

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

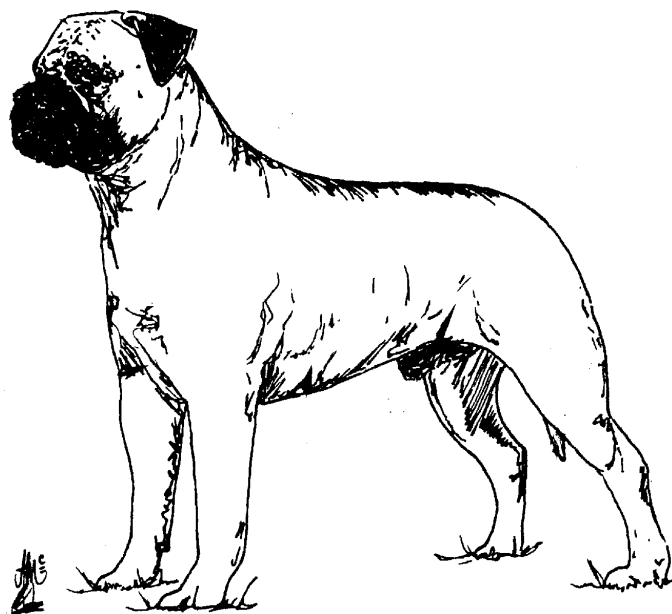


Extended Breed Standard of **THE BULLMASTIFF**

Compiled by
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on behalf of the National Bullmastiff Breed Council (Australia)
in collaboration with the members of
The Bullmastiff Club of New South Wales Inc.
The Bullmastiff Club of South Australia Inc.
The Bullmastiff Club of Victoria Inc.
The Bullmastiff Club of Western Australia Inc.
and
interested parties whose input was directed through these
Affiliated Clubs

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BREED

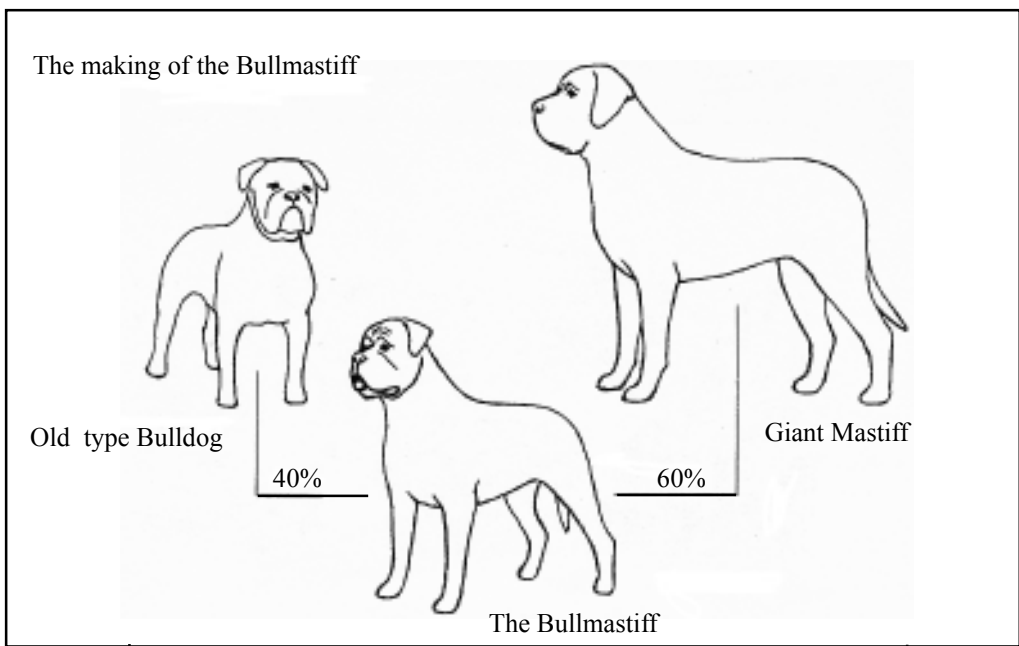
The Bullmastiff was intentionally and specifically bred for a purpose. He fulfilled a need of the times — as a guard-dog for the Gamekeeper on the Estates in the English countryside in the 19th century. During the early 19th century the common man in England, mostly poverty stricken and desperate to survive, often turned to poaching on the Estates of the wealthy landed gentry in order to feed a hungry family. For the Gamekeeper in the employ of the gentry, life was difficult and dangerous. Desperate men used desperate means to achieve their aims, and if the night-time murder of a Gamekeeper in the forest insured against arrest (with the possibility of a death sentence or deportation), then so be it.

The Gamekeeper needed, as his companion and protector, a large, powerful, brave, loyal and obedient dog to locate, seize and detain the poacher. To this end, various and strange combinations of breeds of dogs were tried, but none proved as effective for the task as the Mastiff and Bulldog cross, later to be known as the Bullmastiff.

In his historical research into the breed, Colonel David Hancock, in “The Bullmastiff A Breeder’s Guide”, points to the fact that “Dogs of Bullmastiff conformation and employment were commonplace in 19th century Britain but had no distinctive breed title and therefore no recognition”. He cites several references to this dog in writings as early as 1804 and 1820, so the breed has deeper origins than is sometimes supposed. He also quotes “Count V. Hollander, who wrote in ‘The Kennel’ of March 1911: “The public know very little of the qualities of the Bull-Mastiff and, what is more, that it has been in existence for some considerable time.”

One of the pioneer breeders of the 20th century was a Mr.Moseley. It was he who is widely attributed as the person who, having recognized the superb qualities of the Bullmastiff, “set the type” which was to remain as the standard for the breed.

Mr.Moseley’s breeding formula for the Bullmastiff, of 60% Mastiff and 40% Bulldog, produced a dog with the physical and mental characteristics which were highly prized by the Gamekeepers: a combination of the tenacity, toughness and courage of the Bulldog, and the massively powerful, impressive, reliable and even-tempered Mastiff; with an inherent instinct to pin and hold the quarry rather than to maul and bite. It was through the efforts of Mr.Moseley, and those of other breeders of his time that, in 1924, the General Committee of the Kennel Club (England) gave official recognition to the breed for registration.



The leggie smaller-headed bulldog of 100 years ago.



The mastiff 'Peeress' (1st prize, Birmingham 1872) much more houndlike, 100 years ago.



It must be remembered that the Mastiff and the Bulldog from which the Bullmastiff descended were somewhat different in appearance from the specimens of those breeds which we see in the show-rings today. It was from the Mastiffs and Bulldogs of about one hundred years and more ago that the Bullmastiff took his origins. The diagram on previous page, reproduced by permission of Bill Walkey: “The Bullmastiff Fancier’s Manual”, and the accompanying illustrations, reproduced by permission of Col.David Hancock (op.cit.), give an impression of that difference.

Of significance here is the following statement by Bill Walkey (op.cit.): “The dog we see today of any breed is the most current form known to us. What must not be overlooked in our tunnel vision of purebred pedigrees is that all of our accepted breeds had some form of medieval or older ancestor that has been honed through time.” We see that process has taken place in these breeds.

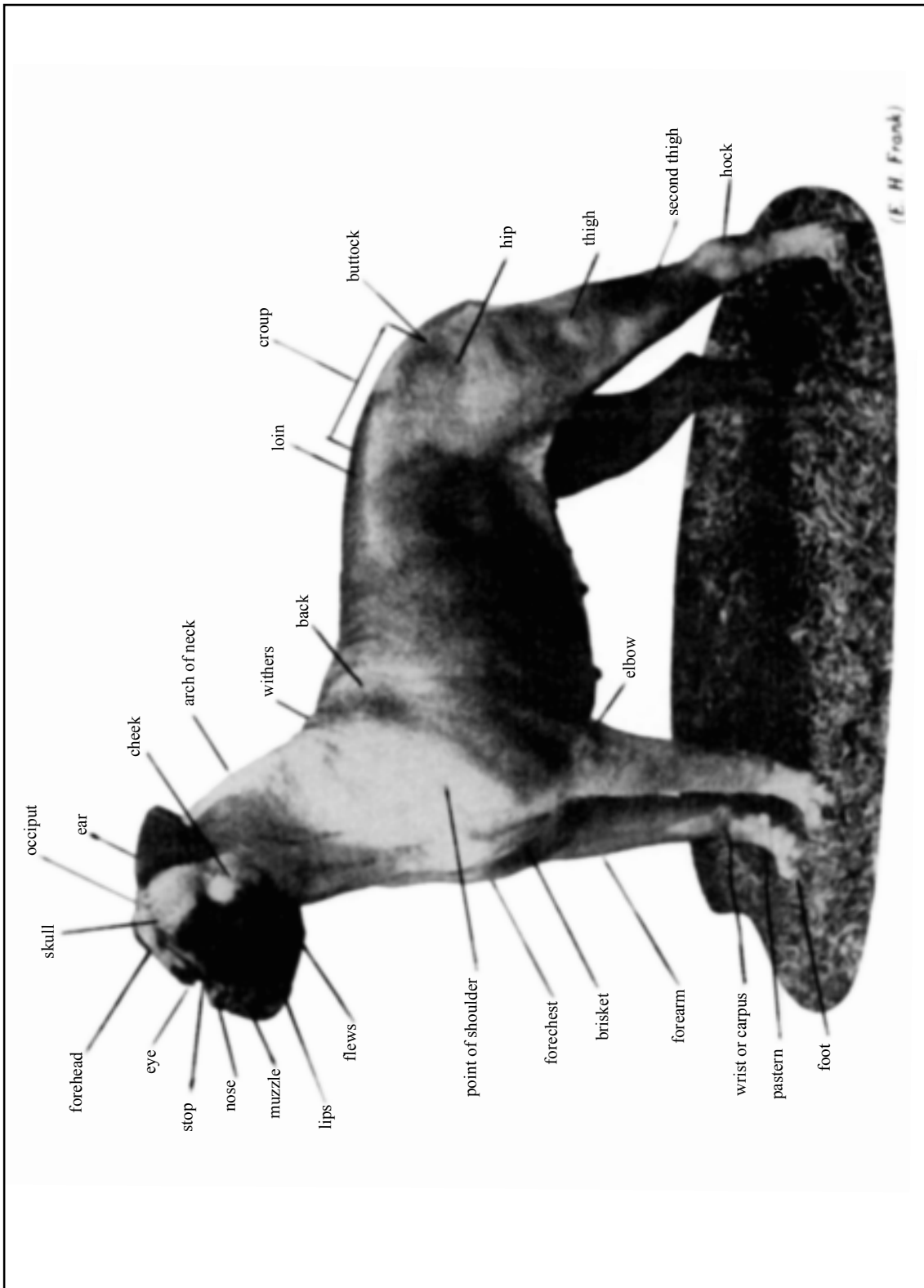
The Gamekeepers of the early years showed a preference for the brindle Bullmastiff, as this colour blended in with the darkness of the forest at night. With his black masked face and dark eyes the brindle Bullmastiff was extremely difficult to detect, and quite formidable to behold when confronting the unsuspecting felon. Later, the red dog and the fawn dog gained popularity.

The Bullmastiff of today must of necessity remain true-to-type. That is, he must be of the size, stature and temperament to enable him to do the job for which he was bred — to be the companionable, trustworthy friend and protector of his master and family. Correct type, balance and soundness, both physical and mental are imperatives in considering the qualities of the Bullmastiff.

Generally speaking, Bullmastiffs are not a “flashy” or “showy” breed. However, the impressive and powerful physical and mental attributes of the true-to-type Bullmastiff stamp him as an exceptional representative of what is known as the Utility Group in our country.



Keeper’s Nightdog from *The Gamekeeper’s at Home* by Richard Jefferies. 1879





- **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

Powerful build, symmetrical, showing great strength but not cumbersome, sound and active.

The immediate impression of the appearance of the Bullmastiff is of a powerful, strongly muscled, medium-to-large-sized, short-coated dog. Alert, active, symmetrical; showing no sign of being coarse, or cumbersome, or lacking in refinement despite his heavily-built general appearance. His well balanced, correctly proportioned and powerful build leads to the conclusion of great strength combined with mental and physical stamina.

Clear red, fawn or brindle in colour, with the essential black muzzle and orbits.

Demeanour hints at great strength, immense determination, considerable self assurance, yet tractability. His whole manner should announce that he is sound in mind and body, and has the physical and mental attributes to make him always ready for action as a working dog.

- **SIZE**

Dogs: 64 – 69 cms (25 – 27 ins) at shoulder (withers)

Bitches: 61 – 66 cms (24 – 26 ins) at shoulder (withers)

- **WEIGHT**

Dogs: 50 – 59 kg (110 – 130 lbs)

Bitches: 41 – 50 kg (90 – 110 lbs)

● CHARACTERISTICS

Powerful, enduring, active, reliable.

Powerful in build and personality, possessive of a steady stamina, and tenacious in his purpose — a legacy from his ancestors.

An active, agile dog, quite relaxed when at ease, yet capable of becoming fully active within seconds when circumstances in his territory demand his attention.

Fearless, yet docile and reliable, he is devoted to and protective of his own family and possessions no matter what cost to himself.

When he gives voice, it is for a sound reason which should be investigated as he is not given to senseless barking.

He shows a talent for discriminating between friends and intruders on his property.

In the words of Mr. Mosely, a pioneer English breeder, a Bullmastiff should be: "Faithful and fearless, but not ferocious; Big enough to be powerful, but not too big to be active."

● TEMPERAMENT

High spirited, alert and faithful.

High-spirited but good natured, he takes a lively interest in all that is going on. Eager for fun with friends and family, yet alert to his surroundings, with the ability to discern between acceptable human behaviour and that warranting suspicion.

He is self-assured, faithful and devoted to his family, which he protects. The bonding with, and protectiveness of, family and property springs from his origins — the companionable friend and protector of the lonely and oft-set-upon Gamekeeper on the Estates in the English countryside in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The trait is inherent in his nature, yet the original aggressiveness, no longer appropriate in today's society, has been modified over the years to produce a friendly, trustworthy and reliable family dog with guarding instincts.

NOTE: Stability of temperament is a must for a dog of this size and capability. However, the possibility of potential arguments, particularly among stud dogs, should be recognised as instinctive in any breed, and avoided.

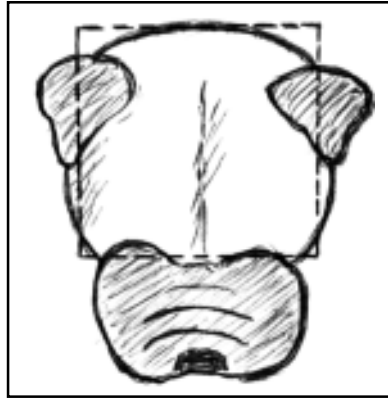
- **HEAD AND SKULL**

Skull large and square, viewed from every angle, fair wrinkle when interested, but not when in repose. Skull broad and deep with well filled cheeks. Pronounced stop. Muzzle short, distance from tip of nose to stop approximately one-third of length from tip of nose to centre of occiput, broad under eyes and sustaining nearly the same width to end of nose; blunt and cut off square, forming right angle with upper line of face, and at the same time proportionate with skull. Under-jaw broad to end. Nose broad with widely spreading nostrils, flat, neither pointed nor turned up in profile. Flews not pendulous, never hanging below level of lower jaw.

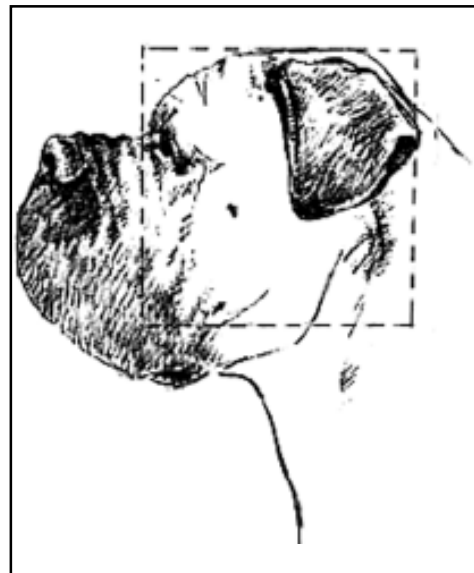


The skull should be large and square, viewed from every angle - resembling a cube overall. Square when viewed from above. Square when viewed in profile.

The width across the top of the skull should equal the distance from where the stop meets the skull to the occiput. The depth of the skull, from the occiput to the level of the underside of the lower jaw, should also equal that distance.



Impressions of 'squareness' of skull viewed from above, profile and front-on.



The standard allows for fair wrinkle on the forehead of the skull when interested but not when in repose.

Excessive wrinkle, especially when in repose, is incorrect; just as is lack of wrinkle when interested, which tends to plainness and lack of expression.

The circumference of the skull may equal the height of the dog at the top of the withers, giving credence to the description of the skull as "large", as is the fully grown dog.

Significantly, this prescription addresses the question of balance in the dog. The head of a fully grown male dog standing 69cms (27 ins) at the wither is well balanced in terms of its size in relation to height if it fulfils this criteria. A “pin”, or too small, head on a dog of such height is not correct. Conversely, a dog with a large head yet too short in leg is equally unbalanced. The same criteria applies to bitches.

The skull should be broad and deep, giving the structural strength required to cope with the inevitable dangers of his original occupation as the Gamekeeper’s night dog, i.e. having to withstand assault by desperate assailants. Good, strong muscular cheeks surrounding the wide zygoma are essential, as in any pinning and holding breed.

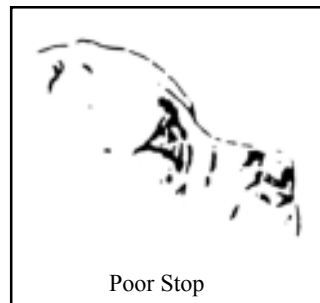


Skull broad and deep.
Strong, muscular cheeks.

The stop is pronounced, quite definite in profile, accentuated by the bony structure of the brows. A sloping stop is incorrect.



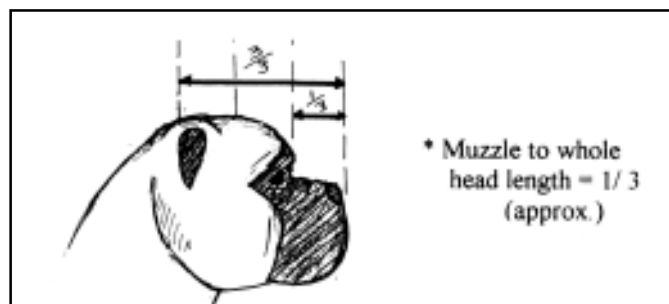
Good Stop



Poor Stop

The muzzle is said to be short, but only in that when viewed in profile and from above, it measures in length **approximately** one third of the total length of the head from tip of nose to centre of occiput.

The ratio of muzzle to total length of head is **approximately** 1:3. The muzzle should not present as cut off too short, as this mimics the Bulldog, and is not correct for a Bullmastiff.



Just as the skull is said to resemble a 'cube' so too, the muzzle resembles a 'cube' – a smaller cube which fits in front of a larger cube.

The muzzle must be broad under the eyes, showing no sign, when viewed from the front, of a “scooping” or falling away under the eye area.

That breadth under the eyes should be maintained and remain nearly parallel in width down to the end of the nose.

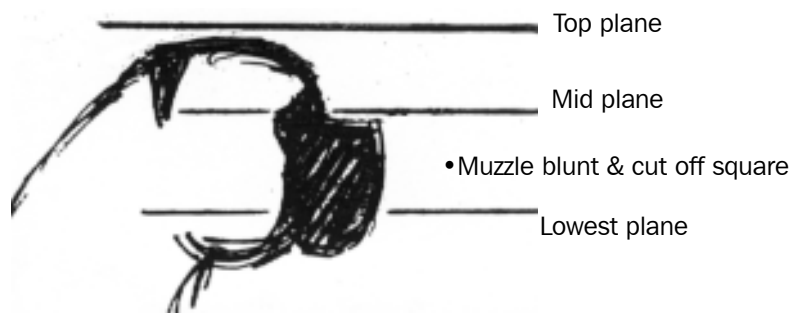


A broad, strong muzzle is required. The correct muzzle should complement that “square” look of the skull. A lean, snipy muzzle is not correct.

In profile the muzzle is blunt and cut off square, forming a right angle with that plane which extends along the profile length of the muzzle.

In profile, the head of the Bullmastiff can be seen to present three planes, which lie in lines parallel to each other. The top plane lies along the level of the skull (stop to occiput); the mid plane lies along the level of the muzzle (nose tip to stop); the lowest plane lies along the level of the lower jaw line. Thus, the correct right-angled, blunt, cut-off square muzzle is easily discerned in its outline in relation to the mid and lowest planes of the head.

It must present as proportionate with the skull.



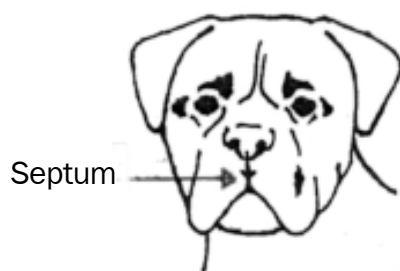
The muzzle must not slant in an upwards angle from the stop to the tip of the nose.

In profile, the length of this blunt and cut off square muzzle should conform with the specification laid down for proportion, i.e. its profile length in relation to the profile length of the whole head is **approximately** as 1:3, the 3 being the total length of head from nose tip to occiput.

Underjaw must be broad to the end, so canines must be set wide apart in a broad, powerful jaw capable of gripping and holding tenaciously.

A narrow, pinched underjaw by comparison lacks the power required, and presents a weak, unacceptable dimension to the head.

When viewing the head from the front, the lips should be seen to diverge from the septum (line from middle of nose) forming a wide inverted 'V' shape and displaying a wide underjaw/chin.



- **NOSE**

Nose should be black, broad, and with widely spreading nostrils viewed front on.

Flat, not pointed or turned up in profile.

Flews should not be overly heavy and pendulous, and should not hang below the level of the bottom of the lower jaw.

Neither should there be excessive dewlap around the throat area.

The head should present as “clean”, with no unsightly excesses in either of these areas.



Correct muzzle



Too throaty
(excess dewlap)



Too much flew

● EYES

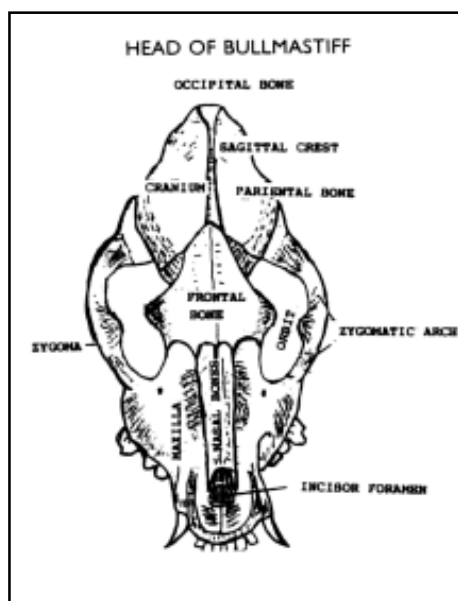
Dark or hazel, of medium size, set apart the width of muzzle with furrow between. Light or yellow eyes highly undesirable.

The eye should be dark or hazel in colour, of medium size, and more oval in shape than completely round. Small, or completely round, or protruding eyes (Pug-like eyes) are not correct.

Eyes should be deep set but not sunken, and set apart the width of the muzzle with a furrow between.

The orbital (eye) cavity in the skull is so placed that the eye has a degree of protection provided by the strong wide frontal bone, by the zygomatic arch, and by the well developed cheek muscles of this pinning and holding breed.

In the past, as the Gamekeeper's night dog, and in the event of an assailant raining blows on the dog, hopefully one eye, if not both, would remain intact given the particular eye placement and the surrounding structures.



The classic bold look of the Bullmastiff “should look at you and through you”, which best describes his eye language.

Light or yellow eyes are uncharacteristic. As the Gamekeeper’s night dog, the blending of dark eye colour and dark mask gave added protection from detection by a prospective assailant.

Light or yellow eyes lack the required depth of colour, and are highly undesirable.



Eyes more oval in shape than completely round. Well developed cheek muscles. 'Bold' look.

! EARS

V-shaped, folded forward set on wide and high, level with the occiput giving a square appearance to the skull which is most important. Small and deeper in colour than the body. Point of ear level with eye when alert. Rose ears highly undesirable.

Rose ears are not correct for the Bullmastiff. They are highly undesirable in the Bullmastiff, as the Standard states.

For want of clearer definition, it could be said that the “V” shape is achieved by the folding downwards of the ear from the point of junction with the head so that the point of the “V” is not standing upright (as for the prick-eared Terrier dog), but is pointing downwards and reaches a point which is level with the corner of the eye when the dog is alert, as the Standard prescribes.

The ears, set on wide and high on a level with the occiput, contribute to the required square appearance of the skull when viewing the alert dog full front on. Ears set too close detract from that shape, and give a pinched look to the skull.

When the dog’s attention is caught, the ears immediately become alert with a noticeable flexing and a slight lifting of the edge of upper ear, which tends to emphasize that square appearance just mentioned.

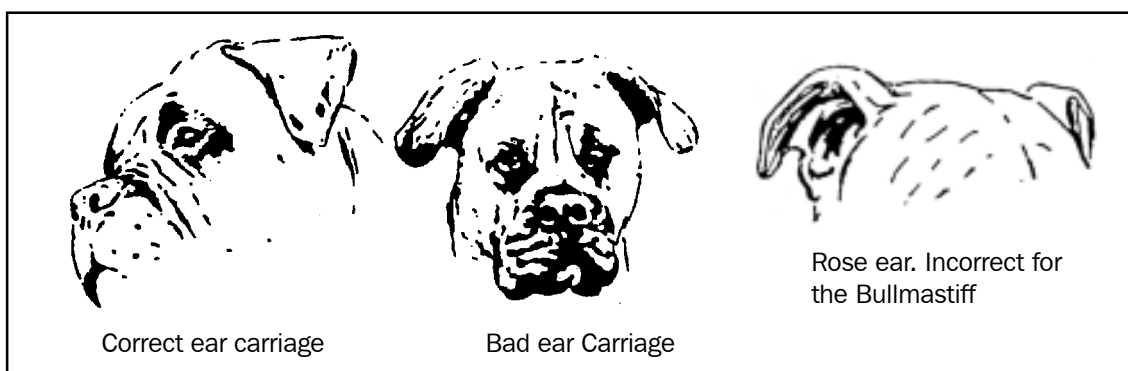
This sensitive flexing of the ears is accompanied by a wrinkling of the brow, his response to whatever has attracted his notice. Such noiseless but “electric” response is significant and is in keeping with the ideal body language of his ancestors – a silent but definite message, to the Gamekeeper at his side, of an object in the vicinity.

It should be noted that the Bullmastiff may lay his ears back when he is panting, disinterested, bored or when he doesn’t like what he is doing. The folded back Bullmastiff ear is not the same as the “rose” ear.

The ear, small in comparison with that of the Mastiff dog, should be considered medium to small size in relation to the size and shape of the Bullmastiff’s head. Overly large ears are not correct.

Ideally, the tips of the ears when viewed in profile should reach the same level as that of the outer corner of the eye. Tips of ears to be slightly rounded.

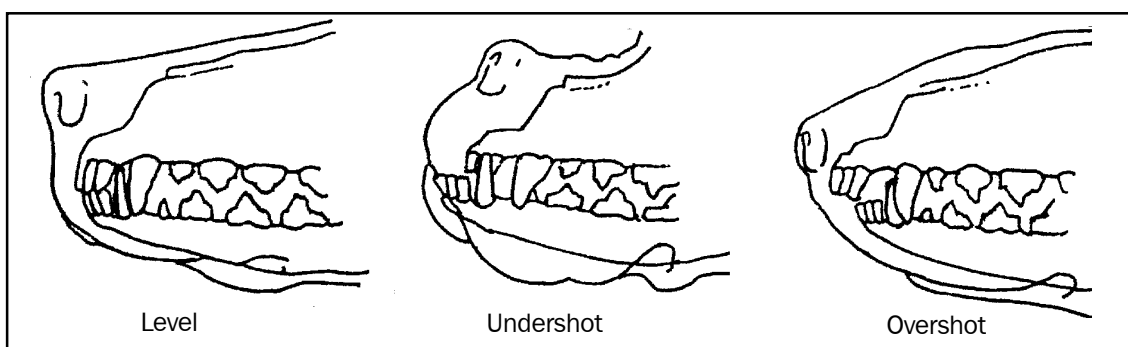
The ears must be darker in colour than that colour of the body of the dog.



• MOUTH

Level desired but slightly undershot allowed but not preferred. Canine teeth large and set wide apart, other teeth strong, even and well placed.

That the level mouth is desired is acknowledged here. However, the acceptance of the slightly undershot mouth also acknowledges the difficulty of attaining a level mouth in a breed whose genetic mix includes a 40% input of Bulldog, in its 60% Mastiff - 40% Bulldog basis. The word “slightly” is the operative one here. Any gross exaggeration of the undershot mouth is not correct, especially where, for instance, the canine teeth protrude outside the level of the lips. Neither is an overshot mouth considered correct.



In this large and broad-mouthed dog, the canine teeth must be large and set wide apart as already discussed in the section on the underjaw under the heading “Head and Skull”. (Note the reference to the unacceptability of the narrow, pinched underjaw.)

Other teeth must be strong, even and well placed. The incisors should be evenly placed, and in a straight line between the canines.

● NECK

Well arched, moderate length, very muscular and almost equal to skull in circumference.

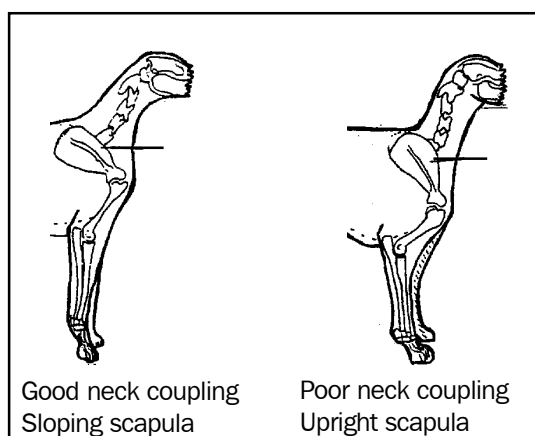
The well arched, very muscular and moderately long neck set on, in sloping shoulders, is in keeping with the requirement of great strength and power in the Bullmastiff. Under attack he needed a moderately long neck for reach, and arch of neck for manoeuvrability when wrestling with weapons wielded or with assailants attempting escape.

A short, straight neck, even though set in powerful shoulders, would not afford the same advantage.

As well, a moderate reach of neck is required to assist in balancing the body in movement.

That the well arched, very muscular neck almost equals the skull in circumference is another quality which enhanced his value to the Gamekeeper. The difficulty of attempting to throttle, to restrain or to capture an animal with such a large muscular neck is apparent. Under attack, the shoulders, neck and head seem to merge into one another in terms of size, shape and strength, and so render the desperate struggle a meaningless one for the offending poacher.

An overly long “swan” neck is not correct, nor is a short stuffy neck which lacks arch.



Presenting a well arched moderately long neck.

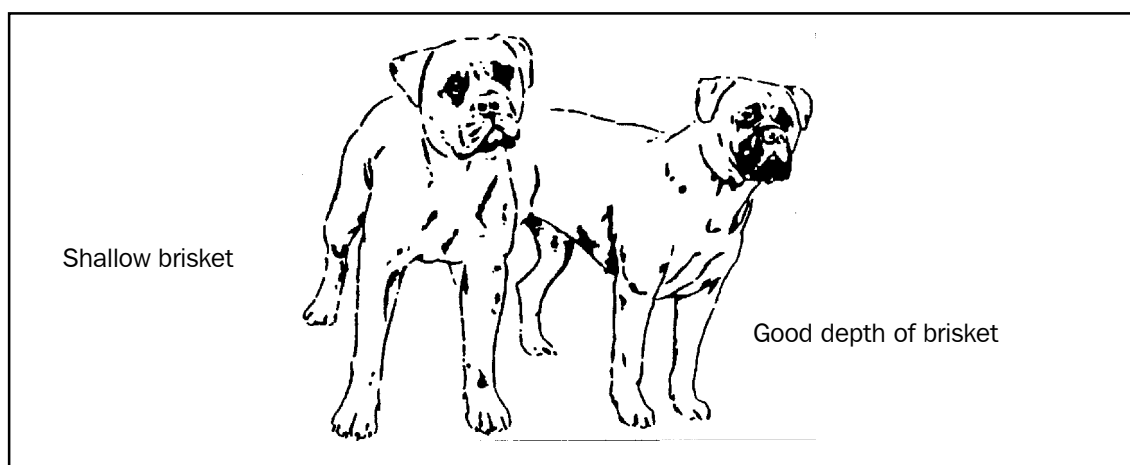
● FOREQUARTERS

Chest, wide and deep, well let down between forelegs, with deep brisket. Shoulders muscular and powerful, not overloaded. Forelegs powerful and straight, well boned, set wide apart, presenting a straight front. Pasterns straight and strong.

A wide, strong and deep chest allows for necessary protection for heart and lungs, and for ample lung expansion when sudden or sustained extra oxygen intake is required of the working dog. Good spring of rib is necessary to house these vital organs.

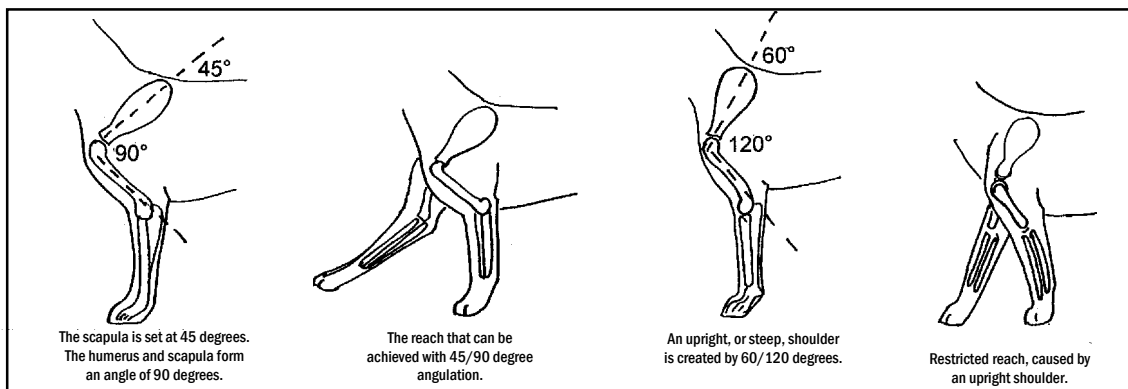
Chest development is of great importance for strength and endurance to the Bullmastiff as to the athlete.

With his wide, strong, deep chest well let down between forelegs, and deep fairly long brisket, the frontal view presents an image of the might and power of the impact when, at full speed, he downs the fleeing felon. It is part of his armoury. Form, function and purpose combined.



Shoulders must present as muscular, sloping and powerful, without being overloaded. Distinction needs to be made between overloaded shoulders and those of the well-exercised dog with well-developed deltoid muscle.

Shoulder lay-back, or slope, should present approximately at the lower end of a 40 - 45 degree angle so that with compatible length and angle of upper arm, the likelihood of correct front movement may be facilitated.

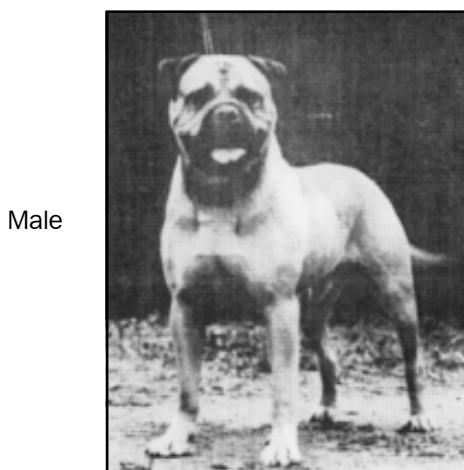


Steep shoulders, and/or short steep upper arm, are not correct. Movement in such cases is usually stilted, lacking in the reach and drive required. In profile, the line from under the throat to the feet is too straight.

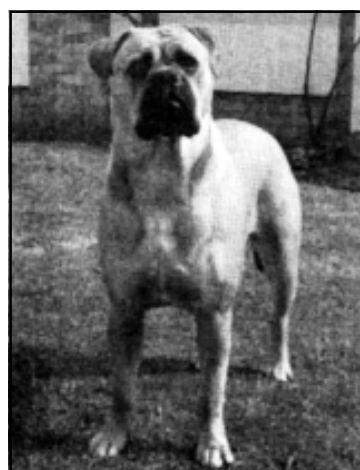
The dog with correct forehand construction, viewed in profile, will present with forechest (prosternum) apparent but not overly prominent, and front legs placed vertically under the withers.

Forelegs are powerful and straight, well-boned but not over-boned so as to appear gross or coarse; set wide apart for stability, and parallel; in all, presenting a broad, strong, straight front when viewed front-on.

The fine boned Bullmastiff is not true to type. Yet, in deference to the stated size and weight variation between dogs and bitches, it can be expected that many bitches may not appear as heavily boned as larger dogs. This is not to be seen as an excuse for poor or too fine boning.



Male



Female

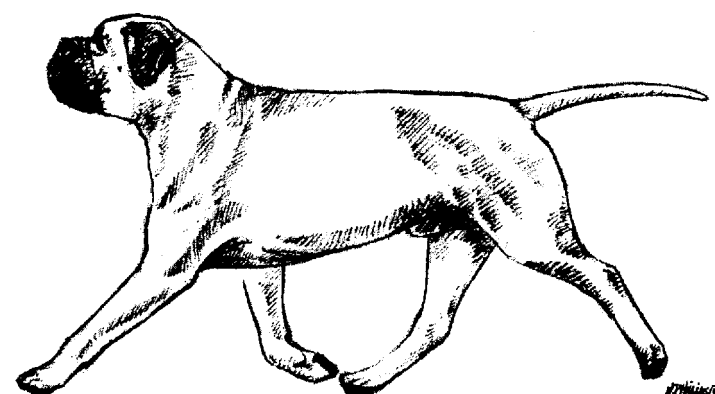
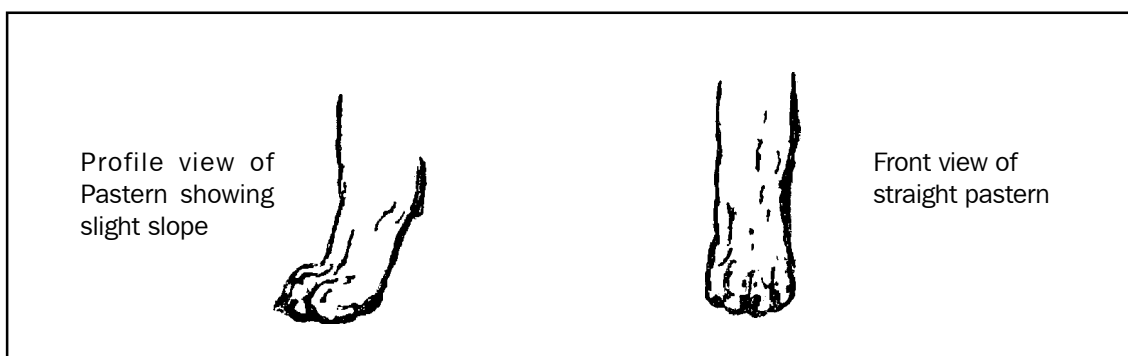
Well boned, but not over boned

Powerful forelimbs are essential to cope with, at any speed, the steep thickly- wooded rough terrain and/or the boulder-strewn streams of his work place.

As well, the powerful forelegs were essential to assist him in downing, pinning and holding his quarry.

The elbows should be neither turned out nor pinched in, either in stance or during movement. Such faults adversely affect the gait.

Pasterns should be straight and strong when viewed from **the front**. **In profile**, a slight slope is desirable for shock absorption in a large, active animal.

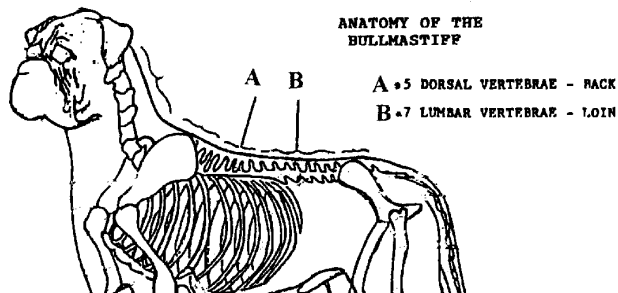


Well-boned, strong pasterns are essential to cope with the body weight and work requirement of this powerful breed.

● BODY

Body short and straight, giving compact carriage, but not so short as to interfere with activity. Roach and sway backs highly undesirable.

Distinction must be made between the “back” (with its dorsal vertebrae) and the “loin” (with its lumbar vertebrae), and these two areas are, for our purposes, treated separately.



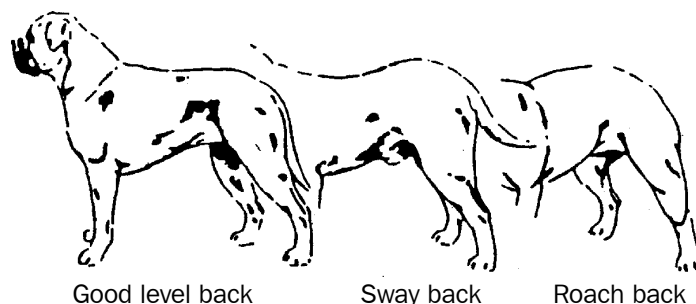
Back is to be short and straight, but not so short as to interfere with activity. If too short, movement can be adversely affected: the dog may “crab”, i.e. the hind legs will move to the side of the forelegs; or the hind legs may move outside the front legs to avoid contact with the forefeet; or stilted, cramped movement may result to avoid either of these.

An overly long back, and/or a weak or dippy back is incorrect.

To cater for his work requirement, the dog's ability to twist and turn in the chase requires a strong back that will not suffer either from weakness of excessive length or from rigidity of being too short. The strong, straight back should be supported by well sprung, deep ribs which provide ample breathing space.

Requirement is for a straight, compact topline carriage in the area of the back. In the extension of topline over the loin area, allowance needs be made for the extra thickness of necessary muscular development over the loin area (as described in the section on “Hindquarters”). Distinction must be made here between that extra thickness of muscle surrounding the loin area, and what is clearly a roach back. This latter is highly undesirable.

One of the functions of the back is to transmit to the forequarters the efforts of propulsion from the hindquarters via the loin. Roach or sway backs are highly undesirable, for such curvatures of the spine clearly diminish propulsion, reach, drive and the power of endurance.



● HINDQUARTERS

Loins wide and muscular with fair depth of flank. Hindlegs strong and muscular, with well developed second thighs, denoting power and activity, not cumbersome. Hocks moderately bent. Cow hocks highly undesirable.

Loin area to be wide when viewed from above, and essentially well muscled. As the vertebrae of the loin are not stabilised through the ribs, as are the thoracic vertebrae, their firmness is guaranteed solely through a well developed musculature, essential for the protection of a dog whose body may be subjected to attack during the course of his occupation.

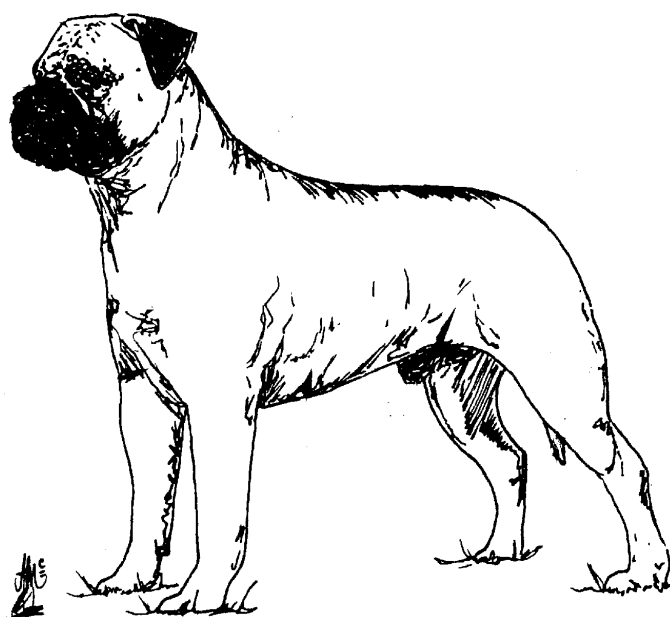
In profile, the loin area should provide a continuation of the desired strong topline begun at the back area, and which should continue to the croup. Croup area should be well muscled, fairly flat, and flow smoothly on to the set of the tail.

It should be borne in mind that some young dogs can display a rise over the loin/croup area which may level out with age.

Sometimes the rise at the back end is due to the hock joint and/or stifle being too straight, and this does not usually correct itself.

“Fair” depth of flank suggests there be no exaggeration.

Flanks, while presenting fair depth, should not be so deep as to present a drum or barrel-shaped body when viewed in profile, nor should there be exaggerated tuck-up under the loin area. Terms “fair” and “moderate” seem synonymous here.



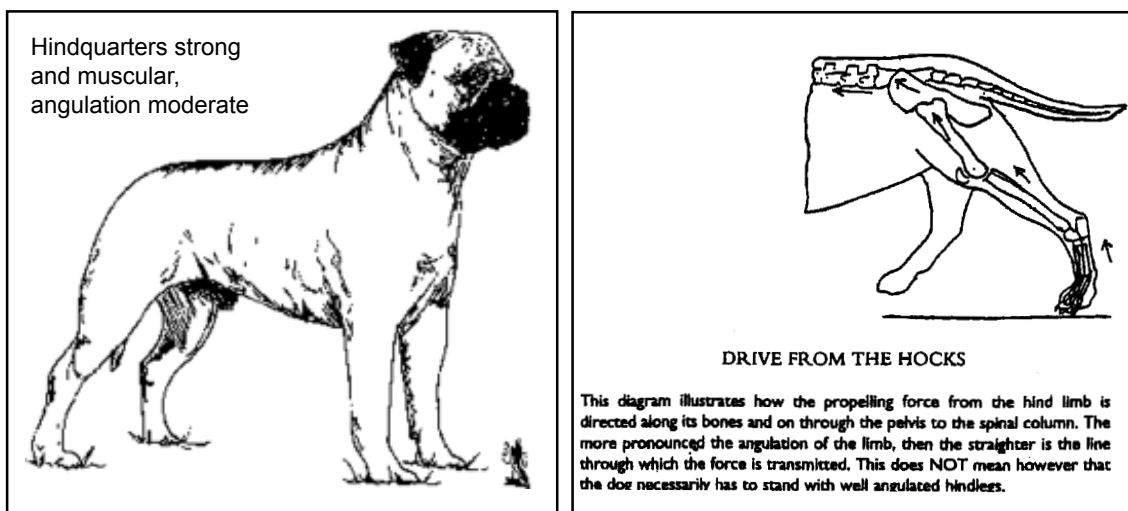
Fair depth of flank gives balance to the overall conformation.

Hindlegs must be strong and muscular to provide a powerful driving action, yet there should be no suggestion of a cumbersome, overloaded rear end.

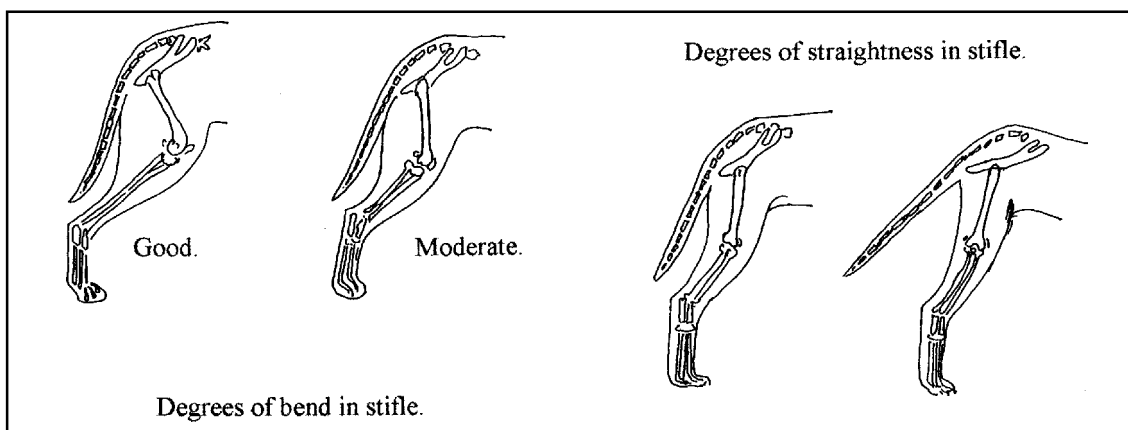
First thigh should be hard muscular tissue, visible when viewed from the side.

Second thigh must be muscular inside the leg as well as outside, and should be visible when viewed from the rear.

Good angulation, with moderately bent stifle, strong hock joints, and with toned muscle capable of producing propelling force, is required of the well constructed working dog.



Lack of angulation produces narrow thighs which do not provide a sufficient base for correct muscle mass which is the primary source of power to permit the dog to vault from a lying position to a full charge.

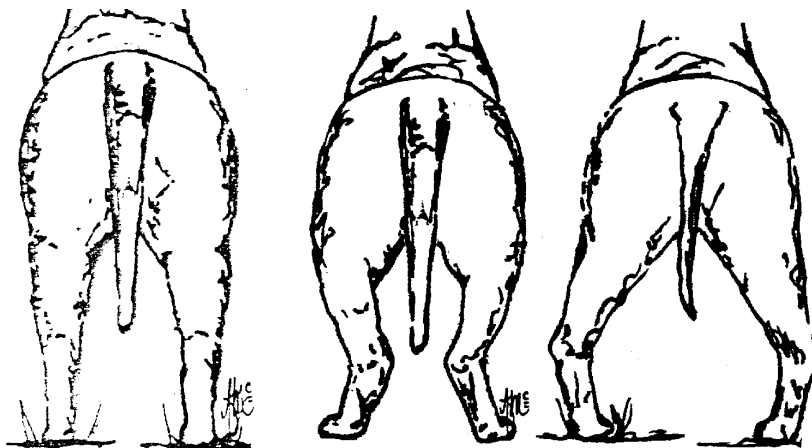


When viewing the dog in profile stance, the stifle joints should come directly under the hip bone when the dog is standing with his hocks perpendicular and the points of the hocks should be just clear of the back of the thigh.

Hocks (the rear pasterns) should be low set to allow for the longer second thigh. In profile, hocks to be moderately bent.

Viewed from the rear, hocks should be straight, strong, and parallel; with no suggestion of “barrel” hocks or “cow” hocks, which are highly undesirable.

The hocks should not turn in or out when the dog is on the move.



Hocks straight, strong and parallel

Cow-hocked rear

Hocks or legs are 'barrelled'

● FEET

Well arched, cat-like, with rounded toes, pads hard. Dark toenails desirable. Splayed feet highly undesirable.

Feet, both front and hind, should have well arched toes (cat-like as opposed to splayed), with thick, rounded, hard toe-pads for durability and cushioning; all necessary to meet the demands of his occupation.

Reaching, driving, thrusting, weight-bearing feet must be strong and durable to cover rough terrain and to withstand the accompanying impact. The correctly conformed, healthy feet of the working dog are vitally important to his effective performance.

Dark toenails are desirable, the highly pigmented horn being thought more durable.

Splayed feet are highly undesirable as they inhibit the dog's working ability.



Well arched foot



Splay foot



Down on pastern

- **TAIL**

Set high, strong at root and tapering, reaching to hocks, carried straight or curved, but not hound fashion. Crank tails highly undesirable.

Root of the tail is set on “high”, that is, flowing from the level of the straight back. Tail should not be very low set, beneath a too steep croup.

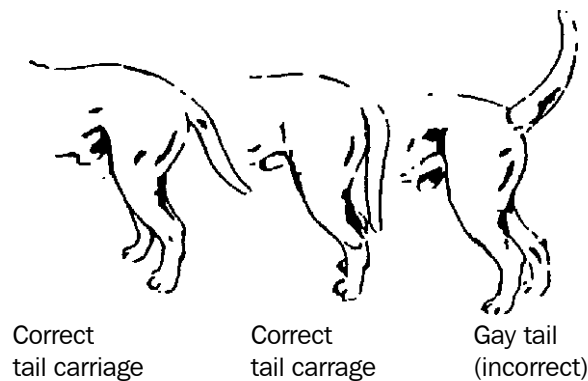
From a strong root the tail tapers towards the end, and should reach, in length, to the hocks.

Tail should be carried straight or curved, not held aloft above the level of the horizontal, hound-like, which position presents the highly undesired “gay” tail.

An extension of the spinal vertebrae, the tail acts as a rudder to counter-balance the dog as he twists and turns while pursuing his quarry (as the tail action of animals in the wild chasing prey).

Carried at the horizontal, it allows free and fast movement on the powerful back legs.

Crank tails highly undesirable.



- **GAIT/MOVEMENT**

Movement indicates power and sense of purpose. When moving straight neither front nor hindlegs should cross or plait, right front and left rear leg rising and falling at the same time. A firm backline unimpaired by powerful thrust from hind legs denoting a balanced and harmonious movement.

In considering the Bullmastiff in motion, it is necessary to keep in mind why the breed was developed and what the Bullmastiff was expected to do.

From this it follows that correct Bullmastiff movement should indicate power and a sense of purpose.

His specific purpose was to accompany his master, as protector and companion, and on command, to chase, down, and arrest a fleeing person.

Thus, short bursts of speed, agility, manoeuvrability and enough weight and power to knock down a full-grown adult were required.

He was a working dog, but his primary work was not done at the trot.

GAIT fits STRUCTURE; STRUCTURE fits the PURPOSE for which the dog was developed.

HOW the Bullmastiff gait has to do with his FUNCTION and FORM.

Since the Bullmastiff is broad and deep in body, it would be unreasonable to expect him to single track (i.e. every foot falling on the same central line under the body when moving forward at the trot). However, wide movement (i.e. trotting on two widely spaced tracks) gives the dog a most inefficient rolling gait.

Proper efficient movement for the structure of the Bullmastiff is one where the legs move forward with reach and drive suited to balanced, moderate angulation, converging towards a line under the dog's body. The faster the dog is trotting the closer the feet converge toward that centre line.

But, this convergence at the trot should NEVER be to the point of any of the feet crossing over that centre line.

The right front and rear left leg should reach and fall at the same time, thus avoiding an unacceptable pacing action.

The hocks should not point in or wobble from side to side when the dog is trotting, and the stifle and/or lower hindlegs should not turn outward. The elbows and/or pasterns should not rotate inward or outward, causing either a paddling or pigeon-toed gait in front.

On the move, the dog should have good reach in the forequarters and driving power in the hindquarters.

Movement that is efficient propels a dog forward with the least exertion and waste of motion.

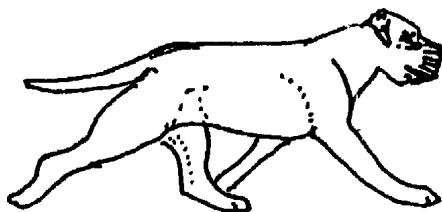
The back has an important influence here.

The standard calls for a short firm backline which is unimpaired, in balanced and harmonious movement, by the powerful thrust from the hindlegs.

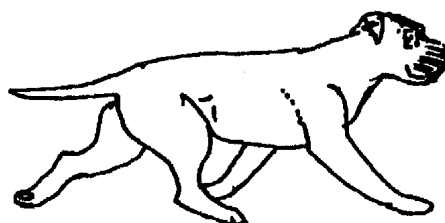
A loose, sagging back causes inefficient up and down movement of the spine and interferes with proper coordination of the front and rear assemblies.

The Bullmastiff's gait should denote power.

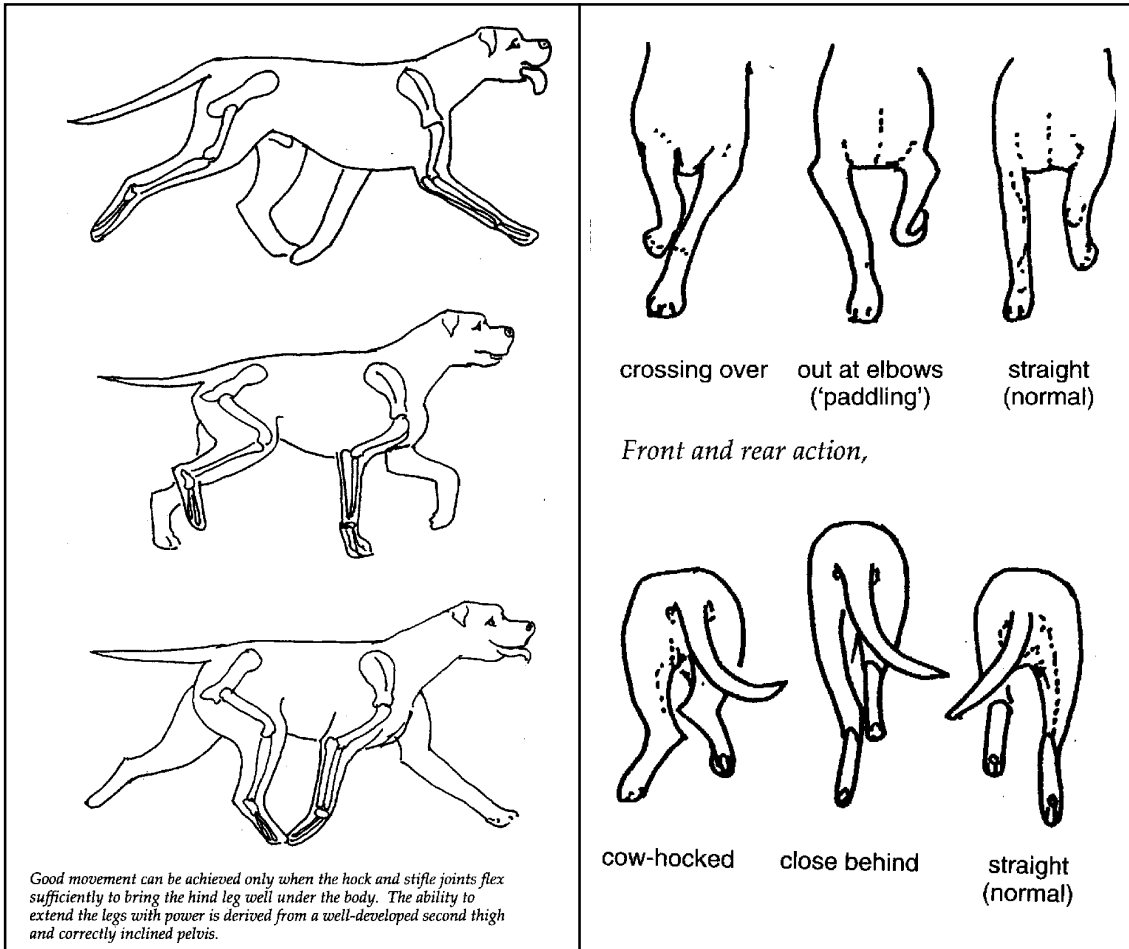
Mincing, shuffling, crabbing, rolling gaits are all seriously faulty movement because they are inefficient.



The correct gait: the limbs are moved diagonally



Pacing: the limbs are moved unilaterally



• COAT

Short and hard, weather-resistant, lying flat to body. Long, silky or woolly coats highly undesirable.

Coat should be short and hard, lying flat to the body, with a density that provides both weather protection and some degree of protection from injury, for the Gamekeeper's dog worked in areas of rough thickets and thorny undergrowth.

As well, the short hard coat offered no convenient hand-hold for an adversary.

Long, silky or woolly coats highly undesirable.

• COLOUR

Any shade of brindle, fawn or red; colour to be pure and clear. A slight white marking on the chest permissible. Other white markings undesirable. Black muzzle essential, toning off towards eyes, with dark markings around eyes contributing to expression.

Any shade of brindle, fawn or red is acceptable, provided the colour is pure and clear. That is, there should be no two-toning of the coat where, for instance, the chest, the inside of the legs, or the cheeks of the head are shaded lighter in colour than that colour of the rest of the body. Nor should there be a "smudging" of the coat where extra dark pigmentation appears in areas of the body coat which should be pure and clear.

While “pure and clear” requires there should be no variation in depth of colour, and no extra pigmentation, two things should be noted:

1. Some baby puppies and young stock may present with a dark streak along the neck, back, loin and tail area. This is quite acceptable, as the extra dark colouring usually disappears as the dog grows out of the puppy or junior stage.
2. The ear colour should be deeper than that of the rest of the body, (as stated in section under “EARS”).

Colour definition of the Brindle Bullmastiff:

A brindle is a dog with black stripes, on any shade of Fawn, Red/Fawn or Red. Some are heavily striped, and sometimes described as black brindle. There is no such colour.

The correct definition is as follows:

Fawn background — “Silver Brindle”

Red/Fawn background — “Golden Brindle”

Red background — “Red” or “Tiger Brindle”

A slight white marking on the chest is permissible. “Slight” is the operative word here. Large blazes of white under the throat or across the chest are undesirable, as are white markings on the feet.

The black muzzle is essential: a hallmark of the Bullmastiff.

It is definite in colour, distinctive, and should extend deeply along the muzzle, then tone off towards the eyes.

The essential dark markings around the eyes enhance the commanding expression of the dark face.



● SIZE

Dogs: 64 – 69 cms (25 – 27 ins) at shoulder (withers)

Bitches: 61 – 66 cms (24 – 26 ins) at shoulder (withers)

● WEIGHT

Dogs: 50 – 59 kg (110 – 130 lbs)

Bitches: 41 – 50 kg (90 – 110 lbs)

Size must be proportionate with weight.

To ensure that the true-to-type Bullmastiff is able to fulfil the purpose for which he was bred, correct size and substance is required, together with soundness.

Not only must the dog be able to do the job for which he was bred, but he must be seen to be able to do so.

● FAULTS

Any departures from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

● NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

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Structural Conformation of the Bullmastiff

REAR

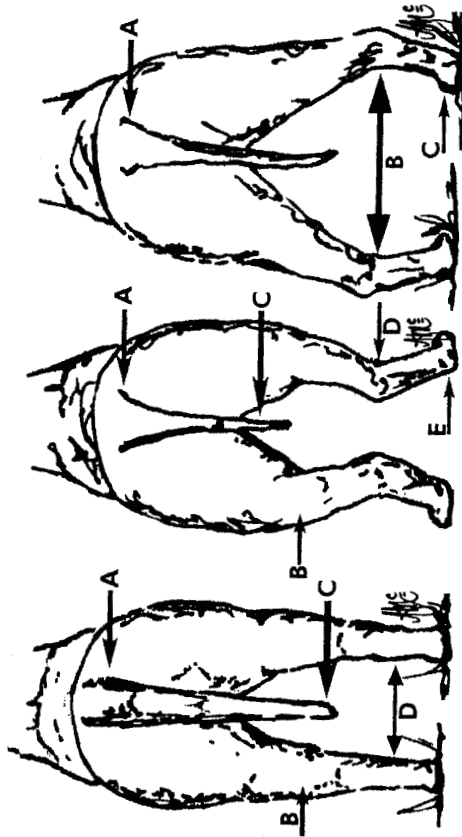


FIG. #1

FIG. #2

FIG. #3

Description of the above figures

FIGURE #1

- A. High tailset with a strong root
- B. Second thigh is well-developed
- C. Tail tapers to the hock
- D. Hindquarters are balanced and are wide set

FIGURE #2

- A. Tail root is weak and sparse
- B. Muscle of second thigh in under developed and lacks strength
- C. Tail is short and rat-like
- D. Cowhocked rear (serious fault)
- E. Toes turn out with hare feet

FIGURE #3

- A. Tailset is low
- B. Hocks or legs are 'barreled'
- C. Toes turn inward, pigeon toes

Structural Conformation of the Bullmastiff

FRONT

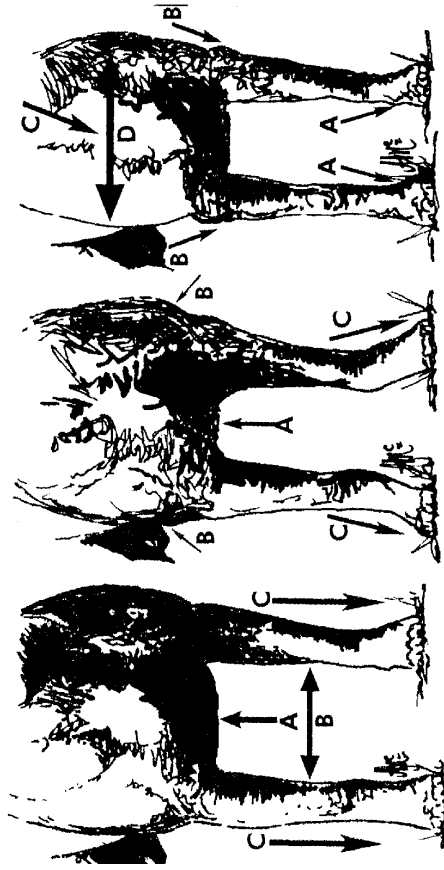


FIG. #1

FIG. #2

FIG. #3

Description of the above figures

FIGURE #1

- A. correct front, very well-balanced well-boned
- A. Chest is well let down
- B. Correct width between front legs
- C. Well let down between forelegs

FIGURE #2

- A. Shallow brisket and narrow chest
- B. Loaded shoulders
- C. Feet turned out (east-west)

FIGURE #3

- A. Weak and light-boned pasterns
- B. Out at the elbows
- C. Too much white on the chest
- D. Narrow chest

Correct Conformation Structure and Faults

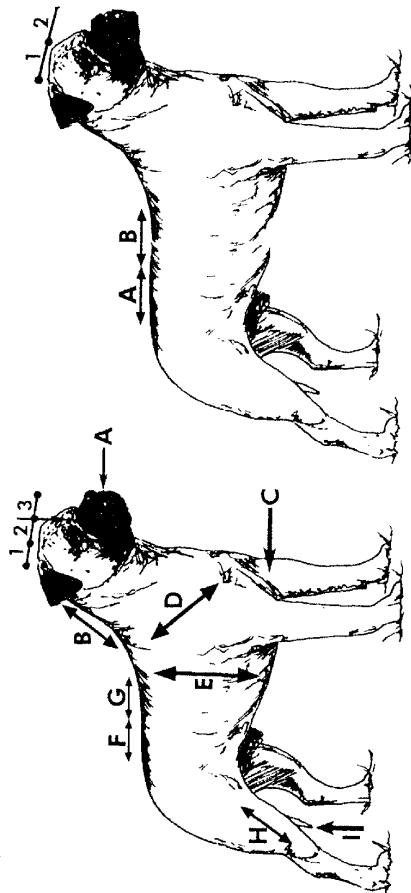


FIG. #1

FIG. #2

Description of the above figures

FIGURE #1

The Correct Structure for a Bullmastiff, well-balanced and compact.

- A. Muzzle is blunt
 - B. Neck is slightly arched
 - C. Chest is wide and deep
 - D. Shoulders are slightly sloping
 - E. Ribs are well sprung and well set down between forelegs
 - F, G. Short back, wide loin, slightly arched and well muscled
 - H. Hindquarters are broad and muscular with angulation being moderate
 - i. Tailset is high and reaches to the hock
- Head proportions are 1-2-3 and the skull is flat

FIGURE #2

- A, B. The back as well as the loin are too long
- The head proportions are incorrect (1-2) and the muzzle is too long in length.

Correct Conformation Structure and Faults

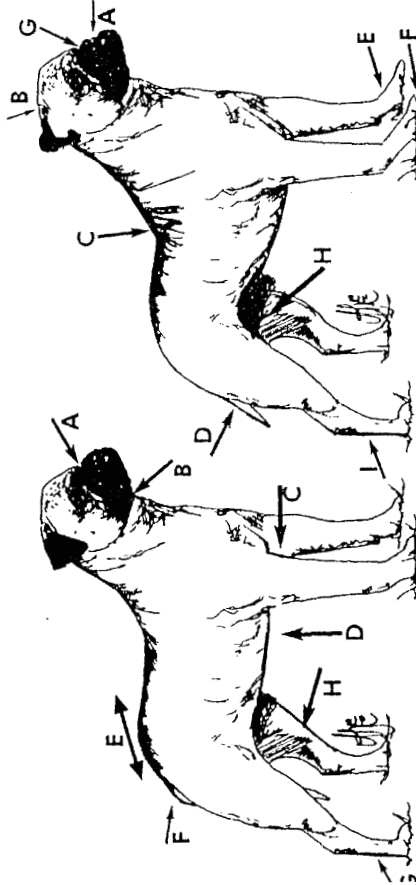


FIG. #3

FIG. #4

Description of the above figures

FIGURE #3

- A. Lack of stop
- B. Tapering of muzzle is too shallow
- C. Brisket is shallow
- D. Lack of depth to brisket and spring of ribs
- E. Back is reached and croup is too steep
- F. Tail is set on too low
- G. Hock is too straight
- H. Stifle is too straight

FIGURE #4

- A. Too much lay back to muzzle
- B. Flying ears
- C. Topline is too soft with a dip behind the shoulder
- D. Tail is too short
- E. Down in the pasterns
- F. Toes are too long
- G. Muzzle is too short
- H. Loin is too shallow with too much tuck up
- I. Straight in hock

Correct Conformation Structure and Faults

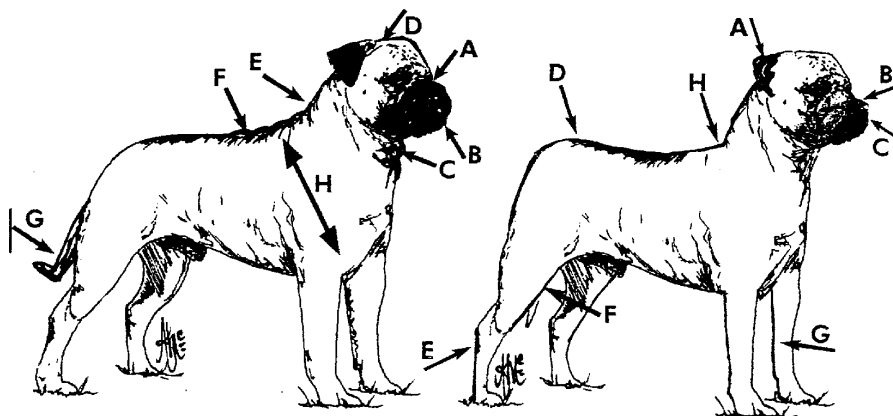


FIG. #5

FIG. #6

Description of the above figures

FIGURE #5

- A. Roman Nosed (down-faced)
- B. Jaw is overshot
- C. "Throatiness", too much dewlap
- D. Rounded or domed skull
- E. Neck is too short
- F. Overweight, rolls in topline
- G. Crank tail
- H. Shoulder is too steep

FIGURE #6

- A. Rose ear
- B. Muzzle is shallow
- C. Lack of mask pigment and coverage
- D. Rear quarters are high ('high in the rear')
- E.,F. Stifle and hock are too straight
- G. Bone is light
- H. Lacking in withers

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