

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



Extended Breed Standard of **THE NEWFOUNDLAND**

Produced by
The Newfoundland Club of New South Wales Inc.
The Newfoundland Club of South Australia Inc.
The Newfoundland Club of Victoria Inc.
in collaboration with
Australian National Kennel Council

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THE NEWFOUNDLAND GUIDE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Breed Standard Extension is to help judges; breeders and laymen better understand the Standard for the mature Newfoundland dog.

The Standard is the set of criteria by which a dog of a specific breed is to be evaluated while standing and moving. Type comprises those characteristics, which distinguish the Newfoundland from other breeds. Proper evaluation of type and soundness takes years of study and experience. In its application to actual dogs, the Standard is inevitably subject to interpretation. It is on the basis of a consensus of individual interpretations over time that the breed either changes or maintains its status quo. Each judge at a dog show interprets the Standard based upon personal likes and dislikes. Similarly, each breeder emphasizes in his breeding program those characteristics he interprets as most important.

The Newfoundland is a swimmer, hauler and gentle companion. The Standard is built around these traits. This Extension attempts to explain the relationship of each trait to a specific function essential to it.

Over the years many breeds have changed, and breed clubs have changed standards to fit new types and interpretations. The original Newfoundland Standard is over 100 years old and while modifications have been made in the interest of clarity, its essentials remain unchanged. The intention of this guide is to keep the Newfoundland as it has been over the years - large, strong and active; at home in water and on land, with his natural lifesaving instincts - a multipurpose dog, capable of heavy work as well as a devoted companion for child and man.



Fig. 1

HISTORY

Born as a canine seaman, the Newfoundland was often a member of the crew on fishing boats in Canada's maritime province that gave the breed its name. Fishing has always been the island of Newfoundland's chief industry; the dogs hauled fishing nets out to sea and back to the boat and retrieved objects or people who fell into the sea. Equally at home in water or on land, the Newfoundland was large enough to pull in a drowning man or to break the ice as he dove into the frigid northern ocean. His lung capacity allowed him to swim great distances and fight ocean currents.

At the end of a day's fishing, the day's catch was loaded into a cart, and the dog was hitched up to haul the load into town. Other Newfoundlands pulled wagons to deliver milk and mail throughout the island.

The origin of this working breed is linked to Vikings and Basque fishermen that visited Newfoundland as early as 1000 AD and wrote accounts of the natives working side by side with these retrieving dogs and it was the crossbreeding of these dogs that gave us the breed as we know it today. During the late 1700's and early 1800's when the island of Newfoundland nearly legislated the native breed to extinction there was a mass exportation of the breed to Europe. The first breed club and standard was developed in England in 1886.

There are many legends of Newfoundlands saving drowning victims by carrying lifelines to sinking ships. The dogs were kept in the "dog walk" on early sailing ships. If the sea was too choppy when land was sighted, the dog carried a line to land. A Newfoundland named Seaman was selected to accompany the Lewis and Clark expedition, and Nana; the children's "nurse" in the original of "Peter Pan" was a Newfoundland.

What must be remembered is that the Newfoundland dog was, and should still be, a working dog, to be precise a hauling/drafting dog, used to haul the heavy net lines from the net dory to the shore through the freezing waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of St Lawrence, and to haul the fish filled nets into the shallow waters to enable their fishermen masters to harvest their catch. Feats of great strength and endurance in these icy conditions only go to enhance the working attributes of this fine dog.

To further appreciate the Newfoundland, one perhaps should understand a little of the topography of the area of their descendants.

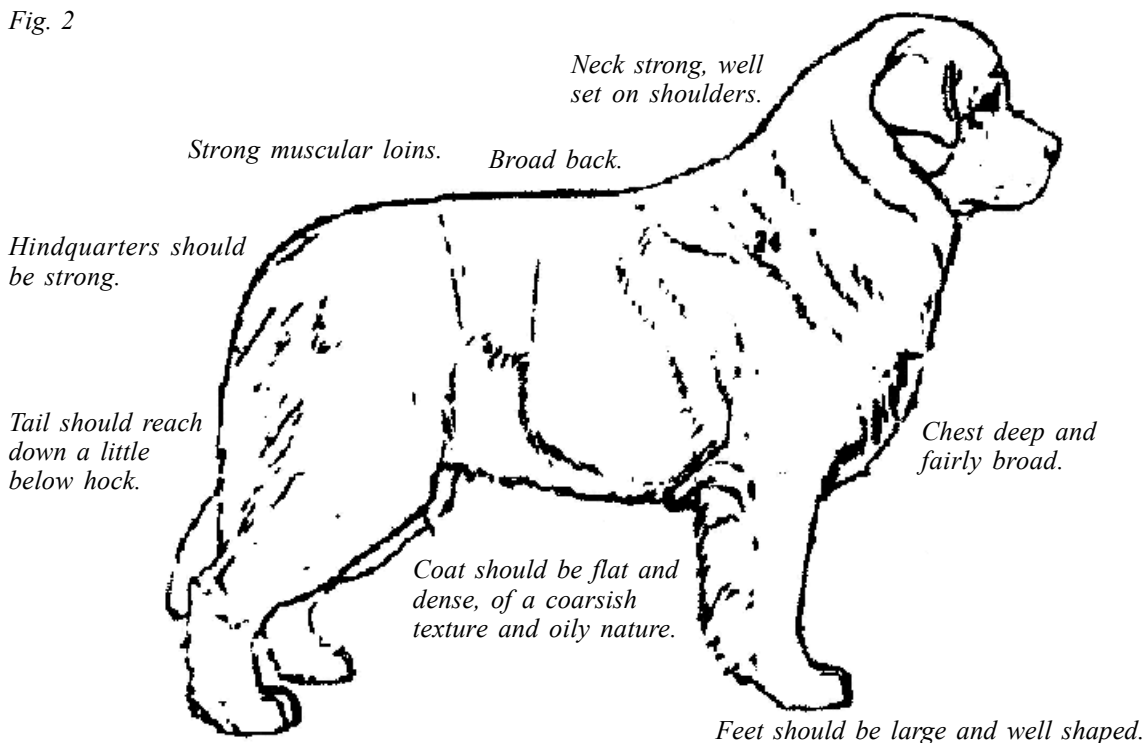
The island of Newfoundland forms a ragged equilateral triangle of approximately 40 kms of coastline and covers some 120,000 sq. miles. The island is covered with many mountain ranges of several hundred meters altitude; innumerable lakes, peat bogs and spongy marshes lie in between a country divided in large barren areas, wild impassable gorges with rapids connecting these areas. Vast areas of the island are bare rock (granite) and agriculturally useful ground is scarce. Most of the year the island is covered in ice and snow.

Into this particular landscape of wild ragged coasts, of ocean breakers, snow and ice, the Newfoundland fought the conditions, not only happily, but also with inherited passion. During the severe winters, when most of the coastline was frozen, the Newfoundland was used to haul timber cut for fuel. Keeping all this in mind, one can appreciate the working attributes of the Newfoundland.

The dog should impress the eye with strength and great activity. Bone massive throughout, but not to give a heavy inactive appearance.

*The head should be broad and massive.
Occipital bone well developed.*

Fig. 2



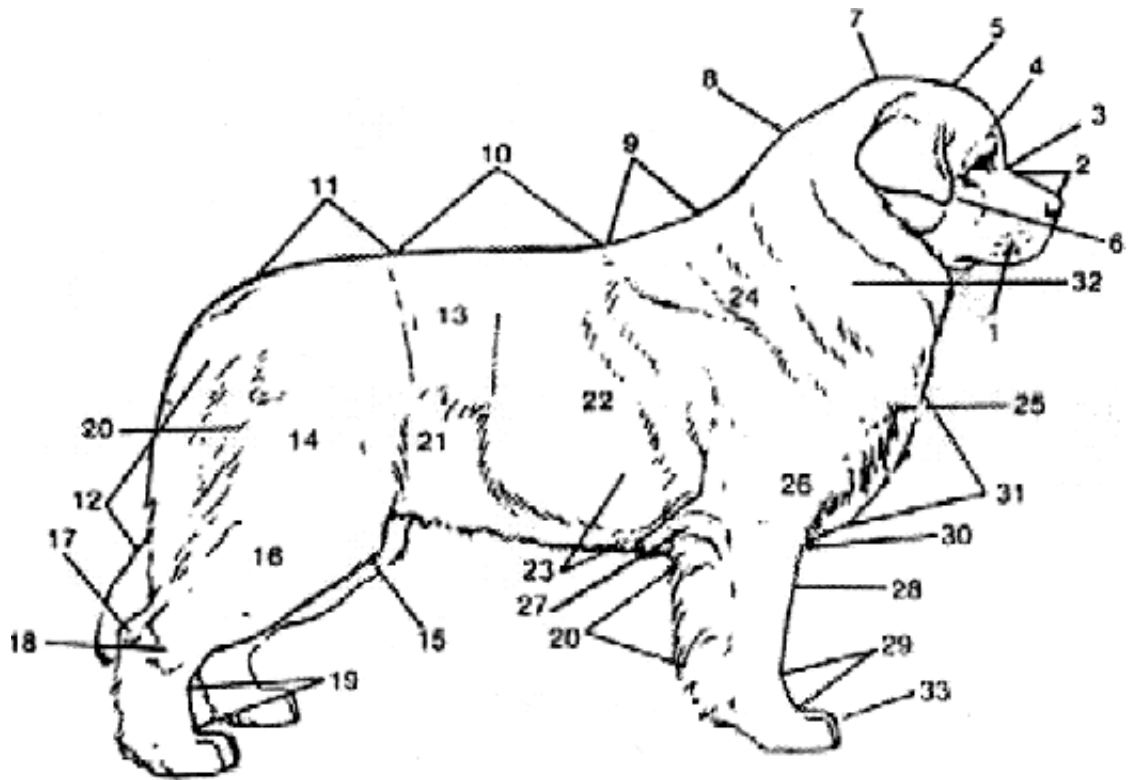
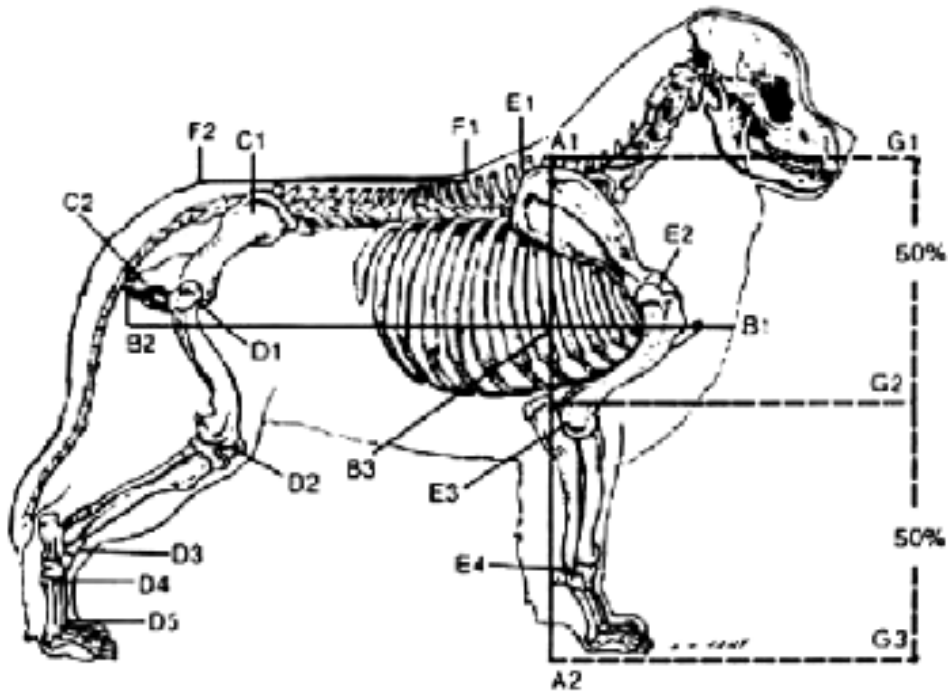


Fig. 3

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Flews | 2. Muzzle or Foreface |
| 3. Stop | 4. Superciliary Ridges |
| 5. Skull | 6. Cheek |
| 7. Occiput | 8. Crest of Neck |
| 9. Withers | 10. Back |
| 11. Croup | 12. Tail |
| 13. Loin | 14. Upper Thigh |
| 15. Stifle (knee) | 16. Lower Thigh |
| 17. Point of Hock | 18. Hock Joint |
| 19. Rear Pastern | 20. Feathering |
| 21. Flank | 22. Ribs |
| 23. Chest | 24. Shoulder |
| 25. Point of Shoulder | 26. Upper Arm |
| 27. Elbow | 28. Forearm |
| 29. Front Pastern | 30. Brisket |
| 31. Forechest | 32. Ruff |
| 33. Feet (paws) | |

TOPOGRAPHY AND MEASUREMENTS



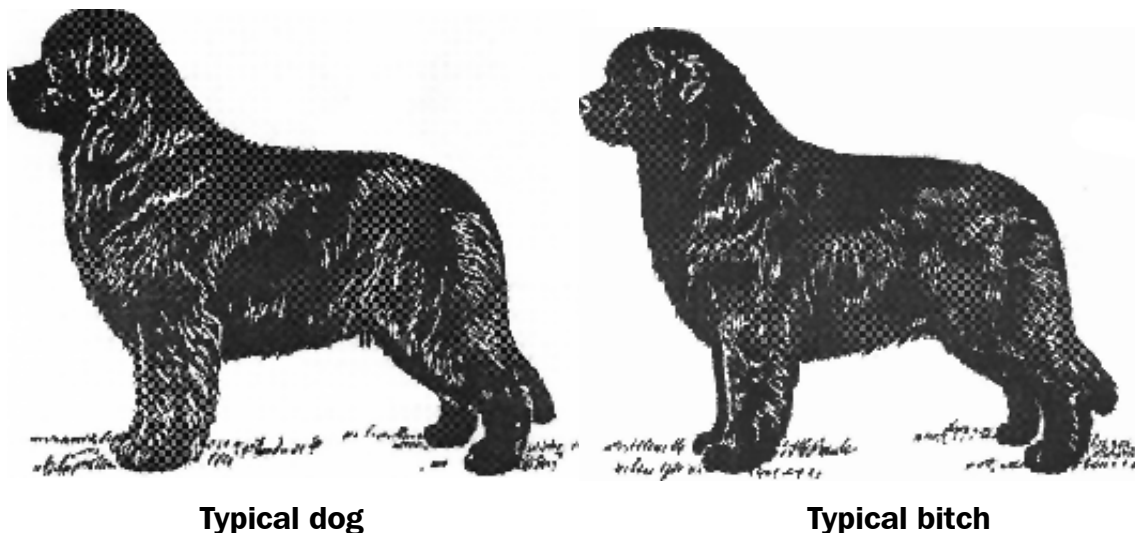
- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A1-A2 Height | E1-E3 Front Angulation |
| B1-B2 Length | F1-F2 Topline |
| B3-B2 Length, withers to croup | G1-G2 Distance from withers to elbow and withers to brisket (50%). |
| C1-C2 Slope of Pelvis | G2-G3 Distance from elbow to ground and brisket to ground (50%) |
| D1-D2 Line of Femur | |
| D2-D3 Line of Tibia | |
| D4-D5 Line of Metatarsus | |
| D1 thru D3 Rear Angulation | |
| E1-E2 Line of Scapula | |
| E2-E3 Line of Humerus | |
| E3-E4 Line of Radius and Ulna | |

Fig. 4

- **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

The dog should impress the eye with strength and great activity. Bone massive throughout, but not to give a heavy, inactive appearance.

Fig 5



The Newfoundland is massive, deep bodied, well muscled and coordinated, projecting dignity in stance and head carriage. The mature dog should never appear leggy or lacking substance. The Newfoundland is free moving with a slightly perceptible roll. Substantial webbing of the toes is always present. Large size is desirable but never at the expense of gait, symmetry and balance. Fine bone is to be faulted.

There should be no exaggerated features; everything should fit harmoniously together, with no obvious features standing out to the exclusion of all else.

- **CHARACTERISTICS**

A water dog, used for life saving.

The Standard was written for a working dog who could double as a giant retriever, as much at home in the water as on dry land. A superior all-purpose dog, the Newfoundland has been used and is still used around the world as a true working dog. Although he is well known for his water rescue work he also pulls carts and sleds and carries packs.

His outstanding character traits are a benevolent disposition and strong lifesaving instincts. Strength and soundness to translate his historical work into effective action require the musculature, coordination, and ability to swim and haul good distances.

- **TEMPERAMENT**

He should have an exceptionally gentle and docile nature.

Temperament is of primary importance. A sense of dignity, strength, and power are softened by a benevolent demeanor. Any indication of ill temper is especially to be guarded against.

The Newfoundland is typically friendly. Since sweetness of temperament is the most important single characteristic of the breed, shyness, fearfulness, and suspicion are unacceptable traits and should be penalised severely. Furthermore, it is not acceptable for a Newfoundland to menace or attack other dogs and any Newfoundland doing so should also be severely penalised.

● HEAD AND SKULL

Head should be broad and massive, the occipital bone well developed; there should be no decided stop; the muzzle should be short, clean cut and rather square in shape and covered with short, fine hair.

The broad massive skull of the Newfoundland should never be square or flat, it should be a slightly arched crown . The cheeks are well developed. Viewed from the side the Newfoundland appears to have an abrupt stop. This is due to the well-developed superciliary arches or ridges, and the rounded bone of the brow of the skull. Examination with your hand will show the slope of the stop to be moderate, not steep. The muzzle should be in balance with the head of the individual animal, never excessively long, pointed, or snipey. The top of the muzzle is rounded. The Standard calls for a deep and squarish muzzle. Depth of muzzle comes from skeletal structure and a strong underjaw, never from excessive depth of the upper flews. Pendulous lower flews that turndown are not desirable. The muzzle and forehead should be free of wrinkles.

The parts of the head blend together smoothly. A flat skull, too little stop, flat cheeks, snipiness, or a “houndy look” all contribute to lack of type. Keep in mind that the ideal bitch head follows that of the ideal dog throughout. The bitch’s head is slightly smaller, and in proportion to her size, than that of a dog. Lack of breadth of skull or breadth and depth of muzzle are no more acceptable in a bitch than in a dog.

DESIRABLE HEAD TYPES

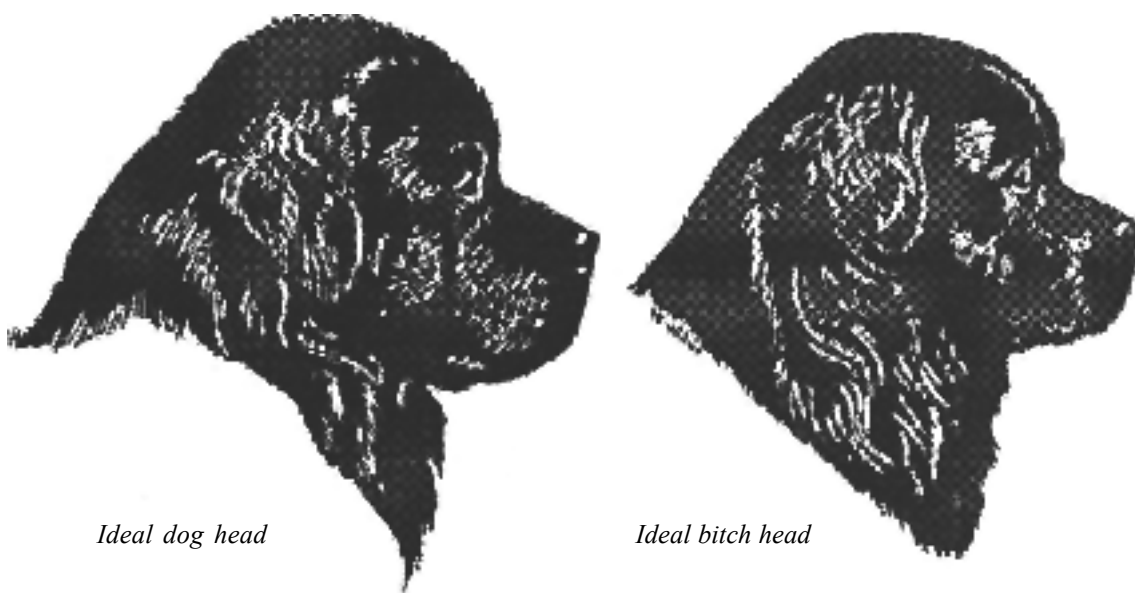


Fig 6

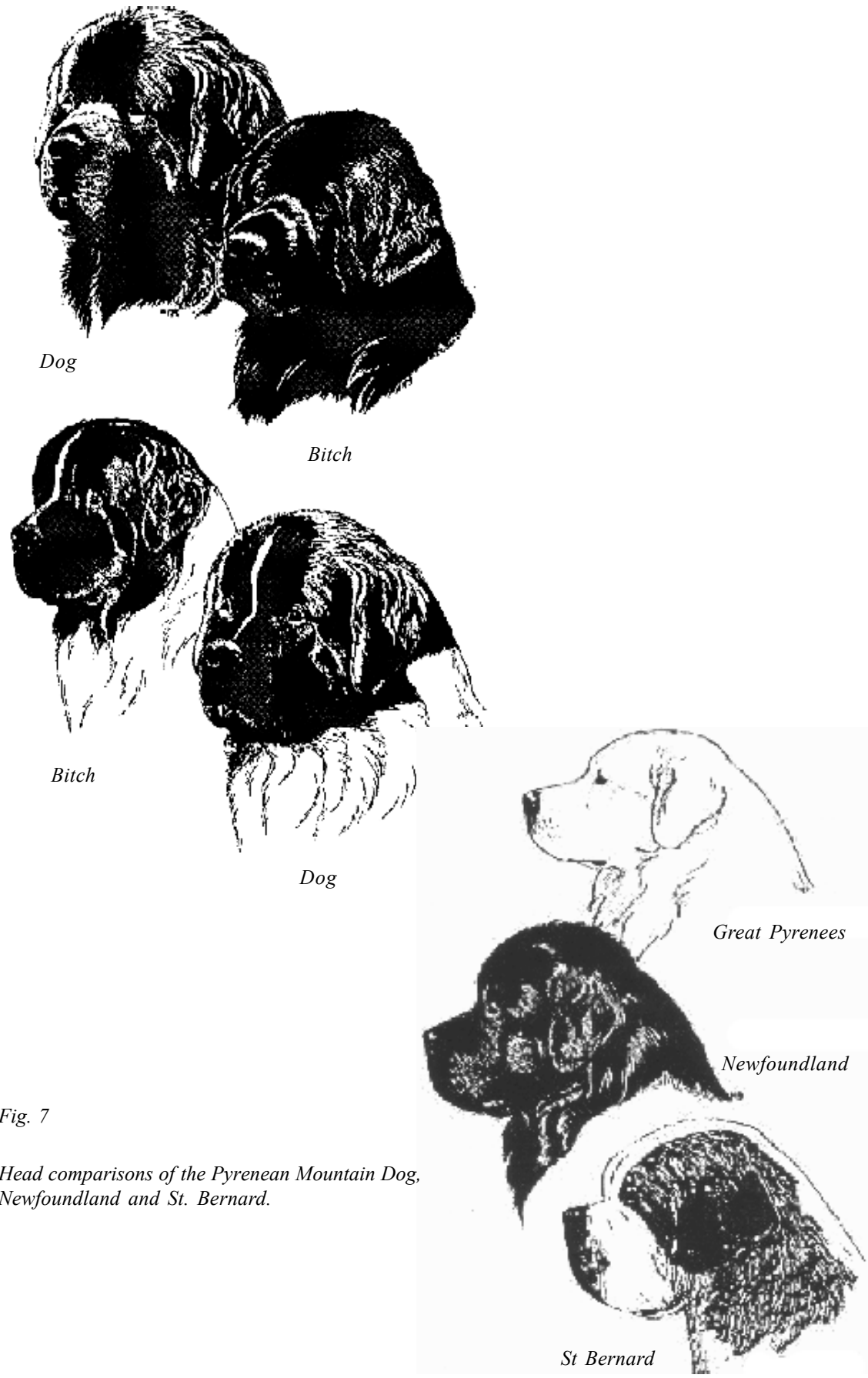


Fig. 7

Head comparisons of the Pyrenean Mountain Dog, Newfoundland and St. Bernard.

UNDESIRABLE HEAD TYPES

Fig. 8



Large, round protruding eyes.



Heavy upper lip with separation in the shape of a tight inverted V.



Mastiff type, over abundant lips with flews.



Hound type, overhanging nose (lower labial pouches) with ears low set and posterior.



Lupas type stop and long-pointed muzzle.

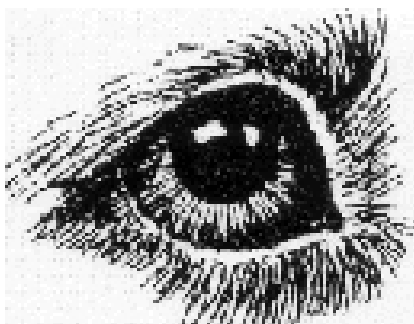


Eyes close. High ear set, converging lateral planes of the muzzle.

- **EYES**

Should be small, of a dark brown colour; rather deeply set, but not showing any haw; should be set rather wide apart.

Eyes that are prominent, bulgy, set too close together, and/or light colored serve to spoil the ideal Newfoundland expression. While there is no mention of shape, it should tend towards an almond shape, as the shape of the eyes is a major factor in the desirable sweet expression.



Lighter eyes in browns are not penalised per se, however, a brown dog should have at least a medium coloured brown eye. A poor expression, whether due to eye colour, shape, or placement, should be penalised in dogs of any coat colour.

Fig. 9

The eyelids must fit closely to give good protection to the eyes from water and brush. There should be no evidence of irritation, such as tearing. Inversion of the eyelids (entropion) not only causes eye irritation, but also often damages the cornea. Loose lower lids (ectropion) expose the haw and fail to offer proper protection to the eyes. A loose haw also detracts from the expression.

- **EARS**

Should be small, set well back, square with the skull, lie close to the head and covered with short hair without a fringe.

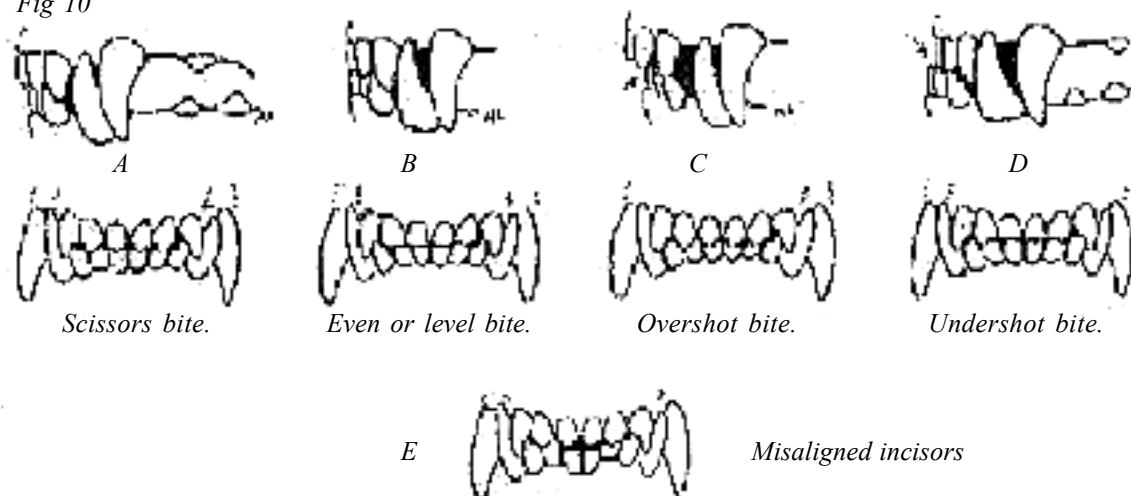
The ears of the Newfoundland should be triangular, with rounded tips. When seen from the front or back, the ears of a Newfoundland should blend with the head. Ears set too high or too low, ears that stand away from the head, or long, Spaniel-like ears are incorrect. When brought forward the ear should only reach to inner corner of the eye on the same side. When alert, a Newfoundland raises and brings his ears forward, but with the forward edges still hugging the face. However, in repose or submission, and often in greeting, ears are held back and lowered. Ear leather is ideally heavy, rather than thin or fine. Excessive hair may be trimmed.

- **MOUTH**

Should be soft and well covered by the lips, should be neither undershot nor overshot but teeth should be level or scissor bite.

Level and scissors bites are equally acceptable. There is no suggestion in the Standard that an incorrect bite is more serious than any other fault. However, a wry mouth or a severely overshot or undershot bite contribute to lack of soundness and should be penalised as such. Dropped lower incisors are found in many specimens of the breed. This is a minor dentition fault and not a fault of the jaw line and should not be confused with an undershot bite.

Fig 10



- **NECK**

Should be strong, well set on to shoulders and back.

The neck is muscular and blends into the well laid-back shoulder assembly. The neck of the male is more muscular and thicker than that of the female. The neck should be of sufficient length to give proud head carriage. A neck too short is generally an indication of poor shoulder placement and puts a Newfoundland out of balance.

- **FOREQUARTERS**

Legs should be perfectly straight, well covered with muscle, elbows in but well let down; feathered all down.

Without correct structure of the fore assembly, perfection in all other body structure will suffer in proportion to the failure existing in the front. The shoulder blade should be broad, have hard sinewy muscle, and be firmly placed. The upper arm should be the same length as the shoulder blade and well muscled. It should lie close to the ribs and should be capable of free movement. With the elbows lying directly below the highest point of the withers, correctly angulated forequarters will place the forelegs well under the body without too much distance between the fore and hindquarters. The better the match in correct angulation between the front and back assembly, the better the dog will move.

Viewed from the front, an imaginary line drawn down the front should run through the shoulders, elbows and feet. (Solaro's Line)

Turned-out, turned-in, splayed, or hare feet are incorrect. Dewclaws that are always found on the front legs need not be removed. The pasterns are strong and slightly sloping.

Bone should be in proportion to the size of the dog. A heavy coat can add false visual dimension to bone, so it should be felt for size and comparison. A standard location to assess bone is the forearm, just above the pastern. A Newfoundland should never be faulted for having too much bone.

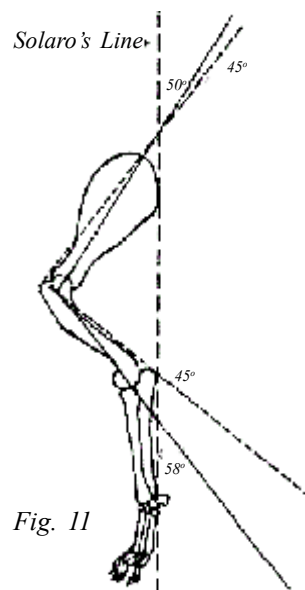


Fig 12



Good front.



Barrel-legged.
Out at elbow/toeing in.



East and West.
Pinched elbows.
Too narrow.

● BODY

Should be well ribbed up with broad back and strong muscular loins. Chest should be deep and fairly broad, well covered with hair, but not to such an extent as to form a frill.

The body of the Newfoundland measured from the tip of the shoulder to the tip of the buttocks is a bit more than 110% of the height measured to the withers. This means that his body fits within a rectangle. The body of the bitch may be slightly longer and is less massive than the dog.

From the side, the chest should extend at least to the elbow. From the front, the chest appears deep in brisket (lowest part of the fore chest). It is heart shaped, which gives room for the elbows to move and lie properly. The palm of the hand, held horizontally, fits easily between the forelegs.

The prosternum projects beyond the point of shoulder. Rib spring is a factor of substance. Unless the ribs can actually be felt, it is not possible to tell if there is sufficient rib spring, or whether the appearance of substance is due to overweight. The mature dog should be deep in the flank and not excessively tucked up in the belly. The loin must be just long enough to permit suppleness. A dog with too short a loin cannot turn easily without breaking his stride. A dog with too long a loin usually has too much play in the back, thereby losing power of transmission from the hindquarters.

A Newfoundland should not be swaybacked, hollow-backed or soft in the back. He should be neither roached nor camel-backed. The back is level from just behind the withers to the croup, which then gently slopes to the set on of the tail. The natural coat, or grooming, may make a soft or hollow back appear level, or it can make a level back appear roached or high in rear, so the back must be felt to determine its true conformation and musculature.

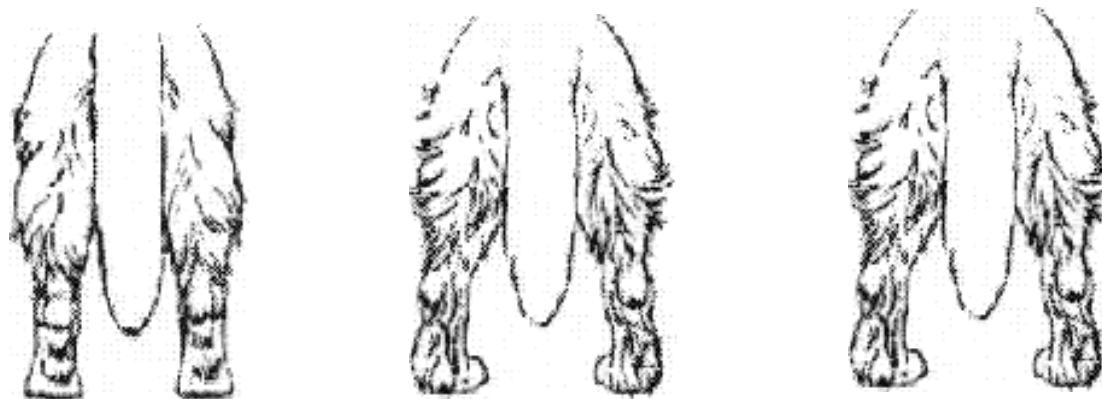
● HINDQUARTERS

Should be very strong. The legs should have a great freedom of action; slightly feathered. Slackness of loins and cow-hocks are a defect. Dewclaws are objectionable and should be removed.

If balance is to be maintained, it is important that the hindquarters are as strong and sound as the forequarters. Newfoundlands should not be cow-hocked, sickle-hocked, barrel-legged, or pigeon-toed in the hindquarters. The muscling should be broad and hard.

Well-bent stifles (but not exaggerated) and hocks provide flexibility whilst still maintaining balance with the forequarter. One should be able to see the entire pads of the rear feet of a dog as he moves away.

From the perspective of the rear assembly, just as from that of the front assembly, rear and front angulation should be in balance. As with the forequarters, an imaginary line drawn from behind will run through the hip bone, through the hock and down into the foot. The well-balanced Newfoundland will stand comfortably with his rear legs out from under him, with the hocks perpendicular to the ground.



Good rear

Barrel-legged

Cow-hocked

Fig 13

The croup maybe distorted by coat and should be felt to determine its true slope. A flat croup makes for a high tail set. A too sloping croup throws the hindquarters under the dog and tends to destroy the power that should be developed there. Both conditions spoil the general outline of the dog. The croup should never be higher than the withers.

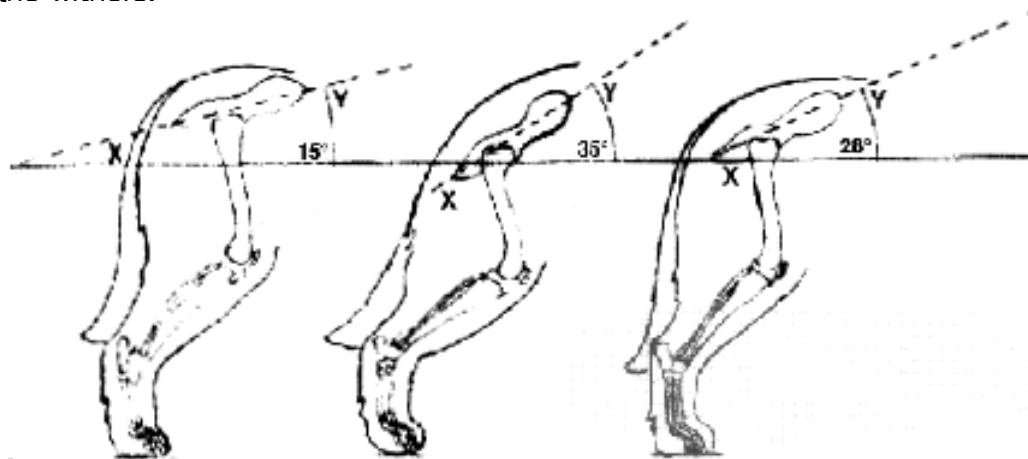


Fig 14

Straight croup

*Steep croup
Depressed, falling-off croup.*

Correct croup

● FEET

Should be large and well shaped. Splayed or turned out feet are objectionable.

Feet are proportionate to the body in size, webbed* and cat foot in type with strong well-arched toes. Dewclaws, if any, should be removed from the rear legs but may remain on the front legs.

*Webbed feet in the Newfoundland are best described as an accentuated interdigital membrane found between the toes of the Newfoundland. It has often been said that the foot is webbed as an adaptation to the function of swimming. As in other subjects with strong and arched toes, its development reaches the second phalanx and is thus a useful complement for its function.



Fig 15

Cat foot – correct

Hare foot - incorrect

- **TAIL**

Should be of moderate length, reaching down a little below hocks. It should be of fair thickness and well covered with hair, but not to form a flag. When the dog is standing still and not excited it should hang downwards with a slight curve at the end; but when the dog is in motion it should be carried up, and when he is excited straight out with only a slight curve at the end. Tails with a kink or curled over the back are very objectionable.

The tail is held horizontally while swimming and its lateral movement aids in directional changes. For this purpose it is necessary to have well developed muscles in the tail, with a wide and strong attachment that tapers off gradually. In motion the tail is usually carried straight out or slightly above the horizontal.

At rest the last bone in the tail should reach the hock joint. The correct tail set, carriage and length greatly enhances the general balance of the dog. As stated under hindquarters the croup determines that the Newfoundland shall have a moderately set tail.



Fig. 16

Typical tail carriage.

Poor tail carriage.

- **GAIT /MOVEMENT**

He should move freely on his legs with the body swung loosely between them, so that a slight roll in gait should not be objectionable.

The Newfoundland should give the impression of effortless power, with good reach in front and drive behind. The gait should be economical and tireless and covers the ground with a minimum of effort. During a slow trot the Newfoundland presents a typical rolling of the skin that lessens as the speed increases.

Strength and coordination are valued over speed. A Newfoundland is properly shown at a moderate trot.

The correct level topline of the dog must not be lost in motion. Soundness is an essential ingredient of type, for without well-coordinated movement, the Newfoundland could not accomplish its purpose.

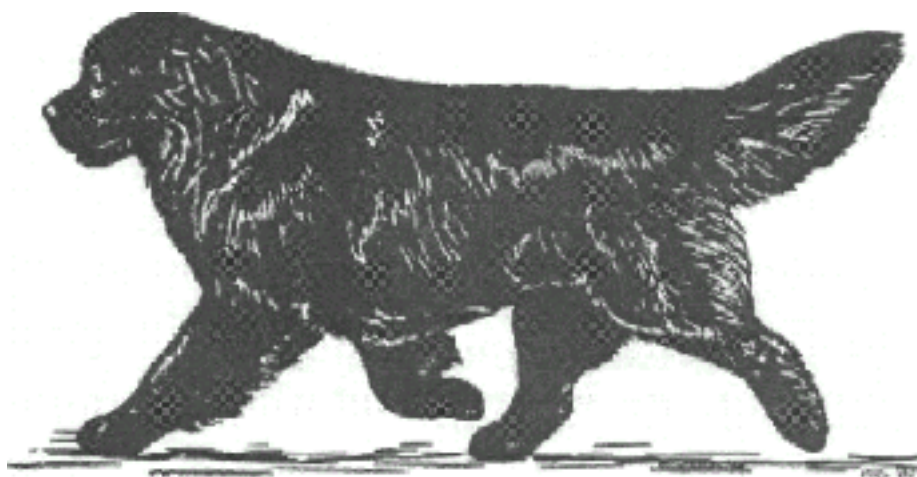
Movement is the crucial test of conformation.

It is important to distinguish good ground covering drive from an exaggerated rear action with considerable lift and flexing of the stifle, which lacks actual ground covering forward motion.

At a walk or a trot the Newfoundland tracks fairly wide apart. As speed increases he brings the feet inward towards the centre of the body in order to maintain balance.

Dogs with otherwise good forequarters but who toe in slightly, should be distinguished from dogs with faulty construction who may also cross over with the forefeet, or who are out at the elbow.

Fig. 17



● COAT

Should be flat and dense, of a coarsish texture and oily nature, and capable of resisting water. If brushed the wrong way it should fall back into its place naturally.

The Newfoundland's dense, moderately long coat should conduce to its original purpose of protecting the dog from the long, cold winters of his native island and the icy waters surrounding it. The coat is a "closed" rather than an "open" one. (An open coat is one that stands out like a Chow's.) A kinky, curly, silky, or woolly coat is undesirable, however a slight wave is permissible.

The undercoat is soft and dense, although it is often less dense during the summer months or in warmer climates. Hair on the muzzle and foreface is short and fine. The backs of the legs are well feathered.

● COLOUR

The three recognized colours are:

**** Dull jet black. A slight tinge of bronze or splash of white on chest and toes is acceptable. Black dogs having only white toes and white chest and white tip of tail should be exhibited in classes provided for black.***

- * ***Brown. Can be chocolate or bronze. Should in all other respects follow the black except in colour; splash of white on chest and toes is acceptable. Brown dogs to be exhibited in classes provided for blacks.***
- * ***White with Black markings only - Landseers. For preference black head with narrow blaze, evenly marked saddle and black rump extending on to tail. Beauty in markings to be taken greatly into consideration. Ticking is not desirable.***
- * ***Any variation from above may be penalised.***

“All acceptable colours have equal status. The bronze tinge or lighter furnishings on a solid colour dog are caused by weathering or bleaching from the sun and should not be faulted. Brown maybe any shade from dark chocolate to russet.

As a rule of thumb for acceptable markings:

Solid black.

White with black.

Solid brown.

Sunburned black is permissible. A tinge of bronze on black and lighter furnishings on a brown is not uncommon. This is usually caused from weathering or sun bleaching and should not be penalised. The white on the chest should be small.

The Landseer Newfoundland is white with black markings, and is of historical significance to the breed. Preferred pattern of markings for the Landseer is black head with white blaze extending onto muzzle, but a solid black head is acceptable, black saddle and black rump and upper tail. All remaining parts to be white with minimum of ticking. Symmetry of markings and beauty of pattern characterise the best-marked Landseers.

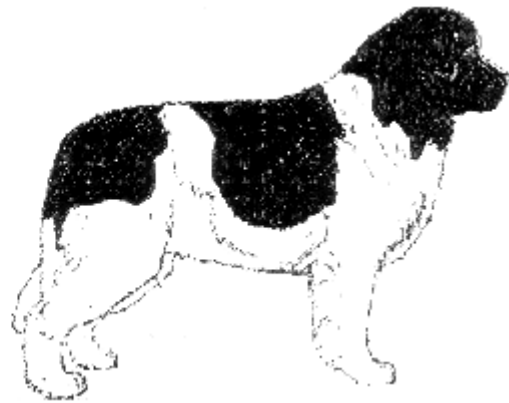
A Landseer is a white dog with black markings, and not the other way around. Although the pattern of markings is described in some detail, it is quite rare to see a classically-marked landseer without any “ticking” (black spots on white areas).

Markings may deviate considerably from those described and markings may extend beyond the areas described. Since predictability of markings is genetically unreliable, beauty of markings should be considered only when comparing marked dogs of equal quality.

Primarily, however, the dog should be judged as a Newfoundland first; the colour a secondary consideration. A class of all Landseers will obviously have their beauty of markings compared at some point, but where dogs of all three colours are in the ring the judge should be looking for good Newfoundland and not coat colour. The black markings of a Landseer can sometimes create an optical illusion, so it is important to correctly assess the construction of the dog”.

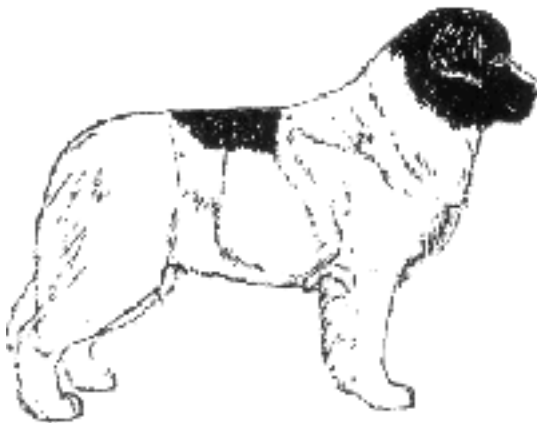


Acceptable white markings on solid black or brown dogs.

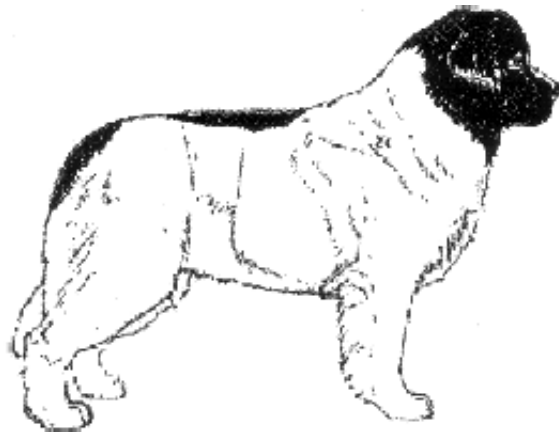


Preferable Landseer markings.

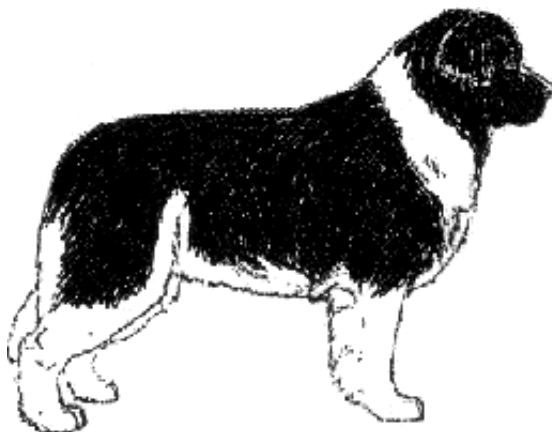
Optical Illusions



A lightly marked dog can give the impression of a small head.



“One sided” markings can make the topline appear poor.



Heavy black “blanket” can give the impression of too much length.

Fig 18

● **SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE**

Size and weight are very desirable so long as symmetry is maintained. A fair average height at the shoulders is:

71 cms (28 ins) for a dog

66 cms (26 ins) for a bitch

And a fair average weight is, respectively:

Dogs 63.5-68 kgs (140-150 lbs)

Bitches 50-54.5 kgs (110-120 lbs)

The Newfoundland must have symmetry and balance, so that no part appears either exaggerated or out of proportion with the other parts. The dog should impress the eye with substance, strength, and agility, and should not appear leggy, weedy, or shelly in body.

Large size is desirable, but never at the expense of temperament, type, structure, soundness and correct movement. Size is determined by height and substance; both are of equal importance. A Newfoundland in correct weight is not a fat, soft dog. Excess weight may appear as substance, so it is necessary to feel for good bone, spring of rib, and firm muscle.

It is helpful in judging to have an idea of the proportions of an animal. In the Newfoundland, the following proportions are approximately correct.

1. He is slightly longer than he is tall.
2. The skeletal structure measured from the withers to the lowest part of the chest (brisket) should be at least 50% of the dog's total height. However, skin, muscle, and coat make this distance appear proportionally greater so that in profile, it appears to be approximately 55%.
3. The distance from withers to elbow is approximately 50% of the total height and from elbow to ground, about 50%. Variations in these proportions become apparent when the dog moves and appears to be "running downhill".

● **FAULTS**

Any departure 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. Weak or hollow back, slackness of the loins. Cow-hocks. Dewclaws. Splayed or turned-out feet. Tails with a kink in them or curled over the back.

● **NOTE**

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

Any deviation from the Standard is a fault. The degree to which the fault represents deviation is a matter of judgment, experience, and opinion.

Remember, in judging a Newfoundland, it is not enough just to watch it standing and in motion. It is necessary to put your hands on the dog to feel skull, size of bone, angulation and location of joints, true topline, quality of coat, length of tail etc.

Sweetness of temperament is the most important single characteristic of the breed. Any sign of poor temperament cannot be tolerated in the Newfoundland.

JUDGING PUPPIES

As the Standard has been written with the adult Newfoundland in mind, it is important to be aware of a few points when assessing the young Newfoundland.

The following points should be taken into consideration;

1. The skull will not have the width of an adult Newfoundland, therefore the ears that should be small may appear long and low set.
2. At some stages during head development the eye shape may appear slightly open.
3. Muzzles can vary in length, depth and width during this growth period.
4. During growth spurts, the puppy can appear short on leg, and then in a short period of time, the legs can appear long and out of proportion. During this time the puppy should still maintain good substance of bone and straight limbs.
5. The chest can vary in width and depth until maturity.
6. Some young Newfoundlands can appear to be loose in joint when moving. Some allowance can be made for this, but looseness should never be confused with unsound movement.
7. When a Newfoundland changes from puppy coat to adult coat, the coat will appear dry, dull and lighter in colour as it recedes in sections and the adult coat comes through. You may find a stripe down the topline, a lack of feathering and a ring around the tail (which can give the impression of a kinked tail).

JUDGING THE NEWFOUNDLAND

The following excerpts written by the late Mr. and Mrs. Major B. Godsol, appear in 'This Is The Newfoundland.'

"Remember that type, balance, and general appearance are of the utmost importance. As a breeder, shun those faults that are hard to breed out. As a judge, remember that any dog can gait soundly, but no matter how well he moves, unless he looks like a Newfoundland, he is not typical of the breed. Type is the embodiment of a Standard's essentials.

It does not matter whether you are an official in the ring, an interested spectator, or just appraising dogs in your own kennel, judging dogs is an art based on observation. One can read a Standard and quote it verbatim, but that does not enable one to have the proper mental picture of an ideal Newfoundland.

To appraise dogs correctly, one must possess the basic principles that underlie all good judging:

1. A clearly defined ideal in mind.
2. Power of accurate observation.
3. Sound judgment, which includes the ability to make a logical analysis and to evaluate the good and poor qualities in terms of a sound breeding program.
4. Courage and honesty, which includes independence of thought and decision.
5. Ability to give reasons for these decisions.

Remember, no dog is perfect. He can score well on individual points and still not be balanced. It is good for a novice to learn the parts of a Newfoundland and the relative values attached to each part. However, the animal must be considered as a whole and not as a large number of separate parts in the final analysis.

We put much emphasis on condition and handling in the show ring in America today. To be sure, fine conditioning and good handling of dogs are things we all like to see at shows. Judging at each show, in this country, is by comparison only with other dogs entered and present at that particular show. When it comes to judging an individual dog, only the degree in which he measures up to his breed Standard counts. In other words, all the grooming and skillful handling cannot change a mediocre dog into a top one, nor are beauty treatments transmitted.

Finally, remember you are dealing with living things whose fate is in your keeping. Some responsibility for the welfare of Newfoundlands as well as the future of the breed is yours.”

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