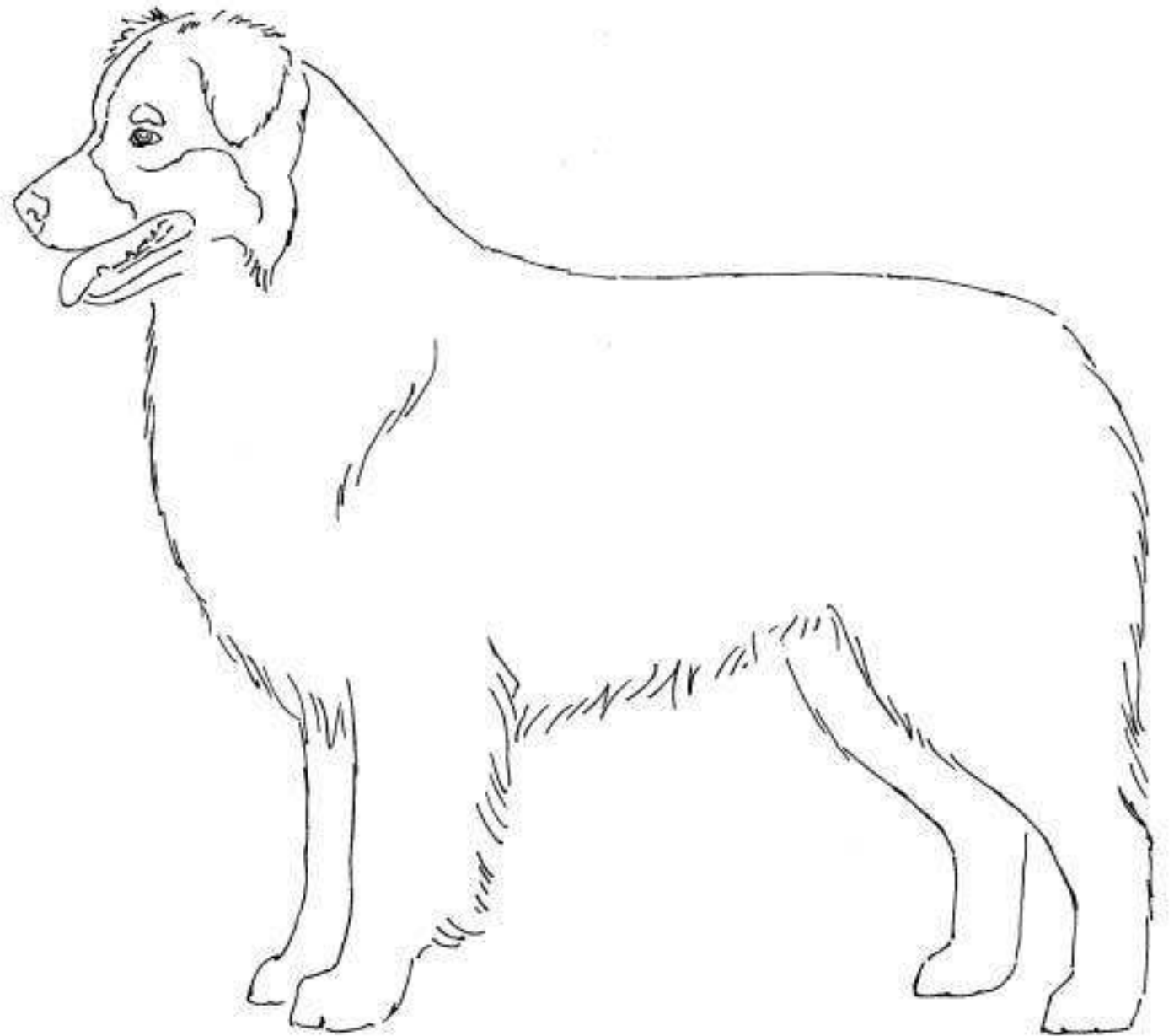


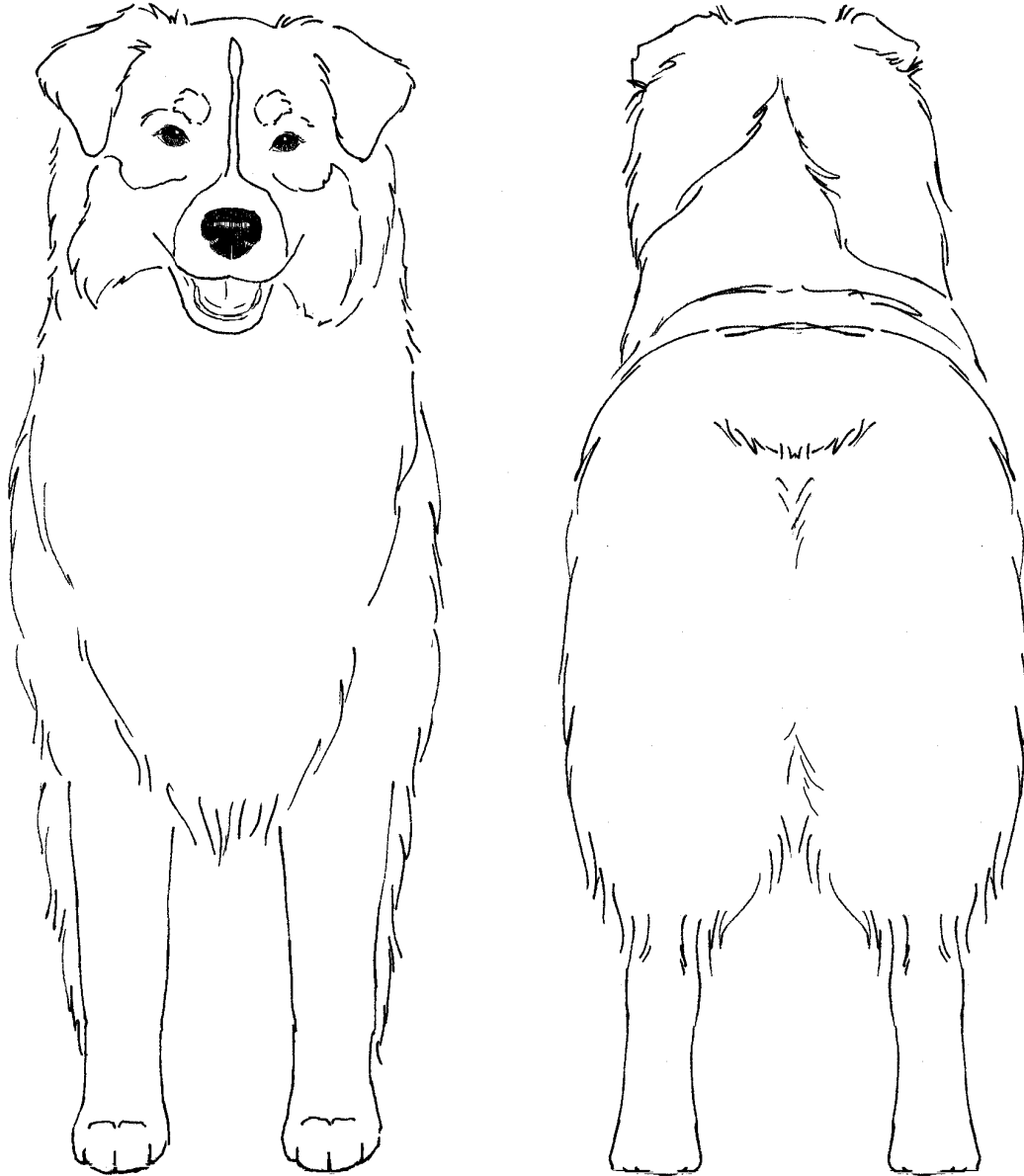
PROFILE

- Well-balanced, slightly longer than tall
- Medium size and bone
- Lithe and agile, solid and muscular without cloddiness
- Coat of moderate length and coarseness
- Docked or natural bobbed tail
- Neck strong, slightly arched at the crest, fitting well into the shoulders
- Back straight, strong, level
- Croup moderately sloped

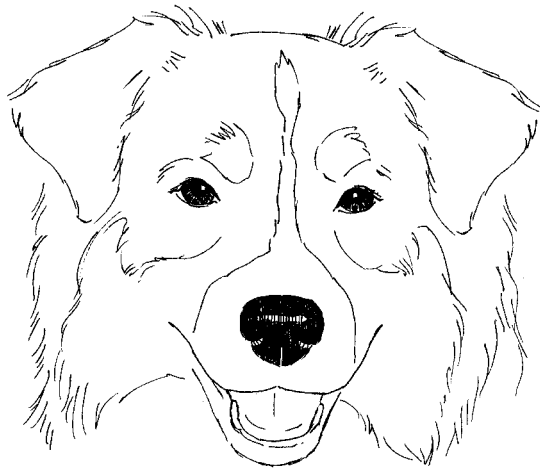


CORRECT STANCE

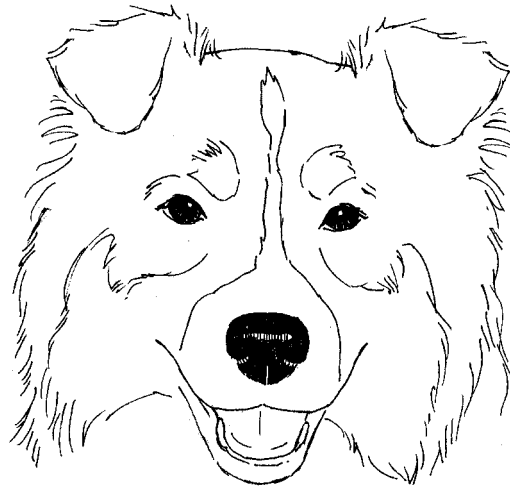
Front and Rear



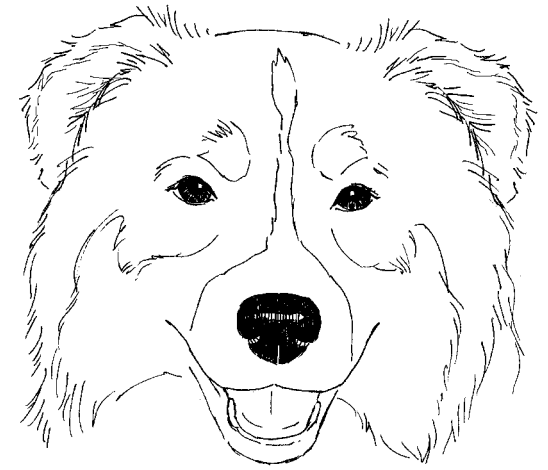
- Chest is not broad but is deep, with the lowest point reaching the elbow.
 - Legs are straight and strong.
 - Bone is strong, oval rather than round.
 - The width of the hindquarters is equal to the width of the forequarters at the shoulders.
 - The hocks are short, perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other when viewed from the rear.
-



Forward-breaking ears

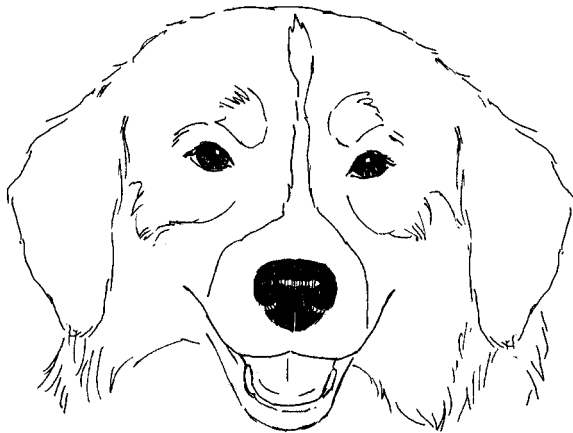


High set forward-breaking ears

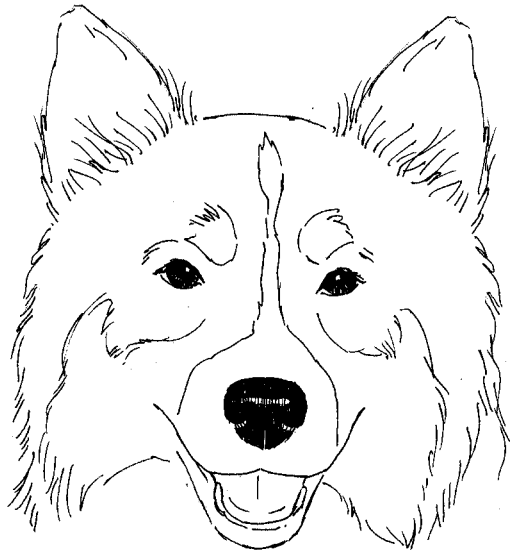


Rose ears

The ears shown above are correct. The ears shown below are incorrect.



Hanging or hound ears



Prick ears

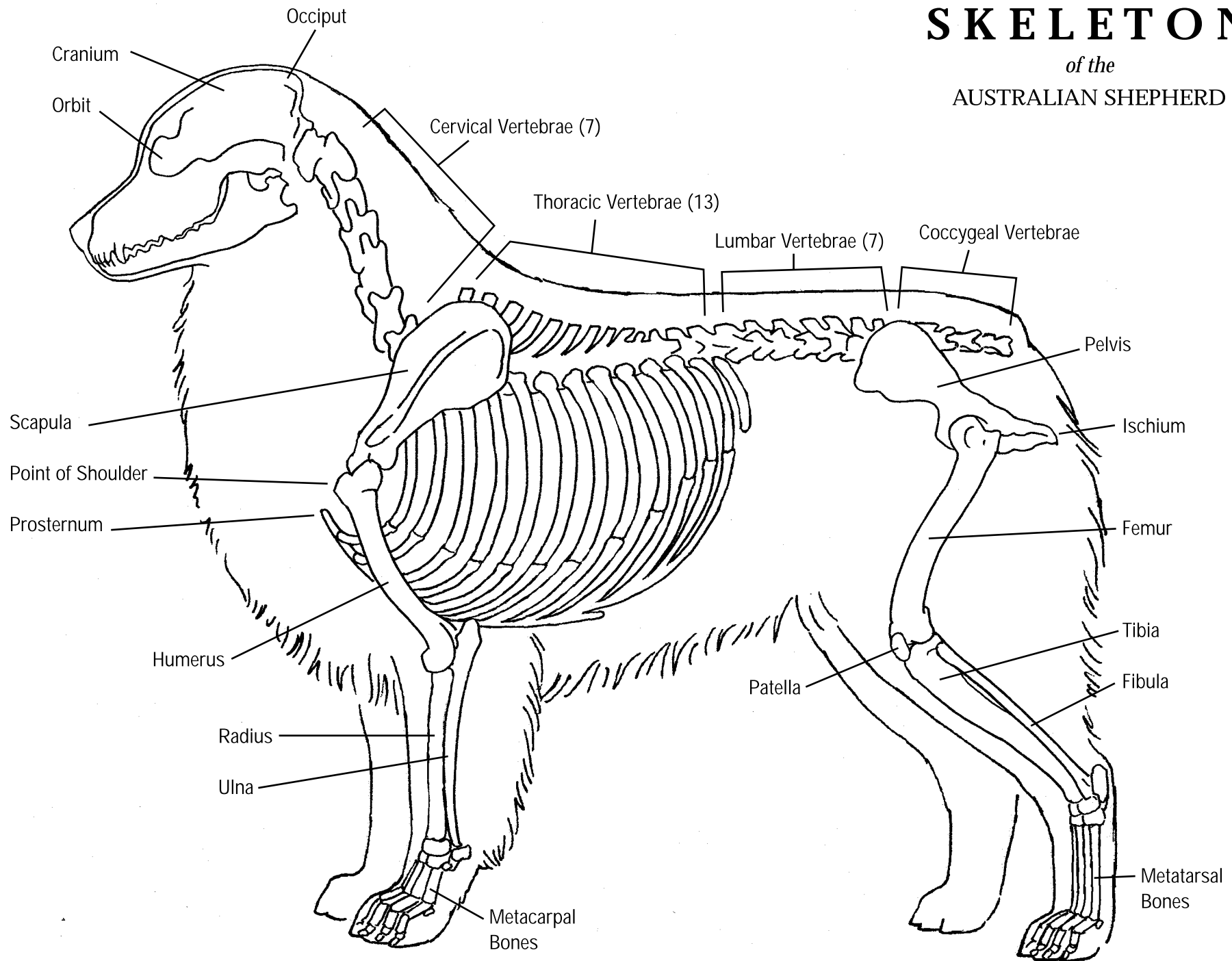
EARS

Ears are triangular of moderate size and leather, set high at the head. At full attention they break forward and over, or to the side as a rose ear.

Prick ears and hanging ears are **severe faults**.

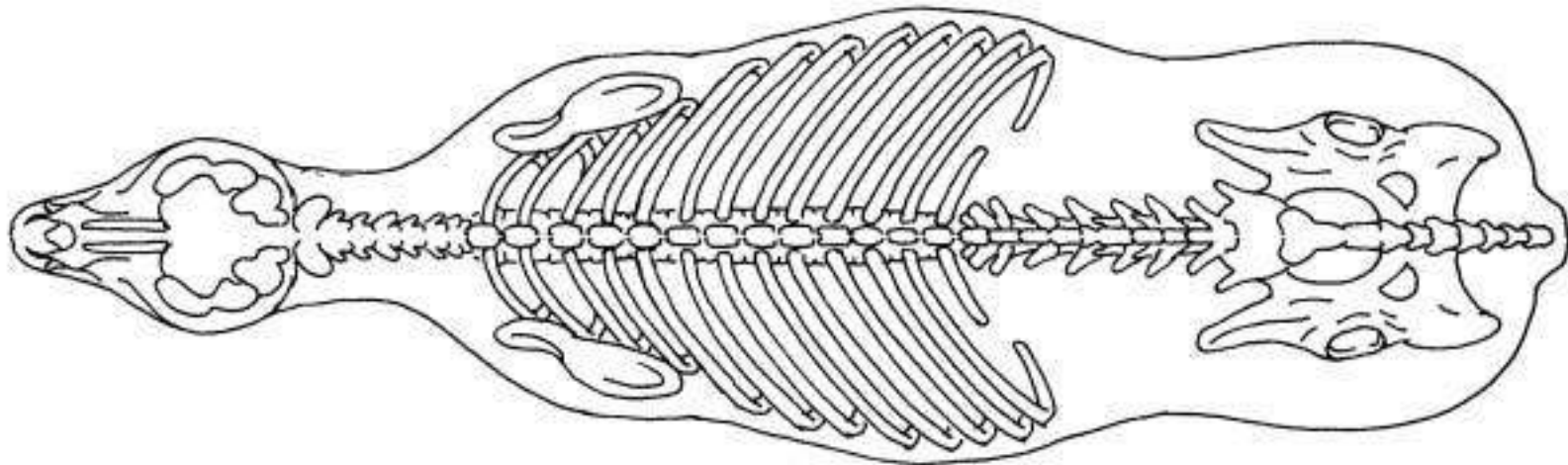
SKELETON

of the
AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD

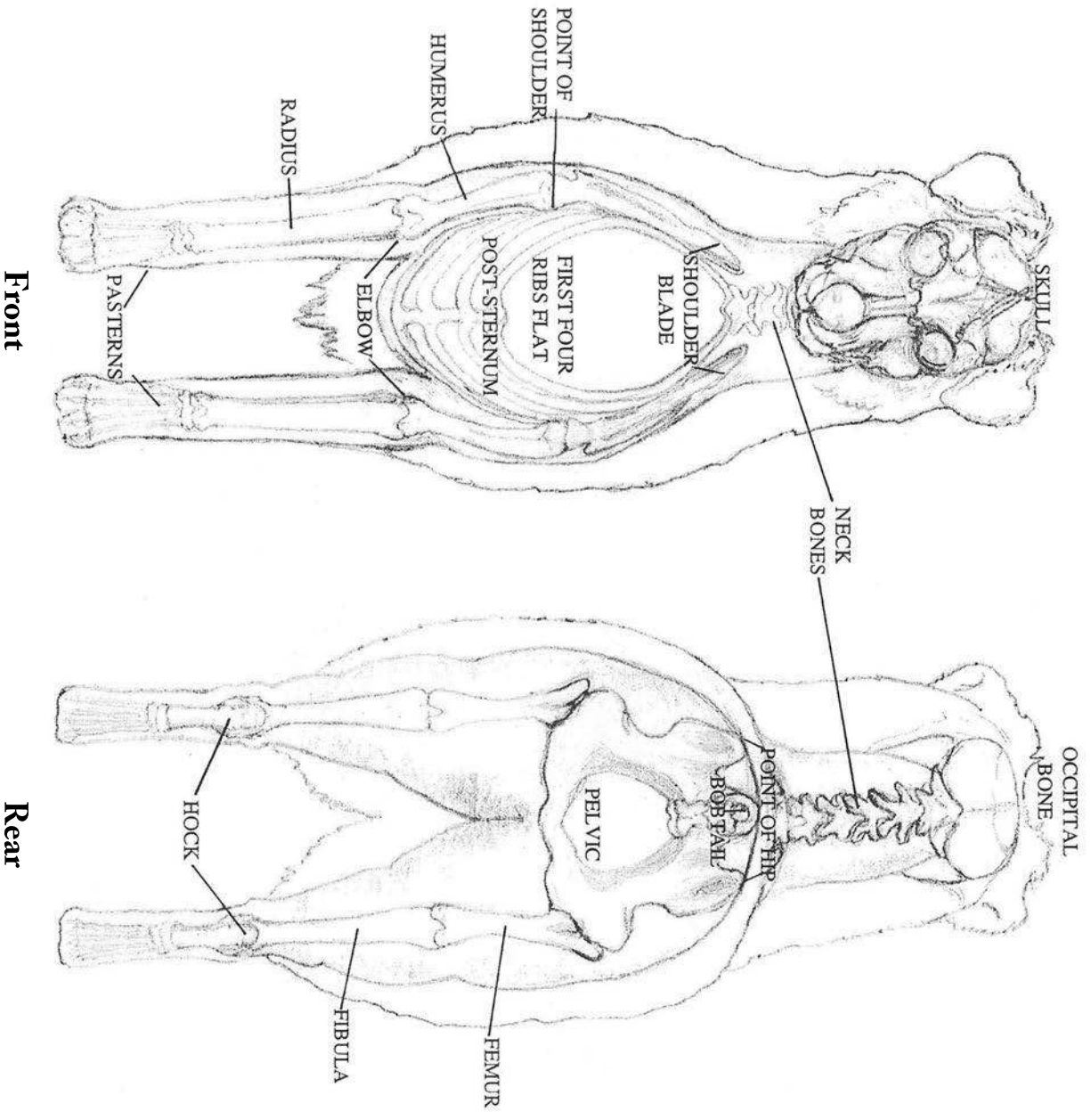


SKELETON FROM THE TOP

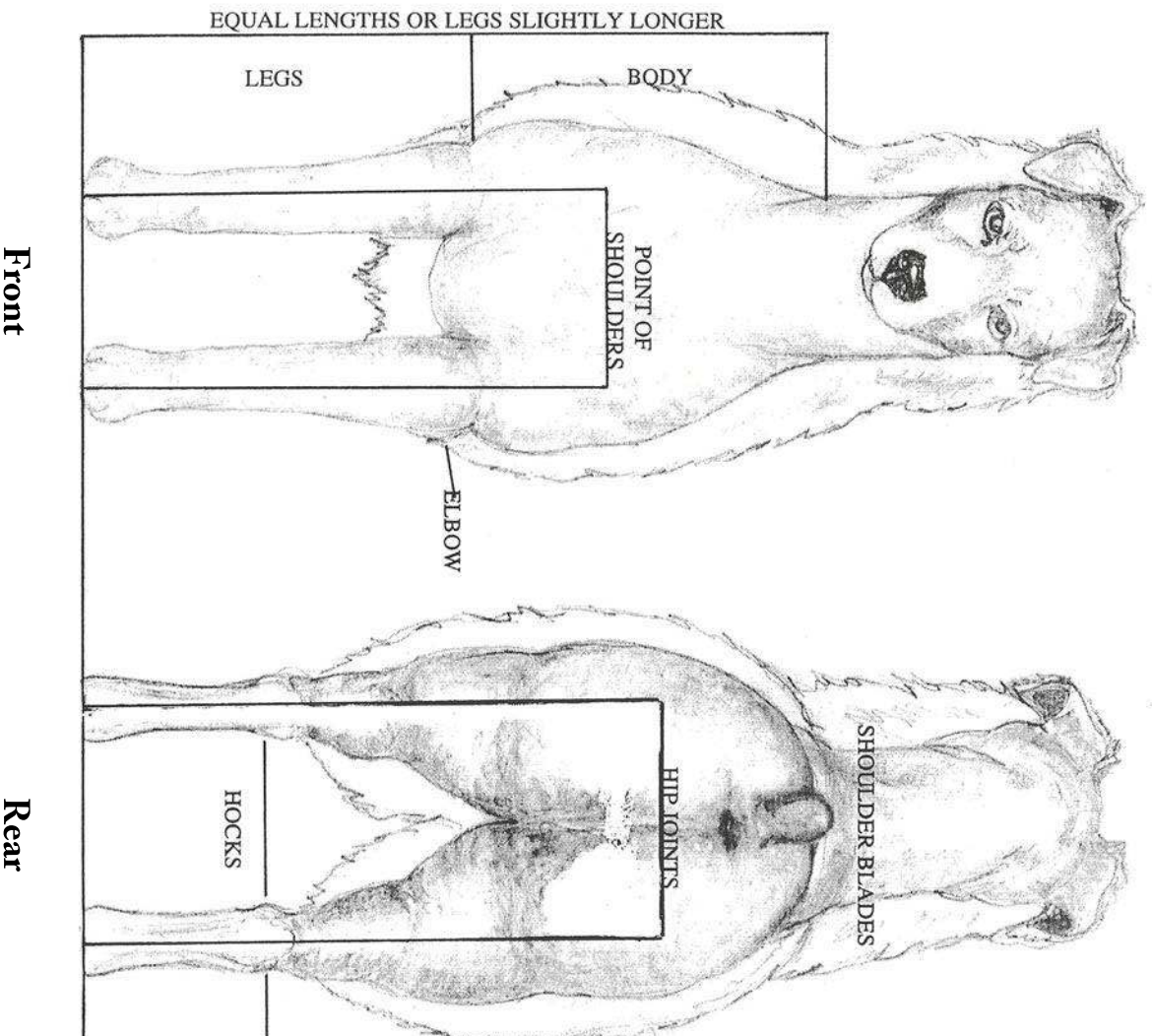
- Long sternum and good rib spring allow for maximum heart and lung function
- The ribs should slope backwards to provide for greater expansion of the ribcage during heavy breathing due to exertion.
- First four ribs are flat, leaving room for front leg movement
- Fifth rib springs
- Sixth through ninth ribs are well-sprung, giving good lung space for endurance
- Tenth through twelfth ribs are attached to costal cartilage
- Thirteenth rib is “floating”



The Front and Rear Skeleton



The Front and Rear Measurements

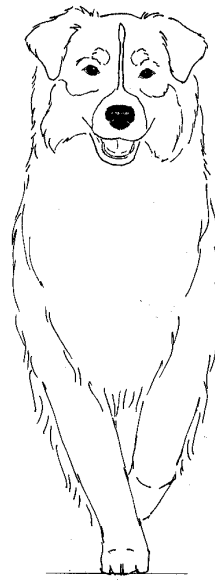
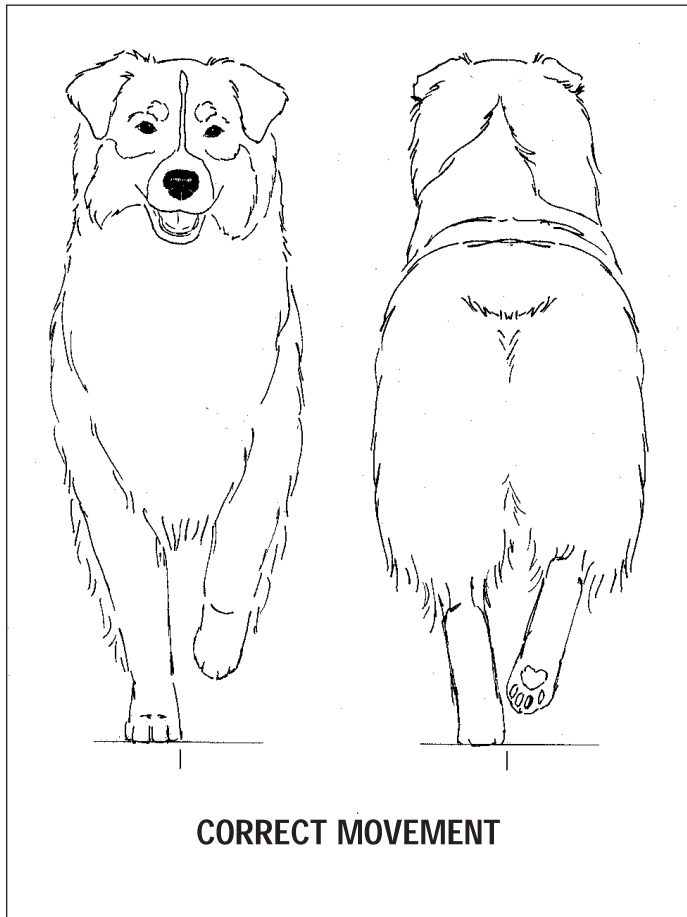


At a natural stance, the width of the hand should slide easily between the front legs along the chest. From the point of the shoulder down through the center of the front leg to the paw should be an imaginary straight line, with toes pointing straight or slightly out. At the point of the hip there should be an imaginary straight line that goes down the middle of the back leg to the paw. Hocks that set low (shorter hocks) are for more endurance, but with a slower start. Longer hocks are for faster starts but result in less endurance. Dogs too tight in the shoulder will not have full flexibility in movement.

GAIT

Down and Back

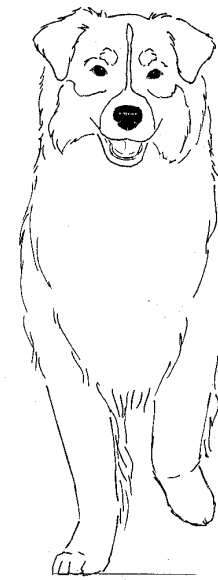
Fore and hind legs move straight and parallel with the center line of the body. As speed increases, the feet (front and rear) converge toward the center line of gravity of the dog.



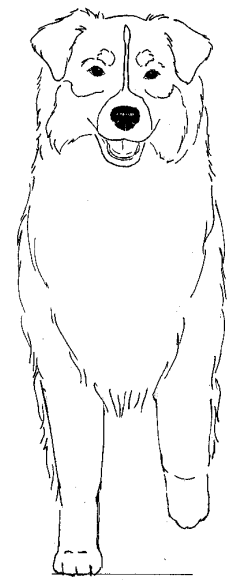
CROSSING OVER
OR INTERFERING



OUT AT ELBOWS

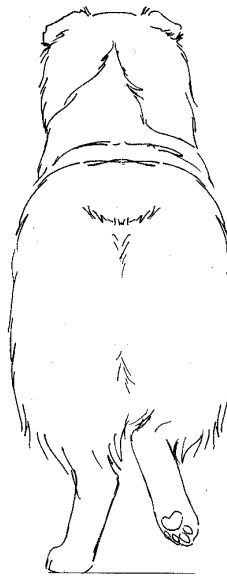


PADDLING

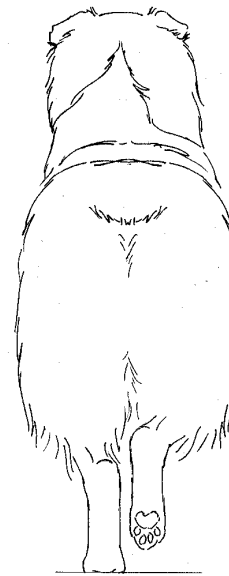


PARALLEL TRACKING

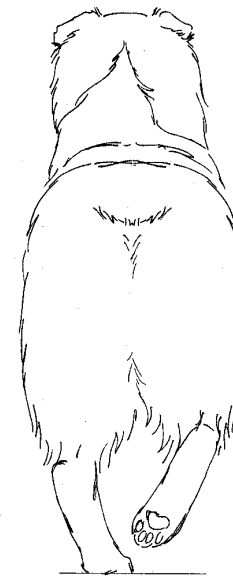
MOVEMENT FAULTS



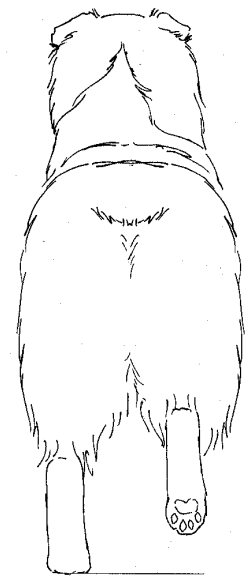
COWHOCKED



MOVING CLOSE



BOWHOCKED



PARALLEL TRACKING

SIDE GAIT

The Australian Shepherd has a smooth, free and easy gait. He exhibits great agility of movement with a well-balanced, ground covering stride.

