



FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)

SECRETARIAT GENERAL: 13, Place Albert 1^{er} B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique)

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FCI-Standard N° 196

BOLOGNESE

TRANSLATION: Mrs. Peggy Davis. Revised by Renée Sporre- Willes. Official language (EN).

ORIGIN: Italy.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD: 13.11.2015.

UTILIZATION: Companion dog.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 9 Companion and Toy Dogs.
Section 1 Bichons and related breeds. Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: The origin of the Bolognese is confused with that of the Maltese, because their distant ancestors are the same little dogs mentioned in Latin by Aristotle (384–322 B.C.) under the denomination of *canes melitenses*. Bolognese, already known in the Roman era appears most especially among the very appreciated gifts, which were made during a whole era by the people of power of that world. Cosimo de Medici (1389–1464) brought no less than eight to Brussels as gifts to as many Belgian noblemen. Philippe II, king of Spain 1556–1598, after having received two as a gift from the Duke d’Este, thanked him in writing saying, ” These little dogs are the most royal gifts one can give to an emperor”. Bolognese are represented in paintings by Titian, Pierre Breughel called le Vieux and Goya.



Architect and All Round Judge E.N.C.I. Giuseppe Alessandra writes in *I Nostri Cani* (2001), that the small dog in Vittore Carpaccio’s painting is a genuine Bolognese. It has a vivid gaze and hanging ears that are detached from the skull. The coat is fluffy and crinkled, and shorter on the muzzle. The dog is so precious for its noble master, that it is not running on dirty streets but sitting in the gondola with him

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Small size, stocky and compact, covered with a pure white coat, long and fluffy.

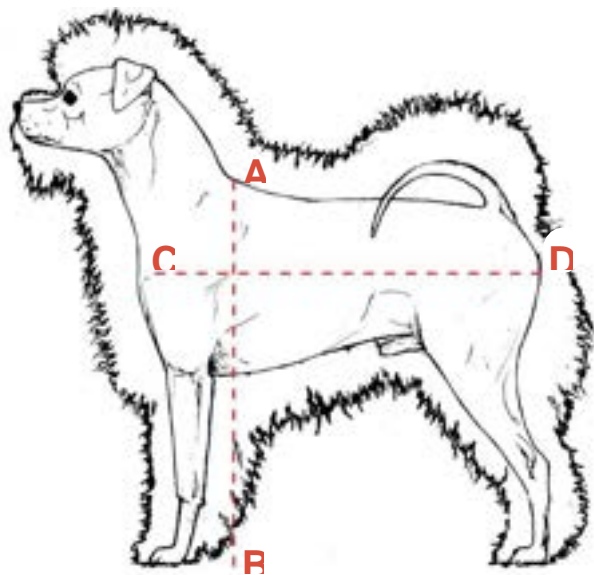
The Bolognese is a small, happy, intelligent, squarely built toydog with much substance and a long, crinkled white milk coat. It should not be long in body or low/high on legs.



IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS Square built, the length of the body being equal to the height at the withers. Length of head reaching 1/3 of the height at the withers. Depth of chest almost half of the height at the withers.

The length of the body, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock bone is equal to that of the height at the withers.

Correct proportions are something very important in this breed!



Bolognese E Il Bichon A Poil Frisé.

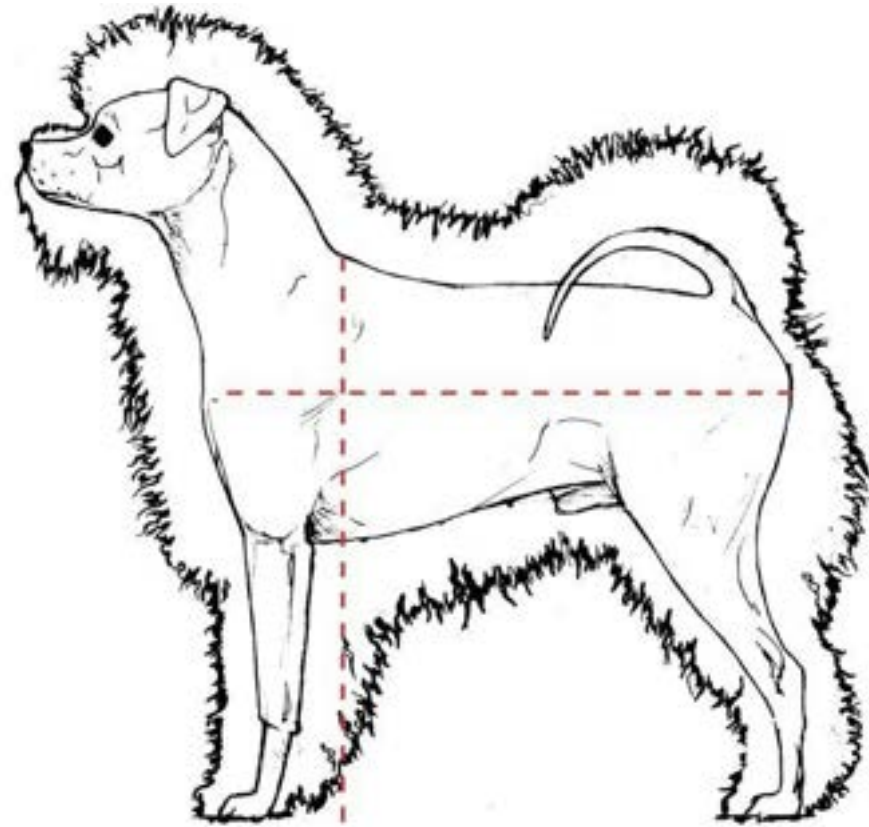
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Dal libro: Gian Franco Giannelli: Il Bolognese E Il Bichon A Poil Frisé.





A champion male with excellent proportions and excellent substance.



A compact champion female with excellent substance and excellent coat.



A young female with excellent proportions.
Excellent structure of the coat.
Nota bene: the natural outline of the coat!

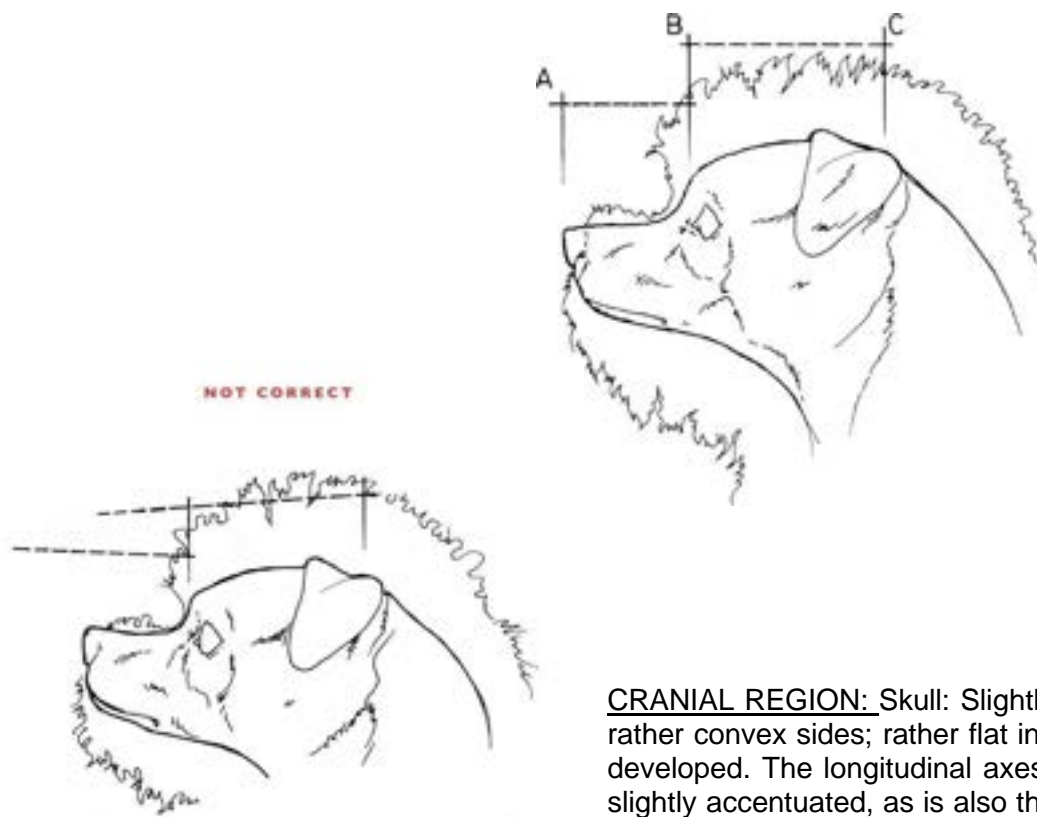
BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT: Very serene, generally not very active. Eventful but calm very faithful to his master and his entourage.

A shy Bolognese should be strictly penalized.

HEAD: Medium long. The width, measured at the level of the zygomatic arches is the same as the length.

The head is quite broad to the zygomatic arches . The width of the skull, measured at the level of the zygomatic arches is the same as the length.

Dal libro: Gian Franco Giannelli: Il Bolognese E Il Bichon A Poil Frisé.



CRANIAL REGION: Skull: Slightly ovoid in shape (egg-shaped) in the sagittal direction and has rather convex sides; rather flat in its upper part. The protuberances of the frontal bones are well developed. The longitudinal axes of the skull and muzzle are parallel; the frontal furrow is only slightly accentuated, as is also the occipital protuberance. The length of the skull is slightly more than that of the muzzle.

The skull is flat.

Stop: Rather accentuated.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Set on the same line as the top line of the muzzle: seen in profile the front is vertical. Large and must be black.

Muzzle: Its length is equal to $\frac{2}{5}$ of the length of the head; the top line of the muzzle is straight and the sides of the muzzle are parallel, so that the forepart of the

muzzle is almost square. The lower orbital region is well chiseled.

The length of the muzzle is about 2/3 of the length of the skull.

Lips: Upper lips being only slightly developed in depth, they do not cover the bottom lips, and the lower profile of the muzzle is determined by the lower jaw.

Jaws/Teeth: Jaws normally developed, with top and bottom arches perfectly adapted. Teeth white evenly aligned, with strong and complete dentition. Articulation of incisors as scissor bite; pincer bite tolerated. **P1 Missing is tolerated.**

Eyes: Set on an almost frontal plane; size slightly superior to normal. Eyelid opening is round; the eyeball must not be prominent; the white of the eye is not visible. The rims of the eyelids must be black, and the iris of a dark ochre color.

Skull is flat. Its length is equal to its width. The length of the muzzle is equal to 2/5 of the length of the head. Cranial axis are parallel. The ears are high set, given the impression of the head being larger than it really is.

The eyes are in subfrontal position and of superior to normal in size. The correct colour is dark ochre.

The orbital pigmentation is quite pronounced. The correct positioning of the eye and the right color also determines the typical expression of the breed.

Note the position of the eyes & flat skull.

Excellent proportions of the head, slightly low set ears.

Correct pigment and beautiful, big nose with open nostrils.

Length of the muzzle is almost the half of the length of the skull



The correct position of the eyes is subfrontal. This is essential for the correct expression. The correct colour is dark ochre, not black! The pigmentation has to be strong enough.



Beautiful heads of a female (on the left) and a male (on the right). Note the subfrontal placement of the eyes!



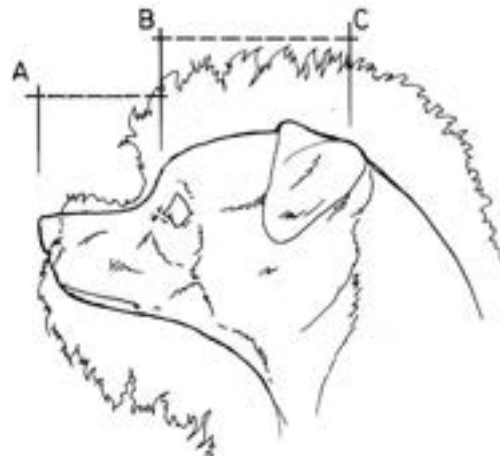
Correct - Eyes in subfrontal position



Incorrect - Eyes in frontal position



Common problem in many small breeds: too short muzzle, too strong stop and rounded skull
It is important to preserve the correct head & expression



Two young dogs. On the left correct head and expression, on the right the muzzle is too short, the stop is too strong and the skull is rounded. Please note the beige tone in the ears – typical for a young dog, perfectly acceptable!



The history of the Bolognese is still young. The use of other breeds in the restoration of the breed means that there are still a lot of features not typical for the breed.

On the left: too long muzzle, divergent craniofacial axes, narrow head, untypical expression.

On the right: too long muzzle, too small eyes, insufficient stop. Overall expression very untypical.



Note: SAME BREED?



Ears: High set, they are long and hanging, but rather rigid at their base, so that the upper part of the external ear is detached from the skull, giving thus the impression of the head being larger than it really is.

NECK: Without dewlap: its length is equal to the length of the head.

A good length of neck is appreciated, but it should be not too long. This gives elegance to a toy breed.

BODY: The dog being of a square construction, the length of the body, measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock bone is equal to that of the height at the withers.

Compact body with a lot of substance is very important in the breed.



Top line: The straight profile of the back, and that of the loin, slightly convex, merge harmoniously in the line of the croup.

Withers: Only slightly prominent above the top line. Top of shoulder blades well spaced.

Back: Straight.

Loin: Short, strong, slightly convex.

Croup: Very broad and only slightly sloping.

Chest: Ample, let down to level of elbows, with well-sprung ribs, the height reaching almost half of the height at the withers. The point of the sternum is only slightly prominent.

Underline and belly: Following the profile of the sternum, then rises slightly towards the belly.

TAIL: Set in the line of the croup, carried curved over the back.

The tail can't be carried flat on the back. Curly carried is undesirable. A correct carriage of the tail gives a very pleasant outline. The tail is inserted definitely high.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

General appearance: Forearms are perfectly straight and parallel in relation to the median plane of the body.

Shoulder: The length of the shoulder blades is equal to 1/4 of the height of the withers; in relation to the horizontal, they are slanting and are near the vertical in relation to the median plane of the body. Upper arm: Well joined to the body, of an almost equal length to that of the shoulder, but less slanting.

Elbows: They are on a parallel plane to the median plane of the body.

Forearm: The length is equal to that of the upper arm; follows a perfect vertical direction.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Seen from the front they continue the vertical line of the forearm. Seen in profile the pastern is slightly slanting.

Forefeet: Oval shaped, with well cushioned dark pads and very hard black nails.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Viewed from behind, the hind legs must follow from the point of the buttock bone to the ground in a perfectly vertical line - legs are parallel to each other.

Thigh: Length is equal to 1/3 of the height at the withers. Slanting from top to bottom and back to front and perfectly parallel to the median plane of the body.

Stifle (Knee): Firm, not very angled. Lower thigh: Longer than the thigh.

Hock joint: The tibio-tarsal angle is not very closed.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): The distance from the point of the hock to the ground is slightly less than a third of the height at the withers.

Hind feet: Same characteristics as the forefeet, but less oval.

The green lines show the correct proportions – the length of the shoulder-blade is equal to that of the upper arm and that of the forearm.



Too low on legs



Too high on legs



The eye can be fooled by the coat! Two photos of one dog taken the same day. It's important to check proportions with hands.



NOTE!
Same breed?

Left: Low on legs, long in body. Long muzzle, low set ears.

Right: Shortness of body should not be exaggerated. This dog is in fact higher at withers than it is long.



GAIT / MOVEMENT: Free, energetic, with a noble and distinguished head carriage.

Free, energetic and easy movement with a noble and distinguished head carriage. No pretentious show movements!

Good movement > good construction. Correct tempo is essential. The handler never runs!

Note:: the correct carriage of the tail.



SKIN: Taut and tightly fitted to the body all over, the third eyelids strictly pigmented black.

COAT

Hair: Long all over the body, from head to tail, from the top line to the feet. It is shorter on the muzzle. Forms long flocks that have the same texture all over the body, rather off-standing coat thus not falling flat and tight, never shows fringes.

Colour: Pure white, very slight shades of ivory are not disqualifying.



The correct coat is something very important in this breed.

The main points:

The coat is long and fluffy, thus not lying flat.

The coat forms crinkles – the correct structure is essential.

There are two kind of hairs, that do not form different layers. The hair is longer and more silky in the tail and in the ears.

The correct color is white milk! Very light shades of slightly darker tone are tolerated (standard 2016).

Young dogs often have beige tone in the ears until they are 1,5–2 yrs – perfectly acceptable!

Correct natural texture, the coat forms crinkles:



Correct, fluffy coat with natural expression. Correct structure of the coat. Bolognese is a rustic, natural breed – not like the elegant Maltese or the carefully groomed Bichon Frisé.



SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Height at the withers: Males: 27 – 30 cm.

Females: 25 – 28 cm.

Weight: 2.5 – 4 kg.

Smaller size is usually preferred as the ideal Bolognese is mentioned to be small – it used to be a luxury dog carried by its noble owners.

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.

- Strabismus (Squinting).

SEVERE FAULTS:

- Accentuated convergence or divergence of the upper longitudinal axes.
- Convex muzzle (Roman nose).
- Undershot.
- Size in males under 25 cm and over 33 cm and size in females under 22 cm or over 32 cm.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.
- Depigmentation of the nose.
- Nose of any other colour than black.
- **Overshot bite**
- Undershot - very exaggerated with teeth showing and mal-shaped muzzle.
- Bilateral depigmentation of the eyelids.
- Wall-eyed.
- Tail less.
- Shortened tail whether natural or artificial.
- Any other colour than white.
- Patches and flecks.

N.B.:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.