

Appraisal Considerations

1 Introduction

What follows here is what I share in the ring with the new members – people new to SABBS and the appraisal system.

Please read this document before entering the ring.

2 Who is SABBS?

We all think of SABBS as some organization sitting at the bottom of Africa. It is rather a worldwide organization.

It is important to know that SABBS is what you can call a member-driven organization. SABBS has a constitution and bylaws and the only people that can change those are the members (during the annual general meeting). Members vote for and against given proposals. The board cannot change these documents. They can only do what the constitution and bylaws provide for and instruct them to do.

You as a member have a vote. You may have to be a member for like a year before you are eligible to vote. But please exercise your right. (The members decided how long you need to be a member before you can vote.)

3 Where does your Money go?

The board and the appraisers are all volunteers. These are people with a passion for the Boerboel who give up a lot to see to it that the Boerboel moves in the right direction.

There are a few office personnel on the payroll as well as an accountant. Of course, SABBS have overhead expenses including Logix memberships, web hosting, legal expenses and so on. I have not served on the board for a number of years, so I do not want to sound like I know the exact expense structures. The point I am trying to make is that the money gets spent responsibly.

4 How do we Improve the Breed?

The appraisal event is one instrument used to improve the breed. How do we do that? Basically:

1. You walk out of the ring with information. After the appraisal you should know a lot more about Boerboels in general and also your Boerboel. Informed people make good decisions which will lead to people doing the right thing for the breed. It is of no use if you walk away with just a score and do not understand where the score came from. You should be able to use the score sheet of your dogs and those you want to mate them with, to know what pairs would be good

combinations. Obviously, this means the appraiser needs to spend ample time in the ring with the owner and dog.

2. If a dog would hurt the quality of the Boerboel breed, the dog should not be allowed to go back into the gene pool. I told many people that at one time I bought 21 Boerboels and I ended up only breeding five of those. Breeding is not for the lighthearted.

5 Linear System

The appraisal system we use is called the Linear System. This is not something SABBS came up with. Rather, it is a system used for given horse, cattle and goat breeds. To my knowledge, the Boerboel is the only dog breed benefiting from the Linear System.

At the start of the appraisal, the dog gets measured in terms of:

1. Height (at the shoulder withers)
2. Head circumference (right in front of the ears)
3. Neck circumference (where the neck starts)
4. Front pastern circumference

(Your dog should allow another person to measure the dog. If not, the dog will not necessarily be disqualified, but noted as such on the score sheet.)

There are 48 characteristics being judged and recorded on the appraisal score sheet. The numbers entered by the appraiser vary between 1 and 9. At the end, after the people at the table fed all the appraiser provided data into the system and has the score, the appraiser signs off on the score and the owner gets a copy of the appraisal sheet.

Here is a snippet of the appraisal score sheet:



SABBS APPRAISAL CHART

1 Ideal 2 1-9

General Appearance 12%				
Height	5	Low	High	
Volume	9	Lack of	Ideal	
Balance	9	Imbalance	Perfect proportion	
Gender authenticity	9	Lacking	Ideal	
Head & Face 26%				
Broad	7	Narrow	Broad	
Deep	7	Shallow	Deep	
Cubed	9	Round	Ideal	
Circumference	7	Too small	Oversized	
Typical Boerboel	9	Other breeds	Distinctive BB head	
Stop	5	Absent	Prominent	
Filled between eyes	9	Not filled	Flat	
Teeth/bite Bite	5	Undershot	Overshot (parrot)	
Nasal bone: broad	7	Narrow	Broad	
Nasal bone: deep	7	Shallow	Deep	
Nasal bone: length	5	Short	Long	
Eyes: setting	5	Narrow/Sunken	Wide/protruding	
Eyelids	5	Entropion	Ectropion	
Ears: size	5	Too short	Too long	
Ears: shape	5	Erect	Rose	
Ears: setting	5	Too low & wide	Too high & narrow	
Neck	7	Long/narrow	Broad/♀ too masculine	
Forequarter 12%				
Shoulder: attachment	9	Loose	Fixed	
Front angulation	7	Straight	Overangulated	
Elbows	5	Turn in	Turn out	
Front legs: musculature	7	Lacking	Ideal	
Front legs: thickness	7	Thin	Ideal	
Front legs: vertical	9	Crooked	Vertical	
Front pasterns: position	5	Turn in	Turn out	
Front pasterns: tread through	5	Tread through	Straight	
Front paws: size	7	Small	Big	
Front paws: shape	9	Flat/splayed toes	Ideal, well cushioned	

1. This column shows the ideal value that either has a value of 9, 7 or 5 depending on the characteristic.
2. This is the column the appraiser enters his/her data into. (A value between 1 and 9.)
3. If the number entered by the appraiser is less than the ideal, use this column for an explanation.
4. If the number entered is bigger than the ideal, use this column for an explanation.
5. I usually appraise an entire section before giving the owner feedback on that section.

Let's use the height characteristic as example: A dog that is tall would get a number bigger than 5 and a dog that is short would get a number less than 5. A dog with a 1 here is one that is too short and is a disqualification.

The data of all dogs appraised are in a database. The data should be able to be mined to provide the predictable breed value of a dog. That is the whole purpose of the Linear System. In the past the

emphasis was on the dog and its score. It is rather what this dog and its family do. What is the dog's predictable breed value?

6 Structural Challenges

In the past, if a Boerboel had a structural flaw, it usually was the hind quarter where the dog lacks a knee or being cow hawked or both. You are discouraged from using dogs where the hind quarter angulation is suspect. The only practical way to work a structural flaw out of a breed, is to not put troubled dogs back into the gene pool.

But in some regions the topline is weakening. Watch out for that. Watch out also for dogs with eye problems since eye problems are starting to stick its neck out.

7 Land Race

This often gets overlooked: The Boerboel is a Land Race. Like the Australian Dingo, the Boerboel is a Land Race – the “land” raised this dog. It is important to know that Land Race animals are smarter than those 100% under human control.

8 In the Ring

8.1 Standing Position

Only while I do the head section on the score sheet, would the dog not have to stand (in a natural stance – not stacked please.) For the rest of the time, the dog is going to stand except when I ask you to walk or run the dog.

8.2 Bite

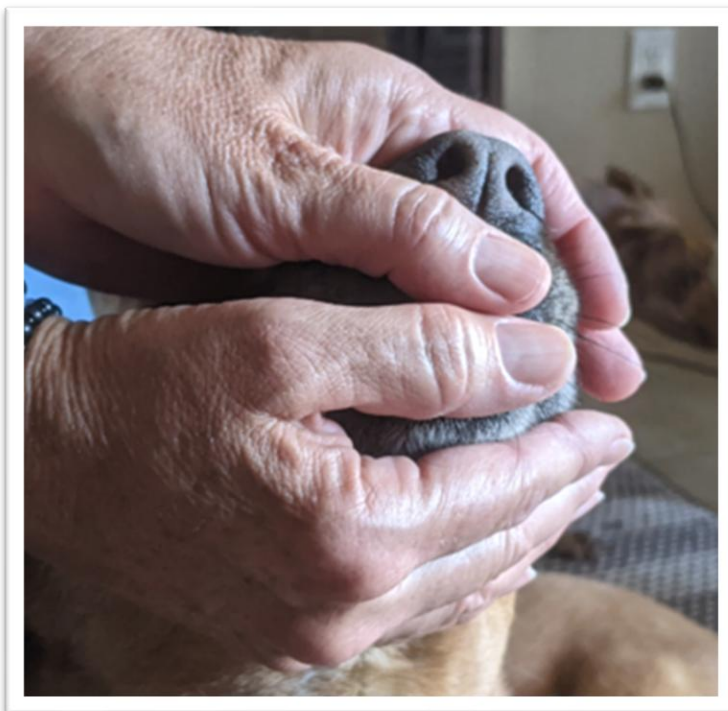
You should be able to show the bite. Work with the dog's mouth from a young age so that they are comfortable with you being in their mouths. After all, I clean the dogs' teeth with a screwdriver. I am not going to spend money on a vet to put the dog under anesthesia.

The appraiser needs to see the front teeth with the dog's mouth closed. This is a three-step effort.

Place your hands on the top of the nose and below the bottom jaw:



Then put your thumbs on the upper and lower lip:



Then pull the lips away from each other:



Avoid closing/blocking the nostrils because the dog would then want to open its mouth to breathe.

8.3 Walking

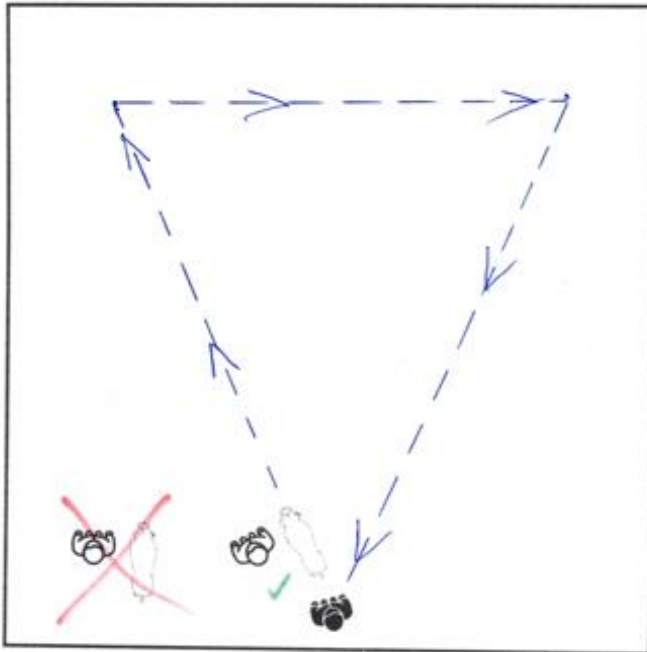
At a time, you will be asked to walk the dog. This is a slow walk. Walk the dog straight away from the appraiser and then back to the appraiser. The appraiser may move to the side, but then just keep going in the same straight line. That means to keep a straight line out and back again. No walking the dogs around the appraiser unless you are specifically asked to do that.

8.4 Running

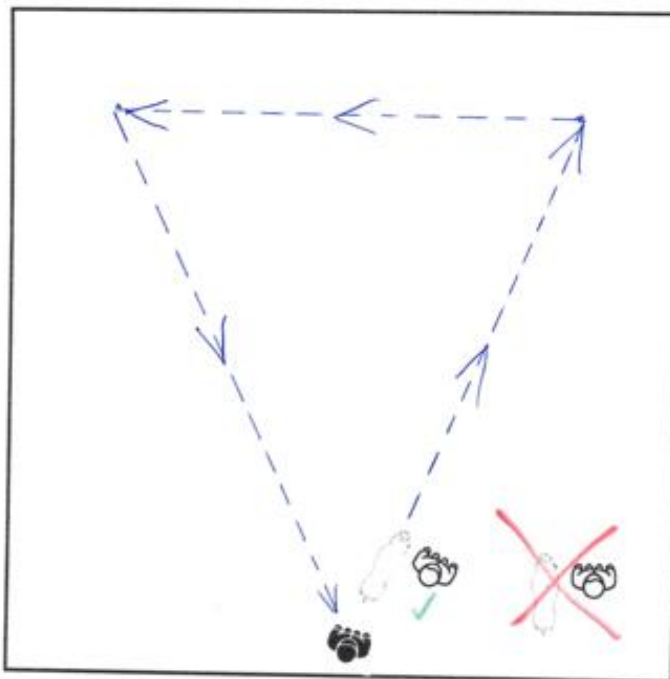
Later during the appraisal, you will be asked to run the dog. Here the appraiser wants to see the dog straight from behind. After that make a sharp turn and give the appraiser a side view of the dog. Then a sharp turn and go back straight to the appraiser again. Refrain from running in a circle. If you battle to make the short turns, feel free to stop and reset. The speed you will run the dog, is before it goes into a gallop. You should be on the outside when you run the dog perpendicularly to the appraiser – do not block the appraiser's view.

Start with the dog right in front of the appraiser and not off to the side.

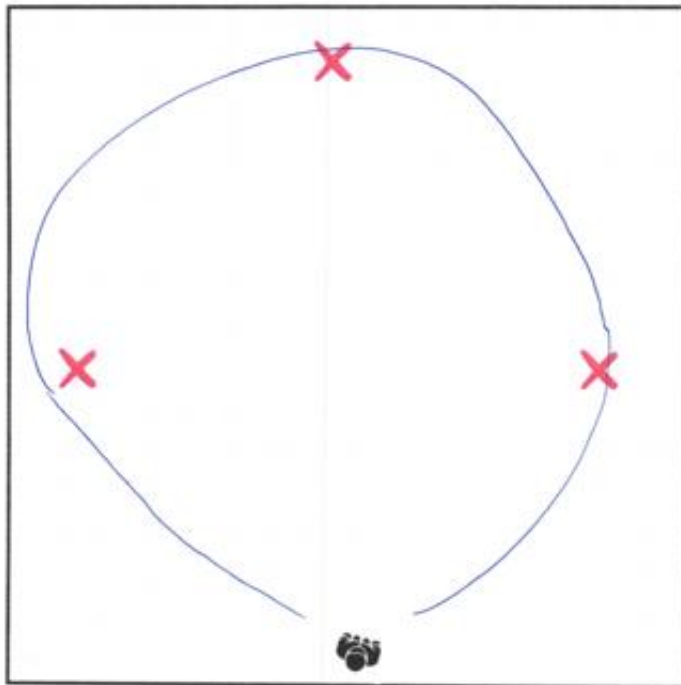
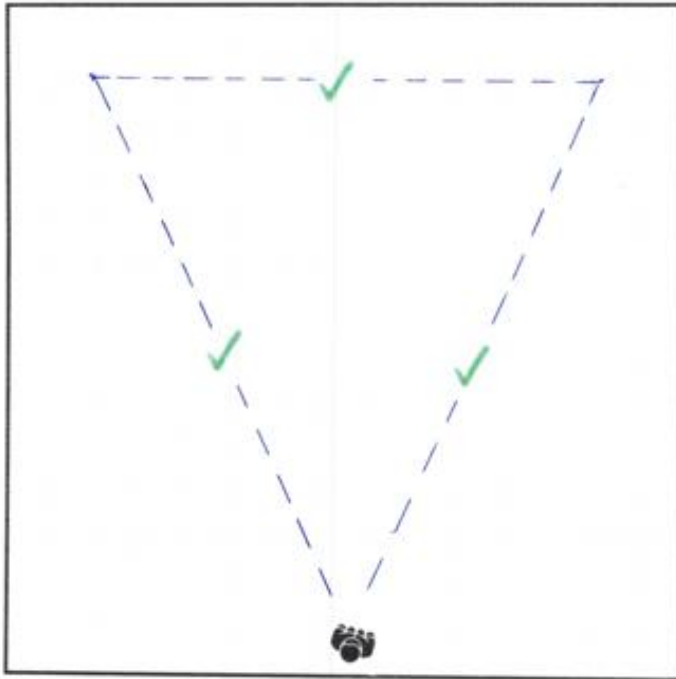
If the dog runs on your righthand side, you go clockwise:



The below pertains to a dog running on your lefthand side where you complete the triangle counter clockwise:



Run the dog in straight lines and not in a circle please:



8.5 People in the Ring

Who is allowed in the ring you may wonder? Of course, it should be someone with an interest in the dog and how it appraises. There may be a husband and wife that both want to hear the feedback. By all means, please indicate your desires. But please, no loving on the dog or feeding the dog. Give the dog

ample opportunity to score well. Kids usually distract the dog too much. Again, give your dog a reasonable opportunity to show itself and have the kids watch from a distance.

Other people that are too close to the ring will be asked to move. Again, the dog in the ring should not be distracted.

If the dog trusts its owner, it will allow me to work with it and allow me to better demonstrate/explain characteristics of the dog.

9 Time

The more time I can spend with the owner, the better. Unfortunately, there is limited time for each dog. That means if your dog is not taught to calmly run next to you or behind you, there will not be time to ask you to repeatedly take the dog on its run for instance. The call will have to be made on what the dog initially shows without been given more opportunities. Please help your dogs. They need to present themselves and not be playing and horsing around in the ring.

10 What to Bring to the Appraisal Venue?

1. The dog's SABBS birth or registration certificate. For non-SABBS dogs, whatever certificates you have to show the dog's heritage. The chip number on the certificates should match the dog's chip number.
2. DNA results. If not available, you will need to get that into the SABBS office after the fact.
3. Proof of payment

You will be emailed:

1. New member application form (which applies to new members only).
2. Appraisal registration form.
3. A waiver

Please complete and sign these and bring to the appraisal venue too.