

Conformation Standard – Teeth and Bite

By Stacy Dimou

The breed standard of the DKV considers the well found animal one capable of performance during the hunt in every stage of the dog's life. The field tests are a part of the total test. The conformation evaluation is another aspect that a minimum rating must be equaled for an animal to be breedable. This rating is not a beauty contest; each dog is judged to the standard. The base philosophy is "form equals function", that form allows the dog to physically perform during the hunt.

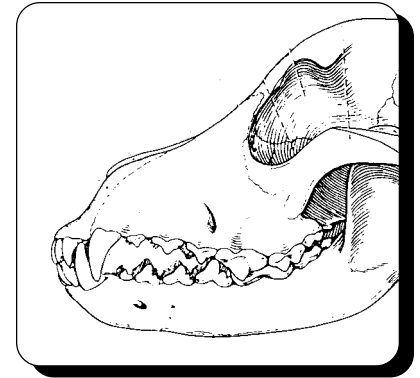
This is the first of a series of articles to explain specific parts of the standard. I have begun with teeth and bite because in this area I have seen consistently incorrect interpretations occur.

The following explains teeth and bite as stated in the FCI Standard coupled

with my seminar notes and bits gleaned along the way. Do not get confused by the use of the FCI Standard. The DKV dictates the standard of the FCI, thus they are identical.

FCI-Standard No 119/05.01.1995

Mouth/Teeth: Strong jaws with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite. The upper incisors should reach over the lower incisors without gap and should be positioned vertically in the jaws. 42 sound teeth, in accordance with the teeth formula. In regard to position/alignment; the premolars of the lower jaw should be forward of those of the upper jaw. The (ml) of the lower jaw should be behind the (p4) of the upper jaw. The canine teeth should be vertical with the uppers being outside of the lowers and the lowers a little forward. The incisors



Scissors Bite

Tooth Formula

Adult Bite

A complete adult bite is equal to 42 teeth.

Upper Jaw			
3	1	4	2
3	1	4	3
Lower Jaw			

Side View

Upper Jaw: 3i lc pl-p4 ml-m2 =
10x2 = 20

Lower jaw: 3i lc pl-p4 ml-m3 =
11x2 = 22

Total Teeth 42

Front view

Upper Jaw: c i3 i2 i1 i1 i2 i3 c

Lower Jaw: c i3 i2 i1 i1 i2 i3 c

Puppy Bite

A complete puppy bite is equal to 28 teeth.

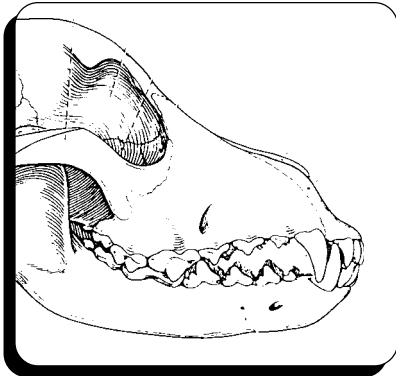
Side view

Upper Jaw: 3i lc pl-p3 (m=0) =
7x2 = 14

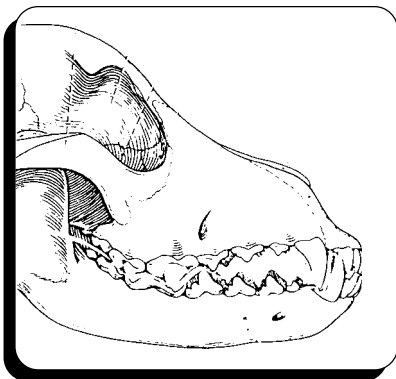
Lower Jaw: 3i lc pl-p3 (m=0) =
7x2 = 14

Total Teeth 28

where; i=incisor, c=canine,
p=premolar, m=molar



Scissors Bite



Pincer Bite

should again be vertical with the uppers being over the lowers creating a close to tight scissor bite. The upper incisors may not extend over those of the lower jaw by more than 2mm, near 3/32 of an inch, or for a quick measuring tool, the width of a standard (small boxed) match stick.

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded, should be in exact proportion to that degree.

This statement applies to each part of the standard and to the standard in the entirety. Thus it applies to each part and aspect of the dog.

All teeth must be visible to the eye to count, feeling does not count and skin covered teeth do not count.

If your dog has extra (p1's) a V rating is still possible. If the dog is missing a (p1), the best rating then obtainable is an SG.

Extra incisors are a fault that preclude the dog from breeding, as in a double row of teeth. A double row of teeth, (what I term "shark teeth") is a severe fault and eliminates that dog from breeding.

Scissor • Pincer • Overbite • Underbite

It is very easy to confuse overbite, over-shot, underbite and undershot. What is over with bite is under with shot. Confused yet? Think of it this way, bite relates to the position of the lower jaw and shot pertains to the position of the upper jaw. Stated more correctly, bite pertains to which jaw is over based on

the position of the lower jaw. Shot deals with the specific jaw that is over. A mirror image of one another, shot and bite.

Thus: A longer lower jaw is = overbite or undershot

A longer upper jaw is = underbite or overshot

When at least two (2) teeth show a fault, then that fault exists, though it may be partial. This pertains more to alignment and having an overbite or an underbite. One tooth over or under will not a bad bite make as long as the compliment tooth on the opposite jaw is correct.

Note: A quick indicator of a possible bite problem is to look at the alignment of the premolars. Are they in accordance with the general statement of the standard?

A cross bite, full or partial is a fault.

A pincer bite does not allow for more than a G rating except if it was verified a being correct prior to four (4) years of age by a conformation judge.

Faults that allow for no more than the following ratings:

SG

From a total of 4 (p1) and 2 (m3) only two teeth may be missing. Thus, if less than 42 teeth and more than 40 teeth a SG rating is still possible, yet only if the missing teeth are (p1's) and or (m3's).

Note: A dog may only receive a V rating if it has a complete set of teeth. This means that there must be a minimum of 42 teeth and a maximum of 44 teeth if and only if the extra 2 teeth are either (p1's) and or (m3's).

G

A pincer bite or partial pincer bite. A bite would be considered a partial pincer bite if two teeth meet as pincer. A partial pincer bite would still dictate a maximum rating of G. If the dog is older than four (4) years of age and the pincer bite is validated as resulting from age then the rating is not effected.

Note: The only way that this may be validated is if at a previous conformation show, and before the age of three years that the correct bite was then documented by a DK Formwertrichter (Conformation Judge).

ZUK

Missing more than a total of two teeth from the 4 (p1's) and or the 2 (m3's). Missing one tooth or more other than the 4 (p1's) and or the 2 (m3's). An overbite or an underbite, a crossbite as well as all intergrades. Extra teeth outside of the dental arch (double row/shark teeth).

Note: In regard to missing teeth, if at an earlier Zuchtschau, a missing tooth was previously confirmed as being present this earlier confirmation invalidates its present omission. Given the prior conformation, the rating would then not be affected.

What the Ratings Mean

(a bit of a translation)

V = Vorzüglich (Excellent)

SG = Sehr Gut (Very Good)

G = Gut (Good)

ZUK = Zuchtuntauglich wegen körperlicher Mängel (Not breedable due to physical faults)

A Few General Comments

At a Zuchtschau, as in all performance tests, your dogs teeth will be checked. The rating given at a Zuchtschau must be duplicated at a performance test. Only a later more recent rating at a future Zuchtschau overrides that earlier Zuchtschau rating.

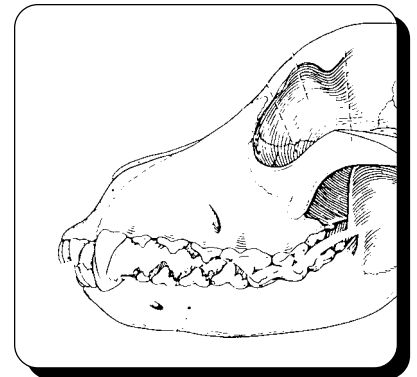
In order for your dog to be declared "Breedable", it must have a conformation rating.

One way to prepare your dog for a Zuchtschau is to check its teeth periodically, better yet have others who your dog does not know check its teeth. The end result is a dog that easily allows a judge to check its teeth. Further, the rating process proceeds quicker, no embarrassing moments, and you are not handicapping your dog's temperament influence on its rating.

During the conformation assessment of your dog, it's mental stability (nerve and temperament) may also be noted. This could affect the rating given to your dog. This will be explained further in the next newsletter.



Over Bite



Under Bite