

MALTESE

TALKING ABOUT THE BREED

WITH

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ZHONGSHAN, CHINA
NOVEMBER 27, 2016



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MALTESE

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ORIGIN AND HISTORY

MALTESE IS AN ANCIENT BREED. MARKS OF THE BREED FOUND EVEN BEFORE CHRIST IN ANCIENT ROME A COMPANION FOR MANY RICH PEOPLE IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE – FOR EXAMPLE STRABONE, PLINIUS & PROPERTIUS WERE TALKING ABOUT MALTESE SEVERAL OLD PAINTINGS BY FAMOUS PAINTERS REPRESENTING THE BREED. SEVERAL WELL KNOWN PEOPLE HAVE OWNED A MALTESE.



ANCIENT ROME
FORMER ROMAN
EMPIRE



MME. REJANE
GIOVANNI
BOLDINI
(CA. 1885)



LULÙ
PICTURE BY G. PALIZZI
OWNED BY G. VERDI
(1858)





17.12.2015/EN FCI-STANDARD N° 65

FCI STANDARD

Official language (EN). ORIGIN: Central Mediterranean Area.

PATRONAGE: Italy. DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL

VALID STANDARD: 13.11.2015. UTILIZATION: Companion and Toy.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 9 Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 1 Bichons and related Breeds. Without working trial.



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MALTESE

GENERAL APPEARANCE

*Of small size, longish body.
Covered by a very long white coat,
very elegant with a proud and
distinguished head carriage.*



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MALTESE

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Length of body exceeds by about $\frac{1}{3}$ the height at the withers. The length of the head is equal to $\frac{6}{11}$ of the height at withers. The circumference of the chest is $\frac{2}{3}$ more than the height at the withers. Length of muzzle is equal to $\frac{4}{11}$ of the length of the head; it is therefore slightly less than it's half. Muzzle depth is a good 20% less than its length.

Tail length corresponds to about 60% of the height at the withers.



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MALTESE

BEHAVIOUR AND TEMPERAMENT

Lively, affectionate, very calm and very intelligent.



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MALTESE HEAD

Rather broad, exceeding slightly at the half of the headlength.

The head is one of the main parts of the breed type, but people should never forget that there is no type without a sound construction and a sound movement.



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MALTESE CRANIAL REGION

The skull is slightly longer than the muzzle; the bizygomatic width is equal to its length and consequently superior to the half of the length of the head. In the sagittal direction, it is very slightly egg-shaped (ovoid); the upper part of the skull is flat, with an occipital crest very slightly marked; the protuberance of the frontal bones and the supraorbital ridges are well developed; the frontal indentation of the furrow is so lightly marked, that is invisible; the lateral faces of the parietal bones are somewhat convex. Stop Frontal-nasal depression strongly defined making an angle of 90°.



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MALTESE NOSE

*In the prolongation of the nasal bridge; seen in profile, its forepart is vertical.
Voluminous with open nostrils, rounded and absolutely black.*

Nowadays we often see Maltese with narrow nose, especially if they have too short muzzles, and this could also cause them problems for breathing properly.



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MALTESE MUZZLE

Length of muzzle is slightly less than half the length of the head. The suborbital region is well chiselled. The depth is much less than the length. The sides of the muzzle are parallel, but the muzzle seen from the front, must not appear square, since its anterior joins the lateral sides by curves. The muzzle is rectilinear with a wellmarked furrow in its centre part.



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MALTESE MUZZLE

Proportion between muzzle-skull is very important for the breed. Nowadays there is a tendency to breed Maltese with too short muzzles and this is changing a lot their typical expression.



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MALTESE LIPS

*Viewed from the front, the upper lips, at their junction, have the shape of a very open arch. They are little developed in depth and the labial commissure is not visible. The upper lips adapt perfectly to the lower lips, in such a way that the bottom profile of the muzzle is defined by the lower jaw.
The edges of the lips must be absolutely black.*



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MALTESE JAWS

*Normally developed and light in appearance, perfectly adapted.
The lower jaw, with its branches being straight, is neither prominent nor receding in
its anterior part.*



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MALTESE TEETH

*The dental arches are perfectly adapted and the incisors in scissor articulation.
Teeth are white and the dentition is well developed and complete.*

Missing: 2 PM1 / 1 or 2 PM2 / M3 > Should not be considered a severe fault.
Cheeks: Not too pronounced.



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MALTESE EYES

Lively and attentive expression, larger in size than would be expected, the shape tends to be rounded. The eyelids are in close contact with the eyeball, which is never deep-set, but rather level with the head, just slightly protruding. The eyes are set on a same almost frontal plane. Seen from the front: eyes must not show sclera (white of the eyes); they are of a dark ochre colour; eye rims and third eye lid are black.



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MALTESE EYES

The position and the colour of the eyes is very important for keeping the right expression of the breed. The eyes should never be black and should never show white. Black eyes give an arrogant expression for the breed which is not the right one. Often you find too small eyes and this is a fault to penalize.



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MALTESE EARS

Almost triangular in shape, the width is about 1/3 of the length. They are set high above the zygomatic arch, hanging close to the sides of the skull, with little erection



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MALTESE NECK

Although covered with an abundant coat, the demarcation of the nape of the neck is evident. The upper profile is arched. Length of neck is about half of the height at the withers. Neck is carried erect and does not show any loose skin.

Maltese has a long neck that gives a very elegant outline for the breed.
Elegance is an important part of this breed.



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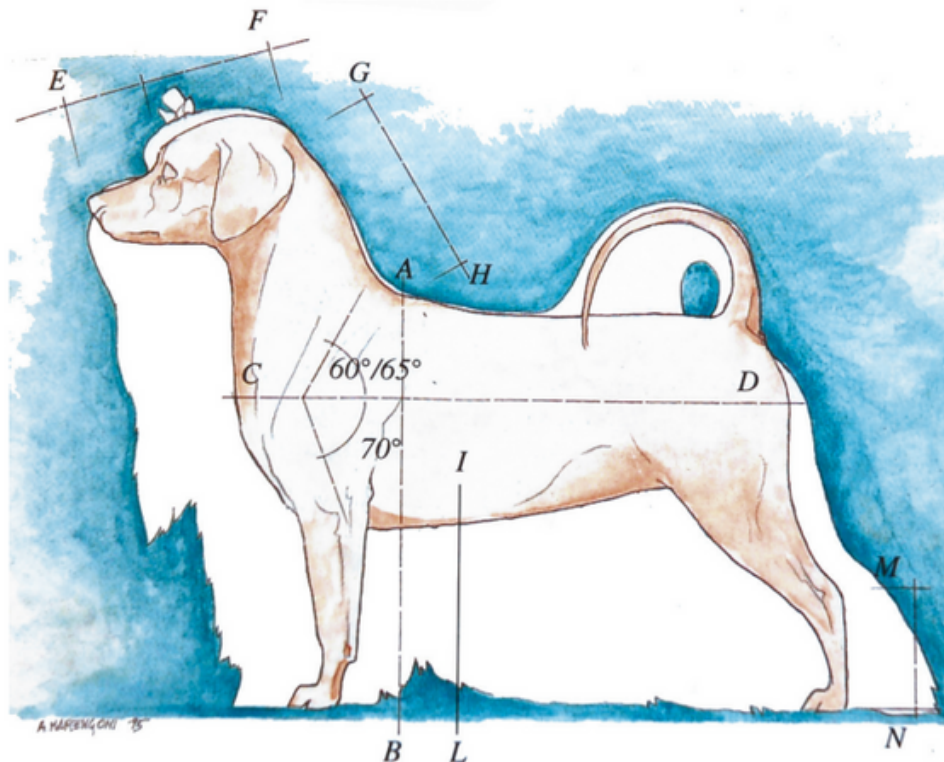
BODY

The length from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock is $\frac{1}{3}$ more than the height at the withers.

Top line: Straight to the tail-set.

Withers: Slightly above the topline.

Back: Length is superior to half the height at the withers.



MALTESE BODY

Croup: In the prolongation of the lumbar-dorsal line, the croup is very broad and long, the obliqueness is 10° below the horizontal.

Chest: Ample, deep, well developed, let down below the elbows with ribs not too sprung. The sternal region is very long.



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MALTESE BODY

Notice that nowadays we see almost square Maltese and these dogs should be penalized as this is a fault with untypical movement as a consequence.



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MALTESE TAIL

Set on level with the croup, thick at the root and fine at the tip. Forms a single big curve, the tip of which falls between the haunches touching the croup.
A tail curved to one side of the body is tolerated.



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MALTESE LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS

General appearance: On the whole legs are close to the body, standing straight and parallel.

Shoulder: The length represents 1/3 of the height of the withers, with top of shoulders wide apart and well laid back.

Upper arm: Longer than the shoulder blade, of good angulation.



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MALTESE LIMBS

Elbow: Neither turned in nor out.

Forearm: Lean with few visible muscles, but with a rather sturdy bone structure in relation to the size of the breed



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MALTESE LIMBS

*Carpus (wrist): In the vertical line of the forearm, mobile. Should not be knotty.
Covered with fine skin.*

*Metacarpus (Pastern): Has the same characteristics as the carpus and because of its
short length is vertical.*

*Forefeet: Round, toes closed and arched; pads should be black, the nails should also
be black or at least of a dark colour*



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MALTESE LIMBS

HINDQUARTERS: General appearance: Sturdy bone structure. Parallel legs seen from behind, vertical from the point of the buttock to the ground. Thigh: Hard muscled, hind edge is convex. Its downward and forward direction is somewhat oblique in relation to the vertical. Stifle (knee): The articulation is free, neither turned in nor out. Lower thigh: With a groove between the tendon and the bone that is barely noticeable. The obliqueness below the horizontal is 55°. It is slightly longer than the thigh.



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MALTESE LIMBS

Hock joint: The forward angulation of the hock is 140°.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): The distance from the ground to the point of the hock is slightly more than 1/3 of the height at the withers. Pasterns fairly low set and perfectly upright. Hind feet: Round, toes closed and arched; pads should be black, the nails should also be black or at least of a dark colour.



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MALTESE GAIT / MOVEMENT

Even, skimming the ground, free, with short and very quick steps at the trot.

Maltese gives an impression of moving on roller skate.



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MALTESE SKIN

Really tight to all parts of the body, pigmented with dark patches and patches of a reddish wine colour, especially on the back.



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MALTESE COAT

Hair: Dense, shiny, glossy - falling heavily and of a silky texture, very long on the whole of the body and straight throughout its length without traces of waves or curls. On the trunk it should be longer than the height at the withers and fall heavily back to the ground like a cape fitting close to the trunk without opening or forming tufts or flocks. Tufts or flocks are acceptable on the forequarters from the elbow to the foot, and on the hindquarters, from the stifle to the foot.



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MALTESE COAT

There is no undercoat. On the head the coat is very long, -also on the foreface, where it mingles with the beard and also on the skull where it falls eventually mingling with the hair covering the ears. On the tail, the hairs fall back to one side of the body, i.e. on the flank and on the thigh, of such length as to reach the hock.

The wrong texture (woolly) of the coat must be strictly penalized. Maltese doesn't have any under coat and the coat must give a sensation of cold, when it is touched.



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MALTESE COLOUR

Pure white, a pale ivory tinge is permitted. Traces of pale orange shades are tolerated but not desirable and constitute an imperfection.



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MALTESE

SIZE AND WEIGHT

*SIZE AND WEIGHT: Height at the withers: Males from 21-25 cm.
Females from 20-23 cm.
Weight: 3-4 kg.*



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MALTESE 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 and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog. FCI-St. N° 65 / 17.12.2015 7 Bilateral strabismus (cross-eyed). Overlong in body.
SEVERE FAULTS: Roman nose. Accentuated undershot mouth. Size in males over 26 cm or below 19 cm. Size in females over 25 cm or below 18 cm.



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MALTESE

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

Aggressive or overly shy dogs. Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified. Accentuated divergence or convergence of the head planes. Total depigmentation of the nose or nose of other colour than black.

Overshot mouth. Wall eye. Total depigmentation of the eyelids. Tail-less, shortened tail, whether congenital or acquired. Frizzy coat. Any colour other than white, with exception of pale ivory. Patches of different colours whatever their extension.



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PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED

What are some of the most common faults?

- PROPORTIONS
- HEAD
- BODY
- GAIT / MOVEMENT
- COAT
- TAIL



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MALTESE

PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: PROPORTIONS

Nowadays in the European rings, we see Maltese too short in bodies.



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PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: PROPORTIONS

Correct Proportions



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PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: BODY

Incorrect proportions
Too high on legs and too short in body



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PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: BODY

Too long in body



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PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: MUZZLE

Proportion between muzzle–skull is very important for the breed. Nowadays there is the tendency to breed Maltese with too short or in few cases too long muzzles and this is changing a lot their typical expression.
In these pictures from left: too short muzzle and too long muzzle



MALTESE PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: EYES

The position and the colour of the eyes is very important for keeping the right expression of the breed. The eyes should be never black and should never show the white. A black eye is giving an arrogant expression to the breed which is not the right one. Often you find too small eyes and this is a fault to penalize.



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MALTESE PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: EYES

Eyes: subfrontal (but almost frontal), rounded, only slightly protruding, dark ochre. Nowadays we can see too prominent eyes and in perfect front position, because the Maltese has too short muzzle.



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PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: BODY

Not high on legs or Too high on legs



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PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: MOVEMENT

Even, skimming the ground, free, with short and very quick steps at the trot. Maltese gives the impression to move on roller skate. Nowadays we find often bad front movements.



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MALTESE

PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: COAT

Dense, shiny, glossy – falling heavily and of a silky texture, very long on the whole of the body and straight throughout its length without traces of waves or curls. There is not any under coat and the coat must give the sensation of cold when touched.



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MALTESE

PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: COAT

Fault: woolly coat. The amount of woolly coat much bigger than the amount of silky coat. A good percentage of undercoat. The correct coat texture much too often neglected – probably because the woolly coat gives more volume. Especially young dogs in shows – more difficult to evaluate the correct texture.



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MALTESE PROBLEMS WITHIN THE BREED: TAIL

Forms a single big curve, the tip of which falls between the haunches touching the croup.

We see often in the rings Maltese with too flat tails on the back.



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BREEDING MALTESE TODAY

NOWADAYS VERY POPULAR BREED FOR EXAMPLE
KOREA, JAPAN, UNITED STATES

SMALLER AMOUNT OF REGISTRATIONS, BUT HIGH-
QUALITY BREEDING FOR EXAMPLE ITALY, SPAIN, UK

DANGER: OUR POPULAR BREED IS EASILY INFLUENCED BY FASHION OF THE CERTAIN MOMENT

DANGER: PUPPY MILLS, NO CRITERIA, NOT
FOLLOWING THE BREED STANDARD OR DOING
HEALTH EXAMS

COMMON WORDS USED: TOY, MINI TOY, TEA CUP



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A BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE - STEFANO PAOLANTONI

BREEDING MALTESE

One of the most difficult characteristics to keep: correct size easily too small individuals, also faults connected with dwarfism. The importance to know and understand the whole pedigree, both male and female side is the only way to avoid faults that can come up in 2nd or 3rd generation.



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A BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE - STEFANO PAOLANTONI

BREEDING MALTESE

Personal experience: the importance of line breeding the possibility to maintain the correct characteristic of Maltese – the development of puppies and their temperament



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BREEDING MALTESE

THREE IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS
OF MALTESE:



HEAD



PIGMENTATION



COAT TEXTURE



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A BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE - STEFANO PAOLANTONI

PIGMENTATION

White dog with three black spots < too simple explanation

Pigmentation much more widely spread all over the body.

Colour of the skin: red-purple with dark spots. The influence of sun

Digital pads must be black. Sometimes during the winter the coat turns to be a bit yellow > pigmentation is moving from the skin to the coat > judges should not penalize



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A BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE - STEFANO PAOLANTONI

COAT TEXTURE

One of the most typical characteristics of the breed. NO undercoat – only one type of hair: silky coat covering the whole body. To understand the correct texture: important to lift the coat up – it falls down at the same place it was.

When touching the coat – sense of cold typical for silk .

Fault: woolly coat. The amount of woolly coat much bigger than the amount of silky coat. A good percentage of undercoat. The correct coat texture much too often neglected – probably because the woolly coat gives more volume.

Especially young dogs in shows – more difficult to evaluate the correct texture.



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SHOW GROOMING

What are some tips for correct show grooming?

- BEFORE BATHING
- MAINTENANCE BATH
- BEFORE DRYING
- DRYING
- WRAPPING
- PREPARATION AT THE SHOW
- TIPS

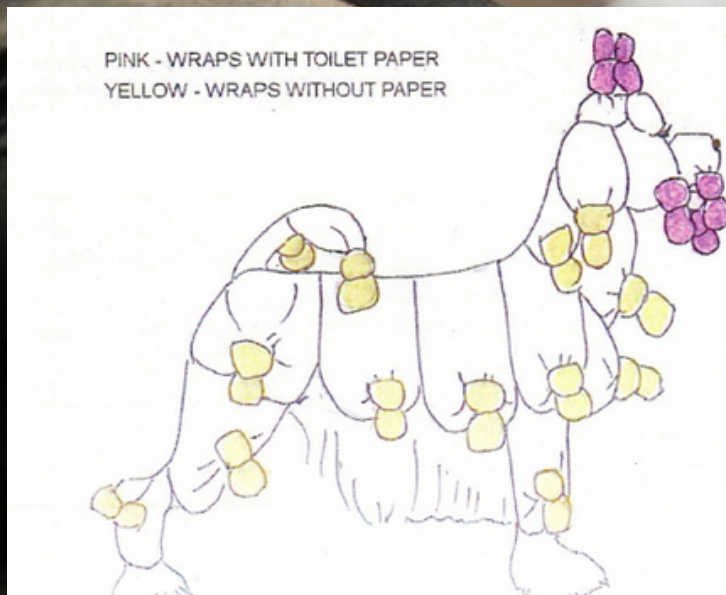


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A BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE - STEFANO PAOLANTONI

SHOW GROOMING





A BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE - STEFANO PAOLANTONI

BROOD BITCH

A brood bitch has to have a sound construction. It takes ages to get a good & sound construction – to breed a good head is much easier. Too small females should never be used with higher risk for C-section.

Females with serious faults that are difficult to take away should not be used.
for example woolly coat, bad construction

Females with exaggerated features should not be used. for example risk to breed too short muzzles

The best brood bitch: correct size & soundness. A female with a super construction & a medium head can be an excellent brood bitch.



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A BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE - STEFANO PAOLANTONI

CONCLUSION

A good breeder breeds constantly good dogs and cooperates actively with other people for improving the breed.

A true breed lover always recognize a good specimen even if it is bred by someone else.

A breeder must show his stock.

Comparison with other breeders and prove that you are on the right way. Breeding means to create – a breeder is also an artist. Breeding dogs is the most beautiful work you can have and a way of life. We must never forget how lucky we are. Thank you for our dogs to give us the opportunity to be here!



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THANK YOU

HAVE A NICE DAY!

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