

The German Shorthaired Pointer Illustrated Standard



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GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER ILLUSTRATED STANDARD

This Illustrated Standard is intended as a visual tool for breeders, exhibitors, owners and fanciers of the German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP), but its primary purpose is a guide for Judges of the breed in the conformation ring.

We hope that this study will encourage you to look at and examine many GSPs in the flesh and develop an eye for this exceptional and versatile breed. We have elected to include appropriate illustrations and feature the official standard, with intermittent discussion of the standard, focusing on the virtues not dwelling on the faults. This publication in no way intends or should be considered as a change of any kind in the existing Standard for the German Shorthaired Pointer, approved August 11, 1992 and effective September 30, 1992.

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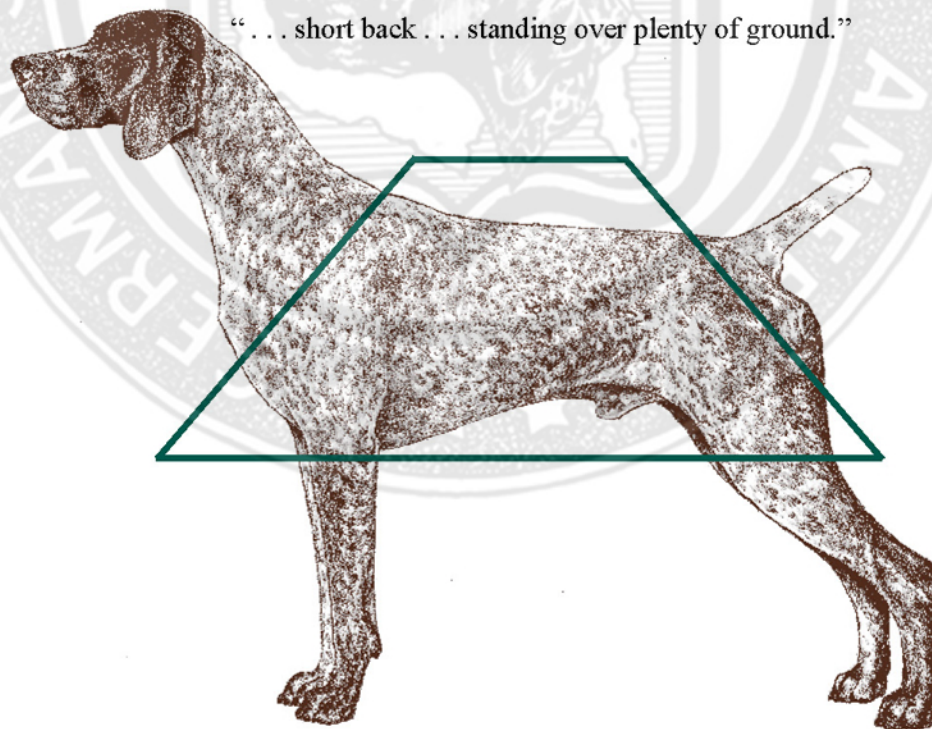
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Official Standard in black type; clarifying comments in **hunter green type and marked with an ***

OFFICIAL STANDARD FOR THE GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER

General Appearance

The German Shorthaired Pointer is a versatile hunter, an all-purpose gun dog capable of high performance in field and water. The judgment of Shorthairs in the show ring reflects this basic characteristic. The overall picture which is created in the observer's eye is that of an aristocratic, well balanced, symmetrical animal with conformation indicating power, endurance and agility and a look of intelligence and animation. The dog is neither unduly small nor conspicuously large. It gives the impression of medium size, but is like the proper hunter, "with a short back, but standing over plenty of ground." Symmetry and field quality are most essential. A dog in hard and lean field condition is not to be penalized; however, overly fat or poorly muscled dogs are to be penalized. A dog well balanced in all points is preferable to one with outstanding good qualities and defects. Grace of outline, clean-cut head, sloping shoulders, deep chest, powerful back, strong quarters, good bone composition, adequate muscle, well carried tail and taut coat produce a look of nobility and indicate a heritage of purposefully conducted breeding. Further evidence of this heritage is movement which is balanced, alertly coordinated and without wasted motion.



* Note that this phrase "like the proper hunter" refers to hunting and jumping horses, which are short backed and have sufficient and balanced angulation to make them both capable of endurance across irregular hunting terrain and able jumpers.

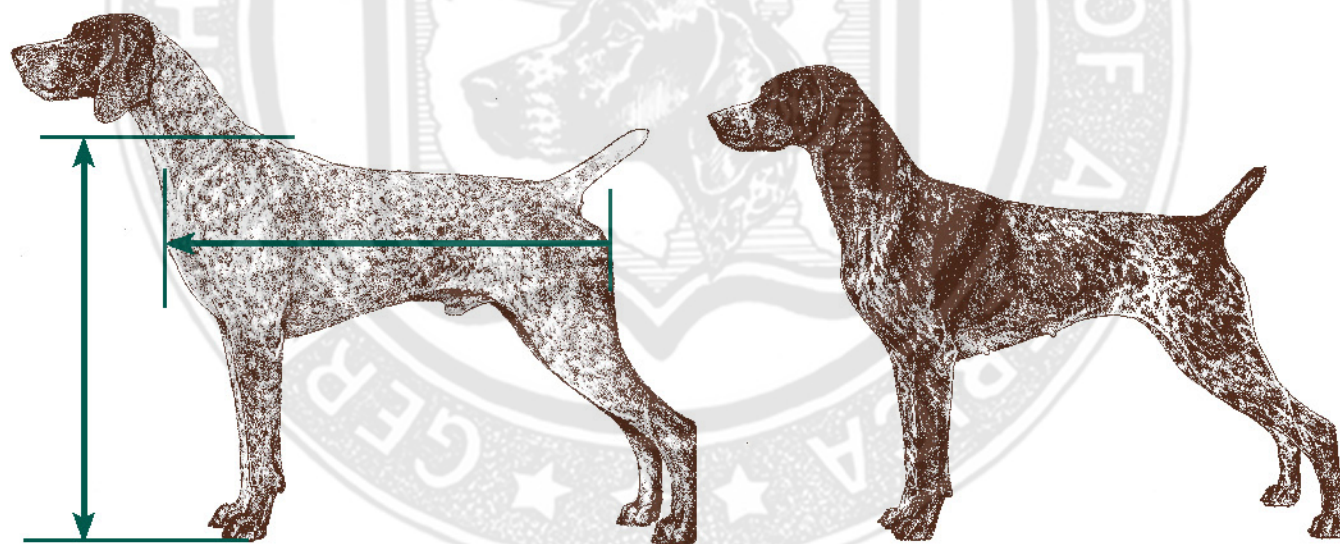
* Side movement shows ample reach and powerful drive which is effortless, fluid and light footed. The dog should use as little effort in movement as possible while covering maximum ground per stride. This indicates a dog that will have endurance and the mechanics to go for long periods in the field.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Size – height of dogs, measured at the withers, 23 to 25 inches. Height of bitches, measured at the withers, 21 to 23 inches. Deviations of one inch above or below the described heights are to be severely penalized. Weight of dogs 55 to 70 pounds. Weight of bitches 45 to 60 pounds.

Proportion – measuring from the forechest to the rearmost projection of the rump and from the withers to the ground, the Shorthair is permissibly either square or slightly longer than he is tall.

Substance – thin and fine bones are by no means desirable in a dog which must possess strength and be able to work over any type of terrain. The main importance is not laid so much on the size of bone, but rather on the bone being in proper proportion to the body. Bone structure too heavy or too light is a fault. Tall and leggy dogs, dogs which are ponderous because of excess substance, doggy bitches, and bitchy dogs are to be faulted.



* Judging the height of a Shorthair in the ring can be deceptive due to bone size, length of body and coat pattern. If the majority of dogs in a show ring are at the top of the standard and only one or two at the lower end or the other way around, do not consider a dog too large or too small by comparison only to others in the ring. Since there is almost a 4 inch height difference from the top to the bottom of the standard, learn proper height range by examining dogs of the proper size at both ends of the standard at seminars or when speaking to breeders. As we do not have a height disqualification, it is important to not automatically discard a dog from consideration in the ring because it is "thought" to be over- or undersized. An exemplary Shorthair, slightly large or small according to standard, is still severely penalized when an inch or more above or below the recommended standard heights.

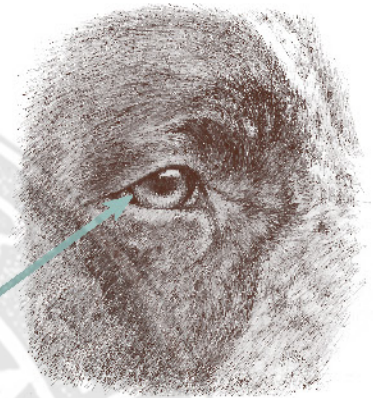
* Always remember that a German Shorthaired Pointer is a medium dog in bone, size and substance capable of high performance in the field.

Head

The *head* is clean-cut, is neither too light nor too heavy, and is in proper proportion to the body.

The *eyes* are of medium size, full of intelligence and expression, good-humored and yet radiating energy, neither protruding nor sunken. The eye is almond shaped, not circular. The preferred color is dark brown. Light yellow eyes are not desirable and are a fault. Closely set eyes are to be faulted. China or wall eyes are to be disqualified.

Almond shaped eye



Iris rim

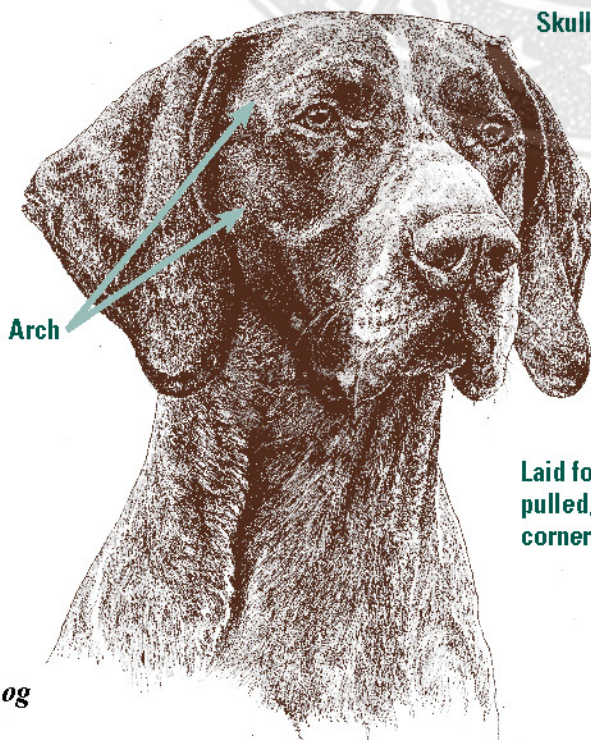
*** Note in young puppies that the eye may be lighter with dark brown rimming the iris. An eye so rimmed is likely to change to the preferred dark brown over the first two to three years of the dog's life. An eye in a puppy either light yellow or slightly greenish with no brown iris rim will not darken.**

*** Pointer characteristics such as round eyes, pronounced stop and conspicuous occipital bone should be penalized. The German Shorthaired Pointer should have a definite eyebrow giving the dog a soft pleasing eye expression.**

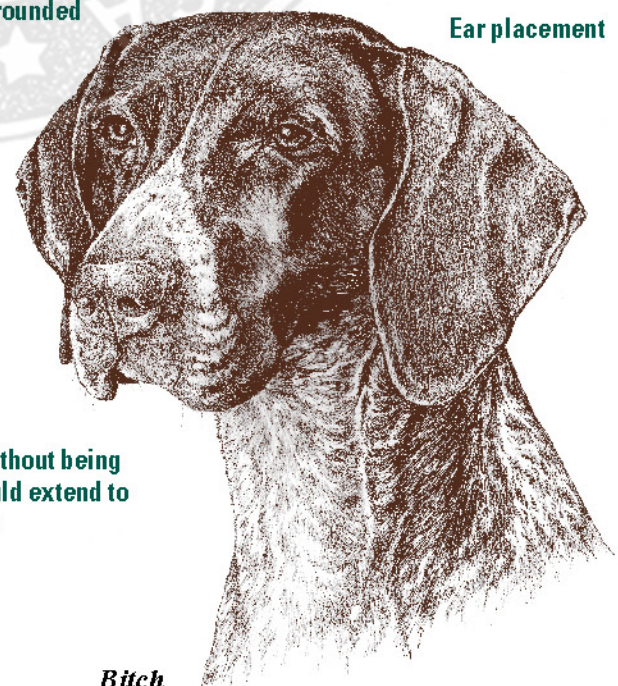
The *ears* are broad and set fairly high, lie flat and never hang away from the head. Their placement is just above eye level. The ears when laid in front without being pulled, should extend to the corner of the mouth. In the case of heavier dogs, the ears are correspondingly longer. Ears too long or fleshy are to be faulted. The *skull* is reasonably broad, arched on the side and slightly round on top. Unlike the Pointer, the median line between the eyes at the forehead is not too deep and the occipital bone is not very conspicuous. The foreface rises gradually from nose to forehead. The rise is more strongly pronounced in the dog than in the bitch.

Skull slightly rounded

Ear placement



Dog

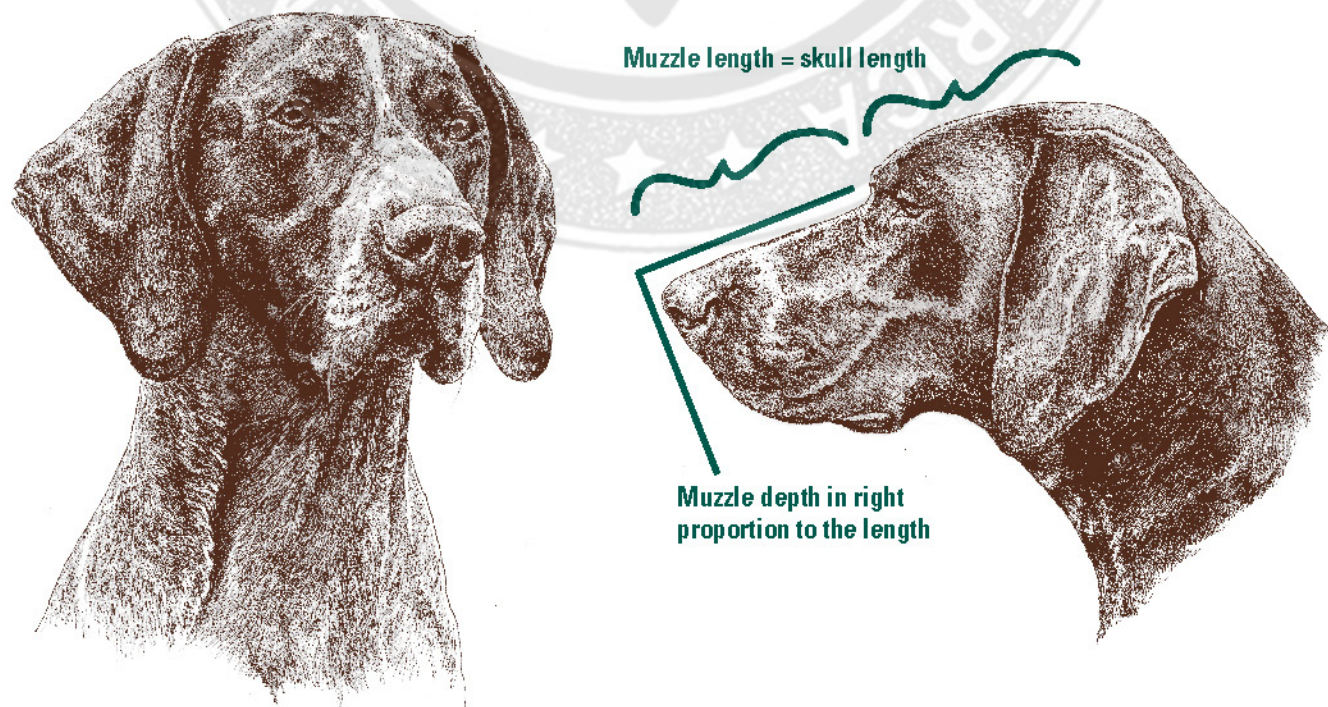


Bitch

The jaw is powerful and the muscles well developed. The line to the forehead rises gradually and never has a definite stop as that of the Pointer, but rather a stop-effect when viewed from the side, due to the position of the eyebrows



The *muzzle* is sufficiently long to enable the dog to seize game properly and be able to carry it for a long time.

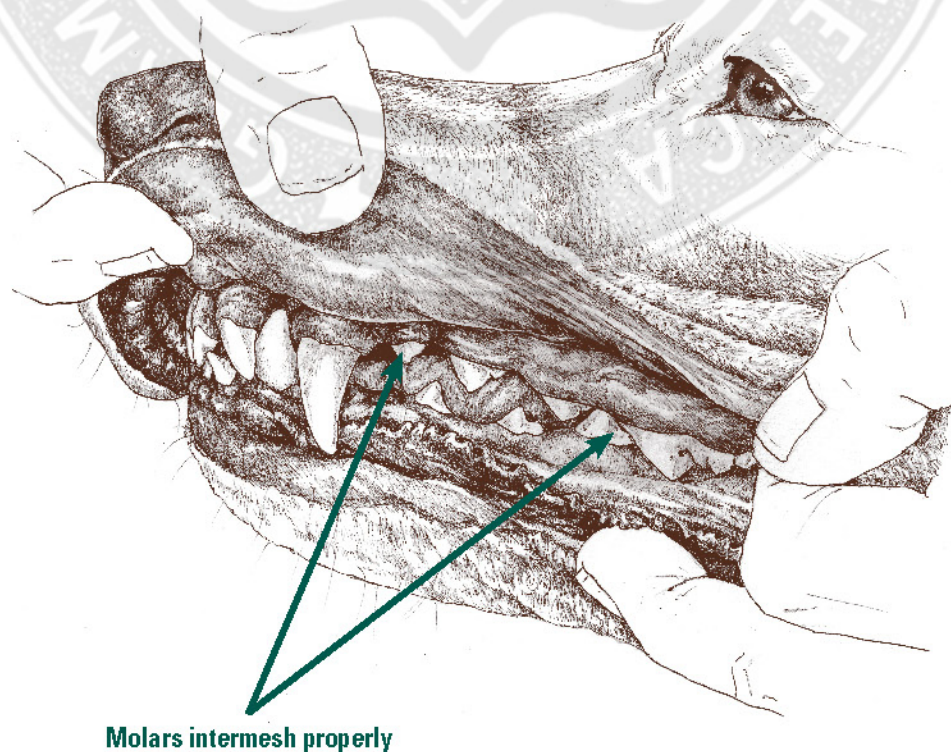


A pointed muzzle is not desirable. The depth is in the right proportion to the length, both in the muzzle and in the skull proper. The length of the muzzle should equal the length of skull. A dish-shaped muzzle is a fault. A definite Pointer stop is a serious fault. Too many wrinkles in the forehead is a fault.

The *nose* is brown, the larger the better, and with nostrils well opened and broad. A spotted nose is not desirable. A flesh colored nose disqualifies. The chops fall away from the somewhat projecting nose. Lips are full and deep yet are never flewly.

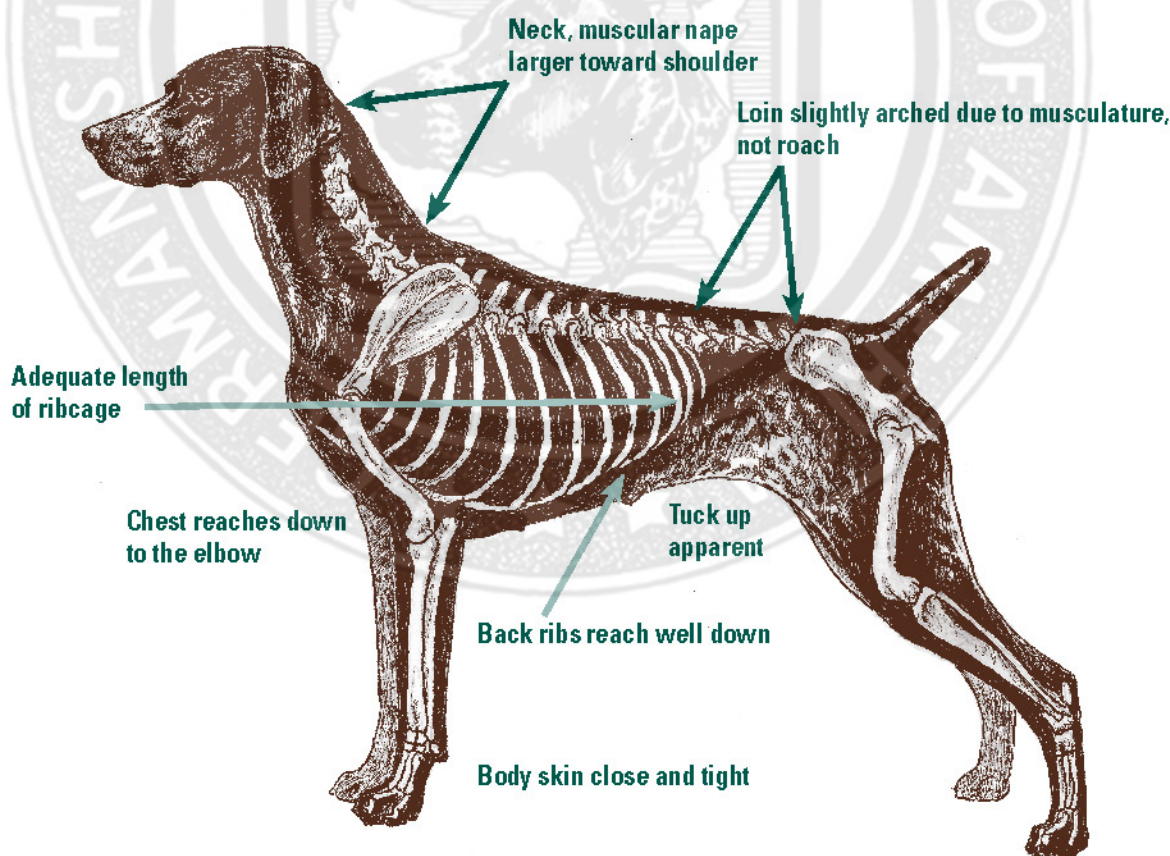


The *teeth* are strong and healthy. The molars intermesh properly. The bite is a true scissors bite. A perfect level bite is not desirable and must be penalized. Extreme overshot or undershot disqualifies.



Neck, Topline, Body

The *neck* is of proper length to permit the jaws reaching game to be retrieved, sloping downwards on beautifully curving lines. The nape is rather muscular, becoming gradually larger toward the shoulders. Moderate throatiness is permitted. The *skin* is close and tight. The *chest* in general gives the impression of depth rather than breadth; for all that, it is in correct proportion to the other parts of the body. The chest reaches down to the elbows, the ribs forming the thorax show a rib spring and are not flat or slabsided; they are not perfectly round or barrel-shaped. The back ribs reach well down. The circumference of the thorax immediately behind the elbows is smaller than that of the thorax about a hand's breadth behind elbows, so that the upper arm has room for movement. Tuck-up is apparent. The *back* is short, strong, and straight with a slight rise from the root of the tail to the withers. The loin is strong, is of moderate length, and is slightly arched. An excessively long, roached or swayed back must be penalized. The hips are broad with hip sockets wide apart and fall slightly toward the tail in a graceful curve. A steep croup is a fault. The *tail* is set high and firm, and must be docked, leaving approximately 40% of its length. The tail hangs down when the dog is quiet and is held horizontally when he is walking. The tail must never be curved over the back toward the head when the dog is moving. A tail curved or bent toward the head is to be severely penalized.

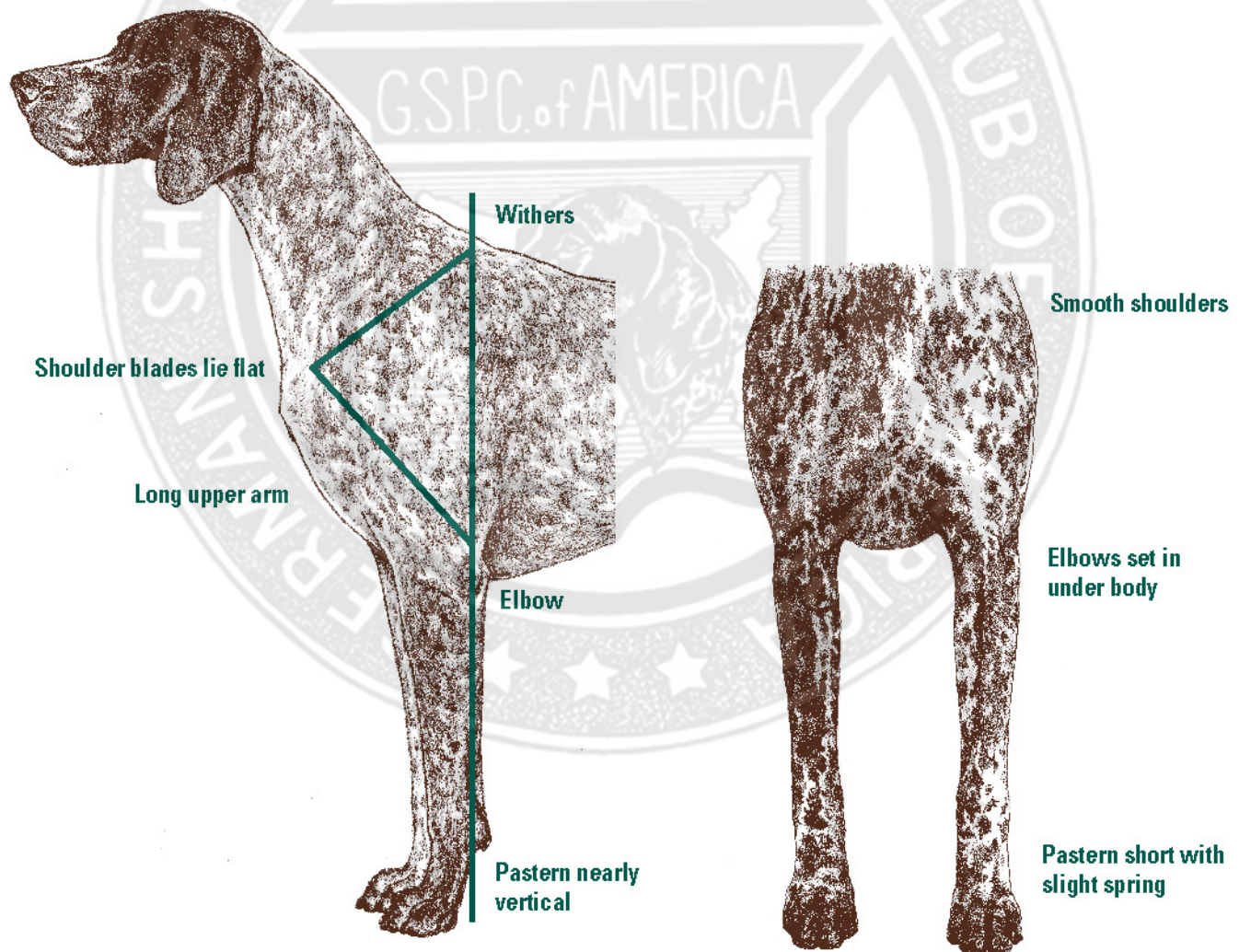


* Thin and ewe necks are incorrect in a sporting dog that must carry game long distances. The neck of the GSP should show a nice crest or arch of neck of medium length in proportion to the body. The neck flows into smooth and tight fitting shoulder blades.

* The tail is a good indication of the dog's temperament. It should never be clamped tightly to the body. When gaitting, the tail follows the natural topline of the dog or may be carried slightly higher with no bend or curve toward the head.

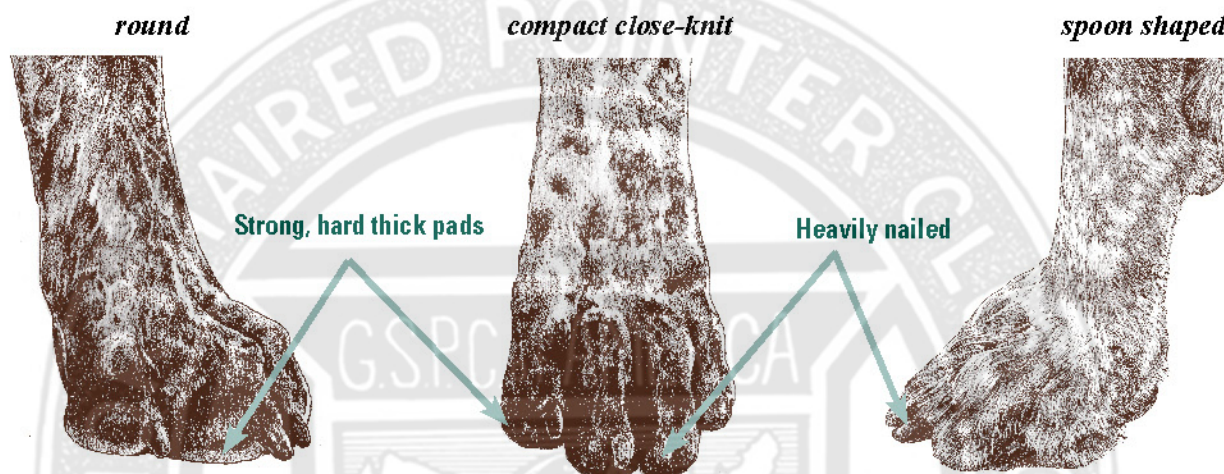
Forequarters

The shoulders are sloping, movable, and well covered with muscle. The shoulder blades lie flat and are well laid back nearing a 45 degree angle. The upper arm (the bones between the shoulder and elbow joint) is as long as possible, standing away somewhat from the trunk so that the straight and closely muscled legs, when viewed from the front, appear to be parallel. Elbows which stand away from the body or are too close result in toes turning inwards or outwards and must be faulted.



* The elbows are placed in a line under the top portion of the withers giving the proper angle to the front structure. A German Shorthaired Pointer should never have loaded shoulders (overly muscled under the shoulder blade).

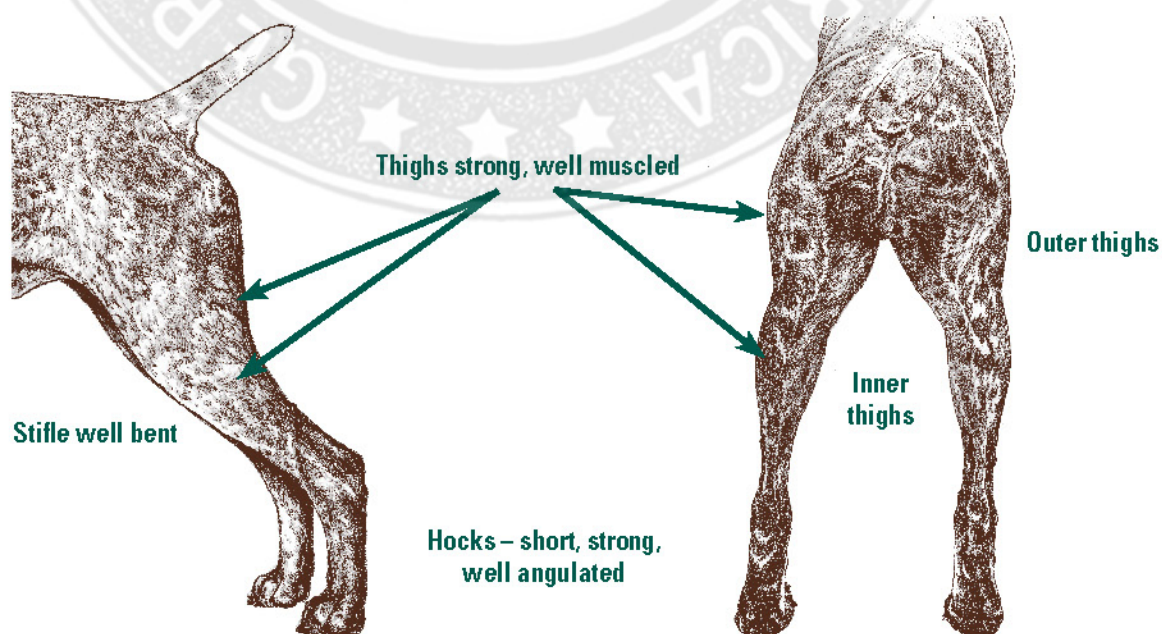
Pasterns are strong, short and nearly vertical with a slight spring. Loose, short-bladed or straight shoulders must be faulted. Knuckling over is to be faulted. Dewclaws on the forelegs may be removed. The feet are compact, close-knit and round to spoon-shaped. The toes are sufficiently arched and heavily nailed. The pads are strong, hard and thick.



*** Thin weak pads as well as no spring or give to the pasterns will hinder a working gundog from hunting all day and should be penalized.**

Hindquarters

Thighs are strong and well muscled. Stifles are well bent. Hock joints are well angulated and strong with straight bone structure from hock to pad. Angulation of both stifle and hock joint is such as to achieve the optimal balance of drive and traction. Hocks turn neither in nor out. Cowhocked legs are a serious fault.



*** Hips should be broad and the inner thigh muscle should be as well developed as the outer thigh muscle. Sickie hocks prevent the proper extension in the rear giving a short stride to the hindquarters. Proper balance front to rear is very important to the desired effortless movement of the GSP.**

Coat

The hair is short and thick and feels tough to the hand; it is somewhat longer on the underside of the tail and the back edges of the haunches. The hair is softer, thinner and shorter on the ears and the head. Any dog with long hair in the body coat is to be severely penalized.



*** Short doesn't mean thin. The body coat is dense, closely knit. It feels stiff, coarse to the touch and is not soft or porous. Doesn't get caught in underbrush, sheds dried mud easily and insulates well in cold wet conditions.**

Color

The coat may be of solid liver or a combination of liver and white such as liver and white ticked, liver patched and white ticked, or liver roan. A dog with any area of black, red, orange, lemon or tan, or a dog solid white will be disqualified.

*** The liver coloration in a GSP varies from a light milk chocolate to a very dark chocolate with varying shades in between. The nose on a liver dog is liver regardless of the darkness of the liver in the coat. A nose of a black dog is black. If a German Shorthaired Pointer has a liver nose it is a liver dog and genetically there cannot be any black coloration in the coat.**

*** The German Shorthaired Pointer may be any combination of liver and white. Coat pattern (solid, ticked, patched or roan) should never be a deciding factor in assessing type.**

*** As a judge we are asking you to evaluate type, structure, and soundness; coat pattern or head markings should not influence your decision.**

Color Continued . . .

* Some of the various coat patterns found within the breed. It is important to remember the GSP may be found in any combination of liver and white, not just limited to those depicted. Also, there is no restriction on the amount of white found on the chest of a predominantly liver dog.



Solid liver or predominantly liver w/ticked areas on chest & feet



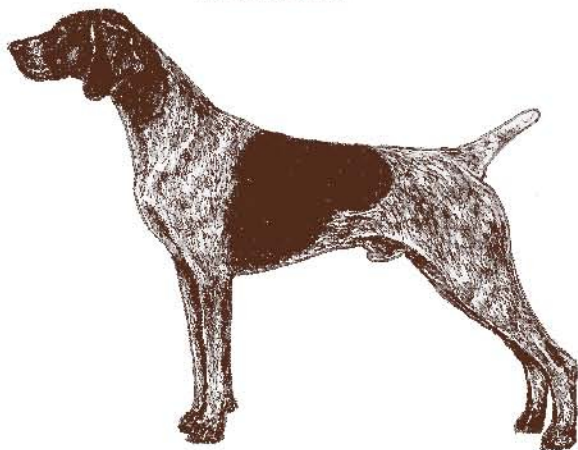
Clear white with small amount of liver



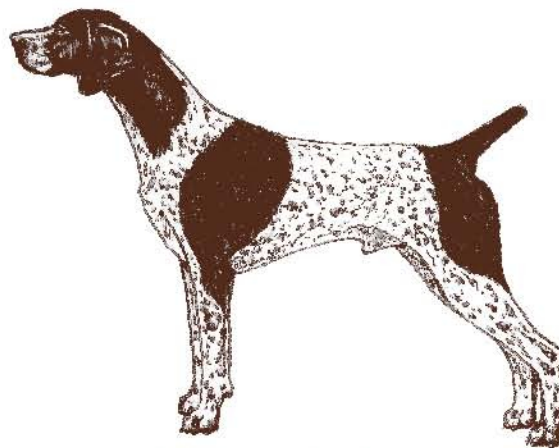
Predominantly bright ticked with liver patches on head & tail



More area of body with solid patch/white has some larger ticking



Liver roan with liver patches on body, neck, & head



Liver patches with white ticked area more open

Color Continued . . .

* Roan is not considered a color as found in other breeds, rather a distribution of liver and white hairs in an alternating stitch by stitch pattern.



Dark liver roan with patched head



Light liver roan with patched head/white on tail



An actual depiction of a coat pattern that exhibits many of the combinations of ticking, patches, roan, in combination with white that can be found on the German Shorthaired Pointer

* Coat pattern (solid, ticked, patched or roan) should never be a deciding factor in assessing type. As a judge we are asking you to evaluate type, structure and soundness; pattern should not influence your decision.

Color Continued . . .

* The Standard does not specifically state anything about the head as it pertains to markings. Following are a few examples of the range of possibilities: They can have solid liver heads with no blaze, or have wide blazes, or a considerable amount of white on the head, which are all acceptable combinations within the parameters of the standard.



Solid liver head – Dog



Solid liver head – Bitch



Small blaze – Dog



Narrow white line – Bitch

Color Continued . . .

* All head markings depicted by the same dog and bitch.



Frosted ear w/markings – Dog



Off center marking – Bitch



Very wide blaze with ticking – Dog

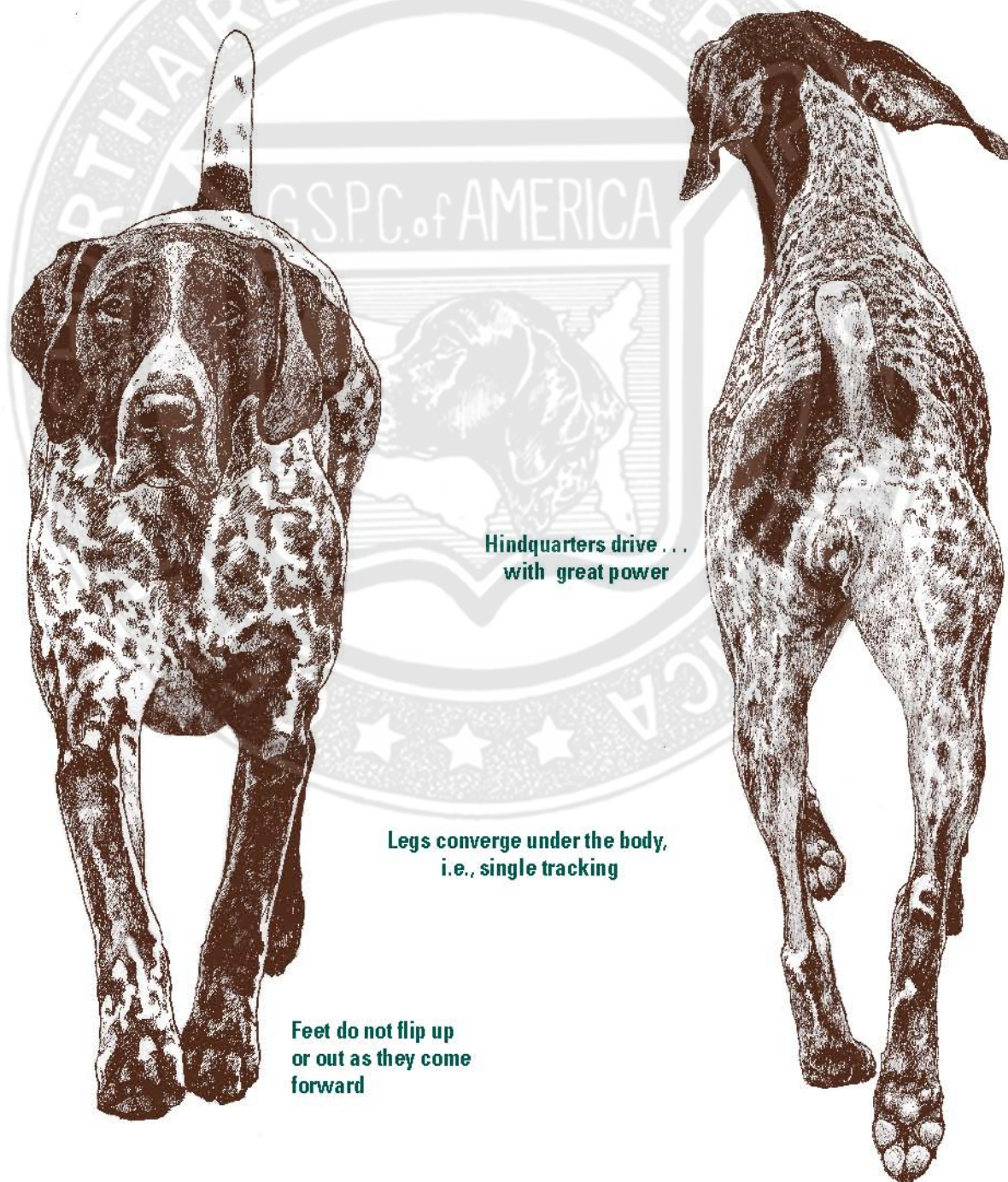


Half white face – Bitch

* An individual may have a preference when it comes to head markings but that should never be a deciding factor when assessing type in the breed ring.

Gait

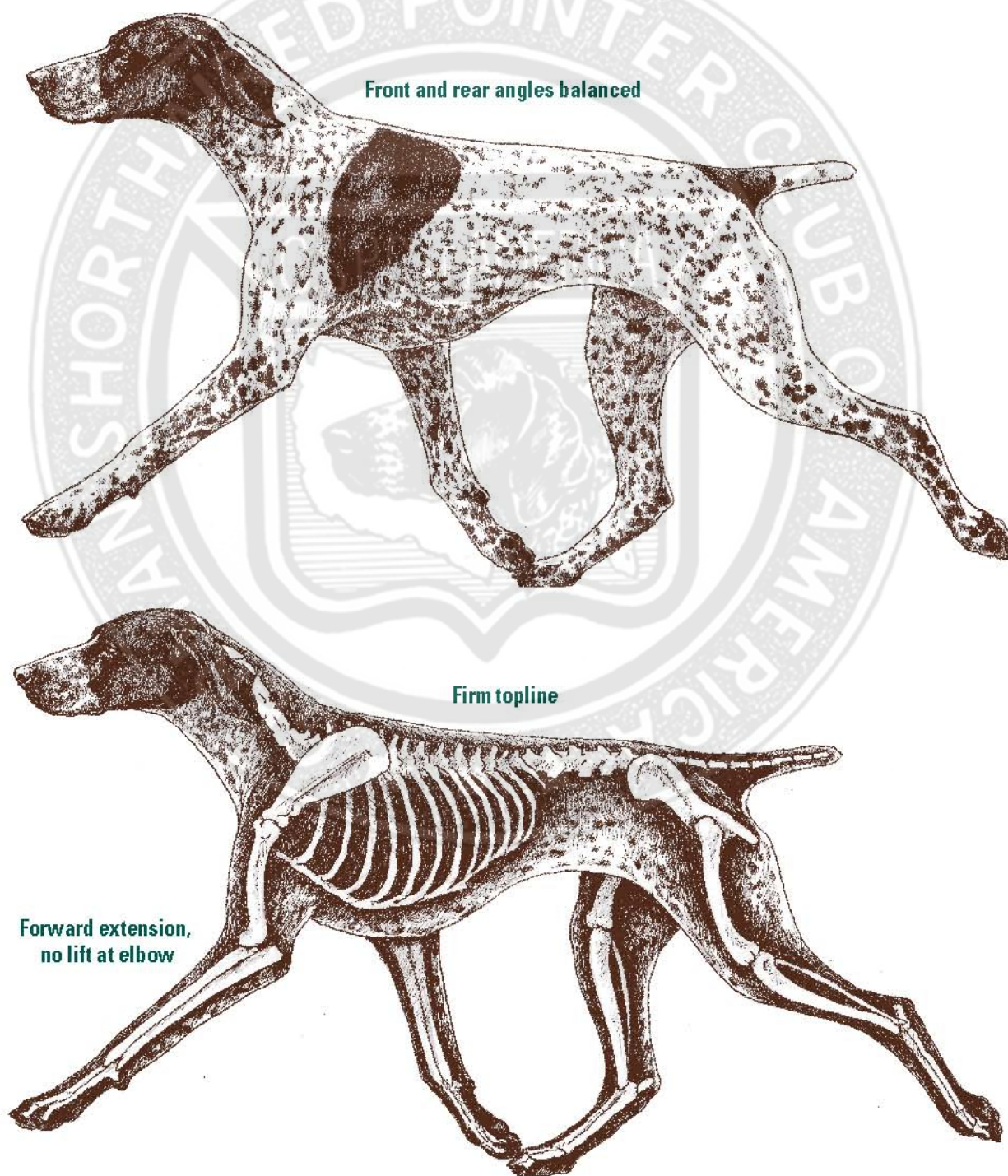
A smooth lithe gait is essential. It is to be noted that as gait increases from the walk to a faster speed, the legs converge beneath the body. The tendency to single track is desirable. The forelegs reach well ahead as if to pull in the ground without giving the appearance of a hackney gait. The hindquarters drive the back legs smoothly and with great power.



*** Movement of the German Shorthaired Pointer is of paramount importance. The dog should move effortlessly with ground covering strides. Feet should remain close to the ground without any wasted action. When moving, elbows should stay in line with the body and pasterns should not flip, paddle or circle.**

Gait Continued . . .

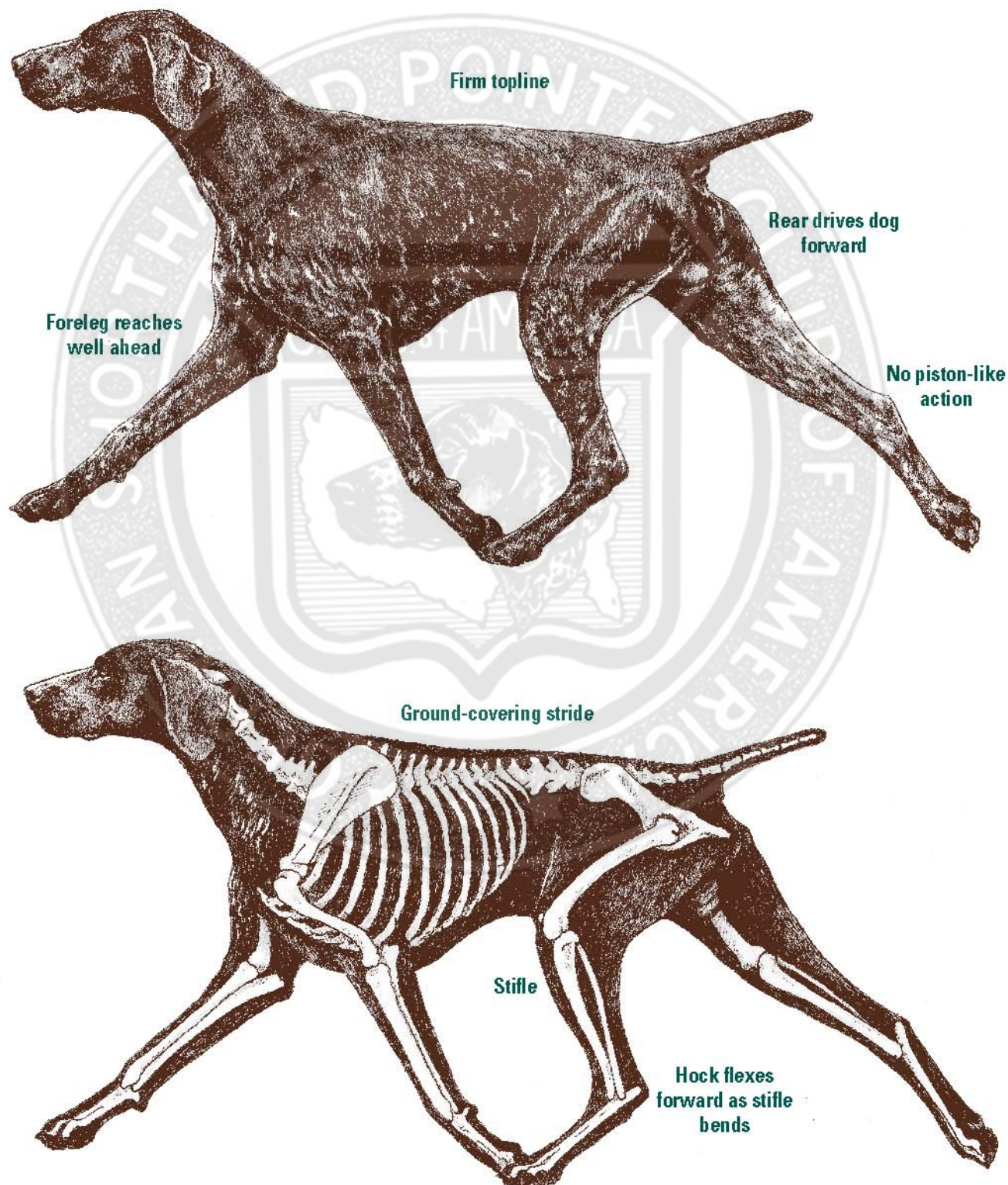
The forelegs reach well ahead as if to pull in the ground without giving the appearance of a hackney gait. The hindquarters drive the back legs smoothly and with great power.



Rear foot takes place of front foot without over-striking or sidestepping.

* Equal reach and drive attained by proper angulation – the front reaches pulling the ground under the dog without over-reaching or pounding.

Gait Continued . . .



* The rear should drive the dog forward without a piston-like action. Feet should remain close to the ground without any wasted action. The topline should remain firm with flexibility, no rolling, pitching or sagging. Proper ground covering movement is the key to correct conformation.

Temperament

The Shorthair is friendly, intelligent, and willing to please. The first impression is that of a keen enthusiasm for work without indication of nervous or flighty character.



*** The temperament of a Shorthair is outgoing and eager. Puppies sometimes misbehave but seasoned show dogs should look the part of an animated determined hunter. The German Shorthaired Pointer should never be tense or have a mean-spirited expression. A shy dog does not show temperament suited to an all purpose gun dog and should never be rewarded.**

DISQUALIFICATIONS

China or wall eyes.

Flesh colored nose.

Extreme overshot or undershot.

A dog with any area of black, red, orange, lemon, or tan, or a dog solid white.



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