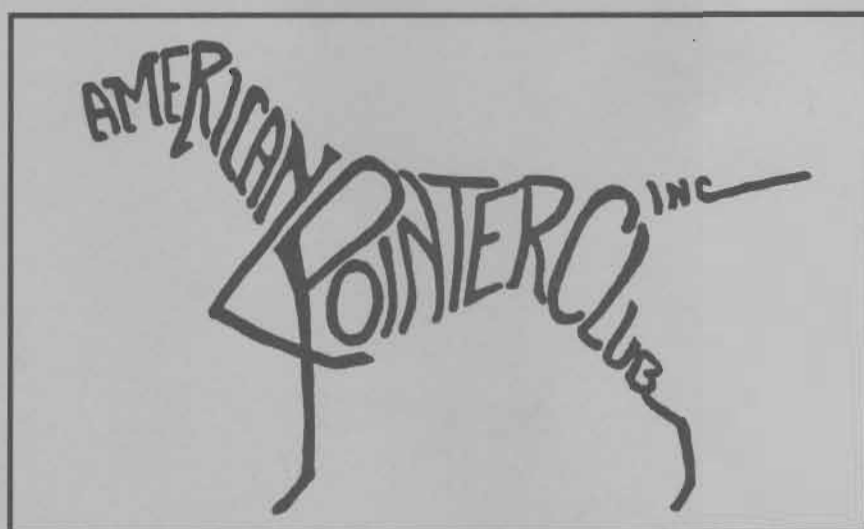


THE ILLUSTRATED
STANDARD



AMERICAN POINTER CLUB, INC.

Published by the American Pointer Club.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the American Pointer Club, Inc., and for pertinent illustrations from the artist, Edith Gladstone.

THE ILLUSTRATED STANDARD

THE POINTER

- Contents -

	<u>Page</u>
Forward.....	2
Introduction	3
AKC Pointer Standard.....	4
General Appearance	7
Head	8
Structure	15
Tail	20
Color	21
Gait	22
Balance & Size	25
Interpretation of the Illustrated Standard	26



An Illustrated Standard and Guide for the Evaluation of the Pointer

The Illustrated Standard Committee of the American Pointer Club, Inc has prepared the Illustrated Guide of the Pointer for the purpose of promoting a better understanding and appreciation of the Pointer. We have attempted to do this with discussion and illustrations of certain points of the official standard.

It is hoped that the illustrations will assist breeders, judges and fanciers alike to understand correct Pointer type. The drawings are an artist's interpretation of the standard and are to be used as visual aids to assist in learning about our breed.

Illustrated Standard Committee May 1999

Marjorie Martorella, Chairman

Erica Bandes

Judith Goodin

Kathy Parks



ILLUSTRATIONS

Edith Gladstone

INTRODUCTION

The Pointer breed developed in England when English soldiers returned from Spain after the Peace of Utrecht in 1713. The Spanish Pointer was a much heavier type dog who was a slow worker as the result of the use of the flintlock gun. In the past as today the Pointer did have a keen scenting ability. As the type of gun used in hunting improved, the function of the dog changed as well. During this time in history continental Pointers from Italy and France were imported to England. Through selective breeding, a faster, speedier dog was developed.

In 1865 the first field trial in England was held and breeders felt that competition revealed that the Pointer could use more stamina and some choose to cross to Foxhounds to gain the stamina. In addition to Foxhounds, some Pointers were also crossed to Greyhounds, and less often Bloodhounds. As with some out cross breeding, the results were less than desirable. The outcrosses produced a dog more difficult to train. The results of the out cross produced a dog who would run in on game rather than point and back as the Pointer was established to do.

There was much criticism by certain breeders during this time, most outspoken was William Arkwright who wrote a book, *The Pointer and His Predecessor*, which after 100 years is still considered by many as the Bible of the breed. Mr. Arkwright wrote, "The Head is the seat of character, but for a certificate of blue-blood apply at the other end." This comment was in reference to hound type tails that were a result of the out cross breeding. Mr. Arkwright described the ideal Pointer tail as a "bee sting tail."

Pointers and English Setters were the first breeds to be included in the Field Dog Stud Book in America. The Westminster Kennel Club imported a Pointer named Sensation. He currently is the Westminster logo.

As the breed developed in America, two distinct types emerged. The field dogs were registered with the American Field Dog Stud Book and the confirmation dogs were registered with the American Kennel Club. The American Pointer Club was formed in 1938. In recent years many confirmation breeders have become interested in field capabilities of their dogs and the breed has 6 dual champions.

Official AKC Standard of the POINTER

General Appearance

The Pointer is bred primarily for sport afield; he should unmistakably look and act the part. The ideal specimen gives the immediate impression of compact power and agile grace; the head noble, proudly carried; the expression intelligent and alert; the muscular body bespeaking both staying power and dash. Here is an animal whose every movement shows him to be wide-awake, hard-driving hunting dog possessing stamina, courage, and the desire to go. And in his expression are the loyalty and devotion of a true friend of man.

Temperament

The Pointer's even temperament and alert good sense make him a congenial companion both in the field and in the home. He should be dignified and should never show timidity toward man or dog.

Head

The skull of medium width, approximately as wide as the length of the muzzle, resulting in an impression of length rather than width. Slight furrow between the eyes, cheeks cleanly chiseled. There should be a pronounced stop. From this point forward the muzzle is a good length, with the nasal bone so formed that the nose is slightly higher at the tip than the muzzle at the stop. Parallel planes of the skull and muzzle are equally acceptable. The muzzle should be deep without pendulous flews. Jaws ending square and level, should bite evenly or as scissors. Nostrils well developed and wide open.

Ears

Set on at eye level. When hanging naturally, they should reach just below the lower jaw, close to the head, with little or no folding. They should be somewhat pointed at the tip-never rounded-soft and thin in leather.

Eyes

Of ample size, rounded and intense. The eye color should be dark in contrast with the colors of the markings, the darker the better.

Neck

Long, dry, muscular and slightly arched, springing cleanly from the shoulders.

Shoulders

Long, thin and sloping, the top of the blades close together.

Front

Elbows well let down, directly under the withers and truly parallel so as to work just clear of the body. Forelegs straight and with oval bone. Knee joint never to knuckle over. Pasterns of moderate length, perceptibly finer in bone than the leg, and slightly slanting. Chest, deep rather than wide, must not hinder the free action of forelegs. The breastbone bold, without being unduly prominent. The ribs well sprung, descending as low as the elbow-point.

Back

Strong and solid with only a slight rise from croup to top of shoulders. Loin of moderate length, powerful and slightly arched. Croup falling only slightly to base of tail. Tuck-up should be apparent, but not exaggerated.

Tail

Heavier at the root, tapering to a fine point. Length no greater than the hock. A tail longer than this or docked must be penalized. Carried without curl, and not more than 20 degrees above the line of the back; never carried between the legs.

Hindquarters

Muscular and powerful with great propelling leverage. Thighs long and well developed. Stifles well bent. The hocks clean; the legs straight as viewed from behind. Decided angulation is the mark of power and endurance.

Feet

Oval, with long, closely set, arched toes, well padded and deep. Catfoot is a fault. Dewclaws on the forelegs may be removed.

Coat

Short, dense, smooth with a sheen

Color

Liver, lemon, black, orange; either in combination with white or solid colored. A good Pointer cannot be a bad color. In the darker colors, the nose should be black or brown; in the lighter shades it may be lighter or flesh-colored.

Gait

Smooth, frictionless, with a powerful hindquarters' drive. The head should be carried high, with nostrils wide, the tail moving from side to side rhythmically with the pace, giving the impression of a well-balanced, strong built hunting dog capable of top speed combined with great stamina. Hackney gait must be faulted.

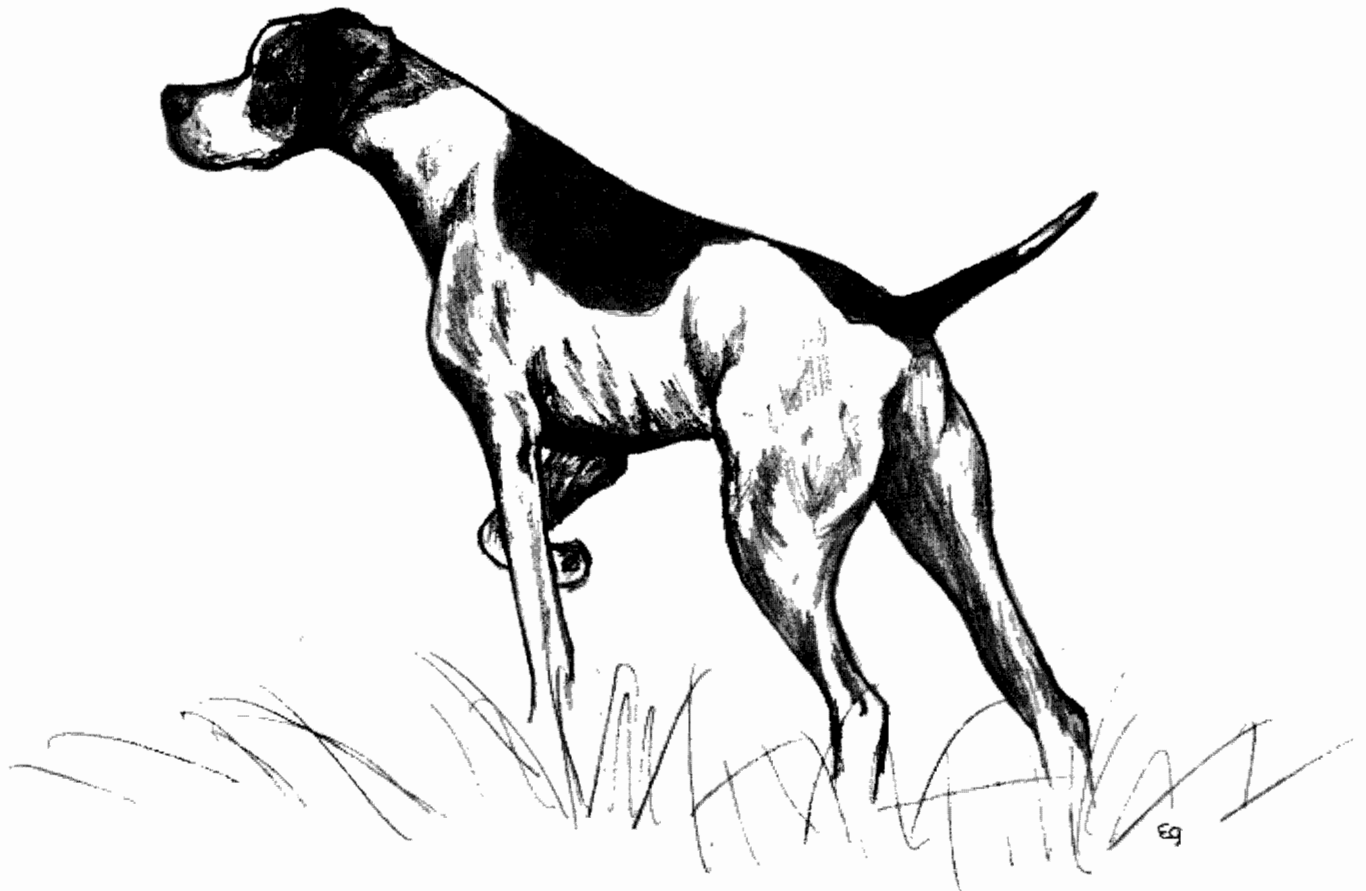
Balance and Size

Balance and overall symmetry are more important in the Pointer than size. A smooth, balanced dog is to be more desired than a dog with strongly contrasting good points and faults. Hound or terrier characteristics are most undesirable. Because a sporting dog must have both endurance and power, great variations in size are undesirable, the desirable height and weight being within the following limits:

Dogs: Height - 25-28 inches
 Weight - 55-75 pounds

Bitches Height - 23-26 inches
 Weight - 45-65 pounds

APPROVED November 11, 1975



General Appearance

The Pointer is bred primarily for sport afield: he should unmistakably look and act the part. The ideal specimen gives the immediate impression of compact power and agile grace: the head noble, proudly carried: the expression intelligent and alert: the muscular body bespeaking both staying power and dash. Here is an animal whose every movement shows him to be a wide-awake, hard-driving hunting dog possessing stamina, courage, and the desire to go. And in his expression are the loyalty and devotion of a true friend of man.

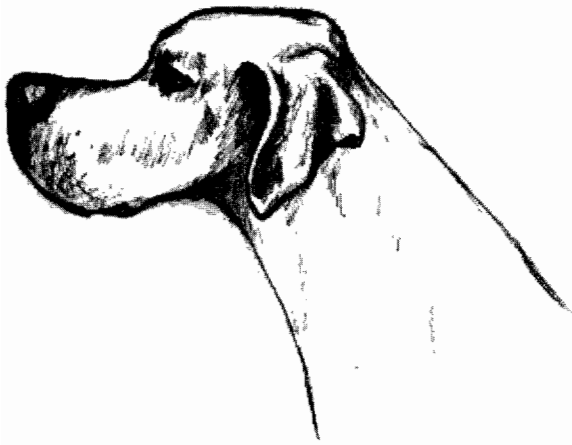


Head

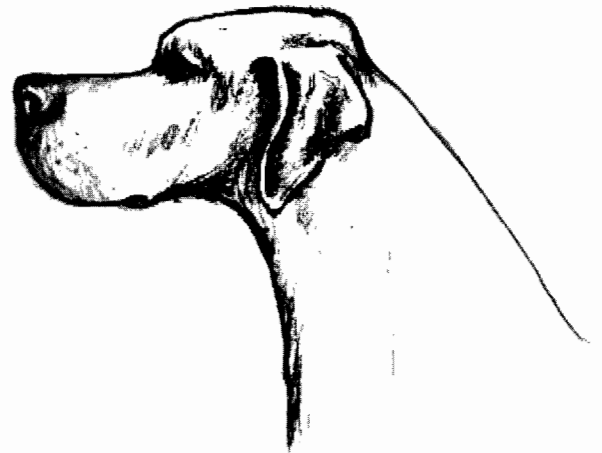
The skull of medium width, approximately as wide as the length of the muzzle, resulting in an impression of length rather than width. Slight furrow between the eyes, **cheeks** cleanly chiseled. There should be a pronounced **stop**. From this point forward the **muzzle** is of good length, with the **nasal bone** so formed that the nose is slightly higher at the tip than the muzzle at the stop. **Parallel** planes of the skull and muzzle are equally acceptable. The muzzle should be deep without pendulous **flews**. Jaws ending square and level, should bite evenly or as scissors. Nostrils well developed and wide open.



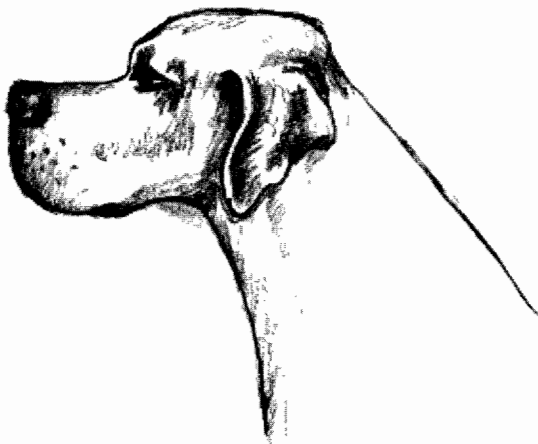
Correct Pointer head as seen from the side.
Note the eye shape, squared muzzle, ear set and length of ear.



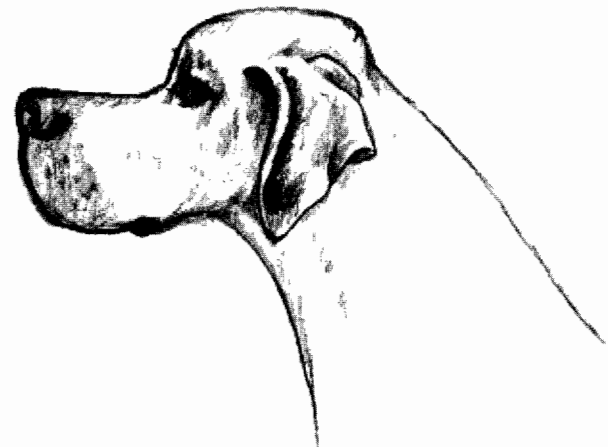
DISH - CORRECT



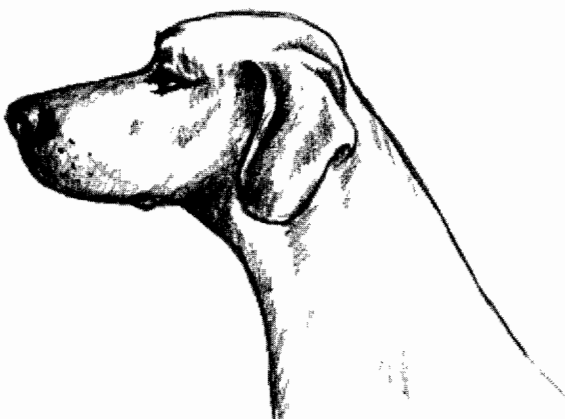
PARALLEL PLANES - CORRECT



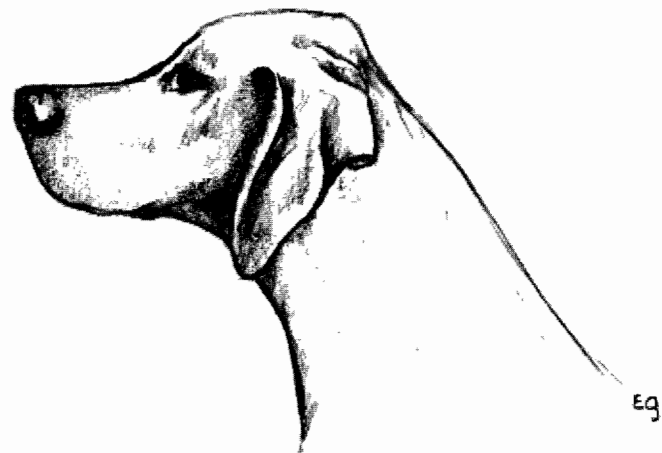
MUZZLE TOO SHORT



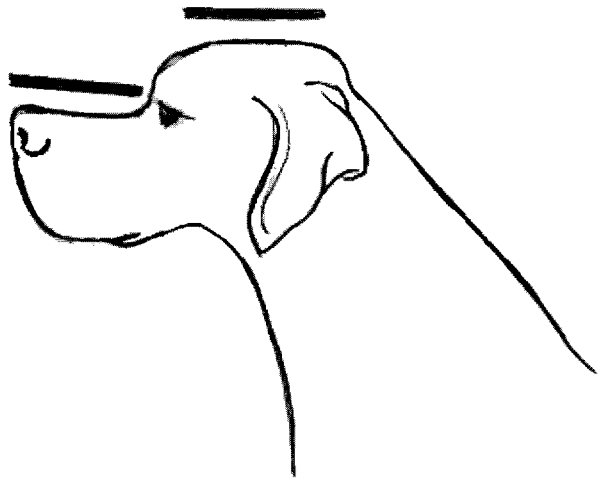
ROUNDED BACK - SKULL



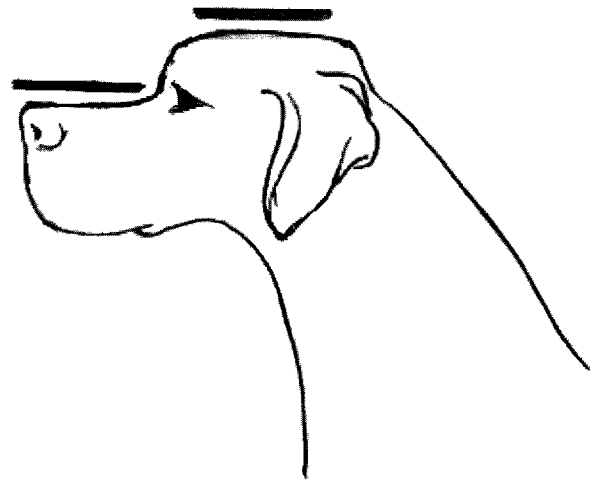
SNIPEY MUZZLE DOWN-FACED
AND ROUNDED EAR



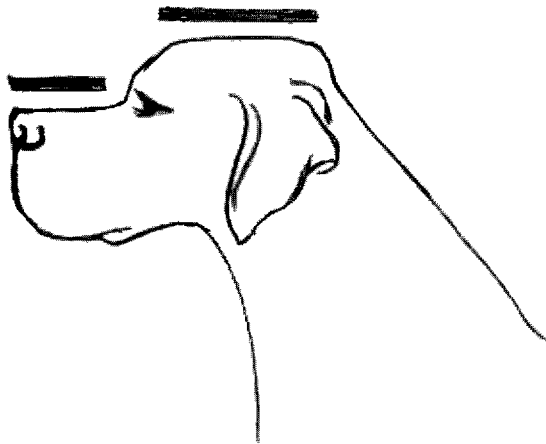
LACK OF STOP, HOUNDY EAR



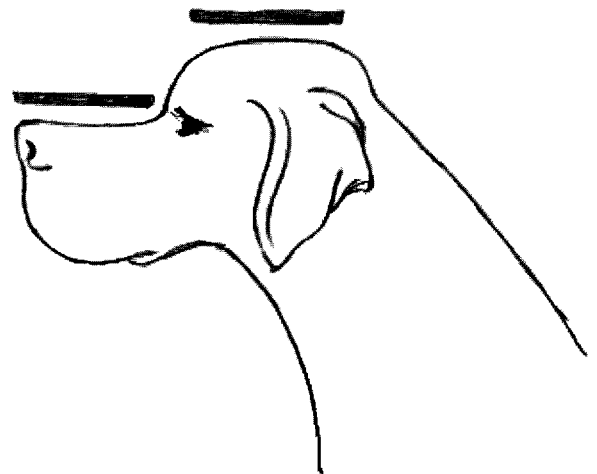
DISH - CORRECT



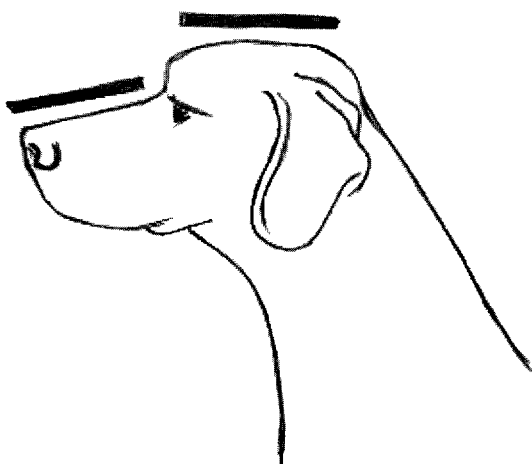
PARALLEL PLANES - CORRECT



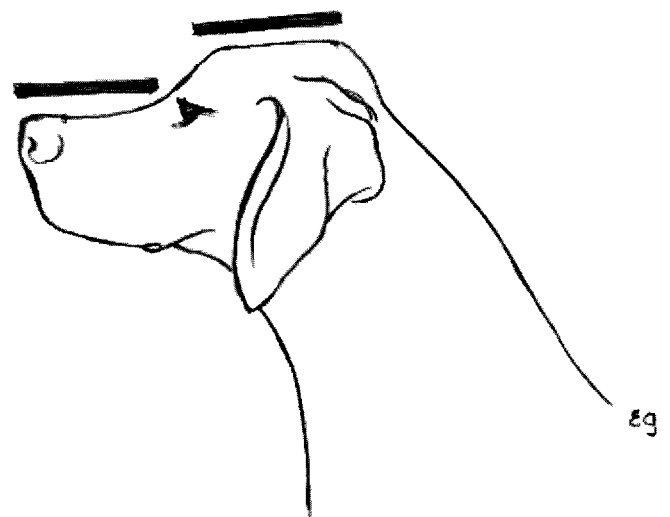
MUZZLE TOO SHORT



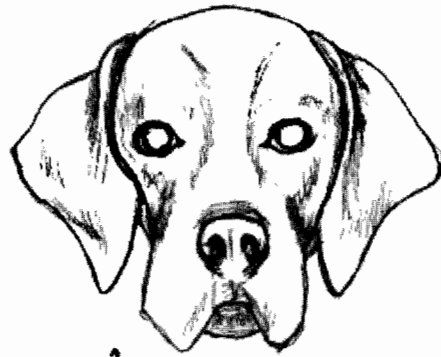
ROUNDED BACK - SKULL



DOWN-FACED



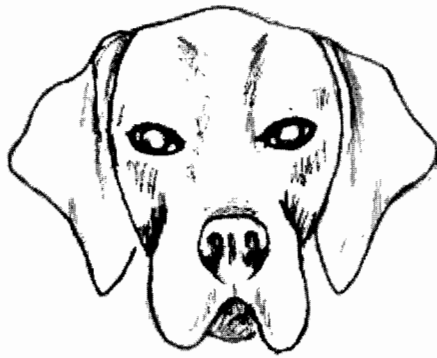
LACK OF STOP



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. Correct Eye
2. Too large and round
3. Too almond or oval
4. Too small or beady

Eyes

Of ample size, rounded and intense. The eye color should be dark in contrast with the color of the markings, the darker the better.



E. Gladstone '97

When judging the head, one should examine the dog head-on to observe expression, eye shape, ear placement, flared nostrils, and chiseled muzzle.

Ears are to be set on at eye level, but will appear to be higher set when the dog is at attention as in the above drawing.

Head
Skull of medium width approximately as wide as the length of the muzzle slight furrow between the eyes and a pronounced stop. Planes can be either parallel or dished, both are correct. Bite should be scissored.

Ears
Set on at eye level. Somewhat pointed at the tip.

Eyes
Rounded and intense should contrast with the coat color, the darker the better.

Neck
Long, dry, muscular and slightly arched.

Shoulders
Long, thin and sloping, blades should be close together at the top.

Front
Elbows well let down. Ribs well sprung.

Feet
Oval, with long closely set well arched toes.

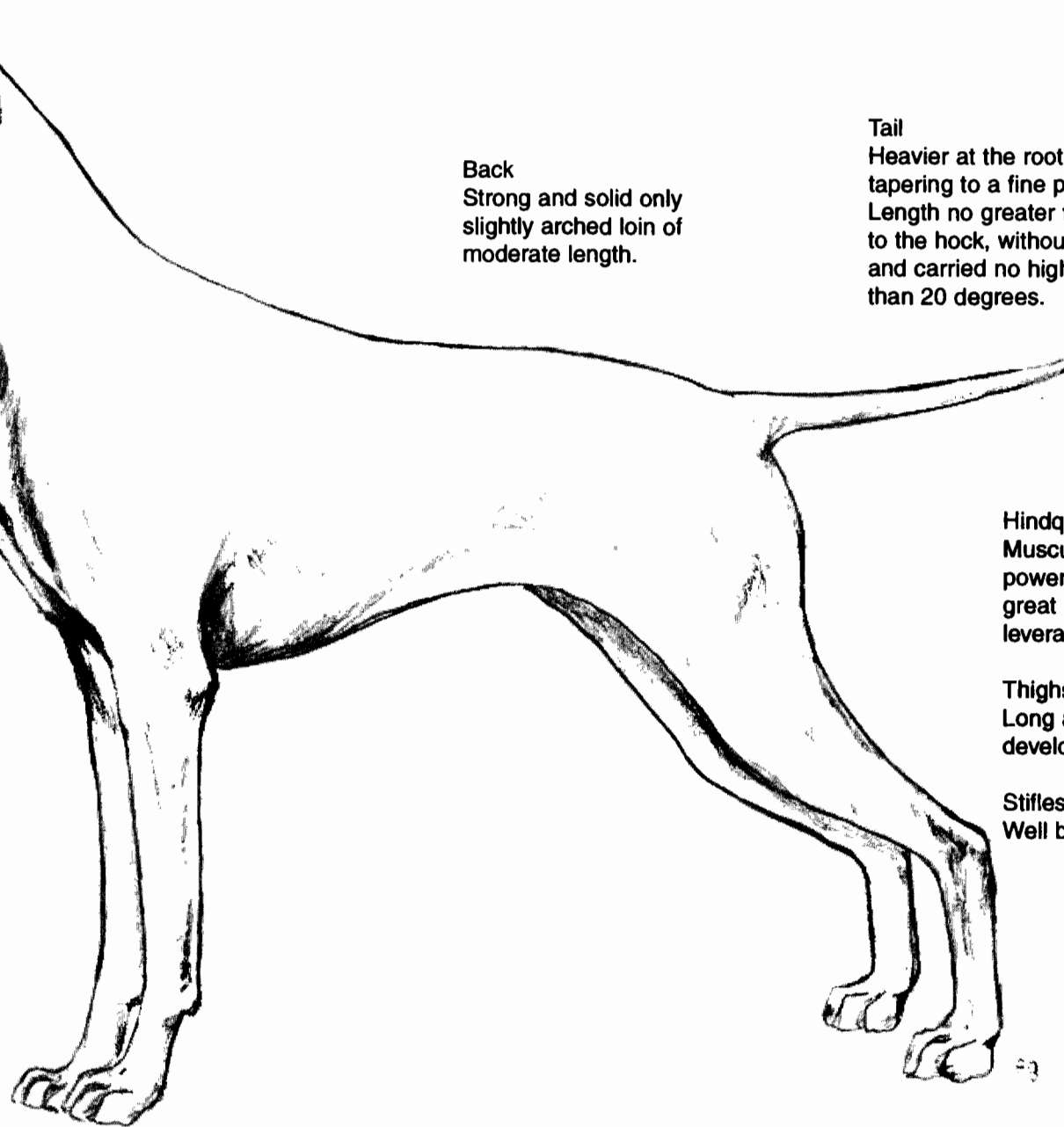
Back
Strong and solid only slightly arched loin of moderate length.

Tail
Heavier at the root tapering to a fine point. Length no greater than to the hock, without curl and carried no higher than 20 degrees.

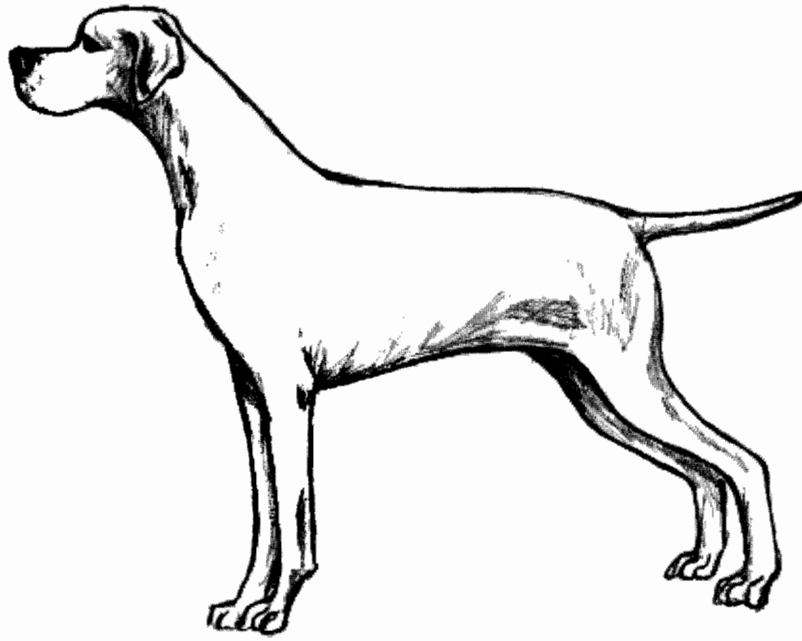
Hindquarters
Muscular and powerful with great propelling leverage.

Thighs
Long and well developed.

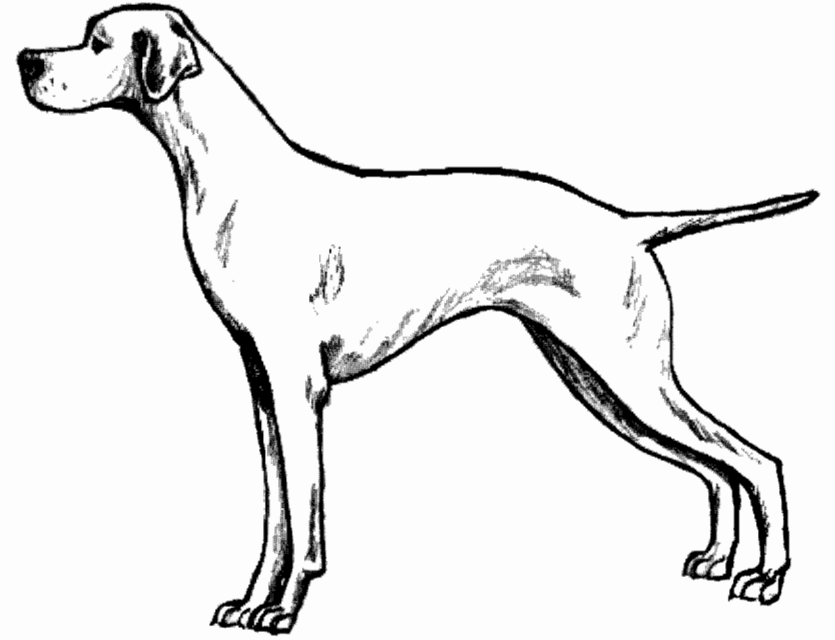
Stifles
Well bent.



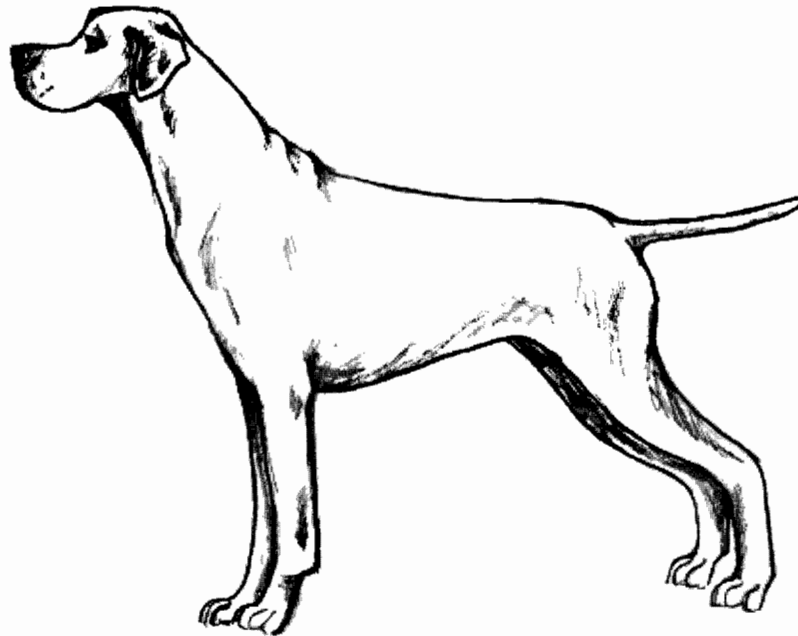
Correct Dog Standing



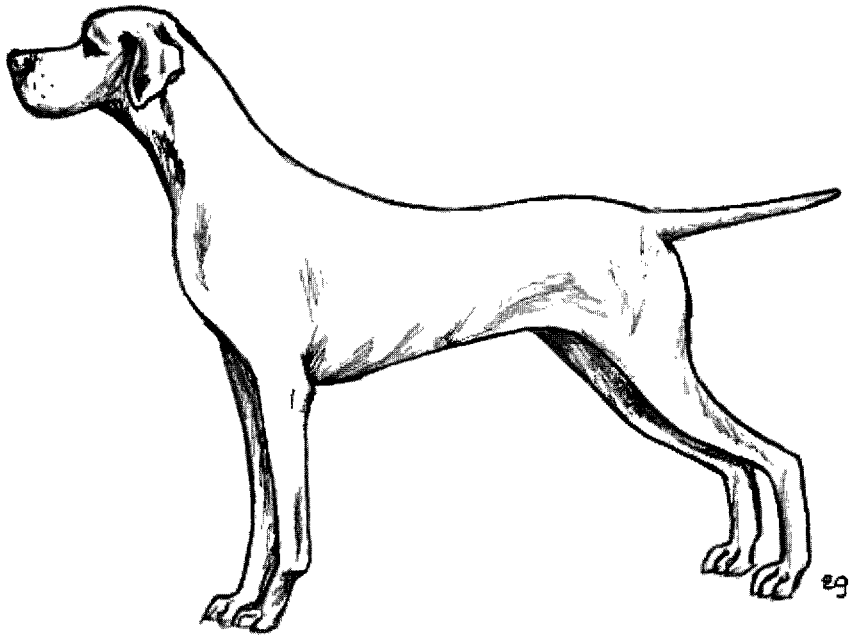
1. LOW IN LEG, TUBULAR UNDERLINE



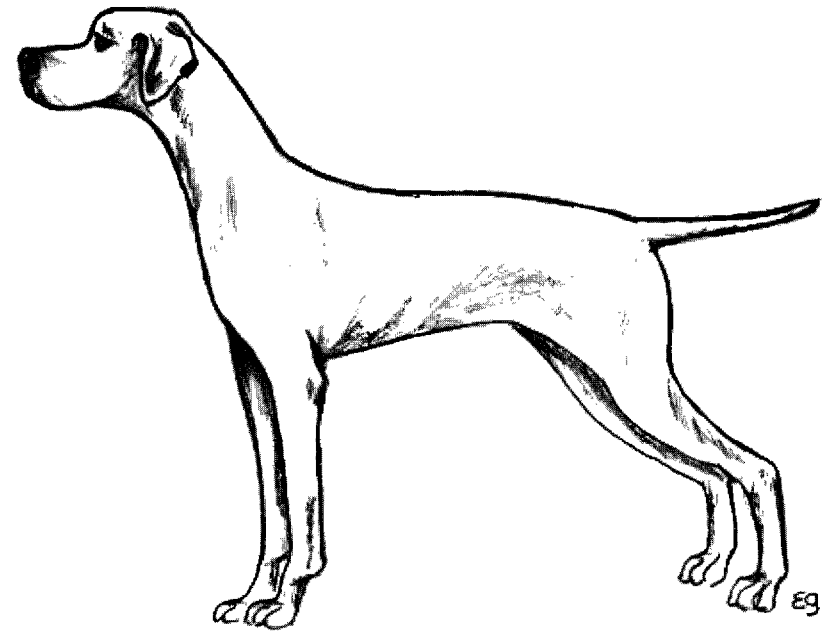
2. ROACHED BACK, EXAGGERATED TUCK-UP



3. TOO COARSE



4. LONG IN LOIN, POOR TOPLINE, ROUNDED CROUP

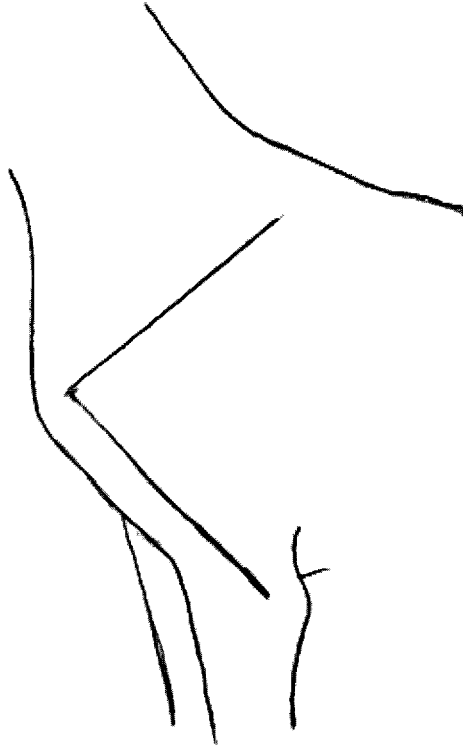


5. WEEDY - SHALLOW CHEST

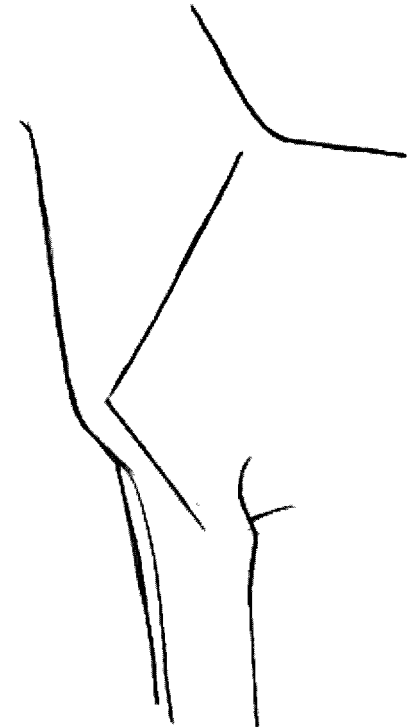
The above drawings, one through five, illustrate some of the most common deviations from the correct body structure.

Shoulders

Long, thin, and sloping. The top of blades close together.



CORRECT LAYBACK & UPPER ARM



INCORRECT LAYBACK & SHORT UPPER ARM

Back

Strong and solid with only a slight rise from croup to top of shoulders. **Loin** of moderate length, powerful and slightly arched. **Croup** falling only slightly to base of tail. **Tuck-up** should be apparent, but not exaggerated.



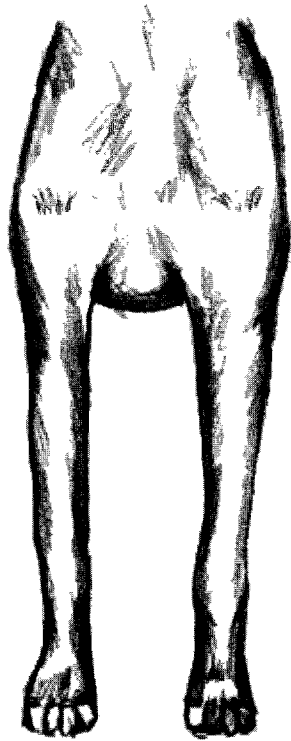
62

The Pointer has a moderate length of loin.
A good way to judge this is by looking over the dog.

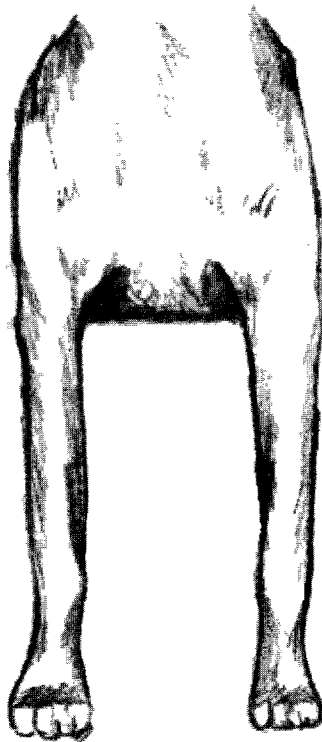
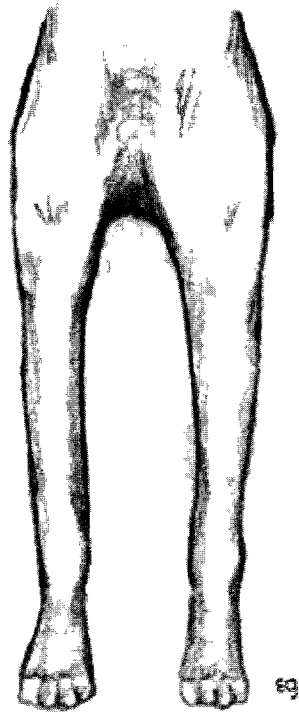
Front

Elbows well let down, directly under the withers and truly parallel so as to work just clear of the body. **Forelegs** straight and with oval bone. Knee joint never to knuckle over. **Pasterns** of moderate length, perceptibly finer in bone than the leg, and slightly slanting. **Chest**, deep rather than wide, must not hinder free action of forelegs. The **breastbone** bold, without being unduly prominent. The **ribs** well sprung, descending as low as the elbow-point.

CORRECT FRONT



FRONT TOO NARROW



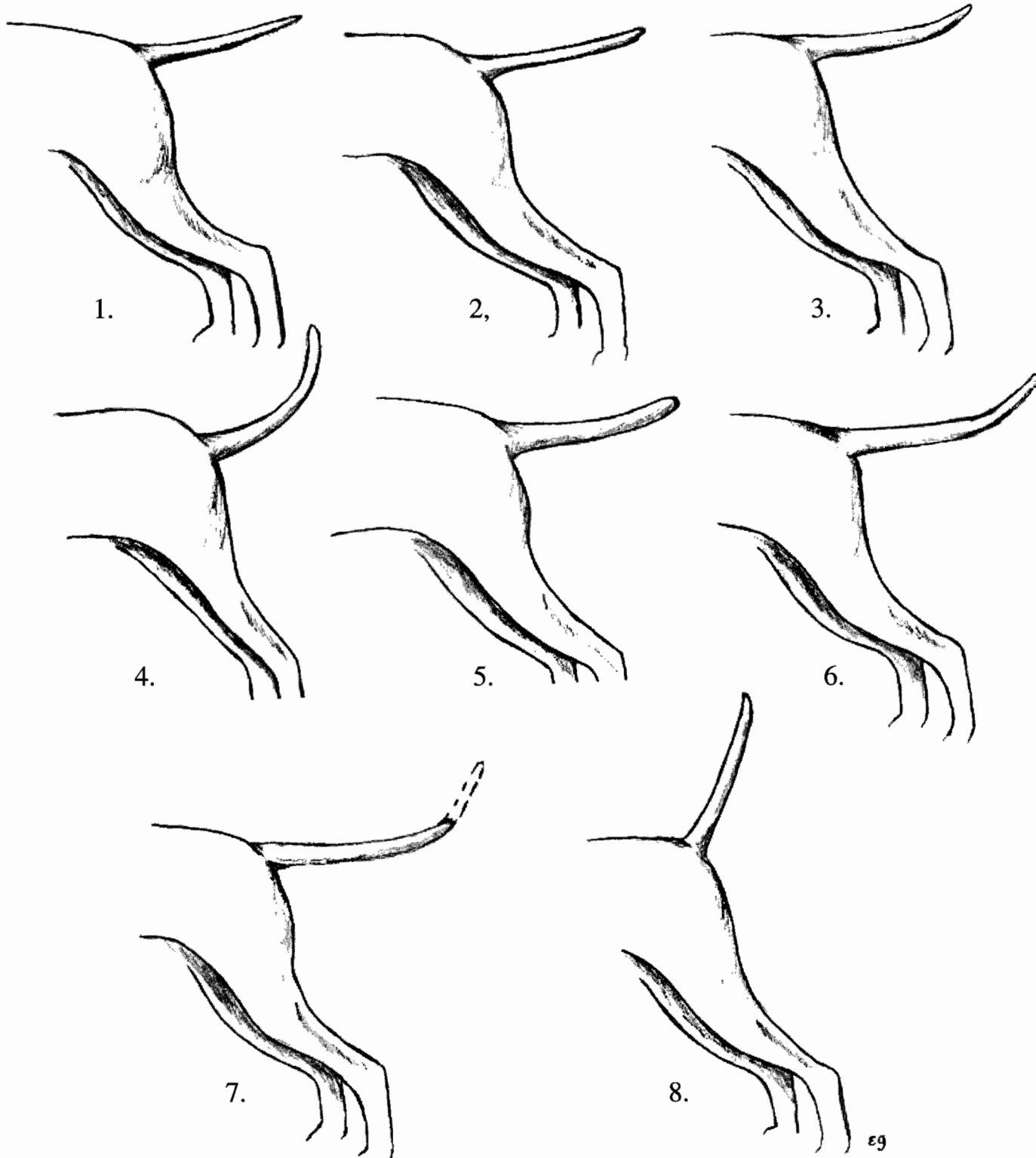
FRONT TOO WIDE



CORRECT REAR

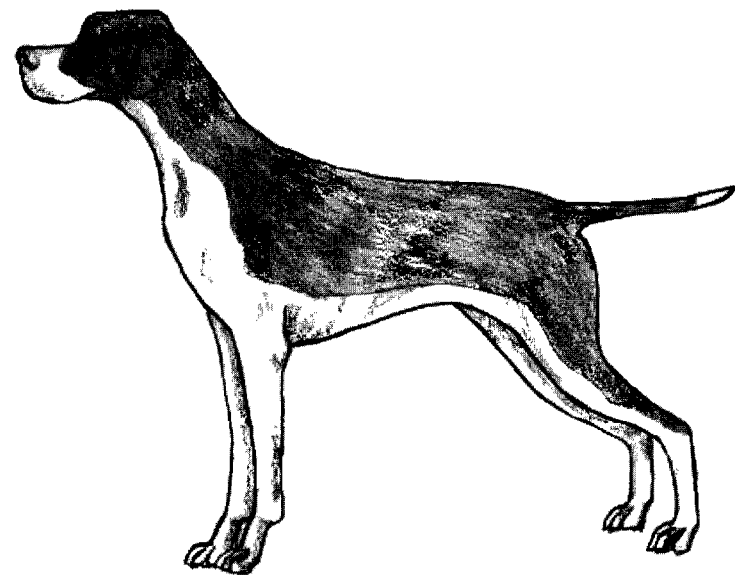
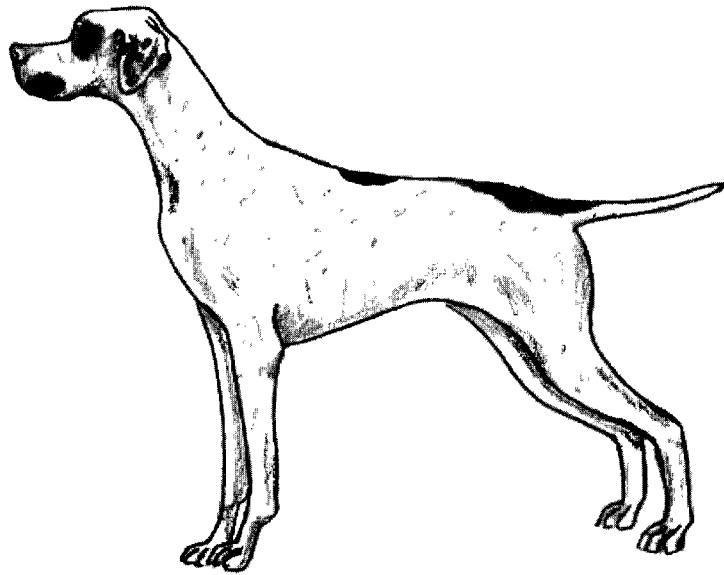
Tail

Heavier at the root, tapering to a fine point. Length no greater than to hock. A tail longer than this or docked must be penalized. Carried without curl, and not more than 20 degrees above the line of the back: never carried between the legs.



1. CORRECT
2. TOO LOW SET, STEEP CROUP
3. TOO HIGH SET, FLAT CROUP
4. LOW SET/SICKLED TAIL

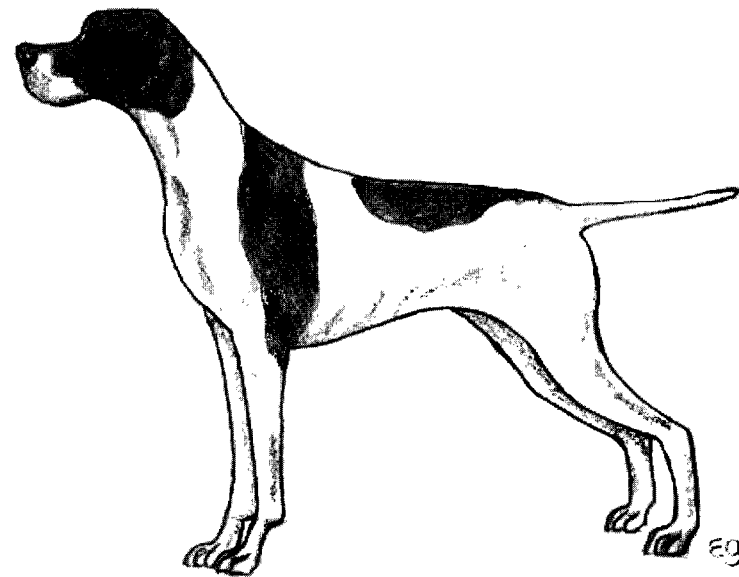
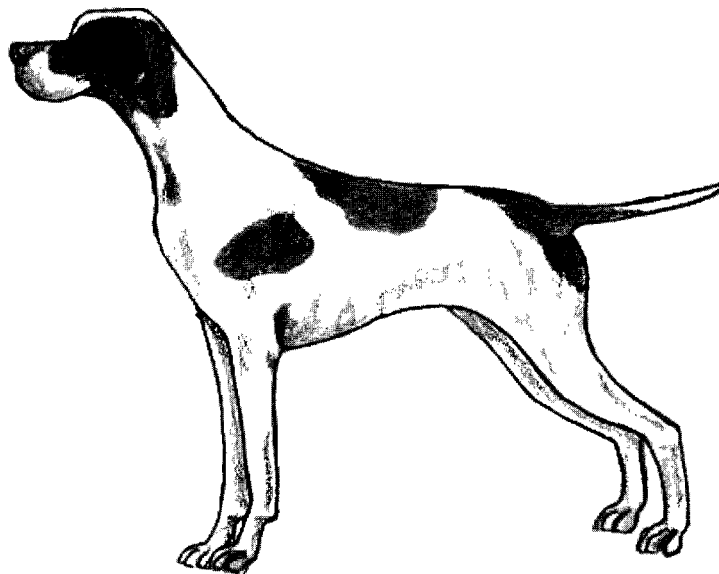
5. TOO THICK- NOT TAPERED
6. TOO LONG - TOO CURVED
7. A COSMETICALLY DOCKED TAIL
8. HIGH SET TAIL AND TAIL CARRIAGE.



Color

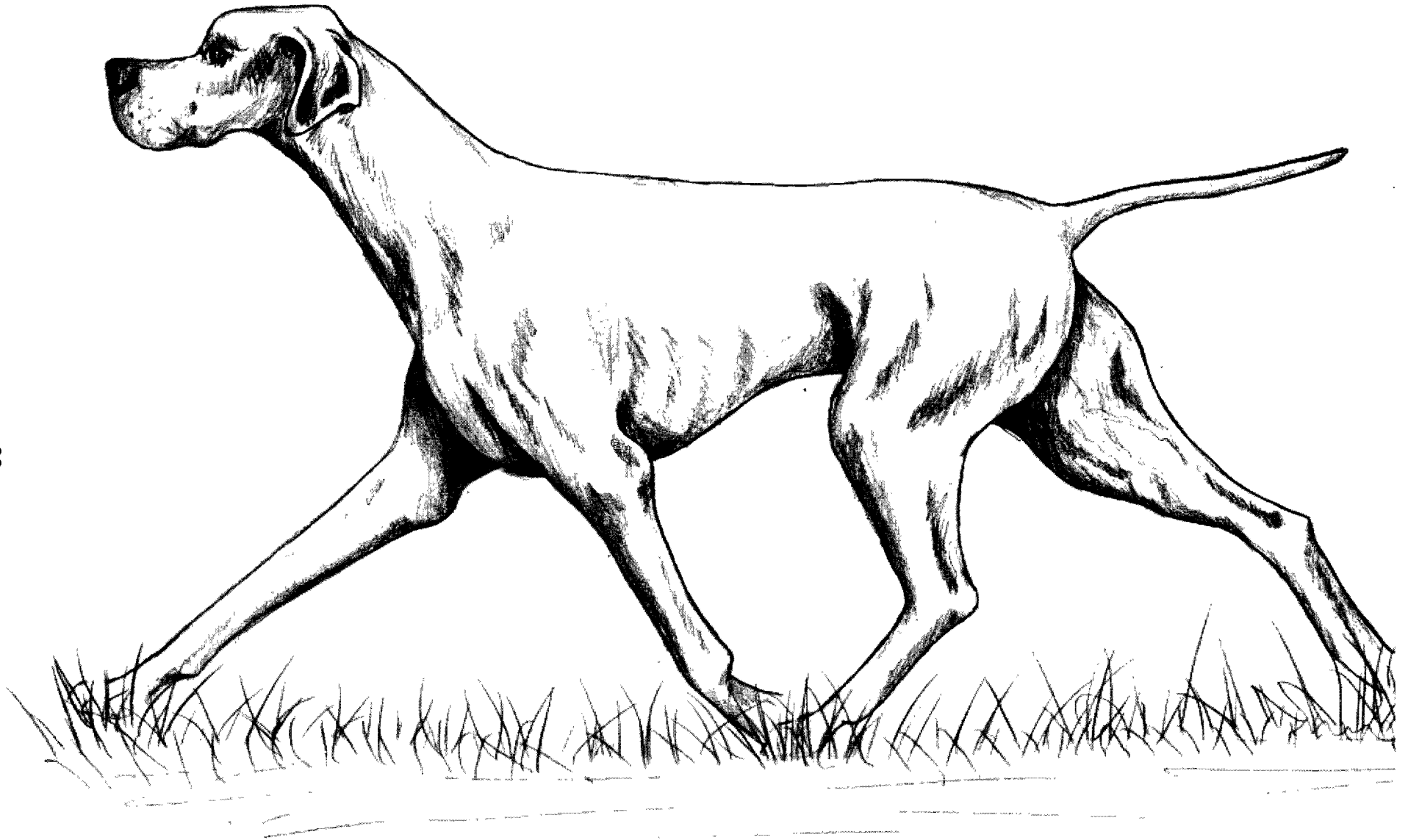
Liver, lemon, black, orange: either in combination with white or solid-colored. A good Pointer cannot be a bad color. In the darker colors, the nose should be black or brown: in the lighter shades it may be lighter or flesh-colored.

21



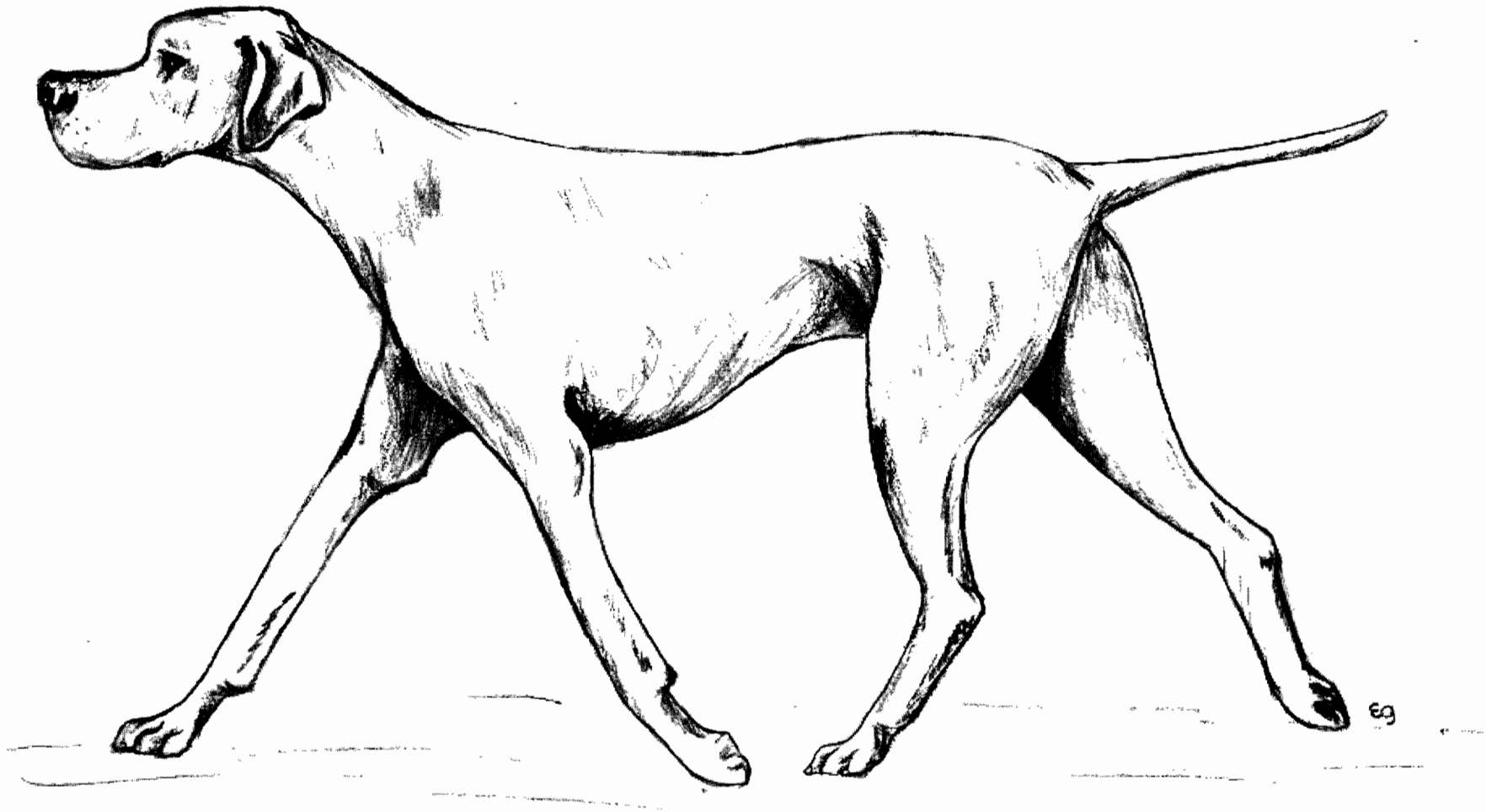
Different marking patterns - All correct

Markings can be deceptive. Since they can cause optical illusions, marked dogs should be viewed from the most advantageous angle.



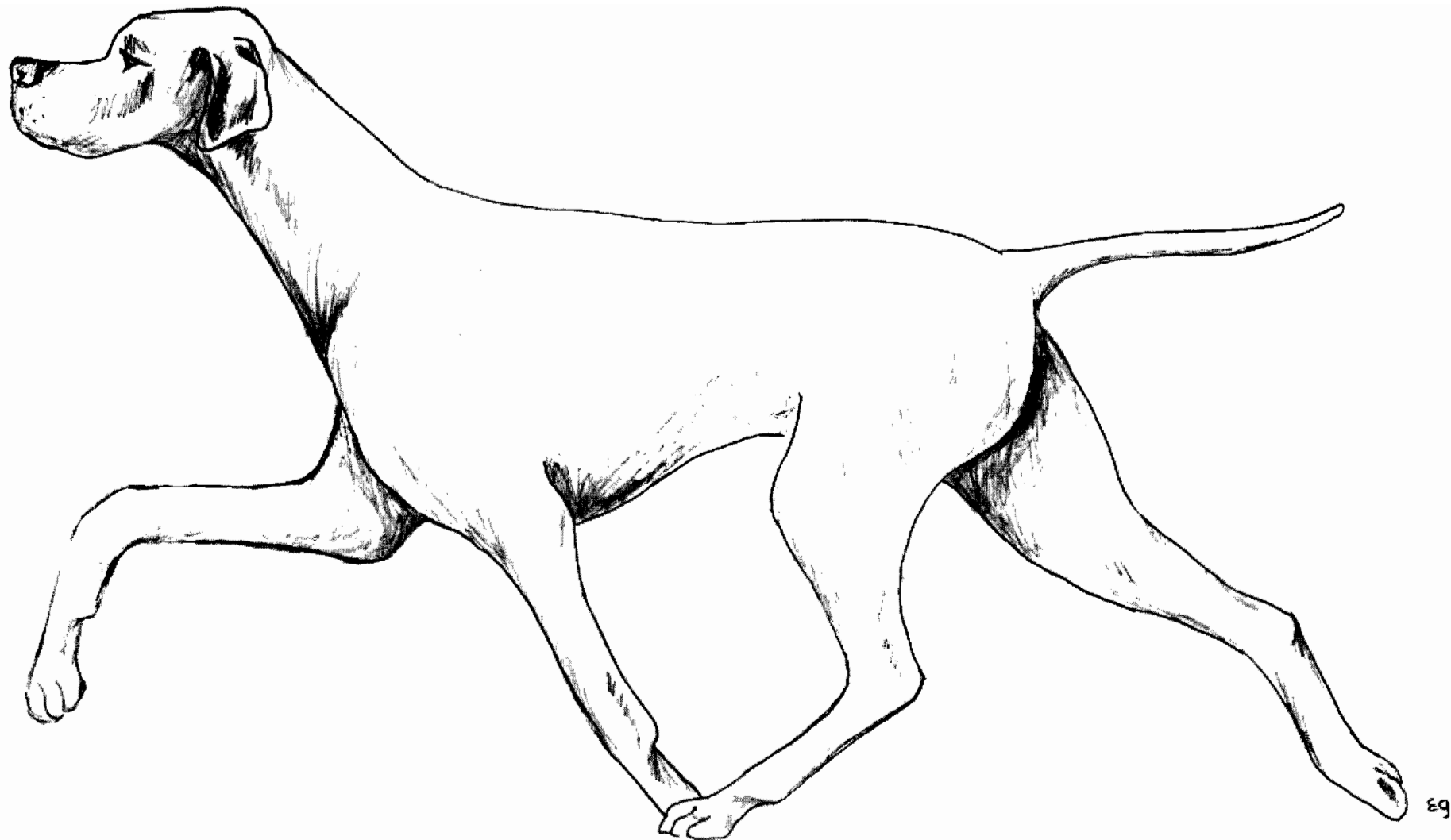
Gait

Smooth, frictionless, with a powerful hindquarters' drive. The head should be carried high, the nostrils wide, the tail moving from side to side rhythmically with the pace, giving the impression of a well-balanced, strongly-built hunting dog capable of top speed combined with great stamina. Hackney gait must be faulted.



23

Restricted Action - Incorrect



Hackney Action - Incorrect

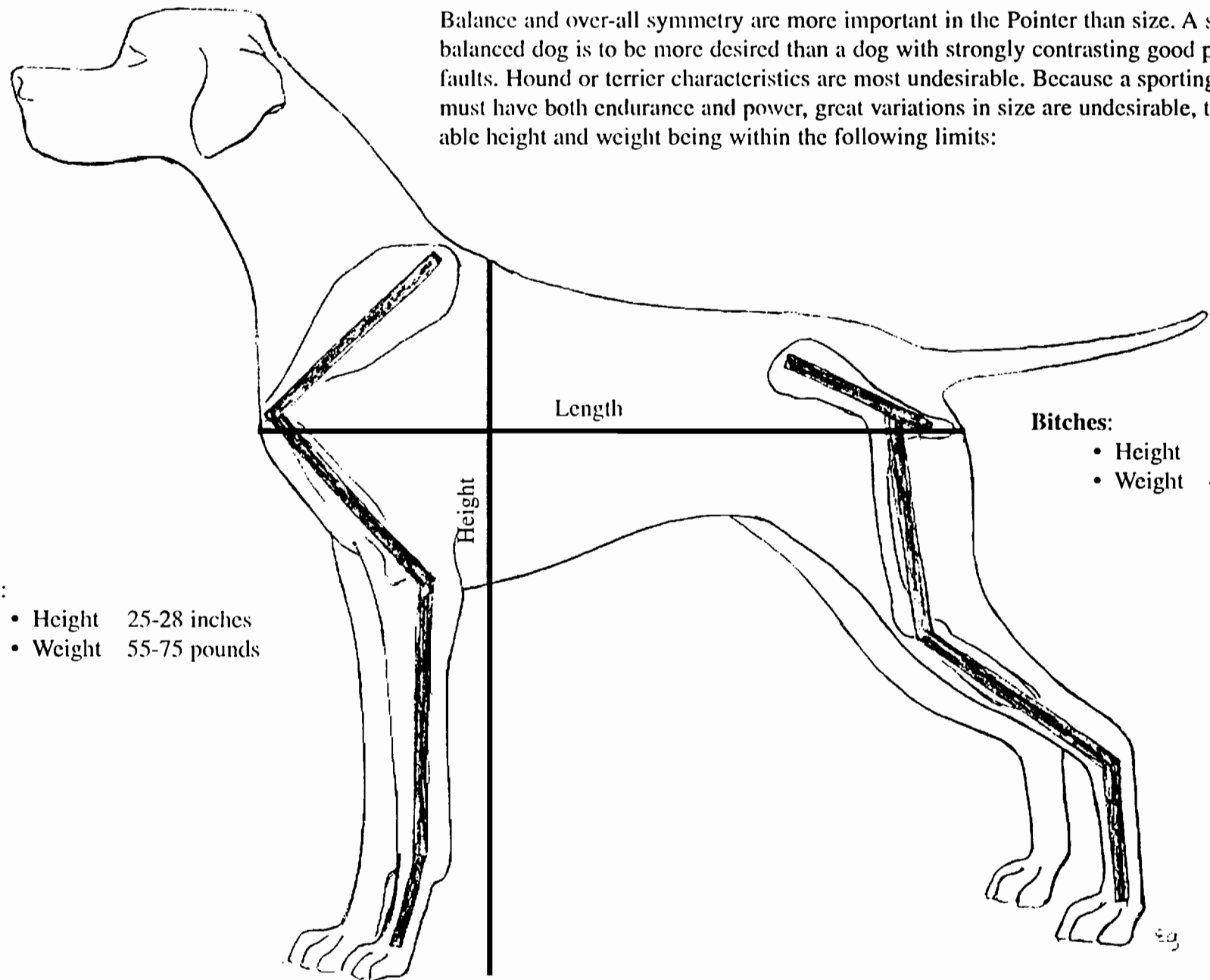
Balance and Size

Balance and over-all symmetry are more important in the Pointer than size. A smooth, balanced dog is to be more desired than a dog with strongly contrasting good points and faults. Hound or terrier characteristics are most undesirable. Because a sporting dog must have both endurance and power, great variations in size are undesirable, the desirable height and weight being within the following limits:

25

Dogs:

- Height 25-28 inches
- Weight 55-75 pounds



Bitches:

- Height 23-26 inches
- Weight 45-65 pounds

Although not addressed in the standard, the height of body from the withers to the ground is equal to or slightly less than the length of the body from the front of the forechest to the rear projection of the upper thigh.

INTERPRETATION OF THE ILLUSTRATED STANDARD

The first impression is that of a hard-muscled and balanced athlete in condition to work a day in the field. The outline is a series of gentle curves starting from the arched neck, flowing into the well laid back shoulders, continuing down the topline to a slight drop in croup, ending in a tapered tail. The underline completes the look with a moderate tuck-up.

TEMPERAMENT

It is important to consider form and function when assessing the Pointer. A timid dog cannot perform his duties in the field. Pointers never shy away when being examined, move with their tail tucked, or show aggressiveness.

HEAD

The head is a hallmark of the breed; it distinguishes the Pointer from all other breeds. In addition to the aesthetics of the Pointer head, there are also functional values. A unique feature in our standard is the **equal** acceptance of parallel head planes and the “dish face” in which the nose is slightly higher at the top than at the muzzle. These planes facilitate the Pointers job of scenting game. Personal preferences in the head planes should not be considered.

The Pointer head is well balanced, with the length of the back skull from occiput to stop being equal to the length from the stop to the tip of the nose. The Pointer head should give the overall impression of length. *Common head faults include broad back skulls, apple-headed back skulls, short muzzles, overly pendulous flews or snipey muzzles.*

The **stop** is pronounced; it “stops” your thumb when run up the muzzle toward the stop. The **nostrils** are well developed for the dog to pick up airborne scents. When the dog is on scent, nostrils will flare. The **bite** should be scissors or even. *Under or overshot bites and wry mouths should be severely penalized as they impede working ability.*

EARS

The Pointer’s ears are another distinguishing feature of the breed. They are relatively short and somewhat pointed at the tip. They are extremely fine in leather; the veins can be seen running through them. *Long, low-set, rounded ears are hound characteristics and must be faulted accordingly.*

EYES

The standard calls for **rounded**, not round, eye. Common Faults are oval shaped eyes and small, beady eyes. The color of the eye harmonizes with the coat color. It is natural and acceptable for lemon colored Pointers with flesh colored noses to have a lighter eye color than other colors. The Pointer eye should be alert, showing the true character of the dog.

When judging the Pointer's head, you not only judge the dog in profile, but also head on, as it is then that you will see the expression and the chiseling called for in the standard. You can also assess the balance of muzzle to back skull, proper eye shape, ear set, and nostril openings.

NECK

The arch of the neck from occiput to shoulder gives the impression of a gentle curve. *Faults include thick, throaty necks, which would indicate hound characteristics, and short or ewe necks.*

SHOULDERS

The Pointer's shoulders are set obliquely, that is, that they curve to the shape of the body. The upper arm is equal to the length of the lower arm.

FRONT

When viewed from the front, the elbows are well let down and fit close to the body. *Common faults include very narrow fronts or wide fronts with protruding elbows. When viewed front the side, the chest should reach to the elbow. Shallow chests or deeper chests impede the Pointer in motion.*

The standard calls for oval bone. *Round bone is a hound characteristic. The pasterns slope slightly to cushion the impact when moving. Straight pasterns impede proper movement, could cause knuckling-over, and are hound characteristics.*

BACK

The topline is only slightly sloping and blends into a slightly sloping croup. A good way to assess the ratio of rib cage to loin is to observe the dog by looking down over the back. The rib cage and loin blends smoothly and the loin is of **moderate** length.

Tuck-up is apparent. *It should not be too exaggerated as in the case of sight hounds nor should it be lacking or straight as in some scent hounds. Another common fault is the "skirting" or excess skin, in the loin area that destroys the underline of the dog.*

TAIL

The tail is another classic Pointer characteristic, Many Pointer breeders refer to the proper Pointer tail as a "bee-sting" tail. It is thick at the root, tapers to a fine point, and is preferably shorter than to the hock - it **never** reaches below the hock. The lashing tail action balances the Pointer's action. Tail carriage is important and best judged when the dog is in motion. The tail is ideally carried horizontally off the back, lashing from side to side in rhythm with the gait. It is not carried higher than 20 degrees above the back. Because it is an extension of the spine, dogs with long tails will also have long loins. *Common tail faults include long, ropey tails, tails carried in a sickle fashion and tails with no taper. All these faults are hound characteristics. The Pointer's tail is never docked.*

HINDQUARTERS

Over all balance of front and rear assemble is essential for proper movement. The hindquarters are determined by the set of the croup. If the croup is too slanted, you will find the hindquarters set under the dog as in sight hounds. A good way to assess this is when the dog is standing on his own. When examining the hindquarters, the Pointer's hard, muscular condition is evident.

FEET

Good oval feet are essential in a breed that must show endurance in the field. *Faults include flat splayed feet and cat feet which are scent hound characteristics.*

COAT

The Pointer is a single-coated breed that is essentially maintenance free. *Coats that are extremely thick with brush under the tail are scent hound characteristics.*

COLOR

The standard clearly states that no Pointer can be a bad color. All four allowed colors, in combination with white or solid-colored, are equally acceptable. The intensity of the four colors varies; livers range from a milk chocolate color to a deep, dark liver; oranges and lemons range from deep bronze to a very pale yellow. There is also no preference to markings. Markings can be deceptive. For example, in motion, markings can make a dog appear to have a weak back. Since they can cause optical illusions, marked dogs should be viewed from the most advantageous angle possible.

Most Pointer breeders today differentiate between the orange and lemon-colored Pointers on the basis of pigment (e.g., nose and eye rims). Those with flesh-colored noses are called lemon and those with black noses and eye rims are called orange. It is important to note that there is no preference regarding color or markings.

GAIT

Proper movement is part of breed type and function. The Pointer moves with his head held high and tail lashing from side to side. The movement is free and effortless. When in motion, the outline is maintained and does not become long and low. Proper Pointer movement is not a flying trot. While it may appear fancy, dogs that are low on leg with long loins do not move with classic action and style.

Wasted motion, as in the case of the hackney gait or pounding front action, must be faulted. Weak, wide, or inefficient rear action must also be faulted.

BALANCE AND SIZE

Balance and symmetry are essential for the Pointer to perform his duties in the field. Without proper balance, too much stress is put on other parts of the dog in order to compensate. While there are no disqualifications for size, a coarse, lumbering, or cumbersome Pointer is untypical. The Pointer is a medium-sized, personal hunting dog.

References

- Argue, Derry, **POINTERS and SETTERS**, Swan Hill Press, Shrewsbury, UK, 1993.
- Archwright, William, **THE POINTER AND HIS PREDECESSORS**, London, England. Arthur L. Humphreys, 187 Piccadilly, 1906.
- Phillips, Enos W., **THE TRUE POINTER AND HIS ANCIENT HERITAGE**, 1970.
- Daly, Lola McDonald, **THE POINTER AS A SHOWDOG**, Reprinted by Milo Denlinger, Washington, D.C. circa 1940s
- Edmondson & Robershaw, **THE POINTER**, London, England. Faber & Faber, 1978.
- Laytham, John G., **THE POINTER**, Associated Printers, Inc., Pennsville, NJ, 1981.
- McDowell, Lyon, **THE DOG IN ACTION**. 1950.
- Gilbert, Edward M. & Thelma Brown, **K-9 STRUCTURE & TERMINOLOGY**. Howell Book House. New York, N.Y. 1995.
- Wehle, Robert G. **WING & SHOT**. The Country Press. New York. 1964.
- Cavanaugh, Wayne R. **ASSESSING THE SHOW POINTER**