

General Appearance

- Well balanced
- Slightly longer than tall
- Medium size and bone
- Lithe and agile
- Solid and muscular
- Colors offer variety/individuality
- Docked/natural bobbed tail



Characteristics



- Intelligent working dog of strong herding and guardian instincts
- Loyal companion
- Stamina
- Attentive and animated



size



- Bitches: Preferred 18" - 21"
- Dogs: Preferred 20" - 23"
- ***Quality is not to be sacrificed in favor of size***

Proportion



- Slightly Longer than Tall—measuring from the breastbone to the rear of the thigh and the top of withers to the ground

substance



- Solidly built with moderate bone
- Males—Masculinity without coarseness
- Bitches—Feminine without slight of bone

Head



- Clean cut, strong and dry
- Overall size in proportion to the body

proportions



Expression

- Showing attentiveness
- Intelligent
- Alert and eager
- Gaze keen, but friendly



Eyes

- Brown, blue, amber or **ANY** variation or combination including flecks and marbling
- Almond shaped, not protruding nor sunken
- Blue merles and blacks have black pigmentation on eye rims
- Red merles and reds have liver (brown) pigmentation on eye rims



Eyes



Ears



- Triangular
- Moderate size and leather
- Set high on head
- At full attention ears break forward and over, or to the side as a rose ear



Ears: Breaking Over or Rose?



Ears: Severe Faults

- Prick ear
- Hanging ear



skull

- Skull: top flat to slightly domed. It may show a slight occipital protuberance
- Length and width are equal
- Stop: moderate, well defined



muzzle

- Equal in length or slightly shorter than the back skull
- Viewed from the side the topline of the back skull and muzzle form parallel planes
- Divided by a moderate, well-defined stop
- Tapers little from base to nose and is rounded at the tip



nose



- Blues merles and blacks have black pigmentation on the nose (and lips)

nose



- Red merles and reds have liver (brown) pigmentation on the nose (and lips)

Too much pink?



- On the merles it is permissible to have small pink spots; however, they should not exceed 25% of the nose on dogs over one year of age, which is a serious fault

teeth

- Full complement of strong, white teeth
- Scissor or level bite allowed
- Teeth broken or missing by accident shall not be penalized
- Loss of contact by short center incisors in an otherwise correct bite shall not be judged undershot



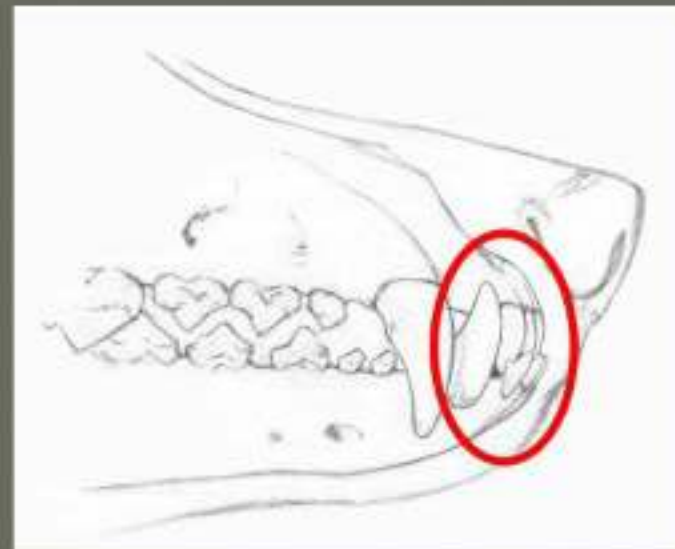
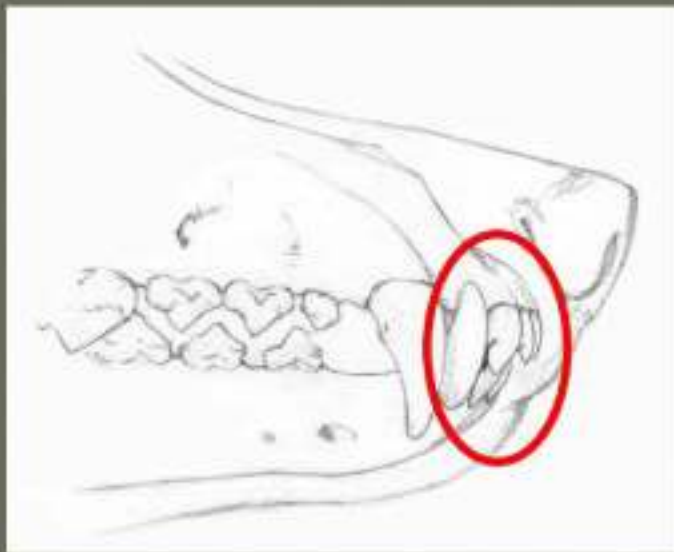
Scissor bite

Pincer bite



Teeth: disqualifications

- Undershot
- Overshot by more than 1/8th inch



Neck

- Strong
- Moderate length
- Slightly arched at crest
- Fitting well into the shoulders



Topline

- Straight and strong
- Level and firm from withers to hip joints
- Croup moderately sloped



Chest



- Not broad, but deep
- Lowest point reaches the elbow
- Ribs well sprung and long, neither barrel chested, nor slab sided
- Underline shows a moderate tuck-up

tail

- Straight
- Docked or naturally bobbed
- Not to exceed 4" in length



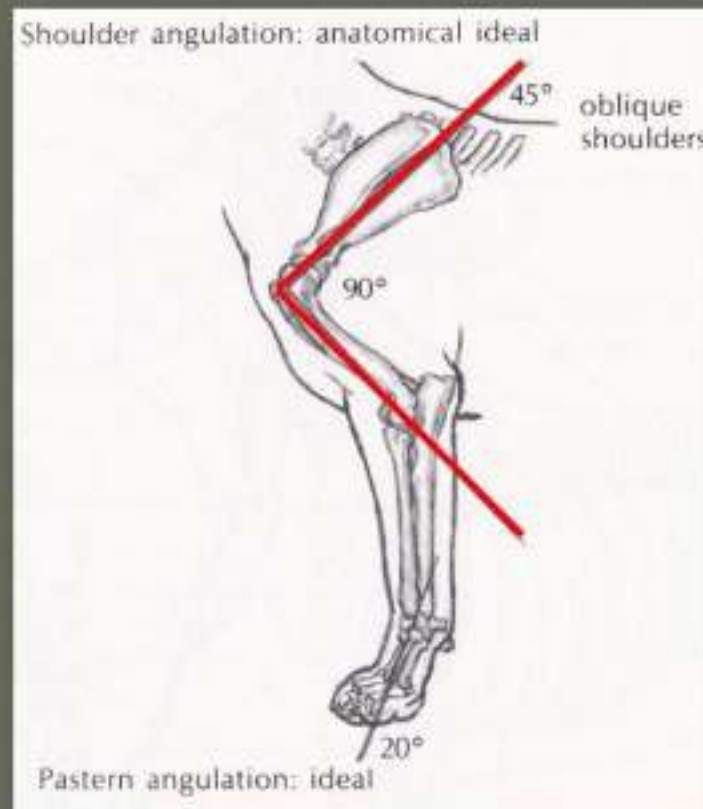
Forequarters: Shoulders

- Shoulder blades long, flat
- Fairly close set at the withers
- Well laid back



Shoulder Angulation

- Upper arm length relatively the same length as the shoulder blade
- Attaches at an approximate right angle to the shoulder line



Forequarters: legs

- Forelegs drop straight and perpendicular to the ground
- Legs straight and strong
- Bone strong and oval
- Pastern medium length, very slightly sloped
- Front dewclaws may be removed



Feet

- Front and rear feet are oval
- Compact
- Toes close knit and well arched
- Pads thick and resilient

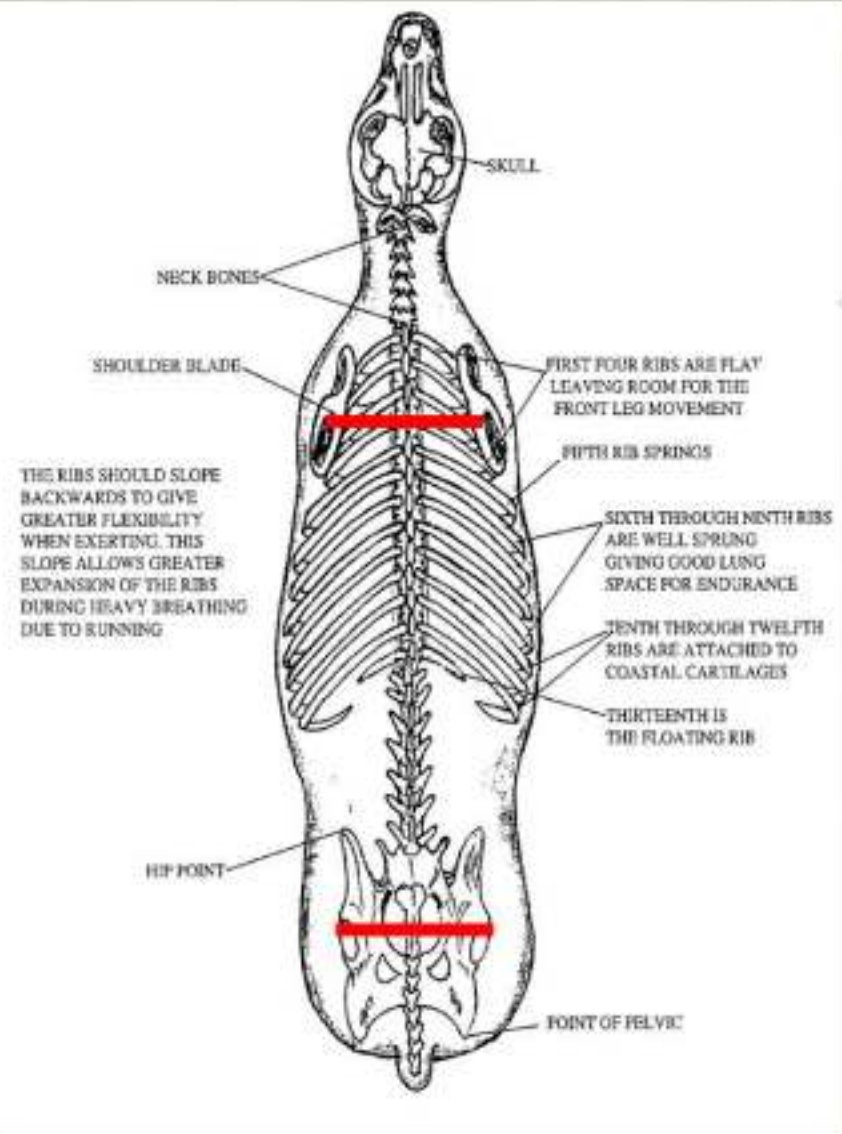
"Oval foot: Similar in all respects to cat feet except that both centre toes are slightly longer. As might be expected, such a foot leaves an oval impression on the ground."

Harold R. Spira,
Canine Terminology

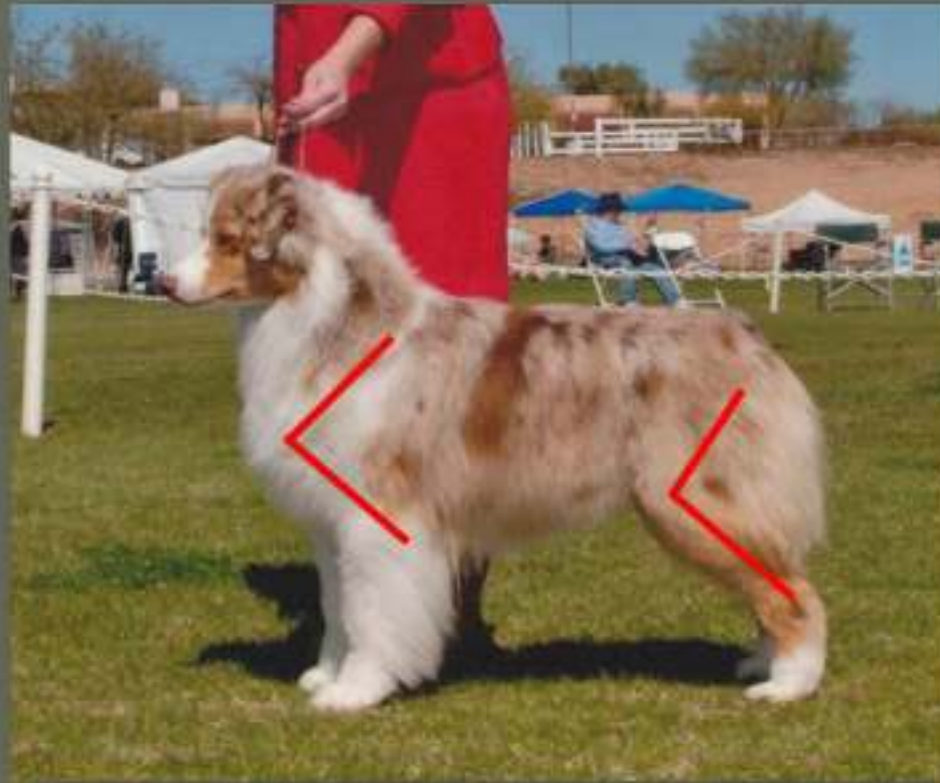


hindquarters

- Hindquarters width equals forequarters width at the shoulders



Angulation



- Pelvis and upper thigh angulation corresponds to the shoulder blade and upper arm, forming an approximate right angle
- Stifles clearly defined

Hocks

- Hocks are short
- Perpendicular and parallel to each other
- Rear dewclaws must be removed



Coat

- Hair medium texture and length, straight to wavy and weather resistant
- The undercoat varies in quantity with variations in climate
- Short and smooth on head, ears, front of forelegs and below the hocks
- Moderately feathered backs of forelegs and britches
- Moderate mane and frill; more pronounced in males



Color

- Blue Merle, Black, Red Merle, Red: with or without white and tan (copper) markings, with no order of preference
- This allows for 16 color combinations



White

- Hairline of a white collar does not exceed the withers at the skin
- White is acceptable on neck (either in part or as a full collar) chest, legs, muzzle, underparts, blaze on head
- White extension from underpart four inches as measured from a horizontal line at the elbow



White that is Faulted

- White on the head should not predominate
- Eyes must be fully surrounded by color and pigment



disqualifying Fault



- White body splashes, which means white on the body between the withers and tail, on the sides between elbows and back of hindquarters in all colors

More on Color



MERLE Patterns



- No preference of lightly merled or heavily merled
- Merles characteristically become darker with increasing age

Cryptic Merle



Gait

- Smooth, free and easy
- Well balanced, ground-covering stride
- Back remains firm and level
- Agile and able to change direction or alter gait instantly



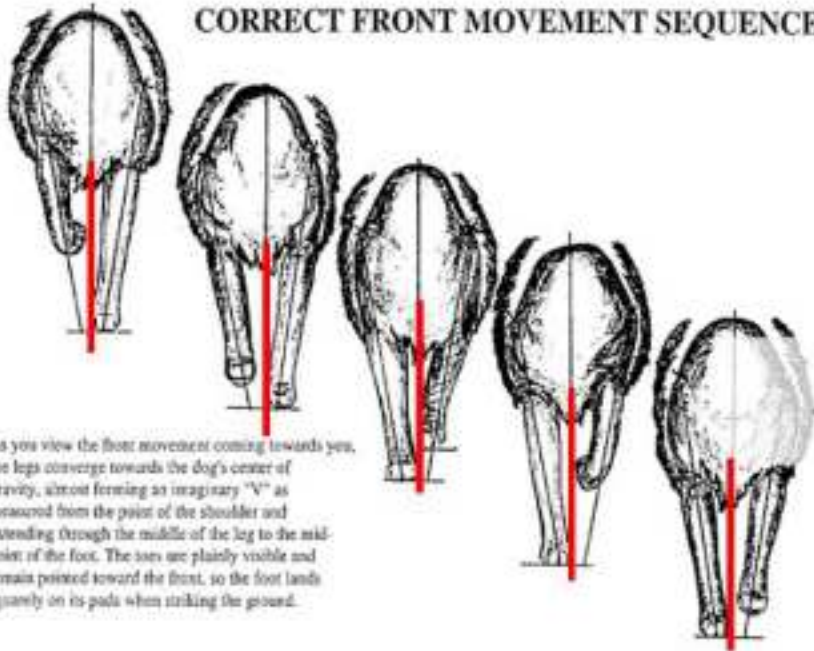
Gait

- Fore and hind legs move straight and parallel with the center line of gravity
- As speed increases, the feet (front and rear) converge toward the center line of gravity
- Back remains firm and level



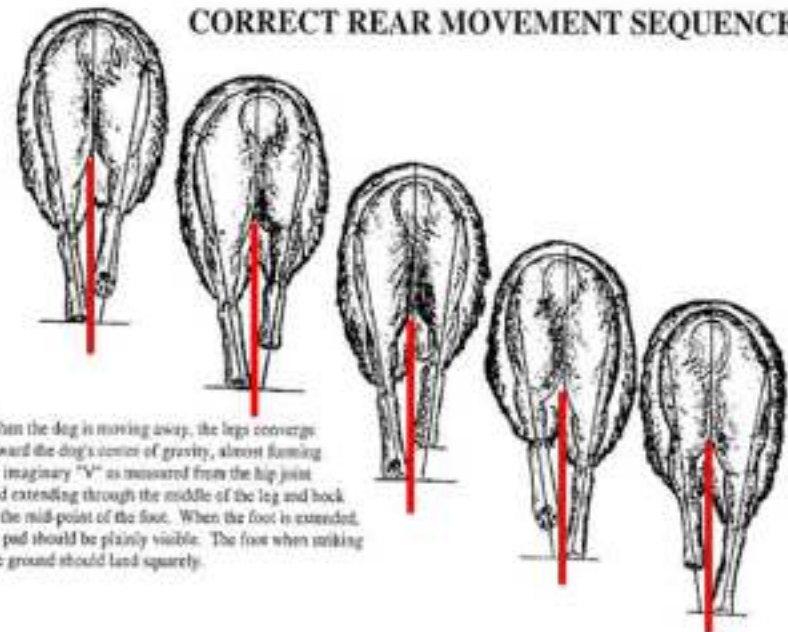
Coming and Going

CORRECT FRONT MOVEMENT SEQUENCE



As you view the front movement coming towards you, the legs converge towards the dog's center of gravity, almost forming an imaginary "V" as measured from the point of the shoulder and extending through the middle of the leg to the mid-point of the foot. The toes are plainly visible and remain pointed toward the front, so the foot lands squarely on its pads when striking the ground.

CORRECT REAR MOVEMENT SEQUENCE



When the dog is moving away, the legs converge toward the dog's center of gravity, almost forming an imaginary "V" as measured from the hip joint and extending through the middle of the leg and back to the mid-point of the foot. When the foot is extended, its pad should be plainly visible. The foot when striking the ground should land squarely.

Gait from the Side



temperament

- Intelligent, active
- Even disposition
- Good natured
- Seldom quarrelsome
- Somewhat reserved in initial meetings



Implied Faults examples

- If the hairline of the white collar exceeds the point of the withers at the skin
- White from the underbelly extending into the body greater than a horizontal 4 inches measured at the elbow
- White predominating on the head
- Eyes not fully surrounded by color and pigment
- Missing teeth, dirty teeth

Serious/severe Faults

- Any display of shyness, fear or aggression
- Prick ears
- Hanging ears
- Non-typical coats
- Pink spots on the nose on dogs over one year of age that exceed 25% of the nose

disqualifying Faults

- Undershot bite
- Overshot bite by more than 1/8 inch.
- White body splashes in all colors, which means white on the body between the withers and tail, on the sides between elbows and back of hindquarters

grooming



Must be Agile



Must be Athletic



The Versatile Aussie

