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# Belgian Registration Exploratory Committee Report

## Committee Members

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# Introduction

Our BSCA committee decided to focus on options that would not cause divisiveness in our clubs yet still provide benefits to serious breeders, and most important, to the gene pools of our breeds. We expect that the options presented here will be a win-win for breeders of all breeds of Belgians and the future of our breeds.

We tried to find a common sense way to resolve a lot of confusion on breed identity and registration in our breeds without disrupting and impacting the clubs, and the cultures, so many fanciers have worked hard to build over the years.

Our proposals address the realities of our breed's genetics, history, and how they are viewed and registered by the rest of the world.

The first proposal would be to modify the import technicality that limits imports into the US if a parent was first registered with the AKC as a different breed of Belgian, no other country's registry has the same restriction on it.

The second proposal would be give breeders the option to register the puppies in their own litters as the Belgian breed they are born, consistent with how Belgian registration is done in the rest of the world.

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# IMPORT RULES

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- Currently the AKC will register imported Belgians as to how their country of birth registers them on their export pedigree.
  - Thus, if a Belgian is imported into the US, and the country where it was born registered it as a Belgian Shepherd Groenendael, it will be registered by the AKC as a Belgian Sheepdog.
  - If a Belgian is imported into the US, and the country where it was born registered it as a Belgian Shepherd Tervuren, it will be registered by the AKC as a Belgian Tervuren.
  - The exception is if the Belgian imported into the US has a parent that was born in the US and registered by the AKC as a different breed than the offspring to be imported, the AKC will refuse to register the offspring as a different breed than its parent. The AKC does, however, permit two litter-mates to be registered as different breeds, so long as neither parent is AKC-registered.
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Czech Belgian Shepherd  
Tervuren



French Belgian Shepherd  
Groenendael



AKC Belgian Sheepdog  
Born in CZ

CAN be AKC registered



Norwegian Belgian  
Shepherd Groenendael



Irish Belgian Shepherd  
Groenendael



AKC Belgian Tervuren  
Born in Norway  
CAN be AKC registered



Czech Belgian Shepherd Tervuren  
AKC Belgian Sheepdog exported to CZ



Czech Belgian Shepherd Tervuren



Czech Belgian Shepherd  
Tervuren

Can NOT currently be  
AKC registered

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# IMPORT RULES - PROPOSED CHANGE

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- Proposal - Request AKC to register imported Belgians based on how the country where they were born has them registered. In the case of Belgian breeds do this even if a parent is already in the AKC database as a different breed of Belgian.
  - If all the Belgian clubs agree to request this change, the AKC registration department can correct this technicality which has resulted in a great deal of confusion, the rescinding of registrations on dogs and their offspring.
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# REGISTRATION RULES

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- Currently the AKC registers puppies according to the AKC registration status of the parents.
  - Due to basic genetics and how the Belgians are registered in the rest of the world it is possible to have Tervuren puppies born to two Belgian Sheepdog parents. These puppies, which look like Belgian Tervuren, are registered as AKC Belgian Sheepdogs. In other countries they would be considered Belgian Shepherds of the Tervuren variety. They can be exported to other countries and registered as the Belgian variety they are recognized as in that country.
  - In the US they can be shown in AKC performance events but not in conformation. However they may still be bred to another AKC Belgian Sheepdog and produce AKC Belgian Sheepdogs and the Groenendael offspring may be shown.
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Sire: French Belgian  
Shepherd Groenendael



Dam: AKC  
Belgian Sheepdog



Offspring: AKC Belgian Sheepdog



Offspring: AKC Belgian Sheepdog

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# REGISTRATION RULES - PROPOSED CHANGES

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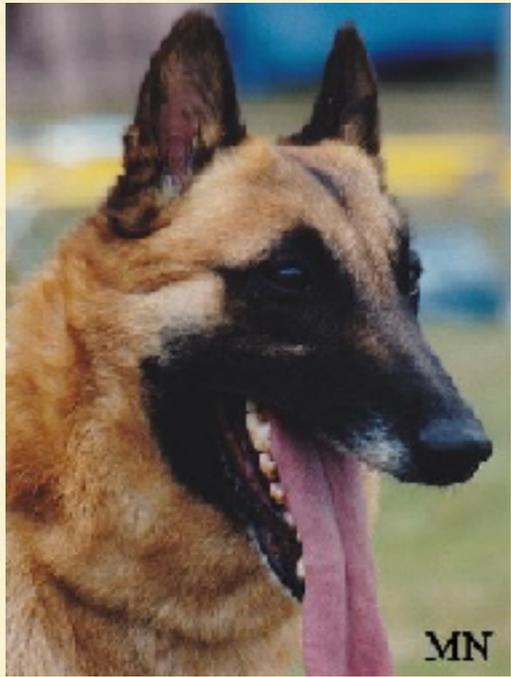
- Proposal: Write to the AKC Board of Directors and request them to allow Belgian breeders the option to register puppies in their litters accurately. “Register as they Drop”
  - Belgian Sheepdog breeders currently may do a DNA test on prospective parents of a litter to determine if Belgian Tervuren are possible in a litter. With this change breeders have the choice to prioritize color, or not, in making breeding decisions and place quality Tervuren puppies in show homes here in the US to be shown and bred in the US. Many breeders are already restricting their stud dog choices based on difficulty in appropriately placing phenotypically Belgian Tervuren puppies.
  - This simple change would resolve many issues that have resulted in fanciers pushing for more sweeping changes such as reunifying the breeds back into one breed with varieties, and would broaden the gene pool available to breeders.
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# IMPACT ON OTHER BELGIAN BREEDS

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- The Belgian Tervuren would have the greatest benefit with regard to enlarging gene-pool. They could breed to a Belgian Tervuren from two Belgian Malinois and bring in a significantly different pedigree (next slide) or breed to a Belgian Tervuren from two Belgian Sheepdogs and bring in lines that maybe significantly different from lines currently available.
  - The Belgian Malinois breeders could accurately register their longhair puppies and place them in show homes to be shown and bred here in the US. Malinois can also produce wire haired offspring which could be registered as Belgian Laekenois, this would open up possibilities for the Belgian Laekenois gene pool.
  - The Belgian Laekenois have a very limited gene pool both in the US and abroad, they could utilize wire haired puppies from Belgian Malinois to expand their gene pool.
  - Reference: <http://bsca.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015Coat-colour-inheritance.pdf>
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French Belgian Shepherd Malinois



French Belgian Shepherd Tervuren



French Belgian Shepherd Malinois



Czech Belgian Shepherd Tervuren



When bred to a Czech Belgian Tervuren female very typical Tervuren were produced, both of those pictured earned championships.

Very significant outcross.



Czech Belgian Shepherd Tervuren

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## **What is the next step?**

I make the motion that the BSCA board write a letter to the Board of the Directors of the AKC and request they respect the country of origin's registration as to the breed of the imported Belgian as they normally do. A breed status of a parent in the AKC database will not affect the registration status of imported puppy or dog.

The BSCA board will also request that breeders will be given the option to accurately register puppies in their litters as to the Belgian breed they actually are.

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