

Newfoundland


14

ADRIANA GRIFFA
NEWFOUNDLAND TYPE EVOLUTION AND INVOLUTION
Moscow, 24th March 2014



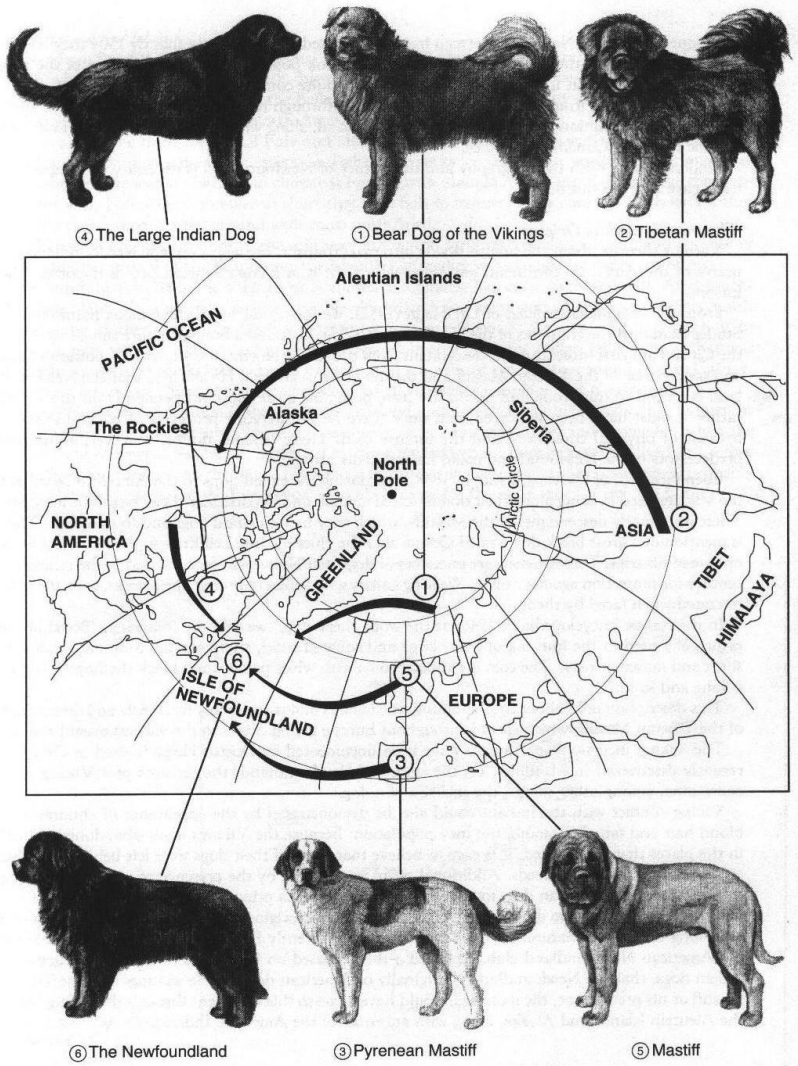
1941 - 2024



Adriana Griffa words Moscow, 24th March 2014:

This is not the best moment for Newfoundland.
The breed is crossing a difficult time almost all over the world.
There are problems about type and conformation.
This is a sad situation because some of these dogs with problems of type and conformation are winner dogs.
From 2004 the breed had a strong involution.
Laking of knowledge, together with arrogance, fightness between breeders, breeders and clubs, and between different clubs, make to promote **hiper type, exaggerated dogs**.
The golden era of Newfoundland began in early ’80 and went on in the ’90 until 2005/6, and then little by little with exaggeration we arrived in the present situation, with dogs lacking in type, size and temperament.
We must keep in mind that Newf is placed in FCI Group 2, Section 2.2 Mountain Type: Anatolian Shepperd, Newfoundland, Hovawart, Leonberger, Landseer e.c.t., Spanish Mastiff, Pyrenean Mountain Dog, Charplaninac, Atlas, St. Bernard, Caucasian Shepperd, Tibetan Mastiff, Torniak.
And not in Molossus Type FCI Group 2, Section 2.a Molossoid.
Mountain Dogs are a combination between molossoid and lupoid: they are “lupo-molossoid”.
More molossoid in Newf and St. Bernard, more lupoid in Pyrenean Mountain Dog.
As in the Newf the standard says that “the muzzle is moderately short”. In the past the lupus was always waiting behind. Nowadays breeders, afraid of long noses, run too much after the molossus type not taking care of the placement of the dog in Group 2 Section 2.2.”

Theories of the origin of the Newfoundland



General appearance.

"The Newf is massive, with powerful body, well muscled and well coordinated in his movement" (FCI standard).

The standard is built around a big, powerful, muscled and **balanced** multipurpose dog, able to work on the land and in the sea together with human companions.

"Large size is desirable, but never at the expense of type, structure and correct gait" (AKC standard).

He is well known for water rescue but also he pulls carts, sleds and carries packs.

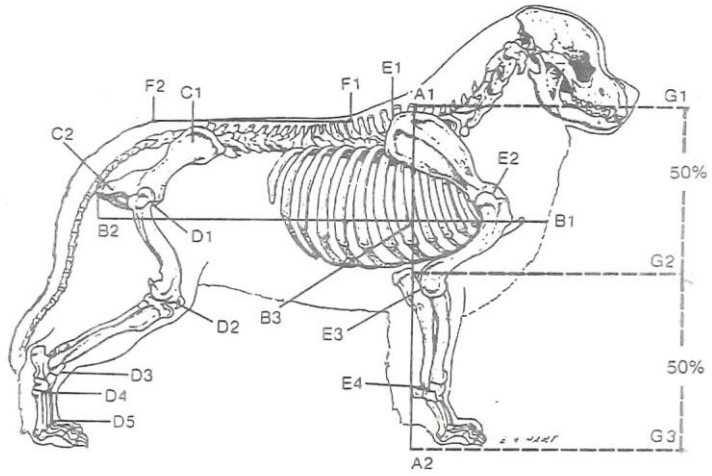
Important proportions.

He is slightly longer than tall, rather compact (10-12%).

The distance from the withers to the brisket (lower part of the chest) should be 50% of dog's total height. Skin, muscle and coat make this distance appear proportionally greater. Viewed in profile it seems to be about 55%.

Distance from withers to elbow is about 50% of total height, and from elbow to ground about 50%.

TOPOGRAPHY AND MEASUREMENTS



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

Head.

The head tells the breed, because in the head stand many characters related to the breed.

Head is massive with broad (large) skull, slightly arched crown (dome) and strongly developed occipital bones.

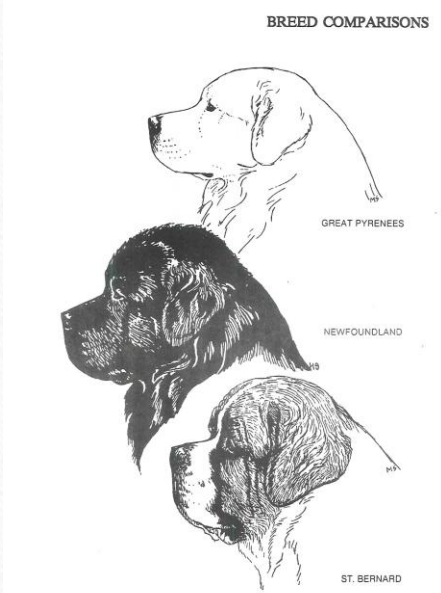
The skull should have a rounded appearance, because of pronounced frontal bones, and enough development of the brows to protect the eyes. **The slope of the stop is moderate, but because of the well developed brows may appear abrupt in profile.**

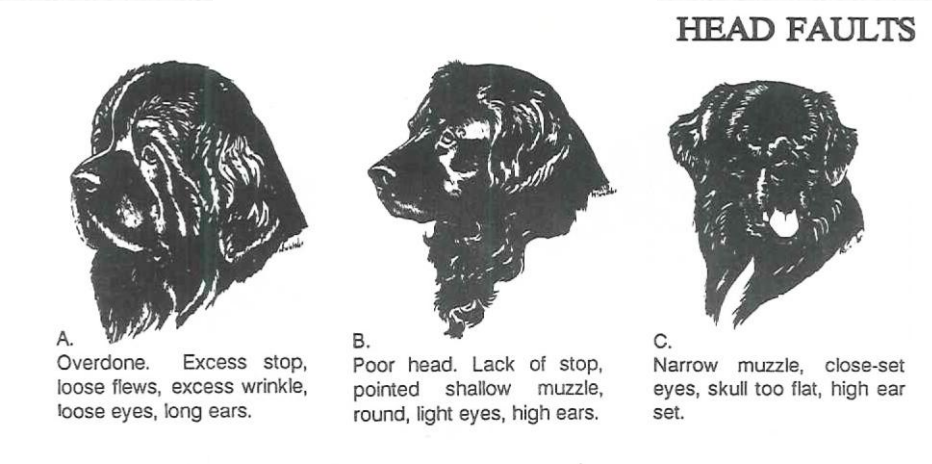
Muzzle is clean cut, broad through his length and deep. Depth and length are approximately equal.

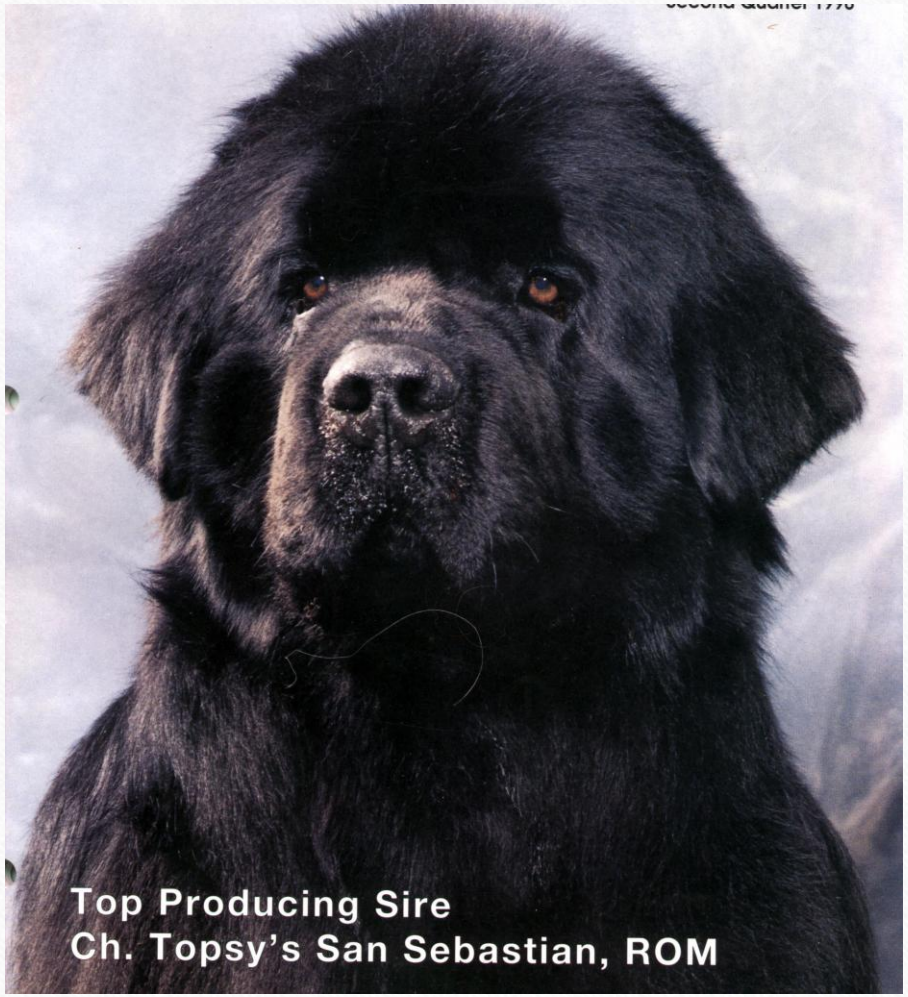
The length from the tip of the nose to stop being less than the length from the stop to the occiput.

The standard says “moderately short”.

Never long, pointed, snipey or weak.






Top Producing Sire
Ch. Topsy's San Sebastian, ROM

Head planes.

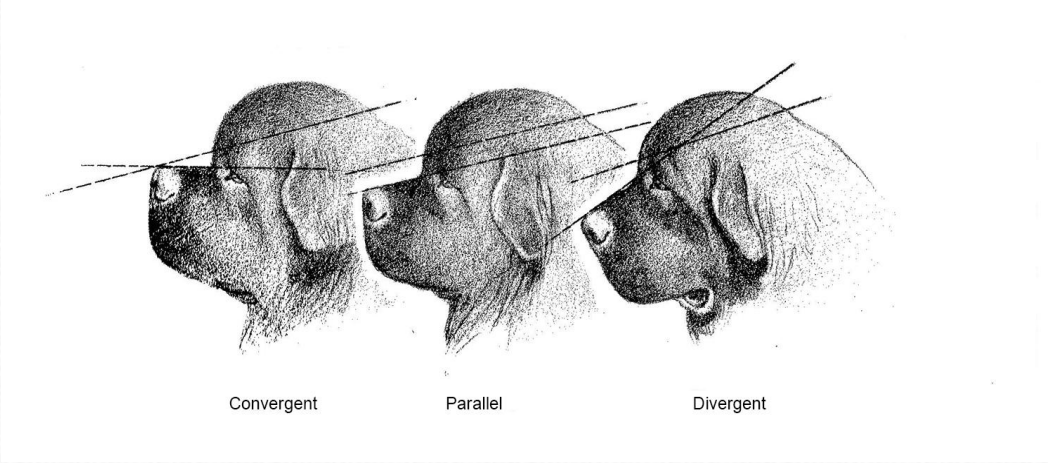
Very important in the head evaluation are the head planes: **direction of muzzle planes and skull planes, in relation to one to another**.

The study and theory of head planes were fixed by Giuseppe Solaro, veterinarian, professor at Torino University, who was the first person in Italy to study with scientific criteria the dog morphology in the beginning of XX century.

Viewed in profile, skull planes are an ideal line going on the top of the skull from occiput to stop, and muzzle planes are an ideal line going on the foreface from stop to tip of nose.

They can be convergent, divergent, parallel.

Parallel head planes never meet together.



Convergent head planes meet with an angle lower than 180°.

Divergent head planes met with an angle higher than 180°.

Convergent dogs are short faced dogs with decided stop. They have more severe expression, eyes set not wide apart (mastiff like).

Divergent dogs have muzzle as long as the skull and with slight soft stop. With divergent dogs we have long muzzle, narrow skull, not well developed brows or frontal bones, low set ears (Blood Hound like).

Newfoundland standard says that skull has to be “broad, with slightly arched crown”, stop has to be “evident but never abrupt”, muzzle has to be “square, deep and moderately short …free from wrinkles”.
So Newfoundland has parallel head planes.
Faults in head planes are always major faults because they concern type.





Eyes.

Eyes relatively small, deeply set, wide apart almond shape, express great intelligence and good temperament.

Newfy expression is soft and reflex benevolence, intelligence, dignity.

Prominent, round, too close eyes spoil the expression.

The eyes must be brown colored, with a shade of red.

Light or yellow light give to the eyes a startled look.



Ears.

The ears have to be well set back on the side of the head, at eyes brow level, and lying close.

When seen from the front, they should blend completely in the head.

High set ears, very often related with flat skull, and low set Spaniel like ears, give to the dog incorrect expression.

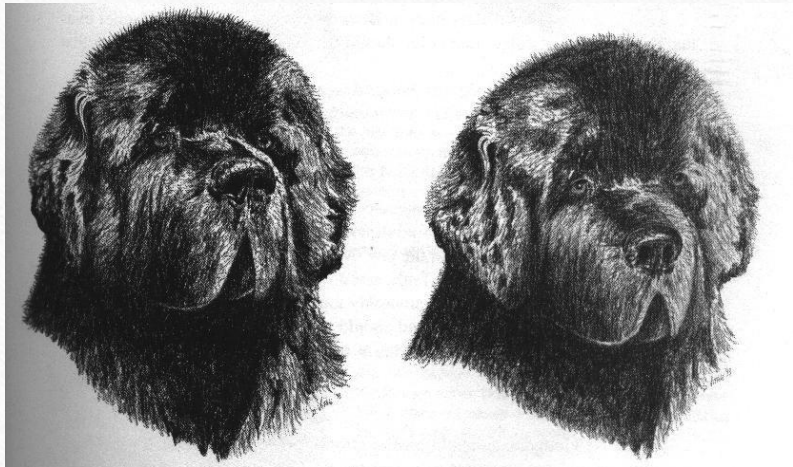
Teeth.

Teeth should meet in a level or scissors bite.

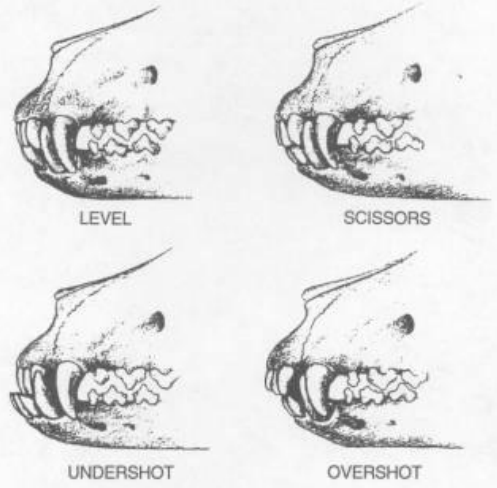
Dropped lower incisors should be considerate only minor deviation and has not to be taken in consideration.

Wry mouth overshot and undershot bite contribute to lack of soundness and should be penalized as such.

* We call this mouth - ”soft Mouth”



Beautiful Newfoundland heads, male on left and female on right, depicting the desired massiveness but showing the sweet, benevolent Newfoundland expression. The male is Ch. John's Big Ben of Pouch Cove, owned and bred by Peggy and David Helming. The bitch is Ch. Stillwater's Private Party, bred by Milan D. Lint and owned by Joan C. Bendure and Milan D. Lint. *D. Vitale*

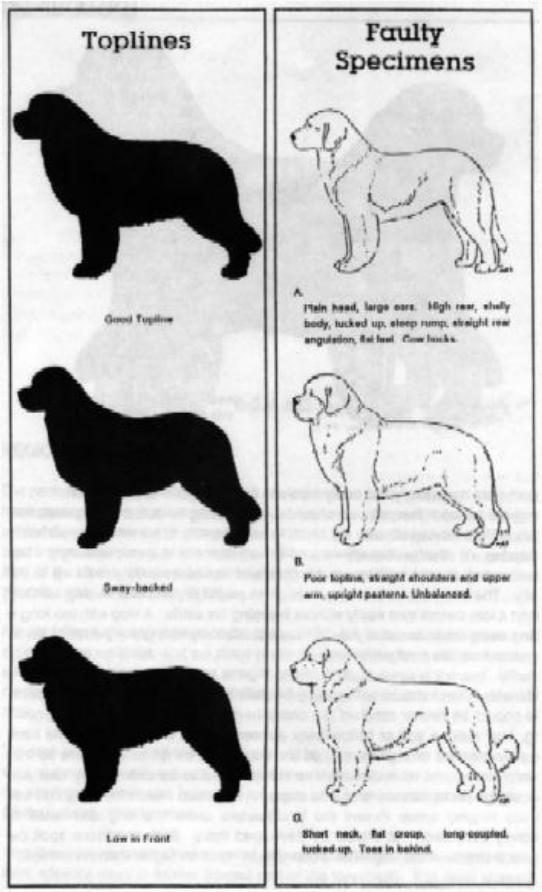


Neck.

“Strong, muscular (….) long enough to permit dignified head carriage” (FCI standard).

Too long or too short neck put Newf out of balance and not fit for his function.

It must be powerful enough to make Newf able to perform his duties, to retrieve in the easy way on land and in water.



Body and chest, back, loin croup.

Viewed from the front, the chest is deep in brisket and fairly broad.

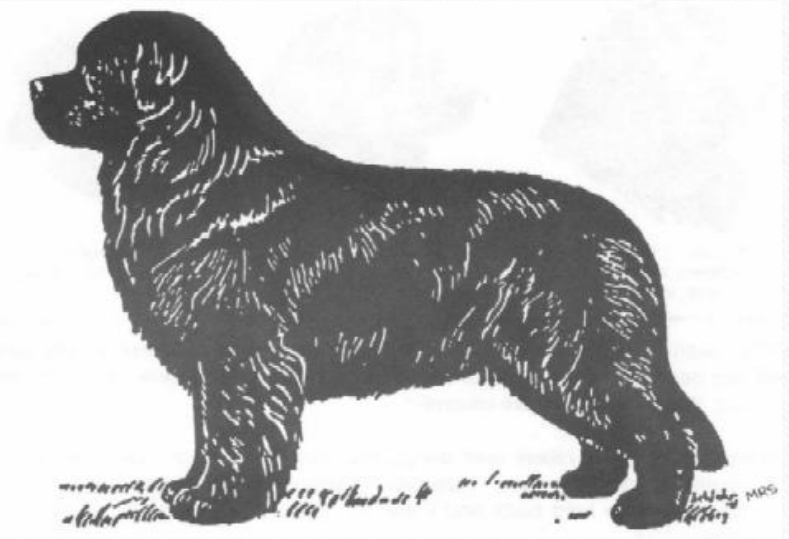
Viewed from the side, the chest should extend to the elbow.

The back should be broad, firm, level to the ground. Any curvature of the spine is incorrect because it affects the function.

The loin is broad and strong, and long enough to permit suppleness.

A dog with too long loin has too much play and loose the power of transmission from the rear.

The croup should be wide, long and moderately sloping (30 degree).



Forequarters and hindquarters.

Forequarters.

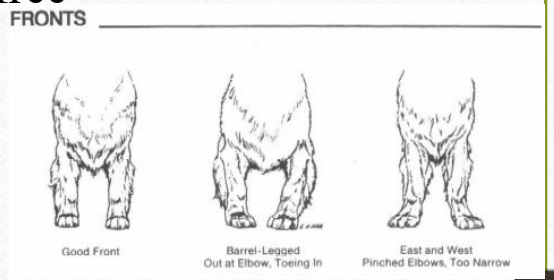
Forelegs are straight and parallel.

Shoulders should be broad, well muscled, firmly placed and well laid back.

Upperarm should be of the same length as shoulder blade, close to the ribs and with free movement.

The better the front and rear angulations match together, the better the dog will move.

Feet, proportionate to the body, are webbed and cat foot.



Hindquarters.

"Because driving power for pulling loads, swimming or covering ground efficiently is largely dependent upon the hindquarters, the rear structure of the Newfoundland is of prime importance. The pelvis has to be strong, broad and long" (FCI standard).

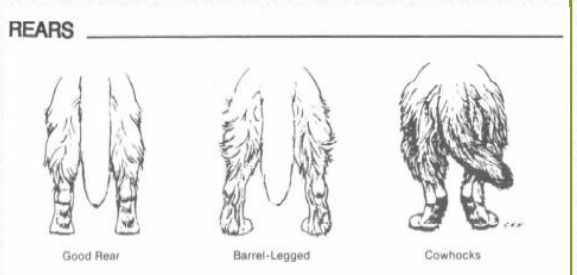
So, the hindquarters should be powerful.

Hips and thighs broad and muscular.

Stifles and hocks are well bent to produce flexibility.

The line from hock to ground is perpendicular, as the American standard specify.

The AKC standard commentary specify that when the dog moves away the pads of the rear feet have to be visible. **No sickle hocks**



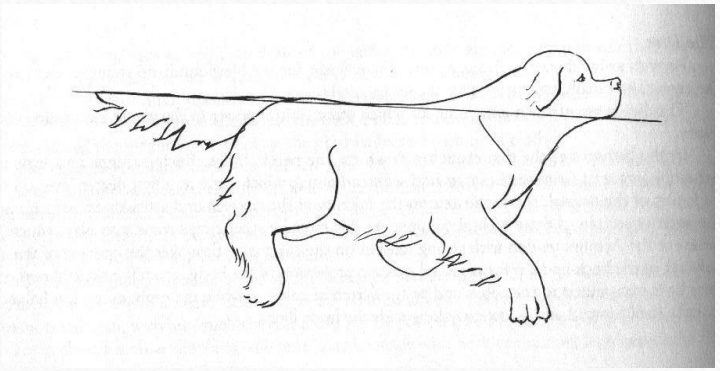
Tail.

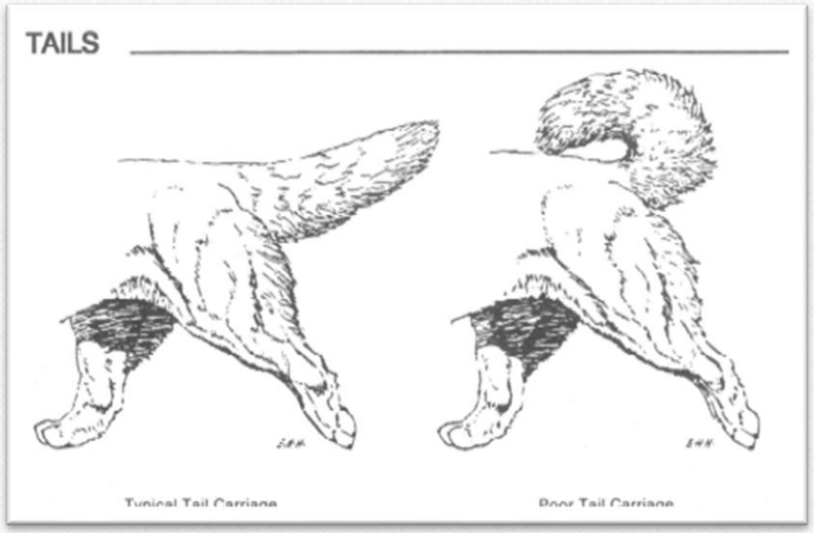
The tail is broad at the base and strong, reaching the hocks. It follows the natural line of the croup.

When the dog is standing the tail hangs down with a slight curve at the end.

When in motion or excited, is carried out, but never curl over the back.

When the dog is swimming the tail acts as a rudder.





Movement.

Movement is the test of conformation.

When Newf trots he should give the impression of effortless power, with good reach and strong drive, and the American standard says “his gait is smooth and rhythmic covering the maximum amount of ground with the minimum number of steps”.

The gait should be free and easy with a slight roll of the back.

This roll is typical of the breed.

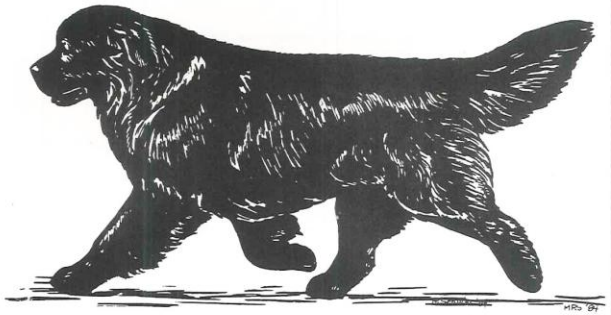
This combination between rolling and trotting depends from the elasticity of articulation’s ligaments (typical of water dogs) and from the strong muscles on the spinal column.

But the firm (solid) top line has to be maintained and must not be lost in movement.

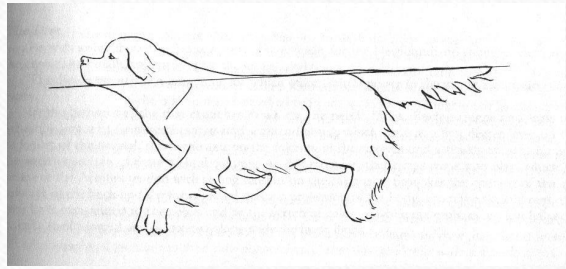
Sound and well coordinated movement is essential character of type, without this the Newf cannot
attain his functions on the land and in water.

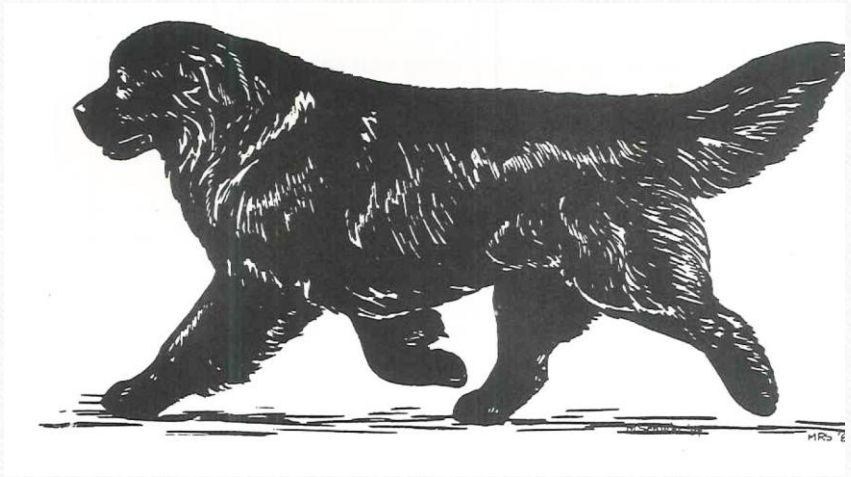
Dogs with correct forequarters that toe in slightly are acceptable because of big spring of ribs and elastic ligaments.

They have to be distinguished from dogs out of elbows and soft in ligaments, that is a fault.

















Exaggerations.

Over angulated dogs, who are not balanced with the front angulation, and dogs with sickle hocks (who are not to be confused with good angulated dogs as some “breeders” think) don’t fit for function, because the power of transmission from the rear cannot reach properly the back.

The correct structure, sound and balance allows Newf to perform his working function on the land, pulling carts, pulling trunks, and in water, swimming and rescuing.

Exaggerations don’t fit for function.

Coat.

His double outer coat is close, straight, flat and oily water resistant. It protects the skin from water and cold.

His undercoat is dense and protects the dog from the cold.

Waivy coat is acceptable, woolly is fault because is not water-resistant.

Color and markings.

Black.

The dominant solid color is black.
Typical is a small white spot in the chest.
Dogs with white toes and tip of tail should be shown in black classes.
Dogs with excessive white, white leg or white tail, are mismarked black, and as such they have to be faulted.



Brown.

Other solid color is brown from chocolate to bronze.
It is acting as black. Non admitted in Canadian standard.

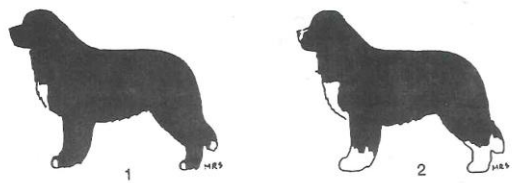
Grey.

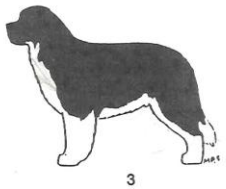
Non admitted in FCI and Canadian standard, admitted in AKC standard.

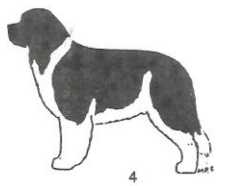
White and black (landseer).

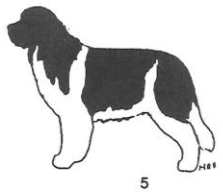
Preferred markings: black head with preferably white blaze in the muzzle, black saddle, black croup and upper tail.
The remaining parts are to be white and can show a minimum of tickings. Tickings may be present.
Excess ticking may disturb the contrast of the white and black coat. A clear white is better, but for me also tickings are secondary to type, structure and soundness.

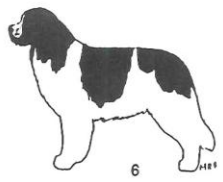
COLOR PATTERNS

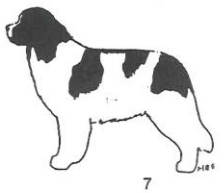


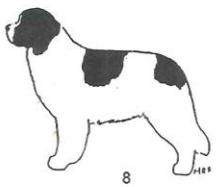












Examples of some frequently encountered color patterns, all acceptable on black/white or white/black dogs. On brown or gray dogs, the amounts of white shown in numbers 1 and 2 are acceptable, but 3 through 8 should be disqualified.



Colour is secondary to type, structure and soundness, as AKC standard says.

It is necessary to know the ideal patterns for solid colours and white & black, for comparing dogs of comparable quality.

Markings may deviate a lot from those described, including asymmetrical markings on either solid colour or white & black dogs. Markings may extend well beyond the areas described.

Beauty of markings should be considered only when comparing marked dogs of similar quality. White & black dogs and brown dogs are to be shown in the same class as black, as FCI standard says.




Eukanuba
CACIB
2
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Disqualification.

Any colour or combination of colours not specifically described are to be disqualified.

Temperament.

Newfoundland is a **sweet, gentle dog**.

His expression reflects the characteristics of the breed: benevolence, intelligence and dignity.

Sweetness is the most important characteristic of the breed.

Shyness and lack of self-confidence are not acceptable for this gentle giant, and should be severely penalized.



The circular FCI February 11, 2014, n. 13/2014

FCI Basic Statements for Show Judges – Dogs fit their original function.

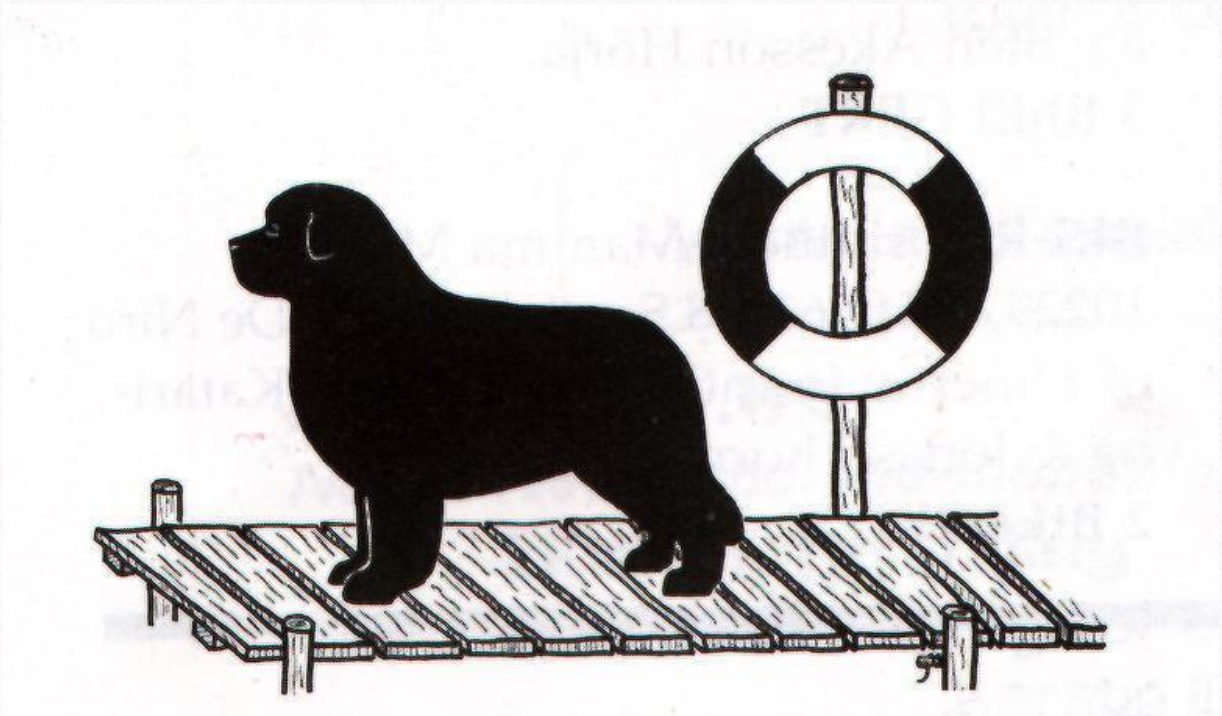
"The task of the show judge is to help and preserve the inner and outer characteristics of each breed (….) the judge's main task is to judge and evaluate dogs according to the breed standard and to consider them as potential breeding dogs for future generations. This must never be done at the detriment of the welfare and well-being of the dogs. Dogs must always be fit for function for which they were originally meant, developed and bred for."

"A judge must particularly pay attention to the breed-specific characteristics which have a tendency towards exaggeration, which can creep into a breed and have a negative effect on the health of the individual dog."

The circular recommends judges to select winners of correct type and overall quality according to the FCI standard.

"Exaggerations in conformation and faults which have an effect on the dogs health are more serious than cosmetic problems."

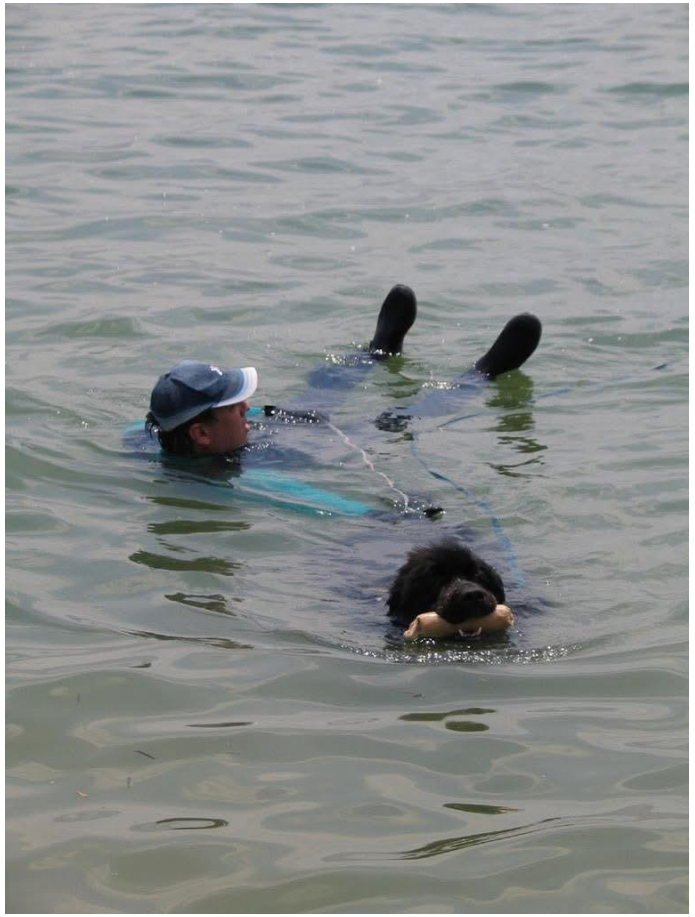
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Water Training





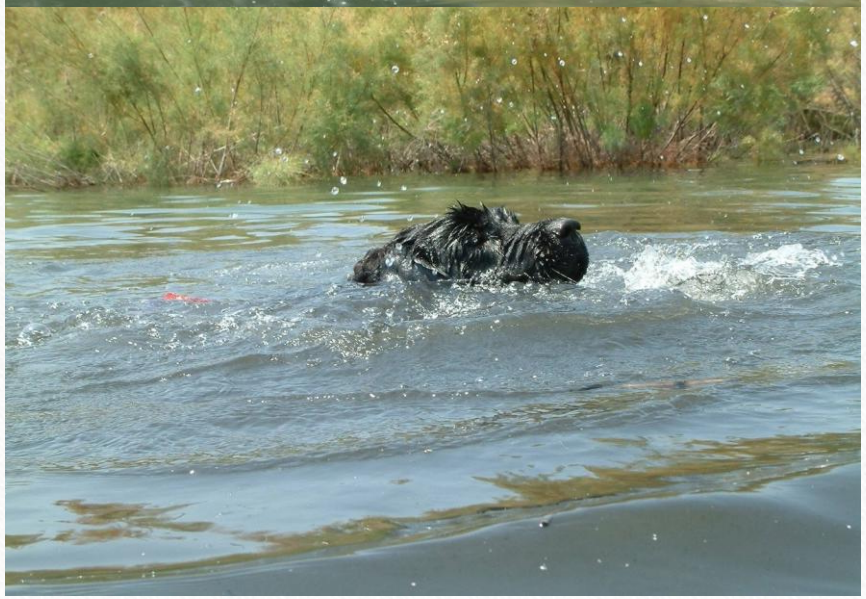


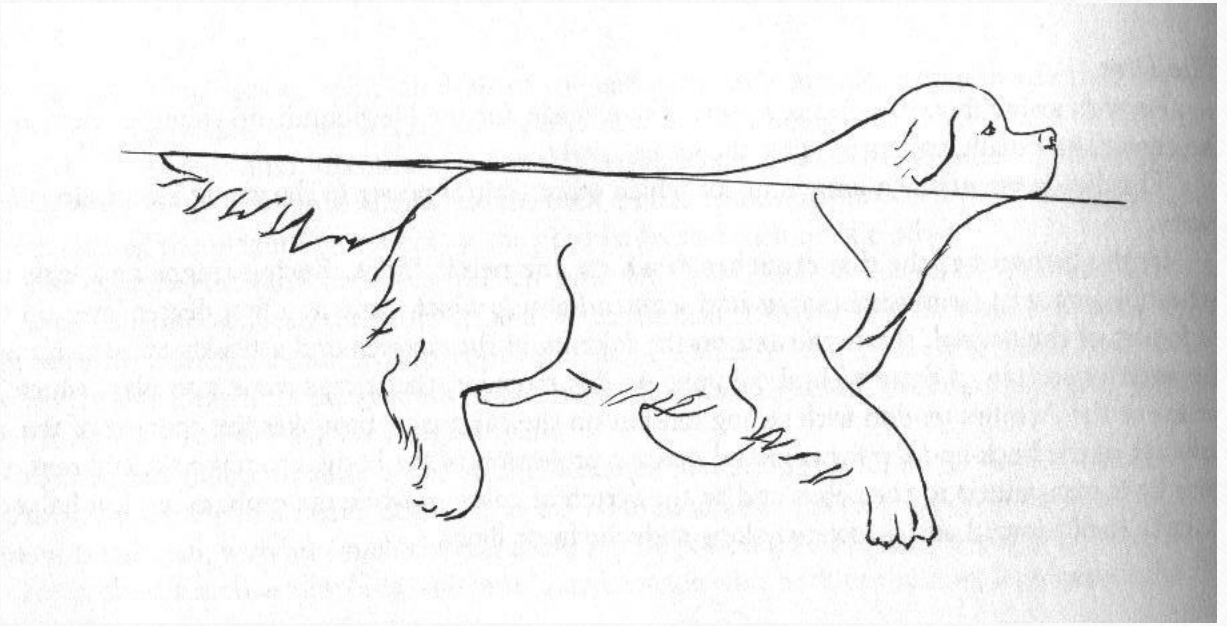


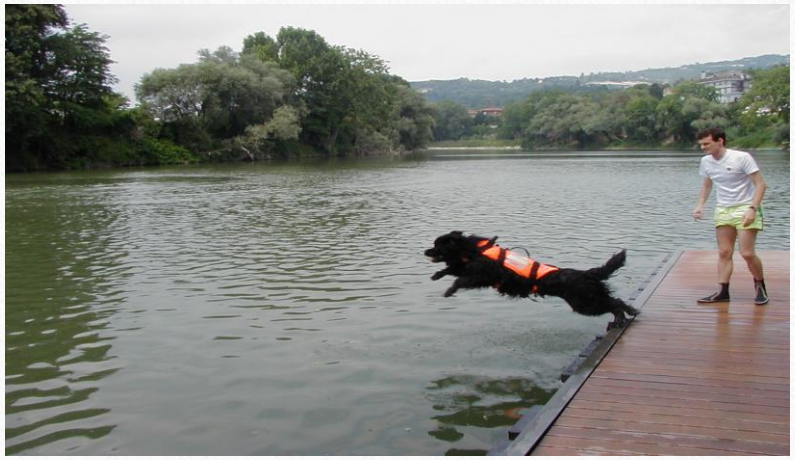

















archive





Thank you !!!

