

**Judging the Pointer..... With the same consciousness as a breeder evaluates one.**

As breeders we get to gaze for hours trying to weight pluses and minuses of each of our Pointers.

You as a judge, have a two minute period....and with good education you may still find it difficult to filter through those pluses and minuses in two minutes .....Where must you start?

**“With the first paragraph of the standard”**

**General Appearance**

The Pointer is bred primarily for sport afield; he should unmistakably look and act the part.

**The ideal specimen gives the immediate impression of compact power and agile grace; the head noble, proudly carried; the expression intelligent and alert; the muscular body bespeaking both staying power and dash.**

Here is an animal whose every movement shows him to be a wide-awake, hard-driving hunting dog possessing stamina, courage, and the desire to go.

And in his expression are the loyalty and devotion of a true friend of man.

**Gait**

Smooth, frictionless, with a powerful hindquarters' drive. The head should be carried high, the nostrils wide, the tail moving from side to side rhythmically with the pace, **giving the impression of a well-balanced**, strongly-built hunting dog capable of top speed combined with great stamina. *Hackney gait must be faulted.*

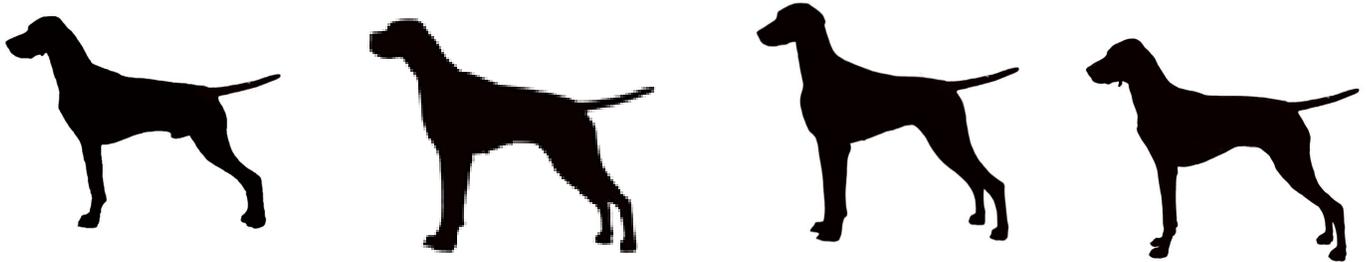
**Balance and Size**

**Balance and over-all symmetry are more important in the Pointer than size. A smooth, balanced dog is to be more desired than a dog with strongly contrasting good points and faults.** Hound or terrier characteristics are most undesirable. Because a sporting dog must have both endurance and power, great variations in size are undesirable, the desirable height and weight being within the following limits

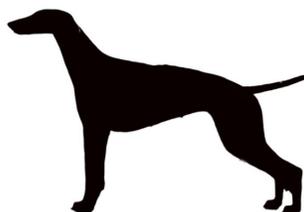
**Under Gait: the Pointer gives the impression of a well balanced and strongly built Hunting dog.**

**Under Balance and Size: it again refers to balance and over-all symmetry.**

**This is a test.....Outline is important .....Identify the Pointer.....?**



**Above are 4 different Pointing breeds....  
(All photos taken directly from breed standards, colored black and tails changed)**



**THE OUTLINE ABOVE - HOUND TOPLINE AND UNDERLINE**

### Temperament:

The Pointer's even temperament and alert good sense make him congenial companion both in the field and in the home. He should be dignified and should never show timidity toward man or dog.

### Head:

The skull of medium width, approximately as wide as the length of the muzzle. **Resulting in an impression of length rather than width.** Slight furrow between the eyes, cheeks cleanly chiseled. **There should be a pronounced stop.** From this point forward the **muzzle** is a good length, with the **nasal bone** so formed that the nose is slightly higher at the tip than the muzzle at the stop. **Parallel** planes of the skull and muzzle are equally acceptable. The muzzle should be deep without pendulous flews. Jaws ending square and level, should bite evenly or as scissors. Nostrils well develop and wide open.

### Shoulders

Long, thin and sloping, the top of the blades close together.

### Front

Elbows well let down, directly under the withers and truly parallel so as to work just clear of the body. Forelegs straight and with oval bone. Knee joint never to knuckle over. Pasterns of moderate length, perceptibly finer in bone than the leg, slightly slanting. Chest, deep rather than wide, must not hinder the free action of forelegs. The breastbone bold, without being unduly prominent. The ribs well sprung, descending as low as the elbow-point.

### Back

Strong and solid with only a slight rise from croup to top of shoulders. Loin of moderate length, powerful and slightly arched. Croup falling only slightly to base of tail. Tuck-up should be apparent, but not exaggerated.

### Tail

Heavier at the root, tapering to a fine point. Length no greater than the hock. A tail longer than this or docked must be penalized. Carried without a curl, and not more than 20 degrees above the line of the back; *never carried between the legs.*

### Hindquarters

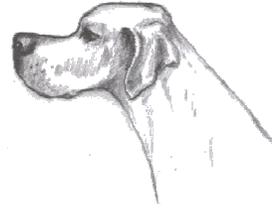
Muscular and powerful with great propelling leverage. Thighs long and well developed. Stifles well bent. The hocks clean; the legs straight as viewed from behind. Decided angulation is the mark of power and endurance.

**Feet :** Oval, with long, closely set, arched toes, well padded and deep. *Catfoot is a fault.* Dewclaws on the forelegs may be removed.

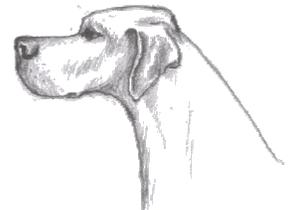
**Coat:** Short, dense, smooth with a sheen

**Color:** Liver, lemon, black, orange; either in combination with white or solid colored. A good Pointer cannot be a bad color. In the darker colors, the nose should be black or brown; in the lighter shades it may be lighter or flesh-colored.

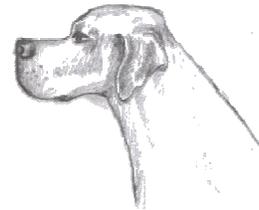
The below two inserts of heads and tails were taken from the Illustrated Standard



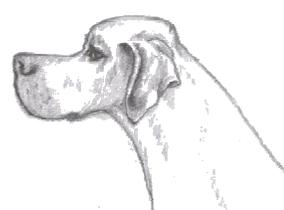
DISH - CORRECT



PARALLEL PLANES - CORRECT



MUZZLE TOO SHORT



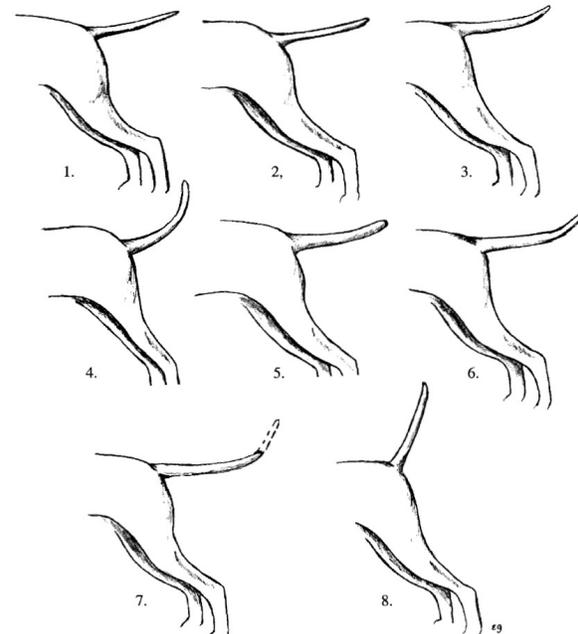
ROUNDED BACK - SKULL



SNIPEY MUZZLE DOWN-FACED AND ROUNDED EAR



LACK OF STOP, HOUNDY EAR



1. CORRECT  
2. TOO LOW SET, STEEP CROUP  
3. TOO HIGH SET, FLAT CROUP  
4. LOW SET/SICKLED TAIL

5. TOO THICK - NOT TAPERED  
6. TOO LONG - TOO CURVED  
7. A COSMETICALLY DOCKED TAIL  
8. HIGH SET TAIL AND TAIL CARRIAGE.

**Please visit the American Pointer Club website to view the complete Illustrated Standard and the Pointer PowerPoint presentation  
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