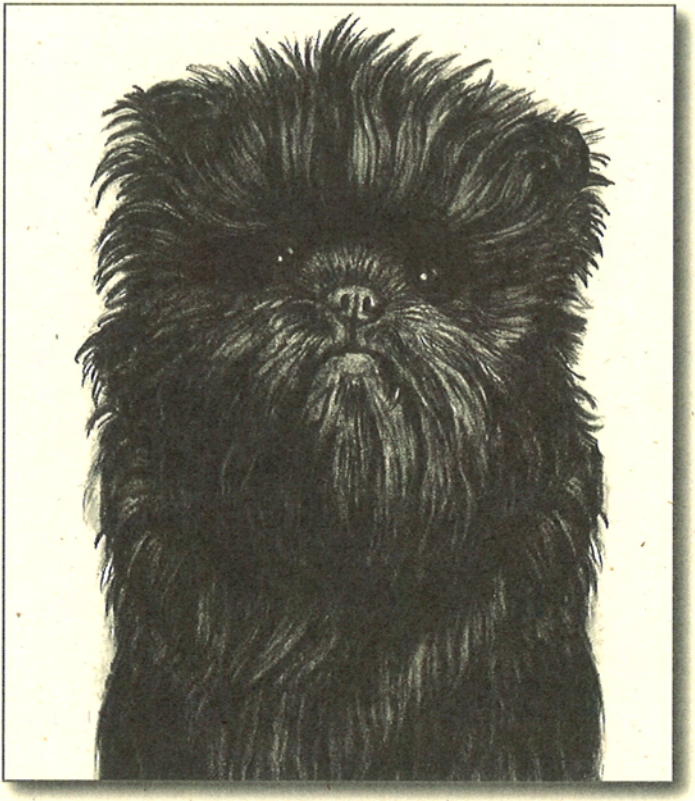
THE ILLUSTRATED STANDARD OF THE AFFENPINSCHER



Prepared and published by the
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Illustrations by Anne M. Hier
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Judging is a comparison of two separate things: a comparison of an individual dog to its breed standard and a comparison of the dogs to each other. Judging this breed has a longer learning curve than many since entries are usually low.

In order to do a good job judging please refer to our breed standard. The original breed standard was approved in 1936. It was revised in 1990 and then replaced by the latest version, approved July 27, 2000.

At first glance you should see a small, sturdy, harsh coated, shaggy looking little dog who is comical, inquisitive, and alert. He is square in proportion, short necked, up on leg, level backed, and moderately angled, with hind legs set under the body. His movement is jaunty as well as light with not much reach and drive. He moves soundly from the front, with a slight convergence to the center as his speed increases.

The head is round without being coarse. The stop is well defined. The eyes ROUND, very dark and placed in the middle of the skull with a rather short muzzle, entailing an obvious black lower lip. The distance between the eyes approximates the length of the muzzle. The nose is black, large and with open nostrils. It is scruffy in appearance with the body coat harsh and coarse to the touch. Do you find this dog inquisitive and charming? If it spent some time while in your ring walking or bouncing on his hind legs then it's probably a good one and well worth being rewarded accordingly. Lethargic disinterested Affenpinschers are not typical.

The Board of Directors of the Affenpinscher Club of America, Inc. has prepared this illustrated standard to give you a better insight into these "mustached little devils" in order to identify and reward correct "type" when judging the breed.

Please note: the type face will change throughout this publication to indicate:

1. The Official Standard for the Affenpinscher

2. *Interpretations*

3. **Illustration comments**

GENERAL APPEARANCE

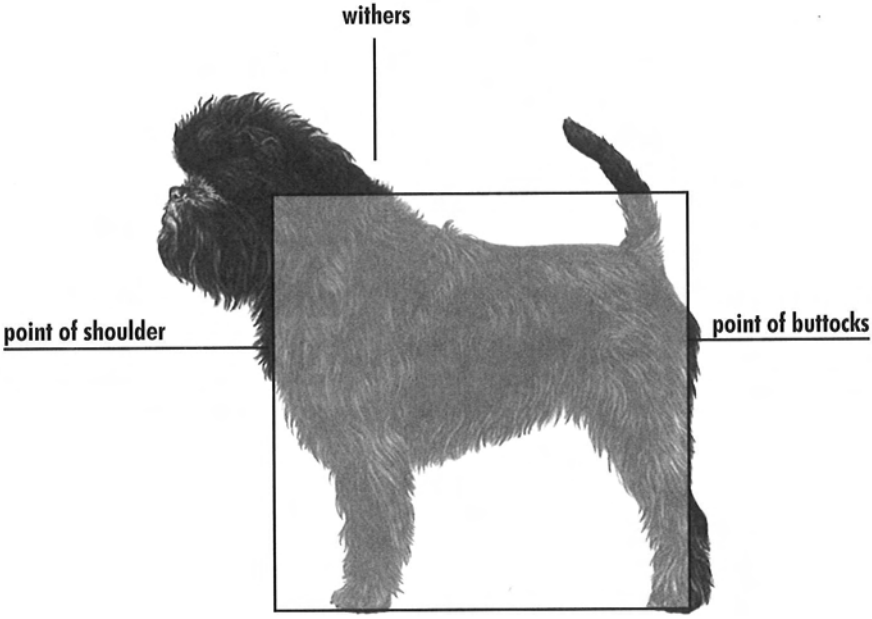
The Affenpinscher is a balanced, wiry-haired terrier-like toy dog whose intelligence and demeanor make it a good house pet. Originating in Germany, the name Affenpinscher means, "monkey-like terrier". The breed was developed to rid the kitchens, granaries, and stables of rodents. In France the breed is described as the "Diablotin Moustachu" or "mustached little devil". Both describe the appearance and attitude of this delightful breed. The total overall appearance of the Affenpinscher is more important than any individual characteristic. He is described as having a neat but shaggy appearance.

Side view of a correct Affenpinscher. Females may be slightly longer.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

A sturdy, compact dog with medium bone, not delicate in any way. Preferred height at the withers is 9½" to 11½". Withers height is approximately the same as the length of the body from the point of the shoulder to point of the buttocks, giving a square appearance. The female may be slightly longer.

Any size within this range is correct. Identify both of these heights and judge accordingly. A 2 inch size range is a lot in a small breed.



HEAD

The head is in proportion to the body, carried confidently with monkey-like facial expression.

The word AFFEN, is a literal translation from German - "to Ape, or Mock".

correct head

EYES

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

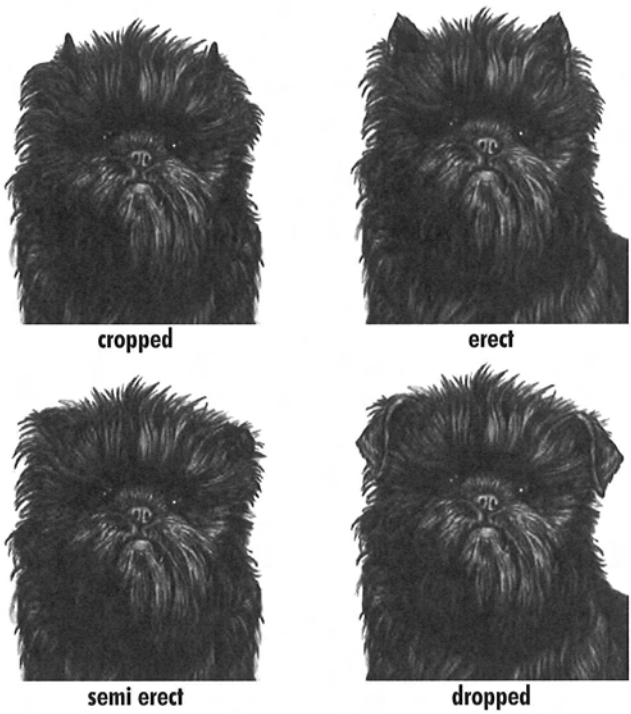
Eyes are to be set in the middle of the skull, very dark, ROUND, medium in size and not prominent.

ideal eyes in shape, set and color

EARS

Cropped to a point, set high and standing erect; or natural, standing erect, semi-erect or dropped. All of the above types of ears, if symmetrical, are acceptable as long as the monkey-like expression is maintained.

The Standard is clear about ears. Whether cropped or not, both are equally acceptable as long as they are symmetrical.



SKULL

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.

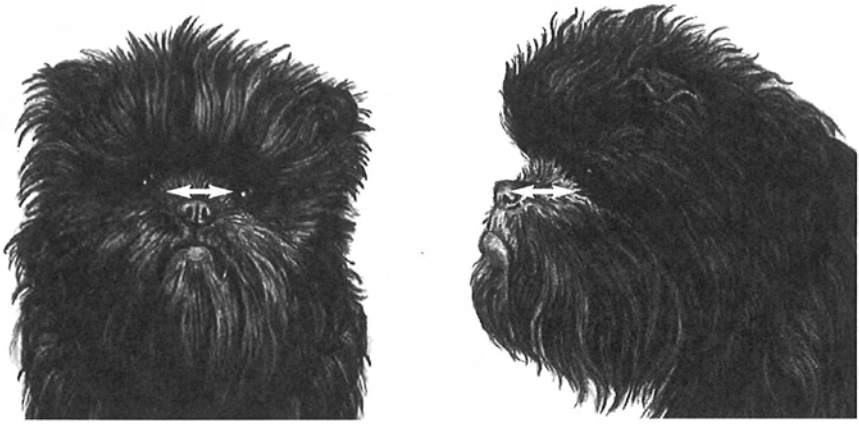
MUZZLE

Short and narrowing slightly to a blunt nose. The length of the muzzle is approximately the same as the distance between the eyes.

NOSE

Black, turned neither up nor down

The muzzle is set straight on, neither upturned nor downfaced. The nose should have well opened nostrils.



Length of the muzzle is approximately the same as the distance between the eyes.

LIPS

Black, with prominent lower lip. BITE - 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.

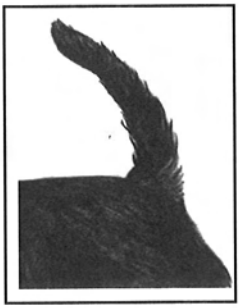
The Affenpinscher has a prominent chin with an obvious black lower lip line. It is important to examine the bite. The undershot jaw accentuates the lower lip line and contributes to the monkey like expression. Teeth and tongue should not show when the mouth is closed.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

NECK
Short and straight

BODY
The CHEST is moderately broad and deep; ribs are moderately sprung. Tuckup is slight. The BACK is short and level with a strong loin. The CROUP has just a perceptible curve. The TAIL may be docked or natural. A docked tail is generally between 1" and 2" long, set high and carried erect. 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.

This breed asks for a SHORT, quite muscular neck carried upright. The topline does not slope down nor is it high in the rear. There should be a slight curve to the croup before the set on of the tail. The tail is carried and set high. A natural tail should have a gentle curve - not a poker straight tail, or a tail that is carried too tight over the back or curled. Both docked and natural tails are correct.



The type of tail is not a major consideration

FOREQUARTERS

- Front angulation is moderate.
- Shoulders - with moderate layback. The length of the shoulder blade and the upper arm are about equal.
- Elbows - close to the body.
- Front Legs - straight when viewed from any direction.
- Pasterns - short and straight.
- Dewclaws - generally removed.
- Feet - small, round, and compact with black pads and nails.

Both forequarter and hindquarter angulation is moderate as befits a dog that needs to twist and turn and pounce rather than pursue a prey over distance.

correct front and correct rear

HINDQUARTERS

Rear angulation is moderate to match the front.

- Hindlegs - straight when viewed from behind. From the side, hindlegs are set under the body to maintain a square appearance. The length of the upper thigh and the second thigh are about equal with moderate bend to the stifle.
- Hocks - Moderately angulated.

The hind legs are set UNDER the body in order to maintain a square appearance.

COAT

Dense hair, rough, harsh, and about 1" in length on the shoulders and body. May be shorter on the rear and tail. Head, neck, chest, stomach and legs have longer, less harsh coat. The mature Affenpinscher has a mane or cape of strong hair which blends into the back coat at the withers area. The longer hair on the head, eyebrows and beard stands off and frames the face to emphasize the monkey-like expression. Hair on the ears is cut very short. A correct coat needs little grooming to blend the various lengths of hair to maintain a neat but shaggy appearance.

The shoulders and body coat is coarse and harsh in texture, not wiry. The "cape" that covers the short, muscular neck is a unique characteristic of this breed.

gray

belge

black

red

black and tan

silver

COLOR

Black, gray, silver, red, black and tan or belge are all acceptable. 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. With various colors, the furnishings may be a bit lighter. Some dogs may have black masks. A small white spot on the chest is not penalized, but large white patches are undesirable. Color is not a major consideration.

COLOR IS NOT TO BE A MAJOR CONSIDERATION. The present standard allows for many colors: black, gray, silver, red, black and tan, and belge. There are many variations of these colors also.

GAIT

Light, free, sound, balanced, confident, the Affenpinscher carries itself with comic seriousness. Viewed from the front or rear while walking, the legs move parallel to each other. Trotting, the feet will converge toward a midline as speed increases. Unsound gait is to be heavily penalized.

The Affenpinscher carries its short, muscular neck upright, its topline level. The correct gait is a light footed strut that demonstrates their total belief in their own self importance showing the comic seriousness which is much of their charm. There should be no hackneyed action or plaiting evident. The gait should be jaunty, without big reach and drive.

TEMPERAMENT

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.

Affenpinscher Priorities of Type

- **Monkey like expression**
- **Preferred height 9½ inches - 11½ inches**
- **Square appearance, bitches may be longer**
- **Hindlegs set under the body**
- **Substance - must be sturdy**
- **Temperament is comical, inquisitive**
- **Gait is sound, tracking 4 square converging with speed**
- **Coat is harsh, neat but shaggy**

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