

Boerboel Breed Standard

Temperament & Character

- Manageable, reliable, obedient, trainable, and intelligent.
- Self-confident, fearless, courageous, and protective of family.
- Calm, balanced, and steady; requires early firm training.

General Appearance

- Large, strong-boned, well-muscled, and balanced.
- Body length about 10–15% longer than height at withers.
- Males: distinctly masculine, minimum height 60 cm (ideal 66 cm).
- Females: distinctly feminine, minimum height 55 cm (ideal 61 cm).
- Height-to-weight ratio about 1:1 to 1:1.2 cm per kg.

Head

- Large, broad, cube-shaped, with strong musculature.
- Muzzle (nasal bone) 1/3 of head length; black nose leather.
- Eyes: medium, forward-facing, shades of yellow/brown.
- Ears: medium, V-shaped, set high and close to head.
- Teeth: complete dentition, scissor bite preferred.

Neck

- Medium length, muscular with slight crest.
- Loose scruff and dewlap, taut between front legs.

Forequarters

- Strong, broad chest; well-muscled, sloping shoulders.
- Elbows stable and close to body.
- Legs thick, straight, with substantial bone.
- Paws large, tight, ball-shaped with dark nails.

Torso (Centre Piece)

- Ribcage deep and rounded, length ratio 2:1 to loin.
- Back broad, flat, and strong.
- Loin short, muscular, slightly tucked up.
- Top line straight, slight dip behind shoulders acceptable.

Hindquarters

- Broad, well-muscled, proportionate, correctly angulated.
- Croup strong, sloping slightly.
- Tail high-set, natural extension of spine; both long (to hocks) and docked acceptable.
- Hind legs strong, parallel; paws slightly smaller than front.

Skin & Coat

- Moderately thick and loose, with black pigmentation.
- Coat sleek, dense.
- Accepted colours: all shades of fawn, brown, red, tan; black; brindle.
- Not acceptable: more than 1/3 white, dilute blue, tri-colour, black-and-tan, excessive ticking, split face, liver, etc.

Pigmentation

- Strong pigmentation on nose, lips, eyes, genitals, footpads, and nails.

Movement

- Effortless, balanced, buoyant, with strong drive from rear.
- Legs move parallel, converge slightly without crossing.
- Top line stable, no swaying or dipping.

Health & Reproductive Organs

- Generally robust and healthy.
- Males: two well-developed testicles.
- Females: firm vulva.
- Sterilised dogs may be registered as pets but not shown.

Anatomy Diagram