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**Working**

## Bouvier Des Flandres

The word Bouvier means cattle herder and this was the traditional role of the breed. Many regions of Belgium and France had their own types of Bouvier, but most have become extinct, wiped out in the battles of the First World War.

A Belgian army vet, Captain Barbry helped the breed to survive after rescuing a Bouvier in the War, and later started a careful breeding programme with this dog.

The Bouvier is a strong dog with a dense matt coat. He has shown his versatility in tracking, carting and as a guard dog. He was also used by the armed forces as an ambulance dog.

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Breed Group         | Working              |
| Vulnerable Breed    | No                   |
| Size                | Large                |
| How much exercise?  | Up to 1 hour per day |
| Length of coat      | Medium               |
| How much grooming?  | Every day            |
| Supposedly sheds?   | No                   |
| Town or Country     | Either               |
| Type of home        | Large House          |
| Minimum garden size | Large                |
| Lifespan            | Over 10 Years        |

## Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth)

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

## What Screening is relevant for the Bouvier Des Flandres?

There are not currently any veterinary screening schemes or DNA tests for disease relevant to this breed under the Assured Breeder Scheme, however you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.

## Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or
- 3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or
- 4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or
- 5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or
- 6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

## Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

## Bouvier Des Flandres Clubs

| Name                                       | Telephone    |
|--|--------------|
| Bouvier Des Flandres Club Of Great Britain | 07734 423937 |
| National Bouvier Des Flandres Club         | 01453 843102 |

## Bouvier Des Flandres Rescue Organisations

| Name                                      | Telephone    |
|---|--------------|
| Bouvier Welfare & Rescue UK               | 07866 683897 |
| National Bouvier Des Flandres Club Rescue | 01353 687955 |
| National Bouvier Des Flandres Club Rescue | 01706 240008 |