

THE WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON



A JUDGES' EDUCATION PRESENTATION

APPROVED BY THE
AMERICAN WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON ASSOCIATION
2013

AWPGA OBJECTIVE

To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of the purebred Wirehaired Pointing Griffons in addition, do all things possible to bring their natural hunting qualities to perfection.

HISTORY

The initial development of the Breed took place in the Netherlands, however Eduard Korthals did the majority of his work in Germany.

We have record of his method in his own words: “Lots of training, hard selection, and in-breeding”. Korthals accomplished his work between 1874 and 1896. fixing his Griffon type in roughly 20 years.



The Breed Standard was signed by Korthals and 16 other colleague breeders in 1887, just 9 years before his death.

It is largely the same Standard used today.

The Breed is still referred to in Europe as the Korthals Griffon.



“BOLERO” circa 1916

In 1990 the AWPGA was formed in the U.S. and given AKC Parent Club status. Prior to that there was a breed club, but they outcrossed dogs with the Czechoslovakian Fousek and were never approved by the AKC.

The Wirehaired Pointing Griffon was bred to be versatile - able to hunt any terrain under any conditions.





any terrain

any conditions





As vast, open hunting ranges shrink, the Griffon is rapidly gaining popularity for his style of hunting, which is gun range.



QUICK GLANCE IN THE RING...

- MOVEMENT
- PROPORTION
- SUBSTANCE
- COAT
- SIZE
- TEMPERAMENT
- REMEMBER TO FIT FORM TO FUNCTION

IN THE FOLLOWING SLIDES

THE STANDARD IS IN THIS FONT & COLOR

THE STANDARD

GENERAL APPEARANCE

- MEDIUM SIZE WITH A NOBLE SQUARE-SHAPED HEAD AND STRONG OF LIMB
- BRED TO COVER ALL TERRAIN WITH A WALKING HUNTER
- EXCELS AS A POINTER OR A RETRIEVER
- COAT IS HARD AND COARSE WITH A THICK UNDERCOAT OF FINE HAIR (SHOULD NOT BE CURLY OR WOOLY)
- MOVEMENT SHOWING AN EASY CATLIKE GRACEFULNESS





SIZE, PROPORTION & SUBSTANCE

SIZE:

- DOGS: 22 TO 24 INCHES AT WITHERS
- BITCHES: 20 TO 22 INCHES AT WITHERS
- *OVERSIZE TO BE ***SEVERELY*** PENALIZED*

*ASIDE FROM A COLOR DISQUALIFICATION,
THE STANDARD USES ITS STRONGEST
LANGUAGE IN ADDRESSING SIZE AND BITE.*

SIZE:

SIZE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

KORTHALS DEVELOPED A DOG LARGE ENOUGH AND STRONG ENOUGH TO WORK HEAVY, MARSHY TERRAIN IN HEAVY COVER. HE ALSO WANTED A DOG MANAGEABLE ENOUGH TO BE BROUGHT INTO A BOAT AFTER A RETRIEVE.





***THIS DOG MUST
BE RESISTANT
TO FATIGUE,
OF MODERATE
SIZE AND ABLE
TO CARRY
GAME UP TO
20 POUNDS.***





THIS IS A 45 POUND BITCH. NOTE THE USE OF THE HINDQUARTERS TO HELP BALANCE THE WEIGHT OF GOOSE WEIGHING 20 POUNDS.

PROPORTION:

- SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN TALL IN A RATIO OF 10 TO 9
- LENGTH MEASURED FROM POINT OF SHOULDER TO POINT OF BUTTOCKS
- THE GRIFFON SHOULD NOT EVOLVE TOWARD A SQUARE CONFORMATION



SUBSTANCE:

- **SUBSTANCE SHOULD BE MEDIUM, REFLECTING HIS ABILITY TO WORK AS AN ALL TERRAIN HUNTING DOG**

A REEDY LOOK: LACKING GOOD BONE, TOO MUCH LENGTH OF LEG, INADEQUATE DEPTH OF BODY , IS INCORRECT IN THIS BREED.

THE WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON MUST CARRY GOOD BONE AS THIS IS A STRONG WORKING DOG.



WHEN YOU FIRST SEE THIS DOG IN THE RING YOU SHOULD SEE POWER, SUBSTANCE AND BEAUTIFUL SYMMETRY.

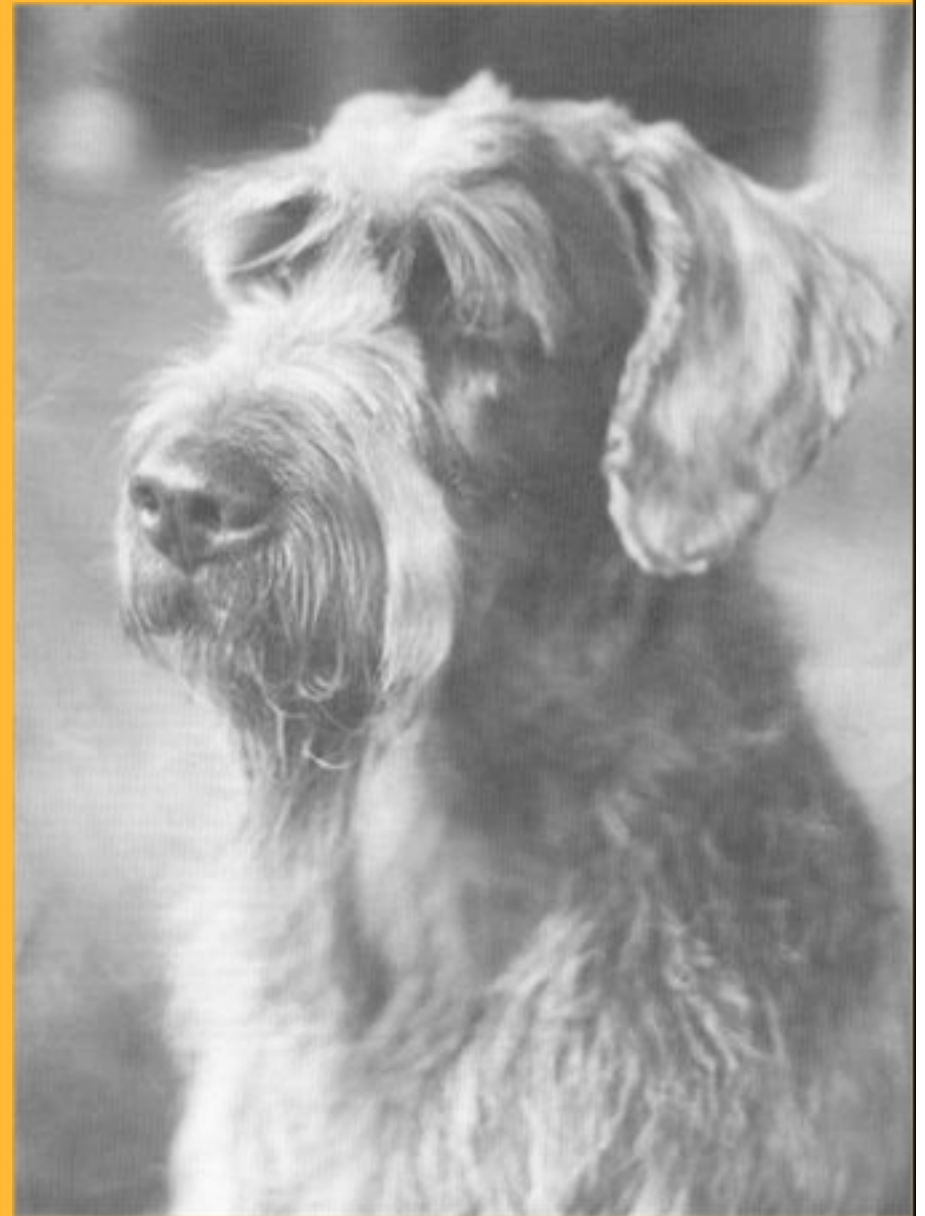
HEAD:

- THE HEAD IS TO BE IN PROPORTION TO THE OVERALL DOG
- THE SKULL IS OF MEDIUM WIDTH WITH EQUAL LENGTH FROM NOSE TO STOP AND FROM STOP TO OCCIPUT
- SKULL IS SLIGHTLY ROUNDED ON TOP, BUT FROM THE SIDE THE MUZZLE AND HEAD ARE SQUARE
- THE STOP AND OCCIPUT ARE SLIGHTLY PRONOUNCED
- THE ABUNDANT MUSTACHE AND EYEBROWS CONTRIBUTE TO THE FRIENDLY EXPRESSION

THE HEAD IS A DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC OF THE BREED. THE HAIR ON THE HEAD IS AN EXTENSION OF THE UNDERCOAT AND AS SUCH THE TEXTURE IS LESS WIRY THAN THE HAIR ON THE BODY.

KORTHALS WAS SPECIFIC ABOUT THE HAIR ON THE HEAD OF THE GRIFFON. EXCESSIVE FURNISHINGS AND LENGTH OF HAIR ON TOP OF THE HEAD INDICATE TOO MUCH UNDERCOAT. THUS A COAT THAT IS OVERALL TOO SOFT.

CASTAING'S HISTORICAL ACCOUNT CALLS FOR A SCULPTED HEAD WITH WHICH THE BONY LEDGES GIVE AN ATTRACTIVE OVERALL PROFILE.







***GROOMING ON HEAD AND NECK OF A FRENCH DOG.
~~THIS IS ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE IN THE U.S.~~***

***LOOK FOR A GOOD BACK SKULL WITH A SMOOTH ATTACHMENT
INTO A WELL-ARCHED NECK.***

EYES:

- THE EYES ARE LARGE AND WELL OPEN, MORE ROUNDED THAN ELLIPTICAL
- THEY HAVE AN ALERT, FRIENDLY AND INTELLIGENT EXPRESSION
- EYE COLOR RANGES IN ALL SHADES OF YELLOW AND BROWN
- HAWS SHOULD NOT SHOW NOR SHOULD THERE BE PROTRUDING EYES

*ONE SHOULD SEE
GOOD FILL UNDER
THE EYE. THE ROUND
EYE IN THE GRIFFON
IS A
CHARACTERISTIC
THAT SETS THIS
BREED APART FROM
THE GERMAN
WIREHAIED
POINTER AND THE
GERMAN SHORTHAIR
POINTER. DARK
BROWN PIGMENT
AROUND THE EYE IS
DESIRABLE.*



EARS:

- THE EARS SHOULD BE OF MEDIUM SIZE, LYING FLAT AND CLOSE TO THE HEAD, SET HIGH, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE EYE LINE

“SET HIGH” MEANS THAT WHEN ALERT, THE FOLD OF THE EAR IS AT THE HEIGHT OF THE EYE LINE. THE POINT OF ATTACHMENT IS, IN FACT, HIGHER.



NOSE:

- WELL OPEN NOSTRILS ARE ESSENTIAL
- NOSE COLOR IS ALWAYS BROWN
- ANY OTHER COLOR IS A DISQUALIFICATION



BITE:

- THE DOG MUST HAVE A SCISSOR BITE
- OVERSHOT OR UNDERSHOT BITE IS A SERIOUS FAULT

THE STANDARD USES THE STRONGEST LANGUAGE (ASIDE FROM COLOR DISQUALIFICATION) IN ADDRESSING SIZE AND BITE.

THE WPG MUST POSSESS A WELL-DEVELOPED UNDERJAW... SOMETHING OFTEN OVERLOOKED IN THE RING. THIS FEATURE IS VITALLY IMPORTANT AS THIS DOG MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO CARRY UP TO 20 POUNDS.



**NECK, TOPLINE,
BODY & TAIL**

NECK:

- NECK SHOULD BE RATHER LONG, SLIGHTLY ARCHED AND NO DEWLAP

THE NECK SHOULD BLEND SMOOTHLY INTO WELL-ANGULATED SHOULDERS. LENGTH OF NECK IS IMPORTANT IN THIS BREED AS THE WPG HUNTS BOTH BY GROUND AND AIR SCENTING. THE NECK SHOULD BE STRONG, FIRM AND ELEGANT. IT SHOULD NOT BE THICK OR BULLISH.

***THE NECK SHOULD BE STRONG, FIRM AND ELEGANT.
IT SHOULD NOT BE THICK OR BULLISH.***





TOPLINE:

- THE BACK IS STRONG AND FIRM, DESCENDING IN A GENTLE SLOPE FROM SLIGHTLY HIGHER WITHERS TO THE BASE OF THE TAIL



TOPLINE INCLUDES WITHERS, BACK, LOIN AND CROUP AND SHOULD APPEAR AS ONE STRONG, SMOOTH PIECE. THERE SHOULD BE NO DIP IN THE BACK NOR RISE OVER THE LOIN.

BODY:

- **THE CHEST MUST DESCEND TO THE LEVEL OF THE ELBOW, WITH MODERATE SPRING OF RIB**
- **THE CHEST MUST NEITHER BE TOO WIDE OR TOO NARROW, BUT OF MEDIUM WIDTH TO ALLOW FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT**
- **THE LOIN IS STRONG AND WELL DEVELOPED, BEING OF MEDIUM LENGTH**
- **THE CROUP AND RUMP ARE STOUTLY MADE WITH ADEQUATE LENGTH TO FAVOR SPEED**





LOOK FOR GOOD CONDITIONING AND MUSCLE DEVELOPMENT ON THE INNER AND OUTER THIGH. BREADTH OF THIGH IS IMPORTANT. THIS DOG SHOULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF POWER WHEN STANDING AND MOVING.

NOTE THE BEAUTIFUL MOVEMENT IN THE ELBOW AND UPPER ARM OF THE DOG ON POINT. THIS IS INDICATIVE OF CORRECT SPRING OF RIB (MODERATE), BREADTH OF CHEST (MODERATE) AND CORRECT SHOULDER ANGULATION.





***THESE PICTURES DEPICT A CORRECT LOIN:
MEDIUM LENGTH AND WELL-MUSCLED.***



THE LOIN IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AS IT IS THE TRANSMITTER OF THE REAR DRIVE THROUGH THE BACK.

***AN INCORRECT LOIN... TOO LONG OR TOO SHORT...
MANIFESTS ITSELF IN:***

- 1) WEAK TOPLINE WITH LIMITED DRIVE
THROUGH THE FOREQUARTERS
(LONG LOIN)***

- 2) CHOPPY REAR MOVEMENT WITH POOR
FOLLOW THROUGH OF THE REAR LEGS.
INCORRECT OVERALL BODY PROPORTION.
(SHORT LOIN).***

*SHOULDERS ARE
WELL MUSCLED BUT
NEVER LOADED.
MODERATE BREADTH
OF CHEST.*



TAIL:

- THE TAIL EXTENDS FROM THE BACK IN A CONTINUATION OF THE TOPLINE
- IT MAY BE CARRIED STRAIGHT OR RAISED SLIGHTLY
- THE TAIL IS DOCKED BY ONE-THIRD TO ONE-HALF
- A TERRIER TAIL IS INCORRECT IN THE WPG



INCORRECT PLUME

FOREQUARTERS

FOREQUARTERS:

- SHOULDERS ARE LONG, WITH GOOD ANGULATION, AND WELL LAID BACK
- THE FORELEGS ARE STRAIGHT AND VERTICAL FROM THE FRONT AND SET WELL UNDER THE SHOULDER FROM THE SIDE
- PASTERNS ARE SLIGHTLY SLOPING
- DEWCLAWS SHOULD BE REMOVED
- FEET ARE ROUND, FIRM WITH TIGHTLY CLOSED WEBBED TOES
- PADS ARE THICK



correct front

***SLOPE OF THE
SCAPULA IS 45°. WHERE IT MEETS
THE UPPER ARM,
THE ANGLE
SHOULD BE
AS CLOSE
TO 90° AS
POSSIBLE.***



correct front

*LENGTH OF SCAPULA
SHOULD BE EQUAL
TO LENGTH OF
UPPER ARM
FROM THE
POINT OF THE
SHOULDER
TO THE
ELBOW.*



***DEVIATIONS IN ANGLE
AND/OR LENGTH
RESULT IN INCORRECT
AND WASTED MOTION
AND THUS THE ABILITY
OF THE DOG TO WORK.***

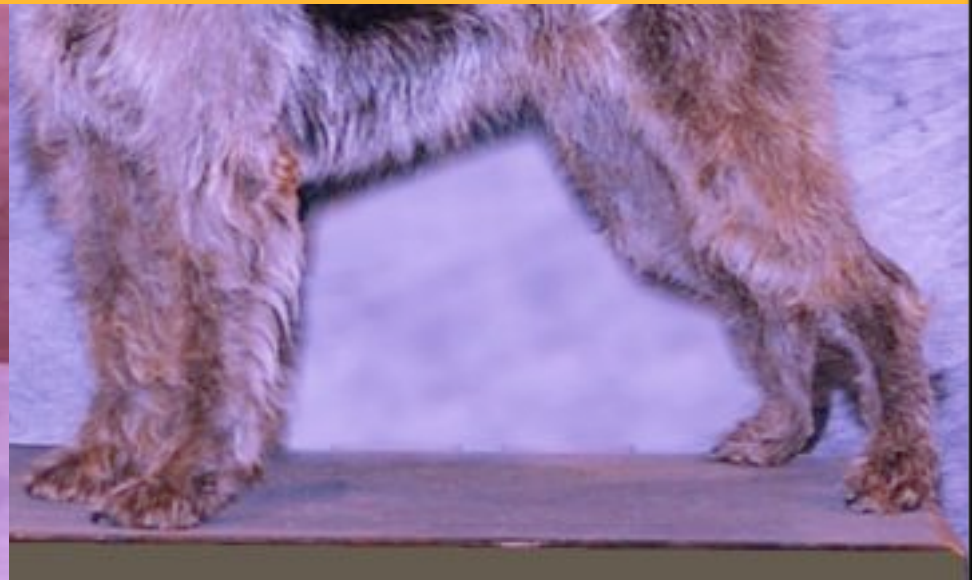
***HACKNEYED
MOVEMENT IS
INCORRECT IN THE
WPG.***



PASTERNS ARE SLIGHTLY SLOPING. NEITHER UPRIGHT AS IN A TERRIER NOR 45° AS IN THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG. CORRECT PASTERNS ARE VITAL TO THE ANIMAL'S ABILITY TO ABSORB THE SHOCK OF STRIKING THE GROUND AS HE WORKS.



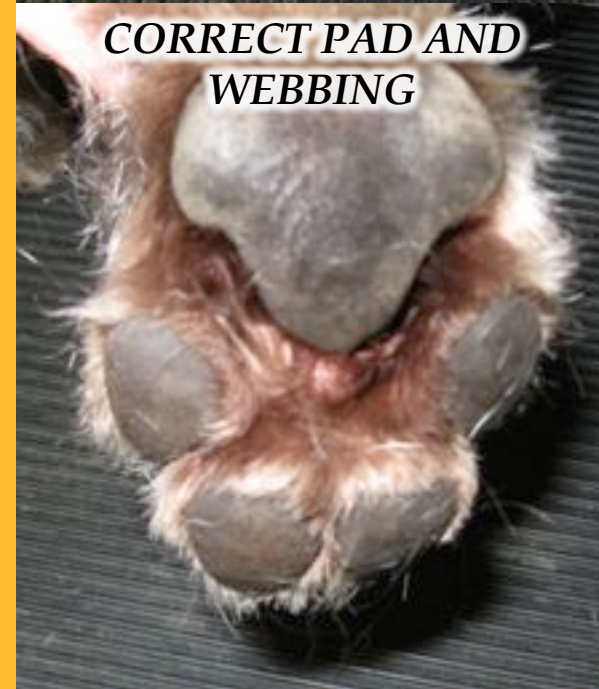
CORRECT FOOT AND PASTERNS



***INCORRECT, WEAK PASTERNS;
POOR FEET***

*GOOD, CORRECT FEET
ARE OF THE ESSENCE
AND OFTEN
OVERLOOKED BY THE
JUDGE. THE FOOT IS
ROUND, WELL-
ARCHED WITH THICK
PADS.*

*A HARE'S FOOT IS
INCORRECT IN THE
WPG.*



HINDQUARTERS

HINDQUARTERS:

- THE THIGHS ARE LONG AND WELL MUSCLED
- ANGULATION IN BALANCE WITH THE FRONT
- THE LEGS ARE VERTICAL WITH THE HOCKS TURNING NEITHER IN NOR OUT
- THE STIFLE AND HOCK JOINTS ARE STRONG AND WELL ANGULATED
- FEET AS IN FRONT



ONCE AGAIN, LOOK FOR SUBSTANTIAL BREADTH OF THIGH. ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEEL GOOD MUSCLE DEVELOPMENT ON THE INNER AND OUTER THIGH.

HOCKS ARE PERPENDICULAR TO THE GROUND. GOOD TURN OF STIFLE TO MATCH GOOD SHOULDER ANGULATION.



COAT

COAT

- THE DOUBLE COAT IS ONE OF THE DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE BREED
- THE OUTER COAT IS MEDIUM LENGTH, STRAIGHT AND WIRY, NEVER CURLY OR WOOLY
- THE UNDERCOAT CONSISTS OF A FINE THICK DOWN, WHICH PROVIDES INSULATION AS WELL AS WATER RESISTANCE
- THE UNDERCOAT IS MORE OR LESS ABUNDANT, DEPENDING ON THE SEASON, CLIMATE AND HORMONE CYCLE OF THE DOG. IT IS USUALLY LIGHTER IN COLOR.



REMEMBER THESE THINGS ABOUT THE COAT:

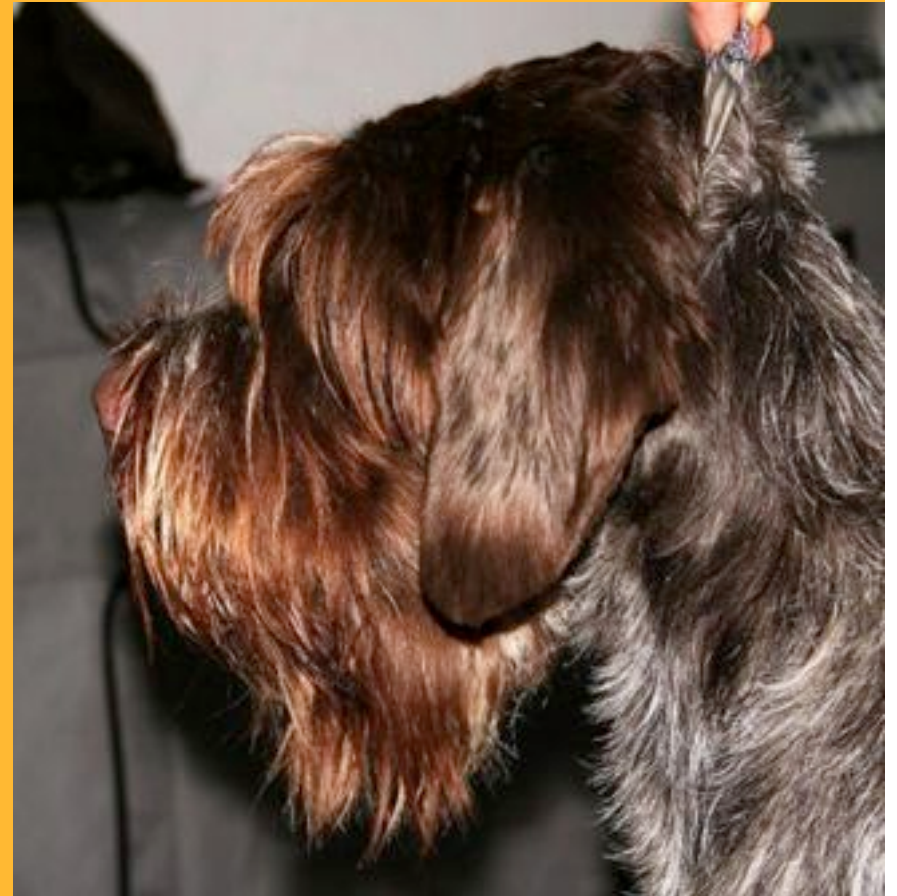
- 1) MEDIUM LENGTH (2-3 INCHES)***
- 2) UNDERCOAT HAS THE FEEL OF THE HEAD COAT,
SHOULD NOT FEEL WOOLY OR CURLY***
- 3) A THICK WOOLY OR CURLY COAT ON THE HEAD IS AN
INDICATION OF AN INCORRECT UNDERCOAT***
- 4) SOLID BROWN PATCHES ARE ACTUALLY UNDERCOAT
AND NOT INDICATIVE OF OVERALL BODY COAT***
- 5) THE TAIL IS A GOOD PLACE TO CHECK COAT;
ALSO EITHER SIDE OF THE SHOULDERS***



THIS ILLUSTRATES LENGTH AND THICKNESS CHANGE AT A SOLID BROWN PATCH

COAT (CONTINUED...)

- THE HEAD IS FURNISHED WITH A PROMINENT MUSTACHE AND EYEBROWS
- THESE REQUIRED FEATURES ARE THE EXTENSION OF THE UNDERCOAT WHICH GIVES THE GRIFFON A SOMEWHAT UNTIDY APPEARANCE
- THE HAIR COVERING THE EARS IS FAIRLY SHORT AND SOFT, MIXED WITH LONGER HARSH HAIR FROM THE COAT
- THE OVERALL FEEL IS MUCH LESS WIRY THAN THE BODY



“CAPITAINE FRACASSE” circa 1916



HISTORIC PHOTOS OF GRIFFONS SHOW COATS THAT ARE VERY MODERATE. EXPRESSIVE, ALERT EYES ARE SEEN WITHOUT A HEAVY VEIL OF EYEBROWS.



COAT (CONTINUED...)

- **THE LEGS, BOTH FRONT AND REAR, ARE COVERED WITH DENSER, SHORTER AND LESS COARSE HAIR**
- **THE COAT ON THE TAIL IS THE SAME AS THE BODY; ANY TYPE OF PLUME IS PROHIBITED**
- **THE BREED SHOULD BE EXHIBITED IN FULL BODY COAT, NOT STRIPPED SHORT IN PATTERN**
- **TRIMMING AND STRIPPING ARE ONLY ALLOWED AROUND THE EARS, TOP OF HEAD, CHEEKS AND FEET**

REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A TERRIER TYPE COAT AND, AS SUCH, REQUIRES MAINTENANCE. THE STANDARD SAYS "UNKEMPT." THIS DOES NOT MEAN UNCLEAN, UNCOMBED OR UNGROOMED. THE GRIFFON IS NOT STRIPPED IN A PATTERN BUT THERE IS NO PLUME ALLOWED ON THE TAIL, FEET SHOULD BE NEAT (NOT A BEDROOM SLIPPER LOOK) AND THE HEAD IS GROOMED SO AS TO DISPLAY A "TYPICALLY SCULPTED HEAD" AS DESCRIBED BY THE ORIGINAL SIGNERS OF THE BREED.



COAT COLOR

- PREFERABLY STEEL GRAY WITH BROWN MARKINGS, FREQUENTLY CHESTNUT BROWN, OR ROAN, WHITE AND BROWN; WHITE AND ORANGE ALSO ACCEPTABLE
- A UNIFORMLY BROWN COAT, ALL WHITE COAT, OR WHITE AND ORANGE ARE LESS DESIRABLE
- A BLACK COAT DISQUALIFIES



** AN OLD ADAGE IN THIS BREED IS THAT IT CAN TAKE 3 YEARS FOR THE CORRECT COAT TO DEVELOP. THIS IS ONE AREA IN THE RING WHERE IT MAY BE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE FOR A JUDGE TO ASK A DOG'S AGE. A SOFT COAT IN A PUP IS NOT A FAULT, BUT A CURLY OR WOOLY COAT IS A FAULT.*

** DENSITY OF COAT CAN CHANGE IN HOT SUMMER MONTHS OR WITH HORMONE CYCLES.*

** DOGS WHO HAVE BEEN HUNTED HEAVILY CAN HAVE BROKEN FURNISHINGS BUT SHOULD STILL EXHIBIT GOOD BODY COAT.*



THIS PUP WILL DEVELOP A CORRECT COAT

ANGULATION & BALANCE

ANGULATION

PROPER ANGULATION PROVIDES THE ABILITY TO MOVE WITH AN EFFORTLESS STRIDE AND SMOOTH ACTION VIEWED FROM THE SIDE, FRONT AND REAR.



BALANCE

- FRONT AND REAR ANGULATION MATCH
- LENGTH OF LEG ROUGHLY THE SAME AS DEPTH OF BODY
- CORRECT PROPORTION: 10 AS TO 9



BALANCE

- GOOD SUBSTANCE
- IF ANY PART STANDS OUT: IT IS A DEVIATION
- A MODERATE TUCK UP



GAIT; MOVEMENT

- **ALTHOUGH CLOSE WORKING, THE GRIFFON SHOULD COVER GROUND IN AN EFFICIENT, TIRELESS MANNER**
- **HE IS A MEDIUM SPEED DOG WITH PERFECT COORDINATION BETWEEN FRONT AND REAR LEGS**



**** THE MOVEMENT IS SMOOTH, EFFORTLESS, WITH BEAUTIFUL REACH AND DRIVE.***



- * THERE IS NO WASTED MOTION. MOVEMENT IS CLEAN AND EFFICIENT.*
- * THIS IS A STRONG BREED AND, AS SUCH, ONE SHOULD HAVE A SENSE OF POWER WHEN THE DOG IS MOVING.*



HACKNEYED MOVEMENT IN THE WPG IS INCORRECT.



HOCKS ARE PERPENDICULAR; ELBOWS ARE CLOSE TO THE BODY AND MOVING WITHOUT RESTRICTION.



GAIT; MOVEMENT



- AT A TROT, BOTH FRONT AND REAR LEGS TEND TO CONVERGE TOWARD THE CENTER LINE OF GRAVITY
- HE SHOWS GOOD EXTENSION BOTH FRONT AND REAR

GAIT; MOVEMENT



- VIEWED FROM THE SIDE, THE TOPLINE IS FIRM AND PARALLEL TO THE LINE OF MOTION. A SMOOTH POWERFUL GROUND-COVERING ABILITY CAN BE SEEN.

TEMPERAMENT & DISQUALIFICATIONS

TEMPERAMENT

- THE GRIFFON HAS A QUICK AND INTELLIGENT MIND AND IS EASILY TRAINED
- HE IS OUTGOING, SHOWS A TREMENDOUS WILLINGNESS TO PLEASE AND IS TRUSTWORTHY
- HE MAKES AN EXCELLENT FAMILY DOG AS WELL AS A METICULOUS HUNTING COMPANION







THIS IS AN OUTGOING, COOPERATIVE DOG AND, AS SUCH, SHOULD NEVER SHOW SIGNS OF SHYNESS OR AGGRESSION. ANYTHING OTHER THAN SOUND TEMPERAMENT SHOULD BE SEVERELY PENALIZED.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- NOSE ANY COLOR OTHER THAN BROWN
- BLACK COAT

JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE
AMERICAN WIREHAired POINTING
GRIFFON ASSOCIATION

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**Visit our website at:
www.awpga.com**



Official Standard for the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon

General Appearance: Medium sized, with a noble, square-shaped head, strong of limb, bred to cover all terrain encountered by the walking hunter. Movement showing an easy catlike gracefulness. Excels equally as a pointer in the field, or a retriever in the water. Coat is hard and coarse, never curly or woolly, with a thick undercoat of fine hair, giving an unkempt appearance. His easy trainability, devotion to family, and friendly temperament endear him to all. The nickname of "supreme gundog" is well earned.

Size, Proportion, Substance: *Size*-22 to 24 inches for males, 20 to 22 inches for females. Correct size is important. Oversize to be severely penalized. *Proportion*-Slightly longer than tall, in a ratio of 10 to 9. Height from withers to ground; length from point of shoulder to point of buttocks. The Griffon must not evolve towards a square conformation. *Substance* medium, reflecting his work as an all-terrain hunting dog.

Head: The *head* is to be in proportion to the overall dog. The *skull* is of medium width with equal length from nose to stop and from stop to occiput. The skull is slightly rounded on top, but from the side the *muzzle* and head are square. The stop and occiput are only slightly pronounced. The required abundant mustache and eyebrows contribute to the friendly *expression*. The *eyes* are large and well open, more rounded than elliptical. They have an alert, friendly, and intelligent expression. Eye color ranges in all shades of yellow and brown. Haws should not show nor should there be protruding eyes. The *ears* should be of medium size, lying flat and close to the head, set high, at the height of the eye line. Nose-Well open nostrils are essential. Nose color is always brown. Any other color is a disqualification. *Bite* scissors. Overshot or undershot bite is a serious fault.

Neck, Topline, Body: *Neck*- rather long, slightly arched, no dewlap. *Topline*- The back is strong and firm, descending in a gentle slope from the slightly higher withers to the base of the tail.

Body-Chest- The chest must descend to the level of the elbow, with a moderate spring of rib. The chest must neither be too wide nor too narrow, but of medium width to allow freedom of movement. The loin is strong and well developed, being of medium length. The croup and rump are stoutly made with adequate length to favor speed. The *tail* extends from the back in a continuation of the topline. It may be carried straight or raised slightly. It is docked by one-third to one-half length.

Forequarters: Shoulders are long, with good angulation, and well laid back. The forelegs are straight and vertical from the front and set well under the shoulder from the side. Pasterns are slightly sloping. Dewclaws should be removed. Feet are round, firm, with tightly closed webbed toes. Pads are thick.

Hindquarters: The thighs are long and well muscled. Angulation in balance with the front. The legs are vertical with the hocks turning neither in nor out. The stifle and hock joints are strong and well angulated. Feet as in front.

Coat: The coat is one of the distinguishing features of the breed. It is a double coat. The outer coat is medium length, straight and wiry, never curly or woolly. The harsh texture provides protection in rough cover. The obligatory undercoat consists of a fine, thick down, which provides insulation as well as water resistance. The undercoat is more or less abundant, depending upon the season, climate, and hormone cycle of the dog. It is usually lighter in color. The head is furnished with a prominent mustache and eyebrows. These required features are extensions of the undercoat, which gives the Griffon a somewhat untidy appearance. The hair



covering the ears is fairly short and soft, mixed with longer harsh hair from the coat. The overall feel is much less wiry than the body. The legs, both front and rear, are covered with denser, shorter, and less coarse hair. The coat on the tail is the same as the body; any type of plume is prohibited. The breed should be exhibited in full body coat, not stripped short in pattern.

Trimming and stripping are only allowed around the ears, top of head, cheeks and feet.

Color: Preferably steel gray with brown markings, frequently chestnut brown, or roan, white and brown; white and orange also acceptable. A uniformly brown coat, all white coat, or white and orange are less desirable. A black coat disqualifies.

Gait: Although close working, the Griffon should cover ground in an efficient, tireless manner. He is a medium-speed dog with perfect coordination between front and rear legs. At a trot, both front and rear legs tend to converge toward the center line of gravity. He shows good extension both front and rear. Viewed from the side, the topline is firm and parallel to the line of motion. A smooth, powerful ground-covering ability can be seen.

Temperament: The Griffon has a quick and intelligent mind and is easily trained. He is outgoing, shows a tremendous willingness to please and is trustworthy. He makes an excellent family dog as well as a meticulous hunting companion.

Disqualifications: *Nose any color other than brown. Black coat.*

Approved October 8, 1991

Effective November 28, 1991


[ShowPlace Index](#) > Preferred Breed Type

All About The Show Dog

AKC Group judge explains why the dog closest to the Breed Standard may be the odd-ball in some breed rings if he's not of CURRENT Breed type.

PREFERRED BREED TYPE

Why The Stand-Out Best Dog Can Be A Loser

E. Katie Gammill, AKC Judge, TheDogPlace.org Exhibition Editor

The Best-of-the Best or one that looks like the rest? Something called "preferred type" is flooding show rings today and in many breeds, it has little to do with the Breed Standard.

"The best dog you'll ever breed may be the hardest dog you ever finish!"

When "current type" does not equal correctness, the best dog can lose because in many rings, the fatal flaw is being a stand-out. A dog show friend, absent from the sport for several years, attended some local shows with me. Welcoming the opportunity to view dogs in general after her sabbatical, she became visually distressed. Her despair increased when a "less than average" class dog received BOB. The waning quality in her beautiful breed breaks her heart. She stated it would be wasted effort to show a dog correct to the standard today, as some judges feel compelled to award dogs conforming to the majority

of the entries.

Observing other breeds, she remarks on the lack of neck, restricted front movement and the lack of rear follow through; we discuss "gay tails" and breed type variances. We watch faulty movement and see coats dragging the ground. Weak pasterns and sickle hocks complete the picture. She wonders what causes this to happen to functional dogs in such a short time. It seems the correct dogs have fallen victim to what one may refer to as the "Perfection of Mediocrity".

Today, many breeders and owners turn to performance, choosing not to participate in a "crap shoot" where such variety in type confuses both judges and ringside. I make this statement at the expense of being tarred and feathered but increasingly, the best dog you'll ever breed may be the hardest dog you will ever finish. It will be the "odd man out" and look different from the majority of dogs represented in the ring. Why? Some judges, insecure in a breed and therefore lacking courage, choose to walk "different" dogs rather than stick their neck out. Understandable, but should those lacking confidence be passing judgment on another's dog?



About The Author

My old mentor said, "The pendulum of type swings to and fro, but those remaining true to the standard triumph in the end." Those dedicated breeders have the knowledge to restore a breed to its initial form once it hits bottom.

Should a judge reward a dog to suggest it could possibly assist in correcting breed faults? NO! It is a breeder's responsibility to incorporate such animals into their programs, regardless of success in the show ring. Judges are to judge to the written standard to the best of their ability, fairly and efficiently. They avoid awarding "drags of a breed" when possible but judges have little insight into the Pandora's Box of breeding.

A respected dog person of long standing approached me with this statement while at a seminar. "A judge CAN NOT GO WRONG by putting up winners conforming to the majority of the type of dogs in the ring on a given day." My response was "Surely not!" Well, I

believe it now! After observing an all breed judge from ringside, I watched two outstanding individuals "walk" because they looked different from the rest of the short neck, sickle hock, smaller than average dogs lacking side gait that toddled around the ring like fuzzy little caricatures of the breed.

This strange "look alike" perspective takes over in many breed rings and not just among judges. Asking a breeder what their standard said about head planes, the response was: "What are parallel planes?" We discussed the occipital bone, short and medium muzzles, balanced heads, etc. Reading a standard and applying it can be two different things.

Judges should have the ability to articulate why one dog wins over another. So is that why they make terminology common among standards - to make it easier for judges? If anyone can describe a bulldog and an afghan using the same language, please step forward. Removing the "point system" from the old standards has had a negative affect. In a final decision between two comparable individuals, one has an idea where to hang their hat regarding prioritizing.

It is a "Judas Kiss" to any breed when a judge puts up a dog simply because it looks like the majority in the ring. It encourages people to breed to "winners" rather than to a breed standard. In judge's education, they address soundness but type takes priority. Educators assume that new applicants understand structure and corresponding movement. Type without soundness is as detrimental to a breed as soundness without type. A bad front and bad rear working in sequence produces "balance". Do two wrongs make a right? The goal is "a balance between type and soundness". A breed must be able to walk to the water bowl without falling over its own feet!

Should we just BREED TO WIN or should we BREED TO THE STANDARD and expect judges to judge to the Standard?

This brings us to the next question. Are not judges "protectors of the breed standards?" Judges education is NOT at fault. Perhaps the problem is what some judging applicants do NOT bring to the table! It is a privilege to pass judgment on a breed but one has the responsibility of understanding "Basic Dog 101". The AKC's required anatomy test neither assures someone's knowledge nor is it any guarantee a judge has the ability to analyze structure and movement.

Some breeder judges today send dogs with a handler giving little thought as to their quality or future effect on a breed. Shouldn't breeder judges be especially careful to send correct dogs for public observation? Breeders have a responsibility to put out "the best of the best" rather than a dog that wins simply because it "looks like the rest." By so doing, they are sending false signals to both ringside and new judges.

When judges say, "This must be what the breeders want as the ring is flooded with this type" it is detrimental to any breed. It IS NOT about "what breeders want." Breeders and judges have a responsibility to breed and judge to standard.

Should handlers show dogs for clients when they KNOW the dog or bitch is not a good representative of the breed? Breeders and exhibitors have a responsibility to promote only dogs that DO represent their breed standard and to sell as pets those who do not! A good handler should make every effort to finish a dog but they too are responsible and should be more selective regarding client dogs. Handlers who read the standard and who have the courage to turn down an inferior dog are to be admired.

Advertisement does not always mean a dog represents "breed excellence". Handlers do not always present "good dogs". Advertising carries some influence and if a judge selects winners on advertising alone, they do a disservice to the breed and it reflects on their ability as a judge.

"Priority judging" can be detrimental to breeds as Judges become caught up in selecting for individual virtues be it eye, ear set, feet, or coat color. That is why some specialty judges "put up pieces" rather than the whole package. Virtues are important, but a dog should "fill the eye". A single virtue cannot take precedence over a plethora of faults! Priority judging explains why many judges take so long to judge a class.

Dismayed exhibitors approach me with serious concerns regarding the direction of our sport. Time and effort is required to understand what makes a breed "breed specific", and what constitutes "breed excellence". There is no short cut. Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. However, it should be a knowledgeable opinion. Personal preference only enters in when two dogs are equal according to the breed standard.