



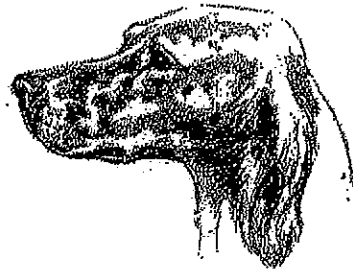
Prick Ear



Button Ear



Tulip Ear



Drop Ear

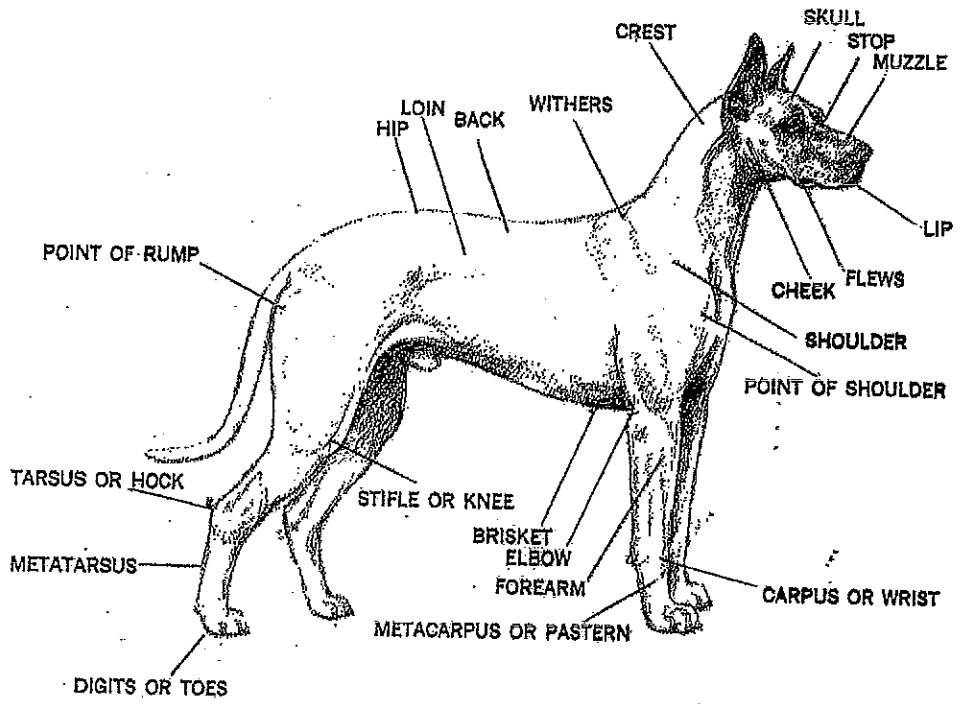


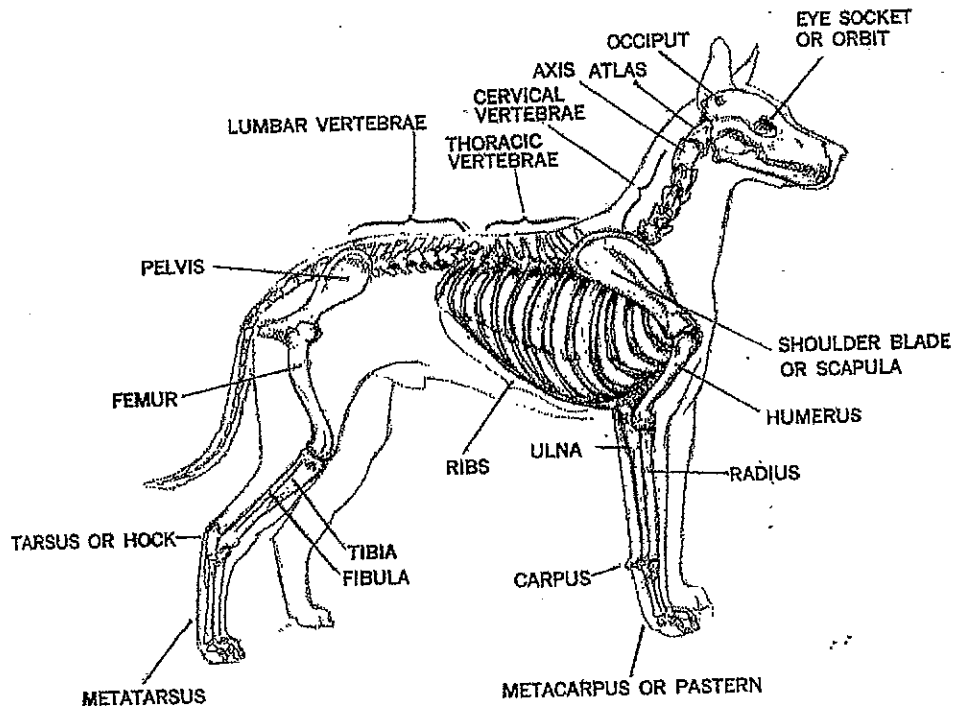
Rose Ear

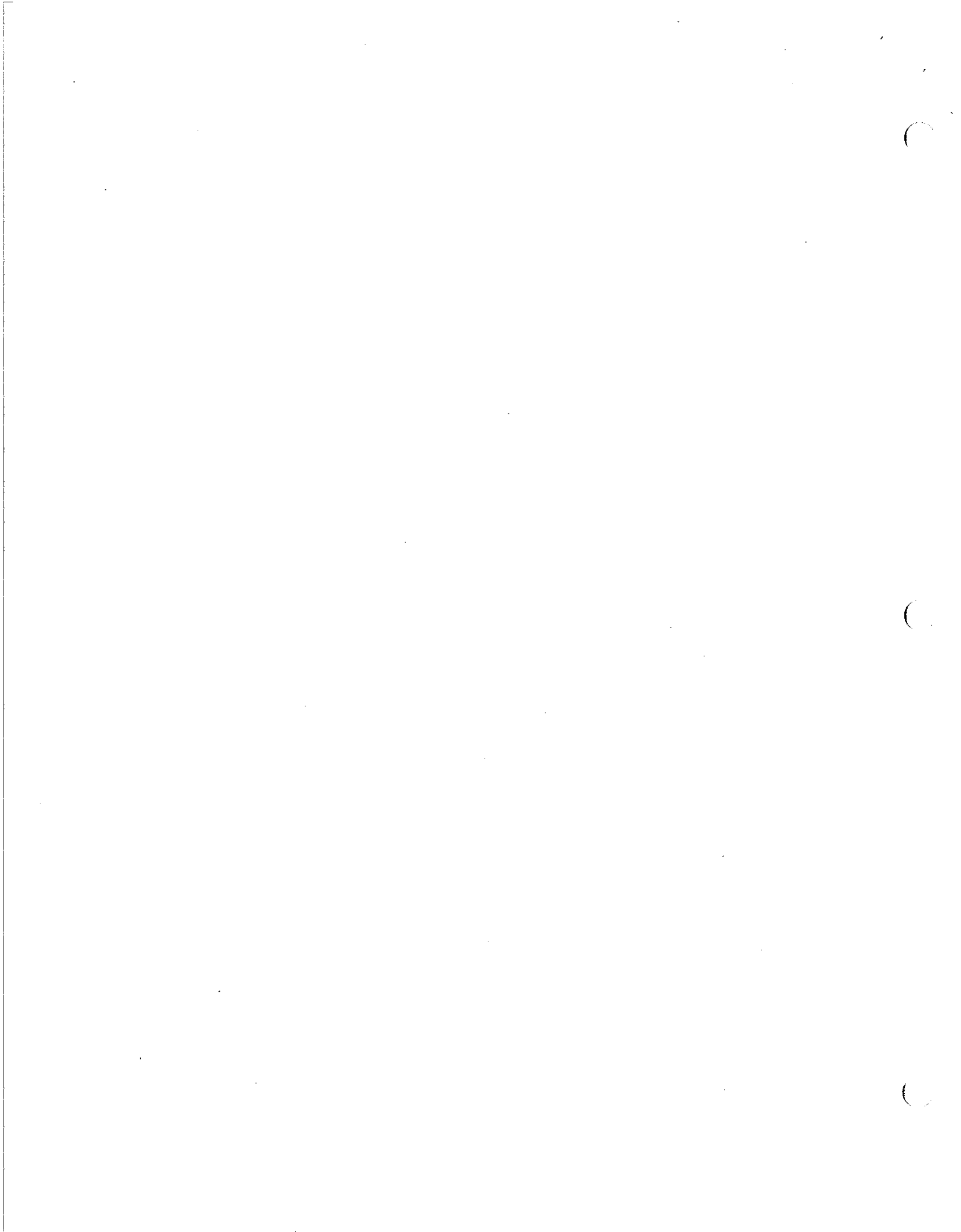


Bat Ear

The Dog's Anatomy







THE DOG

Grooming

Grooming is important to the presentation of your dog, and junior handlers are responsible for grooming their own dogs. Groom your dog meticulously ahead of show time. The dog's nails should be trimmed, and its coat, ears, eyes and teeth should be clean. Pet or show clips are equally acceptable in dog junior showmanship.

Proper Presentation of the Breed

With your dog standing, use the proper posing method (also referred to as "stacking") for your particular dog, whether it's a pure breed or mixed breed. Know the proper positioning of your dog's head and tail. If needed or customary for the breed, bait your dog so it will exhibit the proper expression. Breeds that are the size of a Shetland sheepdog or smaller should be

presented for examination on a table if one is available. The correct place to set up a dog is the upper left corner (closest to the judge) or as close as you can get to that position.

Baiting

Most dogs enjoy being baited, and if done properly, baiting can put the finishing touch on your performance. If you have a breed that needs to be baited (such as a Doberman pinscher, collie or Shetland sheepdog), you can use any bait your dog likes. Some commonly used baits are soft-baked liver, hot dogs and cat treats.

When baiting, stand in front of your dog. If the judge is on the left side of your dog, hold the bait in your right hand and the show lead in your left hand (reverse if the judge switches sides). Use the bait to keep your dog attentive and animated. Don't distract the judge by waving your arm around while baiting.

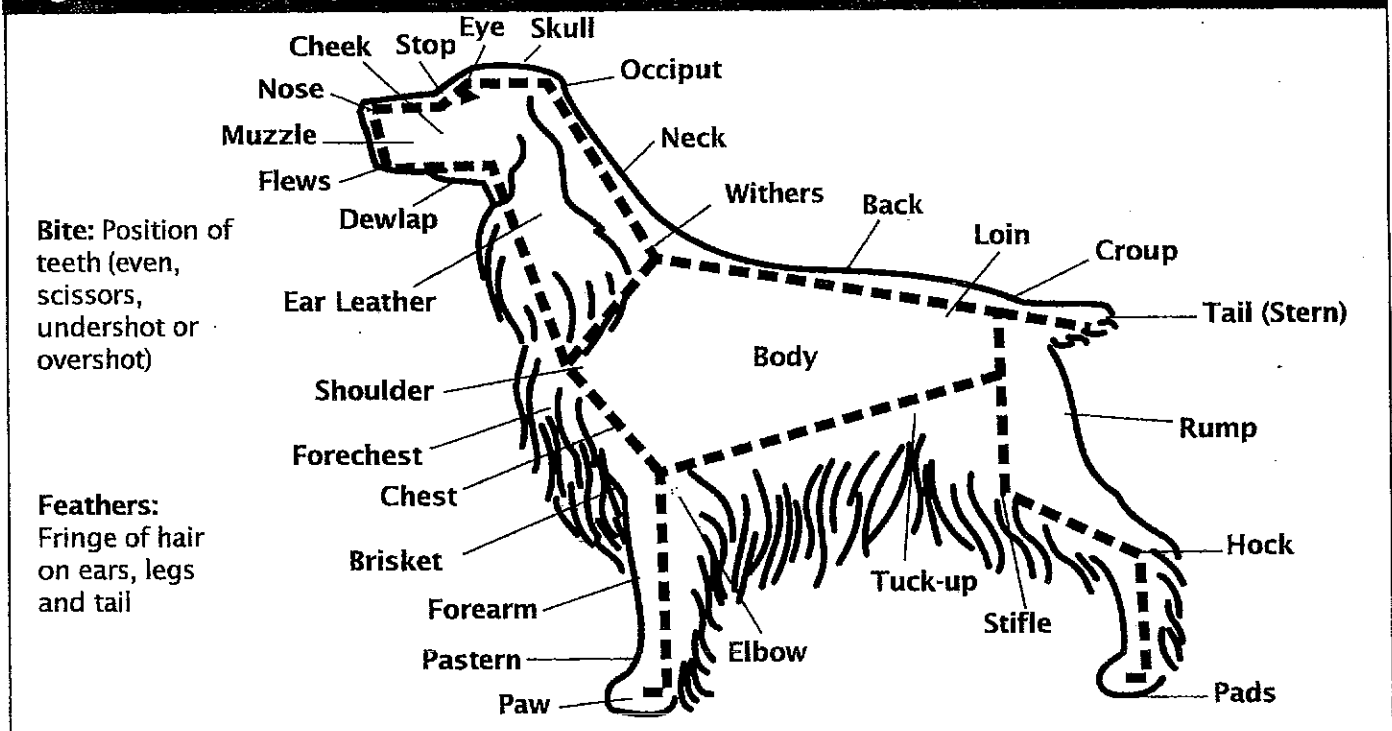
Instead, keep your arm fairly still and be subtle. Don't let your dog eat the bait when the judge is looking at your dog. Do let your dog eat a little bit to keep its interest when the judge is not looking.

Baiting should be done whenever your dog is posed. When baiting your dog, most breeds should be baited as soon as they are stopped in front of the judge. Do not hold bait in front of your dog while gaiting.

Knowledge of Your Dog

Be knowledgeable about your dog's breed. Know how it deviates from the breed standard and be able to correct for these faults when showing. Be aware of your dog's good points. It's helpful to know the dog's anatomy as well (see figure 1). For example, if a judge were to say, "Your dog's hock should be perpendicular to the floor," you should know what part to correct.

Figure 1. Anatomy of the dog.



THE JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP TEAM

Compatibility With Your Dog

Work as a team in the ring. Use your hands to command and reassure your dog. Do not use your feet to position or control your dog. Be kind and **never**, under any circumstances, reprimand your dog physically for disobeying you.

Use mirrors to become aware of how you look with your dog in posing and gaiting. Study photographs or videotapes of you and your dog in action.

Preparedness (Alertness)

Be ready for whatever the judge wants you to do. Watch the exhibitors ahead of you and be prepared and in position for the individual examination and gaiting (for example, keep the lead gathered and in the proper position). Don't hold up the judging procedure. Anticipate how your dog will react and be ready for it. Learn what the judge will be looking for and make sure he or she sees it!

Posing or Stacking the Dog

Stand your dog on the inside edge of the mat (or in line if no mats are used). If you're at a corner, "round" the circle, using both mats that form the corner. Be sure you keep lots of space between you and the dog in the front of you, so you aren't crowded and can be seen. The judge can't see you if you're hidden in a corner. When posing your dog, stay at least an arm's length from it. This gives you plenty of room to move smoothly around your dog and keep it between you and the judge at all times. Don't set your dog in a position odd to the others. Posing views are shown in figures 2, 3 and 4.

Figure 2. Posing your dog (side view).

Several things are done the same with all breeds:

A. The head is kept above the level of the back.
B. The front leg is placed perpendicular to the floor by picking it up by the elbow. Place the front leg closest to the judge first, then the other front leg.

C. The hocks are also perpendicular to the floor, placing the leg closest to the judge first. The only exception is for German shepherds.

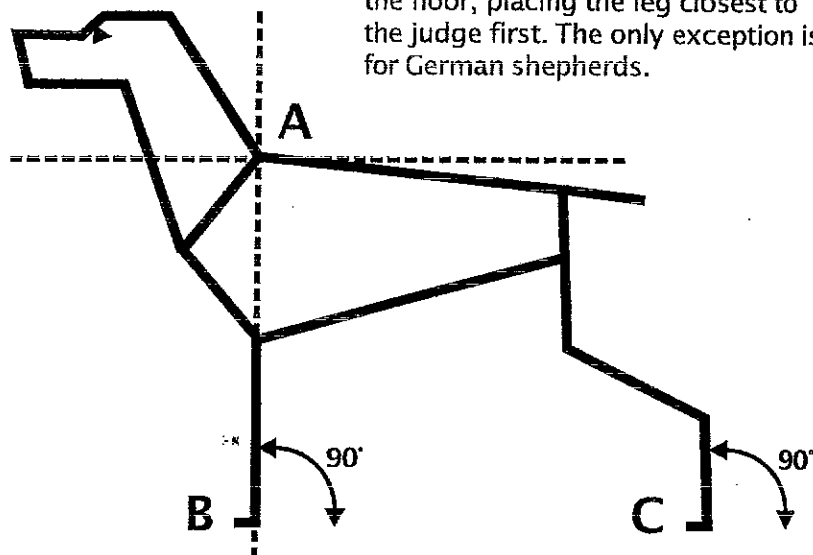
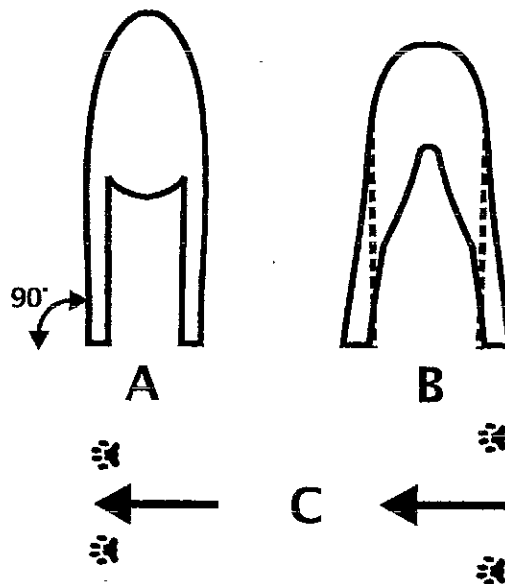


Figure 3. Posing your dog (front view [A], rear view [B] and feet [C]).



A. The front legs are perpendicular as viewed from the front. The width at the shoulder is the same as the width at the floor.

B. The width at the hip is the same as the spread between the rear feet.

C. All four feet should point forward.

Gaiting

Always keep your show lead in the hand that is beside the dog. Make your gaiting smooth, straight and the correct speed. Keep your dog trotting, not galloping, pacing or shuffling along. (Trotting is when one front leg and the opposite rear leg move forward at the same time. Pacing is when the legs on the same side of the dog move forward at the same time.)

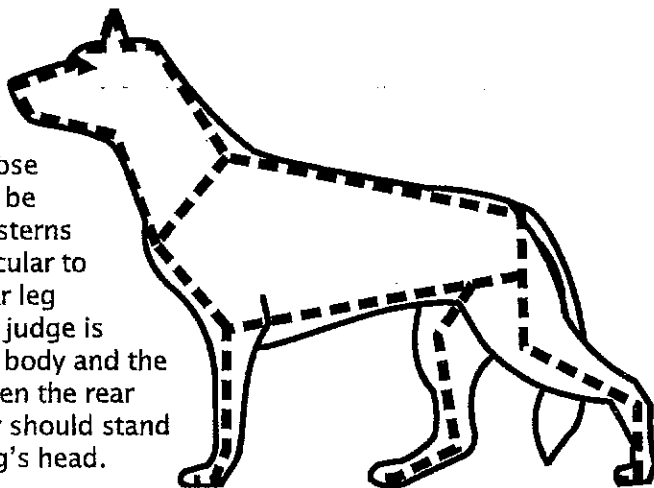
When in motion, your dog should move naturally and freely, just far enough ahead of you that you must extend your arm slightly. Avoid traveling ahead of your dog. If your dog is unwilling to move out in front of you, stay at or slightly behind its shoulder area.

Do not keep the lead too tight or too loose for your breed or individual dog. Know every gaiting pattern and be able to reverse your direction.

To keep the dog in the judge's view, make changing the lead from one hand to the other a smooth,

Figure 4. German Shepherd posing.

If your dog is a German shepherd, the head poses up and forward with a loose lead. Ears should be erect, and the pasterns are not perpendicular to the floor. The rear leg farthest from the judge is placed under the body and the tail drapes between the rear legs. The handler should stand at or near the dog's head.



continuous action. Keep your back straight, your head up and watch where you're going. Keep an eye on the judge and an eye on your dog. Run silently; avoid unnecessary motions or noises that detract from the gaiting procedure. Show poise, grace and animation. Use the entire ring unless the judge tells you to do otherwise. The mat is for the dog to run down the center on without slipping. If you are wearing the proper footwear (see "Appearance"

on page 3), you won't have to crowd the dog for the mat. Bait should not be used while the dog is in motion.

The Team in Action

Figures 5 to 15 on the following pages illustrate the various types of gaiting and posing you'll be asked to do during a dog junior showmanship contest. In all these figures, "D" represents the dog and "H" represents the handler.

Figure 5. Gaiting in a group with the judge in the center.

Leave space between dogs. Only bypass dogs that refuse to move. Be considerate of dogs that have slowed or stopped.

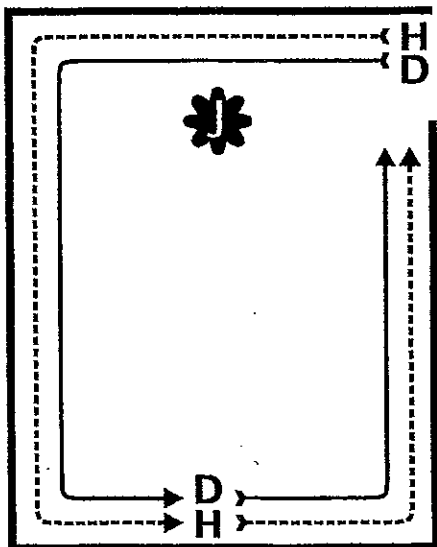


Figure 6. Gaiting in a group with the judge in the corner.

Cross behind the dog as you approach the judge. Cross in front of the dog after you pass the judge.

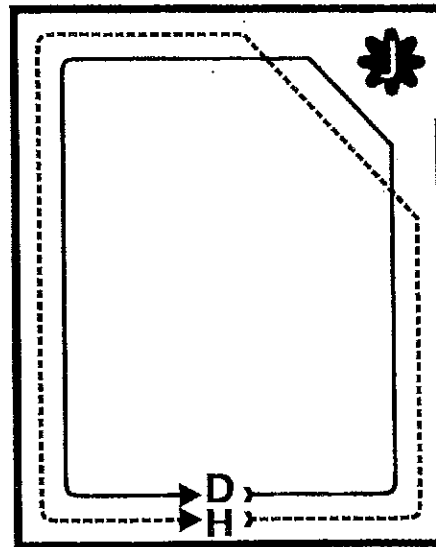


Figure 10. Gaiting the right corner "L."

Cross in front of dog at the turn. At the end, change dog to left side. Complete smooth left turn.

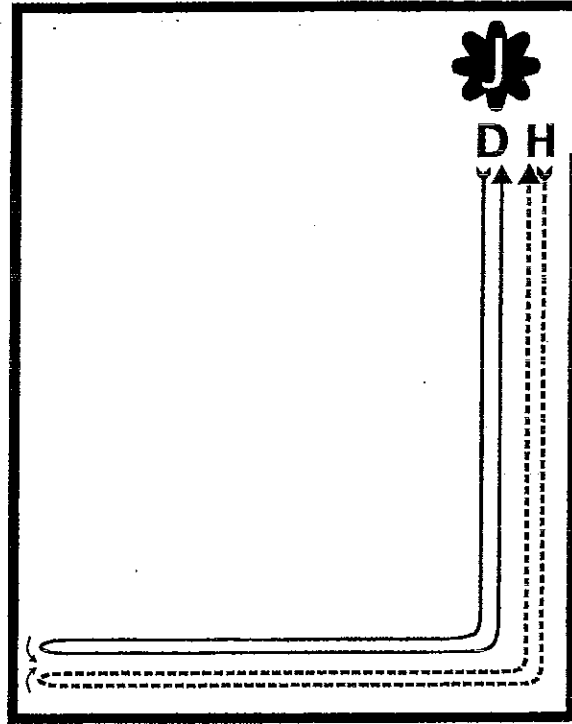
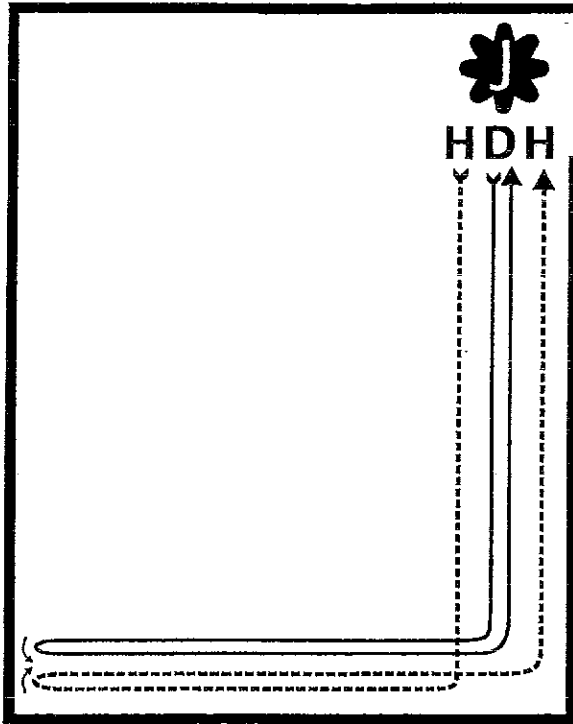
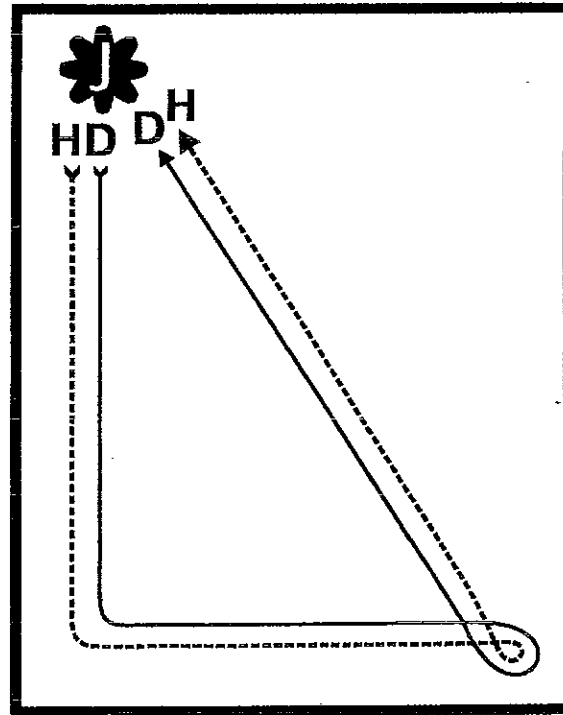
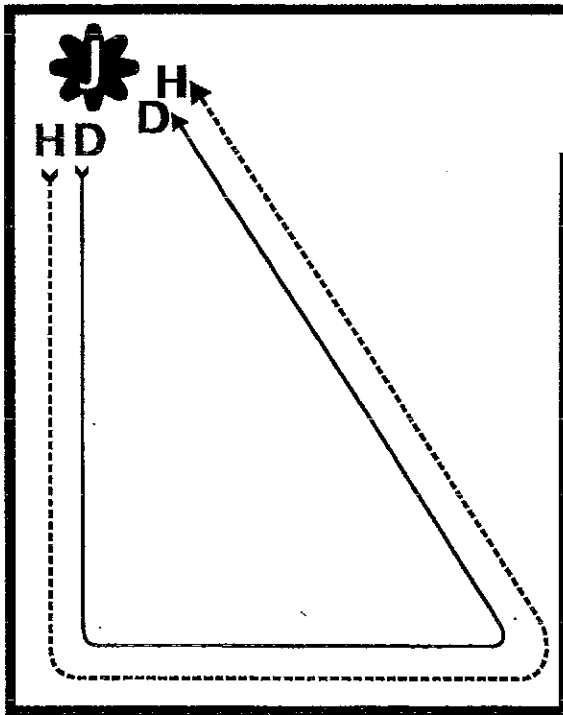
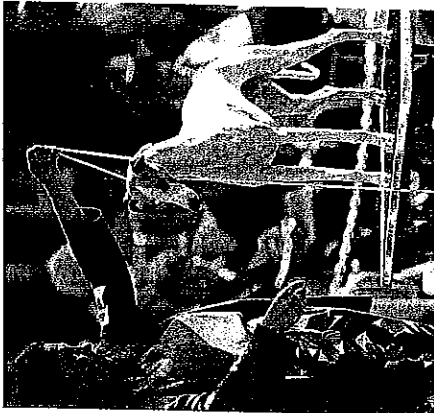


Figure 11. Gaiting the triangle: left turn. Smooth corners.



4-H Dog Junior Showmanship Scoresheet

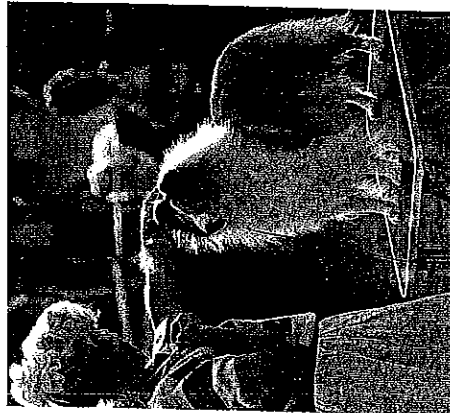
CLASS						
BREED						
DOG NUMBER						
Appearance-Handler:						
· Attitude (5)						
· Dress & Grooming (5)						
· Posture (5)						
Gaiting Circle:						
· Attention (5)						
· Control (5)						
· Courtesy (5)						
Pose or Stack:						
· Timing (5)						
· Square (5)						
· Show Bite (5)						
· Reset (5)						
· Complete Unit (5)						
Gaiting Straight, Triangle, "L" or "T":						
· Control (5)						
· Turns (5)						
· Stop (5)						
· Handler Position (5)						
Gaiting Pairs:						
· Control (5)						
· Turn (5)						
· Courtesy (5)						
· Stop (5)						
· Handler Position (5)						
Final Posing:						
· Head & Tail (5)						
· Side (5)						
· Front (5)						
· Rear (5)						
· Handler (5)						
TOTAL SCORE: (Perfect Score = 125 points. Each category = 5 points)						



simply turn all of your attention to your dog to discourage any further conversation. You have all day to talk, but only a couple of minutes in the ring.

It's Your Turn

When the dog ahead of you begins to move, place your dog in its position (or on the examining table for a small breed) and pose it



quickly. As the judge comes to examine your dog individually you should have it stacked to perfection, with special attention to getting the front and rear straight. Often, dogs that were happy and baiting throughout quit now that the pressure is on. Try to relax and convince the dog you are not as nervous as you really are. Ticking the ear base can sometimes help bring ears forward when the dog won't alert on its own.

Don't give the dog a hunk of bait before the judge goes to examine the bite; judges won't appreciate trying to do so as the dog munches away. Some judges will ask you to show the bite. Simply lift the lips and show the area from the fangs forward, unless yours is a breed in which the standard specifically calls for full dentition. In that case, you will want to also show the premolars. In a few breeds, the judge will open the dog's mouth to peer at its molars or tongue color.

Many dogs will lean away from the judge or break their stack to lick the judge. Although neither situation is ideal, it's not necessarily disastrous. Most judges will let you set up again and are good enough that they can see the merits of a dog in any position.

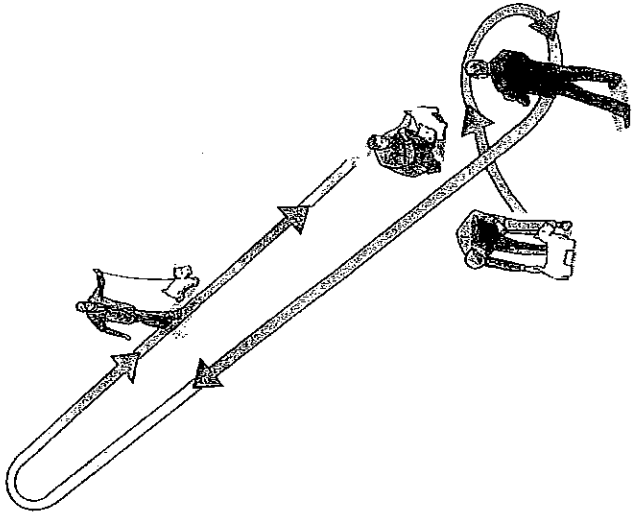
Moving Your Dog

After the examination keep your dog posed; judges often want to take another look before moving the dog. Now the judge will move your dog. Few things annoy judges

more than moving 50 dogs down and back and then having a handler arrive who looks at them vacuously and asks to have the directions to be repeated. Most judges will want a simple "down and back." This is easier at an indoor show with mats because you can center your dog on the mat and have it take a reasonably straight route. However, without a mat you need to take a bearing on an object across the ring, and then lower your gaze and draw an imaginary line along the ground that you will try to follow. Before this you will have walked your dog in front of the judge.

The courtesy turn: Many people believe in something called the *courtesy turn*, in which the dog and handler walk in front of the judge and first perform a 270 degree pirouette before starting. For some reason this is supposed to start the dog out straight, but it always seems instead to have the effect of dizzying the dog and annoying the judge. Use a courtesy turn if you would otherwise not start in a straight line, but don't think you have to use one if you are already in correct position.

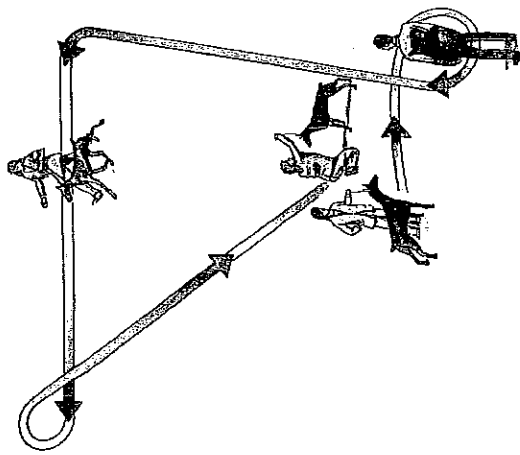
Don't rush. Nervous handlers think they must obey the judge's instructions within a nanosecond, and as a result all of their wonderful plans tend to be forgotten. You've paid a high entry fee considering the time you are in the ring. Get your money's worth. Don't move your dog until you're ready. Get the collar in position. Get the dog's



"Down and Back": You may or may not perform a "courtesy turn" before beginning. Then go straight away from the judge. At the far side of the ring turn around slowly with the dog on the outside of the turn, unless it is a toy breed, which can be on the inside of the turn. Stop about three to five feet (1-2 m) in front of the judge and have the dog stand itself.

attention. Get your own wits about you and think about what you're doing. Of course you can't just stand there and look blank while time ticks away, but five seconds is not unreasonable.

The down and back: Move your dog at the speed you have already determined is its best. When you get to the far side of the ring, warn your dog that you are now stopping and turning. Even experienced handlers are often guilty of executing military about turns while their dogs



"Triangle": The initial "courtesy turn" is optional. Follow the outer perimeter of the ring with the dog to the inside of the ring. After the first two legs, make an acute left turn and follow the diagonal back to the judge. With large breeds, it is easier to make this acute turn by making a 270 degree turn to the outside (actually a "courtesy turn") so that you don't trip over the dog.

hit the end of the lead and are snapped around by their neck as though on some perverted carnival ride. Is it any wonder these dogs tire of shows or look hesitant on the move? Instead, slow down and then turn, get your dog in position, draw a mental guideline from the judge to your dog, and start back. Begin to slow about three-quarters of the way back; you don't want to run over the judge or have to stop your dog suddenly, in which case it is certain to stop with legs askew. Walk your dog into a self-stand.

Baiting is usually appropriate and helpful at this time. If you have a breed in which the ears should be pricked, squeak a toy or toss a bit of bait (taking care not to hit the judge or anyone else and to pick up the bait before moving again).

The triangle: The judge may ask you to move in a triangle. The first leg of the triangle is on the mat along the side of the ring, moving counterclockwise. The judge will evaluate the dog's rear movement at this time. The second leg is along the side of the ring opposite the judge. Here the judge evaluates side movement, and most people will move their dogs at a faster pace. The final leg requires a sharp left turn to approach the judge along the diagonal ring mat so that front movement can be evaluated. It is easier to make this sharp turn with a large dog by executing the courtesy turn rather than a left turn (see diagram). The remainder of this leg is performed the same way as the last half of the down and back.

The "L": A very few judges will ask for an "L." This is done by going straight away from the judge, turning left and following the mat to the far side of the ring just as though you were doing the first two legs of a triangle. Now for the tricky part—retracing your steps back to the judge. If you simply turn around, all the judge will see is your movement, because you will be between the judge and the dog. Therefore, you need to have your dog gait on your right side for the return side-move-

ment leg. Because most dogs will be somewhat erratic moving on the right, you need to switch back so that the dog is again on your left for the final leg heading back to the judge. In really big breeds switching sides is so difficult, and the judge can probably see enough of the dog on either side of the handler, that the side change is not essential, but in small breeds it is expected.

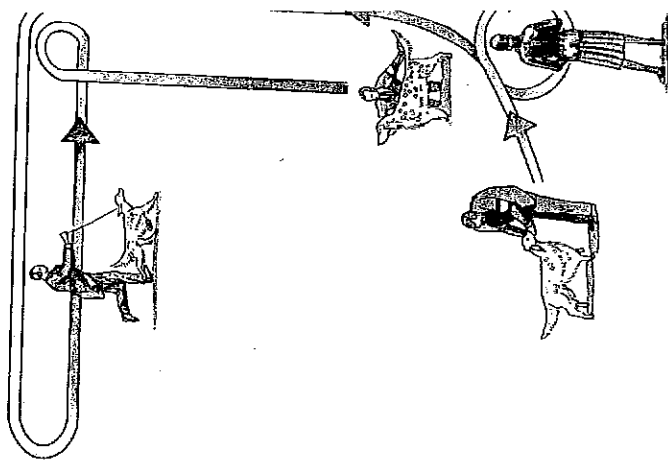
If you start off on any individual pattern, and your dog paces, plays, zigzags, jumps, or otherwise tries to destroy your chances, simply return to where you began and start again.

Some handlers who know they have a dog with absolutely horrible front and rear movement will try to hide it by running in a zigzag or by making the down and back into a sort of oval. Some judges will let them get away with it. The good judges will demand they do it right.

The Final Inspection

As the last dog is moved you should have your dog set up and ready for the judge's final inspection. At this point most judges seem to play it by ear, so that it's often hard to be ready. They may do the following:

- They may have the dogs all pose side by side on the center mat so that fronts and rears can be compared.
- They may have two dogs at a time pose side by side on the examination table.
- They may ask each dog to move down and back again, or around



"L": The first half of the "L" is like the first two legs of the "triangle." Then retrace your steps, but change hands so that the dog is on your right side, and so your body doesn't block the judge's view of the dog. When you get to the final leg heading directly back to the judge, place the dog back on your left side.

the ring by itself, in pairs, or as a group.

- They may only move their favorites.
- They may move everybody, or they may even ignore their eventual first place winner because they have already decided upon it.



If you practice every possible scenario at home, you will be able to focus your attention on presenting your dog at its best in the ring. (Doberman pinscher)

- They may place them tentatively and then rearrange them. At this point things tend to speed up and you must set your dog up quickly. Because usually the judge is looking at profiles, set up the dog so that its profile looks good without worrying too much about straight fronts and rears. When you get a chance, or if the judge then starts to look at them, set them straight at that time. The exception, of course, is if the judge is clearly now first looking at fronts and rears, as when the dogs are set side by side. If your dog has a hideous rear, don't remind the judge of it by trying and trying to restack it. Constant attention to a fault, especially if you can't fix it, is like hanging a banner on your dog listing its bad points.

Never give up! I was in a large specialty class, and after the judge examined and moved all the dogs, she began to move only certain dogs—obviously her favorites. As dog after dog was moved, my disappointment grew; it was apparent we were not contenders. However, I decided that at least the spectators would see my dog at his best, so I never let down showing him. The judge ultimately moved every single dog in the class before coming to us. Then she finally told us to move—to first place! She later explained that first place was obvious to her; it was the other placements she had to work on.

Things that Irritate Judges:

- being late for your class
- not following directions
- not paying attention
- feeding bait immediately before the judge examines the mouth
- throwing bait in the ring and not picking it up
- pointing out the good parts of your dog (by stroking and stretching those parts) as though the judge can't see them
- asking the judge hours later why your dog didn't win
- trying to influence a judge with comments about the dog's winning record
- being rough with a dog
- showing a dirty dog

