



AN ILLUSTRATED STANDARD TO THE BASSET FAUVE DE BRETAGNE

PRODUCED BY THE BASSET FAUVE DE BRETAGNE CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

The Basset Fauve de Bretagne Club of America has produced AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE BASSET FAUVE DE BRETAGNE in order to help the student of the breed to further understand the Breed Standard.

Standard Approved July 26, 2021, Effective June 28, 2023

Introduction

This Illustrated Guide to the Basset Fauve de Bretagne serves to paint the ideal image of a dog; it stands as a beacon in preserving breed type and ensuring breeders maintain a true and steady path in their pursuit of improving the gene pool of the breed.

Reading over the standard, the picture of the breed begins to appear: one that is built on sturdy lines, displaying grit when hunting and bearing an overall appearance of form following function at all times. They are a merry pack hound, displaying a nature described as friendly or affable, and never fearful or shy.

Their name serves as a definition, 'Bas' meaning low and 'set' meaning set, with Fauve translating to 'fawn'. Thus, they are a low-set fawn colored dog from the Brittany region of France.

History

The Basset Fauve de Bretagne (Bas-say Fove de Bre-tawn-yah) or "Fauve" is truly an old French hound tracing back to the 1500s when Francois I had a pack of Breton hounds he hunted regularly. These dogs were Grand Fauve de Bretagnes, which sadly became extinct, but their DNA continues to run in the lines of the modern rough-coated Griffons and Bassets such as the Basset Fauve. The Grand Fauve de Bretagnes (Fawn Hound of Brittany) were larger (27.5-29.5 inches) and were introduced to the French court around 1520 by Admiral d'Anneboulde. In the pack owned by Francois I, there was a stud dog named Mirraud, who was used extensively by royalty.

Up until the French Revolution, only the aristocracy were allowed to keep hounds and hunt with them via horseback. In 1789, aristocratic privileges were abolished, allowing anyone to own and hunt a hound. Most peasants, however, did not own a horse, necessitating a shorter-legged, closer-ranging hunting companion. Thus, the Basset was developed. How the Basset breed was formed is a matter up for debate, but most likely smallest bred to smallest over an extended period of time.

By the 19th century, hound packs were made up exclusively of Bassets to hunt rabbits, hare, fox, roe deer and wild boar. Though it was rumored that both the Griffons and Bassets nearly became extinct during WWII, it was confirmed by leading French Fauve Expert Mme. F Corbeau of the French Club du Fauve de Bretagne that the breed remained strong in popularity by French huntsmen.

The breed still remains a popular, versatile hunting hound and family dog in France, is gaining popularity in the United States and has breed clubs in numerous countries.



Les Bassets Fauves de Bretagne de M. MASCARO aux épreuves de meutes de QUINTIN (C du N) en 1948

The Standard

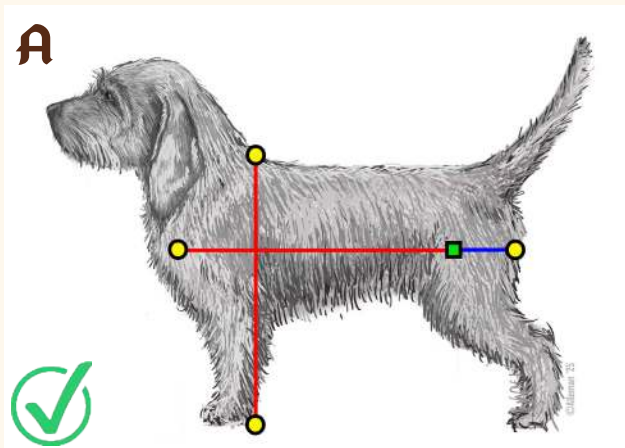
General Appearance

The Basset Fauve de Bretagne is a small, rough-coated French scent hound developed in the 17th Century to hunt small game in the region of origin, Brittany, France. They adapt easily to all terrains, including the most difficult, and to all quarry. He is bold and vivacious in character; compact, tough and robust. The Basset Fauve de Bretagne possesses those characteristics which demonstrate its exceptional aptitude for hunting. A small, stocky hound, lively and speedy for its size, Fauves are energetic and hardy. The Fauve temperament is mild, never sharp or timid. As well as impassioned hunters, Fauves are excellent family companions, sociable, affectionate and easygoing. When hunting, Fauves are courageous, wily and tenacious, making them very successful hunters.

Size Proportion, Substance

Height at the withers should be 12.5" minimum and 15.5" maximum, with a tolerance of .5" over or under for exceptional specimens. Fauves under 12" or over 16" are a disqualifying fault.

To establish the proportion of a Fauve, the measurement should be from the withers to the floor for height and point of shoulder to the ischium for the length, resulting in a ratio of 1:1.2. The limbs should have sufficient bone for performance in rough terrain, without appearing either frail or overdone.

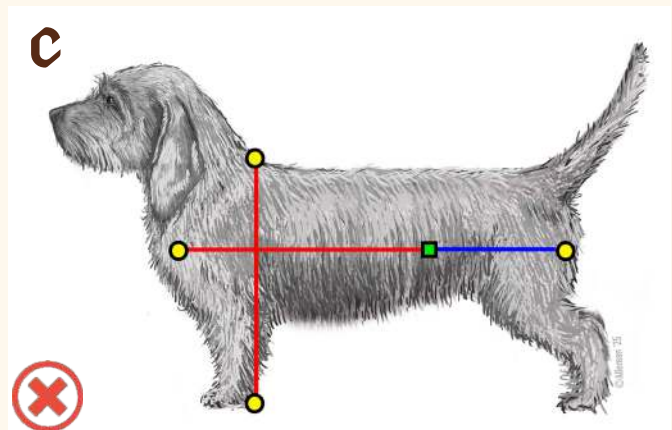
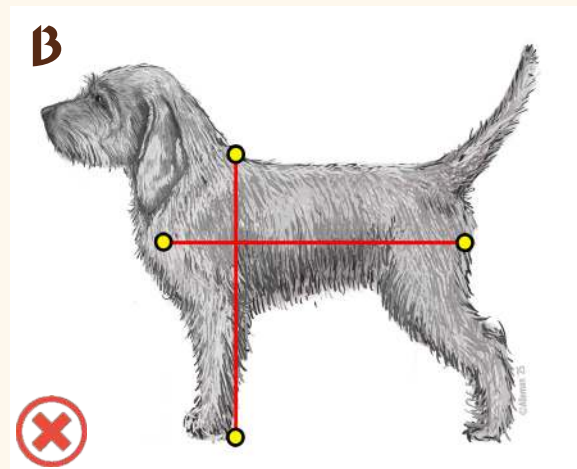


The Fauve is only **slightly** longer than tall. It is the shortest backed of all the Basset breeds but they are **not square**.

Figure A shows a correct ratio of 1:1.2

Figure B shows a dog with an incorrect ratio of 1:1 (square)

Figure C shows a dog with an incorrect ratio of 1:1.5 (long)





Head

Expression: The fauve expression is lively.

Skull: The head is well proportioned with the back skull slightly longer than the muzzle. The skull is rather long, showing a pronounced occipital protuberance.

Viewed from the front, the skull forms a flattened arch which diminishes in width from the rear to the superciliary arches, which are not very prominent. Too prominent superciliary arches are a fault, as is a broad, flat skull.



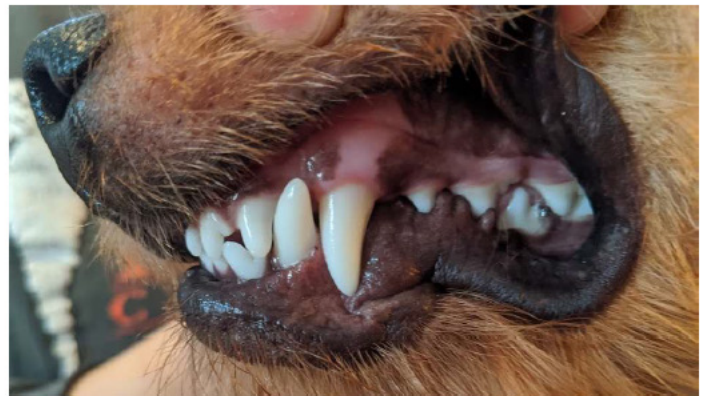
The shape of the outline of the skull viewed from the front should resemble a “Norman arch”, e.g. of a church door. The dog to the left lacks the required flattened arch which is characteristic of the breed

Muzzle: The muzzle is slightly tapered rather than being perfectly rectangular. A short or pointed muzzle is a fault. The flews cover the lower jaw but without excess. Heavy, pendulous upper lips are a fault as are unpigmented areas of the lips. Slight furnishings make up the moustache and beard.





Nose: The nose is darkly pigmented, preferably black or dark brown, with well-open nostrils. Totally or partially unpigmented areas on the nose is a fault.



Bite: The teeth are strong, meeting in a scissors bite. **A level bite is tolerated.** Absence of first premolars is not penalized.

A bite either overshot or undershot is a disqualifying fault.

Eyes: The eyes are neither bulging nor set too deeply in the orbits. Dark brown is the preferred color with lively expression. A light eye or unpigmented edges of eyelids is a fault. Overly light eyes are a serious fault.



Figure A



Figure B



Figure C



Figure D



Figure E

In the above examples, figures A & B are considered sufficiently dark as to be preferred. Figure C is acceptable, although not ideal. Figures D & E are too light and should be faulted accordingly.

Ears: The ears are finely attached, in line with the eye, just reaching the end of the nose when drawn forward, ending in a point and turned inwards. The ears are covered by finer, shorter hair than the rest of the body. Flat, high set and large ears with no fold are a fault.



An excellent ear - with correct set, length, and shape. Note the alignment of nose and eye.

This ear is too short and too high set, giving a terrier-like appearance

This ear has a good set, but the length is much too long



Neck, Topline, Body

Neck: The neck is rather short and well-muscled.

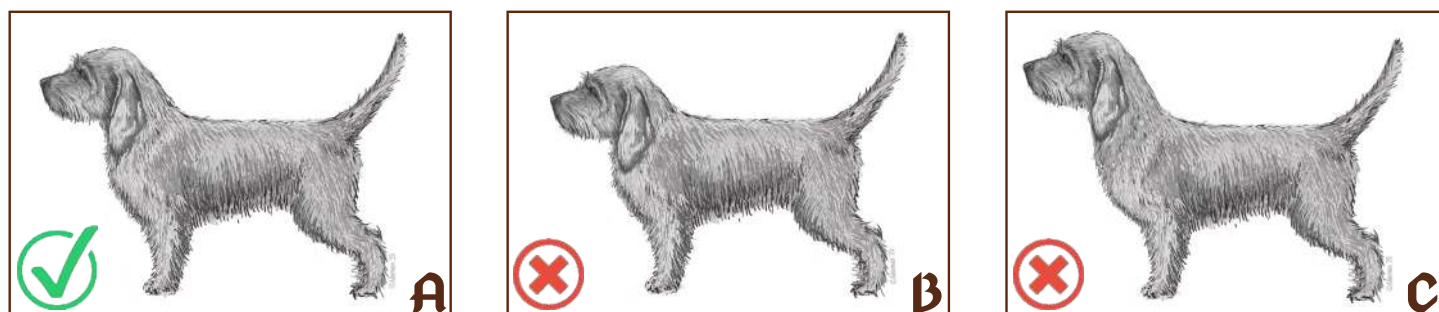


Figure A: This Fauve shows good balance with a pleasing length of neck that has good substance.

Figure B: This Fauve is lacking in neck making it seem thick and stuffy.

Figure C: This Fauve has far too much neck and appears 'tacked on' to the dog's front.

Note: In both figures B and C, the front assembly contributes to the overall imbalance of the neck. Correct scapula (shoulder blade) and upper arm placement are key for balance in the Fauve.

Body: The chest is deep and broad with a prominent sternum. The back is short for a basset and broad. The topline is straight and level. The rib structure is well sprung and rather rounded. The loin is broad and muscular with moderate tuck-up toward the rear.

Overly tucked up is a fault.



Figure A: This Fauve shows correct chest and rib, portraying a Fauve that will hold up well in the field.

Figure B: This Fauve is herring-gutted, showing too much tuck-up and a very short sternum, its structure doesn't provide adequate protection if hunting larger quarry. The topline has a distinct roach over the loin, which creates lines that are racy instead of stocky for functionality.

Figure C: This Fauve displays a barrel chest and excessive prosternum, making the dog appear front-heavy and bulky. Its topline has a dip indicating structure that does not support a strong back. This dog would have a difficult time producing the stamina needed for hunting all day.

Forequarters

The limbs have good bone. The shoulder is well-laid back and set close against the chest. Elbows are in line with the body. The forearm is to be vertical. Pasterns, seen in profile, are somewhat oblique. Feet are compact with toes tight together, arched with solid nails and the pads are hard. Excessive crook in legs or foot turnout is a fault. Front dewclaws are present but may be removed.



Figure A: This image shows a balanced shoulder assembly with well laid back scapula and upper arm - this is an efficient structure for field work.

Figure B: This image shows an acceptable front. There is mild turn to the front feet, but to an acceptable degree.

Figure C: This image shows a front with unacceptable degree of turn to the feet, as well as crookedness in the legs; sometimes called 'fiddle front'.

Hindquarters

Hindquarters are strong and well-muscled with good bend of stifle. Seen from behind, the rear limbs are parallel, neither close nor wide. Hips are wide with thighs well-muscled. Hocks are well let down and moderately angulated, perpendicular from hock to ground. Feet are as in front. Except that they must point straight ahead. Rear dewclaws are a fault.

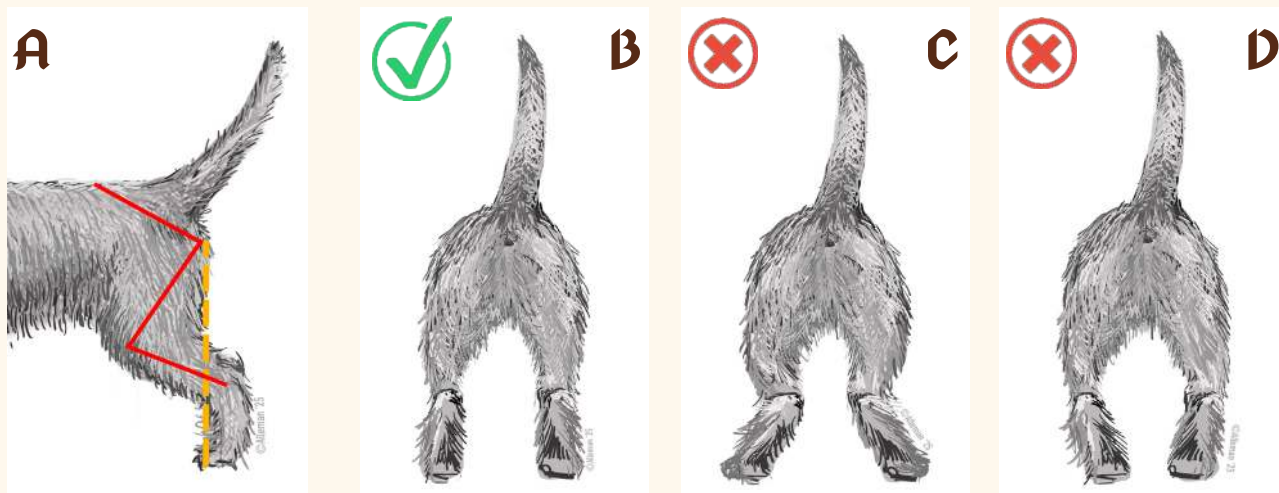


Figure A: This image shows a balanced rear assembly. Note that a correct set of angles will place the toe tip in alignment with the point of hip.

Figure B: This image shows a correct rear assembly.

Figure C: This image shows a dog that is cow-hocked, with too much turn-out of rear feet.

Figure D: This image shows a dog that is bow-legged, with too much turn-in of rear feet.

Tail

Carried slightly sickle-fashion of medium length, large at the base, often bristly and well-tapered at the end. In action, the tail is carried above the topline and makes regular movements from side to side. Kinked tail is a disqualification.

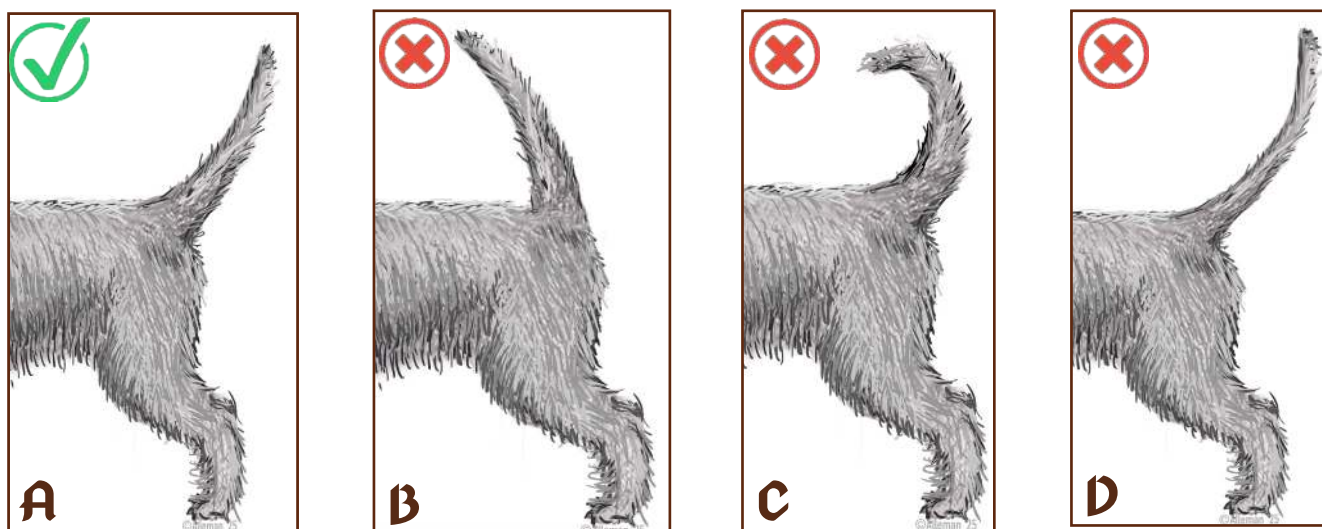


Figure A: This image shows a tail with correct set, shape, and length. Note that the length is approximately as long as set to hock.

Figure B: This image shows a gay tail, carried too tightly over the topline.

Figure C: This image shows a tail exhibiting excessive curve or curl.

Figure D: This image shows a tail that is too long and thin, giving it a whip like appearance.

Coat

A wiry, rough, harsh, rather short coat is preferred but a smooth, harsh coat is tolerated. The coat should never be woolly or curly. The face shouldn't be too bushy. Eyebrows should be short enough to see the eyes. Mustache and beard should be moderate in length. Shown in natural coat, not over-groomed. Sculpted furnishings should be penalized. Sparse, smooth, fine or soft coats are faults. Long, woolly coat is a serious fault.

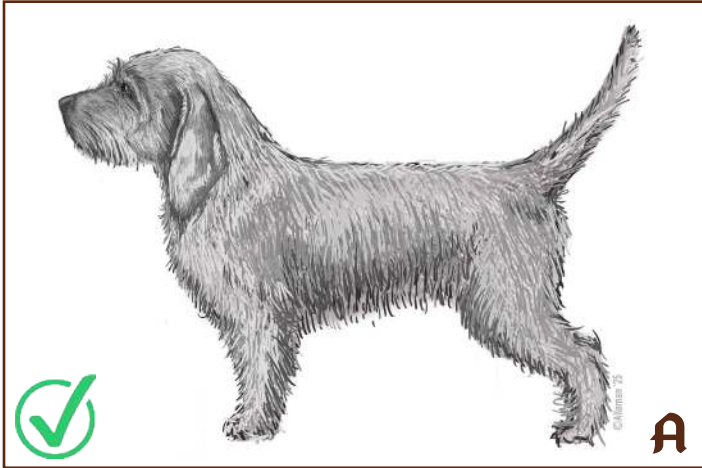
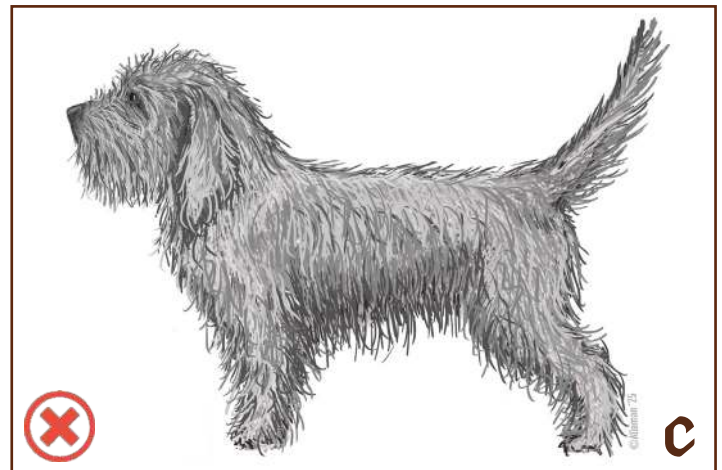


Figure A: This Fauve demonstrates appropriate grooming. It is rustic without being unkempt, stripped in a way that mimics natural stripping during hunting in heavy brush & brambles. Note that some degree of variation will occur depending on the amount of furnishing the dog can naturally grow.

Figure B: This Fauve has been excessively sculpted. Note the tight groomer-defined patterning all over, the rigid line of the skirt, and the over-defined beard.

Figure C: This Fauve has a 'blown coat' from lack of maintenance. This coat needs work to achieve the correct grooming. Note that the beard has been left too long. In the field, this coat would pick up too many briars and burrs, hindering the dog from easily hunting in rough terrain.



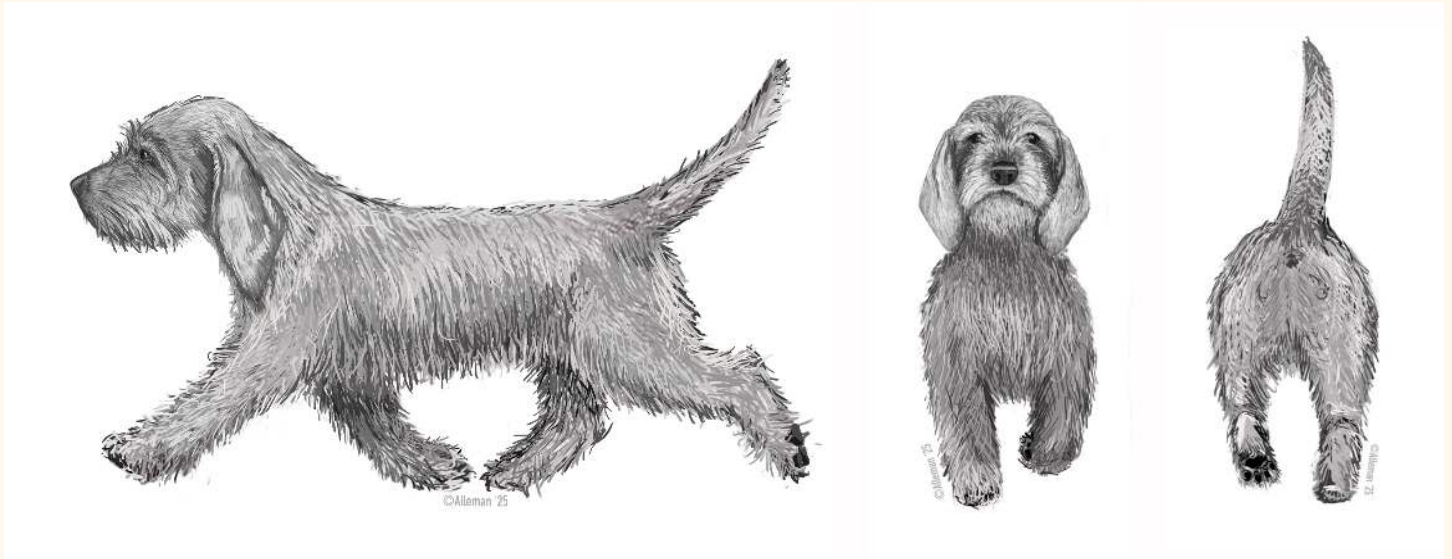
Color

Solid colored ranging from light fawn, golden wheaten, to red brick in hue. A few black hairs dispersed on the back, ears and tail are tolerated as is a small white star on the chest, but not desirable.



Gait

Movement at a trot is free, effortless, and smooth with a noble and distinguished head carriage. In profile, the forelegs and hindlegs extend equally with an easy reach and drive that maintain a steady topline. Moving away, the hindquarters travel with moderate width between them and the foot pads can be seen.



Temperament

A lively, active, outgoing, sociable temperament. Timid or aggressive behavior is a fault.

Disqualifications

- Under 12" or over 16" tall
- Overshot or undershot bite
- Kinked tail