

LANDSEER



LANDSEER ECT

BREED STANDARD + INTERPRETATION

FCI BREED STANDARD nr. 226/ 1-10-1997

(Translation: Marion Klok - 't Hart)

ORIGIN: Germany/Switzerland

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE AUTHENTIC STANDARD: 24-8-1960

UTILISATION: Guard Dog, Companion

CLASSIFICATION FCI:

Group 2:

Pinscher and Schnauzer Type, Molossian and Swiss Mountain- and Cattle Dogs.

Section 2.2:

Molossian, Mountain Dogs

Without working trial.



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DIFFERENCE IN TYPE BETWEEN THREE RELATED BREEDS



St. Bernard



Landseer ECT



Newfoundland

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Landseer should convey the impression of a tall, powerful and well-balanced dog. The legs are comparatively longer than those of the black Newfoundland - especially in the male.

The Landseer clearly is a dog that is high on the leg and despite his strength he should never give an impression of a mighty Newfoundland. He has powerful bone, not really heavy, and must give the impression to move effortlessly. This soundness gives a certain elegance, "all parts fit together".



*To the right:
Two Landseers of the correct type.*

HEAD

Scalp should be free from wrinkles, covered with short, fine hair.

Head should be strikingly modelled, with noble expression.

CRANIAL REGION

Skull: Broad and massive with well-developed occipital protuberance.

Stop: Decided, however not as pronounced and steep as in the Saint Bernard Dog.

FACIAL REGION

Nose: black.

Muzzle: Length of muzzle is equal to depth of muzzle measured in front of the stop.

Lips: clean, black; upper lip as tight as possible, slightly overlapping the lower, no drivelling.

Cheeks: moderately developed, gradually tapering into the muzzle.

The head should be powerful. The skull should not be too long, which results in a too pronounced occiput. The proportions of the muzzle viewed from aside, indicate that the muzzle should be fairly broad. The cheeks under the eyes should be sufficiently developed. On no account should there be a surplus of skin on the head. Not too much and certainly no overhanging lips as in the Saint Bernard – the Landseer does not drool. Pigmentation should be black, both in nose and lips. There are many different types of heads, we should aim for more unity. It is also very important that the head is in good proportion to the body and that the head is not 2 sizes too big or too little. The difference between dog and bitch should be very clear.

Jaws/teeth:

Scissors bite.

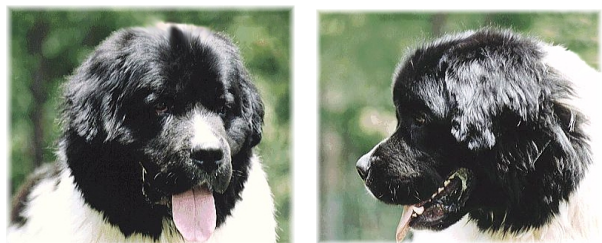
Care should be taken that the teeth are large enough.



Correct Landseer head (dog)



Correct Landseer head with ideal eye (bitch)



Newfoundland head.

Eyes:

Medium size, moderate deep set, brown to dark brown; light brown acceptable, friendly expression, almond shaped, showing no haw. Pronouncedly light eyes (sulphur- or greyish yellow) as well as eyes set too close together, are objectionable.

While judging one should pay attention to the placement and the shape of the eyes – they should not be placed too close together and also not "Chinese". Many dogs have incorrect round/protruding eyes. The eyelids should fit well and the third eyelid invisible. The expression should be absolutely friendly, which is even possible in dogs with light brown eyes, provided shape and placement of the eyes are correct. Placement and shape of the eyes are decisive for the noble expression. Very light eyes should be penalised with one lower qualification and light eyes should certainly be mentioned in the judge's report.

Ears: medium size, when drawn out, reaching till the inner corner of the eyes. Triangular shape, with slightly rounded tips. Set high on head, however not too far back. Carried close and flat to the sides of the head; ears covered with short, fine hair, fringes of longer hair to be found only at the back part of the root of the ear.

The ears should not be too big and they should be high set (compare with the cranial region, the ear should reach till the inner corner of the eyes.



"Snipy" head, not enough stop, long muzzle.



Head without nobility, too light, open eyes.



Too much stop, forehead too high.



Too much lip, open corner of the mouth, pronounced dewlap.

NECK

The neck should not be entirely round but rather egg-shaped in cross-section. The neck rises, muscular and broad, from the shoulder-chest-region to the head. In a symmetrically build dog, the length of neck from occiput to withers is approximately 3/4 to 4/5 of the length of the head, measured from the occiput to the nose. Pronounced dewlap is undesirable.

Length of neck should not be exaggerated, it should after all be strong and muscular. The length of neck from occiput to withers is almost the length of the head from occiput till nose. Loose skin around the neck is undesirable.



Good tail carriage in movement.

TAIL

Strong, reaching slightly below the hocks at the most, well covered with dense, bushy hair, however not forming a feather. Tail should hang downwards when the dog is standing at ease, with a slight curve at the end permissible. When moving or when excited the dog may carry his tail straight out with only a slight curve upwards of the tip of the tail. Tails with a kink or curled over the back are most objectionable.

Dense bushy hair all over, no Setter-tail. There are many tails that are too short and also too long. A slight curve at the end is allowed, but more should of course not be tolerated. The tail may be carried a little above the line of the back while moving, but a Landseer should on no account have a tail the tip of which is again above the back, or even worse, a tail curled over the back.

BODY

The length measured from withers to tail set should be about twice the length of the head. Broad and strong from withers to croup.

Back: straight and level.

Loin: muscular.

Croup: broad, well rounded sideways and backwards by powerful bolster of muscles.

Chest: between the very muscular shoulders the chest is deep and broad with corresponding well sprung ribs of the chest.

Belly: slightly tucked up. Clearly visible flat depression between belly and loin. Weak or hollow back, weak loins, too short false ribs and too much tuck-up of the belly are objectionable.

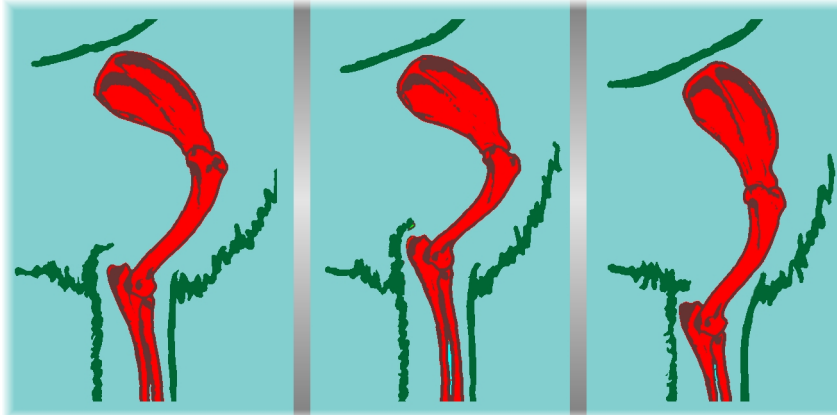
The Landseer is rather short in body, but not square. From withers till tailset is about twice the length of the head. The back should be broad and strong, straight, not weak nor sloping as in a Cocker Spaniel. The chest should be strong, well bend and not flat. The chest should also be quite deep and long, the outline should not really go up. Also the ribs should not be too round. The croup should neither be flat, nor steep.



Good tail carriage.



Curled tail



From left to right: Correct shoulder, short upper arm, straight shoulder

FOREQUARTERS

Strong muscles descending from the shoulders are surrounding the strong bones of the upper arm to which the strong bone of the absolutely straight and muscular forelegs seen from the front is connected with correct angulation. Legs slightly fringed down to pastern.

Elbows: Close to body and the lowest point of the brisket; distance from ground to elbows rather high; elbows pointed straight to the rear.

The forequarters should be well angulated, which gives the correct, free striding movement, covering the ground well. The elbows should be close to the body, turning neither in nor outwards. There should be sufficient forechest.



Correct forequarters with good shoulder placement.



Good front.



French front.



From left to right: good hindquarters, steep hindquarters, steep croup.

HINDQUARTERS

The hindquarters should be powerful. The hind legs should move very freely and they should have strong bones, covered with powerful muscles. The hind legs are moderately fringed. Upper thighs: particularly broad. Dewclaws: are objectionable and should be removed as soon as possible after birth. Cow hocks and lack of angulation are objectionable.

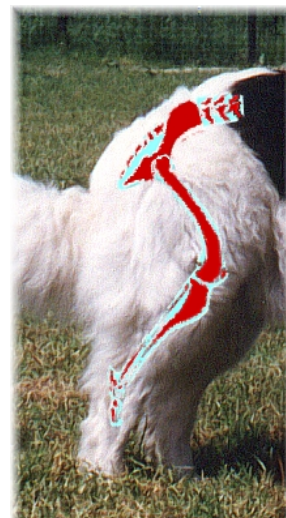
The upper thigh should be very broad, so that it can be well muscled. Steep hindquarters are never as broad, there is less room to attach muscles. Lack of angulation must always be mentioned in the judge's report. During movement there should be sufficient propulsion from the rear.



Steep hindquarters with flat croup and curled tail.



Steep croup.



FEET

Large, well shaped cat-feet. Splayed or turned out feet are objectionable. Toes connected by strong webbing, almost reaching the tip of the toes.

Large cat-feet. Typical faults are small, weak feet and long splayed toes.

COAT

HAIR: The top coat should, with exception of the head, be long and as straight and dense as possible, soft to the touch, with good undercoat, which is not as dense as in the black Newfoundland. Slightly wavy coat on back and thigh is permissible. When brushed the wrong way it should fall back into place naturally.

COLOUR: The main colour of the coat is pure white with distinct black patches on body and croup. The neck, forechest, belly, legs and tail must be white. The head is black. A white muzzle with a white, symmetrical blaze, extending from the muzzle to the white collar, neither too narrow nor too wide, is desirable. Ticking still occurring in the white is not a fault, but should be bred away from.

Coat and colour. While judging one should not only pay attention to the colour, but especially to the quality of the coat itself. There are many dogs with coats that are too short. When the coat has the correct length the hair falls into place again after being brushed the wrong way. The coat should also not be too soft; the outer coat should be harsh (which can be noticed especially when the undercoat is being changed). Curly coat is wrong, slightly wavy is permissible. There are fringes at front and hind legs. In the standard of 1960 it was written: "Ticking still occurring in the white is not a fault, but should be bred away from". 40 years have passed, and still you see dogs with ticking. It should be made clear that this is very undesirable. Dogs with a black mantle or with a totally white body (without black markings, except on the head) are undesirable. Judging should focus on the dog as a whole and its general impression. If the dog is otherwise a good representative of the breed, of good type and moving well, the colour should not be penalised too heavy.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

The movement and gait of the well-muscled legs should present a free, long stride with good propulsion, thus covering the ground well.

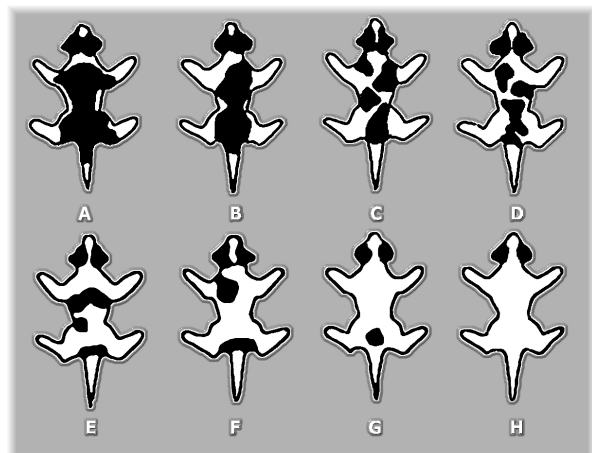
The Landseer should give the impression, despite his power and mass, to move effortlessly. A free long stride with good drive can only be produced by a well-angulated dog. Many Landseers lack sufficient angulation and therefore move with short steps.



Above: Too much white and ticking.



Below: Too much black.



Several black-white markings; Drawing C, D and E are most desirable.

Some examples of faults:

SIZE

The height at withers of a Landseer may vary:
Dogs average between 72 and 80 cm (28,5 and 31,5 inches).
Bitches average between 67 and 72 cm (26,5 and 28,5 inches).
Small deviations below or above these sizes are acceptable.

Especially the male is quite big. In dogs there is a larger variation allowed (8 cm) as in bitches (5 cm). Because it should be a big, strong dog, a dog below the standard sizes should not be highly rewarded.



Setter type, shallow body, steep. Long in head.

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 its degree.

N.B.

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



Too low on legs. Head with slightly rounded skull.



Hindquarters overbuild.

Supplement

Some Landseers in every day life.
Interpretation of faults that frequently occur.

Dog – high on legs.
Head slightly too large proportionally.
Shallow body, loins tucked up.
Good bone, too little angulation.
Tail high while standing.
Good colour and markings.



Nice dog, could have some more length of leg.
Head with low set big ear, too much lip.
Nice deep body.
Good bone, insufficient angulation.
Good tail carriage while standing.
Ideal colour and markings.



A little low on the leg, but a typical dog.
Good head.
Nice deep body.
Good bone and well angulated.
Good tail carriage while standing.
Good colour and fair markings.



Bitch – low on the leg.
Dark head which should have some more stop.
Good deep body.
Good bone.
Coat could be less wavy.
Colour very unclean (ticking) and moderate markings.



Dog – very low on the leg.
Head a little big proportionally.
Good body.
Good bone, insufficient angulation.
Good tail carriage while standing.
Good colour and sufficient markings.



Dog – high on legs, Setter type.
Too light in bone.
Shallow body, loins tucked up.
Little fringes at his legs.
Good colour, fair markings.
Good tail while standing.



STATE OF THE BREED IN 2000

The general impression of the breed is that there is still a lot of variation, although there has been quite some improvement in the last 20 years. The old, low-on-legs-types, but also the very heavy Saint Bernard-like types are still around. Beside those there are the light types, narrow and Setter-like types. The correct higher-on-legs-types can be recognised even from a distance. Almost everywhere in Europe the state of the breed is very much alike.

Important faults:

a) proportions, size and sex

- dogs that are low on the leg
- dogs and bitches with light bones
- tiny, insignificant dogs, with feminine head
- to a certain extent too heavy (masculine) bitches

b) limbs, body and movement

- step too short, little drive, not covering the ground well
- loose elbows, weak pasterns
- crabbing
- steep angulation both in fore- and hindquarters
- lack of forechest

c) head type and eye

- as many different head types as there are dogs
- round and protruding, or eyes lying too deep
- light eye

d) tails

- too much high carried tails, both while standing and moving
- too short tails

CHARACTER

An omission in the standard is the lack of a description of the character of the Landseer. After many years of experience with the breed we would like to describe it as follows:

'The Landseer should have a friendly and balanced character. His temperament ranges from average to abundant. He is not nervous, scared or aggressive. He is intelligent and sometimes fairly independent. Often he has quite a lot of instinct for hunting.'

HISTORY

From most of today's dog breeds it is easy to discover the history of its origin. The history of the Landseer however is lost in the mist of the past. Only suppositions about the origin of the breed remain.

There is one starting-point however; the Landseer descended from the primitive Newfoundlander. When, around 1750, the English and the French re-discovered Newfoundland because of its rich fishing grounds, they came across large, black longhaired dogs on the islands. Small numbers of these dogs were taken back to the Old World, where they were appreciated so much especially in England and France, that many more were taken back on the following voyages.

It is now suspected that the English and/or the French also took dogs from Europe to Newfoundland. Whether these were white or black & white dogs will probably always remain a question. The direct consequence of the import of these European dogs was that they were crossed with the primitive Newfoundlands. The offspring of these crosses appeared to be less heavily built than the original dogs from the islands and....their coat colour was white with black markings.



A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY
(SIR EDWIN LANDSEER, 1838)

These "new" dogs were crossed among one another and their population steadily increased. In the long run these dogs were subsequently taken back to the homeland and they became so popular that their black nephew's popularity deminished. Their popularity was at its peak around 1830, especially among the English aristocracy.

It was probably in these circles that the well known British animal painter "Sir Edwin Landseer" got to know these dogs. He immortalized many of these black & white dogs on his paintings in those days, and the consequence was that the black & whites soon were called Landseer-dogs

Despite the fact that these dogs were linked with the famous painter Landseer, their popularity did not last long. Slowly but surely the Newfoundland began to recuperate its lost terrain. Alas for the Landseer also the English breeders lost interest in the breed. Only a few idealists on the continent, in particular in Switzerland and Germany, saved the breed from its downfall.

This was not an easy task. To further develop the population from a few dogs left, crosses with other breeds were necessary. This was done with the Newfoundland, Kuvasz and St. Bernard. They managed to save the Landseer from its total downfall, but then two World Wars again reduced the population considerably.

Only in the fifties some German breeders succeeded in regaining the Landseer some of its old glory. From this period also dates the controversy between the Landseer- and the Newfoundland fanciers about the independence of the breed. A number of dog fanciers was of the opinion that the Landseer could not be an independent breed, because crosses with other breeds were constantly needed to preserve it. The other group claimed the contrary. People like **Emil Burkhard** and **Otto Walterspiel** have dedicated themselves to get recognition of the Landseer as a separate breed. In 1961 their intention succeeded: the FCI recognized the Landseer ECT (European Continental Type).



OTTO WALTERSPIEL WITH
LASSO AND KARA VON SCHARTENBERG