



GLOSSARY

A

Achondroplasia A form of dwarfism characterized by arrested development of the long bones, resulting in normal body development but shortened legs. A defect in most breeds but required in others such as the Dachshund and Basset Hound.

Albino Animal deficient in pigmentation.

Almond eyes The eye set in surrounding tissue of almond shape. The eye itself is always round, its “shape” as designated in breed standards signifying the contour of the surrounding flesh.

Amble A relaxed, easy gait in which the legs on either side move almost, but not quite, as a pair. Often seen as the transition movement between the walk and the faster gaits.

Angulation The angles formed by a meeting of the bones, mainly the shoulder and upper arm, stifle and hock.

Apple head Rounded skull, shaped like an apple.

Apron The frill or long hair below the neck on long-coated dogs such as the Collie.

Aquiline A profile where the topline of the foreface is relatively straight except for the nasal cartilage which dips downward.

ASCOB Any solid colour other than black, a colour description of the American Cocker Spaniel.

B

Back The thoracic and lumbar vertebrae. However, it is often used generally in reference to the distance from the withers to the end of the loin.

Backline Normally the profile outline from the withers to the set on of the tail.

Badger markings A mixture of white/grey/brown/black hairs of varying intensity, often on a white background, usually on the head and/or body.

Bad mouth Crooked or unaligned teeth; bite over or undershot in excess of standard specifications.

Balanced A consistent whole; symmetrical, typically proportioned as a whole or as regards its separate parts; i.e., balance of head, balance of body, or balance of head and body.

Bandy legs Having a bend of leg outward.

Bar eye Light eye.

Barrel Rounded rib section; thorax.

Barrel hocks Hocks that turn out, causing the feet to toe in. Also called spread hocks.

Barrel-legged Bowed legs (front).

Barrel-ribbed Excessively curved ribs.

Basewide Wide footfall, resultant of “paddling” movement, causing body to rock from side to side. See Paddling.

Bat ear An erect ear, rather broad at the base, rounded in outline at the top and with orifice directly to the front. (e.g., French Bulldog)

Bay The voice of a trailing hound while hunting or when the quarry is brought to a stand.

Beard Thick, long hair growth on the underjaw.

Bell ear A cropped ear with a wide base.

Belton A colour designation. An intermingling of coloured and white hairs, as blue belton, lemon, orange, or liver belton, (e.g., English Setter)

Benched legs Short, crooked legs that bow out, resembling those found on a Queen Anne table.

Bench show A dog show at which the dogs are kept on benches while not being shown in competition. Most shows in Canada are not benched.

Best in Show A dog-show award to the dog adjudged best of all breeds.

Bilateral cryptorchid See Cryptorchid.

Bird dog A sporting dog trained to hunt birds.

Bird’s eye, bird of prey eye Light yellowish eye, usually harsh in outlook.

Birdy A dog with strong bird-hunting instincts

Bitch A female dog.

Bite The relative position of the upper and lower teeth when the mouth is closed. See Level bite, Scissors bite, Undershot, Overshot.

Blanket The colour of the coat on the back and upper part of the sides, between the neck and the tail.

Blaze A white stripe running up the centre of the face usually between the eyes.

Blocky Square or cube like formation of the head or body.

Blooded A dog of good breeding; pedigreed.

Bloom The sheen of a coat in prime condition.

Blue colour Dilute black due to recessives.

Blue merle Blue and grey mixed with black; marbled.

Bobtail A naturally tailless dog with a tail docked very short. Often used as a name for the Old English Sheepdog.

Bodied up Mature, well developed.

Bolt To drive or “start” an animal out of its earth or burrow.

Bone The relative size (girth) of a dog’s leg bones; substance.

Bow hocks Outward curvature of the hindlegs, the hocks turning outward. The opposite of cow-hocked.

Brace Two dogs of a kind; a couple.

Brachycephalic A wide skull with a short length, such that found on the Pug and the Pekingese.

Breeching The tan-coloured hair on the thighs of Manchester terriers and other breeds.

Breed A specific strain or family of related dogs similar in type and use, usually developed under the influence of man.

Breeder A person who breeds dogs. Under CKC rules, the breeder of a dog is the owner (or, if the dam was leased, the lessee) of the dam of the dog when the dam was bred.

Brindle Striped coat effect caused by mixture of black hairs on lighter-coloured base.

Brisket The forepart of the body below the chest, between the forelegs, closest to the ribs.

Bristle coat A short stiff coat, like the bristles on a brush.

Broken colour Self-colour broken by white or another colour.

Broken-haired A rough wire coat.

Broken-up face A receding nose, together with a deep stop, wrinkle, and undershot jaw; for example, Bulldog, Pekingese.

Brood bitch A female used for breeding. Brood matron.

Brush A bushy tail; a tail heavy with hair.

Brushing A gaiting fault when parallel pasterns are so close that the legs “brush” in passing.

Bullbaiting An ancient sport in which the dog baited or tormented the bull.

Bull neck A heavy neck, well muscled.

Burr The inside of the ear; i.e., the irregular formation visible within the cup.

Butterfly nose A particoloured nose; i.e., dark, spotted with flesh colour.

Buttocks The rump or hips.

Button ear The ear flap folding forward, the tip lying close to the skull so as to cover or partly cover the orifice.

Bye At field trials, an odd dog remaining after the dogs entered in a stake have been paired in braces by drawing.

C

Cadenettes Strands or cords often found hanging from the chest and forelegs of the Berger des Pyrenees. From the hairstyle of French hussars during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, who wore braids on either side of their faces.

Calf bone Refers to the lower thigh, comprising the tibia and fibula. More correctly, the calf bone is the fibula only.

Camel back Arched back, like that of one-hump camel.

Canine Classification of the group of animals to which dogs, foxes, wolves, and jackals belong.

Canines The two upper and two lower sharp-pointed teeth next to the incisors. Fangs.

Canthus The angle formed by the meeting of the upper and lower eyelids at either side of the eye.

Carpals Bones of the pastern joints.

Castrate To remove the testicles of the male dog.

Cat-foot The short, round compact foot like that of a cat. The foot with short third digits.

C.D. (Companion Dog) A suffix used with the name of a dog that has been recorded a Companion Dog by the CKC as a result of having won certain minimum scores in Novice Classes at a specified number of CKC-approved obedience trials.

C.D.X. (Companion Dog Excellent) A suffix used with the name recorded a Companion Dog Excellent by the CKC as a result of having won certain minimum scores in Open Classes at a specified number of CKC-approved obedience trials.

Champion (Ch.) A prefix used with the name of a dog that has been recorded a Champion by the CKC as a result of defeating a specified number of dogs in specified competition at a series of CKC-approved dog shows.

Character Expression, individuality, and general appearance and deportment as considered typical of a breed.

Cheek flanges An expanded and reinforced section of the upper jaw, and (rarely) the lower jaw.

Cheeky Cheeks prominently rounded; thick, protruding.

Cherry nose See Dudley nose.

Chest The part of the body or trunk that is enclosed by the ribs.

China eye A clear blue eye.

Chippendale front Named after the Chippendale chair. Forelegs out at elbows, pasterns close, and feet turned out. See Fiddle front; French front.

Chiselled Clean-cut in head, particularly beneath the eyes.

Choke collar A leather fabric or chain collar fitted to the dog's neck in such a manner that the degree of tension exerted by the hand tightens or loosens it.

Chops Jowls or pendulous flesh of the lips and jaw; for example, the Bulldog.

Chorea A nervous jerking caused by involuntary contraction of the muscles, usually affecting the face or legs.

CKC The Canadian Kennel Club.

Clip The method of trimming the coat in some breeds, notably the Poodle.

Clipping When pertaining to gait, the back foot striking the front foot.

Cloddy Low, thickset, comparatively heavy.

Close-coupled Comparatively short from withers to hip bones.

Coarse Lacking refinement.

Coat The dog's hair covering.

Cobby Short-bodied, compact.

Collar The marking around the neck, usually white. Also a leather or chain for restraining or leading the dog, when the leash is attached.

Commissure The corners of the lips where the upper and lower lips meet.

Companion Dog See C.D.

Companion Dog Excellent See C.D.X.

Concave Having an outline or surface that curves inward like the interior of a circle or sphere.

Condition Health as shown by the coat, state of flesh, general appearance, and deportment.

Conformation The form and structure, make and shape; arrangement of the parts in conformance with breed standard demands.

Conformation Show A competitive exhibition for dogs at which dogs are judged in accordance with an established standard of perfection for each breed wherein championship points are awarded. May be for all breeds, or for a single breed or group of breeds (Specialty Show).

Conjunctiva The mucous membranes lining the eyelids, generally pinkish in colour.

Convergence The tendency of legs to incline toward each other as speed of movement increases.

Cord, cording The natural intertwining of topcoat and undercoat to form felted strands which resemble thick strings or ribbons. Cords should always be distinctly separate from each other down to the skin.

Corny feet The disease of digital hyperkeratosis, where the pads thicken and harden leading to painful cracks and crevices.

Couple Two hounds.

Coupling Part of the body between the ribs and pelvis; the loin.

Coursing The sport of chasing prey with sight hounds.

Covering ground The ratio of the distance between the ground and brisket and the distance between front and rear legs. As in "covers too much ground."

Cow-hocked When the hocks turn towards each other.

Coxo-femoral angle The inner angle of the axis of the pelvis and the femur.

Crabbing Dog moves with his body at an angle to the line of travel. Also referred to as “sidewinding”, “sidewheeling”, or “yawing”.

Crank tail A tail carried down and resembling a crank in shape.

Crest The upper, arched portion of the neck.

Cropping The cutting or trimming of the ear leather for the purpose of inducing the ears to stand erect.

Cross-bred A dog whose sire and dam are representatives of two different breeds.

Crossing over Unsound gaiting action which starts with twisting elbows and ends with criss-crossing and toeing-out. Also called “knitting and purling” and “weaving”.

Croup Section from hip bones to tail set.

Crown The highest part of the head. The topkull.

Cry The baying or “music” of the hounds.

Cryptorchid The adult whose testicles are abnormally retained in the abdominal cavity. Bilateral cryptorchidism involves both sides; that is, neither testicle has descended into the scrotum. Unilateral cryptorchidism involves one side only, that is, one testicle is retained or hidden and one descended. See Monorchid.

Cuffs A region of short hair on the front and/or rear pasterns.

Culotte The longer hair on the back of the thighs.

Cur A mongrel.

Cushion Fullness or thickness of the upper lips (e.g., Pekingese)

Cynology The study of canines.

D

Dam The female parent.

Dappled Mottled marking of different colours, no colour predominating.

Deadgrass Tan or dull straw colour.

Demi-long A coat which is half the length of the normal long coat found on that breed. A feature of the Rough-Faced Berger des Pyrenees.

Derby Field-trial competition for young, novice sporting dogs usually between one and two years of age.

Dewclaw An extra claw or functionless digit on the inside of the leg; a rudimentary fifth toe.

Dewlap Loose, pendulous skin under the throat.

Diagonals Right front and left rear legs constitute the right diagonal; left front and right rear constitute the left diagonal. In the trot the diagonals move together.

Dish-faced When the nasal bone is so formed that the nose is higher at the tip than at the stop; or, a slight concavity of line from the stop to the nose tip.

Disqualification A decision made by a judge following a determination that a dog has a condition that makes it ineligible for any further competition under the Dog Show Rules or under the standard for its breed.

Distemper teeth Teeth discoloured or pitted as a result of distemper or other enervating disease or deficiency.

Dock To shorten the tail by cutting.

Dog A male dog; also used collectively to designate both male and female.

Dolichocephalic Long-headed; where the conformation of the head is long in relation to its width.

Domed Convex topskull.

Domino A colour pattern in Afghan Hounds characterized by light- coloured extremities and mask.

Double coat An outer coat resistant to weather and affording protection against brush and brambles, together with an undercoat of softer hair for warmth and waterproofing.

Double-suspension gallop Leaping gait with a period of suspension in both the open and closed positions.

Double tracking When moving at a trot, the tendency for the footfalls to land on either side of a centre line rather than tending to converge as in single tracking; moving wide in both front and rear.

Down-faced The plane of the muzzle inclining downwards from the plane of the backskull.

Down in pastern Weak or faulty pastern set at a pronounced angle from the vertical.

Drag A trail prepared by dragging along the ground a bag usually impregnated with animal scent.

Drawing Selection by lot of dogs to be run, and in which pairs, in a field-trial stake.

Drive A solid thrusting of the hindquarters, denoting sound locomotion.

Drop ear The ends of the ear folded or drooping forward, as contrasted erect or prick ears.

Droving, drover The practice of moving livestock over long distances on foot; a breed of dog that aids in this.

Dry The skin taut, neither loose nor wrinkled.

Dual champion A dog that has won both a bench show and a field trial championship or obedience trial championship.

Dudley nose Flesh-coloured nose.

E

Ectropion A condition in which the eyelids are turned outwards.

Elbow The joint between the upper arm and the forearm.

Elbows out Turning out or off from the body; not held close.

Entropion A condition in which the eyelids are turned inwards.

Estrus See Oestrus.

Even bite Meeting of front teeth at edges with no overlap of upper or lower teeth.

Ewe neck Concave curvature of the top neckline. Lack of crest.

Expression The general appearance of all features of the head as viewed from the front and as typical of the breed.

Eyeteeth The upper canines.

F

Faking To change the appearance of a dog by artificial means with the objective of deceiving the onlooker as to its real merit.

Fall Hair overhanging the face.

Fallow Pale cream to light fawn colour: pale; pale yellow; yellow-red.

Fancier A person especially interested and usually active in some phase of the sport of pure-bred dogs.

Fangs See Canines.

Fawn A brown, red-yellow with hue of medium brilliance.

Feathering Longer fringe of hair on ears, legs, tail or body.

Feet east and west The toes turned out.

Feist A type of small hunting dog developed in the rural southern USA for hunting small game, with an energetic and belligerent temperament.

Fetch The retrieve of game by the dog; also the command to do so.

Fiddle front Forelegs out at elbows, pasterns close, and feet turned out; French front; Chippendale front.

Field Champion (Field Ch.) A prefix used with the name of a dog that has been recorded a Field Champion by the CKC as a result

of defeating a specified number of dogs in specified competition at a series of CKC-approved field trials.

Field Trial A competition for sporting dogs of hounds to test hunting ability.

Filbert ear A rounded-off triangular shape like a filbert or hazel nut.

Flag A long tail carried high, usually referring to one of the Pointing Breeds.

Flank The side of the body between the last rib and the hip.

Flare A blaze that widens as it approaches the topskull.

Flat bone The leg bone whose girth is elliptical rather than round.

Flat-sided Ribs insufficiently rounded as they approach the sternum or breastbone.

Flecking A variant of ticking; small spots or spotting spaced widely throughout the coat.

Flews Upper lips pendulous, particularly at their inner corners.

Flicking pasterns Extremely loose movement of the lower forelegs.

Floating rib The last, or thirteenth rib, which is unattached to other ribs.

Fluffies A coat of extreme length with exaggerated feathering on ears, chest, legs, and feet, underparts and hindquarters. Trimming such a coat does not make it any more acceptable.

Flush To drive birds from cover, to force them to take flight; to spring.

Flying ears Any characteristic drop ears or semi-prick ears that stand or “fly”.

Flying Trot A fast gait in which all four feet are off the ground for a brief second during each half stride. Because of the long reach, the oncoming hind feet step beyond the imprint left by the front. Also called Suspension Trot.

Foot The digits or toes, each consisting of three bones (phalanges; sing phalanx) and a toenail or claw. The ventral surface is cushioned by pads of connective tissue.

Forearm The bone of the foreleg between the elbow and the pastern.

Foreface The front part of the head, before the eyes; muzzle.

Foul colour A colour or marking not characteristic.

Foxy Sharp expression; pointed nose with short foreface.

French front See Fiddle front.

Frill See Apron.

Fringes See Feathering.

Frogface Extending nose accompanied by a receding jaw, usually overshot.

Front The forepart of the body as viewed head on; i.e., forelegs, chest, brisket, and shoulder line; also front assembly.

Frontal bone The skull bone over the eyes.

Furnishings The long hair on the foreface of certain breeds; also, feathering.

Furrow, medial frontal, medio-frontal A slight indentation down the centre of the skull to the stop.

Furrow, transversal A deep wrinkle across the top of the neck, as seen on the Dogue de Bordeaux.

Futurity Stake A class at dog shows or field trials for young dogs which have been nominated at or before birth.

G

Gait The manner in which a dog walks, trots, or runs; also movement.

Gallop Fastest of the dog gaits, has a four-beat rhythm and often an extra period of suspension during which the body is propelled through the air with all four feet off the ground.

Game Hunted wild birds or animals.

Gaskins The lower or second thigh, between the stifle and the hock.

Gay tail Carried above the back line. Correct in some breeds, a fault in others.

Gazehound Greyhound or other sight-hunting hound.

Genealogy Recorded family descent.

Glass eye See Wall eye.

Glaucous Pale grey or blue-grey.

Goat hair Strong harsh hair.

Goggle eyes Protruding, bulging, or prominent eyes.

Goose rump Too steep or sloping a croup.

Go to ground Said of a hunted animal such as a fox or rabbit, when it goes into a burrow to escape.

Grizzle Bluish grey or roan colour. Also, in some breeds, a colour pattern characterized by light-coloured extremities and mask.

Groom To brush, comb, trim, or otherwise make a dog's coat neat.

Groups The breeds as grouped in seven divisions to facilitate judging.

Guard hairs The longer, smoother, stiffer hairs which grow through the undercoat and normally conceal it.

Gun dog A dog trained to work with its master in finding live game and retrieving game that has been shot.

Guns Sportsmen who do the shooting at field trials.

Gun-shy When the dog fears the sight or sound of a gun.

H

Hackles Hair on neck and back raised involuntarily in fright or anger.

Hackney action The high lifting of the front feet, like that of a hackney horse.

Ham Muscular development of the hind legs just above the stifle.

Handler A person who handles a dog in the show ring or at a field trial. See also Professional handler.

Hard-mouthed The dog that bites or marks with his teeth the game he retrieves.

Hare-foot An elongated foot like a rabbit's foot; a foot with long third digits.

Hare lip An opening in the upper lip that may extend into the nose. A birth defect also known as cleft lip.

Harlequin Patched or pied colouration, usually black on white. (e.g., Great Danes)

Harness A leather strap shaped around the shoulders and chest, with a ring at its top over the withers.

Harness markings Lighter colour down the shoulders approximating where a harness would lie. A feature of the Swedish Vallhund

Haunch bones Hipbones.

Haw A third eyelid or membrane in the inside corner of the eye.

Heat Seasonal period of the female: oestrus.

Heel See Hock; also a command to the dog to keep close beside its handler.

Height Vertical measurement from the withers to the ground. See withers.

Hie on A command to urge the dog on; used in hunting or in field trials.

High standing Tall and upstanding, with plenty of leg.

Hindquarters Rear assembly of dog (pelvis, thighs, hock, and paws).

Hock The tarsus or collection of bones of the hind leg forming the joint between the second thigh and the metatarsus; the dog's true heel.

Hocking out Spread hocks.

Hocks well let down Hock joints close to the ground.

Honourable scars Scars from injuries suffered as a result of work.

Horny pads Thick, tough pads.

Hound A dog commonly used for hunting by scent or sight.

Hound ears Drop or pendulous ear hanging down, similar to the ears of several hound breeds.

Hound-marked A colouration composed of white, tan, and black. The ground colour usually white, may be marked with tan and/or black patches on the head, back legs, and tail. The extent and the exact location of such markings, however, differ in breeds and individuals.

Hucklebones The top of the hip bones.

I

Inbreeding The mating of very closely related dogs.

Incisors The upper and lower front teeth between the canines.

In-shoulder Shoulders pointing in, and not parallel with backbone, a fault found in dogs with shoulder blades too far forward on chest.

Inter-breeding The breeding together of dogs of different varieties.

Isabella Fawn, mouse, or light red colour, due to diluted colour recessive. (e.g., Doberman Pinscher).

J

Jabot The name given to the apron or ruff on a Schipperke, especially the part between the front legs. From the ornamental frill or ruffle on the front of a shirt or blouse.

Jowls Flesh of lips and jaws.

Judge The arbiter in the dog show ring, obedience trial, field trial, or lure course.

K

Kennel Building or enclosure where dogs are kept.

Kink tail The tail sharply bent.

Kiss marks Tan spots on the cheeks and over the eyes.

Knee joint Stifle joint.

Knitting and purling See Crossing over.

Knuckling over Faulty structure of carpus (wrist) joint allowing it to double forward under the weight of the standing dog; double-jointed wrist, often with slight swelling of the bones.

L

Labial edges The edges of the lips.

Landseer The black-and-white Newfoundland dog, so-called from the name of the famous painter who used such dogs as models.

Layback The angle of the shoulder blade or compared with the vertical; also, a receding nose accompanied by an undershot jaw.

Lead A strap, cord, or a chain attached to the collar or harness for the purpose of restraining or leading the dog; leash.

Leather The flap of the ear.

Level bite When the front teeth (incisors) of the upper and lower jaws meet exactly edge to edge; pincer bite; even bite.

Level gait Dog moves without rise or fall of withers.

Line breeding The mating of related dogs of the same breed especially the mating of a dog to one of its ancestors, for example, a dog to his granddam or a bitch to her grandsire.

Lion colour Tawny.

Lippy Pendulous lips or lips that do not fit tightly.

Litter The puppy or puppies of one whelping.

Liver A colour, i.e., deep, reddish brown.

Loaded shoulders When the shoulder blades are shoved out from the body by over-development of the muscles.

Loin Region of the body on either side of the vertebral column between the last ribs and the hindquarters.

Lower thigh See Second thigh.

Lumber Superfluous flesh.

Lumbering An awkward gait.

Lurcher A cross-bred hound.

Luxating hocks Luxation (completely out of alignment or position) or subluxation (looseness) and/or hyper-extension of the hock joint; often referred to as “slipped” hocks, or to the hocks being described as double-jointed.

M

Mad dog A rabid dog.

Mane Long and profuse hair on top and sides of the neck.

Mantle Dark-shaded portion of the coat on shoulders, back, and sides. (e.g., St. Bernard).

Marcel A coat pattern with regular deep waves.

Mask Dark shading on the foreface. (e.g., Mastiff, Boxer, Pekingese).

Match show Usually an information dog show at which no championship points are awarded.

Mate To breed a dog and bitch.

Matelotes Wide felted or matted hair sometimes found on the croup of the Berger des Pyrenees. Believed to come from the old-style French sailor’s hat, which had two flat ribbons hanging from the back.

Median line See Furrow.

Medium Temperament Self-confident, attentive, vigilant, good-natured, never sharp (aggressive) or shy; fearless in everyday situations, self-assured, placid and sometimes aloof towards strangers.

Merle A colouration, usually blue-grey with flecks of black.

Milk teeth First teeth.

Mincing Short-striding choppy gait lacking power.

Miscellaneous Class A class at dog shows for dogs of certain specified breeds for which no regular dog show classification is provided.

Mismarks Coat markings which do not conform to the coat colouration as defined by the standard for that breed.

Molars Dog has four premolars on each side of the upper and lower jaw. There are two true molars on each side of the upper jaw, and three on each side of the lower jaw. Upper molars have three roots, lower have two roots.

Mole Any colour shaded with grey overtones.

Molera Incomplete, imperfect, or abnormal ossification of the skull. (e.g. Chihuahua)

Molosses, Molosoid Large and solidly built breeds that all descend from the same common ancestor. The name derives from Molossia, an area in ancient Greece, where a large shepherd dog resembling a Mastiff existed and was known as a Molossus.

Mongrel A dog whose parents are of mixed-breed origin.

Monorchid A unilateral cryptorchid. See Cryptorchid.

Mottling A pattern of irregular marks, spots, streaks, blotches or patches of different shades or colour, usually on a lighter background.

Moving close When the hocks turn in and pasterns drop straight to

the ground and move parallel to one another, the dog is “moving close” in the rear. This action places severe strain on ligaments and muscles.

Moving straight Term descriptive of balanced gaiting in which angle of inclination begins at the shoulder or hip joint, and limbs remain relatively straight from these points to the pads of the feet, even as the legs flex or extend in reaching or thrusting.

Music The baying of the hounds.

Muster The process of gathering livestock, usually cattle, sheep or horses, in Australia and New Zealand. Known as a roundup in North America.

Mute To run mute, to be silent on the trail; i.e., to trail without baying or barking.

Muzzle The head in front of the eyes--nasal bone, nostrils, and jaws; foreface. Also, a strap or wire cage attached to the foreface to prevent the dog from biting or from picking up food.

Muzzle band White marking around the muzzle. (e.g., Boston Terrier)

N

Nasal sinuses Paired air-filled cavities within the bones of the skull. The major sinuses lie just above and below the eyes.

Nasolabial line The line separating the two nostrils, running from the lip and over the top of the nose.

Neck well set-on Good neckline, merging gradually with strong withers, forming a pleasing transition into topline.

Nick A breeding that produces desirable puppies.

Non-slip Retriever The dog that walks at heel, marks the fall, and retrieves game on command; not expected to find or flush.

Nordic breeds A group of dogs originating from the Nordic countries, a term used collectively for the five countries in northern Europe known as Scandinavia (Sweden, Denmark, Norway) together with Finland and Iceland. Many of these breeds may or may not be Spitz type (q.v.), the term Nordic referring to their origin, not their type.

Nose Organ of smell; also, the ability to detect by means of scent.

Nuchal crest A crest that extends laterally across the back of the skull, forming an attachment point for the neck muscles.

O

Obedience Trial An event held under CKC rules at which a “leg” towards an obedience degree can be earned.

Obedience Trial Champion (O.T.C.H.) A prefix used with the name of a dog that has been recorded an Obedience Trial Champion by the CKC as a result of having earned its Utility Degree.

Oblique eyes Slanted eyes, where the outer corners are situated higher up the skull than their inner corners.

Oblique shoulders Shoulders well laid back.

Occipital protuberance A prominently raised occiput characteristic of some gun-dog breeds.

Occiput Upper, back point of the skull.

Ochre A colour ranging from pale yellow to an orange or reddish yellow.

Oestrus The period during which a bitch is ready to accept a dog for mating.

Open bitch A bitch that can be bred.

Open class A class at dog shows in which all dogs of a breed, champions, and imported dogs included may compete.

Otter tail Thick at the root, round, and tapering, with the hair parted or divided on the underside.

Out at elbows Elbows turning out from the body as opposed to being held close.

Out at shoulder With shoulder blades loosely attached to the body, leaving the shoulders jutting out in relief and increasing the breadth of the front.

Outcrossing The mating of unrelated individuals of the same breed.

Oval chest Chest deeper than wide.

Ovate, ovoid Egg-shaped.

Overhang A heavy pronounced brow. (e.g., Pekingese)

Overreaching Fault in the trot caused by more angulation and drive from behind than in front, so that the rear feet are forced to step to one side of the forefeet to avoid interfering or clipping.

Overshot The front teeth (incisors) of the upper jaw overlap and do not touch the front teeth of the lower jaw when the mouth is closed.

P

Pace A gait at which the left foreleg and left hind leg advance in unison, then the right foreleg and right hind leg. Pacing tends to produce a rolling motion of the body.

Pack Several hounds kept together in one kennel. Mixed pack is composed of dogs and bitches.

Padding A compensating action to offset constant concussion when a straight front is subjected to overdrive from the rear; the front feet flip upward in a split-second delaying action to co-ordinate the stride of forelegs with a longer stride from behind.

Paddling A gaiting fault, so named for its similarity to the swing and dip of a canoeist's paddle. Pinching in at the elbows and shoulder joints causes the front legs to swing forward on a stiff outward arc. Also referred to as "tied at the elbows".

Pads Tough, shock-absorbing projections on the underside of the feet; soles.

Palpebral Depigmentation Lack of eyelid pigment.

Paper foot A flat foot with thin pads.

Particolour Variegated in patches of two or more colours.

Pastern Commonly recognized as the region of the foreleg between the carpus or wrist and the digits, i.e., the metacarpus.

Peak See Occiput.

Pedigree The written record of a dog's descent of three generations or more.

Pencilled coat A coat which feels crisp, consisting of a harsh dense outer coat and a soft dense undercoat. A feature of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier.

Pencilling, pencil marks Black lines along the tops of the toes dividing the tan (e.g. Manchester Terrier).

Pendant, pendulous Hanging down loosely, suspended so as to swing or sway.

Piebald Irregular black body patches on a white background. Ideally the patches are well-defined and placed symmetrically on the dog's body.

Pies, Pied colours Hound colours which are particoloured, or two colours, one of which is white or cream, and are unevenly patched. (1) Lemon pied: patches of mixed lemon, cream or black hairs on a white or cream background; (2) Hare pied: similar to lemon pied with the mixed colours being orange, khaki, grey and black; (3) Badger pied: Similar to lemon pied with the mixed colours being black, grey and cream.

Pigeon-breast A narrow chest with a short protruding breastbone.

Pigeon-toed Toes pointing in.

Pig jaw Having the upper jaw projecting beyond the lower, with the upper incisors well in advance of the lower.

Pile Dense undercoat of soft hair.

Piley coat See Pencilled coat.

Pincer bite See Level bite.

Pinched front A narrow front, where the upper arms are closer to each other than desirable when the dog is seen head on.

Pipe-stopper tail A very short upright tail.

Pisiform A small pea-like bone on the ulnar (inner) side of the carpus (wrist) on the foreleg.

Pitching Severe rocking of the haunches as the rear legs swing forward in a wide arc rather than flexing normally at the stifle and hock.

Plucking The process of hand-stripping breeds that have a wiry or broken coat. Dead hair is pulled out manually with the fingers or a stripping knife so that new hair can grow in.

Plume Feathery tail carried over the back, as in the Pomeranian; also, a long fringe of hair hanging from the tail as in Setters.

Poach When hunting, to trespass on private property.

Point The immovable stance of the hunting dog taken to indicate the presence and position of game.

Pointer A dog which smells out game and then points until the hunter is ready to fire.

Points Colour on face, ears, legs, and tail when correlated--usually white, black, or tan.

Police dog Any dog trained for police work.

Pompom A rounded tuft of hair left on the end of the tail when the coat is clipped. (e.g., Poodle).

Pot-case A description of the bark of the Old English Sheepdog. French for "broken pot," it possibly refers to the ringing sound of a pot being broken.

Pounding Gaiting fault resultant of dog's stride being shorter in front than in the rear; forefeet strike the ground hard before the rear side is expended.

Premium list An advance-notice brochure sent to prospective exhibitors and containing details regarding a forthcoming show.

Prick ear Carried erect and usually pointed at the tip.

Professional handler A person who shows dogs for a fee.

Prognathism See Undershot.

Puppy A dog under twelve months of age.

Purebred A dog whose sire and dam belong to the same breed, and are themselves of unmixed descent since recognition of the breed.

Put down To prepare a dog for the show ring; also used to denote a dog unplaced in competition.



Quality High degree of excellence.

R

Racy Slight in build and long in legs.

Ragged Muscles appear ragged rather than smooth. (e.g., English Foxhound)

Rangy Long-bodied, usually lacking depth in chest.

Rat tail The root thick and covered with soft curls: at the tip devoid of hair, or having the appearance of being clipped. (e.g., Irish Water Spaniel)

Reach of front Length of forward stride taken by forelegs.

Rectilinear Contained by, consisting of, or moving in a straight line.

Register To record with the CKC a dog's breeding particulars.

Retractile Lips Lips or flews which can be drawn in when the dog inhales.

Retrieve A hunting term: the act of bringing back shot game to the handler. Also, in obedience the act of bringing back any article thrown out by the handler.

Retriever A dog specially trained to go in quest of game a sportsman has shot, or a dog that takes readily to such work.

Ribbed up Long ribs that angle back from the spinal column (45° is ideal); last rib is long.

Ringer A substitute for; a dog closely resembling another dog.

Ring tail Carried up and around almost in a circle.

Roach back A convex curvature of the back towards the loin.

Roan A fine mixture of coloured hairs with white hairs: blue roan, orange roan, lemon roan, etc. (e.g., English Cocker Spaniel).

Rocking horse Both front and rear legs extended out from body as in old-fashioned rocking horse.

Rolling gait Swaying, ambling action of the hindquarters when moving.

Roman nose Nasal topline that forms a convex line; ram's nose.

Rose ear A small drop ear which folds over and back so as to reveal the burr.

Rounding Cutting or trimming the ends of the ear leather. (e.g., English Foxhounds)

Rudder The tail.

Ruff Thick, longer hair growth around the neck.

Rustic Generally referring to a dog's coat that is presented naturally, plain, un-sculpted, and often rough or tousled in appearance.

S

Sable A lacing of black hairs over a lighter ground colour. In Collies and Shetland Sheepdog, a brown colour ranging from golden to mahogany.

Sabre tail Carried in a semi-circle.

Saddle (1) The true back supported by the thoracic vertebrae of the spine; (2) Colour markings over the back region, often black; (3) The short hair pattern along the back of mature Afghan Hounds.

Saddle back Overlong back, with a dip behind the withers.

Scent The odour left by an animal on the trail (ground scent), or wafted through the air (air-borne scent).

Scenthound A dog which tracks an animal by the odour left by the animal.

Scimitar A curved single-edged sword blade, referring to tail carriage.

Scissors bite A bite in which the outer side of the lower incisors touches the inner side of the upper incisors.

Scissura Cleft or fissure; a splitting.

Scowl Wrinkles on the forehead giving a hostile unfriendly expression.

Screw tail A naturally short tail twisted in more or less spiral formation.

Seal colour Used to describe Boston Terriers, this colour appears black but has a red cast when viewed in bright light or sunlight.

Seasonal fading The fading of a dog's nose from black or brown to a lighter shade or to pink in the winter months. Also called winter nose or snow nose.

Second thigh That part of the hindquarter from the stifle to the hock; lower thigh.

Sedge See Deadgrass.

Seeing Eye Dog A dog trained by the American institution, The Seeing Eye, as guide to the blind.

Self-colour One colour or whole colour except for lighter shadings.

Semi-prick ear Ears carried erect with just the tips leaning forward.

Septum The line extending vertically between the nostrils.

Sesame (1) Red sesame: Red with black-tipped hairs scattered evenly on the body and sometimes the head. A colour found on the Shiba Inu and the Shikoku; (2) Black sesame: mixture of white and black hairs, with more black than white. A colour found on the Shikoku.

Setter Any of a breed of longhaired bird dog; they are trained to find the game and point out its position by standing rigid (formerly by crouching).

Set up Posed so as to make the most of the dog's appearance for the show ring.

Shelly A shallow, narrow body, lacking the correct amount of bone.

Short coupled A short distance between the last rib and the beginning of the hindquarters.

Shoulder height Height of dog's body as measured from the shoulders to the ground.

Sickle hocked Inability to straighten the hock joint on the back to reach of the hind leg. Also, hocks too bent, shaped like a sickle.

Sickle tail Carried out and up in a semi-circle.

Sidegaiting See Crabbing.

Sidewheeling See Crabbing.

Sighthound See Gazehound.

Single tracking All footprints falling on a single line of travel. When a dog breaks into a trot, his body is supported by only two legs at a time, which move as alternating diagonal pairs. To achieve balance, his legs angle inward toward a centre line beneath his body, and the greater the speed, the closer they come to tracking on a single line.

Sire The male parent.

Skully Thick and coarse through skull.

Slab-sided Flat ribs with too little spring from spinal column.

Sled dogs Dogs worked usually in teams to draw sleds.

Slew feet Feet turned out.

Slipping stifles Partial or complete dislocation of the kneecap (patella) in the stifle joint. More correctly called patellar luxation when the dislocation is permanent, and patellar subluxation when the dislocation is partial or temporary.

Sloping shoulder The shoulder blade set obliquely or “laid back”.

Smooth coat Short hair, close-lying.

Snap tail Similar to a scimitar tail, but makes direct contact with the dog’s back towards the tip.

Snatching hocks A gaiting fault indicated by a quick outward snatching of the hock as it passes the supporting leg and twists the rear pastern far in beneath the body. The action causes noticeable rocking in the rear quarters.

Snipey A pointed, weak muzzle.

Soundness Free from flaws or defects, firm and strong.

Spanning A method of measuring the chest of the smaller terrier breeds to determine its size and flexibility. The dog should be measured from behind, raising the front legs from the ground. The judge’s hands should be directly behind the elbows on the forward part of the chest, and should compress gently. Thumbs should meet at the spine and the fingers should meet under the chest. The chest should be easily spannable by average-sized hands.

Sparring The practice in some terrier breeds of bringing two or more dogs together in the showing to interact, without actual physical contact, to judge their displays of confidence, spirit and dominance.

Spay To perform a surgical operation on the bitch’s reproductive organs to prevent conception. (Ovariohysterectomy)

Speak To bark.

Spectacles Shadings or dark markings over or around the eyes or from eyes to ears.

Spike tail Straight short tail that tapers rapidly along its length.

Spitz A group of breeds with wedge shaped heads and prick ears, usually straight and rather harsh outer coats with dense undercoats, moderate turn of stifle and tails usually carried over the back.

Splashed Irregularly patched, colour on white or white on colour.

Splay foot A flat foot with toes spreading; open foot, open-toed.

Spongy Sponge-like appearance or texture.

Spoon ear A rounded ear shaped like the bowl of a spoon.

Spread Width between the forelegs when accentuated. (e.g., Bulldog).

Spread hocks Hocks pointing outward.

Spring See Flush.

Spring of ribs Curvature of ribs for heart and lung capacity.

Squirrel tail Carried up and curving more or less forward.

Stacking See Set up.

Stag red Bright red with an intermingling of black hairs in the coat. A colour found in the German Pinscher and Miniature Pinscher.

Stake Designation of a class, used in field trial competition.

Stance Manner of standing.

Standard A description of the ideal dog of each recognized breed to serve as a word pattern by which dogs are judged at shows.

Standoff coat A long or heavy coat that stands off from the body.

Staring coat The hair dry, harsh and sometimes curling at the tips.

Station Comparative height from the ground, as high-stationed, low-stationed.

Stern The tail, usually of a sporting or hound breed.

Stern Tail.

Sternum Breastbone.

Stifle The joint of the hind leg between the thigh and the second thigh; the dog's knee.

Stilted The choppy, up-and-down gait of the straight-hocked dog.

Stop The step up from muzzle to skull; indentation between the eyes where the nasal bone and skull meet.

Strabismus A deviation from the normal orientation of one or both eyes so that both cannot be directed at the same object at the same time; squint; crossed eyes.

Straight-hocked Lacking appreciable angulation at the hock joints; straight behind.

Straight shoulders The shoulder blades rather straight up and down, as opposed to sloping or "well laid back".

Stud Book A record of the breeding particulars of dogs of recognized breeds.

Stud dog A male dog used for breeding purposes.

Stump tail Very short or non-existent tail.

Subcutaneous tissue The hypodermis, or the innermost layer of skin, made up of fat and connective tissues that houses larger blood vessels and nerves. Subcutaneous tissue acts as an insulator and regulates body temperature.

Substance Bone.

Superciliary arches The ridge projection, or prominence of the frontal bone of the skull over the eye; the brow.

Supra-orbital fossae Bony elongated path located above the eye socket and under the forehead.

Supra-orbital ridge The bony brow ridge located above the eye sockets.

Also known as the superciliary arch or ridge.

Suspension trot See Flying trot.

Swan neck Elongated tubular neck lacking strength and cresting; goose neck.

Sway back Concave curvature of the back line between the withers and the hip bones.

Swine mouth See Pig jaw.

Symmetry Pleasing balance between all parts of the dog.

T

Tail-set How the base of the tail sets on the rump.

T.D. (Tracking Dog) A suffix used with the name of a dog that has been recorded a Tracking Dog as a result of having passed a CKC-approved or member tracking test.

Team Usually four dogs.

Teapot tail Tail carried up and over the back, resembling the handle of a teapot.

Terrier A group of dogs used originally for hunting vermin.

Terrier front Straight front, as found on Fox Terriers.

Thigh The hindquarter from hip to stifle.

Throatiness An excess of loose skin under the throat.

Thumb marks Black spots on the region of the pastern.

Ticked Small, isolated areas of black or coloured hairs on a white ground.

Tied at the elbows See Paddling.

Timber Bone, especially of the legs.

Tongued The barking or baying of hounds on the trail, as to give tongue.

Topknot A tuft of longer hair on top of the head.

Topline Usually understood in breed standards to be the outline of the upper profile of a dog from the withers to the tail, as in “level topline.” Strictly speaking, the topline should be interpreted as a dog’s entire upper outline, starting at the ears and ending at the tail.

Tortoiseshell nails Mottled yellow and brown.

Trout colour Brown speckles on a white background.

Treeing A method of hunting where dogs are used to pursue animals that will naturally climb up into trees, where they can be shot by hunters. Particularly used with the coonhound breeds.

Toy dog One of a group of dogs characterized by very small size.

Trace A dark stripe down the back of the Pug.

Tracking Dog See T.D.

Trail To hunt by following ground scent.

Triangular eye The eye set in surrounding tissue of triangular shape; three-cornered eye.

Tricolour Three distinct colour, usually black and white with tan markings. The latter are usually found over the eyes, on the cheeks, inside the ears, on the chest and under the vent. Where specific marking are required, see individual breed standards.

Trim To groom the coat by plucking or clipping.

Trot A rhythmic two-beat diagonal gait in which the feet at diagonally opposite ends of the body strike the ground together, i.e., right hind with left front and left hind with right front.

Trumpet The slight depression or hollow on either side of the skull just behind the orbit or eye socket, the region comparable with the temple in man.

Truncated Cut off. (Old English standard calls for jaw that is square and truncated.)

Tuber ischii An alternative name for the pin bone; ischial tuberosity; the rear end of the pelvis.

Tuck-up Characterized by markedly shallower body depth at the loin; small-waisted.

Tulip ear Ears carried with a slight forward curvature.

Turn-up An uptilted foreface.

Tusk An alternative name for the four large pointed canine teeth, two on either side of each jaw, situated immediately behind the incisors.

Twisting hocks A gaiting fault in which the hock joints twist both ways as they flex or bear weight. Also called “rubber hocks”.

Type The characteristic qualities distinguishing a breed; the embodiment of a standard’s essentials.

U

U.D. (Utility Dog) A suffix used with the name of a dog that has been recorded a Utility Dog by the CKC as a result of having won certain minimum scores in Utility Classes at a specified number of CKC-approved or member obedience trials.

Underline The lowest contour of the dog's body extending from the brisket to the abdomen.

Undershot The front teeth (incisors) of the lower jaw overlapping or projecting beyond the front teeth of the upper jaw when the mouth is closed.

Unilateral cryptorchid See Cryptorchid.

Urajrio creamy/whitish coat markings on the sides of the muzzle, on the cheeks, inside of ears, on the underside of jaw and upper throat/neck, chest, on abdomen, inside of the legs, around vent, and underside of the tail.

Upper arm The humerus or bone of the foreleg, between the shoulder blade and the forearm.

Utility Dog See U.D.

V

Varminty A keen, very bright or piercing expression.

Vent The anal opening.

W

Walk Gaiting pattern in which three legs are in support of the body at all times, each foot lifting from the ground one at a time in regular sequence.

Walleye An eye with a whitish iris; a blue eye, fisheye, pearl eye.

Wasp-waisted Extreme tuck up; slender-waisted in profile.

Weaving See Crossing over.

Weedy An insufficient amount of bone; light-boned.

Well let down Having hocks close to the ground.

Wet Loose or superfluous skin; with dewlap.

Wheaten Pale yellow or fawn colour.

Wheel back The back line arched markedly over the loin; roached.

Whelps Unweaned puppies.

Whip tail Carried out stiffly straight, and pointed.

Whisker Longer hairs on muzzle sides and underjaw.

Whole-coloured Self-coloured; one solid colour all over, with or without shadings.

Wind To catch the scent of game.

Winging A gaiting fault; one or both front feet twist outwards as the limbs swing forward.

Winners An award given at a dog show to the best dog (Winners Dog) and best bitch (Winners Bitch) competing in regular classes.

Wirehair A coat of hard, crisp, wiry texture.

Withers The peak of the dorsal vertebrae; the highest part of the body just behind the neck and between the shoulders.

Wrinkle Loose, folding skin on forehead and foreface.

Wry mouth Lower jaw does not line up with upper jaw.

Z

Zygomatic arch The bony ridge forming the lower border of the eye socket which influences the shape and contour of the face.

