

# Correct length of leg True Chow type

Dog



Bitch



Dog



Bitch

Within acceptable range  
but slightly longer than tall



# Incorrect proportion Too long in body and loin



**Incorrect proportions  
too long in body and loin  
too small in head and bone**



Incorrect proportions  
too long in body and loin  
overdone, cloddy, ponderous



**Incorrect proportions**  
too long in body, short on leg  
overdone, cloddy, ponderous



**Incorrect proportions  
too long in body, short on leg**



# Expression

Essentially scowling, dignified, lordly, discerning, sober and snobbish, one of independence.

The scowl is achieved:

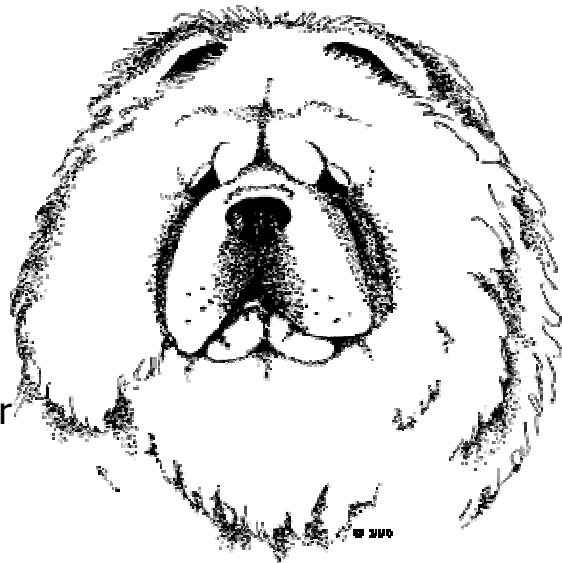
\*by a marked brow with a padded button of skin just above the inner, upper corner of each eye;

\*by sufficient play of skin to form frowning brows and a distinct furrow between the eyes beginning at the base of the muzzle and extending up the forehead;

\*by the correct eye shape and placement, and

\*by the correct ear shape, carriage and placement.

Excessive loose skin is not desirable. Wrinkles on the muzzle do not contribute to expression and are not required.



*Head Study of a Rough Collie Chow Dog*



# Correct expression



Smooth male



Rough bitch



Rough bitch



Rough male

**Incorrect expression**  
**Incorrect round eyes**



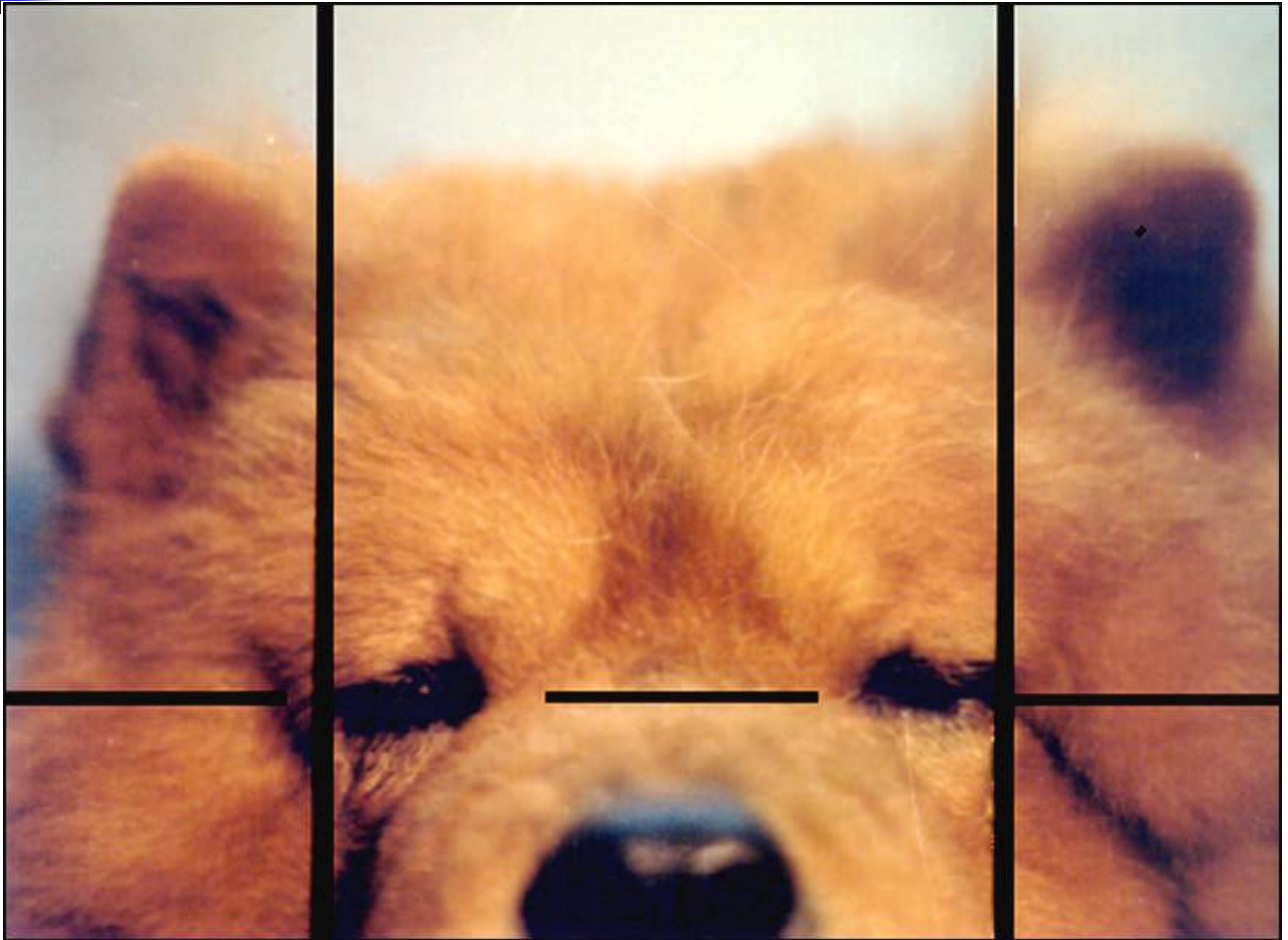
Rough male

Incorrect expression  
excessive loose skin  
eyes not visible



Rough male

# Correct alignment of eyes and ears essential to correct expression

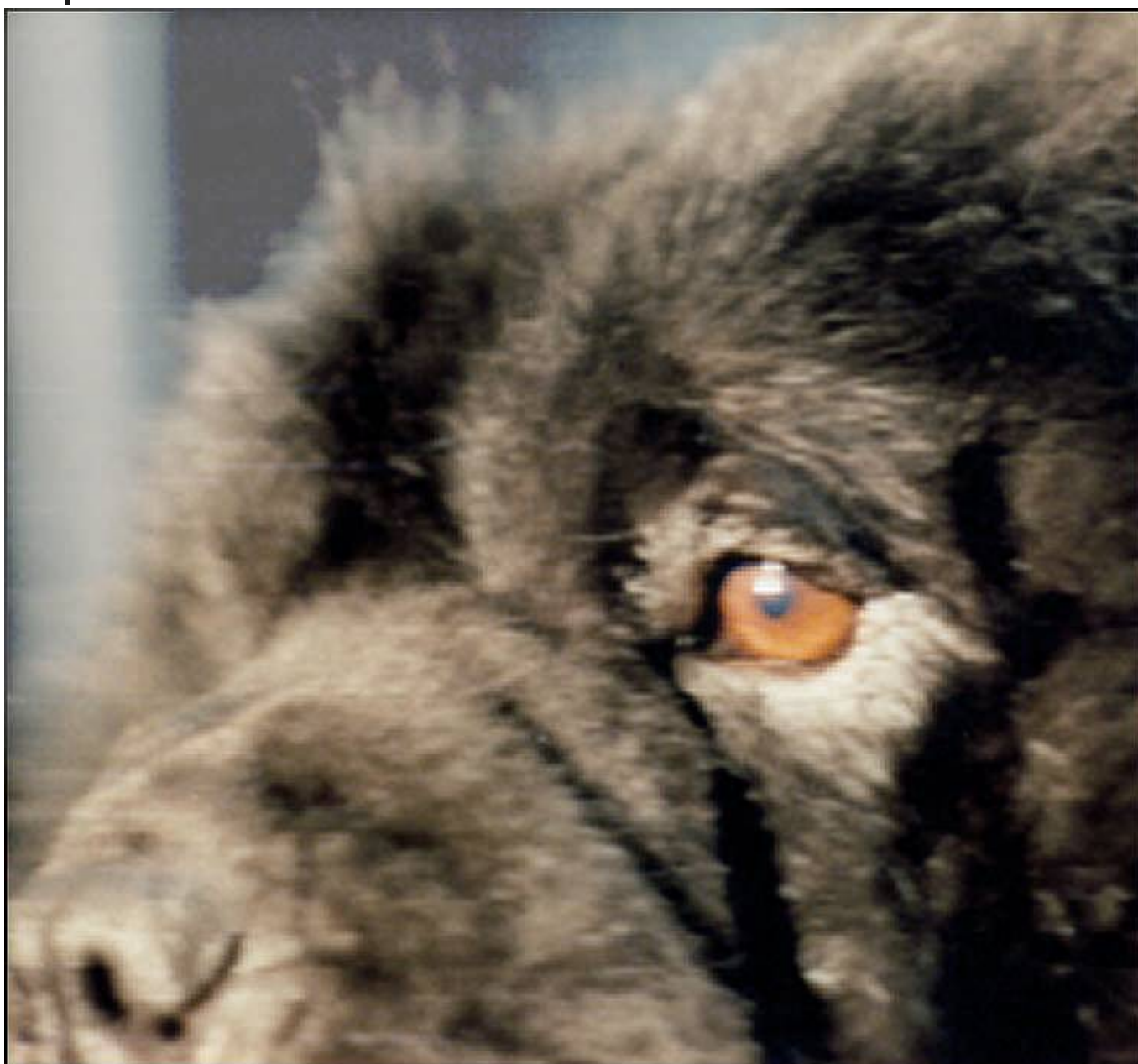


Correct almond-shaped,  
obliquely set eyes





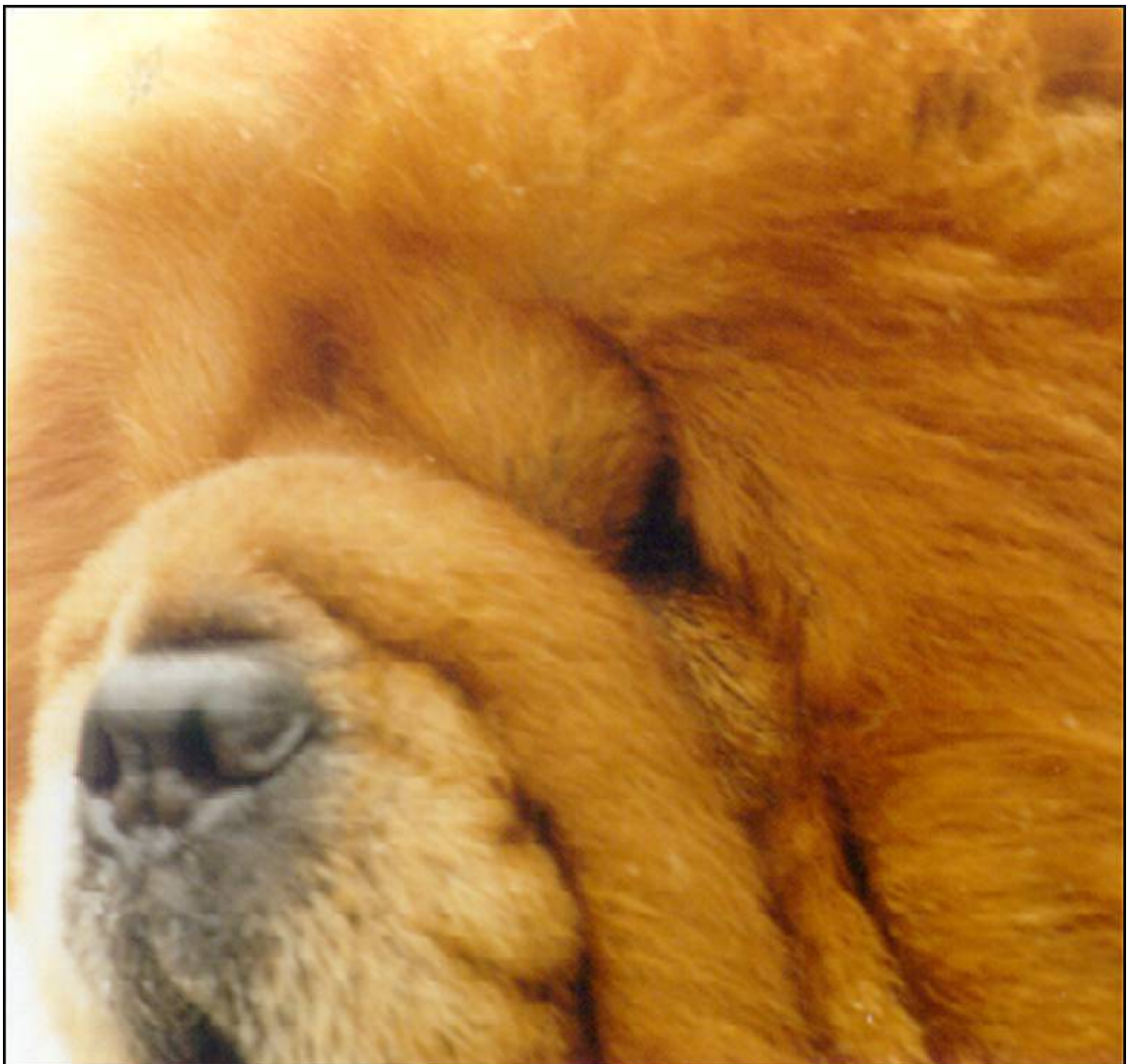
## Eyes too light in color



Eyes too deep allowing skin to fold into eye socket



Excessive loose skin and padding  
vertical wrinkles allow skin to fold in over the eyes





Excessive loose skin and padding  
vertical wrinkles allow skin to  
fold in over the eyes



# Entropion involving upper and lower lids



## Hair loss around eyes





## Small ears correctly set

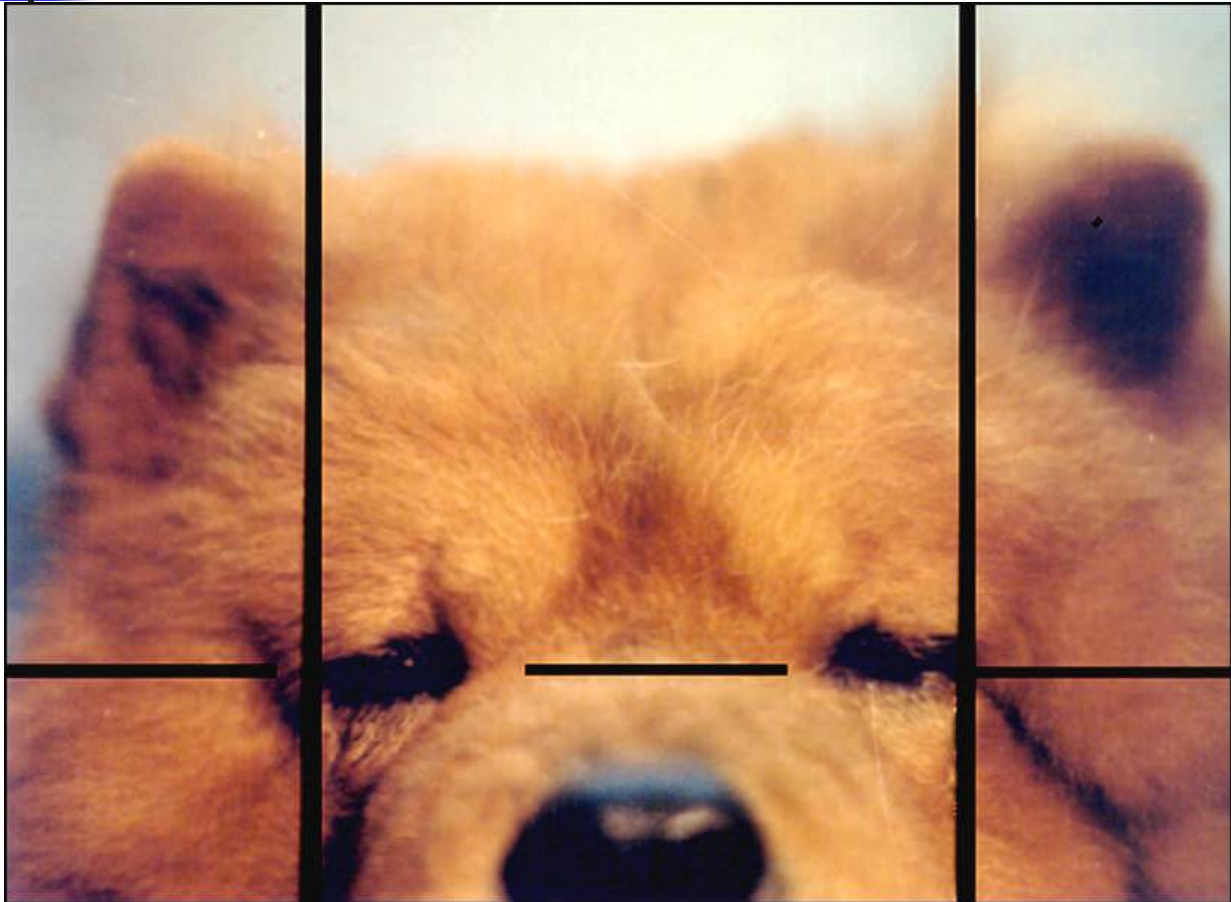
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Ears with correct forward tilt



# Correct alignment of eyes, ears and muzzle essential to correct expression



Incorrect ears; too large, set too low, too wide apart, tilted too far forward



Incorrect ears; too large, set too low, should point upward, not outward





## Ears in correct position



Rotating ears making them appear to be incorrectly set



# Another example of an “ear trick”



## Disqualifying fault: dropped ears



Incorrect skull: too narrow,  
falls off at the sides

Incorrect expression; eyes too  
round



Correct skull; topline of the muzzle appears parallel to topline of the skull



Incorrect; visible downward deviation of the muzzle resulting in a down-faced appearance



Incorrect; visible downward deviation of the muzzle  
(Stop appears steep due to skin padding)





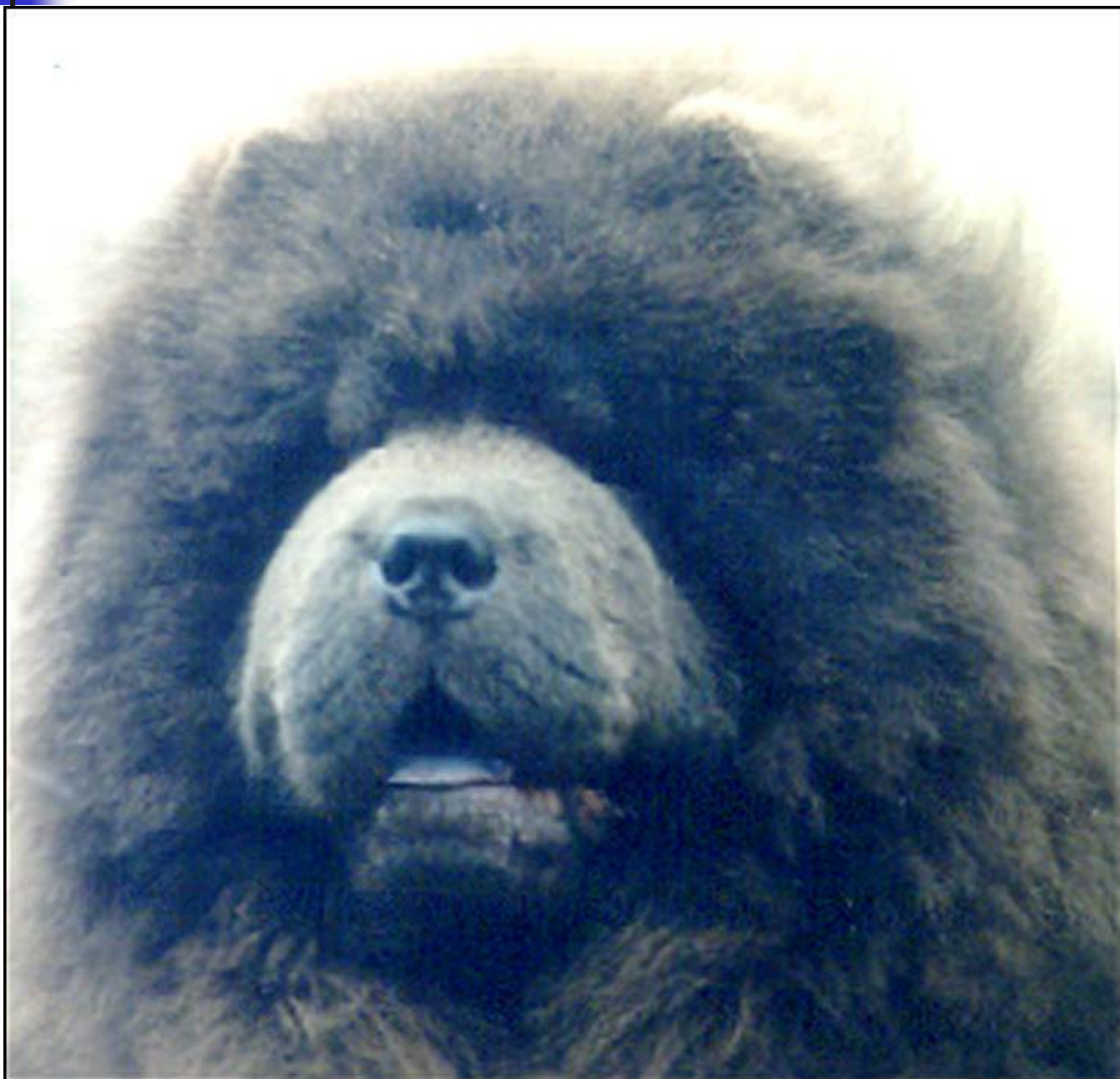
# Incorrect muzzles



Cream Chow Chow – nose may be temporarily black when young but usually fades out with age



# Blue Chow Chow with slate nose



## Correct teeth and bite



# Correct blue-black tongue pigment



Mouth, lips and gums blue-black



There may be pink on the underside of the tongue. You need only examine the surface and edges of the tongue.



# ***NECK AND BODY***

## ***Neck***

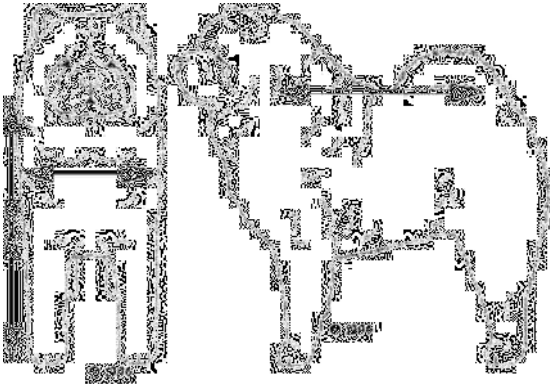
Strong, full, well muscled, nicely arched and of sufficient length to carry the head proudly above the topline when standing at attention.

## ***Body***

Short, compact, close coupled, strongly muscled, broad, deep and well let down in the flank.

## ***Topline***

Straight, strong and level from the withers to the root of the tail.



*The correct chest and topline. Note again the equal, balanced proportions.*

## ***Chest***

Broad, deep and muscular, never narrow or slab-sided. The ribs close together and well sprung, not barrel. The spring of the front ribs is somewhat narrowed at their lower ends to permit the shoulder and upper arm to fit smoothly against the chest wall. The floor of the chest is broad and deep extending down to the tips of the elbows. The point of sternum slightly in front of the shoulder points.

## ***Serious Faults***

Labored or abdominal breathing (not to include normal panting), narrow or slab-sided chest.

## ***Loin***

Well muscled, strong, short, broad and deep.

## ***Croup***

Short and broad with powerful rump and thigh muscles giving a level croup. The body, back, coupling and croup must all be short to give the required square build.

## ***Tail***

Well feathered, set high and carried closely to the back at all times, following the line of the spine at the start.



## Correct length and arch of neck



Smooth male

# Correct length and arch of neck



Rough bitch



Smooth male

**Incorrect; neck too short**



Incorrect; slab-sided, narrow chest, prosternum not in front of point of shoulder, too much tuck-up, low tail set. Forelegs too far forward



## Incorrect loose tail




Incorrect; bone too light for size of the dog



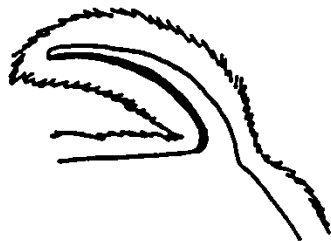
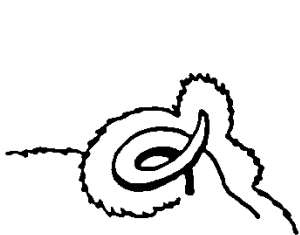
Incorrect; bone too large, large splayed feet





# Tails

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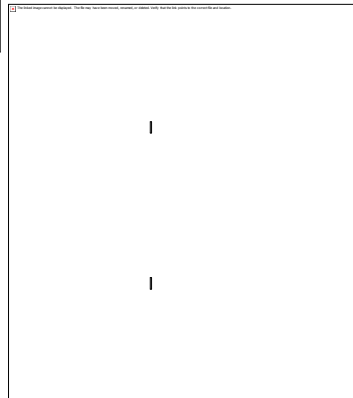
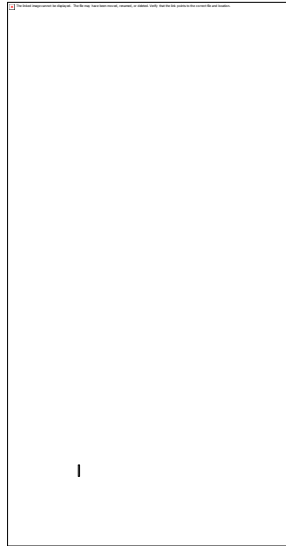
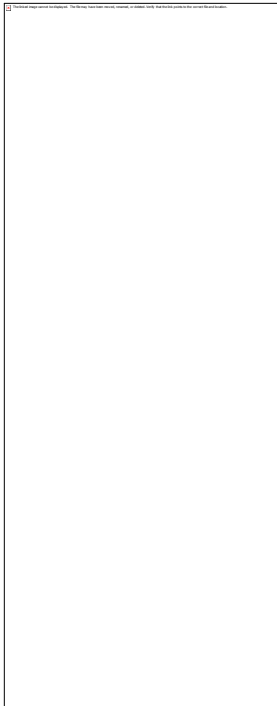


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# FOREQUARTERS

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## Shoulders

Shoulders are strong, well muscled the tips of the shoulder blades moderately close together; the spine of the shoulder forms an angle of approximately 55 degrees with the horizontal and forms an angle with the upper arm of approximately 110 degrees resulting in less reach of the forelegs. Length of upper arm never less than length of shoulder blade. Elbow joints set well back alongside the chest wall, elbows turning neither in nor out.

## Forelegs

Forelegs are perfectly straight from elbow to foot with heavy bone which must be in proportion to the rest of the dog. **Viewed from the front, the forelegs are parallel and widely spaced commensurate with the broad chest.**

## Pasterns

Pasterns are short and upright. Wrists shall not knuckle over.

## Feet

Feet are round, compact, cat-like, standing well up on the thick toe pads. The dewclaws may be removed.

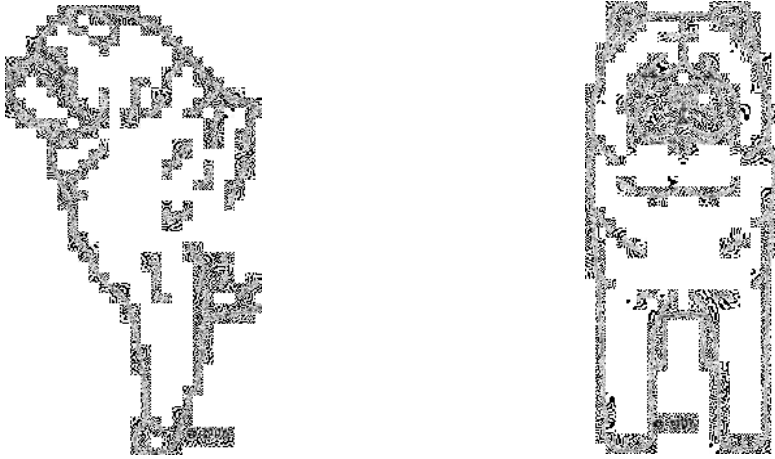
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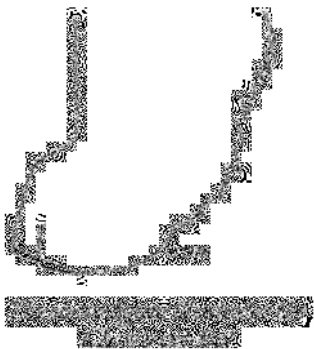
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Feet are round, compact, cat-like, standing well up on the thick toe pads. The dewclaws may be removed.

# Correct broad chest

male



bitch



smooth

Incorrect; narrow chest



Incorrect; legs too far forward



# Correct compact catlike feet



## Incorrect splayed, flattened feet



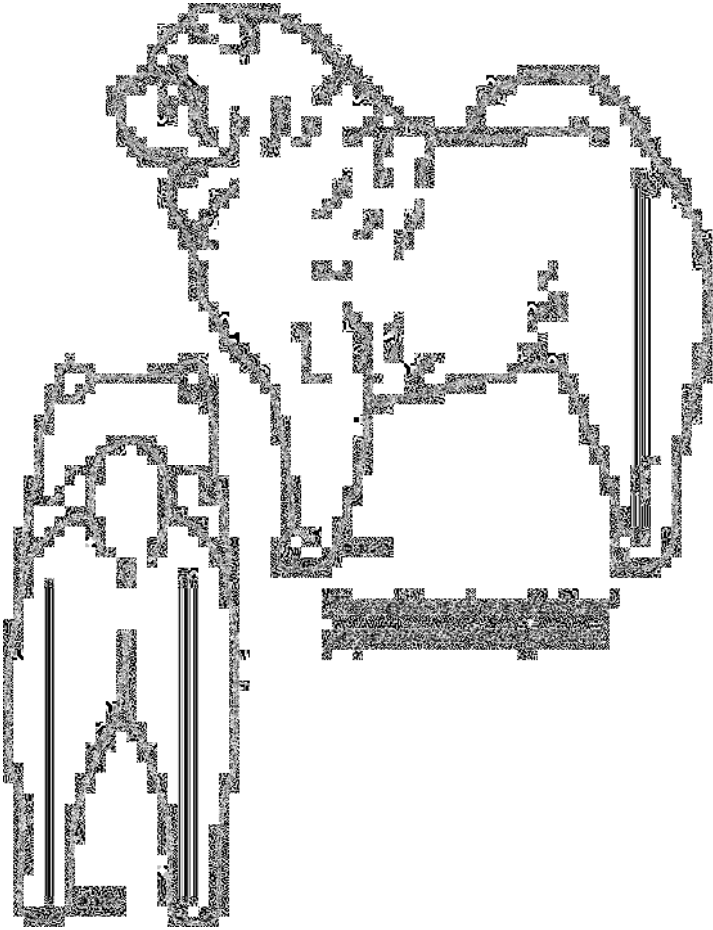
# HINDQUARTERS

## ***Rear Assembly***

The rear assembly is broad, powerful, and well muscled in the hips and thighs, heavy in bone with rear and front bone approximately equal. Viewed from the rear, the legs are straight, parallel and widely spaced commensurate with the broad pelvis.

## ***Stifle Joint***

The stifle joint shows little angulation, is well knit and stable, points straight forward and the bones of the joint should be clean and sharp.



## ***Hock Joint***

The hock joint is well let down and appears almost straight. The hock joint must be strong, well knit and firm, never bowing or breaking forward or to either side. The hock joint and metatarsals lie in a straight line below the hip joint.

## ***Serious Faults***

Unsound stifle or hock joints.



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## Serious Faults

Unsound stifle or hock joints.

## Metatarsals

Short and perpendicular to the ground.

## Correct hindquarters



## Correct hocks and hindquarters



Correct hindquarter structure  
but lacking well muscled thigh





## Sickle hocks



Incorrect hindquarters;  
excessive angulation in knee  
and hock joints



**Incorrect hindquarters; legs set too far back**



# Good examples of rough and smooth Chow Chows





# Illustration, Overlay Rough and Smooth

## **COAT**

There are two types of coat; rough and smooth. Both are double coated.

### **Rough**

In the rough coat, the outer coat is abundant, dense, straight and off standing, rather coarse in texture; the undercoat soft, thick and woolly.

Puppy coat soft, thick and woolly overall.

The coat forms a profuse ruff around the head and neck, framing the head. The coat and ruff generally longer in dogs than in bitches. The coat length varies markedly on different Chows and thickness, texture and condition should be given greater emphasis than length.

Obvious trimming or shaping is undesirable. Trimming of the whiskers, feet and metatarsals optional.

### **Smooth**

The smooth coated Chow is judged by the same standard as the rough coated Chow except that references to the quantity and distribution of the outer coat are not applicable to the smooth coated Chow, which has a hard, dense, smooth outer coat with a definite undercoat. There should be no obvious ruff or feathering on the legs or tail.

## **COLOR**

Clear colored, solid or solid with lighter shadings in the ruff, tail and featherings.

There are five colors in the Chow:

\*Red (light golden to deep mahogany),

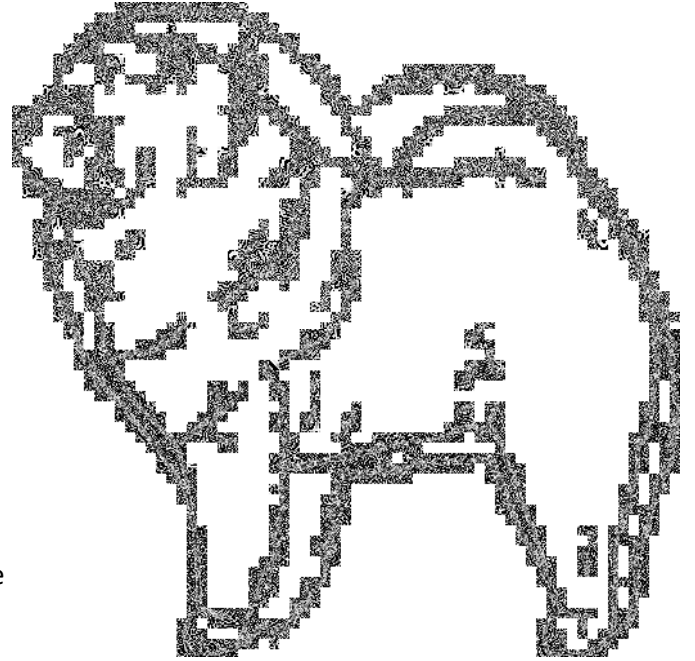
\*Black,

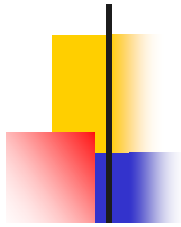
\*Blue,

\*Cinnamon

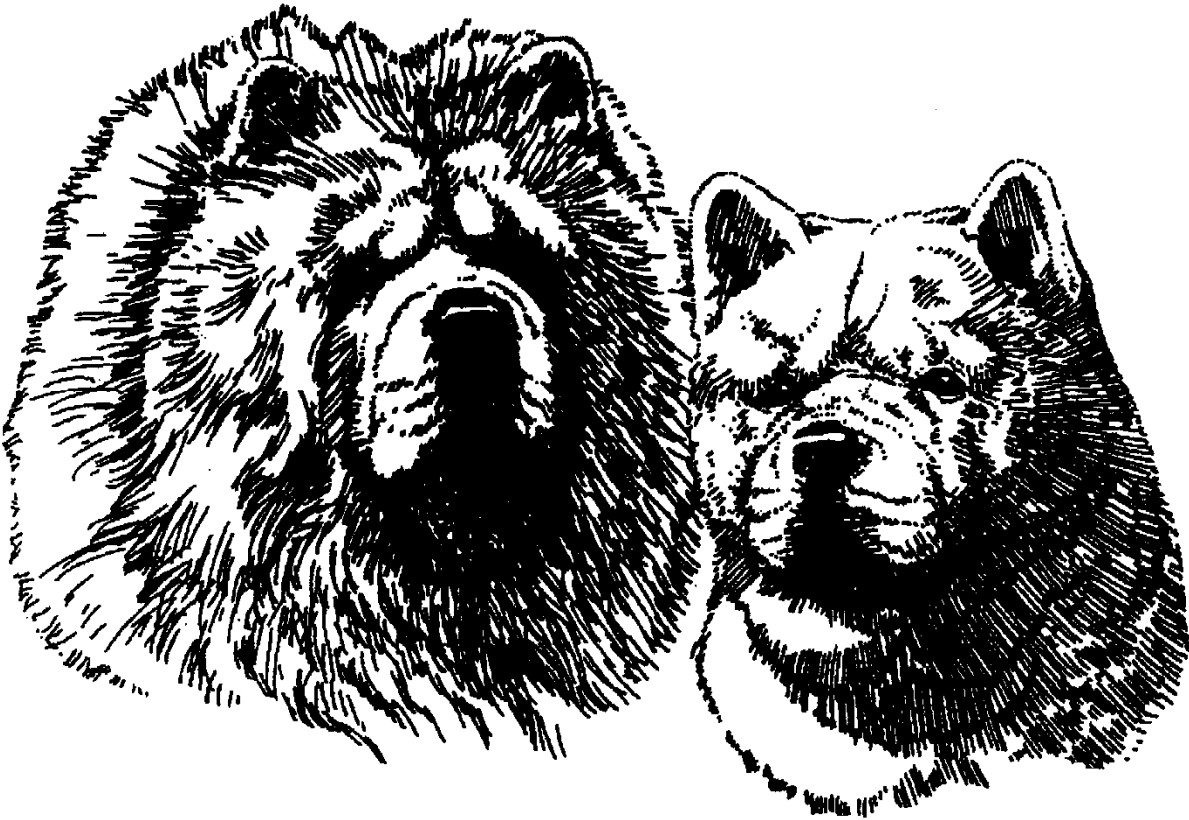
(light fawn to deep cinnamon), and

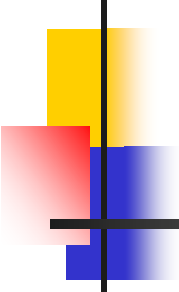
\*Cream.





# Rough and Smooth





# Color

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■ Clear colored, solid or solid with lighter shadings in the ruff, tail and featherings.

There are five colors in the Chow:

\*Red (light golden to deep mahogany),

\*Black,

\*Blue,

\*Cinnamon (light fawn to deep cinnamon), and

\*Cream.

Acceptable colors to be judged on an equal basis.

# Chow Chow puppy



Chow Chow shaved down to  
show actual body structure  
Correct topline – short, level  
back, good depth of chest



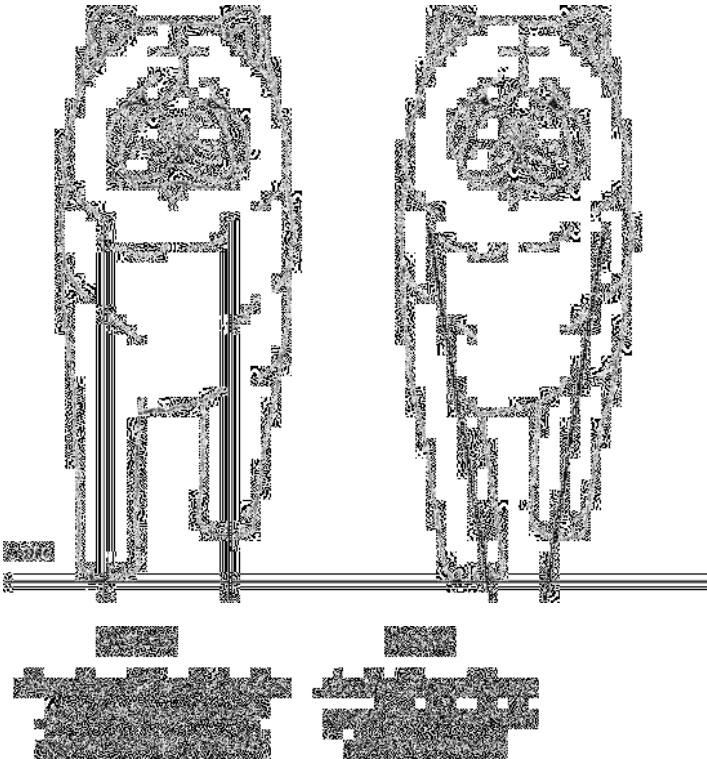
# GAIT

*Proper movement is the crucial test of proper conformation and soundness. It must be sound, straight moving, agile, brief, quick and powerful, never lumbering.*



## *Front Gait*

*Viewed from the front, the line of bone from shoulder joint to pad remains straight as the dog moves. As the speed increases, the forelegs do not move in exact parallel planes, rather, incline slightly inward. The front legs must not swing out in semicircles nor mince or show any evidence of hackney action.*



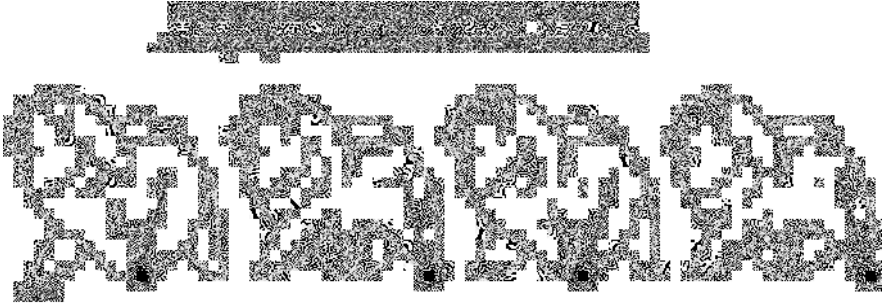
*The front and rear assemblies must be in dynamic equilibrium. Somewhat lacking in speed, the Chow has excellent endurance because the sound, straight rear leg provides direct, usable power efficiently.*

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### Rear Gait

The rear gait short and stilted because of the straighter rear assembly. It is from the side that the unique stilted action is most easily assessed.

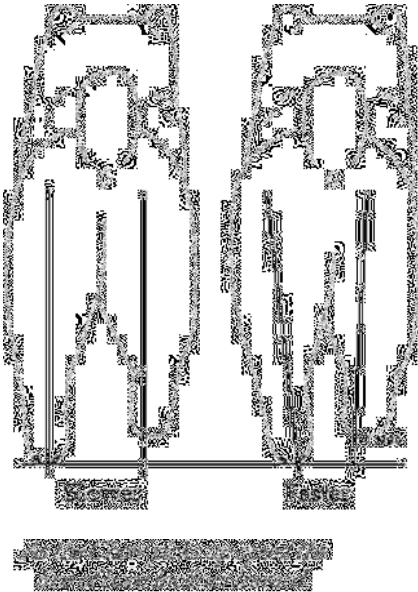


The rear leg moves up and forward from the hip in a **straight, stilted pendulum-like line** with a slight bounce in the rump, the legs extend neither far forward nor far backward.

The hind foot has a strong thrust which transfers power to the body in an almost straight line due to the minimal rear leg angulation.

To transmit this power efficiently to the front assembly, the coupling must be short and there should be no roll through the midsection.

Viewed from the rear, the line of bone from hip joint to pad remains straight as the dog moves. As the speed increases the hindlegs incline slightly inward.



The stifle joints must point in the line of travel, not outward resulting in a bowlegged appearance nor hitching in under the dog.

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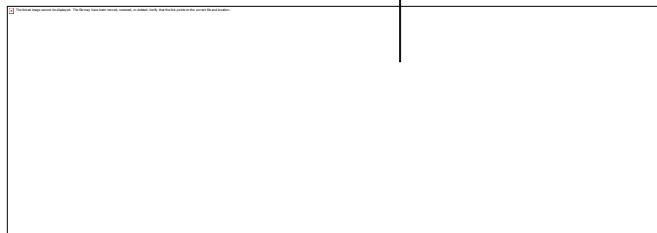
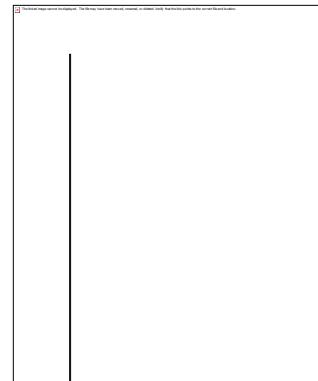
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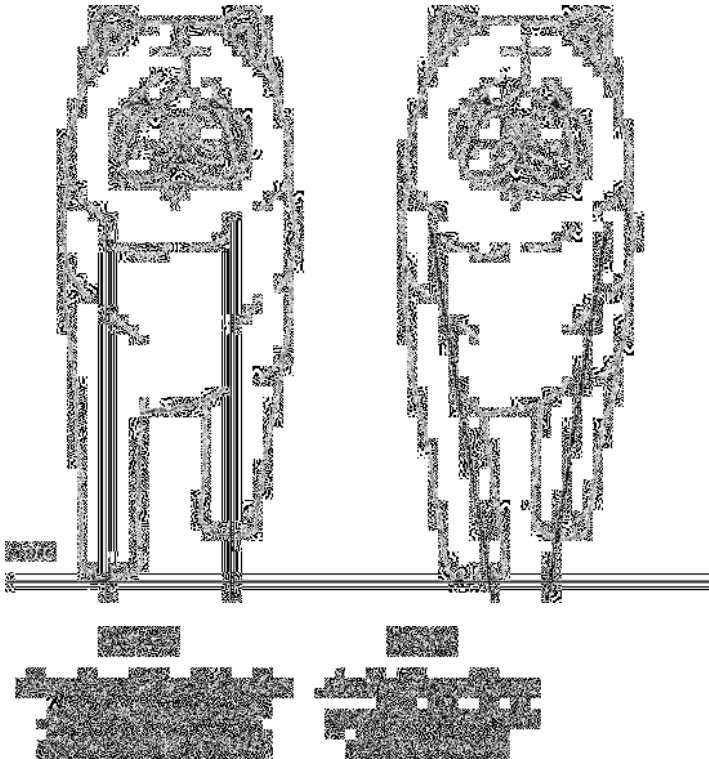
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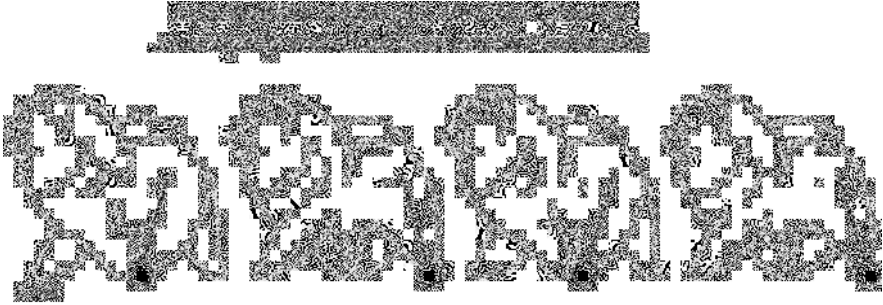
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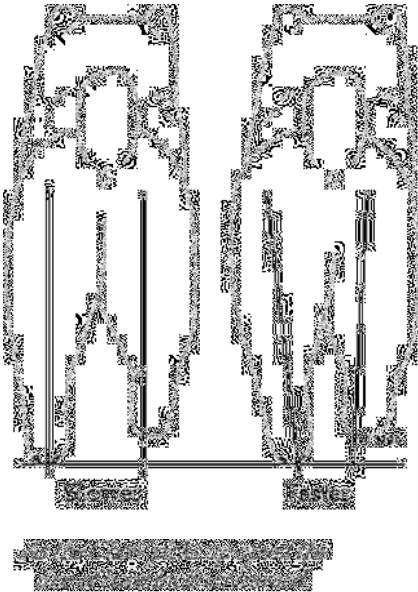


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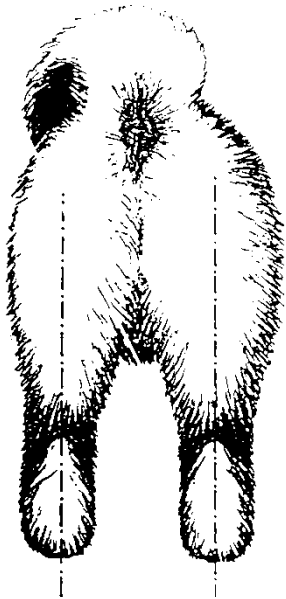
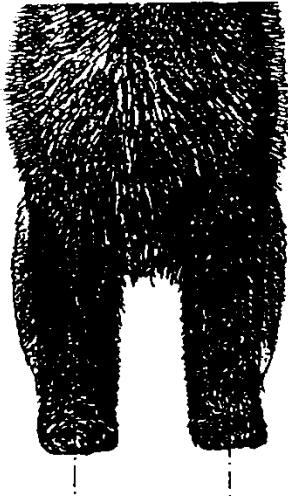
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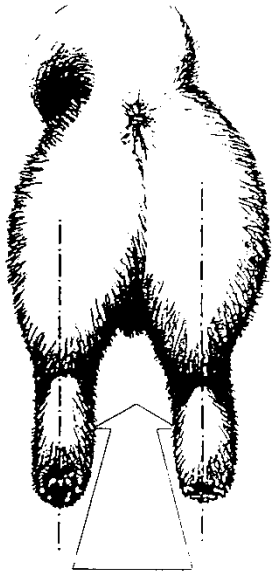
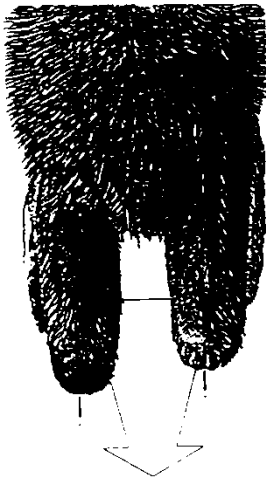
# GAIT

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STANDING



MOVING



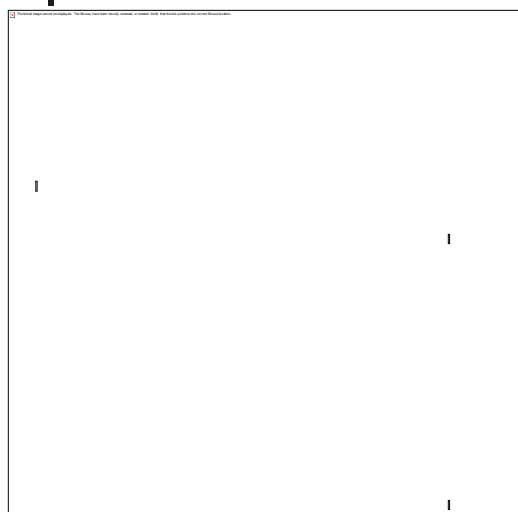
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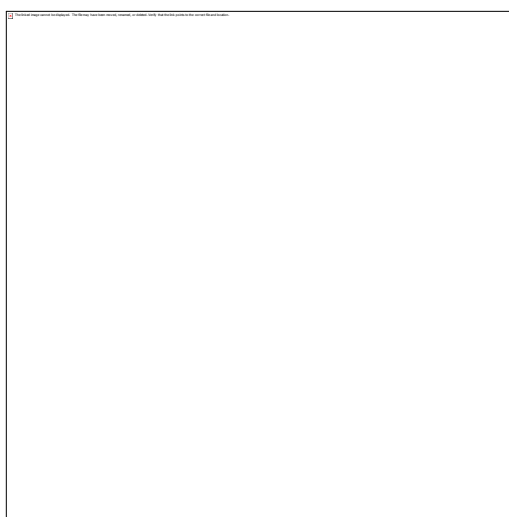


# TEMPERAMENT

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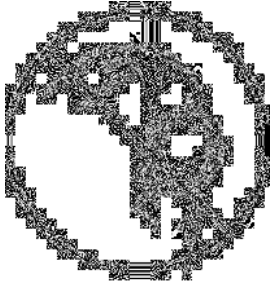
*Never approach a  
Chow from either of  
these directions*



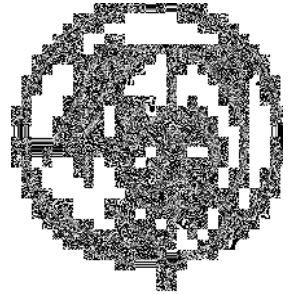
# ***TEMPERAMENT***

Keen intelligence, an independent spirit and innate dignity give the Chow an aura of aloofness. It is a Chow's nature to be reserved and discerning with strangers.

Displays of aggression or timidity are unacceptable. Because of its deep set eyes **the Chow has limited peripheral vision and is best approached within the scope of that vision.**



***Always approach the Chow directly from the front, never from the side or rear, with the first contact being under the chin, not over the top of the head.***



# SUMMARY

Faults shall be penalized in proportion to their deviation from the standard. In judging the Chow, the overall picture is of primary consideration.

Exaggeration of any characteristic at the expense of balance or soundness shall be severely penalized.

Equally objectionable are snipey, fine boned specimens and overdone, ponderous, cloddy specimens.

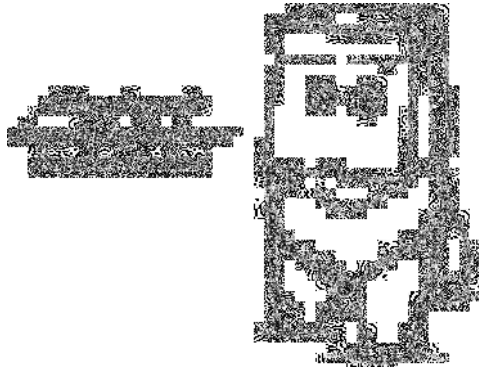
In comparing specimens of different sex, due allowance must be made in favor of the bitches who may not have as much head or substance as do the males. There is an impression of femininity in bitches as compared to an impression of masculinity in dogs.

Type should include general appearance, temperament, the harmony of all parts, and soundness especially as seen when the dog is in motion.

There should be proper emphasis on movement which is the final test of the Chow's conformation, balance and soundness.

## ***Disqualifications***

\*Nose spotted or distinctly other color than black except in blue Chows which may have solid blue or slate noses.



\*The top surface or edges of the tongue red or pink or with one or more spots of red or pink.

\*Drop ear or ears. A drop ear is one which breaks at any point from its base to its tip or which is not carried stiffly erect but lies parallel to the top of the skull.

## ***Serious Faults***

\*Profile other than square.

\*Entropion or ectropion, or pupils wholly or partially obscured by loose skin.

\*Labored or abdominal breathing (not to include normal panting), narrow or slab-sided chest.

\*Unsound Stifle or Hock Joint



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# Serious Faults

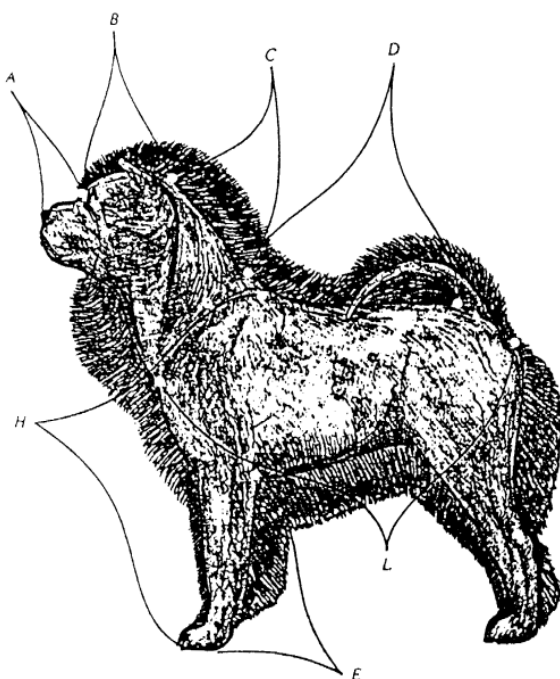
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# Approximate dimensions

## APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS



H = Height at Shoulder (  $2 \times E$  )

L = Length from Point of Shoulder to Ischium

A = Length of Muzzle

B = Length of Skull from Stop to Occiput

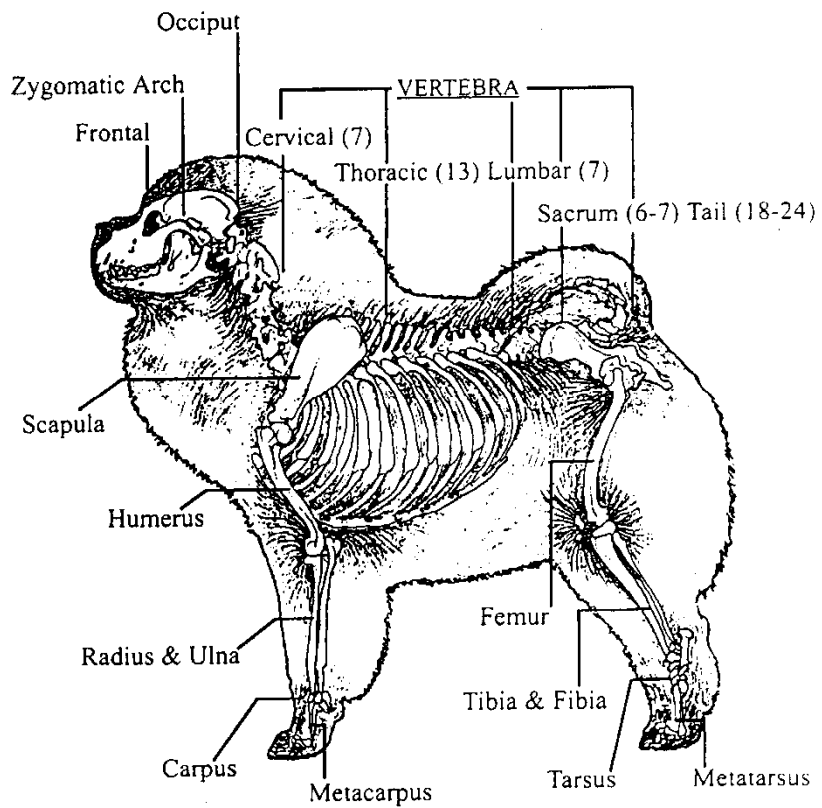
C = Length of Neck (  $3 \times A$  )

D = Length of Back (  $6 \times A$  )

E = Length of Leg from Elbow to Ground (  $\frac{1}{2} \times H$  )

# Skeletal Structure

## SKELETAL STRUCTURE





# Chow Chow Structure

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## EYES

dark, deep set  
moderate size,  
almond shaped

## NOSE

large, broad, black

## MUZZLE

short, broad from  
eye to end of nose,  
of equal depth

## LIPS

full, overhanging

## SHOULDERS

muscular, slight slope

## CHEST

broad, deep, muscular

## FORELEGS

straight, heavy bone,  
upright pasterns

## EARS

on top of skull,  
slight forward tilt

## BACK

short, straight, strong

## TAIL

set well up,  
carried close to back

## LOINS

short, deep, powerful

## RIBS

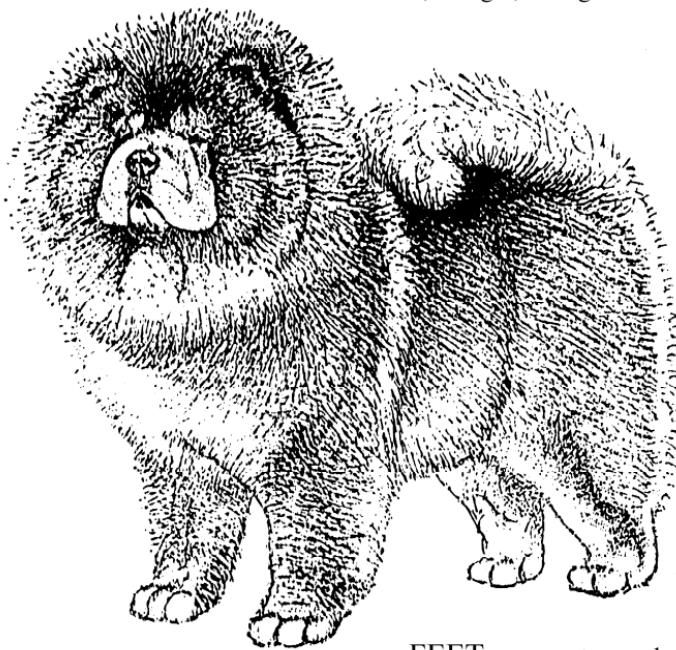
well sprung

## FLANK

well let down

## HINDLEGS

straight hocked, muscular,  
heavy bone



**FEET** compact, round, cat-like, thick pads

# Chow Chow Anatomy

## ANATOMY

