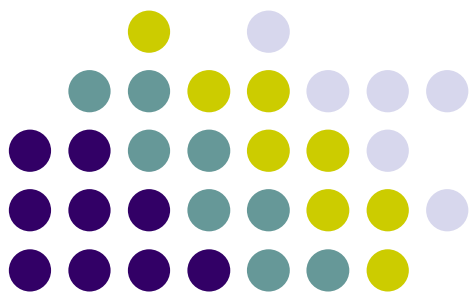
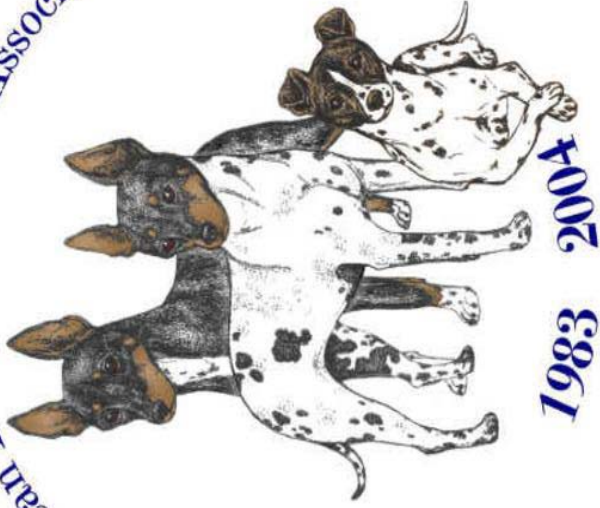


American Hairless Terrier Association



# AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIER

## ILLUSTRATED STANDARD

## AHT Illustrated Standard

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Illustrator: Jeanne Argostar ([www.argostar.com](http://www.argostar.com))

Please Note: The drawings represent the "Ideal". We began with a breed that lacked in many areas. They had been bred for lack of hair coat and not conformation. In a few short years there have been dramatic improvements but there remain a few areas that will take longer. Breeders have had to make choices as to what needed to be improved upon, one fault and a time.

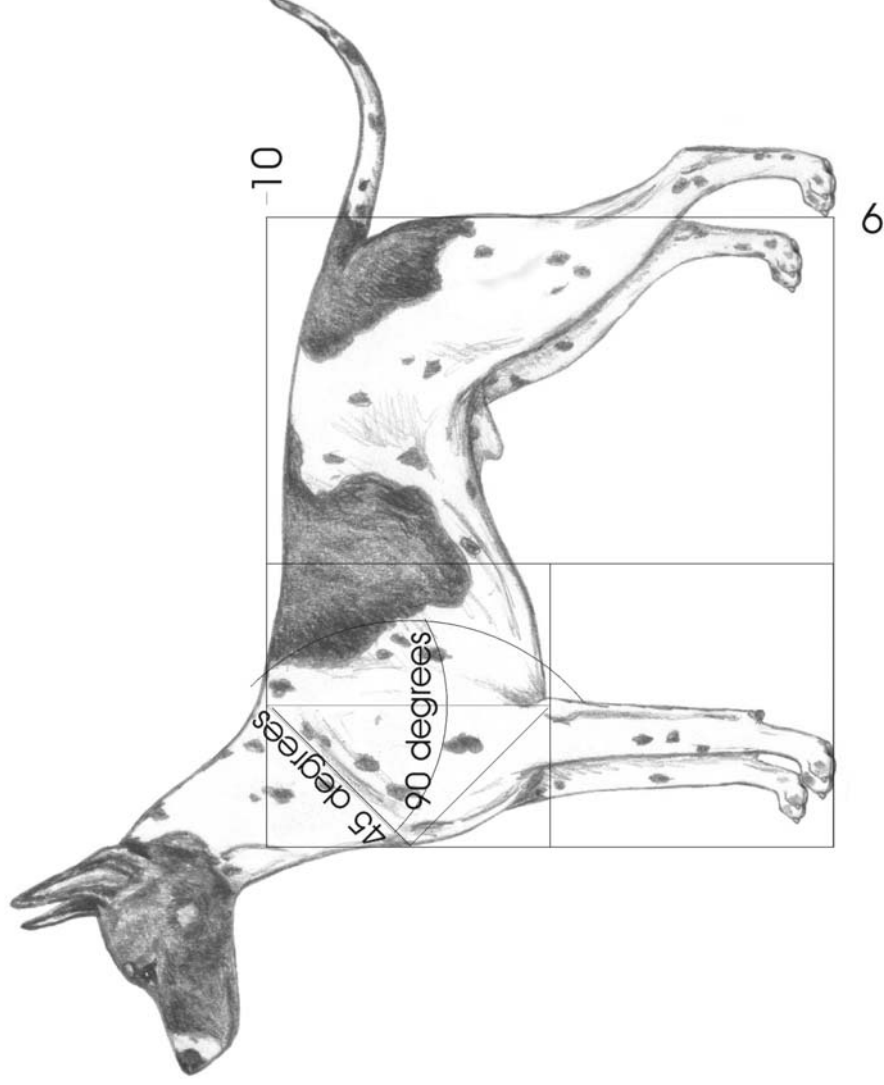
As you see the breed in the ring please keep in mind this is still a "work in progress" and we have not yet met our Ideal dog

# From the Official UKC Standard:

- The first American Hairless Terrier, a female named Josephine, was born in 1972, part of a litter of purebred, coated Rat Terriers. The breeder, Edwin Scott, began to develop the breed from Josephine's descendants. Although he never used any dogs but Rat Terriers in his breeding program, it was always Scott's intention for the hairless dogs to be a separate breed. However, in 1999, when United Kennel Club recognized the Rat Terrier, Scott and his fellow breeders agreed to allow the hairless dogs to enter the UKC registry as Rat Terriers, hairless variety. Upon separation, all of the hairless Rat Terriers and all of their coated descendants, products of careful breeding to the finest coated Rat Terriers, were given the name originally chosen for the breed by Edwin Scott: American Hairless Terrier. While it may seem contradictory to have coated dogs in a hairless breed, it will be necessary for the foreseeable future to continue to include some Rat Terrier crosses until there are sufficient hairless dogs to maintain a separate and healthy gene pool. The American Hairless Terrier was recognized by the United Kennel Club on January 1, 2004

# IDEAL MEASUREMENTS FOR THE AHT

- The American Hairless Terrier is a smoothly muscled, active, small-to-medium terrier. The preferred ratio of length of body (prosternum to point of buttocks) to height (withers to ground) to is 10:9.



**Viewed from the side, the fore chest extends in a shallow oval shape in front of the forelegs**

## PROPERLY SCALED SKELETON FOR THE AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIER

The importance of angulations cannot be overemphasized when evaluating gait.

The most significant angles are at the shoulder and hip joints.

These joints counterbalance one another as they lift, open and shut with the swing of the limbs.

The front of the dog normally carries about 60% of the total body weight and works like a shock absorbing mechanism as it coordinates with drive from the rear and absorbs impact with the ground.



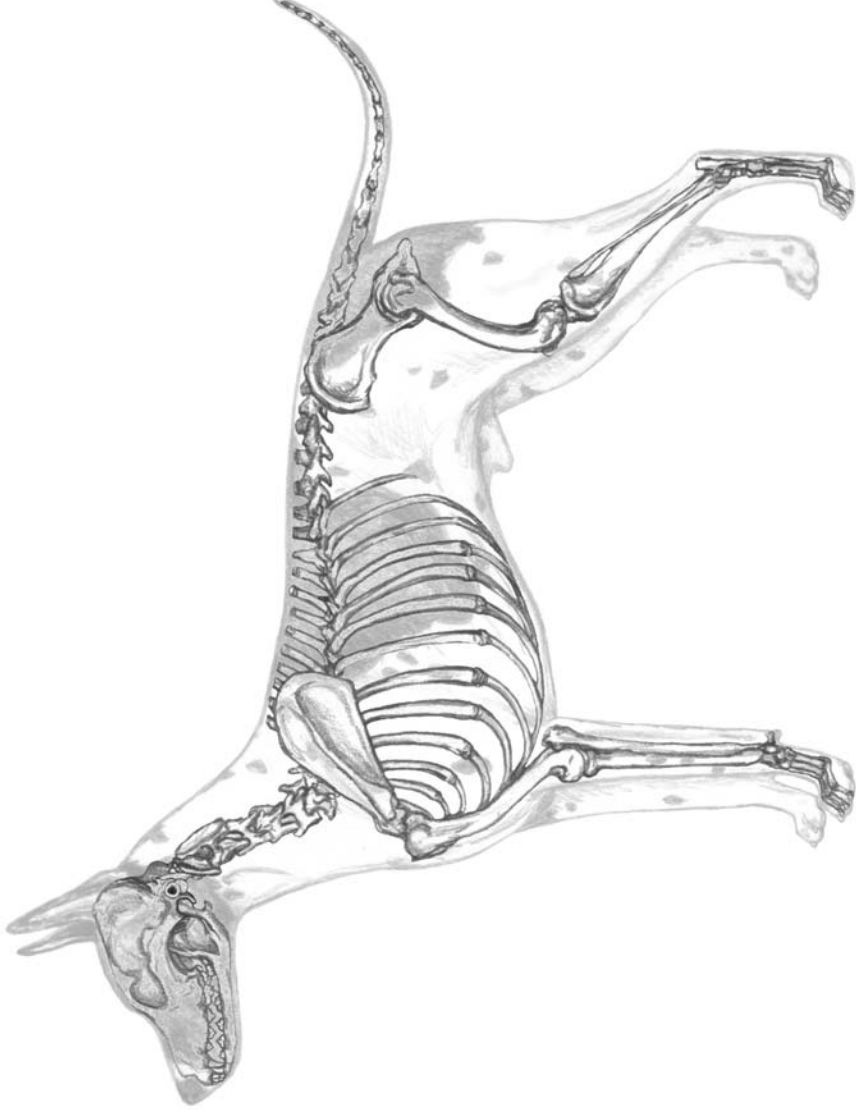
## **SKELETON FITTING CORRECTLY INTO THE AHT BODY**

**Lack of angulations or stiffness at the pastern restricts the shock absorption and exacerbates the pounding.**

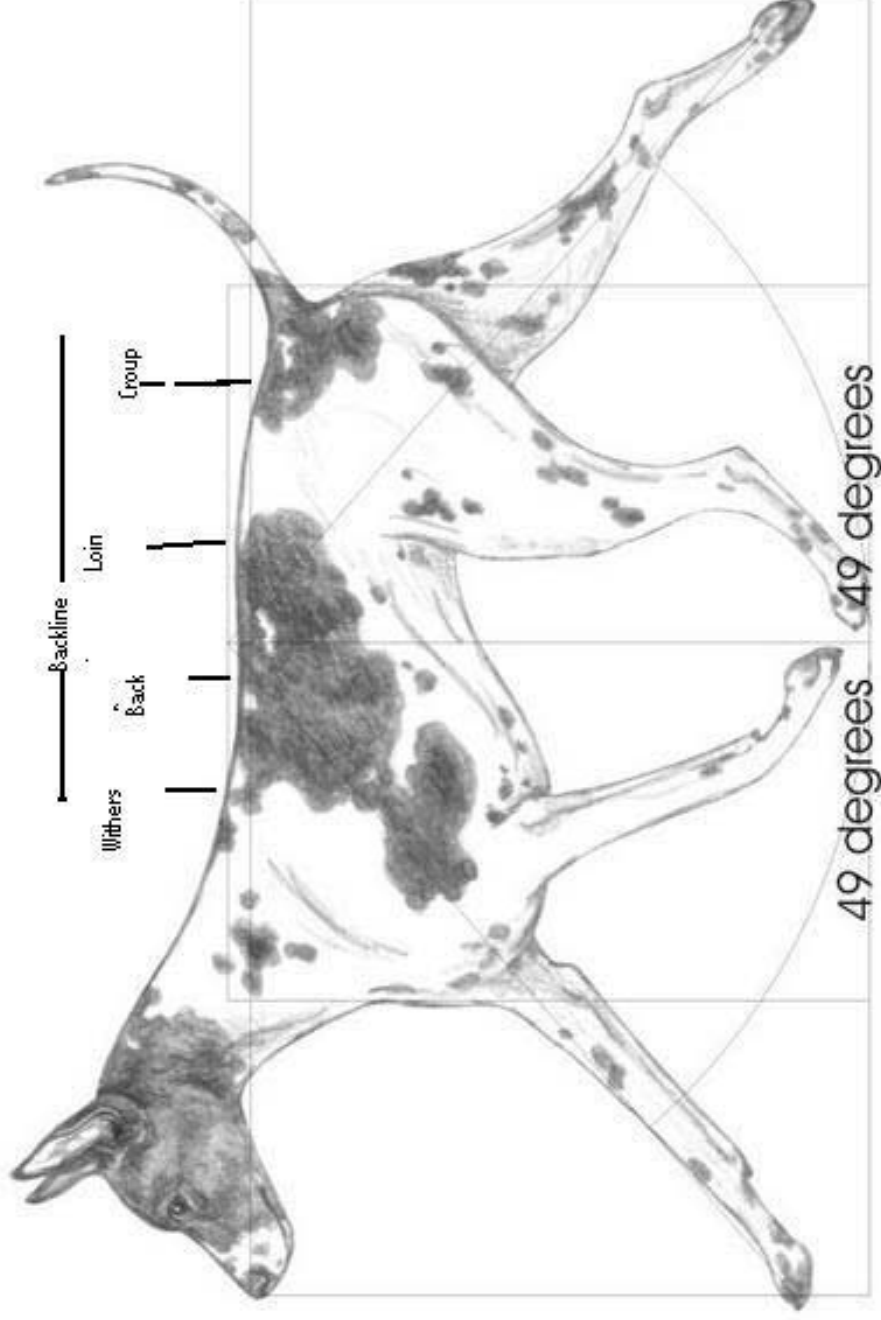
**Whether viewed from the side or from front or rear, the action should be smooth and harmonious with no twisting or jerking.**

**Problems arise when one part has to overwork or compensate for lack of balance, injury or weakness in another.**

**It is important to note that excessive angulation's in any part of a dog's body is detrimental to joint support and endurance. It is never a question of the more...**



# Good Angulation



**Good  
Angulation  
facilitates a  
long stride.**

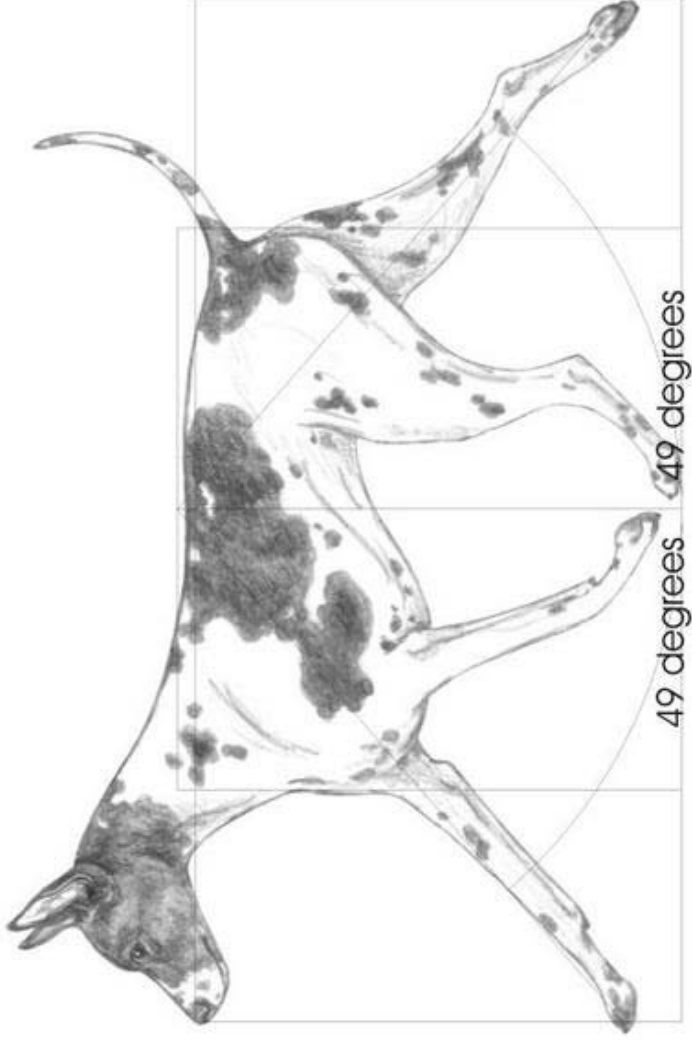
**Balance  
facilitates  
good foot  
timing**

## PROPERLY PROPORTIONED MOVING AHT

**A properly proportioned American Hairless Terrier is slightly longer than tall**

**(measured from prosternum to point of buttocks) and measured from the withers to the ground)**

**Length of the front leg (measured from point of elbow to the ground) should approximately equal one-half of the dog's height.**

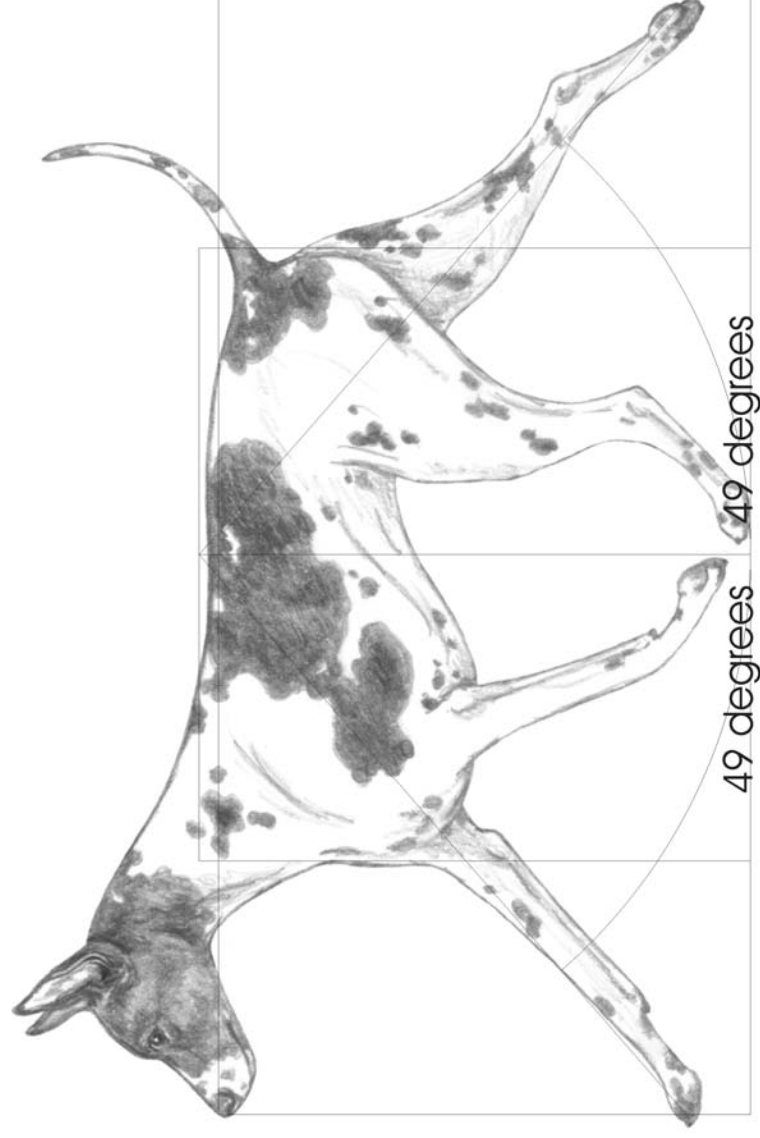


## PROPERLY PROPORTIONED MOVING AHT

Whether the dog is standing or moving, the line of the back is strong and level.

The loin is moderately short, slightly arched, and muscular, with moderate tuck-up.

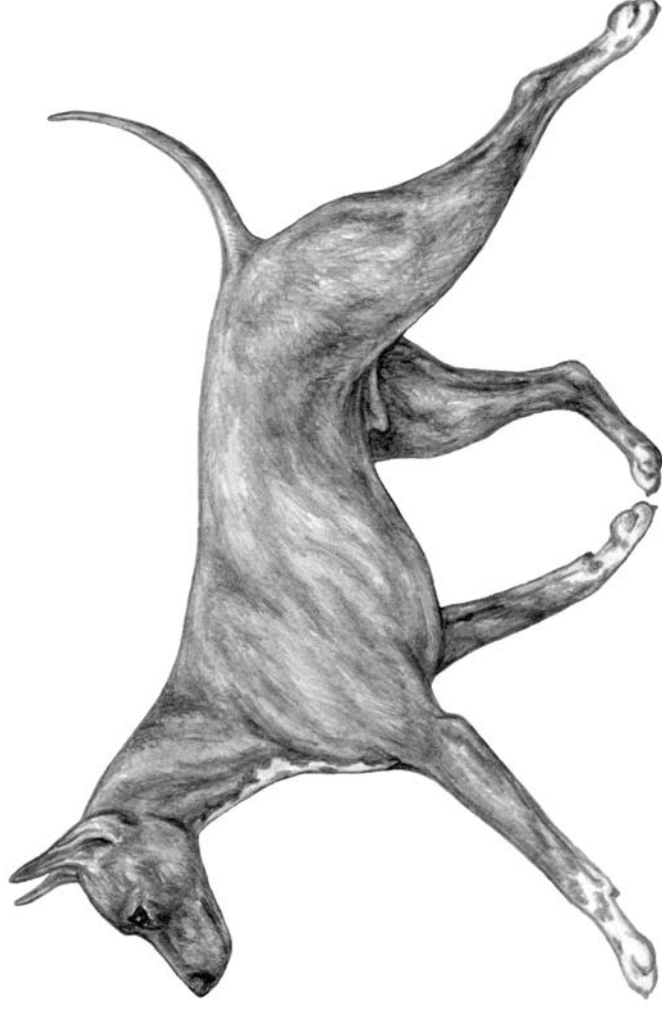
The croup is slightly sloping.



## **PROPERLY PROPORTIONED MOVING AHT**

**The ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from the spine, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body.**

**The brisket extends to or just below the elbow. Viewed from the front, the chest between the forelegs is well filled and of moderate width. Viewed from the side, the fore chest extends in a shallow oval shape in front of the forelegs**



## **IDEAL MOVING BITCH**



**Whether the dog is standing or moving, the line of the back is strong and level.**

**A dog with good angles and balance will have joints that flex easily and smoothly, providing strong thrust from the rear and spring and resilience in the front**

## IDEAL MOVING DOG

The loin is moderately short, slightly arched, and muscular, with moderate tuck-up.

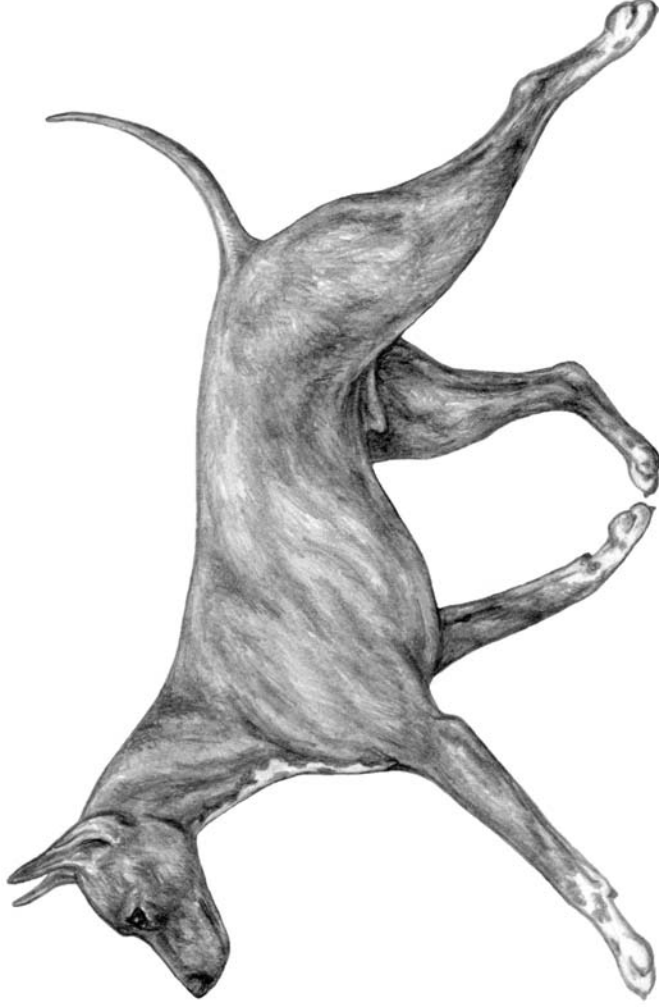
The croup is slightly sloping.

The ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from the spine, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body.

The brisket extends to or just below the elbow.

Viewed from the front, the chest between the forelegs is well filled and of moderate width.

Viewed from the side, the fore chest extends in a shallow oval shape in front of the forelegs.



## **Ideal Moving Front**

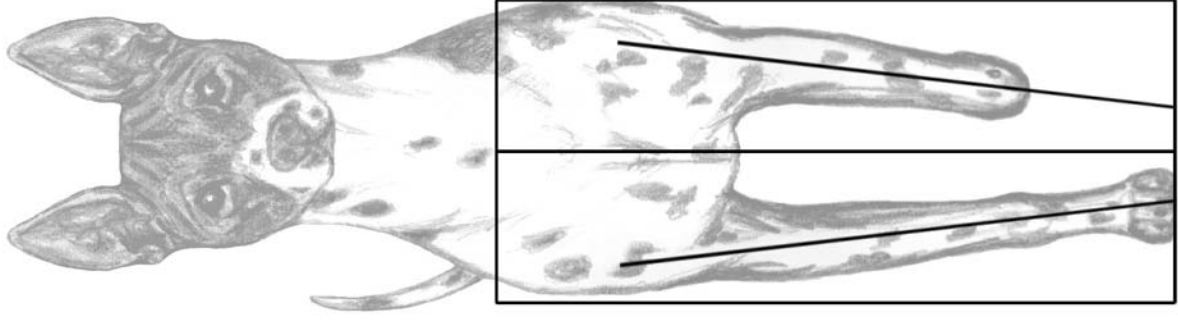


**The American Hairless Terrier moves with a jaunty air that suggests agility, speed, and power.**

**American Hairless Terrier gait is smooth and effortless, with good reach of forequarters without any trace of hackney gait.**

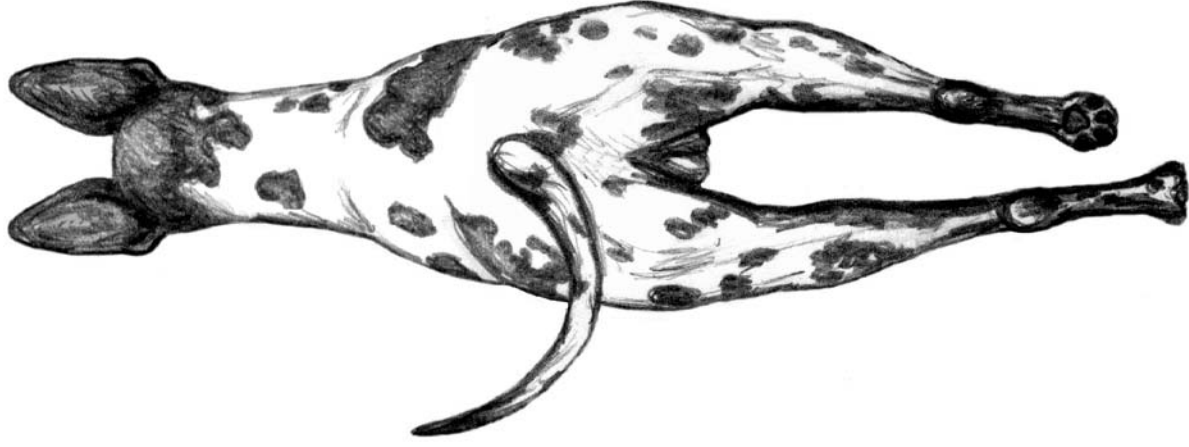
**Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other.**

**As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance.**



**This better demonstrates the action of the muscles and bones in the shoulder area as the leg moves accordingly.**

## Ideal Moving Rear



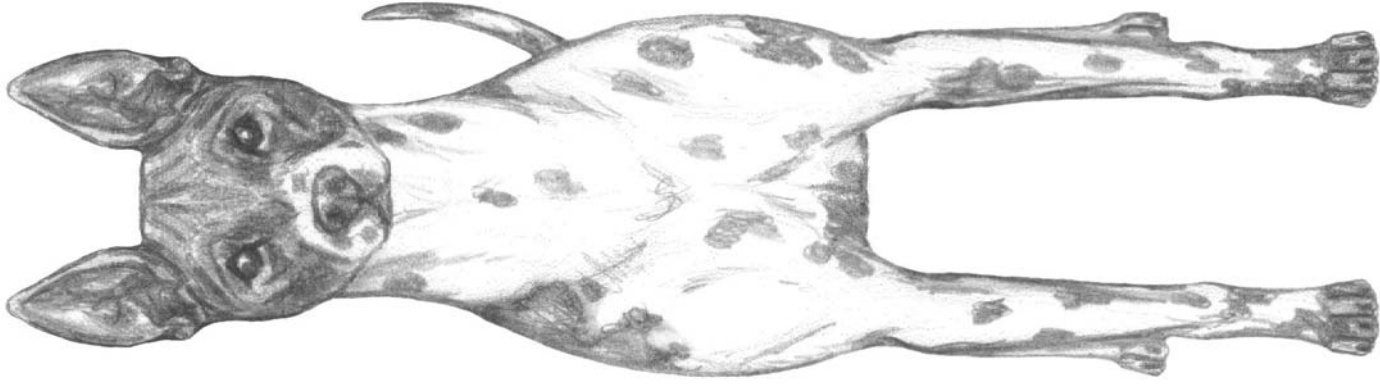
- **Rear quarters have strong driving power, with hocks fully extending.**
- **Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other.**
- **As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance.**



**Same rear movement with boxes and lines over it showing the straight column and "landing points."**

**The foot fall depicts the dog moving at a medium trot with the fall converging toward the center line at the closest point of fall.**

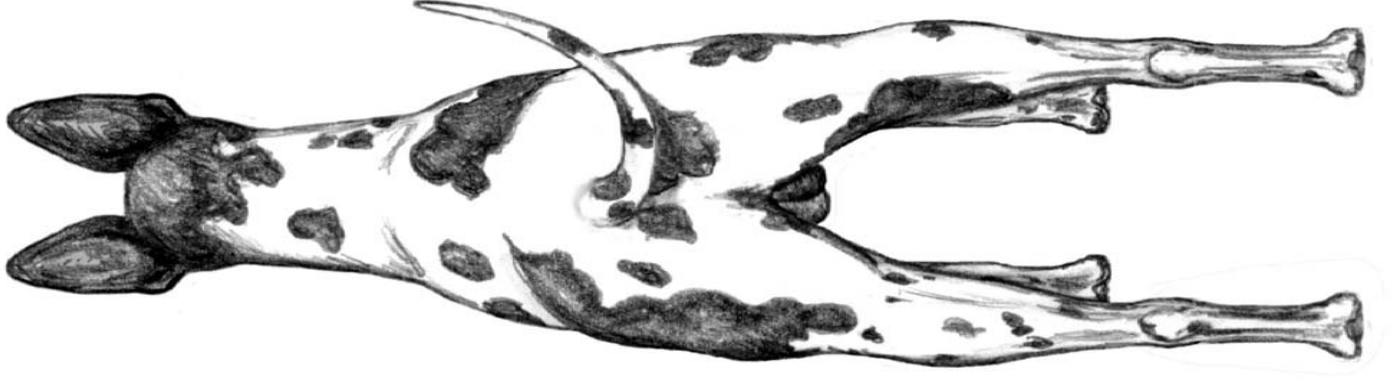
## **IDEAL FRONT**



- **Viewed from the front, the chest between the forelegs is well filled and of moderate width.**
- **(Please note this is an area that nearly all AHTs need improvement on.)**

## IDEAL REAR

- The hindquarters are muscular with the length of the upper and lower thighs being approximately equal.
- The angulations of the hindquarters is in balance with the angulations of the forequarters.
- The stifles are well-bent, and the hocks are well let down. When the dog is standing, the short, strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground and, viewed from the rear, parallel to one another.



## IDEAL STANDING BITCH



The American Hairless Terrier is an exceptionally friendly companion, getting along well with children, other dogs, and even cats.

American Hairless Terriers enjoy human companionship immensely and will enthusiastically share any activity with their owners.

The hairless dogs require protection from the sun and winter cold weather.

American Hairless Terriers should not be spayed during conformation judging

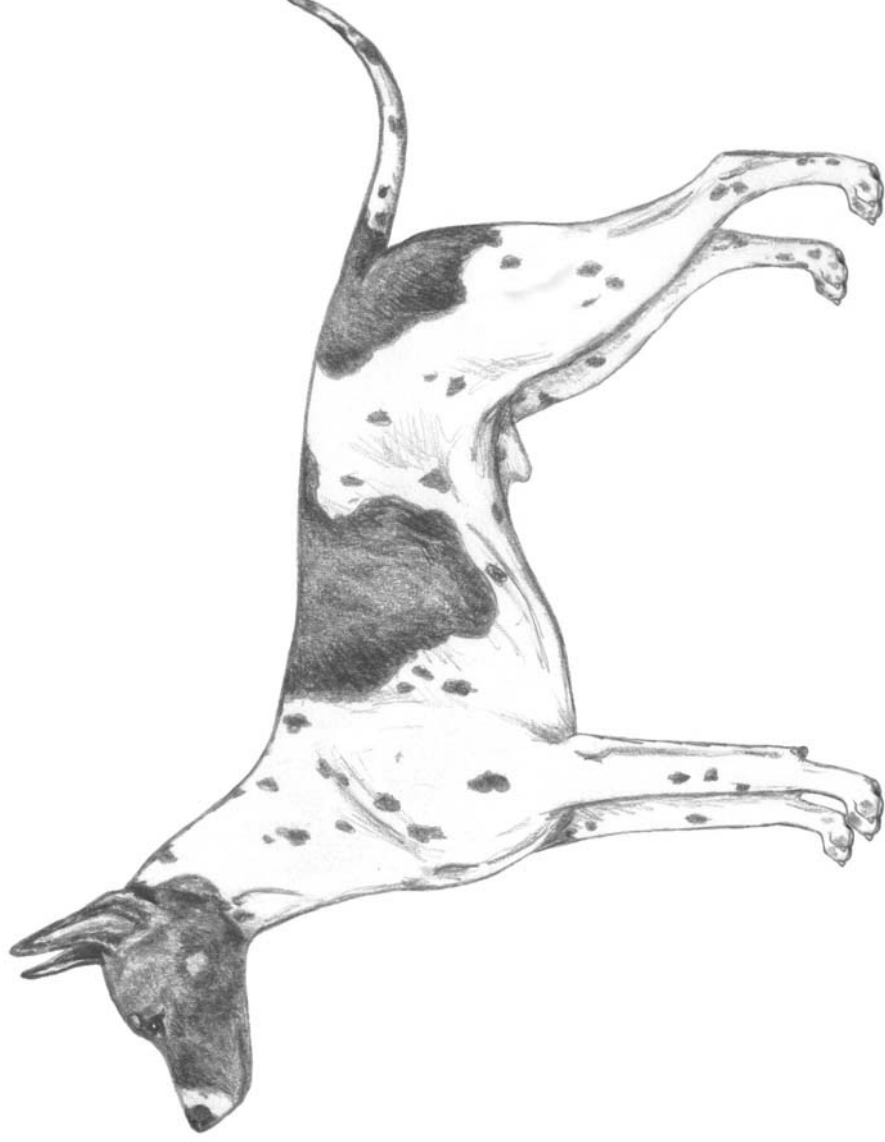
## IDEAL STANDING DOG

The American

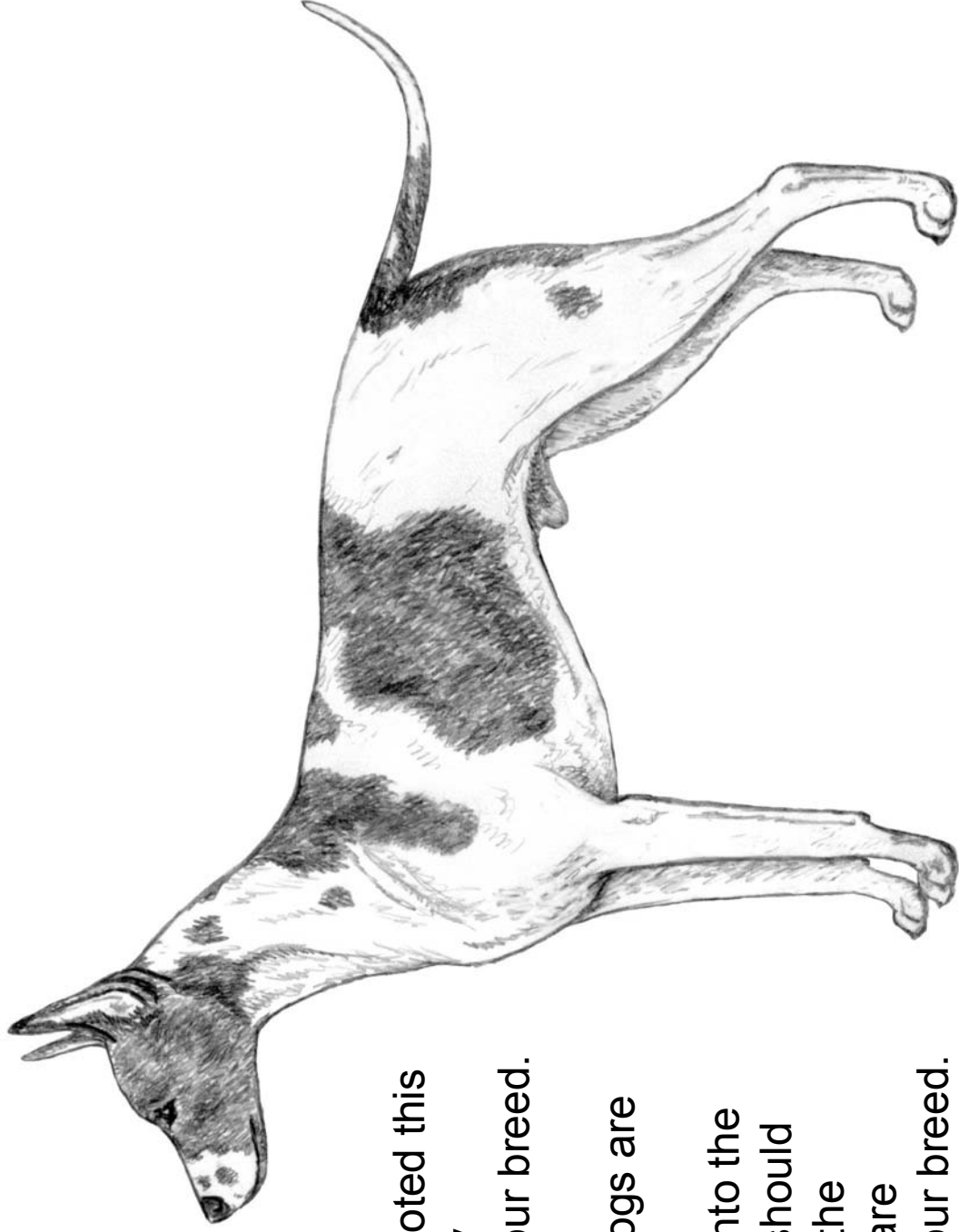
Hairless Terrier is an energetic, alert dog whose curiosity and intelligence make him easy to train.

The ancestors of this breed were bred to hunt.

The lack of coat makes the hairless variety unsuited for hunting, but has a strong hunting instinct



## Coated Variety with Tail

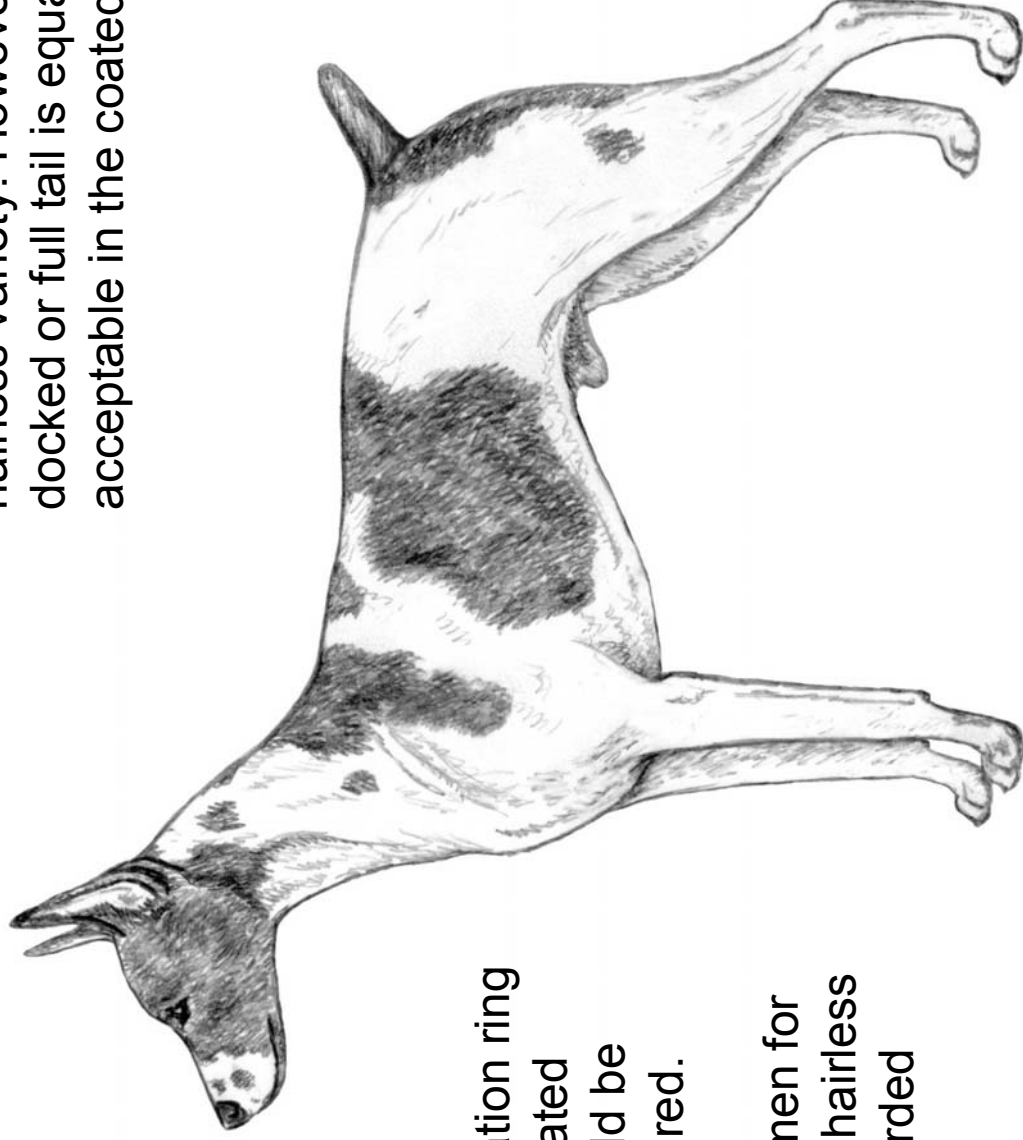


It should be noted this variety is very important to our breed.

The coated dogs are necessary as we move into the future. They should demonstrate the progress we are making with our breed.

## Coated Variety – Docked Tail

A docked tail is a DQ in the hairless variety. However, docked or full tail is equally acceptable in the coated variety.



In the conformation ring an excellent coated specimen should be equally considered.

The best specimen for type, coated or hairless should be rewarded accordingly.

# Ideal Head

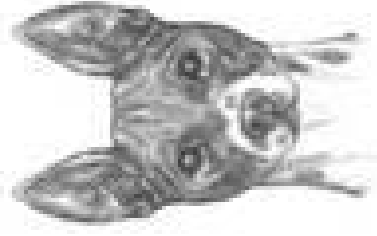


■ Side View

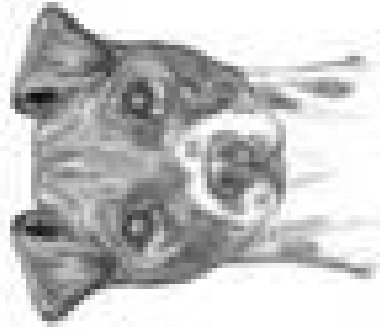
# Acceptable Ear Carriages



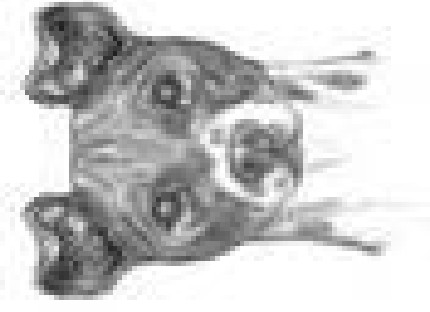
Ideal Head  
Side View



Erect Ears



Button Ears



Tipped Ears

# EAR FAULTS



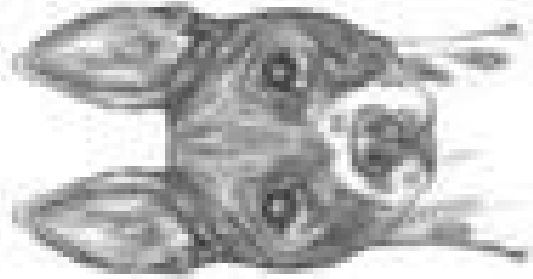
Mismatched Ears



Rose Ears



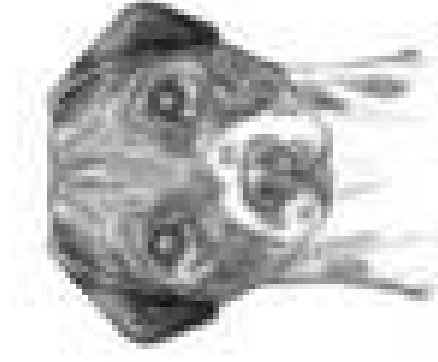
Rose Ears –Side View



High Ear set

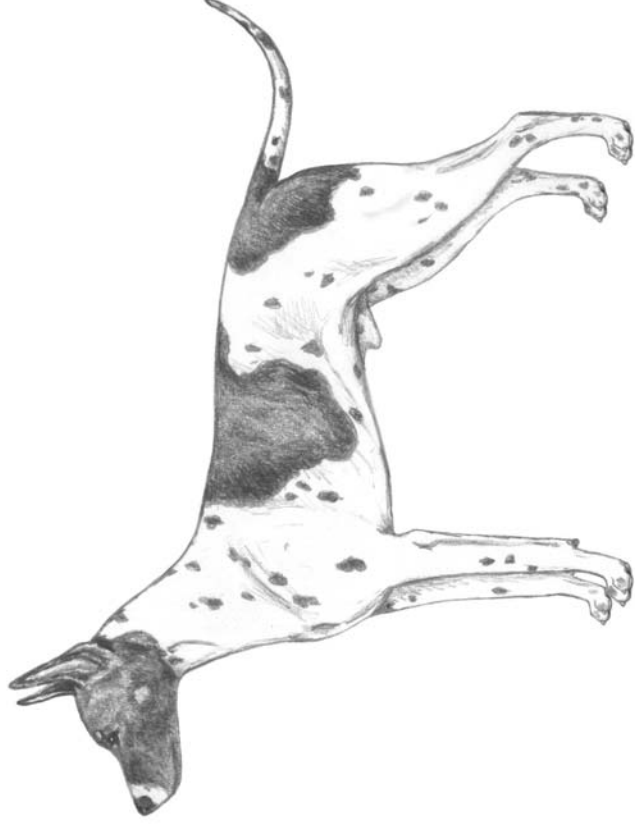


Wide Ear set



Hanging Ears

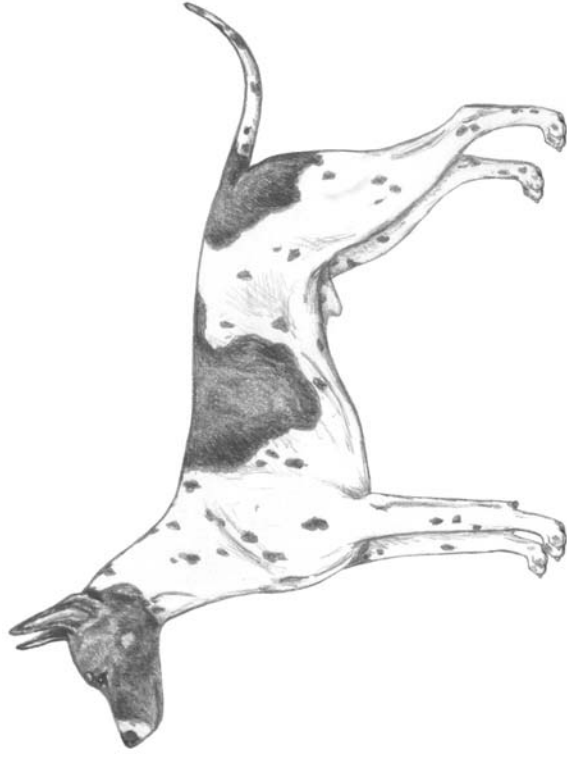
## Body Faults



Lack of Depth to Chest



Short in Body

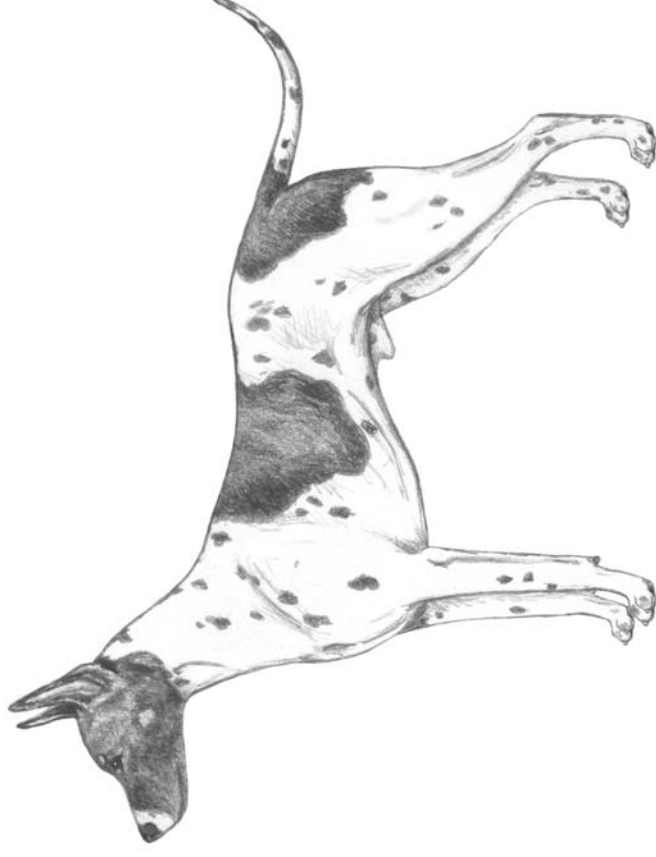


Long in Body

## Top line Faults



Roach Back

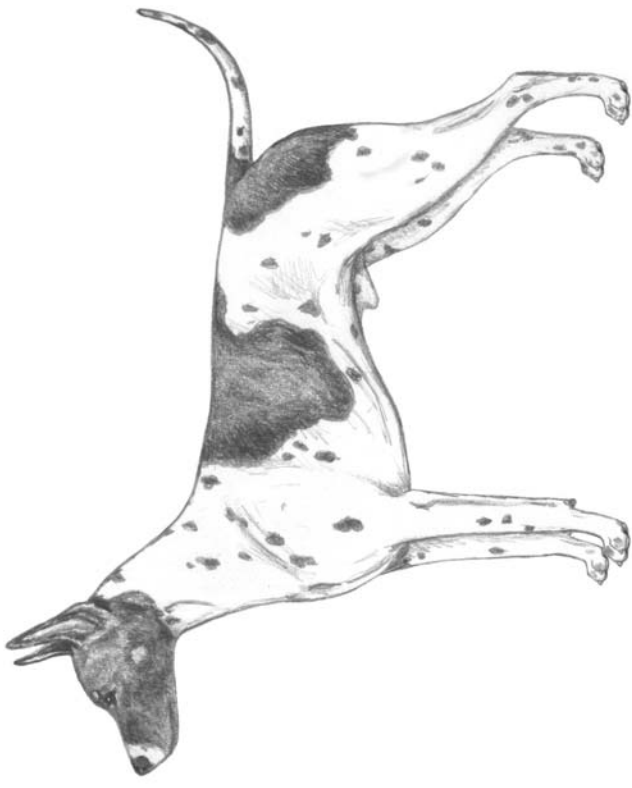


Sway Back

## Incorrect Tail Sets



Low Tail Set

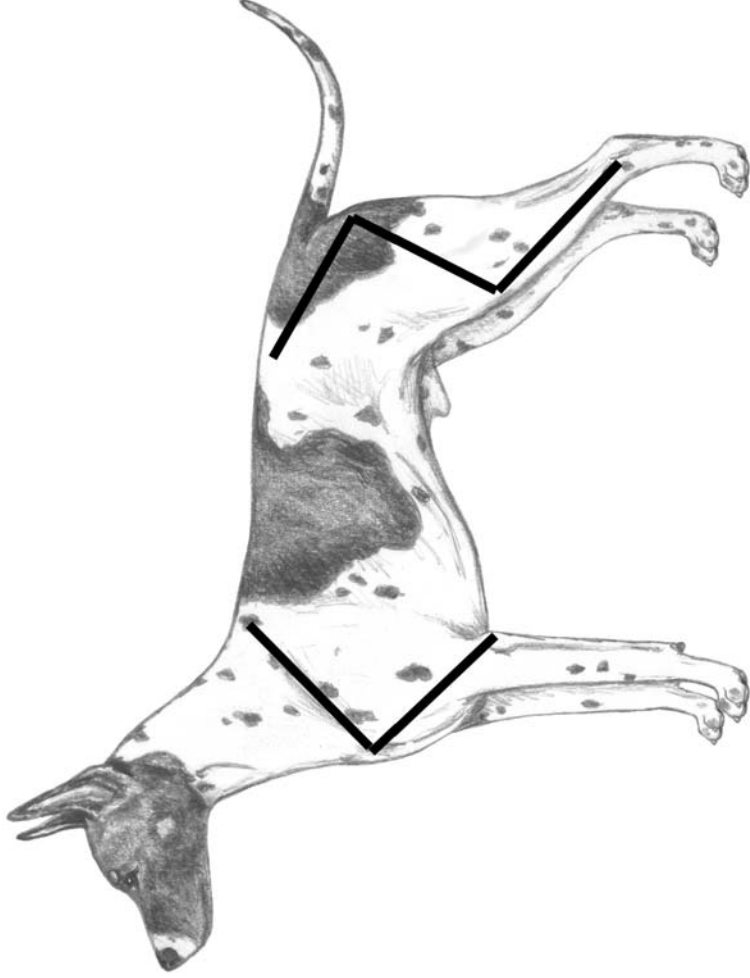


High Tail Set

Outline of the croup and set-on of the tail is influenced by the slant of the pelvis and affected by the arch, dip or straightness of the lumbar section of the spinal column

## Ideal Dog With Angles Shown

A common method for evaluating the slant of the bones in the forequarters is to take a line from the uppermost edge of the scapula to the front most prominence of the humerus (the point of shoulder), then take another line from there to the elbow.

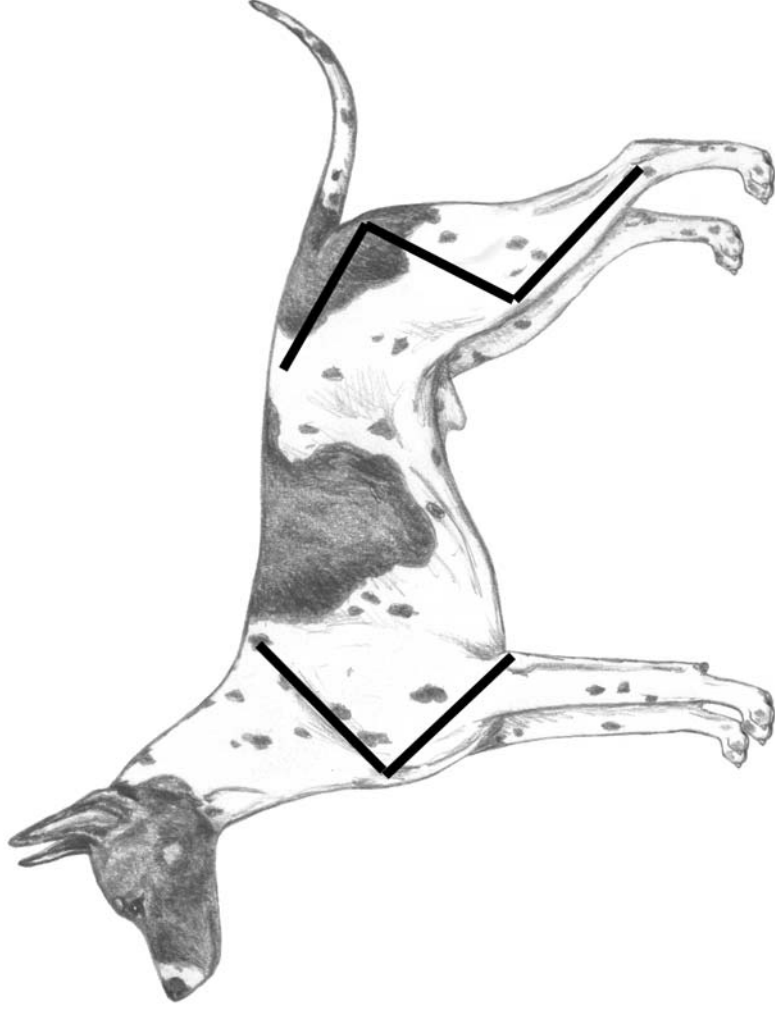


As a general rule, the distance between these points of reference should look or feel about equal, and if the front is balanced the elbow will be set approximately on a line dropped from the rearmost angle of the scapula.

## Ideal Dog With Angles Shown

**Another** way to measure this angle is to feel the ridge of the scapula, and to determine the angle between this ridge and the slant of the humerus (measured from its upper center to its lowest end (not the elbow)).

These latter measurements differ from the first procedure and will give the impression of less shoulder layback and a greater angle between shoulder and humerus, but the findings are more realistic as to the actual bone placement and joint angles



## Over Angulated



Over angulated with angles shown



Over Angulated

- To measure the length and slope of the pelvic assembly can be approximated by taking a line from the forward edge of the pelvis (ilium) to the buttock (ischium).

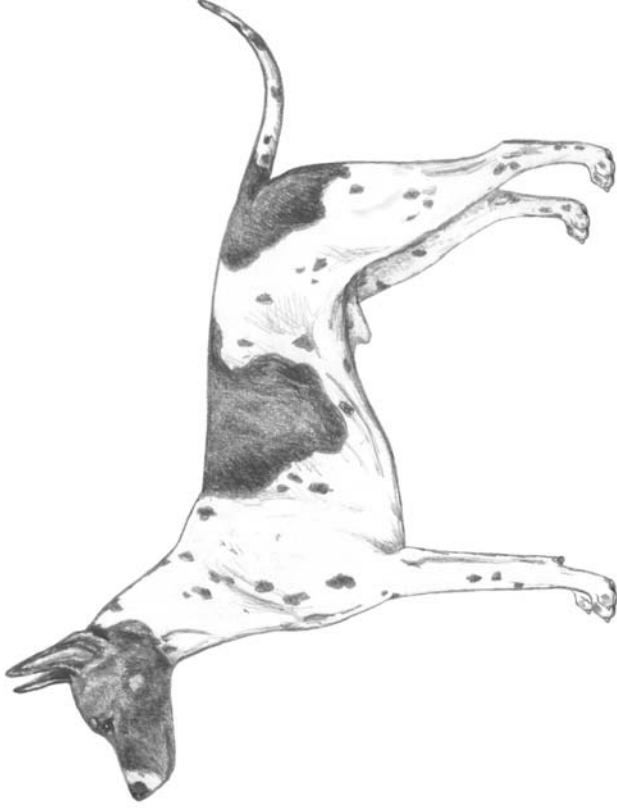
- Pelvic slope and outline of the croup are not one and the same.

- While the outline of the croup and set-on of the tail may be influenced by the slant of the pelvis, the outline may be more affected by the arch, dip or straightness of the lumbar section of the spinal column.

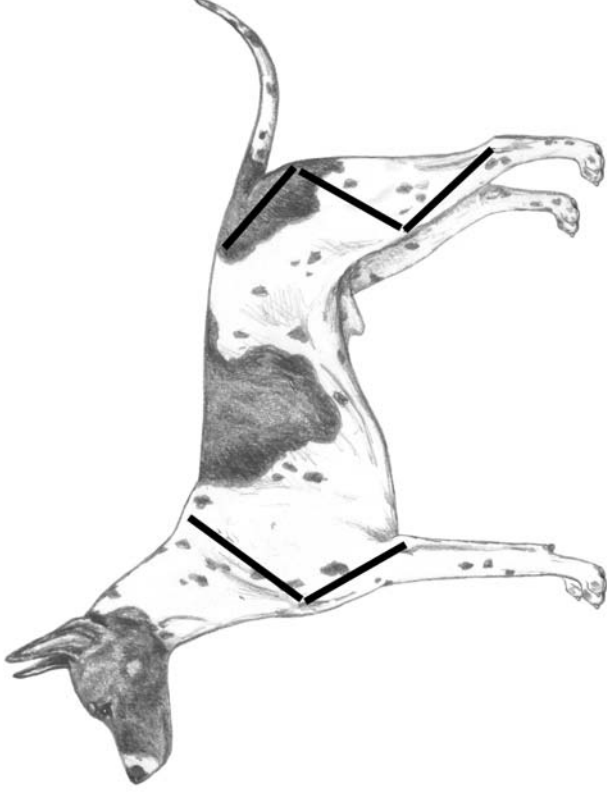
- The angle between the lower thigh and the rear pastern (the hock joint) is also significant.

- The rear pastern should drop vertically, however, if the hock angle is too great (straight in hock), the rear pastern will slope backwards, and if the hock angle is too small (sickle hocks), it causes the dog to stand under itself

## Straight Front and Straight Rear



A dog that is straight, front and rear, has a short, stilted gait, BUT, IF IN BALANCE, may be better off than a dog lacking balance, where one end has to compensate for the faultiness of the other



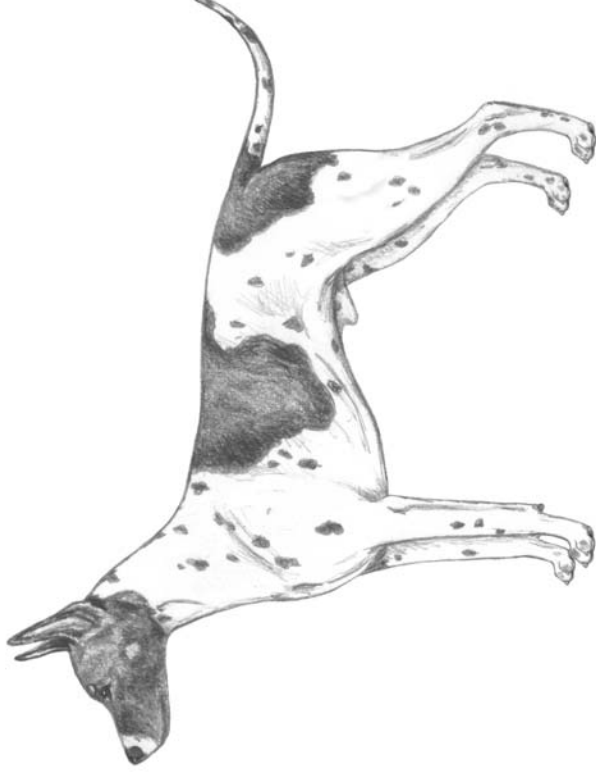
The entire front is straightened, so withers, shoulder, angles, and entire front placement is changed. The multiple angles in the rear are also changed.

Very important thing to illustrate because it shows you how many things actually are changed by these faults

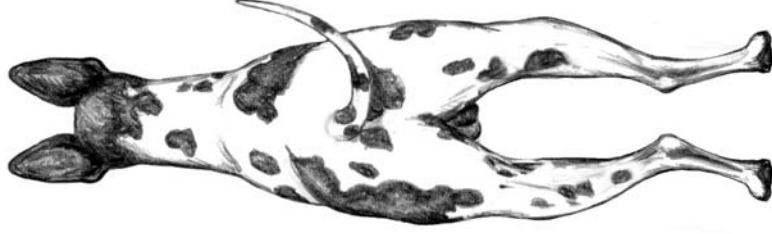
# HOCKS



Hyper Extended



Sickle Hocks



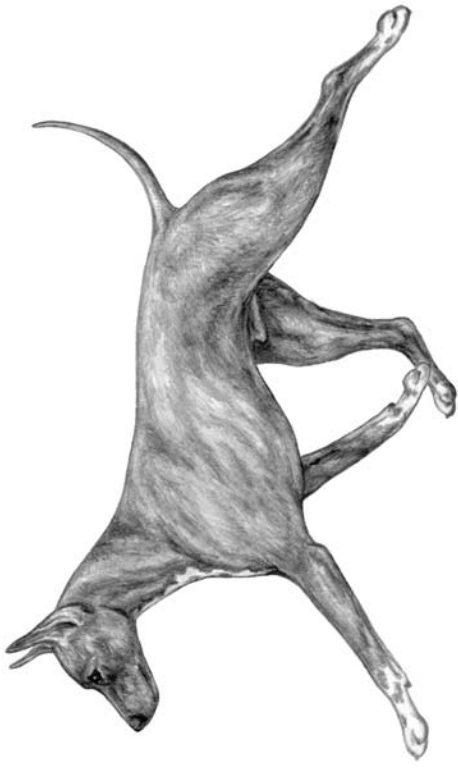
**Cow Hocks or Bow Hocks**

Frequently a clever handler can conceal cow hocks or bow hocks by deft manipulation when stacking a dog . These structural faults are revealed however, when the dog is being gaited

## Side Movement Faults



**Hackney Gait in Front with  
Piston Action in Rear**



**Over Reaching**



**Lack of Reach**

## Front Hackney Gait & Rear Piston Action

In order to keep the paws out of the way of the oncoming back feet the dog is forced to resort to extra high action of the forelegs.

Hackney action is caused by more angulation and drive from behind than in front.

Correct gait for the Miniature Pinscher, however it is an abnormal movement that requires rather steep shoulder angulations, coupled with upright pasterns.



## GOOSE-STEPPING

Faulty in any breed.

Goose-stepping is a movement typified by accentuated lift of the forelimbs, similar in most respects to a hackney gait, but coupled with full extension of the front pasterns and feet before placing them in contact with the ground.

The dog seems to have good reach, but close observation will reveal that the actual front foot contact with the ground is delayed, and therefore the effective reach is considerably shorter.

## Over Reaching

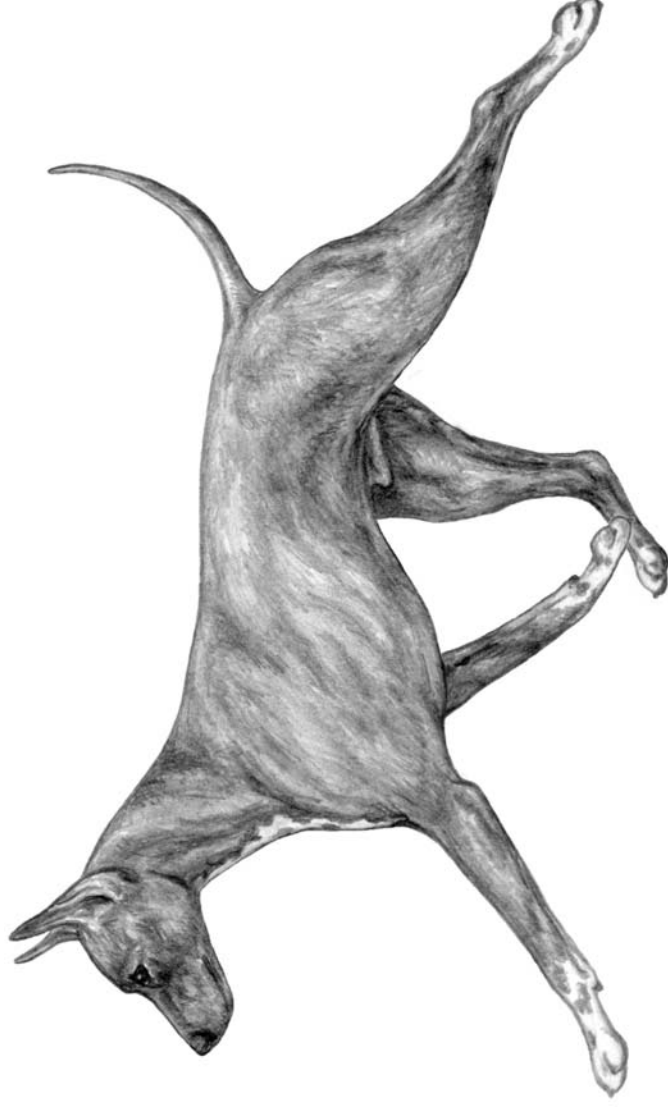
Observable in profile and especially when moving fast, in which the hind feet are thrust past their front counterparts.

Overreaching at the trot is a common fault.

Caused by more angulation and drive from behind than in the front.

So that the rear feet are forced to step to one side of the front feet to avoid interference or clipping.

This is one of the many forms of poor foot timing, but it must not be confused with the natural overreach in the suspension trot, or in the canter or gallop.



## Overreaching in Puppies

Overreaching is a common fault in puppies as they develop through "leggy" stages when the height at withers may exceed length from buttocks to shoulder joint by a fractional difference.

As the puppy develops and the body proportions come into balance, the overreaching ceases.

## Lack of Reach



A dog with a shortened stride has poor angulations because the bones meeting at the shoulders and hips are steeply set, forming joints with wide angles



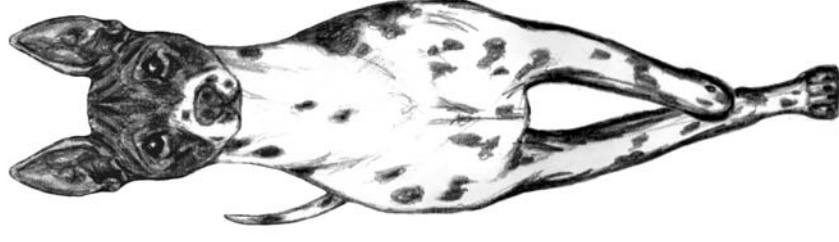
## Front Movement Faults

Crabbing or Side winding is faulty forward movement in which the spinal column is not pointed in the direction of travel, rather, it deviates at an angle so that one rear leg passes on the inside of the front foot, while the other does so on the outside of its partner, instead of traveling in a straight line with them

Paddling is incorrect and energy wasting movement of the forequarters in which the pasterns and feet perform circular, exaggerated motion, turning or flicking outwards at the end of each step



Crossing over is an abnormality of gait in which the feet when extended cross over in front of one another as well as over an imaginary center line drawn under the body



## Rear Movement Faults

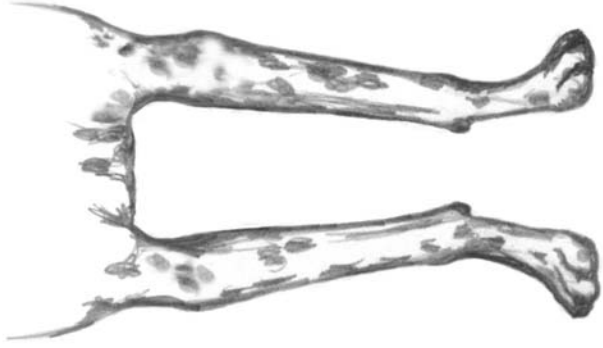
When moving close, the fore or hind limbs are insufficiently well separated from each other during movement, and, in extreme cases the legs may interfere by brushing up against one another along their inner borders



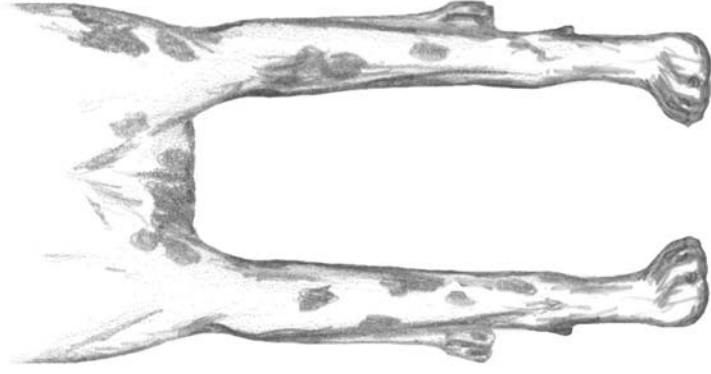
Close Rear Movement

Wide Rear Movement

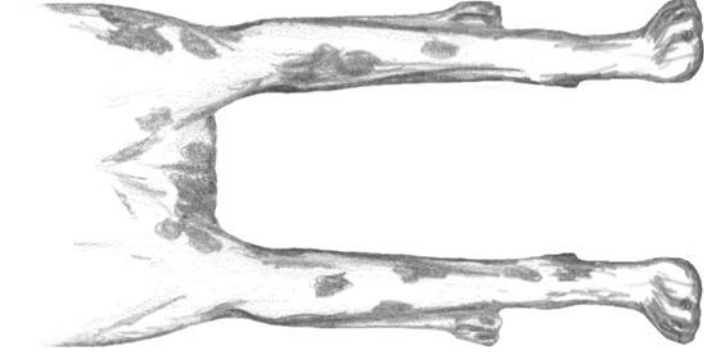
# Standing Front Faults



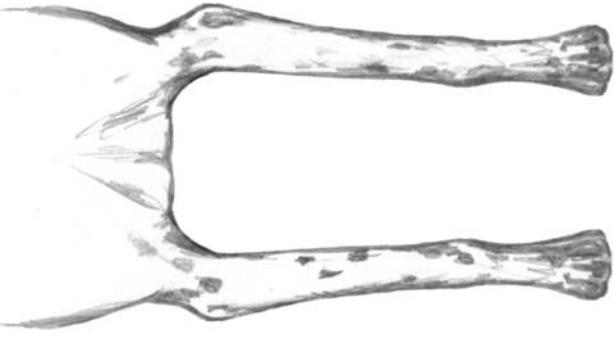
Fiddle Front



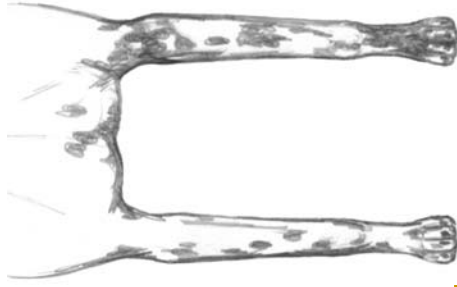
Toes in



Toes Out



Out at the Elbows



Wide front



Narrow Front

# Correct Feet (left side) & Foot Faults (right side)



Correct Foot – Side View



Flat Feet



Cat foot



Correct Foot – Front View



Splayed Foot

# Credits

[Credits: UKC Breed Standard, Elliott, Rachel Page, The New Dogsteps, Second Edition, Howell Book House, New York, 1983. Nicholas, Anna Katherine, The Nicholas Guide to Dog Judging, Howell Book House, New York, 1989. Spira, Harold R., Canine Terminology, First Edition, Howell Book House, New York, 1982.]