Suggested changes in the standard

FCI-Standard No 153 / 14.04.1999 / GB

DALMATIAN
(Dalmatinac)

Lips : Clean, fitting the jaw rather closely, not pendulous. A complete pigmentation is desired.

Our recommendation: Remove the sentence about complete pigmentation of the lips.
Why: No previous standard has expressed this desire. We also consider this to being apart from reality and with no support from anyone known to us.

Flanks : Narrow.

Our recommendation: Remove the statement.

Why: The statement is interpretated differently by different clubs and judges

Lower line : Belly distinctly tucked up towards the loin.

Our recommendation: Replace with: Belly tucked up towards the loin.

Why: The present statement may lead to an interpretation similar to the belly of a whippet, which is incorrect for a Dalmatian.

Eliminating faults

- **Limited patching around eyes (monocle) or elsewhere, yet acceptable for breeding).**

Ourr recommendation: Replace with: Large patches.

Why: Small patches cannot be identified by a judge since they also could be overlapping spots. The problem with patches is the large ones, not the small ones.

Recommendation:

In order to reduce the incident of deafness in Dalmatians (20-30%)

- **Bilaterally deaf Dalmatians and blue-eyed Dalmatian should be discarded from breeding, ideally unilaterally deaf dogs likewise.**

- **Dogs with limited patching around eyes (monocle) or elsewhere should be accepted for breeding.**

- **Dogs with pigmented scrotum should be preferred.**

Our recommendation: Remove the whole recommendation.

Why: Breeding recommendations do not belong in the standard, unless there are pressing arguments for such inclusions. This is really not the case for deafness.
The deafness rate among Dalmatians in Europe is 4-5% according to the reports based on examinations based on whole litters. The 20-30% number include dogs which are only hearing on one ear. I Europe this is 15-20%. I US the number is 20-30%, mainly due to previous breeding on blue-eyed dogs. However, there is no reason for calling dogs with reduced hearing for deaf, because it is almost impossible to establish this as a defect in normal family life.
We support the intention, but this is a matter of concern for the breeders, not for the judges.