

The Beagle



History



- References to small Beagle type dogs which hunted hare and were followed on foot date back to 400 BC in Greece and 200 AD in Britain
- “Beagle” – Celtic origin...“*beag*” meaning small and indicative of size of hounds used for hunting
- Elizabeth I maintained a pack of small pocket sized Beagles cherished for their melodious “singing” voices

History



- Middle of the 18th century hare hunting with Beagles as an aristocratic sport was supplanted by foxhunting
- But hare hunting with Beagles continued to thrive as they became the utilitarian hound of choice for farmers and small landholders
- Scent hounds, including Beagles, undoubtedly accompanied early English settlers in America

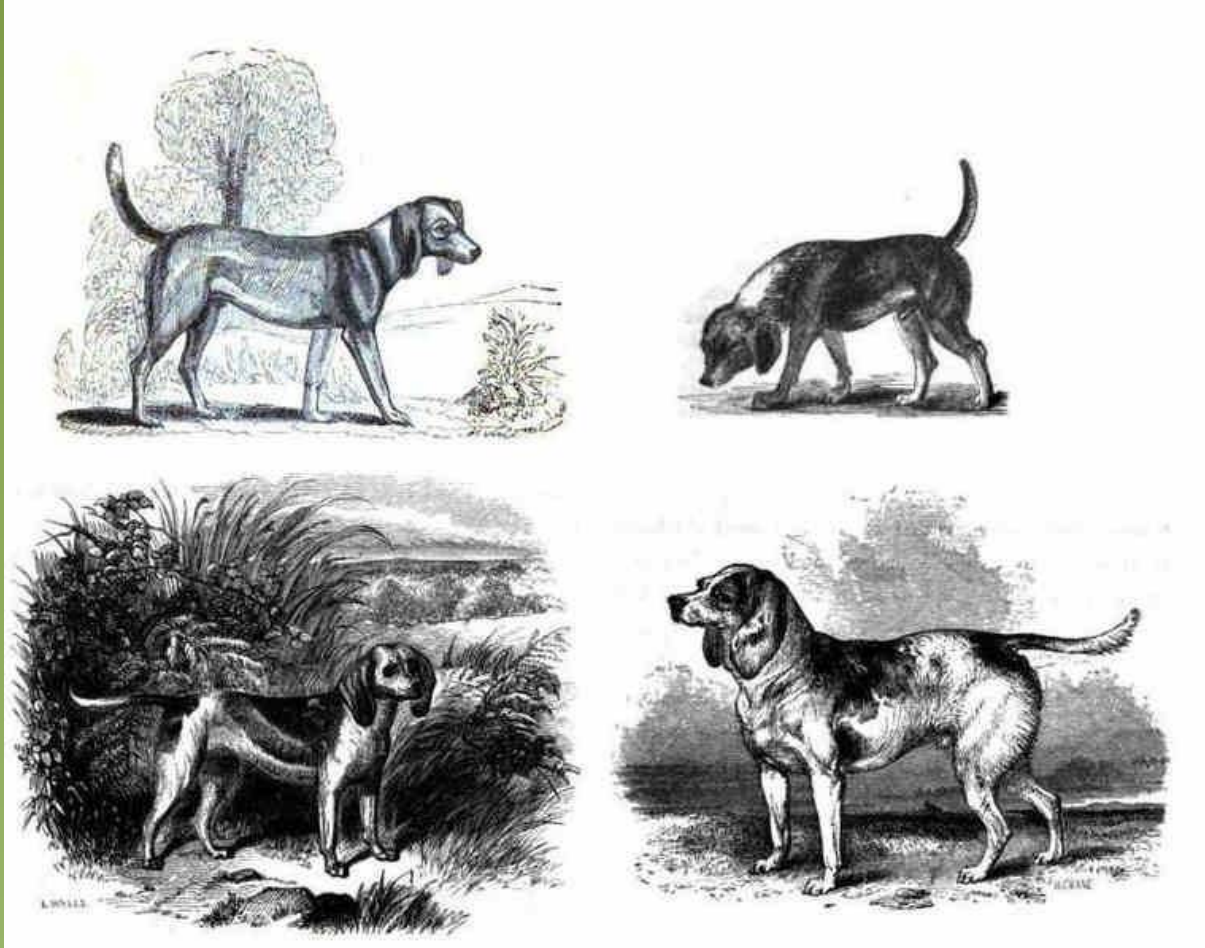
History



- AKC established in 1884
- First American standard written in 1887 by Gen Rowett who had imported some of the first registered Beagles – today's standard was written in 1957 making it one of the oldest standards still in use
- The National Beagle Club of America established in 1890
- 1916 – The Institute Corporation formed & purchased the 400 acre Institute Farm in Aldie, VA as the home for NBC activities



History

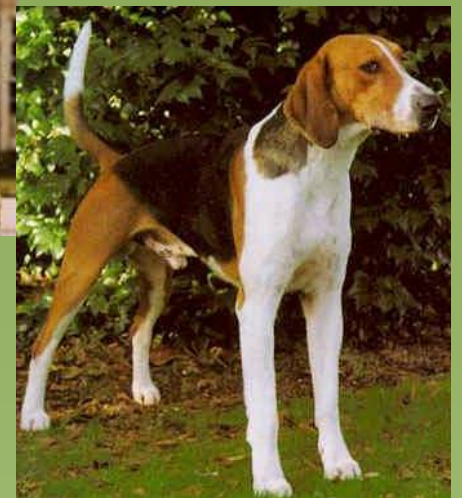


Function/Comparison



- Beagles – (max 15”) hunt rabbits or hare – followed by hunters on foot...”Foot Hounds”
- Harriers – (18-22”) hunt hare – followed on foot or horseback
- Foxhounds – (English: 24”) hunt fox – followed on horseback
- Temperament – all are pack hounds
- Endurance – all are ALL DAY hunters

Comparison



One Breed - Two Varieties

One Disqualification



- There shall be two varieties:
- Thirteen Inch – which shall be for hounds not exceeding 13” in height
- Fifteen Inch – which shall be for hounds over 13” but not exceeding 15” in height
- ***Any hound measuring more than 15” shall be disqualified***

General Appearance



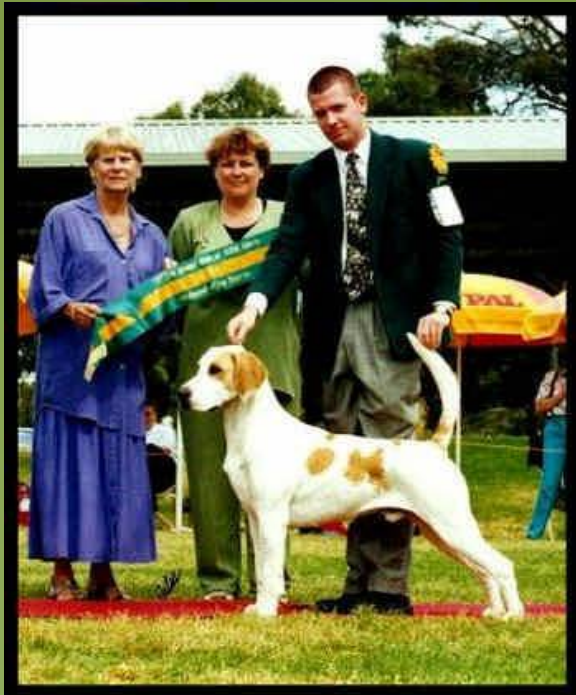
- A miniature Foxhound, solid and big for his inches, with the wear-and-tear look of the hound that can last in the chase and follow his quarry to the death.

General Appearance



A miniature Foxhound, solid and big for his inches, with the wear-and-tear look of the hound that can last in the chase and follow his quarry to the death.

Miniature *English* Foxhound



The proper English Foxhound is a beautifully proportioned hound, elegant in style, balanced fore and aft and nicely boned. "Big for its inches" means plenty of bone (particularly the round bone of the forelegs) for the height of the hound. Too much bone results in coarseness, too little in a spindly look. There should be no suggestion of 'toyishness'.

Point Scale



- Head - 25
- Body - 35
- Running
Gear - 30
- Coat - 5
- Stern - 5

- Total 100

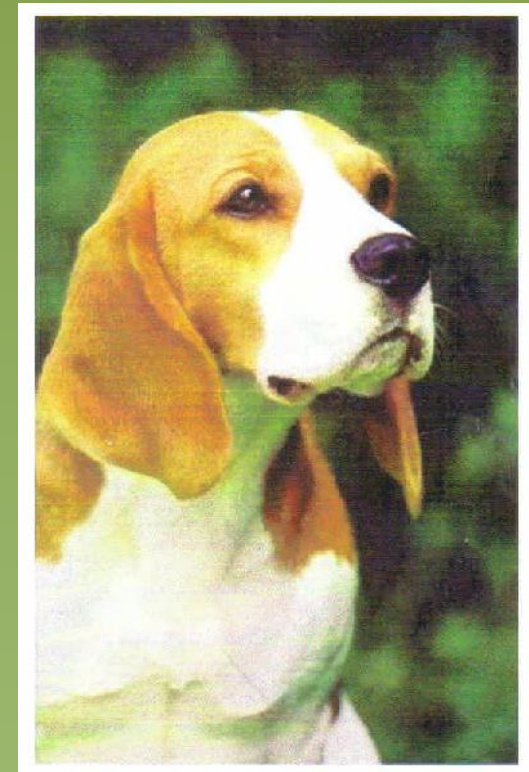
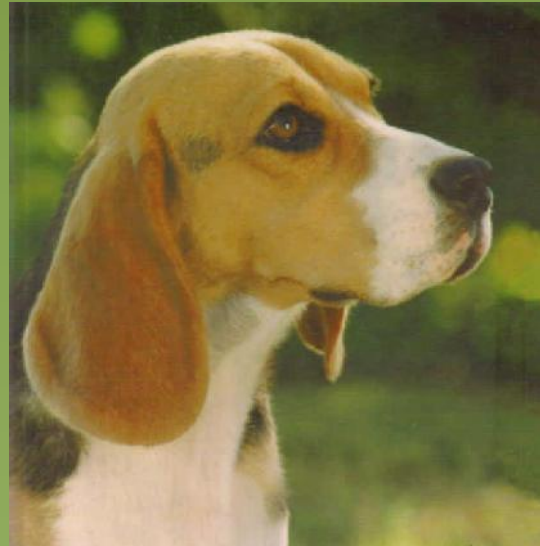


Schedule of Points - Head



- Skull – 5
- Ears – 10
- Eyes - 5
- Muzzle-5

- Total 25



Head – Skull



- Skull (5 pts): The skull should be fairly long, slightly domed at occiput, with cranium broad and full.



Head – Ears

- Ears (10 pts): Set on moderately low, long, reaching when drawn out nearly, if not quite, to the end of the nose; fine in texture, fairly broad – with almost entire absence of erectile power – setting close to the head, with the forward edge slightly inturning to the cheek – rounded at the tip.



Head – Ears



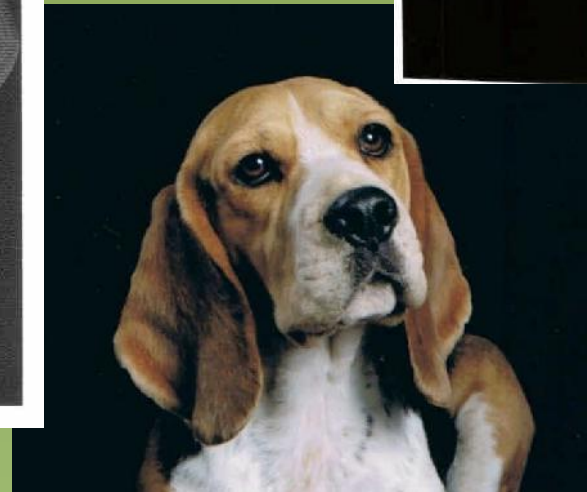
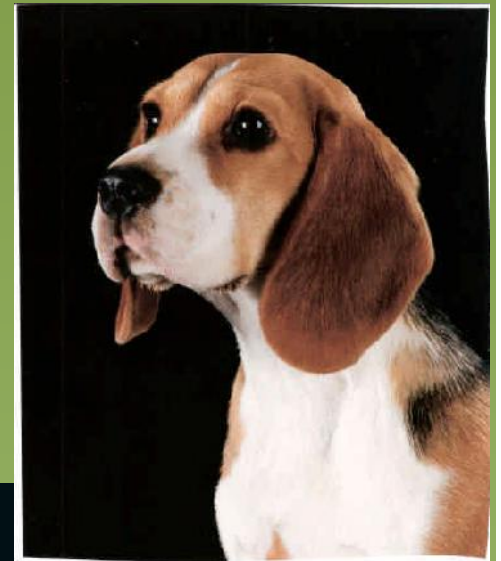
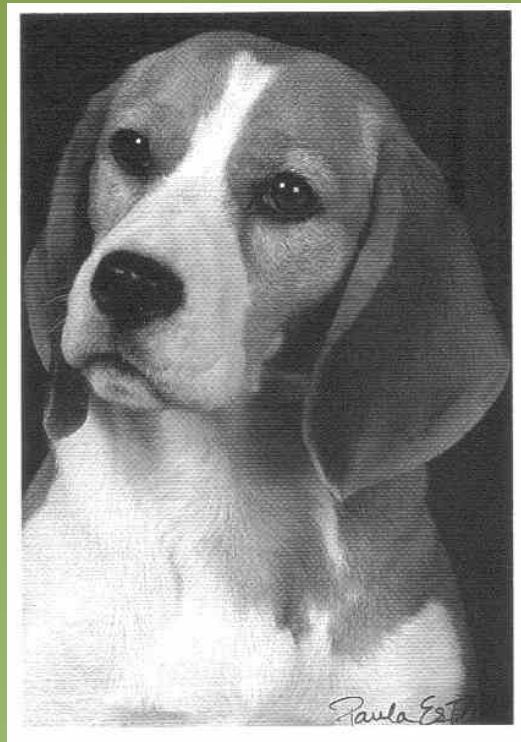
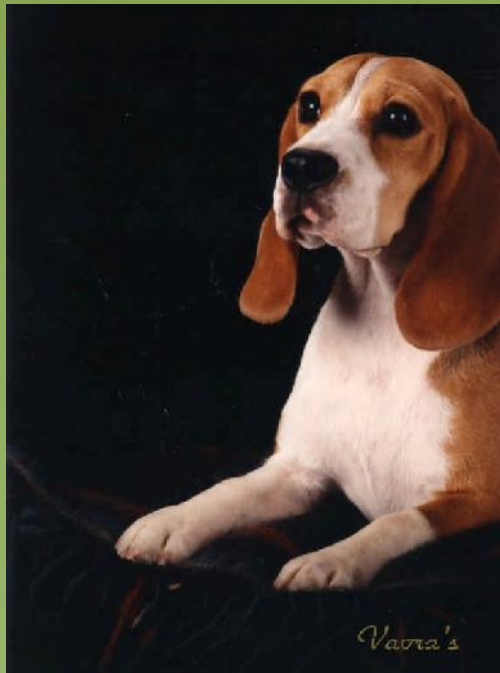
The ears should be set on level with the outer corner of the eye. Ear length is important for gathering scent in the field. While nearly lacking erectile power, the base will rise a bit when excited, but not above the level of the topskull.





Head – Eyes

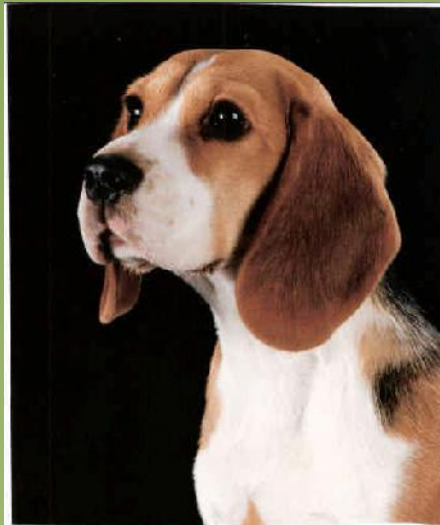
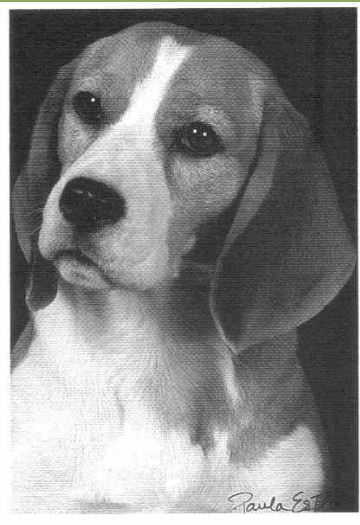
- Eyes (5 pts): Eyes large, set well apart – soft and houndlike – expression gentle and pleading; of a brown or hazel color.



Head – Eyes



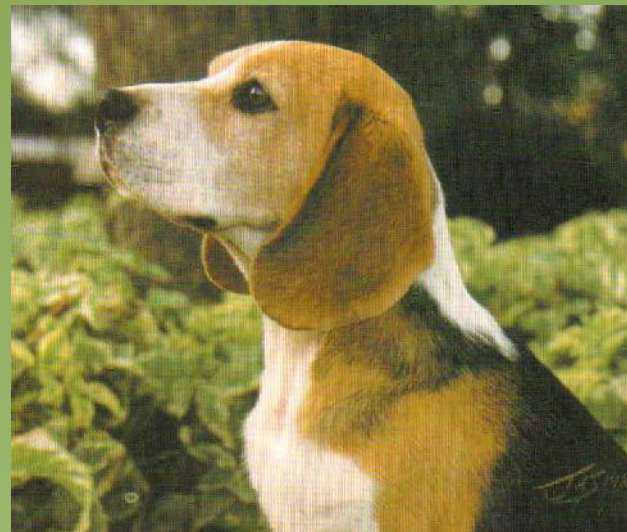
The shape of the eye should be round to almond, always soft and expressive. Color of the Beagle's eyes should fit the coloration of the hound, but preferably darker rather than lighter. While pigmented eye rims are necessary to achieve a "soft" expression, an abundance of black pigmentation, "mascara", is not. A "gentle, pleading expression" is a factor of a correct eye shape and size, combined with a generally darker eye color. A smaller eye is to be penalized, as are yellow or blue eyes as they give an improper expression.





Head – Muzzle

- Muzzle (5 pts): Muzzle of medium length – straight and square cut – the stop moderately defined
- Jaws – Level. Lips free from flews; nostrils large and open



Defects



- Flat Skull



Defects



- Excess of dome
- *(picture also displays excess stop)*



Defects



- *Eyes small, sharp and terrierlike, or prominent and protruding*



Defects



- *Muzzle long, snipy or cut away decidedly below the eyes, or very short*
- *Roman nosed, or upturned, giving a dish-face expression*



Defects



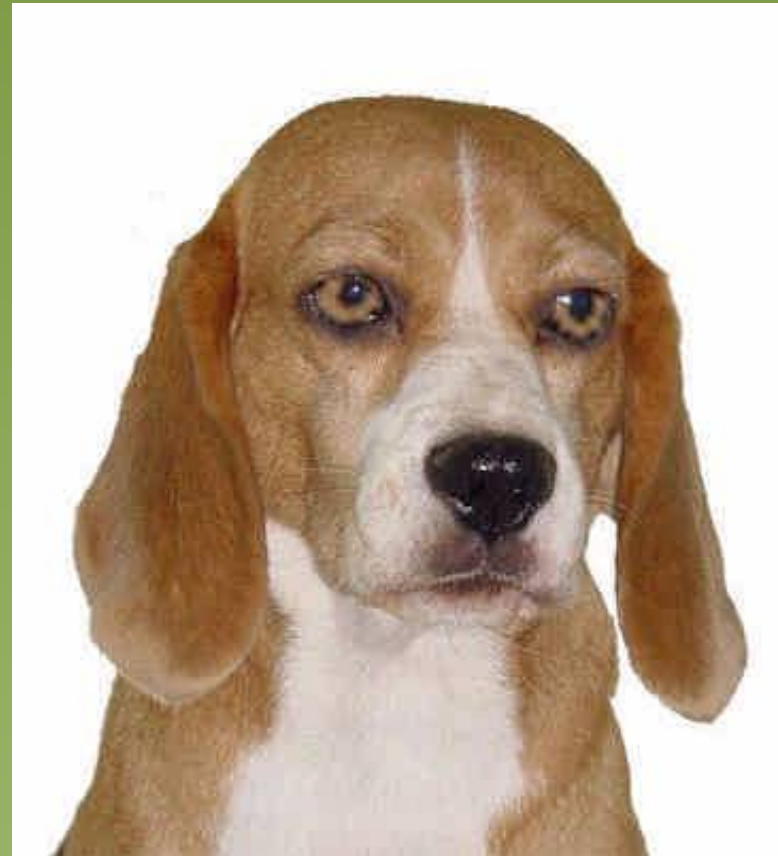
- *Ears short, set on high or with a tendency to rise above the point of origin*



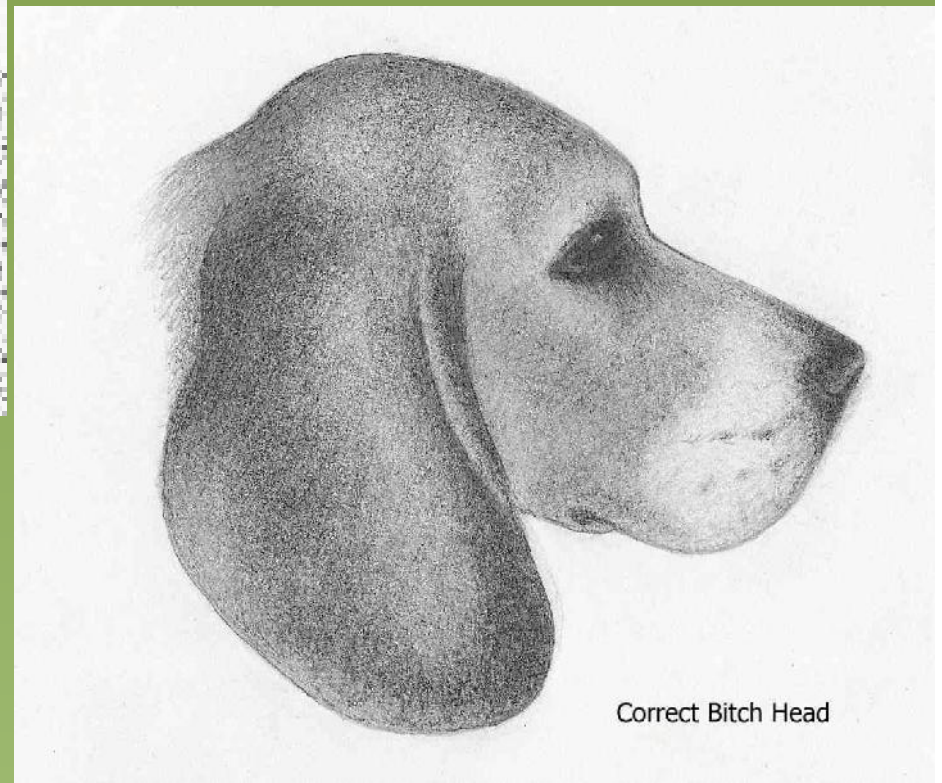
Defects



- *Light eyes*



Head



Correct Bitch Head

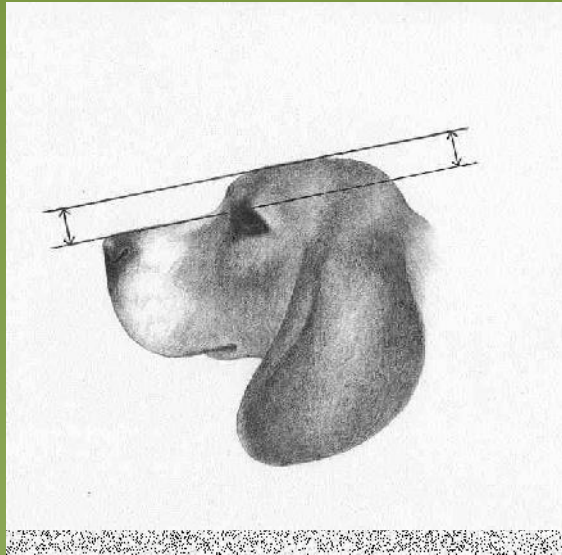
Head



The head accounts for 25% of the scale of points in the Beagle Standard, and while it is a hallmark of the breed, the Beagle is by no means a “head breed”. The head is important and should be carefully studied to understand correct construction. But, do not judge the Beagle as a “head breed”, recognize a correct head, but place importance to the functional portion of the hound, the body.



Head



While the planes of the top skull and muzzle should be parallel, the top skull is not flat, it rounds gently to the occiput. The length of skull from occiput to stop should be approximately equal to the length of muzzle from stop to tip of nose. The stop should be moderate with no indication of 'dishiness' as in a Pointer or Cocker head.

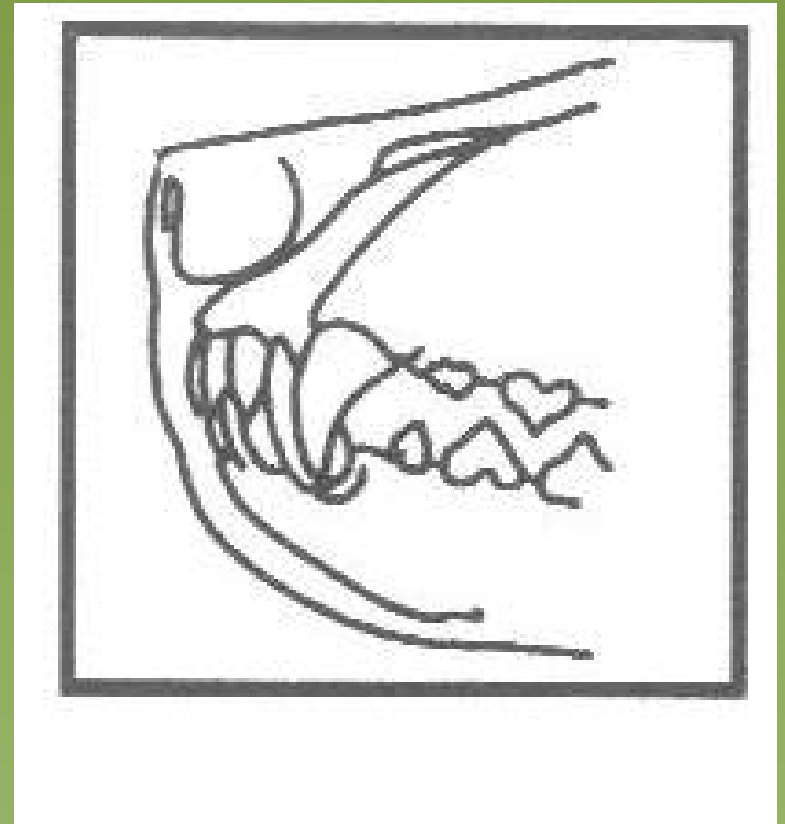


Although not specifically mentioned in the standard, most breeders agree that the head should be free from wrinkle, as a wrinkled head can create a "worried" and unappealing expression.

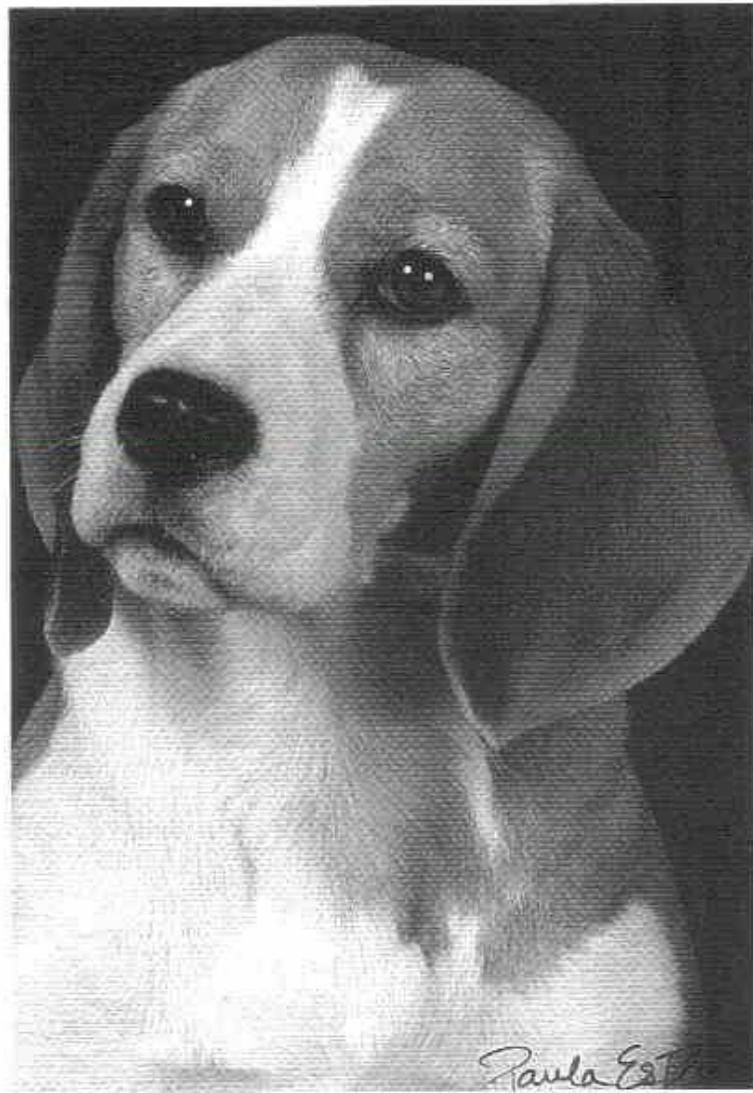
Jaws – Level / Bite



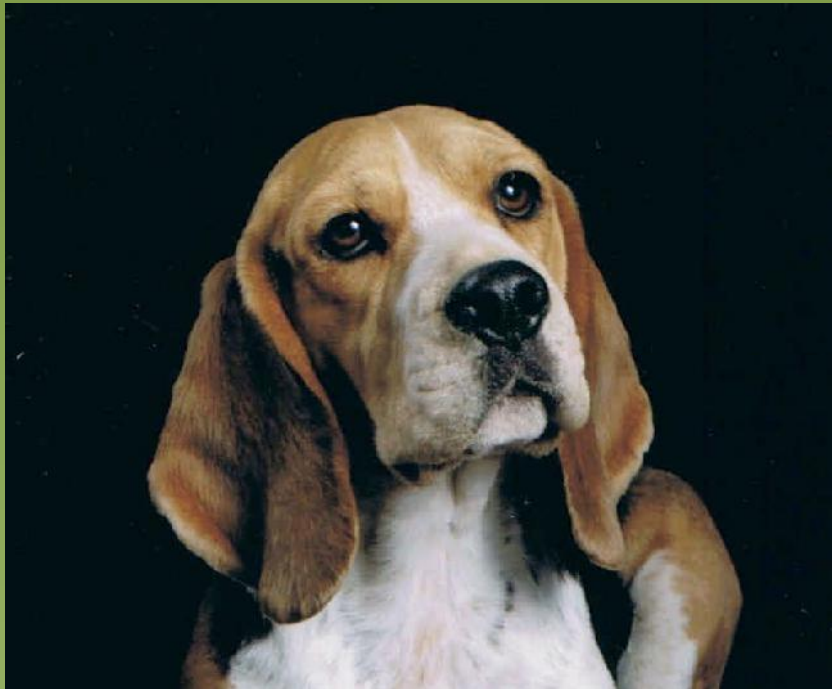
There is no specific mention of the bite in the Beagle Standard, but the English Foxhound Standard calls specifically for teeth which meet squarely, neither overshot nor undershot. The level jaw asked for in the Beagle Standard indicates that a scissors bite is preferred in the Beagle, but a level bite is acceptable. An occasional skewed or missing tooth is not to be penalized.



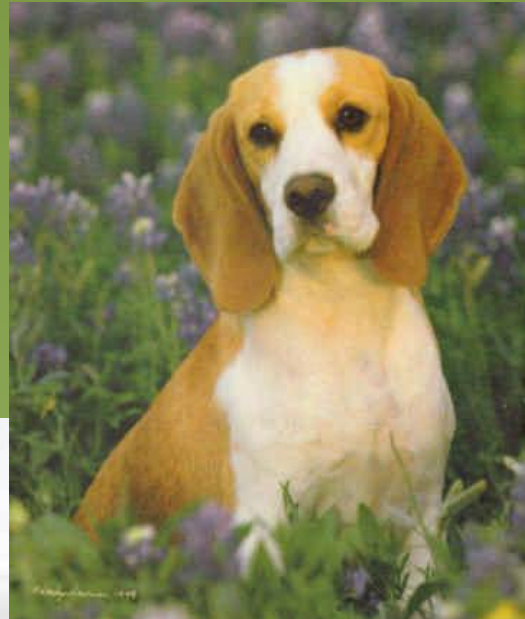
Correct Heads



Correct Heads



Correct Heads



Schedule of Points - Body



- Neck – 5
- Chest & shoulders- 15
- Back, Loin and Ribs- 15
- Total – 35 points



Neck & Throat



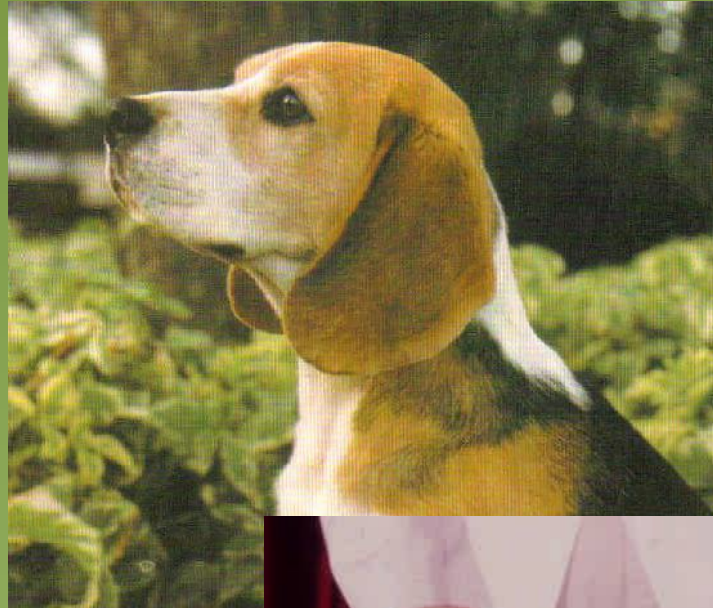
Neck and Throat (5 pts): Neck rising free and light from the shoulders strong in substance yet not loaded, of medium length. The throat clean and free from folds of skin; a slight wrinkle below the angle of the jaw, however, may be allowable. Defects: A thick, short, cloddy neck carried on a line with the top of the shoulders. Throat showing dewlap and folds of skin to a degree termed "throatiness."



Neck & Throat



- Correct length
- Well arched
- Throat clean and free from folds of skin
- Slight wrinkle below angle of jaw allowable



Neck and Throat - Defects



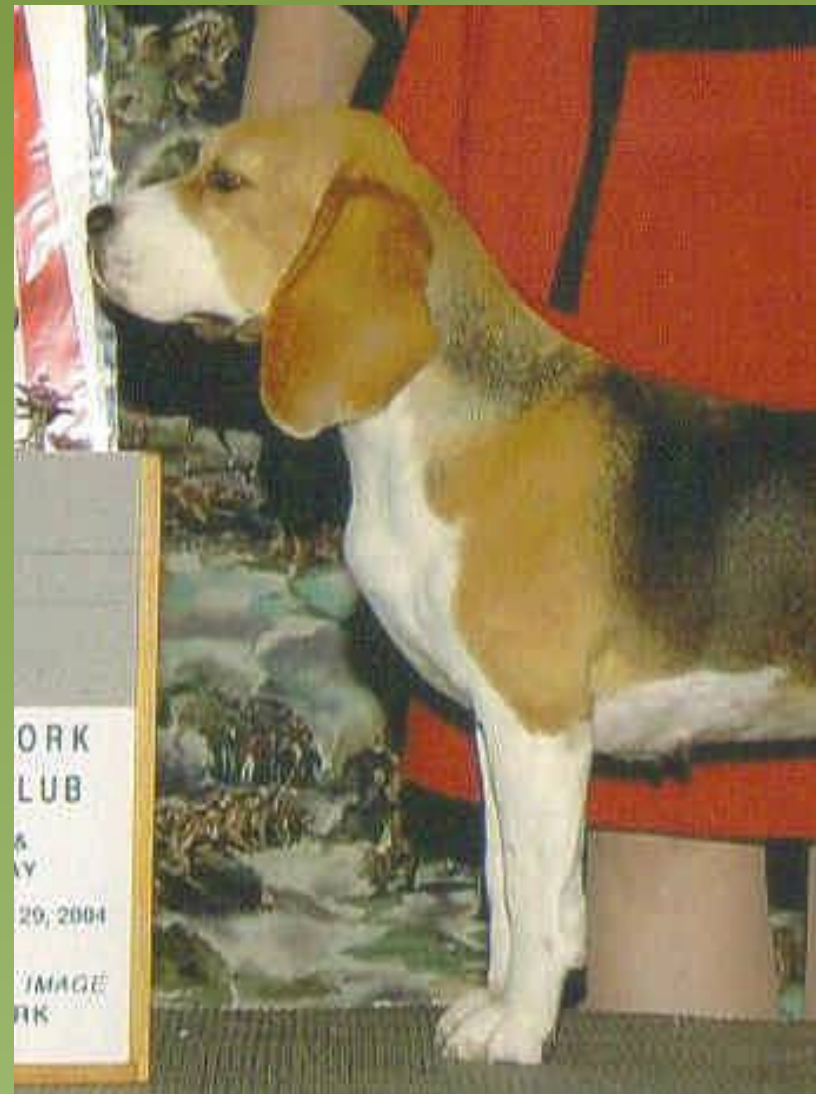
- Short, thick, cloddy neck
- Carried on a line with the top of the shoulders
- Dewlap and folds of skin to a degree termed “throatiness”



Shoulders & Chest



- ***Shoulders and Chest (15 pts): Shoulders sloping—clean, muscular, not heavy or loaded—conveying the idea of freedom of action with activity and strength. Chest deep and broad, but not broad enough to interfere with the free play of the shoulders. Defects: Straight, upright shoulders. Chest disproportionately wide or with lack of depth.***



Shoulders



- A line dropped from the tip of the scapula to the ground will fall through the front legs in a correct shoulder assembly.



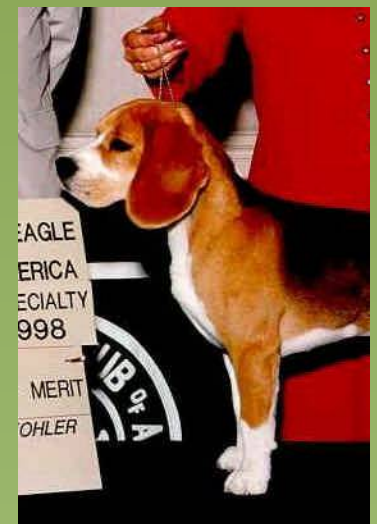
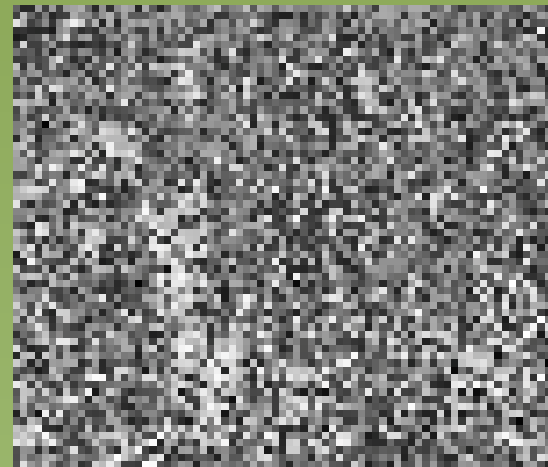
Shoulders



Chest



- Chest deep and broad but not broad enough to interfere with the free play of the shoulders.



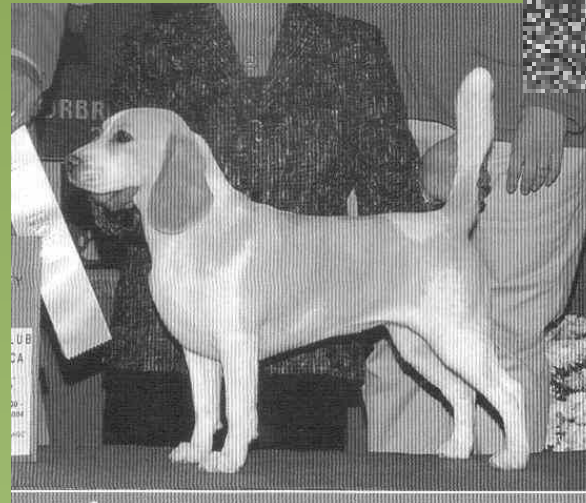
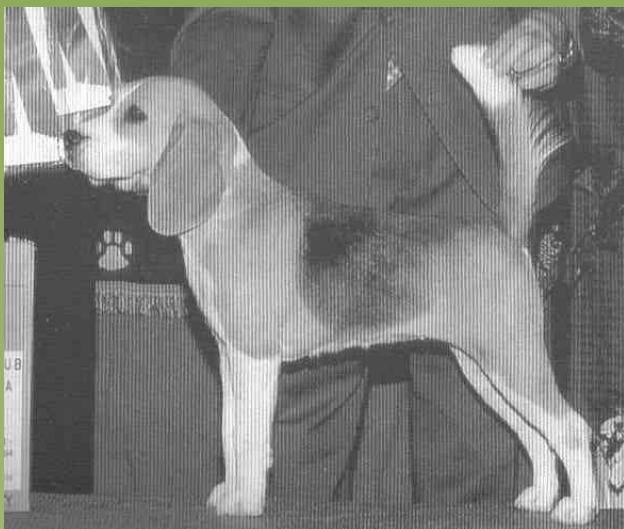
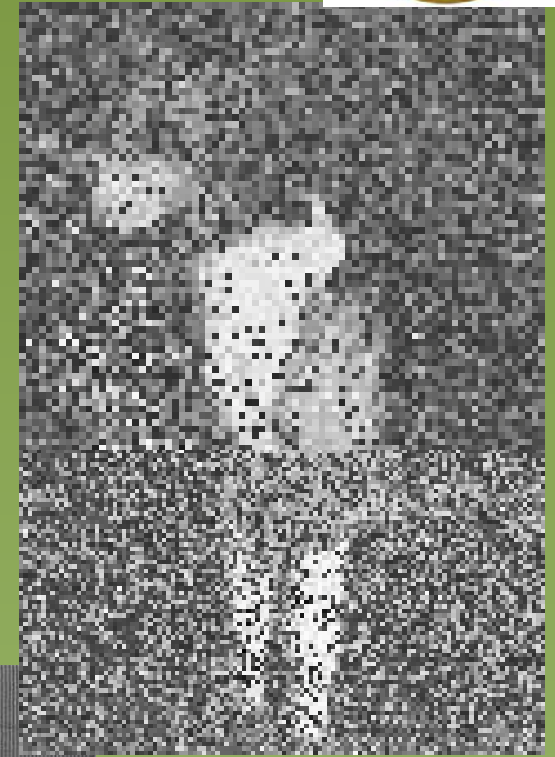
Chest & Shoulders



- Clean shoulders
- Proper amount of front fill



Incorrect Fronts/Shoulders/Chests



Back, Loin & Ribs



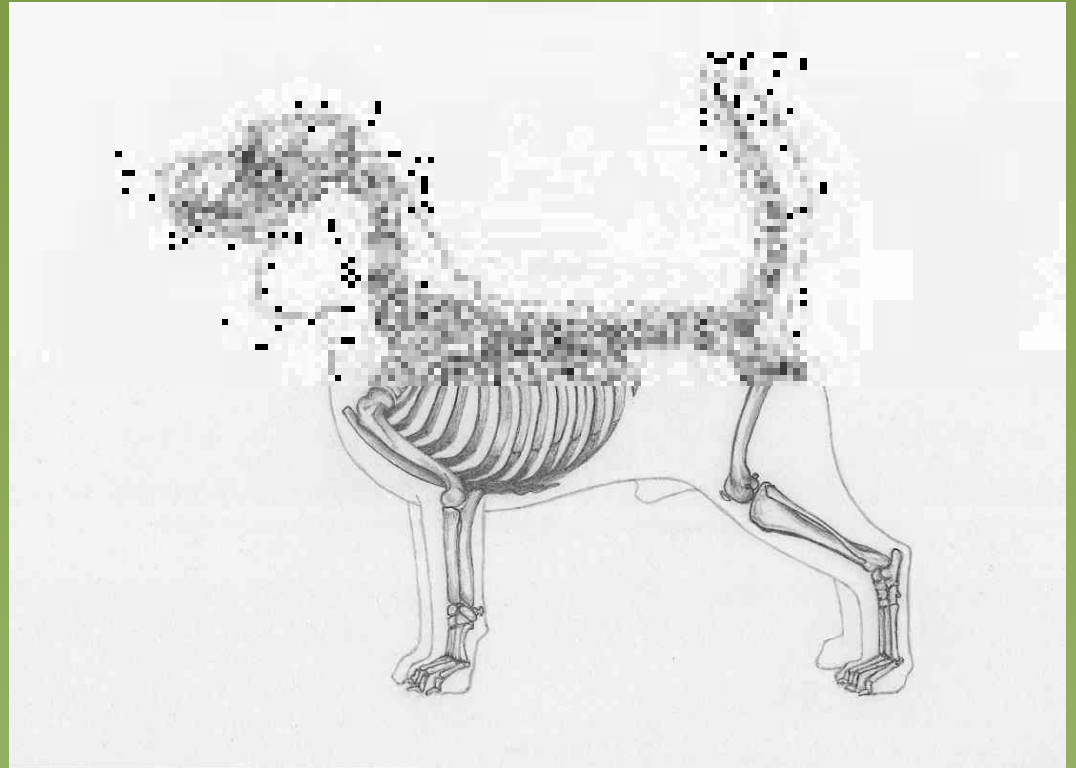
- ***Back, Loin & Ribs (15 pts):*** Back short, muscular and strong. Loin broad and slightly arched, and the ribs well sprung, giving abundance of lung room. ***Defects--***Very long or swayed or roached back. Flat, narrow loin. Flat ribs.



Ribs



- Well sprung, giving abundance of lung room
- Well ribbed back



Ribs



- Ribs springing wide from the spine but reaching their maximum expanse at the top.
- The brisket extends downward at least as far as the elbow; desirable if it reaches somewhat below.



Ribs



- The maximum amount of rib spring should be at the top.
- Ribs should then gradually round off to the brisket.
- Flat or barrel shaped ribs are incorrect.

Sternum



- The end of the sternum should be behind the front legs.



Back



- Back short, muscular & strong
- Topline should be level

Loin



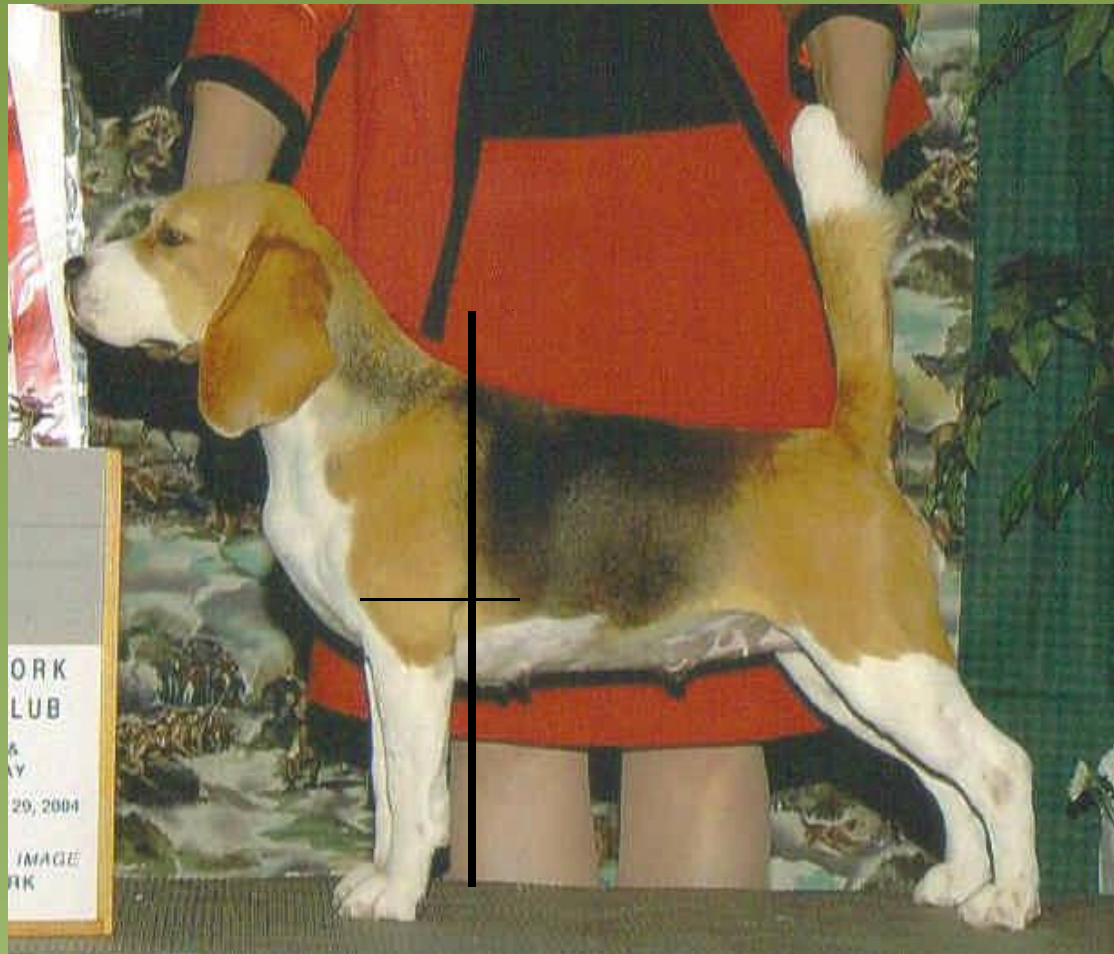
- Loin broad and slightly arched
- Loin well muscled & strong
- Arch in loin is from muscle development. Barely perceptible, felt more than seen.





Balance

The distance between withers and ground is equally divided by the elbow.



Proper Underline & Tuck-Up

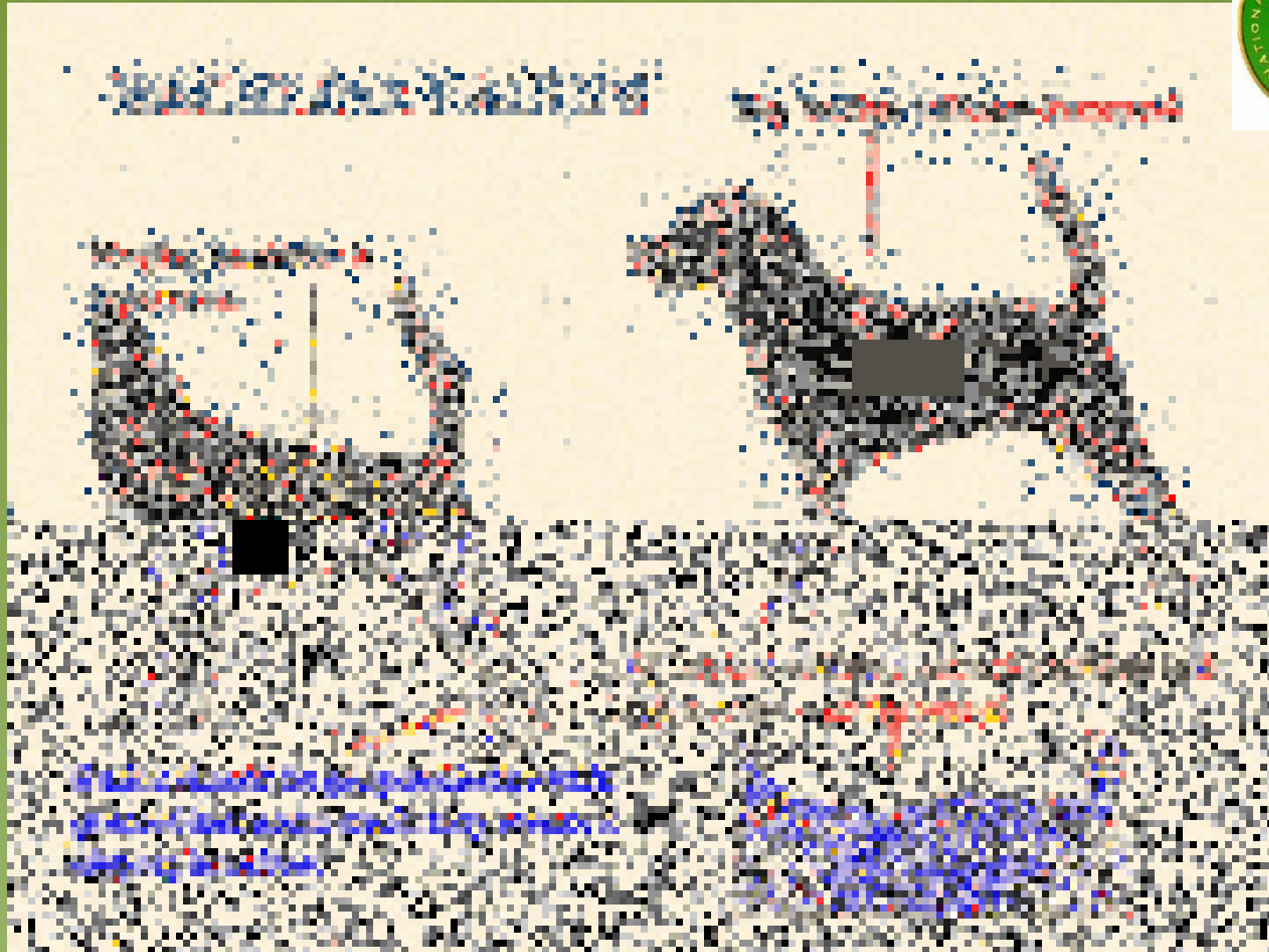


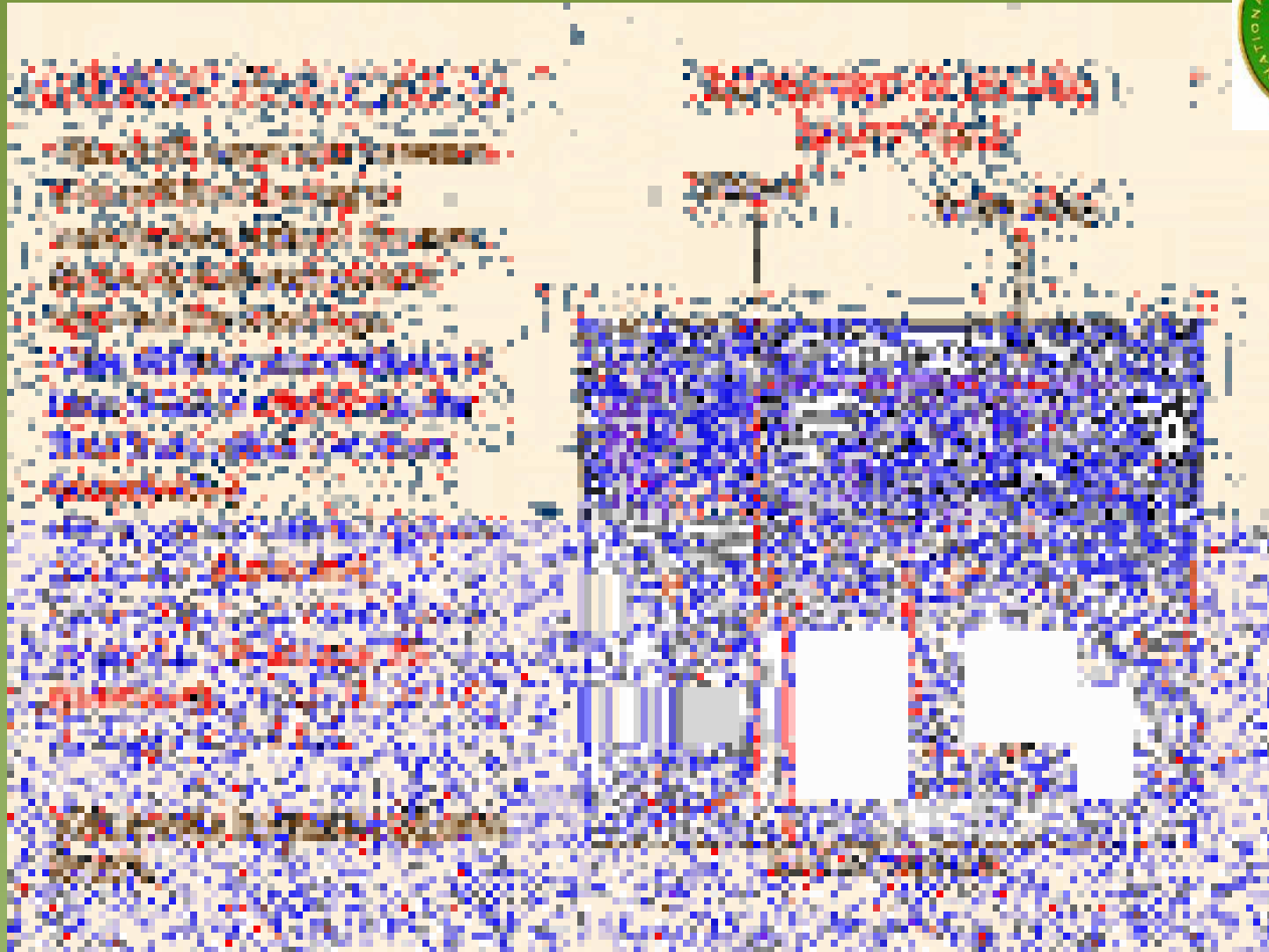
Back - Defects



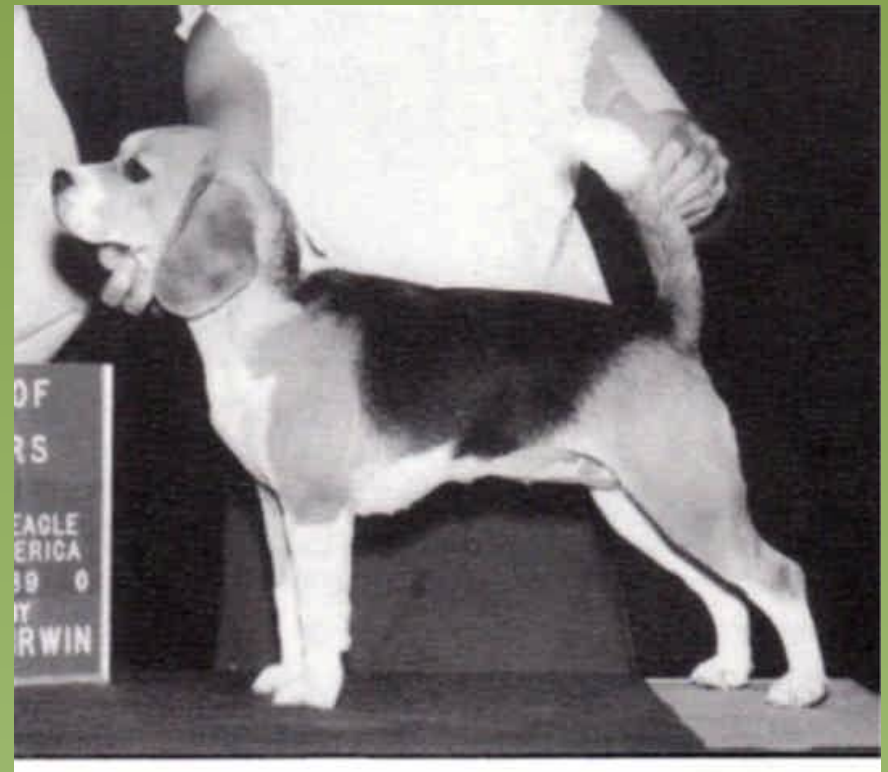
- very long or swayed or roached back







Short Sternum – Short Ribs



Incorrect Underlines



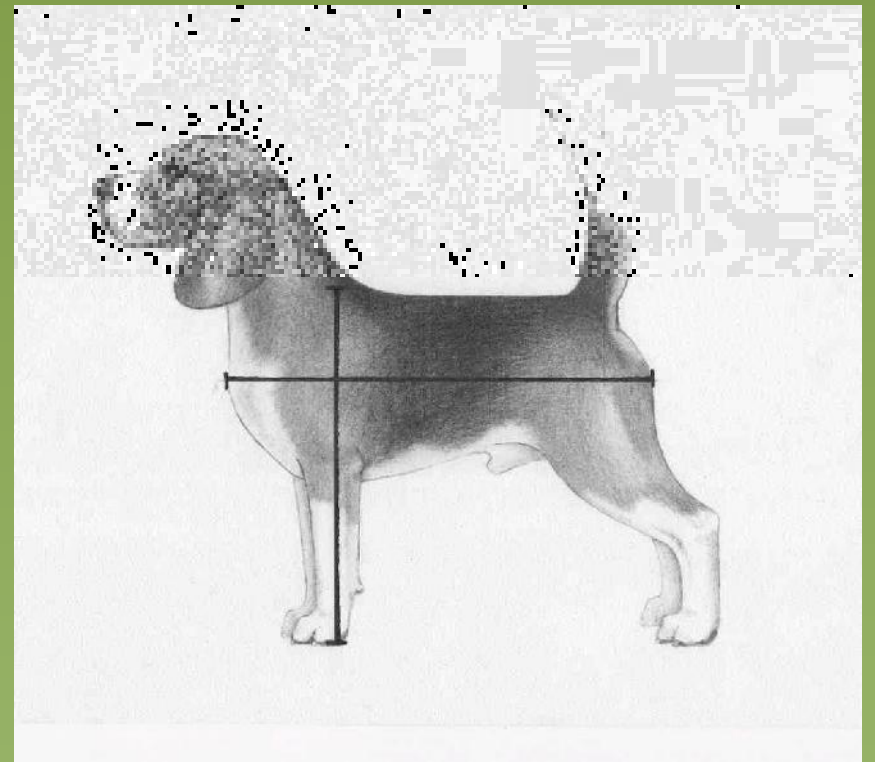
Balance – Too short on leg



Body



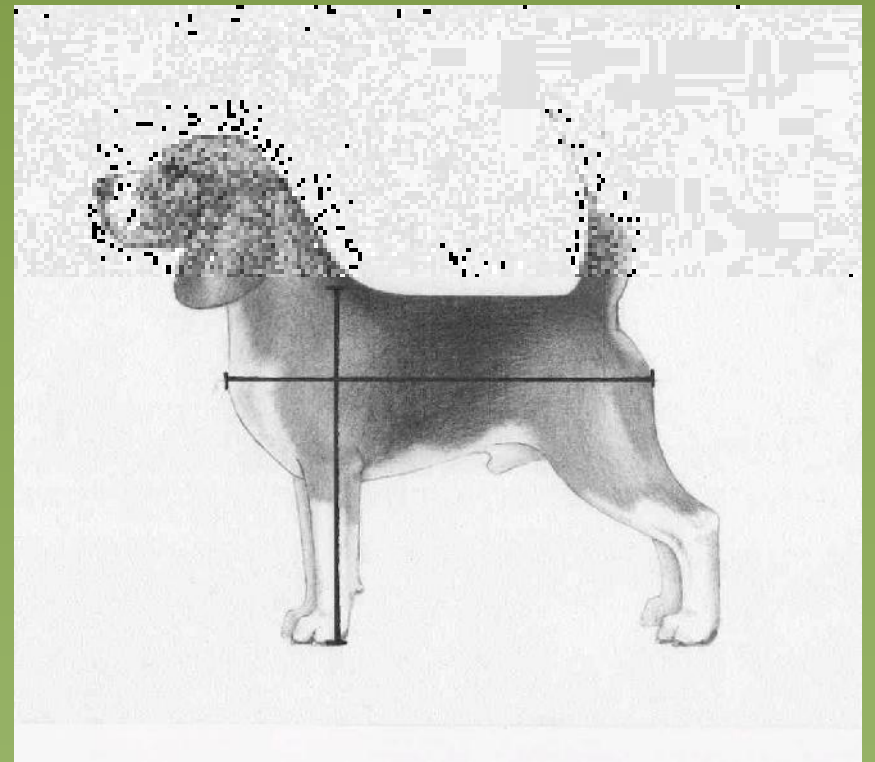
Balance is critical. The length of body measured from prosternum to point of buttock is longer than distance from withers to ground. There should be prosternum visible in front of the shoulder. Additionally, there should be some “dog behind the tail”, which is created by proper angulation of the pelvis as it meets the femur. As a result, the beagle is off square, longer than tall.



Body



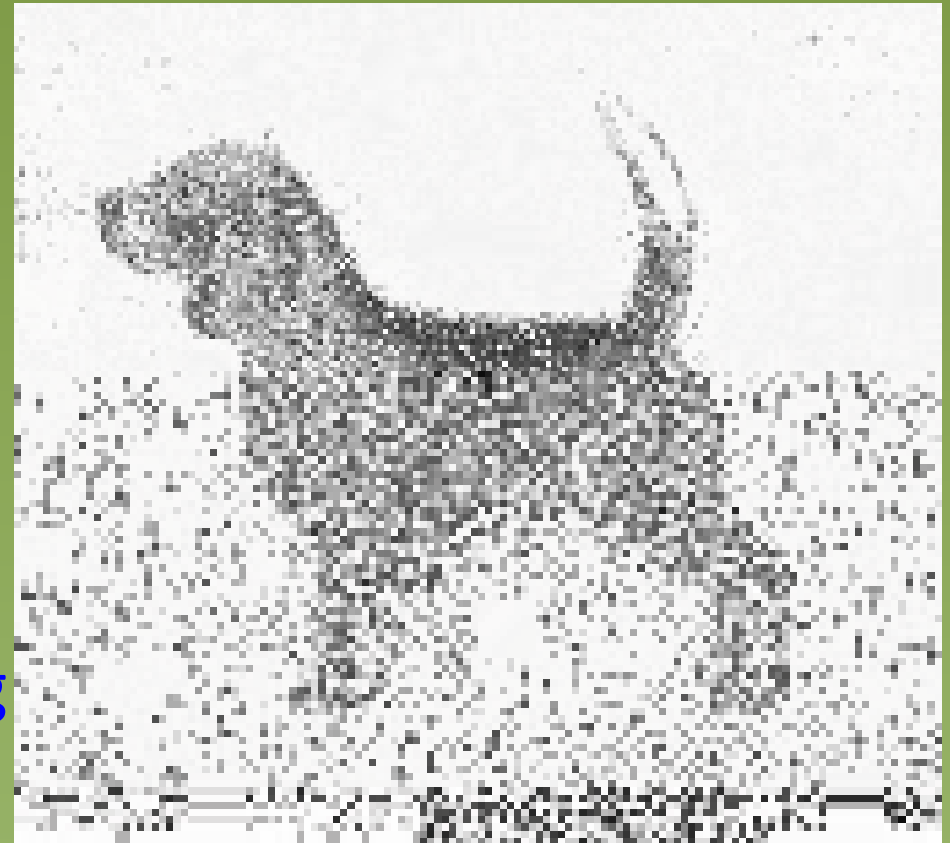
Although the standard calls for a short back, the back must have sufficient length to allow for proper rib construction and a well muscled loin. Ribs should extend well back. Back length should be long enough to allow for a ground covering side gait; hounds that are too short coupled will not be able to accommodate the angulation necessary for endurance in the field. A shorter backed beagle is not necessarily more correct.



Body - Neck & Throat



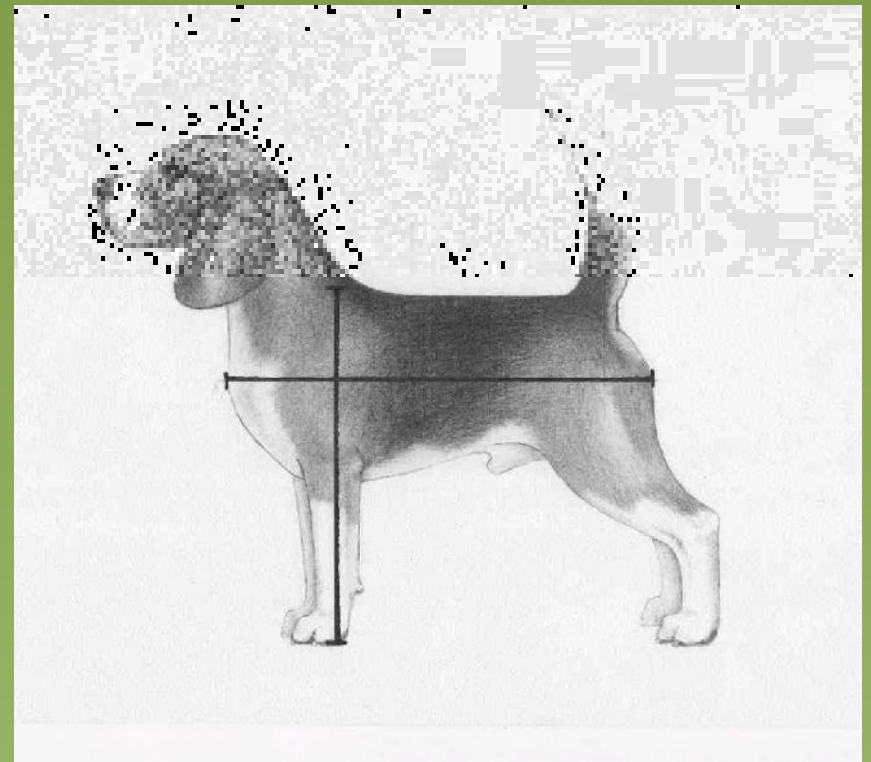
The neck must be long and pliable enough for the nose to reach the ground for tracking without forcing the dog to crouch. There should be a slight arch from where the neck meets the occiput and extends down, blending smoothly into the shoulders.



Body – Shoulders & Chest



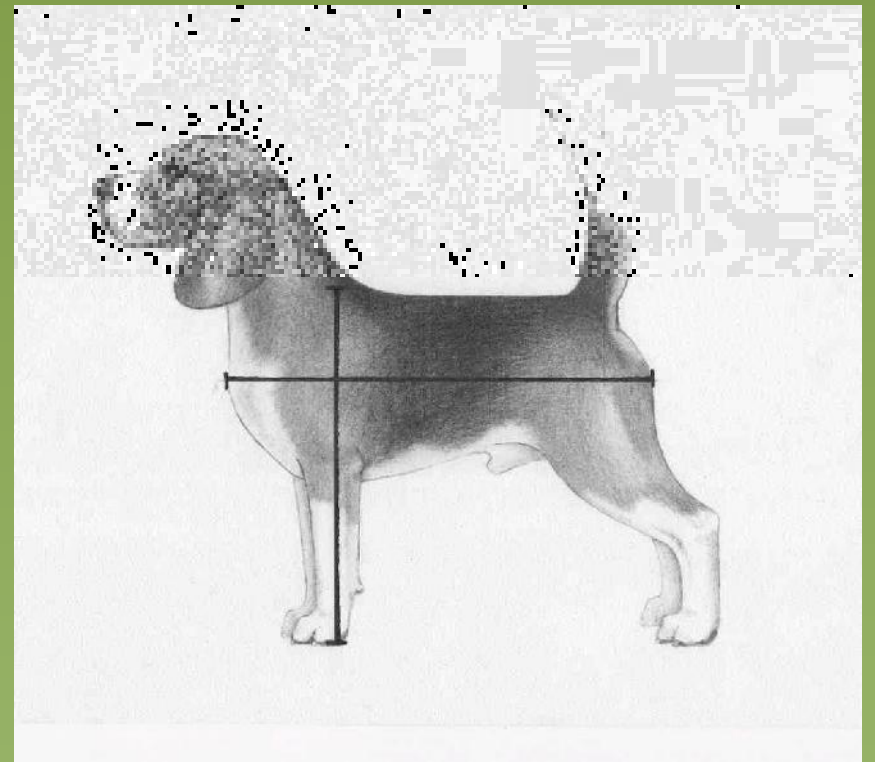
There should be forechest visible in front of the shoulders and front legs, allowing for sufficient lung/heart capacity and layback of shoulder. The end of the sternum should be behind the front legs and the brisket should reach at least to, or preferably a bit below, the point of the elbow. The distance between withers and ground is equally divided by elbow and depth of chest.



Body – Shoulders & Chest



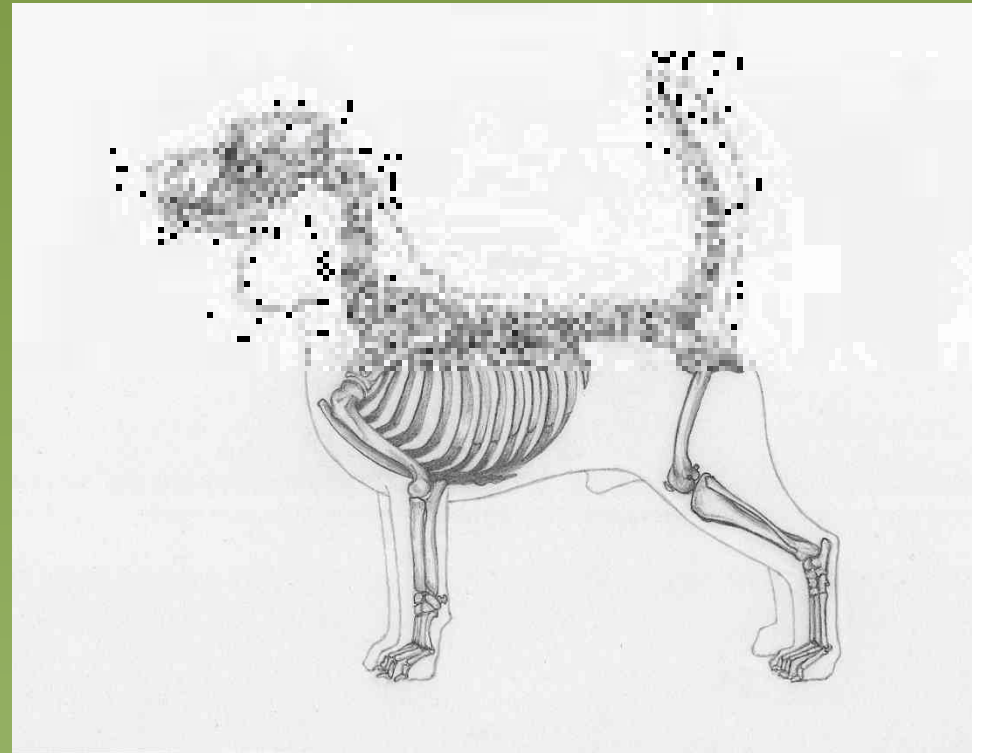
In the correct shoulder assembly, a line dropped from the tip of the scapula to the ground will fall through the front leg. The length of the scapula should be equal to the length of the humerus.



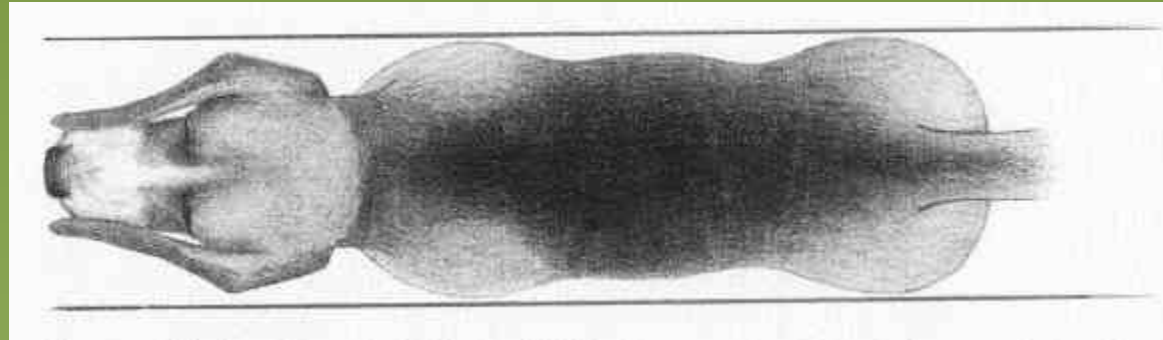
Body – Back, Loin & Ribs



The ribs should extend well back, 2/3 of the distance from the withers to the point of hip should be ribbing, the remaining 1/3, the loin. The ribs should spring wide from the spine gradually rounded off as they reach the brisket. Viewed in profile, the Beagle should have a slight tuck-up with a gradual rise in the underline from where it becomes visible behind the front leg to where it disappears behind the rear leg.



Body – Back, Loin & Ribs



The topline should be level. The “slightly arched” loin does not mean a roach or curve resulting in a low tail set. Muscle development along either side of the spine gives the loin a slightly arched look when viewed from above, the front or behind, but not in profile. Viewed from above, the shoulders/chest and the pelvis should be of equal width.

Running Gear



- Forelegs – 10
- Hips, thighs & hind legs - 10
- Feet - 10

- Total 30 points

Forelegs



Forelegs and Feet

Forelegs (10 pts): Straight, with plenty of bone in proportion to size of the hound. Pasterns short and straight. **Feet (10 pts):** Close, round and firm. Pad full and hard. **Defects**--Out at elbows. Knees knuckled over forward, or bent backward. Forelegs crooked or Dachshundlike. Feet long, open or spreading.



Correct forelegs & feet



Forelegs - Pasterns



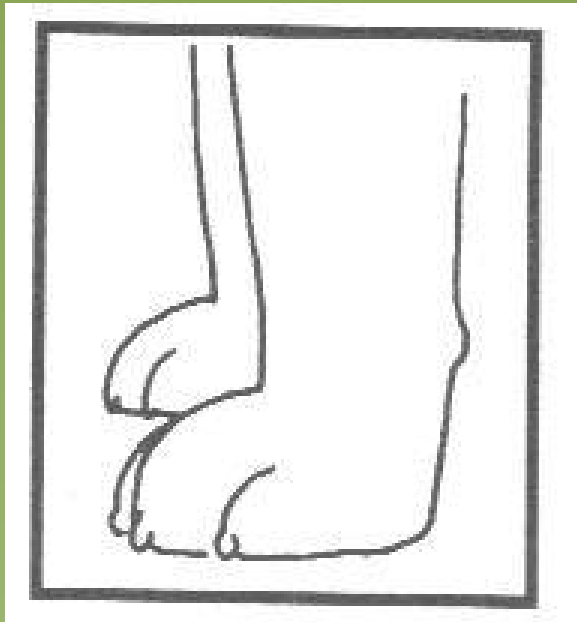
- Pasterns short and straight



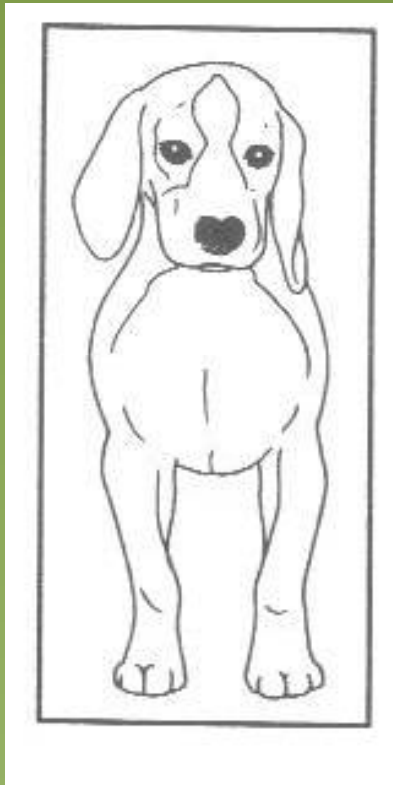
Feet



- Close, round and firm.
- Pads full & hard.



Forelegs - Defects

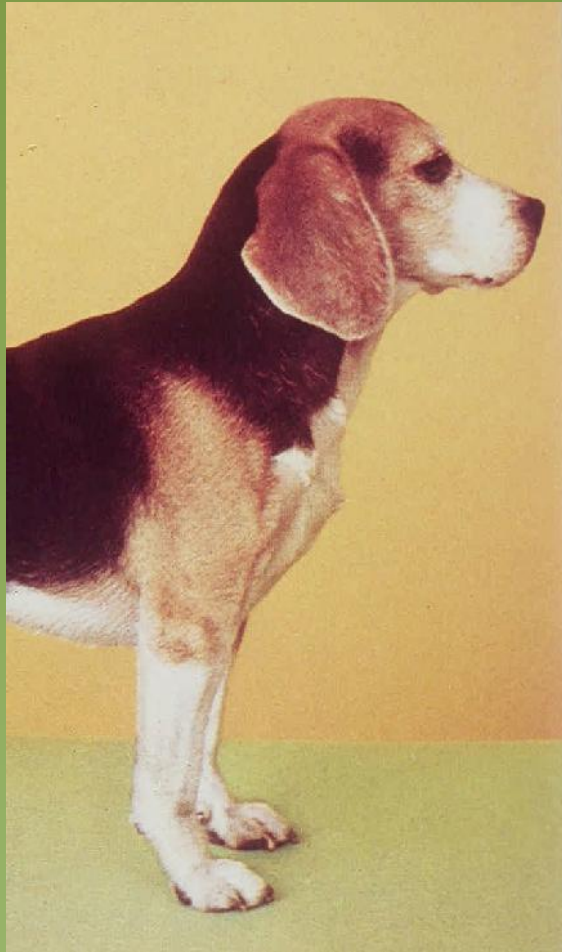


- Forelegs crooked or dachshund-like.



- Out at elbows
- Toeing in

Pasterns - Defects



- Sloping pasterns

Pasterns - Defects



- Knuckled over
- Flat feet

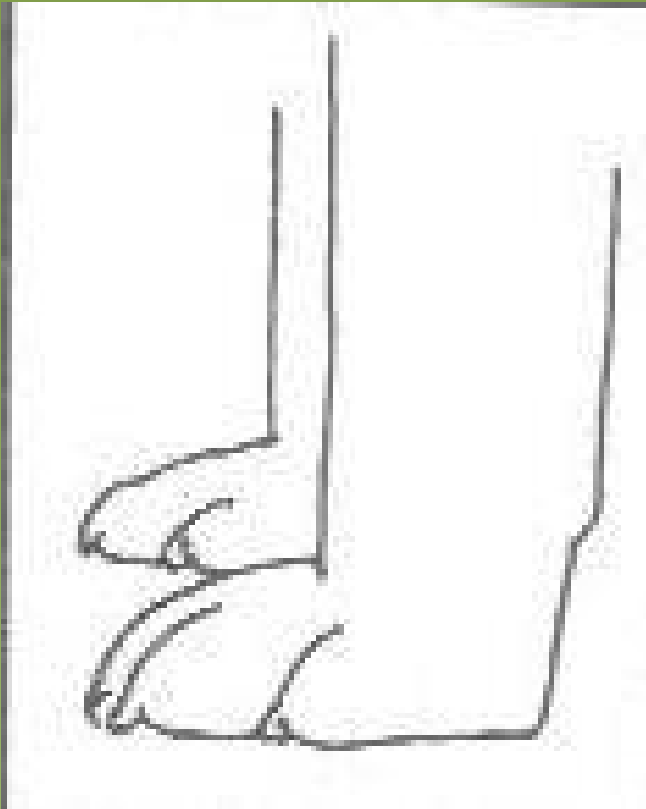


Feet - Defects



- Flat, spreading feet

Feet - Defects

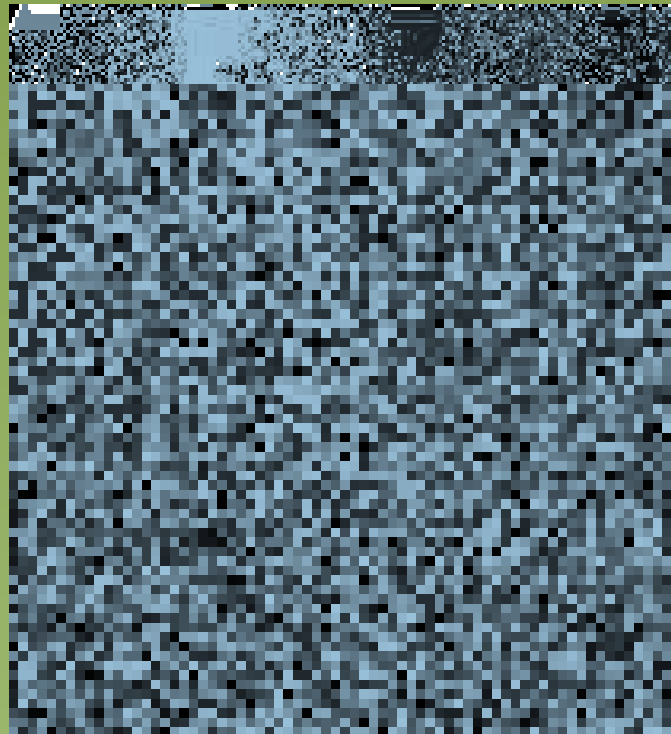


- Feet long, open or spreading AKC Standard
- Pictured is a hare foot

High Toes



- Be sure to double check feet to make sure there are no high toes.



Hips, Thighs, Hind Legs



Hips, Thighs, and Hind Legs (10 pts): Hips and thighs strong and well muscled, giving abundance of propelling power. Stifles strong and well let down. Hocks firm, symmetrical and moderately bent. Feet close and firm.

Defects--Cowhocks, or straight hocks. Lack of muscle and propelling power. Open feet.



Hips, thighs and hind legs



- Hips and thighs strong and well muscled, giving abundance of propelling power

Hips, thighs and hind legs



- Stifles strong and well let down.
- Hocks firm, symmetrical and moderately bent.



Hind legs



- Proper rear angle and ham

Proper rear angle & ham

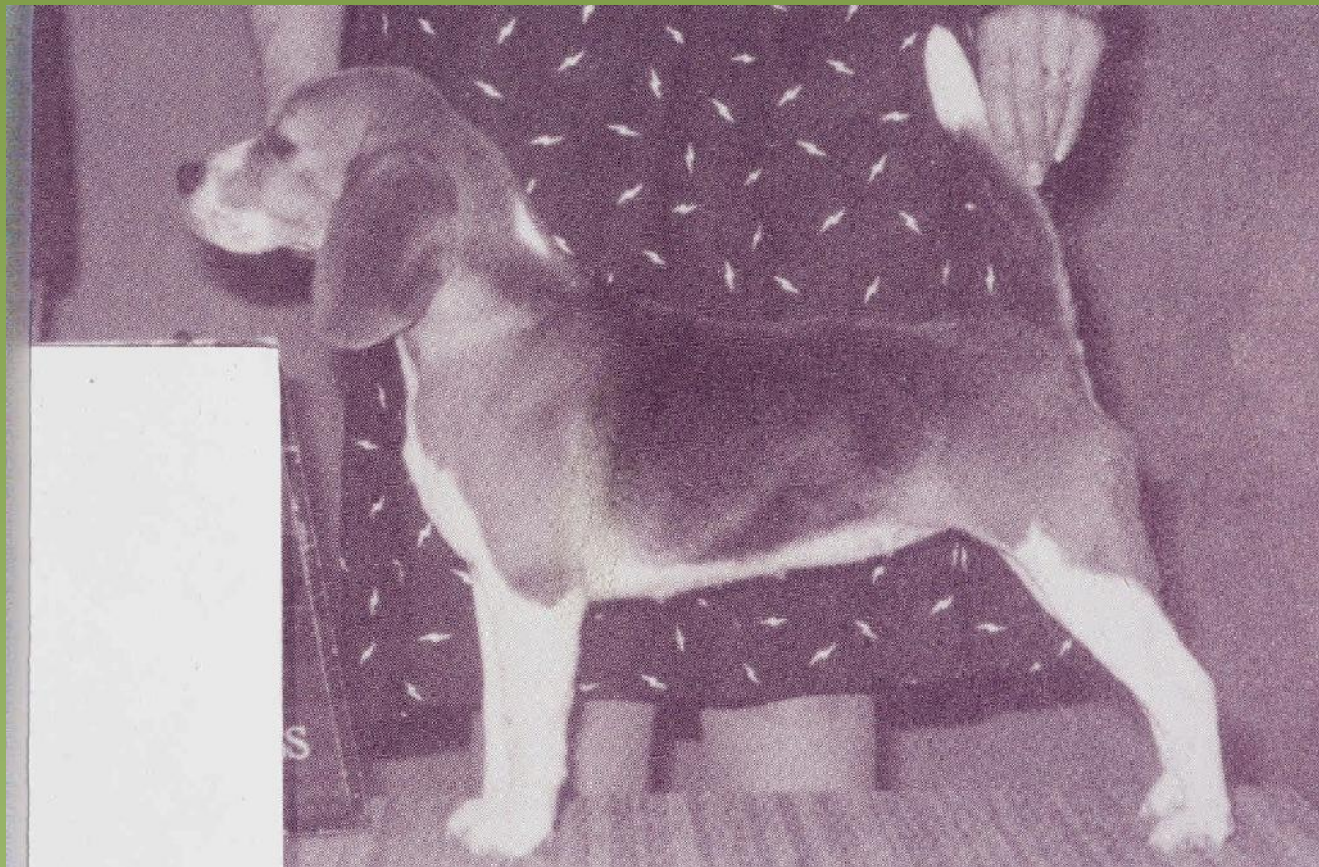


Hips, thighs & hind legs



- Defects –
 - Cowhocks
 - Straight hocks
 - Lack of muscle and propelling power

Straight hocks; lacking rear angle and muscle



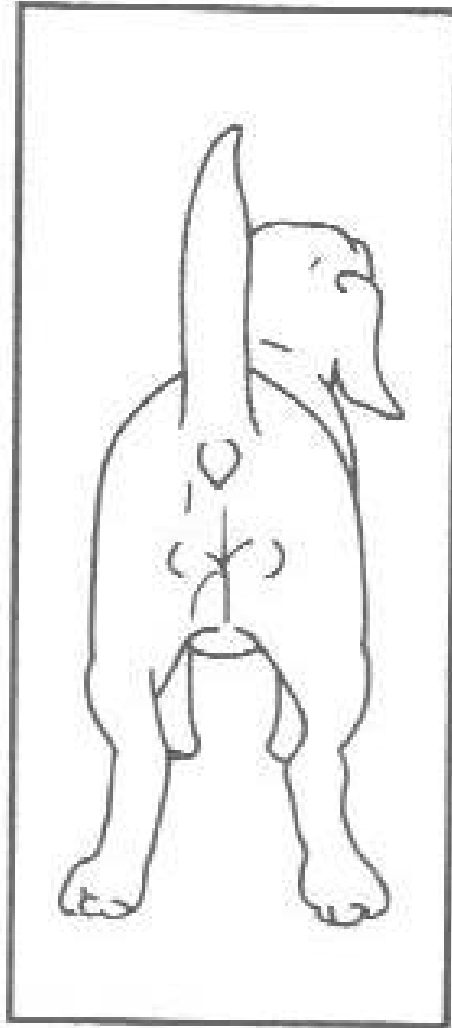
Straight rear angle; lacking proper muscle



Proper amount rear muscle



Cowhocks - Defect



Incom

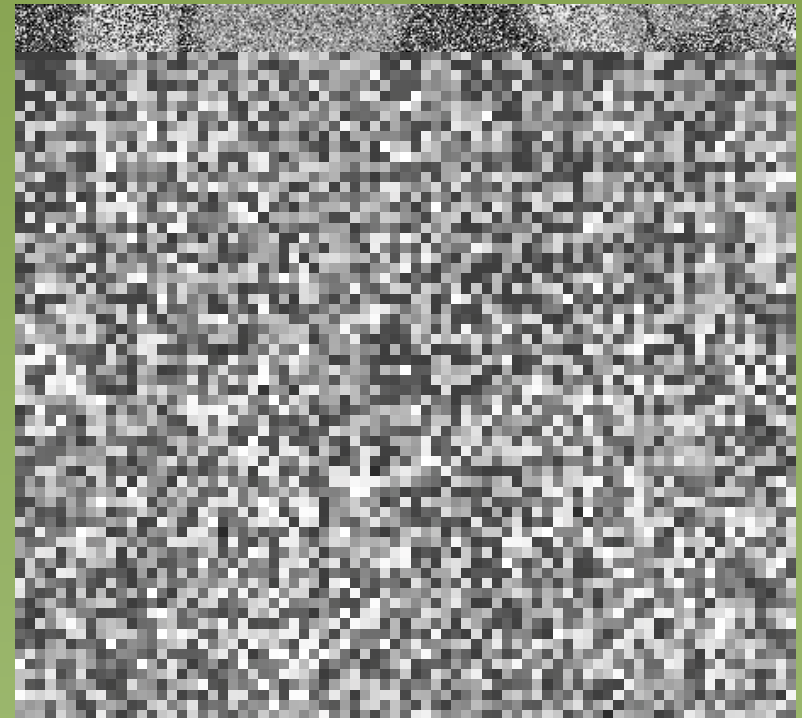
Bone



- “Big for his inches”
(AKC Standard)
- Plenty of bone



Lacking proper amount of bone



Running Gear – 35%



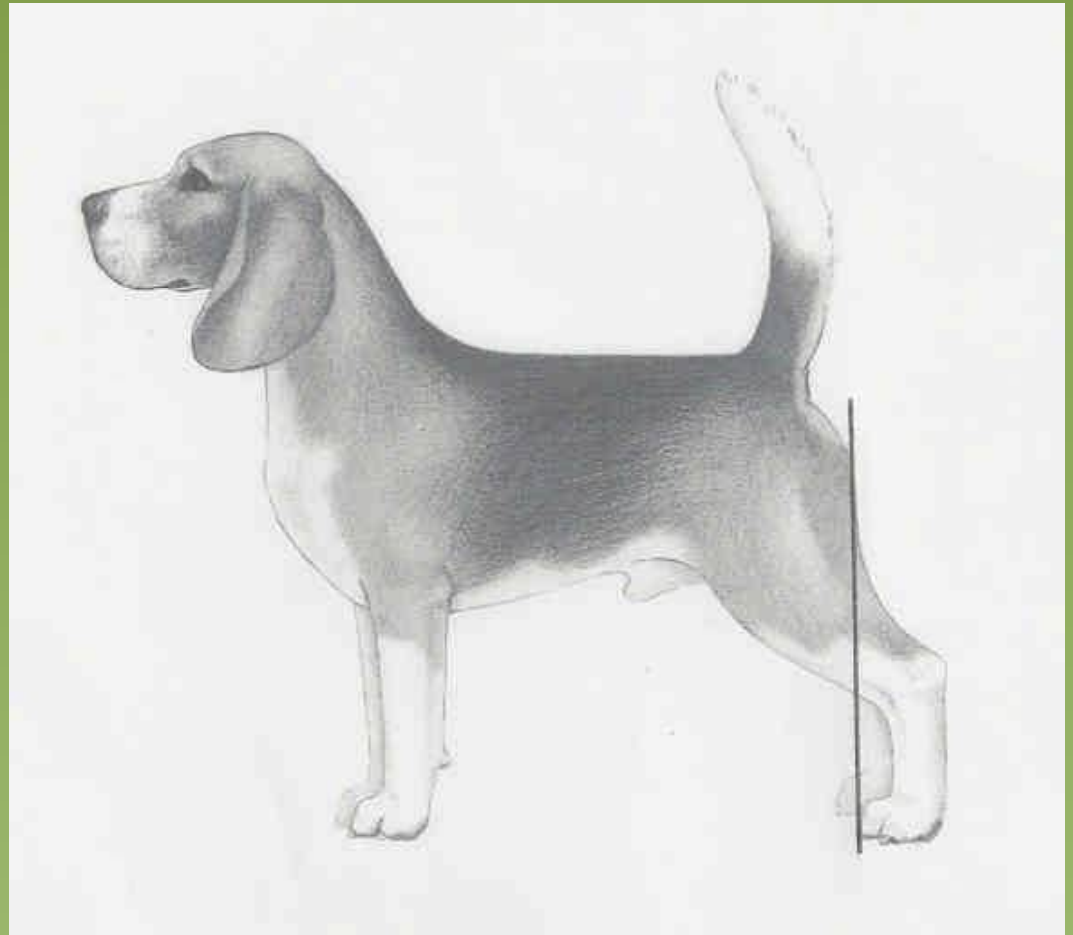
Note the requirement of “plenty of bone in proportion to the size of the hound”. A larger circumference of bone will allow for a greater mass of muscle attachment, adding to the endurance of the hound. Too much bone, makes for extra work for the dog and is undesirable. Bone should be round. Pasterns should be straight but flexible, sloping pasterns break down in the field.



Running Gear – 35%



Stifles strong and well let down implies a long femur (upper bone of the hind leg) with moderate angulation at the knee and hock joints. A line drawn down from the point of the buttock will fall to the front of the hind foot.



Running Gear – 35%



Feet account for 10 points, emphasizing their importance. A firm cat foot with hard, full pads allows the Beagle to hunt for hours over difficult terrain. Bent pasterns, flat spreading feet or long feet are ineffective supports for a working hound. Occasionally a foot with an exceptionally short outer toe is seen. A short toe is to be penalized, as it does not allow for a complete foot on the ground, resulting in an ineffective support for balance or turning.



Tail



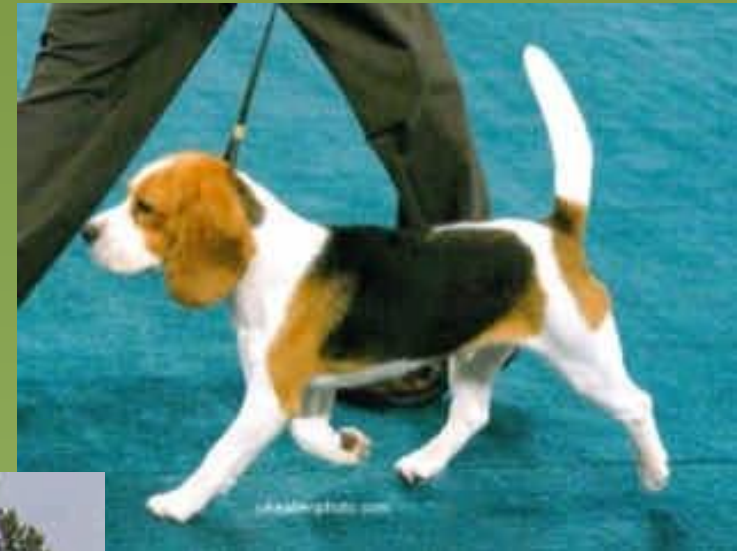
- Tail (5%): Set moderately high; carried gaily, but not turned forward over the back; with slight curve; short as compared with size of the hound; with brush. **Defects**--A long tail. Teapot curve or inclined forward from the root. Rat tail with absence of brush.



Tail – Proper Brush



Tail Set & Carriage



Tail - Defects



- Long tail
- Teapot curve or inclined forward from the root.
- Rat tail with absence of brush

Tail – Defects



- Long tail

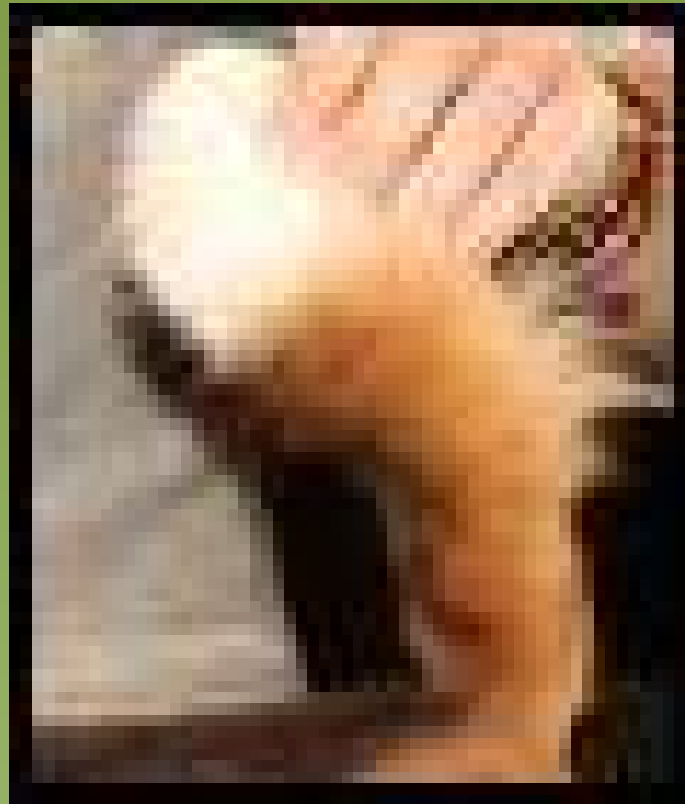


- Teapot curve



Rat tail

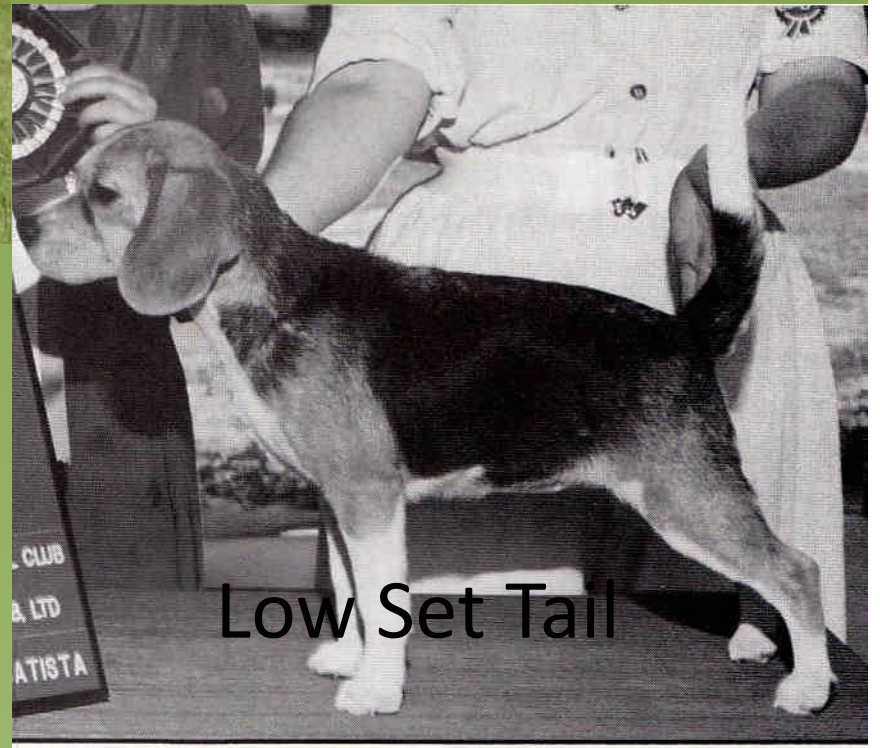
Tail – Proper Brush – BUT...



Defects



Gay Tail

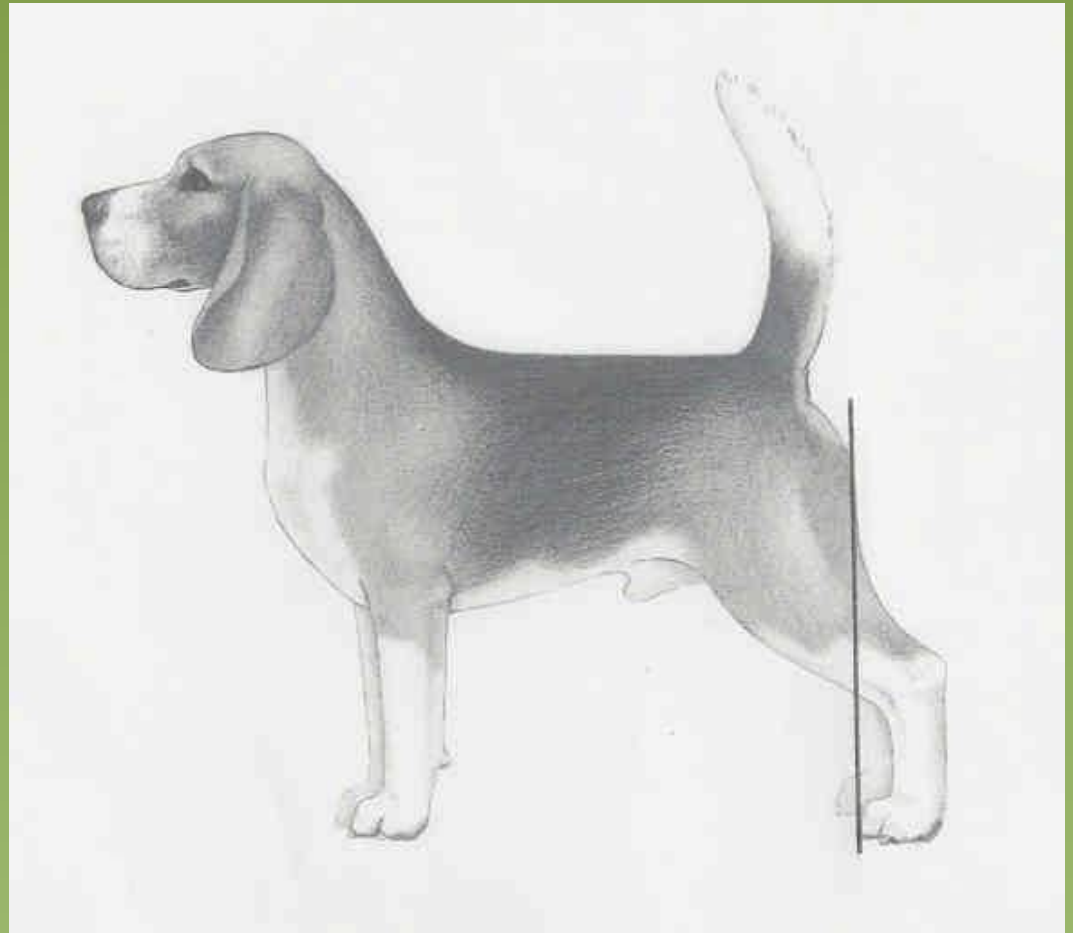


Low Set Tail

Tail – 5%



The tip of the tail should be slightly higher than the head when held at attention. Carriage is perpendicular to the topline and may have a slight curve, never to be inclined forward from the root or carried over or touching the back, as this does not enable the beagle to be followed in the field. Although a white tip serves as a “flag” to reveal his whereabouts in the field, an absence of a white tip is not to be penalized. While adequate brush on the tail is necessary to protect the tail from damage while hunting, more brush is not necessarily better. The tail should be carried upright while gaiting but should never be penalized should it drop when the dog stops

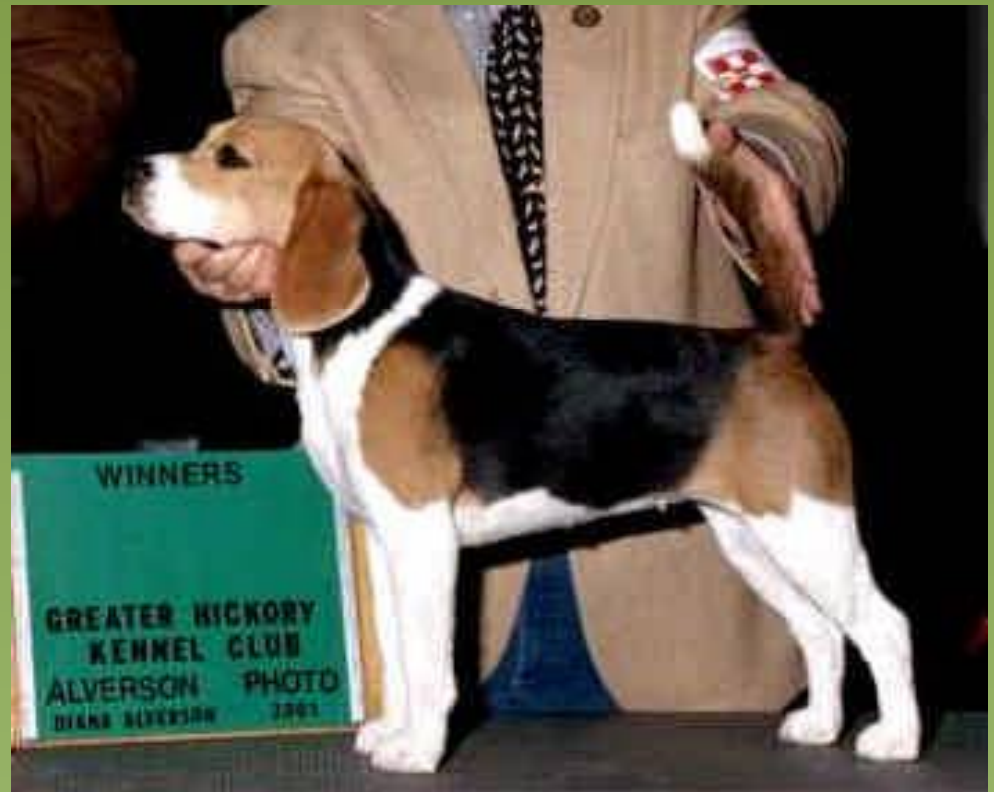


Coat



Coat (5 pts): A close, hard, hound coat of medium length. Defects: A short, thin coat, or of a soft quality. Color: Any true hound color.

The words “Any true hound color” in the Beagle standard cannot be emphasized enough. Any artificial enhancement of coat color is to be penalized.



Color



Color



Tricolor



Blue Tricolor



Lemon/white



Mottle (or ticked)



Red/white



Chocolate Tricolor



Open marked

?? What About Gait ??



Movement



- Beagles should be moved at a moderate trot.
- Good reach of front legs and good drive with the rear.
- From the front, the forelegs should move straight forward with the hind legs following in the footsteps of the front.



Movement



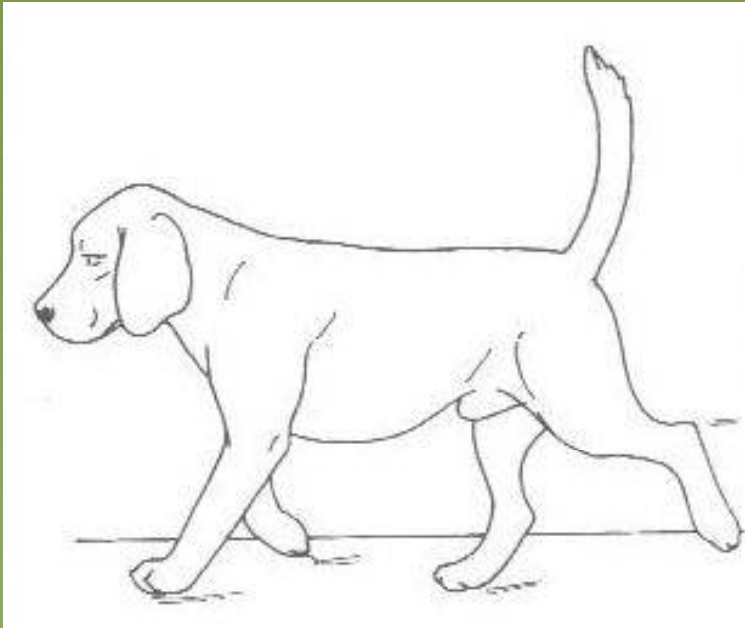
- From the rear, the hocks should move perpendicularly to the ground, moving parallel.



Gait



Lacking reach and drive



Gait



Though not specifically mentioned in the standard, proper movement is implied by the description of the running gear, shoulder and rear construction. The Beagle works in the field at a walk, trot and gallop. While hunting the scent of the rabbit, the Beagle trots with nose to the ground, circling, nosing under brush. Once the trail is found, the beagle signals with his full-voiced cry and off he goes in hot pursuit. Hours of hunting may be required.



Gait



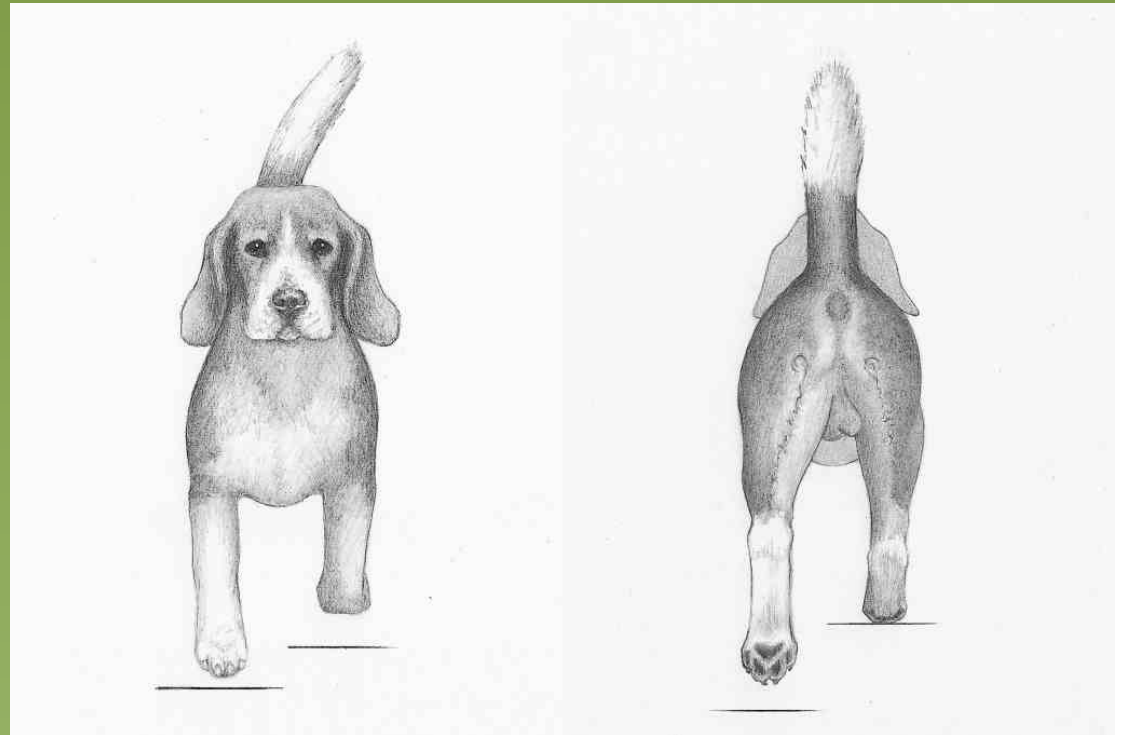
In the conformation ring, the Beagle should be viewed from the side, front and rear while moving at a moderate trot. There should be good reach of the front legs and good drive from the rear when viewed from the side, movement should be effortless. On a Beagle with good reach and drive, the front leg extends straight out at approximately a 45 degree angle with the toes extending to a vertical line drawn down from the tip of the nose. The rear leg is 45 degrees the opposite direction. When viewed from the side the topline should remain fairly level when the Beagle is moving properly.



Gait



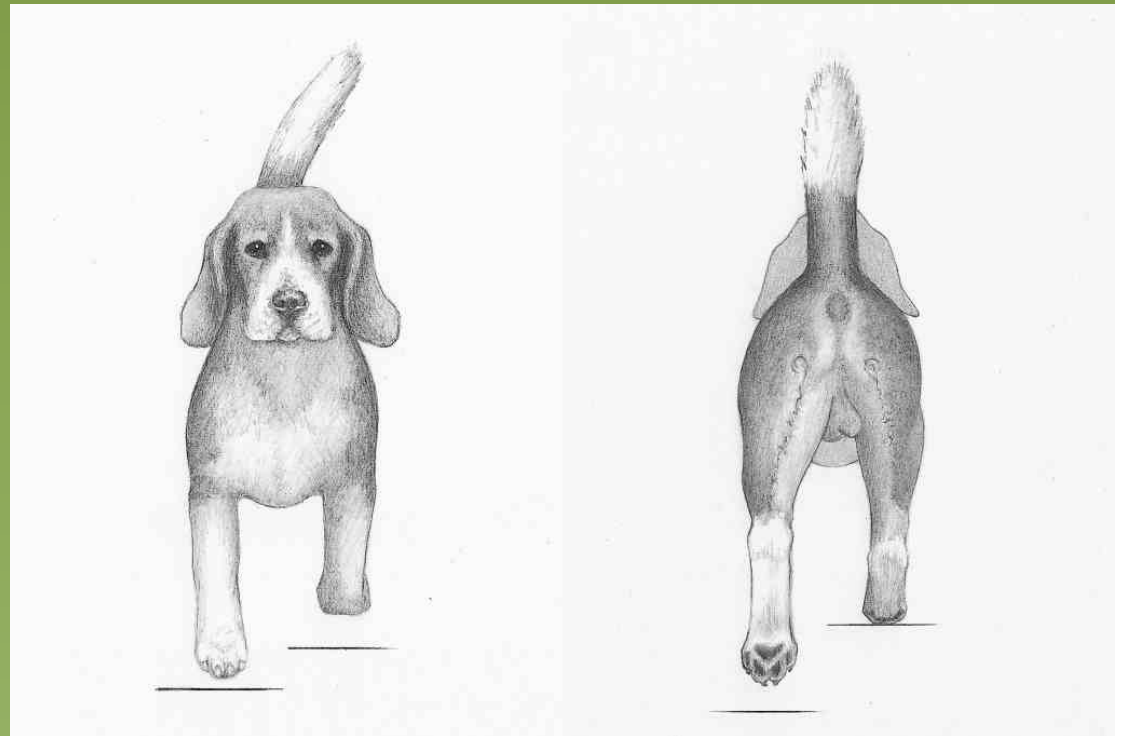
From the front, the forelegs should move straight forward, with the hind legs following in the footsteps of the front. From the rear, the hocks should move perpendicularly to the ground, neither too wide nor too close. The Beagle double tracks at a moderate trot, meaning the front and rear legs remain parallel with each other. As the speed of the Beagle increases, the legs will continue to move in the same planes, and only a slight inclination to single track will occur.



Gait



Paddling, elbows out, high-stepping gait, hocks turning in or out, pounding, close approximation of the hind feet, single tracking, lack of reach and/or drive or skipping are all examples of faulty movement and indicate improper structure



Marking your book



You always **MUST** indicate in your judges book if you measure a beagle

If it measures in, you write beside the exhibit # - measured in – and initial it





Marking your book

If a 13" beagle is over 13"

- **Measured Out – ineligible, and initial it**

If a 15" beagle is over 15"

- **Measured Out – Disqualified, and initial it**

If a 15" beagle is under 13"

- **Measured Out – ineligible, and initial it**



Other Notes

- You can only measure a dog once at any show – so if measured in the breed, cannot be measured in the group
- You can measure at any time, even BIS
- Or in winners



A PHOTO GALLERY OF BEAUTIFUL BEAGLES









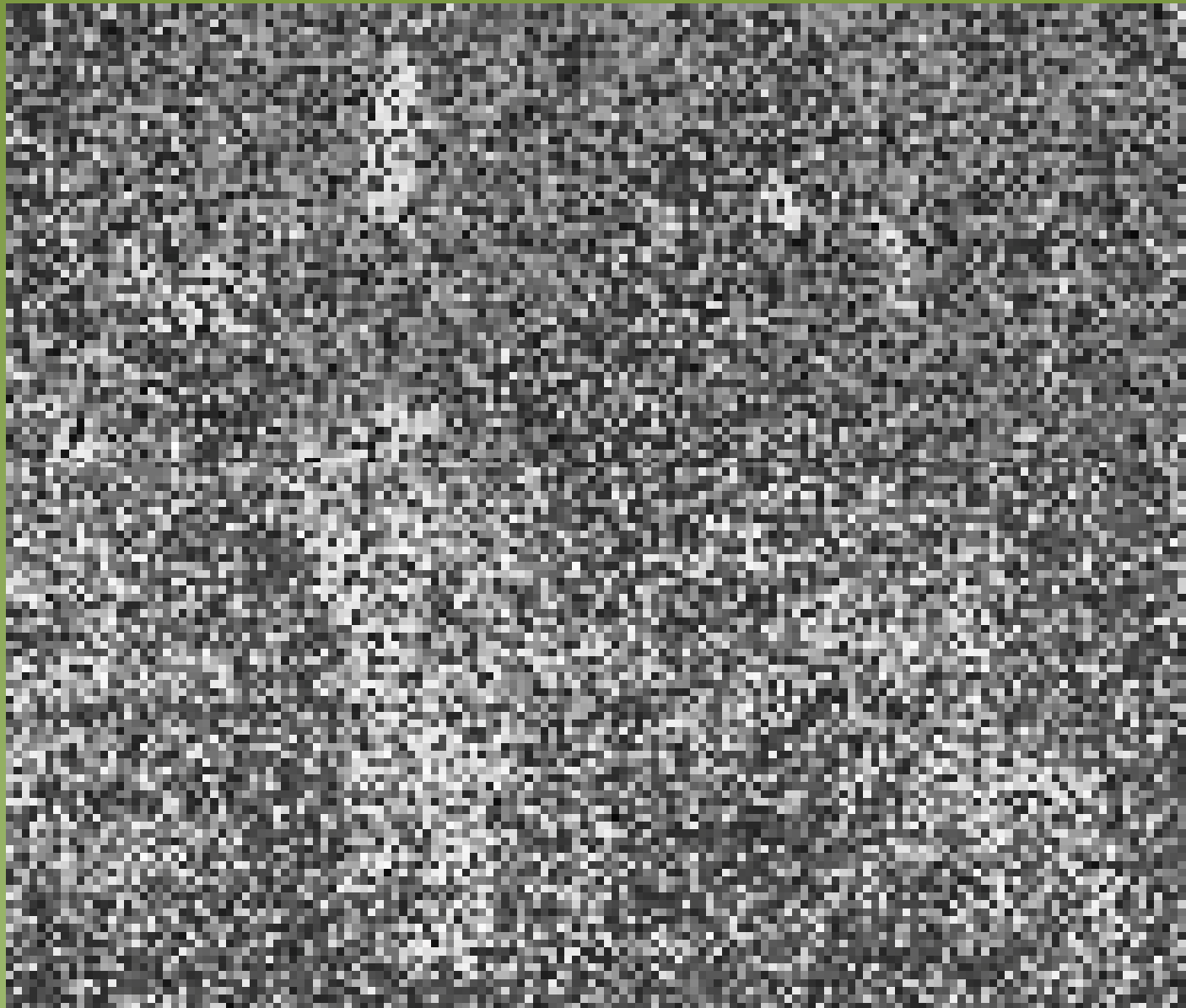


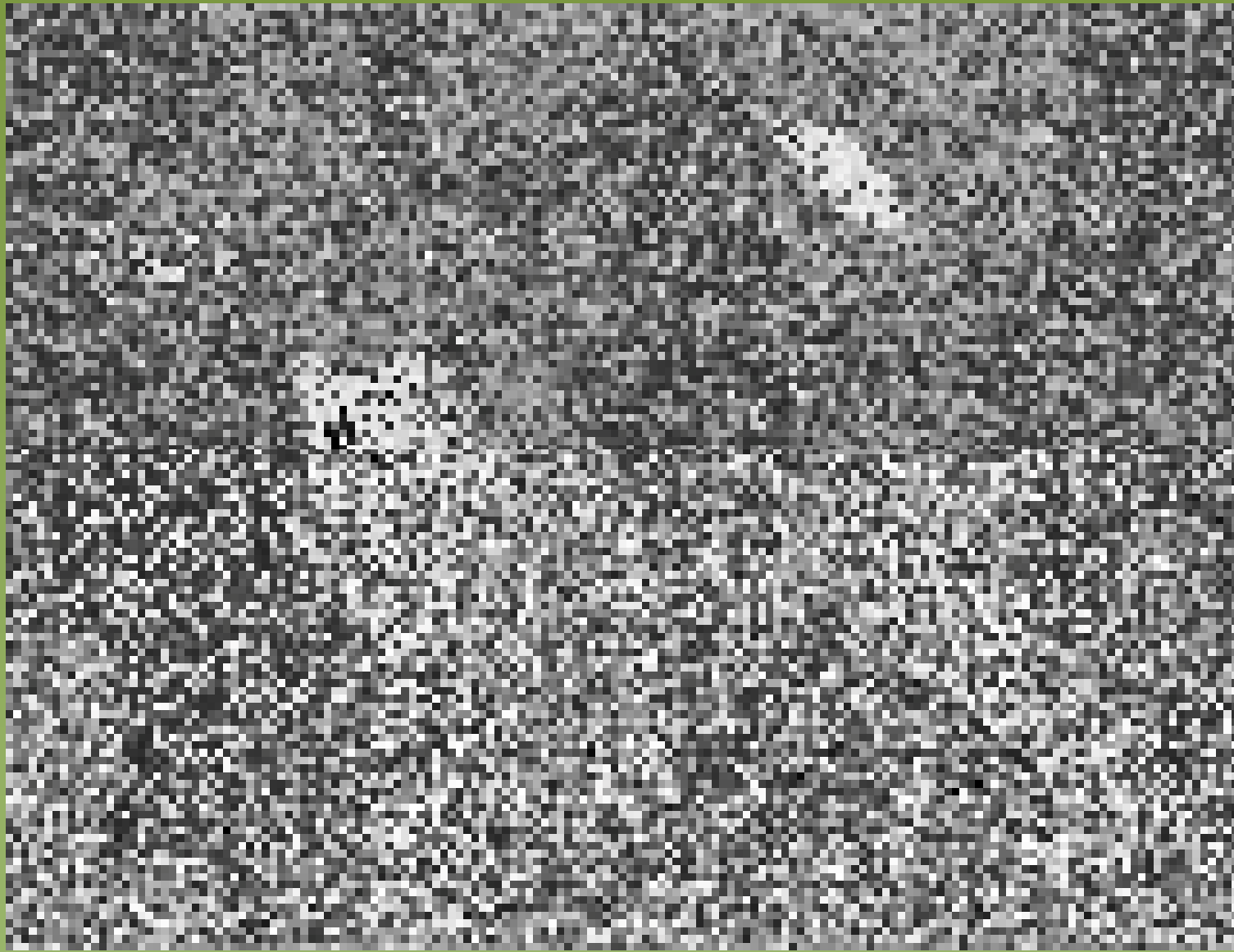


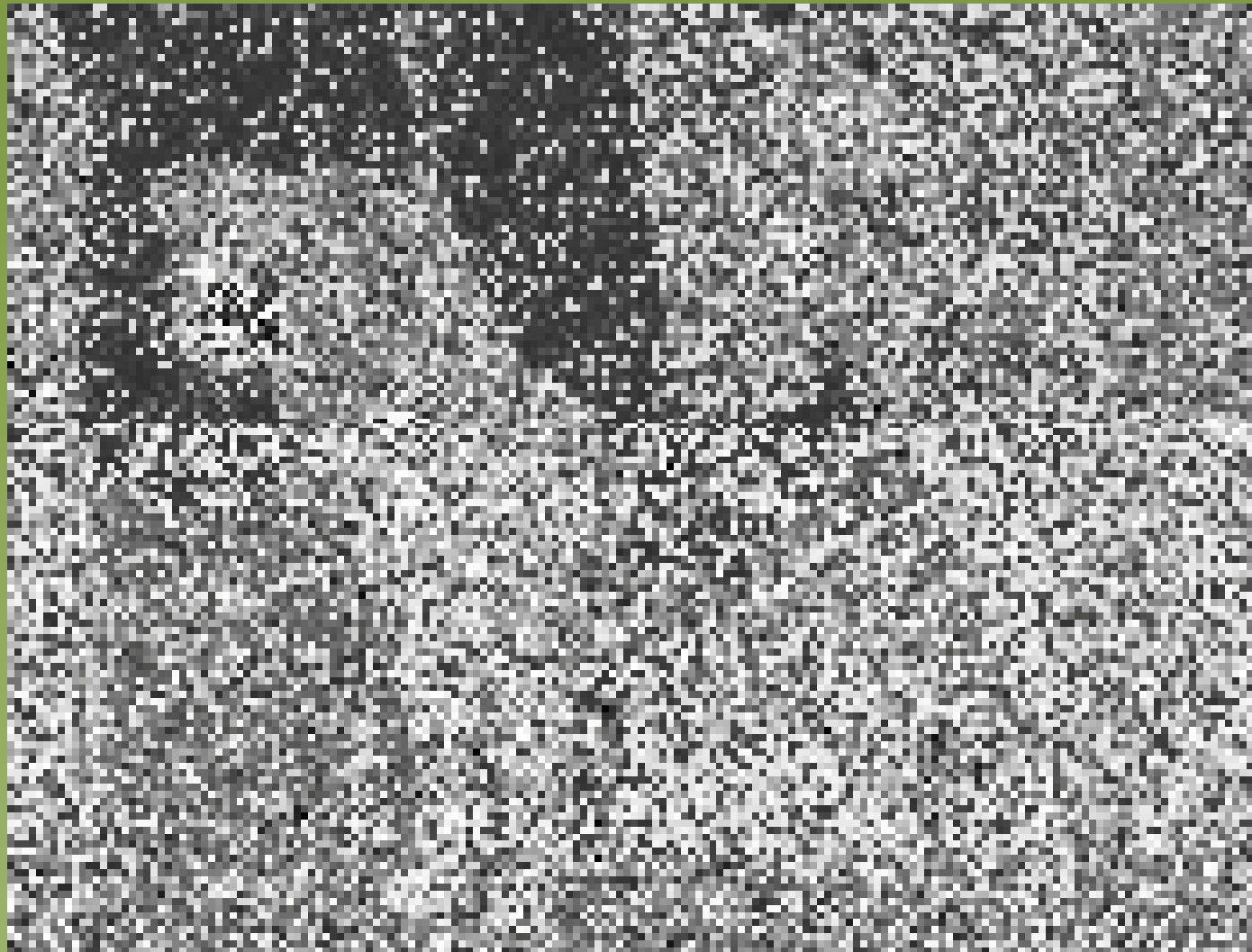






































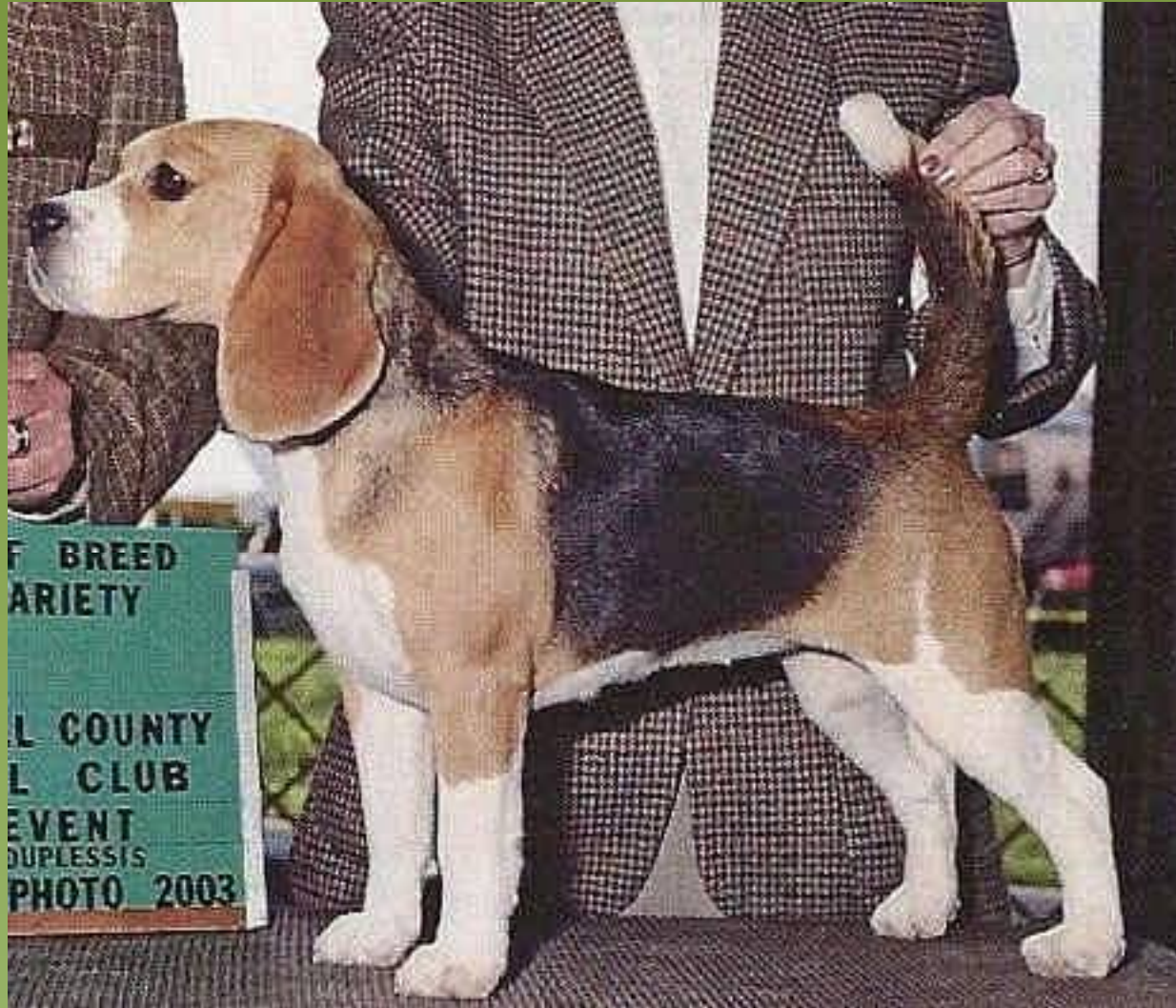






ORK
LUB
&
AY
29, 2004
IMAGE
RK















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