

HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY
OF THE BELGIAN SHEPHERD DOG

MALINOIS LAEKEN

GROENENDAEL TERVUEREN

**ORIGIN AND HISTORY
OF THE VARIETIES
OF THE BELGIAN SHEPHERD DOG
[CANIS LUPUS PECARIUS BELGICUS]**

Jean-Marie VANBUTSELE

translated by Pascale Vanbutsele, 1988

Copyright 1989 by Jean-Marie VANBUTSELE. All rights reserved worldwide. No part of this document may be reprinted, reproduced, transmitted, transcribed or translated into any language without the prior permission of the author.

to G L A D Y
my faithful Malinois
ALSH No 33186

"When you have lived with a "Belgian,"
you will understand better the passion
for animals."

"The fidelity of a dog is a precious gift, that involves moral commitment which is not
less binding than the friendship of a human fellow"

Konrad LORENZ

CONTENTS

I	THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DOG	1
II	FROM THE DEFENCE TO THE GUIDANCE OF SHEEP	5
IIII	THE ORIGIN OF THE BREED THE BLUEPRINT BY PROFESSOR A.REUL	9
IV	THE WINDS OF DISCORD	15
V	THE SHORT-HAIRED	22
VI	THE ROUGH-HAIRED AMONG WHICH THE LAEKEN	31
VII	THE LONG-HAIRED	35
VIII	BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS	42
IX	FROM 1946 UNTIL THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY (1991)	47
X	FEATURES AND EVALUATION	54
	THE FIRST STANDARD OF THE BREED APRIL 1892	58
	CURRENT STANDARD	59
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	63

One should remember that the union of man with dog, together with the usage of fire, are the most important events in the history of civilization. Let us have a look at what A. TOUSSENEL wrote in his book « L'Esprit des betes » (1862):

"It is the dog that has made the human society from a disordered into a patriarchal state, by giving man the flock. Without flock there was no ensured survival, no gigot or steak as much as wanted, no wool, no clothing and by consequence no time to lose, no astronomical observations, no science and no industry. It is the dog who made the spare time of man.

In the East stands the cradle of Civilization, because the East is the homeland of the dog. Take the dog away from Asia and Asia is nothing more than America ; the Roman and the Greek, the Egyptians and the Chinese are but Aztecs and Peruvians. It is the dog that makes the Ancient World superior to the New World.

...The dog was not satisfied in giving the flock to man, it has also appointed himself as guard and defender of its present to us."

VILLEROY in his "Manuel de l'Eleveur de Betes a Laine" ("Manual for breeders of wool-producing animals") has dedicated these touching lines to the best among dogs:

"Their intelligence is really remarkable, and I am often astonished when I see how well a word, a gesture or signal from the shepherd is understood. When we see this last one, calm and immobile, leaning upon his crook, and close to him his dog holding its head high, with peering eyes and pricked up ears, waiting for a signal or a word, ready to run ahead, to obey the orders of its master, then we admire the empire began by man when he made the most intelligent animal his slave, to subject and tame other animals with its help."

I

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DOG

The opinions and the relative theories about our domestic dogs and their breeds remain to a large extent obscure and are submitted to controversies, because, since the faraway millennia when the dog lived intimately with man, it has lost so many natural characteristics and has gained so many others that it does not resemble any wild species.

The only conclusion we can draw from the discovery of fossilized bones of the dog, is that the prehistoric dog population was composed of very different types of which the descent is hard to figure. One thing is certain: the dog was the first animal of all mammals to become domesticated.

"The first art of man was the education of the dog; and the fruit of this art: the conquest and the peaceful possession of the earth." (BUFFON)

Since the profound roots of the oldest friend of man are not proved by any reliable hypothesis, we will restrict ourselves, with the exception of some details, to precise the zoological position of our study object. The dog belongs to the family of canines (Canidae).

This family, together with several others, like the Mustelidae (marten, ermine, otter), the Proconidae (panda, raccoon), the Ursidae (bear), the Viverridae (civet), the Felines (cat, tiger, cougar) and the Hyaenidae (hyena) constitute the order of the carnivores. These different families of carnivores can be classified in three "super families":

- a) the Herpestoidea (Hyaenidae and Viverridae) because of the secretion of their anal glands,
- b) the Arctoidae (Ursidae, Procyonidae and Mustelidae) who are in the habit of rubbing their bellies or their backs,
- c) the Cynofeloidae (Canidae and Felidae) for which urinating to mark their territory is a typical behavior.

On this subject it is interesting to read this passage from the book "Mes amis les loups" ("My friends, the wolves") by the Canadian biologist FARLEY MOWAT:

"Anyone who has observed a dog at its daily walk, when leaving, with its leg up, its personal mark in any place that it sees fit, can easily imagine the way wolves mark out their propriety. Once a week, the clan goes around the whole territory to freshen up the bounds."

This shows the strong feeling of propriety of the dog and the wolf. The family of canines has a number of genus. In the excellent work "Les Loups" ("The Wolves") by P.E. VICTOR and J. LARIVIERE from the Editions Fernand NATHAN, the authors subdivide the actual canines in 15 different genus with one of them being the genus of "CANIS," The dog forms together with the wolf, the dingo, the coyote, the jackal and the mysterious "wolf of Abyssinia" the genus of "CANIS" which is essentially characterized by a rounded pupil, a frontal sinus with sharp features and the presence of 42 teeth. A wolf may miss the first premolar or the last molar. This is not a phenomenon of degeneration but of evolution. In this matter and many others, the book by Eberhard TRUMLER "Hunde ernst genommen" ("Dogs taken seriously") is very instructive. These are animals provided with a very well developed olfactory, strong limbs and a superior intelligence.

The fox, in contrast, another canine, has a pointed muzzle, there is no sinus of the cranial bones, or nasal break and the pupil is long and oblique; the tail is long, strongly haired and is dragged along; the body is rather long and relatively low on its feet; finally the hair is less rough than that of the wolf and the hyena. In contrast with the impossible crossbred among genus, i.e. the impossible inter fertility; wolves, prairie wolves, jackals and dogs can be crossbred and give birth to a hybrid even if they belong to different genus. The dog really differs from the wolf and the jackal in only two small organic features: the eyes are less oblique and the tail bends slightly backwards instead of being straight. The wolf has a gland, just before the tail that does not occur with the dog. The hindquarters of the wolf move on the same line as the forelegs, there where the dog places its hindquarters between the traces of the forelegs. The hybrid from dogs and wolves are fertile; that is why they are considered as half-bred and not as hybrids.

In his short book of Ethnographic and special Zootechnology (1922), professor H. ZWAENEPQEL had also classified the Lycaon (*Canis pictus*) or African wild dog among the genus of CANIS. This classification could be defended because the social behavior of the Lycaons is very much like the one of the wolves. Just like them they live in small groups. They feed themselves mainly at the expense of the herds of all kinds of antelopes, that they chase, and generally they isolate a weak or ill animal of the male sex. The Lycaon, provided with only four fingers on the forelegs, is built to run and the wolf has more the physical aspect of a trotter. In spite of their original aspect, the Lycaons, with an average height of 70 cm (28 inch) and a weight around 30 kg, can be considered as real "wolves" of Africa, the continent on which the wolf (*canis lupus*) only appears in Cyrenaica. The Egyptians used the Lycaons (African wild dogs), just like the dogs and the jackals, for the hunt. But because of their smell they had to give up using them.

The jackals also spread a very strong smell whereas the dog has almost none.

The canines are digitigrade and correspond to the average type of modern carnivores. Their teeth are well developed at the same time for an omnivore as a carnivore diet. Because they digest easily, they can eat all kinds of food. The tongue is soft and they drink slobbering. Their slender legs, adapted to run, generally have five fingers on the forelegs and four on the hindquarters, exceptionally five: the dew claw, frequent in certain breeds (the Berger the Beauce, has a double dew claw on the hindquarters; simple or double required for the Berger de Pyrenees; the absence

of dew claws for the Berger the Brie is eliminatory; the Berger Picard is the only exception among French shepherd dogs for having dew claws), characterizes sometimes a whole stock: it is nothing else but a trace of the thumb of the hindquarters.

Their nails are nor retractile nor sharp; they are not used as weapons by these animals, they are only useful to move. The canines cannot climb in trees like felines because of their blunt nails, nor can they make enormous leaps, but they are admirable runners and resist perfectly to fatigue. They walk on the extremities of their toes, like the felines. The pads are provided with cushions. A peculiarity of the dog is that when walking, it holds its body across, especially when it is trotting. When a dog wants to sleep, it turns around its axis a few times, scratches the ground and then lies down in the same way the wolves do. The sleep of a dog is very light, it often dreams, we can notice that when it moves its tail, when it becomes nervous or when it quietly barks while asleep. The features of the dogs are elegant, it is agile and brave; its intelligence is very well developed. The bitch has ten dugs: six on its belly and four on its chest (the first two almost never give milk), it is a fairly good swimmer, but will instinctively avoid the water as it is not "its" element. The canines are well-provided for what concerns senses.

Their hearing is almost as sharp as the one of the felines; but they have a better developed sight and most of all they have a marvelous sense of smell. Less altered in its primitive characteristics than some other breeds, the shepherd dog has kept the way to hold its tail and to prick up its ears from its ancestors. Its ear always constitutes an excellent acoustic corner. Furthermore, the ears are very mobile. Just like the horse, the shepherd dog can direct the corner forwards, sideways and backwards according to the noise it wants to capture. The ear and the eye of the shepherd dog, always alert, are its most precious qualities and have made it first guard dog and guardian of the flock, later a dog able tot do all kinds of training.

The vocal sounds and the manners make clear that there are some differences between the many species. The dingo howls, yelps or whines but does not bark. Would the barking be, like some write, an artificial voice, learnt in domesticity? Even if in general only the howling of the wolf is known, it has far more extended register. Curiously or naturally, it is more or less the same as the register of the dog: whining, growling, barking and howling. Less vulnerable in woody surroundings because the hunt is more difficult, the wolf hides itself in daytime and hunts at night. Generally it avoids man and civilization, and it is hard to tame. About the black wolves, they are not that rare in Canada, where they are approximately 20% in every litter, at least in the South and the center of the country. They are called the wolves of the woods; there is in fact a similarity of the color with their surroundings which is a serious advantage for the black wolves. There are also black wolves, but very rarely, in the East of Europe and in a bigger proportion in Siberia.

Contrary to the wolf, the prairie wolf is everywhere where man is present through exploitation and cultivation, because it does not like the forest and prefers to hunt in vast plains. Unknown in Quebec, it now arrives there, coming from the West. After a continuous progression, the prairie wolf has now reached the banks of the Saint-Laurent. It gives us proof that artificial modification of nature (deforestation, exploitation, replacement of the forest or the plains by fields and prairies) can entail a change of fauna, the introduction of new species or the disappearance of old ones.

If the wolf is a predator, the jackal is a scavenger, but it also hunts small animals, eats bird eggs, locusts and fruit. The jackal yelps and its system of vocal communication is close to the one of the wolf but its manners are different. Just like the coyote or prairie wolf it does not avoid man but likes to approach him. They are very social and easy to tame. They resemble in color and shape the breeds of the less modified dogs.

It is from some of these establishments that eminent zoologists have formulated a hypothesis that the origins of our dogs should be found with the jackals. An interesting theory, but one should know that jackals have a smaller heart and brain than dogs. With domestication, however, the weight of the heart and brain diminish with about 30%. On the other hand, when we compare the jaw-bones, there are more resemblances between the ones of the wolf and the dog than between the ones of the jackal and the dog. In the actual stadium of the research and the used technologies, the majority of the zoologists backs the general opinion that the dog is a product of the domestication of several kinds of wolves.

In his book "In net spoor van de wolf" ("On the track of the wolf") the Dutch ethologist Jan Hilco FRIJLINK narrates his studies, his researches and his experiences about the wolf, whom, he says, thanks to its intelligence, its flexibility, its organization and its behavior in general, is an animal situated highly on the ladder of evolution. He also backs up the hypothesis that the dog is a domesticated wolf of which the probable origin is the "Canis lupus pallipes," an Indian wolf with rather short hair of light color, that also exists in Iran going to Turkey. He would be at the origin of the shepherd dog of Central Europe. The canis pallipes is the less ferocious and most easy tamable of all wolves. That would explain its more easy domestication, fruit of a long millennial process. More familiar, this Indian wolf is the only to have educated what we call "wolves-children," Since it is not terrorized by man, it is able to live near the village. It does not howl, it barks. The Indian wolf does not resemble our European wolves at all; it is a great deal smaller. The skull of a shepherd dog compared with the one of a canis lupus pallipes, presents a lot of resemblances. Wanting to crossbreed shepherd dogs with wolves, like some amateurs have tried, is a very serious mistake. These are the conclusions of the dog breeder Louis HUYGHEBAERT in his booklet "Des Loups et des Metis de Loups" ("About wolves and half-breeds") and Eberhard TRUMLER in his already mentioned work "Hunde ernst genommen,"

SYNOPTIC TABLE

ORDER	Carnivores		
FAMILY	Canines		
GENUS	Canis		
SPECIES	Canis lupus familiaris		
BREED	Canis lupus pecarius belgicus		
VARIETIES	short-hair	rough-hair	long-hair

II FROM THE DEFENSE TO THE GUIDANCE OF SHEEP

Even at the beginning of the Antiquity, the dog served as guardian for the flocks. The dogs of the first shepherds were more defenders than guides to the flock. In previous centuries, when there were still wolves in the European forests, (like in the extremely severe winter of 1242, when the wolves driven out of their shelters by hunger, came as near as the gates of Gent) the functions of the shepherd dog, then of a stronger and heavier type than we know today, consisted mainly in protecting the flock against all attacks from the carnivorous. This part of defender has stayed primordial, the part of guide was of secondary importance, because the sheep then disposed over a more vast and less restricted territory than nowadays.

It was the pastures bordering the forest, that served as battlefields for the wolves. Their hunting territory became smaller because of the human civilization and so they did not hesitate to try and capture a sheep or lamb to survive. To resist in the best possible conditions, the dogs were armed with a collar of thick leather furnished with solid nails or collars in metal armed with points called "gorgerins," by which the wolves ended up getting wounded in the fight. During the reign of Charles V, from 1538 until 1557, 42 wolves were killed in the Forest of Soignes. There used to be a lot of wolves in that forest and the street "Fosse-aux-loups" in Brussels thanks its name to a well where the wolves came to quench their thirst. The wolf could also be found in the Ardennes and also in the forest of Hertogenwald, between Verviers and the German border.

Later, when the danger of the wolves had practically disappeared in our regions of the 19th century, (the last wolf in Belgium was killed in 1847, near the Barriere de Champion, in the Ardennes, not far from Saint-Hubert) the shepherd dogs were still armed with similar collars when the flocks were attacked by stray or wild dogs. It was also noticed that dogs hurt at the ears or tail during these fights, became less good fighters and because of that the shepherds decided to take away those vulnerable parts at birth. By doing this, the possibilities of the dog, charged with the defense and the guidance of the flock, became larger during action.

The sheep were guarded, like we know today, since the 17th century only. With the extermination of the wolves, the shepherd began to use other types of dogs (which we will describe further on).

Earlier the shepherd walked ahead of the flock, now we can see him leaning on his crook, relying on his dogs whom he gives orders by means of a signal, whistle or word. The survival of the shepherd dogs is from recent origin. It is the French Revolution that has accelerated the evolution; the cutting-up of proprietaries has required a stricter supervision. Since the modern times, the main part consists in keeping the sheep from touching the cultivation along the roads and to keep them inside the limits of their pasture. It is to respond to this new destination that man has trained the dog for this continuous coming and going. After a while this habit has become hereditary. That is why the shepherd dog, on its daily walk, continuously turns around its master, even when this one is absolutely on his own.

During a long time, working side by side, one dog is destined to guide the flock and the other one, to defend it against the still many dangers. These dogs have a totally different type, as well for features as intelligence. Now that the wolves have disappeared, the functions of the shepherd dogs are limited to the guidance and the guard of the sheep. The dog of the heavy type (Mastiff type), brave protector of the flock and the farm, solid and fearless, rather big, strong paws, powerful jaws, was not needed anymore. The lighter type was preferred (wolf type), mobile, tireless and able to obey and execute orders for this delicate mission, provided with intelligence and needing sober meals. Almost everywhere it where dogs with triangular pricked up ears and a wolves muzzle. In the Pyrenees the two types still exist: the Pyrenean Shepherd, the smallest French shepherd dog, perfectly adapted to the environment of the highlands and the Pyrenean Mountain dog, strongly shaped, was formerly in charge of the nightly guard of the flocks. Fulfilling similar functions to the ones of the Pyrenean Mountain dog are the Tatra in Poland, the Kuvasz in Hungary, the Cuvac in Tzechoslovakia, the Charplaninatz in Yougoslavia and the Maremma in Italy.

Another reason or custom of cutting the ears and the tail of the shepherd dog have gradually disappeared in our regions. Since the Antiquity until the first third of our century, a wrong belief had reigned, according to which, it was necessary to remove the "worm" of the tail and the tongue under the pretext to cure or to prevent the illness of young age or rabies. The removal of the worm consisted in taking away a sort of muscle under the tongue. To remove the "worm" of the tail, it was cut off. These "worms" are nothing else but the extremities of the muscles of the coccyx.

In this exclusive function of guide of the flock, specializations have appeared and we can distinguish the "runners" and the "checkers," The runner comes and goes constantly along the side of the flock to prevent the sheep from going outside the permitted borders. The checker, or guard dog of man, is close to the shepherd: it dashes forwards on the given signal to these animals that leave the flock or do not keep within their territory. This dog is the best trained and most obedient. This evolution has had morphological and psychological repercussions. Indeed, this shepherd dog has no longer need for the qualities of strength, power and the indispensable combatively of its ancestors. Still remaining vigorous, it is especially the psychological qualities that have to show. Organized by the Collie Club and the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, the sheep trials of the Belgian Shepherd Dogs took place on the 1st and 2nd of May 1892, in the buildings of the markets and slaughterhouses of Cureghem-Brussels. It were the first trials of shepherd dogs on the continent. The example of Brussels was soon followed by some others like France and Germany, but this activity soon disappeared to the advantage of the dressage, of which the first one took place in Malines on the 12th of July 1903. Since then, the dressage, i.e. the fact of learning a dog to obey, to track and to follow a course with obstacles instead of developing its power, contributes to the value of the shepherd dog. Let us not forget that the quality that should not be lost out of sight, is that the shepherd dogs, of all dogs, are those with the biggest sense of duty. Adolphe REUL¹, born in Braivies on the 7th of June 1849 and deceased in Brussels on the 10th of January, professor of Zootechnics at the *Ecole de Medecine Veterinaire de l'Etat* and member-founder of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, tells us in this passage of his book *Les Chiens de Berger* (1893) (*The Shepherd Dogs*) what happened in the last century:

¹ Adolphe REUL is the author of several works like: "Les Races de Chiens" ("The Dog breeds")(1893), "Le Chien de trait Belge" ("The Belgian Draughtdog")(1899) and the "Precis du Cours d'Exterieur du Cheval" (1902), a remarkable study of the Brabantine horse which he considers to be the most accomplished of all Belgian horses. He took the initiative to create the Belgian Stud Book of draught-horses.

"There was a time when Belgium possessed, according to its relatively small territory a considerable large number of dogs used for the guidance and guard of the flocks of sheep, and even flocks of geese, because in the whole country sheep were bred and used for their wool.

As a result of the prices of wool and mouton fall down, an inevitable consequence of the ruthless competition that Argentina and Australia offer our own producers, as a result of the given extension to the production and the use of cotton and of the realized progress in the agricultural domain that has brought it the suppression of the out of date system of untilled land, the decrease of the number and the importance of the flocks is emphasized."

Following the general counting, 969,000 sheep were enumerated in 1836; 583,000 in 1856 and 365,000 in 1880. The sheep were mainly bred in Campine and the Walloon provinces.

The breeding of sheep did not only give foodstuffs (meat, butter, cheese and milk), but also wool and manure. The skins provided leather for the making of parchment, for the saddlery, for the bookbinding, for the making of gloves and for the shoemaking; the bones were in great demand to polish marble. The fat or tallow was used for the lighting.

As a result of the modernization of agriculture and by the fact that the population went more and more to the big cities, the vast planes were left to their own devices since the 19th century. The breeding of sheep was no longer profitable because of the use of chemical fertilizer and the importation of fine wool at a cheap price.

The 19th century also saw the rise and birth of the cotton mills. This new mechanized industry was imported from England by Lieven BAUWENS of Gent. The shepherd dogs, however, were quite large in number. The guardian of our flocks, rustic, resistant and above all intelligent, a quality that no-one can deny, it has transformed itself into guard dog, dog of the coral, farm dog, ambulance dog, police dog, tracker dog, guide dog for the blind, avalanche dog in Switzerland or family friend.

In the borderland between the Flanders and the North of France, the Belgian Shepherd Dog, especially the Malinois, was used for smuggling tobacco, a very hard job that marked their character. In his novel "La Mai son dans la Dune" Maxence VAN DER MEERSCH, born in Roubaix, tells with an eye for details, the life of the smugglers and that of TOM, a Tervueren who was brought to Belgium and was loaded with 18 kilos of goods. Its death was a violent one, just like that of all the others who performed this kind of work. In a French booklet, that could not be identified, published during the war of 1914-1918, the following passages are significant:

"... In the special canine press, the starting date has been discussed for the practical utility of the dog, other than hounds and guard dogs or guides of flocks; the honor of this new usage belongs to the Belgians...

It was first by sporting entertainment that the Belgians began to have an interest for the training of the guard and defense dog. It is in this land the "police dog" is born, and out of the police dog, the military dog is born, just like the guard dog, the courier dog, the track dog or the ambulance dog..."

The shepherd dog, dog of defense and attack, is an invention of man; in its nature it is at most a guard dog. Some have also been draught dogs, but this last function was better performed by the Belgian draught dog, also frequently called the Flemish

Mastiff, to whom the professor A. REUL was also devoted. The Mastiff was a very powerful dog, built like an athlete and with an imposing muscular system. It was about 67 to 80 cm (26.8 to 32 ins) high and its weight varied between 45 and 50 kilos. These dogs have disappeared because the Belgian law prohibits the use of harnessed dogs. Since the war of 1914-18, this admirable breed was beginning to disappear, and probably because the Mastiff was a big eater and that its keep became very expensive. It was also a known fact that the biggest Mastiffs collapsed very fast by the heat. It is undeniably a great loss of our genetic patrimony. A peculiar thing, beside the Saint-Hubert dog, which is a very characterized and special type and which reassembles no other, there are no hounds or terriers in Belgium. They have existed but have completely disappeared, and since long, they are not mentioned. In a very beautiful work with a large number of illustrations "Les Races de Chiens" (1891-1894) by professor A. REUL, five pages are dedicated to the Belgian hound (Braque Belge) with a very detailed description and completed with an etching by L. VANDER SNICKT. The Belgian Spaniel is evoked in these words: "Its breed finds itself recklessly engaged in a rapid downwards way who leads directly to extinction and oblivion."

Let us not forget that the Anglo mania reigned as an absolute mistress at that time, as well for the hounds as for the shepherd dogs. The "Griffon d'arret" and the Belgian poodle have also disappeared. Among the small breeds, Belgium has the small "Brabangon," the "Schipperke," the "Papillon" that carries its ears obliquely and the dwarf Spaniel with falling ears.

The shepherds and the farmers searched and selected the animals on the base of their capacities of endurance (not of speed), and provided with a good resistance to the cold and wet climate of western Europe. Its coat and the color of its hair, the height and the weight, the carriage of the tail, all these aspects were the less of their worries, with the result that uniformity did not exist.

In his work "Histoire Naturelle de la Belgique" ("Natural History of Belgium") (1848), this is the way Julien DEBY describes the ordinary shepherd dog (canis domesticus):

"Of medium height ; shapes less robust than tendinous; sharp nose; long coat and rough on the body and the limbs; black color with red-brown spots, sometimes entirely red-brown or black; semi-falling or pricked ears, mobile; a tail that is not curled from its base on; long muzzle; remarkable intelligence; rather ferocious instinct.

Everyone knows this animal, its habits and its qualities.

Some have rather short and sleek hair, others have a clustered and longer coat; these last are the Brabantine "Klotterhond."

III

THE ORIGIN OF THE BREED OR THE BLUEPRINT MADE BY PROFESSOR A. REUL

At the time of the first international open dog show on Belgian soil in Brussels, the 21st of July 1880, for the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Belgium, 965 dogs, mostly hounds, were entered. As for the shepherd dogs, there were 7 "continental shepherd dogs" enrolled; constituted by the German Shepherds, the French, Belgian, Dutch and others..., of which the characteristics were not yet determined, in opposition to the breeds created in Great Britain: the Bobtails and the Scottish Shepherd Dogs who had a well established standard, counted 10 entries. It should be mentioned that the cynology in Great Britain was more advanced than in western Europe. The Collie had been mentioned since years in the Stud Book of the Kennel Club of England, founded in 1873, and it was also a fashion dog. For the German Shepherd Dog, it was on the 22nd of April 1899 that the "Verein fur Deutsche Schaferhunde" was founded.

In the weekly illustrated paper *Chasse et Peche* ("Hunting and Fishing") of the 15th of December 1889, this passage could be read:

"...To our knowledge, there are only two breeds of Shepherd dogs that have been classified: the Collie and the Old English Sheepdog without tail. In Belgium we know shepherd dogs with all kinds of coat and gooseherds; but until now, not one single club or commission has ever defined them."

That is why, at the end of 1891, a great number of passionate amateurs gathered in Brussels to look for a way to become more acquainted and to learn to appreciate the brilliant physical and moral qualities of the native shepherd dog. On this occasion, the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* was founded on the 29th of September 1891. The Club had obtained the patronage of the Societe Saint-Hubert that saw the light on the 18th of February 1882 and to which King Leopold II gave the title of Societe Royale on the 26th of September 1886. Since its coming to effect on the 1st of January 1912, the Societe Royals Saint-Hubert belongs to the *International Cynological Federation* (F.C.I.) .

Chasse et Peche is the weekly magazine appointed by the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* and the special clubs among which the Club of the Schipperkes (diminutive of the Flemish word "schaper" or "scheper" which means shepherd dog), the Club who had made the first step, the first canine club on the continent. It was founded in Brussels on the 10th of March 1888.

The *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* did not beat around the bush and began a very minute research on the state of purity of the breeds of the Belgian Shepherd. To eliminate the elements of a doubtful source and, starting to breed seriously, to produce dogs of which the perfect homogeneity and the transcendent qualities would

end up to be hereditary, they studied all the shepherd dogs with a type, and this with the help of good veterinaries out of the whole country who became part of this movement. Some members of the Club went to the dog show in Frankfort to compare our dogs to the German Shepherds.

The dogs of the Brussels agglomeration and of the province of Brabant were brought together in the Veterinary school of Cureghem-Brussels on Sunday the 15th of November 1891 at 10 o'clock in the morning in the hall of the hospital. It was filthy weather so that the photographers could not work, and still there were 117 dogs present.

About this reunion M. L.VANDER SNICKT, editor in chief of *Chasse et Peche* and ex-manager of the Zoological gardens of Gent and Dusseldorf, wrote the following statement:

"At this inspection, it was clear that there existed several types of shepherd dogs in the province of Brabant. The best spread and judged as the most beautiful is a dog with an average height of 50 to 55 cm (20 to 22 ins); there were also some with a height of 62 cm (25 ins). Black coat, badly colored black, with or without white spots on the chest, brown brindle or yellow, with smooth hair, flat and rough, short on the face and the forehead, the front of the legs, semi-long on the body, long on the collar and the outer sides of the forelegs, the belly, the outer side of the thighs and the underside of the tail, pricked ears, high-set, triangular, well provided with hairs on the inside and the edge of the lobes, short hair on the outside of the lobe, brown eye, without any white appearing, large forehead, rather flat, fine muzzle, big mouth, well developed cheeks, the neck is well garnished with hair, straight backline, broad loins, oblique shoulders, rump not too broad and deep, long tail, is carried hanging at rest and bent slightly backwards at the end.

The category of the rough-haired dogs differs from the last and is less homogeneous: the hair, shaggy, is often grey or grey-brown; the forehead seems less large; the ears, longer but carried well pricked are less pointed and are very high-set on the head. Often these dogs have only a stump of tail; must we see in this a sign of relationship with the French Bouvier. The specimens with short hair are less numerous; most of the time they have the same features as those with semi-long hair. The hair is short on the body, but remains longer on those parts where it was longer with the other; the tail is still in the shape of a spike."On the other hand, a great deal of dogs were examined at home by the deputies of the Club. At the moment of the general meeting on the 2nd of April 1892 and following the comparative study worked out by professor A. REUL, who had informed himself by different foreign sources, among which the work of the veterinary Hugh DALZIEL appeared in 1888 "The Collie, Its History Points and Breeding," the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* determined the standard of the breed by dividing it into three varieties: the long-haired, the short-haired and the rough-haired without regard to the color of the coats. The same division exists or has existed for the well-known breed of the Collies. In this breed, like in so many others, one could distinguish varieties with long hair, short hair and rather rough hair who were so alike that they were considered as pure and simple variants of the same type.

The colors are varied; on the one hand we have a certain amount of black species, on the other we find greys, red-browns and brindles. There is not one single white

specimen like it is the case for some other breeds of shepherd dogs in different countries in that period. Genetically spoken, the gene white is not present in the chromosome formula of the Belgian Shepherd Dog. In the magazine "L'Eleveur" ("The Breeder") of the 19th of October 1913, M. Pierre MEGNIN asserts that there were many white dogs among the first German Shepherds.

The Belgian Shepherd Dog is a breed of which the different parts of the body are harmoniously proportioned. The body is well shaped, coherent and well balanced. The animal has style, type and distinction. It has remained a breed of runners. The shape of the muscles and the bones lends itself to a great mobility, a power to jump and a start speed that is very rare for domesticated canines. It is a square dog, i.e. its shoulder height is equal to its length, there where the German Shepherd is longer than high. The height is the vertical distance between the top of the shoulder and the ground. The length is measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock. This distance must be equal to the shoulder height or is equal to 2 1/2 heads. The same proportions can be obtained by geometrical way with the help of what the Germans call the gold cut (der goldene Schnitt).

According to Martin WILCKENS (Vienna 1878) who has expanded the application to the principal breeds of domesticated mammals. When we divide this straight line, which is equal to the height from the shoulder to the waist, also called the fundamental line, in a major and a minor part, the major part gives the height of the angle of the shoulder, the minor serves as size for the length of the head. But the accumulated or the lengthened forms, do not only find their size in the absolute length of the body, or in the proportions between this last one and the waist, but also in the proportion between this length and the perimeter of the thorax. The more, for a given perimeter, the body is short, the more the dog will be accumulated in its forms. It is because of this, that some females seem sometimes longer, less accumulated than the males because for the same length of the body, the perimeter of the thorax is slightly inferior. The shepherd dog is provided with a powerful system for the thighs, the buttock and the shoulder. A straight back is the exterior sign of a beautiful arch of the loins and the back, which involves a great deal of strength. The chest, long and deep, which reaches with its lower part the level of the elbow point, constitutes a broad brisket, necessary for a good ventilation of the lungs that is indispensable for the hard work-with the flock and giving the less possible resistance to the air. The head is not shaped in the length. It is lengthened by the way of life that needs speed. The ears are straight, steady and carried well pricked.

Hairy, short or medium, the ear affects, in its superior part, the shape of a pointed angle. Short, the ear, pleases even more, it makes the head seem lighter, a more alert physiognomy, more expressive. Its muzzle is slender and without drooping lips, in other words with perfectly coapted lips. The big mouth is typical for the Belgian Shepherd Dog: When it opens its mouth, the jaws spread even more and the points where the lips come together are more situated at the back than with any other shepherd dog. When the German Shepherds and the Dutch Shepherd need a "Scissors bite," for the Belgian Shepherd Dog a "Pincer bite" is accepted. This is a characteristic that we find with other Belgian breeds, like the Schipperke and the Flemish Bouvier.

We can notice the presence of a thick undercoat, the fluff that protects against the cold and a coat that protects against the rain. It is under the names of long-haired, short-haired and rough-haired that the Belgian Shepherd Dogs appeared on the dog shows until the 12th of March 1898. No positions were taken for the colors.

On Sunday the 25th of October, about 40 dogs were assembled as being the best of their breed, faithfully representing the typical characteristics. Two families who were extremely well represented and characterized have particularly drawn the attention

of the public: they were those of PICARD owned by M.N. ROSE of Groenendael and the family of POUTS owned by M. J.-B.JANSSEN, shepherd of Laeken. The offspring of PICARD were beautiful dogs with long black hair; those of POUTS had golden rough hair. Among the short-haired dogs, SAMLO owned by M. P.BEERNAERT and MOUCHE owned by Mrs. DUCHENOY could be remarked. After this meeting that had as aim the establishment of the three varieties: those with long hair, those with short hair and those with rough hair, before a commission (in which Professor A. REUL took part) was appointed by the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* to obtain the right of registration of the Belgian Shepherd Dogs in the Stud Book. There was a question about abandoning the short-haired dogs because they lacked style and above all uniformity. At the time of the meeting of the commission that followed, the professor A. REUL took on the defense of this category of beautiful dogs, which he remembered to possess a perfect esthetic, an alert intelligence and a remarkable scent.

It was around that time (1897-1898) that a complete tail, that was carried hanging, was required. It was decided that in the future Belgian Shepherd Dogs without a tail would no longer be accepted in dog shows, because the tail itself is an ornament that contributes to the elegance in the way of walking and to the comfort from "head to tail" that is needed for the shepherd to execute its task a thousand times a day. The tail is not only an ornament, it is also a protection for the genital organs and the anus. At rest, the dog carries its tail hanging with the end bent slightly backwards. When in action, the tail is raised and the end more upwards.

The 12th of March 1898, on the occasion of the dog show organized by the Schipperkes Club, the public will see for the first time groups of long-haired blacks exhibited separately from the other long-haired Belgian Shepherd Dogs of other colors. The Club gives the name of "Groenendael" to the first ones. It is only around half 1909 that the names of "Groenendael" and "Malinois" will be used in the official catalogue. The group of black dogs of Groenendael has had a theatrical effect on the benches of the dog show. The dogs and bitches have impressed the spectators with their sense of family and their uniformity in style. Having formed a group of a homogeneous color, like M. L.VANDER SNICKT recommended, would become the key to success that would make the Club choose a specific color for each type of hair. On the other hand, the appreciation made by Professor A.REUL was not very flattering and was explained in the following terms: "This class is as defective as numerous."

Before 1898, the Club started to flounder, to lack orientations and underwent a period of crisis. This is the opinion of Professor A.REUL, published in the *Chasse et Peche* of the 28th of April 1901, on the occasion of the special dog show of the 21st of April 1901, organized to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*. The first prizes were won by the black long-haired DAX (grandson of PICARD D'UCCLE et PETITE) and PEK SWET (a valuable stud dog but from a different origin than PICARD D'UCCLE and DUC DE GROENENDAEL), and BARONNE. For the short-haired TJOP, VOS (father of DEWET) and CORA I. For the rough-haired BAZOEF, RITA and MIRA.

"The principal cause of the inanity of these efforts is easily to perceive; at each dog show a new judge was armed with plenary powers, the last one had ceased to please, because one was rapidly used and put out of competition. Even the most passionate exhibitors became discouraged and it drove the best breeders almost crazy.

Because in the centre of the commission, the resignations followed the resignations and I was one of the departing. In short, they finally got where they should have started: a sole judge was chosen outside the Club; he was given plenary powers and the ability to classify the exhibited dogs during a sufficient number of years to determine the

types beyond question. I had the honor to fulfill this ungrateful task and to judge the dogs following the line of conduct "ne varietur" and traced in advance by the knowledge and the respect of the standard."

During the years 1898, 1899 and 1900, the Professor A.REUL was the sole judge for the Belgian Shepherd Dog. Like small pieces of art, his comments denoted a real talent for writing with a concise but descriptive style. Knowing that the Professor A.REUL was a keen supporter of inbreeding, he continued in these words:

"The realized progress in these last few years are really extraordinary. The Sunday dog shows such a success, that one regrets not finding them back on Monday to see and admire again, in their splendor, the exhibited groups with such a prominent character and so beautifully divided in three classes: the short-haired red-brown with dark mask, the longhaired black and the rough-haired grey-brown... But it wouldn't have come this far in so short a time if we had not operated with an inbred selection, if the stock-breeder had been scared to base his operations on incest. Profoundly immoral in anthropology, the breeding in and in between physically healthy and morally talented relatives, have given the most remarkable results in zoo technology..."

It is through this purifying selection that the three varieties have been reconstructed in Belgium. The process consists in choosing, among a mass, individuals who are provided with the best advantageous characteristics and to join them with their relatives, in other words inbreed from generation to generation. This method used by the zoo technologist is at the origin of most of the breeds of horses, cattle, pigs, canines, chickens, doves and others. The inbreeding ensures the quick establishment of the characters. The inbreeding is as powerful for the good as the bad. It is a double-edged sword. Everything depends on the starting point. When you bring two relatives together (e.g. brother and sister) of a good stock, well shaped, absolutely physically and morally sound, the result will be a healthy and vigorous offspring. If, on the contrary, you bring two individuals together with a weak constitution, the offspring will undoubtedly be a great disappointment. In the same way that it accentuates the qualities, the method increases the defects.

The reproducers with the same blood, sound and well according to every appearance, could be carriers of a defect, with an invisible defect that manifests itself in their offspring. The inbreeding will then be accused of having made this defect possible. Without, any doubt it is by the effect of the mechanism that it has appeared, but it was not created, it has only become a reality. This is an essential distinction. When the choice of the reproducers rests with two perfectly healthy individuals, the multiplication will have no harmful effects. If on the contrary, the reproducers are affected by a slight defect, this one will be visibly accentuated in their offspring. This explains the different opinions on the effects of inbreeding.

Practically this method must only be realized between two perfect reproducers. The inconvenience to notice and not without reason is the diminishment of the fertility when the inbreed is very close and is extended for several generations. The inbreeding has developed certain qualities that are not natural for shepherd dogs. Like the circling around the flock, defending the sheep to touch the harvest, to bite or not to bite, following the circumstances, to fight to defend a sheep or its master.

Very interesting is the note of the editor of the book about the natural history of Belgium by M. Julien DEBY (1848):

"We think to have to mention something that is constantly reproduced and that might clear up some facts about the formation of the dog breeds. Mate a bitch of any kind of breed (provided that the height

makes the mating possible) to a pure Newfoundlander. Take out of each litter the female that resembles her father best and mate them; at the fifth offspring, you will have pure-bred Newfoundlanders, so pure that there will be no difference in the teeth, nor the occipital bone, nor the membranes between the toes. Not even the slightest difference will exist between the original Newfoundlander and its offspring. This is not a single-time experienced fact; it is a known procedure and very often used by merchants in dogs, to multiply the expensive species of which they possess only one individual; with patience they always end up to have the two and then multiply to their wishes. The same experience succeeds in five generations, if operated along the maternal line and when choosing the males to mate the female of which he wants a pure breed."

In the creation of canine breeds, the inbreeding has a very important part. Meanwhile, for those breeds who have reached to top of zoological perfection, the inbreeding becomes harmful. The most narrow inbreeding that can be reasonably practiced by the stock-breeders is the 3-2 or the 2-3 (parents 1; grandparents 2; great-grandparents 3; great-great-grandfather 4;...etc), So 2-3 means that the mutual ancestor is grandfather on fathers side and the great-grandfather on the mothers side. 3-2 means that the mutual ancestor is the great-grandfather on fathers side and the grandfather on the mothers side. The 2-2 is a very close inbreed, the largest inbreed is the 5-5, because from the sixth generation the inbreed is no longer taken into account. The selection in the utility breeds is only rational when it operates at the same time on the outside as on the offspring. The real good dog is the one that satisfies by its appearance according to the requests of the standard and who at the same time excels by its practical work.

Starting off as a hardworking dog in opposite to the aristocratic Collies, Barzois and other hounds, the Belgian Shepherd has needed several years to obtain the letters of nobility. It is after a relatively long period, to be precise in 1901, that the first Belgian Shepherd Dogs were registered in the Stud Book of Saint-Hubert (L.O.S.H.). The first to be entered was number 5847, VOS, red-brown with dark mask and some overlay (charbonnage), short-haired, born in 1897 and owned by Ms. VAN HAESSENDONCK, 33, rue de l'Aigle in Antwerp. VOS is the father of DEWET, one of the pillars of the Malinois.

We can observe that almost every noble breed with the greatest uniformity, have been created by one single man or under the management of one fancier. The creation of the Belgian Shepherd Dog could not make an exception to the common rule. This man was Professor Adolphe REUL. He draw with the hand of a master the describing portrait of the Belgian Shepherd Dog through elaborating the physiological standard in which every single characteristic is explained by the way of life and the origin of the breed.

IV

THE WINDS OF DISCORD

In a meeting of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, mid 1898 (published in *Chasse et Peche* No 46 from the 14th of August), a letter was read from the general secretary of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, M. V. DU PRE, in which he praised the classification of the Belgian Shepherd Dogs according to 3 kinds of coats and with established colors in 3 types, in 3 breeds.

The veterinary VAN HERTSEN, member of the Club and speaker of the day, affirmed that the color of each coat should have been established a long time ago. Every breed of animals has its proper color; the shepherd dogs should not make an exception. The philosophy of this speaker can be put like this: "Black indicates the strength and the intelligence. The pale betrays the degeneration."

At the end of this meeting, several members addressed M. VAN HERTSEN to ask him what would be the best color. This last one replied that he had not spoken of a definite color, but with the intention. The question had not been studied enough. We would discuss the details after we had come to an agreement on the principle of the colors. It was understood that the Belgian Shepherds are divided in three categories according to the coat. Is it necessary to give a characteristic color to each of these divisions? Do we accept the principle of the color? The chairman, M. LIBENS, has put these questions to a vote and the answer was a unanimous "yes."

It is probable that if the world of cynophelics had taken knowledge of theory of heredity by Johann Gregor MENDEL, religious Augustinian and Austrian botanic (1822-1884), the fault of ignoring the existence of the Tervueren would not have been made, nor the existence of red-brown rough-haired in favor of the rough-haired greys. The laws of Mendel were ignored at first, until their reparation at the beginning of the century, since then, science has discovered the chromosomes, composed of thousands of genes, the carriers of heredity; and the genetics, science of heredity has considerably developed.

It was decided to attribute in 1898 for the rough-haired, and in 1899 for the short-haired and the long-haired, a specific color, to be:

- a) black for the long-haired.
The success obtained at the time of the dog show on the 12th of March 1898 by the Groenendaels facing the other long-haired for which the very negative appreciation by the judge, Professor A. REUL, must be, without any doubt, be considered.
- b) red-brown with overlay and a black mask for the short-haired.
Because at that moment a very beautiful dog, TOMY, with an ideal conformation and with a rather explicit black mask, defeated all its competitors, (it obtained the first prize in Cureghem in 1894) it was its coat with a good red-brown that was adopted as the typical color of the variety. The strictly applied rule to stick to one single color, contributed enormously to fix the chosen color within the short-haired shepherds.

- c) grey for the rough-haired.
The dogs owned by the shepherd J.-B. JANSSEN of Laeken who possessed a stock of characterized and homogeneous red-brown rough-haired, were rejected. The grey color of the sole two dogs known at that time owned by M. A.CLAESSENS, was preferred.

The Professor A. REUL expressed himself later on this matter as follows:

"Is not it this family that the Club considers, and not without good zootechnical reasons, to be foreign, because it is only a variant of the Briard adapted to the Belgian soil."

This choice will be an error of Professor A. REUL. Has he not been influenced by the proprietors of the grey, who are active members of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* and the shepherd J.-B. JANSSEN only spoke and understood Flemish?

Why have the other colors been left aside? Why were the brindles and pale red-browns, Isabella-colored and the short-haired blacks rejected? A lot of good dogs whose color did not correspond with the new standard were evicted from the dog shows and that provoked discontent of which the effects still exist today. A great deal of good reproducers of different colors were renounced, among which the most numerous of that time, the brindles, proved by the first international dog show on the 22, 23 and 24th of April 1899, organized by the Kynos Club of Liege and judged by Professor A. REUL, who was the sole judge at that time. The first prize, in the open class for short-haired dogs and bitches, was won by FOX, a brindle owned by M. A. BRACONNIER. The second prize was won by MALITOU, a short-haired black with a white spot on the chest. The long-haired were divided in two classes, the blacks and the other colored. In this last class, DUC, a brindle obtained the second prize.

As for the rough-haired, the first prize was awarded to BASOEF, grey, since the red-browns had stopped to please mid-1898. Why a single color for each coat? Not because it was the only one with value, but because it was the way to gather a great number of members and to give more homogeneity to the groups in dog shows.

This is what M. F.VERBANCK wrote in 1938:

"Was it good or bad to decree such a measure? It is evident that this severe limitation of one color for each variety has made our old stock-breeders practice the in-breeding. This has certainly had its advantages, since the ennoblement of our shepherd dog was very quick.

Unfortunately, this measure has built our breed on a very narrow base. Should not it have been preferable for the future of the long-haired, to let coexist beside the black Groenendaels, the long-haired grey? Personally, I regret the disappearance of the pale red-brown of Campine (type FRAM owned by M. L. HUYGHEBAERT), the pale grey with dark overlay and black velvet ears, like in the litters of FRAM du Bois de la Deule, then the grey brindles, heavier in construction than those I met with the shepherds of Gent, where we could also find short-haired blacks. The choice of the single color for the rough-haired was the most unfortunate of all, because the grey were exceptions and, in spite of the exclusive of the Club, the red-browns formed the majority in this variety."

It is because of this the long-haired red-browns, the rough-haired red-browns, the Shepherd Dogs of Malines with pale red-brown coat and an almost white down, have never reappeared in the ring. All these types, once overloaded with diplomas and medals, have been ruthlessly sacrificed as Belgian Shepherd Dogs. Mustn't we see in

this exclusion uttered by the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* of the dogs of the section of Malines, who was not at any point consulted, a phenomenon of predomination from the capital over the province? In the meanwhile, the greater part of these dogs, with an Isabella-color too pale to be red-brown, did not entirely discourage this group of amateurs. One of them, chosen among their subjects, CORA I (L.O.S.H. 6134) who had very little or no charbonnage, was mated with TOMY, owned by M. H. SEGERS of Brussels. He obtained at the first litter, TJOP (L.O.S.H. 6132), born on the 1st of November 1899. TJOP had all the necessary qualities required by the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*: elegance, fine presence, beautiful red-brown color. He had, just like its father very little mask, but had more overlay than him.

It is then that another group of fanciers founded the "Berger Belge Club," who organized, in Laeken, in the garden of "La Maison Rouge" its first dog show devoted to the first victim of the uniformity of the color for each variety, the rough-haired red-brown, who received the name of "Laeken." From this moment on, the stockbreeding of the Belgian Shepherd Dog went on, on the one hand, under the protection of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* whose prosperity was still increasing and, on the other hand, for the non-acknowledged red-brown varieties under the banner of the *Berger Belge Club*, founded on 18th of July 1898 in Laeken and which became Royal on its 25th birthday; and that thanks to the dynamism and the tenacity of its chairman Joseph DEMULDER.

End 1902, the members of the *Berger Belge Club* put the judges of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* in a quite embarrassing position by entering their dogs in the classes of non-quoted or non-mentioned breeds. One of them resumed his impressions by saying that the existence of a second club of Belgian Shepherds did not justify if the first one wanted to create classes of Belgian Shepherds with long-haired other than black and rough-haired other than grey. The number of dogs showed, increased, to the profit of the national stockbreeding.

In his report of the dog show on the 19th of April 1903 of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, the judge V. FALLY, acting as interpreter of the sentiments of the greater part of the fanciers, declared that they were unanimous to admit that, if the breeding of the Belgian Shepherd with rough hair is not seriously managed, the time of its complete disappearance is not far away.

A few years later, another division would happen in the canine world. The *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* exercised a too severe authority upon the entire cynology and the special clubs. The Breed Council had as mission to treat every question without any possible appeal.

So in 1903, returning from a visit to the secretariat of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, M. VAN MUYLEM, chairman of the Club Belge du Saint-Bernard, announced the "ex cathedra" and inconsistent decision decreed by the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, according to which there would be no championship for the short-haired St. - Bernard dogs at the next dog show, when the short-haired St Bernard is the origin of the breed and that the breeders of long-haired dogs are always forced to come back to the short-haired, if they do not want the type of their animals to degenerate. This incident, and others, revealed that the members of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, who are practically all fanciers of hounds, believed only very little in the problems that did not concern the hounds. To understand the context of the time, we should know, that the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* had been founded by hunters (Saint-Hubert is the patron of the hunters) and had as principal aim, the improvement of the canine Breeds (at that time nor the German Shepherds nor the Belgian Shepherds existed) but also to look after everything concerning the hunting. This were the contents of the first article of the statutes. Saint-Druon, patron of the

shepherds, often represented as a pilgrim with the staff in his hand and accompanied by a sheep, is seldom evoked.

So in 1904, a communication is given to the section of Malines of a letter of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, expressing its regrets not to be able to accord the certificates of championship asked in view of the practical trials who would take place in April 1905, because the certificates can only be awarded on the occasion of trials destined to put the qualities proper to each breed of working dogs forward: field trials for hounds, sheep trials for shepherd dogs, etc... In its report of 1905, the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* recognizes to have surrendered to the requests of the section of Malines in allowing these trials the certificates of championship. Also certain people wanted to make some changes in the management of the dog sport.

It was on the 15th of February 1905, on the occasion of the General statutory Assembly of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, in the Hotel de Belle-Vue in Brussels, for the election of nine members (all re-electable; the committee was constituted of 27 members), that a group of deputies of the patronized societies -who found that they could not sufficiently assert their rights - made a list of candidates opposing the out-going ones. Henri VAN ALDABA DE HAAN HETTEMA was on this list. At the time he was the chairman of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, and was member of the current committee of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*. Lieutenant Ch. ROBERFROID, also a member of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, was also on the list. This new list obtained the majority of the votes.

The Committee of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* decided during a meeting on the 9th of March, to form a consultative committee, made up out of the deputies nominated by the patronized societies. It was the prelude to what exists today, the assembly of the deputies.

On the other hand, the committee declared that the usage of proxies made the election invalid. In reality, one person had succeeded to obtain 26 proxies and use them in another way than the mandator intended. A new General Assembly took place on the 16th of March 1905. Not one single compromise had been reached within the committee, nor for the modalities, nor for a list of "understanding" to submit to the Assembly. The members elected during the Assembly of the 15th of February resigned the day before the new election and abstained at the General Assembly. From this moment on, the rupture was complete and the "Federation des Societes canines de Belgique," founded in Brussels on the 18th of June 1905, made its appearance.

In the 21st of October 1905, a letter from the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* meant that *Chasse et Peche* ceased to be the official organ of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* after the Club had renounced the patronage of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*. Here also, the rupture was total. The section of Malines from the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, in a meeting on the 11th of November 1905, decided to stay loyal to the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* and to resign from the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*. The section of Malines becomes autonomous under the name of "Societe du Chien de Berger Belge," The professor A.REUL, after having resigned from the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, became its Chairman of honor. As for Louis HUYGHEBAERT, he had resigned from the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* in 1903.

Beginning 1906, the *Berger Belge Club* appeared in the reports of the special clubs in *Chasse et Peche*, Solicited by the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, the *Berger Belge Club* consented it but stipulated the condition that the varieties with red-brown long hair and red-brown rough hair are accepted, since the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* did not want them. On the 5th of May 1907, they organized their fifth dog show and the first under the banner of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*; also the first one where the five varieties of the Belgian Shepherd were officially recognized and represented. Among these five varieties, the red-brown was represented in three different coats.

The Federation des Societes canines de Belgique to whom the Club de Chien de Berger Belge was affiliated, knew in 1907 and 1908, some difficulties. Its official organ "Chasse et Peche," disappeared. In 1907, more or less confidential negotiations were established between certain managers of the Federation des Societes canines de Belgique and the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, they lead to a pact signed on the 8th of January 1908. But this agreement was not unanimously accepted within the Federation des Societes canines de Belgique, what provoked some serious agitation. The *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, gathered on an extraordinary General Assembly, on the 2nd of February 1908, considered as invalid and canceled the pact intervened between the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* and the Federation des Societes canines de Belgique, affirming that, if the agreement was desired by the majority, it could only be based on an alliance, previously submitted to the federated clubs, to maintain the dignity of these, the respect of our regulations, our institutions and our privileges, written down since three years in the conditions of our affiliation to the Federation des Societes canines de la Belgique. The magazine "l'Eleveur Belge" was appointed as the official organ of the Club

At the time of the meeting on the 7th of February 1908, the committee of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* expressed itself like this:

"The Committee considering that it is useful to dissipate every misunderstanding on the subject of the intentions of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, estimates that the order of the day voted by the General Assembly of the 2nd of February, like they appear in the same text, could not have a hostile character towards the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, who appears to have no responsibility what so ever in the events who have provoked all this. The committee uttered the wish to see friendly relations between the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* and the Federation des Societes canines de Belgique."

Already this cordial understanding will be manifested at the twentieth dog show organized by the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* on the 14, 15 and 16th of March 1908 where two out of the three judges of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* participated. Unfortunately, and still because of ignorance of genetics, the editor of *l'Eleveur Belge* made a report in which he congratulated the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* for its well organized and well supervised dog show, but he strongly criticized the presence of the long-haired red-brown and the rough-haired red-brown and demanded the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* to eliminate these impurities from the catalogue.

On the 27th of May 1908 the meeting of the deputies of the *Federation des Societes canines de Belgique* took place. The order of the day contained the dissolution and the measures to be taken for the liquidation, but a group opponents organized a dog show on the 13, 14 and 15th of June in Brussels in the Parc of the Fiftieth Anniversary: 377 dogs were brought together. This gave place to the first display of the new organism that was constituted: the *Kennel Club Belge*. This club emanated of those who refused the conditions of the pact of absorption concluded between some deputies of the *Federation des Societes canines de Belgique* and the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*. They justified their actions and synthesized their grievances in an "Open Letter" dated on the 20th of July 1908. The *Kennel Club Belge* has its own "Stud Book" (L.O.B.). *L'Eleveur Belge* definitely ceased to be published at the beginning of the hostilities of 1914-18. As for the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, during a General Assembly on the 27th of December 1909, it decided not to affiliate to the *Kennel Club Belge*, but to become independent and to transform itself into a Breed Syndicate, a professional union recognized by the Government. Some time before, it decided to recognize the Belgian Shepherd Dog with red-brown long hair.

In spite of the dissension - and this thanks to the tenacity of some - they succeeded in unifying the type. In a short period from 12 up to 15 years, the Belgian Shepherd,

initially a heteroclite stock, emerged as an intelligent purebred dog. The stupid practices like the removal of the tail and the worm were abandoned. The Belgian Shepherd Dog is in the first place an elegant dog, strong without heaviness. It is a well built dog, short or squared, with an angulation without excess, which explains why the breed in general is free from coxo-femoral dysplasia, or for the eye, free of pannus, illness of cornea, who rages in other famous breeds. The Belgian Shepherd Dog has no particular pathologic dominants. It has become a marvelous competition dog and will be adopted abroad. This is a significant passage chosen in a report read at the General Assembly of the *Societe du Chien de Berger Belge* on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its foundation (1908):

"As for our dogs, cleaned, washed, brushed and combed, they have conquered a new social condition; unknown ten years ago, they are now exported to France, Algeria, Russia, Spain, the Netherlands and even to the United States and Argentina."

The Groenendaels and the Malinois were very much appreciated by the public. To celebrate the Centenary of their independence, the Republic of Argentina organized in Buenos Aires, an International Exhibition of Agriculture. Thanks to the efforts and the devotion of M. A. VAN SCHELLE, chairman of the club for ambulance dogs, and of M. FUMIERE, civil servant of the Department of Agriculture, and with the capital constituted by the "Cooperative Society for the sending and the representation of dogs on foreign exhibitions," six Groenendaels and six Malinois went aboard of the "Coburg" in Antwerp on the 20th of May together with M. Frantz HUYGHEBAERT with destination Buenos Aires, preceded by the Belgian Horses and Hens. Eleven dogs were sold in Argentina for the total price of 6,338.30 francs. Only DUCO, Groenendael owned by M. BERNARD, returned to Belgium.

The 11th of March 1910, under the presidency of M. Vital TENRET, the constitutional assembly of a new club for the protection of the long-haired black is reunited, the Groenendael Club. The reasons who have determined the fanciers to constitute the Groenendael Club, who existed next to the *Berger Belge Club* (and became "Royal" in 1935), are resumed as follows in the "Journal des Eleveurs" in 1910:

"Right now, an important change in the groups of fanciers exists. They are trying again to breed red-brown long-haired, that they have baptized Tervueren because of the circumstances. That is all very well, but they crossbreed the Tervueren with Groenendaels (to stop the inbreed, it seems). And, in the litters, we find of course blacks, red-browns and brindles. What will, in the future, the subjects out of these litters, reproduce? We could not say whether they would give red-brown, black or brindle.

We have worked 15 years to make this marvelous breed of Groenendaels, and now it meets fanciers who look to damage it by crossbreeding."

The Groenendael Club made a system for the assignment of pedigrees to make an abuse impossible. The usage of a separate Stud Book, helped the abolition of the crossbreeding with red-brown longhaired.

The Groenendael Club organized its first dog show on the 23rd and 24th of October 1910 together with other clubs (like the *Berger Belge Club*) and with admitted presence of all the other varieties of the Belgian Shepherd Dog.

In 1910, the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* also made the decision to introduce in the standard, next to the long-haired black (called Groenendael), the red-brown long-haired (called Tervueren). The grey rough-haired made place for the rough-haired of all colors. There was no change for the red-brown short-haired with overlay

(with the best black possible) who is gratified with the name Malinois. The short-haired black will be recognized by the Kennel Club Belge in 1929. Since then until now, the Kennel Club Belge will distinguish five varieties of the breed. The year 1914 will see two projects of revision of the standard realized, one by the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* and the other by the Kennel Club Belge. This synchronism in the reformatory action, consequence of an agreement on the causes, will bring with it the promulgation of two standards. For the Kennel Club Belge, the standard adopted by the Congress of Judges in 1914 is still valid.

It is utterly regrettable that in a country like Belgium, there has been no unity of action in the canine world and especially for the defense of the interests of the Belgian Shepherd Dog. It was thus impossible to resist to pressure, mainly from abroad, of the breeders of German Shepherd Dogs. Started after ours, the German breeding directed by one single club (the "Verein fur Deutsche Schäferhunde"), who has one single Stud Book, one standard (the characteristic points of the breed of the German Shepherd were drawn up in Frankfort on Main on the 30 September 1899), and one head: the Rittmeister VON STEPHANITZ, was carefully organized. The Germans have omitted the division in varieties and have confounded all the colors (with the exception of white) in one single type. As for the length of the coat, it can go from short-haired to long-haired. In their work of selection, the Germans, have only had eye for the structure of the type and they have succeeded in reaching the homogeneity and to produce dogs of which the other qualities can be discussed, but who give undoubtedly an impression of calm but imposing force.

V

THE SHORT-HAIRED

A. THE MALINOIS

To situate the region that should be considered as the cradle of the ancestors of our actual Malinois, have a look at what wrote M. Louis HUYGHEBAERT, Honorary Manager of the Contributions, born in Malines in 1868 and deceased in Antwerp in May 1952, the godfather of our Malinois, precursor of the dressage:

"Since the bicycle has made traveling easier, I have amused myself by researching the most beautiful types of shepherd dogs in the areas around Malines and the north of the province of Antwerp. During the operations of the new cadastral revisions, I had to visit every farm of many parishes in the province, and each time I came to the same conclusion. Everywhere, I have found the type of shepherd dog described by REUL in the following way:

"It is in the Antwerp Campine, towards the Dutch border and beyond it, in Noord-Brabant (Netherlands), that the short-haired type has maintained its uniformity. Big was our astonishment to meet last year (7th of September 1892), while visiting an agricultural exhibition in Oosterhout, not far from the Antwerp border, a dozen of well built shepherd dogs of the Belgian type with short hair, owned by the local farmers. These dogs have the size of a fox or a wolf, they have short hair, with a red-brown brindle coat; their ears are remarkably fine and well-pricked, open at the front.

Other characteristics: triangular and long muzzle, pitch-black nose; the tail in the shape of a spike, well-carried and slightly bent backwards at the end. The first prize was awarded to a dog with rare intelligence and a such a good nose to discover underneath a basket the handkerchief that its master had given it to smell and that it did not saw hiding."

At the dog shows of 1892, it was CHARLOT, a red-brown with

overlay, owned by M. J. VERBRUGGEN, who obtained the 1st and 2nd places. M. J. VERBRUGGEN had bought his dog in Alost (Aalst in Flemish) where, he says, this breed was quite well represented. It was in 1898 (on the 18th of November) that a club was founded in Malines, which was a sub-committee placed under the patronage of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* in Brussels and who imposed as aim, the devotion to the improvement of the short-haired Belgian Shepherd Dog. The first illustrated brochure about the Belgian Shepherd Dog was published by the Club of Malines ("It was also the first time that something official was written about this Flemish breed in the Flemish language." wrote L. HUYGHEBAERT). Without neglecting the morphological aspects, the fanciers of Malines preferred a well trained dog. This one, had to be in the first place, a "utility dog," The exterior aspect was not the main point but had to go along with the character, i.e. they preferred talented dogs who are the same time well built and have an friendly and intelligent aspect.

The Club of Malines organized in Malines at the Botanic Gardens, on Sunday the 12th of July 1903, a big dog show of shepherd dogs and draught dogs. The Professor A.REUL qualified this as "a unique experience in the world" and that meant the beginning of the police dogs. The exhibition was followed on Monday the 13th of July at 5 o'clock a.m., on a reserved piece of land, Boulevard de l'Abattoir, by a dressage trial with a swimming exercise for the Belgian Shepherd Dogs to show their qualities of intelligence, obedience and loyalty of a shepherd dog. There was also a trial for draught dogs and trials for yokes. It was L. VANDER SNICKT who had the idea of this trial. The first prize was won by CORA I, the mother of TJOP.

Already in a letter dated on the 31st of December 1897, and addressed to L. VANDER SNICKT, chief editor of *Chasse et Peche* who was also an all round judge, L. HUYGHEBAERT expressed himself as follows:

"I am far from pretending that sheepdog trials are useless; but, according to my humble opinion, there should exist a way to replace them by useful trials and in which all the shepherd dogs could participate, as well those who guard the sheep as those who do not and they are as numerous. We are wrong to imitate everything that goes on in Scotland. In that country, there are huge flocks, but in Belgium, the situation is totally different. We have almost no sheep... Our efforts should more accentuate and develop the brilliant qualities of the so called shepherd dog, as house dog and traveling companion...The trials would have simply for aim to bring forward the three fundamental characteristics that a shepherd dog should possess: intelligence, obedience and loyalty. Do not you think that these trials would be very interesting and that they would have a lot of success?..."

This is a passage written by Professor A.REUL about the practical utility of these trials in the zoological future of these breeds:

"About the dressage, we estimate that the methods must beyond any doubt develop the faculties of the brain, and at the same time through gymnastics develop every internal organ such as the heart and the lungs, and also those who make the body move. All this will be dominated by an absolute and prompt obedience that is shown at the first movement or at the first shout or the first blown whistle. The

native intelligence of the shepherd dog and its marvelous instinctive qualities are at the contrary lost through inaction, by the stay in another surrounding, in the city, for example, far away from the pastures where the breed unfolds its brilliant intrinsic qualities."

Among the general remarks about the laws of dressage, Konrad LORENZ, in his book "Tous les chiens, tous les chats," ("All the dogs, all the cats") reminds us that it is a fundamental mistake to believe punishment more efficient than reward. A lot of things in the education of a dog are better learned without mixing the idea of punishment into it. Let us not forget that dogs are very sensitive to caresses.

The Club of Malines published for the first time an illustrated brochure, translated the standard into Flemish and published postcards with the short-haired shepherd dogs with the mentioning "Mechelse herdershond," in other words Malinois Shepherd Dog, and became "Malinois" later on. The name remained because it pleased.

Among the members of the Club of Malines, was M. Frantz HUYGHEBAERT (brother of Louis), owner of TJOP (L.O.S.H. 6132) (before it became the property of M. S.COFFIN, of Malines), one of the pillars of the Malinois together with DEWET, who belonged to the brothers MAIRESSE of Frameries (before becoming the property of Mrs. DUCHENOY). The characteristics of these two champions can be found in every pedigree of the first generations of selected Malinois.

TJOP had as father TOMY, an extraordinary guard dog, born on the 5th of October 1896, owned by M. H.SEGERS of Brussels, and as mother CORA van Optewel (L.O.S.H. 6134) owned by M. Louis OPDEBEECK of Malines, a laundryman from profession but an excellent trainer. VOS (the Dutch word for fox) and LISKE of Laeken were owned by the shepherd J.-B. JANSSEN of Laeken, a breeder since long, on who fortune smiled often, he crossbred different sorts of coats. A characteristic fact of numerous subjects of his kennel, is the well pricked ear, triangular, high carried, open at the front, and so well appreciated by the fanciers. Adrien JANSSEN, his father and also a shepherd, participated on the 1st and 2nd of May 1892 in the first trial for sheepdogs on the mainland, in the buildings of the markets of Cureghem-Brussels and obtained the third prize with Vos, a good old pale yellow dog who will become a pillar of the variety of the Laeken. This sheep trial was also the last one organized by the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, because the financial burden was too heavy to be carried.

TJOP, who was gifted with an excellent morphology, a perfect skeleton and angulation, a good color, but without mask, was also a very good utility dog, even if it was extremely nervous. It was 57 cm (\pm 23 ins) high. At the age of 17 months, TJOP, astonished Professor A.REUL, who saw in it "one of the pillars of the stud Book," From its father TOMY, it had a typical head, excellent ears and a well carried tail. Even if it had the look and the intelligence of its mother, it inherited a too long back, its rather too fine paws and the rough hair on the croup.

DEWET had as father VOS (L.O.S.H. 5847) (owned by Ms. VAN HAESSENDONCK of Antwerp) and its mother was MOUCHE (owned by Mrs. DUCHENOY), the sister of DIANE, so that TJOP and DEWET had blood in common.

This is how M. Henri VAN ALDABA DE HAAN HETTEMA expressed himself about DEWET (60 cm or 24 inches high), when he was judge for the

dog show in Brussels in 1902:

"It is a magnificent dog, very well built, with an excellent coat and highly recommendable, nervous and expressive dog, remarkable shoulders and chest, back and croup out of the line, good head, faultless carrying of the tail, small triangular ears, excellent general effect. But - since there is always a but - the color is rather pale. This fault, however is largely compensated by the black mask and the strong shade on the shoulders."

The fault is, that this superb dog did not correspond to the exact notion of red-brown with overlay, in other words that the coat is frankly red-brown on every part of the body and the limbs, except the extremities of the hairs on the back, around the neck and on the higher part of the tail, where the color is black. The overlay must go clearing-up towards the flanks and the limbs, without leaving any line of demarcation between the red-brown and the overlay, except on the muzzle that must have a black mask and at ears who must be covered on the outside with black velvet hair. The underside of the body is covered with more light colored hair.

All the efforts of the fanciers have lead, around 1900, to the production of these two beautiful dogs - who are quite different from one another - around whom a battle was fought and whose names we can find back in almost every actual pedigree; one might even say, that studying the line of TJOP and DEWET, is studying the principal ancestors of the variety.

It is towards 1900 that the black mask was imposed and fixated trough inbreed. The actual standard does not mention it, but in certain old works, we meet the expression of black mask "cap de Maure" that designates a mask and the black extremities of the head of a Moor. "Cap" is an old French word derived from the Latin "caput" which means head. The head of a "Moor" is the heraldic figure representing the head of a black person. The gene responsible for the mask produces black hairs that cover the face, the ears and halfway the tail, in the shape of a triangle, just like the end of the tail. The mask is expressed in presence of the red-brown gene with black traces, to produce red-brown dogs with overlay.

Composed of 18 to 22 caudal vertebra, the good Malinois hasn't got a bushy taile (like the fox) but a tail in the form of a spike. Also other details characterize the Malinois. CORA I (just like the Groenendaels PICARD d'Uccle and DUC de Groenendael) had a white spot on the chest. Even on a painting, dating from the 15th century, an ancestor of the shepherd dogs had this particularity. Is this a sign typical for the shepherd dogs? Anyway, a great number of Belgian Shepherd Dogs are marked with this white star on their chest. The responsible is also a gene that produces white marks likely to invade the neck and sometimes the extremities of the paws and the muzzle.

A Malinois must have a collar starting from the ears and disappearing towards the chest; this hides the implant of the ears and makes them seem smaller and more pricked-up. The neck is garnished with semi-long hairs. On top of the trousers and a beautiful well garnished tail (without fringes) constitute strong characteristics. The short-haired red-brown Belgian Shepherd Dog with overlay, a black mask and dark eyes, is a elegant dog, gifted with a lot of character and a lot of flexibility.

Sometimes it is established that in the litters of Belgian

Shepherds, there are some subjects with dew claws. Even if the standard does not mention these, the fanciers and stockbreeders have agreed to take away this fifth toe on the hind legs, since it is perfectly useless, ungraceful, and could cause rather serious wounds. This is the opinion expressed by Professor A.REUL:

"What is the purpose of this supplementary dew claw? It has no purpose at all. It is a remainder of an organ, without any function to fulfill, which presence could impede the dog when it runs in the bushes and the grass.

When we look at it from a purely scientific point of view, we must consider the absence of dew claws, the diminishing of the number and the length of the toes as a stage towards progress. In fact, it seems established, that the greater part of the primitive mammals were types with seven toes; and later on, gradually as the animals perfected themselves, the pining away of two toes has made the types with five toes. And finally, in certain species, like the horses, the natural evolution brought on the actual types with one solid toe that is a progress for the quick and easy execution of the tasks."

This removal of the dew claws is in no way a fraud, since it does not violate any rule of the standard; it is useful for the animal and for the breeding, because when repeated from generation to generation, it leads to the natural suppression of the dew claws. The ergotectomy - or the removal of the dew claws - does more good than bad.

In the month of March 1899, the city of Gent gave the permission, as an experiment, for the foundation of police dog service with three Belgian Shepherd Dogs. Because of the encouraging results, they were already ten before the end of 1899. In his letter dated, on the 18th of December 1899 and addressed to the Mayor, the Chief Constable E. VAN WESEMAEL, asked to bring up the number of police dogs to 16.

After this success and its reverberation in the world, a trial of dressage organized in 1903 by the section of Malines of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, provoked such an enthusiasm that the elements who composed it were divided in two different groups. The ones were carried away by the trials for police dogs and public demonstrations. The others organized, for the fanciers who possessed talented and extremely well trained shepherd dogs, sportive trials in the country similar to those trials that existed for hounds. The first of these meetings took place in 1906 in Rymenan-lez-Malines. After that, there were the international trials of Vittel and Biarritz in 1907, before the Field Trial in 1909-1910-1911 in Lierre, under the banner of the "Societe Nationale pour l'Amelioration du Chien de Berger Belge" recognized by the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, and the exams for tracker dogs in 1912.

In the brochure published by the Societe Nationale pour l'Amelioration du Chien de Berger Belge, there are some passages that are worth thinking about:

"We know that the shepherd dog is a good "police constable" and that it is an excellent guardian. Why then these trials for police dogs who are made to execute "stunts"? Why this fence, this whip or the theatrical decoy...?"

. . . To flatter the taste of the public who loves

violent emotions, we have made the dogs aggressive and wicked.

But a dog that bites too easily is a permanent danger to its master. It is the same thing as giving him a rifle that goes off by itself.

A shepherd dog with a temper only asks to attack and the dressage consists more in preventing him to be aggressive. Mr. VAN WESEMAEL, chief constable, who has created the first official kennel of police dogs, has declared that several dogs had to be put down because they became too aggressive. On that occasion he did not hide his disapproval for every trial for dogs, who are only related to the police by name, and who will end up damaging the popularity of our shepherd dogs. We can't be careful enough when we train dogs to attack that are meant to live in our surroundings, and it is time that we make it clear to the new fancier that training an obedient dog is much more pleasant than training a ferocious one."

These are the points taken from article 5 of the general regulation for trials of the Societe Nationale pour l'Amelioration du Chien de Berger Belge:

Obedience	30 points	
Sent, research and apport on land		20 points
Loyalty and defense of the master		15 points
Temper, style, resistance to weariness and flexibility		15 points
Audition	10 points	
Apport in the water		10 points
TOTAL	100 points	

In this program, the muscled dog will defend its master, but on command, if its master is attacked. The maximum height that the dogs are asked to jump with support is 1m 20 or 48 ins. For climbing (with support) the height is 2m or 80 ins.

In 1908, a special dressage section will be born out of the Berger Belge Club, to develop the physical qualities of our Belgian Shepherd Dogs. The program includes the dressage for police dogs, dogs for guard and hunt, ambulance dogs and military dogs.

At the end of July 1908 the work "Le chien de garde, de defense et de police" ("Guard, defense and police dog") by Joseph COUPLET is published. He was the vice chairman of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* from 1909 until 1919 and later he became the chairman of the Kennel Club Belge. This volume became a classic and was republished several times before and after the First World War. Less known is the book by Gasthon MATHIEU, edited in 1911, "Le chien criminal - methode de dressage pour l'exploration et le pistage" ("Criminal dog - training method for exploration and tracking").

B. OTHER SHORT-HAIRED THAN MALINOIS.

At the time of the first sheepdog trial, the 1st and 2nd of May 1892 in Cureghem, we can remark the presence of several black dogs with short hair. Among them, there was PAUL fifth prize, owned by M. Ch. DE MULDER, tradesman in sheep, living in rue du Moulin 21 in Forest. The second prize was won by MENNEKE, a small black dog with short hair also owned by M. DE MULDER. This is a passage out of *Chasse et Peche* of the 4th of August 1895:

"We find ourselves determined to come back to our proposition of adopting a second Belgian Shepherd Dog, certainly more Belgian than the first one. This one is small, pitch-black and short-haired. Evidently its origins lie with the Schipperke, just like, according to BECKMANN, the German shepherd is originated from the Spitz or Loulou of Pomeranie. This dog is highly regarded as a guard for the flocks around Louvain. It has an extraordinary intelligence. It is a dog of that breed, or approximately, that obtained the second prize at the first continental sheepdog trial. It was in Cureghem, on the 1st and 2nd of May 1892.

And although every shepherd said that this little dog should have received the first prize, the judges gave him only the second place, because another dog, who had also worked very well, looked more like a shepherd dog as they are generally represented."

At this meeting we could also remark the presence of several dogs without a tail; among which BASOEF, a short-haired brindle owned by M. J.-B. JANSSEN. It is also interesting to evoke here, in short, the notes written by M. L. VANDER SNICKT:

"Some fanciers say, with pride, to have the honor to have recovered the small intelligent short-haired shepherd dog. What did they recover? Was this dog the gooseherd? A gooseherd has all the exterior appearances of a shepherd dog but it distinguishes itself by a totally different instinctive aptitude. It does not bite the geese. A shepherd dog who wouldn't bite wouldn't be respected; the sheep would chase him instead of obeying him. A gooseherd who would bite the geese would damage the merchandise. In the middle of the last century, one could meet the geese along the roads, around Grammont, in the direction of Oudenaarde, around Ninove and Enghien. At the end of the century, towards Lessines in Hainaut."

In a letter dating from the 15th of December 1987 and addressed to M. L.VANDER SNICKT, M. L.HUYGHEBAERT wrote:

"I should inform you that for every 20 short-haired shepherd dogs, you will find approximately one example with black hair. During the operations of the new cadastral revision, I had to visit all the farms of several parishes in the province and each time I have come to the same conclusion."

In the column of "Correspondence" p. 596 of *Chasse et Peche* 1901/1902 an inhabitant of Faimies wrote:

"There was in Hesbaye a breed of shepherd dogs with absolutely the same type as the red-brown dogs with a mask and overlay, only they had black hair."

Is it the Belgian Spitz, this sort of tall Schipperke, who has ended up being assimilated with the shepherd dogs? A lot of them come from the crossbreeding between Groenendael and Malinois. In the offspring of the black short-haired from this crossbreeding, there are as many Groenendael and Tervueren as there are short-haired blacks, and that explains why these dogs have had so little success until now, even when they are as talented for work as any other variety of Belgian Shepherd Dog.

Banished, just like the long-haired red-brown and the rough-haired red-brown, the short-haired black did not develop, but has not ceased to exist.

During the 9th dog show of the Berger Belge Club, on the 12th and 13th of March 1911, among 165 dogs of the various varieties, 6 short-haired blacks were noticed and judged by M. Frantz HUYGHEBAERT.

The short-haired black was recognized by the *Berger Belge Club* and was seen in dog shows until 1914. Also, just before the First World War, one could count 6 varieties of Belgian Shepherd Dogs, like the facts testify:

On the 17th of May 1914, the second dog show of the Societe canine Malinoise (founded on the 5th of July 1913) was organized in Malines under the banner of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*. The catalogue mentioned the following varieties of the Belgian Shepherd Dog:

- RING 1: Malinois shepherd dogs
- RING 2: Groenendael shepherd dogs
short-haired black Belgian Shepherd Dogs
- RING 3: long-haired red-brown Belgian Shepherd Dogs
rough-haired grey Belgian Shepherd Dogs
rough-haired red-brown Belgian Shepherd Dogs

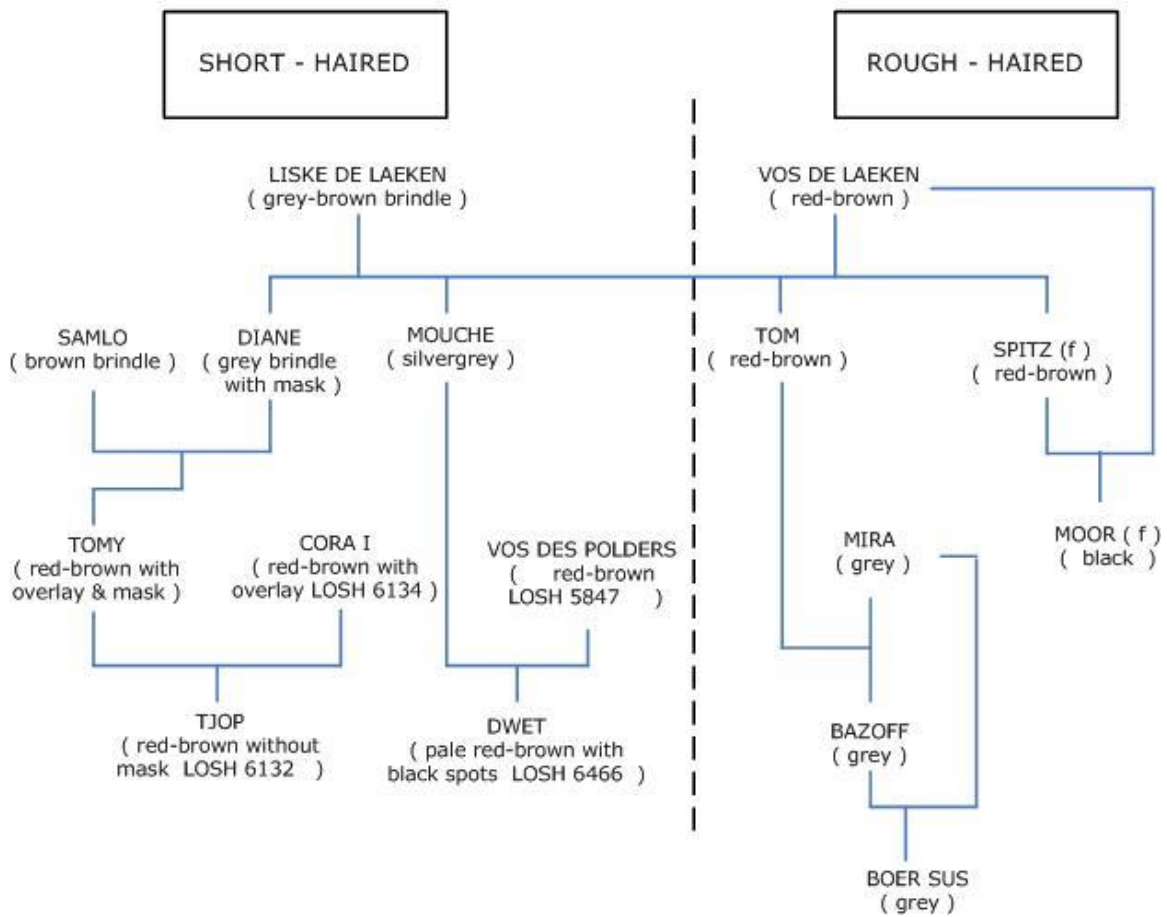
At that time there existed some very beautiful types with short black hair. Anatomically, they had the same structure as the Malinois but the hair was generally shorter. From where do these short-haired blacks come? Normally, according to the third law of Mendel, the product of the mating of long-haired black homozygotics (Groenendael) with short-haired red-browns (Malinois) are short-haired blacks (since the black color is dominant with regard to other colors; short hair is dominant on the long hair).

Practically decimated by the war, the short-haired black will reappear around 1926. This variety offers an example of a particularity that a breed carries within itself and that can never be totally eliminated because it is in the blood. It is partly to M. Charles HUGE, who occupied important seats in the cynophelic world in Belgium, that the short-haired black Belgian Shepherd Dog thanks its official recognition.

The variety of the short-haired black Belgian Shepherd Dog was officially recognized by the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge* on the 22nd of October 1929 and confirmed by the Council of the Kennel Club Belge on the 29th of October that same year.

Today, among the short-haired other than Malinois there is still the pitch-black. The brindles, who used to be overloaded with prizes at dog shows have disappeared.

TABLE OF THE ORIGINES OF THE SHORT-HAIRED AND ROUGH-HAIRED



VI

THE ROUGH-HAIRED AMONG WHICH THE LAEKEN

VOS of Laeken - rough-haired red-brown - grandfather of DEWET and great-grandfather of TJOP, was owned by the shepherd J.B. JANSSEN, residing 186, rue Fransman in Laeken; he purchased it from a cattle dealer from the region of Boom, to be more specific the region situated between the Scheldt, the Rupel and the Vliet in the Province of Antwerp. Vos died in 1897 at the age of approximately 12 years.

In the no 4 of *Chasse et Pêche* on the 25th of October 1896, we can read:

"M. JANSSEN, shepherd, is since long a breeder on who fortune always smiles. He reproduces with POUTS, MOOR and LISKE three bitches belonging to a very old pedigree and all three presenting superior qualities.

For him, surprises of atavism is unknown and one is really astonished in front of this family look which is carried by every subject out of the kennel. Their big golden yellow or brown eyes and most of all the carrying of the ear, absolutely characteristic, are enough to recognize them. It is in this family that we find the pricked-up ear, triangular, high set, open at the front and so looked for by the fanciers."

M. Joseph DE MULDER, chairman of the Royal Berger Belge Club, in a writing dated on the 5th of December 1908, tells to have bought a black rough-haired bitch in Breendonck, in the region of Boom, which has given him beautiful red-brown puppies.

These dogs were used for the guard by the laundries, against theft, outside on the bleaching fields, because they were known as biting dogs.

Among the female descendants of VOS and LISKE of Laeken, we meet DIANE and MOUCHE. Out of DIANE the famous Malinois TJOP was born; out of MOUCHE, the as famous DEWET. Among the male descendants of the same VOS and LISKE, we find TOM, rough-haired red-brown. TOM was the father of the rough-haired red-brown VOS II. With MIRA (born on the 5th of January 1895), owned by M. A.CLAESSENS, tenant of a cafe in Brussels "Le messenger de Louvain," it engendered BAZOEF (born on the 18th April 1897) (owned by M. Ch. ROBERFROID) that, mated with its mother gave the very well known rough-haired, BOER, SUS. It is the inbreed that has fixated the coat as well as the color.

BOER SUS, born on the 21st of March 1901, was owned by M. J. HAUTOT of Brussels. This is how the judge, M. H. VAN ALBADA DE HAAN HETTEMA, qualified him at the dog show in Brussels in 1902:

"Really beautiful dog, very fine presence, tall, a well drawn backline, excellent limbs, expressive head, well carried ears, excellent hair of the tail, a tribute for the breeding of M. CLAESSENS, and good dry and rough hair, not too long, not too lank, not too ruffled, certainly not too long on the face were we notice with this most recommendable stallion, the absence of a slight Briard head, very deep chest."

What especially characterizes the variety of rough-haired, is the state of roughness and dryness of the hair, particularly ruffled. Its length, the same on every part of the body, is about 2 to 3 cm. or 1 inch. Nor the hairs around the eyes nor those on the muzzle are enough developed to give the head the aspect of the head of a Briard or a poodle. The tail mustn't be bushy.

Also in this group, the union between carefully selected close relatives has done wonders. Like this, the most beautiful and typical bitch, RITA, owned by M. Ch. ROBERFROID, that we have ever seen was born out of the fecundation of the mother (MIRA) by her own son (BAZOEUF). Still BOER SUS, BAZOEUF, MIRA and RITA have never been able to form a breed by inbreed like this is the case for CORA, TJOP and DEWET, for the Malinois, just like PICARD D'UCCLE, DUC DE GROENENDAEL and PETITE for the Groenendael.

Let us listen to Professor A. REUL about the rough-haired:

"Thanks to the excellence of the methods of improvement, the stock of rough-haired Belgian Shepherd Dogs become more and more purified. The shepherd dog with rough hair is getting rid of the foreign blood, just like the sea how gives back the corpses. We have always thought that Briard blood ran through its veins... Is not it this family of red-brown dogs of Laeken who have at certain moment given a certain amount of blood to the grey rough-haired? Is not it this family that the Club Belge considers foreign, and not without good zoo technical reasons, because it is nothing but a variant of the Briard adapted to the Belgian soil."

He continued in these terms:

"In spite of that, this family of pariahs went to harvest all the honors reserved for the Belgian Shepherd Dogs at a Dutch dog show in Rotterdam... This is a ordinary dog of a non-recognized type that is welcomed with open arms by an important foreign cynophelic society and to which the judge awards the prizes destined for Belgian Shepherd Dogs."

At the dog show organized by the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* at the end of 1905, the Belgian Shepherd Dogs were represented by a number of 73 dogs (40 Groenendaels, 27 Malinois) among which 6 grey rough-haired with only one who corresponded with the standard; the others distinguished themselves by a seldom mediocrity. Also the judge M. V. FALLY has asked the question to know whether the fanciers are not on the wrong track when they preach the grey color. The judge V. FALLY continued:

"The fact is that we have only known two examples of grey types : BAZOEUF and MIRA and in their

numerous descendants, they have only given 4 or 5 dogs responding to the standard. Almost all their products went back to the red-brown color. The existence of the Belgian variety with rough hair cannot be denied; its natural color however, according to our opinion was not grey. This problem should be submitted to a profound study; instructed by an experience of ten years, it is almost certain that we will arrive to give it a solution closer to the reality of facts."

In 1905, when the section of Malines became autonomous, it maintained the primitive standard of three colors, except for the rough-haired. Since the experience had shown the non-persistence of the grey color, the society admitted, on a temporary base, every shade of coat for this variety.

Is it to remedy this state of facts that the Club de Chi en de Berger Belge from its side has founded, in 1906, the National Section for rough-haired of which the initiator was M. O.REUMON and who became chairman of this Section? Certainly, but after the dog show of the Club de Chien de Berger Belge on the 27th and 28th of April 1908 in Brussels, where the grey-haired appeared in number, it will disappear with the time.

These are the terms of the report of this dog show in L'Eleveur Belge:

"What concerns the rough-haired grey, this dog show has been a revelation. Thirty subjects, and what subjects!

The variety has finally found in RUSTAUD DE RIXENSART, the real regenerator of the breed. The products of RUSTAUD that we have seen last Sunday were superb, well built, good coat, well rough, with characteristic undercoat; and the color? This time we really can call it grey. So many times people have asked me: what exactly is the grey color?"

Among the supporters of the grey, we must mention M. O.REUMON, from Rixensart, first class breeder, whose passion is this variety.

"I remember, writes M. A.PEFFER, to have visited his kennel more than once. He succeeded with his bitches, to produce some good subjects; I say some because in general the deception was great. I say deception because of the color, because beside the brindles and the red-brown that were born, there were some very beautiful subjects, the grey reproduced only exceptionally. During my forced exile in the Netherlands from 1914 to 1918, I have occupied myself with the dressage of ambulance dogs. Among the approximately fifty dogs that went through my hands, there were some six rough-haired red-browns and brindles and, without taking any side, I must confess that they were the most intelligent and the most easy to train. I visited a great number of dog shows in the Netherlands since fifteen years now, and I have always met an imposing stock of rough-haired enrolled as Belgian Shepherd Dogs, or as Dutch Shepherd Dogs, since the difference is only based on the color.

The Dutch fanciers claim the brindles and leave us the red-browns. But, like I have already said, in a litter of two red-browns, two brindles or two greys, we almost always find two or three colors."

This variety knows only a small celebrity in our country. On the other hand, the Netherlands is certainly the country with the most important stock of this variety. If the Dutch breeding is more advanced than the Belgian breeding, we must see it as a sad consequence of the 1914-18 war.

In this variety of rough-haired, we call Laeken, the dog that presents: the rough-haired red-brown with traces of overlay, mainly on the muzzle and the tail. So it is not true that the Laeken is the rough-haired variety, but only those who possess the red-brown color.

The selection of the rough-haired was never perfectly followed, what still explains the diversity of the type of this variety in comparison with the long and short-haired. Knowing the collective origins of the short and the rough-haired it is favorable to mate the rough and the short-haired now and again to conserve the type and the character of the Belgian Shepherd Dog.

VII

THE LONG-HAIRED

A. THE GROENENDAEL.

At the time of the first special dog show in 1892, the first prize, for the long-haired bitches, was awarded to PETITE, a beautiful and good small black bitch, aged three and who was owned by Nicholas ROSE, foster-father of the Groenendael, exploiting the hotel and the restaurant of the Castle of Groenendael, remains of the abbey of Groenendael, state property, situated about ten kilometers south of Brussels. This bitch, former guard of sheep flocks, used to be owned by the shepherd DE BEECK, from the hamlet of Hannonsart, not far from La Hulpe.

In a letter dated on the 18th of December and addressed to M. L.HUYGHEBAERT, M. L.VANDER SNICKT tells about his discovery:

" . . . , this variety I have discovered, about eight or nine years ago, guarding the sheep of the shepherd (M. DE BEECK) of Hannonsart, a hamlet of La Hulpe, where I do not live anymore, but to which I am still very attached - without talking of the inhabitants -by the pools, the hens of Braekel, the pigeons, the Brabant rabbits and others, and also by the black shepherd dogs around which I have tried to make some publicity, in the country first, before talking about it abroad."

M. P.BEERNAERT, inhabitant of UCCLE and first secretary of the *Club du Chien de Berger Belge*, and who was very active in the reconstitution of the shepherd dog together with Professor A.REUL, brought with him from Feluy-Arquennes, a dog with long black hair. Its name was PICARD.

M. P. BEERNAERT took the dog with him to give it to M. N.ROSE. While doing this he stopped in Uccle and from there is the name of PICARD D'UCCLE derived by which it is named and under which it will remain famous.

With a weakening view, the cataract became double, it will be killed by a gunshot on Thursday the 22nd of December 1898, in the forest of Soignes, probably by a forester.

"Le Petit Bleu" of Sunday the 8th of January 1899 relates its death in these terms:

"The death of an ancestor:

The famous PICARD D'UCCLE, the father of the beautiful variety of the Belgian Shepherd Dogs with

long hair, named Groenendael, has just passed away tragically, killed by a gunshot, in the forest of Soignes, not far from the alley of Lorraine.

One of its sons, CARLO, also a beautiful specimen of this breed, had returned to the kennel, some days before, wounded by a gunshot.

Is it possible that a more and more popular becoming breed has made enemies who are determined to stop the breeding? An investigation seems necessary, because the breed of the Groenendael is one of the most successful of the Belgian breeding."

PICCARD D'UCCLE was mated with PETITE. They gave birth to a whole family of superb black dogs, among which, the famous DUC de GROENENDAEL, born on the 1st of May 1893, with beautiful small ears but its chest was garnished with an enormous white spot.

Several other beautiful dogs are born out of the matings of PICARD with different other bitches owned by M. N. ROSE: (we think of MOLL and NETTE). They are black, well built, vigorous and with an expressive physiognomy.

The shepherd dogs with black coat have been baptized with the name of "dogs of Groenendael" what is confirmed by an article published in 1895 in "Le Petit Bleu":

". . .Two breeders, M. ROSE from Groenendael and DE BEECK of La Hulpe, are the possessors of Belgian Shepherd Dogs who are possible candidates to the throne. It are dogs with long or semi-long hair, with plenty of manes, from where two similar ears, well pricked up, arise.

The head is short, the look in their eyes has an incomparable accent of intelligence, the eyes have a depth that reveals a chosen soul...But, to succeed abroad, to impose the English, or the Germans and the French the idea that we have created a shepherd dog and that it is characteristic and beautiful, this dog must, for the moment at least, be absolutely unique... This dog has everything to succeed, if - essential condition - we give it a name that will stay attached to its offspring and that the efforts of the fanciers is only aimed at this precise point to perfection the particular breed of Groenendael, and nothing else ..."

Groenendael, Flemish name that means "green valley," is dependent from the Brabant village of Hoeilaert, some kilometers from Brussels, in one the most beautiful sites of the forest of Soignes, a remainder of the old coal wood. The Groenendael has had the benefit, from its apparition on, of an enormous success with a peak towards 1912.

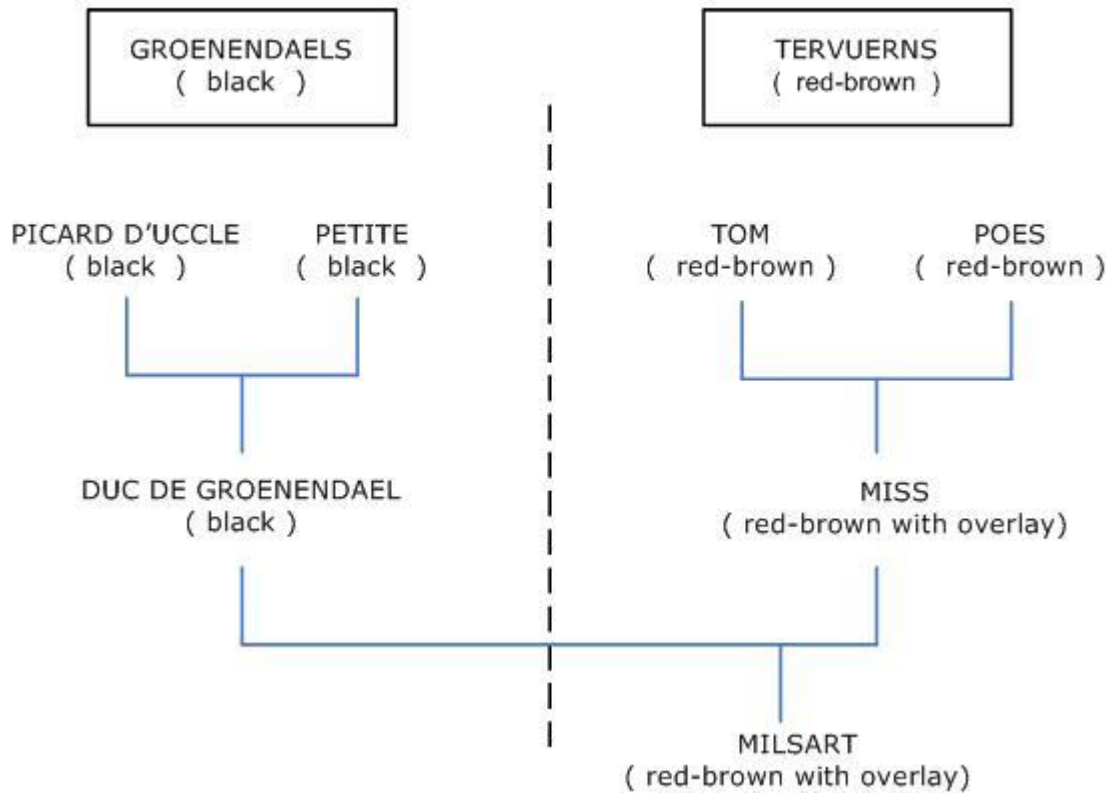
The Groenendael is pitch black what means that the coat, totally one color, has not a single white hair. During the period situated between the end of the past century and the First World War, the element of color of the Belgian Shepherd Dog, was the main occupation of the breeders. The Groenendael did not escape it, and each dog with white hairs, even when they were inherited from their ancestors PICARD and DUC DE GROENENDAEL, was banned from the dog shows and suppressed from the breeding. It is unnecessary to say that this caused the variety some damage. The reason may be found on page 476 of the annals of the veterinary medicine of 1897 where we can read the following passage:

"One has to mistrust the apparition of the slightest spot of white of the subjects that one wants to keep absolutely pitch black. If one mates, especially with inbreed, two subjects with a white spot on their paws, on the chest or elsewhere, it is almost certain that this white spot will be larger or multiple on the products of this union, because it is true that the white is an invading color, with extensive trend."

Actually, the standard allows for all the varieties a little bit of white on the chest and the paws.

"The breeding of the Groenendael requires a lot of attention and experience, declares Vital TERNET, first chairman of the Groenendael Club. Everyone knows that the hair, if it is wavy or curling, constitutes a big defect; the absence of undercoat is another one, a reflect too brilliant of the coat is a sign of degeneration."

TABLE OF THE ORIGINES OF THE LONG-HAIRED



B. THE TERVUEREN.

M. F. CORBEEL, brewer in Tervueren, had a brother who was established in Brussels and who was also occupied in a brewery. This last one owned a long-haired red-brown dog with overlay, called TOM, it had the reputation of being a ferocious animal. M. F. CORBEEL was lucky to be able to take TOM with him. To its excellent qualities of guard it added those of a first class draught dog and was gifted with a lot of courage. During the day it pulled a dogcart and at night, it terrorized the people who walked along the walls of the brewery.

M. F. CORBEEL obtained a good litter of his dog TOM and gave two of the puppies to M. C. DANHIEUX as a present. These pups would later on give a number of dogs among which the famous MILSART, BIBI, etc., and their descendants were remarked because of their pure type and the richness of the color. The breeding of the red-brown long-haired would continue with a real enthusiasm. At certain moment, M. C. DANHIEUX, bred in one season sixteen dogs. MILSART was born out of MISS after her mating with the black long-haired DUC DE GROENENDAEL, so we find this ancestor in the pedigrees of the Groenendael and the Tervueren, these two varieties are alike as two peas in a pod, except for the color of course.

Knowing that black hair is dominant on the other colors and is transmitted by a couple of genes, that we will indicate with the letters GG; we deduct from this that the red-brown is recessive with regard to the black, we will indicate this with letters tt. We can obtain the following three combinations:

GG = black homozygotic, a Groenendael who can only transmit black.

Gt = black heterozygotic, a Groenendael who transmit black or red-brown.

tt = a red-brown homozygotic, a Tervueren that can only transmit the red-brown.

A Tervueren is always homozygotic whereas a Groenendael can also be heterozygotic. In the union of homozygotic Groenendael GG with a homozygotic Tervueren tt, all the products of the first generation will be heterozygotic Groenendaels Gt, that means they possess 50% of the recessive genes of the Tervueren (1st law of Mendel).

If in the second generation, two dogs Gt are mated, we obtain the following results:

	Gt	x	Gt	
GG	Gt		Gt	tt
25%		50%		25%

Now the recessive characters who were hidden in the first generation, have now appeared for 25 % in the second generation (2nd law of Mendel). So genetically, DUC DE GROENENDAEL, even if it was black, must have had red-brown ancestors, because otherwise, since the crossbreeding of pure black with red-brown only gives black in the first generation, its union with MISS would never have given MILSART, an exceptionally beautiful Tervueren, a real prototype of the variety. By repeated inbreedings of MILSART and its mother or its daughters, as well as

the inbreeding of its offspring, the breeders have succeeded in determining, in a few generations, the characteristics of the red-brown long-haired variety.

In every dog show from 1892 until the 12th of March 1898, all the long-haired shepherd dogs were classified in one single class. From the 12th of March 1898 on, they were divided in two classes: the blacks and the others among which the red-brown color dominated.

From mid-1899 on, it will be under the banner of the *Berger Belge Club* that the red-brown long-haired will find a sort of protection. The shepherd dog with red-brown hair will reappear under the banner of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* at the time of the dog show organized on the 5th of May 1907 by the Berger Belge Club. This first championship for this variety was won by the old MILSART.

In 1914, CREOLE, a long-haired grey bitch obtained the first prize at the dog show in Brussels. Daughter of DOKA and DEMON DE L'ENFER, two Groenendaels, she was in the middle of the attention because of her excellent type and character. Tervuerens and long-haired greys emerge from the litters of Groenendaels, and Tervuerens from litters of Malinois. These reappearances of ancient coats are generally from an excellent quality, winning the CAC, beauty or work. These dogs chosen as the pillars of the breeding, are at the beginning of productive lines of first class subjects. This is the case for the long-haired grey FILOZA, of which the Groenendael offspring, mated with famous subjects such as TAN DE L'INFERNAL, have transmitted the grey color.

From where does this grey color of Belgian Shepherd come? Two pigments are responsible for the colors of a dog:

- one, the black engenders a hair totally black,
- the other, the red-brown, going from pale yellow to heavy reddish-brown, with traces of black issue of a two-colored hair, being red-brown at the base and black on the end.

The grey of the Belgian Shepherd Dog, in fact, comes from a dilution of the red-brown color because of the presence of a gene called Cch, but the traces of black, the overlay subsists. Also a coat with a lot of overlay on a very pale red-brown base, gives the impression of grey. It is frequent to see dogs, grey at birth, become red-brown with age, especially when they are becoming old, just like the other red-brown dogs of the breed. In the modern cynological terminology, the exact word is not grey nor Isabella-color, but sandy. All the long-haired could be carriers of this recessive gene, extremely rare with the short-haired and the rough-haired. The history of the variety tells us that all the lines of the actual Tervuerens are issue of sandy ancestors. It is thanks to this influence, that the variety of the Tervueren is nowadays the most representative in Belgium, but also in France and the Netherlands.

Because of the terrible damages caused by the First World War, only a few subjects of the variety survived. The best Tervueren produced between the two wars (1919-1939) had a totally different origin: they were born out of pure Malinois. They are the descendants of MINOX (LOSH 15141, long-haired), son of the Malinois MINOX (LOSH 10043) and NINA, frequently mated to red-brown long-haired bitches, who gave birth to a number of quality subjects. The Tervuerens of this origin, are generally better typed and more homogeneous than those with their origin before 1914, for a great deal produced by the same ancestors of the Groenendaels.

The subjects of this origin have generally a beautiful red-brown color with overlay or charbonnage. The intensity of the red-brown color, searched for by certain fanciers of the Tervueren, are made of genes called "rufus," The more genes "rufus" a dog possesses, the better the red-brown color.

Quantitatively the weakest, the variety of the Tervueren was also the most damaged in the Second World War.

The variety of the Tervueren has been recreated from Groenendaels and Malinois or by crossbreeding these two.

This is how the Veterinary Y.SURGET, then current chairman of the Club Francais du Chien de Berger Belge, resumes the situation of the Tervueren after the last World War, in an article published in 1982 in specialized French magazine:

"The stock was considerably decimated by the conflict of 1939-1945 and at the end of this, only a few Groenendaels and Malinois survived. The variety of Tervueren, who was then the less known and who possessed undoubtedly the weakest effect, had totally vanished because of the hardship and the depredation of the invaders. The taste of some breeders for this beautiful variety, brought them matings between some long-haired subjects from here and there, or born out of Malinois (since the long hair is recessive in regard with the short hair, it explains why Malinois can give birth to Tervuerens) mated with other Malinois.

It was easy, in a few generations, interrupted with Groenendael matings, to fixate a new stock of Tervueren: the animals we know today are their descendants. This explains why we can go up in the pedigrees to PICARD D'UCCLE and PETITE, to VOS and LISKE or SAMLO and DEWET, but not to MILSART, TOM and POES."

Actually, the variety of sandy long-haired, has especially abroad, enthusiastic fanciers and eager defenders. Today, from the number of participating Belgian Shepherds at dog shows, the Tervueren is the most popular.

Actually, France is undoubtedly the best for breeding Tervuerens and can be flattered to know the most dynamic breeders. To be convinced, you only have to go through the special edition of December of the monthly magazine of the Club Francais du Chien de Berger Belge, which is devoted to the breeding.

VIII

BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS

"Until 1914, the breeding of our dear Belgian Shepherd Dog knew an extraordinary joy. Our country exported to especially France and the United States, hundreds of our Groenendaels, Malinois and Tervuerens who became famous as police dogs. Then came the first great gale. Our Belgian Shepherds fulfilled their duty on the front and paid a large tribute to the "big mowing-machine" like M. R. PECRIAUX, official judge of the Kennel Club Belge, expressed himself in his work "Canidae."

The damages caused to the kennels by the requisition of numerous thousands of dogs during the war of 1914-18, had strongly decimated our dog-population. It was so that the Germans recognizing the superiority of the Belgian Shepherd Dog, used them more instead of their national shepherd dog.

This is a passage out of the book of R. HENRY: "Traite Pratique de Dressage des chiens de Pistages, de Liaison et...de Guerre..." (1925) ("Practical Treatise of the Dressage of track dogs, Connection and War dogs")

"This requisition of our dogs made that at the time of the armistice, Belgium possessed no or almost no Belgian Shepherd Dogs fit for reproduction, except for some superior subjects who had been hidden for the Germans during the whole of the hostilities. On the contrary, the Germans disposed at that moment of approximately the same number of dogs as in 1914. They took advantage of this situation to deluge France, Belgium and the other side of the Atlantic with their German Shepherd Dogs, also called Alsatian wolves, Police dogs, etc...

Fortunately, in Belgium, a certain number of competent breeders, began their work and in two or three years, thanks to a thoroughly selection, they succeeded in reforming a stock of perfect subjects of Belgian Shepherd Dogs and Flemish Bouviers."

In 1919, the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* is seized by the *Berger Belge Club* with a demand of official recognizing of all colors for the Belgian Shepherd Dog. Must we see in this demand a current of democracy that blew in that period and that introduced the universal vote? The aimed goal was especially useful in this way that they had to take advantage of the available material. But is not this abandoning the scientific breeding methods to go back to

the empirical methods? The obtained success by our Groenendaels and our Malinois proves that those who have chosen a black for the first and a red-brown one with overlay for the second were well inspired. There were the acquired rights. What

would have been the reaction of a proprietor of a Groenendael that would produce multicolored puppies with different sorts of coats?

On the 8th of February 1920, the following modifications were adopted for the Belgian Shepherd Dogs (but without the unanimity of the votes):

1. Admission of all the colors of the scale: black, grey, red-brown for all three coats. A bit of white is still tolerated like before.
2. Maintaining of the already fixed varieties, with particular name:
black long-haired = GROENENDAEL
red-brown long-haired = TERVUEREN
red-brown short-haired = MALINOIS
red-brown rough-haired = LAEKEN
grey rough-haired
3. The dogs of all admitted colors, with a same kind of coat, may be crossbred.
4. The crossbreeding between short-haired and rough-haired will be admitted. The other crossbreedings are defended.

This latest decision hasn't been able to stop the progressive disappearance of the rough-haired Belgian Shepherd Dog, their number has diminished from year to year. The defense of mating Tervueren with Malinois (long-haired with short-haired of the same color) seems to have been a very unfortunate decision, since it was this that has permitted to give the breeding of the Tervueren a little push and the Malinois had taken some advance on the other varieties.

No one has taken advantage of the given permission to breed Belgian Shepherd Dogs with long and short hair of different colors. It is certain that for the short-haired, for example, the Malinois had taken such an advance with regard to the other breeds, that the other colors never have been able to interest the fanciers.

But did we have to admit all the colors? "NO, no, thousand times no," exclaimed M. Ch. HUGE (1865-1948; chemist, universally known in the world of hunt and breeding):

"Even if I am a supporter of giving back our national shepherd all the space that was the domain of our breed, I refuse to admit the colors whom we never met in the country. We have never seen a chocolate-brown Belgian Shepherd Dog, nor a blue-grey, or a black with vivid flames like the Doberman or the Beauceron. The red-brown and the black with traces of white on the chest or the extremities are the limits of the breed in our opinion, but the red-brown color is very variable and very extended and there we should not be exclusive, because we have to admit the range; it

starts with heavily reddish tones, sometimes with quite some overlay, just like the fox, until the Isabella-color, and this can be frequently found in the same litter, even today.

Certainly, in a dog show, the warm colors will always be preferred, and fatally the fanciers will add this complement to their game; some will continue to want only this with the pretext that the sale is easier, but we have not the right or the duty to reject an Isabella-colored subject, because the experience has shown that sometimes this subject has a stronger force of pigmentation than its darker brothers. NO, the sculptural conformation, the type and the character must be the sole guides, they will form the base, the color is a decorative completion. But to maintain the style of the country, it was necessary to limit the black and red-brown of all shades, their mixture (brindle) with presence of white. It was also necessary that we respected entirely the interests of the specialists who are desirous to maintain exclusively the known varieties. This is what has been done.

But it was also necessary that the ancient varieties who reappear in spite of everything have their place under the sun of their country, that they have the right to national recognition and that they are no longer treated as pariahs when they participate in trials and dog shows to show their transcendent qualities of real Belgian Shepherds. The more good dogs we have in the country, and believe me, there will never be enough of all our recognized colors to assert a breed that imposes itself through its marvelous aptitudes, through its pleasant type, through its character that is so quickly malleable, together qualities that make it so superior that those who have tasted it will never find another equivalent breed of its measures to replace it.

Eliminate without pity all the elements lacking type, character and the neurosis. This is the main goal for judges and breeders. They have in their hands elements without equals. They have to be very demanding for their own breeding on moral qualities.

As for the rough-haired, the reproduction would become a lot easier if the crossbreeding with the short-haired was admitted. In fact, we can say that this rough-haired coat is not fixed. From the moment that the matings between two rough-haired begin to give curled hair, when the undercoat becomes longer than the hair and is too woolly, it is time to go back to the short-haired. (It is the rough hair that dominates the sleek hair.)"

"But it is nor recommendable to crossbreed rough-haired with long-haired, since the rough hair always has the tendency of becoming too long. The crossbreeding between short and long hair has less disadvantages, but this is not longer officially admitted, to prevent producing too much semi-longhaired what would require a new selection during several generations. (Generally three before finding the pure family in the one or the other sense, following the theory of Mendel.)"

At the palace du Midi, on the 8th and 9th of October 1922, the *Berger Belge Club* organized its 15th dog show especially in favor of our national stock. This denoted the managers a certain courage. To give the public the occasion to see our breeds in everything they have the best: the type, the model and the character of the breeds.

On a total of 221 participating dogs, there were six draught-dogs. The Dog of Saint-Hubert and the Belgian Spaniel were represented. The Flemish Bouviers presented a beautiful collection but there were only two Bouviers of the Ardennes. Among the small breeds, there were the Schipperkes, the Griffon Bruxellois, the Griffon Belges, the little Brabancons and the Epagneuls Papillons. The shepherds started the program with about fifty Malinois. There was also a CAC for the short-haired other than red-brown with overlay. There were 38 Groenendaels. Besides the red-brown long-haired, there were also long-haired other than black or red-brown. The red-brown rough-haired and the grey were represented by only 3 subjects.

In 1932 the International Canine Union was founded (U.C.I.), but it is only towards 1935-36 that it has known some effect that has made known in several European countries. At first limited to the Kennel Club Belge and the Federation des societes canines de France, it has seen adhere canine organizations of other countries. J. COUPLET, author of the book "Le Chien de Garde, de Defense et de Police" was its chairman in 1935.

Just before the Second World War, there were no less than 8 varieties.

"Because of our particular spirit, writes M. F.VERBANCK, what damages haven't we caused our national patrimony? We have amused ourselves in creating for our national shepherd alone eight varieties:

- the black long-haired GROENENDAEL
- the red-brown long-haired TERVUEREN
- the long-haired of other colors
- the red-brown short-haired MALINOIS
- the short-haired of other colors
- the grey rough-haired
- the red-brown rough-haired LAEKEN
- the rough-haired of other colors

It is too much, much too much I Let us first limit ourselves to the following varieties: Groenendael, long-haired of other colors, Malinois, short-haired of other colors and rough-haired of all colors. When we remember the Tervueren and the rough-haired from before the war, and we compare them to those we have now in the dog shows, we think to, have the right to say that these two varieties are close to the end. As for the short-haired, we can sincerely say that we haven't met, in the last fifteen years, a shepherd with other colors that we would have desired, for his character, or his type and for his structure."

The very interesting book "Le chien - Psychologic - Olfaction -mecanisme de l'odorat" ("The Dog - Psychology - Olfaction -mechanism of the scent") of Louis HUYGHEBAERT was being printed, when, the war of 1940 broke out and delayed the publication. It is an experimental study illustrated with 42 unpublished photographs. Perfectly bilingual, he devoted, in a Flemish magazine "Cultura,"

from 1924-1925 a series of articles on the origin of the Belgian Shepherd Dog, on the sheep trials, on the swimming trials, and also articles about shepherd dogs in the modern art. A French translation was published, after the war, in 1947, in cynological magazine "L'Aboi,"

IX FROM 1946 UNTIL THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY (1991)

How was the breeding of the Belgian Shepherd after the war of 1940-45? This is a brief summary, chosen out of a report of the comments of M. O'BREEN, agriculturist:

"The Tervueren, this magnificent red-brown dog that can surpass each foreign shepherd breed through its aesthetical aspect and its character, has practically disappeared from the circulation. The rough-haired shepherd dogs, the red-browns and the grey, have followed the movement. The black long-haired, except in Hainaut, around Binche, does not seem to be bred in the whole of Belgium, in a number that its beautiful aspect deserves, and its quality of being a national shepherd: in the south of the Occidental Flanders for example, we can only meet German Shepherd Dogs. And then there is the short-haired, the Malinois, that defends itself well, in particular with the supporters of trial sports in ring, enjoys an undoubtable popularity; less impressive, less flashy than its long-haired brothers, it has its character and if a foreigner does not feel attracted by it in the same way he is to the others, in the country itself, it will always meet the favor of those who estimate a good work-dog, full of character."

At the meeting of the Section d'Elevage on the 21st of October 1945, it was decided that in the future the following cross-breedings would be permitted:

- a) the crossbreed long-haired / short-haired
- b) the crossbreed short-haired / rough-haired
- c) the crossbreed of all the colors short-haired
- d) the crossbreed of all the colors long-haired

These are some extracts of the comments of M. O'BREEN:

"Encouraged by certain experiences of crossbreeding, and the indisputable results observed in the breeding of the Groenendael, the breeders of Binche have asked themselves whether, exactly for the Tervueren, one could come back on the major prohibition, edicted in 1920, almost twenty years ago, by which the crossbreeding of long-haired with short-haired was declared as taboo.

Because of the indisputable good results obtained at different occasions by the crossbreeding of Groenendael and Malinois, the principle was admitted to repeal the interdiction of crossbreeding long-haired with short-haired.

One has also discovered the fact that the crossbreeding of long-haired and short-haired practiced in view of multiplying the Tervueren, has often given the products a bad expression, mostly a too pale eye, what is not of course in favor of the crossbreeding. Certainly, not all the Malinois have dark eyes as requested, far from it; but it is often a question of family and one must pay attention to it. But the main difficulty remains avoiding the production of semi-long-haired, and, its getting in to hands of inexperienced breeders."

The Tervuerens, just after the war of 1940-45 had practically disappeared, when an event occurred that will permit this variety a flashing ascent. This event was the birth in France, in a litter of Groenendaels, of the red-brown dog WILLY DE LA GARDE NOIR, real corner stitch of its generation and its variety.

What is the situation of the Belgian Shepherd Dog in 1959? The 66th Studbook of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert* (L.O.S.H.) gives 550 registrations for the Belgian Shepherd Dogs against 500 for the Collies and 433 for the German shepherd.

The distribution between the varieties is as follows:

363	Malinois
6	short-haired other than red-brown with overlay (3 blacks and 3 blacks with red-brown)
9	Laeken
148	Groenendael
24	Tervueren (3 of them are born in Malinois litters)

When we take the Malinois as an example, we notice a lack of method in the breeding. 67 litters are produced by 47 stud dogs, like follows:

1	stud dog has mated 9 times	9	(Cesar de l'Assa)
2	stud dogs have mated 4 times	8	(Filou de Bonmoss and Cabril)
1	stud dog has mated 3 times	3	
4	stud dogs have mated 2 times	8	
39	stud dogs have mated 1 time	39	

But, signals M. F.E.VERBANCK, there did not exist 47 dogs worthy enough to engender and of course the type will vanish by the use of these reproducers which do not have the necessary qualities.

What has been the evolution since the situation before the war? Let us compare per decade.

	1939	1949	1959
Malinois	460	800	369
Groenendael	175	374	148
Tervueren	30	84	24

The Malinois, in spite of a consequent group of fanciers of dressage undergoes a big regression. The decade 1950-60 is characterized by a quite big decrease of the canine breeding in general.

In the ring trials and the Grands Prix of Belgium, the Malinois took practically possession of all the places. In 1960, on 23 participants, all were Malinois, except for one German Shepherd that obtained the 14th place.

In 1961, a club succeeded in Rixensart to conclude an agreement with the D. V. G. (Deutches Verband fur Gebrauchthundevereine) to present dogs trained following the German program and to compare this dressage with the one of our dogs, trained following the Belgian program.

Only two of the presented dogs were performers of the first order of their respective programs: the Rottweiler FARRO von, SOPHIENBUSCH, owned by Dr. Robert OSSWALD and DESIRE (A.L.S.H. 2268), a typical Malinois owned by M. SELLESLACH, winner Grand Prix of Belgium 1959 in Tournai.

Dr. OSSWALD had started by expressing his admiration for the faultless work furnished by the Malinois of M.SELLESLACH and to add:

"To bring a dog to such a perfection in the execution of all the exercises of the program, in my opinion, rather heavy, and also to bring it to the peak of its condition, one must sacrifice a lot of time, and the general part of our fanciers is not capable of doing this. For the rest, most of them wouldn't have the practical use of a dog so well trained, and only the police and the guards could take advantage of such dogs."

At a meeting of the Conseil Cynologique on the 16th of June 1963 of the *Societe Royale Saint-Hubert*, it was decided that from now on the varieties of the Belgian Shepherd Dogs would be classified as follows:

- a) the black long-haired, GROENENDAEL
- b) the red-brown long-haired with overlay, TERVUEREN
- c) the red-brown short-haired with overlay, MALINOIS
the short-haired of other colors
- d) the rough-haired the colors mentioned in the standard

The crossbreedings between varieties different in coat and color are no longer authorized, except when obtaining a special authorization from the Breeding Commission, to be introduced a month in advance before end 1964. The Breeding Commission is confided to the Royal Groenendael Club.

In an article called "Plusieurs varietes, mais une seule race" ("Different varieties, but one single breed") published in no 138 of "la Vie Canine" of June 1964 M. F.E. VERBANCK declares:

"The matings between different varieties must be carefully considered attempts, made for a well determined goal, and knowing that it are enterprises of long duration, of which the positive results will only be obtained after several generations. Our opinion hasn't changed, on the contrary, the matings between different varieties, realized by serious breeders, have proved to be worth it. Each time that one or the other varieties of the Belgian Shepherd Dogs needs new blood, it is only with the other varieties that it can find the necessary elements."

In the same article M. F.E.VERBANCK studies the pedigree of two chosen subjects which are not isolated cases but who are the products of a fortunate mixture of different varieties. It is the case for CAPRICE du CLOS SAINT-CLAIR and FAUNE du CLOS SAINT-JACQUES.

CAPRICE DU CLOS SAINT-CLAIR

	Groenendaal	Tervueren	Mechelaar	total
parents	-	2	-	2
grandparents	2	2	-	4
greatgrndparents	4	2	2	8
grtgrtgrndparents	6	2	8	16
grtgrtgrtgrndprnts	16	-	16	32
total	28	8	26	62

FAUNE DU CLOS-SAINT-JACQUES

	Groenendaal	Tervueren	Mechelaar	total
parents	-	2	-	2
grandparents	-	4	-	4
greatgrandparents	3	5	-	8
grtgrtgrandparents	6	10	-	16
grtgrtgrtgrndprnts	12	16	4	32
total	21	37	4	62

The zootechniciens of the past century were very concerned about the purity, the homogeneity of the source. When a stud dog had long and faultless pedigree, and when it came out of inbreeding, they put big hopes on its hereditary force. But today we know that the length of a pedigree does not mean anything on its own, and that following the recent knowledge of hereditary, purity means nothing else but a homozygotic type. The breed maker is the subject that transmits its type to its entire offspring with a lot of exaction. The animal destined to found a line is only recognized by its products, and the most beautiful subject is not necessarily a breed maker. When an animal of an unknown source produces well, it is more worth than the one that has a pedigree of several generations but of whom we do not know the offspring yet. Of course a subject from a known origin gives always more guarantee than a subject from an unknown or ordinary source.

The practical results of the discovery of Mendel will make that the breeder will not look to improve his stud dog by the sole influence of surrounding factors, such as good nourishment, specific training, good hygienic cares, but he will force himself to find the biological formula of his dog ; not according to the prizes it obtains in dog-shows; but according to the quality of its descendants, he will conserve the stud dog in that way that it has a homozygotic type in its main attributes. He won't make any disordered matings, were the disjunction of Mendel will destroy in each moment the results that have been accomplished with difficulty. When mixtures take place, it will be in a rational way to predominate a homozygotic type or to absorb an average variety by a better one.

Before, the red-browns and the other than red-browns were separately judged; each color having the right on a CAC. Since 1967, all the Tervuerens were united in one sole variety that became the long-haired other than black.

From the 1st of January 1974 on, the following modifications were applied:

- 1) The crossbreedings between different varieties are no longer allowed.

- 2) In case that crossbreedings are allowed by the Belgian Breeding Commission, the only competent in the matter, the products will be subscribed in a waiting list until the reproduction of the third generation in the coat and. color of their variety.
- 3) It has been decided to come back the old names of:
 - Belgian Shepherds Groenendael, black long-haired
 - Belgian Shepherds Tervueren, red-brown long-haired with overlay and mask
 - Belgian Shepherds Malinois, red-brown short-haired with overlay and mask
 - Belgian Shepherds Laeken, red-brown rough-haired with overlay

All the other coats and colors are no longer recognized; however, will be temporarily admitted at dog shows, the BELGIAN SHEPHERDS WITH SILVERGREY LONG HAIR which will be judged in separate classes, but there will be only one CAC and CACIB per sex for the red-brown and silver grey long-haired TOGETHER.

Starting from the 1st of January 1979 and according to the rules of the Federation Canine Internationale (F.C.I.) the mating between varieties to which a CACIB is attributed, is prohibited.

History teaches us that the matings between varieties have permitted after each world war to reconstitute the variety of the Tervueren. They also permit to keep the homogeneity of the different varieties of the breed, to avoid too much inbreeding and to improve the type, like it was the case for ONYX DU CHEMINS DES DAMES or the grey MILKO DU PARC DE L'HAY, both exceptional stud dogs. The danger exists that the four varieties we know today will evolve differently and to remove themselves from the characteristics of the standard which is the same for each variety. The situation existing between 1964 and 1979, praised by M. F.E.VERBANCK, permitted to authorize under supervision, matings in a limited number and with a well defined selection as goal.

The current standard is the result of the meetings on the 3rd of March 1978 of the Commission d'Identification des Chiens et du Championnat, on the 11th of March 1978 of the Conseil Cynplogic and on the 25th of March 1978 of the Comite de l'Assemblee des Delegates. This standard was made official by the F.C.I. under the n° I5b on the 26th of December 1978 for the French text and under the n° 178 for the Dutch text. It is made clear in this standard that the variety of black long-haired is called Groenendael and Tervueren the other than black long-haired; red-brown, the brindles and the whole range going from red-brown and grey to black; the red-brown color with overlay is the most natural and remains the most preferred.

The variety with short hair is called Malinois, red-brown color with overlay and black mask.

In 1981, on the 21st and 22nd of March, on the occasion of the 90th birthday of the breed, the first International Days of the Belgian Shepherd Dog were organized by "Les Amis du Chien de Berger Belge" under patronage of M. Albert JACQUES, and with the assistance of the Royal Groenendael Club and the *Royal Berger Belge Club* and the participation of the Clubs of Belgian Shepherds of the following countries: Germany, England, Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The first day was held at the Faculte de Medecine Veterinaire in Anderlecht, Brussels, with a discussion about the standard, genetics and breeding. The second day took place in a riding academy "La Chevalerie" in Rhode-Saint-Genese on the border of the forest of Soignes, with training exercises and demonstrations with

all the participating dogs of different countries. All the varieties were presented and as the grand finale, a goodbye tour of all the present dogs was organized. A report was devoted to this happening in the monthly magazine "Wouf" of August of 1981.

Since end of 1984, new troubles have surfaced on the subject of the colors of the Belgian Shepherd Dog, especially concerning the Tervueren and the rough-haired. Since there are very few brindles in the breed, the intended modification is essentially the suppression of the sandy-colored in dog shows. But wisely enough, the standard of the breed has foreseen the whole range of colors going from red-brown and grey to black. This permits to select the dogs on base of their type and structure leaving the colors on a second level.

In the matter of colors, the knowledge of canine genetics has made quite some progress thanks to the studies of LITTLE.

History has taught us that decisions made about the prohibition of certain colors and taken in the ignorance of the genetic laws have had disastrous consequences. The history of the rough-haired is an outstanding example. To banish sandy-colored dogs or brindles will constitute an impoverishment of the genetic pool of the breed.

In all times, there were two currents among the fanciers of the Belgian Shepherd.

This is what Louis HUYGHEBAERT wrote in his time:

"The fanciers of the Malinois had a totally different idea about the shepherd dog. This one had to be first of all a utility dog. The exterior aspect was not the main point, but had to go together with the nature, they preferred well talented dogs that, at the same time, were well built and had an alert and intelligent spirit. The color of the coat was of secondary importance."

The qualities of the animal (anatomy) and the qualities of breed (physiology - the type) are more important than those concerning the variety.

The problem of the color, just like the nature of the coat, should never be of the main importance. It would be much more important to determinate the minimum of natural qualities requested for the subjects admitted for the reproduction. This appears to me as more important than to discard colors which do not even signify an impurity of the breed but an atavistic return to the founders of the breed.

The breeder who is only concerned about the forms of the products of his breeding, without making sure if the natural character of the animal is maintained, does only half of his work and will fatally go astray and will mislead all those who will use stud dogs of his breeding.

The cynophily also requests, actually, information and knowledge in the matter of genetics to make the guiding of breeding and the selection a more rational job. Also, a more careful selection of the males is an important element of progress, since a bitch has seldom more than 5 or 6 litters in her life but a stud dog can have about ten matings. The best way to detect the value of a stud dog is to examine its offspring. May one choose as stud dog the most beautiful among the best.

X

FEATURES AND EVALUATION A HYPER-AFFECTIONATE

In the Belgian magazine "Wouf" of November 1983 we can read an interview of a journalist on the occasion of the special dog show in Zurich:

"I have asked a number of fanciers why they have chosen a Belgian Shepherd Dog. - We love our Belgian Shepherds because of their beauty and their strong personality, they are individualists while being "Weiberhunde,"- I am astonished. What is a " Weiberhund "? Laughing I am told that this signifies that a dog shows you its attachment. - It is of course not the ideal dog for someone who is looking for easiness, because one has to have a lot of canine comprehension to give it a correct education. If you want to work with a Belgian Shepherd Dog, you have to remember that you are disposing of an instrument with precision that you have to use very carefully because it does not easily forget and it reacts and works much faster than any other breed. - Is the Belgian Shepherd much worked with? With all the varieties? - Like everywhere, at least 80 % of the dogs are house dogs, with the exception of the Malinois, were the proportions are inverted.- They are all really nice dogs, that I can touch without being scared. They wag their tail, one of them even gives me a friendly lick (I have to admit that the experience has taught me never to hold out my hand to an unknown Belgian Shepherd Dog).

The Belgian Shepherd Dog possesses a particularity of the breed what concerns its behavior: it is characterized by a more important sensitivity than the other breeds; it is a hyper-affectionate. This feature is expressed in its relation with its master. This aspect of the character brings several consequences with it.

The first one is that one has to avoid all brutal and corporeal punishment. A bad treatment will lead to deceptions for the master and certain dogs will not hesitate to take revenge. The master must work the intonation of his voice, force it for compliments as well as punishment, in one word play with the voice.

A second consequence own to the Belgian Shepherd Dog is that the master himself must train his dog, one can do this by subscribing himself in a club for obedience training or work training or

following the advice of an experimented trainer. The dressage asks a lot of attention and tact from the trainer. The firmness must be exercised in gently way.

Another consequence, if a Belgian Shepherd Dog has all the moral and physical qualities necessary for a police or army dog, it is even more individualist than others of its breed. It does not like to live and work with a lot of other congeners and any change of master could lead to psychological disturbances more or less profound.

Extract of an article written by Dr. Y.SURGET in the magazine "Chiens 2000":

"With an impulsive character, the Belgian Shepherd is a dog who puts enormously much vivacity in its replies to different stimuli. So its reply to an attack overwhelming and unpredictable for a neophyte. Very active, it is a dog who is constantly on guard. But it is also a "hyper-affectionate" that "adopts" a master and hates to change him and who supports badly any change of owner, such an eventuality could reveal itself extremely disturbing in certain cases.

At the side of its master, the Belgian Shepherd can be a dog that tastes intensely life inside the family house where its calmness is in contrast with its enthusiasm outside. As susceptible and impulsive as it is, it can show the nonchalant elegance of a companion dog and reveals itself to be the best playmate for the children of the house, and even when older, their best defender.

To harden a sensitive character like that, it needs an education guided with gentleness and firmness at the same time because one can't leave a dog free if this one can show itself dominant. Starting when it is young it should be confronted to the world and the noise. In that way, loose from everything, without being disturbed, it will behave perfect and without surprises."

In her excellent work on the breeding of the Belgian Shepherd, Mrs. J.AUBRY starts her book with the following paragraph:

"Please permit me, before entering into details, to present the reader this breed of elite, one of the most attached there is. Harmonious forms, giving at the same time the impression of strength and of distinction, the carved head breathing intelligence, a frank and direct look, the eye full of tenderness for its master and the vigilance for the unknown, a vivid style, constantly in movement, this is the Belgian Shepherd."

Extract of the preface of the book of Fiorenzo FIORONE:

"Whether it is beautifully black like the Groenendael, red-brown with overlay like the Tervueren, short-haired like the Malinois or rough-haired like the Laeken, the Belgian Shepherd knows how to express beautifully its talent of defender of its master and his propriety.

Its sensitivity to gentle expressions, its friendship for children, the harmony of its line and the high carriage of its head are typical for a

noble and elegant vitality."

In his book "Les Chiens de Bergers Belges," Fiorenzo FIORONE sums up very well in a few words the qualities of the Malinois:

"It is a work dog with exceptional qualities. It seems less attractive than the Groenendael and the Tervueren because of its short coat, but it is more practical. Its high capacities of defense and guard make it a dog of big utility."

This variety that is easier to maintain has always met the infatuation of the supporters of work in the ring or on the field. According to M. A.BASTIAENS, owner of the Malinois CLIP, Belgian champion in the ring in 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985 and 1986 who I have seen at work, no other breed in the world can reach the performances of the Malinois. In France the Malinois was champion in the ring in 1969, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984. The users of high level use Malinois originated from work lines! There appears to be a real heredity of the acquired characters.

In an issue of 1983 of the French monthly magazine "Revue Chiens 2000" the qualities of the Malinois are summed up in these terms:

"The incontestable king of the ring today is the Malinois, lively, intelligent, big biter, incomparable jumper. The ring is made for it, it is its domain. This dog however needs some tact because it is very sensitive about its master. "The iron hand in a velvet glove" is the image that totally suits it. In the daily life it is always a guardian, but its mold misses dissuasion. Its vivacity makes that its reactions might surprise the outsider."

In the monthly magazine no 10 of "Chiens de France et d'Ailleurs" of April 1985, the French specialist of dressage in the ring, Andre NOEL, breeder of Malinois with the affix of "de la Noaillerie" was interviewed, this is an extract:

Question: "Why Malinois?"

Answer: "It is precisely in the costume that I have learned to know, at my disadvantage, their enormous qualities. I had started with German Shepherds, I like everyone else at that time I would say. My successes in the pistage, my prestations in RCI, in the ring, in the field, I have went through it with my German Shepherd GERO von Fraumunsterturm. But, partly because of me, the technique of the attackers has changed since thirty years, and the German Shepherds, suitable to attack the heavy armored decoy was confronted with in 1960, they are much too slow in comparison with the flashing starts of the sprinters protected with costumes made out of bullet proof felt, suits produced by the best manufacturers in 1985. So I changed to Malinois, who is a living bomb..."

The ring is a Belgian invention. The great trainers of dogs are the Belgians. And generally the best trainers today take Malinois. That is a result,"

In "La Dernière Heure" of August 1986 (special issue Theux), these are the words of the chairman of the Royal Groenendael Club, Mrs.C.DE.SMET:

"When we compare our dogs today to the photographs and the drawings of our dogs around the beginning of

the century, we are astonished by the fact that their fundamental type is still the same. The Belgian Shepherd remains what it was originally: the thoroughbred among the shepherd dogs. With a short body, its proportions are similar to those of the Arabian horse. Very distinguished in its attitude and movements, capable of initiative, its reactions are most quick, spontaneous. The Belgian Shepherd is a hyper-affectionate who needs a master with whom it feels itself psychologically in harmony, without him it will never bloom totally. All its qualities, its expressive and well carved head have given it some success, still growing abroad. A success that has grown in spite of the absence of publicity from its country. It owes its success only to its qualities : it was never popularized by films or TV shows who have been the base of the success of other breeds.

Since its first usage, the guard and the guidance of the flocks has now become accessory, the Belgian Shepherd reveals itself to be extraordinarily talented for the work. Whether it is in trials of defense or pistage (tracking), it does wonders. As avalanche dog (in Switzerland) or in obedience (USA and England), it obtains the first places, proving that it keeps its qualities as work dog from the wolfish type of a construction that hundred years of selection have only improved."

In a general way, the Belgian Shepherd Dog differs from its German colleague by its lightness, its more flexible air and certainly by its character. It is more alert, more vivid but it is also more nervous and more sensitive what does not make its training any easier. The Malinois is the more hardened. For the dressage, it is the best choice. If it does not bite as hard as the German Shepherd, it bites faster and with more ease.

The Groenendael is the most courageous, intelligent but sometimes susceptible. Trained it is a formidable guard.

The Tervueren sometimes the character of the Groenendael and sometimes it is more peaceful. It can be a very good companion. The combative spirit, the nervousness and the hyperactivity of the Belgian Shepherd Dog classify it among the more difficult dogs. Its high quality in dressage and also as guardian give it the success it merits.

The Belgian Shepherd (regardless the variety) is a very attached animal. It is because of its intelligence, its fidelity and its different moral qualities. There is the marvelous devotion of this dog and the extraordinary satisfactions that it can only give to a worthy master.

Whether it is a Groenendael, a Tervueren, a Malinois or a rough-haired, the Belgian Shepherd represents for the canine breed the "image" of the perfect dog.

The Belgian Shepherd Dog is not a little lap dog, nor a piece of furniture. To choose such a breed, one must know the breed before buying one.

THE FIRST STANDARD OF THE BREED APRIL 1892

FEATURES OF THE BELGIAN SHEPHERD DOG

general appearance: smart, obedient, loyal; strong, zealous,
average height: 55cm or 22 ins.

head: long, sharp muzzle ; black nose ; forehead flat and broad ; stop between nose
and forehead: not deep ; eyes: smart expression, brown or yellowish ; ears :
triangular, semi-long, straight

neck: strong, but not too long

backline: straight, broad, short

tail: thick a little curled

chest: narrow

rib cage: high, deep, not too broad

shoulder: long, quite angled

elbow: level

thigh: muscled

leg: long

color: black, grey, brown, brown brindle, red-brown

varieties:

long-haired: mostly accepted color: black ; smooth hair ;
fairly long; dense at the base of the ear, the elbow
and the backpart of the forearm, the neck: collar,
and the tail. Short hair on the head, legs and
ears.

rough-haired: rough hair, semi-long, shaggy. Mostly grey-colored, beard at the
lips, short rough hairs at the eyes; not a bushy tail,; short, smooth, red-brown or
brown brindle, black muzzle.

short-haired: smooth hair on the head, the legs and the ears. Semi-long hair on
the neck: the collar, the tail in form of a spike.

CURRENT STANDARD

General Appearance. A medium-sized, coordinated, well-proportioned dog, elegant, intelligent, made for covering great distances, as it was once accustomed to guarding and encircling great flocks of sheep. Its coat protects it from the inclemencies of the weather and enables it to withstand the great variations of the European climate. The harmony of its build, the majestic carriage of its head give to the Belgian Shepherd Dog the impression of a thoroughbred and proud representative of a working breed.

Characteristics, in addition to its inborn ability as guardian of the flocks it has the valuable quality of a good watch dog for house and home and a tenacious and brave defender of its master and his family. It is watchful and attentive and its inquisitive, ardent glance is full of intelligence.

The Belgian Shepherd Dog is bred in four varieties and three types of coat.

Head. It is a characteristic of the various types of shepherd dog that the breed type comes out strongest in the head. The Belgian Shepherd Dog still has as its inheritance the pure wild dog's head, just as nature created it. It should be long in the skull and the extended. The beauty of the head is most important, it enhances the whole noble impression of the dog. The head should be nobly shaped and fit the bone structure of a dog. It must not be as long and narrow as a Collie's nor as short and broad as in the Spitz. The lines of the forehead and nose should run parallel. The head should be well formed, long without exaggeration and clean. The skull and the muzzle should be of approximately the same length, with at most a slightly longer muzzle, which gives the whole the impression of perfection.

Stop. Moderate.

Skull. Moderate width. The forehead is flat rather than rounded, the middle line is not accentuated. The skull line runs parallel with the nose line.

Eyes. They are medium size, as dark as possible and almond shaped, neither prominent nor deep set. The look should be rather bold, very lively and intelligent. The eye should not show malice, fear or lethargy. The eyelids have black rims.

Nose. Black with well opened nostrils.

Muzzle. Of medium length with the nose gradually tapering to it. The top of the nose is straight. Seen in profile its runs parallel with the line of the skull. The muzzle is well divided, i.e. the corners of the mouth are about in line with the eyes.

Flews. They are of thin texture, taut together, well pigmented (black), the corners well closed.

Cheeks. Clean, flat, no prominent.

Ears. They are high-set, small, triangular and carried well pricked and give an intelligent and alert expression; proportionate to the length of the head and the size of the dog. The base of the outside of the ear is well rounded and not too broad.

Teeth. The jaws are furnished with 42 strong, white, regular teeth, which are well rooted in the jaw. A complete scissors bite is desirable, i.e. the incisors of the upper jaw slide over the incisors of the lower jaw like scissors without losing contact with them. Level meeting of the incisors is tolerated, it is the so-called "pincer bite" and was earlier preferred by the herdsman.

Neck. It is longish, well muscled, without dewlap, broadening gradually towards the shoulders, unconstrained and carried high: the crest is slightly arched.

Forequarters:

Shoulders. The shoulder blades are long, sloping and flat, and form an angle with the upper arm, to give the elbow easy play. The shoulder must be normally angled, too steep an angle causes too little fore chest. A good fore chest gives a good length of pace, which every good trotter has.

Upper arm. Lying close to the body.

Forearm. Long and well muscled.

Pasterns. Strong and short, joints distinct, without rickets.

Paws. Roundish, the toes are arched and close, the pads firm and the nails dark and strong.

Chest. Seen from the front, not too broad, without being narrow. It must be deep as in all animals of great endurance. The depth, of brisket amounts to about 45 % of the withers height. If the brisket depth is more than 50 % the dog is too low on its legs and loses elegance. The ribs are well rounded but not barrel-shaped. Where the chest is too narrow, the elbows are usually pressed in close, giving a so-called French stance.

Withers. Distinct.

Back and Loins. Straight, broad, strongly muscled and short. A swayback reduces the staying power and speed and is therefore a fault for a working dog.

Rump. Well rounded, very little slope, broad without exaggeration.

Belly. Moderately drawn up, neither flat nor tucked or like a greyhound, continuing the line of the brisket in a harmonious curve.

Hindquarters. Powerful without coarseness. The limbs must move in the same line as the forelegs.

Thigh. Broad and strongly muscled.

Second thigh. Long, broad and muscular. Hock as low as possible, sufficiently angled without exaggeration.

Metatarsus. Firm and short, dew claws are not desired and must be removed if present at birth.

Paws. Slightly oval, the toes slightly arched, tightly closed, the

pads thick and elastic, the claws dark and strong.

Tail. It is well set on, of medium length and strong at the base. At rest it is carried hanging, it should reach to the hock and the end bends slightly backwards. In action, particularly with male dogs, it may be slightly raised, but must not form a sickle, never curled and should not diverge from the back line.

Movement. The gait is ground-covering and easy. Through its tremendous temperament the Belgian Shepherd Dog has the inclination to circle its master as it did earlier the herd. It seems to be tireless. Its normal pace is the trot. The start of the movement is harmonious with a good length of stride. Of all dog breeds it has most kept the primitive trotting build, like the wolf or the wild dog has in the wild.

Body. The body is powerful but without coarseness, it is square, i.e. the length of the body (distance from point of shoulder to point of buttock) is in dogs nearly the same as the height to the withers. In bitches it may be rather more.

Coat

(a) Long-haired. Short hair on the head, on the outer sides of the ears and on the lower limbs, except for the back of the forelegs, which are feathered from the elbows to the wrists. Hair long and smooth on the rest of the body and longer and more abundant on the neck and the fore chest, where it forms a ruff and manes. The hair grows upwards from the base of the ears and frames the head. The legs have very long and dense hair, with so-called trousers. The long-haired are the Groenendael, the Tervueren and the Other Colored (Grey).

(b) Short-haired. Short hair on the whole body, very short hair on the head, the outer sides of the ears and the lower limbs. Rather longer on the tail and round the neck, where it forms a small collar, which starts at the base of the ears and reaches the fore chest. Also the edges of the legs are feathered with longer hair.

The Short-haired is the Malinois.

(c) Rough-haired. The hair is rough, firm and shaggy, an even 6cm or 2.4 ins. or so on all parts of the body. But neither round the eyes nor the muzzle should it be so long and bushy that the Laeken looks like a Schnauzer or Bouvier or Briard. A little beard should nevertheless be there, but it must be hard and rough. The tail should not be bushy.

The Rough-haired is the Laeken.

In all types of coat the hair should be rich and dense, giving good protection against wet and cold.

Colors:

The Groenendael is black.

The Tervueren is red-brown (mahogany color) with dark mask and dark tinge (Overlay).

The Other-colored is grey in varying shades with dark mask and overlay.

The Malinois is red-brown with dark mask.

The Laeken is brown in varying shades. White markings are allowed on chest and paws.

Faults:

Dominant red tinge or white socks in the Groenendael; wavy hair in long or short-haired; too short hair in the Malinois such as in the Doberman; or too long, such as for instance in the German Shepherd Dog. Too silky or too soft hair or interspersed woolly hair in the Laeken. Lack of pigmentation in the flews or nose. Open flews, too marked or too little stop, too broad or too heavy a head or too pointed, foxy head, too light or round eyes, also the lack of teeth (premolars), too little mask, lack of overlay, too much overlay (tending to a black saddle), straight shoulders, loose elbows, straight stifle, weak pasterns, long or open paws, sway back or hunched (roach) back, sloping rump, tail carried above top line, barrel chest, toe-in or toe-out stance.

Faults which lead to Disqualification or Prohibition of Breeding.

Under or overshot mouth, absence of more than one small premolar. Complete absence of mask in the Tervueren and Malinois, reversed mask (as for instance in the Husky or Collie). Yellow, piercing eyes, drooping or floating ears, white markings elsewhere than on paws and chest, curly or docked tail, over or under size, bitch type of dog, dog type of bitch, lack of Belgian type, e.g. foreign impression such as German Shepherd Dog or Collie type

Monorchids or Cryptorchids. Likewise, shy, over-anxious, nervous, bad-tempered or snappy animals are to be disqualified.

The FCI forbids mixed matings, i. e. the various color and coat types may not be crossed. Exceptions for the improvement of the variety may only be made very rarely and only with the permission of the Breeding commission of Belgium, the country of origin.

Size: The desired size is:

62cm (24 -1/2 ins) for dogs

58cm (23 ins) for bitches

Body measurements: The average measurements for a Belgian Shepherd Dog of 62cm high at the withers are:

Height (Withers) 62cm / 24 1/2 inch

Body Length (Point of breastbone to point of rump) 62cm / 24 1/2 inch

Back Length (Withers to Pelvis) 41cm / 16 ins

Chest circumference (measured behind the elbows) 75cm / 29 1/2 ins

Depth of Brisket 31cm / 12 ins

Distance from ground to underside chest 31cm / 12 ins

Head Length 25cm / 10 ins

Muzzle Length 12.5cm / 5 ins

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- AUBRY J.(Mrs.) Le Berger Belge (Part I - history breeding- education - cares)
(1977)
- AUBRY J.(Mrs.) Le Berger Belge (Part II evolution-varieties- lines-usage) (1983)
- BERNARD Daniel L'Homme et le Loup (1981)
- BLARINGHEM L. Les Transformations brusques des Etres vivants (1920)
- BOSSI E.(Mrs.) Histoire et Standard des Bergers Belges (1977)
- BRIBA Monique Les animaux malades des hommes (1983)
- CHARTIER Gill.es L'Art du Dressage de Defense et d'Attaque (1979)
- COUPLET Joseph Le Chien de Garde, de Defense et de Police Fourth edition (1912)
- COUPLET Joseph Le Chien Ambulancier ou Sanitaire (1911)
- DEBY Julien Histoire Naturelle de la Belgique (1848)
- de BYLANDT Comte Henri Les Races de Chiens (Part I - shepherd dogs - Bouviers)
(1924))
- DECHAMBRE Paul Le Chien (1921)
- DECHAMBRE Edmond Les Chiens (1971)
- DECHAMBRE Edmond and De la Psychologie du Chien - Base du
PECRIAUX Raymond Dressage (1958)
- DE WAEL Gaston Le Chien Auxiliaire du Combattant (1925)
- EEKHOUD Georges Les Peintres Animaliers Belges (1911)
- FIORONE Fiorenzo Les Chiens de Berger Belges (1982)
- FRIJLINK Jan Hilco In het Spoor van de Wolf (1976)
- FRISON-ROCHE Roger Les Seigneurs de la Faune Canadienne (1976)
- GUARINI O. Le Chien mon fidele camarade - Dressage et Elevage des Chiens
policiers
- HAAK Ruud Belgische Herders (198?)
- HAAK Ruud De Mechelse Herdershond (1984)
- HENRY R Traite pratique de Dressage des Chiens de Pistage, de Liaison...et
de Guerre (1925)
- HENRY R. Traite pratique de Dressage des Chiens de Garde, de Defense et de
Police (1923)

HUYGHEBAERT Louis Des Loups et des Metis de loups (1939)

HUYGHEBAERT Louis Le Chien, Psychologie-Olfaction-Mecanisme de l'Odorat (1940)

LARBALETRIER A. Manuel pratique de l'Amateur de Chiens

LORENZ Konrad II parlait avec les mammiferes, les oiseaux et les poissons (1968)

LQRENZ Konrad Tous les chiens, tous les chats (1970)

MATHIEU Gaston Le Chien Criminel-Methode de Dressage pour l'Exploration et le Pistage (1911)

MEGNIN Paul Nos Chiens (1929)

MEGNIN Pierre Les Chenils et leurs Hygiene (1905)

MOIRANT Rene Mon ami ROCK (1986)

MOWAT Farley Mes amis les loups (1974)

PATHFINDER & DALZIEL Hugh Dressage et Elevage des Chiens de Chasse, de Garde et d'Agrement (1906)

PECRIAUX Raymond CANIDAE - Manuel a l'usage des Amateurs de chiens (1954)

REUL Adolphe Les Races de Chiens (1891-1894)

SENGLAUB Konrad De hond - zijn oorsprong en wilde verwanten (1978)

THEVENIN Rene Origine des Animaux domestique (1947)

TOUSSENEL A. L'Esprit des Betes - Zoologie passionnelle Mammiferes de France (1862)

TRUMLER Eberhard 1000 Tips voor de Hondenvriend (1980) TRUMLER Eberhard

VAN CAMPENHOUT Ernest Elements de Genetique-Science de l'heredite (1946)

VAN CEULEBROEK Georges L'Historique du Berger Belge (1983)

VAN RHEENEN Jan De Hollandse en Belgische Herder (197?)

VICTOR Paul-Emile & Les Loups (1980)

LARIVIERE Jean

ZWAENEPOEL H. Ethnographic et Zootechnie speciale des chiens et des chats (1921)

Without author

* Le Chien-Policier a Gand (1907)- City of Gent (Belgium)

* Points Caracteristiques du Chien de Berger Belge (1909) Societe Nationale pour l'Amelioration du Chien de Berger Belge.

