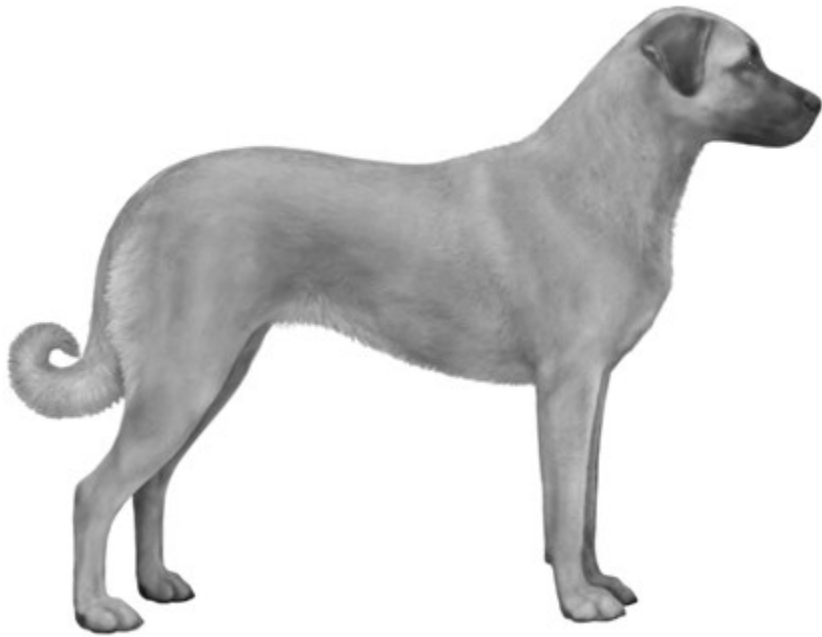


THE ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG



AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE



PRODUCED BY:

THE ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC

Notes:

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Revised: October—2019

ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA



AKC PARENT CLUB
Established 1970

History of the Breed



Researchers speculate that the Anatolian Shepherd Dog may actually have come from the Himalayas when the Turks migrated from Central Asia to what is now Turkey. An early predecessor of the breed is well-documented on the 2,000 year-old Assyrian bas reliefs on display at the British Museum in London.

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is a guardian breed with its origin in Turkey. Quite probably over 6,000 years old, the breed is impressive in size, serving Turkish shepherds as front-line defense. Developed to withstand Turkey's harsh climate, the Anatolian Shepherd Dog has evolved to endure the nomadic lifestyles of the shepherds. Loyalty, independence and hardiness are the three factors most appreciated by fanciers of the breed.

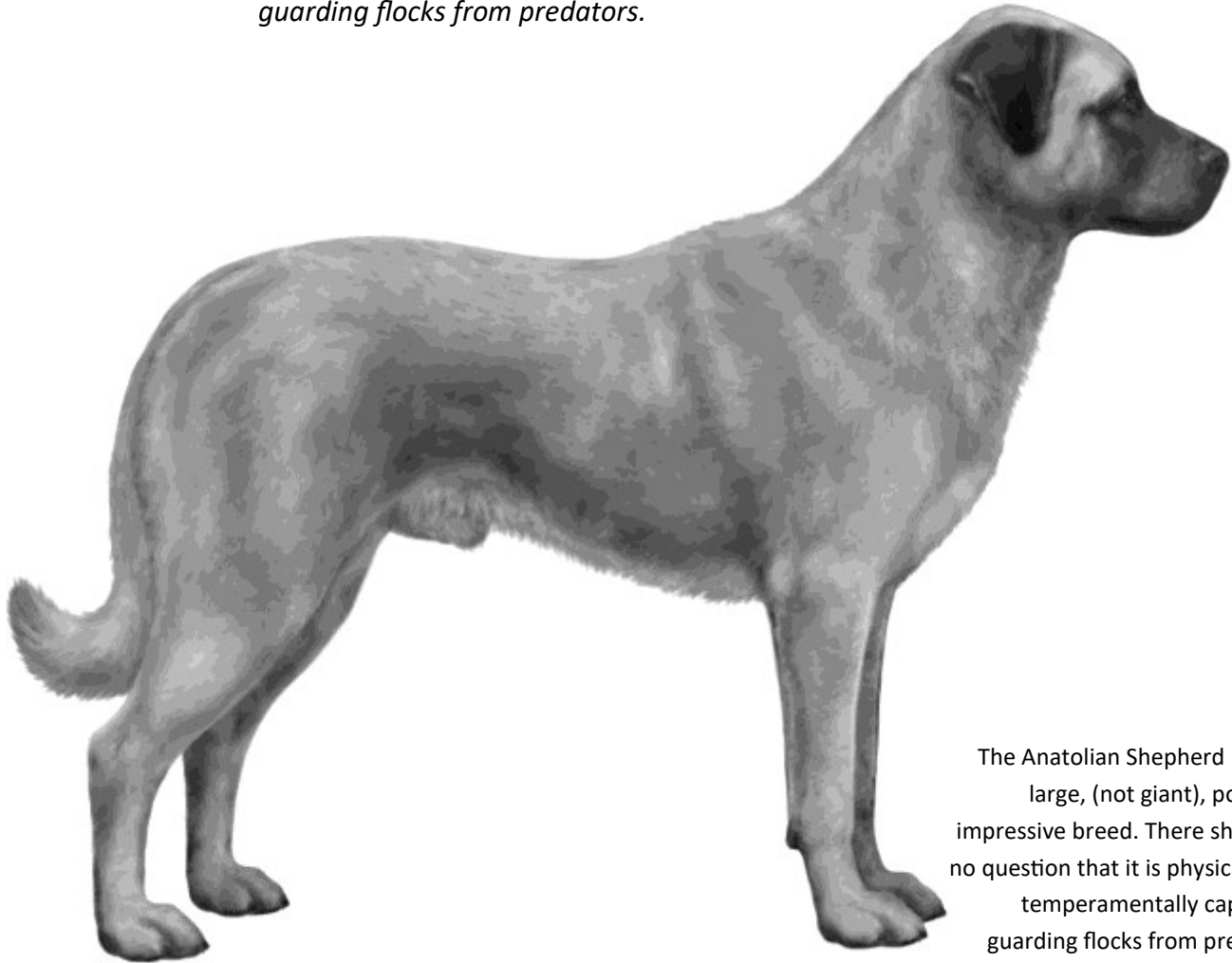
Entering the United States in the 1950's, the Anatolian Shepherd Dog is a fiercely loyal guard dog not considered a "glamour breed." Faithful to its job, the Anatolian is highly intelligent and responsive to its master. However, it can be slow to respond to commands due to its independence.

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General Appearance:

The Anatolian is a large, (not giant) , powerful, impressive breed. There should be no question that it is physically and temperamentally capable of guarding flocks from predators.



The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is a large, (not giant), powerful, impressive breed. There should be no question that it is physically and temperamentally capable of guarding flocks from predators.

Large, rugged, powerful and impressive, possessing great endurance and agility. Developed through a set of very demanding circumstances for a purely utilitarian purpose; he is a working guard dog without equal, with a unique ability to protect livestock.

General impression - Appears bold, but calm, unless challenged. He possesses size, good bone, a well-muscled torso with a strong head. Reserve out of its territory is acceptable. Fluid movement and even temperament is desirable.

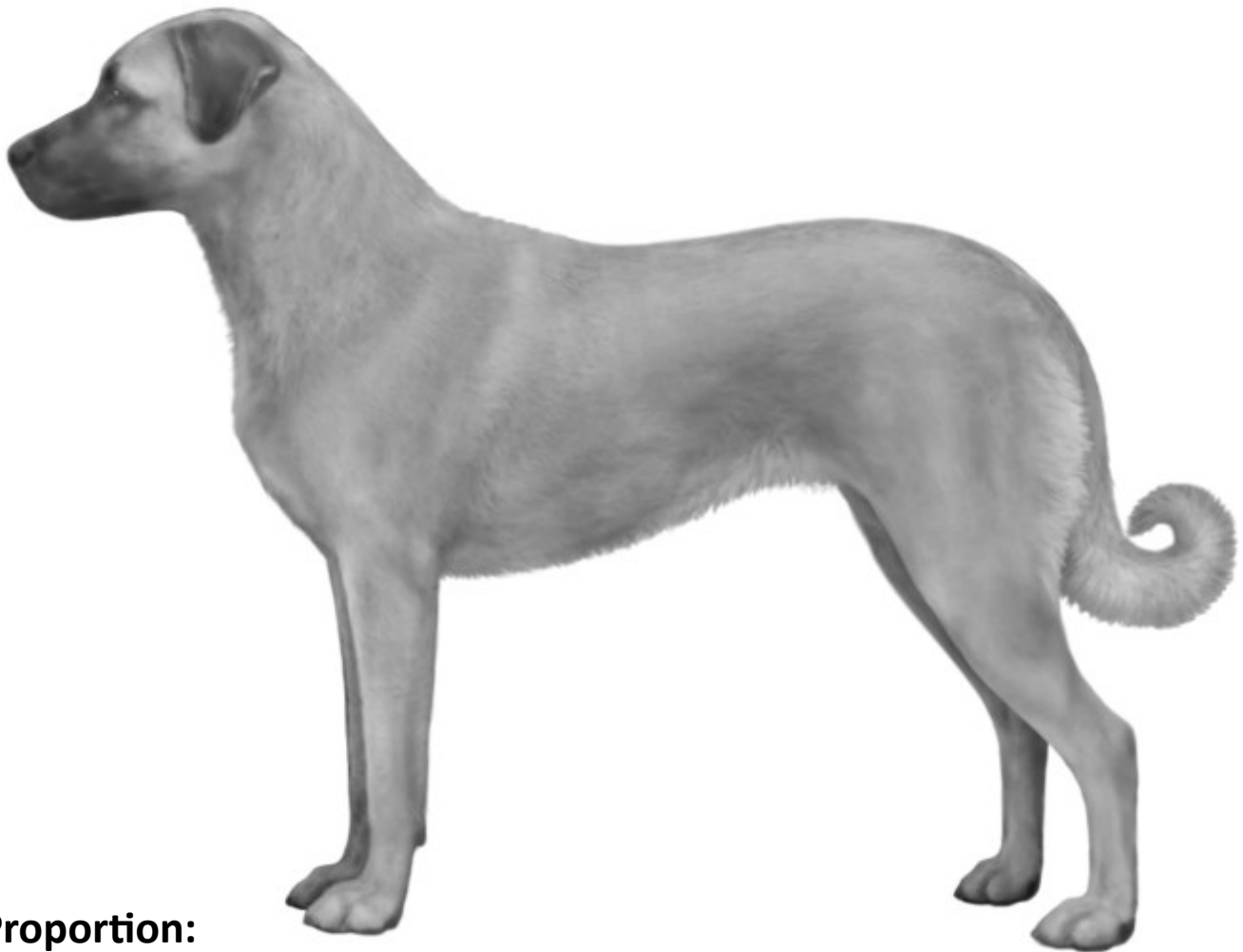
Size, Proportion, Substance:

General balance is more important than absolute size.

Dogs should be from 29 inches and weighing from 110 to 150 pounds proportionate to size and structure.

Bitches should be from 27 inches, weighing from 80 to 120 pounds, proportionate to size and structure.

Neither dog nor bitch appear fat. Both dog and bitch should be rectangular, in direct proportion to height. Measurements and weights apply at age 2 or older.



Proportion:

Both the dog and bitch should be rectangular, in direct proportion to height.

Height, weight and bone must be in proportion to overall size.

Size should not be given precedence over structure, balance and correct breed type.

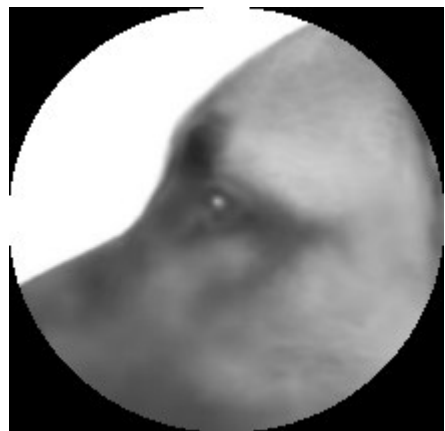
Head: Expression should be intelligent.

Eyes are medium size, set apart, almond shaped and dark brown to light amber in color.

Eye rims will be black or brown and without sag or looseness of haw.

Incomplete pigment is a serious fault.

Blue eyes or eyes of two different colors are a disqualification.



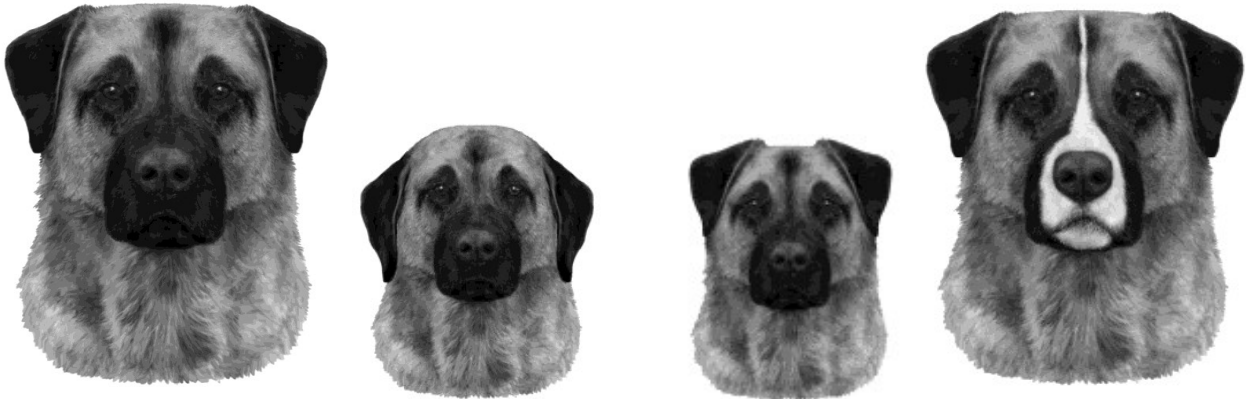
Example rounded eye changes expression.

Head:

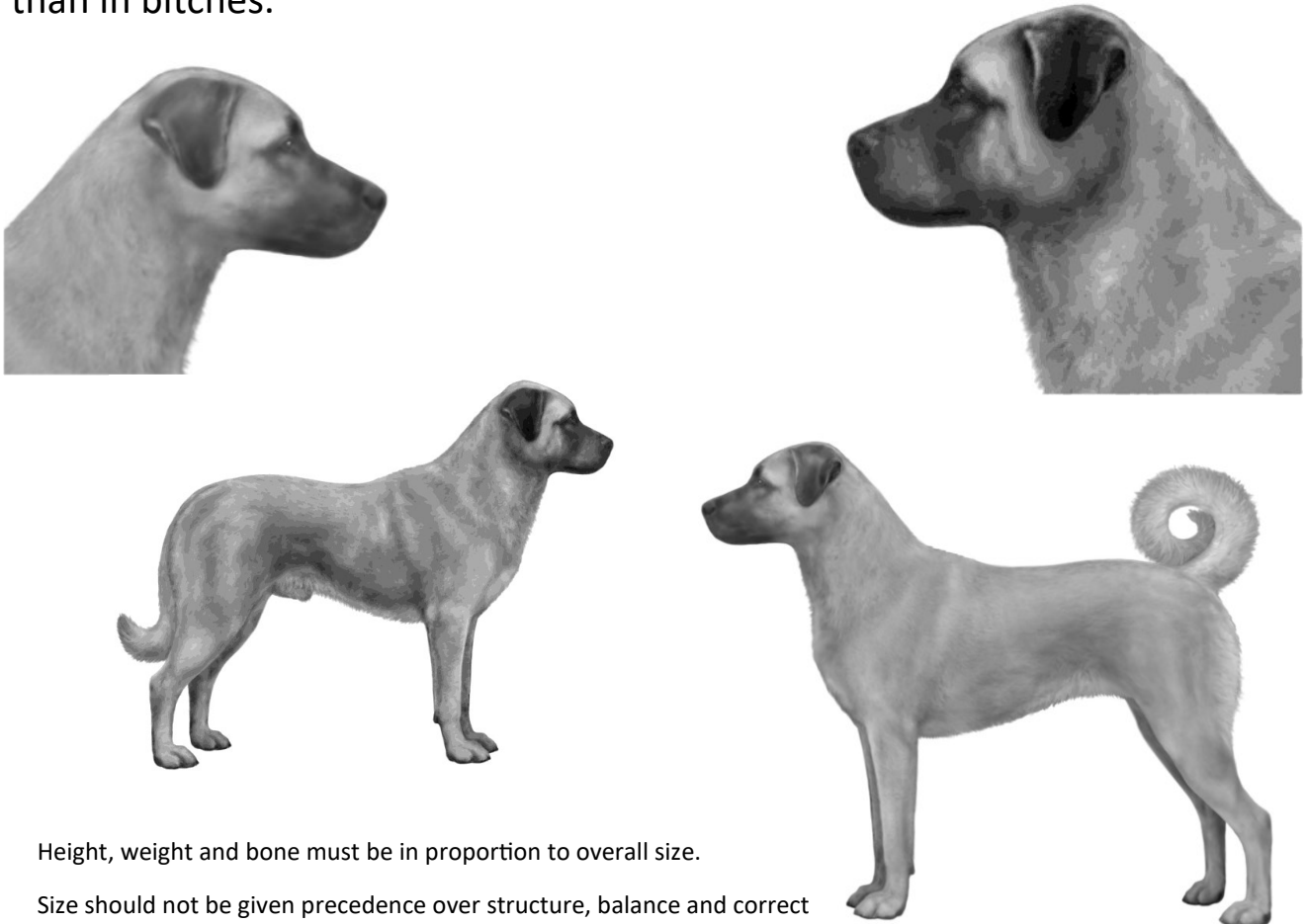
Ears should be set on no higher than the plane of the head. V-shaped, rounded apex, measuring about four inches at the base to six inches in length. The tip should be just long enough to reach the outside corner of the eyelid.

Ears dropped to sides.

Erect ears are a disqualification.



Skull is large but in proportion to the body. There is a slight centerline furrow, fore and aft, from apparent stop to moderate occiput. Broader in dogs than in bitches.

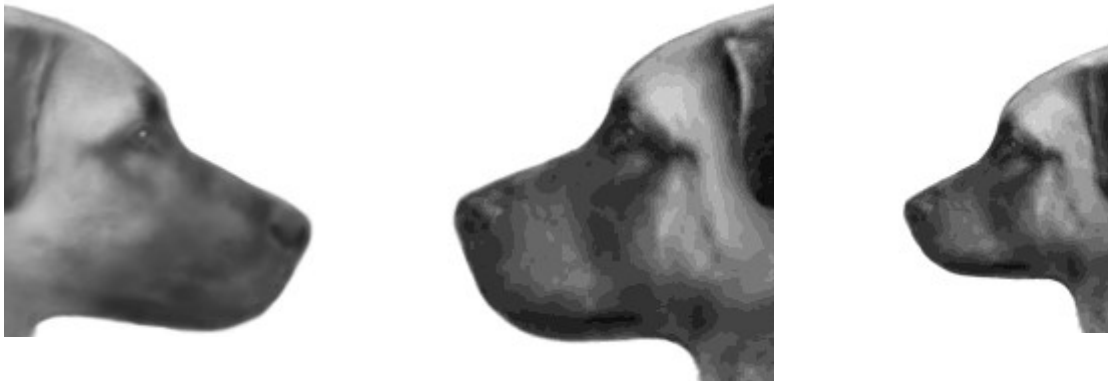


Height, weight and bone must be in proportion to overall size.

Size should not be given precedence over structure, balance and correct breed type.

Head:

Muzzle is blockier and stronger for the dogs, but neither dog nor bitch would have a snipey head or muzzle.



Nose and Lips: Nose and flews must be solid black or brown. Seasonal fading is not to be penalized. *Incomplete pigment is a serious fault.* Flews are normally dry but not pronounced enough to contribute to “squaring” the overall muzzle appearance.



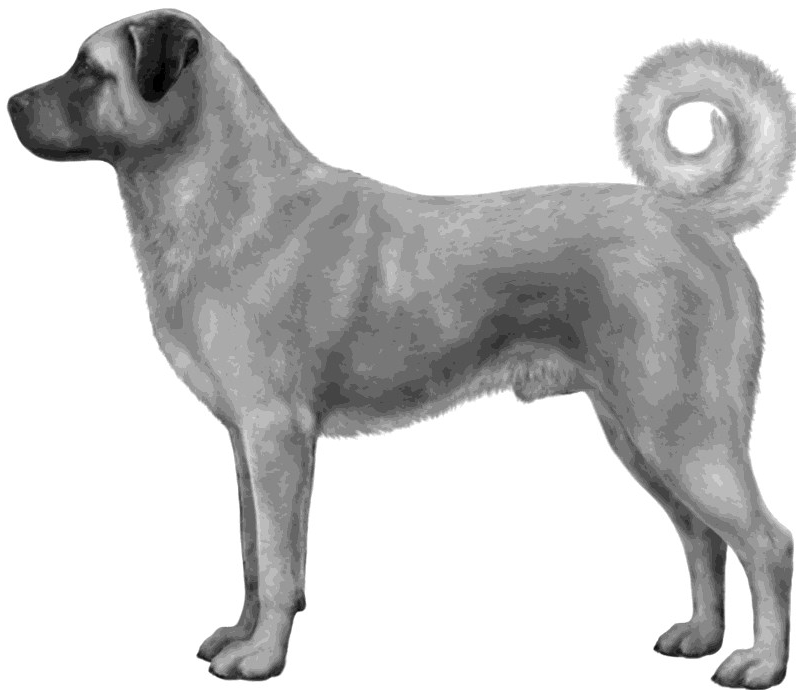
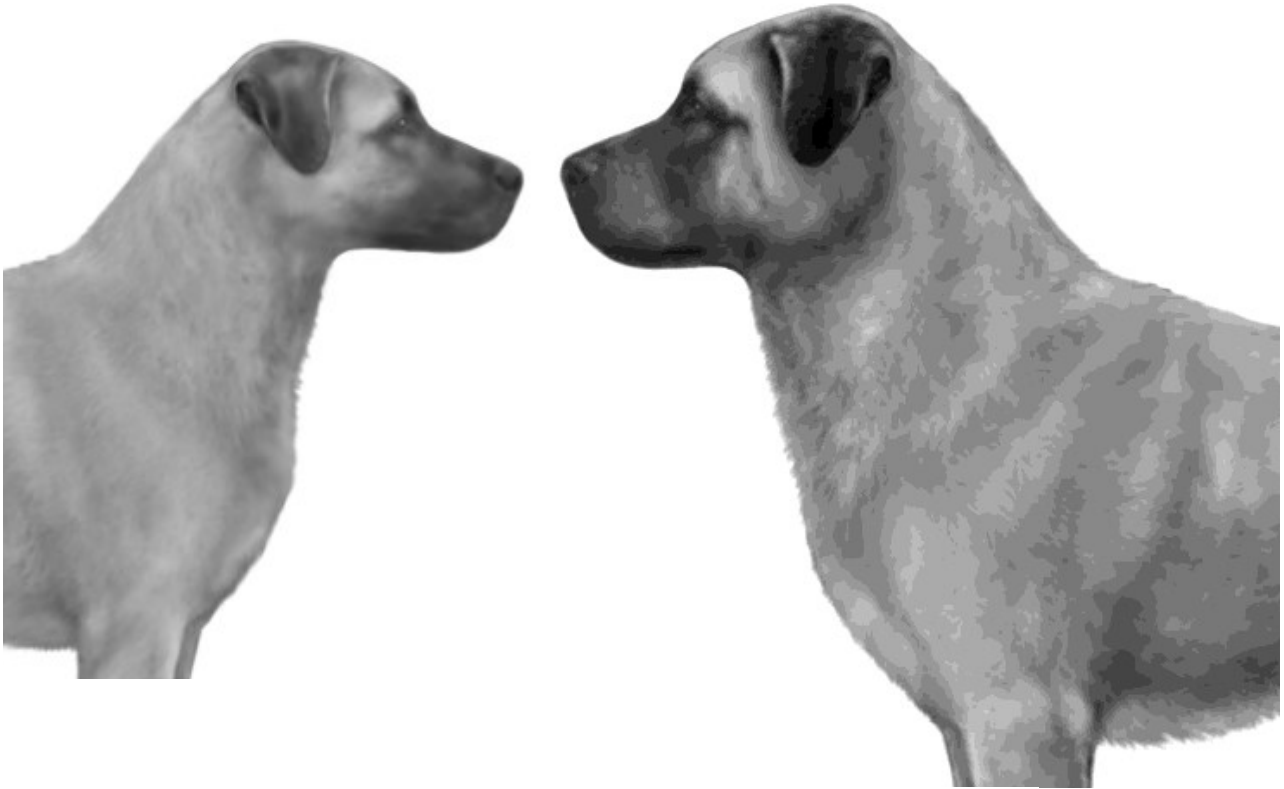
Bite: Teeth and gums are strong and healthy. Scissors bite preferred, level bite is acceptable. Broken teeth are not to be faulted.

Over shot or wry bites are disqualifications.



Neck, Topline, Body, Tail

Neck slightly arched, powerful, and muscular, moderate in length with more skin and fur than elsewhere on the body, forming a protective ruff. The dewlap should not be pendulous and excessive.

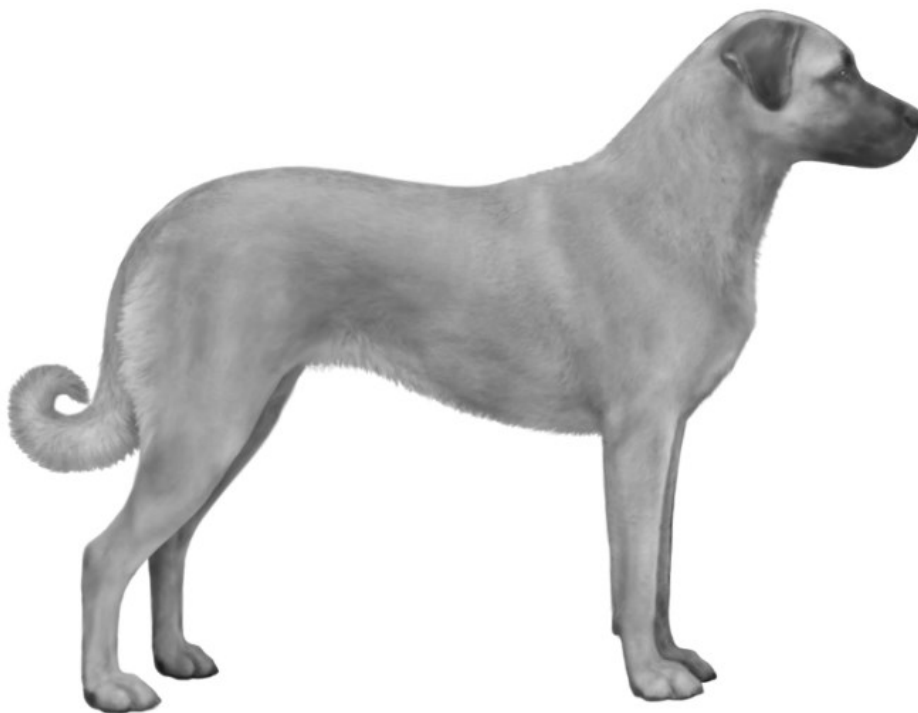


The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is first and foremost a working guardian and must have a well proportioned and functional body

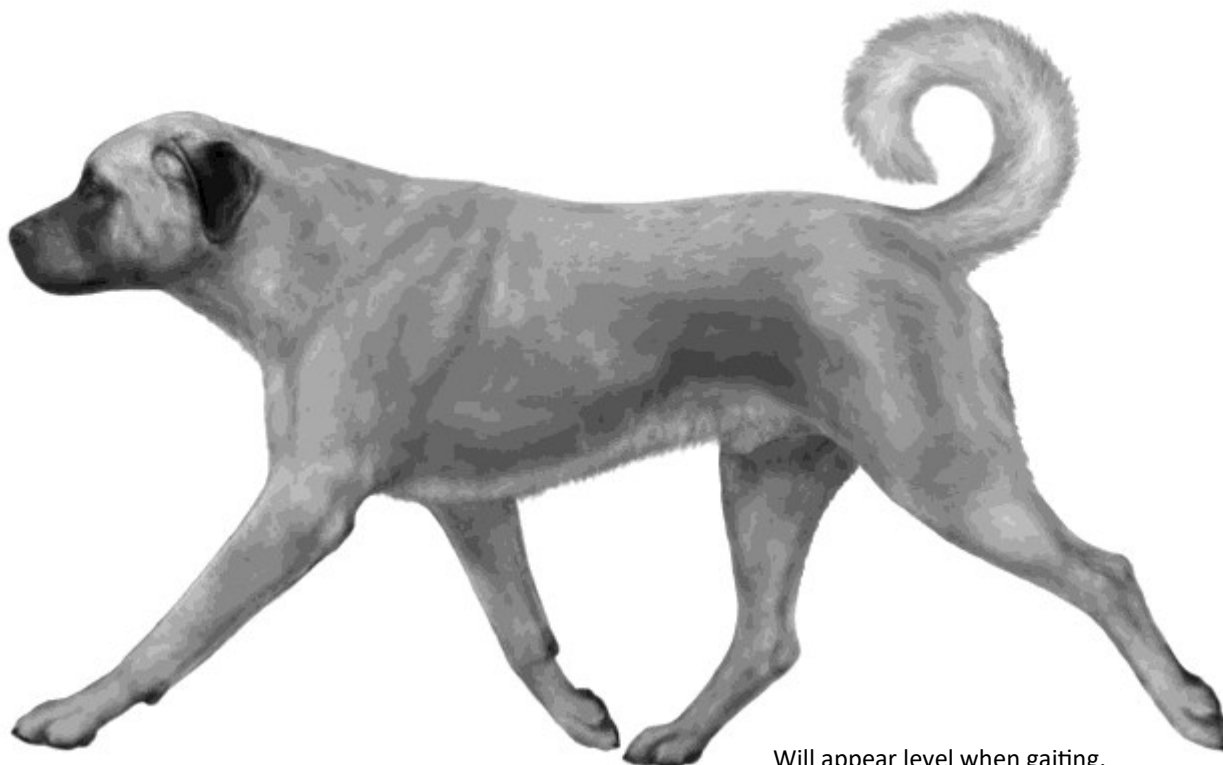
Neck, Topline, Body, Tail

Topline will appear level when gaiting.

Back will be powerful, muscular, and level, with drop behind withers and gradual arch over loin, sloping slightly downward at the croup.



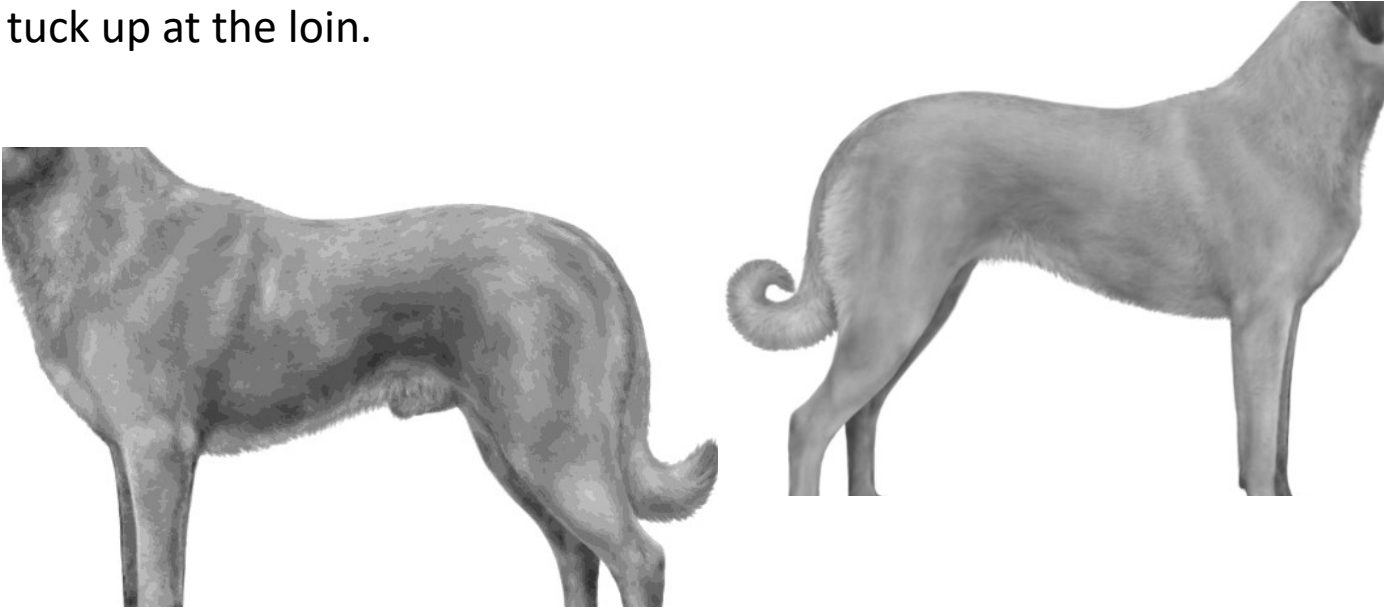
In profile, when standing, the highest point is the withers, with a slight drop directly behind the withers blending to a powerful, muscular back, blending to a slight arch over the loin, sloping slightly downward at the croup.



Will appear level when gaiting.

Neck, Topline, Body, Tail

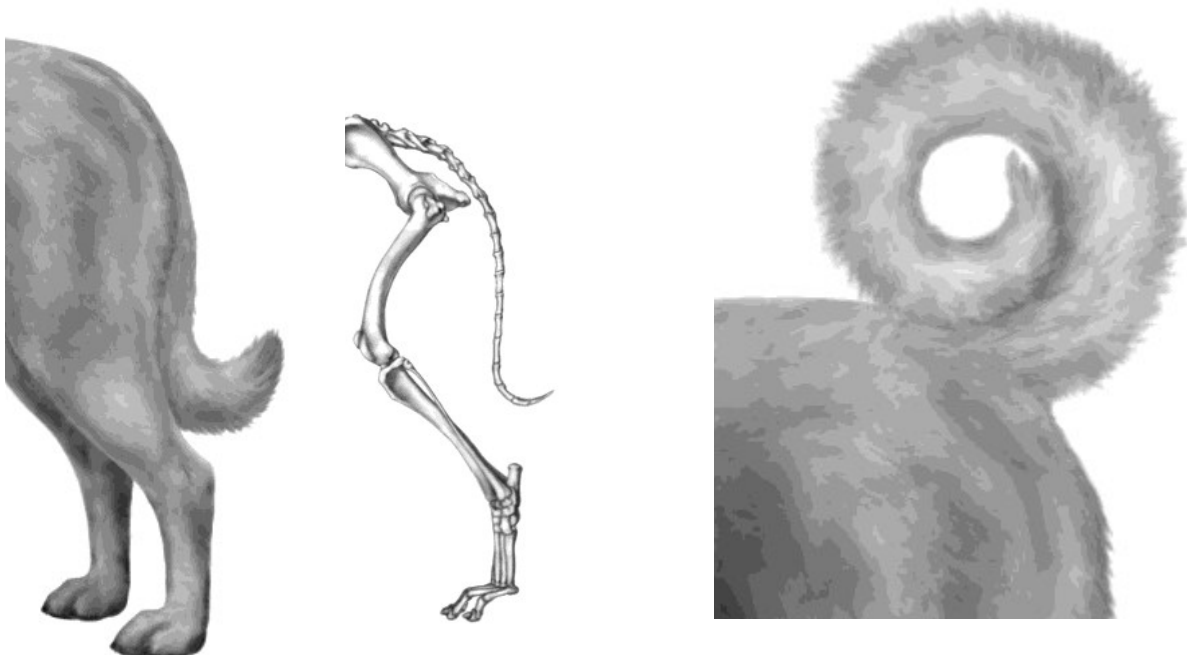
Body well proportioned, functional, without exaggeration. Never fat or soft. Chest is deep (to the elbow) and well-sprung with a distinct tuck up at the loin.



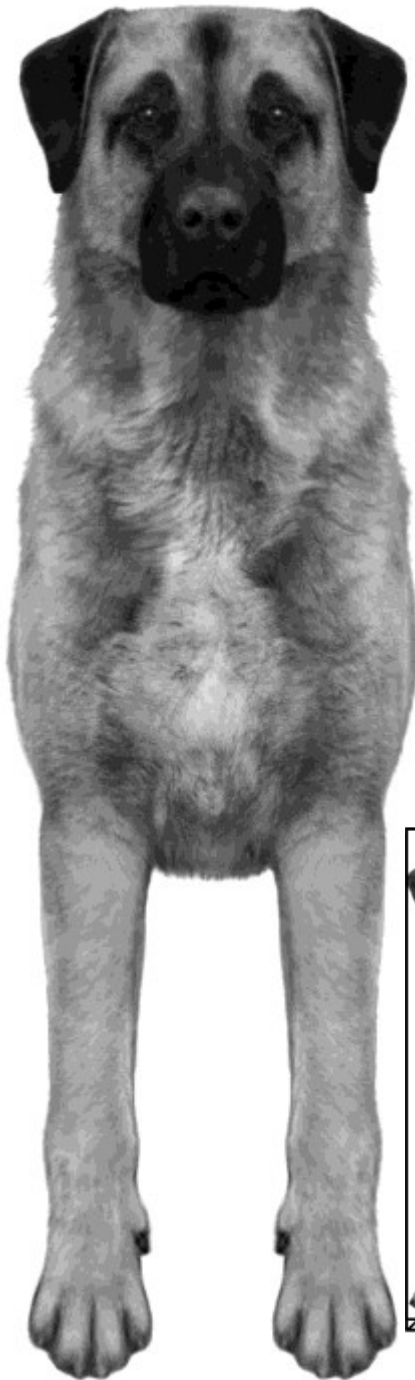
Tail should be long and reaching to the hocks. Set on rather high. When relaxed, it is carried low with the end curled upwards. When alert, the tail is carried high, making a "wheel." Both low and wheel carriage are acceptable, when gaiting.

"Wheel" carriage preferred.

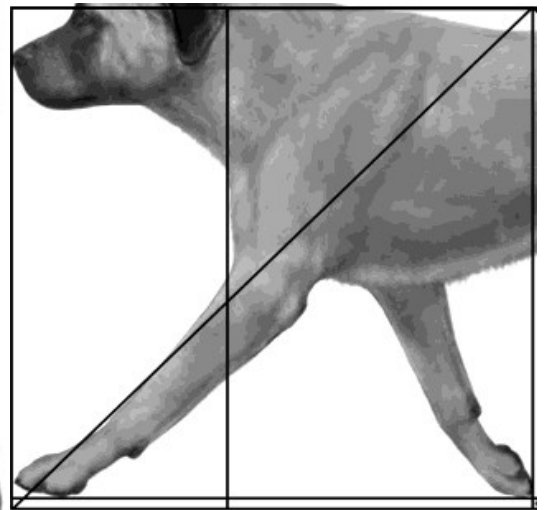
The tail will not necessarily uncurl totally.



Forequarters:



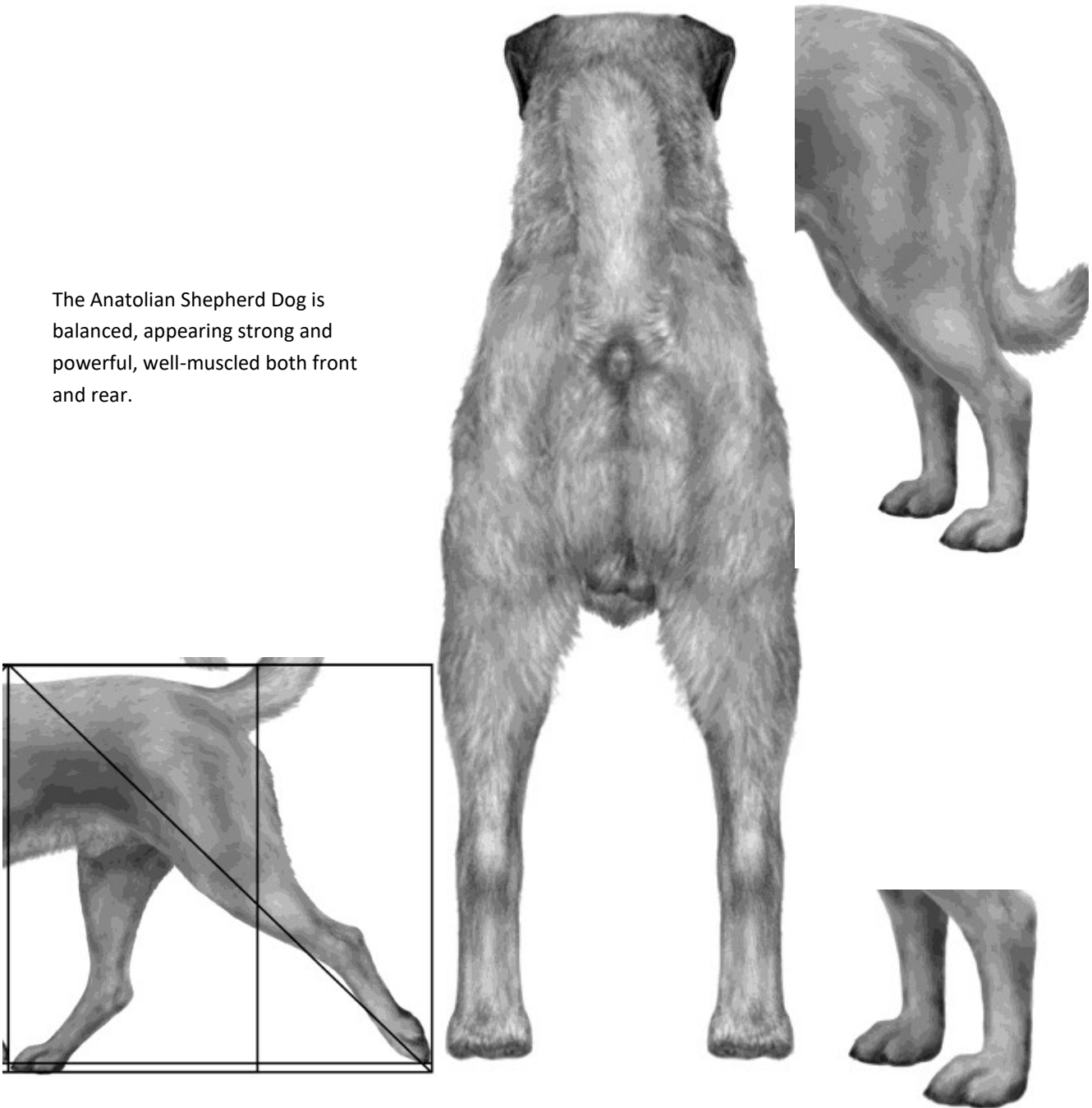
A sound front-end is critical for the Anatolian Shepherd Dog to maintain its breed function which requires efficient movement in rugged environments.



Shoulders should be muscular and well developed, blades long, broad and sloping. Elbows should be neither in nor out. Forelegs should be relatively long, well-boned and set straight with strong pasterns. The feet are strong and compact with well-arched toes, oval in shape. They should have stout nails with pads thick and tough. Dewclaws may be removed.

Hindquarters:

The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is balanced, appearing strong and powerful, well-muscled both front and rear.



Strong, with broad thighs and heavily muscled. Angulation at the stifle and hock are in proportion to the forequarters. As seen from behind, the legs are parallel.

Feet are strong and compact with well-arched toes, oval in shape. Double dewclaws may exist. Dewclaws may be removed.

Coat: Length, condition and color

Length: Short (one inch minimum, not tight) to Rough (approximately 4 inches in length) with neck hair slightly longer and thicker forming a slight mane.

A thick undercoat is common to all. Subject to seasonal shedding. In warmer climates or seasons a less dense coat is acceptable. Feathering may occur on the ear fringes, legs, breeches and tail.

Color: All color patterns and markings are equally acceptable.

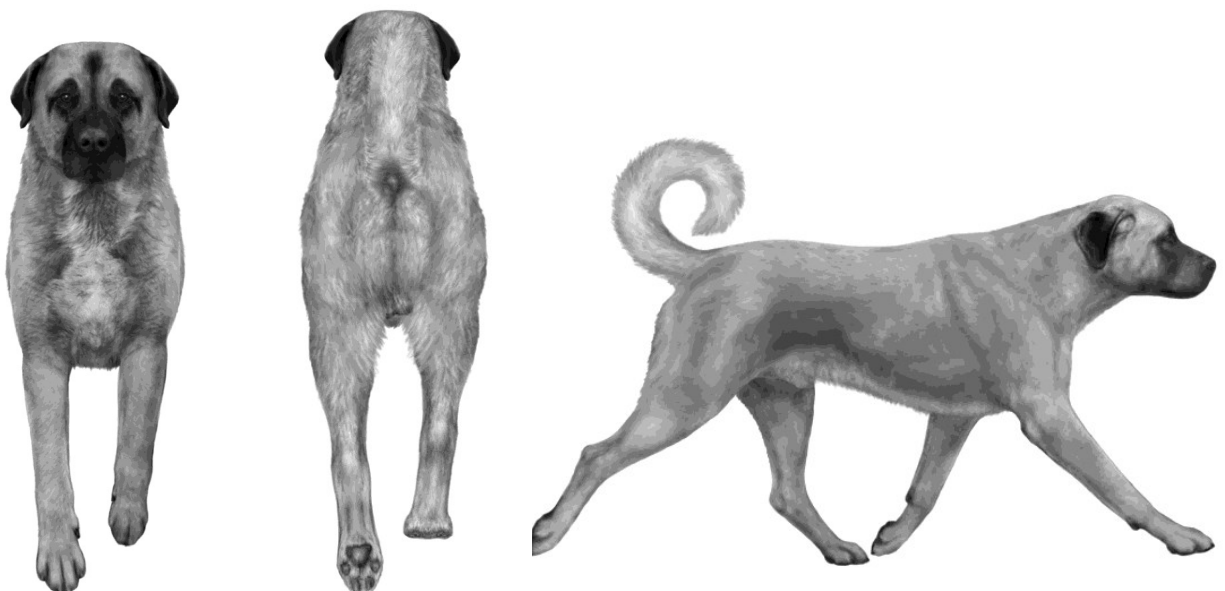
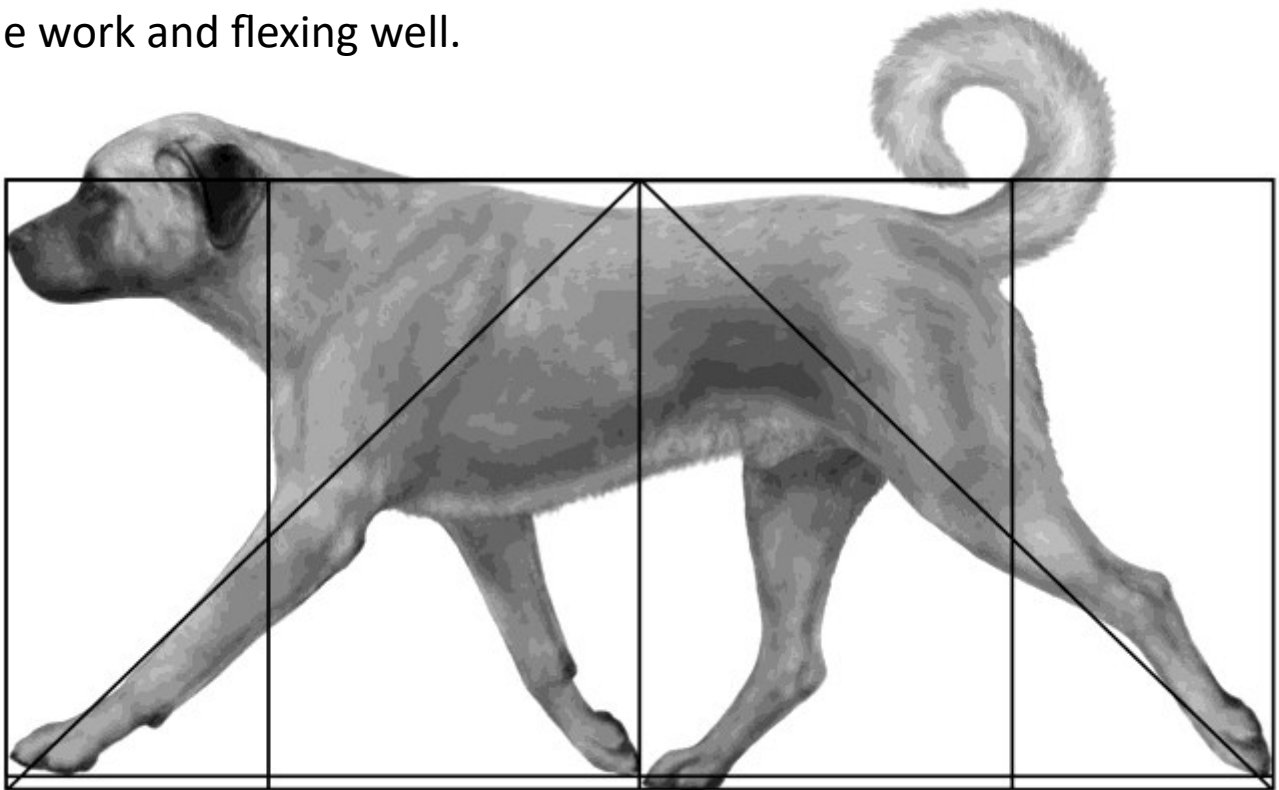


All colors, patterns and marking are acceptable. The majority of the breed is fawn with a black mask, balance being white, cream, red, pinto or brindle.

Lack of symmetry of markings should not be penalized. Markings on the head may distort the actual head shape. Pronounced white markings on the face, neck, feet, and chest are common.

Gait:

At the trot, the gait is powerful yet fluid. When viewed from the front or rear, the legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. With increased speed, footfall converges toward the center line of gravity. When viewed from the side, the front legs should reach out smoothly with no obvious pounding. The withers and backline should stay nearly level with little rise or fall. The rear assembly should push out smoothly with hocks doing their share of the work and flexing well.



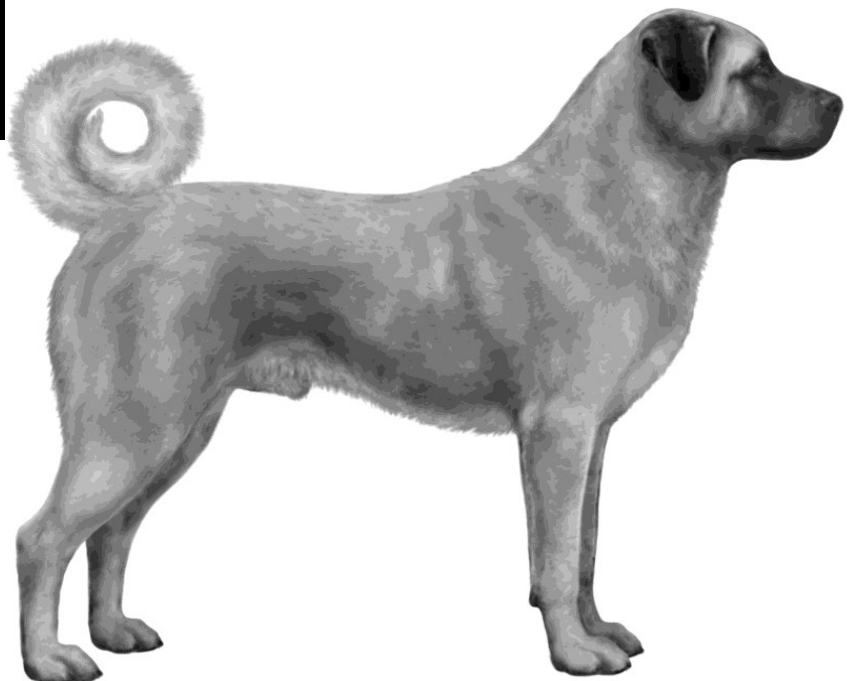
Temperament:

Alert and intelligent, calm and observant. Instinctively protective, he is courageous and highly adaptable. He is very loyal and responsive. Highly territorial, he is a natural guard.

Reserve around strangers and off its territory is acceptable.

Responsiveness with animation is not characteristic of the breed.

Overhandling would be discouraged.



Excessive hesitancy, nervousness or aggression towards humans is not accepted.

Occasional male-male confrontations should not be viewed as
indicative of aggressive behavior.

Presentation:

Exhibition of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog, a livestock guardian breed, at AKC shows should present no special problems to the officiating judges.

The dog may appear reserved because he is out of his territory but he will be observant of his immediate surroundings.

The judge should make sure adequate space is available and maintained to avoid interference or crowding by other dogs when the dogs are lined up for examination and gaiting.

The judge should allow the presenter time to finish stacking the dog before approaching. The judge should approach the dog in a calm and positive manner (not tentative) from the shoulder and not "head on".

The handler should present the bite

The dogs should not be faulted for not reacting to squeaky toys, bait, whistles, keys, ect. Its not unusual for the dogs to appear disinterested or to turn their heads away from the judge.

The dogs should be gaited on a loose lead to demonstrate smooth and efficient movement. Excessive speed when gaiting should not be expected from this breed which instinctively conserves energy.

Judges should give no preference to coat length, color and markings.

Final judgment should take into account the function of the breed and the dogs overall balance, structure and breed type.

Note: Minimal trimming and/or removal of whiskers is at the discretion of the handler/ owner.

Disqualifications:

- *Blue eyes, eyes or two different color of eyes.*
- *Erect ears.*
- *Overshot, undershot or wry bite.*

Acknowledgements

This Illustrated Guide was originally produced by the American Kennel Club, Judges Education Department, with the corporation of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc.

The Illustrated Guide has been revised by the Anatolian Shepherd Dog club of America, Inc. to incorporate the illustrations that were approved by the Judges Education Committee of the Anatolian Shepherd Dog club of America, Inc.

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Copywrite: ASDCA

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Katie Emanuel, Laura Edstrom-Smith, Erin Tallon-Carr, Sharon Newcomb and Gary Jacobi

Additional Tools: Head Study Guide



Note the colorations may cause you to take a second look



HIGH EAR SET



Snipey Head



LOW EAR SET

Additional Tools: Head Study Guide



ROUND EYE

EARS TOO FORWARD



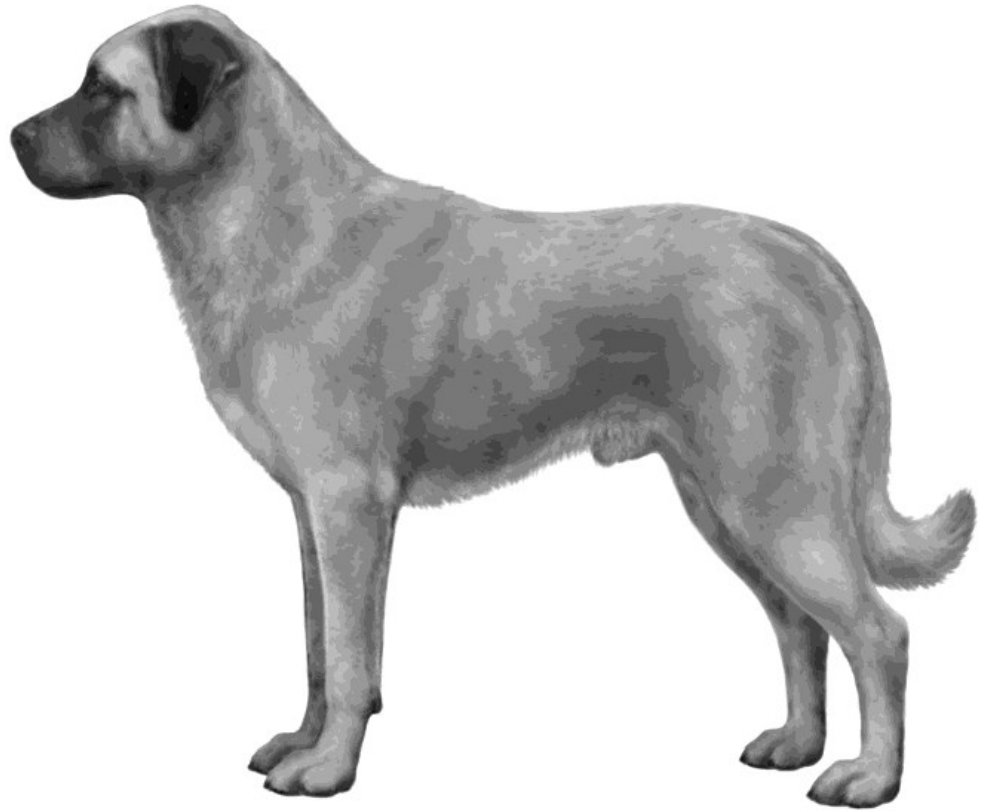
GOOD EAR SET

ALMOND EYE

SQUARE MUZZLE

Additional Tools: Body

SHORT BODY



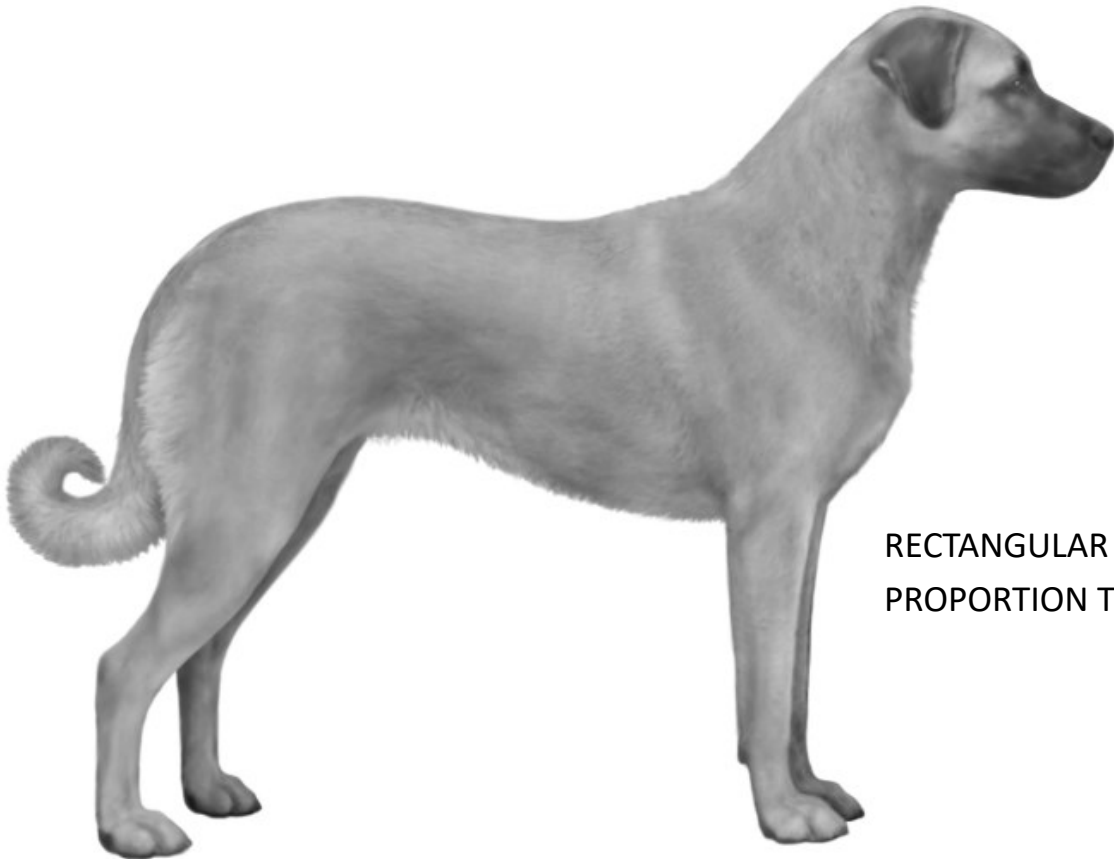
CORRECT

SLIGHTLY RETANGULAR

Additional Tools: Body continued

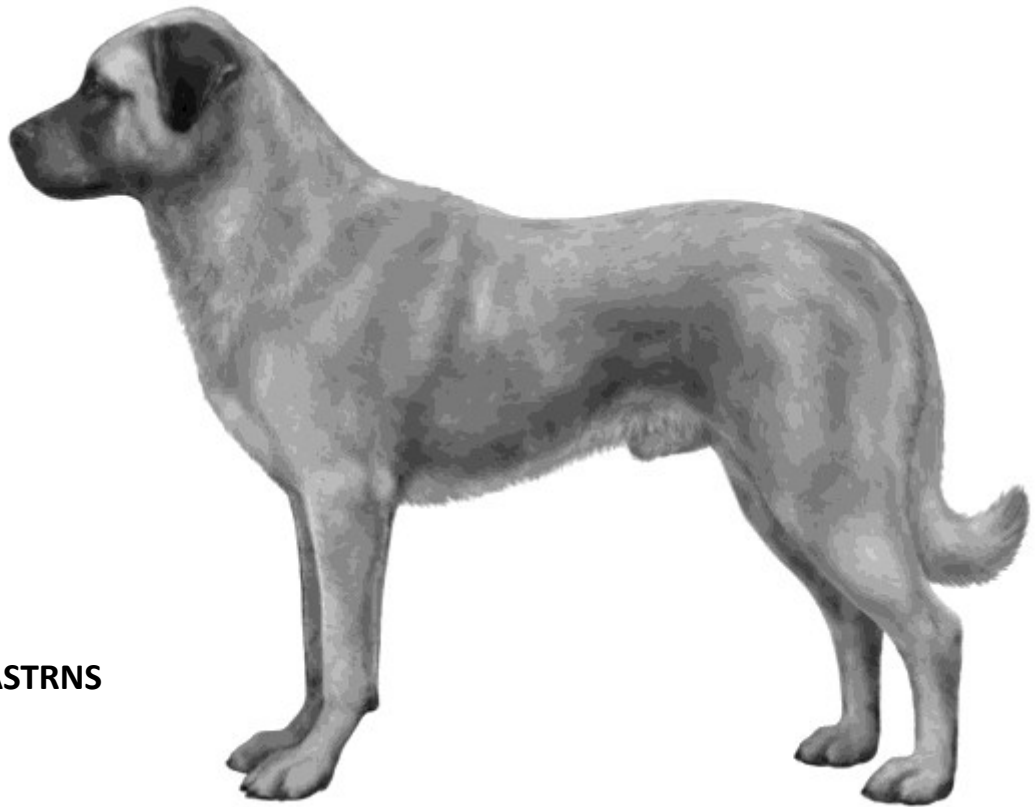


SHORT BODY

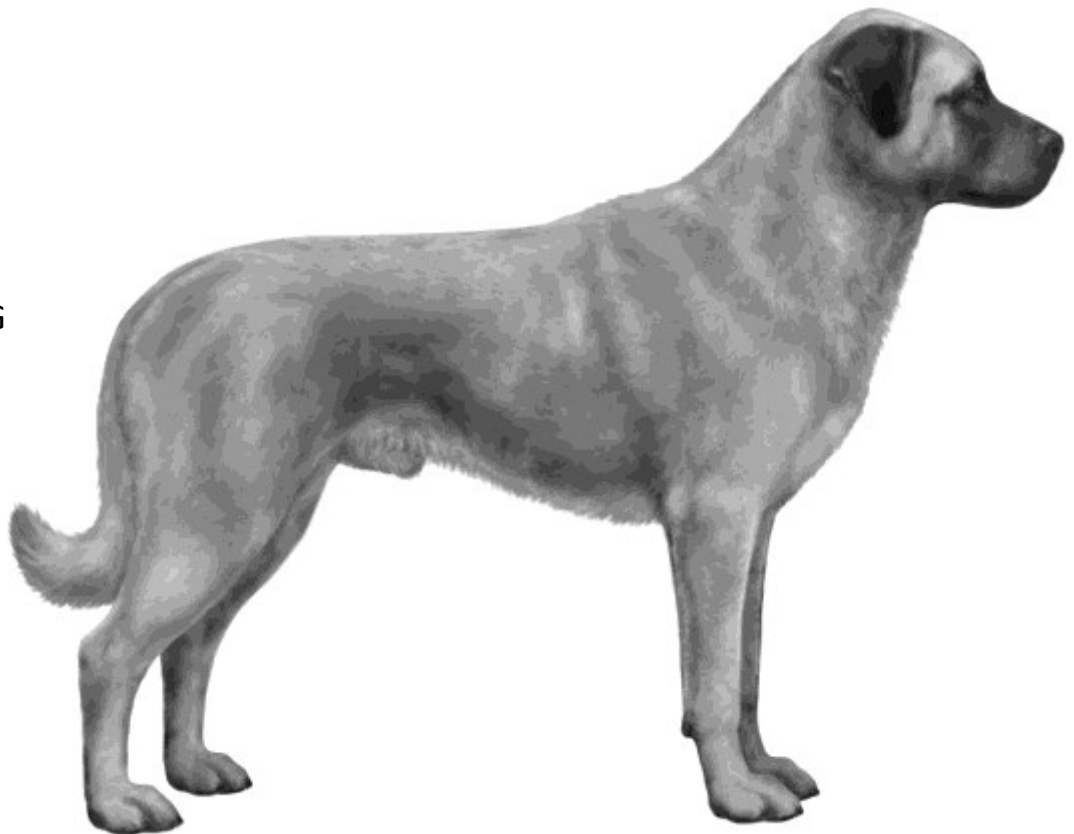


RECTANGULAR IN DIRECT
PROPORTION TO HEIGHT

Additional Tools: Pasterns and croup



WEAK PASTRNS

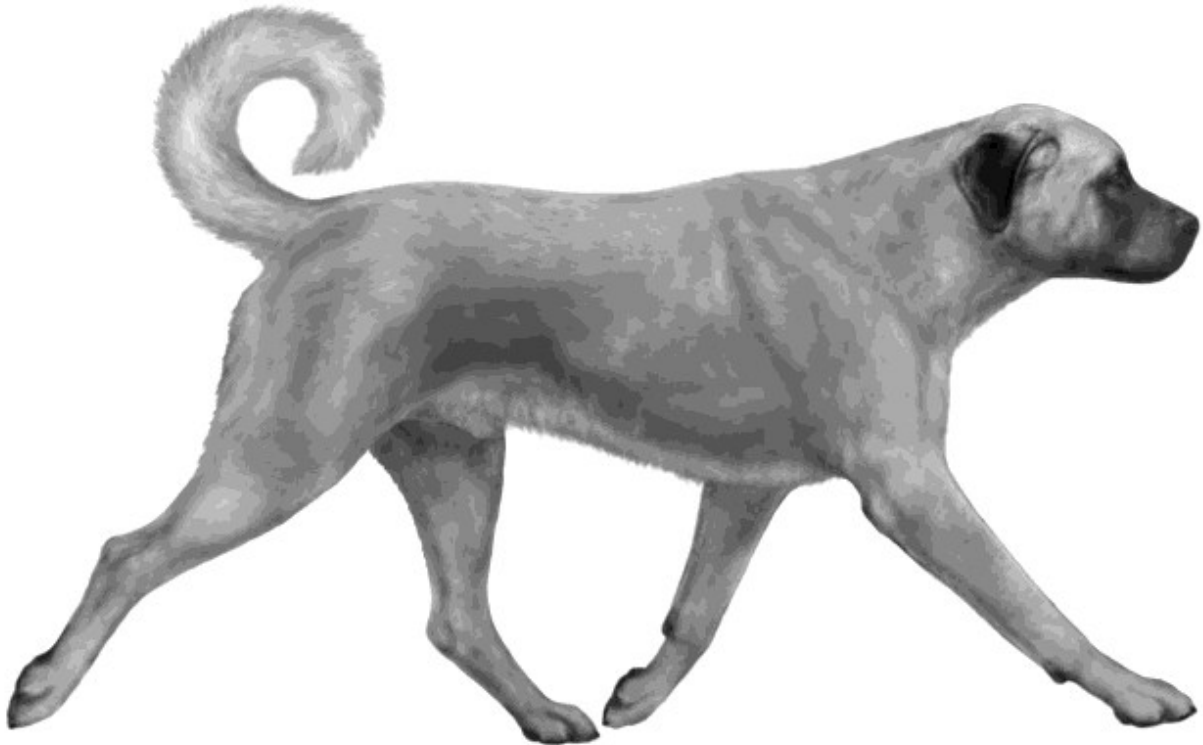


**SLOPING
CROUP**

Additional Tools: Gait



HIGH HEADED

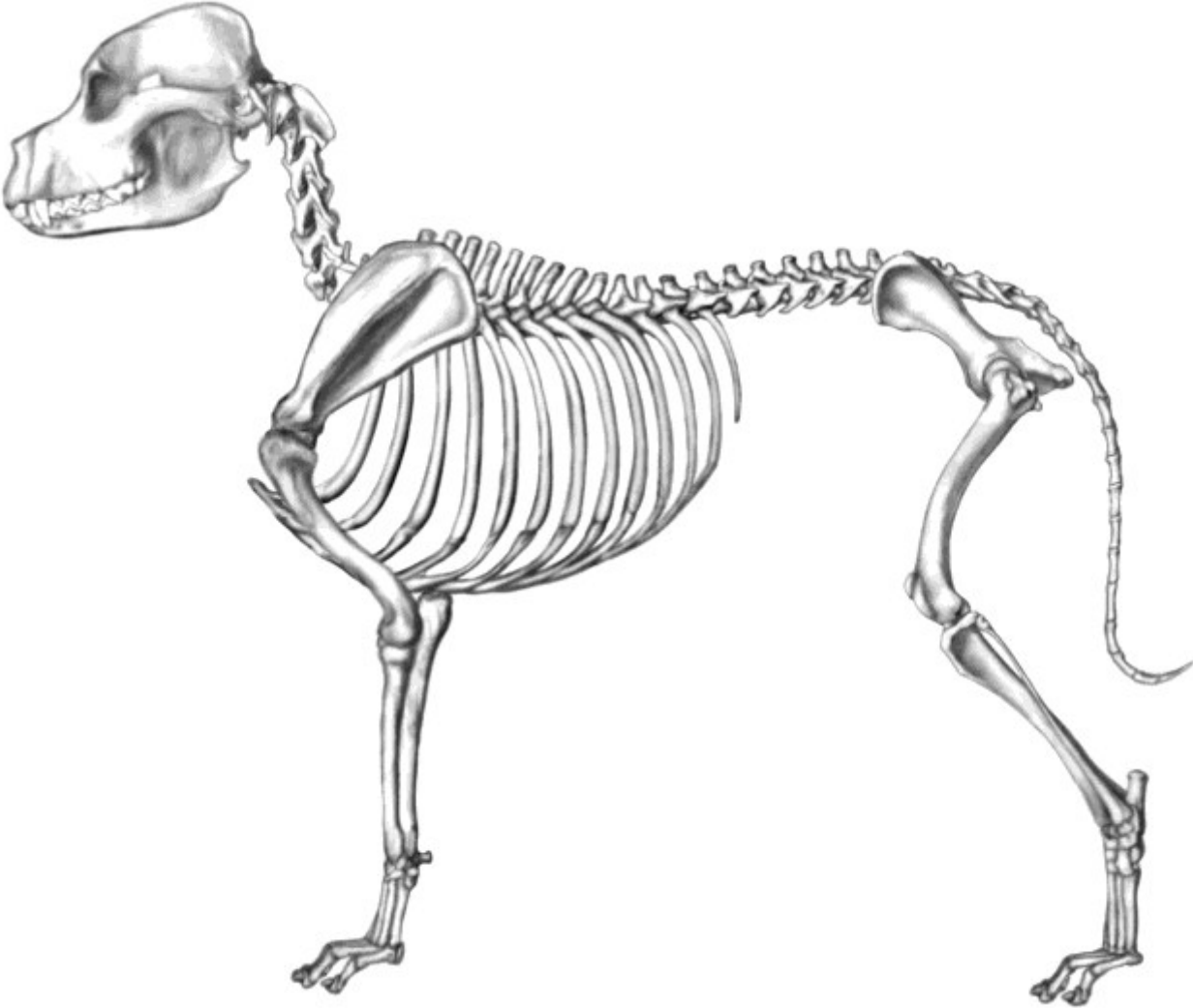


APPEAR LEVEL TOP LINE WITH DRIVE AND REACH

Additional Tools: Gait



Additional Tools: Skeleton



Additional Tools: Skeleton overlay

