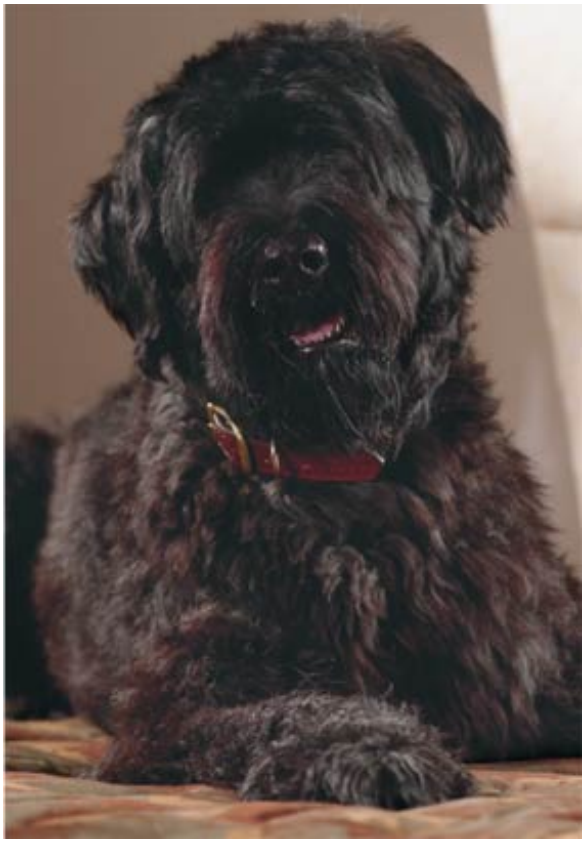
Bouvier Des Flandres

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



BREED PROFILE: BOUVIER DES FLANDRES

Originating in the Flanders area of Belgium, the Bouvier des Flandres was primarily used as a farm dog to drive cattle, guard the farm, and pull carts. The athletic Bouvier was even used in World Wars I and II, when the breed suffered a terrible loss in numbers. Today, this alert and rugged breed has recovered its numbers and is used as a police dog, assistance dog, guardian, and devoted family pet.

Interesting Breed Facts:

Popularity: 83rd in 2008; with 821 registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC).

First recognized as a breed: The Bouvier des Flandres was first recognized by the AKC in 1929. The American Bouvier des Flandres Club was established in 1963.

AKC Grouping: Herding.

Appearance: This sizeable breed has a large head and features a broad muzzle with substantial beard and mustache. The eyes are oval and dark brown. The ears can be natural or cropped. The body is square, strong and muscular with a deep chest. The tail is docked. Legs are straight and strong. This breed has a double coat with a rough outer layer covering a fine

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	undercoat. The Bouvier can be fawn, black, salt and pepper, brindle and gray in color. A white star on the chest is sometimes present.
Medical conditions to watch for:	Large deep-chested breeds such as the Bouvier are at more risk for the development of bloat. This is a medical emergency in which the stomach fills with gas, and may actually twist upon itself. Genetic diseases of concern include glaucoma, laryngeal paralysis, subaortic stenosis (a heart condition), and hypothyroidism. As with most large breeds, hip and elbow dysplasia can also occur.
Preferences:	The Bouvier enjoys being involved in every aspect of family activity as well as being challenged both mentally and physically. It's important that the Bouvier have space to get plenty of exercise to avoid boredom.
Best features:	The Bouvier is incredibly eager to please and makes a great family pet when properly trained.
Biggest challenge to owners:	Although eager to please, consistent and patient training is necessary.

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