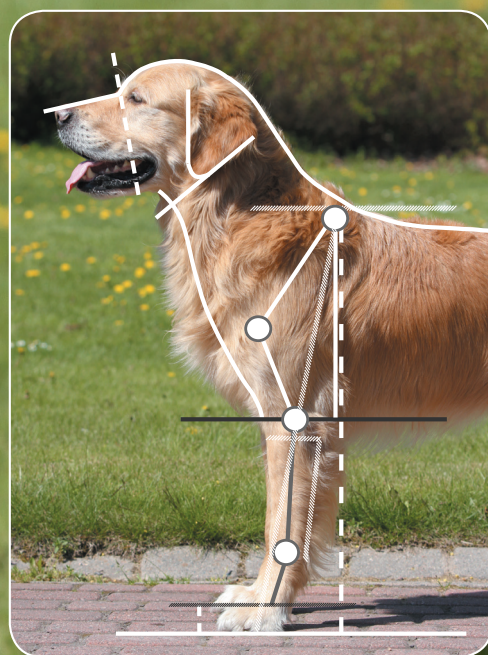


Salme Mujunen



STRUCTURE OF THE DOG

– BASIC COURSE

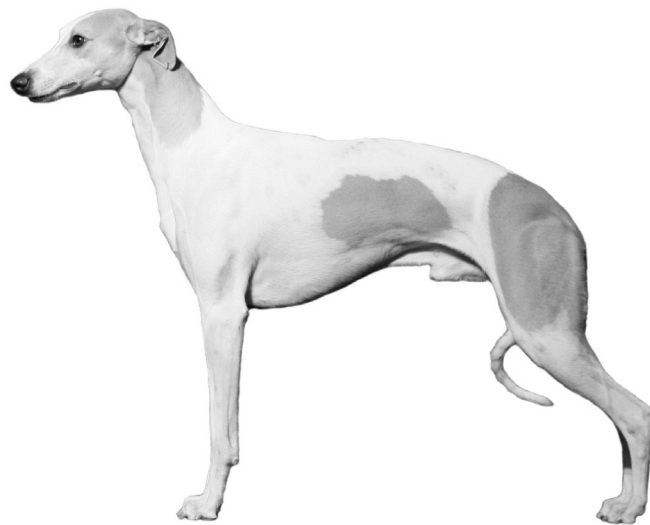
Structure of the Dog

Basic Course

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– Basic Course

Salme Mujunen



Translation Pirkko Vesterinen

N.B.! In this book, the structure and movement of the dog is demonstrated and illustrated also using your own body. Do these “human experiments” with extreme caution and sensitively listen to your body – on your own responsibility. If there is any risk that your body might not bear the demonstrative move, do not do it.

Acknowledgements

*Thanks for the drawings: Elina Vepsäläinen p. 59, 61, 188, 189.
Thanks for the photos: Päivi Reijonen p. 208, 209. All the other pictures: Salme Mujunen. All rights reserved.
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Publisher: BoD - Book on Demand, Helsinki, Finland
Printed: BoD - Book on Demand, Norderstedt, Germany

ISBN: 9789523395688

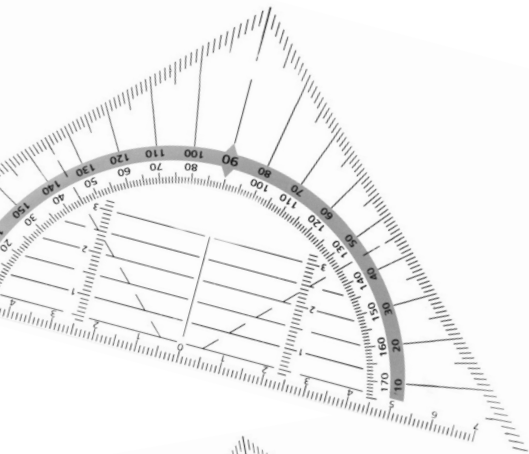
Foreword

Structure of the Dog – Basic Course is a book for everyone who wants to learn the structure of the dog to its most precise details. Special target groups are the quarters responsible for dog breeding: dog breeders, people interested in dog shows, and dog devotees who aim at becoming a dog show judge.

The objective of this book is to gradually guide you into the world of the structure and movement of the dog. The book proceeds chapter by chapter, so that new information is always based on the knowledge already learned. Therefore, I recommend you to give a deep sigh, sit down, and take your time with the book familiarizing on it peacefully at your own pace. There is no hurry. Vice versa – if you try to adopt the book in one night, you most probably will not be able to absorb all of its content. The full possession of the content requires your concentration; thus, give time and peace for your own realization.

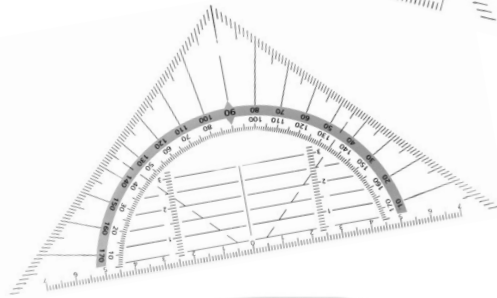
If something in the book first appears difficult to understand, read the whole chapter and then leave it to stew. Let your brain digest the information overnight and open the book again the next day. Read the



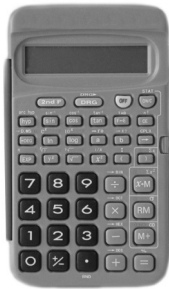


chapter for the second time and probably you will notice how the issue has crystallized in your mind during the night. By hurrying, you cannot organize your ideas logically, but the data falls to pieces and the overall picture remains fragmented. The actual knowledge particularly means deep comprehension of the pieces.

The structure of the dog is formed of parts. Reliable examination and comparison of these parts is the only way to understanding. Fortunately, understanding the structure of the dog is not the privilege of the chosen few. Instead, it is an ability which anyone can learn. For a dog breeder, it is even an obligation.



This book includes 98 exercises, which are solved using the tools of mathematics and physics. Items are measured and analyzed with the means of science. Thus, the book is not meant to be only read but rather to be solved and to provide you with ideas and deep comprehension. It is more a textbook by nature, and by doing the exercises you learn actively and are forced to challenge your knowledge.



For the exercises, you need a ruler, a protractor, a pencil, an eraser, a red colored pencil, and a calculator. First make sure that your colored pencil does not blot the other side of the page unreadable.

The content of this book is as follows. First, you will familiarize yourself with the structure of the dog in a general level and create an image of a comparison dog, called basic dog in this book. With the help of the basic dog, all the other breeds find their position on the chart and they can be compared with each other. The book presents the type theory by the Norwegian Olof Roig, and in exercises different breeds are classified into these types. The book proceeds then to the dog's structure and details of this structure chapter by chapter. You will study proportions, differences in shapes and lines. You will learn to see balance and even desirable unbalance.

There are already more than 400 dog breeds in the world. Each of them has special requirements as regards the proportions, shapes, lines and balance. This book does not separately deal with every breed, even the largest set of books would not be enough for that. Instead, you will learn the regularities in the structure of the dog, which apply to each and every breed.

Your task will be to learn to see the differences in the structures of the dogs and to know the ideal of your own breed. The ultimate target of this book is that in the end you will be able to make a picture of the ideal of your own breed and also to give justification for its aspired structure. Especially as a dog breeder, your breeding choices will consequently reach a new level. Based on your increased knowledge and

knowhow, you will be able to breed better and better structured dogs. The sharper you develop your eyes, the better you will be able to interpret also the structure of a puppy. This way you can both acquire and breed dogs with a better structure.

Above all, this book aims to increase your knowledge and practice your eye for dogs. You will ponder on shapes and connections between shapes. You will learn to concentrate on one detail at a time and to proportion this detail to the whole.

My general advice is that you should use plenty of your time on each illustration and exercise. Let your eyes stay in the pictures and stop to analyze them. The longer time you spend with the pictures, the better structure expert you will become. Therefore, look at the pictures carefully and do the exercises thoroughly. You will learn to see things in a new way. And as you begin to see and understand, you will also be able to explicitly express which features in each individual correspond with the ideal structure of your breed and which do not.

After absorbing the content of this book you will be able to truthfully observe the structures of dogs. Not only of your own breed but of the whole spectrum of dog breeds. If you are interested in the career of a dog show judge, this book offers you a good springboard for your future career.

I wish you a rewarding journey towards the expertise in the dog structure. Hopefully you will enjoy your excursion!

Salme Mijunen



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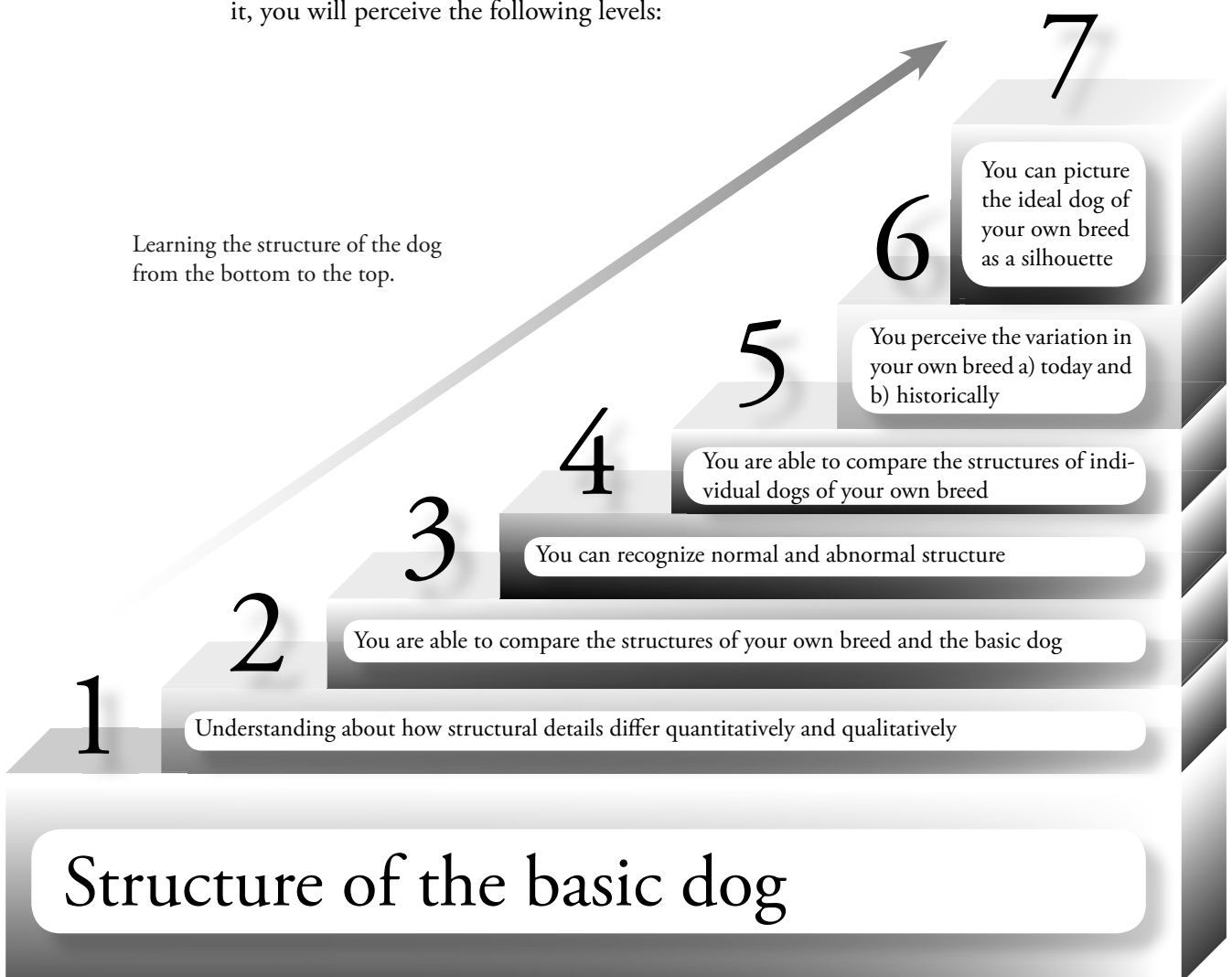


Learning the structure of the dog from the bottom to the top

The basis for understanding the structure of the dog is that you recognize the structural parts and learn to name them. On the next level, you will learn to notice differences between the parts – for example, whether a certain bone is short, long or something in between, or if a certain shape is straight, round or arched. What kind of qualitative and quantitative differences can be found?

As you develop further, you begin to understand how the structure and movement are linked together. After you have familiarized yourself with the content of the whole book, you will be able to use the structure-related terminology correctly and accurately.

This book presents an extended course of the dog structure. Along with it, you will perceive the following levels:



Basics of the basic dog

Learning the structure of the dog starts by taking a closer look at the structure of the so-called *basic dog*.

Basic dog refers to such an original dog structure, from which dogs have developed towards the hundreds of different dog breeds we know today. The same phenomenon would happen also to the opposite direction: all dogs would approach this basic dog model, should they be allowed to reproduce without any selective breeding by man.

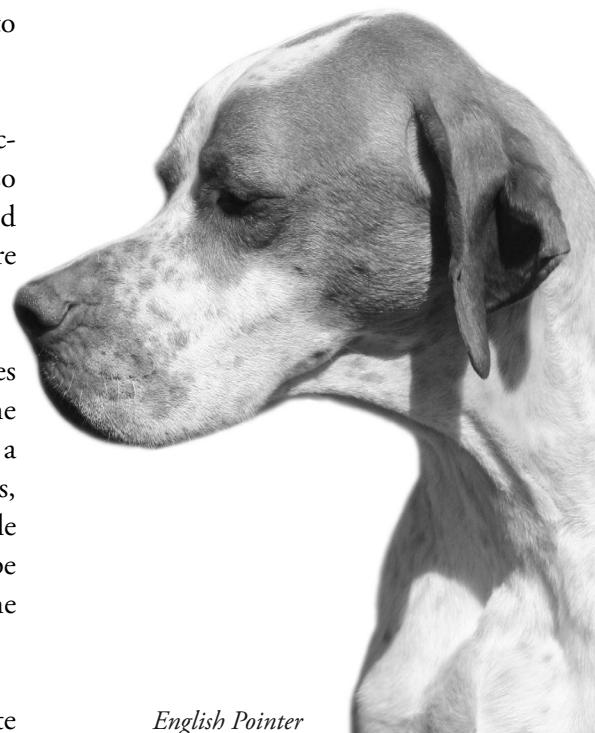
The structure of the basic dog is relatively close to the structural-functional type of the wolf. Therefore, the structure of the basic dog can also be called *naturally normal*, because it is a prototype originally developed by the nature, not man. No special breeding can be seen in the structure of the basic dog.

Most dog breeds have been bred so that the resulting body structures are quite far from the basic dog. This has been done by stabilizing the genetic changes in individual dogs to become dominant features of a certain breed. The features, which have been different to other breeds, have gradually become characteristic features of the breeds. One example of this is the shaping of the bull terrier head. Instead of the head shape typical for the basic dog, the head of bull terrier has been bred to the opposite direction towards a curved, egg-shaped oval.

Now in the 2010's, if we consider different dog breeds, we can see quite extreme structural details. For almost any imaginable features, we can find examples of dogs representing results of strong breeding.

If we compare contemporary dog breeds with the structure of the basic dog, it is the rule rather than the exception that the current dogs differ from the basic dog. Differences can be found regarding almost any feature, be it the height of the dog, the length of body or legs, the shape of head, the tail set, the size of eyes or the length of muzzle. All imaginable variations of these features can be found among the existing breeds. In extreme cases, the opposing features are very far from each other, like the skull and muzzle profiles of English Pointer and Bull Terrier.

As already mentioned above, if dog breeding was totally ceased and dogs could reproduce freely, after a couple of generations their offspring would structurally resemble the basic dog. This would happen in regard to the size, proportions, angulations, hair length, and color. The resulting appearance would be more or less like the intermediate stage in the historical development of wolf and dog, during which dog was domesticated and became the companion of the man. In other words, the nature seems to



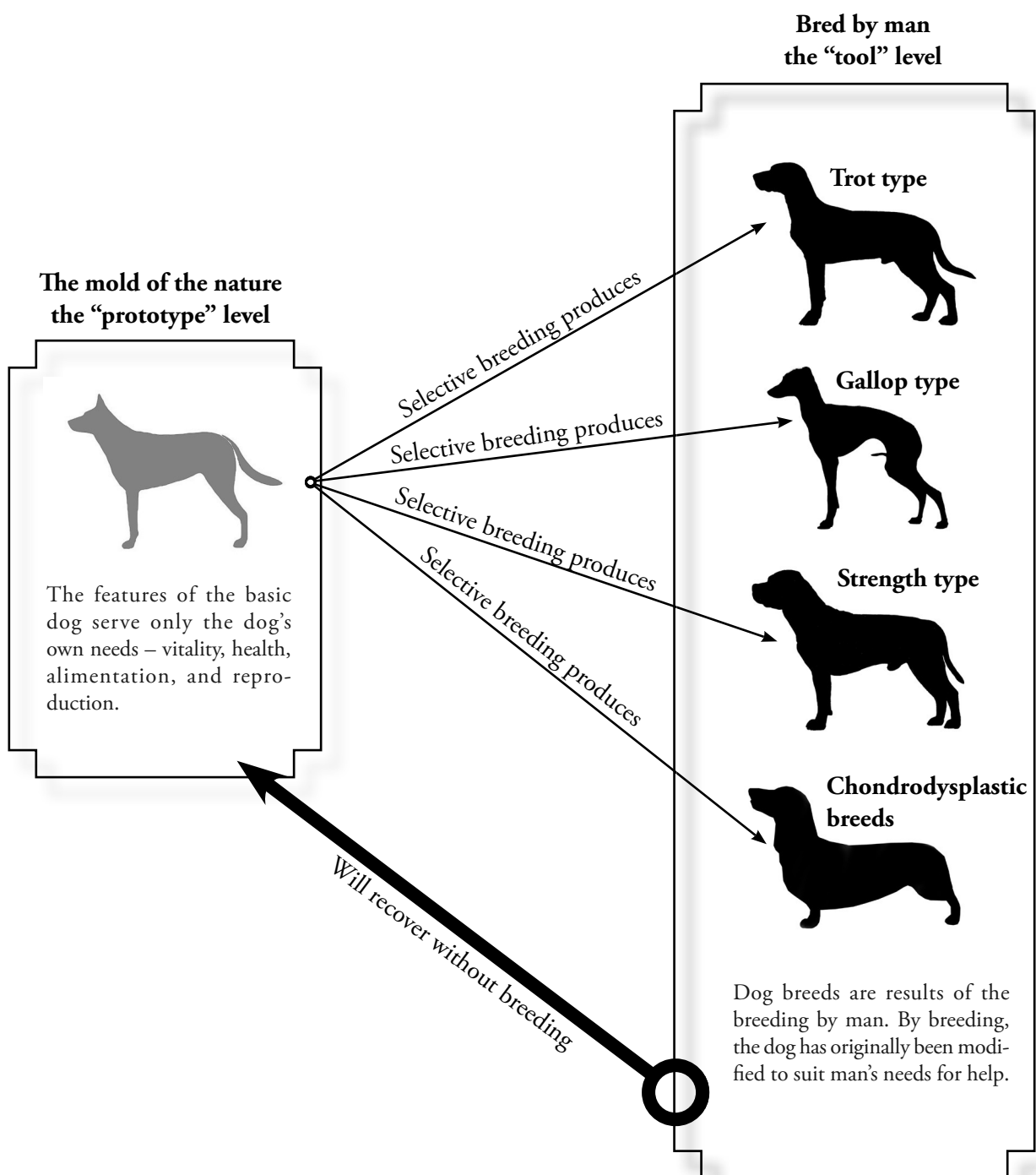
English Pointer



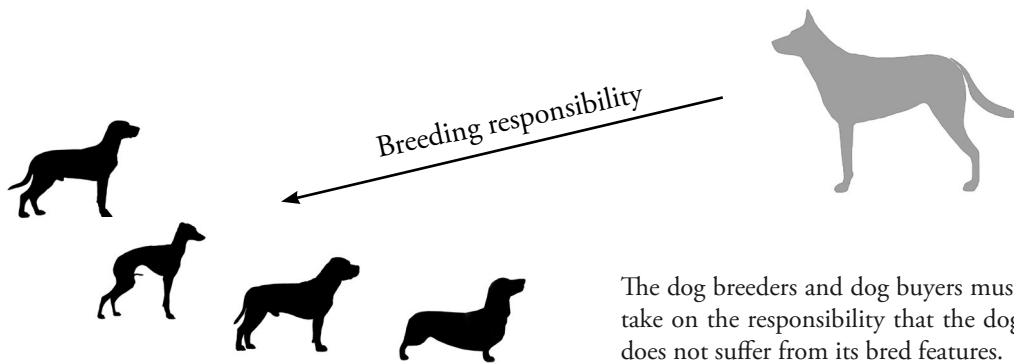
Bull Terrier

have a strong view about the basic structure of the dog, which it would restore should the dog be left unbred. All the contemporary dog breeds are subgroups which are separated from this whole of the species. These subgroups would soon disappear, should man not keep them separate with his own actions.

Man has not bred dogs for a long time yet – only a little over hundred years. During this time, he has purposefully steered different breeds further away from the structure of the basic dog. Why has this happened? Originally, because man has needed the dog to assist him in different specialized tasks.



The *freedom* man has in breeding dogs at the same time brings the *responsibility* for each individual dog he has bred.



The dog breeders and dog buyers must take on the responsibility that the dog does not suffer from its bred features.

It is necessary to understand that the features of *the basic dog only serve the basic dog's own needs*. The basic dog is very functional, as regards both its structure and character. It is capable of preying on its food and it reproduces easily. However, as such the basic dog was not that useful for *the man*, so the man began to modify its different features. The new aim of breeding was the benefit for the man – the way in which the dog could *serve* the man. Many of these man-bred features of the dog are today in fact preventing it from surviving in the nature without man's help.

In the contemporary dogs, the bred features are a kind of surface level, the *tool part* between the basic dog and the pedigree dog. With his choices, man has created different breeds "on the top of" the basic dog prototype. Therefore, dog breeds are in a sense man's cultural creations. The basic dog, as such, does not need man for anything, but man needs the dog he has bred. He uses dogs for different tasks: herding, hunting, and as companion – therefore, with his selective breeding, man has modified the dog into an assistant, a workmate, and a friend for himself.

Many of the dogs' structural features we today consider self-evident are artificial creations of men. These artificial features, i.e. strong manipulation by breeding, also bring us responsibility: because man has modified the dogs according to his own needs, he also has the moral responsibility to make sure that the dogs do not need to suffer because of these bred "additional level" features. Morally thought, any feature may be bred only to the point in which this feature does not cause any harm to the dog itself, not any further. As the breeder, man has the responsibility for everything that distinguishes the contemporary dog breeds from the basic dog.

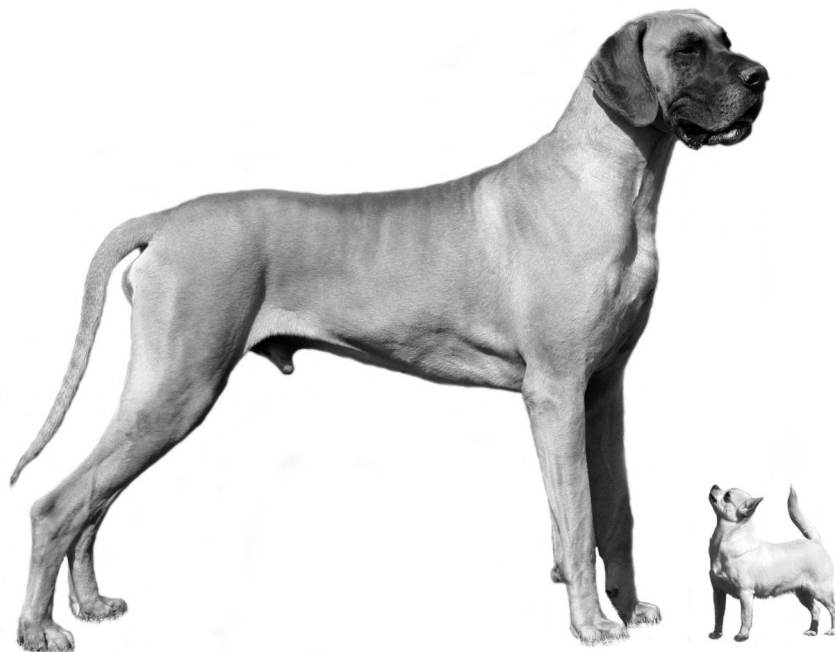
With breeding, the dog has thus become an even better assistant for the man. In practice, breeding has modified the original basic dog into a more enduring, faster or stronger performer. The basic dog is not at all specified as regards these features. It is not particularly enduring, fast or strong. In all classifications, it is in the average. Compared to the contemporary dog breeds, the basic dog is rather slow, much slower than for example Greyhound. Its movement does not have as much reach as German Shepherd's, and with its musculature and strength, it does not hold a candle to Rottweiler. The strength of the basic dog mainly depends on its physical size.

Among all the dog breeds today, there are only a few breeds of the basic dog type – Canaan Dog is one example of that. What is the reason for this? You can consider it subjectively: why do you not happen to be an enthusiastic Canaan Dog devotee?

If we consider all the dog breeds as a group, a dog of the basic type in a way disappears to the background, “vanishes into the wallpaper”. It is absorbed by the grey mass as soon as further bred dogs are introduced: small, big, long-haired, thick-haired, hairless, strong, arched and graceful, with short or long muzzle. Further bred dogs often give us some kind of *an emotional reaction*. For example, when we see a small dog, we think that it is “sweet and cute”. A big dog may be “impressive”. A furry dog, on the other hand, may be “disarming” or “huggable”, and a strong one “awe-inspiring”. In this sense, the basic dog is easily just a dog which does not catch our eyes. It does not create any emotional reactions.

1. Exercise

Beside each picture, write down the feature which most distinguishes the two dogs.

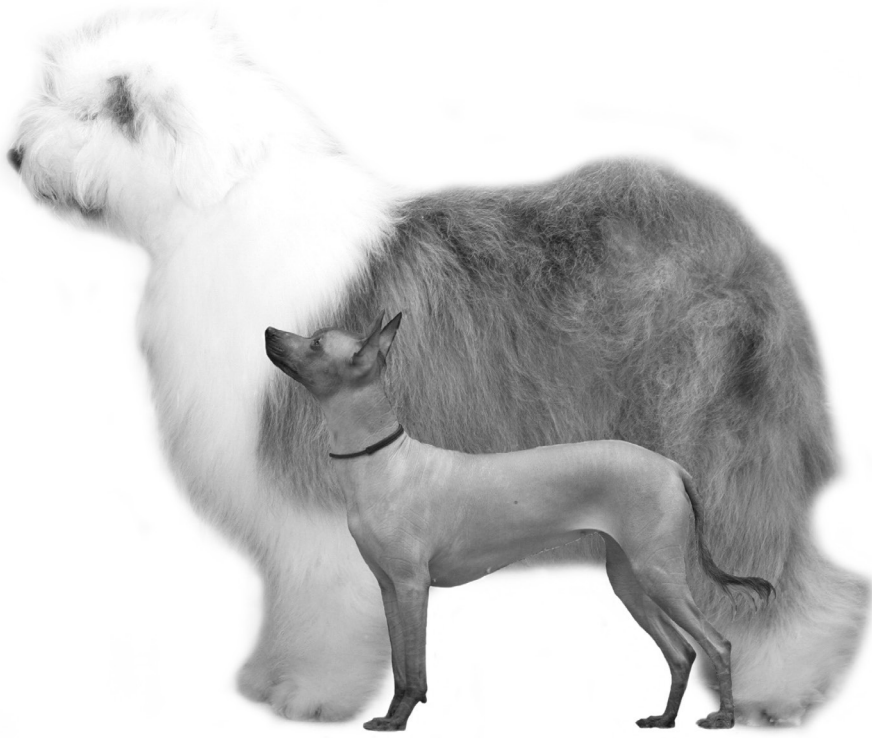


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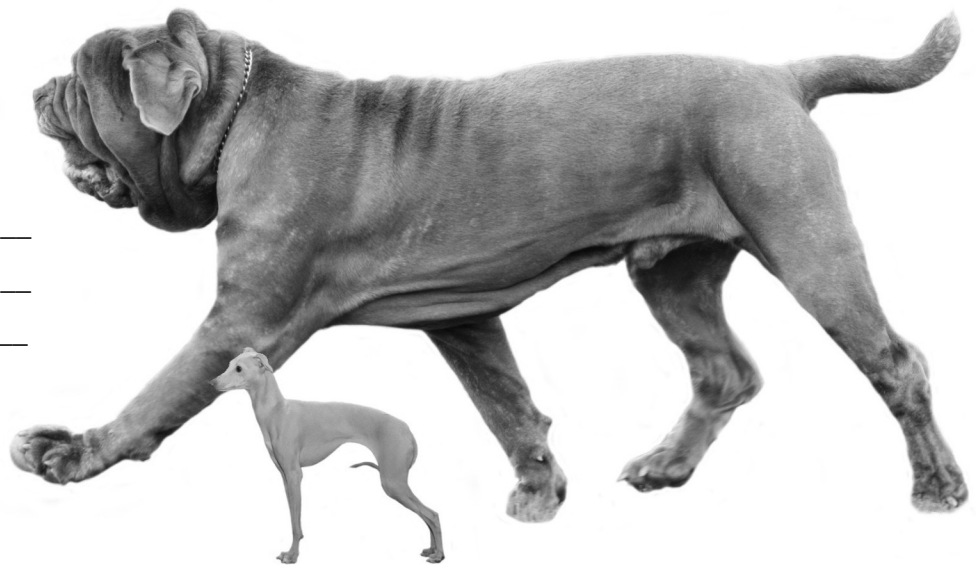
1b) _____



1c) _____



1d) _____

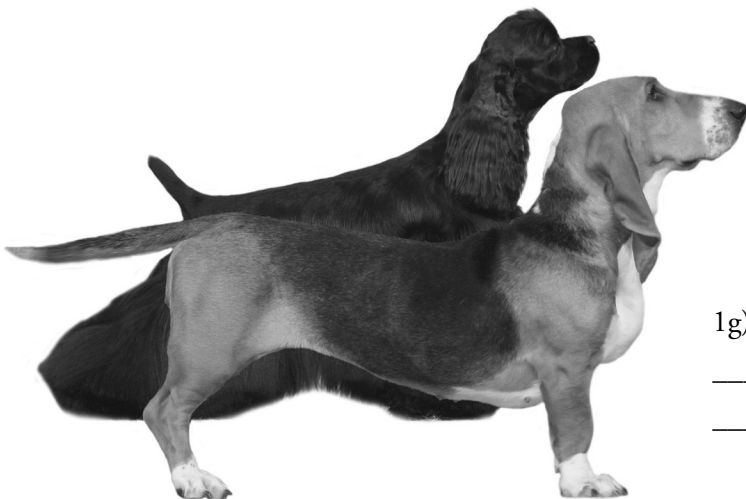




1e) _____



1f) _____



1g) _____



Structure of the Dog – Basic Course is a book for everyone interested in the structure and wellbeing of dogs. The book includes 98 exercises and numerous illustrative photos and drawings, which guide you to understand the details of dog structure in a very practical way. You will not just passively read, you will actively learn – by doing, practicing, and realizing yourself!



The ambitious aim of the book is to provide you with tools that will help you distinguish essential from nonessential, see all the details of the dog structure and understand the resulting whole.

The basis of the book is in natural sciences and ethics. The book encourages the reader to ethical dog ownership, breeding and dog sports. The main focus is on healthy structure, movement and overall wellbeing of the dog.

