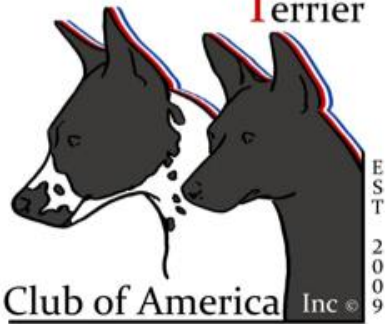


American  
Hairless  
Terrier



AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIER

AKC ILLUSTRATED STANDARD



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## AHT Illustrated Standard

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  - Illustrator: Jeanne Argostar ([www.argostar.com](http://www.argostar.com))
  - Please Note: The drawings represent the "Ideal".
  - As you see the breed in the ring please keep in mind this is still a "work in progress" and we have not yet met our Ideal dog
-

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## THE AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIER

- The American Hairless Terrier is a small to medium sized, smoothly muscled and active terrier.
  - The American Hairless Terrier comes in both a hairless and a coated variety.
  - The first known American Hairless Terrier was born into a litter of purebred Rat Terriers reportedly in 1971. A subsequent litter from the same parents produced, a female named Josephine, born in 1972. The breeder, Edwin Scott, began to develop the breed from Josephine's descendants.
  - Ancestors of the breed were bred to hunt rats and other vermin. The lack of hair coat on the hairless variety of the American Hairless Terrier renders them unsuited for most hunting activities. They have, however, retained a strong hunting instinct and excel in many other activities and sports.
  - The breed is energetic, alert, curious and intelligent.
  - Given early socialization and training they excel as companions, displaying great affection for their owners and family.
  - American Hairless Terriers should not be sparrred during conformation judging.
-

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## Breed Characteristics

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



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## Characteristics cont.

- The ancestors of this breed were bred to hunt.
- The lack of coat makes the hairless variety unsuited for hunting, but both varieties still have a strong hunting instinct.
- Their seemingly unlimited energy helps them to excel in performance events.



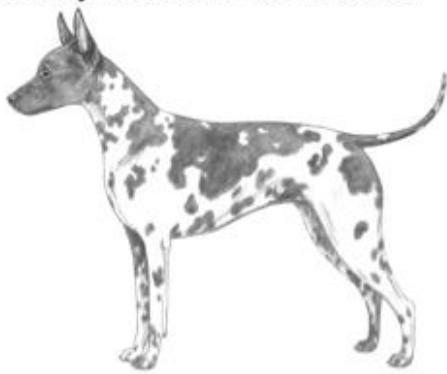
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The dog pictured above is a coated carrier with a docked tail.

---

## Characteristics cont.

- The American Hairless Terrier will excel as a companion, given early socialization and training, displaying great affection for their owners and family.
- American Hairless Terriers enjoy human companionship immensely and will enthusiastically share any activity with their owners.
- The hairless dogs require protection from the sun and winter cold weather.
- American Hairless Terriers should not be spayed during conformation judging.
- The breed is energetic, alert, curious and intelligent. Aggressiveness or extreme shyness is to be faulted.



Hairless dog

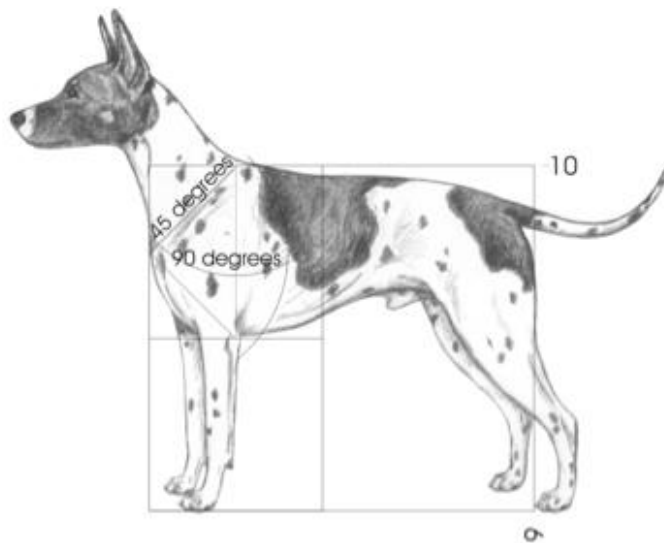


Coated

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## IDEAL MEASUREMENTS FOR THE AHT



- **Ideal height** is from **12 to 16 inches** at the withers.
- **Body** is **rectangular** being slightly longer than tall with a 10:9 ratio when measured from the prosternum to point of buttocks and from withers to the ground.
- **Substance: Medium bone**, not so heavy as to appear coarse or so light as to appear racy and blends with the proportion of the dog.
- **Overall appearance is strong but moderate with firm, smooth, flat muscles.**
- While correct **size** is very important, it **should not outweigh that of type.**

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**Too heavy or too light in bone and obesity are to be faulted**



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## Ideal Head – Front View

- **Expression** is alert, curious and intelligent. Viewed from the front or side the head forms a **blunt wedge shape** and is proportionate to the size of the body. The **skull** is **broad, slightly domed** and **tapers slightly** toward the muzzle. **Skull and muzzle are of equal length with a moderate stop.**



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## Ideal AHT Head

- **Skull** is **broad** and **slightly domed**. It tapers slightly toward the muzzle. Jaws are powerful with **well-muscled cheeks**.

- **Ears** are **set at the outside edges of the skull** and are **V-shape**.

- **Nose** - The nose is **solid colored** and can be **black or self-colored**.



- **MUZZLE** – The muzzle is **well filled under the eyes**, tapers slightly from the stop to the nose and is **well chiseled**. Jaws are **powerful** with **well muscled cheeks**. Lips are **tight, dry**, without flews. **Pigmentation of the lips match the nose**.

**Serious Fault : Apple head**

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## Ideal AHT Head cont.

Hairless and Coated varieties

■ **NOSE** – The nose is **solid colored** and can be black or self-colored.

■ **Abrupt stop, snipey muzzle and a dudley or butterfly nose are to be faulted**



■ **EYES** – Eyes are **expressive, set obliquely, round, somewhat prominent** but **moderate in size**, and of **matching color**.

■ **Eye color varies** with body color from darkest brown to amber and hazel.

■ When eyes are brown, a darker brown is preferred.

■ Amber eyes are permissible for a blue dog.

■ Blue eyes are acceptable in blue and blue fawn dogs only but gray is preferred.

■ **Eye rim pigmentation** corresponds with the nose color.

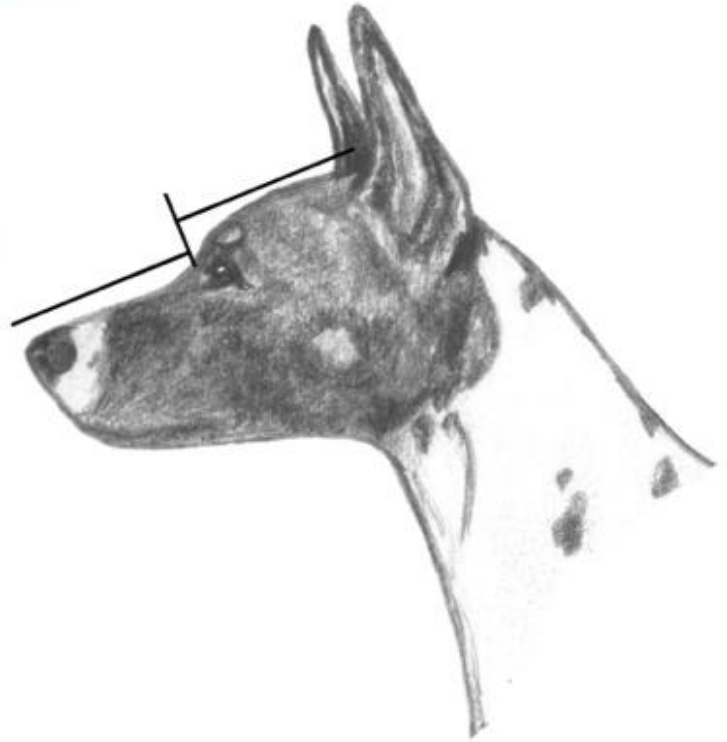
■ An incomplete eye rim is only acceptable when the color around the eye is white.

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## Ideal Head – Side View

- The **head** is **proportionate** to the size of the **body**.
- When viewed from the side, the **skull and muzzle** are of **equal length** and joined by a **moderate stop**



---

## Skull

- The skull is **broad** and **slightly domed** and **tapers slightly** toward the muzzle
- **Serious Fault : Apple Head**



**Ideal Head**

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# Muzzle

- The **muzzle** is well filled under the eyes, tapers slightly from the stop to the nose and is well chiseled.
- Jaws are powerful with **well muscled cheeks**
- **Lips** are tight, dry, without flews.
- **Lip pigment** matches nose pigment.

Ideal Head



**Fault: Abrupt stop, snipey muzzle, dudley nose, butterfly nose**



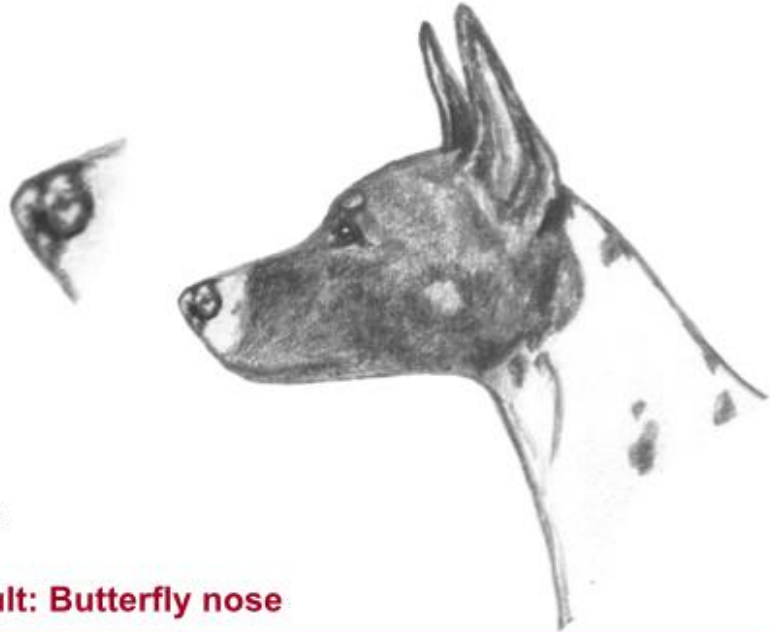
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# Nose/Teeth

- **NOSE** – The nose is black or self-colored.
- **Bite:** The teeth are white and strongly developed meeting in a **scissors bite**. **A level bite is acceptable**. Overshot or undershot bite should faulted.



**Butterfly** – Spotted or partially pigmented nose



**Fault: Butterfly nose**

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**Bite Faults:** Overshot or undershot bite - **Nose Faults:** Butterfly nose, Dudley nose

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## Nose cont.

\*\*Nose pigment can help you determine the color genetics of your dog.



**Dudley – Flesh colored**  
Nose, lack of pigment



**Fault: Dudley nose**

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## EYES

- **Eyes are expressive, set obliquely, round,** somewhat prominent but moderate in size, and of **matching color.**
- **Eye color varies with body color** from darkest brown to amber and hazel.
- When eyes are brown, a **darker brown is preferred.**
- **Amber eyes are permissible** for a **blue dog.**
- **Blue eyes are acceptable in blue and blue fawn dogs only but gray is preferred.**
- **Eye rim pigmentation corresponds with the nose color.**
- An incomplete eye rim is only acceptable when the color around the eye is white.



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## Acceptable Ear Carriages



Erect Ears



Tipped Ears



Button Ears

- Ears are set at the outside edge of the skull and are V-shape.
  - Erect ears are preferred however, tipped or button ears are acceptable.
  - Both ears should match in carriage
  - Faults: Rose ears, flying ears, erect ears with sides curved inward forming a tulip petal shape and non-matching ear carriages
  - DQ: Hanging ears
-

## EAR FAULTS



Mismatched Ears



Rose Ears



Rose Ears –Side View



High Ear set



Wide Ear set



Hanging Ears

**Disqualification**

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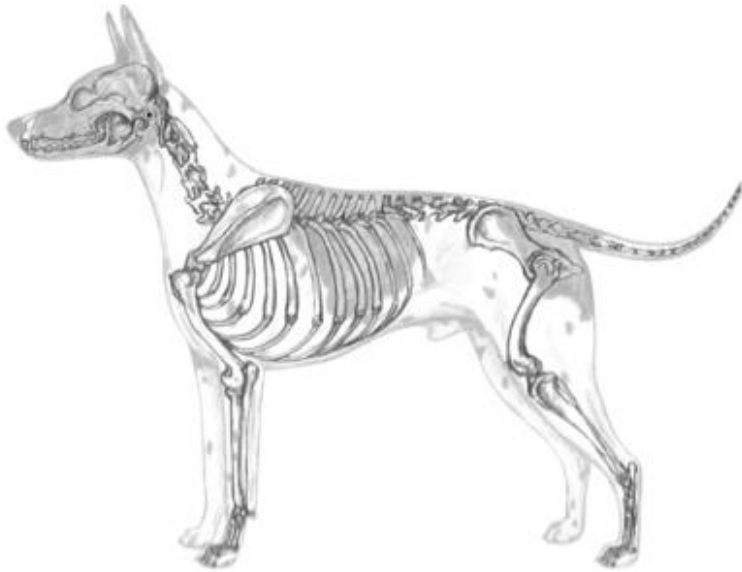
## PROPERLY SCALED SKELETON FOR THE AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIER



- The importance of angulation cannot be overemphasized when evaluating gait.
  - The most significant angles are at the shoulder and hip joints.
  - These joints counterbalance one another as they lift, open and shut with the swing of the limbs.
  - The front of the dog normally carries about 60% of the total body weight and works like a shock absorbing mechanism as it coordinates with drive from the rear and absorbs impact with the ground.
-

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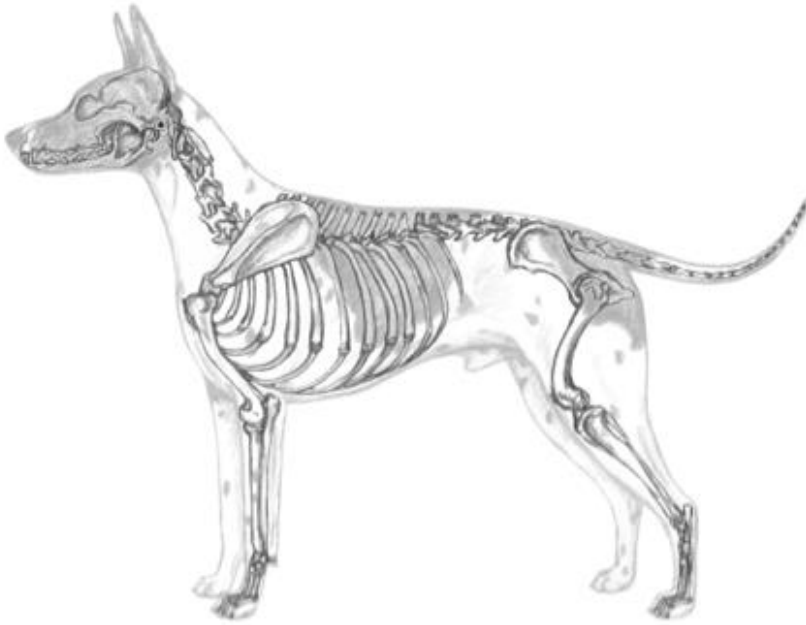
# Forequarters



- The **shoulder blades** are **well laid back** with the upper tips fairly close together at the withers
  - The **upper arm** appears to be equal in length to the shoulder blade and joins it at an apparent right angle
  - The **elbows** are **close to the body**
  - Viewed from any angle, the **forelegs** are **straight, strong, and sturdy in bone**
  - The **pasterns** are **strong, short, and nearly vertical**
-

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## SKELETON FITTING CORRECTLY INTO THE AHT BODY

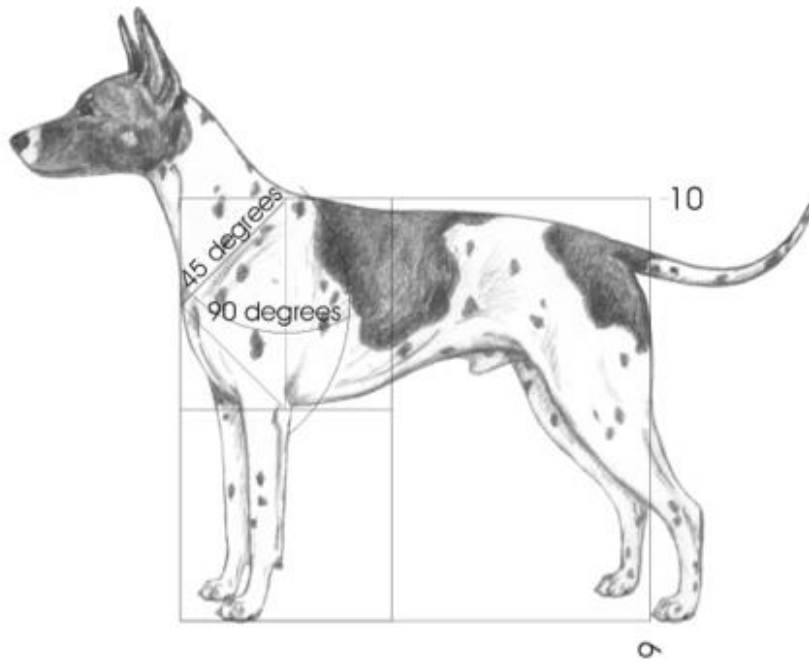


- Whether viewed from the side or from front or rear, the action should be smooth and harmonious with no twisting or jerking.
  - Problems arise when one part has to overwork or compensate for lack of balance, injury or weakness in another.
  - It is important to note that excessive angulation in any part of a dog's body is detrimental to joint support and endurance.
  - It is **never** a question of the more...
-



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# AHT Body

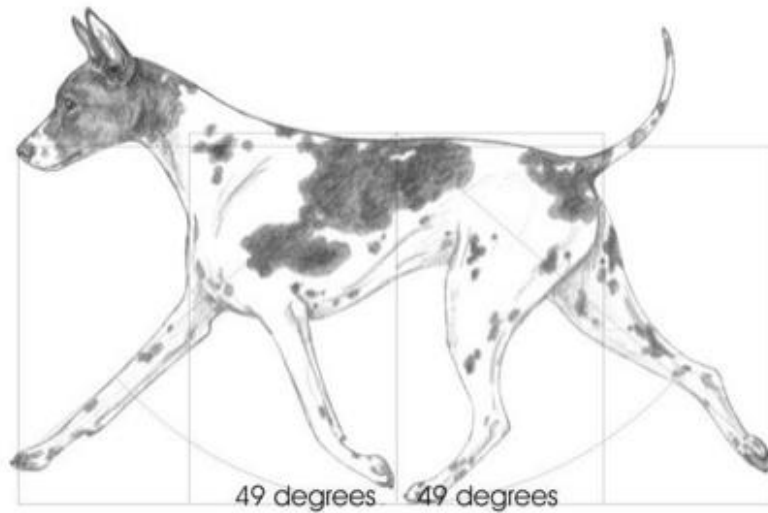


- A properly proportioned American Hairless Terrier is **slightly longer than tall** and length of the front leg (measured from point of elbow to the ground) should approximately equal one-half of the dog's height.
-

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## Topline

- The **line of the back** is **strong and level** when the dog is standing or moving.
- The **tail comes off the end of the croup**, almost reaches the hock and is thick at the base, **tapering toward the tip**.



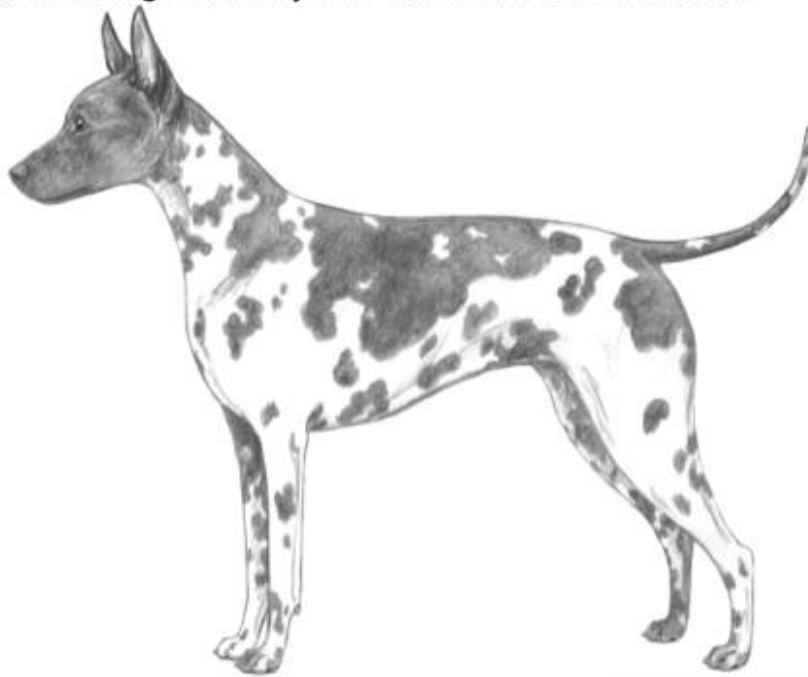
49 degrees 49 degrees

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## AHT Body IDEAL STANDING BITCH

The neck is clean, moderately long, smoothly muscled slightly arched and tapers slightly from the shoulders to the head, blending smoothly into well laid back shoulders



- The loin is moderately short, slightly arched, and muscular, with moderate tuck-up.
  - The croup is slightly sloping.
  - The ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from the spine, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body.
  - The brisket extends to or just below the elbow.
-

---

# AHT BODY

## IDEAL STANDING DOG

- The **forechest** extends in a **shallow oval shape** in front of the forelegs
- The **line of the back is strong** and **level** when the dog is standing or moving.
- The **tail is held upward** in a **slight curve** when the dog is **alert** and **may be carried out behind** the dog **or up in a slight curve** when the **dog is in motion**.
- The tail of the hairless variety should never be docked.
- Tail docking on the coated variety is permitted and optional.



---

**Faults:** Bent tail, ring tail or curled tail

**DQ:** Bobtail or docked tail on the hairless variety

---

## IDEAL FRONT



- 
- Viewed from the front, the chest between the forelegs is well filled and of moderate width.
  - Feet: are slightly oval in shape and compact. The two middle toes are slightly longer than the other toes. Toes may be well split up but the foot is not flat or splayed.
  - Removal of front declaws is optional but rear declaws must be removed.

**Faults: Flat feet, splayed feet or rear declaws present.**

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## IDEAL REAR



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



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## Body Faults



Lack of Depth to Chest



Short in Body



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Long in Body

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## Top line Faults



Roach Back



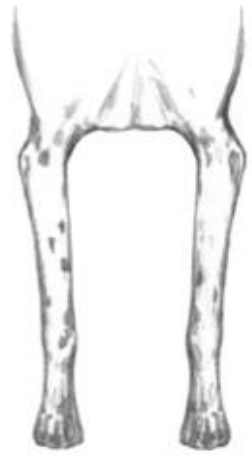
Sway Back



# Standing Front Faults



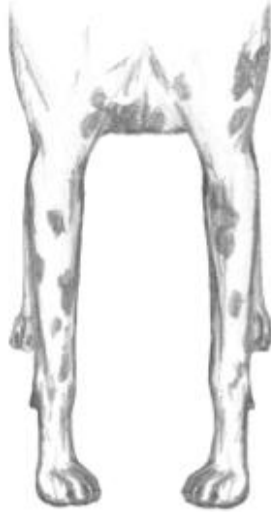
Fiddle Front



Out at the Elbows



Wide front



Toes in



Toes Out



Narrow Front

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## HOCKS



Hyper Extended



Sickle Hocks

### **Cow Hocks or Bow Hocks**

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

- 
- The **FEET** are **compact** and **slightly oval** in shape. The **two middle toes are slightly longer than the other toes**. Toes may be well split up but not flat or splayed. Front dewclaws may be removed. Rear dewclaws must be removed.

**Correct Feet (left side)**  
**Foot Faults (right side)**



Correct Foot – Side View



Flat Feet



Correct Foot – Front View



Cat foot



Splayed Foot

- 
- **Faults: Flat feet; splayed feet; rear dewclaws present.**

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## Coated Variety with Tail

- The coated variety is covered with a short, smooth and dense coat that has a sheen. **Whiskers are not removed.**



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DQ: A wire, broken or long coat



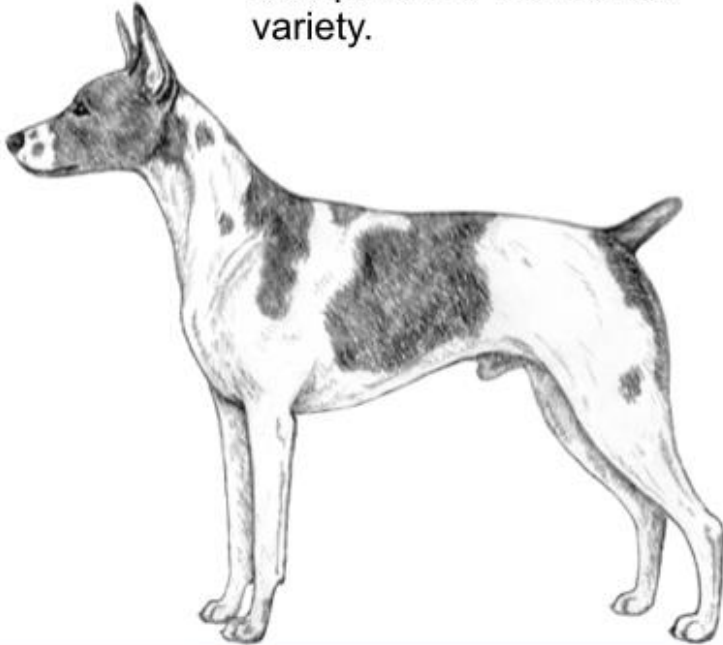
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## Coated Variety – Docked Tail

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

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

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



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## COAT– Hairless Variety

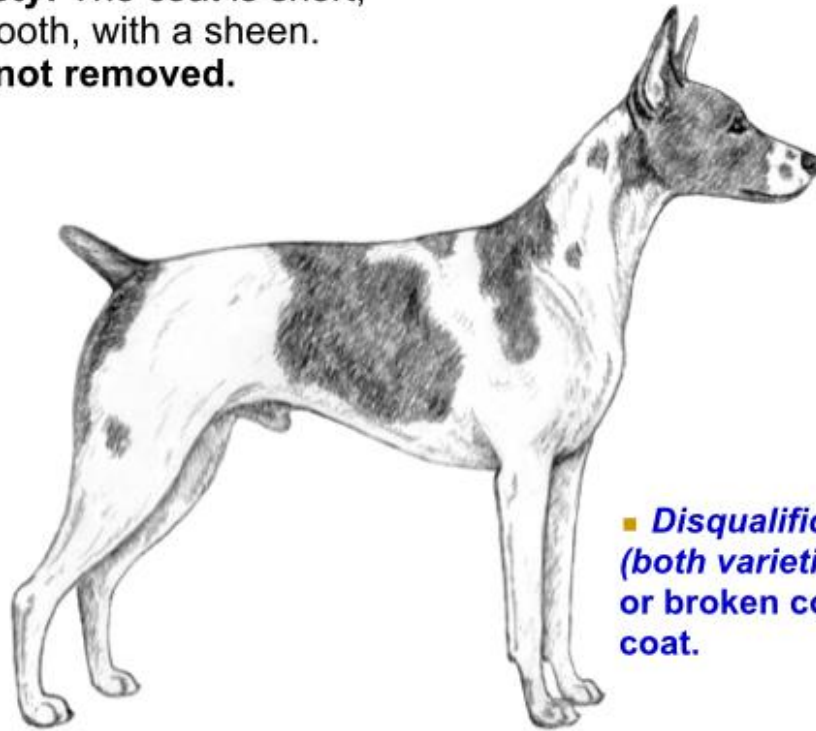


- **Hairless Variety:** Puppies are born with a soft, vestigial “down” known as the “birth coat”.
  - This generally cover the body but diminishes over time and puppies should be completely hairless by approximately 8 - 10 weeks of age.
  - A mature hairless dog should be free of hair with the exception of whiskers and guard hairs on the eyebrows and muzzle.
  - Short, very fine (vellus) hair may be present on the body of a mature dog.
  - The skin is smooth and warm to the touch.
  - **DQ: A wire, broken or long coat**
-

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## COAT– Coated Variety

- **Coated Variety:** The coat is short, dense, and smooth, with a sheen. **Whiskers are not removed.**

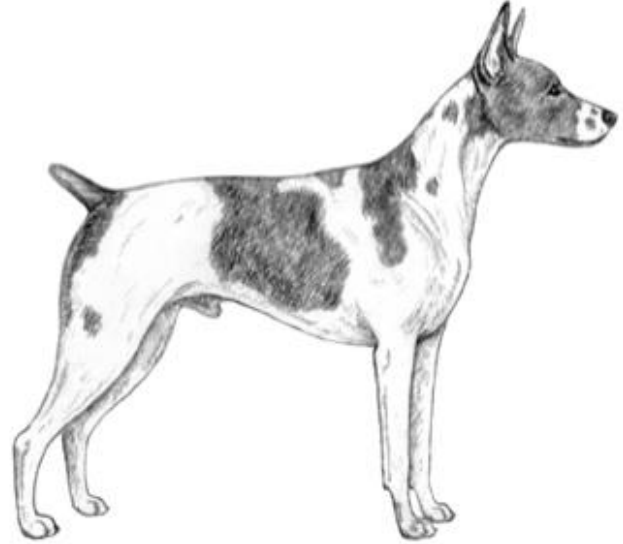


- **Disqualifications (both varieties):** Wire or broken coat; long coat.
-

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## Correct Tail Set

- The **tail** is **set** on at the **end of the croup**.
- The natural tail is thick at the base and **tapers** toward the tip.
- **When** the dog is **alert**, the tail is **carried** in an **upward curve**.
- **When moving**, the tail **may be carried straight out behind the dog**.
- The tail of the coated variety may be docked.



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## Incorrect Tail Sets



Low Tail Set



High Tail Set

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

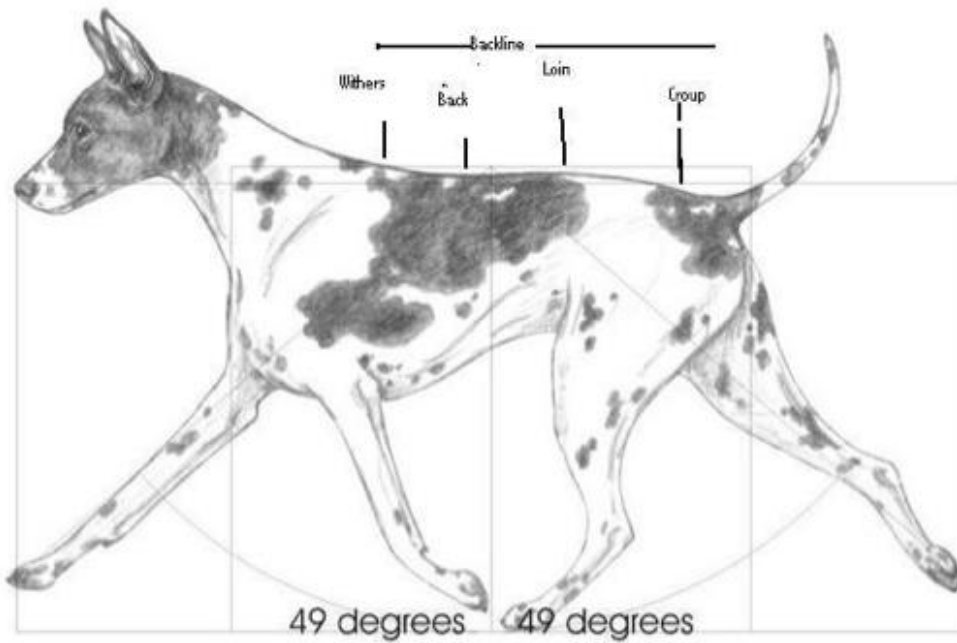
- **Faults( both varieties) Bent tail; ring tail**

- **Disqualification (both varieties) Natural Bobtail**

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## Importance of Good Angulation



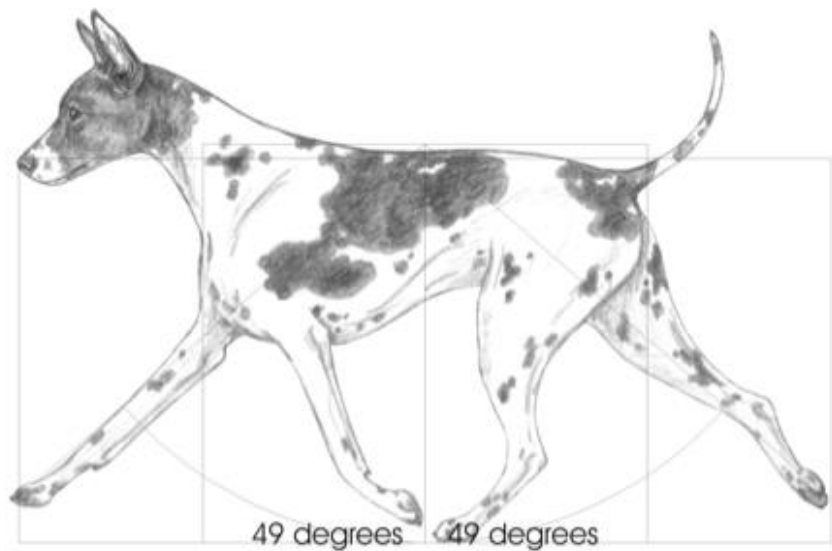
- **Good Angulation facilitates a long stride.**
- **Balance facilitates good foot timing**



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## PROPERLY PROPORTIONED MOVING AHT

- Whether the dog is **standing or moving**, the **line of the back is strong and level**.
- The **loin** is **moderately short, slightly arched**, and **muscular**, with **moderate tuck-up**.
- The **croup** is **slightly sloping**.



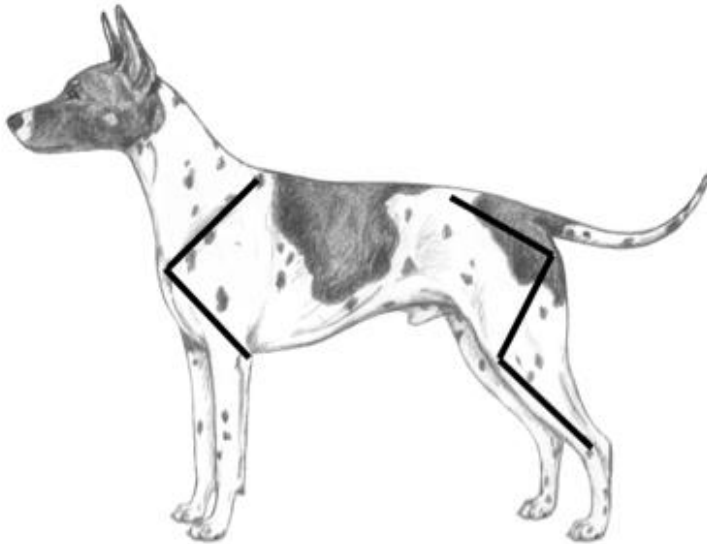
49 degrees 49 degrees

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## Ideal Dog With Angles Shown

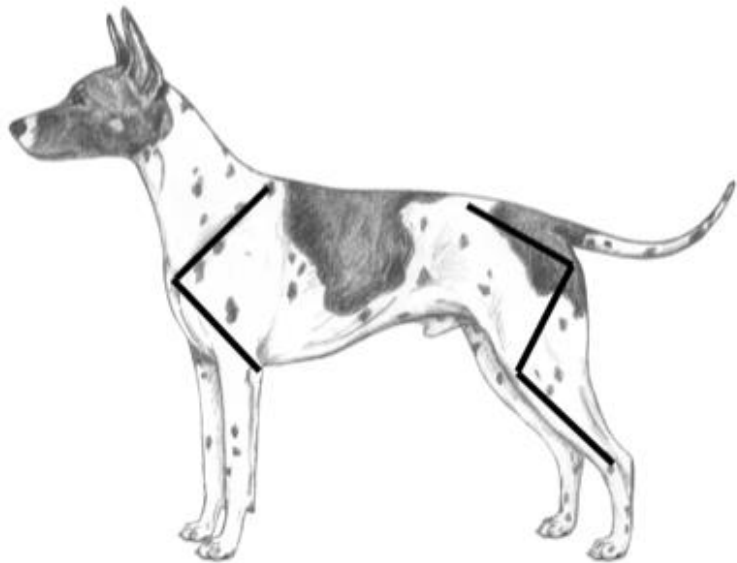


- **A COMMON METHOD** for evaluating the slant of the bones in the forequarters is to take a line from the uppermost edge of the scapula to the front most prominence of the humerus (the point of shoulder), then take another line from there to the elbow.
  - **AS A GENERAL RULE**, the distance between these points of reference should look or feel about equal, and if the front is balanced the elbow will be set approximately on a line dropped from the rearmost angle of the scapula.
-

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## Ideal Dog With Angles Shown, cont.

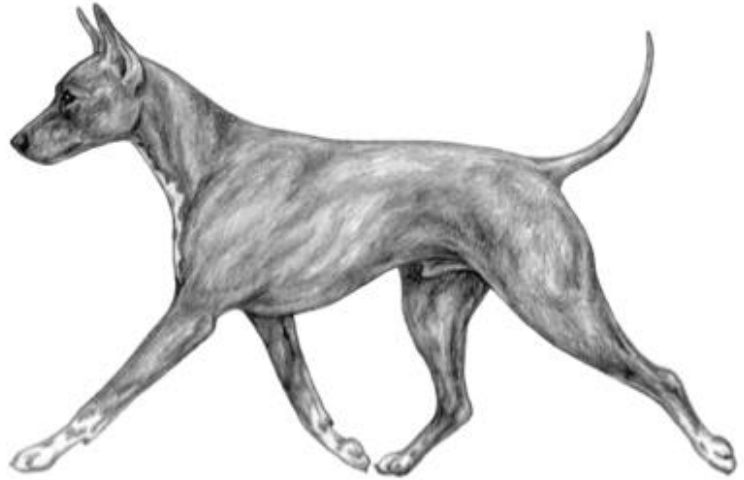
- **Another** way to measure this angle is to feel the ridge of the scapula, and to determine the angle between this ridge and the slant of the humerus (measured from its upper center to its lowest end (not the elbow)).
- These latter measurements differ from the first procedure and will give the impression of less shoulder layback and a greater angle between shoulder and humerus, but the findings are more realistic as to the actual bone placement and joint angles



---

## PROPERLY PROPORTIONED MOVING AHT

- The **ribs extend** well back and are **well sprung** out from the spine, forming a **broad, strong back**, then curving down and inward to form a **deep body**.
- The **brisket extends to or just below the elbow**.
- **Fore chest extends** in a **shallow oval** shape in front of the forelegs
- The **loin is moderately short, slightly arched, and muscular, with moderate tuck-up**.
- The **croup is slightly sloping**

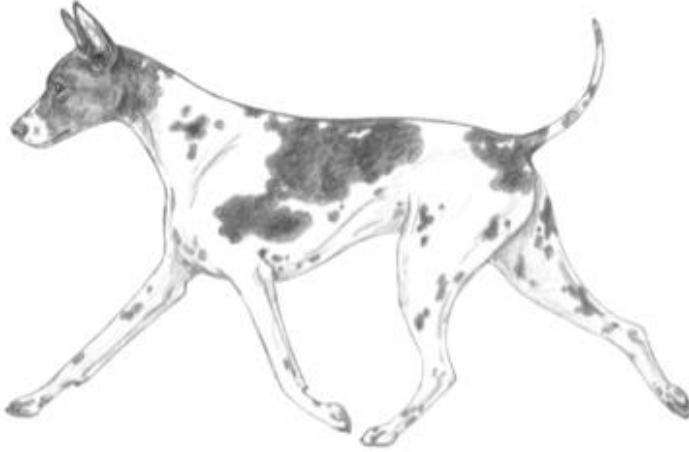


**IDEAL MOVING DOG**

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## IDEAL MOVING BITCH



- Whether the dog is standing or moving, the **line of the back is strong and level.**
  - A dog with good angles and balance will have joints that flex easily and smoothly, providing strong thrust from the rear and spring and resilience in the front
-



## Ideal Moving Front

- **Movement is smooth and effortless, showing good reach and drive.**
  - Forequarters move without any hint of being hackney
  - This breed **moves smoothly** but with a **jaunty attitude** that **suggests a dog of agility, power and speed.**
  - The legs do not turn in or out and the feet do not cross or interfere with each other.
  - **As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward centerline but do not cross.**
-



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

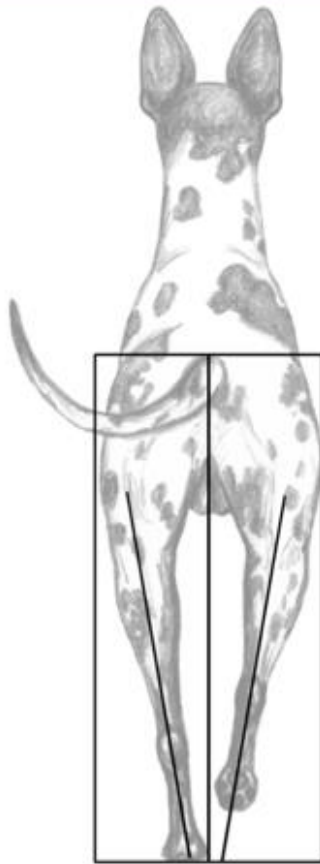
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## Ideal Moving Rear



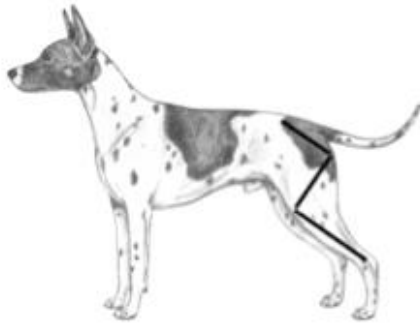
- The rear drives with power and with hocks fully extending.
  - Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other.
  - As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance.
-





- Same rear movement with boxes and lines over it showing the straight column and "landing points."
  - The foot fall depicts the dog moving at a medium trot with the fall converging toward the center line at the closest point of **fall**.
-

## Over Angulated



Over angulated with angles shown



Over Angulated

- To measure the length and slope of the pelvic assembly can be approximated by taking a line from the forward edge of the pelvis (ilium) to the buttock (ischium).
- **Pelvic slope and outline of the croup are not one and the same.**
- While the outline of the croup and set-on of the tail may be influenced by the slant of the pelvis, the outline may be more affected by the arch, dip or straightness of the lumbar section of the spinal column.
- The angle between the lower thigh and the rear pastern (the hock joint) is also significant.
- The rear pastern should drop vertically, however, if the hock angle is too great (straight in hock), the rear pastern will slope backwards, and if the hock angle is too small (sickle hocks), it causes the dog to stand under itself

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## Straight Front and Straight Rear



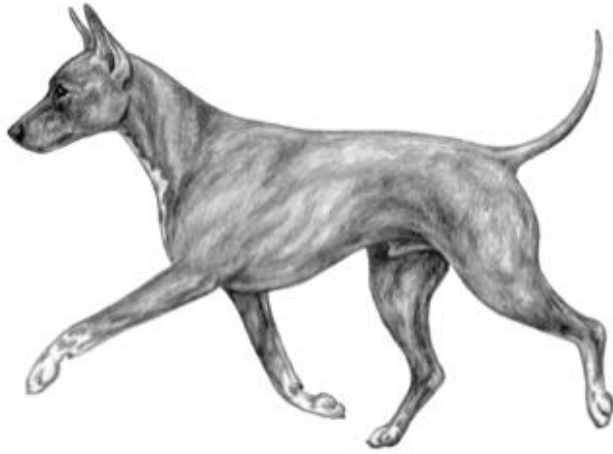
- A dog that is straight, front and rear, has a short, stilted gait, **BUT, IF IN BALANCE, may be better off than a dog lacking balance**, where one end has to compensate for the faultiness of the other



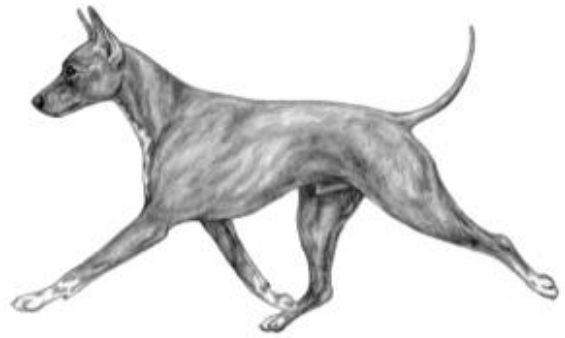
- The entire front is straightened, so withers, shoulder, angles, and entire front placement is changed. The multiple angles in the rear are also changed.
  - Very important thing to illustrate because it shows you how many things actually are changed by these faults
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## Side Movement Faults



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



**Over Reaching**

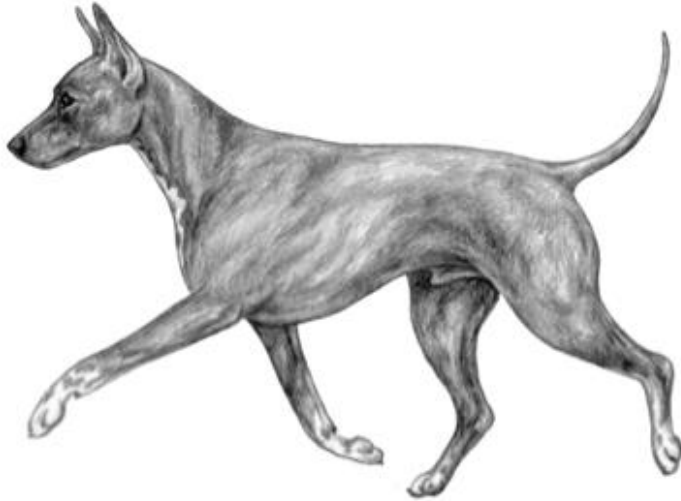


**Lack of Reach**

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## Front Hackney Gait & Rear Piston Action



- In order to keep the paws out of the way of the oncoming back feet the dog is forced to resort to extra high action of the forelegs.
  - Hackney action is caused by more angulation and drive from behind than in front.
  - Correct gait for the Miniature Pinscher, however it is an abnormal movement that requires rather steep shoulder angulations, coupled with upright pasterns.
-

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## GOOSE-STEPPING

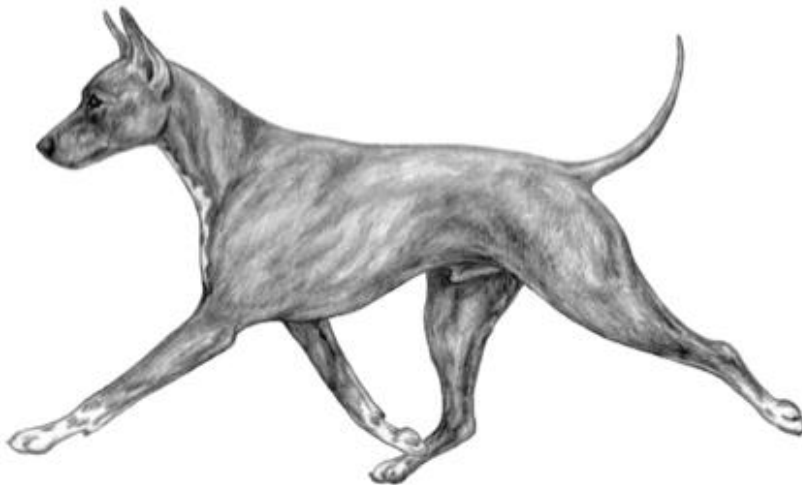
- Faulty in any breed.  
Goose-stepping is a movement typified by accentuated lift of the forelimbs, similar in most respects to a hackney gait, but coupled with full extension of the front pasterns and feet before placing them in contact with the ground.

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

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## Over Reaching



- **Observable in profile and especially when moving fast, in which the hind feet are thrust past their front counterparts.**
  - **Overreaching at the trot is a common fault.**
  - **Caused by more angulation and drive from behind than in the front.**
  - **So that the rear feet are forced to step to one side of the front feet to avoid interference or clipping.**
  - **This is one of the many forms of poor foot timing, but it must not be confused with the natural overreach in the suspension trot, or in the canter or gallop.**
-



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## Overreaching in Puppies

- Overreaching is a common fault in puppies as they develop through "leggy" stages when the height at withers may exceed length from buttocks to shoulder joint by a fractional difference.
  - As the puppy develops and the body proportions come into balance, the overreaching ceases.
-

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## Lack of Reach



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





## Front Movement Faults

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

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



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



## Rear Movement Faults



Close Rear Movement

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



Wide Rear Movement

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# Height and Weight

- The American Hairless Terrier ranges in height from 12 to 16 inches tall.
  - Faults: Height under or over allowed range; Obesity
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# Disqualifications

- **Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid**
  - **Viciousness or extreme shyness**
  - **Hanging ears**
  - **Natural bobtail**
  - **Docked tail on the hairless variety**
  - **Wire or broken coat**
  - **Long Coat**
  - **Albinism**
  - **Merle**
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## **Color – Hairless Variety**

- **Any skin color or combination of colors is allowed with the exception of albino and merle.**
  - **When the skin is parti-colored the freckles or spots of contrasting color will enlarge with age, and skin color will darken when exposed to the sun.**
  - **Disqualification: Albinism, Merle**
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## Hairless: Black/White



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**Hairless: Black/Tan/White** (tipped ears)



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Coated: Black/Tan/White (full tail)



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**Coated: Black/Tan/White** (tipped ears)



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Coated: Red Brindle/White





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## Hairless: Chocolate/White



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## Hairless: Chocolate/White





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## Hairless: White/Chocolate



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## Hairless: White/Apricot



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## Hairless: White/Apricot



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## Hairless: Black Sable Red (deep tan base)



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## Hairless: Black Sable Red (deep tan base)



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## Coated: Black Sabled Red/White



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# Hairless: Black Sabled Red/White

(without tan) and cold feet !





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Coated : White/Black/Tan



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## Hairless: White/Black



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**Hairless: One dog with body color heavily filled in and tan and the other with little ticking**



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## Hairless - White/Black/Tan



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**Hairless: White/Black/Tan** (no tan  
and often mistaken for blue)





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Coated: Blue/Brindled Tan/  
White



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## Hairless: Blue/White (tanned)





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## Hairless: White/Blue (no tan)



## Puppies: Hairless – Black & Blue Newborns

- These pictures show **true blue** is easily distinguished from a **black** on newborn hairless puppies.



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# Puppies: Newborn – All Hairless

(BLACK/tan/white); (WHITE/apricot); (APRICOT/white); (BLACK SABLED RED/tan/white); (WHITE/black/tan)



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## Puppies: Newborn – Mixed Litter

(**BLACK**/tan/white – coated); (WHITE/**black**/tan– hairless);  
(WHITE/**black sabled red**/tan–hairless); (WHITE/**black sabled red**/tan – coated)





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Puppies (4wks) Littermates  
Hairless & Coated



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## Credits

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

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