

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ANGULATION, FOREQUARTER – The angle formed between the upper arm and the shoulder blade.

ANGULATION, REARQUARTER – The angle formed between the upper and lower thigh.

ANGULATION, HOCK – The angle formed between the lower thigh and the hock.

BITCHY DOG – Male dog displaying feminine characteristics; overly refined dog.

BONE- May be used to mean substance as in “plenty of bone”; reverse of “light boned.”

BOW-LEG GED – Front legs bowed outward or hind legs bowed out at hock joints.

BRISKET- Breastbone, sternum. The lower part of the chest between and in front of the legs.

COBBY – Compact; short in length.

DOGGY BITCH – Female dog displaying masculine characteristics.

DOWN-FACED- Muzzle inclining downwards.

EARS, LOW SET – Set or attached to side of head rather than to top of head.

ELBOWS, OUT AT-Elbows protruding from the body; loose elbows; not close to body; most easily seen in rear movement.

DRY- Dry skin; not loose.

FRONT, FIDDLE- When viewed straight on, the front is shaped like a fiddle (violin); out at elbows, pasterns close, feet pointing out (east-west), often with excessive curvature in the lower arm.

FRONT, PINCHED – Narrow front; elbows and pasterns close together when viewed from front. Generally associated with poor spring of ribs and lack of depth of brisket.

FEET, FLAT- Toes straight or flat when viewed from the side; toes not well-arched.

FEET, HARE – Center toes are considerably longer than outer and inner toes.

FEET, SPLOY- Spreading feet; toes set far apart from each other; toes not tightly knit; toes spread out; open feet.

GAIT, OVERLAPPING – When the front legs are crossing over each other at the trot.

GAIT, PADDLING – Moves the front legs like a canoe paddle motion; a rotary motion; when the front feet move forward, they have a somewhat circular motion.

GAIT, SHUFFLING – dragging of the feet. May be related to low head carriage.

GAIT, SIDE-WINDING – Crabbing. When the rear legs of the dogs are not moving on the same plane as the front legs.

GAIT, WINGING- A twisting outward of one or both of the front legs as the legs swing forward.

GENOTYPE- A dog's genetic make-up.

HAW – A third eyelid, the conjunctival lining visible with a loose lower eyelid. A membrane in the inside corner of the eye.

HEAD PLANES – Top of muzzle, top of backskull and bottom of lower jaw.

HOCKS, COW – Hocks turned inward toward one another, similar to those of most cows.

HOCKS, HIGH IN – Hock joints far from ground; long hocks.

HOCKS, LOW – Short hocks. Provide endurance.

HOCKS, SICKLE- Inability to straighten the hock joint on the back reach of the hind leg; dog moves with a fixed angle in hock joint; dog stands with back of rear foot forward of point of hock.

HOCKS, SPREAD – Opposite of cow-hocks; when viewed from rear, hock joints further apart than feet; hocks pointing outward when standing or in motion.

HOCKS, STRAIGHT – Insufficient bend in the hock joint.

HOCKS, WELL LET-DOWN – Hock joints close to the ground.

HOLLOWNESS BETWEEN THE FRONT LEGS- Lack of sternum and forechest development cause hollowness between the front legs when a dog is coming towards you.

HUMERUS – Upper arm. Bone between the elbow and shoulder blade.

KEEL – Portion of the breastbone or basket running between the forelegs and extending backward to the line of the abdomen.

KEEL, DEEP – Deep keels tend to reach to below the level of the elbows.

KNUCKLING OVER – The front leg has a forward bend at the pastern joint. A disqualification in the Basset Hound.

LAYBACK – Layback of shoulder blade. The angle that the shoulder blade deviates from the horizontal.

LEATHER – Flap of an ear.

LEG GY – Legs too long for proper balance of the dog.

LIPS, PENDULOUS – Lips that do not fit tightly.

MALOCCLUSION – Faulty closure of teeth.

MUZZLE, SNIPEY – When viewed from above, the muzzle at the junction of the backskull is pinched the entire length of the muzzle.

NECK, EWE – Concave neck; like the neck of a sheep; does not have an arch.

OCCIPUT – The high point of the back part of the head.

OVERANGULATION – Having more bend of stifle (or front angulation) than called for. When in a stacked position with the rear hocks perpendicular to the ground, the rear toes are well behind the point of the rump.

PASTERNS, DOWN IN – Pastern with too much slope.

PHENOTYPE- The outward appearance of a dog.

PIGEONBREAST – Narrow chest with short protruding breastbone.

PIGEON-TOED – Toes are turned in and pointing towards one another.

PIGMENTATION – Dark pigmentation of nose, eye rims, lips, toenails, pads and skin; light color indicates insufficient pigment.

POINT OF FORECHEST – Point of breastbone. Called the prosternum.

PROSTERNUM – From the side, the part of the dog in front of the point of shoulder.

RIBS, FLANGED – A ridge or curve near the bottom on one or both sides of the ribcage.

RIBS, FLAT OR SLAB- SIDED – Ribs that lack a roundness as they approach the sternum or breastbone.

RIBS, WELL-SPRUNG – Ribs that spring out from the spine nearly level forming a broad back, arch downward and at the lower end curve in to connect with the breastbone.

ROACH – An upward curved topline.

ROLLING- a loose-jointed sidewise motion giving the appearance of a roll. May be characteristic of a wider front and narrow rear.

SCAPULA – Shoulder blade.

SHORT-BODIED – Short between front of chest and rear of dog.

SHOULDER HEIGHT – Height of a dog measured from the withers to ground.

SHOULDERS, LOADED – Excessively muscled shoulders; may cause a dog to be out at the elbows.

SHOULDERS, LOOSE – Shoulder not firmly attached to the side; normally caused by a lack of proper conditioning.

SHOULDERS, STRAIGHT – Shoulder blades nearly vertical as opposed to well- laid -back.

STERNUM – Breastbone; brisket.

STIFLE- Knee joint. Located between the upper and lower thighs.

STOP – The point dividing the muzzle and skull.

SUBSTANCE – Plenty of bone; refers to heaviness of bone rather than fat.

SWAYBACK – Back with downward bow in it.

TAIL CARRIED GAILY IN HOUND FASHION – Tail carried at approximately 90 degrees to topline when dog is in motion.

TAIL, KINKED – A tail sharply bent because of a joint defect.

TAIL, SICKLE – Tail carried out and up in a loose semicircle (shaped like a sickle), but not touching the back.

TAIL, SQUIRREL – Tail carried up and curved forward.

TAIL SET – How the base of the tail sets on the rump. Low set tail has a dip at base of tail.

TUCK-UP – Rise in bottom line at loin area.

WITHERS – The highest point of the shoulders behind the neck.

WRY-MOUTH – Lower jaw area of foreface noticeably out of level.

References

Definitions are taken directly from the following sources:

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