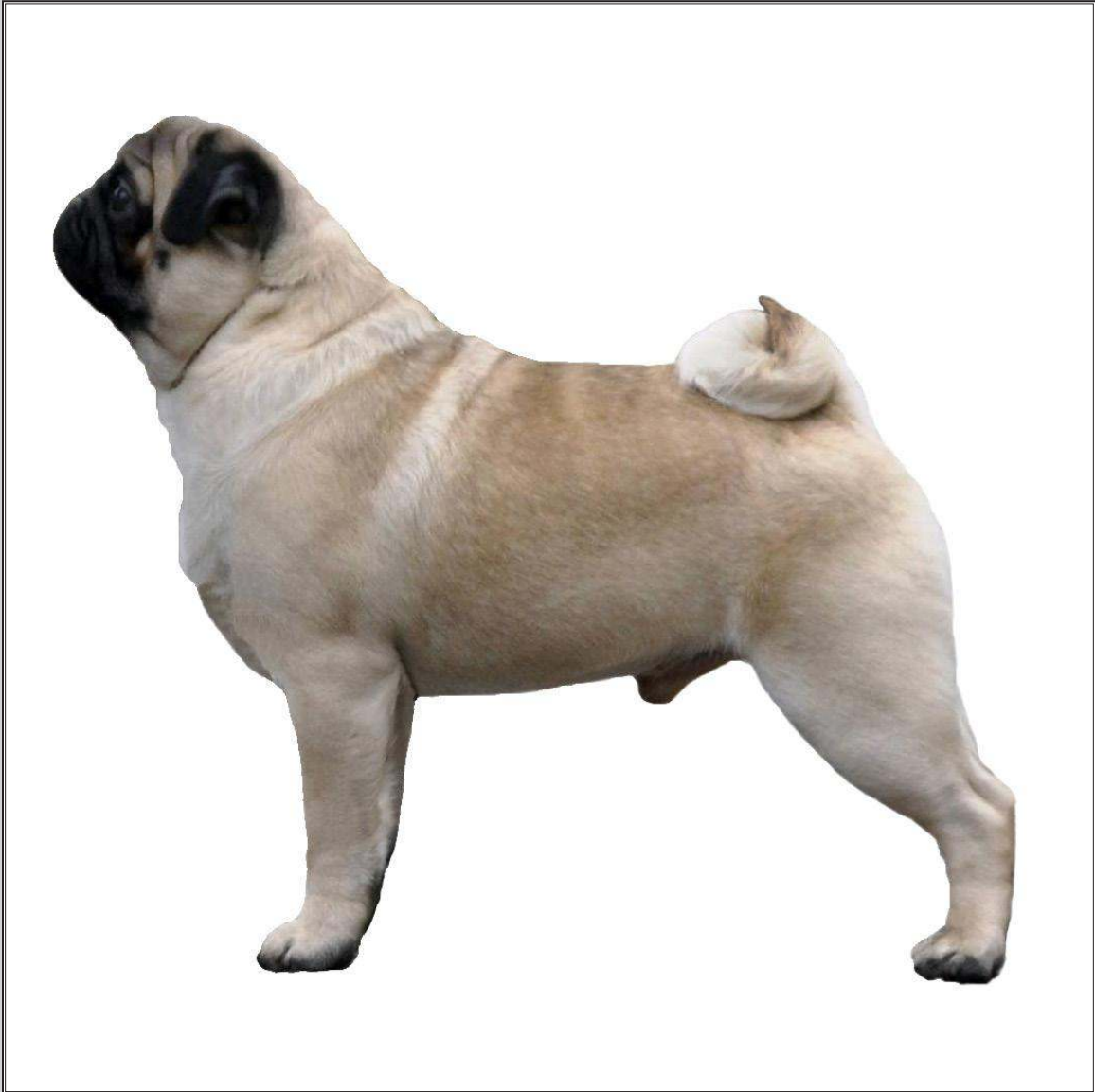
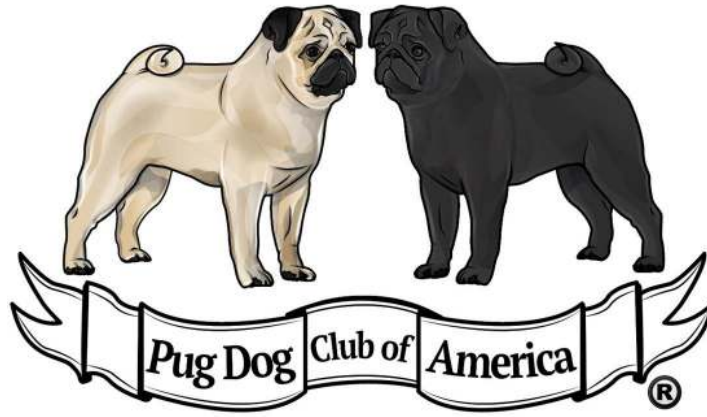


**THE PUG DOG CLUB  
of AMERICA**



**ILLUSTRATED  
BREED STANDARD**





This guide is intended as an aid in forming a correct image of the Pug. Breeders and judges should emphasize the positive. It is the judges' responsibility to find and place those dogs that best exemplify the qualities called for in the Pug Dog Club of America Breed Standard. It is the breeders' responsibility to breed the Pug as described by the Breed Standard.

The Pug Dog Club of America extends sincere gratitude to the Illustrated Standard Committee:

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Special thanks to Patrick Archer McManus, artist and art director, and Laurie Kirkpatrick, recording secretary and technical support.

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# THE PUG

While the exact origin of the Pug is lost to antiquity it is certain that the Pug is of Chinese origin and was known in the Orient as early as 700 B.C.

Developed from the Lo-sze (one of the three short faced dogs bred in China for the Imperial Court) it is believed the Pug found his way to the western world via conquest and Dutch merchant traders.

A favorite of monarchs throughout Europe there is no doubt royal patronage helped to establish the popularity of the breed, especially in England during the late 1600s.

The immense popularity of pugs during the Victorian era allows us to visually follow him in history as he was a favorite subject depicted in many forms of art from early paintings, sculptures and porcelains.

It is said with his Chinese ancestry he inherits an Oriental courtesy combined with his good temper, making him the ideal companion.

Admitted to the American Kennel Club in 1885, today the largest of the toy breeds, the Pug is full of mischief and fun. Dignified, loving and trusting of all.

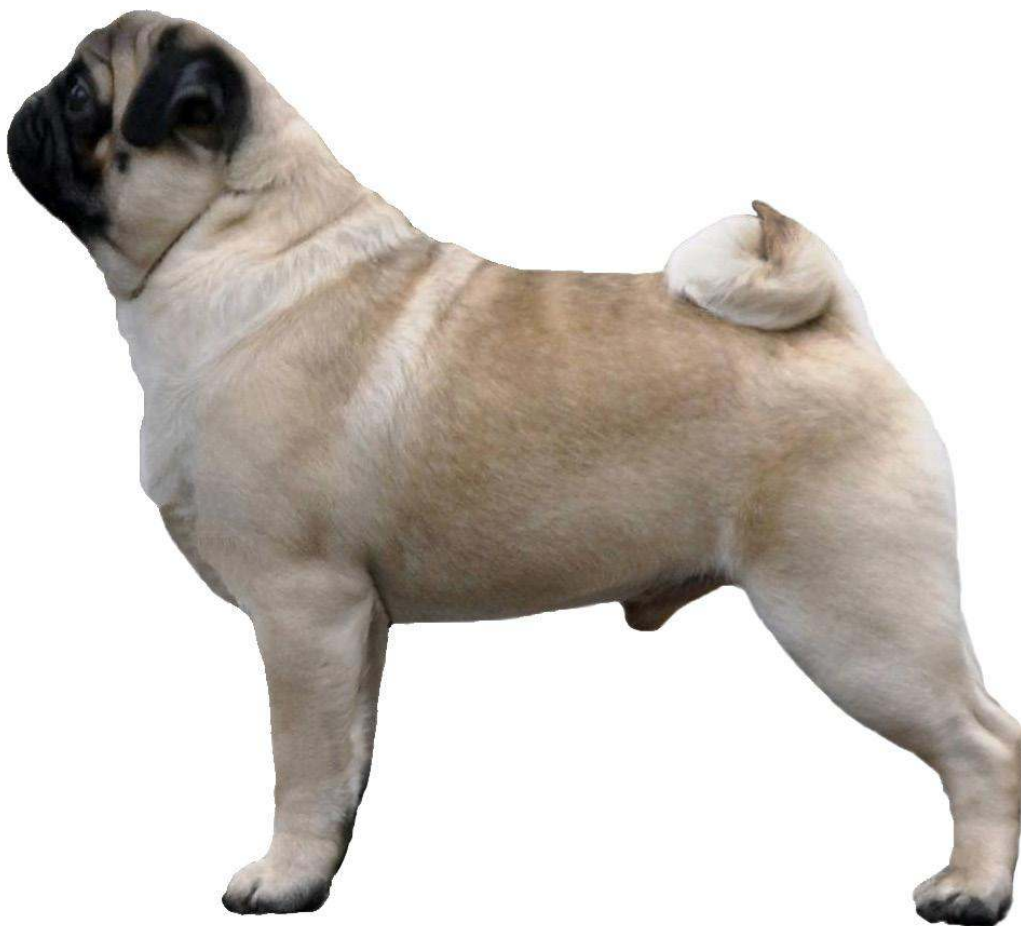


# GENERAL APPEARANCE

**AKC STANDARD: General Appearance:** Symmetry and general appearance are decidedly square and cobby. A lean, leggy Pug and a dog with short legs and a long body are equally objectionable.

**Clarification:** The Pug should give a strong impression of squareness when viewed from any angle. Squareness is defined as measured from point of shoulder to the ischium, and from withers to the ground. Cobby means short bodied, thickset, and square. All of the parts must fit together to form a harmonious unit. The Pug is a breed of moderate angles. The most important concept to remember is square.

**Undesirable:** Lean and leggy. Short legs with a long body.



**The geometric by-word for the Pug:  
Round Head | Square Body | Curly Tail**



# SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

**AKC STANDARD: Size, Proportion, Substance:** The Pug should be *multum in parvo*, and this condensation (if the word may be used) is shown by compactness of form, well knit proportions, and hardness of developed muscle. *Weight* from 14 to 18 pounds (dog or bitch) desirable. *Proportions* square.

**Clarification:** The Latin phrase *multum in parvo*, translates as *'a lot in a little'*. Muscle must be sufficiently developed to promote soundness. The Standard describes size only in terms of weight. The Pug's weight has to be in proportion to its height and bone. However, weight varies considerably according to body structure, bone density, and muscle. The Pug should be evaluated on the merit of its bone, muscle and cobbiness as it relates to breed type. Keep in mind that the Pug is a Toy breed with moderate angles.

**Undesirable:** Pugs that are excessively large or weedy.

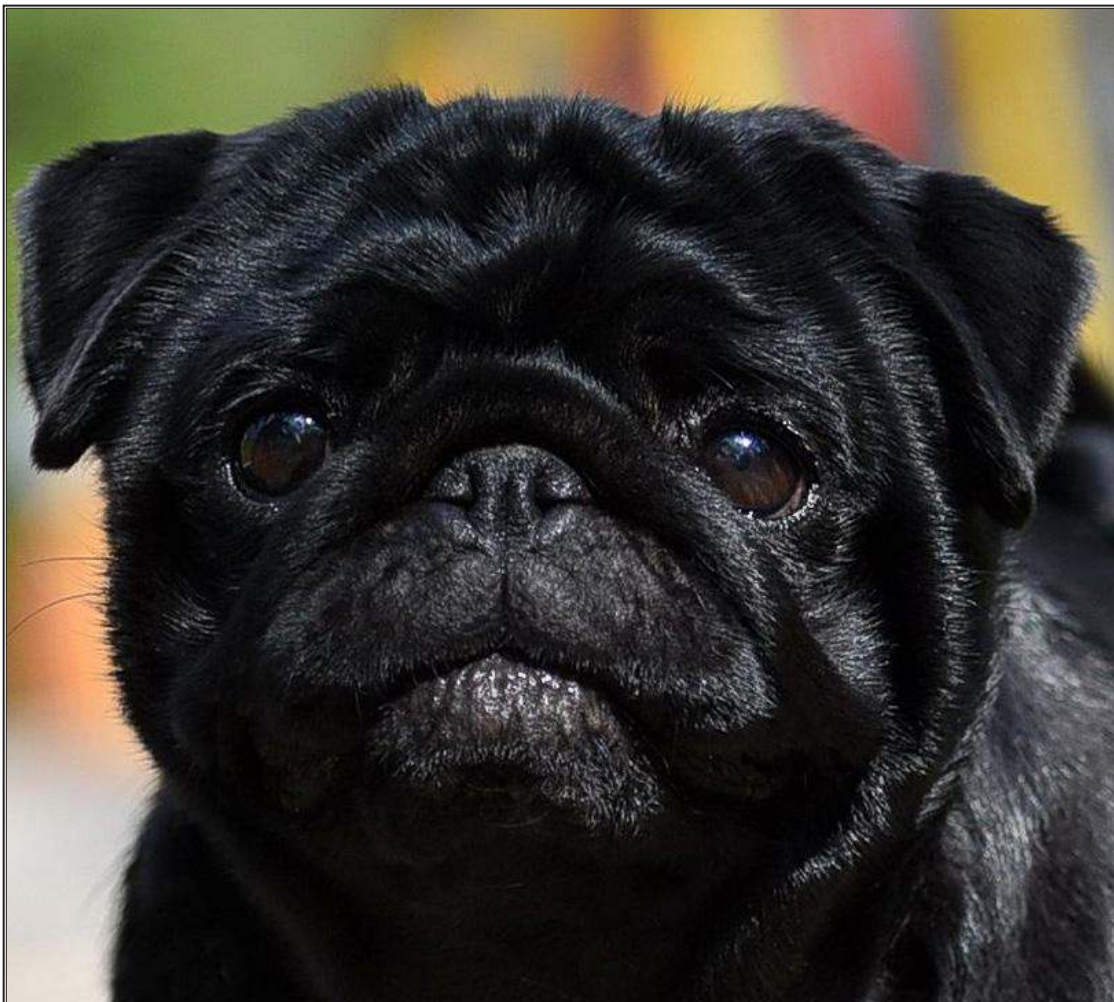


# THE HEAD

**AKC STANDARD: Head:** The *head* is large, massive, round - not apple-headed, with no indentation of the *skull*.

**Clarification:** The head should be large and round when viewed from the front, and flat when viewed from the side, neither upfaced nor downfaced. A large head is essential but a head so large as to be out of balance with the rest of the dog is as unappealing as a small head. The Pug's head must be proportionate to the whole Pug, be it dog or bitch. The head exhibits a firm lipline, thick cushioning under the eyes, with substantial cheeks, and a strong, wide underjaw.

**Undesirable:** Domed skull, lack of balance, upfaced, protruding nose. Any shape that deviates from roundness.





# THE HEAD

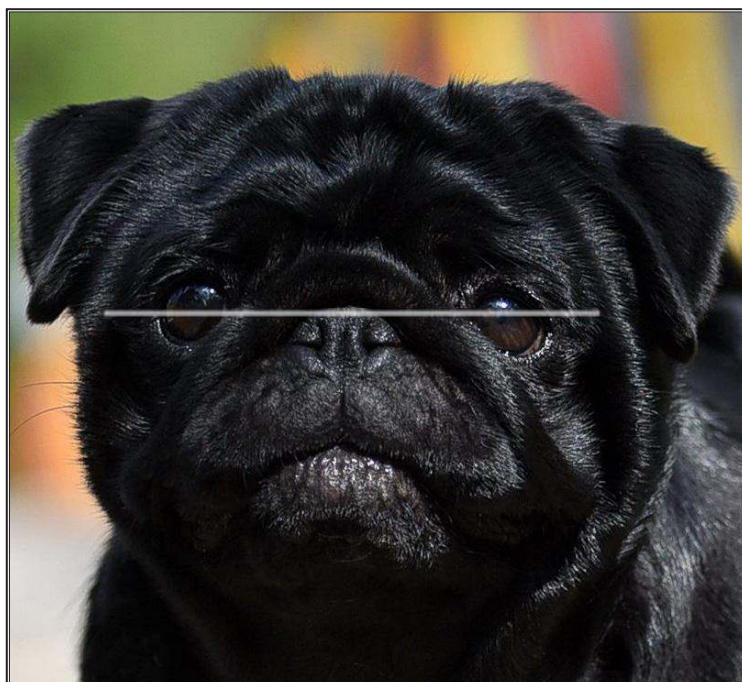
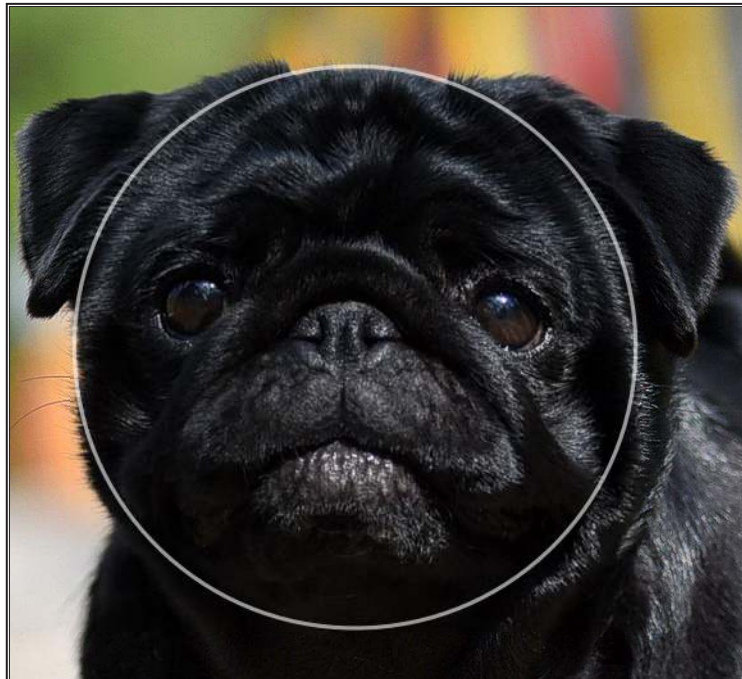


**Correct Head Type is an essential part of the breed**

# THE NOSE

**Nose** : Although the Standard does not mention the nose, a short discussion is necessary. The nose is black, wide, and lies flat when viewed in profile. The top of the nose bisects the center of the eyes. The stop is concealed by an over-the-nose wrinkle. An unbroken wrinkle set on the nose unifies the face.

**Undesirable**: A nose wrinkle covering a significant portion of the nose so as to negatively affect the Pugs' ability to breathe comfortably. A nosepad that is too large. Lack of noseroll.



# THE EYES

**AKC STANDARD:** The *eyes* are dark in color, very large, bold and prominent, globular in shape, soft and solicitous in *expression*, very lustrous, and, when excited, full of fire.

**Clarification:** A Pug's expression is very dependent on their big, dark, appealing eyes. Eyes should be large, round in shape but not bulging. At rest the expression should be intelligent and affectionate. When alert the expression should be keen, curious and showing a love of mischief. The eyes shall be set wide apart. The center of the eyes shall be in line with the top of the nose. Rims are black. Expression, size, shape and color of the eyes, is of primary consideration.

**Undesirable:** Eyes that are almond shaped, bulging, east-west, light, small or close set. The whites of the eyes should not show.





# THE EARS

**AKC STANDARD:** The *ears* are thin, small, soft, like black velvet. There are two kinds - the “rose” and the “button”. Preference is given to the latter.

**Clarification:** The ears should be set wide on the head. The fold of the button ear is level with the top of the skull. When alert, at its farthest point, the tip of the ear reaches no further than the outer corner of the lateral canthus. The rose ear appears smaller and is folded with the inner edge against the side of the head. The inner burr does not show as it does with a Bulldog. Flying button ears are not rose ears. The rose ear is small, neat and tends to give the head a rounder appearance. The correct ear shall enhance and frame the correct head. Both ears should be of the same type and black.

**Undesirable:** Ears set to high, to low or flying button ears.



Button Ear



Rose Ear

# THE HEAD WRINKLES

**AKC STANDARD:** The wrinkles are large and deep.

**Clarification:** The head wrinkles are essential to the Pug's expression. The wrinkles of the forehead should be deep and, in fawns, set off by a darkening within the folds of the wrinkles. Face wrinkles in the black Pug are often more difficult to discern upon first glance than those in the fawn. Wrinkles can conceal an incorrect skull shape.

**Undesirable:** Lack of wrinkle.





# THE MUZZLE

**AKC STANDARD:** The muzzle is short, blunt, square, but not upfaced.

**Clarification:** *The muzzle, being approximately one-half of the face, is extremely important. It should be flat when viewed in profile. The cushioning of the muzzle should appear to be equal to the width of the skull. The width of the muzzle should be in line with the outer edge of the eye. The underjaw is wide and deep. The upper lips should be full, and the lipline firm. When viewed from the front, the muzzle should not fall away under the eyes, as it should have sufficient fill and cushioning to complete a round head.*

**Undesirable:** Upfaced, narrow muzzle, pendulous lips, lack of fill under the eyes.

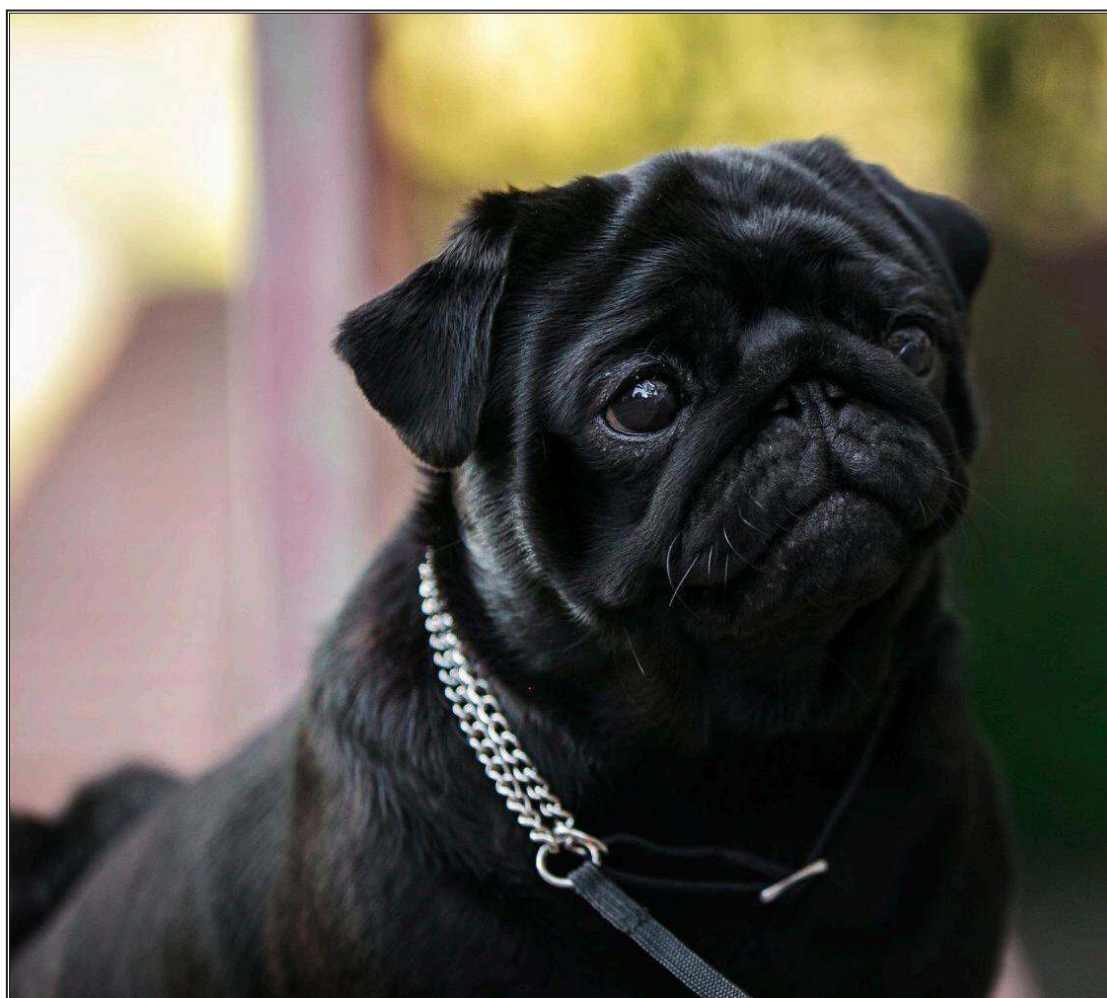


# THE BITE

**AKC STANDARD:** *Bite* - A Pug's bite should be very slightly undershot.

**Clarification:** An overbite distorts the expression and gives a lippy appearance. Too much underbite gives the face an uptilt. **THIS IS A THUMB BREED.** Judges should use the flat of their thumb to feel the bite. This is accomplished by simply using the flat of the thumb over the front of the mouth to feel the very slight undershot bite. **Do not lift the lip, pry open the mouth, block the nasal passages, or cover the eyes. The bite should be the last part of the table examination.**

**Undesirable:** Lippy, upfaced, lolling or peeping tongue.





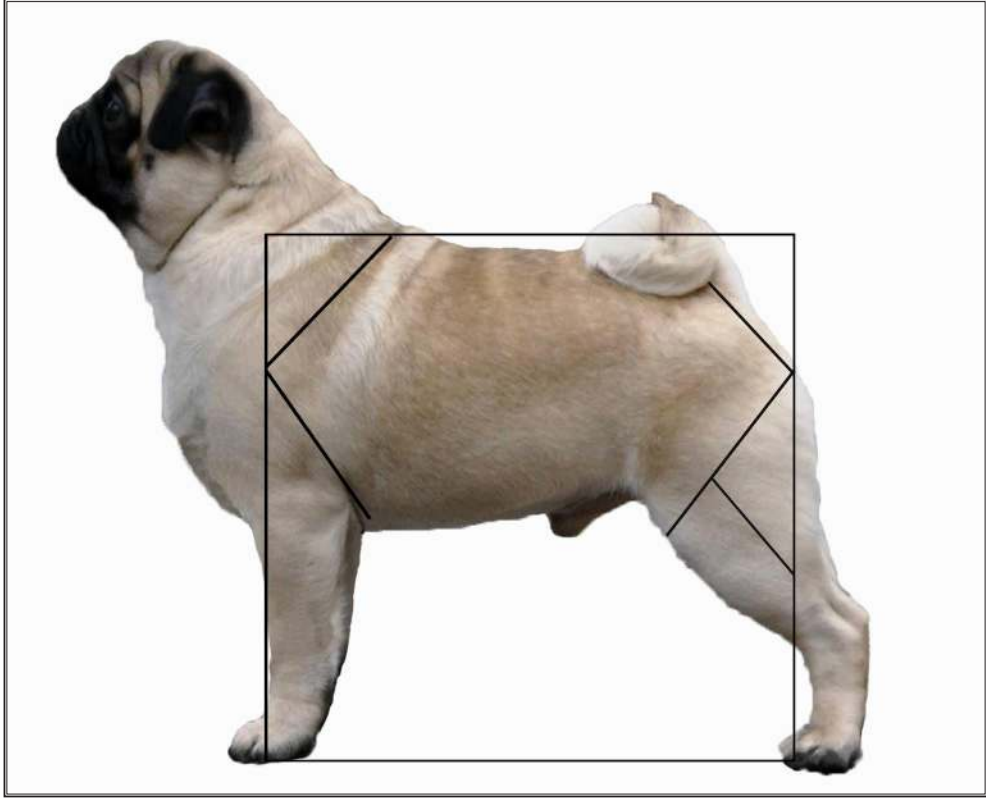
# THE NECK

**AKC STANDARD:** The *neck* is slightly arched. It is strong, thick, and with enough length to carry the head proudly.

**Clarification:** The pug has a large head. The neck should be strong and well-muscled with enough length to carry the head proudly. The neck should have a slight arch behind the skull. The position of the shoulder blade in relation to the backbone determines the appearance of neck length. The skin on the neck should be loose but fit smoothly. The neck should blend smoothly into the shoulders.

**Undesirable:** The appearance of no neck, too long or too short of a neck.





# THE TOPLINE, BODY

**AKC STANDARD:** The short *back* is level from the withers to the high tail set. The *body* is short and cobby, wide in chest and well ribbed up.

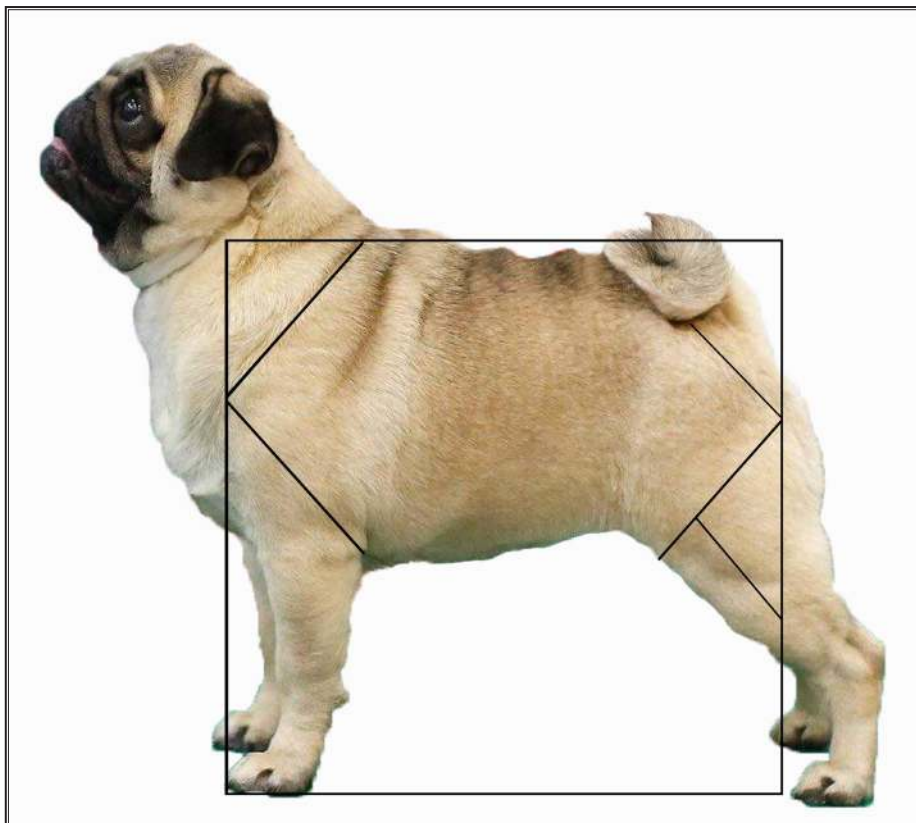
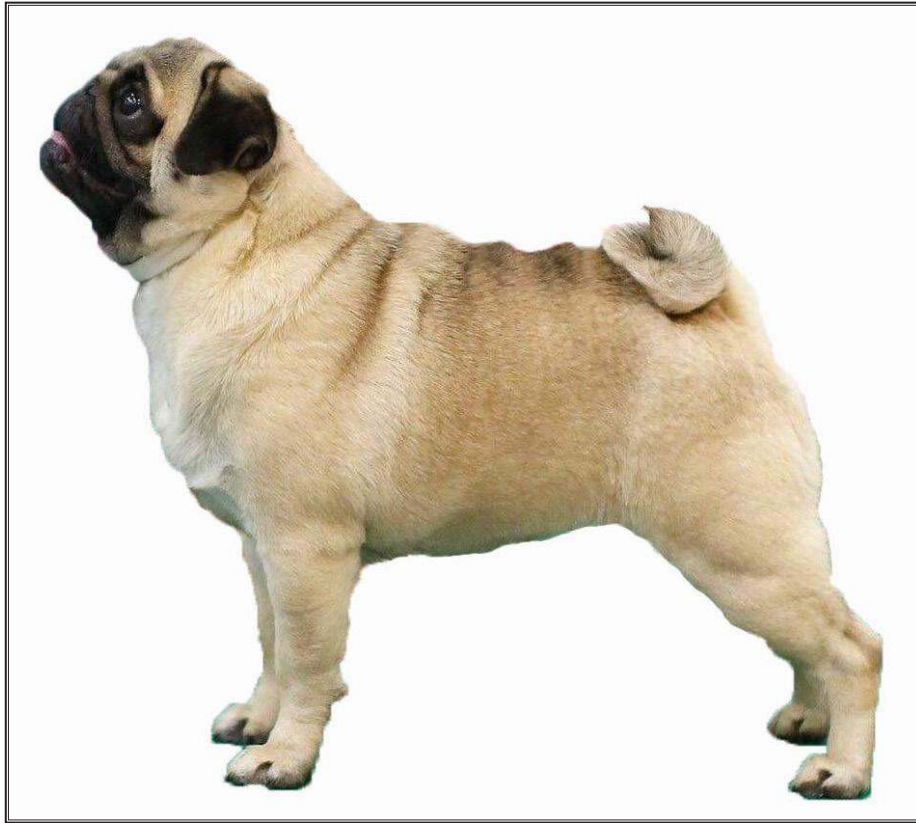
**Clarification:** The body should give a strong impression of thick-set squareness. The back is short. Elbows fit close to the body and turn neither in nor out. The back is level from withers to tail set. To create the essential cobby, square outline, the tail is set high. The underline should continue the cobby appearance with no tuck-up. The Pug has a broad chest. The width of the pelvis when viewed from above shall mimic the width of the shoulders. The prosternum shall protrude forward of the front assembly. Moderate loose skin (wrinkles) down the back should not be penalized as long as the underlying structure is correct. Judges must feel for the correct structure under the wrinkles.

**Undesirable:** Lack of prosternum, a back that is not level, such as roached, low at the shoulder, high in the rear, or sloping croup. A dog that is weedy. An underline with a tuck-up or a dog that is not cobby and square.





# THE TOPLINE, BODY

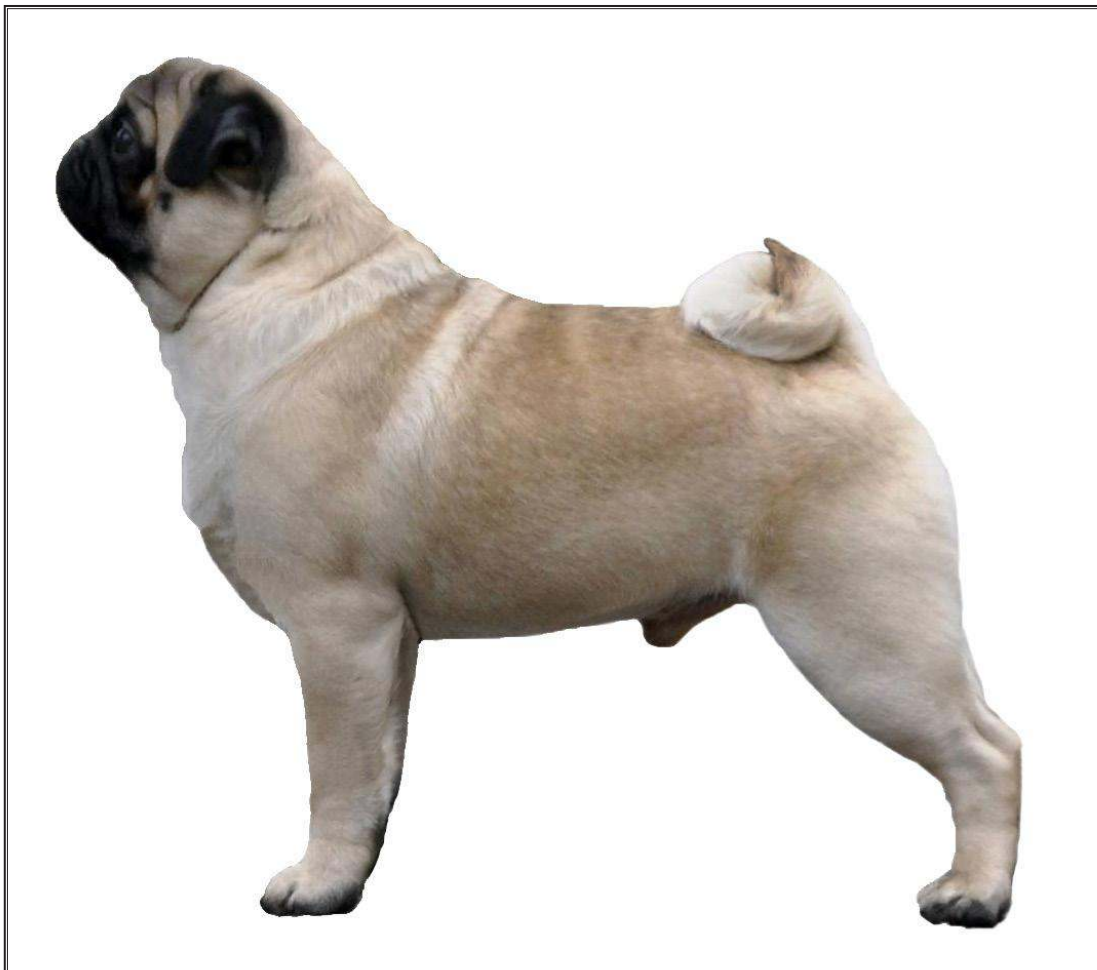


# THE TAIL

**AKC STANDARD:** The *tail* is curled as tightly as possible over the hip. The double curl is perfection.

**Clarification:** The tail is another very distinctive Pug characteristic. The high set tail originates at the termination of the croup with the curl lying tightly over the hip. The high tail set is the foundation for the “shelf” - the area between the root or base of the tail as it transitions to the point of the ischium or sitz bone. The outline should be more horizontal (shelf- like) than vertical (wall- like). A double curl is perfection, but a tight single or 1 ½ twist is acceptable. The curl is tight with no light evident from within the curl. The tail remains curled and close to the body at all times. It is also acceptable for the tail to be carried on top of the back.

**Undesirable:** A low set tail, or a tail that does not hold a tight curl when moving. A tail that shows daylight.







# THE FOREQUARTERS

## LEGS AND SHOULDERS

**AKC STANDARD: Forequarters:** The legs are very strong, straight, of moderate length, and are set well under. The elbows should be directly under the withers when viewed from the side. The shoulders are moderately laid back.

**Clarification:** The legs are strong and straight with substantial bone. Elbows should lie close to the ribs. The point of the elbows should be directly under the point of the withers, thus setting the legs well under. The length of leg should mirror the depth of the body. Viewed from the front, legs must come straight down from the elbow, never giving the impression of a bowed front. The slight pad of muscle on the outside of the forearm is not penalized, provided the radius and ulna bones are straight.

**Undesirable:** Steep shoulders, short upper arm, fiddle front, loose elbows, lack of bone, legs too short or too long, lack of forechest.



# THE FOREQUARTERS

## LEGS AND SHOULDERS





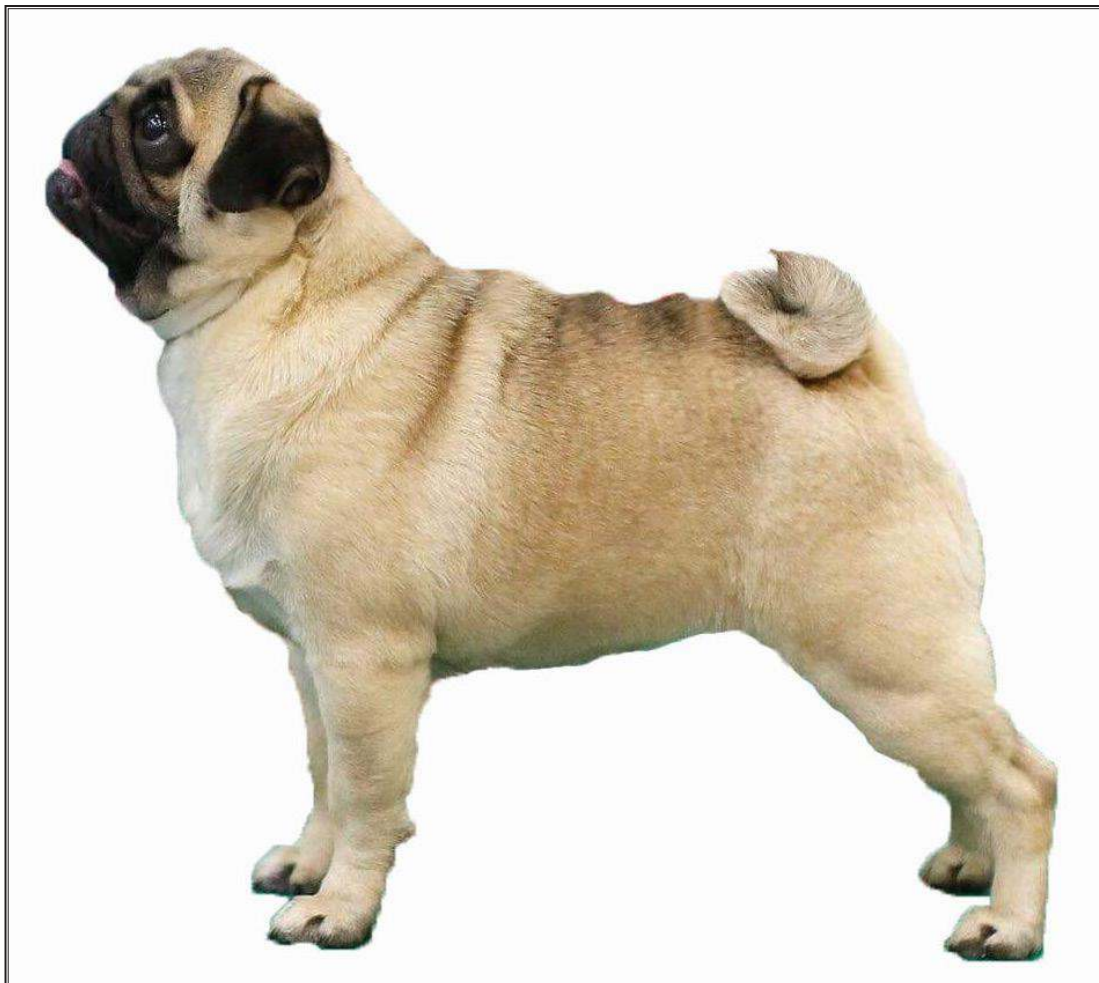
# THE FOREQUARTERS

## PASTERNS AND FEET

**AKC STANDARD:** The pasterns are strong, neither steep nor down. The feet are neither so long as the foot of the hare, nor so round as that of the cat; well split-up toes, and the nails black. Dewclaws are generally removed.

**Clarification:** A Pug's feet are slightly more oval than round, with thick pads, demonstrating strength. The nails are black.

**Undesirable:** Straight or broken-down pasterns; knuckling over; flat feet; splayed feet; white nails.

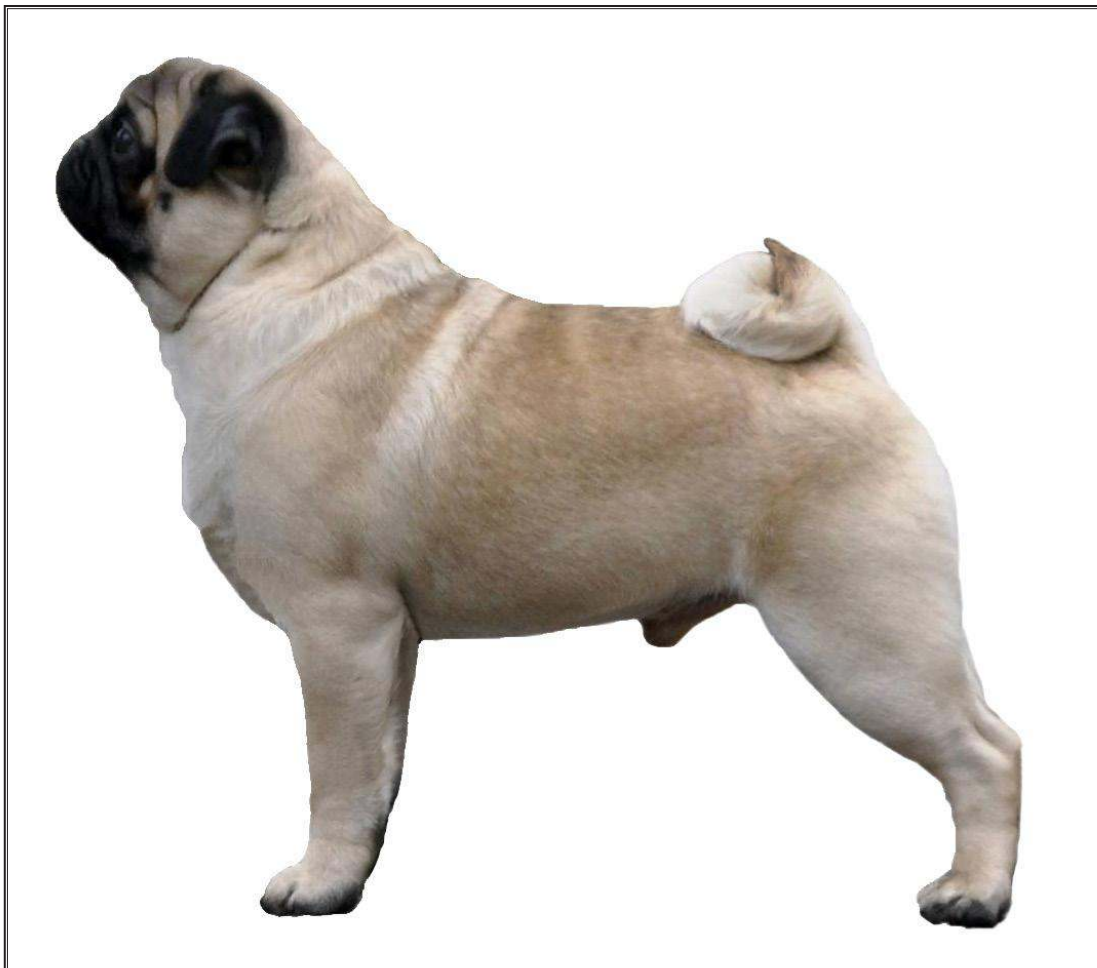


# THE HINDQUARTERS

**AKC STANDARD: Hindquarters:** The strong, powerful hindquarters have moderate bend of *stifle* and short *hocks* perpendicular to the ground. The *legs* are parallel when viewed from behind. The hindquarters are in balance with the forequarters. The *thighs* and *buttocks* are full and muscular. Feet as in front.

**Clarification:** Pugs should have strong, powerful hindquarters. They should have large, full, muscular thighs and buttocks and a well-muscled second thigh, with a moderate bend of stifle and short hocks. The hocks should extend slightly beyond the point of the rump and should be perpendicular to the ground. Viewed from above, the pelvis should be approximately as wide as the shoulders giving the appearance of symmetry.

**Undesirable:** Straight or overangulated stifles. Lack of bone, legs too short or too long, cow hocks, toeing in or out. Thin thighs, narrow pelvis making the dog appear pear-shaped, or having a waist when viewed from above.



# THE COAT

**AKC STANDARD: Coat:** The coat is fine, smooth, soft, short and glossy, neither hard nor woolly.

**Clarification:** The coat is short, smooth and soft. Single or double coat are both acceptable. Guard hairs, when present, may be a little longer. Minor trimming of stray hairs to neaten the silhouette is acceptable. Removal of the whiskers is optional. The Pug is a natural dog and as such may be shown in its natural state.

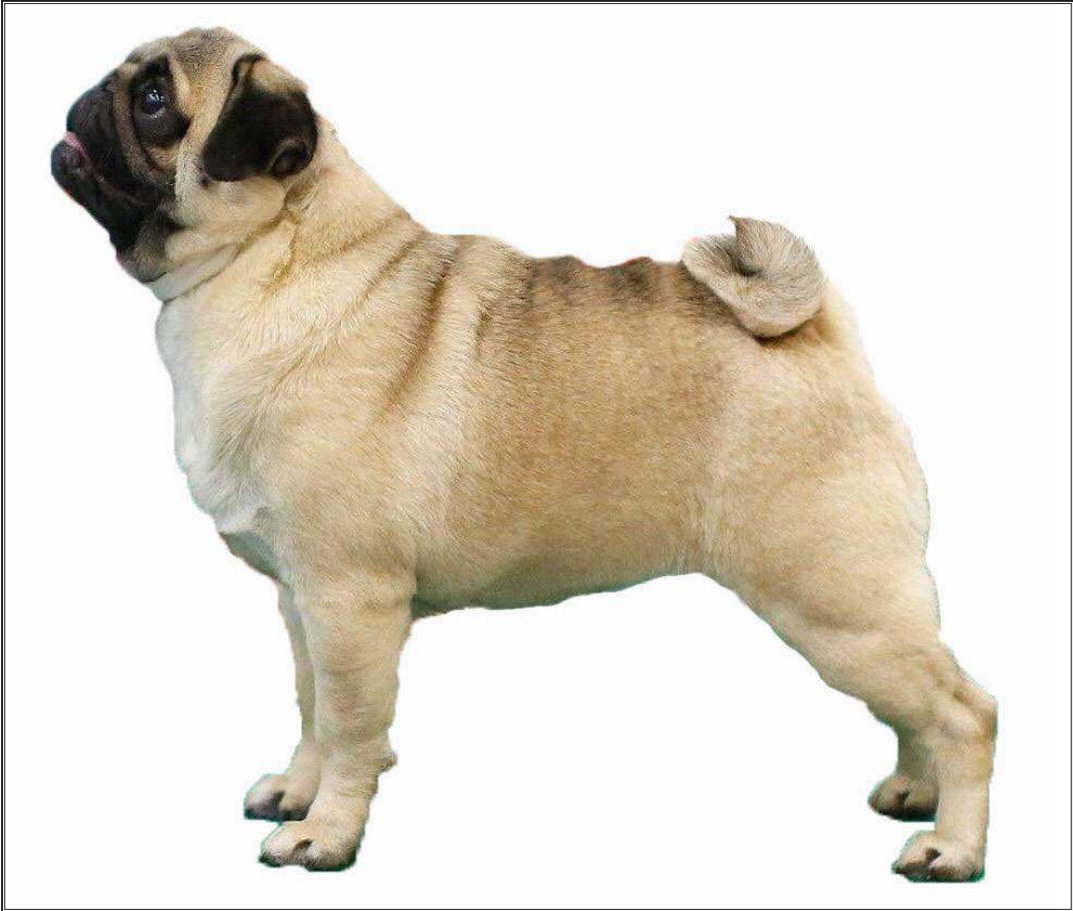
**Undesirable:** A coat that is hard, long or woolly.

# COLOR

**AKC STANDARD: Color:** The colors are fawn or black. The fawn color should be decided so as to make the contrast complete between the color and the trace and mask. *DISQUALIFICATION- Any color other than fawn or black.*

**Clarification:** Fawn may vary from cream to rich apricot and all shades in between. A black Pug is black. You will see various shades or degrees of black. The fawn coat may include black guard hairs. Smuttiness is when there is an excessive amount of black hair mixed in the fawn and is not a disqualification. A small amount of white on the chest in either color is acceptable.

**PUGS SHOULD BE JUDGED WITH NO PREFERENCE FOR EITHER FAWN OR BLACK COAT COLOR.** Particular attention must be given to the black's head and substance to ascertain that all necessary qualities are present and are not overlooked. Pugs can prematurely gray and develop frosting on the muzzle.





# MARKINGS

**AKC STANDARD: Markings:** The markings are clearly defined. The muzzle or mask, ears, moles on cheeks, thumb mark or diamond on forehead, and the back trace should be as black as possible. The mask should be black. The more intense and well defined it is, the better. The trace is a black line extending from the occiput to the tail.

**Clarification:** *This portion of the Standard refers only to the fawn Pug.* The mask should be as black as possible. There must be a distinct separation between the black markings and the fawn. Ears should be densely black to the base. The moles on the cheeks should be noticeably black. The diamond or thumb mark, on the forehead, called for in the standard, is produced by a wrinkle pattern and offset with black hairs in the folds.





# MARKINGS



**The trace is a narrow, pencil thin, dark line that extends along the spine from the occiput to the tail.**

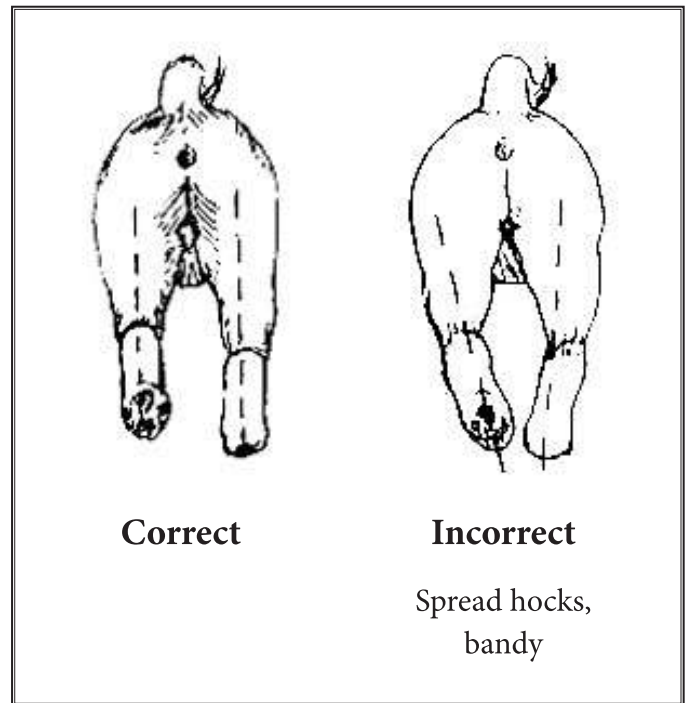
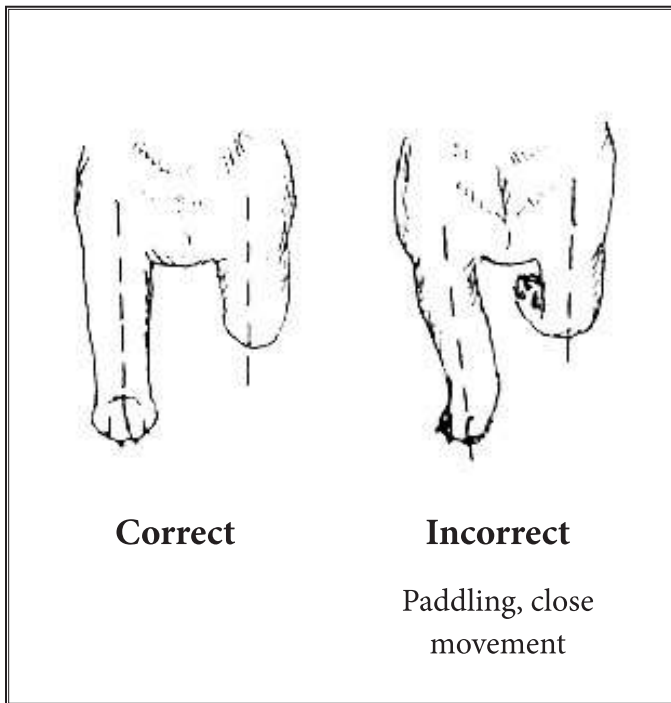
**A well-defined or complete trace is seldom seen in a mature Pug.**

# GAIT

**AKC STANDARD: Gait:** Viewed from the front, the forelegs should be carried well forward, showing no weakness in the pasterns, the paws landing squarely with the central toes straight ahead. The rear action should be strong and free through hocks and stifles, with no twisting or turning in or out at the joints. The hind legs should follow in line with the front. There is a slight natural convergence of the limbs both fore and aft. A slight roll of the hindquarters typifies the gait which should be free, self-assured, and jaunty.

**Clarification:** The Pug is a toy breed and should demonstrate moderate reach and drive. This is a double tracking breed and the “convergence of the limbs” occurs only slightly when the dog is moved at an increased speed. They should never be gaited at an excessive rate of speed. The Pug is to be moved at a moderate trot as appropriate for a companion dog. The Pug should hold the same frame moving as standing, evoking squareness and balance along with depth of body.

**Undesirable:** Any deviation as described in clarification of Gait.





# GAIT



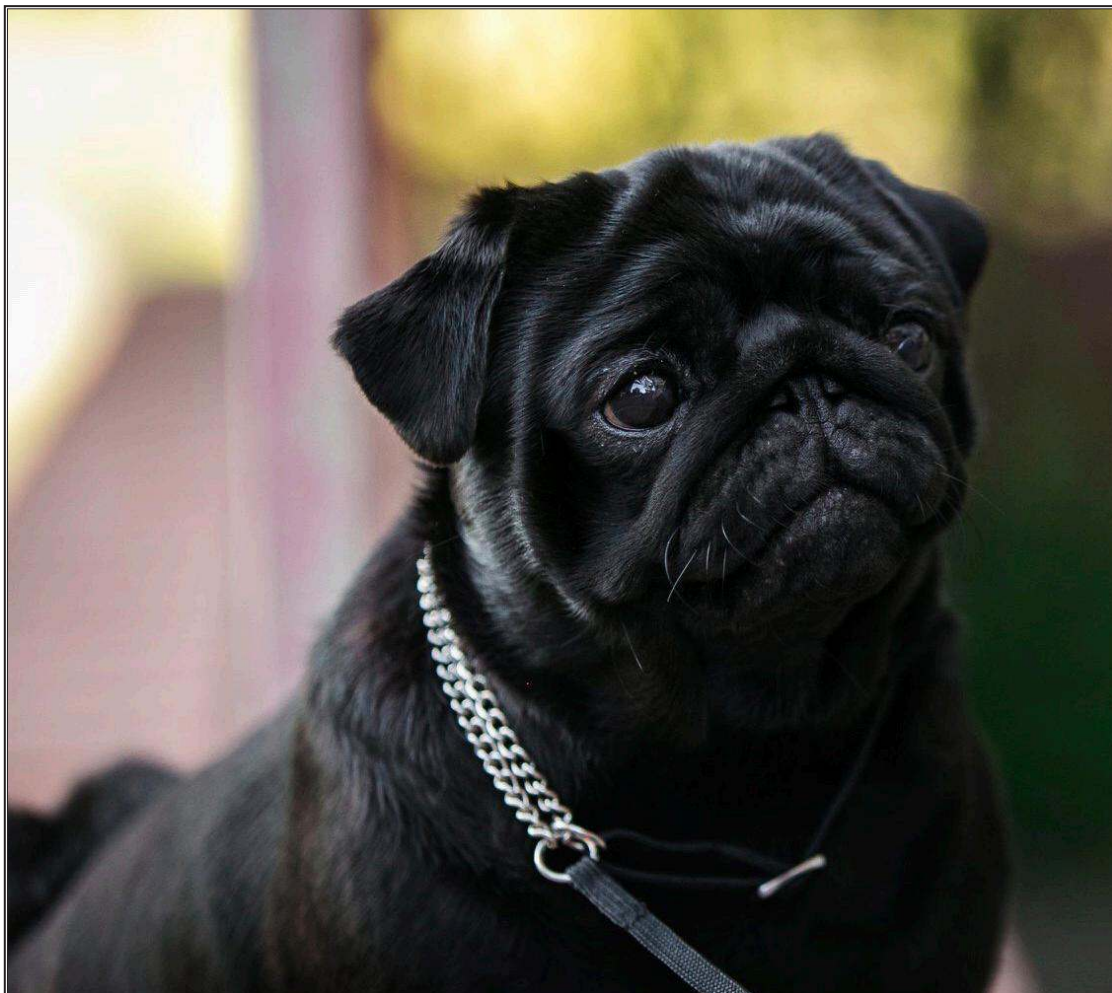


# TEMPERAMENT

**AKC STANDARD: Temperament:** This is an even-tempered breed, exhibiting stability, playfulness, great charm, dignity, and an outgoing, loving disposition.

**Clarification:** Pugs are outgoing, boisterous on occasion, gaily mischievous, stubborn, willful, and self-confident. The Pug is a cheerful, amiable little soul who exhibits high spirits and loves to play, but is not nervous or high strung. The exhibition of their naturally high spirits in the ring should be considered favorable.

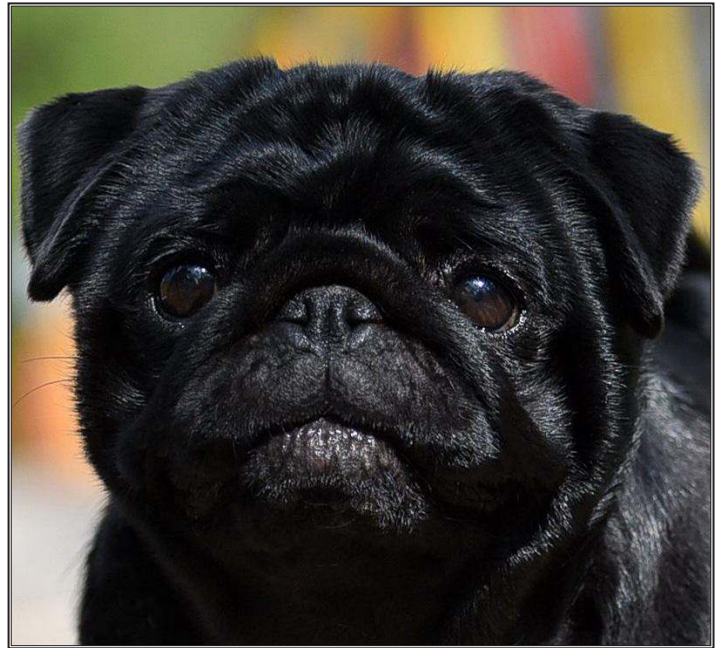
**Undesirable:** Indications of shyness, nervousness, or aggressiveness toward dogs or people are unusual and unacceptable.



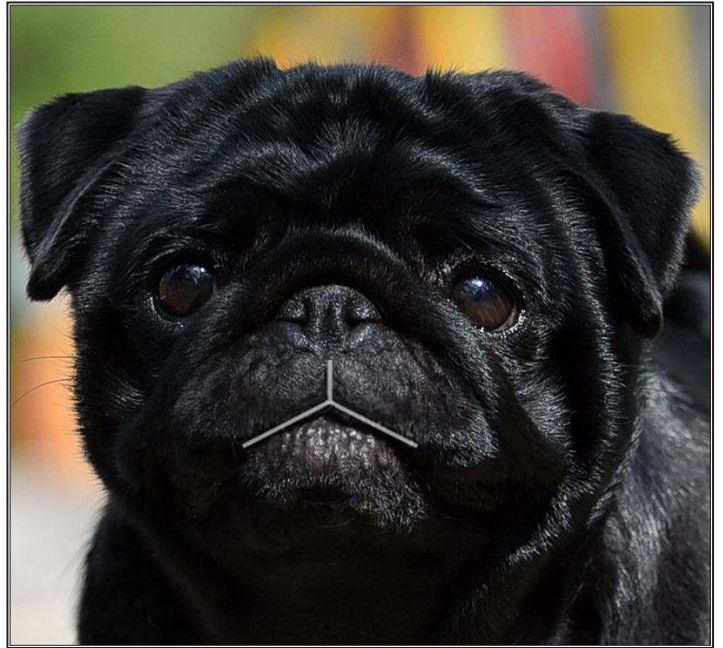
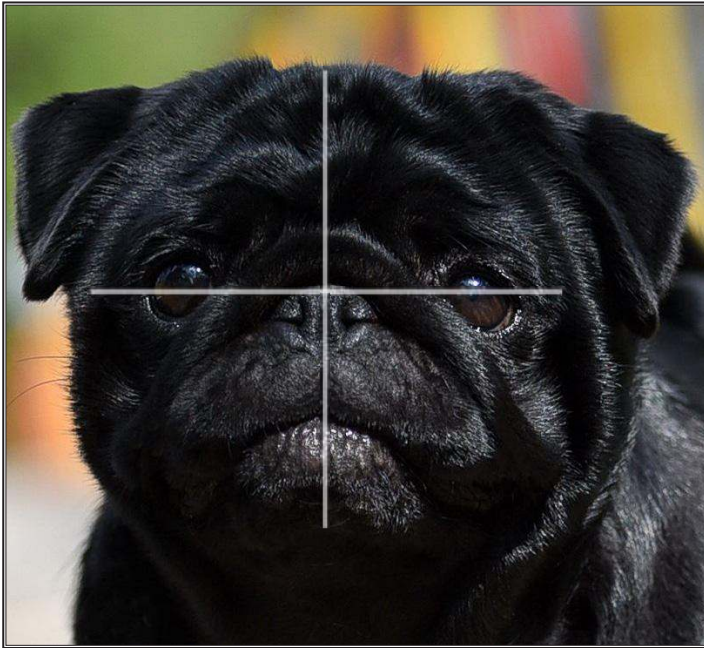
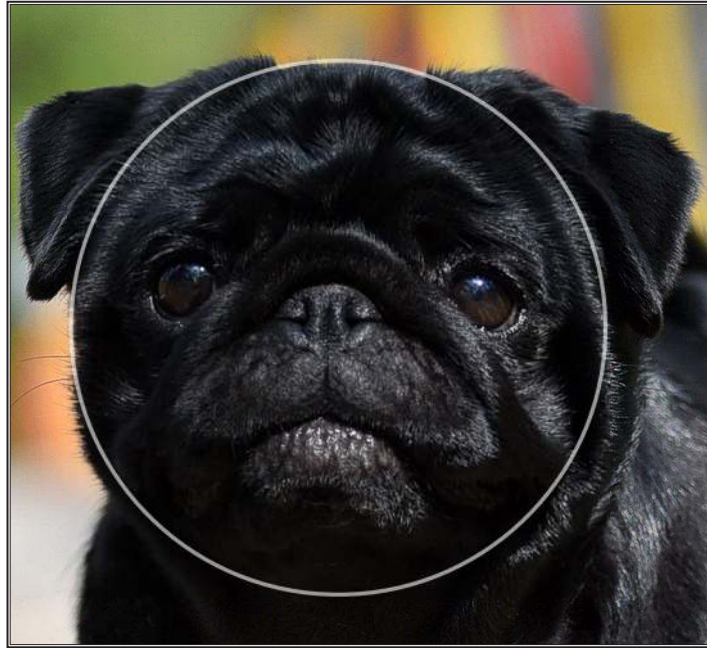
# Dogs and Bitches

Although the Pug Standard does not explore the differences in appearance between dogs and bitches, it should be well defined. *Dogs should appear masculine and bitches feminine.*

The male Pug is, on average, somewhat larger than his female counterpart. Both sexes should always exhibit balance and proportion. While breed characteristics are more pronounced in the male they should not be overdone or coarse. The bitch should be feminine without weakness or over refinement. **Equal consideration should be afforded both sexes.**



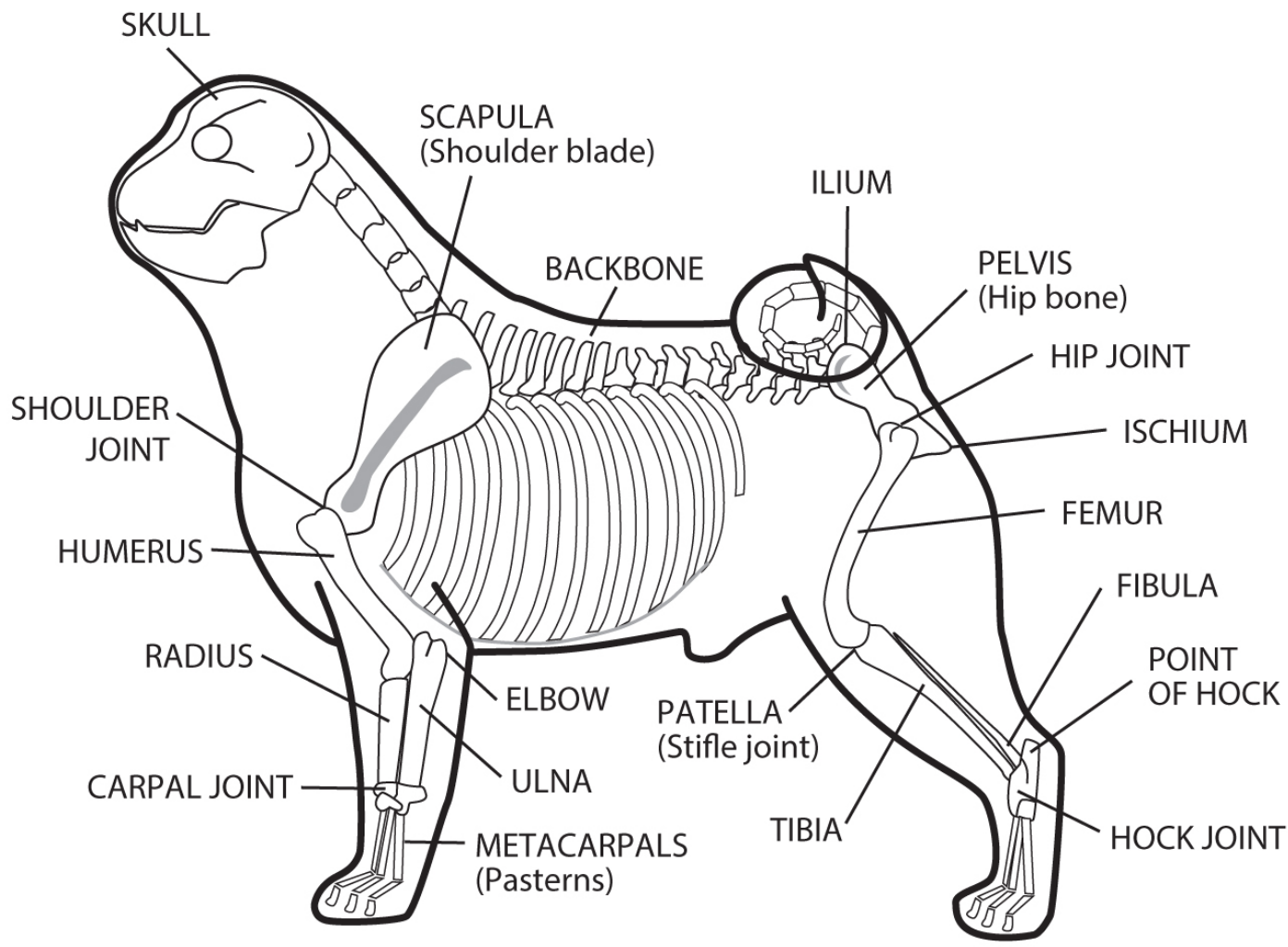
# HEAD STUDY

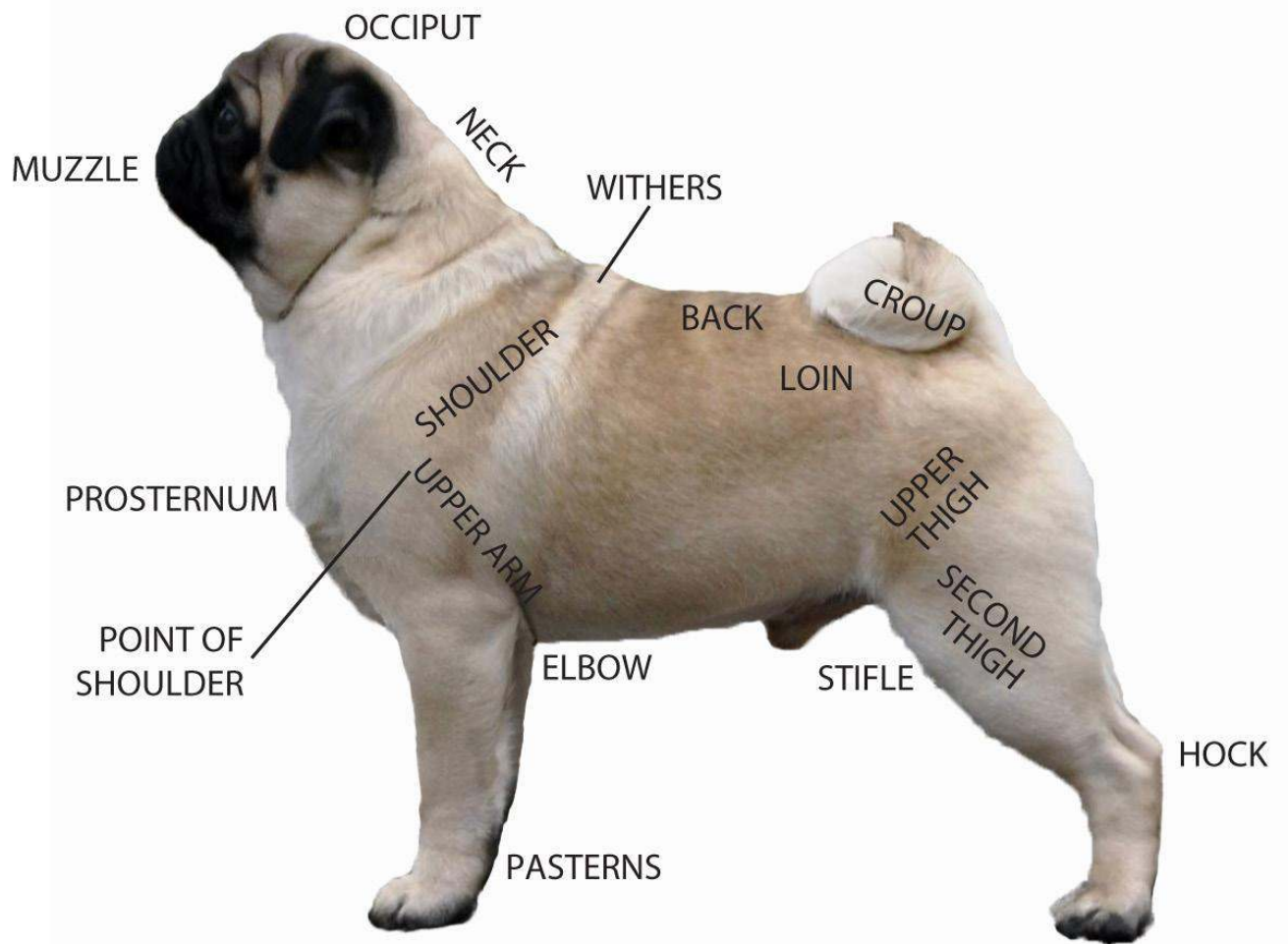




**The width of the pelvis when viewed from above shall mimic the width of the shoulders.**









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