



Dogue de Bordeaux

This is an old revision of this page, as edited by [DferDaisy](#) ([talk](#) | [contribs](#)) at **00:17, 26 November 2017** (*→[Health: updated wikilink following page move.](#)*). The present address (URL) is a permanent link to this revision, which may differ significantly from the current revision.

The **Dogue de Bordeaux**, **Bordeaux Mastiff**, **French Mastiff** or **Bordeauxdog** is a large French Mastiff breed—and one of the most ancient French dog breeds. A typical brachycephalic molosoid type breed, the Bordeaux is a very powerful dog, with a very muscular body. This brawny breed has been put to work in many different capacities, from pulling carts and hauling heavy objects, to guarding flocks and, historically, the castles of the European elite.

History

The Dogue de Bordeaux was known in France as early as the fourteenth century, particularly in southern France in the region around Bordeaux. Hence, the city lent its name to this large dog. A uniform breed type of the Bordeaux Dog did not exist before about 1920.^[1]

The French placed emphasis on keeping the old breeding line pure. Black masks were considered an indication of the crossing in of the English Mastiff. As an important indication of purity of the breed, attention was paid to the self colored (pink) nose, lighter eye color (dark amber), and red mask. They were originally bred with huge heads; a pioneer for the breed in Germany, Werner Preugschat once wrote:

What am I supposed to do with a dog that has a monstrous skull and is at most able to carry it from the food dish to its bed?

The Dogue de Bordeaux was at one time known to come in two varieties, Dogues and Doguins, the Dogue being considerably larger than the Doguin. The smaller Doguin has withered away to nothing more than a mention in breed history books, as it is no longer in existence.

Dogue de Bordeaux



Other names Bordeaux Mastiff,
French Mastiff,
Bordeauxdog

Origin France

	Traits	[hide]
Height	Dogs	24–27 in (61–69 cm)
	Bitches	23–26 in (58–66 cm)
Weight	Dogs	150 lb (68 kg)+
	Bitches	125 lb (57 kg)+
Coat	Fine, short and soft to the touch	
Color	All shades of fawn, from a dark red fawn to a light fawn. A rich coat color is considered desirable. Limited white patches are permissible on the chest and the extremities of the limbs	

Litter size Avg. 8 pups

Life span Avg. 5-8 years

Kennel club standards [\[hide\]](#)

The history of the breed is believed to predate the Bullmastiff and the Bulldog. It is said that the Dogue can be found in the background of the Bullmastiff, and others claim that the Dogue and Mastiff breeds were both being accomplished at the same time. Another theory is the Dogue de Bordeaux originates from the Tibetan Mastiff and it is also said that the Dogue is related to the Greco Roman molossoids used for war.

Fédération Cynologique Internationale	standard (http://www.fci.be/Nom-enclature/Standards/116g02-en.pdf)
Dog (domestic dog)	

As there was a breed similar to the Dogue de Bordeaux in Rome at the time of Julius Caesar's reign, possibly a cousin of the Neapolitan Mastiff. Others suggest that the Dogue de Bordeaux is a descendent of a breed which existed in ancient France, the Dogues de Bordeaux of Aquitaine. Whichever theory is true, it is obvious that the Dogue de Bordeaux shares the same common links as all modern molossers.

The Dogue de Bordeaux was once classified into three varieties, the Parisian, the Toulouse and the Bordeaux, types which were bred depending on the region of France and the jobs it was required to do. The ancestral Dogue de Bordeaux had various coat colors, such as brindle and a majority of white markings that carried fully up the legs. It had scissor bites in some regions, undershot in others; a big head or a small head, a large body or a small body; very inconsistent in type. Another controversial aspect was the mask, red (brown), none or black. The Dogue de Bordeaux of Bordeaux of the time also sported cropped ears. Regardless, it had a general type similar to today's Dogue de Bordeaux.

Breeding

In 1863, the first canine exhibition was held at the "Jardin d'Acclimatation" in Paris, France. The winner of the Dogue de Bordeaux was a female named Magentas. The Dogue de Bordeaux was then given the name of the capital of its region of origin, today's Dogue de Bordeaux.

During the 1960s, a group of breeders of the Dogue de Bordeaux in France, headed by Raymond Triquet, worked on the rebuilding of the foundation of the breed. In 1970, a new standard was written for the breed, with the most recent update in 1995. This standard is the basis of the standard written for the AKC in 2005.

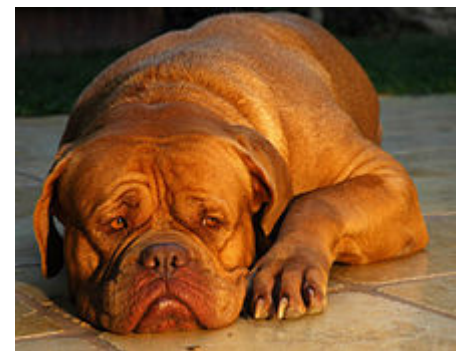
Although the Dogue de Bordeaux first arrived in the USA in the 1890s for the show ring, the first documented Dogues de Bordeaux of modern times appeared in 1959, Fidelle de Fenelon; and in 1968, Rugby de la Maison des Arbres. Between 1969 and 1980, imported Dogues de Bordeaux in the USA were scarce, limited to a few breeders who worked closely with the French Dogue de Bordeaux Club, the SADB. The breed was first "officially" introduced to American purebred enthusiasts in an article written in 1982 and by the American anthropologist, Dr. Carl Semencic for "Dog World" magazine. That article, entitled "Introducing the Dogue de Bordeaux", was followed by chapters



Dogue de Bordeaux



Sculpture of a Dogue de Bordeaux in the act of wolf-baiting from the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle



Dogue de Bordeaux

dedicated to the Dogue in Semencic's books on dogs, published by T.F.H. Publications of Neptune, New Jersey. When Semencic's first article on the breed was published, there were no Bordeaux Dogues in the United States. There were 600 examples left in the world, mostly in France, the Netherlands and East Berlin, and the breed's numbers were on the decline. Much later, in 1989, the typical American family saw the Dogue de Bordeaux for the first time on the big screen in Touchstone's movie *Turner & Hooch* about a policeman and his canine partner, although many people did not know that the massive slobbering animal was a Dogue de Bordeaux.

Since then, the Dogue de Bordeaux has taken hold in the United States and can be found in greatly increasing numbers across the country. The Dogue de Bordeaux has been supported by multiple breed clubs throughout the years, and has finally found its way to full AKC recognition through the assistance of the Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America. Since 1997, the DDBSA has helped bring the breed to the point in which full AKC recognition could be achieved.

The Dogue de Bordeaux has begun to flourish in recent years, with its introduction into more movies and even television, as well as its full recognition status by the American Kennel Club, also known as the AKC (full AKC recognition began July 2008). Its numbers are climbing, but careful attention must be paid to health in the breed if its increase in popularity is to show a positive forward motion.

The breed was first exhibited in France in 1863 after which time it gained in popularity not only in their home country but in other parts of the world. The first record of Dogue de Bordeaux in the UK can be seen in the Kennel Club Gazette in 1897.^[2] The breed was officially recognised by the Kennel Club (UK) in 1997^[3] but it was not until 2001^[4] that the Kennel Club (UK) accepted an interim breed standard.

Appearance

The Dogue de Bordeaux is a well balanced, muscular and massive dog with a powerful build. The Dogue's size should come mostly from width and muscles, rather than height. The breed is set somewhat low to the ground and is not tall like the English Mastiff. The body of the Dogue de Bordeaux is thick-set, with a top-line that has a slight dip (topline is never completely straight) and a gentle rounded croup. The front legs should be straight and heavy-boned, well up on pasterns, down to tight cat-like feet. The straight tail, beginning thickly at the base and then tapering to a point at the end, should not reach lower than the hocks, and is set and carried low. The breed is to be presented in a completely natural condition with intact ears, tail, and natural dewclaws. It should be evaluated equally for correctness in conformation, temperament, movement, and overall structural soundness.



Dogue de Bordeaux puppy

Weight

The breed standards by European FCI and the American Kennel Club specify a minimum weight of 99 pounds (45 kg) for a female and 110 pounds (50 kg) for a male.^[5] There is no formally stated maximum weight, but dogs must be balanced with regard to their overall type and the conformation standards of the breed.

Height

The standard states that the desirable height, at maturity, should range between 24 to 27 inches (61 to 69 cm) for male dogs and from 23 to 26 inches (58 to 66 cm) for females.^[5] Deviation from these margins is considered a fault.

Head

The massive head is a crucial breed characteristic. The Dogue de Bordeaux is claimed to have the largest head in the canine world, in proportion to the rest of the body. For males, the circumference of the head, measured at the widest point of the skull, is roughly equal to the dog's height at the withers (shoulders). For females, the circumference may be slightly less. When viewed from the front or from above, the head of the Dogue forms a trapezoid shape with the longer top-line of the skull, and the shorter line of the underjaw, forming the parallel sides of the trapezoid. The jaw is undershot and powerful. The Dogue should always have a black or red mask that can be distinguished from the rest of the coat around and under the nose, including the lips and eye rims. The nose colour in red-masked dogs should be brown, in black-masked dogs, it must be black. The muzzle should be at most a third of the total length of the head and no shorter than a quarter of the length of the head, the ideal being between the two extremes. The upper lip hangs thickly down over the lower jaw. The upper lips of the Dogue de Bordeaux hangs over the lower lips. The skin on the neck is loose, forming a noticeable dewlap, but should not resemble that of a Neapolitan Mastiff. Small pendant ears top the head, but should not be long and hound like.



Stenotic nares (pinched nostrils) may cause breathing problems.

Coat

The standard specifies the coat to be 'short, fine, and soft to the touch'. Color varies from shades of fawn (light, coppery red) to mahogany (dark, brownish red) with a black, brown, or red mask, although the red mask is true to the breed. White markings are permitted on the tips of the toes and on the chest, but white on any other part of the body is considered a fault, and a disqualifying one if the pigmentation goes beyond the neck.

Health

While larger breeds of canines tend to have shorter life expectancy, the life expectancy of the Dogue is still shorter than even breeds of comparable or larger size.^[6] According to data collected by the Dogue De Bordeaux Society of America, the average lifespan of the breed is 5 to 6 years.^[7] A veterinary database in the UK showed similar figures.^[8] In the American survey, the oldest dog in the record was 12 years old.^[7] The Society is actively recording dogs that are 7 years old or older to celebrate the longer-lived dogs.^[9]



A young Dogue de Bordeaux

Because of its brachycephalic head, the Dogue can be affected by breathing problems. Some may be heat- and exercise-intolerant as a result.^[10] The FCI standard considers excessive shortness of breath and raspy breathing in the Dogue a severe fault.^[11] The brachycephalic head shape can also encourage ectropion—an outward rolling of the lower eyelid— which can lead to conjunctivitis (eye inflammation) and bacterial infections.^[12] Under the UK Kennel Club's Breed Watch system, the Dogue is classed as a Category 3 breed (formerly High Profile Breed), meaning it is a breed "where some dogs have visible conditions or exaggerations that can cause pain or discomfort."^[13]



Dogue de Bordeaux in the snow

Aortic stenosis is a disease of the heart valve in which the opening of the aortic valve is narrowed. Symptoms include exercise intolerance, exertional syncope (fainting from physical exertion) and sudden death. One study suggests a high predisposition in the breed. No severe cases were found in adult dogs, and most moderate to severely affected dogs died before one year of age, leading the authors to speculate that the disease is more severe in the Dogue than in other breeds.^[14]

Another heart problem in the breed is dilated cardiomyopathy, a condition in which the heart becomes weakened and enlarged and cannot pump blood efficiently. Some affected dogs may die suddenly without showing any signs of problems. Others may die from congestive heart failure after several weeks or months. Affected dogs are often euthanized at an early stage to avoid suffering.^[15]

An estimated 5% of dogs may be affected by footpad hyperkeratosis, a thickening of the footpad and sometimes nose.^{[16][17]} X-rays submitted voluntarily to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals shows that more than 50% of Dogues in the database are affected by hip dysplasia.^[18]

Reproduction

Data from the Norwegian Kennel Club indicates a mean litter size of 8.1 puppies (ranging from 2-17) for the breed.^[19] The breed has a high stillborn and early neonatal mortality rate, with a stillborn rate of 14.2% and early neonatal mortality (death within 1 week from birth) of 10.4%. The average across all breeds in the study was 4.3% stillbirth and 3.7% early neonatal mortality. Excluding stillborn and early deaths, the mean litter size is 6.1.^[20] UK Kennel Club data shows that 27.8% (5 of 18) of Dogue litters were delivered by caesarean section.^[21]

References

1. "The history of the breed" (<http://doguedebordeauxclub.webs.com/historyofthebreed.htm>). Dogue

de Bordeaux Club & Rescue. Retrieved 20 April 2014.

2. "The Kennel Club" (<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breed/display.aspx?id=5224>). Retrieved 2016-11-26.
3. "Dogue De Bordeaux Dog Breed Information, Facts, Photos, Care | Pets4Homes" (<http://www.pets4homes.co.uk/pets4homes/home.nsf/breedinfo/doguedebordeaux>). *Pets4Homes*. Retrieved 2016-11-26.
4. "Home" (<http://www.ddbclubofgb.co.uk/>). *www.ddbclubofgb.co.uk*. Retrieved 2016-11-26.
5. "Official Standard of the Dogue de Bordeaux" (<http://cdn.akc.org/DoguedeBordeaux.pdf>) (PDF). American Kennel Club. 9 October 2007. Retrieved 19 July 2015. {{cite web}}: Cite has empty unknown parameter: |coauthors= (help)
6. Cassidy, Kelly M. "Breed Weight and Lifespan" (http://users.pullman.com/lostriver/weight_and_lifespan.htm). Retrieved 28 May 2014.
7. "DDBS Causes of Death in the Dogue de Bordeaux Survey Results: Results from 2004-2011" (<http://www.ddbs.org/Health/Cause%20of%20Death/CauseofdeathResults.htm>). Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America. October 2011. Retrieved 2012-02-27. " $((60 * 6.2) + (58 * 5.45) + (32 * 6) + (24 * 4.45) + (10 * 3.2) + (6 * 6) + (3 * 5.6)) / 193 = 5.55284974$ "
8. O'Neill, D. G.; Church, D. B.; McGreevy, P. D.; Thomson, P. C.; Brodbelt, D. C. (2013). "Longevity and mortality of owned dogs in England". *The Veterinary Journal*. **198**: 638–43. doi:10.1016/j.tvjl.2013.09.020 (<https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.tvjl.2013.09.020>). PMID 24206631 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24206631>). "n=21; median=5.5 years; IQR 3.3-6.1; range=0.0-8.8"
9. "Let's Celebrate Our Old Timers!" (<https://archive.is/20120724005925/http://www.ddbs.org/Health/Longevity/Longevitypage.htm>). Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America. December 2011. Archived from the original (<http://www.ddbs.org/Health/Longevity/Longevitypage.htm>) on 2012-07-24. Retrieved 2012-02-27. {{cite web}}: Unknown parameter |deadurl= ignored (|url-status= suggested) (help)
10. *The Rasping Dogue* (126 ed.). AKC gazette. 2009. "Through the years I have seen many Dogue de Bordeaux that make a rasping breathing sound when hot or when they've had moderate exercise [...] many owners attribute this heat- and exercise-intolerance to the DDB being a brachycephalic breed."
11. "FCI-Standard N° 116 / 23.01.2009 / GB DOGUE DE BORDEAUX" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120426221809/http://www.fci.be/uploaded_files/116gb2009_en.doc). Fédération Cynologique Internationale. Archived from the original (http://www.fci.be/uploaded_files/116gb2009_en.doc) on 26 April 2012. Retrieved 8 September 2012. {{cite web}}: Unknown parameter |deadurl= ignored (|url-status= suggested) (help)
12. "Ectropion: Dogue de Bordeaux" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20131227230117/http://www.ufaw.org.uk/ECTROPIONDOGUEDEBORDEAUX.php>). *Genetic welfare problems of companion animals*. Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. Archived from the original (<http://www.ufaw.org.uk/ECTROPIONDOGUEDEBORDEAUX.php>) on 27 December 2013. Retrieved 5 September 2012. {{cite web}}: Unknown parameter |deadurl= ignored (|url-status= suggested) (help)
13. "Breed Watch" (<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breed/watch/Default.aspx>). The Kennel Club. Retrieved 28 May 2014.
14. Höllmer, M.; Willesen, J. L.; Jensen, A. T.; Koch, J. (2008). "Aortic stenosis in the Dogue de Bordeaux". *Journal of Small Animal Practice*. **49** (9): 432–437. doi:10.1111/j.1748-5827.2008.00569.x (<https://doi.org/10.1111%2Fj.1748-5827.2008.00569.x>). PMID 18684150 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18684150>).

15. "Dilated Cardiomyopathy: Dogue de Bordeaux" (<https://archive.is/20121224103228/http://www.ufaw.org.uk/DILATEDCARDIOMYOPATHYDOGUEDEBORDEAUX.php>). *Genetic welfare problems of companion animals*. Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. Archived from the original (<http://www.ufaw.org.uk/DILATEDCARDIOMYOPATHYDOGUEDEBORDEAUX.php>) on 24 December 2012. Retrieved 5 September 2012. {{cite web}}: Unknown parameter |deadurl= ignored (|url-status= suggested) (help)
16. "Reasearch(sic) programme on Footpad hyperkeratosis in Dogue de Bordeaux" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120601032107/http://antagene.com/index.php?page_id=603&rubrique_id=183&code_rub1=5&coderub2=0&coderub3=5&langue=L2&menu=). Antagène. Archived from the original (http://www.antagene.com/index.php?page_id=603&rubrique_id=183&coderub1=5&coderub2=0&coderub3=5&langue=L2&menu=) on 1 June 2012. Retrieved 5 September 2012.
17. "Naso-plantar keratoderma in the Dogue de Bordeaux: epidemiology, clinical and genetic data" (http://www.lapvso.com/adm/webmaster/lapvso/upload/Final_Poster_KNP-StMalo.pdf) (PDF). Laboratoire d'Anatomie Pathologique Vétérinaire du Sud-Ouest. Retrieved 29 December 2013.
18. "Hip dysplasia statistics" (http://www.offa.org/stats_hip.html). Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. Retrieved 5 September 2012.
19. Borge, K. S.; Tønnessen, R.; Nødtvedt, A.; Indrebø, A. (2011). "Litter size at birth in purebred dogs —A retrospective study of 224 breeds". *Theriogenology*. **75** (5): 911–919. doi:10.1016/j.theriogenology.2010.10.034 (<https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.theriogenology.2010.10.034>). PMID 21196028 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21196028>).
20. Tønnessen, R.; Borge, K. S.; Nødtvedt, A.; Indrebø, A. (2012). "Canine perinatal mortality: A cohort study of 224 breeds". *Theriogenology*. **77** (9): 1788–1801. doi:10.1016/j.theriogenology.2011.12.023 (<https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.theriogenology.2011.12.023>). PMID 22365700 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22365700>).
21. Evans, K.; Adams, V. (2010). "Proportion of litters of purebred dogs born by caesarean section" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160406144345/http://www.bakalo.com/C-Section-rates-purebreed-dogs.pdf>) (PDF). *The Journal of small animal practice*. **51** (2): 113–118. doi:10.1111/j.1748-5827.2009.00902.x (<https://doi.org/10.1111%2Fj.1748-5827.2009.00902.x>). PMID 20136998 (<http://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20136998>). Archived from the original (<http://www.bakalo.com/C-Section-rates-purebreed-dogs.pdf>) (PDF) on 2016-04-06. {{cite journal}}: Unknown parameter |deadurl= ignored (|url-status= suggested) (help)

Further reading

- *Dogue de Bordeaux*, Janish, Joseph. Kennel Club Books, 2003. ISBN 1-59378-215-2
- *The Saga of the Dogue de Bordeaux*, Triquet, Raymond. Bas Bosch Press
- *The World of Dogues De Bordeaux*. Bas Bosch Press

External links

- Dogue de Bordeaux (https://curlie.org/Recreation/Pets/Dogs/Breeds/Molosser_Group/Dogue_de_Bordeaux/) at Curlie
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Dogue_de_Bordeaux&oldid=812096010"

▪