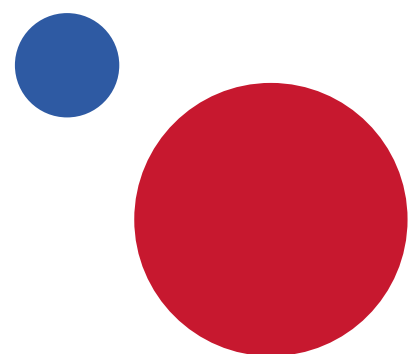

THE ARTOIS HOUND

. Standard and comments .





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I Brief historical summary

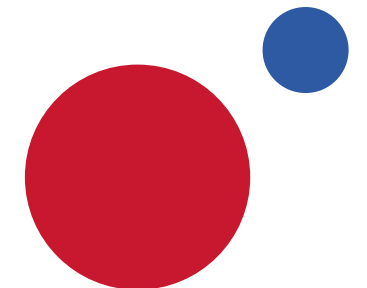
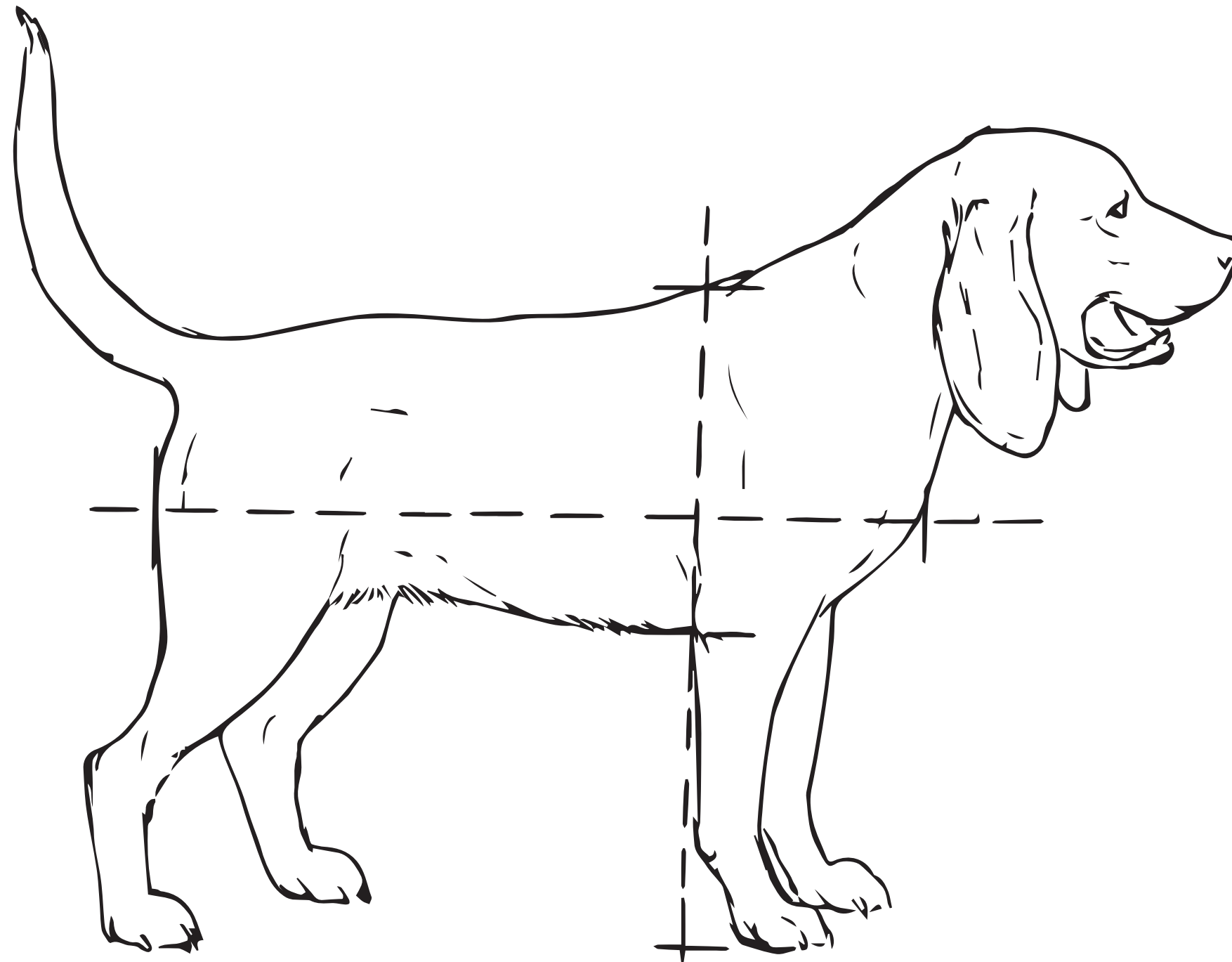
The Artois Hound has been mentioned since at least the 17th century as a scenthound variety mainly dedicated to hare hunting. It is one of the “briquets”, venery hounds used on small game, intermediate between large hounds and bassets. Interbreeding episodes with English hounds and a homologous variety, the Norman hound, are mentioned. In the 19th century, it was still frequently used, in its region of origin and beyond, and present in dog shows at the beginning of the 20th: Ernest Levoir (Somme) and Auguste Mallart (Pas-de-Calais) founded two important lineages. But in the aftermath of World War II, the Artois Hound disappeared. In the 1970s, the breed was reformed by André Audréchy, Joseph Mancini and Josette Pilat.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

- Well constructed dog, muscled and not too long, giving the impression of strength and energy.

B. Rousset : the Artois Hound is built to excel in its function, as it proves on the ground: that of a hound not very fast but with a great endurance.



I PROPORTIONS

- Size/Length of body between 10:10 and 10:11
- Depth of chest / Size between 1:2
- Width of skull/Length of head between 5:9
- Length of muzzle/Length of skull between 8:10.

B. Rousset : the proportions indicate that in accordance with this function, it is not for the Artois Hound to be elegant. It is neither long nor slender, but rather stocky, quite short, the body is almost square-shaped, especially for the male; that of the female may be slightly longer. It thus perfectly embodies the Briquet type.



HEAD

B. Rousset: « the head of the Artois Hound is very characteristic of the breed; it should not look like a "bad" Medium-sized Anglo-French Hound. It is massive, well rounded, with a not very long muzzle, a broad skull, a flat ear. By comparison, the Anglo-French Hound has a narrower skull, the length of the skull equals the length of the muzzle, the ear set is lower and thinner, the ear flap is slightly twisted.

Cranial region

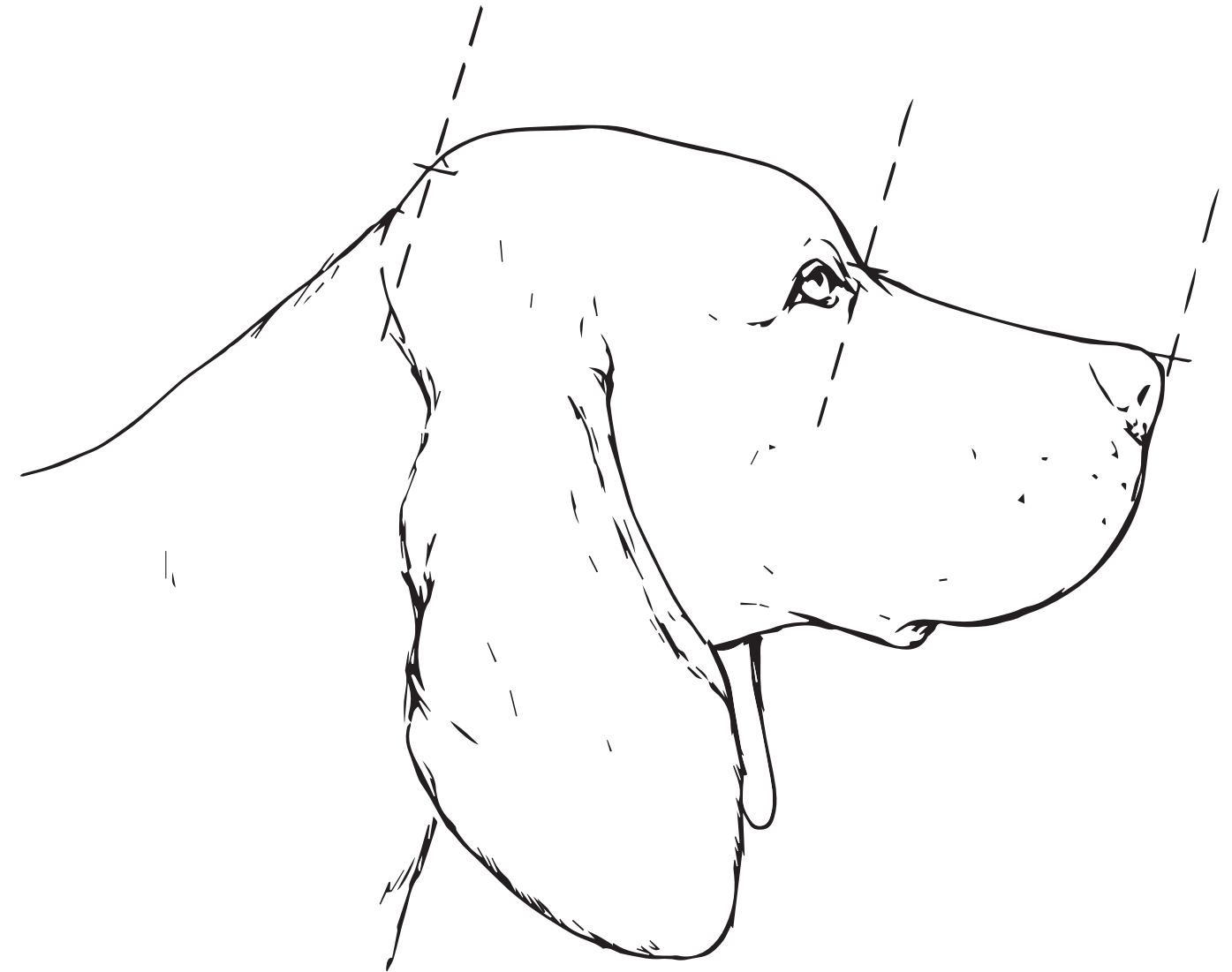
- Skull: strong, broad, quite short, rounded and flat at its upper part but with the occipital protuberance only slightly pronounced
- Stop: accentuated.

Facial region

- Nose : black, strong, with well opened nostrils.
- Muzzle: straight and, seen in profile, moderately elongated.
- Lips : the upper lip largely covering the lower lip and must be rather important so as to give a square shape to the extremity of the muzzle, seen in profile

B. Rousset : the Artois Hound has flews, which makes the end of the muzzle appears well square-shaped; while the Anglo-French has significantly drier lips.

- Jaws/Teeth: scissor bite
- Eyes: not very close together, round, level with the head surface, dark brown in colour. The mucous membranes of the lower lids must not be visible
- Leathers: set at eye level, a little thick, broad, round at the tip, almost flat and quite long (reaching the beginning of the nose).



B. Rousset : wide ear set, flat ear flap and well-rounded at the tip, are important typicity criteria

NECK

- Moderately long, powerful; very little dewlap.

BODY

- Back : broad and well supported.
- Loin : slightly arched
- Chest : broad and long, rather let down so that the sternal line arrives at elbow level. Ribs well sprung.
- Belly : flanks full

B. Rousset : the well-rounded ribs, the deep chest, the moderately long neck, are important characteristics partaking of the fairly massive aspect of the Artois Hound.

TAIL

- Strong, quite long; there should be some longer and coarser, slightly offstanding hairs (like ears of grain) towards the tip; never falling forward.

B. Rousset : the French word to designate the hairs on the tip of the tail, “épiée”, or “espiée”, is an old term of venery meaning that the hairs at the of the tail are longer and form like the beard of a grain ear. It is found in the treatise of venery by Jacques du Fouilloux in 1561.



LIMBS

B. Rousset : in accordance with this typical, relatively heavy morphology of the Artois Hound, it must have fairly strong bones, with a round section. The hock must be well bent and the shoulder well oblique.

Forequarters

- Strong and vertical.
- Shoulders: oblique and muscled.
- Elbows: set well in the axis of the body.

Hindquarters

- Seen from behind, the point of the buttock, the middle of the leg, the hock, the metatarsal and the foot are on the same vertical line.
- Upper thighs: let down and well muscled.
- Hock joints: strong and moderately angulated

Feets

- Slightly elongated, strong but sufficiently tight.

*B. Rousset : the feet are tight, in “cat feet”.
Splay feet are a serious defect.*



I GAIT/MOVEMENT

- Even and easy.

I SKIN

- Quite thick.

B. Rousset : the skin of the Artois Hound is only moderately loose, unlike a hound from the South of France, for example. That's why he has very little dewlap.

I COAT

- Hair: Short, thick and quite flat.
- Colour: dark fawn tricolour, similar to the coat of the hare or the badger, with mantle or large patches, the head usually fawn, sometimes with black overlay.

B. Rousset : the dress must always be tricolor. On several occasions in my career as a judge, I have seen white and orange subjects appear, which some have tried to impose. But unlike the Artesien Basset, this dress is not typical of the Artois Hound, and cannot be confirmed. Sometimes at birth it is believed that some puppies are white and orange, but the badger hair appears after



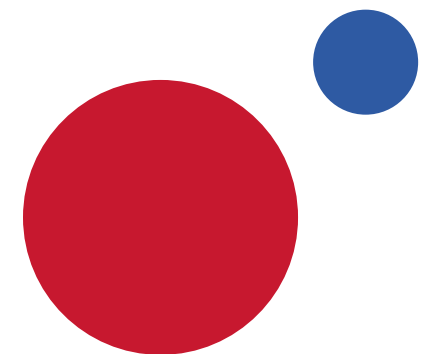
HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

- Males and females: 53 to 58cm, with a tolerance of 1 cm.

- On average 28 to 30 kg.

B. Rousset : we are working to modify the standard size criterion. Because nowadays, with the tolerance of 1 cm, which in fact often becomes 2 cm, we end up with certain subjects at 60 cm. But from 58 cm, the dog is not well proportioned, the height from the ground to the chest too important.

The ideal size is 52 to 56 cm for the male, 48 to 53 cm for the female. It's perfectly enough to hunt everything, with the typical speed of the breed. A large size is therefore not to be sought. The Briquet size must be respected.



FAULTS : SOME IMPORTANTS POINTS

- Narrow skull, dome shaped.
- Muzzle too pointed.
- Upper lip insufficiently let down and tight.
- Conjunctiva visible.
- Ears set below eye level, short, not flat enough.
- Long reach of neck.
- Dorsal region too long, topline soft, hollow
- Ribs flat.
- Whippety flanks.
- Tail too long, deviated.
- Flat feet.
- Toes splayed, too long.
- Hocks straight, either cow-hocked or barrel-shaped.
- Colour: mottled.

B. Rousset : if the mottled spots are rare, the dog is confirmable, not confirmable if they are numerous. The mottled spots on white coat is indeed to be rejected; it may be the consequences of another blood infused into the breed, such as Gascony Blue; which is therefore accompanied also by a noncompliant ear.

ELIMINATING FAULTS :

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs

B. Rousset : the Artois Hound retains an excellent character, calm, very attached to his master, not pugnacious and with a very good pack mentality, fine nose, and demonstrating on the ground that despite the vicissitudes which made it necessary to rebuild, this Artesian and Picard blood had so strong qualities that they were fully found.

- Under- or overshot mouth.
- Eye very light.
- Weak limbs.
- Distinctly mottled.



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