

CANINE TERMINOLOGY

A short explanation of words often used in critiques.

And Breed Standards

SNIPY OR FOXY. Muzzle too pointed or narrow

WELL FILLED OR WELLPADDED. Muzzle and foreface of correct proportions.

MASK. Dark shading on the muzzle – usually associated with puppy coat.

BOLD EYE. Eyes round and/or large and slightly protruding

LIGHT EYE. Eye colour not dark enough

ENTROPION. Eyelids turning inward.

ECTROPION. Eyelids turning outwards.

DROP EAR. The ends of the ears not erect, folding down.

FLYING EARS. Ears not held forward but “laid back”,

STOP. The junction/step up from the muzzle to the skull between the eyes.

DOWN FACED. The muzzle arching concavely downwards from the top of the skull to the nose.

FLEWS. The upper lips

SCISSOR OR CORRECT BITE. The top teeth just overlap and make contact with the lower teeth with fully interlocking canine teeth.

OVERSHOT. The top incisors significantly overlap the bottom teeth. There is a gap between the back of the top incisors and the front of the lower teeth when the mouth is closed.

UNDERSHOT. Reverse of the above ie. The bottom teeth protrude beyond the upper teeth when the mouth is closed.

WRY JAW. The jaws are misaligned when the mouth is closed

PIGMENTATION. The colour of the eyes, nose, mouth tongue, gums and flews.

DILUTE PIGMENT. Not dark enough in relation to the coat colour.

SPLASHED OR FLOWERED PIGMENT. Patchy, not a solid colour.

MANE OR RUFF. The profuse coat around the neck area

ANGULATION. The angle of bone joints – particularly applied to the shoulder, elbow and the stifle.

UPRIGHT ARM OR SHOULDER. Insufficient angulation of the bones above the elbow

WELL LAID SHOULDER. Correct angulation

WITHERS. The highest part of the body immediately behind the neck

BACK. The area between the withers and the tail root (top-line)

ROACH BACK. Arching upwards of the top-line

SWAYBACK. Concave curvature of the top-line

TAIL SET. The position of the tail of the rump (also called the croup)

GAY TAIL. Tail not carried tight on the back when dog is moving

COBBY. Relatively short in body. Compact.

CLODDY. Too heavy, unbalanced

WELL SPRUNG RIBS. Correct shape and curvature from the spine

SLAB SIDED. Insufficient spring of rib. Too flat.

BARREL RIBBED. Excessive rounding of rib cage

TUCK-UP. Upturn of the underline from the last rib to the waste.

COUPLINGS. The area between the last rib and the pelvis. Chows are short coupled.

BONE. The mass or girth of both the front and rear legs.

CULOTTES/FEATHERING. The profuse coat on the back of both front and rear legs

ELBOW AND PASTERNS. Front leg. Roughly equivalent to the human elbow and wrist.

OUT AT ELBOW. Not held close to the body. Turning outwards

QUEEN ANNE/CHIPPENDALE FRONT. Out at elbow, pasterns close together and feet turn out.

LETTING DOWN. Pasterns weak. Not up on toes, May also be applied to the hocks

HARE FEET/SPLAY FEET. (Front and rear) Feet elongated/toes widely spaced – not cat shaped.

HAM. The area above the stifle – the thigh

STIFLE/PATELLA. The knee joint and knee cap.

HOCKS. The area between the stifle and the feet

COW HOCKED. Hocks turning inwards towards each other

SPLAYED HOCKS. Hocks turning outwards

ACTION. The way a dog moves at the walk or trot often linked with gait, which is the footstep pattern at various speeds

PINNING. The front feet are too close together when trotting

PADDLING. The front feet are thrown outwards from the body when moving.

BICYCLING. Excessive lifting of the rear feet. Not a chow gait

LUMBERING. Ponderous, ungainly and untypical movement.

CRABBING. The body is at an angle to the line of travel

PACING. When the legs on one side of the body move in unison rather than alternately