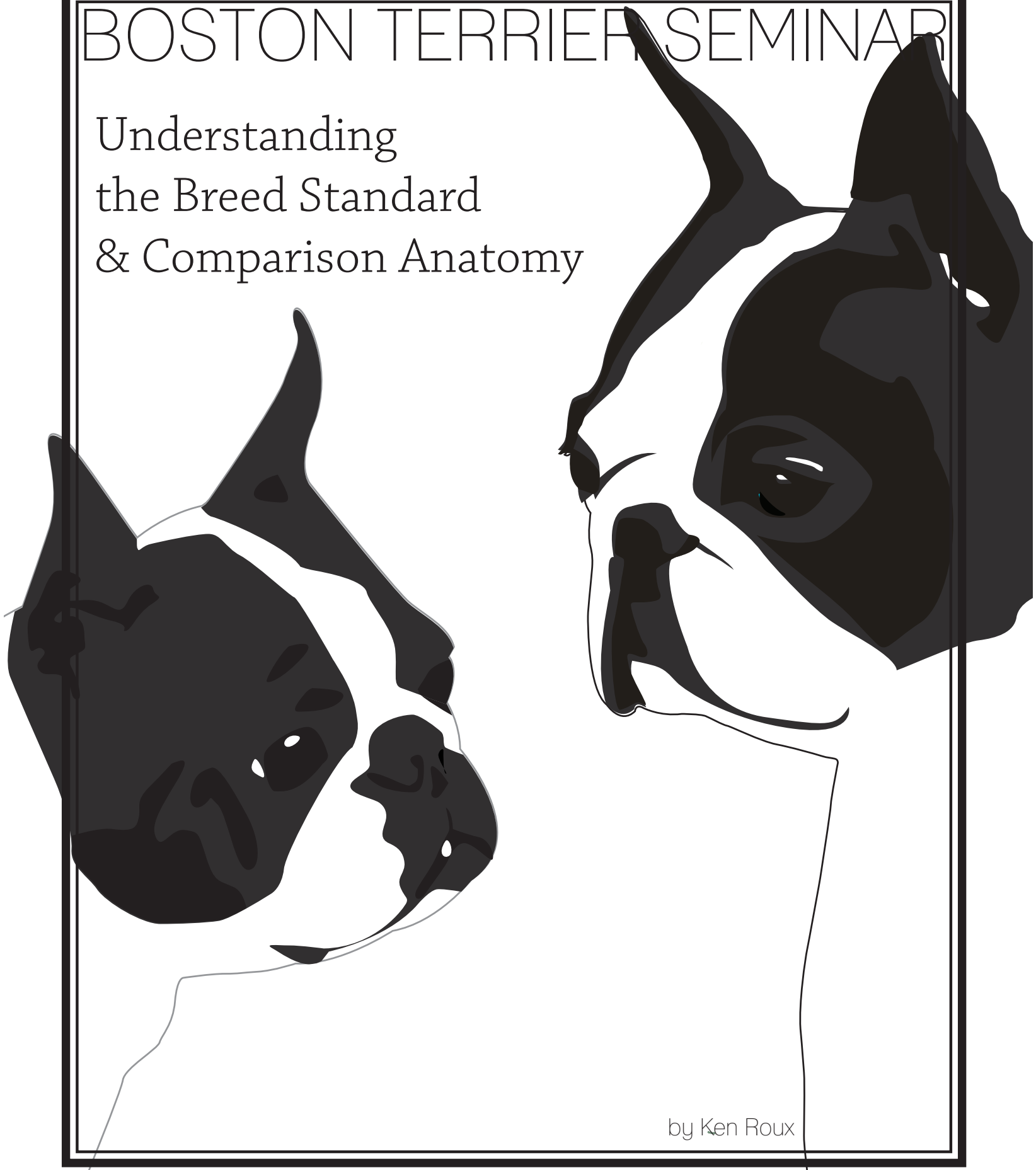


# BOSTON TERRIER SEMINAR

Understanding  
the Breed Standard  
& Comparison Anatomy



by Ken Roux

*Mission Statement:*

It is the purpose of this booklet to give breeders and judges a clearer understanding of the Boston terrier. In developing a better understanding of this breed, breeders will become better breeders and judges will become excellent judges for the Boston terrier breed.

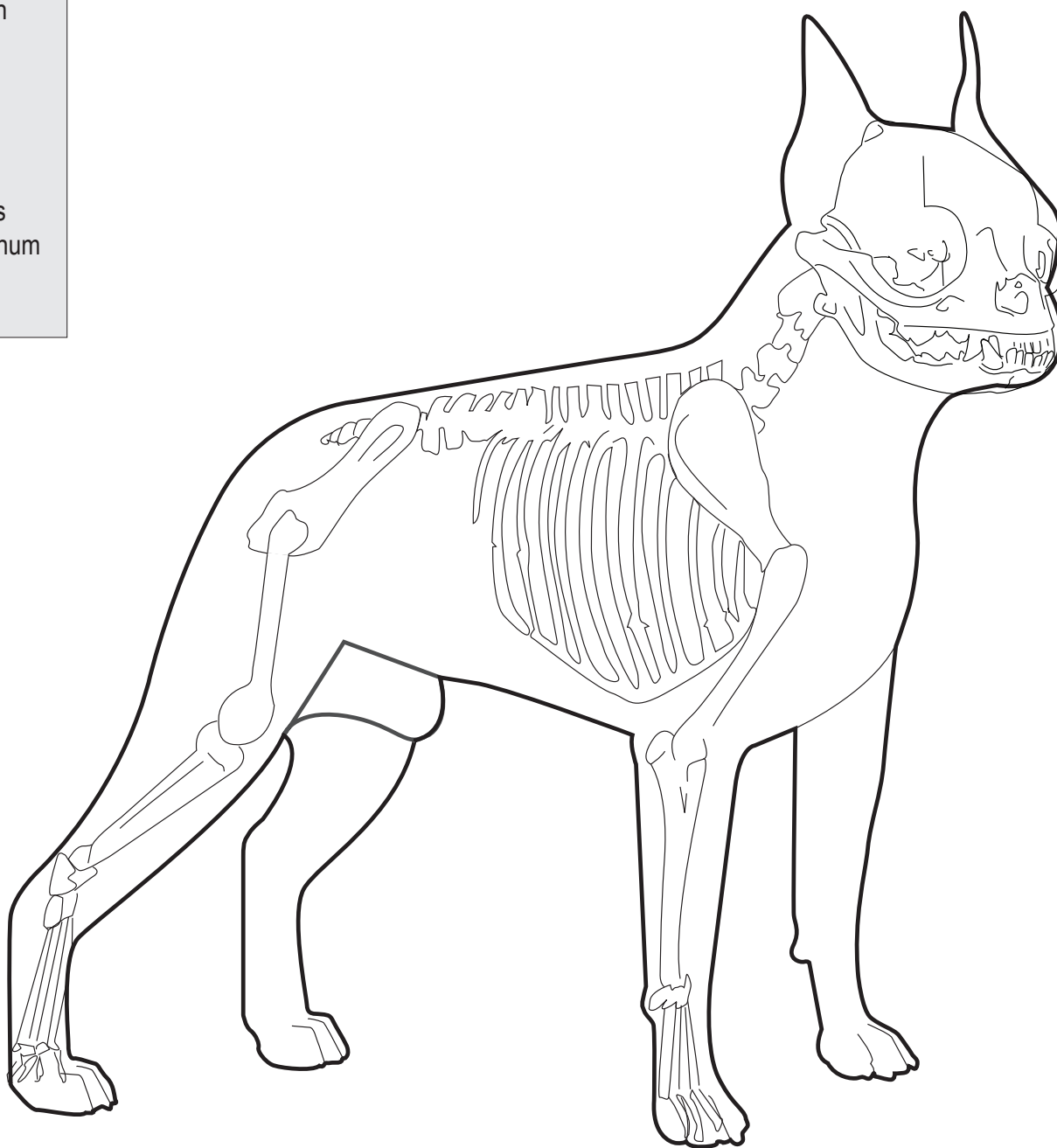
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The Boston terrier  
Continuing Education Seminar

1. Getting started - Mission Statement
2. Anatomy - Points as Discussed
3. The World of Breeding Bostons!
  - A. Know the Standard
  - B. Faults, Serious Faults, Disqualifications
  - C. Quality of Ring Presentation
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Key Attributes of the Boston terrier
5. Head
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8. Breeding for the Whole Dog
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9. Movement
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11. Becoming a Judge
  - A. Find a Qualified Mentor
  - B. Understand the Process
  - C. Necessary Step to Protect This Breed

# Anatomy

Occiput  
Brisket  
Sternum  
Lion  
Pastern  
Stop  
Hock  
Rump  
Elbow  
Flank  
Withers  
Prosernum  
Stifle  
Croup



# Official Standard for the BOSTON TERRIER

**General Appearance** - The Boston terrier is a lively, highly intelligent, smooth coated, short-headed, compactly built, short-tailed, well balanced dog, brindle, seal or black in color and evenly marked with white. The head is in proportion to the size of the dog and the expression indicates a high degree of intelligence.

The body is rather short and well knit, the limbs strong and neatly turned, the tail is short and no feature is so prominent that the dog appears badly proportioned. The dog conveys an impression of determination, strength and activity, with style of a high order; carriage easy and graceful. A proportionate combination of "Color and White Markings" is a particularly distinctive feature of a representative specimen.

"Balance, expression, Color and White Markings" should be given particular consideration in determining the relative value of GENERAL APPEARANCE to other points.

**Size, Proportion, Substance** - Weight is divided by classes as follows: Under 15 pounds; 15 pounds and under 20 pounds; 20 pounds and not to exceed 25 pounds. The length of leg must balance with the length of body to give the Boston terrier its striking square appearance. The Boston terrier is a sturdy dog and must not appear to be either spindly or coarse. The bone and muscle must be in proportion as well as an enhancement to the dog's weight and structure. Fault: Blocky or chunky in appearance.

**Influence of Sex.** In a comparison of specimens of each sex, the only evident difference is a slight refinement in the bitch's conformation.

**Head** - The skull is square, flat on top, free from wrinkles, cheeks flat, brow abrupt and stop well defined. The ideal Boston terrier expression is alert and kind, indicating a high degrees of intelligence. This is a most important characteristic of the breed. The eyes are wide apart, large and round and dark in color. The eyes are set square in the skull and the outside corners are on a line with the cheeks as viewed from the front Disqualify: Eyes blue in color or any trace of blue. The ears are small, carried erect, either natural or cropped to conform to the shape of the head and situated as near to the corners of the skull as possible.

The muzzle is short, square, wide and deep and in proportion to the skull. It is free from wrinkles, shorter in length than in width or depth; not exceeding in length approximately one-third of the length of the skull. The muzzle from stop to end of the nose is parallel to the top of the skull.

The nose is black and wide, with a well defined line between the nostrils. Disqualify: Dudley nose.

The jaw is broad and square with short regular teeth. The bite is even or sufficiently undershot to

square the muzzle. The chops are of good depth, but not pendulous, completely covering the teeth when the mouth is closed.

Serious Fault: Wry mouth.

**Head Faults:** Eyes showing too much white or haw. Pinched or wide nostrils. Size of ears out of proportion to the size of the head. Serious Head Faults: Any showing of the tongue or teeth when the mouth is closed.

**Neck, Topline and Body** - The length of neck must display an image of balance to the total dog. It is slightly arched, carrying the head gracefully and setting neatly into the shoulders. The back is just short enough to square the body. The topline is level and the rump curves slightly to the set-on of the tail. The chest is deep with good width, ribs well sprung and carried well back to the loins. The body should appear short. The tail is set on low, short, fine and tapering, straight or screw and must not be carried above the horizontal. (Note: The preferred tail does not exceed in length more than one-quarter the distance from set-on to hock.) Disqualify: Docked tail.

**Body Faults:** Gaily carried tail. Serious Body Faults: Roach back, sway back, slab-sided.

**Forequarters** - The shoulders are sloping and well laid back, which allows for the Boston terrier's stylish movement. The elbows stand neither in nor out. The forelegs are set moderately wide apart and on a line with the upper tip of the shoulder blades. The forelegs are straight in bone and short, strong pasterns. The dewclaws may be removed. The feet are small, round and compact, turned neither in nor out, with well arched toes and short nails. Faults: Legs lacking in substance; splay feet.

**Hindquarters** - The thighs are strong and well muscled, bent at the stifles and set true. The hocks are short to the feet, turning neither in nor out, with a well defined hock joint. The feet are small and compact with short nails. Fault: Straight in stifle.

**Gait** - The gait of the Boston terrier is that of a sure footed, straight gaited dog, forelegs and hind legs moving straight ahead in line with perfect rhythm, each step indicating grace and power. Gait Faults: There will be no rolling, paddling, or weaving, when gaited. Hackney gait. Serious Gait Fault: Any crossing movement, either front or rear.

**Coat** - The coat is short, smooth, bright and fine in texture.

**Coat and Markings** - Brindle, seal or black with white markings. Brindle is preferred ONLY if all other qualities are equal (Note: SEAL DEFINED.

Seal appears black except it has a red cast when viewed in the sun or bright light.) Disqualify: Solid black, solid brindle or solid seal without required white markings. Gray or liver colors.

**Required Markings:** White muzzle band, white blaze between the eyes, white forechest.

**Desired Markings:** White muzzle band, even white blaze between the eyes and over the head, white collar, white forechest, white on part or whole of forelegs and hind legs below the hocks. (Note: A representative specimen should not be penalized for not possessing "Desired Markings.")

A dog with a preponderance of white on the head or body must possess sufficient merit otherwise to counteract its deficiencies.

**Temperament** - The Boston terrier is a friendly and lively dog. The breed has an excellent disposition and a high degree of intelligence, which makes the Boston terrier an incomparable companion.

**Summary** - The clean-cut short backed body of the Boston terrier coupled with the unique characteristics of his square head and jaw, and his striking markings have resulted in a most dapper and charming American original: The Boston terrier

## SCALE OF POINTS

General Appearance	10
Expression	10
Head (Muzzle, Jaw, Bite, Skull & Stop)	15
Eyes	5
Ears	5
Neck, Topline, Body & Tail	15
Forequarters	10
Hindquarters	10
Feet	5
Color, Coat & Markings	5
Gait	10
Total	100

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

Eyes blue in color or any trace of blue.  
Dudley nose.  
Docked tail.  
Solid black, solid brindle, or solid seal without required white markings.  
Gray or liver colors.

Approved January 9, 1990  
Effective February 28, 1990

# The world of breeding bostons

Fault	Serious Fault	Disqualification
Blocky or chunky in appearance Size of ears out of proportion to the size of the head Pinched or wide nostrils Eyes showing too much white/haw Gay tail Legs lacking in substance Splay feet Straight in stifle Rolling, paddling, or weaving when gaited	Wry mouth Showing of tongue or teeth when the mouth is closed Roached back, sway back, slab-sided Crossing movement (front or rear)	Eyes blue in color or any trace of blue Solid black, brindle or seal, without required markings Docked tail Gray or liver color Dudly nose

## Quality of Ring Presentation

It is of vital importance that breeders focus on breeding Boston terriers of excellent quality that meets the guidelines as set up by the standard. Then and only then will the quality improve in the breed ring. If only excellent quality is presented in the breed ring today judges will have no choice but to put up dogs of acceptable quality to take this breed forward for generations to come. After all, the dogs winning are the judges “stamp of approval” for your next generation in your breeding program.

## Cute and Little

It is imperative that we keep these two descriptions out of the breeding program. Neither of these two words exist in the standard, therefore should be absent in the future of breeding Bostons. This is a standardized breed and there is no room for a toy or miniature version.

## Key Features that are hard to breed

1. Head
  - eye-shape and color
  - flat skull
  - cushion-fill under eyes
  - dentition
2. Topline and short body
3. Feet & strong pasterns
4. Clean white
5. Exceptional temperament

## F. Do's and Don'ts

- DO understand the standard and DON'T breed or judge until you have a good grasp on it.
- DO understand required markings but DON'T breed or judge solely on markings.
- DO understand correct movement; however, DON'T breed or judge this Breed solely on the “down n' back”.
- DO yourself a favor, and DON'T judge the Breed by the pound.
- DO understand the difference between a Dudley nose, and a butterfly nose and DON'T disqualify a butterfly nose.
- DO understand the difference between cushion and wrinkles, and DON'T penalize specimens with a beautiful correct cushion.

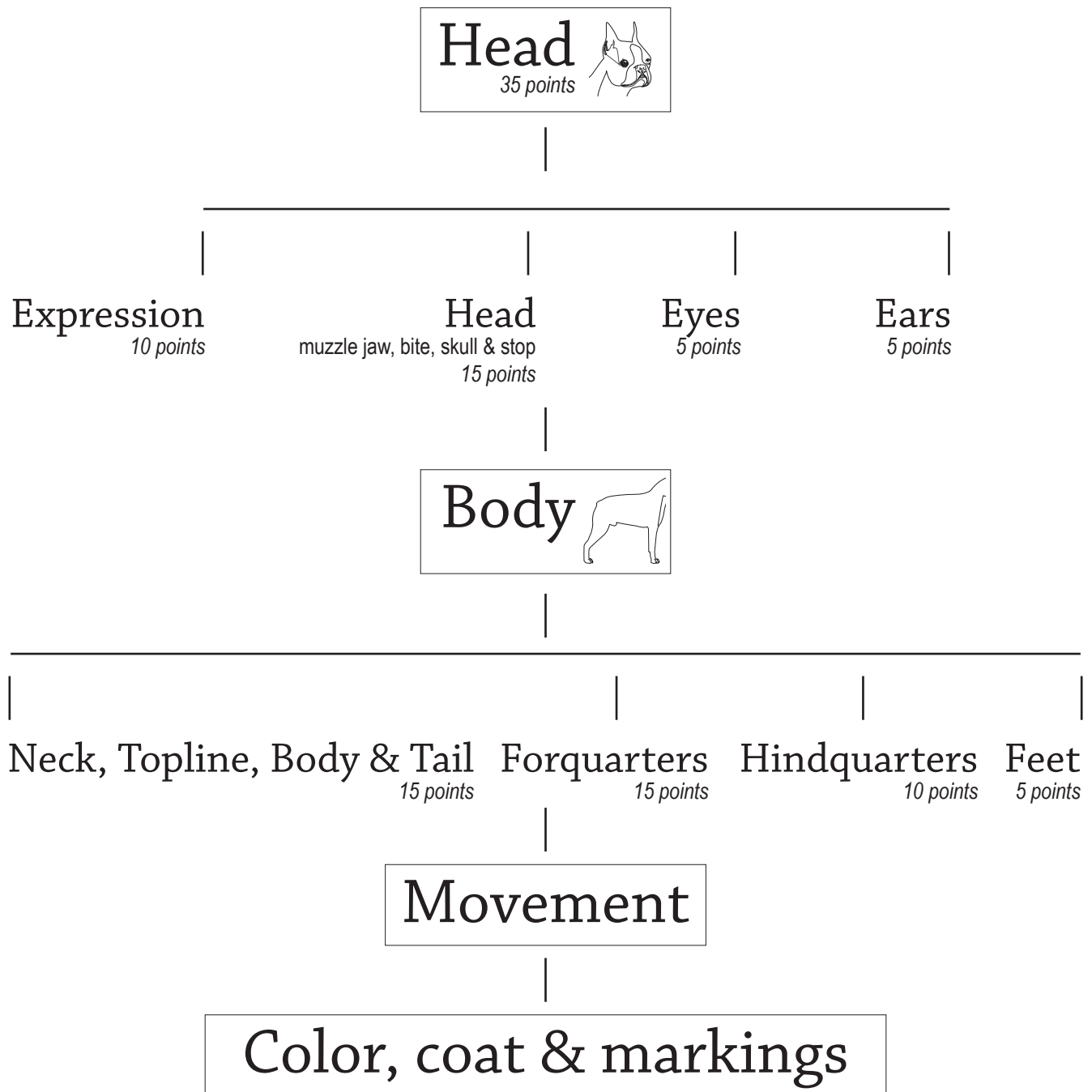
# The world of breeding bostons

Notes:

# Prioritization

*“Although one expert judge may not agree with another, he will understand the other judges’ awards and respect them, one judge will place more emphasis on one point than another. Consequently dogs will move up and down in the order of merit according to the breed points in which they excel or fail, but that is not to say that either judge does not know his business. With expert judges officiating, the top awards will go to dogs generally agreed to be good ones and never to bad ones, and an outstanding dog will never be missed out altogether as happens when people are just guessing”*

Leo W. Wilson





# Head

Expression - is alert and kind. Most important characteristic of the breed

skull is square, flat on top and free of wrinkles

ears are small, erect, either natural or cropped to conform to the shape of the head and set as near to the corners of the skull as possible

Eyes are wide apart, large, round and dark in color

Nose is black and wide with a well defined line between the nostrils

cheeks flat, brow abrupt, and stop well defined

chops - are of good depth but not pendulous and completely covering the teeth when the mouth is closed

Muzzle is short, square, wide and deep and in proportion to the skull. Free of wrinkles, shorter in length than depth or width. Not exceeding 1/3rd the length of the skull.

Bite is even or sufficiently undershot to square the muzzle

Jaw is broad and square with short regular teeth



## Head faults

Eyes showing too much white or haw  
Pinched or wide nostrils  
Size of ears out of proportion with the head  
Tongue or teeth showing when mouth is closed\*  
Wry jaw\*

\*serious fault

## Disqualifications

Eyes blue in color or any trace of blue  
Dudley nose

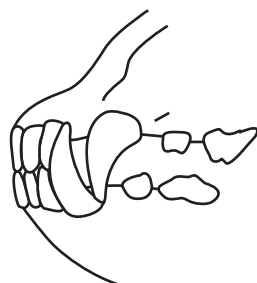
# Head

## Dentition and Bite

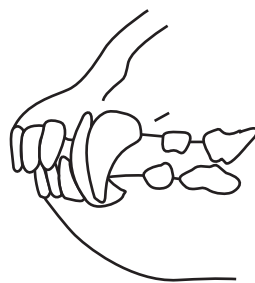
The number of permanent teeth in the adult dog is 42, regardless of the breed. In some cases, dogs may be missing teeth for various reasons.



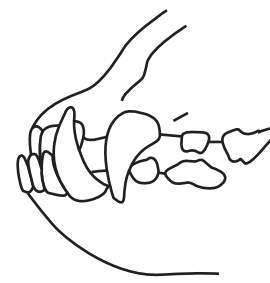
**Scissors**  
outside edge of lower incisors meet with the inside edge of upper incisors.



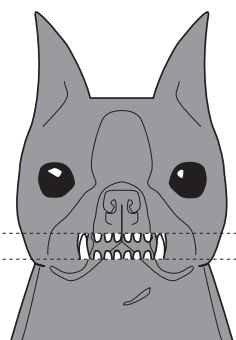
**Level**  
upper and lower incisors meet when mouth is closed.



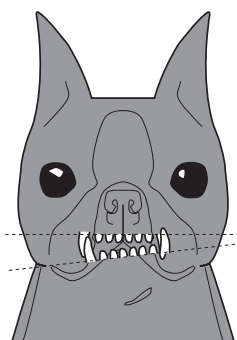
**Overshot**  
lower jaw protrudes beyond upper jaw



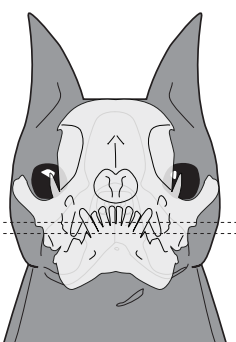
**Undershot**  
upper jaw protrudes beyond lower jaw



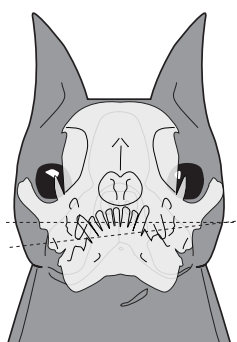
*correct*



*Wry jaw*



*correct*



*Wry jaw*



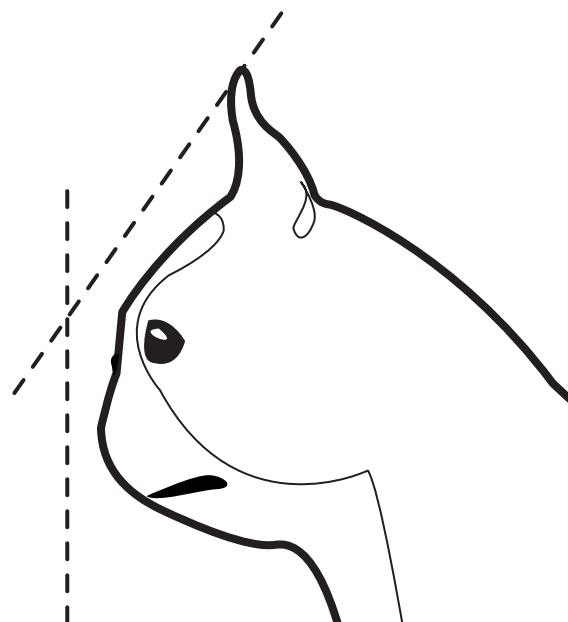
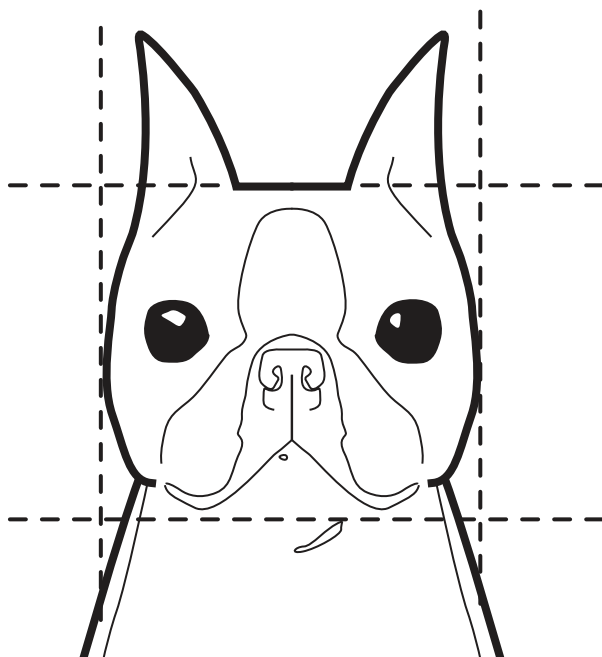
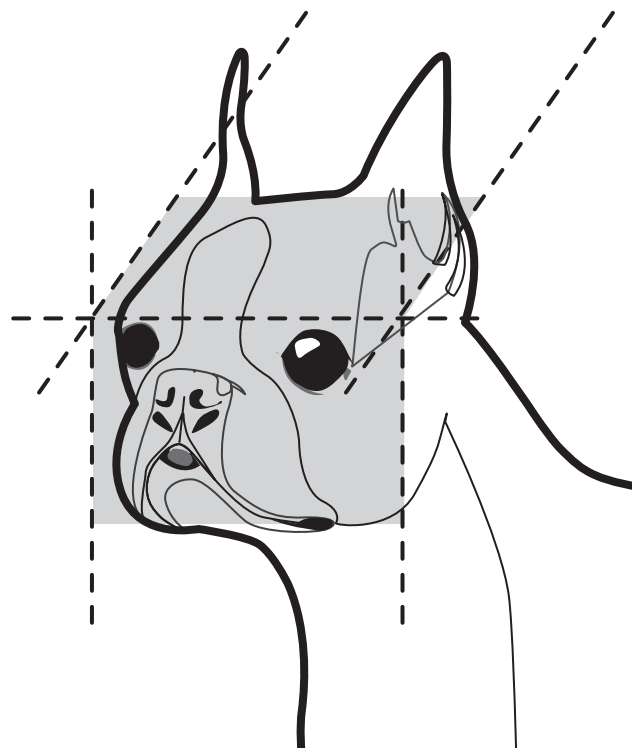
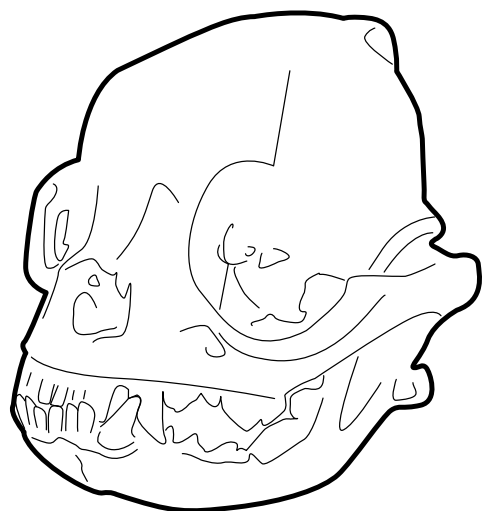
*correct*



*incorrect*

<b>incisors</b>	tearing teeth	in front of the mouth 6 upper and 6 lower
<b>canines</b>	largest teeth fang shaped	behind the incisors 2 upper and 2 lower
<b>premolars</b>	jaw teeth used for cutting	behind the canines 8 upper and 8 lower
<b>molars</b>	jaw teeth used for grinding	behind the premolars 4 upper and 6 lower

## Skull planes & cheek planes

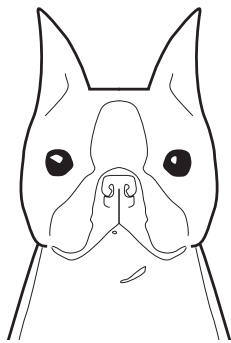
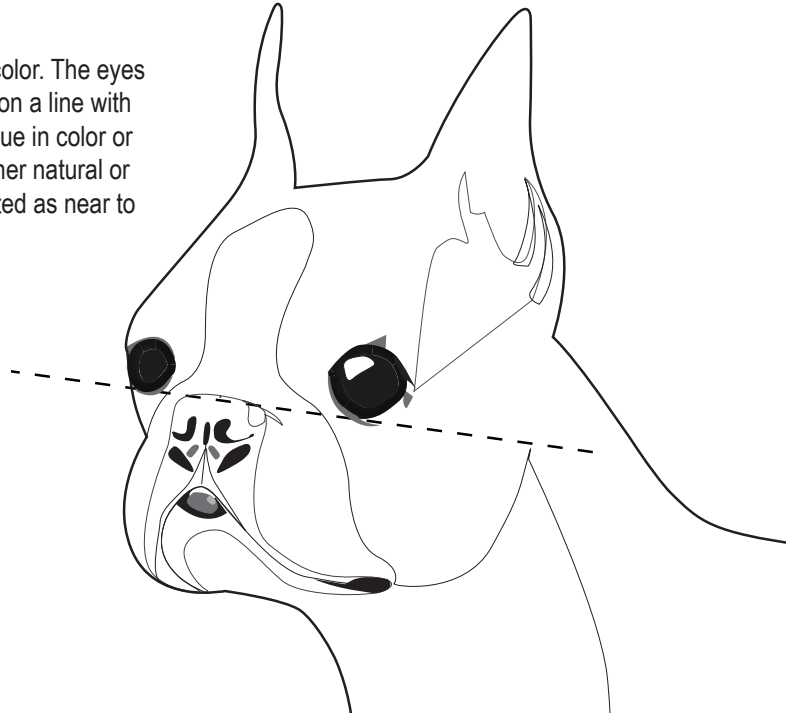


# Head

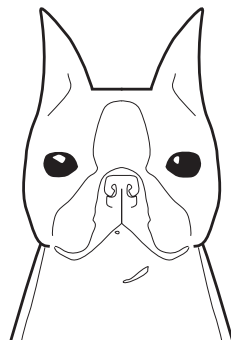
## Eyes

The eyes are wide apart, large and round and dark in color. The eyes are set square in the skull and the outside corners are on a line with the cheeks as viewed from the front. Disqualify: Eyes blue in color or any trace of blue. The ears are small, carried erect, either natural or cropped to conform to the shape of the head and situated as near to the corners of the skull as possible.

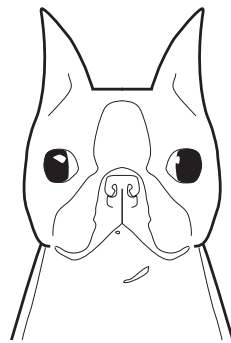
Although eyes are only worth 5 points in the standard they also attribute to correct expression and general appearance. The standard states, 'The ideal Boston terrier expression is alert and kind, indicating a high degrees of intelligence. This is a most important characteristic of the breed.'



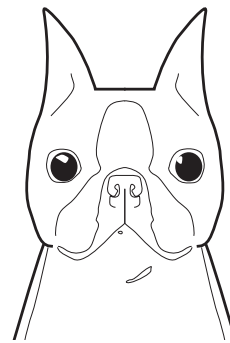
*too small*



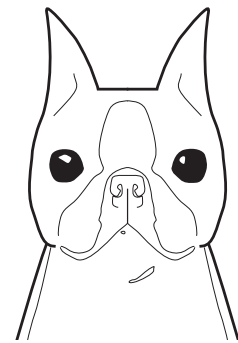
*almond shaped*



*east-west*



*too much white/  
haw showing*



*correct*

Notes:

# Head

*Heads are an especially important element of breed type, since they are a key feature in distinguishing one breed from another. Because heads vary greatly, it is difficult to make general comments about selecting for and evaluating this trait. Everyone should know how much emphasis is placed on heads in this breed.*

*Breeds that are considered head breeds usually have standards that place a great deal of importance on a correct head. There are some breeds, however that place more emphasis on correct movement than on heads. If the breed falls into the latter category, don't over-emphasize heads to the detriment of correct movement. Be aware of how virtues and weaknesses are prioritized in this breed.*

## Cushion verses wrinkles

One is not to confuse cushion for wrinkles; they are not the same! Cushion is a term used to describe the fill under the eyes and muzzle area often times confused as a wrinkle or crease under the eye. Wrinkles on the skull and muzzle should be penalized, but cushion should be rewarded as it is extremely difficult to breed for and is a rare find in the breed today.

Notes:

# Body

the tail is set low, short, fine and tapering, straight or scree and must not be carried above the horizontal

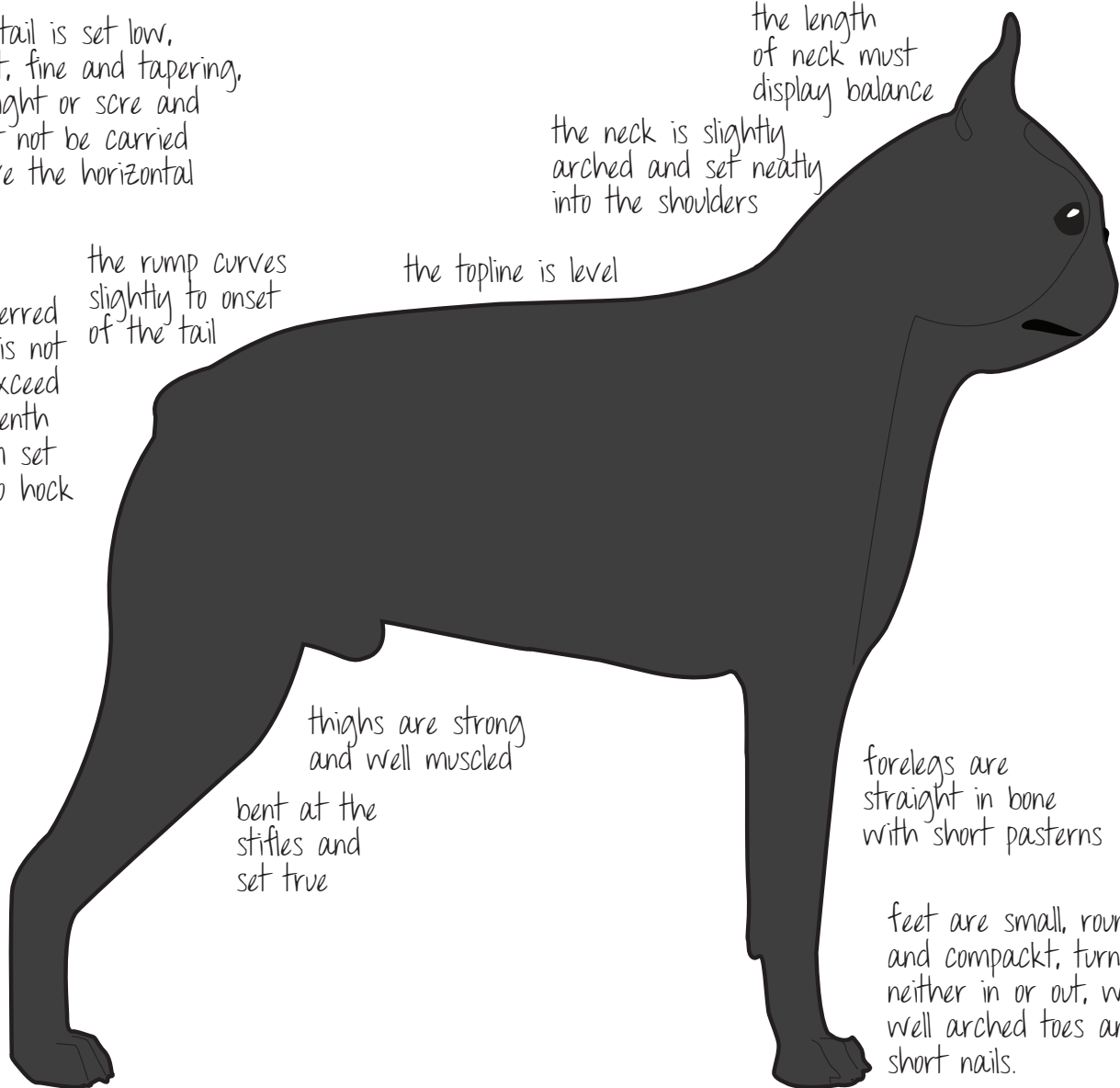
the length of neck must display balance

the neck is slightly arched and set neatly into the shoulders

Note: preferred tail is not to exceed 1/4 length from set on to hock

the rump curves slightly to onset of the tail

the topline is level



thighs are strong and well muscled

bent at the stifles and set true

forelegs are straight in bone with short pasterns

feet are small, round and compact, turned neither in or out, with well arched toes and short nails.

## Body faults

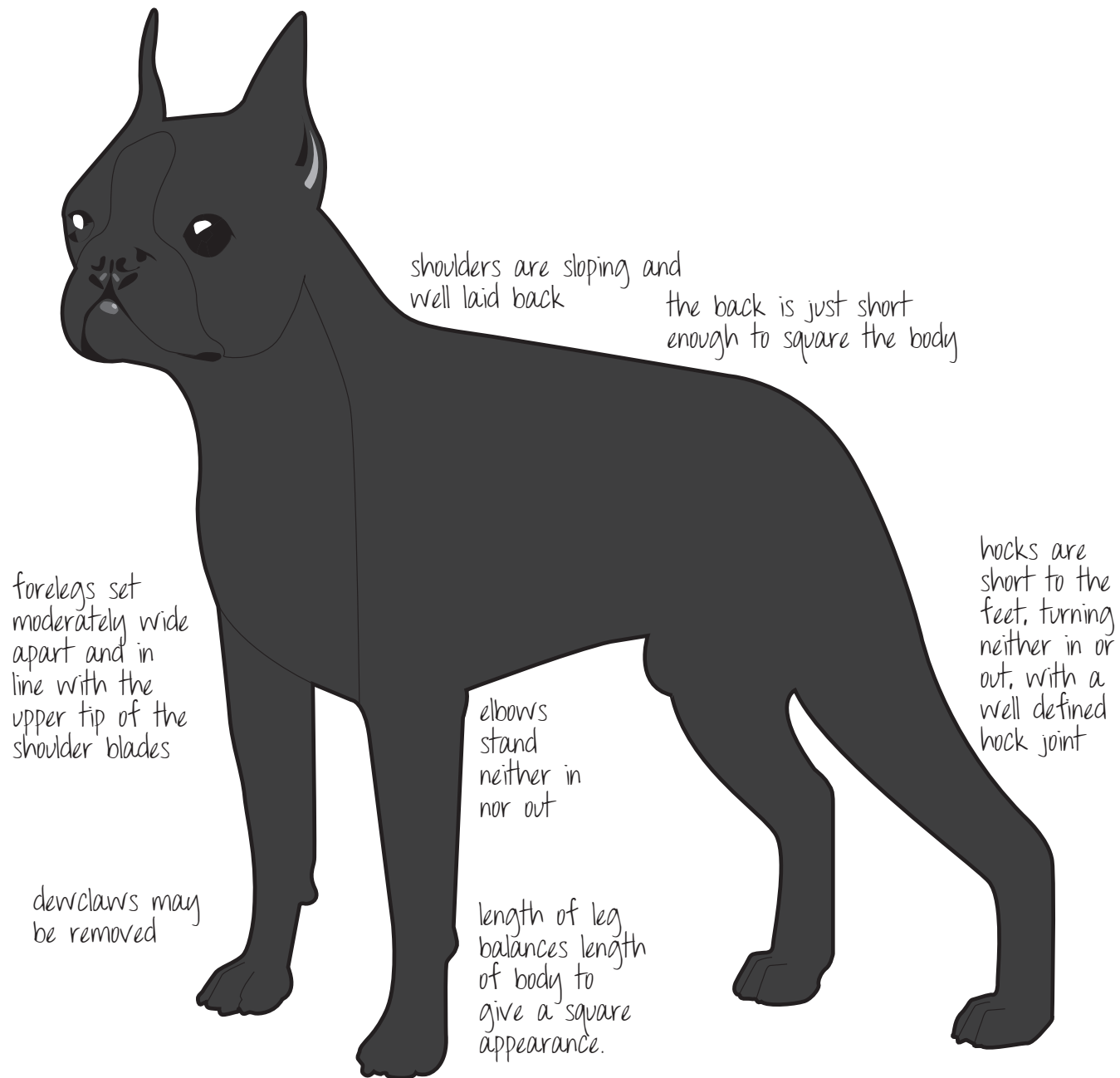
gay tail  
 roached back, sway back, slab sided\*  
 lacking substance  
 splay feet  
 straight in stifle  
 blocky or chunky in appearance

## Disqualification

docked tail

\*serious fault

# Body



weight is divided by classes (under 15, 15-20, 20-25 pounds)  
sturdy and must not give the appearance of either spindly or coarse  
bone and muscle must be in proportion as well as an enhancement to the dog's weight and structure  
influence of sex: slight refinement in the bitches conformation

# Body

*\*Symmetry allows for total athleticism. Today many breeds are struggling with less front angulation than rear angulation, producing. Dogs that are the exact opposite of what Mother Nature intended. Although this often produces dramatic dogs standing on the line and in pictures, these dogs are asymmetrical and consequently lack athleticism. Although this may not burden a dog unduly in the small confines of the show ring, it would cause inability to stand the work for which it was bred in action. IF the show ring is to have true value, form as it relates to function must always be a high priority in the judging of the purebred dogs.*

## *The Withers*

*The withers is a term that comes to us from horses and refers to the bony area between the top of the; shoulder blades located behind the crest of the neck and in front of the back. In horses this is*

*an important region because of its role in stabilizing the saddle as well as its contribution to the length of the stride. Well-bred horses will have high, refined, sloping withers extending well into the back, indicating athleticism and quality.*

*Because of their rich background with their horses, early dogmen referred to the top of the shoulder blades as “withers” in describing their canine companions. The height of horses is measured from the top of the withers.*

*There is no solid fusion between the shoulder blades of dogs, as there is in horses. In time, the actual withers of the dogs in correct anatomical language came to refer to the first nine thoracic vertebrae (there are a total of 13 thoracic vertebrae) and are used as a frame of reference to measure dogs in many standards. When standards use the phrase “top of the withers”<sup>1</sup> they technically refer to the top of the*

*foremost and highest thoracic vertebrae, that is the third, fourth and fifth thoracic vertebrae. Whether breed standards that measure from the top of the shoulder blades or those that measure from the top of the withers are more desirable is open to discussion. Certainly dogs with an upper-limit height disqualification are improved by measurement at the top of the shoulder, because those dogs with the best laid back shoulders are more apt to measure in.*

*In breeds seeking high-stationed tall dogs, measurement at the top of the withers might be desirable because it does not encourage the breeding of open-angled incorrect shoulders that give a false illusion of height but in fact are poor, straight, forward-set shoulders. Some Standards have confusing language on this subject and use the term “top of the withers” when they actually mean “top of the shoulder blades”*

Notes:



# Correct Breed Type

## Correct Breed Type

*The English Cocker Spaniel by Anne Rogers Clark*

From the standard we must ascertain what is correct type for the English Cocker Spaniel.

Type, to me, is what makes the dog look like its breed, and I must, from my own logic, start at one point and continue on from there.

Correct type in an English Cocker Spaniel, in my own opinion, is apparent in examining the animal in direct profile.

Check now for coming and going soundness.

And once more around to let you see that typical, useful, functional Cocker in side movement, the truest test, in my opinion, of the function and fit of all parts.

What you have done is judged the overall picture, made your first cut on type and rewarded the soundness of your typical specimens.

An untypical Cocker that is sound is useless.

A typical Cocker that is sound is priceless.

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.

Remember that no dog is perfect. He can score well on individual points and still not be balanced.

## Correct Breed Type

*The Boston terrier by Ken Roux*

1. Breed type defined as “the whole of the characteristics” that are typical for the breed as defined in the breed standard. Examples:

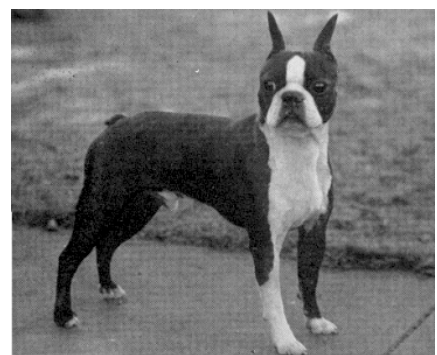
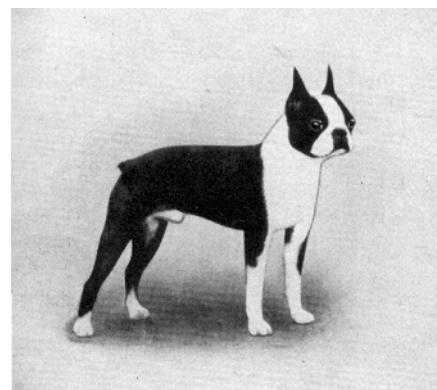
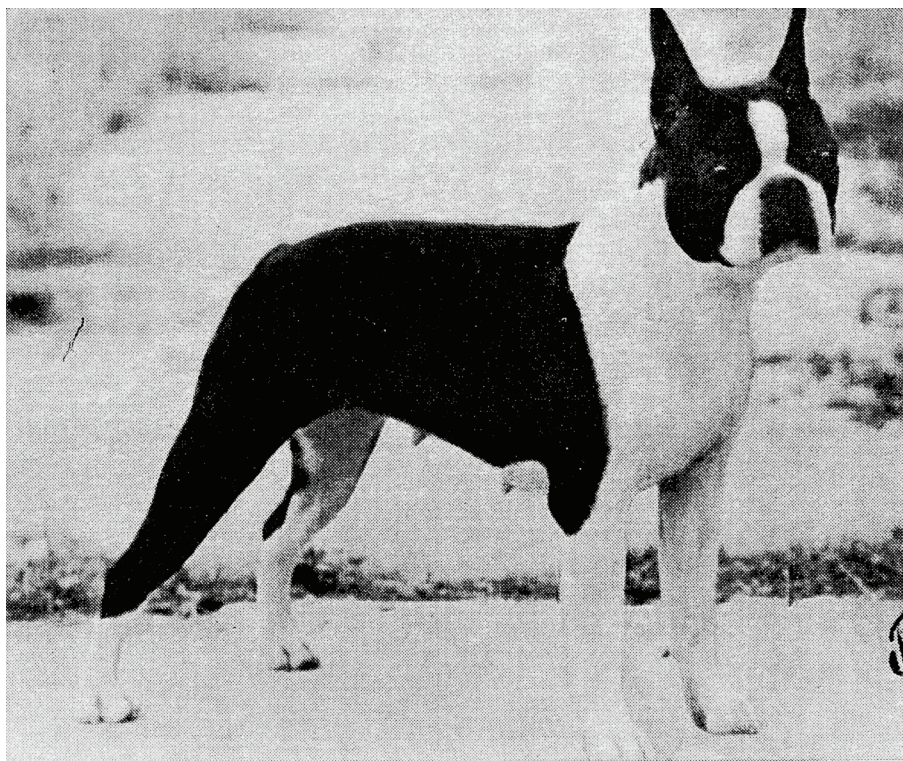
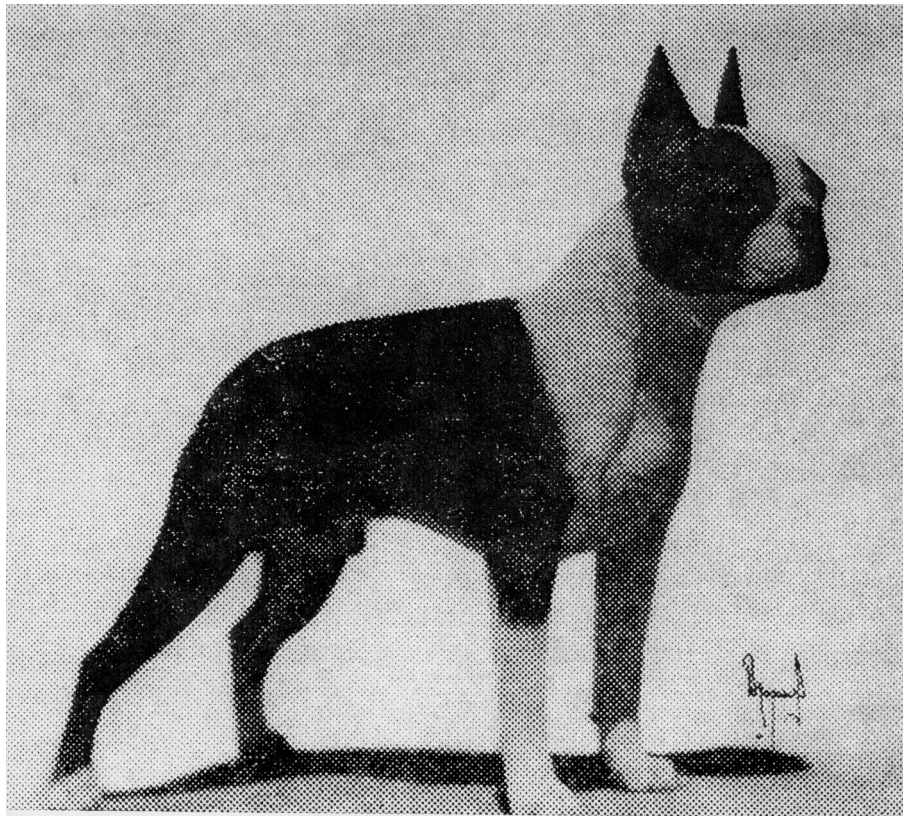
- A. Expression/Temperament
- B. Round, dark eye
- C. Flat skull/cheek
- D. Short broad muzzle
- E. Level topline
- F. Correct front end
- G. Correct rear-end
- H. Small, round feet
- I. Proportionally erect ears
- J. Correct station/stature
- L. Body that appears short/square
- M. Correct double tracking movement
- N. Short, tapered tail
- O. Under 25 pounds
- P. Markings/color

2. Breed type in this sense means qualities or features that are felt to indicate excellence within the breed.

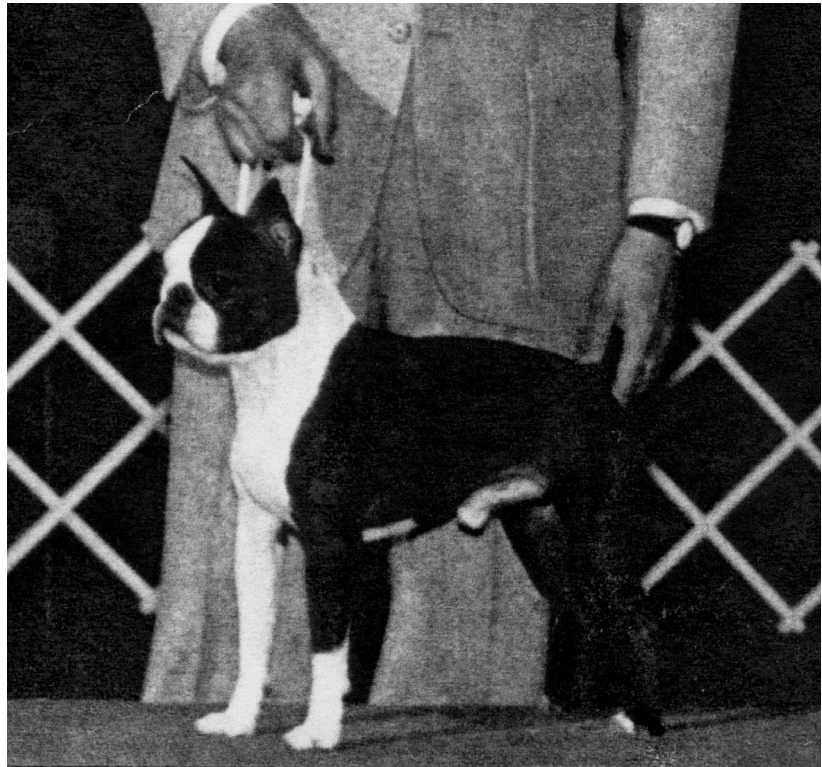
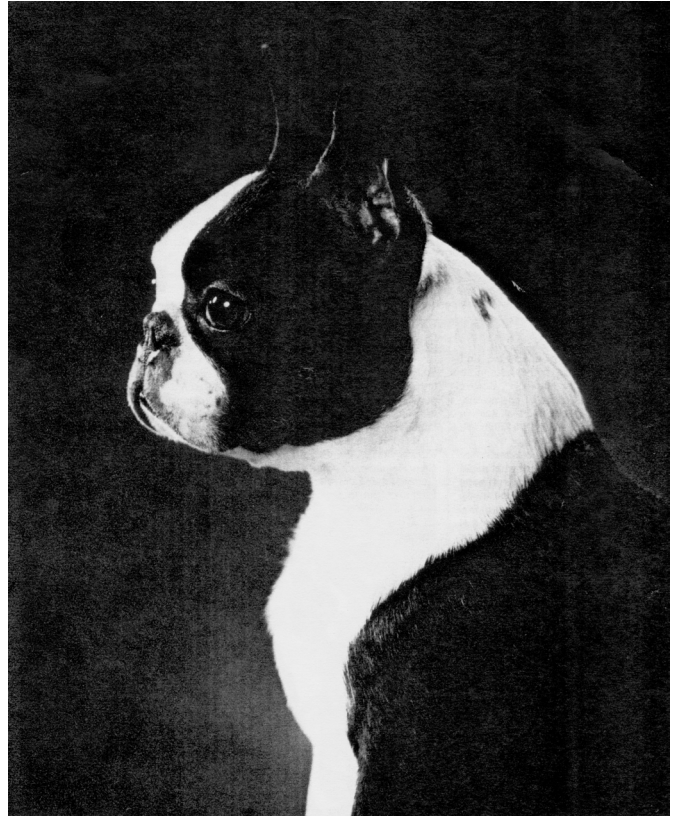
3. There is only “one” type. That is “one” that embodies the standard as a whole.

Notes:

# Correct Breed Type



# Correct Breed Type



# Breeding for the whole dog

## Balance

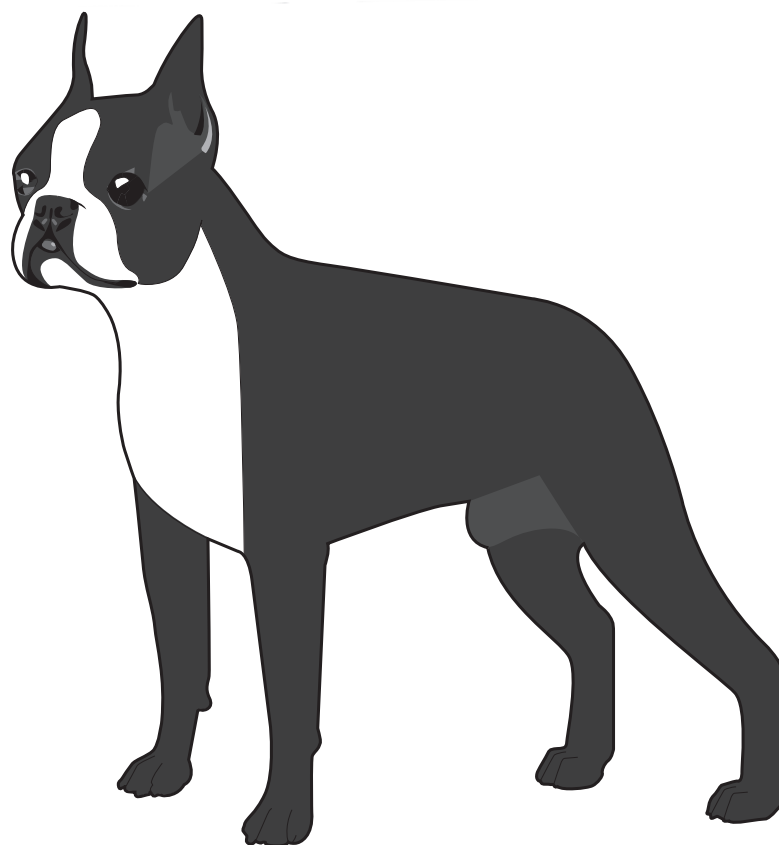
'The pleasing, harmonious and well-proportioned blend-in of an animal's parts and features resulting in a final composite effect of total symmetry' (Spira, p.22)

In addition to Spira's definition of balance as a 'well-proportioned blend-in of an animal's parts,' we can also think of balance as a 'portrait of breed type' (Hollenbeck, p.62).

Although balance is itself an intangible concept, which means it may be perceived differently by different people, there are important tangible features that go into making up a dog's structural balance.

These include:

1. Size
2. Substance
3. Stance
4. Proportions



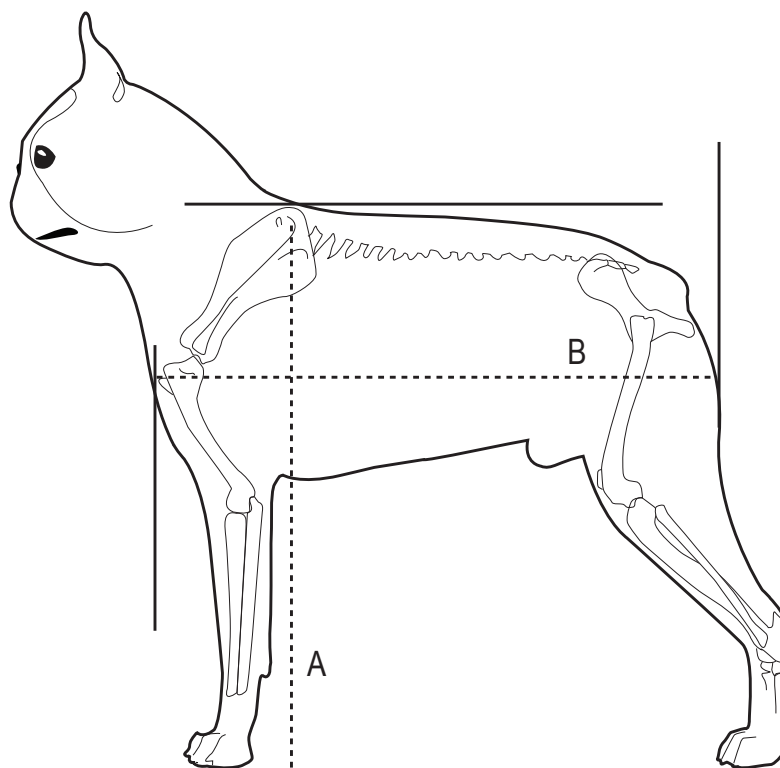
## Proportions

Up to this point, we have been discussing 3 features that help define a breed's structural balance. These traits are size, substance and stance. We will now discuss a fourth category of features that relate to structural balance, which is the concept of proportion and how it can affect a judge's perception of a dog's structure. 'Proportions' are comparisons of two or more features, and although there are dozens of proportions that make up a dog's structure, two of the most important with regard to a dog's structural balance are:

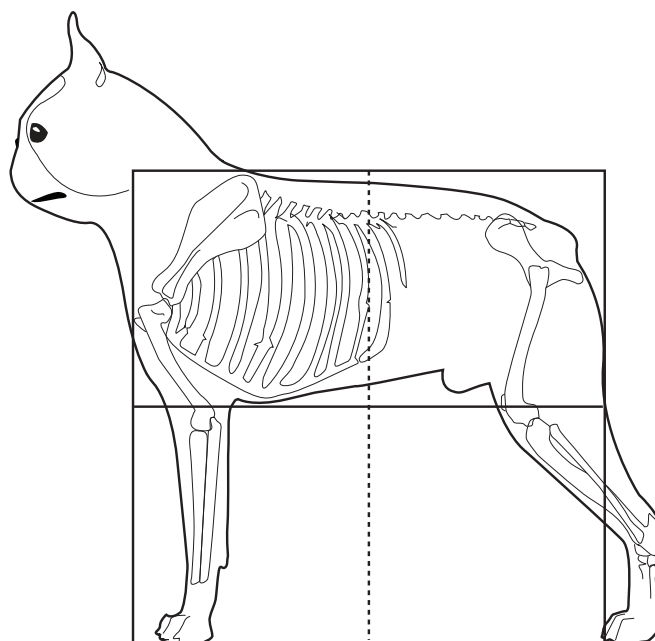
**Length versus height and  
Leg length versus brisket depth**

It goes without saying that judges should know the desired length versus height and leg length versus brisket depth for every breed they judge.

# Breeding for the whole dog



A dog's height is measured from the highest point of the shoulder blade to the ground (line A).  
A dog's length is measured from the point of shoulder to the point of buttock (line B).



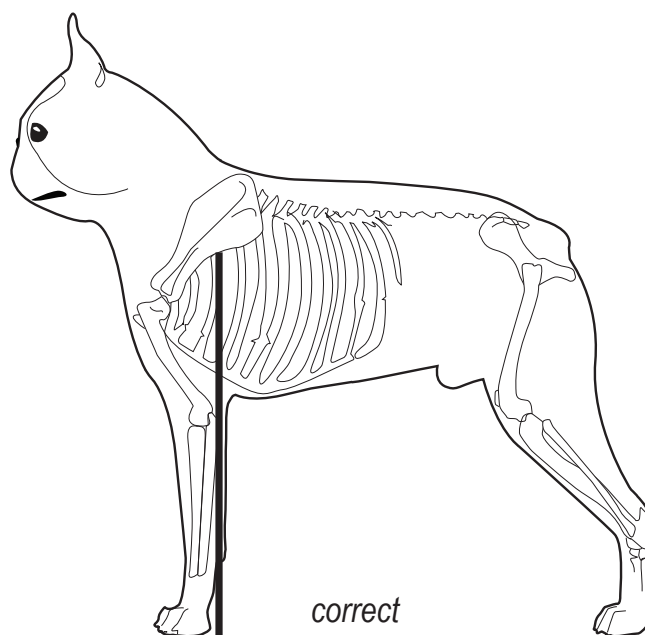
1/1 ratio height/length to give the appearance of a medium stationed body  
1/1 ratio rib/loin to give the appearance of a short coupled body

# Breeding for the whole dog

## Estimating Shoulder Placement

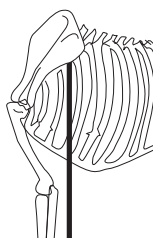
With the exception of forequarters for breeds built for speed, to determine the placement of the shoulder assembly, drop a plumb line from the caudal angle of the shoulder blade. In the above example, if the upper arm and shoulder blade are of the correct length and almost equal in length, and the plumb line intersects the point of the elbow, then the shoulder assembly will be properly placed.

For breeds built for speed, where the elbow is set below the sternum, drop the plumb line from the top of the shoulder blade. It should intersect the elbow.



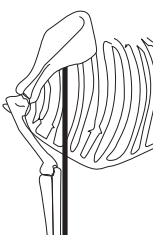
### A. Breeds built for speed: Correct shoulder blade and upper arm close to 130°

Includes breeds built for speed, such as the Greyhound



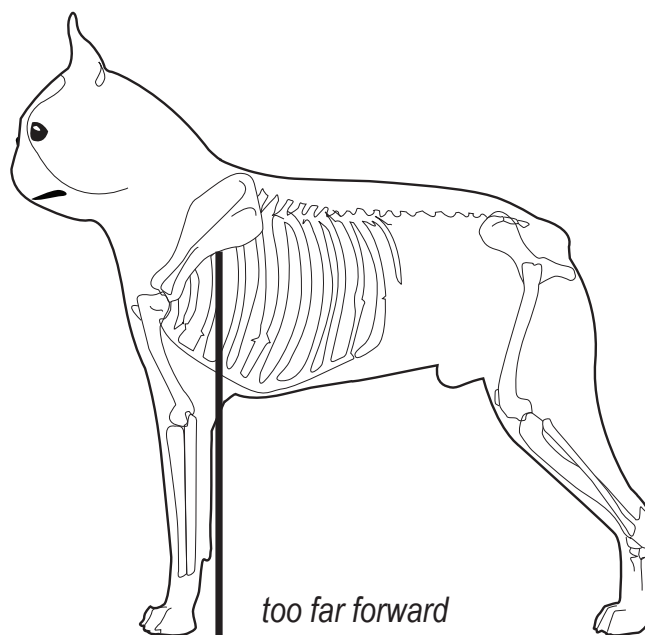
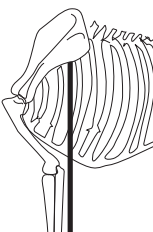
### B. Retriever/Herding Breeds: Correct shoulder blade & upper arm close to 120°

Includes breeds which do work like retrieving, herding and carrying



### C. Achondroplastic Breeds: Correct shoulder blade & upper arm close to 90°

Includes breeds such as the Bulldog, Boston terrier, French Bulldog, Basset Hound and Dachshund



## 90° Angulation — It's only for certain breeds

Rachel Page Elliot's landmark study, which evaluated gait by x-raying moving dogs, proposes that for many breeds the ideal 90° angle (45 degrees to the horizontal) for a well-laid-back shoulder would place the shoulder joint too far in front of the forechest (*Dog Steps: A New Look*, 2001, p.70). Confusion arises because many new breed standards call for a 'well laid back shoulder' but don't clarify what well laid back means in terms of degree of angulation. Ideal angle will vary depending on what is the function of the breed.

# Breeding for the whole dog

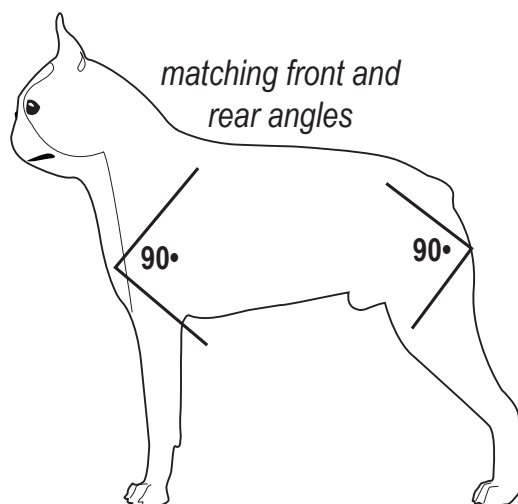
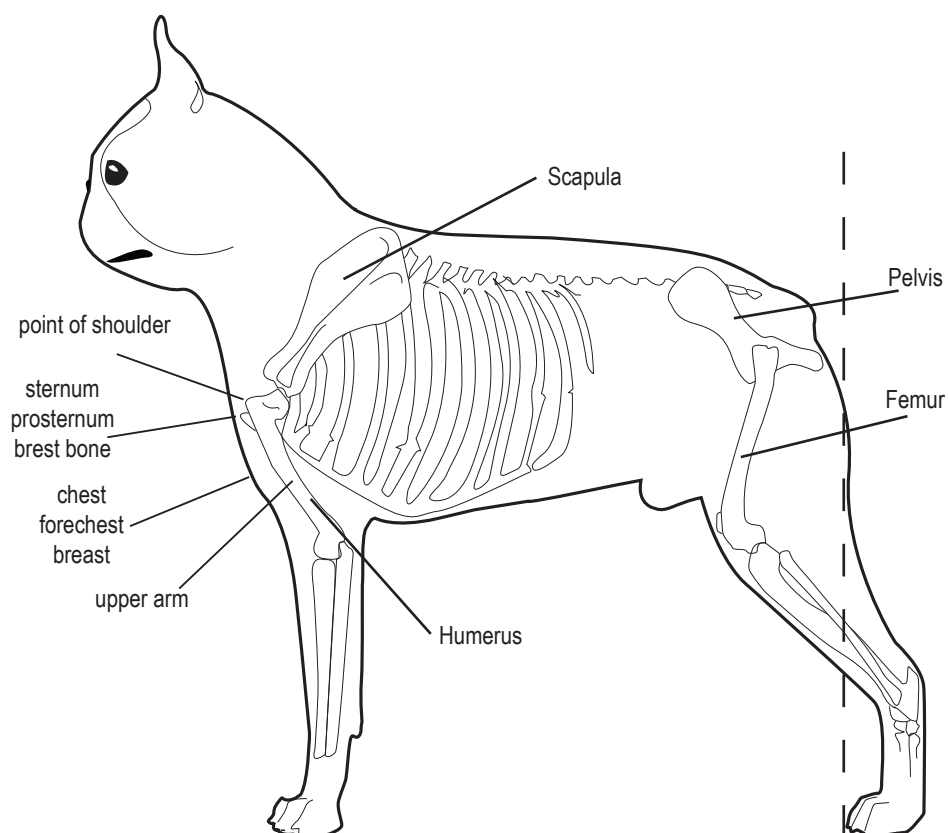
## Forequarter & Hindquarter Measuring Points

With the exception of forequarters for breeds built for speed, to determine the placement of the shoulder assembly, drop a plumb line from the caudal angle of the shoulder blade. In the above example, if the upper arm and shoulder blade are of the correct length and almost equal in length, and the plumb line intersects the point of the elbow, then the shoulder assembly will be properly placed.

For breeds built for speed, where the elbow is set below the sternum, drop the plumb line from the top of the shoulder blade. It should intersect the elbow.

It is especially important to know where the point of the shoulder is located on the dog. It is often used as a measuring point for a dog's length and can be used to evaluate shoulder angulation as well. The point of shoulder is at the foremost tip of the upper arm.

Sternum, prosternum and breast bone are other forequarter skeletal measuring points and are frequently used interchangeably depending on the breed standard. Three surface measuring points are chest, forechest and breast and they can also be synonyms.



**Bone lengths:** The scapula and humerus should be approximately equal in length, as should the pelvis, femur and tibia/fibula in the rear. As a guideline for the eye, the angulation between the scapula and humerus and pelvis and femur should approach ninety degrees.

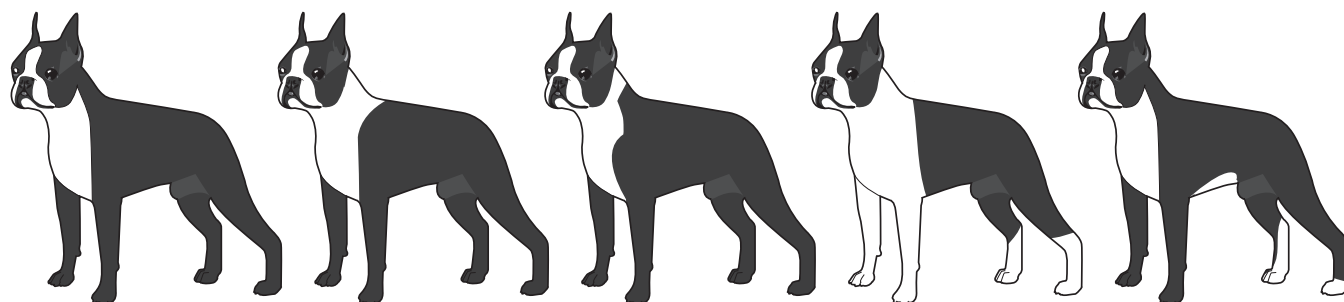
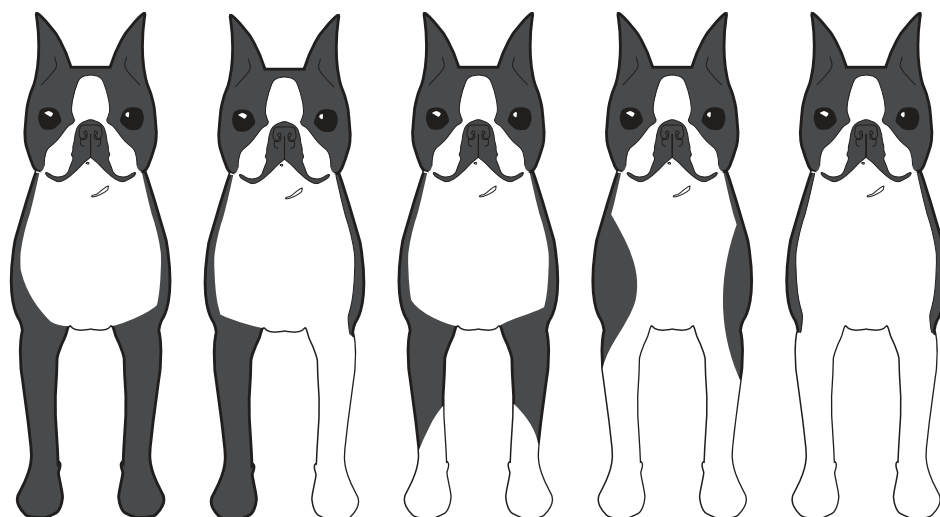
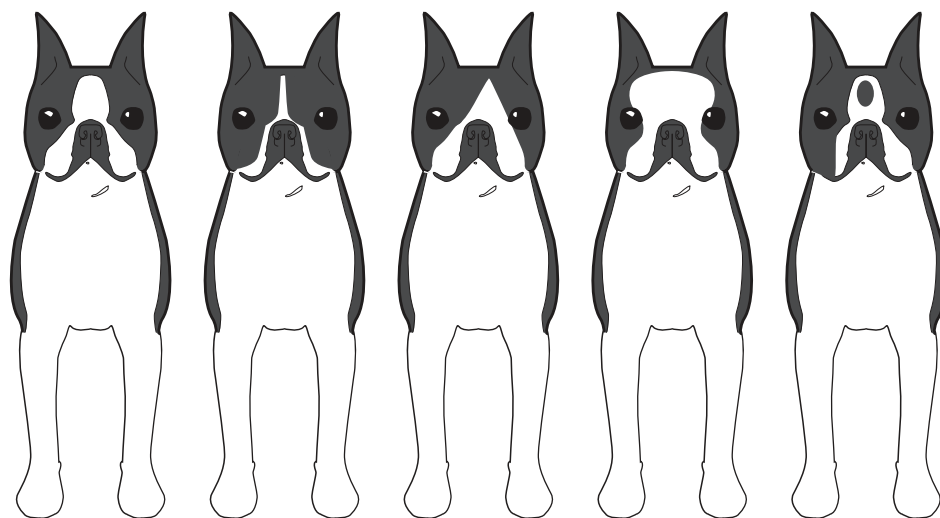
A vertical line drawn from the pinbone to the ground should drop through the nails of the rear foot.

A dog with the correct proportions and angulation can thereby achieve static balance.

# Breeding for the whole dog

## Color/marking illusions

As with all breeds that have patterned markings, the Boston terriers markings can play tricks on the eye. Often times it takes a talented eye to get beneath the markings to notice correct structure; understanding is of great importance to make correct judgements.



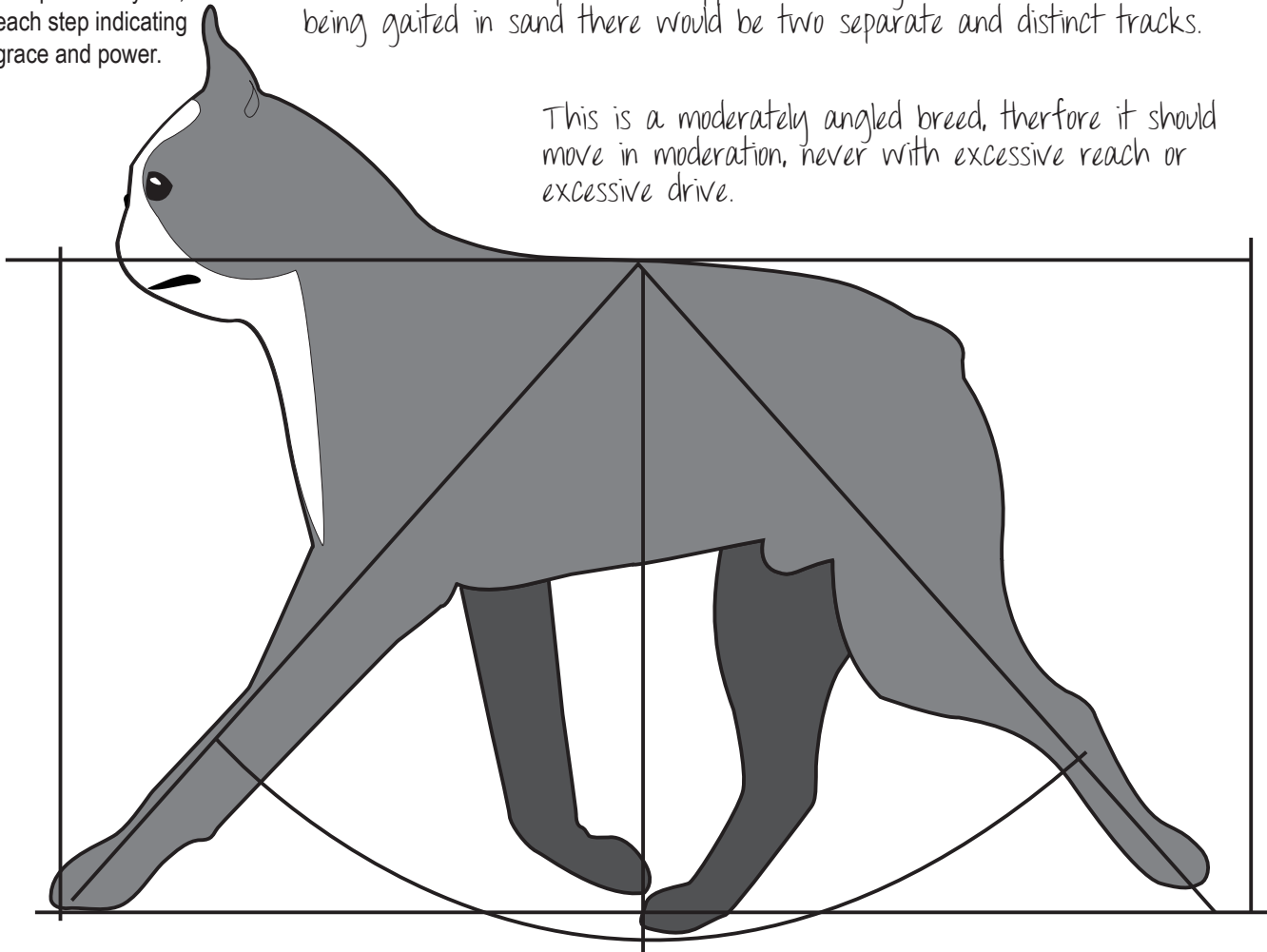


# Gait/Movement

Gait-The gait of a Boston terrier is that of a sure footed, straight gaited dog, forelegs and hind-legs moving straight ahead in line with perfect rhythm, each step indicating grace and power.

The gait of the Boston terrier is an honest straightforward gait, there should be very little if any convergence towards the centerline. The most prevalent movement problem in the breed today is close rear movement. The breed should have moderate reach and drive. When viewed from the side dog should appear to float, there should be no up and down movement of the topline, no choppiness to the gait. If a Boston were being gaited in sand there would be two separate and distinct tracks.

This is a moderately angled breed, therefore it should move in moderation, never with excessive reach or excessive drive.



The Boston terrier is a true double tracking breed; at no point should there ever be a convergence.

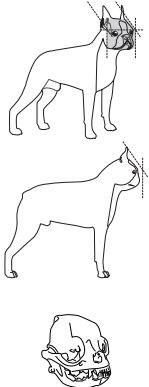
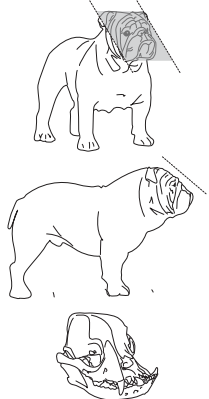
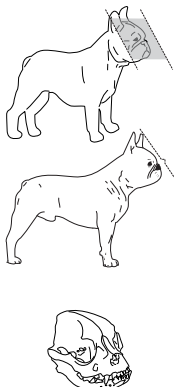
## Gait faults

rolling, paddling or weaving

hackney gait

crossing movement, front or rear

# Comparison Anatomy

		overall head			
		eye	skull layback	Muzzle/Jaw	Nose
Boston terrier		<p>Wide apart, large and round and dark in color. The eyes are set square in the skull and the outside corners are on a line with the cheeks as viewed from the front.</p>	<p>Square, flat on top, free from wrinkles brow abrupt and the stop well defined. The ideal Boston terrier expression is alert and kind, indicating a high degree of intelligence. This is a most important characteristic of the breed.</p>	<p>Short, square, wide and deep and in proportion to the skull. It is free from wrinkles, shorter in length than in width or depth; not exceeding in length approximately one-third of the length of the skull. The muzzle from stop to end of the nose is parallel to the top of the skull.</p>	<p>Black and wide, with a well defined line between the nostrils.</p>
Bulldog		<p>Seen from the front, should be situated low down in the skull, as far from the ears as possible, and their corners should be in a straight line at right angles with the stop. They should be quite in front of the head, as wide apart as possible, provided their outer corners are within the outline of the cheeks when viewed from the front. They should be quite round in form, of moderate size, neither sunken nor bulging and in color should be very dark. The lids should cover the white of the eyeball, when the dog is looking directly forward, and the lid should show no "haw"</p>	<p>Very large, and in circumference, in front of the ears, should measure at least the height of the dog at the shoulders. Viewed from the front, it should appear very high from the corner of the lower jaw to the apex of the skull, and also very broad and square. Viewed at the side, the head should appear very high, and very short from the point of the nose to occiput. The forehead should be flat (not rounded or domed), neither too prominent nor overhanging the face.</p>	<p>Short, square, wide and deep and in proportion to the skull. It is free from wrinkles, shorter in length than in width or depth; not exceeding in length approximately one-third of the length of the skull. The muzzle from stop to end of the nose is parallel to the top of the skull.</p> <p>The jaw is broad and square with short regular teeth. The bite is even or sufficiently undershot to square the muzzle.</p>	<p>Large, broad and black, its tip set back deeply between the eyes. The distance from bottom of stop, between the eyes, to the tip of nose should be as short as possible and not exceed the length from the tip of nose to the edge of underlip. The nostrils should be wide, large and black, with a well-defined line between them.</p>
French Bulldog		<p>Dark in color, wide apart, set low down in the skull, as far from the ears as possible, round in form, of moderate size, neither sunken nor bulging. In lighter colored dogs, lighter colored eyes are acceptable. No haw and no white of the eye showing when looking forward.</p>	<p>The top of the skull flat between the ears; the forehead is not flat but slightly rounded.</p>	<p>Broad, deep and well laid back the muscles of the cheeks well developed.</p>	<p>Nostrils broad with a well defined line between them. Black.</p>

# Comparison Anatomy

Overall Head				Lips		
ear	stop	Cheeks	Nose			
Small, carried erect, either natural or cropped to conform to the shape of the head and situated as near the corners of the skull as possible.	Well defined.	Flat.	Black and wide, with a well defined line between the nostrils.	Good depth, but not pendulous, completely covering the teeth when the mouth is closed.	Must display an image of balance to the total dog. It is slightly arched, carrying the head gracefully and setting neatly into the shoulders.	The shoulders are sloping and well laid back, which allows for the Boston terrier's stylish movement. The elbows stand neither in nor out. The forelegs are set moderately wide apart and on a line with the upper tip of the shoulder blades. The forelegs are straight in bone with short, strong pasterns. The dewclaws may be removed. The feet are small, round and compact, turned neither in nor out, with well arched toes and short nails.
Should be set high in the head, the front inner edge of each ear joining the outline of the skull at the top back corner of the skull, so as to place them as wide apart, and as high, and as far from the eyes as possible. In size they should be small and thin. The shape termed "rose ear" is the most desirable. The rose ear folds inward at its lack lower edge, the upper front edge curving over, outward and backward, showing part of the inside of the burr. (the ears should not be carried erect or prick-eared or buttoned and should never be cropped.)	The temples or frontal bones should be very well defined, broad, square and high, causing a hollow or groove between the eyes. This indentation, or stop, should be both broad and deep and extend up the middle of the forehead, dividing the head vertically, being traceable to the top of the skull.	Well rounded, protruding sideways and outward beyond the eyes.	Large, broad and black, its tip set back deeply between the eyes. The distance from bottom of stop, between the eyes, to the tip of nose should be as short as possible and not exceed the length from the tip of nose to the edge of underlip. The nostrils should be wide, large and black, with a well-defined line between them.	Thick, broad, pendant and very deep, completely overhanging the lower jaw at each side. They join the underlip in front and almost or quite cover the teeth, which should be scarcely noticeable when the mouth is closed.	Short, very thick, deep and strong and well arched at the back.	The shoulders should be muscular, very heavy, widespread and slanting outward, giving stability and great power. The forelegs should be short, very stout, straight and muscular, set wide apart, with well developed calves, presenting a bowed outline, but the bones of the legs should not be curved or bandy, nor the feet brought too close together. The elbows should be low and stand well out and loose from the body. The feet should be moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and very short stubby nails. The front feet may be straight or slightly out-turned.
Known as the bat ear, broad at the base, elongated, with round top, set high on the head but not too close together, and carried erect with the orifice to the front. The leather of the ear fine and soft.	Well defined, causing a hollow groove between the eyes with heavy wrinkles forming a soft roll over the extremely short nose.		Nostrils broad with a well defined line between them. Black.	Black, thick and broad, hanging over the lower jaw at the sides, meeting the underlip in front and covering the teeth, which are not seen when the mouth is closed. The under jaw is deep, square, broad, undershot and well turned up.	Thick and well arched with loose skin at the throat.	Forelegs are short, stout, straight, muscular and set wide apart. Dewclaws may be removed. Feet are moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short stubby nails.

# Comparison Anatomy

	Hindquarters	Body Length and Topline	Chest	Coat and Color
Boston terrier	The thighs are strong and well muscled, bent at the stifles and set true. The hocks are short to the feet, turning neither in nor out, with a well defined hock joint.	The back is just short enough to square the body. The topline is level and the rump curves slightly to the set-on of the tail. The body should appear short.	Deep with good width, ribs well sprung and carried well back to the loins.	Short, smooth, bright and fine in texture.  Brindle, seal, or black with white markings. Brindle is preferred ONLY if all other qualities are equal. (Note: SEAL DEFINED. Seal appears black except it has a red cast when viewed in the sun or bright light.  Required Markings: White muzzle band, white blaze between the eyes and white forechest.  Desired Markings: White muzzle band, even white blaze between the eyes and over the head, white collar, white forechest, white on part or whole of forelegs and hind legs below the hocks. (Note: A representative specimen should not be penalized for not possessing "Desired Markings.")
Bulldog	The hind legs should be strong and muscular and longer than the forelegs, so as to elevate the loins above the shoulders. Hocks should be slightly bent and well let down, so as to give length and strength from the loins to hock. The lower leg should be short, straight and strong, with the stifles turned slightly outward and away from the body. The hocks are thereby made to approach each other, and the hind feet to turn outward. The feet should be moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short stubby nails. The hind feet should be pointed well outward.	There should be a slight fall in the back, close behind the shoulders, whence the spine should rise to the loins (the top of which should be higher than the top of the shoulders), thence curving again more suddenly to the tail, forming an arch (a very distinctive feature of the breed), termed "roach back" or, more correctly, "wheel-back".  Body - The brisket and body should be very capacious, with full sides, well-rounded ribs and very deep from the shoulders down to its lowest part, where it joins the chest. It should be well let down between the shoulders and forelegs, giving the dog a broad, low, short-legged appearance.	Should be very broad, deep and full.  Underline: The body should be well ribbed up behind the belly tucked up and not rotund.	Should be straight, short, flat, close, of fine texture, smooth and glossy. (No fringe, feather or curl.)  The color of coat should be uniform, pure of its kind and brilliant. The various colors found in the breed are to be preferred in the following order: (1) red brindle, (2) all other brindles, (3) solid white, (4) solid red fawn, or fallow, (5) piebald, (6) inferior qualities of all the foregoing.
French Bulldog	Hind legs are strong and muscular, longer than the forelegs, so as to elevate the loins above the shoulders. Hocks well let down. Feet are moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short stubby nails; hind feet slightly longer than forefeet.	The body is short and well rounded.	Broad, deep, and full; well ribbed with the belly tucked up.	Coat is moderately fine, brilliant, short and smooth. Skin is soft and loose, especially at the head and shoulders, forming wrinkles.  Acceptable colors: All brindle, fawn, white, brindle and white, and any color except those which constitute disqualification. All colors are acceptable with the exception of solid black, mouse, liver, black and tan, black and white, and white with black with are disqualifications. Black means black without a trace of brindle.

# Comparison Anatomy

Size, Substance	Movement	Notes:
<p>Weight is divided by classes as follows: Under 15 pounds; 15 pounds and under 20 pounds; 20 pounds and not to exceed 25 pounds. The length of leg must balance with the length of body to give the Boston terrier its striking square appearance. The Boston terrier is a sturdy dog and must not appear to be either spindly or coarse. The bone and muscle must be in proportion as well as an enhancement to the dog's weight and structure.</p> <p>Influence of Sex: In a comparison of specimens of each sex, the only evidence difference is a slight refinement in the bitch's conformation.</p>	<p>The gait of the Boston terrier is that of a sure footed, straight gaited dog, forelegs and hind legs moving straight ahead in line with perfect rhythm, each step indicating grace and power.</p>	
<p>The size for mature dogs is about 50 pounds; for mature bitches about 40 pounds.</p> <p>Influence of Sex: In comparison of specimens of different sex, due allowance should be made in favor of the bitches, which do not bear the characteristics of the breed to the same degree of perfection and grandeur as do the dogs.</p>	<p>The style and carriage are peculiar, his gait being a loose-jointed, shuffling, sidewise motion, giving the characteristic "roll". The action must, however, be unrestrained, free and vigorous.</p>	
<p>Weight not to exceed 28 pounds.</p> <p>Distance from withers to ground in good relation to distance from withers to onset of tail, so that animal appears compact, well balanced and in good proportion.</p> <p>Muscular, heavy bone.</p> <p>Influence of Sex: In comparing specimens of different sex, due allowance is to be made in favor of bitches, which do not bear the characteristics of the breed to the same marked degree as do the dogs.</p>	<p>Correct gait is double tracking with reach and drive; the action is unrestrained, free and vigorous.</p>	

# Become a judge

## Finding a mentor

There are many qualified breeders in Boston terriers willing to mentor new breeders/judges coming into this breed. Check with the parent club for a current list of available 'qualified' mentors.

## Understanding the process

After 12 years of documented involvement in the sport, breeding 5 litters and producing 4 champions from those litters you can take the necessary steps to apply for your judges license.

## Necessary steps to protect this breed

It is of extreme importance the you become a breeder judge if you have met the requirements. Years ago Boston terriers were a favorite among group and best-in-show winners. Over time, all the great all-rounders that came up through this breed have left us. If we are ever going to get back on top among all-breeds, we need breeders to go forward and become judges to protect this incredibly great breed we all know as the 'Boston terrier'.

Notes:

# THE BOSTON TERRIER: A Seminar as Presented by Leonard L. Myers

This information is a part of the seminar I gave at the National Specialty I judged in Baltimore, Maryland on April 21, 2003. I felt if I could teach breeders to evaluate their stock honestly and accurately before they hit the show ring, I would achieve one of my main goals. We must always remember, all registered dogs are not show dogs and judges can only judge what we breeders send into the ring. We should never blame them for our failure as breeders. I get a bit "miffed" when I hear someone state "She may not be good enough to show but she can have nice puppies!" My point is if she isn't good enough to show she probably shouldn't be bred!

From the very beginning the distinguishing features of the Boston terrier were found before the withers. They still are today. We have gone through a refinement stage and have a much improved smooth look now. Today we have many heads (which includes ears, eyes, muzzles, jaws and expressions) that fulfill the wording of the standard, very few could be labeled excellent. The Boston terriers in the United States improved very fast from 1900 to approximately 1965 because the early breeders know what they wanted, knew how to achieve it, and never deviated from the ideal described in the standard. Politics and personalities were held to a minimum ... at least in the show ring. Many of our judges in this country sprang from the ranks of Boston breeders. Thus we had excellent judging of our breed for many years. Not so today. With the increase of dogs being shown and also a huge increase in the number of shows and the need for more judges to judge, the quality of the dogs in Bostons shown has been on a down spiral for many years now. So many breeders (handlers too) do not know what a good Boston should look like. Nor are they able to evaluate soundness in our breed. They have let patella subluxation

and juvenile cataracts and deafness creep into the breed which could have been nipped in the bud early on but greed for making a "buck" took over.

## IN THE BEGINNING

The Boston terrier is indeed an American breed of dog. His origin, truly a fascinating story, which when viewed through the eyes of experienced dog men around the world, could only be explained as a miracle. How else could a bitch, the result of a cross between the Bulldog and the Bull Terrier, when mated to a male, the result of a cross between the Bulldog and the White English Terrier, form the genesis for the breed we now know today, as the Boston terrier.

It was the hope of the early breeders to retain just enough sweetness and determination of the Bulldog, when injected into the Bull Terrier, to dampen the high strung terrier's sensitivity to pain, but not enough to squelch his sure footedness when fighting. What made it work was the fact that all of these breeds were genealogically related. A terrier type bitch would be mated to a Bulldog type male and the Bulldog type bitch would be mated to a Terrier type male. Sometimes the blood of the French Bulldog would be introduced to help establish breed type.

The very early Boston terriers were not very beautiful specimens. Some were have or whole white headed, while others were splashed with white all over the body and in extreme cases, all white. Almost any color was acceptable. They ranged in weight from ten to thirty-five pounds, with special classes for Toy Boston terriers during the early years of the Twentieth Century.

The majority had good dispositions and were loyal to a fault. This characteristic feature seems to unite the fancies who were determined to improve the appearance of their new found love. In just fifty years, the Boston terrier evolved from

what many considered a mongrel to a beloved canine which led all breeds in AKC registration for a number of years. This is why I say, it is nothing short of a miracle.

LEONARD L. MYERS

From the very beginning, the distinguishing characteristics or features of the Boston terrier were found before the withers. They still are today, but have gone through a refinement stage and have a much improved smooth look. While today we have many heads (which includes ears, eyes, muzzles and expression) that fulfill the wording of the standard, very few would be labeled excellent.

Let us start with the ears which should be rather thin, certainly not of thick, heavy leather and creased so that they have difficulty standing which would detract from the neat appearance of the head. They are located on the outside corners of the skull and should stand erect whether cropped or natural. The Boston terrier uses his ears in many ways and they tell a good deal about his personality. When alarmed by a loud noise, he may turn his ears outward by 45 degrees and then back again to face the front. When excited and interested in what is going on around him, he may pull his ears almost together high over the center of the skull. Indeed, his ears play a definite roll in his personality.

The skull is square, flat on top, free from wrinkles, cheeks are flat, brow abrupt and the stop well defined. How do we determine all of these things? First of all, one should see squares in the Boston's head from any angle. Measure the top of the skull from one side to the other; measure the width of the skull at the brow (just above the eyes) and it should be equal to the width of the top skull. Connect the two outside lines and if the skull is correct all measurements should be equal. When we say the skull is flat on top, it means flat between the ears

# THE BOSTON TERRIER: A Seminar as Presented by Leonard L. Myers

and also flat on the square surface that we have just measured. If we lay a ruler length-wise, we will note that the correct slope permits the ruler to lie on almost the entire expanse of the skull. Flat cheeks are very important because anything else would mar the square outline of the skull. This would detract from the entire head. The sides of the skull should drop sharply down on the perpendicular. When we say "brow abrupt and stop well defined" we mean the eyes are wide apart and the outside corners are on a line with the cheeks as viewed from the front. Therefore the eyes are set square in the skull and the brow is supported at the corners of the skull by the eyes. Then the brow takes on that clean cut finish and completes that beautiful square of the head. Then the stop must drop down perpendicular to the muzzle and this is one of the determining factors for the formation of a good muzzle.

The eyes should be large, round and very dark in color. I mentioned that they are set square in the skull which means that the face directly forward and should not show white in the corners or circumference. The expression should convey that "God love it look" ... soft, bright, intelligent which seems to be saying "Here I am world; look me over well." Eyes that are small, prominent, light in color or show white in corners or circumference should be frowned upon. The lower arc of the eye should be on a line with the top of the muzzle or slightly below it so that a lead pencil laid on top of the muzzle would strike both eyes dead center. That is a good landmark to remember.

The muzzle should be short, square, wide and deep. It is in proportion to the skull, shorter in length than in width and depth, its length not exceeding 1/3 the length of the skull. Its length is measured from stop to tip of the nose. Its depth from nose to tip down to and including the under jaw. And the width the horizontal

distance across as viewed from the front. One should be able to gauge it at any point throughout its depth. Many, almost all, will fail this test and when they do we say that they fall away under the eyes. But since we are looking for the perfect muzzle, we must know what that perfect muzzle looks like. Even with these measurements perfect for the square muzzle, it still must be in proportion to the skull to balance the head.

Also, it is important that they muzzle be free from wrinkles. The little cushion or padding, sometimes called a rope, is not considered a wrinkle but even here the cushion should be held to a minimum. In fact the skin covering the entire expanse of the head should be fairly tight. The jaws are broad and square with short regular teeth. The chops are not pendulous and cover the teeth when the mouth is closed. A daintier muzzle on a bitch is to be preferred than a too generous one which approaches "dogginess". A broad jaw is needed to have a good muzzle and that is determined by the distance between the upper eye teeth. These are placed wider than the lower eye teeth even though the same in number. There is a slight gap on the inside of the upper eye teeth to accommodate the lower eye teeth when the mouth is closed. Faulty jaws would include crooked jaws or those turned to one side (wry jaws) and narrow placement of the eye teeth resulting in crowded condition of the six front teeth. Serious Fault: any showing to the tongue or teeth when mouth is closed!

A Boston should have a good, black nose print. Fault: pinched nostrils, enlarged nostrils. Disqualified: Dudley nose.

The neck should be of medium length and display an image of balance to the total dog. It rises upward and forward, is slightly arched, free of loose skin or throatiness, carries the head gracefully while fitting neatly and smoothly into the shoulders. We old timers had a saying:

"No neck ... no Boston." That is how important the neck is. What could detract from the general appearance and balance more than a neck too short and too thick for they go hand in hand. While not many points are allotted to the neck, you can be sure it is a very important feature of the Boston terrier as it is in most breeds. In my opinion, the neck has everything to do with the overall balance of the dog.

The body, as measured from the point of shoulder to buttocks, should equal in length the dog's height as measured from ground to withers. Years ago when I was learning about balance, we were taught that the length from withers to tail set should equal ground to withers. These measurements should form a square. If the distance from ground to elbow is greater than elbow to withers, the dog is high stationed. If the distance from ground to elbow is less than elbow to withers, the dog is low stationed. The back is straight and should slope ever-so-slightly from withers to rump. The highest point of the rump should be slightly lower than the height at the withers, the line between being straight. Roached backs and sway backs have no place in our breed! Dips behind the withers should be frowned upon. The rump curves slightly downward to the tail set. The loins should be short and muscular. If a Boston looks long in body, too much length of loin is almost always the culprit.

The chest should be smooth, moderately wide and well let down between the front legs. If one runs his hands between the front legs and up the front, one should find no hollow spaces or evidence of prosternum (chicken breast). When viewed from the side, the chest should reach to the elbow and ascends smoothly upward into a neat tuck-up. A narrow chest, flat sides, a wide chest, hollow spaces in the front which goes hand-in-hand with a noticeable prosternum. These things are all to be faulted.



# THE BOSTON TERRIER: A Seminar as Presented by Leonard L. Myers

The tail, which is short, fine and tapers toward the end, may be straight, drop or screwed, but should not be carried about the topline. It should not exceed in length one-fourth the distance from set n to hock. A tail that is extremely long, extremely gnarled or curves into the body or vent should be seriously faulted. A docked tail is a disqualification.

The shoulder blades are well laid back and slope approximately 35 to 45 degrees to ground and meet the upper arm at an angle of 90 degrees (a right angle). The blade itself and the upper arm should be about equal in length which helps the dog move with style in front. Faults in this case would be upright shoulders and short upper arms.

The elbows stand neither in nor out and of course fault would be out at elbows.

The elbows are set moderately wide apart and are on a line with the upper tip of the shoulder blades when viewed from the sides. When viewed from the front, the legs drop down perpendicular to ground from the points of shoulder, are straight, round and smooth in bone, with strong, very short pasterns. The dewclaws may be removed. Fault long or weak pasterns and short front legs. Fronts too wide or too narrow; loaded shoulders.

The feet are small, round, compact, turned neither in nor out with well arched toes. They are cat-like in appearance. Fault splayed feet, hare feet, flat feet and turned out feet.

The hind legs are set true and bent at the stifles, thighs strong and well muscled but smooth, hocks turning in nor out and short to feet. The hind legs should be parallel to each other throughout their course from hips to feet. One of the weakest joints of the Boston terrier is the place where the femur and tibia join - the stifle joint. It not only plays a serious role in heredity in our breed because patellar sub-

luxation is very common now and dogs displaying luxation really and truly should not be bred. If we continue to breed dogs with this fault, soon we shall have bitches who cannot carry a litter without breaking down due to the weight of the litter. Think about it. This is a serious fault in our breed and dogs when gaited who exhibit this fault should be excused and the book marked "Lame." since Boston terriers are very active, it is possible that it may take a veterinarian's opinion to determine if the luxating patella is from injury due to playing or jumping high off furniture or is a direct hereditary fault. For the Boston to move in a smooth fashion with style, the pelvic bone and the femur must approach equal in length and balance with the length of the scapula and upper arm. A mentor of mine years ago told me that the rear legs of the Boston are behind him, meaning they should not be underneath the dog making the dog high in the rear. If a Boston is high in the rear, one always looks for a stifle that is too straight.

The gait of the Boston is that of a sure-footed, straight-gaited dog, forelegs and hind legs moving straight ahead in line with perfect rhythm, each step indicating grace and power. I have always felt that the Boston's rear legs should not move in a short and stilted fashion under the dog but neither it should reach so far under the body as the shepherd or herding breeds or sporting breeds. He moves easily and firmly but not at a pace suggesting endurance or distance. His gait should always be judged at a trot and never let one run in the ring. There should never be any crossing movement, front or rear, and no paddling or weaving or hackney when gaited.

The coat is short, smooth, bright and fine in texture.

Color and Markings: brindle, seal or black with white markings. Brindle is preferred only if all other qualities are equal, something that you will never see. (Note:

Seal defined. Seal appears black except it has a red cast when viewed in the sun or bright light. Disqualify: solid black, solid brindle or solid seal without the required white markings. Gray or live colors.

Required Markings: white muzzle band, white blaze between the eyes and white forechest.

Desired Markings: white muzzle band, even white blaze between eyes and over the head, white collar, white forechest, white on part or whole of forelegs and hind legs below the hocks. A representative specimen should not be penalized for not possessing desired markings.

#### Disqualifications:

- Eyes blue in color or any trace of blue
- Dudley nose
- Docked tail
- Gray or liver color
- Solid black, solid brindle, solid seal without required white markings

# An Annotated Breed Standard Annotated by Al Nicks, SCJA

The current breed standard was approved January 9, 1990, at this time the parent club is undertaking revisions with the primary emphasis on acceptable colors. I will cover my thoughts on acceptable colors in the discussion on that section.

The Official Breed Standard will be printed in italics while my comments will be printed in regular type. As I have stated elsewhere the comments are strictly my opinion, based on 30 years experience with the breed. There may be, although I don't know where, a set of opinions that may differ from mine and may or may not be equally valid.

*General Appearance - The Boston terrier is a lively, highly intelligent, smooth coated, short-headed, compactly built, short tailed, well balanced dog, brindle, seal or black in color and evenly marked with white. The head is in proportion to the size of the dog and the expression indicates a high degree of intelligence.*

The body is short and well knit, the limbs strong and neatly turned, the tail is short and no feature is so prominent that the dog appears badly proportioned. The dog conveys an impression of determination, strength and activity with style of a high order; carriage easy and graceful. A proportionate combination of "color and white markings" should be given particular consideration in determining the relative value of GENERAL APPEARANCE to other points.

The general appearance section is generally well written in that it is short, concise and very descriptive. Two somewhat archaic terms have been carried over from the original standard, those are a "well knit body" and "neatly turned limbs" both of which are sufficiently nebulous to be open to a wide interpretation. Also the phrase "with style of high order" is of little real use in evaluating the breed. I once heard a presenter at a pug seminar state that breed could be described in three words round, square and curly, referring to the head, body and

tail. The Boston terrier may be described in two words; square and square.

*Size, Proportion, Substance - Weight is divided by classes as follows: Under 15 pounds; 15 pounds and under 20 pounds; 20 pounds and not to exceed 25 pounds.. The length of leg must balance with length of body to give the Boston terrier its striking square appearance. The Boston terrier is a sturdy dog and must not appear either spindly or coarse. The bone and muscle must be in proportion as an enhancement to the dog's weight and structure. Fault: Blocky or chunky in appearance.*

Please note the weight divisions generally only occur in the Open Classes at all breed shows and most often are divided as under 15 pounds and over 15 pounds but under 25 pounds. At specialty shows one may find the three classes used in open and other classes. Note there is no stated lower weight limit. Please note: a dog over 25 lbs. is not to be disqualified.

If I were asked to use one word to describe the body and structure it would have to be the word moderate. The bone should be moderate and covered with moderate muscle. There should be very little fat and the dog should show a moderate tuck-up.

In determining the squareness of the dog an imaginary line from the withers to the ground should be approximately equal to a line from the point of the shoulder to the set on of the tail.

*Influence of Sex - In a comparison of specimens of each sex, the only evident difference is a slight refinement in the bitch's conformation.*

This is an area that is subtle at best. The usual difference of size as called for in many breed standards does not apply to the Boston terrier where you may find an eight pound bitch and a 20 pound bitch in the same class, therefore sex could never be a determinate. Conversely, I would not penalize a dog that is refined if all other points were equal.

*Head - The skull is square, flat on top, free from wrinkles, cheeks flat, brow abrupt and the stop well defined. The ideal Boston terrier expression is alert and kind, indicating a high degree of intelligence. This is a most important characteristic of the breed. The eyes are wide apart, large and round and dark in color, the eyes are set square in the skull and the outside corners are in line with the cheeks as viewed from the front. Disqualify: eyes blue in color or any trace of blue. The ears are small, carried erect, either natural or cropped to conform to the shape of the head and situated as near to the corners of the skull as possible.*

*The muzzle is short, square, wide and deep and in proportion to the skull. It is free from wrinkles, shorter in length than in width or depth; not exceeding in length approximately one third of the length of the skull. The muzzle from stop to end of nose is parallel to the top of the skull.*

*The nose is black and wide with a well defined line between the nostrils. Disqualify Dudley nose.*

*The jaw is broad and square with short regular teeth. The bite is even or sufficiently undershot to square the muzzle. The chops are of good depth but not pendulous, completely covering the teeth when the mouth is closed. Serious Faults: Wry mouth..*

*Head Faults: Eyes showing too much white or haw. Pinched or wide nostrils. Size of ears out of proportion to the size of the head. Serious Head Faults: any showing or the tongue or teeth when the mouth is closed.*

While the Boston terrier is considered a "head breed", and there is no doubt that it is. It must be remembered that when one looks at the scale of points at the end of this standard.

The head accounts for approximately one third the total points, thus when judging the head it is important to realize there must be a correct sound body behind it.

# An Annotated Breed Standard

Annotated by Al Nicks, SCJA

Getting back to the concept of squares, when one looks down on a correct Boston head the top of the skull should be a square with the front corners being defined by the eyes and the rear corners being defined by the ears. The muzzle should appear as a rectangle attached to the square of the skull. One rarely sees a muzzle as long as one third of the skull and I use a rule that defines the width of muzzle as being a minimum of two and one half times the length. A long, tapered or snippy muzzle is incorrect, as is very short, flat muzzle such as you would find on a Peke. The latter would be more acceptable than the former, all other points being equal.

The eyes should be very round and very dark and should be prominent but neither deep set or protruding. It is important there be no white showing as this dark round eye contributes substantially to the overall expression. There should be no white showing in the ideal specimen and any white showing on the inside corners (such as you would see in a Japanese Chin) is a serious fault in my opinion.

The ears should be small and erect and should be set at the outer edges at the back of the skull, they may be natural or cropped but most important is the position of the ear as viewed from the front. The correct ear should be at an 11:05 position if the frontal view were a clock. An ear at a 10:10 position is, in my opinion, pushing the limit. Ear cropping serves two purposes, it reduces the amount of leather but when a notch is removed from the bell it can also substantially effect the position of the ear. There are many more Bostons being shown with natural ears today than in the past, I believe this is because breeders are finding they can breed a correct ear. For that reason given the proverbial two dogs of equal quality, one with natural ears and one cropped I would place the natural ear over the cropped. With a natural ear I can see

what Mother Nature and sound breeding has produced. With a cropped ear I can only judge the skill of the veterinarian.

The nose should be solid jet black, a dudley nose is a disqualification, a snow nose in my opinion is just a dudley nose and should be disqualified. One may occasionally see a butterfly nose, in my opinion any color on the nose other than solid black is a fault and should be given consideration in the placement of the dog. One other thing to watch for are pinched nostrils, because the Boston is a brachycephalic breed, pinched or very narrow nostrils can seriously hamper the ability to breath properly.

The jaw contributes substantially to the overall configuration of the muzzle and should be evaluated carefully, the area of the TMJ should align with the eye to give proper width. A level bite is rarely seen with most jaws being slightly undershot. The standard states, "sufficiently undershot to square the muzzle". How much is too much? View the muzzle from the side, when the head is erect the front of the muzzle is a vertical line.. It is important when the mouth is closed one should not be able to see neither teeth or tongue.

*Neck, Topline and Body-The length of neck must display an image of balance to the total dog. It is slightly, arched carrying the head gracefully and setting neatly into the shoulders. The back is just short enough to square the body. The topline is level and the rump curves slightly to the set-on of the tail. The chest is deep with good width, ribs well sprung and carried well back into the loins. The body should appear short. The tail is set on low, short, fine and tapering, straight or screw, and must not be carried above the horizontal. [Note: The preferred tail does not exceed in length more than one quarter the distance from set-on to hock.] Disqualify: Docked tail.*

*Body Faults: Gaily carried tail. Serious Body Faults: Roach back, sway back, slab sided.*

Our standard is very straightforward in this section, there are things that they did not address which I feel it is important to expand upon. One thing not addressed is a dip in the withers which in my opinion is a fault. The dip is not sufficiently elongated to be considered as a sway back yet is sufficient to effect the correct topline. The standard states the ribs should be well sprung, this does not mean barrel ribs, when considering rib spring form a mental picture of a cross section of the body as being a fat oval. The standard states the body should be short but there is such a thing as being too short, the key word in the standard is balance. When you consider the length of back you must simultaneously consider the length of the legs. A back that is too short will interfere with proper movement. In addressing the tail the maximum length is stated as one quarter the distance from the set on to the hock, you will rarely see a tail of that length in the ring. They did not address the minimum length on the tail, you will occasionally see what I refer to as an "inny", that is, there is a very short tail set in a depression in the rump at the set-on. In my opinion this should not be penalized. The standard states the ribs should be carried well back into the loins. The loin itself should be relatively short, a longer loin can contribute to a bad topline.

*Forequarters- The shoulders are sloping and well laid back, which allows for the Boston terrier's stylish movement. The elbows stand neither in nor out. The forelegs are set moderately apart and on a line with the upper tip of the shoulder blades. The forelegs are straight in bone with short strong pasterns. The dewclaws may be removed. The feet are small round and compact, turned neither in nor out with well arched toes and short nails. Faults: Legs lacking in substance; splay feet.*

Shoulder faults will reveal themselves in the dog's movement so there is no real need to massage the dog while on the

# An Annotated Breed Standard Annotated by Al Nicks, SCJA

table. Insufficient layback or a short upper arm will produce a hackney gate, while incorrect articulation of the shoulder assembly can result in loose elbows which may produce a variety of gait anomalies. When in doubt watch the gait carefully. The front legs, when viewed from the front should be a straight and parallel. Splay feet and weak pasterns are seen more frequently than they should, especially in dogs over a year old. I believe the primary cause of this is that most Bostons are housedogs who spend too much time on carpeted floors. This is only an opinion and I have never claimed not to be opinionated.

*Hindquarters-The thighs are strong and well muscled, bent at the stifels and set true. The hocks are short to the feet, turning neither in nor out, with a well-defined hock joint. The feet are small and compact with short nails. Fault: Straight in stifle.*

In addressing the rear angulation of the Boston I apply the term moderate, for comparison it is not as pronounced as a Dachshund nor as straight as a Chow Chow. The straight stifle is not only a fault but is usually accompanied with a degree of patella luxation. As with the front legs, the rear legs when viewed from the rear should be straight and parallel.

*Gait-The gait of a Boston terrier is that of a sure footed, straight gaited dog, forelegs and hind-legs moving straight ahead in line with perfect rhythm, each step indicating grace and power. Gait Faults: There will be no rolling, paddling or weaving when gaited. Hackney gait. Serious Gait Faults: Any crossing movement, either front or rear. The gait of the Boston terrier is an honest straightforward gait, there should be very little if any convergence towards the centerline. The most prevalent movement problem in the breed today is close rear movement. The breed should have moderate reach and drive. When viewed from the side dog should appear to float, there should be no up and down movement of the topline, no*

choppiness to the gait. If a Boston were being gaited in sand there would be two separate and distinct tracks.

*Coat- The coat is short, smooth, bright and fine in texture. The coat of a healthy Boston has a natural sheen that does not require anything other than a good brushing. The white hair on the collar and chest may be slightly longer, and more dense than the dark body hair, the texture may be slightly course. If it feels too course, check for chalk. There is absolutely no reason for the application of chalk to a Boston yet it has become a prevalent practice, that in my opinion should be discouraged.*

*Color and Markings- Brindle, seal or black with white markings. Brindle is preferred ONLY if all other qualities are equal. [ Note: SEAL DEFINED. Seal appears black except it has a red cast when viewed in the sun or bright light.] Disqualify: Solid black, solid brindle or solid seal without required white markings. Gray or liver colors.*

*Required Markings: White muzzle band, white blaze between the eyes, white fore-chest.*

*Desired Markings: White Muzzle band, even white blaze between the eyes and over the head, white collar, white fore-chest, white on part or whole of forelegs and hind legs below the hocks. [NOTE: a representative specimen should not be penalized for not possessing "desired Markings."]*

*A dog with a preponderance of white on the head or body must possess sufficient merit otherwise to counteract its deficiencies. There is a certain amount of controversy on color at this time and the BTCA has a committee studying a resolution. The problem lies in the fact that certain breeders are breeding and selling dilute and ineligible colors such as red, red brindle and blue Bostons.*

I don't see the problem to be that great in that a correct interpretation and

application of the existing standard is all that is required. First brindle is a pattern rather than a color, thus a brindle must have as a base color of either black or seal, ALL OTHER COLORS ARE A DISQUALIFICATION. It is not exactly rocket science to apply our breed standard on color, a "red brindle" is a reworked liver color which is a disqualification. A blue is nothing more than dilute black and is a disqualification, simple as that. More serious in our color standard is the fact that a solid white is NOT a disqualification. On the desired versus required markings it is generally accepted that the white blaze between the eyes should be symmetrical and contained within the inner edges of the eyes and the white collar should not extend beyond the shoulder and that white spots appearing elsewhere on the body are a no-no. I am going to give another personal opinion that I am sure many may disagree with, that is in my opinion markings are the frosting on the cake and should be really the last thing that is considered. I would put up a shyly marked specimen that is outstanding in all other aspects over a flashy marked specimen of lesser quality.

*Temperament- The Boston terrier is a friendly and lively dog. The breed has an excellent disposition and a high degree of intelligence, which makes the Boston terrier an incomparable companion.*

The Boston is a very outgoing animal, the word "stranger" is not in their vocabulary. Because an even temperament is such an integral part of our breed a dog that is aggressive or overly shy should be penalized accordingly.

*Summary- The clean-cut short backed body of the Boston terrier coupled with the unique characteristics of his square head and jaw, and his striking markings have resulted in a most dapper and charming American original: The Boston terrier.*

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