsemen of Boxerdom

Milo Denlinger in his book, *The Complete Boxer*, calls Sigurd, Dorian, Utz, and Lustig, the “Four Horsemen of American Boxerdom”

Even though they were German Boxers they must also be recounted in the American history because, in many ways, they were the foundation of American Boxers. Sigurd was the grandsire of the other three Horsemen.

With the importation of the three grandsons of Sigurd, Utz v. Dom, Dorian v. Marienhof, and Lustig v. Dom, the United States had the three greatest Boxers that German breeding had been able to produce.

Photos of the “Four horsemen of American Boxerdom”

Again Wagner States:

"The two dogs, Int. Ch. Dorian v. Marienhof, the brindle, and Int. Ch. Lustig v. Dom, the fawn, are both in America. They represent the perfected ideal of nearly fifty years of careful breeding of Boxerdom's most aristocratic and finest families. No finer or better-bred Boxers have ever lived. They have both demonstrated their ability to reproduce quality similar to their own." Lustig and Utz were full brothers though there was a three year difference in their ages. Their sire was Zorn v. Dom out of Esta v.d. Wurm, making them double Sigurd grandsons.

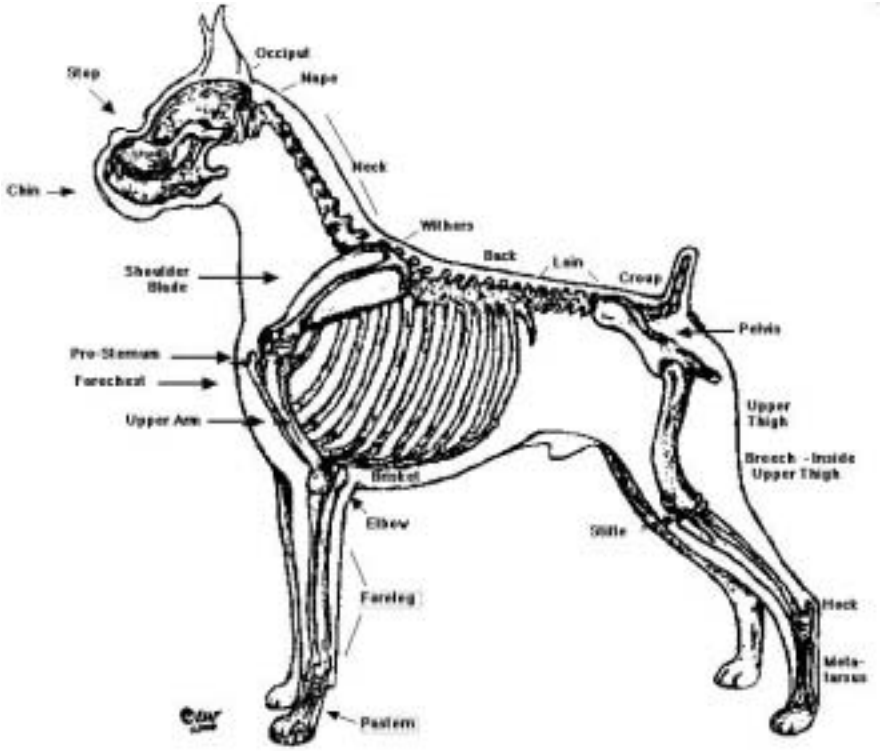
Int. Ch. Lustig sired forty-one American-bred and imported dogs who became American champions. He also produced twenty-five American bred and imported producers. One of Lustig's famous litters was the "B" litter of Lilac Hedge Kennels. In this litter, produced by Lustig out of a Dorian daughter, were three females and four males, all of whom finished their American championships. Lustig died on June 14, 1945.

Ch. Utz v. Dom, Lustig's full brother, was whelped April 18, 1936. He was imported by the famous Mazelaine Kennels, owned by John Wagner, in 1939. By the end of 1947 he had sired thirty-five champions and sixteen non-champion producers. Like Lustig, Utz had a famous litter, the "N" litter out of Ch. Nocturne of Mazelaine, a Dorian daughter. Utz won the Working Group at Westminster foreshadowing his famous son, Warlord of Mazelaine. He died in 1945, two months before Lustig. Int. Ch. Dorian v. Marienhof is the last of the Great Four. He was whelped in April 1933 from a full brother to the father of Lustig and Utz, Int. Ch. Xerxes v. Dom from the daughter of another excellent German import, Ch. Check v. Hunnenstein. Dorian won the Working Group at Westminster in 1937 just one year after he was imported. Some of Dorian's famous get were Chs. Symphony and Serenade of Mazelaine and Ch. Duke Cronian who became the foundation stud of the Sirrah Crest Kennels and the ancestor of Bang Away of Sirrah Crest.

There has been much debate over how the breed came to be known as Boxer. One line of thought is that the name comes from the tendency for the breed to use its paws in a boxing manner. Another, and more likely, is that the name reflects recognition of the breed's tenacious and determined character, especially when forced to fight. This is further substantiated by the fact that the German dictionary translates 'boxer' as 'prize fighter'.

Boxers were first exhibited in a dog show in 1895 in Munich. Boxers were first introduced into Great Britain in 1911 and were first shown in 1936. Research indicates that Boxers were first introduced into Australia in 1947.

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.



! GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Boxer is a medium sized, sturdy, smooth-haired dog of short square figure and strong limb. The musculation is clean and powerfully developed and should stand out plastically from under the skin. As a service and guard dog he must combine a considerable degree of elegance with the substance and power essential to his duties; those of an enduring escort dog whether with horse, bicycle or carriage and as a splendid jumper. Only a body whose individual limbs are built to withstand the most strenuous "mechanical" effort and assembled as a complete and harmonious whole, can respond to such demands. Therefore to be at its highest efficiency, the Boxer must never be plump or heavy. Whilst equipped for great speed, it must not be racy. When judging the Boxer the first thing to be considered is general appearance, the relation of substance to elegance and the desired relationship of the individual parts of the body to each other. Consideration, too, must be given to colour. After these, the individual parts should be examined for their correct construction and their functions. Special attention should be devoted to the head.

The Boxer is square and medium sized therefore consideration must be given to the correct height and weight. Heights significantly above and below the standard lead to loss of type. Judges should learn to accurately assess height and never reward extremes. The Boxer is intended to be a square balanced solidly built powerful dog, and the ideal weight is achieved by strong bone and clean powerful musculation and never by plumpness. The adult Boxer must exude fitness and the ability to perform its original function.

Figure 1. Illustration of a square balanced Boxer.

! CHARACTERISTICS

The character of the Boxer is of the greatest importance and demands the most careful attention. He is renowned from olden times for his great love and faithfulness to his master and household, his alertness, and fearless courage as a defender and protector. The Boxer is docile but distrustful of strangers. He is bright and friendly in play but brave and determined when roused. His intelligence and willing tractability, his modesty, and cleanliness make him a highly desirable family dog and cheerful companion. He is the soul of honesty and loyalty. He is never false or treacherous even in his old age.

The following is a quote from the book My Life With Boxers by Friederun von Miram-Stockmann (1) “In the Boxer, character is of the utmost importance. Loyalty and faithfulness to his owner and household are inbred traits, and he is renowned for his unfailing vigilance and dauntless courage. These make him unsurpassed as a guard and protector. Within his family he is docile and reliable, a great friend to children, quiet and trustworthy, even with strangers. He is joyful and restrained in play with his friends, ….”

! **TEMPERAMENT** [SEE UNDER CHARACTERISTICS].

Boxer temperament in the ring is of the utmost importance. The young Boxer should be alert to the approach of a judge but display a playful attitude. The mature Boxer may be more reserved and adult males may show a dominant attitude towards other adult males, but not to the extent of overt aggression. Fear or softness of temperament must be penalised.

! HEAD AND SKULL

The head imparts to the Boxer a unique individual stamp peculiar to the breed. It must be in perfect proportion to his body; above all it must never be too light. The muzzle is the most distinctive feature. The greatest value is to be placed on its being of correct form and in absolute proportion to the skull. The beauty of the head depends upon the harmonious proportion between the muzzle and the skull. From whatever direction the head is viewed, whether from the front, from the top or from the side, the muzzle should always appear in correct relationship to the skull. That means that the head should never appear too small or too large. The length of the muzzle to the whole of the head should be as 1 is to 3. The head should not show deep wrinkles. Normally wrinkles will spring up on the top of the skull when the dog is alert. Folds are always indicated from the root of the nose running downwards on both sides of the muzzle. The dark mask is confined to the muzzle. It must be in distinct relief to the colour of the head so that the face will not have a "sombre" expression. The muzzle must be powerfully developed in length, in breadth and in height. It must not be pointed or narrow, short or shallow. Its shape is influenced through the formation of both jaw-bones, the placement of teeth in the jaw-bones, and through the quality of the lips. The top of the skull should be slightly arched. It should not be so short that it is rotund, too flat, or too broad. The occiput should not be too pronounced. The forehead should form a distinct stop with the top line of the muzzle, which should not be forced back into the forehead like that of a Bulldog. Neither should it slope away (down faced). The tip of the nose should lie somewhat higher than the root of the muzzle. The forehead should show a suggestion of furrow which, however, should never be too deep, especially between the eyes. Corresponding with the powerful set of teeth, the cheeks accordingly should be well developed without protruding from the head with "too bulgy" an appearance. For preference they should taper into the muzzle in a slight, graceful curve. The nose should be broad and black, very slightly turned up. The nostrils should be broad with a naso-labial line between them. The two jaw-bones should not terminate in a normal perpendicular level in the front but the lower jaw should protrude beyond the upper jaw and bend slightly upwards. The Boxer is normally undershot. The upper jaw should be broad where attached to the skull, and maintain this breadth except for a very slight tapering to the front.

Figure 2. Outline of the correct head shape.

Figure 3. Sketch of correct head shape (1)

Figure 4 (a, b, c, d) Illustrations of head proportions

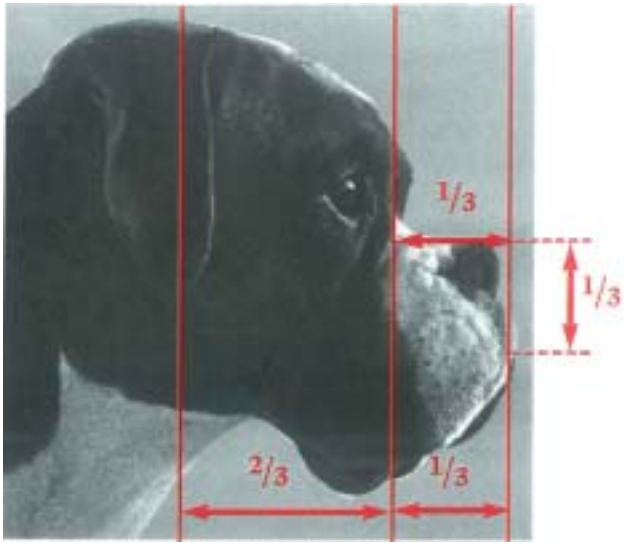


Fig 4a, Correct, uncropped head in profile

Fig 4b, Correct, cropped head in profile

HEAD PROPORTIONS

Fig 4c.This is not such a good head in profile, being rather flat and lacking in rise of skull. The muzzle is also a shade long, disrupting the ideal 1/3:2/3 ratio, and the nose lacks tilt.

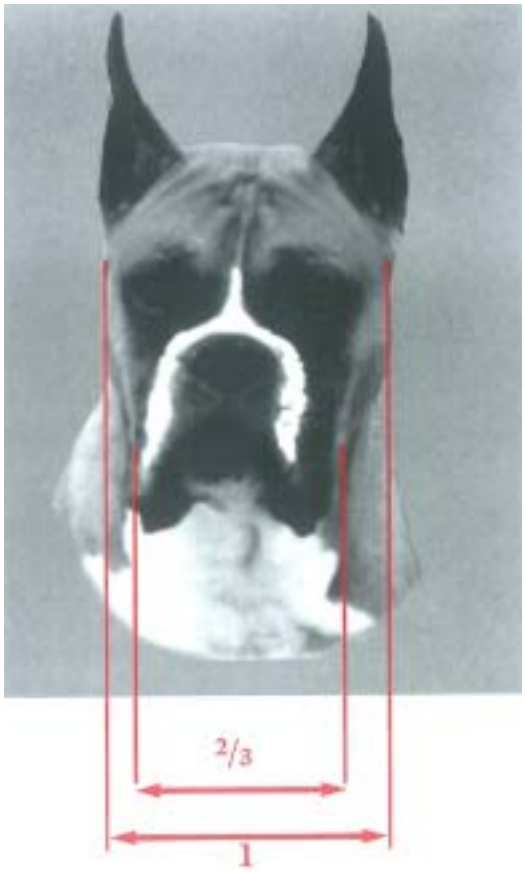
Fig 4d. This head also has its faults. This Boxer has a good rise of skull, if a little exaggerated, but its muzzle is too short. The proportions of this Head in profile are more 1/4:3/4.

(2)

The Boxer head is like no other breed. Therefore in judging the Boxer the head must be breed type otherwise the dog is not a Boxer regardless of how perfect the body may be.

Balance between the muzzle and skull is essential. When viewed from the side the correct muzzle length is 1/3 of the length of the whole head. When viewed from the front the ideal muzzle width is 2/3 that of the skull. The depth of the ideal muzzle should be such that the width and depth form a square.

The turned up nose enables the Boxer to breathe whilst holding.



(2)

Fig 5a. This is a good head showing the desired muzzle width – 2/3 that of the skull

Fig 5b. A correct head with natural ears.

(1)

Fig 5c. Same head with cropped ears.

Wrinkling on the forehead should not be heavy like that of a Bulldog. When the Boxer is relaxed the wrinkling should disappear. Note the furrow on the forehead and extending down between the eyes should be a “suggestion”, and “never too deep”.

Cheeks should be well developed and muscular, to aid a strong holding bite, but not bulging. Cheeks should not be flat, as this tends to give a Great Dane like appearance.

! EYES

The eyes should be dark brown; not too small or protruding; not deep set. They should disclose an expression of energy and intelligence, but should never appear gloomy, threatening or piercing. The eyes must have a dark rim.

See figure 6a for the correct eye shape, size and placement. A too light eye gives a threatening or piercing look. A black eye gives a gloomy look. The correct colour is dark brown. The term ‘dark rim’ refers to the upper and lower eyelids and not to the third eyelid [nictitating membrane]. It is believed that ‘must have a dark rim’ was written into the Standard to ensure that white markings do not extend to include the eyes. An unpigmented third eyelid is not classed as a fault and should not be penalised except where, due to size and / or inflammation, the unpigmented third eyelid detracts from true expression. The standard does not specify eye shape but it is generally accepted that the correct shape is human shape.

Eyes are very important in the creation of a correct expression

Fig 6a. Correct eye shape and size.They should be dark brown of medium size.

Fig 6b. A serious fault is light eyes, as they detract from correct expression. Light eyes should be faulted according to the degree they detract from expression.

Fig 6c. The stretched almond shaped eye is usually found on very dry heads, which have a very taut skin. It is more often seen in narrower and longer heads.

Fig 6d. An example of the lower lid sagging down and showing a great deal of haw. This eye shape is common in overly wrinkled heads.

Fig 6e. This eye is too big. It is also referred to as a bulging or protruding eye.

Fig 6f. This eye is too small and rather deep set, which is undesirable in the Boxer.

Fig 6g. Unpigmented third eyelid. Should not be penalised unless it detracts significantly from the expression.

Fig 6h. The correct eye placement is close to the frontal plane and slightly oblique.

Fig 7. This Boxer has the correct eye shape, colour and placement.

! EARS

Some American and Continental Boxers are cropped and are ineligible for competition under ANKC Ltd Regulations.The Boxer's natural ears are defined as: moderate in size (small rather than large), thin to the touch, set on wide apart at the highest points of the sides of the skull and lying flat and close to the cheek when in repose. When the dog is alert the ears should fall forward with a definite crease. Rose ears are unacceptable. Ears than do not fall forward when the Boxer is alert detract from true expression.

Fig 8. Photo showing correct ear size, shape and set (6)

! MOUTH

The canine teeth should be as widely separated as possible. The incisors (6) should all be in one row, with no projection of the middle teeth. In the upper jaw they should be slightly concave. In the lower they should be in a straight line. Both jaws should be very wide in front; bite powerful and sound, the teeth set in the most normal possible arrangement. The lips complete the formation of the muzzle. The upper lip should be thick and padded and fill out the hollow space in front formed by the projection of the lower jaw and be supported by the fangs of the jaw. These fangs must stand as far apart as possible and be of good length so that the front surface of the muzzle becomes broad and almost square; to form an obtuse (rounded) angle with the top line of the muzzle. The lower edge of the upper lip should rest on the edge of the lower lip. The repandous (bent upward) part of the under-jaw with the lower lip (sometimes called the chin) must not rise above the front of the upper lip. On the other hand, it should not disappear under it. It must, however, be plainly perceptible when viewed from the front as well as the side, without protruding and bending upward as in the English Bulldog. The teeth of the under-jaw should not be seen when the mouth is closed, neither should the tongue show when the mouth is closed. The bite of the Boxer is designed to hold with such power as not to be easily dislodged, hence the undershot bite with the lower jaw turned up slightly. The structure of the bite is most important as the bite must be sound.

The bite of the Boxer is designed to hold with such power as not to be easily dislodged, hence the undershot bite with the lower jaw turned up slightly. The structure of the bite is most important as the bite must be sound. The standard does not state how undershot the bite should be, however, if the muzzle length is correct, and the lip placement is correct, and the repandous is correct, then the upper incisors will fit just behind, but not touching, the lower gums.

See the ideal bite illustrated below.

This is a side view of an ideal bite for a Boxer. Notice that the mandible is slightly turned up at the front. The back side of the lower canine tooth is right in front of the upper corner incisor teeth. When this positioning is present on both sides of a wide jaw with thickly padded lips, there will be a good structure for the perfectly square muzzle.

Fig 9. Illustration of correct bite.

Checking for a wryness is essential, as a Boxer with a wry mouth cannot have a serviceable bite. Checking for wryness is a three-step process:

1. Observing from the front imagine the naso labial line extended vertically upwards – the extended line should bisect the distance between the eyes equally. If it does not and the line leans towards one eye then it indicates a wry upper jaw.

2. Again from the front and using the thumbs and forefingers, separate the upper and lower lips and observe whether the horizontal lines of the upper and lower incisors are parallel. If they diverge then it indicates a wry jaw.

3. From each side, check that the distance between the upper and lower canines on both sides is the same. If the distance is greater on one side than the other then it indicates a wry jaw.

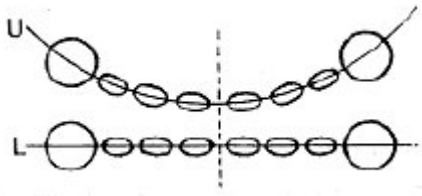


Fig 10. Illustration of correct bite.

This diagram represents the correct prognathism when viewed form the top. The arch represents the upper set (U), with the two canines and six incisors placed slightly convexly. The lower set (L) is in a straight line. In a good bite, the centre of each set is aligned at the midline (dotted line) (nasolabial line).

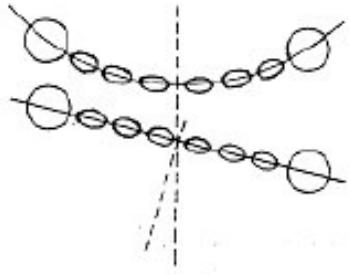


Fig 10a. Wry Mouth

Wry Mouth, this bite has a more prominent portrusion of the lower jaw at one side than the other.

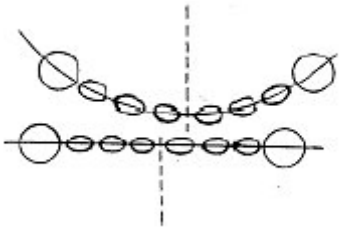


Fig 10b. Wry mouth

This bite is not aligned at the midline. Wry mouths are serious faults that may completely impair the squareness of the muzzle and the soundness of the bite.

Fig 11.

Photo of boxer mouth with correct width and alignment.

! NECK

The neck should be not too thick and short but of ample length, yet strong, round, muscular and clean-cut throughout. There should be a distinctly marked nape and an elegant arch down to the back.

The neck must be elegant but strong. Relating to the original function of the Boxer, a fine neck would lack the strength to fulfil that function.

When considering the neck of the Boxer, a judge should also take into consideration the fact that on nearly all occasions a short neck goes hand in glove with a steep shoulder placement, a shortened stride and a bulginess at the neck and shoulder junction, all of which are undesirable features, as is any condition that tends to make the neck appear short or plump, e.g. excessively developed dewlap.

A ewe neck is a structural fault that is more often seen in young dogs and on specimens that have rather a weak ligamentation. These dogs may also be sway backed and exhibit an oscillating top line when gaiting.

! FOREQUARTERS

The chest should be deep and reach down to the elbows. The depth of the chest should be half the height of the dog at the withers. The ribs should be well arched but not barrel-shaped. They should extend far to the rear. The loins should be short, close and taut and slightly tucked up. The lower stomach line should blend into an elegant curve to the rear. The shoulders should be long and sloping, close lying but not excessively covered with muscle. The upper arm should be long and form a right-angle to the shoulder-blade. The forelegs when seen from the front should be straight, parallel to each other and have strong, firmly articulated (joined) bones. The elbows should not press too closely to the chest-wall nor stand off too far from it. The underarm (forearm) should be perpendicular, long and firmly muscled. The pastern joint of the foreleg should be clearly defined, but not distended. The pastern should be short, slightly slanting and almost perpendicular to the ground.

The correct angulation of scapular to humerus is 90 degrees. The shoulder blade is well laid back at a 45 degree angle from the horizontal plane.

The requirement for the upper arm to be long and form a right angle with the shoulder blade is essential for the correct weight distribution and thus balance of the Boxer. The shorter the upper arm the further forward the front legs are set and thus they are not supporting the body under the withers. The shorter muscles in a short upper arm also shorten the reach and cause lifting of the front feet making for inefficient movement

The pasterns are slightly slanting, so the heel pad lies under the vertical line that passes from the middle of the shoulder blade.

Fig 12. Illustration of correct forequarter angulation.

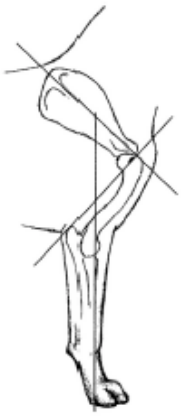


Fig 12 a, b, c, d Examples of forequarter angulation. (3)

Fig 12a.

Correct forehand assembly in a bitch with correct length of neck flowing smoothly in at the withers, correct lay of shoulder and good length of upper arm. Note how this bitch stands over her front legs.

Fig 12b.

Correct forehand in a male.

Fig 12c.

This bitch is slightly short in upper arm. Note how this means that the forechest is not so evident, the neck does not flow into the shoulder as neatly, and the bitch cannot stand comfortably over her front legs.

Fig 12d.

This is an exaggerated and over-angulated front. It is slightly over-built and over-muscled giving a cloddy appearance, lacking in elegance. The over-angulation makes the dog stand too far over his front legs.

! BODY

The body viewed in profile should be of square appearance. The length of the body from the front of the chest to the rear of the body should equal the height from ground to the top of the shoulder, giving the Boxer a short-coupled, square profile. The torso rests on trunk-like legs with strong bones. The withers should be clearly defined. The whole back should be short, straight, broad and very muscular.

Note that the height for the purpose of squareness is measured from “the top of the shoulder”.

“Withers should be clearly defined” – this requirement relates back to the Boxer as an excellent jumper. The musculation that ties the shoulder to the spine links mainly to the spine in the area of the withers. The clear definition of the withers is caused by the strength of the muscle attachments. The topline will be slightly sloping on a square Boxer with correct angulation front and rear.

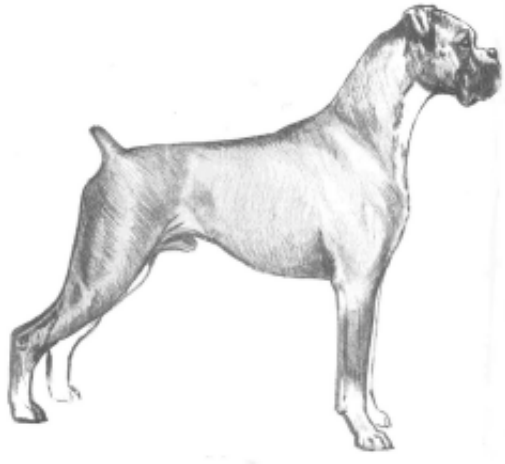


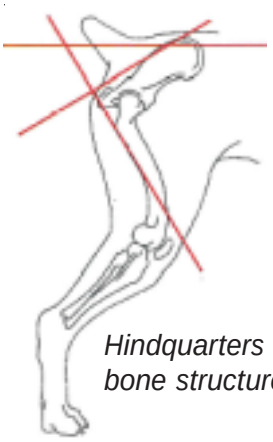
Fig 13. Illustration of a square, balanced Boxer. (1)

! HINDQUARTERS

The hindquarters should be strongly muscled. The musculation should be hard and stand out plastically through the skin. The thighs should not be narrow and flat but broad and curved. The breech musculation should also be strongly developed. The croup should be slightly sloped, flat arched and broad. The pelvis should be long and, in females especially, broad. The upper and lower thighs should be long. The hip and knee (stifle) joints should have as much angle as possible. In a standing position the knee (stifle) should reach so far forward that it would meet a vertical line drawn from the hip protuberance to the floor. The hock angle should be about 140 degrees; the lower part of the foot at a slight slope of about 95 to 100 degrees from the hock joint to the floor; that is, not completely vertical. Seen from behind the hind legs should be straight. The hocks should be clean and not distended, supported by powerful rear pads.

The correct angulation of the hindquarters is essential to balance the 90 degree angulation of the forequarters and achieve the roomy gait required of the Boxer. Of equal importance is the musculation of the hindquarters. Both first and second thighs must be well developed and in peak condition. Emphasis must be placed on this muscular development and firmness of muscle mass.

Fig 14. Illustrations of the hindquarters. (3)



Hindquarters with copybook bone structure.

Fig 14. Hindquarters

Well-angulated hindquarters with correct length of rear pastern and knee placement. Note how the plumb-line dropped from behind the rump lands just in front of the rear toes. The upper and lower thighs are well-developed.

Fig 14a.

These quarters are over-angulated, and the plumb-line would drop well in front of the rear toes. This dog is also a shade long from the hock joint to the floor.

Fig 14b.

The basic angles of these hindquarters are not too far out, and the plumb-line would land correctly, but this dog is weak in upper and lower thigh, and he lacks turn of stifle. He is also a shade exaggerated in hock.

Fig 14c.

Excellent hindquarters viewed from slightly different angles. The musculation is well-developed, and the hocks are firm, turning neither in nor out.

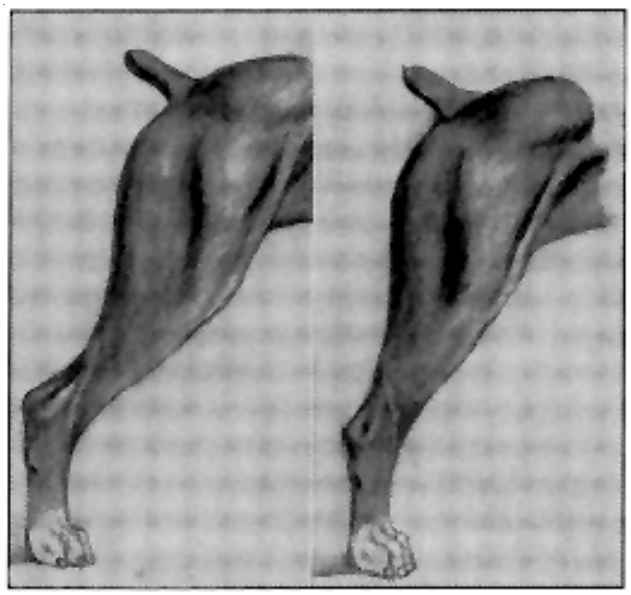
Fig 14d.

Fig 14e.

This dog is a little cow-hocked, and his quarters lack quality musculation.

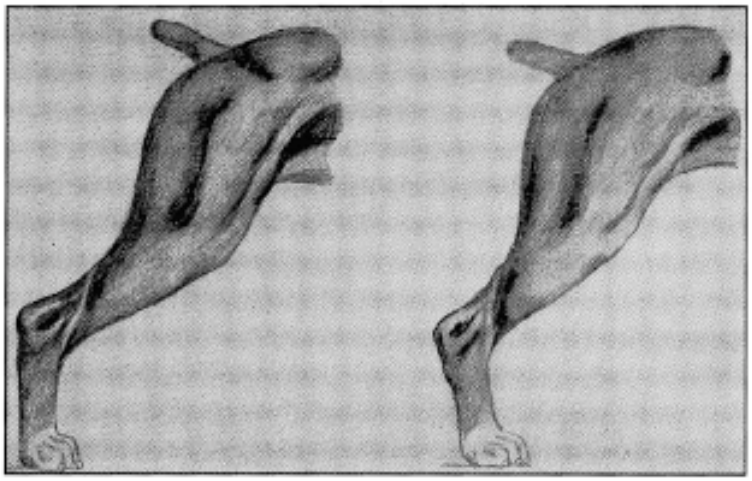
Fig 14f.

Fig 15a. Illustrations of hindquarter angulation and musculation.



The ideal hindquarter is first of all so strong that its muscles stand out through the skin; not bunchy, knotted or "muscled up", but seeming to flow with grace and rhythm even though the animal be absolutely still. For it is these muscles, in conjunction with the correct angulation of the bones, which furnish power for the drive and flexibility in motion. As here portrayed, it is the proportion of hip to hock, and hock to toe – roughly two thirds and one third – which means a sure and distance-eating reach and a powerful and long enduring dirve. Contract this ideal hindquarter with the one at the right which is comparatively straight-stifled, neither graceful nor characteristic. The muscular development seems good, but the definite lack in angulation cannot provide for proper leverage to stretch and flex the muscles, this it must produce a stilted gait.

Fig 15b. Illustration of hindquarters over angulated.



Exactly the reverse of the straight-stifled quarter is the over-angulation pictured at the left. The proportion of rear pastern to toe is too great, and the quarter, as a sometime natural consequence, is stringy. There must be lost motion here, for muscles cannot deliver when impeded by such faulty angulation. The gait is almost sure to be loose, shifty, uncertain and the effort entailed in producing it extremely tiring. To the right, we see a hindquarter which appears really satisfactory in its muscularity, though markedly at fault through the set-under position of the rear pastern. Such a build interferes with the propulsion of the entire hindquarter; the lack of power being evident even in the slack setting down of the foot.

! FEET

The feet should be small with tightly-arched toes (cat-feet) and hard soles. The rear toes should be just a little longer than the front toes, but similar in all other respects.

Judges should check for the required hardness of pads and strength of rear pads.

Figure 16 a, b, c Illustrations of feet. (4)

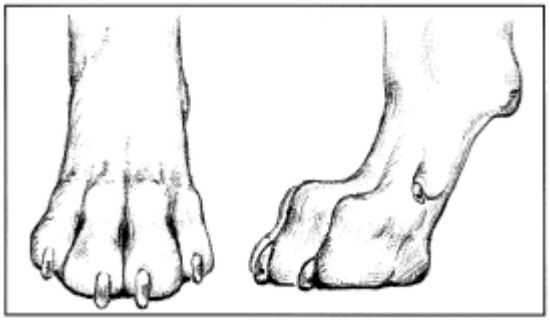


Fig 16a.

CORRECT FOOT: *The correct foot is small, compact, with tightly arched toes and tough pads. Though described as a "cat's paw", the Boxer foot is as muscular as any other part of him, a feature which the "cat's paw" designation might seem to contradict. However, his is a graceful foot, never clumsy for all its strength. Viewed from the side, this foot is definitely square by virtue of its high-arched toes and strong ligaments.*

Fig 16b.

SPLAY FOOT: *The open, or splay foot is one whose toes are spread and flattened. Whether the condition is an hereditary malformation, or whether consequent upon calcium deficiency, the fact remains that it is a weak foot incapable of prolonged effort.*

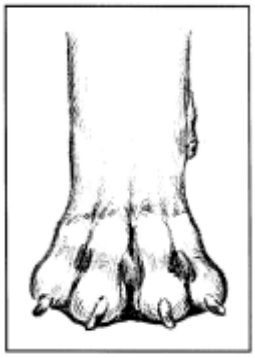
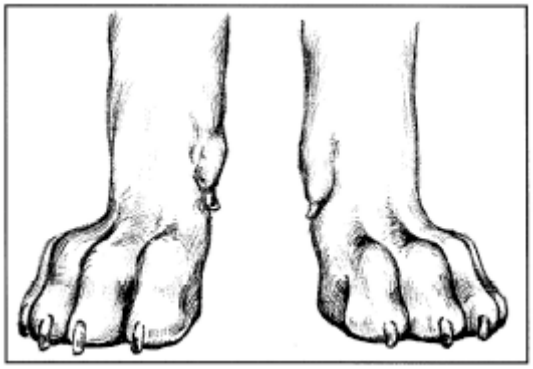


Fig 16c.

TURNED OUT FOOT: *The turned out foot, too, is undesirable in that it mars stylish stance in the show ring and militates against endurance when at work.*



! TAIL

Docked: Set on high and carried upward. Undocked: Set on high and carried upward, of moderate thickness. In overall balance with the rest of the dog.

Note that the tail attachment is high on a slightly sloping croup.

Regardless of the length of the tail, it should be carried upwards on the move and whenever the Boxer is alert.

! GAIT / MOVEMENT

Movement of the Boxer should be alive with energy. His gait, although firm, is elastic. The stride free and roomy; carriage proud and noble.

Most importance should be placed upon the gait being ‘free and roomy’, that is with good reach and drive. The feet should move close to the ground with no energy wasting lifting either front or rear. The hind feet of the Boxer should dig in when movement initiates. The topline on the move should be held level with no bounce.

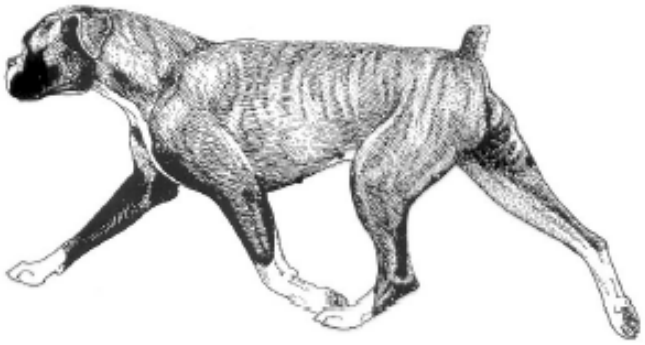


Figure 17. Illustration of correct movement.
Note extension of front and rear legs. See the paws stay close to the ground, conserving energy. Topline is held while the neck is used for balance. The whole action is smooth.

! COAT

The coat should be short and shiny, lying smooth and tight to the body.

Some Boxers may show small swirls or crowns on the coat, usually on the neck or shoulder. Although not desirable these are not considered as a fault and should not be penalised.

! COLOUR

The permissible colours are fawn, brindle and fawn in various shades from light yellow to dark deer red. The brindle variety should have black stripes on a golden-yellow or red-brown background. The stripes should be clearly defined and above all should not be grey or dirty. Stripes that do not cover the whole top of the body are not desirable. White markings are not undesirable; in fact, they are often very attractive in appearance. The black mask is essential but when white stretches over the muzzle, naturally that portion of the black mask disappears. It is not possible to get black toenails with white feet. It is desirable, however, to have an even distribution of head markings.

White markings on the muzzle should preferably not completely cover the black mask as this tends to give a clown like appearance. Note that white markings are not essential, and Boxers without white markings should be given equal consideration.

! SIZE

Dogs: 56-61 cms (22-24 ins) at the withers.
Bitches: 53-58.5 cms (21-23 ins) at the withers.
Heights above or below these figures not to be encouraged.
Dogs around 58.5 cms (23 ins) should weigh about 30 kgs (66 lbs) and Bitches of about 56 cms (22 ins) should weigh about 28 kgs (62 lbs).

! FAULTS

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 the degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Viciousness; treachery; unreliability; lack of temperament; cowardice.
Head: A head that is not typical. A plump, bulldoggy appearance. Pinscher or Bulldog head.
Light bone. Lack of proportion. Bad physical condition.
Lack of nobility and expression. "Sombre" face.
Unserviceable bite whether due to disease or to faulty tooth placement. Showing the teeth or the tongue.
A sloping topline of the muzzle.
Too pointed or too light a bite (snipy).
Incorrect planes, prominent cheeks, muzzle not square, down faced.
Eyes: Visible conjunctiva (haw). Light eyes.
Visible conjunctiva not to be confused with unpigmented third eyelid.
Ears: Flying ears; rose ears; semi-erect or erect ears.
Ears that do not fold forward with a crease when alert.
Neck: Dewlap.
Front: Too broad and low in front; loose shoulders; chest hanging between the shoulders; hare feet; turned legs and toes.
Body: Carp (roach) back; sway back; thin, lean back; long, narrow, sharp-sunken in loins.
Dipping topline standing or on the move. Long back, narrow back.
Weak union with the croup, hollow flanks; hanging stomach.
Hindquarters: A falling off or too arched or narrow croup.
A low-set tail; higher in back than in front; steep, stiff or too little angulation of the hindquarters; light thighs; cow-hocks; bow-legs; hind dewclaws; soft hocks, narrow heel, tottering, waddling gait; hare's feet; hindquarters too far under or too far behind.
Colour: Boxers with white or black ground colour, or entirely white or black or any other colour than fawn or brindle. (White markings are allowed but must not exceed one third (1/3) of the ground colour.)

! NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL BOXERS

Bodies (3)

Heads

A highly successful show dog praised for his typical Boxer head. (4)

A beautiful head with excellent lip placement, evident chin, and correct amount of padding and flew (3)

Bibliography and recommended further reading:

(1). *Boxer Blarney* - Marian Fairbrother & Peggy Thomson

(2). *My Life With Boxers* - Friederun von Miram-Stockmann

(3). *The Complete Boxer* - Tim Hutchings

(4). *Boxers Today* - Jo Royle

(5) The Boxer – J P Wagner

(6) The Boxer Quarterly – UK Magazine

Those studying this Breed Standard Extension should note:

Australian law prohibits the cropping of ears; this practice is also prohibited by Australian National Kennel Council Ltd Regulations. For these reasons all reference to cropped ears has been deleted from the text. Cropped eared illustrations have, however, been used in the Breed Standard Extension to demonstrate other characteristics of the breed.