

Morphological characteristics of "BRACCO ITALIANO" dog

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INTRODUCTION

The Italian Bracco is one of the oldest pointing dog breed, used for hunting ever since the Renaissance time; paintings of the 14th century show hunting sceneries with dogs similar to the present day Bracco. The breed has been officially registered by ENCI (the Italian cynological club) in 1949, when the definitive standard was established. In this work, we report the first results of a study aimed at measuring morphological traits in this breed, as a part of a more comprehensive study whose objective is to identify the characters that have the potential of being genetically improved.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Body measures were taken from 121 adult (mean age 4.09±2.64 years) Bracco Italiano dogs (65 males and 56 females). For each animal the following biometrical measurements were considered: withers height, chest height, length of the rump (RL), iliac width of rump, chest and cannon circumference. The ratio chest/cannon circumference was calculated, as index of body compactness. The proportion rump length-withers height (RLWH) was also calculated. ANOVA was used to test the differences between males and females for morphological measurements (sex as fixed factor and age at measurement as covariate).



RESULTS

Table 1 - Differences between females and males for morphological measurements.

		FEMALES		MALES	
		mean	s.d.	mean	s.d.
<i>Body measures</i>					
Withers height	cm	59.0 B	2.95	62.8 A	2.73
Chest circumference	cm	71.3 B	5.46	73.9 A	3.97
Cannon circumference	cm	12.6 a	0.98	13.6 b	0.90
Length of the rump	cm	15.7	1.57	15.62	1.84
Iliac width of the rump	cm	8.5	2.56	8.3	2.17

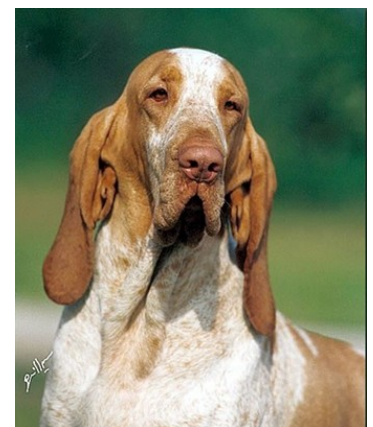
A,B: P<0,01 a,b:P<0,05.

Significant differences were observed between the means of females and males for withers height, chest circumference and cannon circumference. The other measurements were not different between sexes. The ratio chest/cannon circumference was 0.196±0.033 in females and 0.198±0.031 in males, while the proportion rump length-withers height was 0.26±0.023 in females and 0.25±0.027 in males.

Table 2- Correlations among morphological measurements.

	Withers height	Chest circumference	Cannon circumference	Iliac width of the rump	Length of the rump
Withers height	1.000				
Chest circumference	0.574**	1.000			
Cannon circumference	0.407**	0.146	1.000		
Iliac width of the rump	0.279*	0.042	-0.117	1.000	
Length of the rump	0.249*	0.126	0.335**	0.316**	1.000

** : P<0.01; * : P<0.05.



CONCLUSIONS

Sexual dimorphism was evident and generally the measures coincided with what reported in the standard, except for the length of the rump, which was around $\frac{3}{4}$ of the withers height instead of the value of $\frac{1}{3}$ required in the standard.

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