

Lists Points For Judging St. Bernards

Vice President Fleischli Gives 12 Cardinal Judging Points

In a recent visit which the editor was privileged to have with Vice President Joseph H. Fleischli of Springfield, Ill., the conversation turned to the judging of St. Bernards. Prefacing his remarks with the statement, "if I were a judge," Mr. Fleischli explained what he would look for and how he would go about judging a Saint were he officiating in the ring.

It is one thing to be familiar with the standard for any particular breed and another thing to put it into practice and interpret it correctly in the ring. Mr. Fleischli's remarks, therefore, are invaluable as they show just what steps a good judge of the breed takes in arriving at his decision. His twelve cardinal points, listed in the order of their importance, are given below:

"In judging a St. Bernard, I would look him over in this manner," Mr. Fleischli began:

(1) Soundness in body and limbs would be the primary consideration. In general, the St. Bernard should present a tall, powerful and erect appearance. Every part of him should be strong and muscular. His head should be powerful and he should have an intelligent and a good-natured expression. He must show himself to be a sound and healthy dog before I would consider his other points.

(2) Next I would look at his head. This ought to be imposing. The skull should be massive and wide. It should be somewhat arched with the occiput only slightly developed. There should be no tendency to what is known as apple-headedness. The supra-orbital ridge (upper ridge of the eye) should be very strongly developed and should form almost a right angle with the horizontal axis of the head. There should be a well-defined furrow running over the whole skull. It should be very deep just between the supra-orbital arches and the forehead and then gradually become shallow at the base of the occiput. The forehead should be formed into wrinkles that converge toward the furrow. This wrinkling of the skin on the forehead should be decidedly visible in action. In well-marked dogs, the furrow is white and presents an even appearance. There should be a clear and well-defined stop from the skull to the muzzle. This slope must be sudden and steep.

(3) I would next examine the muzzle. This ought to be short and must never be snipy. It should be deep and show its depth. A convenient method of measuring the depth, I find, is to say that the depth should always be slightly greater than the length of the muzzle. This makes the depth very apparent and adds to the striking appearance of the head. The bridge of the muzzle should be straight, never arched. Here again a shallow but well-defined furrow should run over the bridge from the stop to the nose. The flews of the upper jaw must



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be rather strongly developed, turn into a graceful curve into the lower edge and always be overhanging. The flews of the lower jaw must never be pendant. The teeth should be in good, sound condition and should measure up to the conformation of the head.

(4) The nose, like the head, should be very broad and strong-looking. The nostrils ought to be well-dilated and should add to the prominence of the nose. Without exception, the nose and lips should always be black.

(5) The ears should be of moderate size, set on reasonably high. They ought to stand slightly outward at the base and lie closely to the head, always flat and without a fold. The ears should give the skull a square and broad appearance, and, in order to do this, they must have a strongly developed base.

(6) From the ears I would pass to the eyes. These ought to be always dark in color, set moderately deep, and in the front of the head. The lower eyelids should not fit closely to the eyeballs but should form a V wrinkle toward the inner corner. Lower eyelids that hang away from the eyeballs and show a thick, red raw are objectionable.

(7) The neck, shoulders and chest must be in keeping with the general conformation of the body and should be strong and muscular. In action the neck should be carried erect; at other times, slightly downward. Clearly noticeable dewlaps on the neck should be given careful consideration. The chest should be deep and reach just to the elbows.

(8) The back must be very broad and should slope slightly from the haunches to the rump. A good spring of the ribs, in proportion to the size of the back, is desirable. A sway-back or a disproportionately long back is decidedly objectionable. The hind quarters should be well-developed with an especial muscular development in the thighs.

(9) The tail should be long, broad, heavy and end in a blunt tip. In action the dog should carry the tail more or less upward, but it should never be carried rolled over the back.

(10) The forearms and the forelegs should be straight with the fore-arms being extraordinarily muscular.

(11) The hind legs should be those of a working dog. They should be a little bent at the hocks and allow the feet to turn slightly outward. This, of course, must not be understood to mean cow-hocked. The feet, both front and hind, should be broad with strong toes well closed up and high knuckles. The so-called Wolfsklauen (dewclaws) which usually appear on the hind legs are of no use to the dog and in some cases hinder his movement. In my opinion, they should be removed, although according to the to the touch. The thighs are per-standard, no consideration of these should be made in judging.

Club Member Gives Advice on Feeding And Care of Saint

So many requests have been received by the secretary asking advice on the care and feeding of growing St. Bernards that it was deemed imperative to devote some space to this subject here. It must be recognized at the outset, however, that no hard and fast rules can be laid down, as dogs vary almost as much as human beings in their appetite and tastes.

Accordingly, one will find as many different systems of feeding St. Bernards as there are kennels devoted to raising them. One breeder, for instance, will maintain that variety and change of diet is important, while another will insist that simplicity and repetition of diet will turn the trick best of all. After all is said and done, it may be the amateur's best bet to select from the list of foods which are good for growing St. Bernards the items which his particular dog likes best and stuff him on those.

How one St. Bernard owner had exceedingly good luck in raising her dog under a simple system of feeding is told in the St. Bernard department of the May 1932 issue of the AMERICAN KENNEL GAZETTE. If any of you have not read it, you may procure a copy by sending 50 cents to the offices of the GAZETTE, the address of which is 221 Fourth avenue, New York, N. Y.

We are indebted here for a fine contribution on the care and feeding of growing St. Bernards, furnished by one of our club members, Mrs. Jessyn S. Robinson, owner of the Berne-Arda Kennels, Birmingham, Mich. It is this same advice that Mrs. Robinson sends out with her puppies

(12) Lastly, I would examine the coat. This should be long or short, according to whether the dog is rough or smooth-coated. In the smooth-coated dog, it should be very dense, broken-haired, lying smooth, and tough but without being rough mitted to be slightly bushed. The rough-coated dog should have moderately long, flat hair, and it must never be rolled, curly or shaggy. The hair should be longer on the neck, producing an effect which makes the dog appear more massive in front. The hair on the tail should be bushy but never rolled, parted or feathered. The hair on the rear of the thighs should be very bushy. The color should be red with white or white with red. By red is meant that color in all its various shades, including the light and dark brindle. The following white markings are absolutely necessary: white muzzle, blaze, chest, legs, and tip of tail. Black shadings on the face and ears give the dog a very attractive appearance and are highly desirable.

when she ships them to their new homes.

Four meals a day until six months of age; three to 18 months, and two meals thereafter.

The following are the proper foods for a growing St. Bernard:

Oatmeal porridge, cornmeal mush, stale bread (whole wheat preferred), eggs and milk, raw hamburger, large bones, puppy meal, kibble (broken) dog biscuit, whole dog biscuits, shredded wheat, raw beef hearts (ground), all vegetables except potatoes, and broths of all kinds.

The meals should be varied, never giving the same diet more than three days in succession. Mix all meat with puppy meal, kibble or bread and add vegetables, moistening with milk or gravy to a mealy consistency but never sloppy. Make the evening meal the heaviest of the day, eliminating the last meal first, then the noon meal by the time the pup is 18 months, when he should be getting only breakfast and supper.

For additional bone-building elements, add to his meals at intervals of two or three times a week bone-meal, lime water and cod liver oil. A SAINT BERNARD MUST HAVE THESE THE FIRST YEAR OF HIS LIFE.

Water should be before him at all times, changing often.

Never feed small chops, chicken, fish or other small bones.

Bathe rarely. Daily grooming is best. This keeps his coat free from parasites and removes the falling puppy hair. It also insures a splendid heavy coat of mature hair.

Remove all dishes as soon as the dog has eaten, keep them clean and do not allow any food to stand around. Keep his "run" sanitary, clean up often, raking all bones and evacuations into a hole and burying them.

Give him his own kennel and run, if the premises are not fenced in. This will give him his "sense of possession" and he will realize how far his own home extends—a puppy knows no lot lines.

Make his kennel sturdy and roomy. In cold weather give him a deep bed of straw or cedar shavings, and in extremely cold weather nail an old rug or gunny sack over the door. This both gives him freedom and protects him from the chilly winds.

In hot weather let him into the cool basement during the heat of the day, give him lots of clean, cool water, and allow him under the fine spray of

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