

YOU BE THE JUDGE

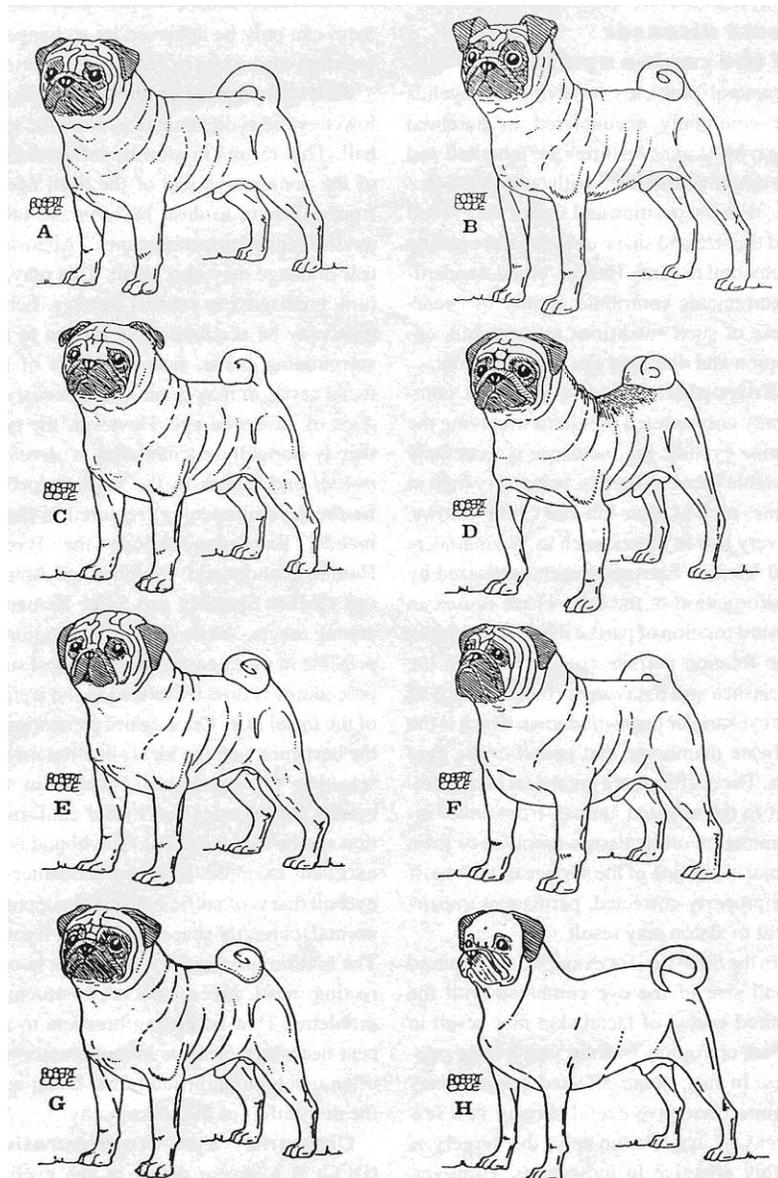
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THE PUG

Base your initial selection of first, second, third and fourth place from this class of eight Pugs on visible type and structure virtues. Then read the text.

After reading the 'hands on' description of all eight, you may wish to revise your first four placements. You have, however, four remaining examples that, because of their many faults, are more difficult to place. For an added challenge, place all eight as I have done.



TYPICAL

His large head, in balance with the whole dog, is flat between small button ears (which may also be rose ears). The ears are set wide on the head, the fold level with the top of the skull, the V approximately even with the outside corner of the eye. His dark, very large eyes are globular in shape.

His dark muzzle is short, blunt, square and not upfaced (Bulldog like). The bite is slightly undershot (no more than ¼ inch), the six lower incisors are in a straight line. His muzzle is well padded, large, wide and set squarely on the front of his skull.

A full black mask encompasses the eyes, the brow and the upper and lower jaw. There is a definite break in colour between the black mask and forehead. The ears, moles on the cheeks and thumb mark or diamond on the forehead are black. His nose is black, the stop concealed by an unbroken (breeder-preferred) over-nose wrinkle. (Pugs' loose skin results in wrinkles over the shoulder and down the back).

His strong, slightly arched, thick neck has sufficient length to carry the head proudly. His body is short and cobby (compact), wide in chest and well ribbed. The topline is level. Legs are straight, moderately long and set well under the body. Angulation is moderate front and rear. Tuck up is slight.

“Feet are neither so long as the foot of a hare, nor so round as that of a cat...” His high-set tail curls tightly over the hip in a double curl (highly desirable).

He stands 13 inches tall (there is no official ideal height) and weighs 18 pounds (the official ideal is 14-18 pounds). He is fawn (could be silver, apricot or black) with a black trace (black line) extending from occiput to tail. His coat is fine, smooth, soft, short and glossy. He has great charm, dignity and intelligence. He is even-tempered, happy and has a lively disposition.

DOG A

This sound example is neither square nor compact. He is short-legged and long-bodied. In these two respects, plus a loosely curled tail, he departs from typical. Yet he has type.

DOG B

This example is balanced as a dog, but not as a Pug. Sound though he is, his long legs are highly undesirable. There is a very good likelihood this example will excel at the trot, but not in the manner typical of a Pug with moderate length of leg.

I have given him Lakeland Terrier button ears rather than Pug button ears the shape of his skull and muzzle is correct, but his eyes are bulgy and the whites show.

DOG C

This example has four departures from perfection: one – his ears; two – his wrinkle; three – his tail; four – his trace.

His ears are ‘rose’ shaped rather than, as preferred, ‘button’ shaped. The flap of the rose ear is carried close to the skull, but folded back to show the inner bun; it is not the true rose that we associate with the Whippet. A rose ear tends to make the Pug’s skull appear smaller; the button ear gives a wider appearance to the skull. An unbroken over-nose wrinkle is preferred (but not officially) to this dog’s broken wrinkle. A broken wrinkle is not faulted.

A tail carried on the middle of the back, rather than over the hip, is technically a fault (“curls tightly as possible over hip”), but is generally overlooked by judges, set and curl being far more important.

He lacks trace, the black line extending from the occiput to the tail. Where points are allotted, five points out of a possible 100 are given to the trace. The trace and the black thumb mark on the forehead are becoming rare.

DOG D

He possesses an attractive head, a tight double curved tail and loose skin over his torso. His ront balances with his equally faulty rear. There his virtues end.

He is fiddle fronted, down at the pastern, out at the elbow, sickle hocked, straight and high in the rear, overly tucked up, and his trace is a wide, dirty-looking saddle.

DOG E

He has a weak, narrow muzzle, a pincer bite, low set ears, fall-away under his eyes, and his head is too small for his body. His feet are flat and his hocks are sickle. His front is superior to his rear, adding to the imbalance.

DOG F

This too-heavy, short-necked example is upfaced – a serious departure. The revers scissor bite is perhaps the ideal to aim for, giving the best appearance from the outside. This example is more than ¼ inch undershot, giving his face a Bulldog appearance. When upfaced the Pug's teeth often are made visible, a highly undesirable fault. The same is true for protruding tongues caused by wry mouths.

He stands 13 inches and weighs 29 pounds. I believe that most winning Pugs today top 20 pounds; this sound but heavy example has gone too far.

DOG G

This Pug illustrates the virtues defined in the paragraphs describing typical.

DOG H

This Pug has very little to commend aside from his correct feet. He has five head faults, four body faults, two tail faults and one fault relating to substance.

His head lacks wrinkle, his ears are too large, his pronounced muzzle is incorrect, he lacks a dark mask covering eyes and muzzle (as well as dark toenails) and his bite is scissors. His body is pigeon-chested, roached, long-loined and his skin is tight. His tail is thin and set on low. His bone is light.

1,2,3,4

Dog G represents typical. I gave second place to superficially faulty Dog C. Third place went to long-bodied, short-legged Dog A. Fourth place is Bulldoggy dog F.

5,6,7,8

Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth place belong to Dog E, Dog D, Dog B, and Dog H respectively.