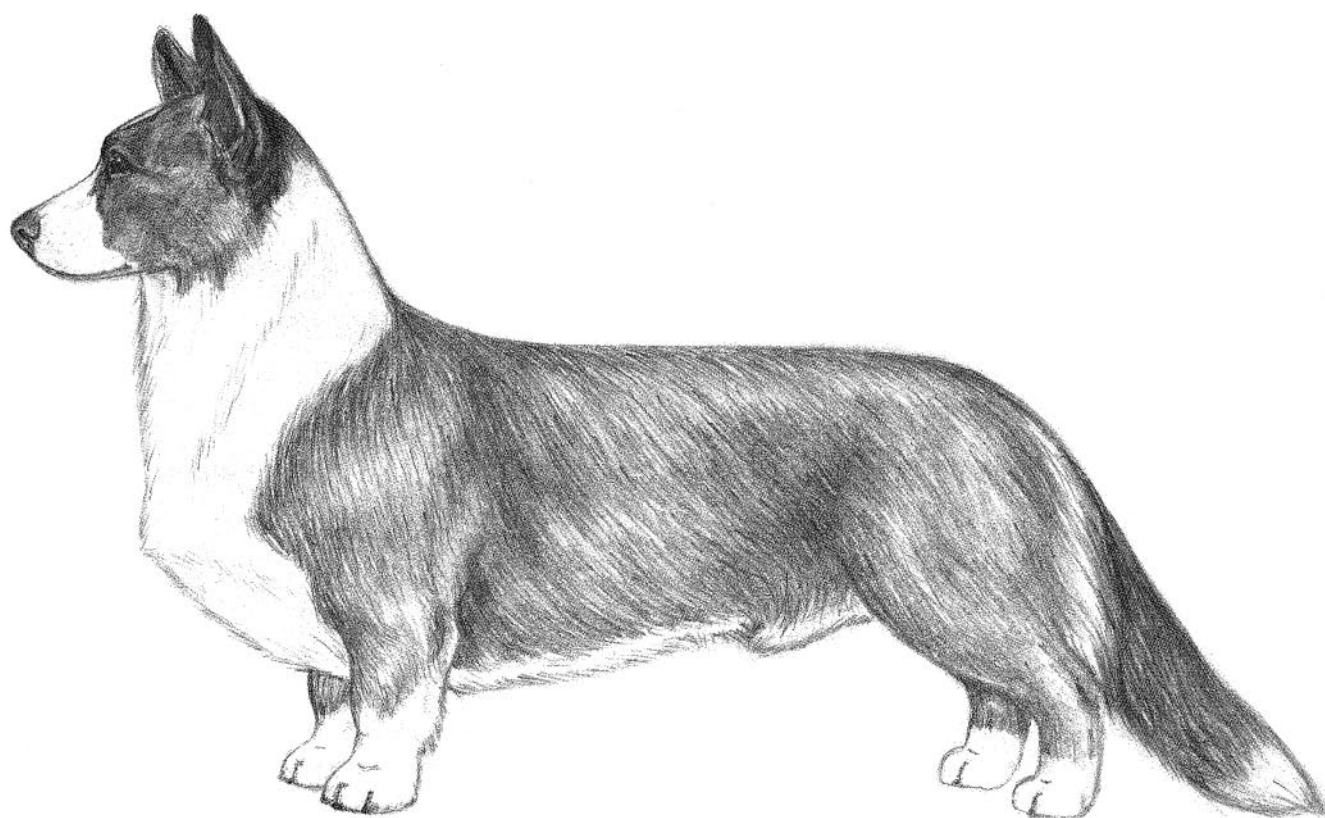


The Illustrated Standard of the Cardigan Welsh Corgi



*prepared and published by
The Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.*

Dedicated to the Cardigan Welsh Corgi, devoted companion and tireless worker, and to its breeders, past, present and future.

The CWCCA presents this Illustrated Standard as an educational tool to promote the better understanding of the Cardigan Welsh Corgi.

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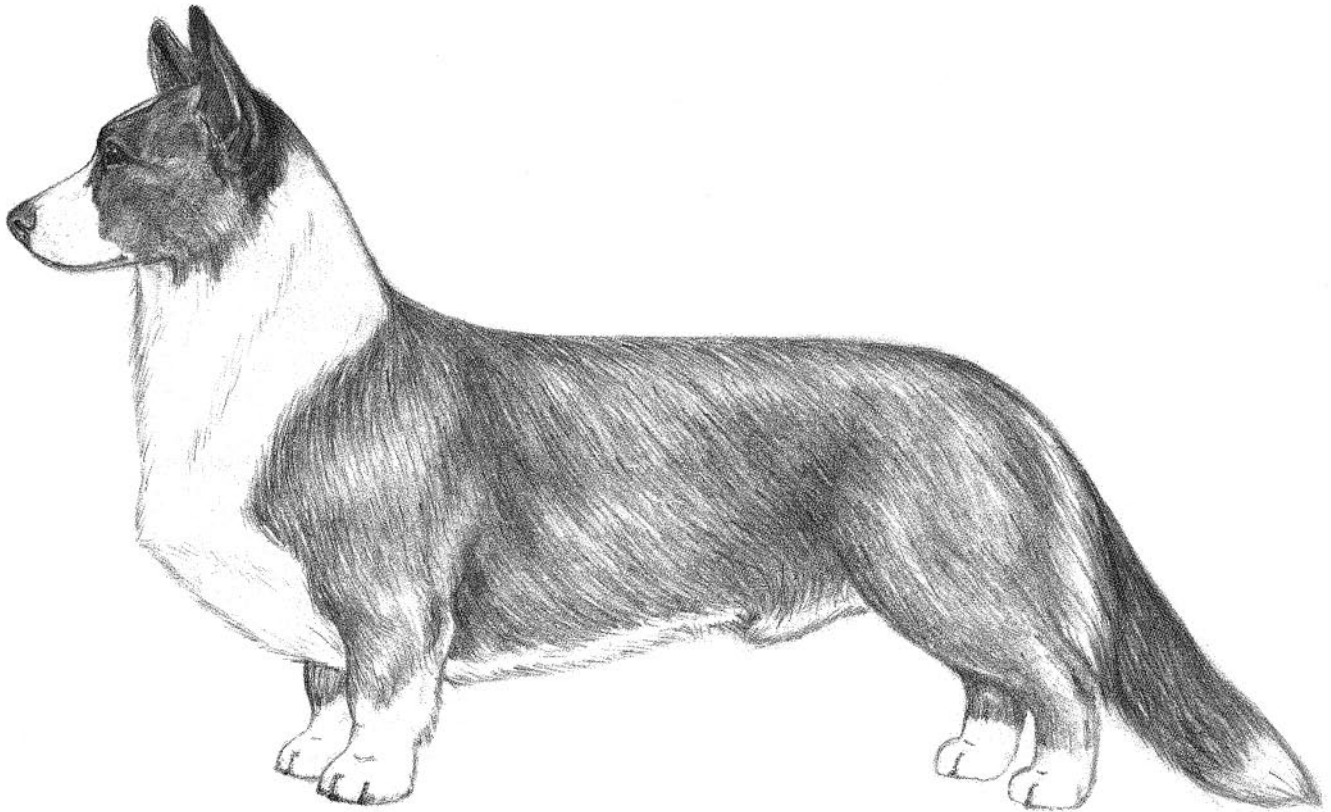
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The standard quoted in this document is the Official AKC Standard for the Cardigan Welsh Corgi, approved by the AKC on December 13, 1994. **In this document the Official Breed Standard appears in bold type**; the Commentary in normal type.

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Third Printing

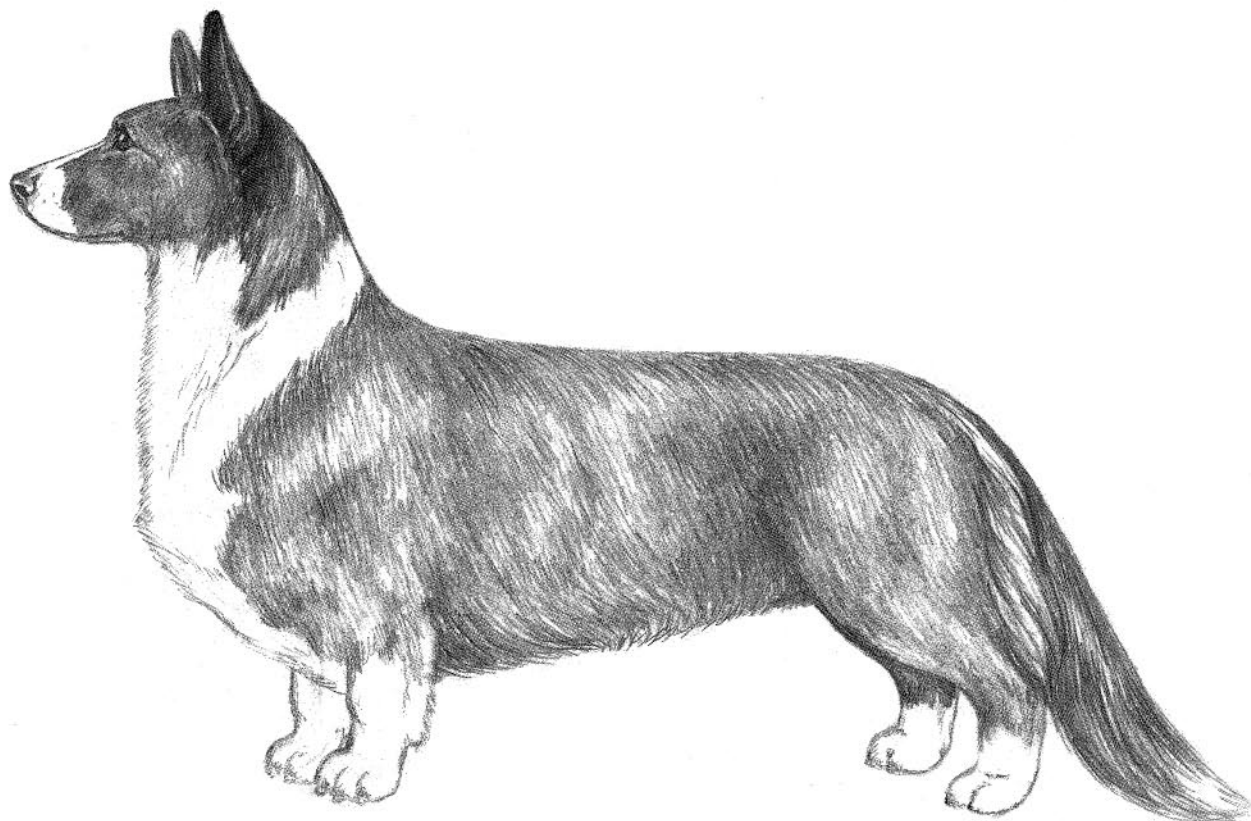


The ideal Cardigan Welsh Corgi (male)

GENERAL APPEARANCE—Low set with moderately heavy bone and deep chest. Overall silhouette long in proportion to height, culminating in a low tail set and fox-like brush. *General impression:* a handsome, powerful, small dog, capable of both speed and endurance, intelligent, sturdily built but not coarse.

The first two sentences present a concise, overall picture of the Cardigan of correct breed type. “Long and low set” describe necessary traits of this breed. Legginess in the Cardigan is incorrect. A short back, often combined with a short, stuffy neck, spoils the desired Cardigan silhouette and destroys the elegance that a balanced, typey Cardigan possesses. Any tendency toward squareness or coarseness should be strongly penalized.

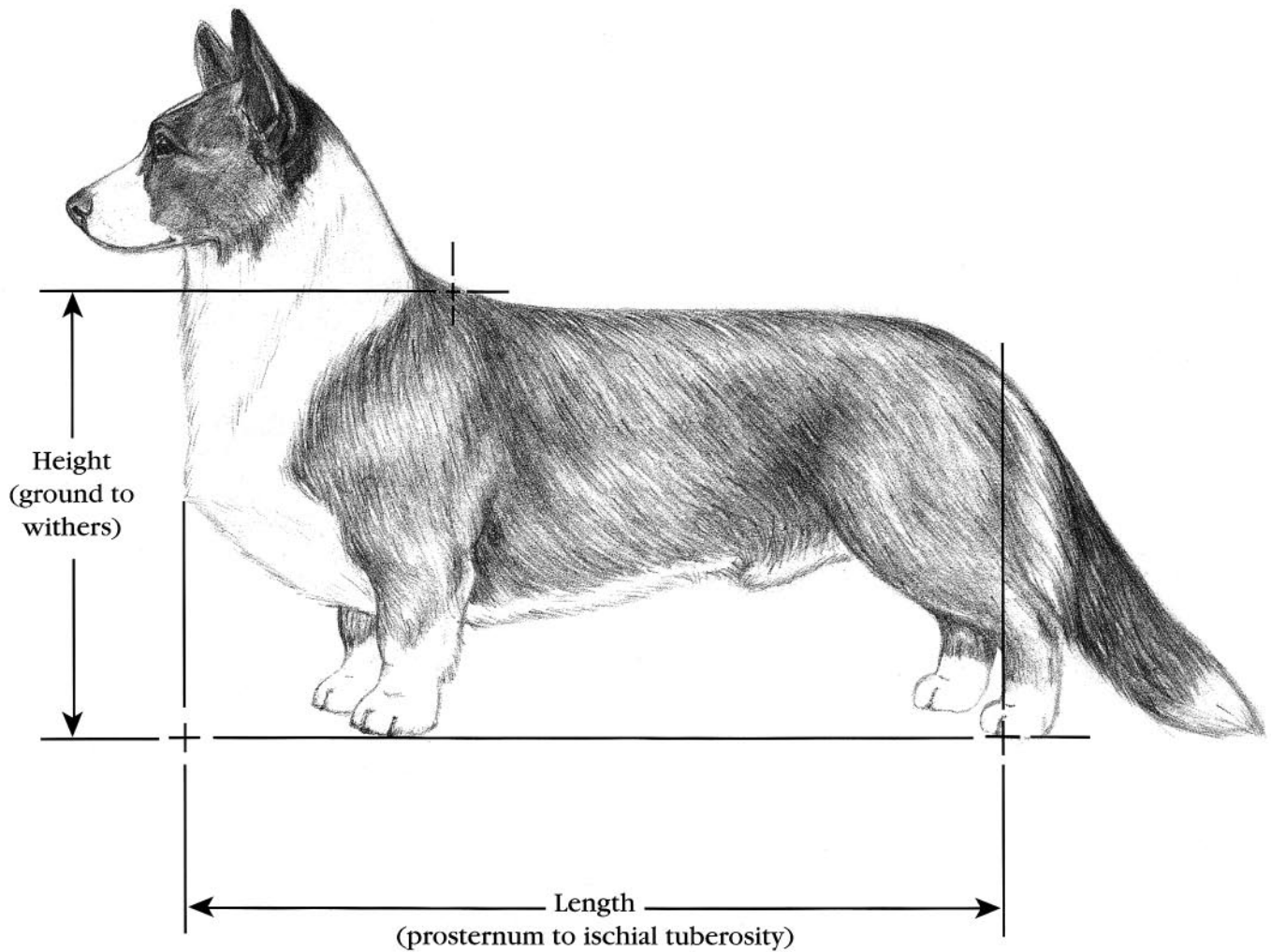
Judges should use the table for individual examination of dogs to assess balance and proportions. Expression and ear set can often be more accurately assessed when the dog is on the ground.



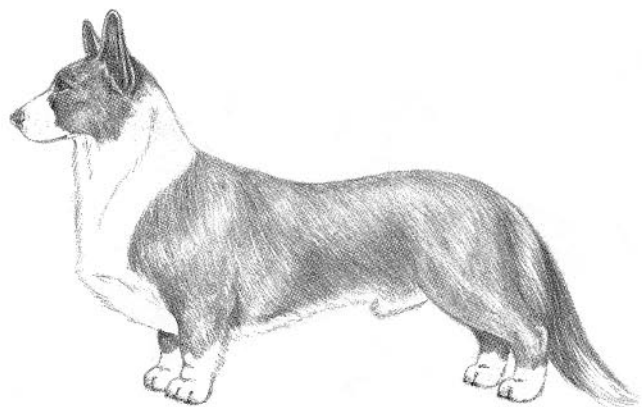
The ideal Cardigan Welsh Corgi (female)

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE—Overall balance is more important than absolute size. Dogs and bitches should be from 10.5 to 12.5 inches at the withers when standing naturally. The ideal length/height ratio is 1.8:1 when measuring from the point of the breast bone (prosternum) to the rear of the hip (ischial tuberosity) and measuring from the ground to the point of the withers. Ideally, dogs should be from 30 to 38 pounds; bitches from 25 to 34 pounds. Lack of overall balance, oversized or undersized are *serious faults*.

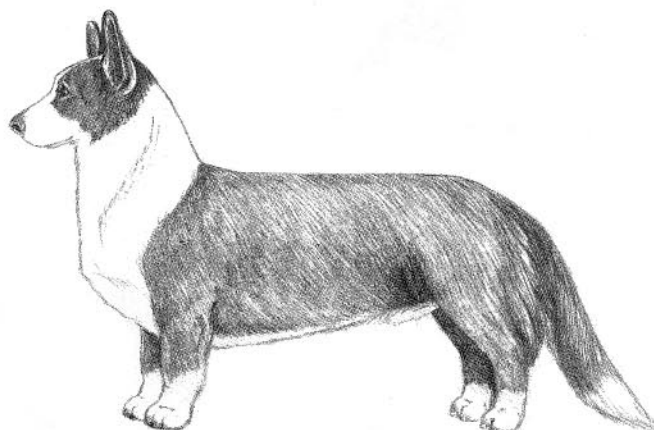
Back length is difficult to determine and may vary from dog to dog because of differences in shoulder layback, shoulder placement, and tail set. When the Cardigan is viewed from the side, the desired pants and fullness of tail will give the appearance of a dog that is approximately twice as long as it is tall.



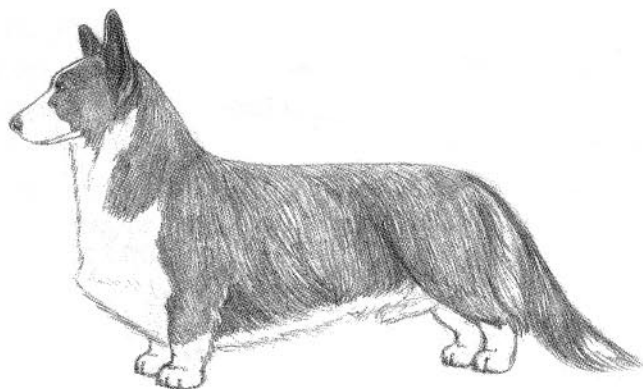
For its size the Cardigan is a large boned and heavy dog. It should appear powerful, but never coarse. Coarse dogs are often cobby in body, short in neck, and overdone in head. These features are not correct and must be faulted. Also not typical and equally faulty are undersized, shelly, and/or leggy Cardigans. Breed type is lost with these faults. The Cardigan must be long, low and well muscled - an efficient herding dog. A dog that is too long and too low is not an efficient herding dog and is faulty. Overall balance is essential for correct silhouette.



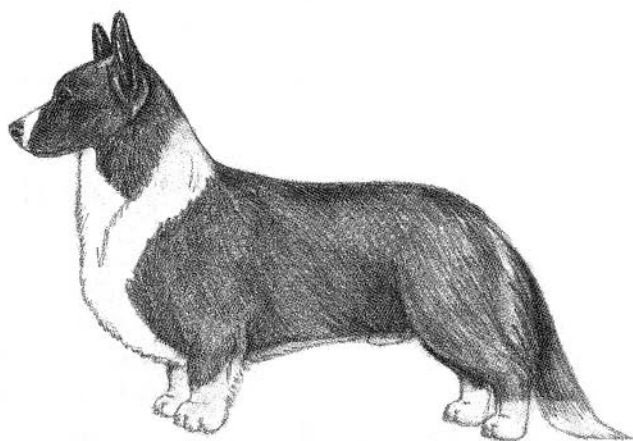
Too long in loin, soft topline



Too leggy and too straight both front and rear



Too low



Too short in back, cobby

HEAD— The *head* should be refined in accordance with the sex and substance of the dog. It should never appear so large and heavy nor so small and fine as to be out of balance with the rest of the dog. *Expression* alert and gentle, watchful, yet friendly.

The correct head is fairly refined and chiseled. It is strong, not weak or fine. Each animal should give a distinct impression of masculinity or femininity, according to its sex. Big, blocky, coarse heads; short, deep and cheeky heads; snipy and narrow heads are incorrect.

Eyes medium to large, not bulging, with dark rims and distinct corners. Widely set. Clear and dark in harmony with coat color. Blue eyes (including partially blue eyes), or one dark and one blue eye permissible in blue merles, and in any other coat color than blue merle are a *disqualification*.

The eye should have distinct corners and therefore is not round. Neither is the eye truly oval; rather, the upper curve is more arched than the lower curve. Incorrect eye shape and size spoil the dog's expression. Dark eyes are preferred. Light eyes are undesirable. Small or sunken eyes give a "piggy look" and are faulty, as are round, bulgy eyes. The entire pigmented portion of the eye (iris) should be checked for blue spots or specks. Dogs other than blue merle that have a blue spot or speck in the iris must be disqualified.



Correct head - male



Correct head - female

Correct head, and head faults -



Correct head



Muzzle too long, lack of stop



Roman nosed



Muzzle too short



Skull domed



Head planes not parallel

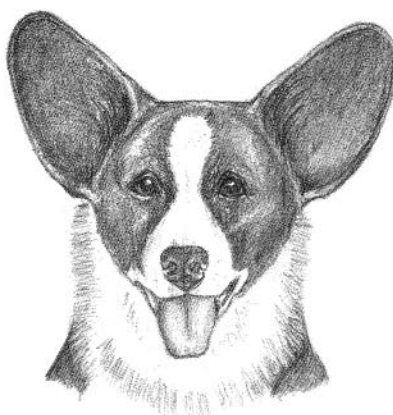
Ears large and prominent in proportion to size of dog. Slightly rounded at the tip and of good strong leather. Moderately wide at the base, carried erect and sloping slightly forward when alert. When erect, tips are slightly wide of a straight line drawn from the tip of the nose through the center of the eye. Small and/or pointed ears are *serious faults*. Drop ears are a *disqualification*.

Cardigan ears are distinctive and important to correct type. These ears must be erect, rounded at the tip, and quite large relative to the size of the head. Small or pointed ears are serious breed faults. The ears should not be set on too high or carried parallel to one another ("rabbit ears") as this spoils the desired head outline and proportions. An earset that is too low ("airplane ears") is also faulty. "Good, strong ear leather" is not necessarily thick leather. Tips of the ears must be slightly wide of the straight line mentioned in the Standard. Be aware that puppies often carry their ears slightly wider than adults. The judge should verify that the ears are not set on low.

Judges should make every attempt to see if Cardigan ears (puppy or adult) will come up to the correct erect position, otherwise it is very difficult to judge expression correctly. However, this breed should not be penalized for failure to hold ears up continuously. When gaitting, the Cardigan often lays its ears back.



Correct ears



Correct ears, acceptable carriage on a puppy



Acceptable ear carriage when the dog is gaitting



Set too high, too upright



Too small and pointed



Set too low and wide

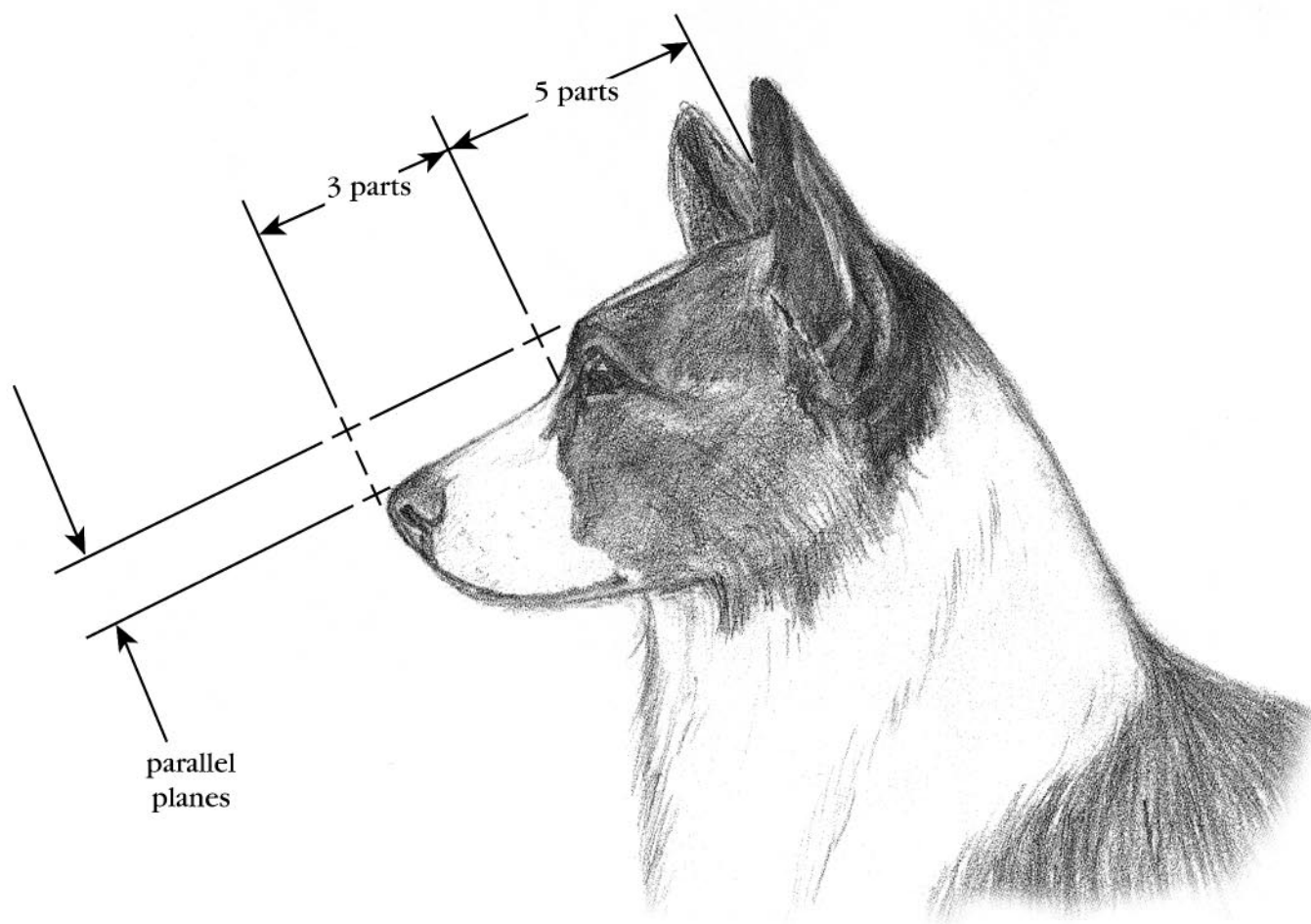
Skull— top moderately wide and flat between the ears, showing no prominence of occiput, tapering towards the eyes. Slight depression between the eyes. **Cheeks** flat with some chiseling where the cheek meets the foreface and under the eye. There should be no prominence of cheekbone.

A prominent cheekbone (zygomatic arch) and excess muscling make a head cheeky and render it coarse. Prominent eyebrow ridges are characteristic and necessary for proper expression.

Muzzle from the tip of the nose to the base of the stop should be shorter than the length of the skull from the base of the stop to the high point of the occiput, the proportion being about 3 parts muzzle to 5 parts skull; rounded but not blunt; tapered but not pointed. In profile the plane of the muzzle should parallel that of the skull, but on a lower level due to a definite but moderate *stop*.

Nose black, except in blue merles where black noses are preferred but butterfly noses are tolerated. A nose other than solid black in any other color is a *disqualification*.

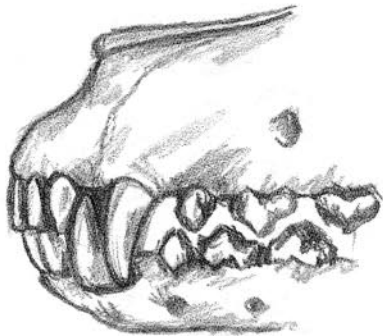
The proportions of about 3 parts muzzle to 5 parts skull and the overall balance of the head are most important. Planes of skull and muzzle should be parallel.



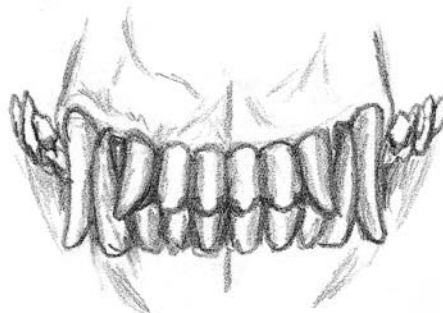
Head planes and proportions

Lips fit cleanly and evenly together all around. ***Jaws*** strong and clean. Underjaw moderately deep and well formed, reaching to the base of the nose and rounded at the chin. ***Teeth*** strong and regular. Scissors bite preferred; i.e. inner side of upper incisors fitting closely over outer side of lower incisors. Overshot, undershot or wry bite are ***serious faults***.

The underjaw should not be pointed or snipy. The nose should protrude somewhat beyond the lower jaw. Excess lip is undesirable. Although a level bite is acceptable, a scissors bite is preferred. Cardigans do not currently have a problem with missing teeth.



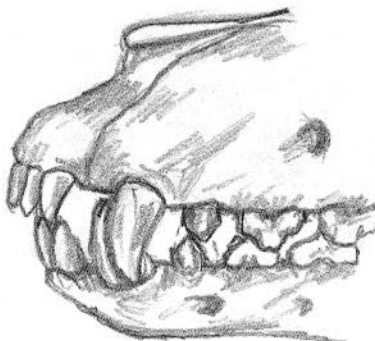
Correct scissors bite,
side view



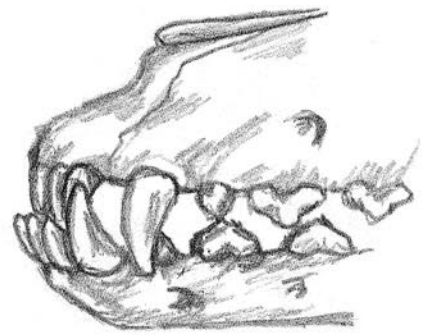
Correct scissors bite,
front view



Acceptable level bite



Faulty - overshot



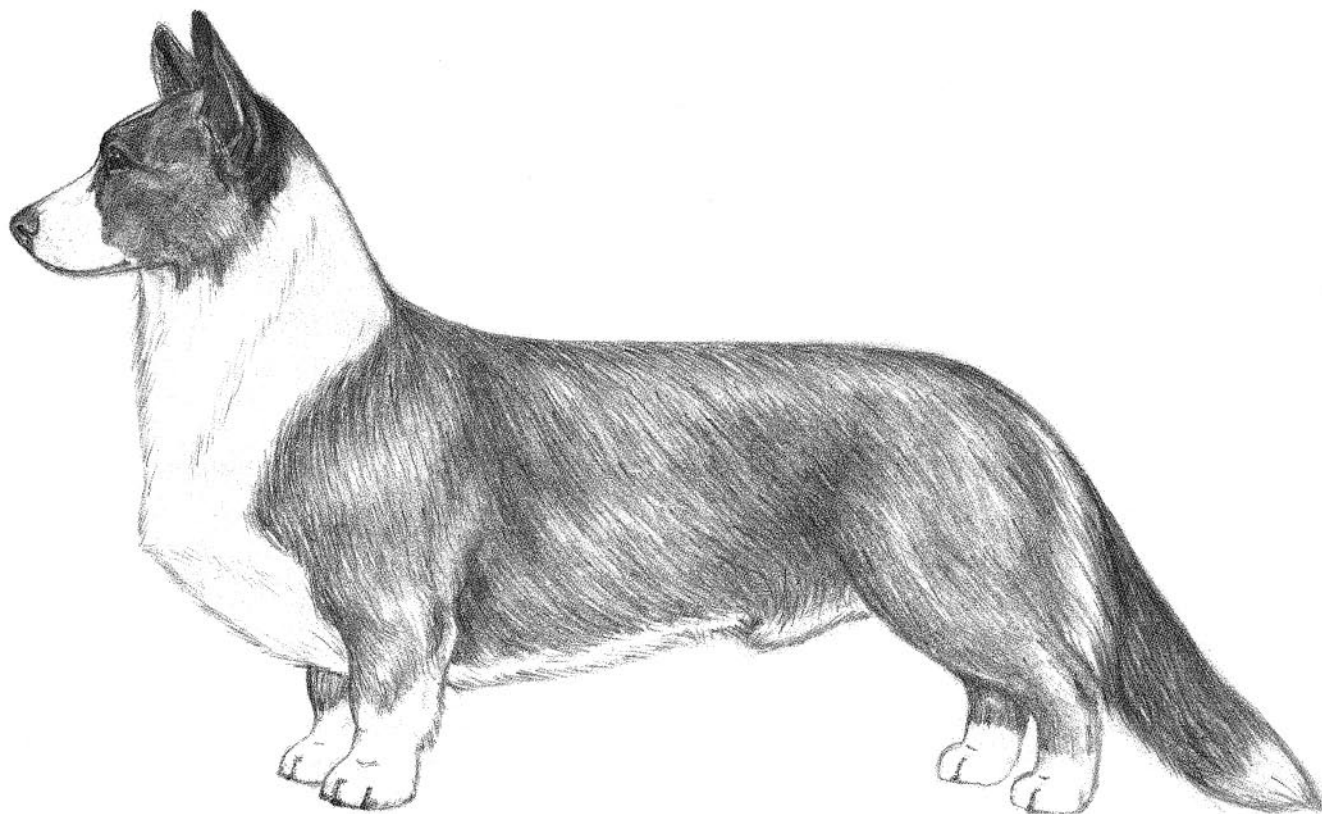
Faulty - undershot

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY— *Neck* moderately long and muscular without throatiness. Well developed, especially in males, and in proportion to the dog's build. Neck well set on; fits into strong, well-shaped shoulders. *Topline* level. *Body* long and strong.

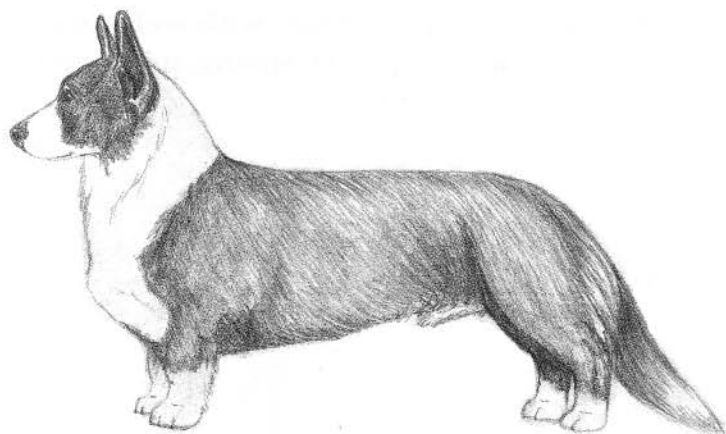
A moderately long, arched neck is necessary for correct balance. A short, stuffy neck is most objectionable and is usually seen combined with straight shoulders. These faults are faults of both soundness and breed type and will result in an incorrect Cardigan silhouette.

A level topline, from base of neck to the croup, is desired. The Cardigan's topline often gives the misleading appearance of a slight rise over the loin due to heavy muscling and extra thickness of coat in this area. The croup should slope slightly downward. Toplines that are roached or high in rear are incorrect. A topline that bounces when the dog moves indicates lack of conditioning, inefficient movement, and/or weakness in the loin or back. These faults should be penalized.

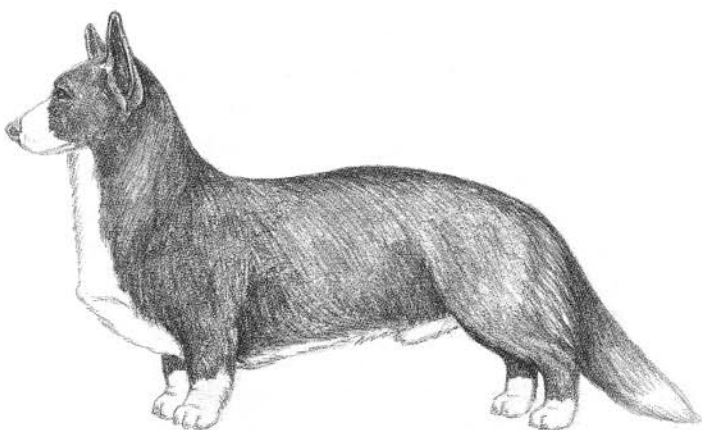
The Cardigan's body is long in comparison to height. It should give the appearance and feel of solid and muscular power with moderately heavy bone. A short or cobby body creates an incorrect silhouette and is a major breed type fault.



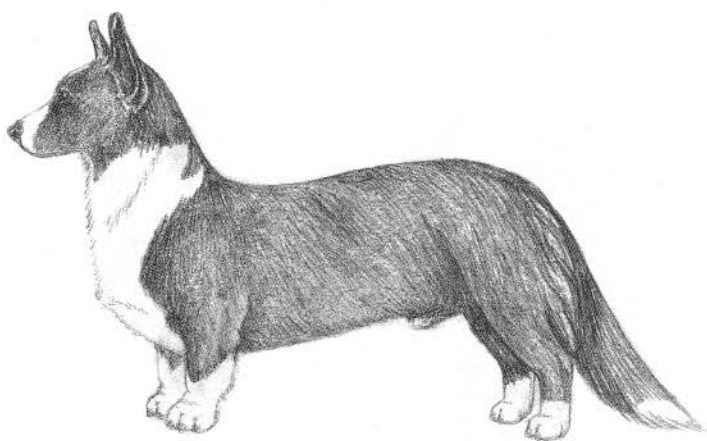
Correct dog showing desired neck extension and good body length and shape with a proper, level topline



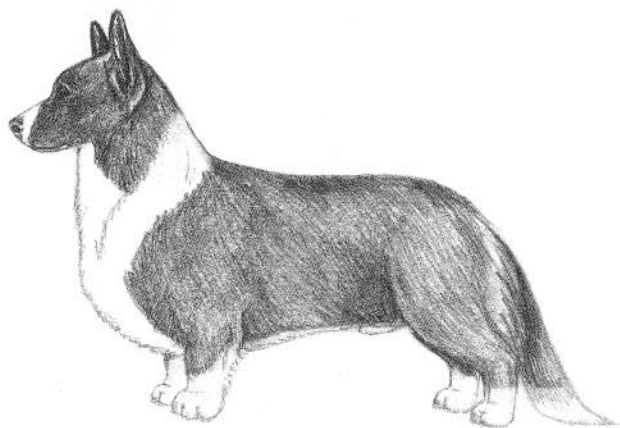
A short, stuffy neck resulting from
incorrect shoulder placement



Roached



Incorrect tubular body,
and high in the rear



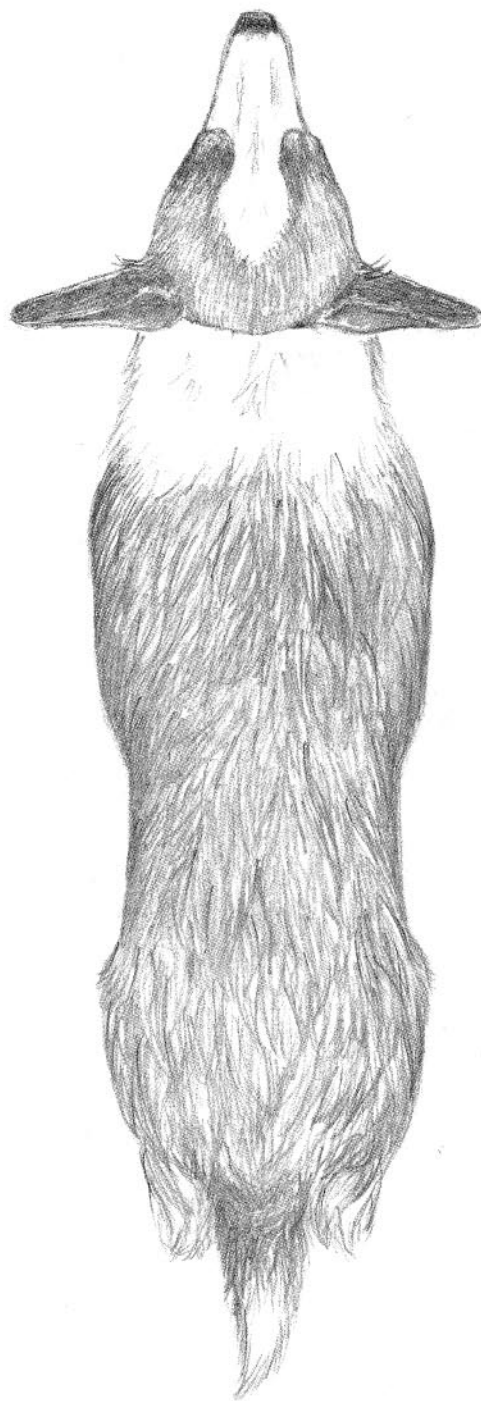
Short, cobby body

Chest moderately broad with prominent breast bone. Deep brisket, with well sprung ribs to allow for good lungs. Ribs extending well back. Loin short, strong, moderately tucked up. Waist well defined.

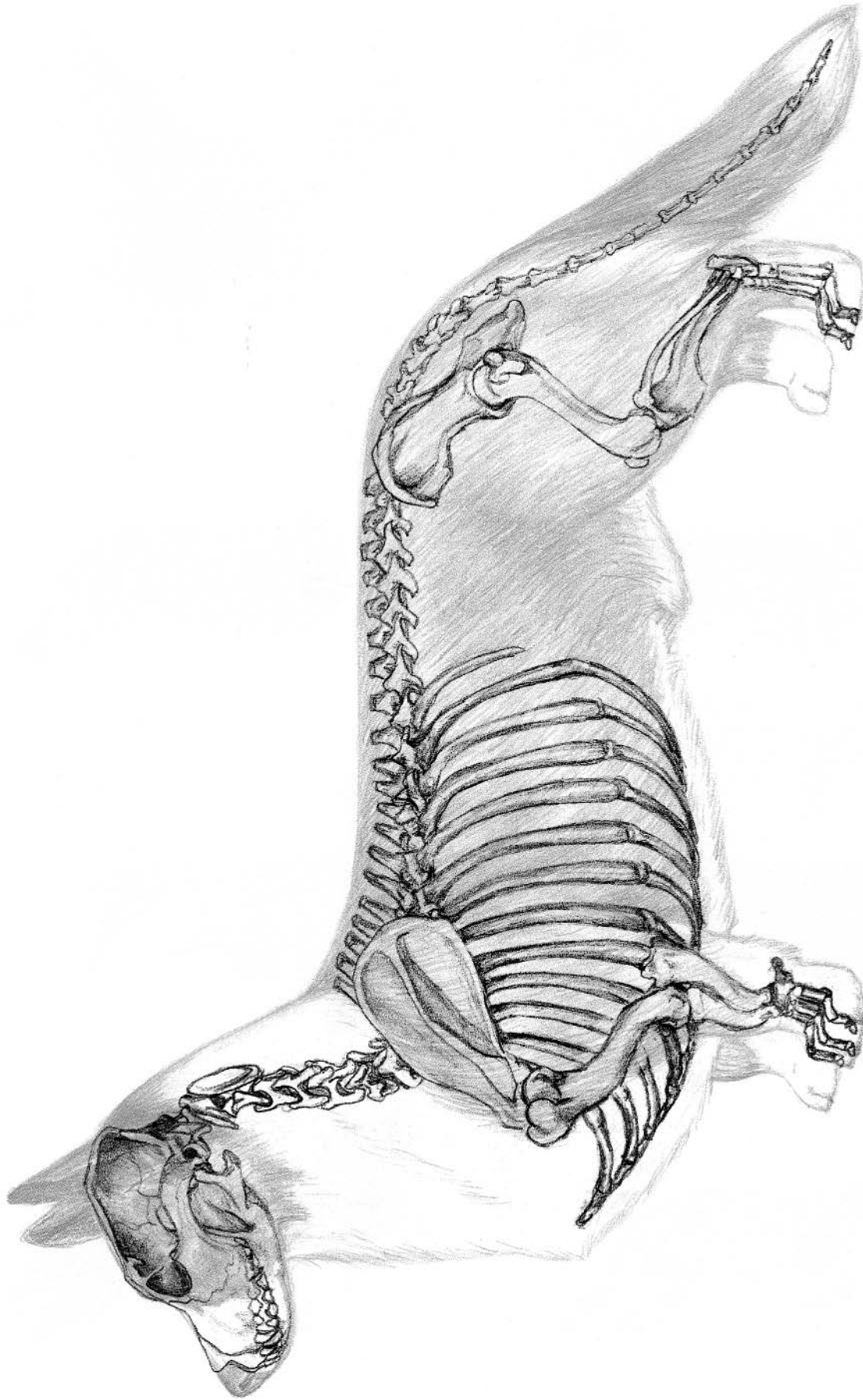
The Cardigan adult has a moderately wide chest. A chest which is too wide or too narrow is undesirable. The chest must be well let down, to just above the level of the wrists (carpal joints), and any suggestion of legginess is wrong. The desired rib cage is long and egg shaped, not round, with the wider part of the egg uppermost. Slab-sidedness is also incorrect.

The Cardigan should have a long body. Most of this length comes from length of ribs combined with correct angulation fore and aft, as well as strong development of forechest. The dog must have a definite and strong loin area. A dog with a long, weak loin will have a sagging or bouncing topline. A dog with a very short loin has little flexibility for herding.

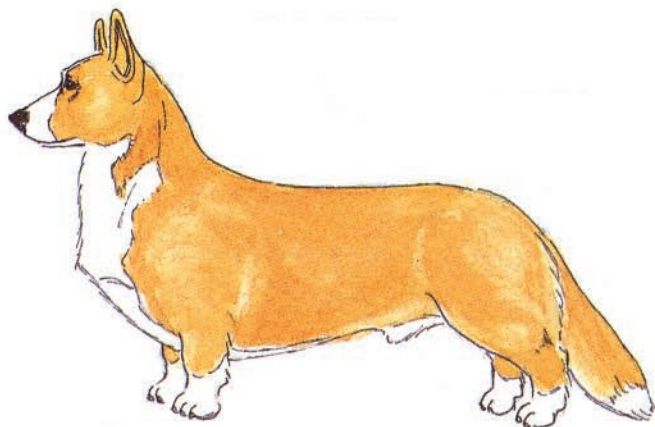
When viewed from above, the widest point of the dog is the shoulders, tapering to a definite waist and then flaring to well-developed hips, which are slightly narrower than the shoulders. Dogs whose bodies extend straight back from the shoulder to the pelvis are usually shelly and lacking in rib spring, which is incorrect, or are too fat.



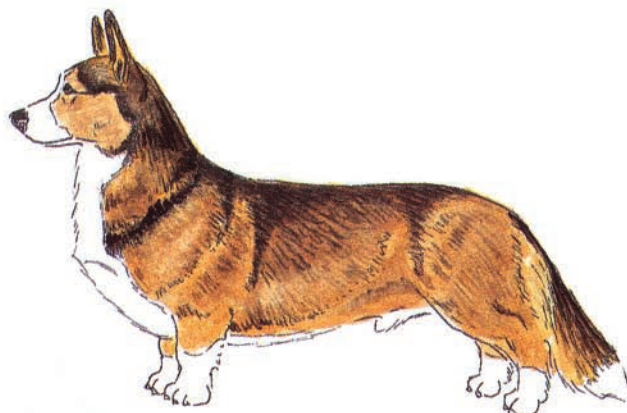
The correct overview



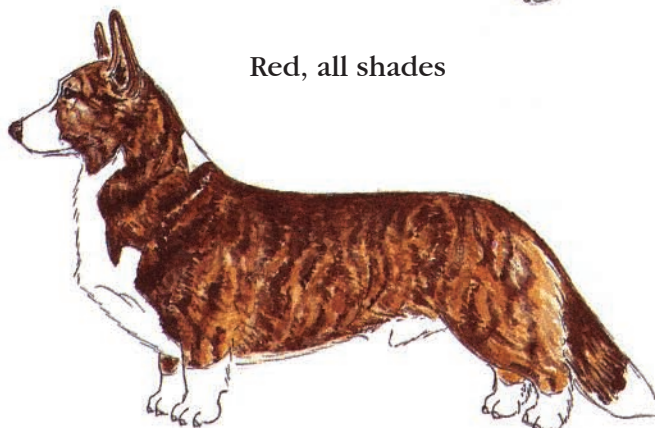
Color in the Cardigan Welsh Corgi -



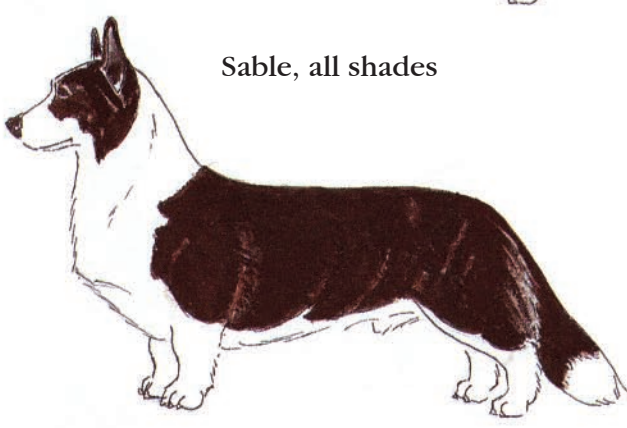
Red, all shades



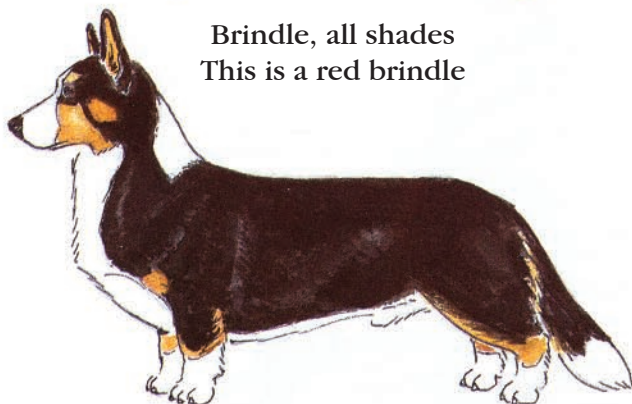
Sable, all shades



Brindle, all shades
This is a red brindle



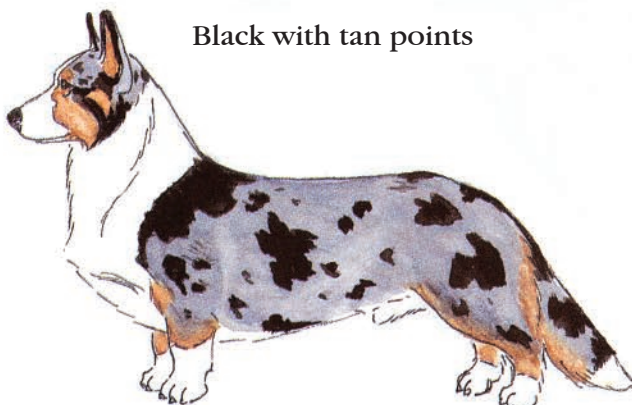
This is a black brindle



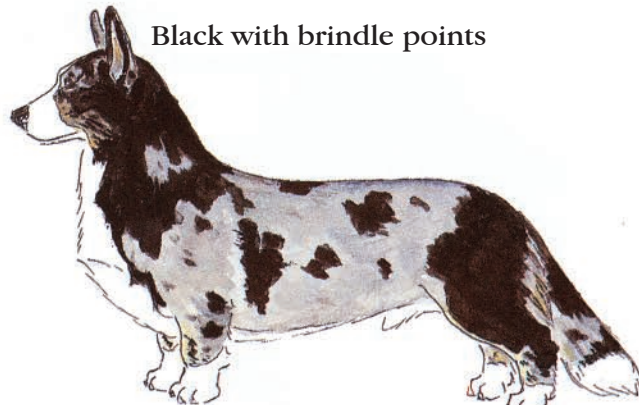
Black with tan points



Black with brindle points



Blue merle with tan points



Blue merle with brindle points



Fully extended black mask



Sable showing characteristic "monk's cap"



Black-masked red



Cheek markings of a brindle-pointed black



Ticking on the legs

Croup--- slight downward slope to the tail set

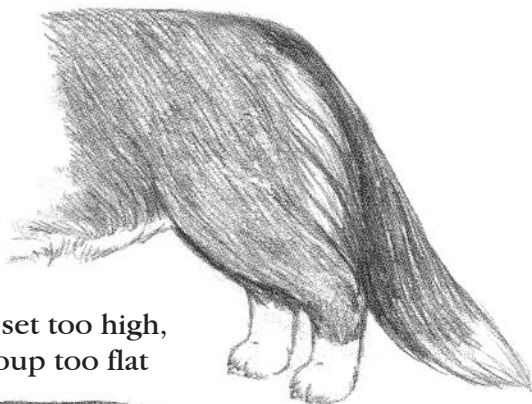
A slight downward slope of the croup is necessary for correct tail set and indicates the angle of the pelvis which is mechanically important for correct rear limb propulsion. A flat croup will give a squared-off look and is often associated with a high tail set. A steep croup is equally incorrect. Both flat and steep croups spoil the correct outline and may negatively affect movement.

Tail--- set fairly low on body line and reaching well below hock. Carried low when standing or moving slowly, streaming out parallel to ground when at a dead run, lifted when excited, but never curled over the back. High tail set is a *serious fault*.

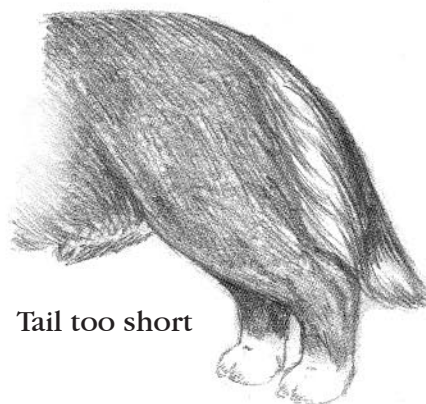


Correct foxbrush tail

Preferred tail carriage is with the tail low or streaming out behind the dog. It is very important to understand and differentiate between tail set and tail carriage in the Cardigan. A high tail set and a “gay” tail are two different things. A tail set on high and carried in a curl over the back is a serious fault and spoils the dog’s silhouette. However, a dog who raises his tail above the horizontal when excited should not be penalized as long as the tail is not carried over the back. Short tails not reaching below the hock are to be faulted. A coat of proper length makes most cardigan tails appear to reach the ground. A tucked tail may indicate temperament problems, or insecurity in the ring.



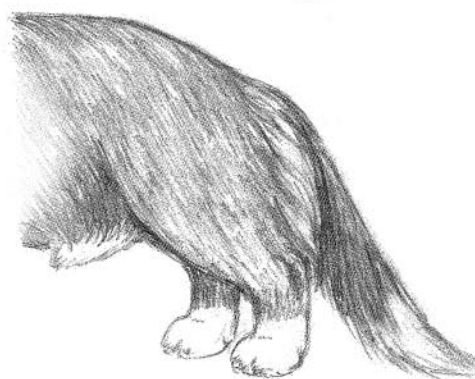
Tail set too high,
croup too flat



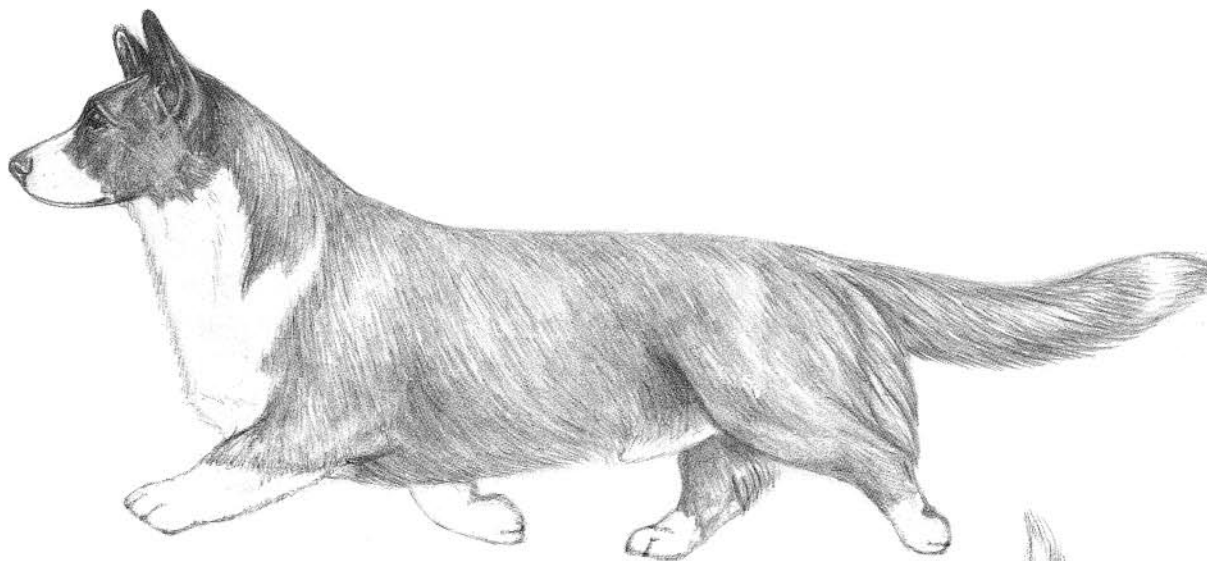
Tail too short



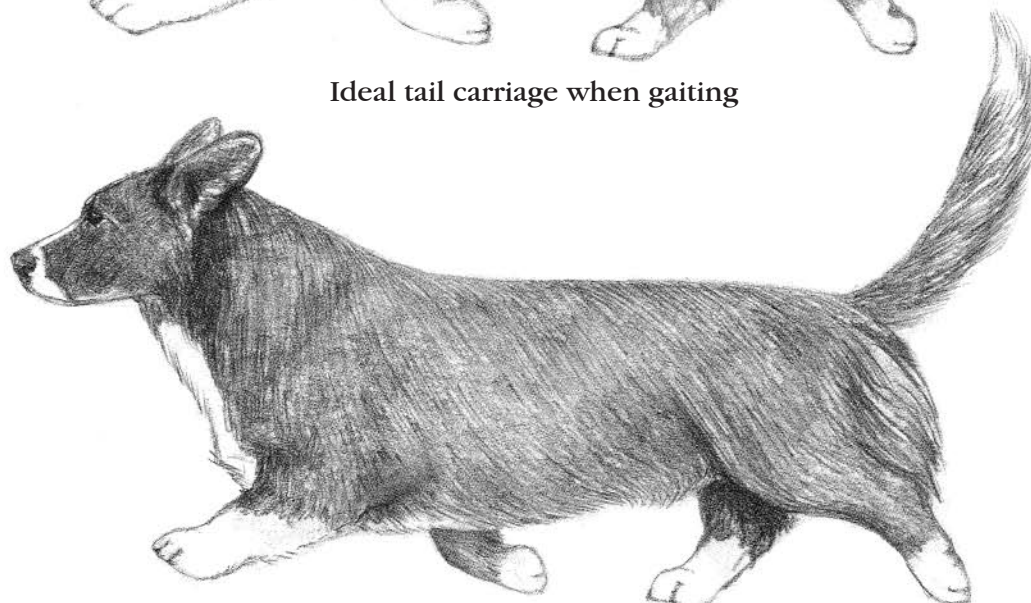
Excessive feathering



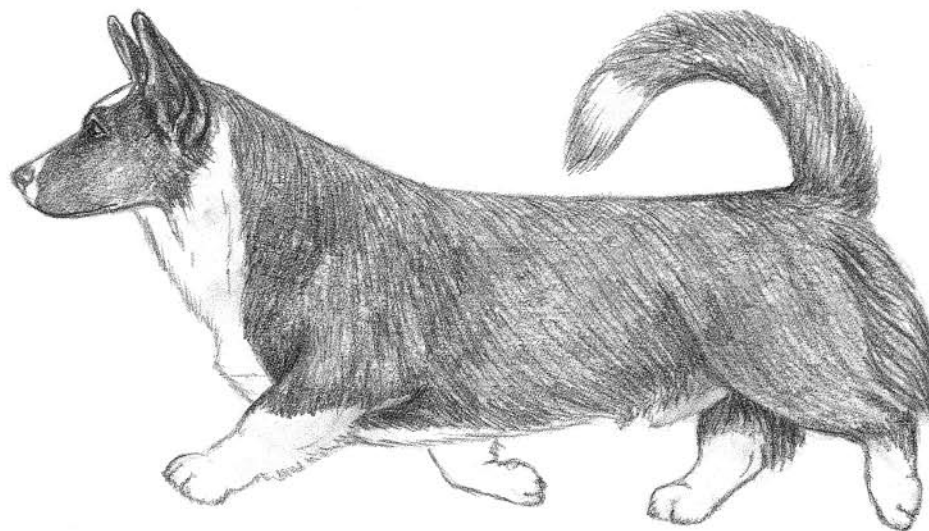
Tail set too low,
croup too steeply sloped



Ideal tail carriage when gaiting



Acceptable tail and ear carriage when gaiting



Incorrect "gay" tail with high tail set and restricted rear follow-through

FOREQUARTERS— The moderately broad chest tapers to a deep brisket, well let down between the forelegs.

The correct Cardigan chest is egg-shaped, with shoulders fitting closely at the widest part of the chest, which then tapers to an oval shape. A round or barrel chest is incorrect. Lack of rib spring, resulting in slab sidedness, is also incorrect. The entire shoulder assembly is set well back on the ribs so that the breastbone (prosthernum) is prominent, providing extensive forechest. In an adult, a shallow chest (lacking proper depth) is incorrect.



Correct front - female

Shoulders slope downward and outward from the withers sufficiently to accommodate desired rib spring. Shoulder blade (scapula) long and well laid back, meeting upper arm (humerus) at close to a right angle. Humerus nearly as long as scapula.

The shoulders should be laid back at approximately 45 degrees. The shoulder blade and upper arm will meet at about 90 degrees in this dwarf breed. Short upper arms, which are common in dwarf dogs, are a problem in a herding dog. A dog with this structure will have a short, choppy stride with very little reach and will tire easily when working. Although the Cardigan is a strong and muscular dog, the shoulders should not be loaded. They should lie close against the ribs with no excess musculature. Shoulders that are set on too far forward, with very little forechest showing, are faulty. Such a front is usually steep and unsound.



Ideal shoulder angulation and placement



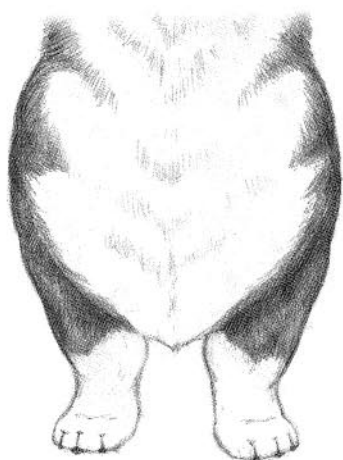
Shoulder too steep and too far forward



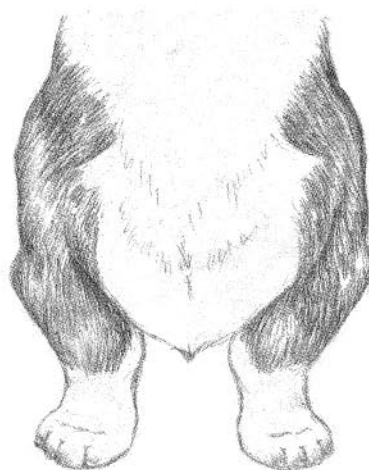
Short upper arms

***Elbows* should fit close, being neither loose nor tied. The *forearms* (ulna and radius) should be curved to fit spring of ribs. The curve in the forearm makes the wrists (carpal joints) somewhat closer than the elbows. The *pasterns* are strong and flexible. Dewclaws removed.**

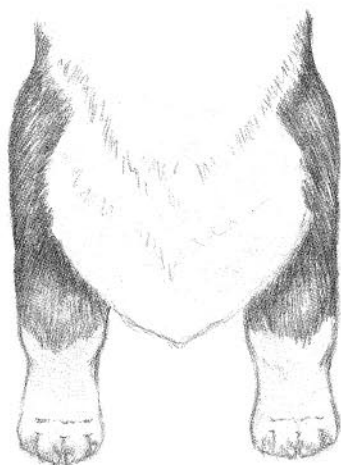
Close-fitting elbows are important for proper movement. Being out at the elbows is a structural fault, and therefore incorrect. This is a problem in the breed. Barrel ribs, loaded shoulders, short upper arms, shoulder assembly set too far forward, forearms not correctly curved are incorrect and should be faulted. It is very important to understand that the forearms must curve around the spring of ribs. The Cardigan front is not straight from elbows to ground. An incorrect Cardigan front is a serious breed fault.



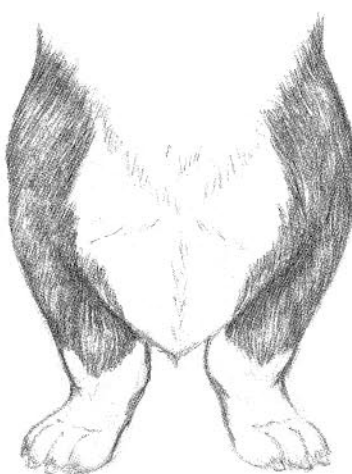
Correct front



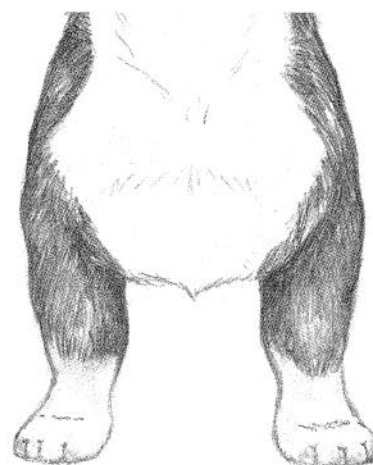
Out at the elbows



Too wide and straight



Too crooked



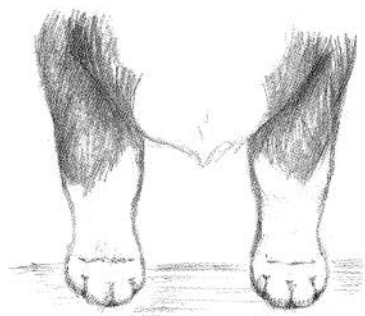
Correct turnout but too wide
with lack of bowing and
incorrect round, tubular body



Correct front - male

The *feet* are relatively large and rounded, with well filled pads. They point slightly outward from a straight ahead position to balance the width of the shoulders. This outward point is not to be more than 30 degrees from center line when viewed from above. The toes should not be splayed.

The correct Cardigan foot is round, not oval. The front feet are rather large and point slightly outward, though not excessively, from the straight ahead position.



Incorrect oval front feet



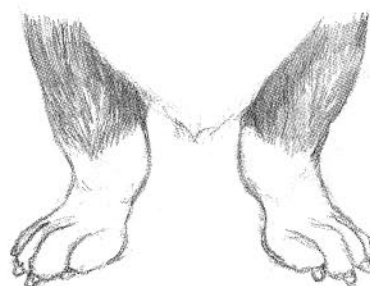
Correct front feet



Outer two toes splayed indicating too much turnout



Knuckled over



Flat, long feet

The correct Cardigan front is neither straight nor so crooked as to appear unsound. Overall, the bone should be heavy for a dog of this size, but not so heavy as to appear coarse or reduce agility. Knuckling over, straight front, fiddle front are serious faults.

Understanding the correct Cardigan front is crucial to understanding the breed. The correct front assembly is an essential breed characteristic. A Cardigan front must show the forearms curving correctly around the chest and feet that turn slightly outward. Straight fronts, which are frequently wide as well, are both structural and serious breed faults. Fronts which turn out too much (more than 30 degrees) are unsound, although loss of type is not an issue here. Note that a young puppy's front feet will not show as much turnout as an adult's; however, bowing of the forearms must be present.

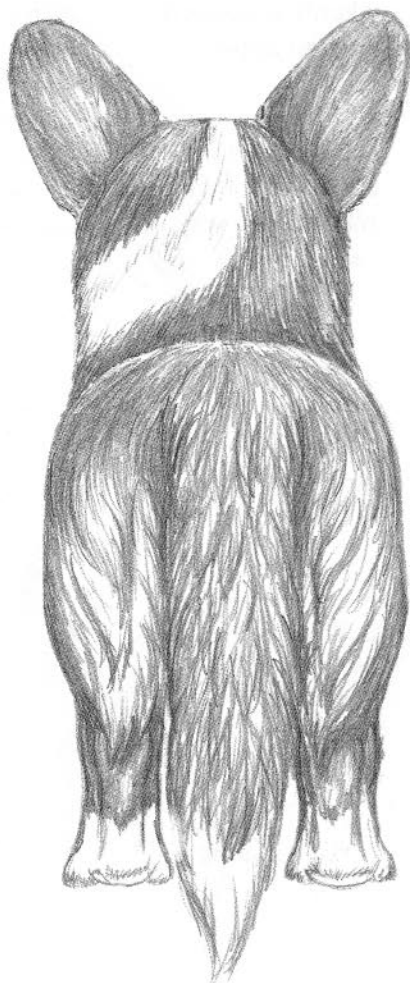
Knuckling over is a serious fault and represents considerable unsoundness. This is best seen from the side, where the pasterns are straight and inflexible and there appears to be a large mass of bone protruding over the foot. Quivering is often visible. A dog with this serious fault cannot work properly and exhibits extreme unsoundness when moving.

The need for correct assessment of a Cardigan Welsh Corgi's front assembly cannot be overstressed.

HINDQUARTERS— Well muscled and strong, but slightly less wide than shoulders. Hipbone (pelvis) slopes downward with the croup, forming a right angle with the femur at the hip socket. There should be moderate angulation at stifle and hock. Hocks well let down. Metatarsi perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other. Dewclaws removed. Feet point straight ahead and are slightly smaller and more oval than front. Toes arched. Pads well filled.

Overall, the hindquarters must denote sufficient power to propel this low, relatively heavy herding dog efficiently over rough terrain.

“Hock” refers to the hock joint. “Metatarsi” refers to the bones between the hock joint and the foot. Sickie hocks are a hindrance in a herding dog. A dog with this problem will have no flexion in the hock joint and will not be able to extend its stride. There will be no follow through and no rearward extension. All movement appears to be ahead of a perpendicular line drawn from the tail set to the ground. Such a dog will have a very short stride and will tire easily. It is to be penalized accordingly. Long metatarsi are undesirable as they may produce a topline that is high in the rear and/or sickie hocks. Overly wide rears are incorrect and may produce a rocking gait. Narrow rears are equally incorrect. Straight stifles are weak and prone to injury, therefore faulty. Cowhocks or barrel hocks are unsound. A strong driving rear is of major importance to a herding dog.



Correct rear



Too wide



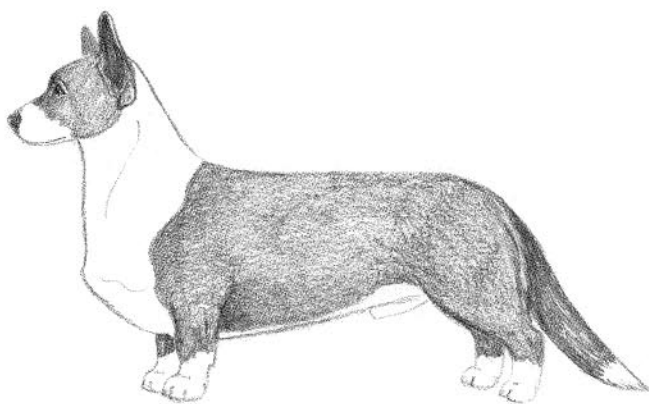
Too narrow

COAT— Medium length but dense as it is double. Outer hairs slightly harsh in texture; never wiry, curly or silky. Lies relatively smooth and is weather resistant. The insulating undercoat is short, soft and thick. A correct coat has short hair on ears, head, the legs; medium hair on body; and slightly longer, thicker hair in ruff, on the backs of the thighs to form “pants” and on the underside of the tail. The coat should not be so exaggerated as to appear fluffy. This breed has a shedding coat, and seasonal lack of undercoat should not be too severely penalized, providing the hair is healthy. Trimming is not allowed except to tidy feet and, if desired, remove whiskers. Soft guard hairs, uniform length, wiry, curly, silky, overly short and/or flat coats are not desired. A distinctly long or fluffy coat is an extremely serious *fault*.

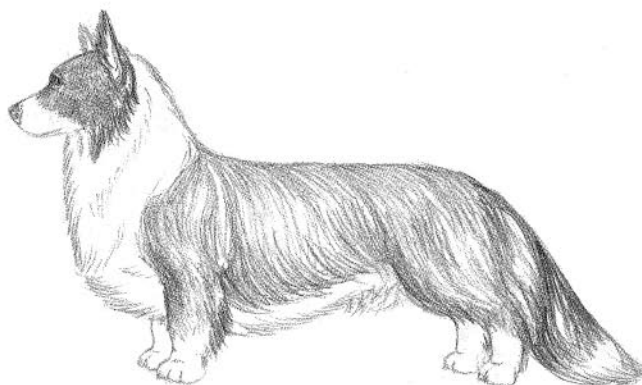
The Cardigan has a dense double coat of medium length. It is neither long, wispy, and soft, nor flat and skimpy. A Cardigan has very distinct “pants” on the back of the rear legs. Soft, silky, distinctly long or fluffy coats all represent problems in a herding dog and are working faults more than cosmetic ones. These coats will not repel water, mud, thorns or brambles the way a correct coat will.

Flat ones are incorrect and may not provide protection from the elements. An out-of-coat Cardigan may give the appearance of a flat or short coat due to shedding of the undercoat. Even though the undercoat is lacking, the guard hairs should still have the correct length and texture. Coats have not previously been well understood and correct full coats have been mistakenly penalized for being too long. Cardigans with flat, short coats are incorrect and should be penalized appropriately.

Care should be taken to observe coats that are long, fluffy, curly, wiry, soft or silky regardless of length. These coats should also be penalized appropriately. The trimming of a long coat does not make it acceptable. A trimmed fluffy coat can usually be detected by checking for trimmed, soft and silky hair at the base of the ears. A Cardigan that appears to be trimmed in any way, other than as described in the Standard, must be severely faulted, and appropriately penalized.



Coat too short and flat



Coat too long

COLOR— All shades of red, sable and brindle. Black with or without tan or brindle points. Blue merle (black and gray; marbled) with or without tan or brindle points. There is no color preference. White flashings are usual on the neck (either in part or as a collar), chest, legs, muzzle, underparts, tip of tail and as a blaze on head. White on the head should not predominate and should never surround the eyes. Any color other than specified and/or body color predominately white are *disqualifications*.

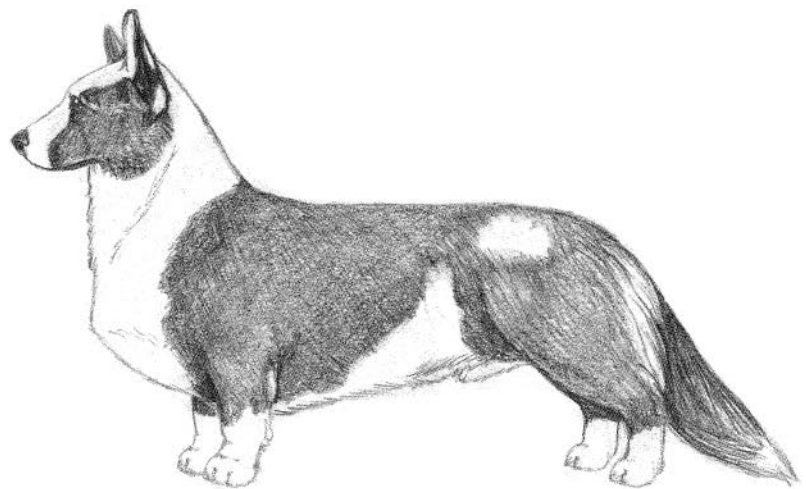
All colors and shades of colors listed in the Standard are equally desirable. There is no preferred color. Any color not described in the Standard must be disqualified.

Blue merle appears as gray with piebald patterned black patches, or a marbled effect of black and gray. Any merling (marbling) other than blue merle is a disqualification. White markings may appear almost anywhere (on the ears, on the body, or on the sides as a splash) and are perfectly acceptable, but white must not predominate (greater than 50% of the dog). White should never surround the eyes. Freckles of darker color (ticking) may appear in the Cardigan's white markings and are perfectly acceptable.

Please refer to the color plates.



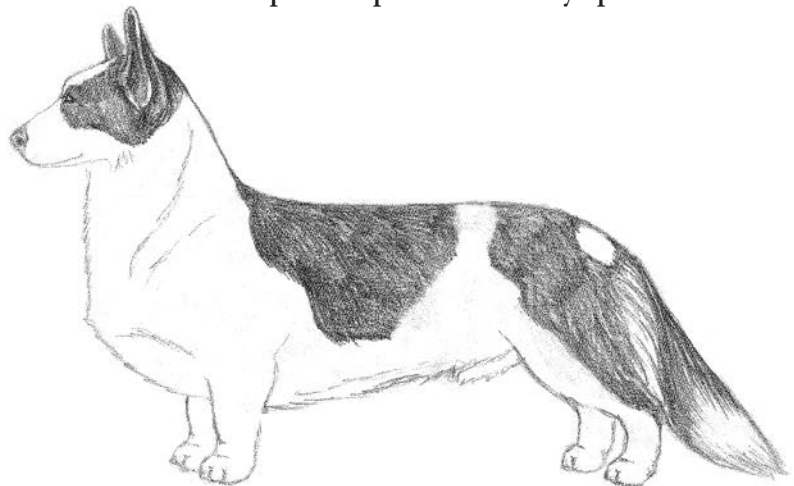
Acceptable markings



Acceptable splash and body spot



Faulty white surrounding eye



Too much white - a *disqualification*

GAIT— Free and smooth. Effortless. Viewed from the side, forelegs should reach well forward when moving at a trot, without much lift, in unison with driving action of hindlegs. The correct shoulder assembly and well fitted elbows allow for a long free stride in front. Viewed from the front, legs do not move in exact parallel planes, but incline slightly inward to compensate for shortness of leg and width of chest. Hind legs, when trotting, should reach well under body, move on a line with the forelegs, with the hocks turning neither in nor out, and in one continuous motion drive powerfully behind, well beyond the set of the tail. Feet must travel parallel to the line of motion with no tendency to swing out, cross over, or interfere with each other. Short choppy movement, rolling or high-stepping gait, close or overly wide coming or going, are incorrect. This is a herding dog which must have the agility, freedom of movement, and endurance to do the work for which he was developed.

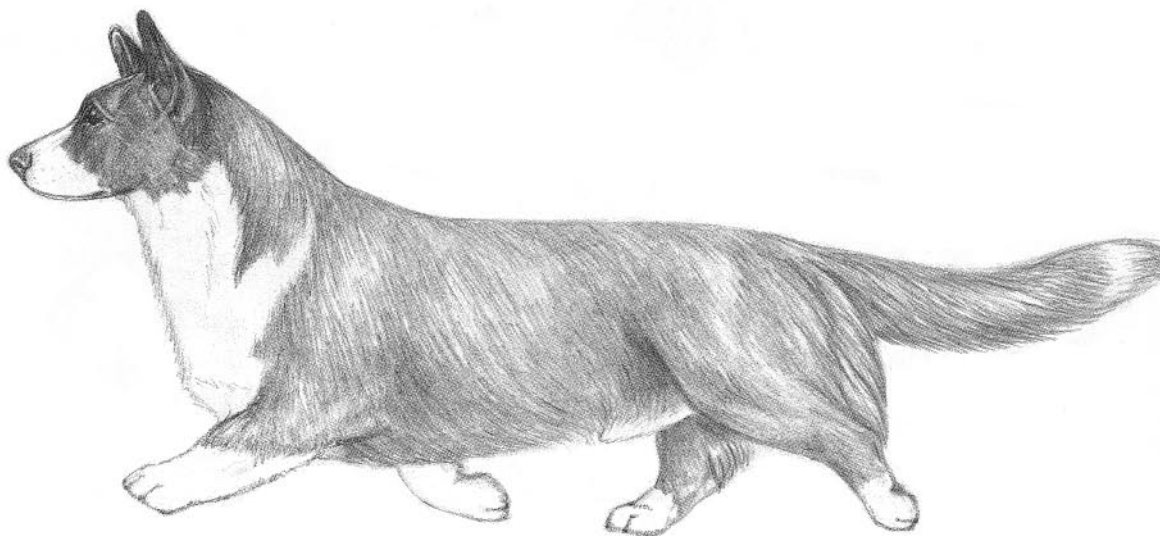
The Cardigan should move with a full, free step. Dogs with choppy movement and/or short stride, which are usually caused by short upper arms, steep shoulders and/or sickle hocks, cannot work efficiently.

Front movement in this breed is unusual and must be understood. Viewed from the front, the front legs incline inward, and the foot will straighten so that the crook is not apparent until the foot touches the ground and begins to bear weight. When coming towards you, this dwarf dog tends toward a single track, but does not single track because of shortness of leg and width of chest. The leg moves “true” with no wasted motion.

Correct movement will be businesslike, and effortless. Rocking movement is incorrect and tends to be seen in dogs with wide, straight fronts.

Rear movement is powerful and driving, with good rear extension. Lack of rear extension, close movement in the rear, cowhocks, and rolling movement are incorrect. When going away from you, at the normal show speed, the rear legs will not incline inward as much as the front legs.

The Cardigan is a functional herding dog. Lack of balance of front and rear movement is very undesirable. Any deviation from the correct movement described in the Standard is to be penalized in accordance with its detrimental effect on function.



Correct reach and drive



Correct coming



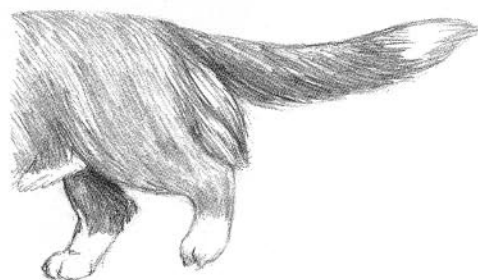
Correct moving away



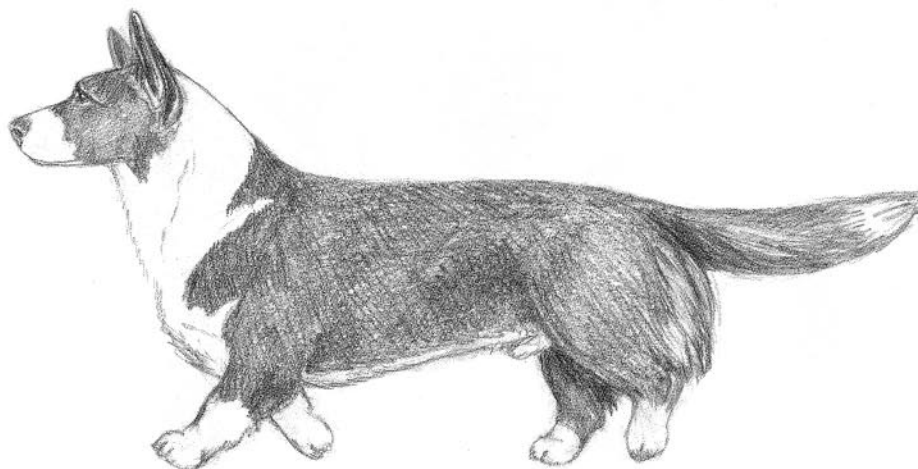
Too wide coming



Correct side movement with acceptable ear and tail carriage



Sickle hocks



Restricted side movement

TEMPERAMENT— Even-tempered, loyal affectionate, and adaptable. Never shy nor vicious.

Cardigan temperament is agreeable and easy going. Dogs should be alert, but are generally not overly demonstrative or excitable. This breed is often reserved with strangers, but should never be shy. Shyness is to be penalized. Puppies that are slightly unsure should be treated gently rather than penalized. Cardigans appear to have a real sense of humor and are often tremendous clowns.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Blue eyes, or partially blue eyes, in any coat color other than blue merle.

Drop ears.

Nose other than solid black except in blue merles.

Any color other than specified.

Body color predominantly white.

