

THE SAINT BERNARD IN A NUTSHELL

BY: HELEN T VITOUS

Look for:

A proportionately tall, powerful dog.

Height at least 27 1/2" for dogs, bitches 2" less.

Massive wide skull, slightly arched, strong high cheek bones, occiput slightly developed.

Deep furrow between eyes, runs over the whole skull.

Slope from skull to muzzle sudden & steep.

Muzzle short, rather deep and broader than long.

Straight muzzle set, shallow furrow on top.

Flews strong, curvaceous, dark pigment on lips.

Sound scissors bite preferred, undershot not desirable.

Nose always black, big and broad.

Ears medium size, rather high set, excellent burr, thick leather.

Dark eyes, medium size, set moderately deep, some haw.

Avoid:

A leggy, squat, or long-loined dog.

A weedy, small dog, or an excessively large and gross one.

Skull narrow, absolutely flat, too pointed or too much rounded

Lack of furrow, slight brow formation.

Lack of stop, general lack of imposing qualities to the head.

Muzzle pointed, tapered or narrow, too excessively short or shallow.

Poor muzzle set, general downward set.

Too deep & pendant a flew, too much loose skin generally, poor pigmentation.

Overshot bite, teeth malformation.

Brown nose, small nostrils.

Too large or too small ear, too high or too low set, clinging to the head, poor ear thickness.

Light eyes, too small or too large eyes, roundness. Poorly set eyes, too much haw showing.

PAGE 2 / THE SAINT BERNARD IN THE NUTSHELL
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Expression intelligent & friendly, neither aggressive nor shy.

Neck high set, very strong, nape very muscular, on the short side in length, some dewlap.

Body well balanced.

Back Broad, straight to the rump, slight slope there to tail.

Shoulders sloping & broad, muscular & powerful.

Powerful & muscular forearms, straight.

Chest well arched, moderately deep.

Hindquarters well developed, muscular, moderate angulation.

Broad, high knuckled feet, strong toes.

Shorthaired: dense short tough coat, lying smooth to body.

Longhaired: dense, medium length, plain to wavy.

Color, the various shades of brown-yellow to red, with white markings. Dark shadings on head & ears. Necessary white chest, feet & tip of tail, noseband, collar or spot on nape.

Sound, straight forward action, without fanning or weaving.

Confident, loving behaviour, without unprovoked aggressiveness.

Gloomy, stern, threatening or piercing expression, fierce or cowardly.

Too short, stubby, too long & goose-like, weak or concave. Too throaty or pendant with excess skin.

Disproportionately long back.

Long, sway-backed, roach back, overbuilt.

Short upright shoulder blades, general weakness.

Light or shelly bone structure, forearm bent or bowed, weak.

Concave chest, slab-sided, too deep, not to reach below the elbows.

Scrawny, straight hindquarters with too long hocks.

Sloppy, thin or splayed feet, long toes.

Thin, silky, wavy or curled coat.

Thin, silky, too long, curly or rolled, shagginess.

Never of one color or without white, lack of mask & ear shadings, freckles & ticking.

Action in front too loose, out at elbows, weak pasterns. Cowhocks, straight hindquarters, hocks too much bent.

Viciousness or shyness.