



BFCA...Breed Seminar

Judging *The* Bichon Frise



The Five Elements *of Breed Type:*



1. Breed Character

2. Silhouette

3. Head and Expression

4. Movement

5. Coat



General Appearance



“The Bichon Frise is a small, sturdy, white powder puff of a dog whose merry temperament is evidenced by his plumed tail carried jauntily over *the back* and his dark-eyed inquisitive expression.

This is a breed that has no gross or incapacitating exaggerations and therefore there is no inherent reason for lack of balance or unsound movement.

Any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Structural faults common to all breeds are as undesirable in the Bichon Frise as in any other breed, even though such faults may not be specifically mentioned in the standard.”

Breed Character



What best describes a legend?

Without a doubt,

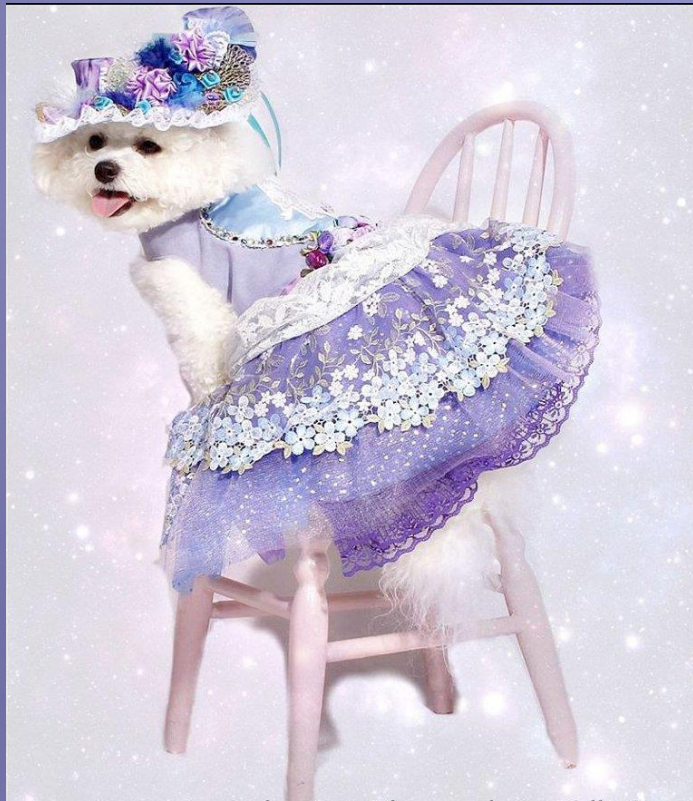
Breed Character!

A dog possessing great breed character possesses all the clues to its origin and history and assists you in establishing that all-important vision of excellence for the breed.

Ashby photo



Breed Character



Breed Character is the sum total of all those mental and physical characteristics that define not only what the breed should look like but how it should conduct itself.



Breed Character



*“EYES, AND THE
SOUL TO MELT
HEARTS!”*

Silhouette



The correct *Silhouette* for any breed is created by a sum of correct proportions. Many standards give this information, some do not.



Silhouette

The tail is well plumed, set on level with the topline and curves gracefully over the back

The arched neck is long and carried proudly behind an erect head

The properly trimmed Bichon must give the powder-puff impression following the natural outline of the body, with a series of rounded contours

The slight rise over the loin is created by both muscles and underlying bone structure



The chest is well developed and wide enough to allow free and unrestricted movement of the front legs

Look for the Bichon that stands well over his front with neck arched, head carried proudly, up on his legs with hindquarters thrust out behind.

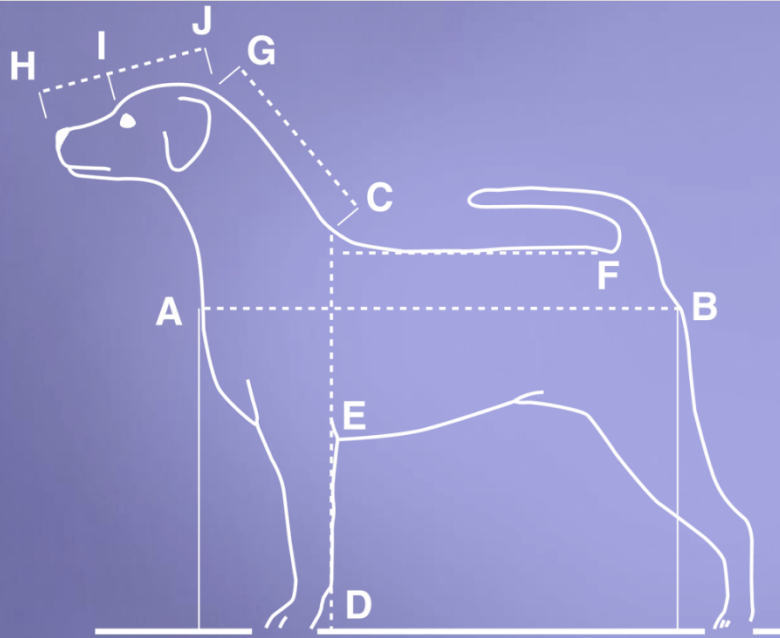


Silhouette

Size, Proportion, and Substance:

- Dogs and bitches 9 1/2” to 11 1/2” are to be given primary preference.
- Equal consideration must be given to all Bichons - male or female - within this preferred size range. It must be remembered that this could well include a top-of-the-scale bitch and/or a bottom-of-the-scale dog.
- The standard provides considerable latitude in order to include all superior specimens. *Decisions should never be made on the basis of size alone*, as size constitutes only one small portion of the standard's requirements.

Silhouette



C-G (top of shoulder to occiput)
= LENGTH OF NECK

H-J (tip of muzzle to occiput)
= LENGTH OF HEAD

H-I (tip of muzzle to stop)
= LENGTH OF MUZZLE

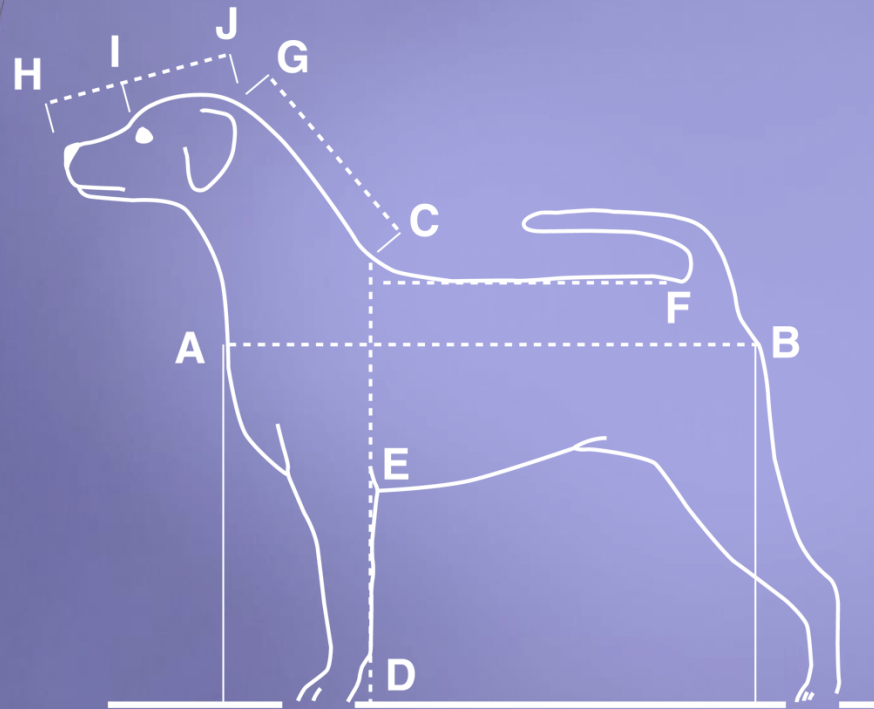
I-J (stop to occiput)
= LENGTH OF SKULL

Correct proportions are of the utmost importance in defining Bichon type.

Body length measurement (A-B) is one-fourth longer than height (C-D) measured from the highest point of withers to ground.



Silhouette



A-B (forechest to buttocks)
= LENGTH OF BODY

C-D (top of shoulder to ground)
= HEIGHT

C-E (top of shoulder to bottom
of chest) = DEPTH OF BODY

E-D (elbow to ground)
= LENGTH OF LEG

C-F (top of shoulder to set
of tail) = LENGTH OF BACK



Silhouette

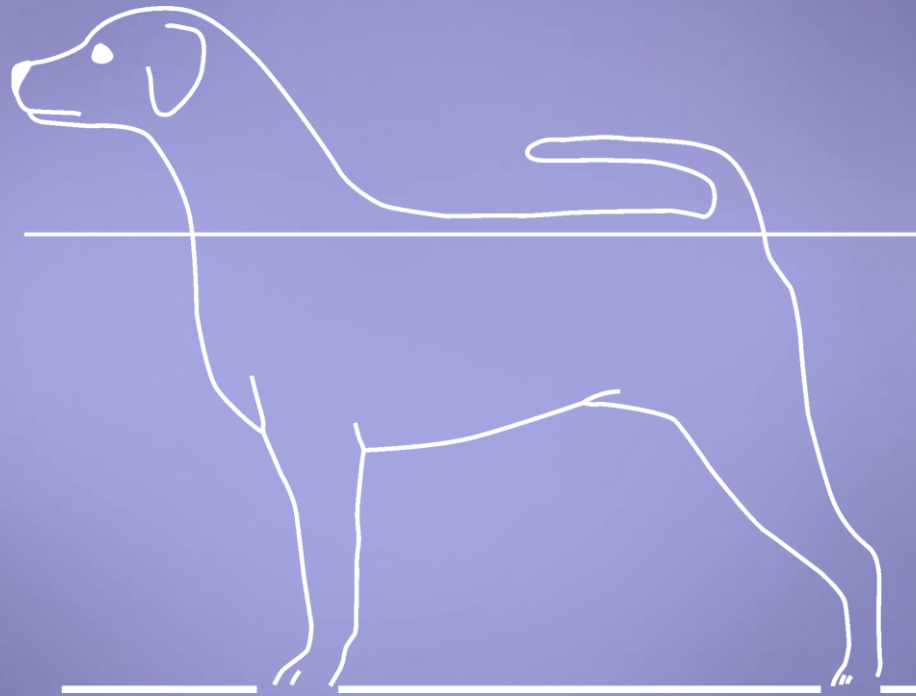
Forequarters:

The shoulder blade, upper arm and forearm are approximately equal in length. The shoulders are laid back to somewhat near a forty-five degree angle.

The upper arm extends well back so the elbow is placed directly below the withers when viewed from the side.



Silhouette

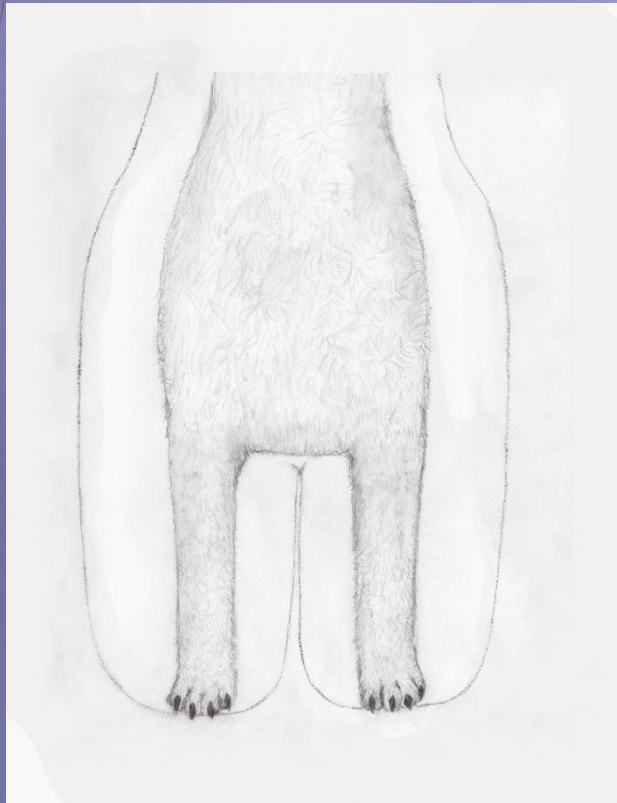


Top Line:

The TOP LINE is level except for a slight, muscular arch over the loin.

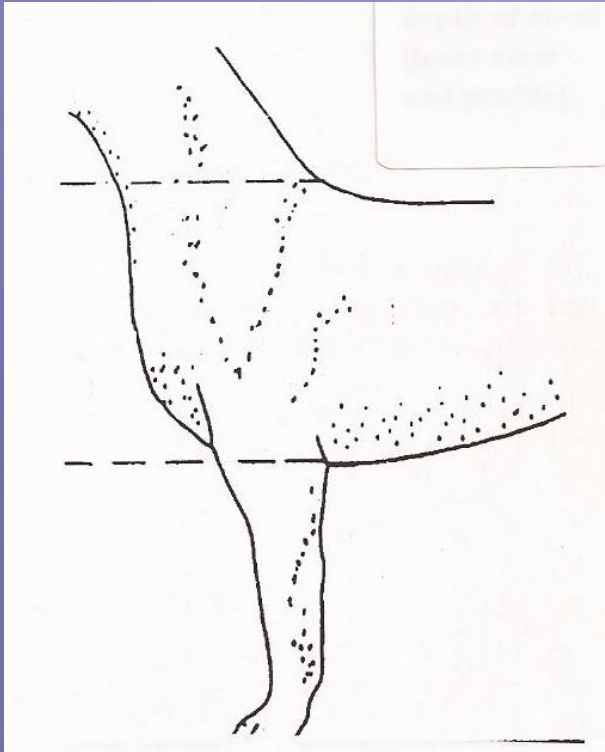


Silhouette



Body: The CHEST is well developed and wide enough to allow free and unrestricted movement of the front legs. The lowest point of the chest extends at least to the elbow. The RIBCAGE is moderately sprung and extends back to a short and muscular loin. The FORE-CHEST is well pronounced and protrudes slightly forward of the point of shoulder. The UNDERLINE has a moderate tuck-up.

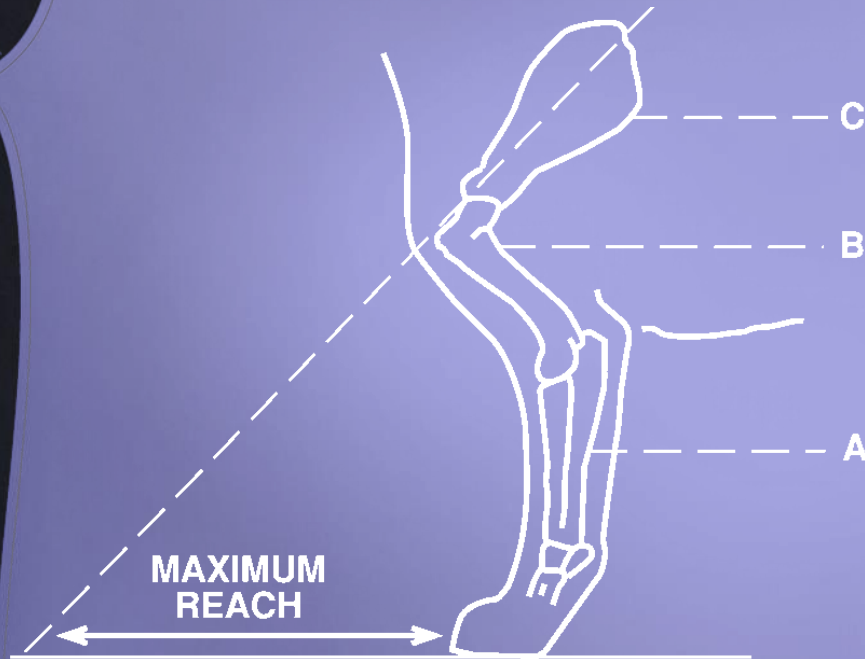
Silhouette



Chest is well developed and wide enough to allow free

Unrestricted movement of the front legs while the forechest is well pronounced and protrudes slightly forward to the point of the shoulder

Silhouette



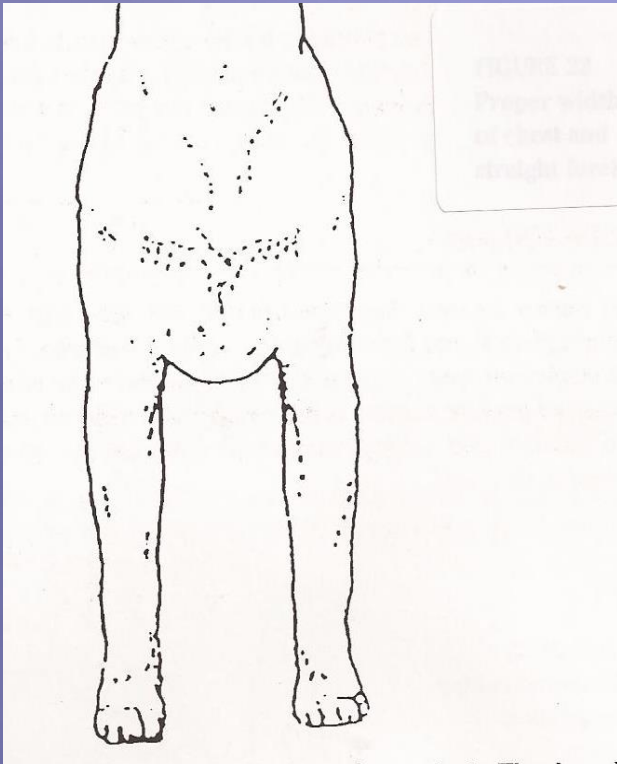
C The angulation of the shoulder, upper arm, and forearm, required by the standard, is to provide maximum reach with the least amount of effort. The straight forward movement of the forequarters is assisted by a well-developed chest, which helps to stabilize and securely anchor the forequarters.

B

A

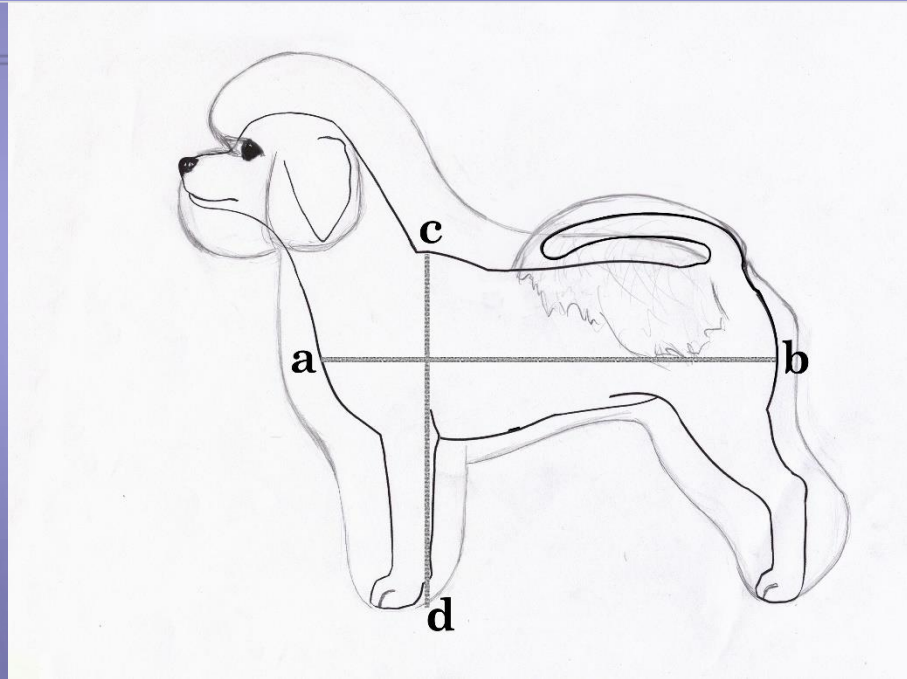


Forequarters – Legs & Feet



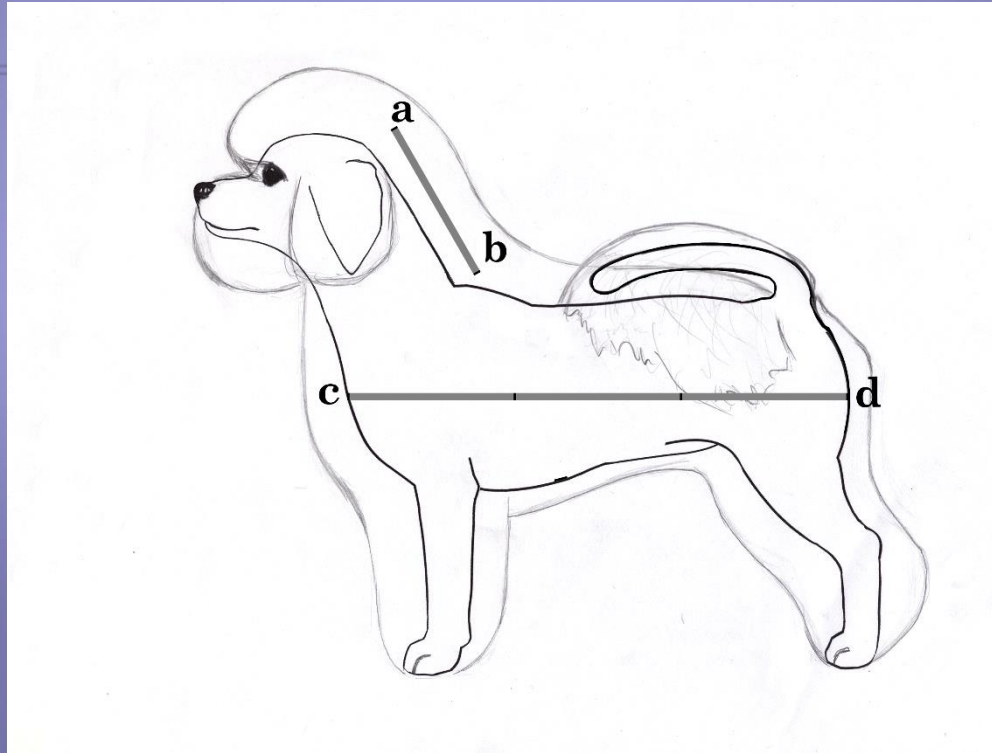
Legs are of medium bone straight with no bow or curve in the forearm or wrist, while pasterns slope slightly from the vertical with feet that resemble a cat, black pads and nails short

Size, Proportion, Substance



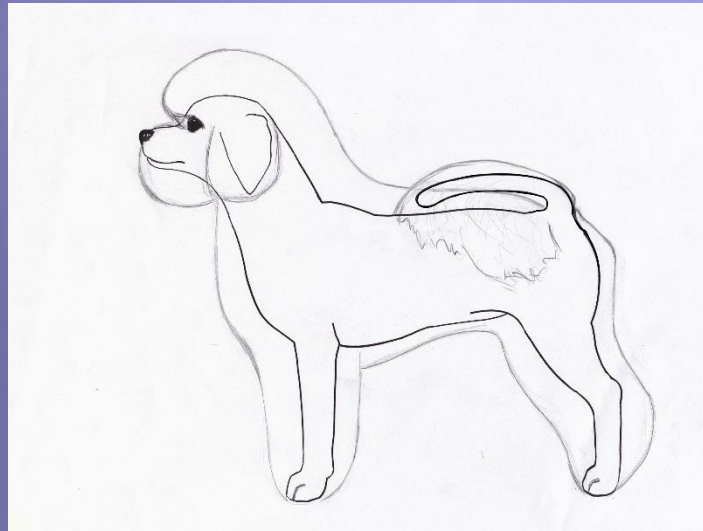
Measurement (A-B) is $\frac{1}{4}$ longer than height (C-D) measured from highest point of withers to ground

Correct Neck Length

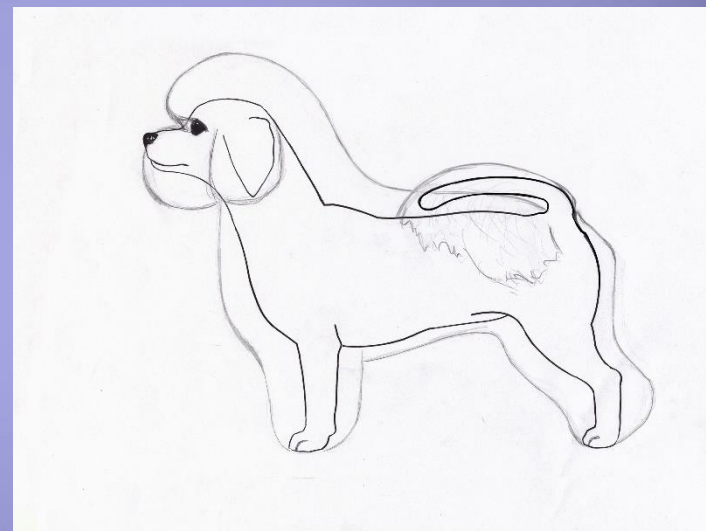


The proper neck length is one third of the total body length from sternum to buttocks

Size, Proportion. Substance

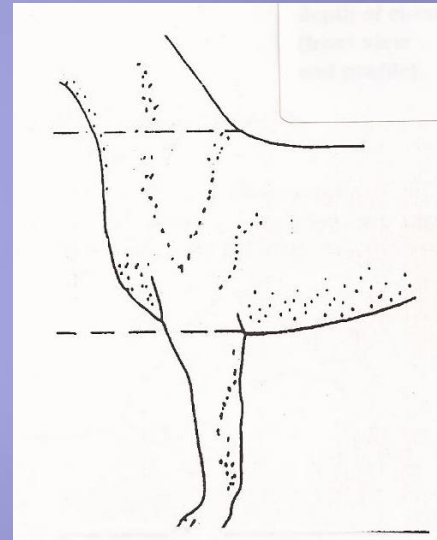
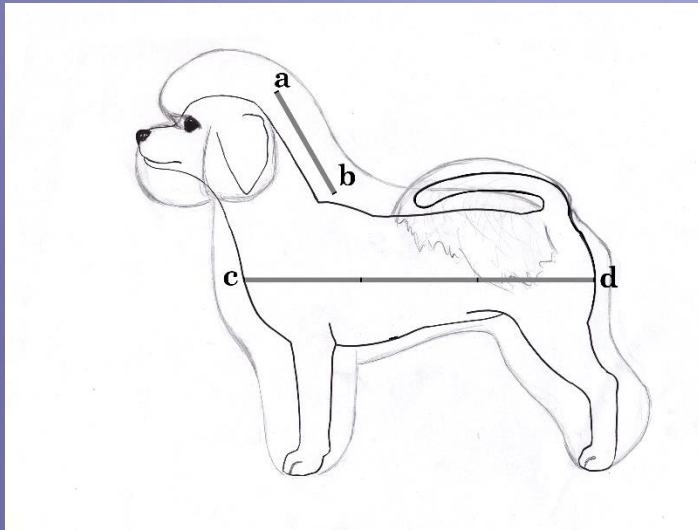


Leg Too Long



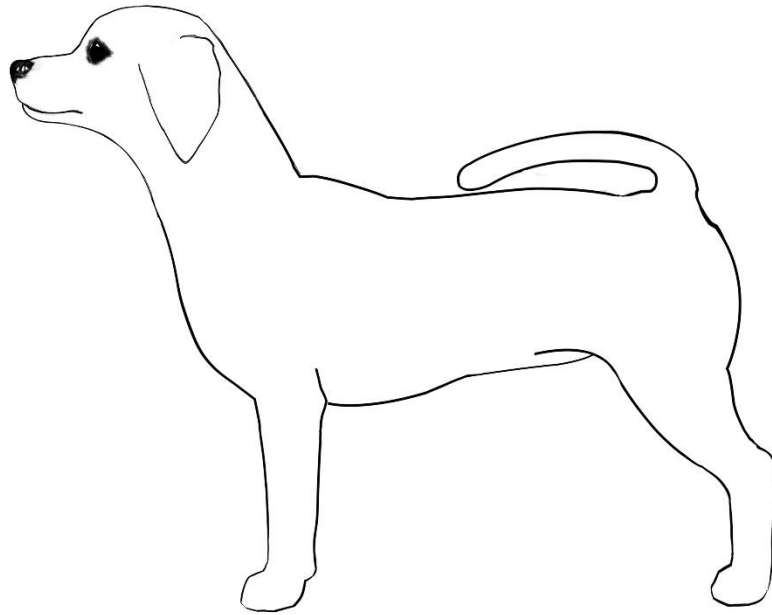
Leg Too Short

Size, Proportion. Substance

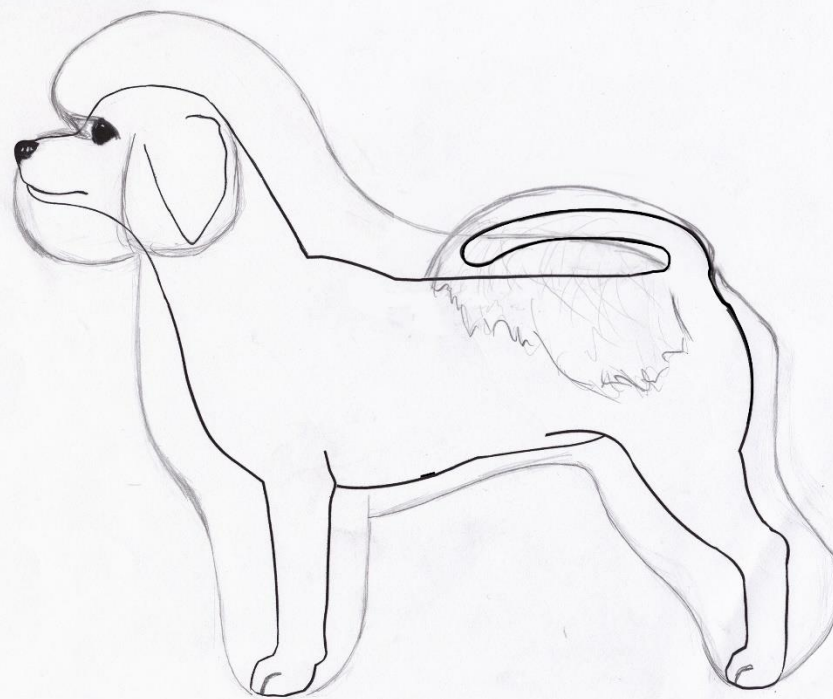


Lowest point of the chest extends at least to the elbow with ribcage moderately sprung extending back to a short and muscular loin while the underline has a moderate “tuck-up”

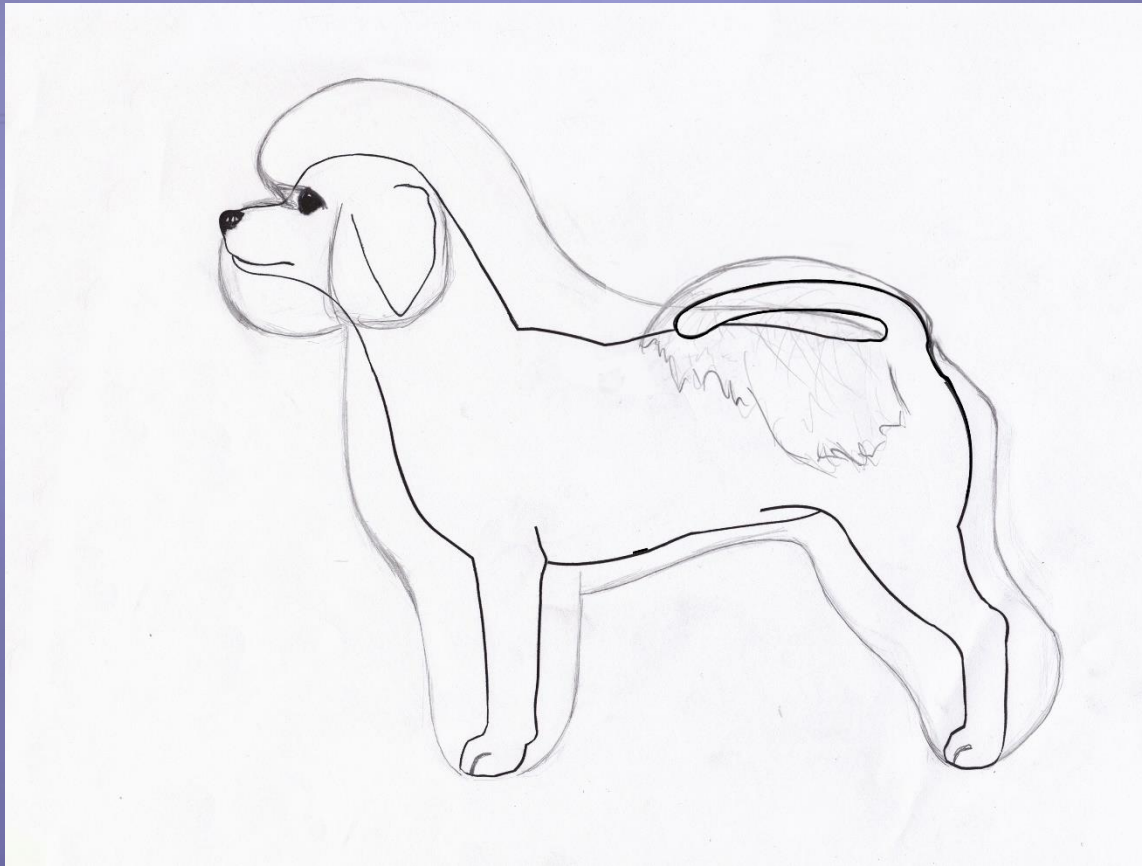
Correct Topline



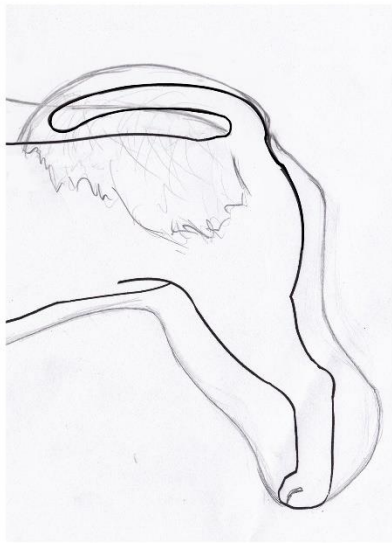
Level Topline



Roach Topline

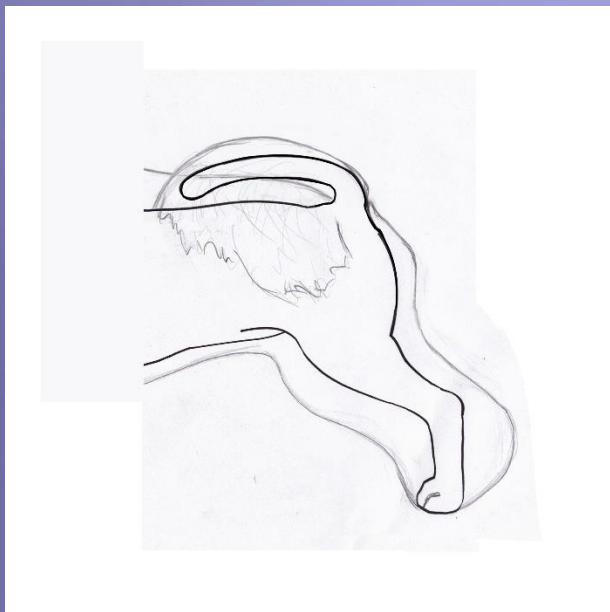


Hindquarters



This is a well angulated rear which permits the Bichon to both reach forward under the body, and extend the leg well out behind commonly referred to as “drive”

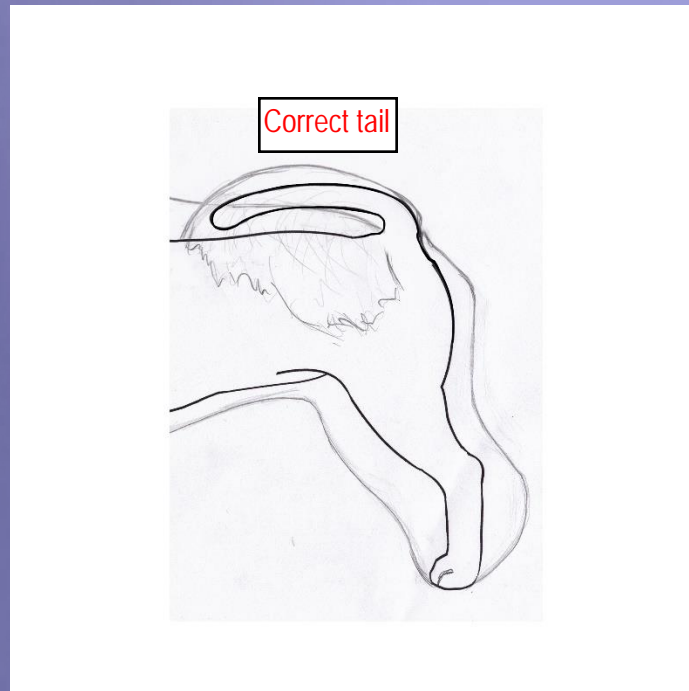
Hindquarters



Overangulated Rear

Straight Rear

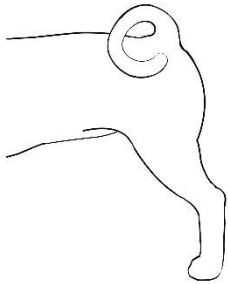
Topline - Tail



This is a correct tail set well plumed level with the topline curved gracefully over the back extending toward the head reaching at least halfway to the withers

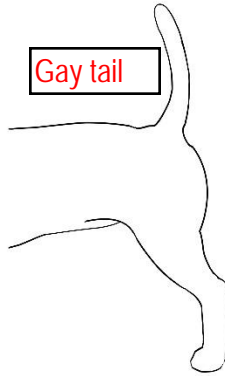
Tail

Curled tail



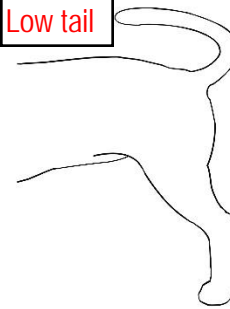
Curled Tail

Gay tail



Gay Tail

Low tail



Low Tail

There are few breeds whose overall appearance is affected more dramatically by improper tail set and carriage. A corkscrew tail is a very serious fault, where a low tail set is a result of a falling off of the croup and should be severely penalized

Silhouette

Tail Set: A high set tail enables the Bichon to carry his tail effortlessly over the back. The incorrect low set tail curves up over the croup before it can be carried over the back, creating a “teapot-handle effect”. The low set tail is the result of a falling off in the croup, which not only affects tail placement and carriage, but also turns the hindquarters under the dog resulting in restricted movement.



The Five Elements of Breed Type:



1. *Breed Character*
2. *Silhouette*
3. *Head and Expression*
4. *Movement*
5. *Coat*

2014-2015 ©
JAZZ'S PHOTO



Head and Expression

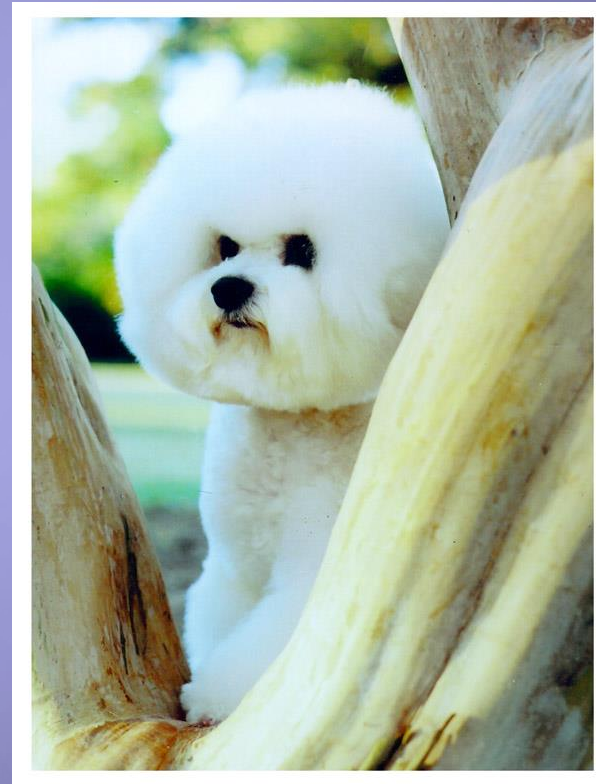
There is no characteristic among dog breeds that is more variable than *The Head*.

And it therefore imparts individuality to each of the breeds. It requires the eye of the artist to recognize and really appreciate, for it speaks of the very essence of a breed.



Head and Expression

The *Head* of the Bichon has no exaggerations. However, black skin exaggerating the size of the eyes, the black points against white, and the head trim create an illusion much different than what might be expected. All these factors add up to the standard's "dark-eyed, inquisitive *Expression*."

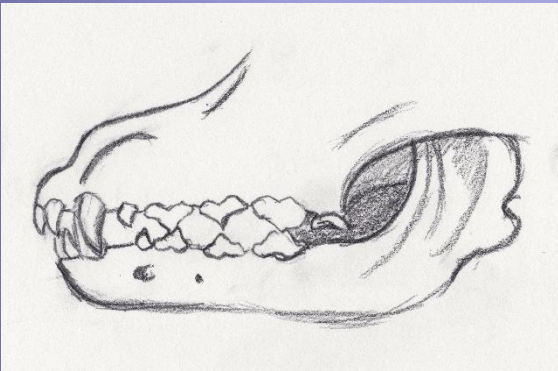
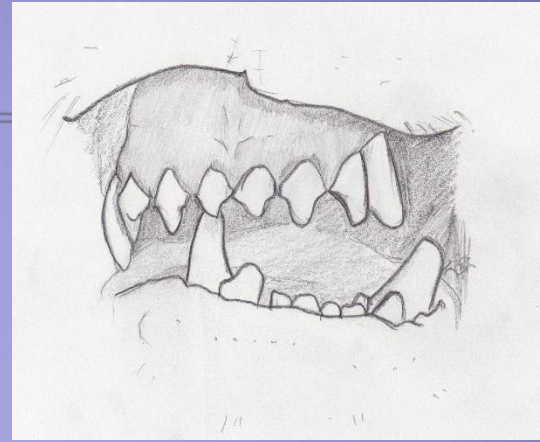


Head



The ideal head – circle of white punctuated with the 3 black points of eyes and nose.

Head - Bite



Top left is a correct scissors bite. Top right is a wry bite, bottom left is an overbite / bottom right is an underbite and these 3 should be severely penalized

Head and Expression

Bites: A scissors bite is required. Strength and width of jaw (both upper and lower) allow for properly placed and full dentition. One is more apt to find out-of-line and missing teeth in narrow and receding underjaws. An overshot bite, or an undershot bite, must be severely penalized.

When examining the mouth, counting teeth is not recommended. Visual inspection will be less traumatic to the dog. At no time should a judge ever pry open the mouth of a Bichon.



Head and Expression

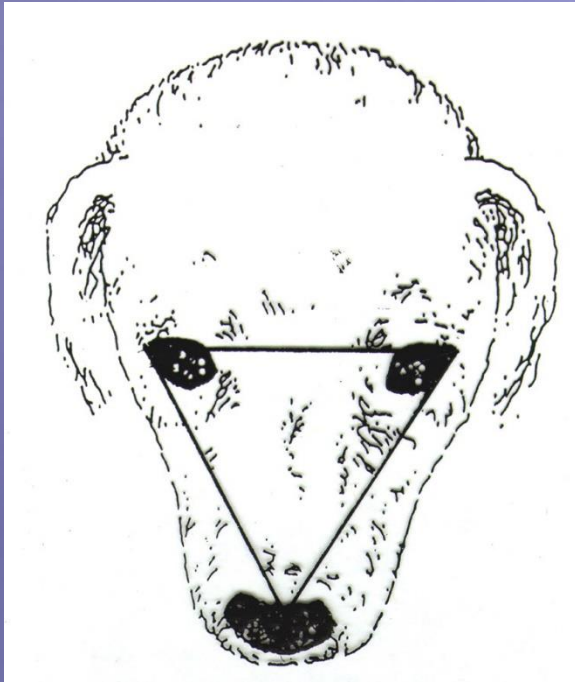


Underjaw

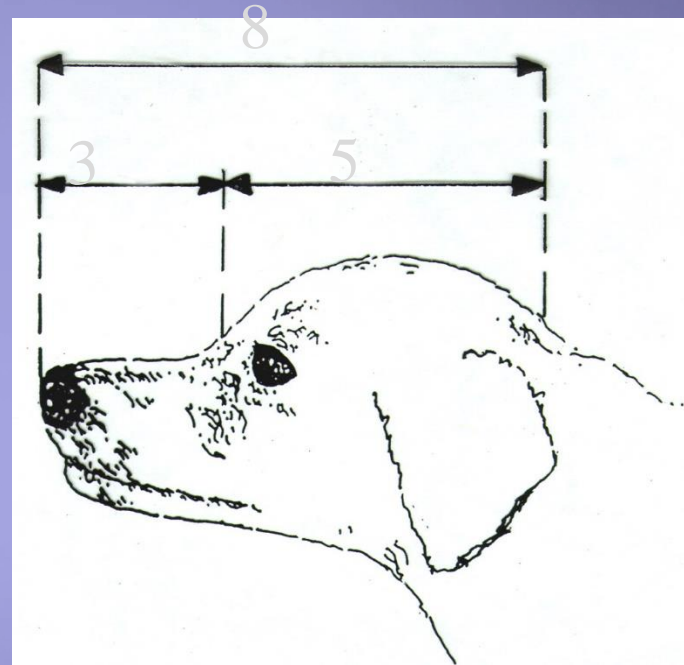
*Correct
Bite*



Head and Expression



This illustration shows the proper muzzle-to-skull proportion with the slightly accentuated stop.



These proportions are of great importance to the proper balance of the head. Further note the strength of the under jaw.



Head - Stop



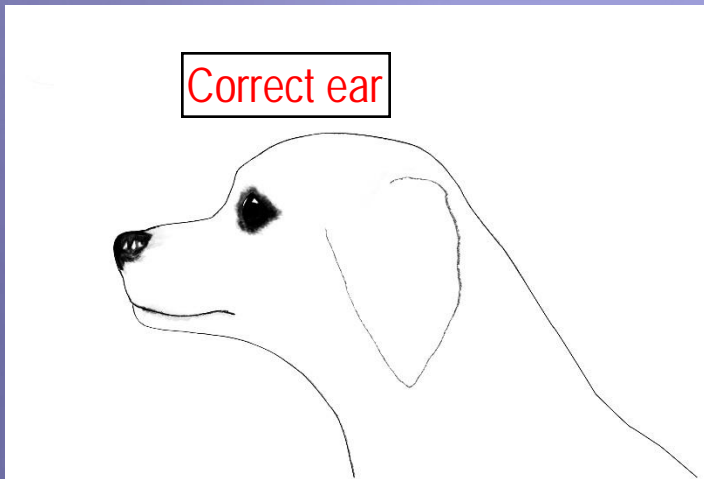
Incorrect Stop



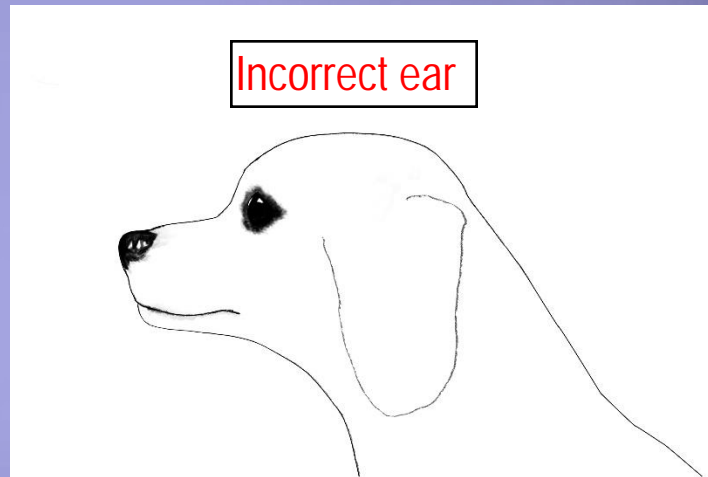
Too little stop

Head - Ears

Correct ear



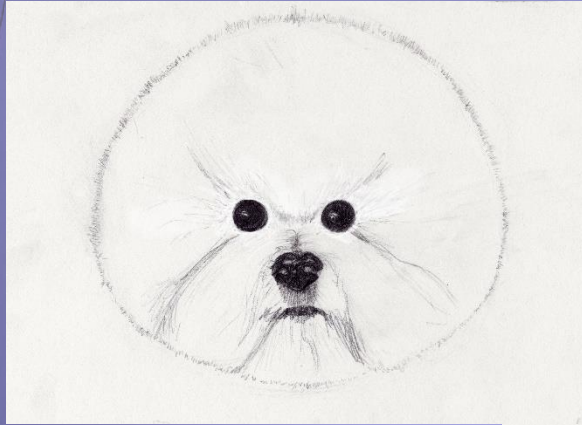
Incorrect ear



Incorrect Spaniel type ear

Correct ear

Head - Eyes



No Halos, or Light Eyes is considered a serious fault

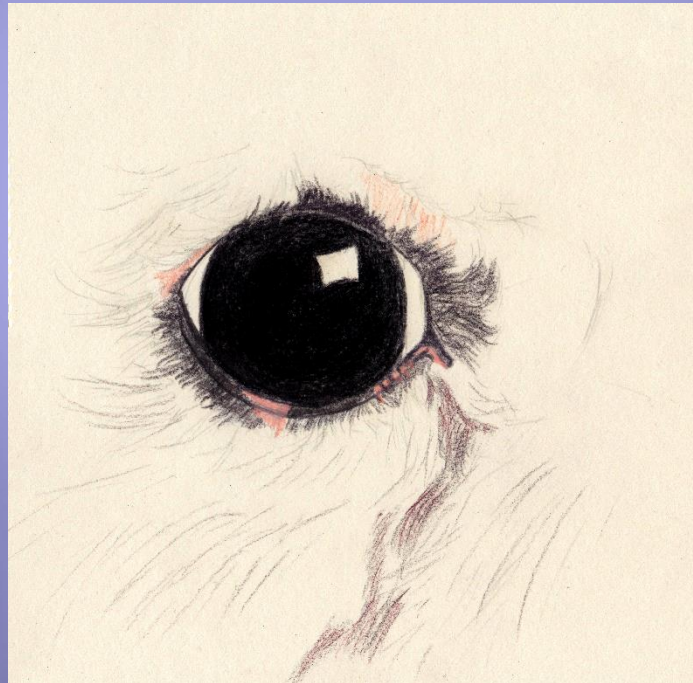
Head - Eyes



Almond eyes and Brown Halos are a fault Halos, (the black or very dark brown skin)

Surrounding the eyes are important as they accentuate the eye and enhance expression

Eye: Broken Pigment/
Lacks Halo





The Five Elements of Breed Type:

1. *Breed Character*
2. *Silhouette*
3. *Head and Expression*
4. *Movement*
5. *Coat*

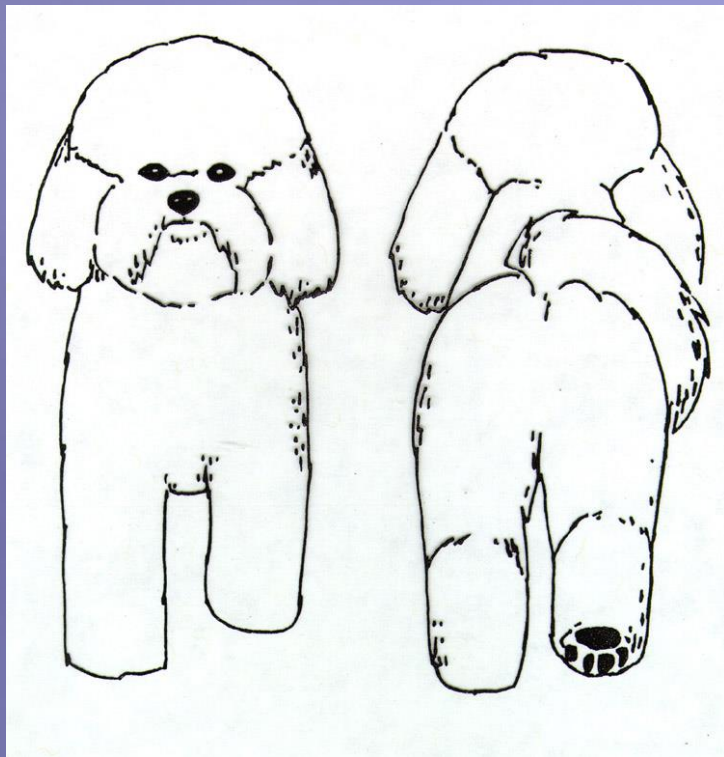
Movement



The Bichon's *Movement* is effortless and ground covering. It is essential the rear pastern, between hock and foot, extend rearward beyond the vertical. It must be matched by equal forward extension of the front legs producing correct reach and drive while maintaining a steady topline without racing.

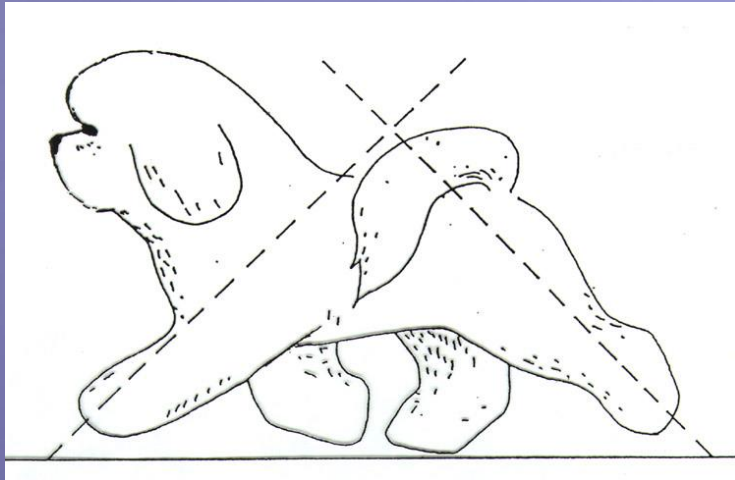


Movement-Gait



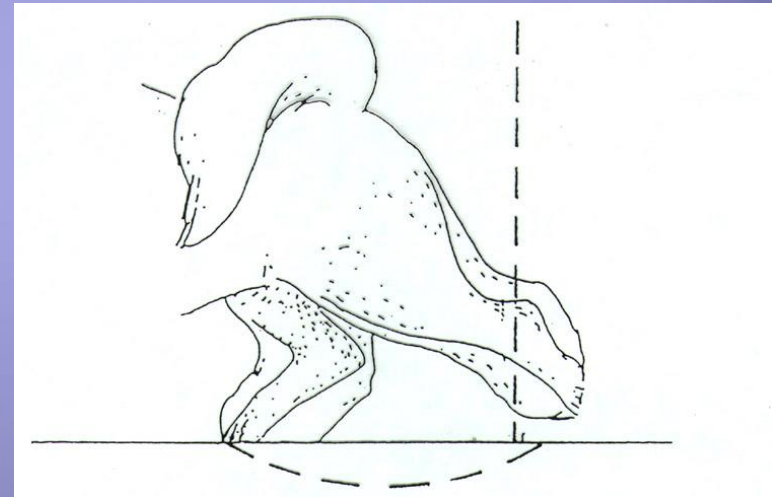
Coming and going his movement is precise and true...as speed increases there is a “very” slight convergence of legs toward the center line. Moving away, the hindquarters travel with moderate width between them and foot pads can be seen.

Movement

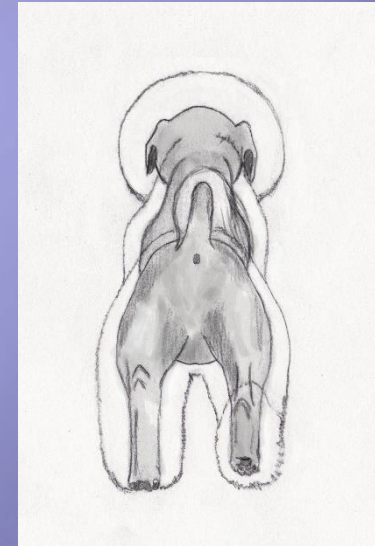
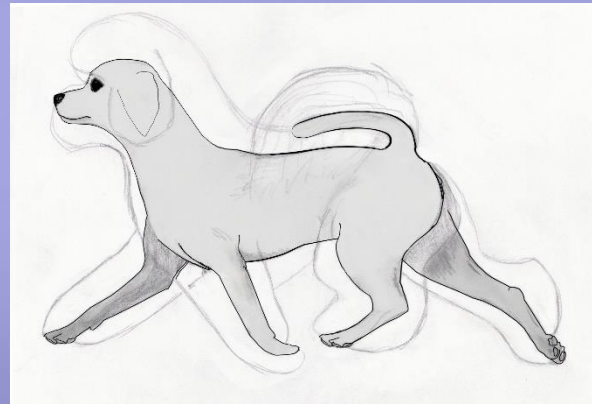


The rear pastern between hock and foot must extend rearward beyond the vertical.

Free, effortless and unrestricted movement is a hallmark of the breed.



Gait



This shows proper movement forward, profile, and away movement

Movement



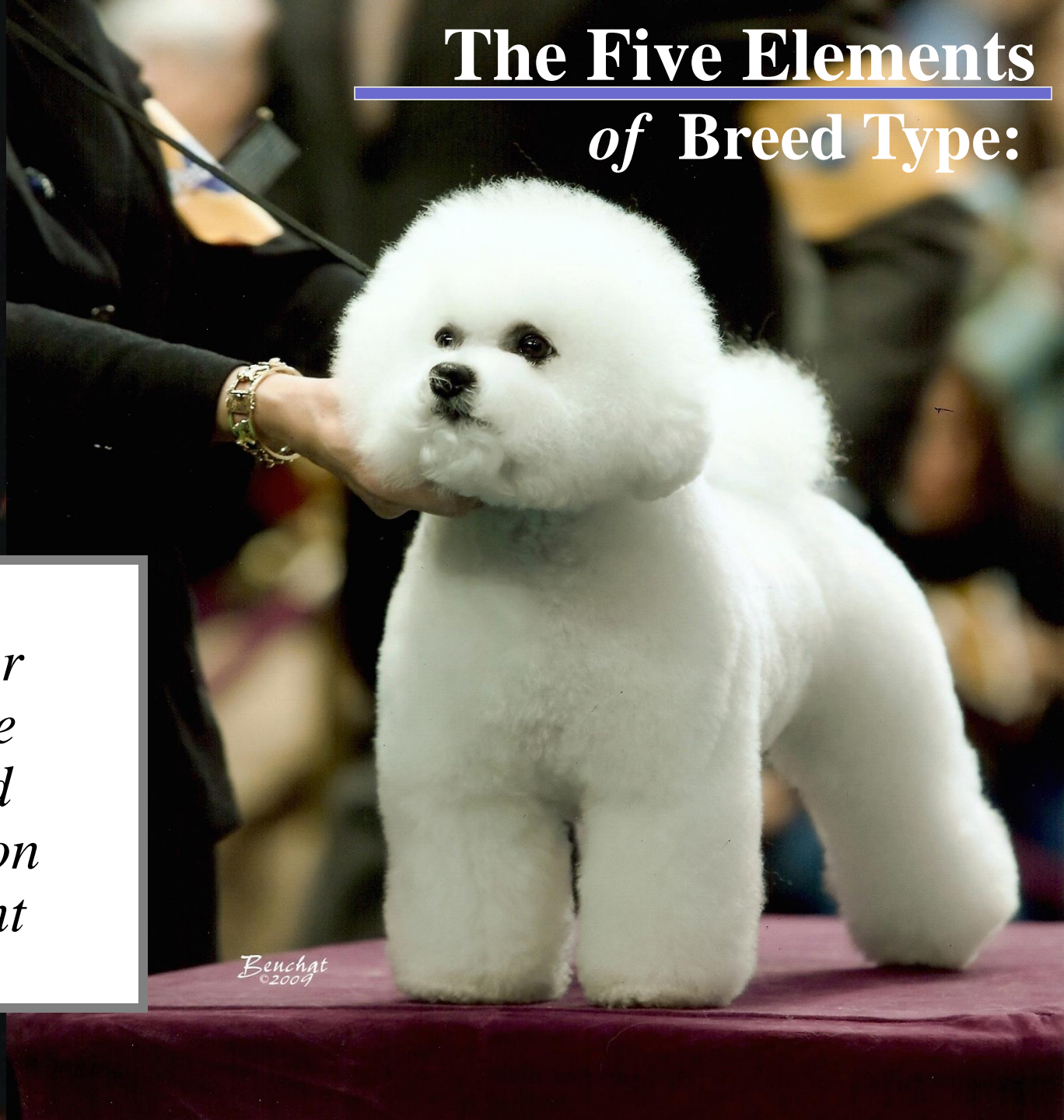
The Bichon's movement in profile is above all effortless and ground covering!



The Five Elements of Breed Type:

1. *Breed
Character*
2. *Silhouette*
3. *Head and
Expression*
4. *Movement*
5. *Coat*

Benchat
©2009



Coat

This element of breed type includes texture, quality, color, trim and amount. It should be noted that amount, though usually given the greatest attention, is but one factor of the Bichon Frise type. In the end, we must ask ourselves . .



*“Is the dog wearing the coat . . .
or the
coat wearing the dog? “*

Coat

The Bichon is a breed of “Illusion”, and it would seem the better the grooming, the better the dog...but is this so? Judges you must feel what is underneath the coat, to determine the dogs actual structure. As with everything that changes so has the style of grooming. Overall, grooming skills have improved.

We no longer carry long beards and long ears. Our dogs have better symmetry...They have evolved into a more balanced dog.



Coat

The combination of the two gives a soft but substantial feel to the touch (similar to plush or velvet) and when patted, springs back on a mature dog.

When bathed and brushed, the coat will stand off the body creating an overall powder puff appearance. A wiry coat is not desirable. A limp, silky coat, a coat that lies down, or a lack of undercoat are very serious faults in a mature, adult Bichon.

Texture: The texture of the coat is of the utmost importance.

- The undercoat is soft and dense.
- The outer coat is coarser and curlier.



Coat

Color: The mature Bichon's color is white and may have shadings of buff, cream or apricot around the ears or on the body. Any color in excess of 10% of the entire coat of a mature specimen is a fault and should be penalized.



Puppies are born with, or may develop color (at times being surprisingly deep), especially about the head and ears. This color is allowable only in specimens under 12 months of age. Color of the accepted shadings should not be faulted in puppies.

Coat

Trimming: The coat is trimmed to reveal the natural outline of the body. It is rounded off from any direction and never cut so short as to create an overly-trimmed or squared-off appearance. The furnishings of the head, beard, moustache, ears and tail are left longer. The longer head hair is trimmed to create an overall rounded impression.

The topline trimmed to appear level. The coat is long enough to maintain the powder-puff look which is characteristic of the breed.



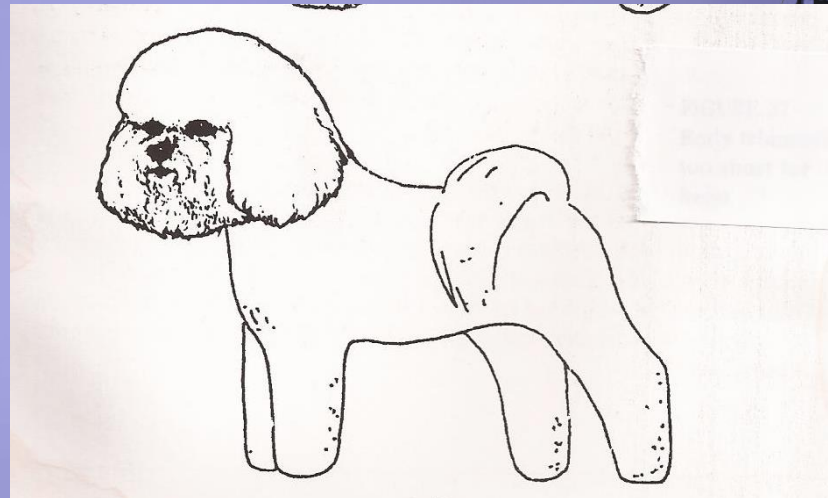
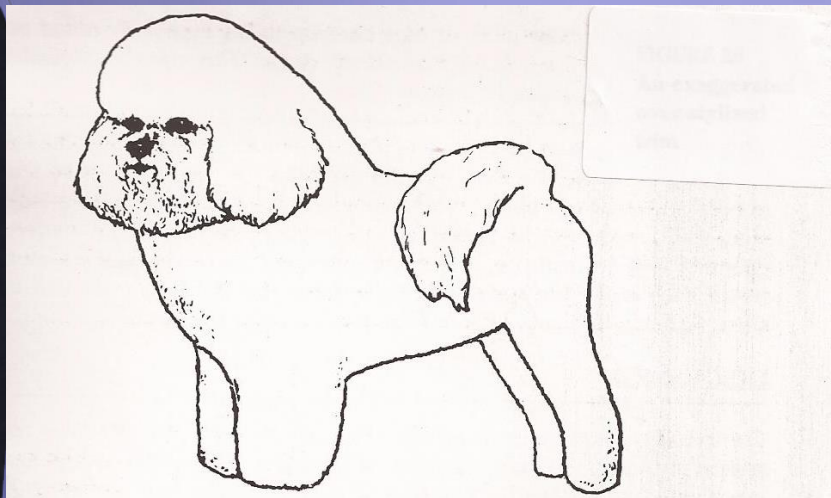
Coat



The properly trimmed Bichon must give the powder-puff impression following the natural outline of the body with a series of rounded contours. The properly trimmed Bichon gives an overall, one-piece appearance with no exaggerations or sharp angles.



Coat - Trimming



The upper left represents an exaggerate -stylized trim where the bottom right is a body trimmed too short for the head !

Color



Color is white but may have shadings of buff, cream or apricot. Any shadings in excess of ten percent of the entire body should be penalized when an adult.

Puppies under twelve months are not to be faulted for any amount of shadings.

Temperament



This companion breed is gentle mannered, sensitive, playful, cheerful and affectionate. Shyness or over-aggressiveness are never to be rewarded.

Overview

When the Bichon enters the ring they look like a small, sturdy, white powder puff of a dog who has a merry temperament. Their black eyes and nose are framed by white hair that is trimmed in a circular fashion. The tail is carried jauntily over their back. They are a very balanced dog both when standing and moving having no gross or incapacitating exaggerations.

