YOU BE THE JUDGE

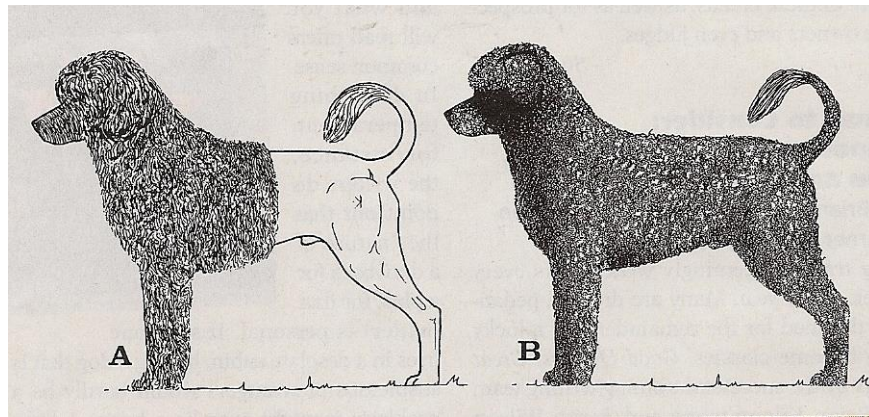## By Robert Cole
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PORTUGUESE WATER DOG

DOG A AND DOG B

In this article, you will be asked to fin six faults on each of two Portuguese Water Dog examples. Since there is a likelihood that you may not be familiar with this Working Dog, I have opened this article with two drawings depicting this breed's two clips and two coats. Dog A and Dog B are intended to convey an appreciation for Portuguese water Dog type, which may help you identify Dog C's and Dog D's faults.

TWO CLIPS

Lion Clip (Dog A): As soon as the coat grows long, the middle part, hindquarters and muzzle are clipped. The hair at the end of the tail is left at full length.

Retriever Clip (Dog B): In order to give a natural appearance and a smooth unbroken line, the entire coat is scissored or clipped to follow the outline of the dog, leaving a short blanket of coat no longer than one inch in length. The hair at the end of the tail is left at full length. No discrimination will be made against the correct presentation of a dog in either the Lion Clip or Retriever Clip.

COAT AND COLOUR

The PWD should have a profuse coat, of strong hair, covering the whole body evenly except for the underarms and groin where it is thinner. There are two varieties of coat. 1) The hair is fairly long, wavy and rather loose, with a slight sheen. The hair on the top of the head is upright; the hair on the ears is decidedly longer than the leather. 2) The hair is shorter, forms compact cylindrical curls, thickly planted and somewhat lusterless. On the top of the head, the hair is similar to that of the rest of the coat, whereas on the ears it is sometimes wavy.

Acceptable colours are black, white, various tones of brown, and combinations of black or brown with white. A white coat does not imply albinism provided that the nose, mouth and eyelids are black. In animals with black, white or black-and-white coats, the skin is decidedly bluish. There is no undercoat.
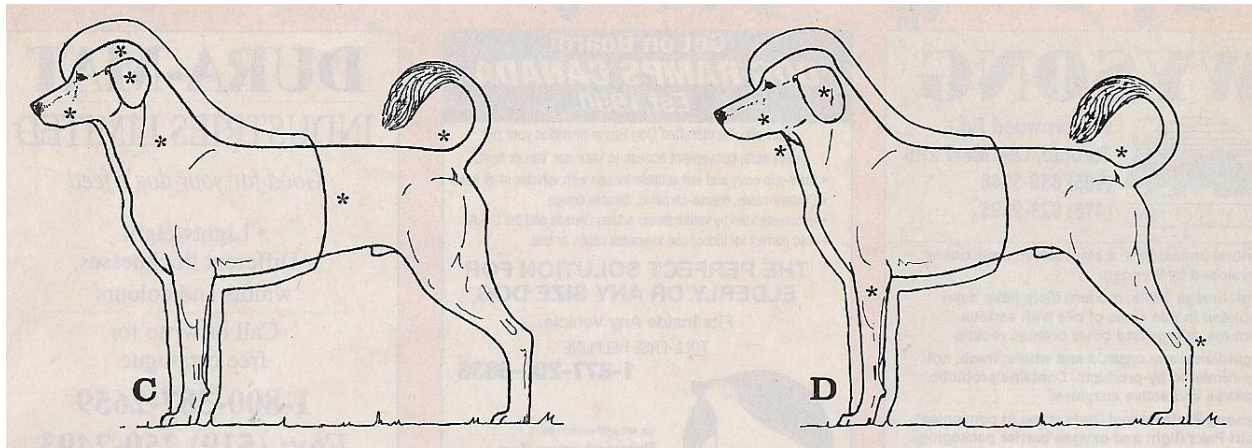
IDENTIFY DOG C'S SIX FAULTS

  Since some of these six faults are hidden under the coat and you are unable to use your hands to 'see', I have presented this PWD in a see-through form. Dog C's six faults have nothing to do with coat or colour. I have placed an ***** close to each fault. For instance, can you remember if Dog A's or Dog B's neck was this length? Was the body this length?

  The six faults are: 1) The muzzle is not substantial. 2) The "well defined" occiput is missing. 3) The ears are set on too low. They should be "set well above the line of the eye". 4) The neck is too long. It should be "straight, short, nicely rounded." 5) the tail is set on too high. It should be set on slightly below the line of the back. 6) the body is too long. It should be just off square, slightly longer than tall.

  Before finding the next six faults (on Dog D), you should know something about PWD history and purpose.

ORIGIN AND PURPOSE

  For centuries, this seafaring breed existed everywhere along the coast of Portugal and is considered a purely Portuguese breed. Owing to modifications in the fishing systems used, the breed has become restricted to the province of Algarve, which should be considered its home. It was prized by fishermen for its spirited yet obedient nature and a robust, medium build that allowed for a full day's work in and out of the water. The Portuguese Water Dog is an athletic swimmer and diver of exceptional ability and stamina. He aided his master at sea by retrieving gear and broken nets, herding schools of fish and carrying messages between boats and to the shore.

IDENTIFY DOG D'S SIX FAULTS

  Again I have placed an ***** next to each fault. Is this dog's muzzle the correct length? What about the size and shape of the ears? You shouldn't have any trouble determining what is wrong with this dog's neck. The set-on of the tail should not present a problem when determining what is wrong, it is the tail itself you have to look at closely. Something is lacking with both this dog's forelegs and hindlegs (it is not the lack of hindleg angulation). Is the height of the hock correct?

  The six faults are: 1) The muzzle is too long. 2) The ears are too big and rounded. They should be set well above the line of the eye, the leather should be heart-shaped and thin, and the tips should not reach below the lower jaw. 3) The neck has dewlaps. 4) the tail is set on low and is thin at the base. It should be thick at the base and tapering, set on slightly below the line of the back. 5) Bone is too light. The PWD should have strong, substantial bone. 6) The metatarsus (rear pastern) is short. It should be long.

  Knowing the faults, you should have a fair idea of what a PWD should look like. Dog E represents my ideal, reinforced by suggestions received from Elizabeth Trainor and Linda Fowler.

UNOFFICIAL IDEAL (DOG E)

The eyes are medium in size, set well apart and a bit obliquely, and roundish. They are black or various tones of brown, depending on coat colour. The eye rims are fully pigmented. Not previously mentioned, the top of the skull, when viewed from the front, is very broad and appears domed, with a slight depression in the middle. The stop is well defined. The nose is broad, the nostrils well flared and fully pigmented – black in dogs with black, black-and-white or white coats, and various tones of brown in dogs with brown coats. The same colouration applies to the lips, roof of the mouth, under the tongue and the gums. The lips are thick, especially in front, but have no flews. The bite is scissors or pincer; the canines are large.

The feet are round and rather flat. The back is broad and well muscled. The ribs are long and well sprung. The loin is short. The forelegs are straight with long well-muscled forearms (my suggested ideal for the foreleg is 1 ¼ inches longer than the body is deep). He is 21.5 inches at the withers and 24.5 inches long. This proportion conforms closely to measurements taken by English correspondent Miss P. Jones. Miss Jones also remarked that, "although the forearm has excellent muscle tone, the shoulder has incredible muscle, very different from any other breed." I found this observation very interesting.

With the new revisions, disqualifications have been reduced to colour other than those mentioned; coat other than those mentioned; over or undershot jaws; and over or under height. Breeders have requested that I list serious faults (some that were previously disqualifications). They are:

Head – Unimpressive; small in overall size; narrow in the top skull; snipey in the muzzle.

Substance – Light or refined in bone; lacking in muscle.

Coat – Sparse; naturally short, close-lying hair, partially or overall; wispy or wiry in texture; brittle; double coated.

Tail – Other than as described; extremely low-set; heavy or droopy in action.

Pigment – Any deviation from the described pigmentation; eye colour other than black or various tones of brown; pink or partial pigmentation in the nose, lips, eyes or eye rims.