

SPANISH WATER DOG

**Illustrated Study of the Standard
How to Judge/ A Breeder Perspective**



Introduction.....	3
What s the Spanish Water Dog.....	4
General Appearance.....	7
Size, Proportion, Substance.....	8
Balance & Angulations	12
Head.....	13
Neck, Topline, Body.....	16
Forequarters.....	19
Hindquarters.....	21
Coat and Color.....	22
Gait.....	24
Temperament.....	27
Table of measurements.....	29



INTRODUCTION

It's a pleasure and a privilege to share, this present edition of The Illustrated Standard of the Spanish Water Dog.

It's important to understand that the Spanish Water Dog has remained virtually unchanged for over the centuries and it's very important for newcomers, breeders, judges and fanciers to understand and maintain the integrity of the breed.

It's our goal and our purpose when this illustrated standard is intended, to assist the breed enthusiast in formulating his opinion and proper mental picture as it applies to the ideal dog.

There is no working type versus show type, and it must be only one type who work in the field one day & win in the show ring next day.

Of course it's a personal interpretation about the FCI Breed standard . I will recommend lecture about AKC and UK standards too.



WHAT IS THE SPANISH WATER DOG

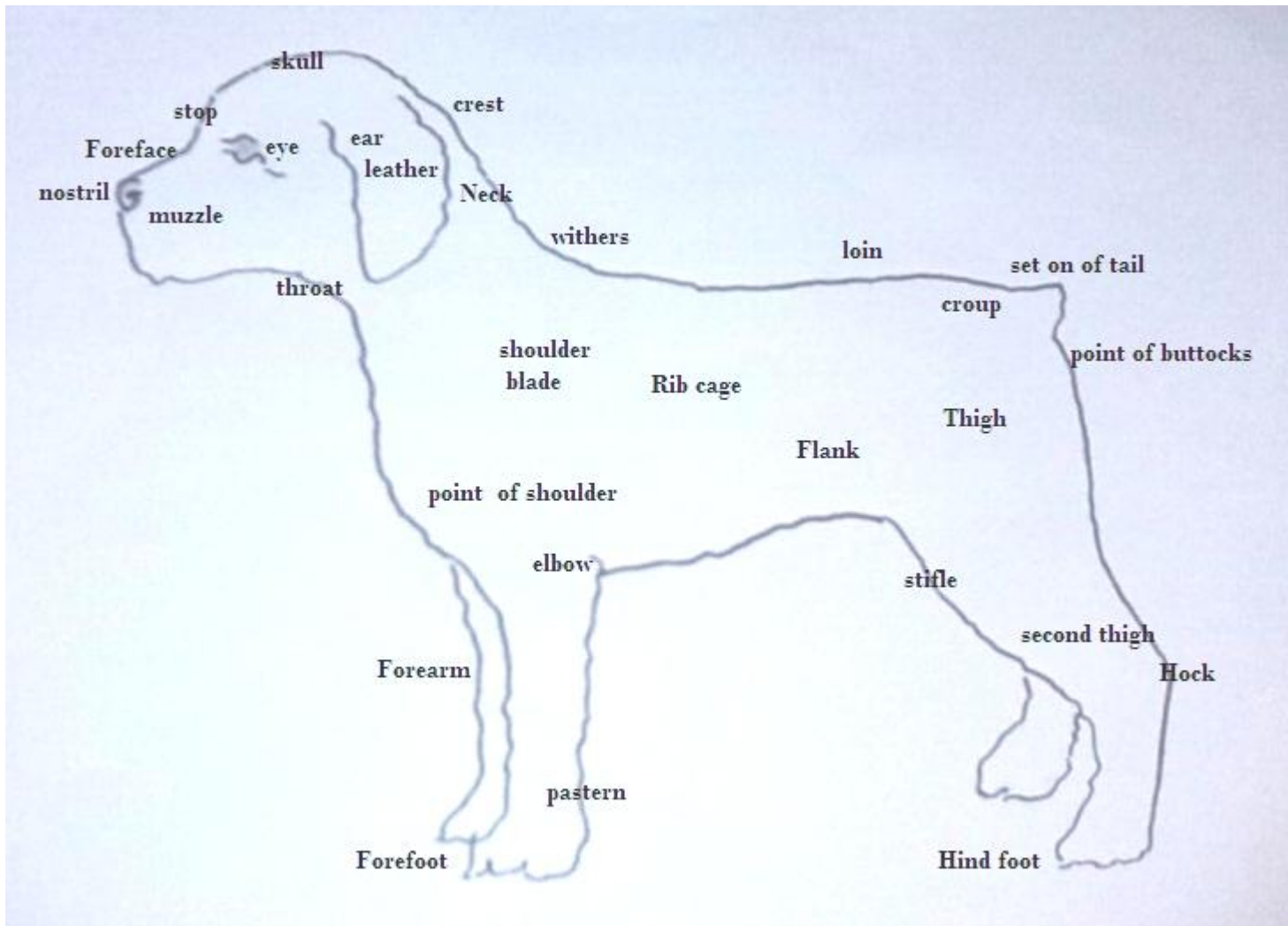
HISTORY

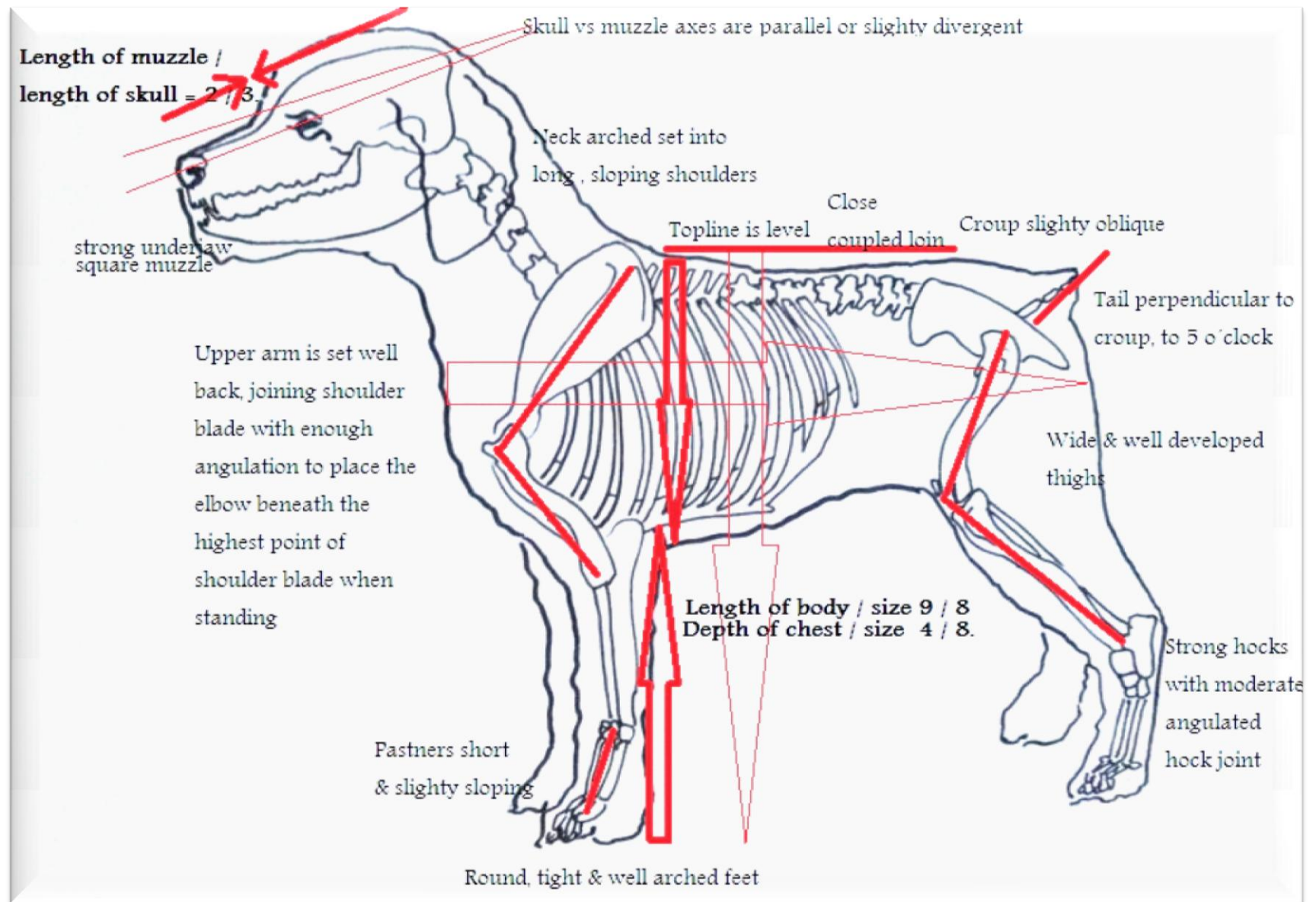
Many words could be written about history, but only important thing is to remember this breed is long time ago with us showing his versatile working abilities in the field. It is a multi purpose working dog, primarily as a shepherd, but as companion or hunting or doing fishing abilities too.





WHAT IS THE SPANISH WATER DOG







SWD GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Spanish water Dog is a dog of distinct variety and ancient origin. He is an attractive dog of medium size, exhibiting body substance.

Compact body, cobby, not leggy nor low to the ground. Slightly rectangular.

A sturdy dog, solid to the touch, with well developed bone. Comparatively to other breeds, strong wide skull and head. Good spring of rib and a wide back and croup.

A moderately angled dog with appearance not angular , instead, the impresion is built with graceful curves. Balanced in any way, unexaggerated.

A working dog who performs the job for which he was originally intended, of an athletic nature with well developed muscles, moving with an economy of efforts and with a classic rustic look style provided by his special curly coat.



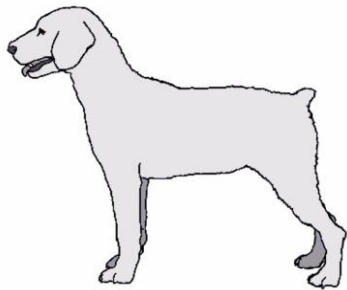
SIZE, PROPORTIONS, SUBSTANCE

Proportions are based in first measurements from initial dogs in first fieldwork about the breed (Flores Ales, A.J et al 1982), and they are of paramount importance as they complete the real shape of the breed .

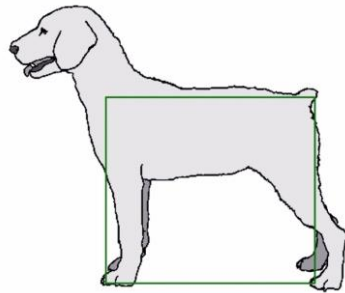
- Length of body / size (height at withers) = 9 / 8.
- Depth of chest / size (height at withers) = 4 / 8.
- Length of muzzle / length of skull = 2 / 3.

Height at withers : males 44 to 50 cm
“ “ females 40 to 46 cm.

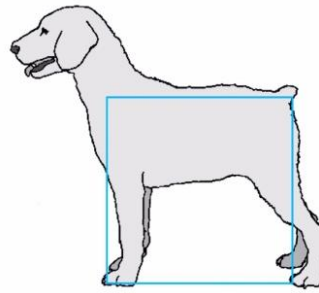
Minimum sizes don't look very reasonable in both genders today. 2 cm maximum deviation are admitted in both sexes whenever the subject maintains balance according to his height at withers. Weight should be in proportion to height and overall balance.



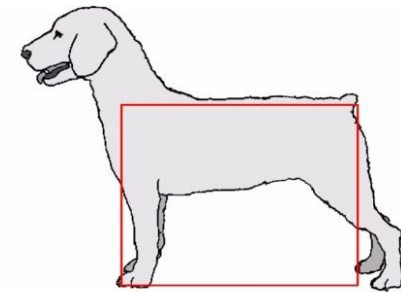
Correct Proportions



Correct rectangle



Short rectangle



Long Rectangle



The SWD, medium sized, is slightly longer in body than in height when measured vertically from the ground to the withers, as opposed to the length of the body when measured horizontally from the forechest to the point of buttock, in a 8/9 PROPORTION. This means usually about 5 cm more in length than in size. Actually we can see many dogs out of this proportion, nearly 8/12 in many cases!.

Now in coat



Correct Proportions

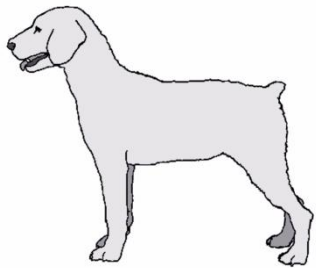


Short rectangle

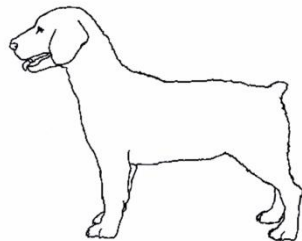


Long Rectangle

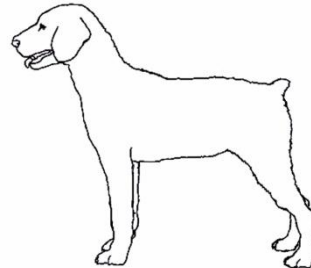
Length of leg is equal to depth of body. Simple. 50/50, seems to be easy, but it's not, as we can see. We could find many more with shorter leg than depth of body instead opposite, remember to touch and measure from the elbow because a lot of coat is possible to hide correct proportion to your eye!



Correct



Short Legs



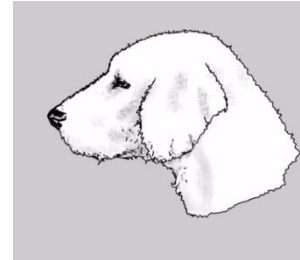
Long Legs



Short Legs



Long Legs



Lenght of muzzle shorter than skull.

A serious fault is that of SWD with fine build as a Lagotto; this means that there is generally not enough bone and substance to the dog's structure, resulting in a dog who is too lightly built completely losing SWD type. The most serious of faults is the loss of SWD type. Must be a compact dog, well boned.

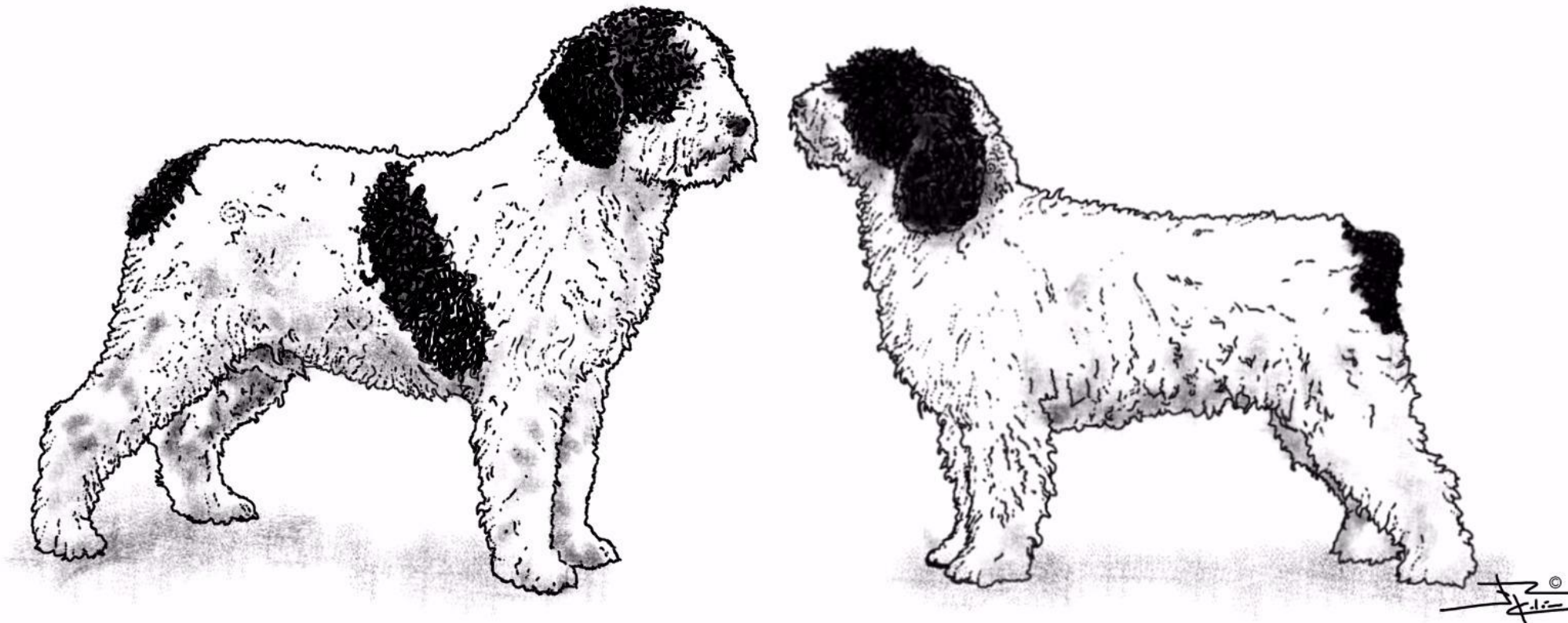
Look (and touch) at the entire dog for its virtues and balance.



Lack of Substance



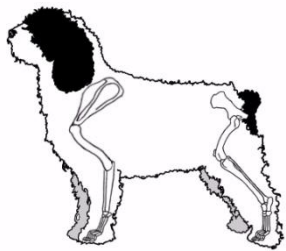
Gender should be immediately obvious.



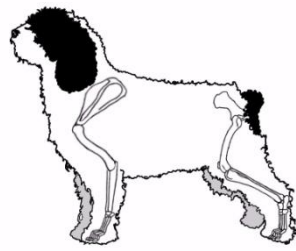


BALANCE & ANGULATIONS

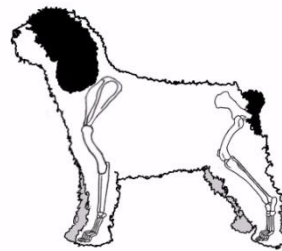
Different Front & Rear angulation combinations



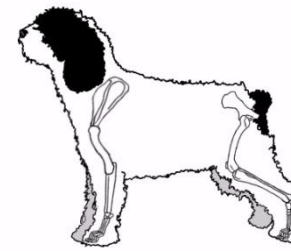
Correct Front & Rear



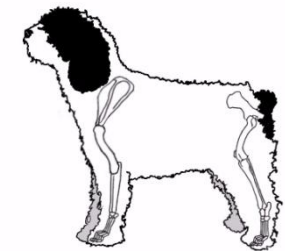
Incorrect Rear
Overangulated



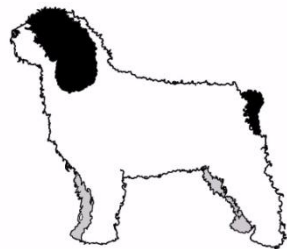
Incorrect Front
Upright



Incorrect Front& Rear
upright & overangled



Incorrect Front& Rear
upright & too steep





HEAD

Strong, carried with elegance.

Flat (or slightly domed) skull, square and broad with only slightly marked occiput.

Axes of skull and muzzle parallel (or/habitually slightly divergent). Stop defined but only slightly marked.



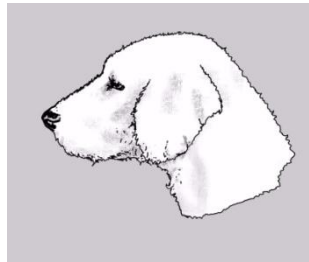
Width of back
skull
approximate to
length

Skin on the head should be close fitting.

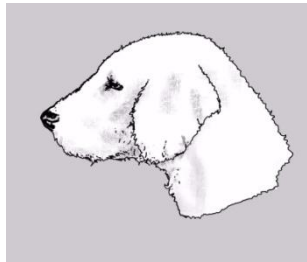
Facial profile is rectilinear. **Remember skull / muzzle ratio.**

Nostrils well defined, wide and open.. Nose is of the same colour or slightly darker than the darkest tone of the coat. A pink nose is penalized, but its not same that butterfly coloured sometimes in bicoloured dogs, as white patch comes into nose, must be (genetically) accepted.

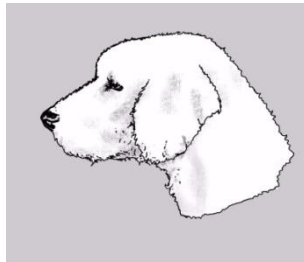
Lips : Well fitting; labial corners well defined.



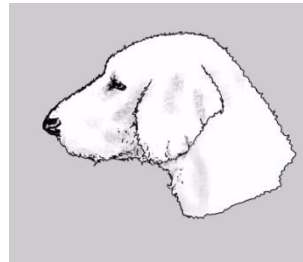
Correct Head



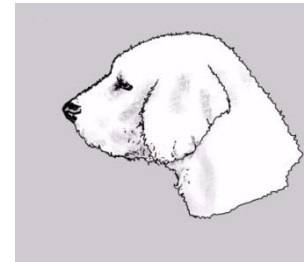
Lack of Stop



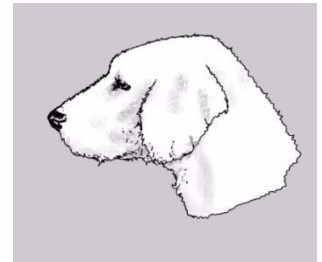
Too Much Stop



Downfaced



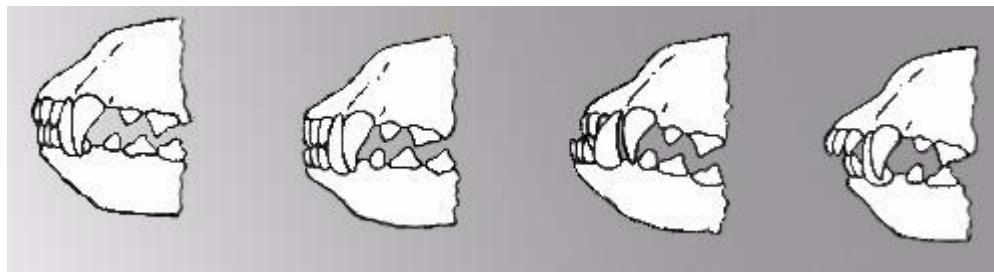
Short Muzzle



Skull Too Flat

Teeth : Well formed, white, with well developed canines. Scissor Bite preferred. (although many dogs in this breed show level bite at least in first pair of incisors and it seems very normal in older dogs. American standard accepts level bite). Undershot or overshot bites must be severely penalized.

FCI statement : lack of P1 and M3 is scientifically proved as a variability and not a known hereditary trait, hence it should no longer be considered as a disqualifying fault in any breed.



Correct

Level

Undershot

Overshot



Eyes : Slightly oblique position, very expressive, oval shaped; of a hazel to chestnut colour, should harmonize with the colour of the coat (remember it is genetically imposible a brown dog with dark eyes, but you must avoid yellow ones) , third eyelids pigmented. The conjunctiva is not apparent. No haw.



Ears : Set at medium height, aproximately at eye level or slighly above it, triangular and drooping, hang close to the cheeks. The leather doesnt reach to the nose, but at least to lips corner. Leather should be medium weight, not be thin nor heavy or pendulous.



NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

Neck short, well muscled and clean, without dewlap, well set into the shoulders. Short neck doesn't mean no neck, should not be so long as to be swan-like but strong and long enough to work the ground.



Correct



Long Neck



Ewe Neck



Short Neck

Well developed chest, without prominent forechest, with well sprung ribs. Brisket reaching to elbows.

Remember depth of chest / size ratio.

Slightly longer in body than height at withers. **Remember 9: 8 ratio.**



Topline is level, does not slope from front to rear. The back is level and the withers are on the same line as the croup.



Correct



Extra Flat Topline



Roached Topline



Saddled topline

The loin is slightly arched, strong, muscular and close coupled. A properly built SWD is compact, well knit, with long rib cage and short loin. Too short a loin compromise flexibility, too long a loin creates loose coupling, raciness.

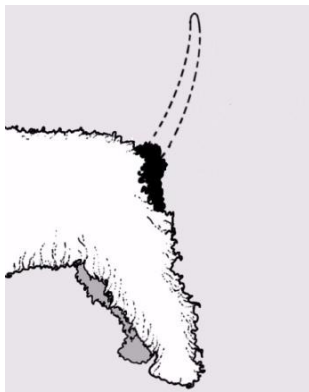
Underline starts at the elbow and stays level until a gentle curve up starting at the flank. There should not be extreme tuck up.

Croup slightly sloping, not extreme rounded nor steep.

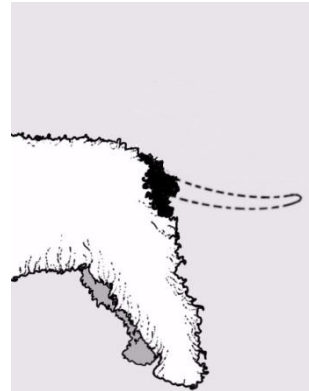
Set on of tail is perpendicular to the croup, at medium height, so it's not possible to look for a level carriage in attention. Normally tail turn to five minutes o'clock when it's in attention.



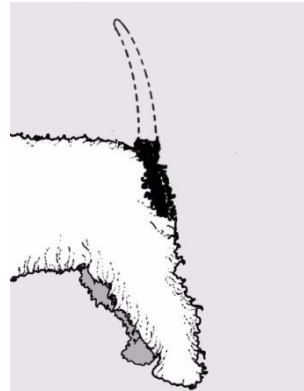
Avoid terrier (or gay) tails because high or too high insertion. Correct tail carriage is not affected by the length of the tail. An improper tail carriage is only emphasized when the tail is undocked.



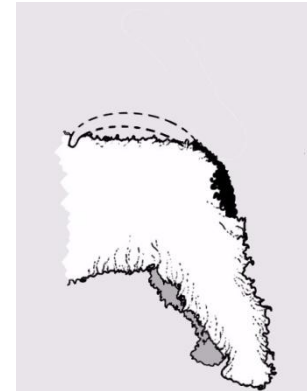
Correct Tail



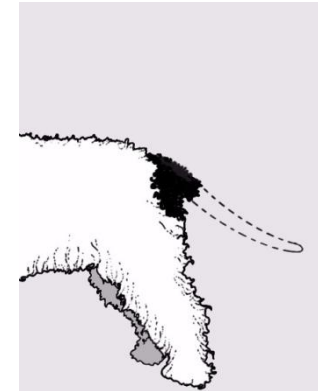
Tail Set Too Low



Gay Tail



Terrier Tail



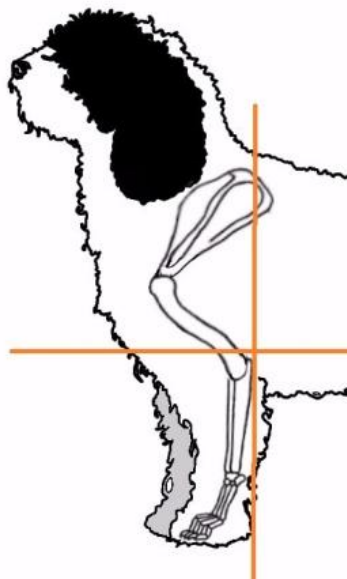
Correct Tail at Rest

When tail is not docked or bobtail tend to curve slightly above the level of the back in attention. At rest carried scimitar like. Could be curled, because this breed has been primarily customarily docked, we haven't pay excessive attention to it. As many dogs are naturally bobtail born, we hope to save the docked shape of the breed. Bobtails could be from anuros – they look to be a bit more rounded at croup–to medium sized tails.



FOREQUARTERS

Well muscled. Open or short upper arms or too steep shoulders are detrimental to proper reach and return of the front leg.

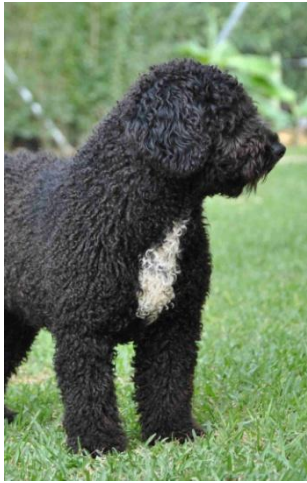


Upper arm is set well back, joining the shoulder blade with enough angulation (95° aprox.) to place the elbow beneath the highest point of the shoulder blade when standing.

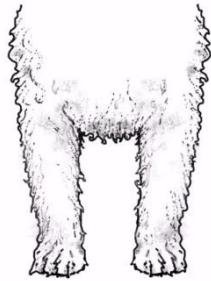
Upper arm with length of the bone in balance to the shoulder blade.

Height to the elbows is approximately equal to the distance from the elbows to the top of the shoulder blades. 50/50

Forearms straight and medium sized well under the body from all views. Well boned . Front legs should be straight when viewed from the front.



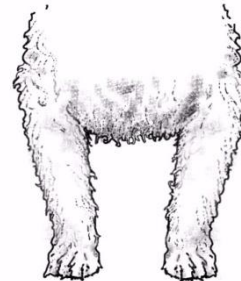
Dog front



Correct Front



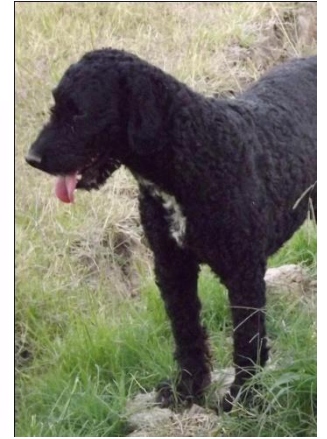
Narrow



Elbows out



Chippendale



Bitch Front

Elbows set close to the body and paralel. Be careful with elbows out which gives a look overopened from front. Dont mistake with a strong chest.

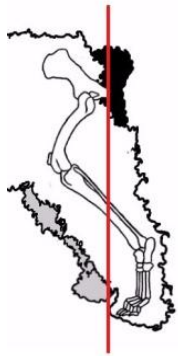
Pasterns short and slighty sloping .

Feet round, tight and well arched with strong pads.

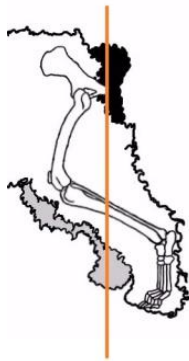


HINDQUARTERS

Must be strong, muscular and well boned. Viewed in profile thighs should be wide and second thighs well developed. Angulation is moderate. Hocks well let down, perpendicular to the ground. No cow hocked nor turn out hocks.



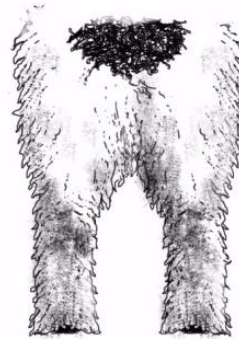
Correct rear



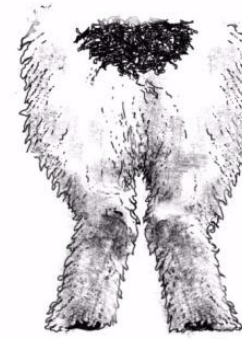
Overangulated



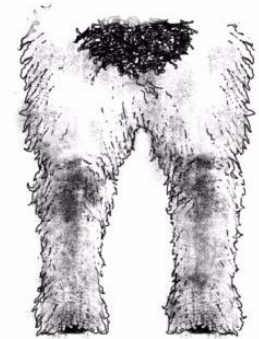
Too Steep



Correct Rear



Cow hocked



High hocks

Feet as in front.

No presence of dewclaws. Presence of dewclaws is a disqualifying fault.



COLOR AND COAT

Coat is of primary importance. Hair is always curly and of a woolly texture,- but not dry- , with oiliness and big curls in a dense mix from undercoat and overcoat. Curly when short, very well fitted, it form cords when long. Dry coats come from excessive undercoat, and tend to do mats. Any undercoat tend to do open coats and fine curled . Its very important to have the apropiate amount of undercoat and hair.

Anual clipping is required. Clipped subjects are admitted; the clipping is always overall, must never become an « aesthetic ». In the past there was an special clipping for working dogs, with foreface and feet clipped, but its not actual. Must preserve rustic appearance.

I think grooming is tolerable when it isnt change rustic appearance, as scissoring feet i.e., but must be totally avoided to sculpt the shape totally as another cousin breeds use to do.





Colour solid or particolour

- Solid : Cream, black and brown in their different shades.
- Bicoloured : White and black , white and cream or white and brown in their different shades. Any pattern is acceptable.

Tricoloured subjects, and black and tan as well as brown and tan dogs are not admitted. The B/T gene is hidden in the breed from the start, so from time to time it remains, as the homozygous recessive gene than it is. In the future I hope it will be definitively admitted.

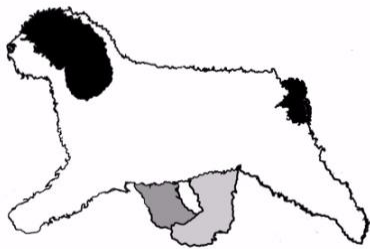
In bicolor dogs, colour patches must be well defined, trying to avoid small pigmented areas, ticking as dalmatians, provided by T gene.

Other colors not admitted: Grey, purple, from dilution genes action. Must avoid because its association to dermatologic diseases.

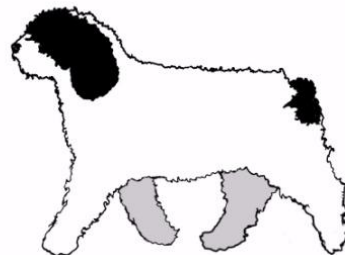


GAIT/MOVEMENT

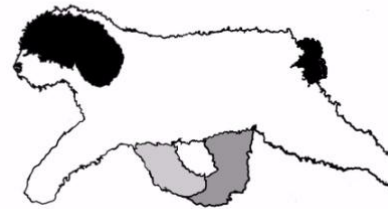
The SWD is built for endurance trotting. He moves with a smooth, powerful, ground covering action that displays drive from the rear. Should display sufficient reach from the forequarters and a propulsion from behind with full extension of the rear leg and flexibility of the hock.



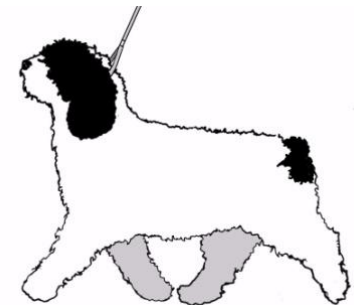
Correct Movement



Incorrect, stilted



Incorrect, too much kick

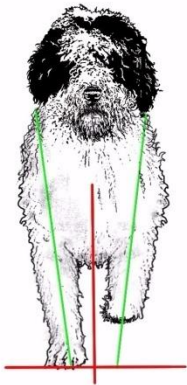


Handling too tight

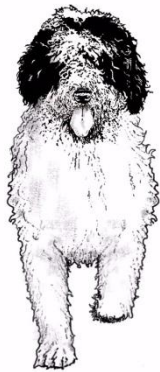
Viewed from the side, he exhibits a strong forward stride with a reach that does not waste energy. It has nothing to do with velocity running, one should get the sense of ease and symmetry of movement, not speed. Faster is not better.



Viewed from the front , the legs should appear to move forward in an effortless manner with no tendency to cross over the feet .



Movement at correct speed
(converge toward center)



Too Wide
(cannot converge)



Crossing Over

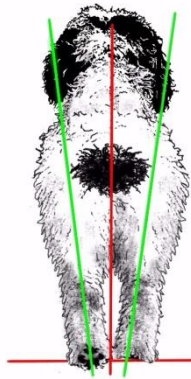


Winging

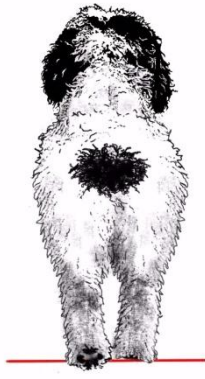


Elbows Out

Viewed from the rear, the hocks shoul follow on a line with the forelegs, neither too widely nor too clossely spaced. As the speed increases the feet tend to converge towards the body center of gravity, in a center line movement.



Movement at correct speed
(converge toward center)



Too Wide
(cannot converge)



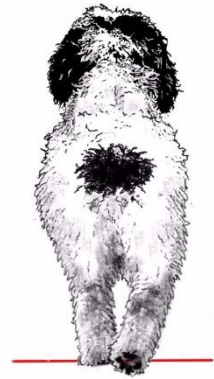
Crossing Over



Cow Hocked



Hocks Out



Of course, tremendous reach and drive (TRAD) movement is an exaggeration and therefore incorrect for SWD.

Sometimes, when the dog is overangulated in the rear the movement is more parallel behind. If the second thigh is longer than normal, the movement is a bit cycling behind, with the topline a bit downstairs and too much kick. If the dog has lacking angulation in front, the movement is higher and stilted, with many more steps during the course of an outing than a dog with good angulation, so he doesn't display the required endurance trotting. Dogs with too steeped croups lack in drive from the hindquarters.

The head is carried alertly. It would be at about a 10 o'clock position on a loose lead.

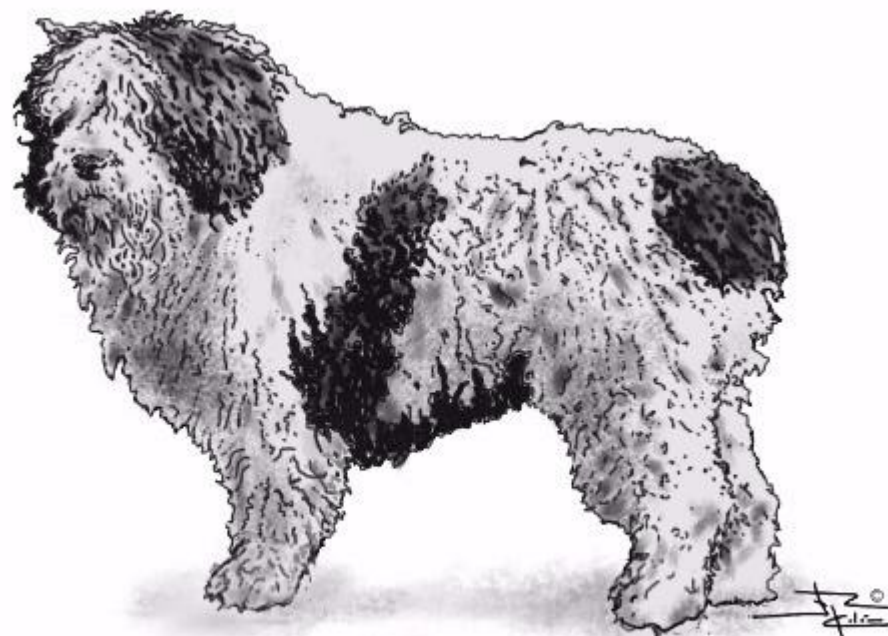


TEMPERAMENT

SWD is a sensitive dog sometimes, as many other shepherd breeds, so you must avoid to be very hard to reach or touch or trying to scary him when judging, specially when they are young, because you could destroy his character for ever.

Agresive or overly shy dogs or any dog clearly showing behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified. Although some times reserved with strangers, SWD are not timid or shy.

SWD should never exhibit be hostile or aggressive without any cause to other dogs in the ring.



Benjamín Sánchez García

Drawings by José Manuel Rodríguez Colón



Appendix

Table of first measurements from initial dogs in first work about the breed (Flores Ales, A.J et al 1982)

TABLA 4ª		MACHOS			HEMBRAS			PRUE
ESTIMACIONES	$\bar{x} \pm G\bar{x}$	$S \pm GS$	$CV_{p100 \pm 6CV}$	$\bar{x} \pm G\bar{x}$	$S \pm GS$	$CV_{p100 \pm 6CV}$	t	
DIÁMETROS								
Long. cabeza	20'73 ± 0'47	1'81 ± 0'33	8'73 ± 0'01	19'30 ± 0'35	1'30 ± 0'24	6'73 ± 0'012	2'35	
anchura cabeza	10'60 ± 0'24	0'82 ± 0'17	7'83 ± 0'016	9'37 ± 0'19	0'68 ± 0'14	7'25 ± 0'014	3'81	
long. craneo	12'73 ± 0'31	1'22 ± 0'22	9'57 ± 0'03	11'54 ± 0'37	1'27 ± 0'26	11'1 ± 0'02	2'36	
Bicostal	15'13 ± 0'4	1'57 ± 0'27	10'37 ± 0'012	14'96 ± 0'33	1'20 ± 0'23	8'02 ± 0'015	0'22	
Dorso - ETERNAL	19'86 ± 0'35	1'37 ± 0'25	6'90 ± 0'012	18'70 ± 0'26	0'92 ± 0'19	4'92 ± 0'01	3'32	
Longitudinal	42'78 ± 1'03	3'86 ± 0'73	8'07 ± 0'015	45'07 ± 0'63	2'36 ± 0'48	5'24 ± 0'009	5'73	
ALZADAS								
Cruz	44'63 ± 0'52	2'03 ± 0'37	4'51 ± 0'008	42'1 ± 0'63	2'37 ± 0'45	5'63 ± 0'01	10'63	
1/2 Dorso	44'6 ± 0'57	2'16 ± 0'40	4'84 ± 0'009	41'25 ± 0'47	1'72 ± 0'34	3'10 ± 0'005	2'90	
Lumbar	45'10 ± 0'58	2'20 ± 0'41	4'88 ± 0'009	41'53 ± 0'6	2'24 ± 0'42	5'40 ± 0'01	2'21	
Nacim. Cola	38 ± 0'85	2'27 ± 0'61	5'97 ± 0'02	36'75 ± 1'35	2'70 ± 0'95	7'35 ± 0'025	0'91 NS	
PERIMETROS								
Cabeza	34'14 ± 0'64	2'41 ± 0'45	7 ± 0'013	32'57 ± 0'48	1'81 ± 0'34	5'57 ± 0'01	1'87 N	
Caña	10'10 ± 0'20	0'77 ± 0'14	7'62 ± 0'014	9'54 ± 0'17	0'63 ± 0'12	6'6 ± 0'012	2'27	
Toracico	35'27 ± 1'15	4'47 ± 0'82	8'10 ± 0'014	50'96 ± 1'48	5'55 ± 1'04	10'9 ± 0'02	2'05	
INDICES								
Cefalico	52'6 ± 1'36	4'71 ± 0'96	8'95 ± 0'032	49'18 ± 1'45	5'01 ± 1'02	10'20 ± 0'021	1'60 N	
Toracico	75'98 ± 1'60	6'16 ± 1'12	8'10 ± 0'014	79'95 ± 1'7	5'93 ± 1'23	7'41 ± 0'015	1'95 N	
Corporal	91'2 ± 2'64	9'90 ± 1'87	10'85 ± 0'02	94'10 ± 4'1	15'5 ± 2'90	16'47 ± 0'031	0'48 N	