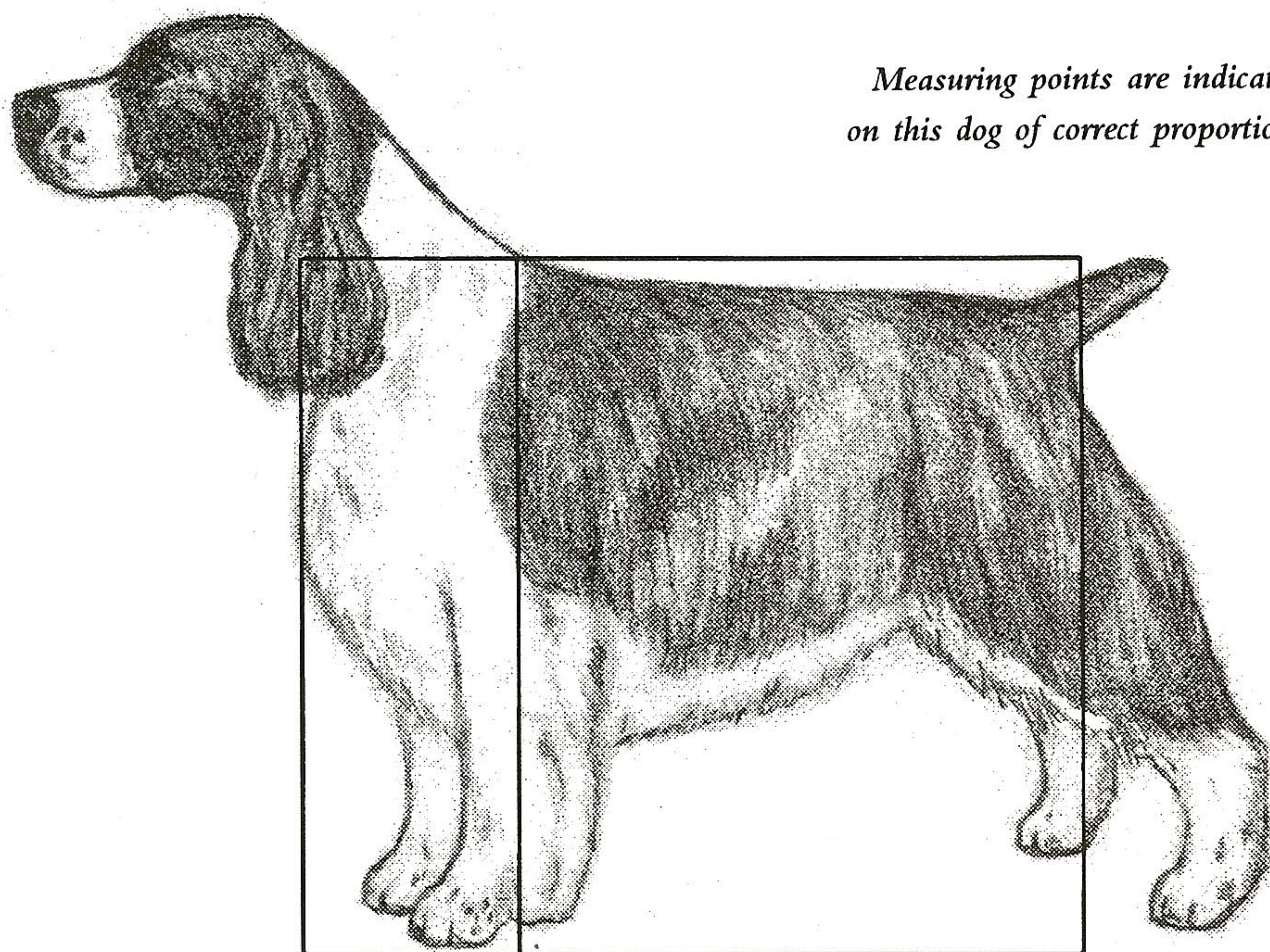


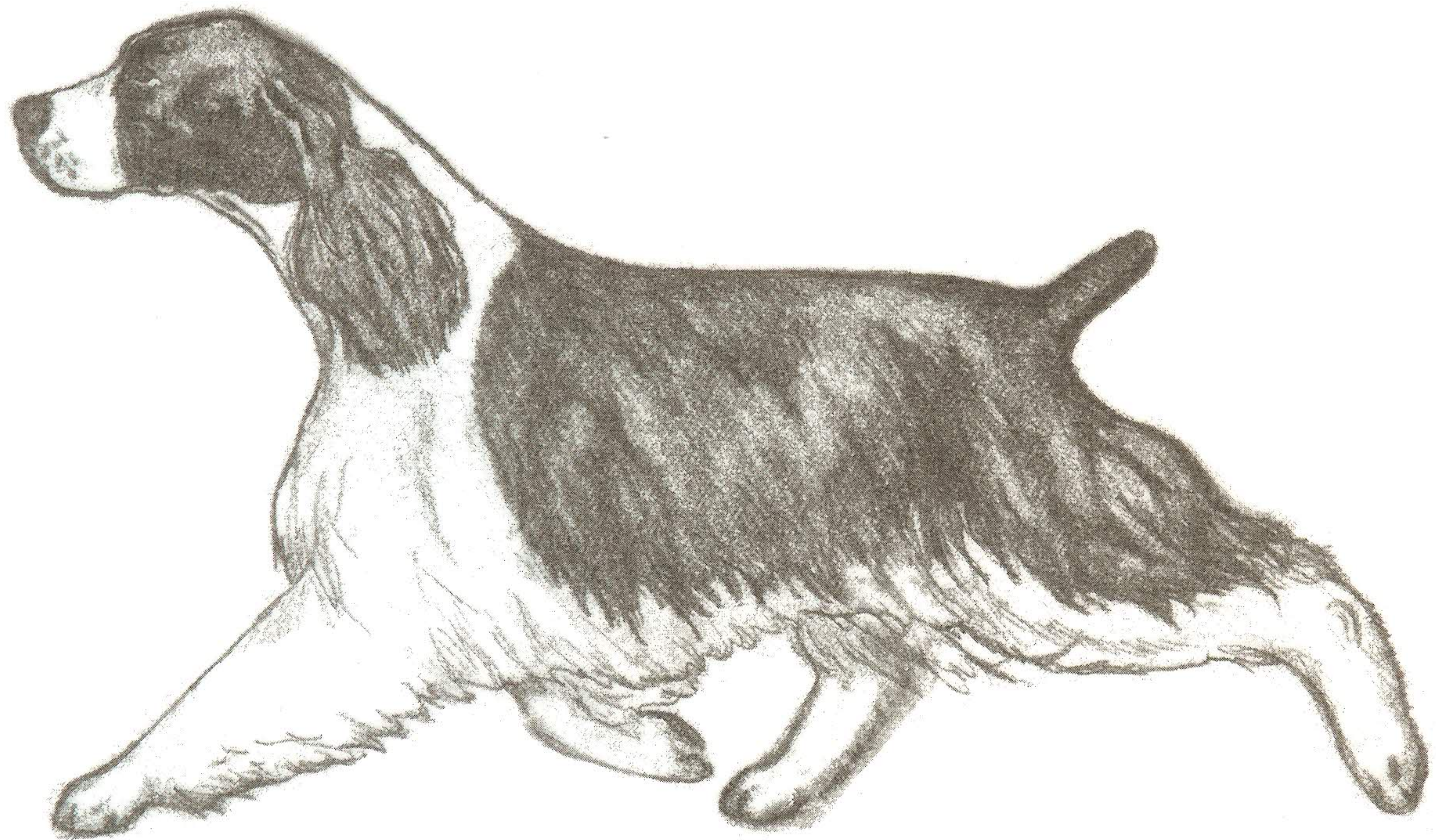
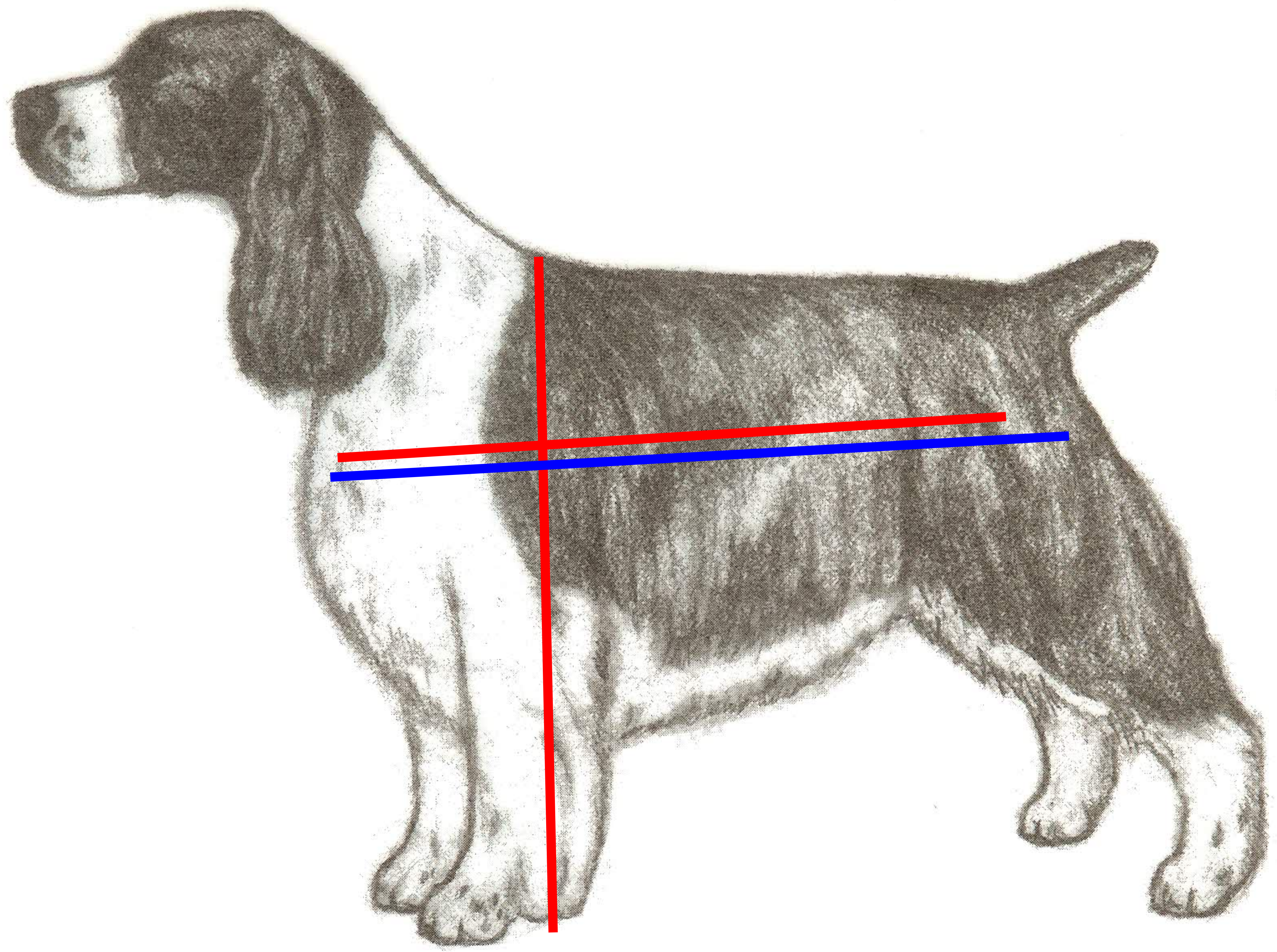
## *Size, Proportion and Substance*

*T*he Springer is built to cover rough ground with agility and reasonable speed. His structure suggests the capacity for endurance. He is to be kept to medium size. Ideal height at the shoulder for dogs is 20 inches; for bitches, it is 19 inches. Those more than one inch under or over the breed ideal are to be faulted. A 20-inch dog, well-proportioned and in good condition, will weigh approximately 50 pounds; a 19-inch bitch will weigh approximately 40 pounds. The length of the body (measured from the point of shoulder to point of buttocks) is slightly greater than the height at the withers. The dog too long in body, especially when long in loin, tires easily and lacks the compact outline characteristic of the breed. A dog too short in body for the length of his legs, a condition which destroys balance and restricts gait, is equally undesirable. A Springer with correct substance appears well-knit and sturdy with good bone, however, he is never coarse or ponderous.



*Measuring points are indicated on this dog of correct proportion.*







## Head

The head is impressive without being heavy. Its beauty lies in a combination of strength and refinement. It is important that its size and proportion be in balance with the rest of the dog. Viewed in profile, the head appears approximately the same length as the neck and blends with the body in substance. The stop, eyebrows and chiseling of the bony structure around the eye sockets contribute to the Springer's beautiful and characteristic expression, which is alert, kindly and trusting.

The eyes, more than any other feature, are the essence of the Springer's appeal. Correct size, shape, placement and color influence expression and attractiveness. The eyes are of medium size and oval in shape, set rather well-apart and fairly deep in their sockets. The color of the iris harmonizes with the color of the coat, preferably dark hazel in the liver and white dogs





and black or deep brown in the black and white dogs. Eyerims are fully pigmented and match the coat in color. Lids are tight with little or no haw showing. Eyes that are small, round or protruding, as well as eyes that are yellow or brassy in color, are highly undesirable.

Ears are long and fairly wide, hanging close to the cheeks with no tendency to stand up or out. The ear leather is thin and approximately long enough to reach the tip of the nose. Correct ear set is on a level with the eye and not too far back on the skull.

*Correct head type,  
English Springer Spaniel dog*





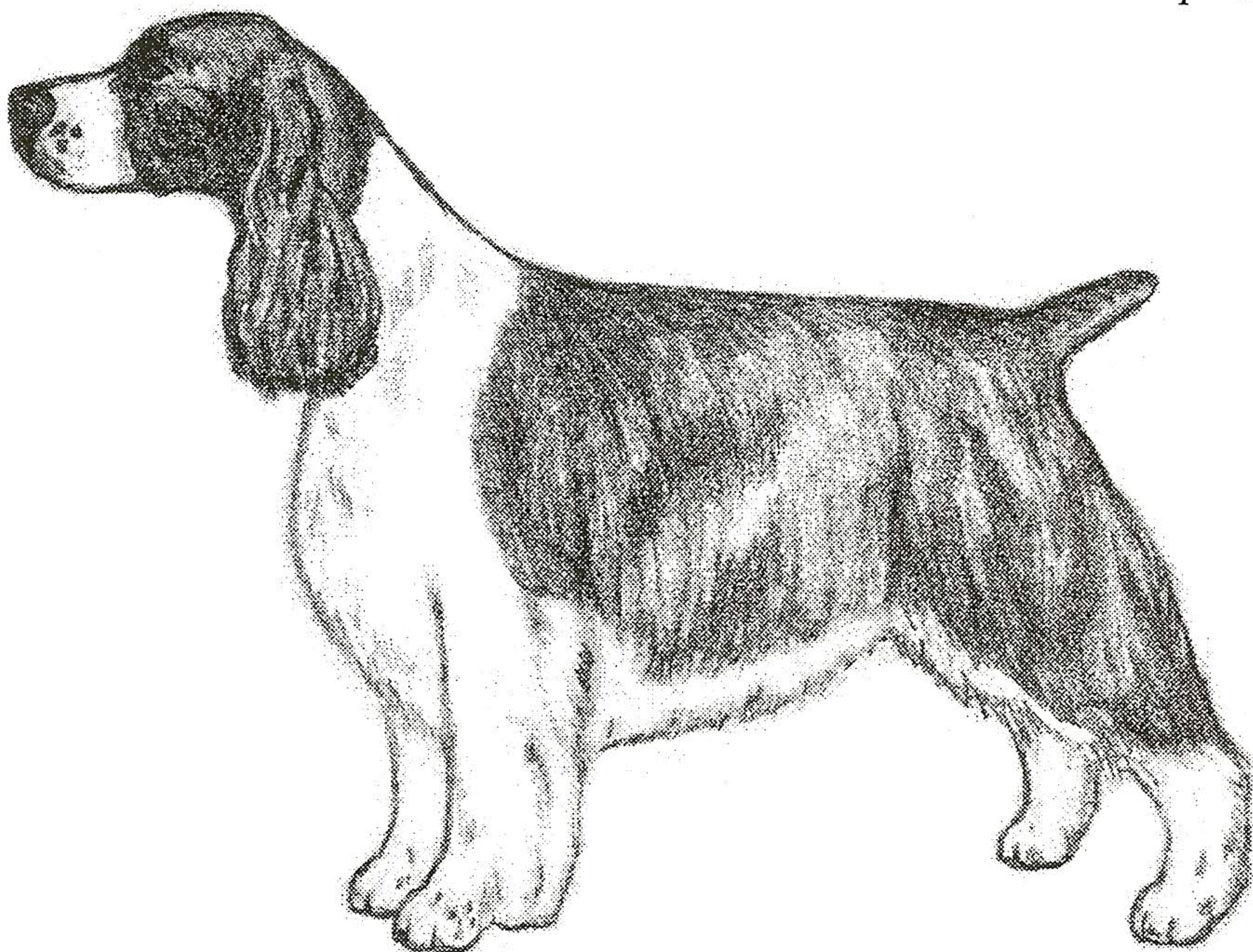
*The Standard describes a sporting dog, and the English Springer Spaniel must be evaluated as such. In addition to correct proportion, size and substance—essential ingredients of proper type—several key elements must be present in a Springer's body structure.*

*The English Springer Spaniel must possess moderate length of neck, comparable to the length of his head, and a straight, strong, essentially level back. This is essential to day-long function in the field. The correct English Springer Spaniel topline will remain firm and level as the dog moves, without the bounce or roll that indicates inefficient, wasted effort.*

*Strong, short, slightly arched loins must be present to provide the flexibility needed for quick turns and the ability to handle rough terrain with ease.*

*The Springer's croup slopes gently to the set on of the tail, with the tail-set following the natural line of the croup. A "slightly sloping" croup, and a tail carried horizontally, or slightly elevated, are correct. A flat croup and an upright, "terrier tail," which comes off the back at a right angle, are incorrect. A steep croup and a tail carried too low are also incorrect. Both detract from the "complete picture" of a smoothly flowing line from neck to tail.*

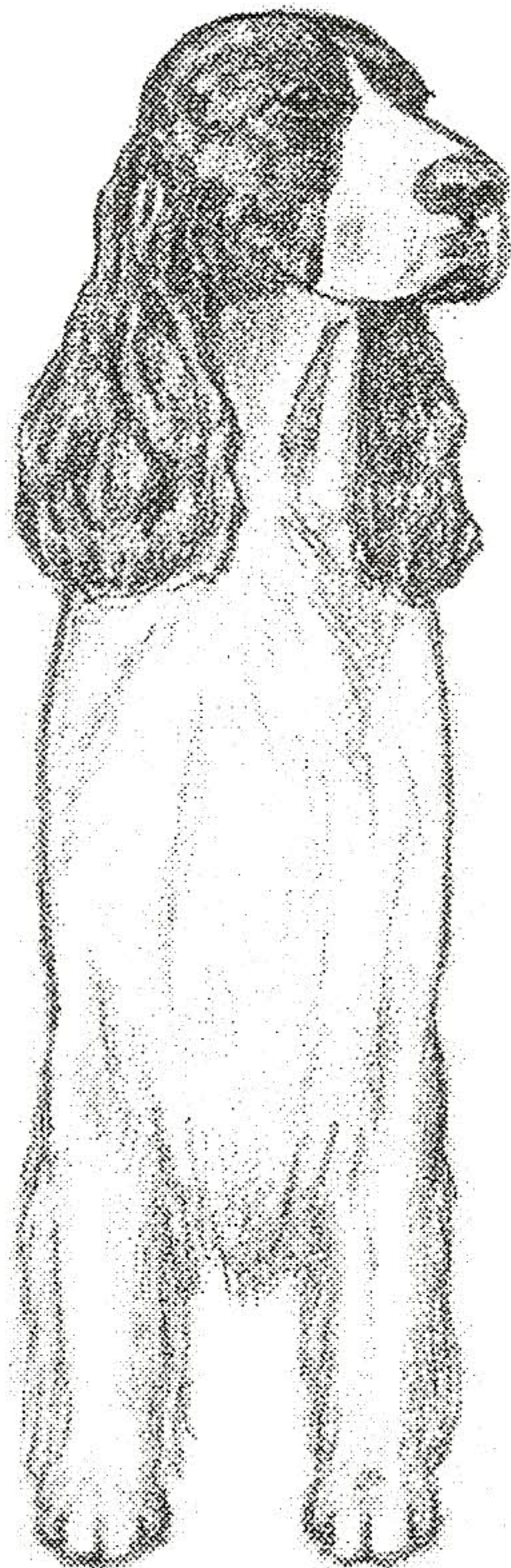
*Correct structure contributes to the Springer's ability to function in the field. The Springer must be evaluated as a sporting dog.*





## Forequarters

*E*fficient movement in front calls for proper forequarter assembly. The shoulder blades are flat, fairly close together at the tips, molding smoothly into the contour of the body. Ideally, when measured from the top of the withers to the point of the shoulder to the elbow, the shoulder blade and upper arm are of apparent equal length, forming an angle of nearly 90 degrees; this sets the front legs well under the body and places the elbows directly beneath the tips of the shoulder blades. Elbows lie close to the body. Forelegs are straight with the same degree of size continuing to the foot. Bone is strong, slightly flattened, not too round or too heavy. Pasterns are short, strong and slightly sloping, with no suggestion of weakness. Dewclaws are usually removed. Feet are round or slightly oval. They are compact and well-arched, of medium size, with thick pads, and well-feathered between the toes.



*From the front, one can see straight forelegs, elbows close to the body, strong pasterns, and round, compact, well-arched feet with thick pads.*



*The key elements of a correct front and shoulder assembly include:*

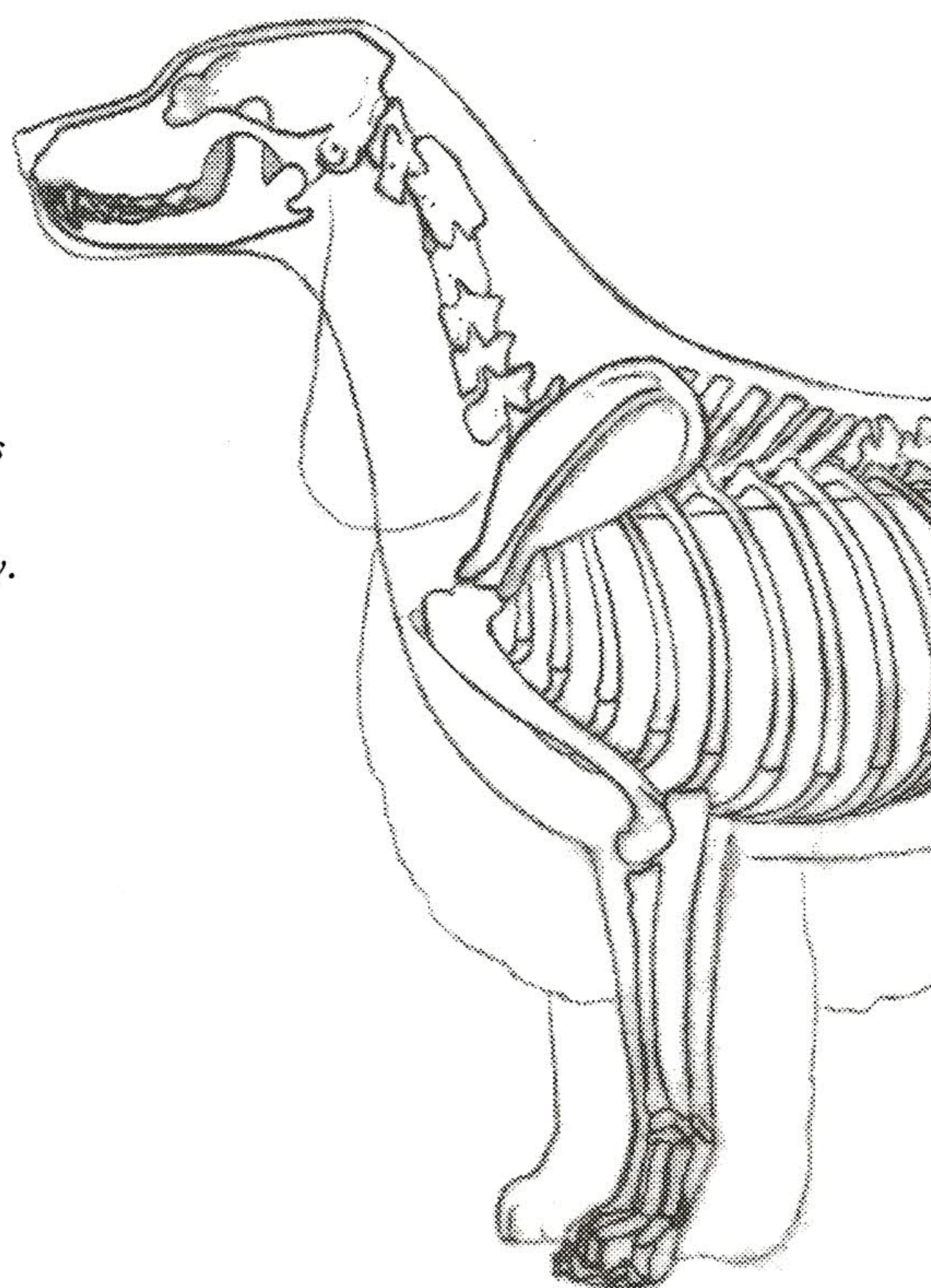
- ◆ *The length and placement of the shoulder blade,*
- ◆ *The length and placement of the upper arm,*
- ◆ *The angle they form.*

*When the shoulder blade and upper arm are of “apparent equal length” and come together at an angle of nearly 90 degrees, the English Springer Spaniel demonstrates a correct front assembly. He stands with his elbows directly beneath the tips of his shoulder blades. This provides a strong base of support for this weight-bearing part of the dog. The point of shoulder (where the shoulder blade and upper arm come together) should be found well forward of the elbow and tips of the shoulder blades.*

*Completing the correct front assembly are strong pasterns that are short and slightly sloping (to absorb shock) and compact, webbed feet with deep pads and well-arched, medium-sized, rounded toes. The Springer stands well up on his feet; flat feet with insufficient depth to the pads will not carry him through his day’s work.*

*Below: Correct front pastern and foot, demonstrating the slight slope that provides shock absorption.*

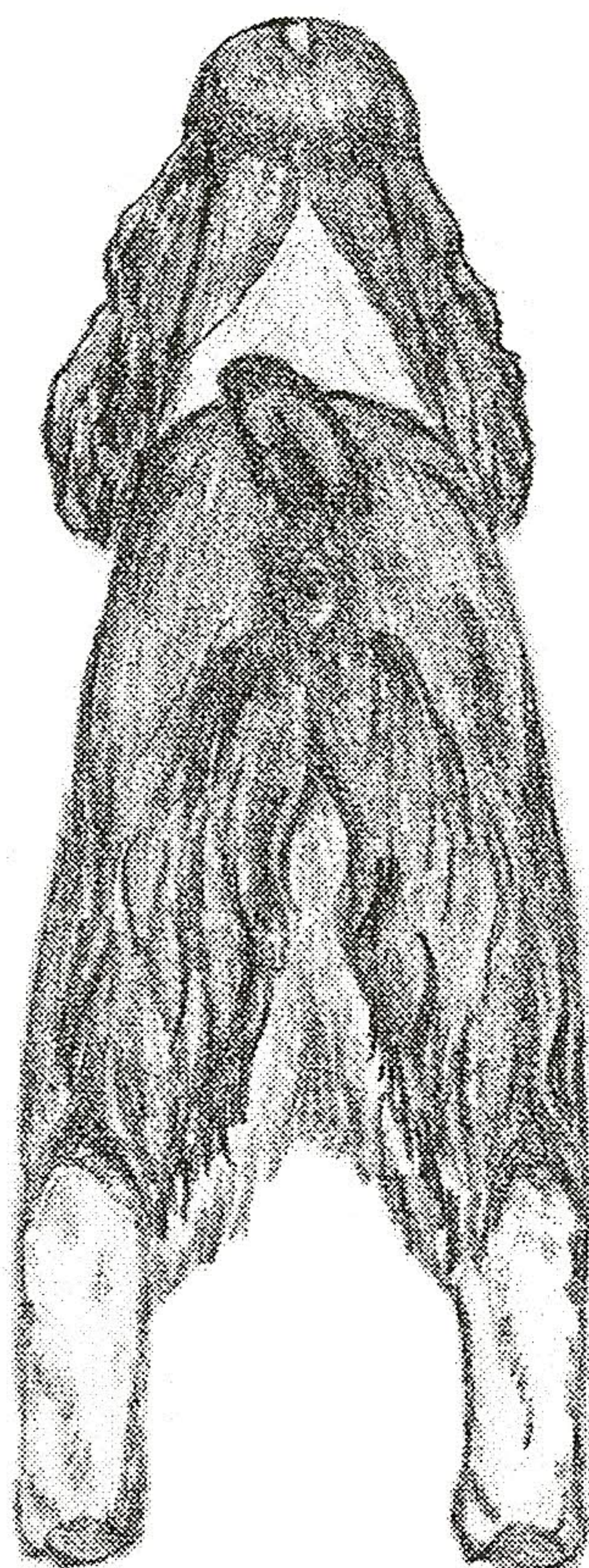
*Right: Correct front and shoulder assembly.*





## Hindquarters

The Springer should be worked and shown in hard, muscular condition with well-developed hips and thighs. His whole rear assembly suggests strength and driving power. Thighs are broad and muscular. Stifle joints are strong. For functional efficiency, the angulation of the hindquarter is never greater than that of the forequarter, and not appreciably less. The hock joints are somewhat rounded, not small and sharp in contour. Rear pasterns are short (about one-third the distance from the hip joints to the foot) and strong, with good bone. When viewed from behind, the rear pasterns are parallel. Dewclaws are usually removed. The feet are the same as in front, except that they are smaller and often more compact.



*This well-muscled, properly constructed rear demonstrates power and efficiency.*



*Efficient movement means long strides and few steps, a very important attribute of a working hunter in the field for a full day's activity. A Springer of correct conformation moves effortlessly, with reach in the front and drive and power behind.*

*When front and rear angulation are in balance, the Springer will "move as he stands." A Springer of correct proportion and balance maintains his outline while moving. He will move with legs fully extended in ground-covering strides, with head and neck extended and body slightly lowered for maximum efficiency. His gait will tend to converge toward a single line of travel as his speed increases. There is no wasted motion and no tendency to move the legs "straight up and down."*

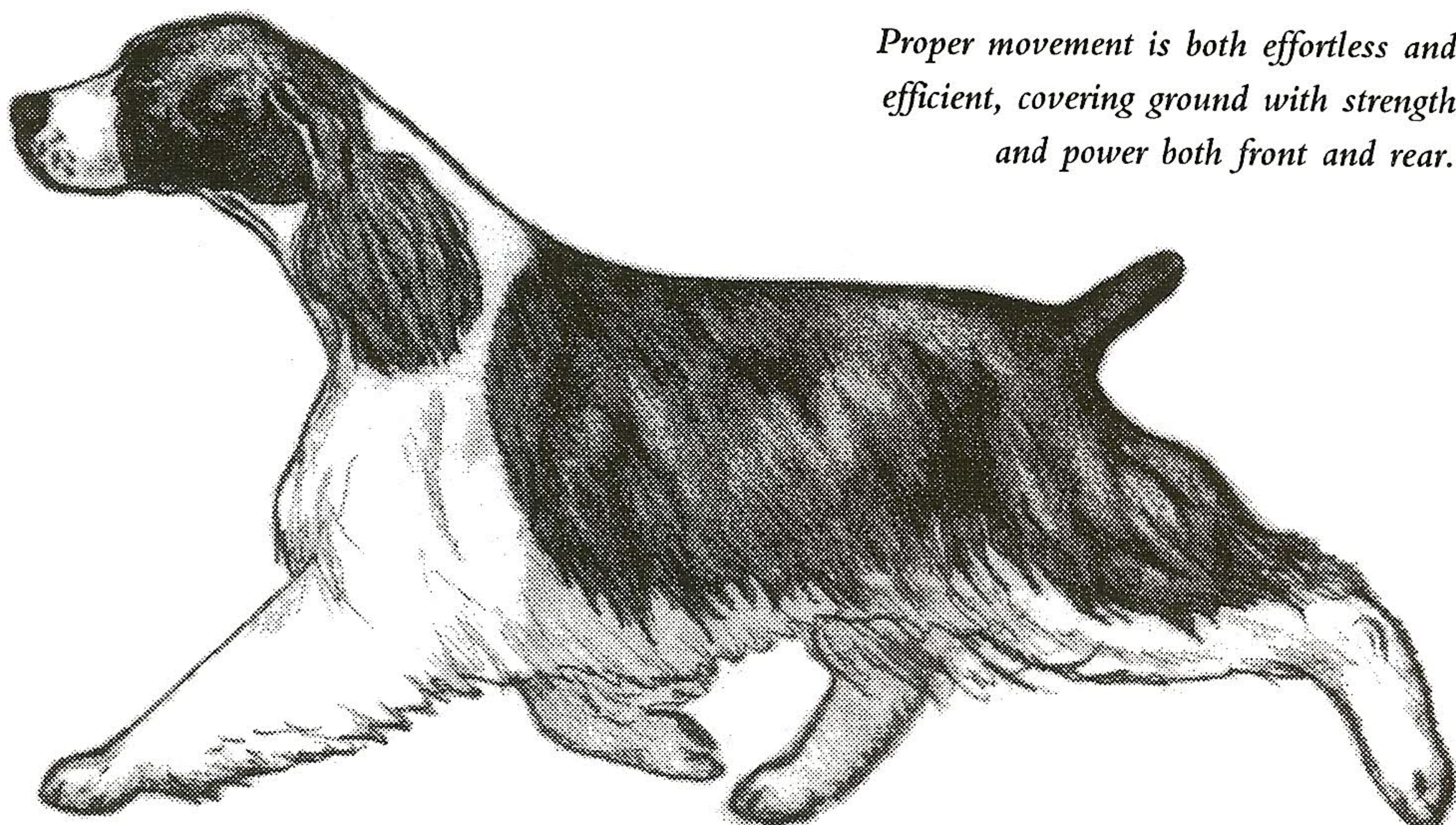
*An English Springer Spaniel presented on a loose lead, at a workmanlike trot, moves at its best, with the opportunity to demonstrate its character and personality.*

*Correct movement is the result of correct structure, which includes those elements of proportion and balance described in the Standard and in the Committee's Commentary. Breeders, exhibitors and judges must possess a basic understanding of canine anatomy and locomotion, as movement faults are numerous and complex. Readers are urged to study the following excellent source materials:*

*Dog Locomotion and Gait Analysis (Curtis M. Brown)*

*The New Dogsteps (Rachel Page Elliott)*

*The Dog in Action (McDowell Lyon)*



*Proper movement is both effortless and efficient, covering ground with strength and power both front and rear.*