



Lynn L. Vellios

1. Why did you choose your breed?

Strength, Character and the fact that they don't shed. I love the look, the grooming and the companionship that a Bouvier offers its human counterpart.

2. What is the most distinctive characteristic of your breed? The breed's undying love for their human. The willingness to put themselves in harm's way to protect the flock.

3. Which Kennel has given most to the breed? Eric and Leslie Houttin who no longer breed.

4. Who is the foremost authority in your breed? Bo Blanton, Eric and Leslie Houttin, Bev and Stuart Riley, Monsieur Masson.

4. Who is the most popular judge in your breed? How could you possibly think that a judge is popular?

5. Is yours considered a "handler breed"? Yes and no. A handler that loves power and to groom loves our breed. A handler that is looking for an easy show is not fond of our breed.

6. What is the average price for a show dog of your breed? A pet? Both dogs require the same amount of care and preparation. Besides the puppy who doesn't look like a show dog today may develop nicely and become the best of the pack. Who knows? \$2000 at this point.

7. What changes would you like to see in your breed? I would love to see the breed not be so heavily saturated with a few of the present pedigrees. Using only the biggest show sires makes the breed pool of show dogs smaller and smaller. It would be lovely if a database of available, health tested, conformation correct, intact animals were available, to help us all keep the breed strong.

Bajoron Bouvier des Flandres

8. What is the most common judging mistake in your breed?

Not looking at the conformation and the correct carriage of a dog while gaiting. A dog should not have to present head up and tail up to win. These two traits are not conformation correct. I would love it if a judge would be required to actually know the standard. Another thing, how about masks for the exhibitors? That way we would all be on even ground!

9. Who do you hope reads this? Dennis Sprung and the staff of the AKC. Someone that actually cares, and would be able to change the way things worked.

10. How do you want to be remembered in the sport of show dogs? That I actually had dogs that were of character and health. That I gave something back and made people who purchased by dogs happy through the companionship that the dogs gave them. I would love my art work that depicts the breed to be popular as well.

*****Bonus- Share some "words of wisdom" to better your breed:** Our breed is wonderful and fun loving. We need to be protectors and realistic about what we breed. To think that line breeding and saturation are appropriate given the present state of some of the lines is irresponsible. Health testing only insures that you dog is not affected for the moment. It is not a rubber stamp of quality. One must look at all the sires and dams for four to five generations to insure more trust in the health of the offspring.