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Comparing the Affenpinscher and the Brussels Griffon

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Once upon a time, many years ago when most every Affenpinscher we saw was black with a docked tail and most every Brussels Griffon seen was a red rough, in a small town in Michigan I was waiting at the ring entrance for my 10 a.m. judging. My four black rough Griffons were the total entry for the day and eager to get in the ring. I noticed the judge glancing outside the ring toward us. When the breed was called and I started into the ring, I was stopped by the judge who loudly told me, "No dearie, Affenpinschers are at 1 o'clock." I needn't write about the short discussion that followed, nor my sinking confidence in her judging ability as I entered the ring.

Few breeds confuse onlookers more than the Affenpinscher and the Brussels Griffon do. When entering the Toy Group alphabetically these first two breeds are similar in build and stature. They are also the only two breeds in the Toy Group sporting hand-stripped terrier jackets. They can be the same colors and can present similar sizes and outlines.

Although this confusion is understandable, looking at them more carefully even from a distance, one will note slight differences in profile, gait, body balance and substance. Upon viewing the heads up close, there are few similarities at all!

This is a comparison of the Affenpinscher and the Brussels Griffon. However, it must be noted that the physical and mental attributes which essentially separate these two breeds (e.g. the brachycephalic characteristics unique only to the Brussels Griffon) are most evident through the English Toy Spaniel heritage. Therefore, I will on occasion include the English Toy Spaniel in this comparison.



This is not to slight the Affenpinscher, but it is because these added influences of the brachycephalic breeds used in addition to the Affenpinscher to form the Brussels Griffon require further discussion. Also the Brussels Griffon standard contains four disqualifications while the Affenpinscher standard contains none.

HISTORY

It is thought by most experts that the Affenpinscher had a large role in the creation of breeds such as the Miniature Pinscher, Miniature Schnauzer and Brussels Griffon.

The Affenpinscher is an old breed with its origins in Germany as a hunter of small vermin. Noted paintings such as Jan Van Eyck's (1390-1441) *The Marriage of Giovanni Arnolfini and Giovanna Cenami* ascertain that small rough-coated dogs similar to the Affenpinscher existed for many centuries.



The Affenpinscher was exhibited in Germany as early as 1880 under the name German Toy Rat Terrier. Size eventually split this breed with the larger-sized dogs veering off into the Miniature Schnauzer while the smaller-sized dogs were known as the Affenpinscher. Affenpinschers were listed for the first time as a separate breed in the 1903-07 German registration book for the German Pinscher-Schnauzer Club.

Even though Brussels Griffons are the younger breed, they made their debut in the US at an earlier time than the Affenpinscher. It wasn't until 1936 that the

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Affenpinscher was listed in the AKC Stud Book, 30-plus years after the Brussels Griffon. While both breeds have had their ups and downs in popularity during the last century, the Affenpinscher neared extinction with the onset of WW II in Germany, its country of origin.

The Affenpinscher or an "Affenpinscher-type small terrier-like ratter" was used with the Pug and the English Toy Spaniel to create the Brussels Griffon. These brachycephalic crosses inhibited the Brussels Griffon's successful rattering in the stables and moved them into the home and bedroom as a ladies' small pet (and probably an occasional mouser). By 1880 in Belgium the breed was called the Griffon Bruxellois, the Brussels Griffon. By 1883 Belgian breeders had formulated a standard and had established regular classes in show competition. About 1889, when the Club du Griffon Bruxellois was established in Brussels, the smooth was recognized as a separate variety under the name Griffon Brabançon.

In 1899 Brussels Griffons first appeared in the AKC Stud Book, shown at Westminster in the Miscellaneous Class.

SIZE

The small stable ratter of origin to the Affenpinscher came in varying sizes. Before 1900 occasionally in Europe these German Toy Rat Terriers were shown in classes for dogs weighing under and over 5 pounds. The smaller ones officially became Affenpinschers and the larger

ones were absorbed into the Miniature Schnauzer breed.

In both Affenpinschers and Brussels Griffons, it is not uncommon to have a wide variety of sizes mature in the same litter. On any day it is possible to judge a 6 pounder in the same class with a 13 pounder (and quite possible for them to be littermates).

The ideal size for both breeds is comparable. The Affenpinscher standard states height at the withers is 9½ inches to 11½ inches. Brussels Griffon weight is usually 8 to 10 pounds. While the Affenpinscher is not delicate in any way, it is more slightly built than the Griffon. The dense muscle and heavier bone of the Griffon gives him a



heavier body when hefting both breeds of the same measurements.

It is important to note that neither breed has a disqualification for size or weight and both breeds emphasize that type and quality are of greater importance than weight, height or any individual characteristic.

HEAD

The very definite and obvious differences between these two breeds are seen in the head!

The heads are virtually nothing alike with the exception that both breeds have high-set ears that are either cropped or naturally semi-erect. (The Brussels Griffon standard asks for small ears.) Both breeds have heads that can be covered with similar-colored harsh hair if the Griffon is rough. The likeness stops there.

In addition to the cropped and semi-erect ear, the Affenpinscher may also have naturally standing erect (uncropped) or drop ears (like that of a Pug). All the above types of ears are acceptable for the Affenpinscher as long as they are symmetrical and maintain the monkey-like expression.

It is with the head that we must bring the English Toy Spaniel's AKC standard into this comparison. The similarities of the ETS (a breed of origin to the Brussels Griffon) are remarkable to the head and skull of the Brussels Griffon.

These are the attributes of the English Toy Spaniel's AKC standard that are the same or similar to the Brussels Griffon: Head large in comparison to size. Eyes large and very dark brown or black, set squarely on line with the nose, with little or no white showing. The eye rims should be black. Skull high and well domed; from

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These two photos show each breed with lovely high set semi-erect natural ears and with perfect eye/nose placement and great expression for its breed.

the side, curves as far out over the eyes as possible. Stop deep and well-defined. Muzzle very short, with the nose well laid back and with well developed cushioning under the eyes. Jaw square, broad and deep, and well turned up, with lips properly meeting to give a finished appearance. Nose large and jet black in color, with large, wide open nostrils. Bite slightly undershot; teeth not to show.

The Affenpinscher has a smaller head in proportion to body than either the Brussels Griffon or the English Toy Spaniel. The Affenpinscher has a definite nose, closer-set, more forward-looking smaller eyes and a different head type altogether.

SKULL COMPARISONS

Brussels Griffon — large and round, with a domed forehead. The stop deep. A large skull is highly prized. The top skull, between the ears, is slightly rounded. The forehead, the portion of the skull immediately over the eyes to the top of the skull, is where the dome occurs. A correct layback will tilt the extremely short nose up and back, high between the eyes forming a deep stop which can be felt but is not visible. Undesirable: Flat forehead. Stop too visible.

English Toy Spaniel — High and well domed; from the side, curves as far out over the eyes as possible. Stop deep and well-defined.

Affenpinscher — Round and domed, but not coarse. Stop — Well-defined. The size of the head has to be felt as it is hidden under the loose shaggy head hair. The skull is gently domed, as wide as it is long.



These two gorgeous head studies, both with cropped ears, show beautiful type and expression.

EYES

Affenpinscher — Round, dark, brilliant and of medium size in proportion to the head but not bulging or protruding. Eye rims are black.

English Toy Spaniel — Large and very dark brown or black, set squarely on line with the nose, with little or no white showing. The eye rims should be black.

Brussels Griffon — Set well apart, very large, black, prominent and well open. The eyelashes long and black. Eyelids edged with black.

In Brussels Griffons, the pigment must be black black. Any other color indicates disqualification of the dudley or butterfly nose, which will tip you off to color dilutes such as chocolate, etc. If in question when judging please check the foot pads.

Griffons do not ask for prominent bulging eyes; the use of the word prominent is meant for the lids to be well open to show most of the lovely large round eye, filled with black color and not a ring of white.



This picture depicts the "domed skull" of the Brussels Griffon and the English Toy Spaniel. Also the broad, well turned up bottom mandible and the lay in of the nose pad.

Both the Affenpinscher and the Brussels Griffon want eyes to be as dark as possible or black. However, the Affenpinscher's eyes are not as large and are set closer together in the middle of the skull. Length of the muzzle is approximately the same as the distance between the eyes. The Brussels Griffon's large eyes are set well apart to allow room for the extremely short, well laid back nose to fit deep in line between them. The very large prominent eyes are a part of what gives the Griffon that "almost human" expression so important to breed type.

In both the Brussels Griffon and the English Toy Spaniel the eyes should be set in a line with the large deep-set nose pad.

NOSE

Affenpinscher — Black, turned neither up nor down. Muzzle — Short and narrowing slightly to a blunt nose. The length of the muzzle is approximately the same as the distance between the eyes. Lips — Black, with prominent lower lip.

Brussels Griffon — very black, extremely short, its tip being set back deeply between the eyes so as to form a layback. The nostrils large. DQ — Dudley or butterfly nose. Lips edged with black, not pendulous but well brought together, giving a clean finish to the mouth.

English Toy Spaniel — Large and jet black in color, with large, wide open nostrils. Muzzle — Very short, with the nose well laid back and with well-developed cushioning under the eyes.

The Affenpinscher has a smaller nose leather in proportion to the head and the nose pad is a more 'normal type' placed vertically to the head on a bit of a nose, rather than the extremely large, 'tilted in toward the forehead' leather of the Brussels Griffon

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and ETS that is associated more with the extreme brachycephalic type head.

BITE AND JAWS

All three breeds call for a slightly undershot bite.

BITE — Affenpinscher — Slightly undershot. A level bite is acceptable if the monkey-like expression is maintained. An overshot bite is to be severely penalized. A wry mouth is a serious fault. The teeth and tongue do not show when the mouth is closed. The lower jaw is broad enough for the lower teeth to be straight and even.

JAWS — Brussels Griffon must be undershot. The incisors of the lower jaw should protrude over the upper incisors. The lower jaw is prominent, rather broad with an upward sweep. Neither teeth nor tongue should show when the mouth is closed. A wry mouth is a serious fault. Disqualification — Bite overshot. Hanging tongue

BITE — English Toy Spaniel — Slightly undershot; teeth not to show. A wry mouth should be penalized; a hanging tongue is extremely objectionable. Jaw — Square, broad, and deep, and well turned up, with lips properly meeting to give a finished appearance.

This well turned up bottom jaw that the Brussels Griffon inherited from the English Toy Spaniel is a very important aspect of the entire head and expression of both the Griffon and the ETS. The Brussels Griffon Illustrated Standard says: "The upper lip should be short and plush. The upward sweep of the lower jaw is of great importance. It is this 'pout' that sets the breed apart. Without the correct upsweep, the lips will not meet giving the 'clean finish' to the mouth. A Griffon with a strong undershot jaw that does not curve up will no doubt show teeth and tongue. There will be too much space between the upper and lower incisors and the lips will not meet. The underjaw should be broad to give room for six incisors; however, visible breadth of muzzle and jaw is of primary importance. When examining the bite of the Brussels Griffon it is important to be conscious of what you are looking for! By lifting a lip at the side you can ascertain that the dog is undershot — you will not normally see top teeth if the bottom mandible is folded up the way it should be. Please do not hunt for them as they will be tucked behind the teeth of the swept-up bottom jaw. If you are judging in Europe and must count incisors, please ask the handler to open the mouth and be quick.

In either the Affenpinscher or the Brussels Griffon, the only time you need to lift both lips at the same time (which will



Totally different grooming styles, heads, skulls and expressions. The Affenpinscher (left) exhibits the naturally standing erect ear and belge coat.



shut off their air) while looking straight into the mouth is if you suspect the finest specimen in the ring is wry and you cannot be sure without doing this. Both of these breeds are incredibly smart and very sensitive. (AND they hold grudges.)

The Affenpinscher has a prominent chin with an obvious black lower lip line. It is important to examine the bite. The undershot jaw accentuates the lower lip line and

body, carried confidently with monkey-like facial expression.

Brussels Griffon — neck is medium length, gracefully arched.

The difference in neck changes not only the balance and outline of the two breeds but also their carriage. The Griffon has more neck.

BODY, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE, BALANCE



contributes to the monkey-like expression. The lips of the Affenpinscher also have a visible seal with no tongue or teeth showing.

English Toy Spaniel — A wry mouth should be penalized; a hanging tongue is extremely objectionable.

Affenpinscher — A wry mouth is a serious fault. An overshot bite is to be severely penalized. The teeth and tongue do not show when the mouth is closed.

Brussels Griffon — A wry mouth is a serious fault. A hanging tongue is a disqualification.

NECK

Affenpinscher — Neck is short and straight The head is in proportion to the



Both breeds ask for square appearance, balance and level topline. Both are compact and measure as "square," approximately from the point of shoulder to rearmost projection of upper thigh in the Brussels Griffon, and from the point of shoulder to point of the buttocks in the Affenpinscher; and from height at withers to ground. Both are sturdy; the Griffon thickset. The brisket of the Brussels Griffon is broad and deep, ribs well spring. Short-coupled. The Affenpinscher is more moderate — chest is moderately broad and deep; ribs are moderately sprung. The Affenpinscher is medium boned; the Brussels Griffon is well boned.

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The Brussels Griffon's rump is approximately the same width as his shoulders with little or no indentation at the waist, contributing to the thickset, short appearance. The Affenpinscher carries more coat about the neck and shoulders, known as a cape or shawl. This difference in hair length and grooming gives him the appearance of being heavier in the shoulders than he really is. The Brussels Griffon has no obvious tuck up; the Affenpinscher's tuck up is slight.

The Affenpinscher standard states the female may be slightly longer, which seems a reasonable allowance in most any breed. Both breeds are slow maturing and generally long lived. Adult development in the show ring can be seen as late as 2½ or 3 years of age.

Both breeds want a level topline, but in the Affenpinscher, the croup has just a perceptible curve while the tail is set high and carried erect.

TAIL

Affenpinscher — may be docked or natural. A docked tail is generally between 1 and 2 inches long, set high and carried erect. (Docked tails on both breeds are the same.)

The natural tail is set high and carried gently curved up over the back while moving. The type of tail is not a major consideration.

Brussels Griffon — set and held high, docked to about one-third.

Many of you understand what it means to "Open the AKC Standard." The AKC standard, unless rules have changed since 1989, could not be opened for only one issue

(such as tail). Therefore every part of the standard theoretically could be in danger of being changed by the voting membership body of the parent club, sometimes to follow fads, sometimes because of a majority of young members who do not yet understand the reasoning behind the current long-standing standard and its development.

Some American judges have remarked to me that they have trouble judging a Brussels Griffon with a natural tail. Even if they don't object to the tail they say it "throws them off." In the part of the US where I grew up, Affenpinschers were always docked. Now the large majority of Affenpinschers I see are shown with natural tails. Judges have somehow adjusted.

It is no longer uncommon to have a fair number of imports in all of our breeds. Due to the relatively recent European and Australian ban on cropping and docking of all breeds, these imports arrive with natural ears and tails. Should it really be necessary to put an adult (who is used to living with and likes his tail) through a dock for his short career in the show ring? What about the unthrifty puppy that wasn't docked as a 3 day old and turns out to be smashing?

It is rare, but occasionally a tailless puppy is found in any brachycephalic breed. The tailless Griffon is addressed in the Illustrated Standard: "Docking to about one-third is a guide to approximate tail length. Puppies can be born with tail kinks which may result in having to cut the tail on the short side. A kink at the base may prevent the tail from being carried high. Others may be born with short tails or tailless. There should be no penalty for this

although the lack of enough tail does affect the overall balance of the dog."

While the American Brussels Griffon Association does not hold the natural-tailed dogs as desirable, and we do believe in continuing to dock our puppies' tails, the parent club has voted that the following statement be given during our Sanctioned Educational Seminars, in preference to "opening up" our AKC standard for this one issue.

The ABGA approved statement is as follows: "The AKC Brussels Griffon standard states tail is docked. A natural tail or tail anomaly, however, is not listed as a disqualification or a fault.

"Therefore, our AKC Standard Committee and our Directors have voted to leave this matter to the judge of the day.

"Dogs with natural tails, kinks or tailless dogs may compete.

The judge is completely within his/her rights to award honors to a Griffon with a natural tail, kink tail that cannot be carried up or a tailless Griffon; or to leave these exhibits unplaced, depending on the overall quality of the animal and how much the lack of tail, or complete natural tail, affects the judge's eye regarding the balance of the specimen."

FOREQUARTERS, HINDQUARTERS AND MOVEMENT/GAIT

Very important: Both breeds call for moderate angles front and rear and neither wants an extended hard-driving gait. Both breeds converge slightly to the center as speed increases.

Affenpinschers are to be lighter on their

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Affenpinschers are groomed to appear more chest heavy because of their "cape" and they have various lengths of coat on different parts of their body.

feet than Griffons. Movement is jaunty as well as light with not much reach and drive.

The AKC Affenpinscher standard states that hindlegs are set under the body to maintain a square appearance. This makes the ability to cover ground slightly less than that of the Griffon (whose rear hock is parallel with the point of buttock when he is standing) and has bearing on the slightly different movement between the breeds.

Equally faulty for both breeds are straight angles which produce stilted movement in the front and rear; or the over-angulated reach and drive often erroneously sought after. While many all-rounders look for extreme reach and drive as an indication of flowing movement and soundness in so many breeds, this movement is not correct for either the Affenpinscher or the Brussels Griffon.

With the correct called-for moderate angles, it is impossible to obtain the reach and drive of well laid in angles. This cannot be stressed enough!

During a discussion with the Affenpinscher Judges Education Chair, Connie Clapp, we concur that incorrect over-angulation in both our breeds is strived for by our breeders because it is rewarded by our Group judges.

The Affenpinscher is lighter on its feet; the Brussels Griffon is a thickset little chunk with dense muscle making up a substantial part of his body weight. This factor also marks a difference between the two while in motion and does comparatively give the Affenpinscher the required gait — Light, free, carries itself with comic seriousness...

Both breed standards want a true, double tracking gait while maintaining a level topline. Both breed clubs believe poor movement should not go unnoticed.

Incorrect movement for both breeds would be to hackney, goosetstep, to extend with too much reach and drive or go to the other extreme moving like a wheel under the body with absolutely no extension at all. Moderation is the key for both breeds.

FEET

The two breeds call for similar feet: Affenpinscher standard and Brussels Griffon's as well — small round and compact with black pads and nails... However the Affenpinscher does not have the English Toy influence that the Griffon does — Toes well arched, to thicken the pads and sometimes fuse the center digits (center pads and center toenails become one, called webs). Mention should be made of the so-called "web foot" found in some Griffon lines. This feature, like the kinked and short tails, can be traced to the cross with the

English Toy Spaniel. Many of the most desired head characteristics are also features from this cross. Puppies born with web feet and kinked tails, which often seem to go together, tend to have excellent heads.

COAT

The Affenpinscher's coat seems a whirlwind of different lengths and textures. The hair is about an inch on the shoulders and body; shorter on the rear and tail; longer on the head, neck, chest, stomach and legs. Adults have a mane or cape of strong hair blending in at the withers. Each length is blended together where they meet to create order that ends up looking neat but shaggy. The coat is coarse and harsh, but not wiry. A correct coat needs little grooming to blend the various lengths.

The Rough-Coated Brussels Griffon is shown in a shorter jacket than the Affenpinscher. It is long enough to determine texture but never long enough to look shaggy or unkempt. The Griffon's coat is as hard and wiry as possible. The rough-coated Griffon is hand stripped to maintain the same length all over, other than slightly longer head fringe and leg furnishings.

The coats of both breeds (as with most terriers) only grow excessively long if the texture is too soft.

The Pug influence in the development of the Brussels Griffon is evident in the Griffon's Smooth-Coated Variety — or



Lovely Black and Tans. It is not true that the darker colors always have better hard texture. It is quite possible to get the correct texture in the reds if a breeder makes this a priority in their breeding program, rather than taking the easy way and reaching for the chalk.

SUNSHINE PORTRAIT

Griffon Brabançon as it is known in its country of origin, Belgium. There is no Smooth variety in the Affenpinscher.

COLOR

Both breeds come in Red, Black, Belge and Black and Tan.

The Affenpinscher also comes in Gray and Silver and in variations of all of the accepted colors. The Affenpinscher standard on color is far more relaxed than the standard for the Brussels Griffon. Affenpinscher — blacks may have a rusty cast or a few white or silver hairs mixed with the black. Reds may vary from a brownish red to an orangey tan. Belge has black, brown and/or white hairs mixed with the red. Color is not a major consideration.

Many Affenpinscher puppies born as blacks, can "silver out" at a young adolescent age.

When a smattering of single white hairs is seen in adolescent Griffon coats (this happens in all colors, but is more obviously noticed in dark colors) — it almost always means the adult coat will be an excellent texture of very good color. Also, this smat-

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tering of white hairs will almost always disappear and fail to return after several strips into adulthood. In Affenpinschers, however, it usually means the darker coat colors will end up silver or gray and has little to do with texture.

BELGE — In both Brussels Griffons and Affenpinschers, Belge is a classification that is similar to wild boar color, a rich red with a smattering of black through the coat. If seen to perfection in Griffons, each hair shaft will be banded with both colors. This coat usually comes with a black face and very black pigment. Because the Belge can carry recessive genes for the Black and Tan, many of our belges look like black and tans at birth and the B/T pattern can still be seen on their coats in adulthood.

I understand from Connie Clapp that years ago this color in Affenpinschers was considered by many as wild boar; however, when the AKC started using acceptable color blocks on the registration forms they did not want any color used that could be mistaken for a different species. Hence, this color became Belge for the Affenpinscher also. In Griffons, the Belge name came from its country of origin in Europe. All Griffons that were not Red, were classified in the Belge class.

RED — The Griffon Red is to be a rich red of varying clear colors from red to brown, but never blond, which usually accompanies a soft coat with heavy furnishings.

The Affenpinscher RED may vary from a brownish red to an orange tan. Affenpinscher Red coats may be the color of a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier — which would be a poor color for a Griffon!

The difference in the desired red color between these two breeds no doubt comes from the addition of the Ruby Toy Spaniel's rich deep red color which is only behind the Griffon and not the Affenpinscher.

I consider it very unfortunate that it is commonplace to find such abundant numbers of heavily colored dogs in the ring, whether by dye or chalk. Dog shows are meant to be an evaluation of breeding stock, an event to showcase one's bloodline.

Neither breed puts the emphasis on coat that the Yorkshire Terrier standard does, but it would be good to see more judges give recognition to naturally colored and textured dogs when their quality is comparable overall to a highly stylized or colored one.

BLACK — Brussels Griffon — Solid Black. When Griffons have a brownish or silver undercoat in the blacks, it usually means (as it does in the Red colors when a lot of blond is present) an incorrect, softer coat (along with poor color). This does not

seem to hold true for Affenpinschers. A good black color when interspersed with white hair in an Affenpinscher often means it will silver out at a young age, but has little to do with texture.

BLACK AND TANS — Excellence of pattern is sought after.

The Brussels Griffon's standard places far more emphasis on true colors than the Affenpinscher's does. As with the color of the solid reds, the richer the color of the markings the better. A true coal black and rich mahogany would be most sought after.

If a choice need be made, it is preferable to have less red in the pattern than too much as this preserves the B/T genes. If a breeder of B/Ts is not selective about this, too often they will end up with red colors that bleed into the black, or worse, dilute into an Airedale-like pattern with a black saddle and red legs and head. These incorrectly marked dogs should not be shown or bred if the breed is to maintain the correct genes for B/T.



Silver and red Affenpinschers.



THE STANDARD IMAGE

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Affenpinscher — None.

Brussels Griffon — White spot or blaze anywhere on coat.

The DQ white spot or blaze on the Brussels Griffon does not include the smat-

tering of white hairs on the adolescent, or frost on the muzzle of a mature dog. Often when stripping for a show — a few obvious white hairs will be left in a coat to show the judge that a coat is naturally a lovely color.

A notable difference: Affenpinscher — A small white spot on the chest is not penalized, but large white patches are undesirable. Color is not a major consideration.

LIVER, CHOCOLATE FACTOR

The Brussels Griffon has a chocolate factor that can produce chocolates or livers in any of the coat colors. These totally lack black pigment, and have self-colored eyes, nose, footpads, toenails and eye rims. These colors can range from light to deep brown, but will not be coal black. The chocolate factor is accompanied by a Dudley nose — therefore this is a disqualification. These dogs must never be bred or shown.

The dark chocolates with a normal red-colored coat might be difficult to detect in certain lights. The nose and foot pads would be solid, not mottled — but are a deep brown, not black, therefore a DQ. This disqualification is found in all colors, but most recently is found in the Black/Tans in increasing numbers.

TEMPERAMENT AND DEMEANOR

Affenpinscher — General demeanor is game, alert and inquisitive with great loyalty and affection toward its master and friends. The breed is generally quiet, but can become vehemently excited when threatened or attacked, and is fearless toward any aggressor. Monkey-like facial expression.

Brussels Griffon — Intelligent, alert and sensitive. Full of self-importance. An almost human expression. While temperament is naturally inherited, it is also influenced greatly by environment and experience. Griffons are very sensitive to harsh handling due to their high intelligence. They can never be forced to do anything.

Both breeds have strong terrier intelligence and attention to detail. Being more pure terrier, the Affenpinscher doesn't have the softening of temperament that the Brussels Griffon gets from its brachycephalic ancestors.

Both breeds are clever and exhibit spirited enthusiasm when given a task.

Both have the need for early, ongoing socialization, to ensure a well-rounded temperament. As stated in the Brussels Griffon Illustrated Standard: "While somewhat standoffish as they size you up, this trait should never result in cringing, slinking or hiding."

They are both comical, fun loving and often seen dancing for a good length of time on their hind legs, or unfortunately climbing out of ex-pens in the wink of an eye.

May these two breeds never be "confused" again! DR