

Czechoslovak wolfdog

ILLUSTRATED STANDARD

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OVERALL APPERANCE AND EXPRESION

Of firm constitution, more than medium size, slightly longer than tall, it resembles a wolf in body structure, movement, coat, coat color, and mask.

Typical male

The typical **male** has a clear masculine expression. This is due to the wider, wedge-shaped head, the wolf collar, the height and overall strength of the bones (not to be confused with a heavy bones). The male is confident, but not aggressive. The body is well muscled and is taller than the average bitch.





Typical female

The **female** is slightly shorter in height than the male. She is elegant, has a slightly narrower wedge-shaped head (compared to the male), a clear female expression, has a solid body structure, and is not delicately boned.







The wolfdog is a very functionally built, strong, flexible, well-muscled, persistent and active dog.







Gender expression

The sexual expression should be **unmistakable**, but we often encounter delicate males and robust bitches.

The average male is taller and more muscular than the female. He has a broader head and, although still "athletic", his frame is stronger and more pronounced than that of the female. The female is firm, not delicate.





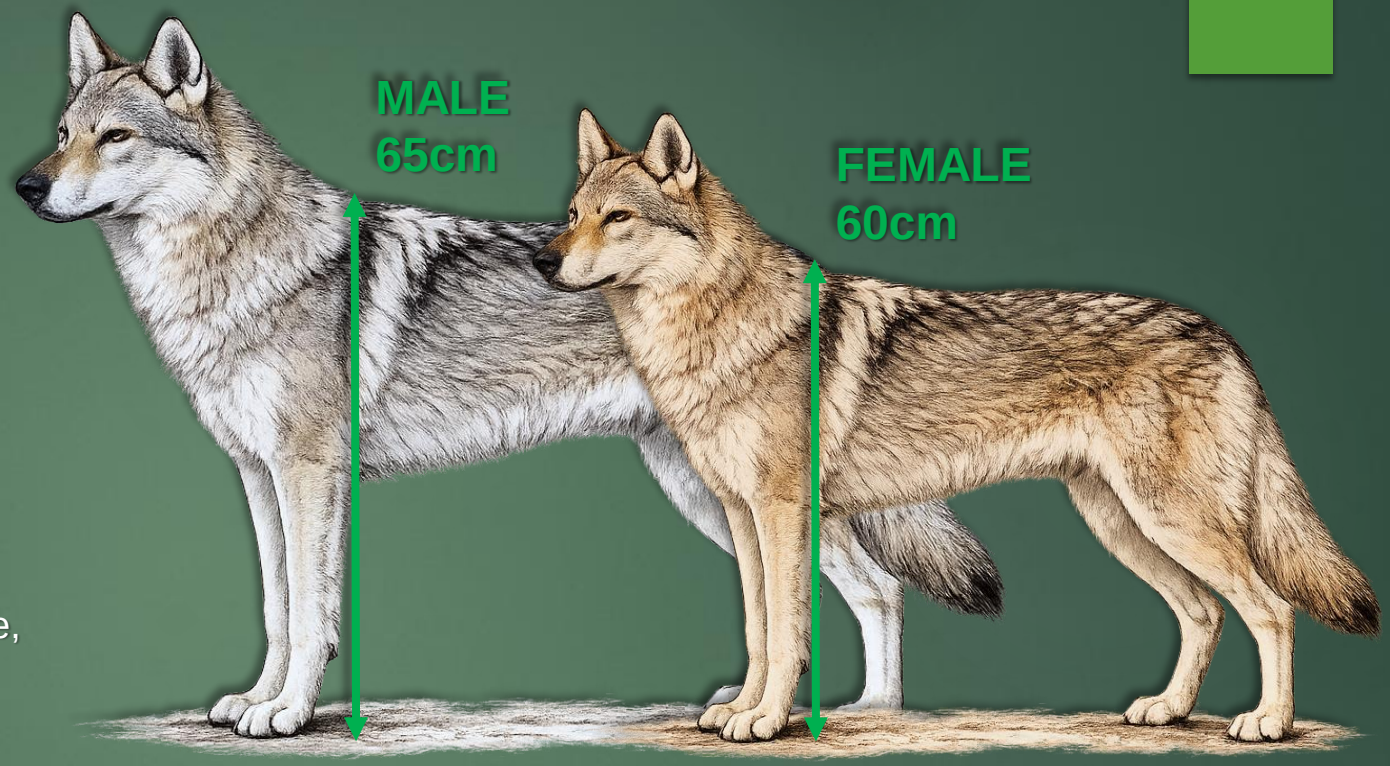




Height

Males minimum 65 cm

Females minimum 60 cm



There is no maximum height.

We are looking for harmony between height, type, athletic build and wolfish appearance.

A bitch should not be taller than an average dog (she usually loses her female and wolfish expression).
The ideal height of a bitch at the withers is approximately 63-65cm.

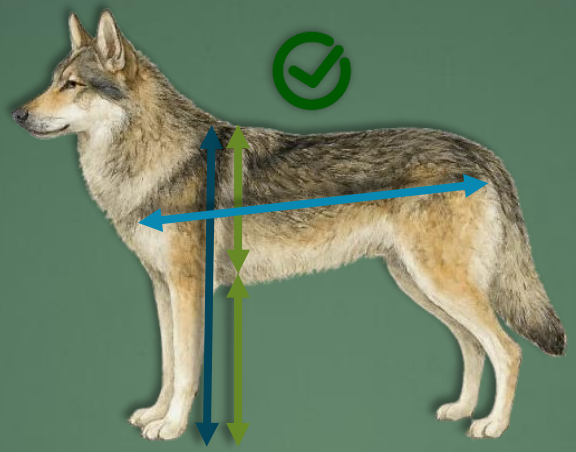
There is an alarming situation in the breed...
...dogs and bitches are short! Wolf-like, but light individuals with a weak skeleton and short in height. They barely reach the minimum. On the other hand, especially the males are tall, but they easily lose their wolf appearance, becoming heavy, with a dog appearance.

Proportions – body format

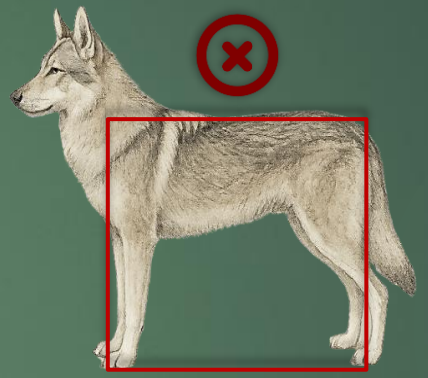
The standard defines the body format as **rectangular**. The length of the body to the height is in the ratio of **10:9**.

The length of the forearm with the pastern represents **55%** of the dog's height at the withers.

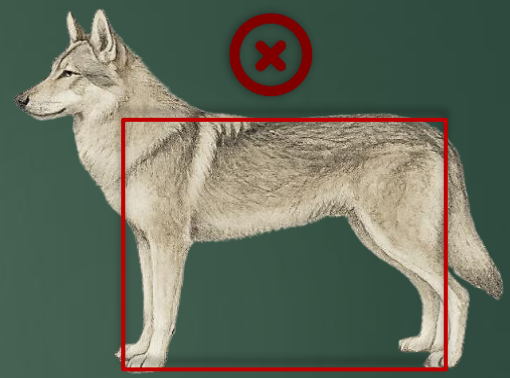
These two figures define the ideal length and height index.



Excellent body and limbs length.



Excellent limbs length, but square



Excellent limbs length, but long body

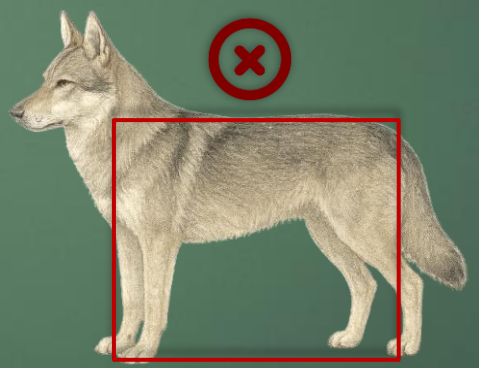
The rectangular type of format and specific proportions determine that the dog has a better predisposition for sustained movement.

We often encounter a long format, caused by a long rib cage or hips.

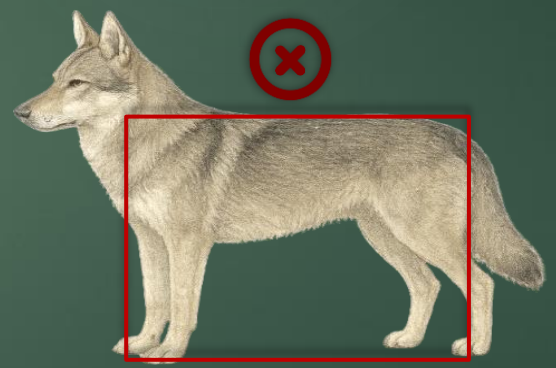
Note: bitches can be slightly longer in the hips.

We are looking for harmony between height and length.

Very tall individuals on long legs can appear elegant, but this is an extreme.



Short limbs, square



Short limbs, long body

HEAD

Symmetrical, well muscled, when viewed from the side and from above, it forms **a blunt wedge**. The expression of the head indicates the sex.

Length of muzzle : Length of skull = 1:1.5

When viewed from the side and from the front, we see a **slightly arched forehead**.

The frontal furrow is not pronounced. The occipital protuberance is visible. The stop is slightly indicated.









Wolf heads







Narrow head for adult male



Ideal head shape for adult male



Square and heavy head for adult male



Narrow head for adult female



Ideal head shape for adult female



Square and heavy head for adult female

Stop



Slightly pronounced.



The stop forms the transition between the muzzle and the braincase, between the eyes. When viewed from the side, it is not artificially created by the supraorbital arches



Less pronounced stop, more pronounced supraorbital arches.



Indistinct stop







Abrupt stop, alters the expression of the head.

Head planes

The lines of the head are **parallel**.

The muzzle and skull are in one line, separated by a slight stop.

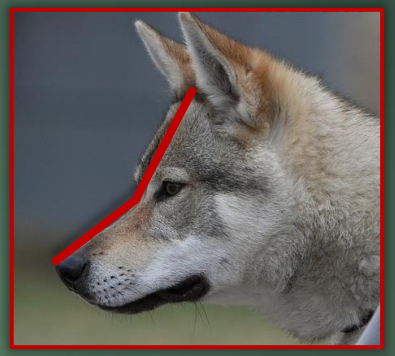
Convergent and divergent lines are undesirable.















Convergent lines







Divergent lines

Muzzle

Dry, not wide, smoothly flowing into the skull, the upper line of the nose is straight. **The lower jaw is strong.**

The lips are tight-fitting, **the corners are closed**, with black pigment of the mucous membranes.

The ratio of the muzzle to the crown of the head is 1:1.5.





Ideal 1:1,5





Too long 1,5:1







Too short 1:1







Excellent muzzle, lower jaw and dry lips in dogs and bitches









Weaker unerjaw, loose corners of lips







Loose lips

Eyes

Narrow,

set **obliquely**,

amber (honey-colored).

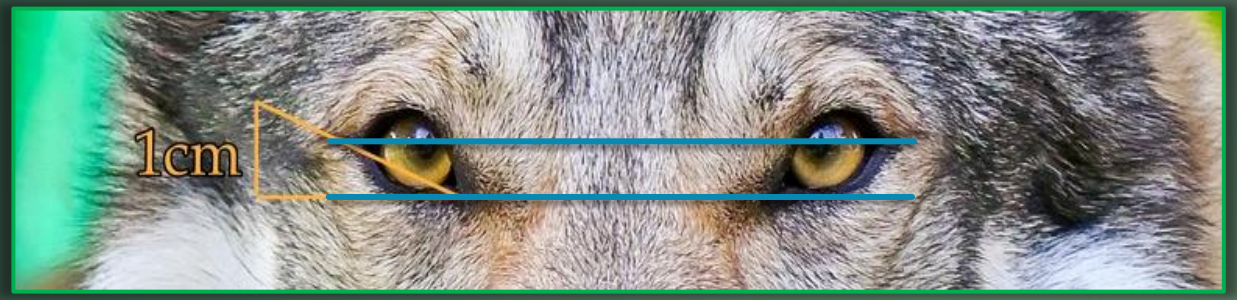
The eyelids **are close-fitting**.







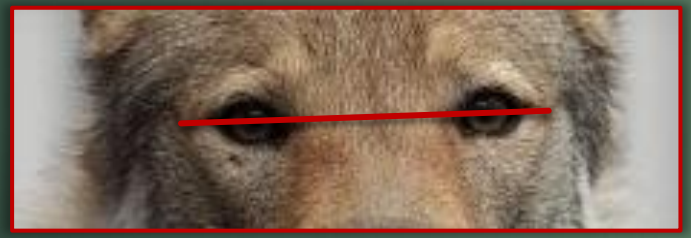




The ideal difference between the inner and outer corner is approx. 1cm.



Very oblique eye. We do not consider it a defect or mistake, but rather an extreme.







Besides the fact that all the eyes shown are darker, they are also not oblique enough. The outer and inner corners are in line.







Round eyes









Bulging eye







Extremely yellow (predatory) or very pale eyes (there is literally NO FCI recognized breed, where the standard requires yellow/predatory eye color!). On the right, also with a hint of green.









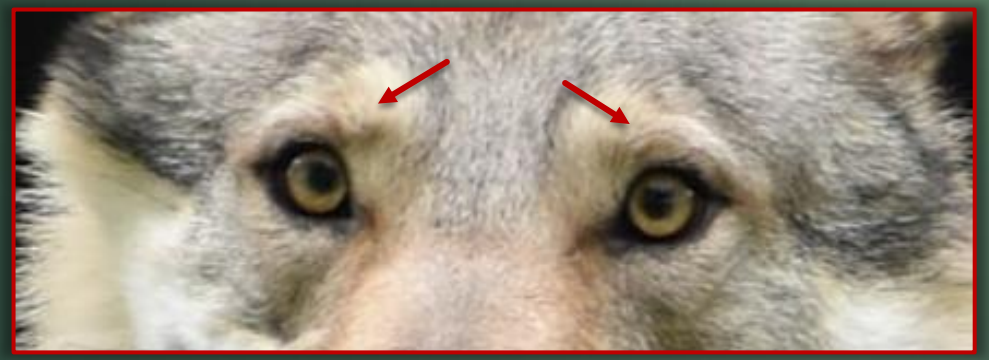
Light brown eye color







Dark brown eye color



The superciliary arches should not be prominent. They disrupt the expression of the head.



Ears

Erect, thin, **triangular**,

short (i.e. not longer than 1/6 of the height at the withers);

The outer edge of the ear is at the level of the outer corner of the eye.

A perpendicular drawn from the tip of the ear passes close to the head.















Less hairy inside the ear.



Set low, pointing to the sides.



Outward-facing, rounded tips, not triangular.



Sideways, less triangular, set lower



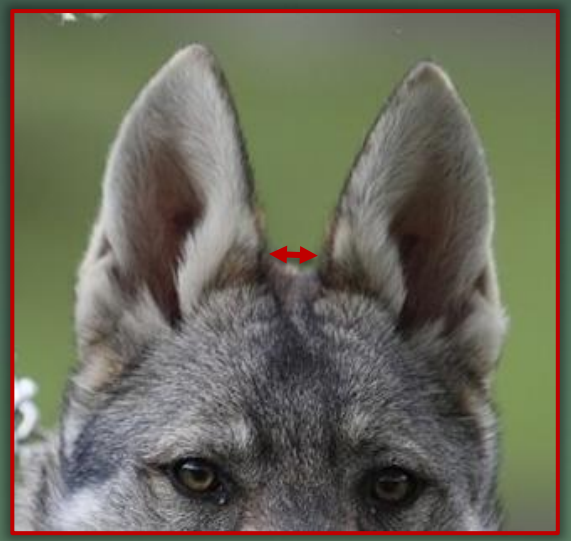
Forward facing like Japanese breeds

Set lower, on a wider base, directed to the sides, longer, less hairy, with a pronounced ear-fold.









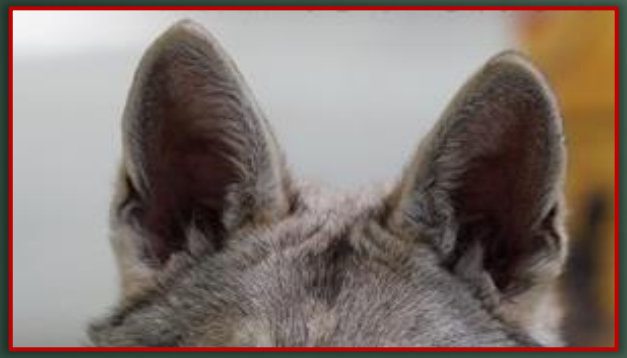




Set very high, not triangular.



Set high, not triangular, narrow





Very long, on a broad base, large and not triangular with a pronounced folding point.





Long and bigger, longer and pointing sideways.

Coat color





Color change in puppies

















The top coat is of the AGOUTI type, i.e. wolf coat with wolf coloring. The top coat has several shades of color, from cream, through shades of brown, rust, silver. Only the tips of the coat are colored dark, the color is palest at the roots. This means that a single-colored coat is not correct. The undercoat is soft, dense, cream and pale in color compared to the top coat, never brown or black.























Mask

Characteristic pale mask.

Pale hair covers the lower jaw, throat and forechest.

Note: the term "mask" in a wolfdog does not mean the same as in other breeds (e.g. Leonberger, Belgian Shepherd,...)













In puppies and young dogs, a partial mask on the lower part of the muzzle may be tolerated. Black fur on the entire lower part of the muzzle is not desirable.











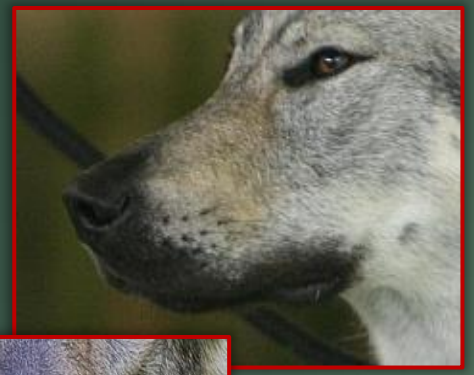




Ideal

! Not perfect, but still tolerated, especially in dark-colored individuals

Missing mask - black extends to more than half of the muzzle, including the lower part



















Examples of missing mask

NECK

Dry, well-muscled, when the dog is at rest, the neck forms an **angle of 40° with the horizontal**.

The neck must be long enough to allow the dog to reach the ground with its nose without bending its legs...





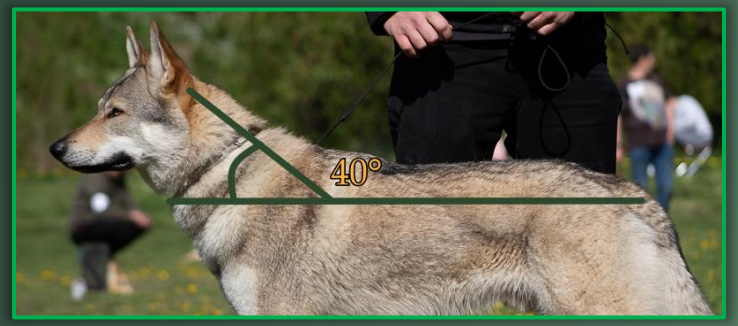


The neck of a male in summer and winter.





The neck of a bitch in summer and winter





NOT LIKE THIS!

An artificially stretched neck by the handler creates a large angle with the horizontal.

DO NOT stretch the neck in stance or movement! It affects the entire image of the dog.





In movement, the neck tilts into line with the back. However, if it is artificially pulled upwards, the movement is affected and disharmonious.



Short, set deep between the shoulder blades



Ideal length



The neck appears long

BODY

The body is symmetrical, flowing smoothly from the neck, the topline is straight, with a slight arch at the loins.

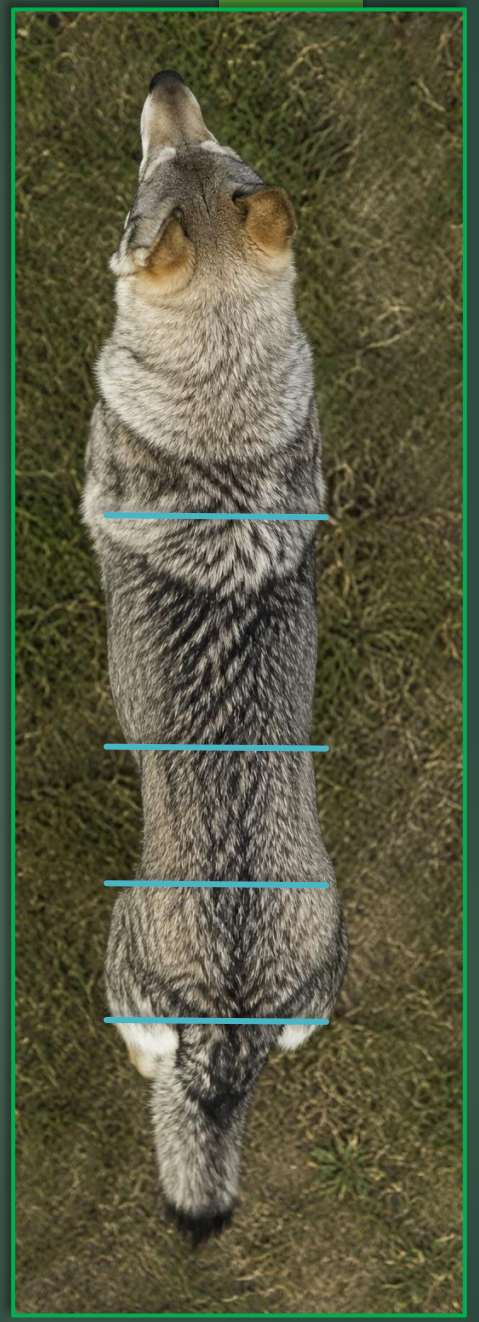
The torso is spacious, more flat than barrel-shaped, the chest is pear-shaped, narrows to the sternum.



The length of the body commes from the rib cage. The length of the hips and loins is "palm length". The ideal ratio of proportions is 2:1:1







Top line

The area is including area from the withers to the croup. The topline is straight, firm, well defined with a well-defined withers and slightly sloping croup.

The top line can be expressed in three levels:

- Back and loins are zero
- Withers + 1-2cm higher
- Tail set - 1-2cm lower





The topline is absolutely straight, does not form three levels.



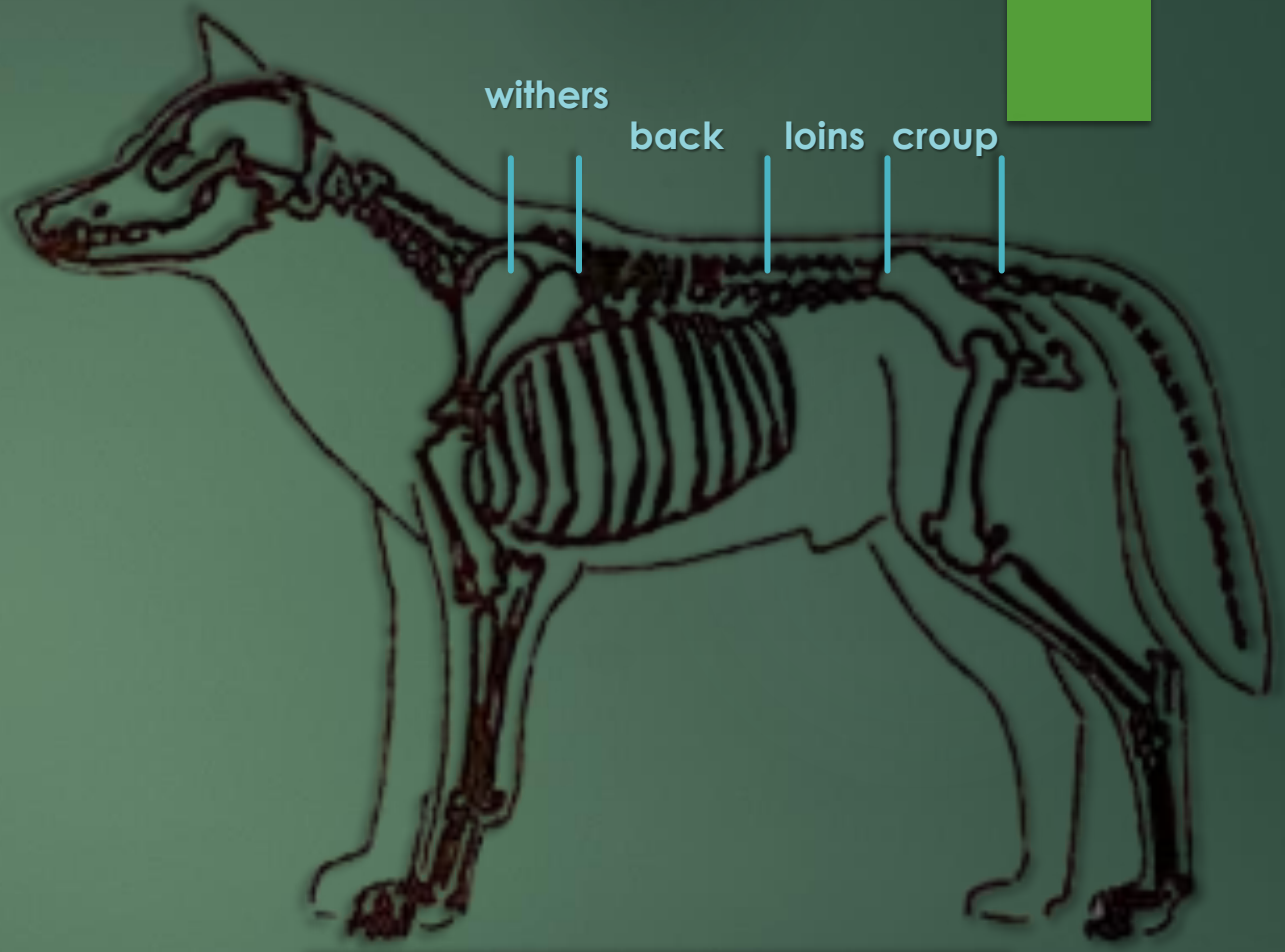
The topline is disturbed by rising hips.

Back, loins, croup

The **back** is firm, straight with a smooth transition to the loins.

The **loins** are short, well muscled, not wide, with a slight smooth slope, passing into the croups.

The **croups** are short, well muscled, not wide with a slight slope. The croups are set in a slightly sloping pelvic bone, framed by the iliac crest and the ischial crest.



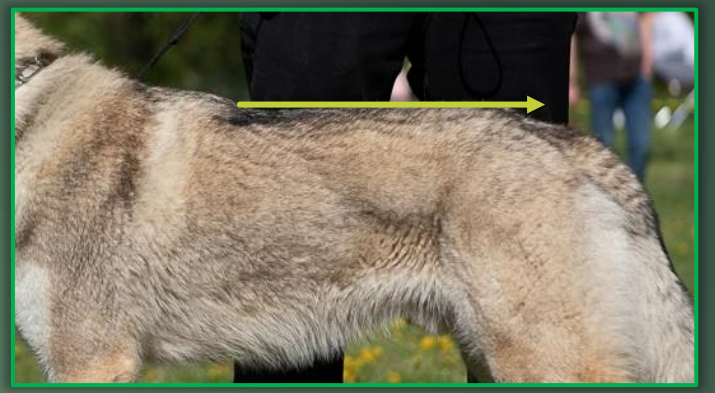




The topline rises from the withers upwards to the croup.



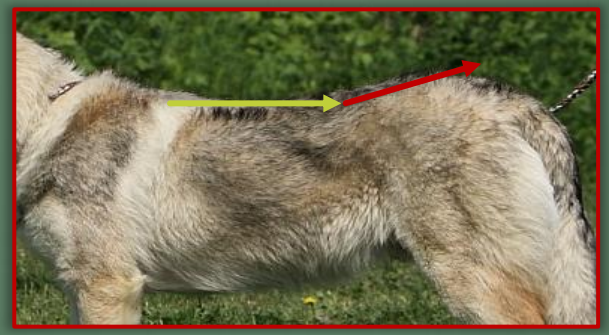




Loose topline



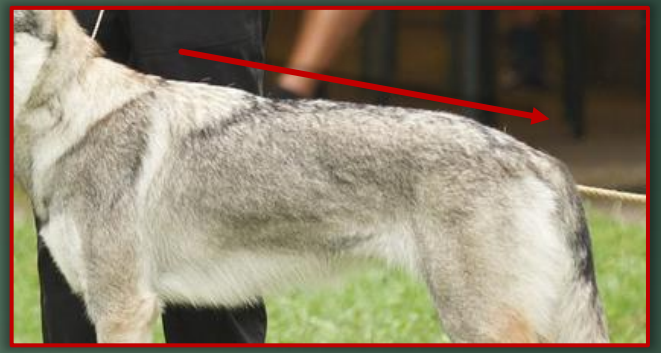




Overbuild back

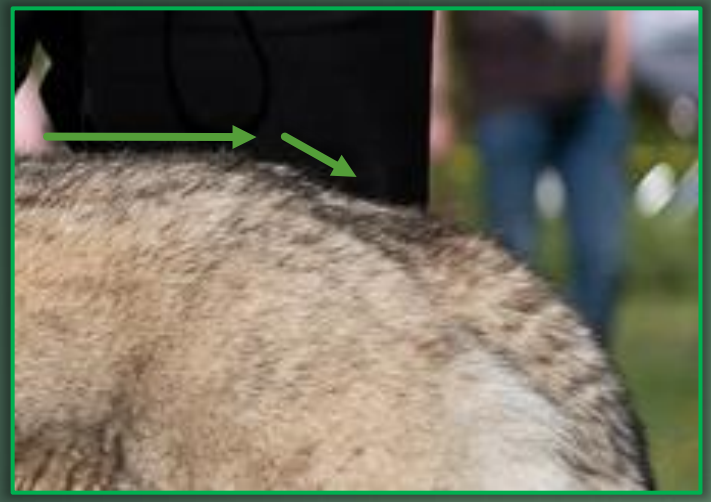


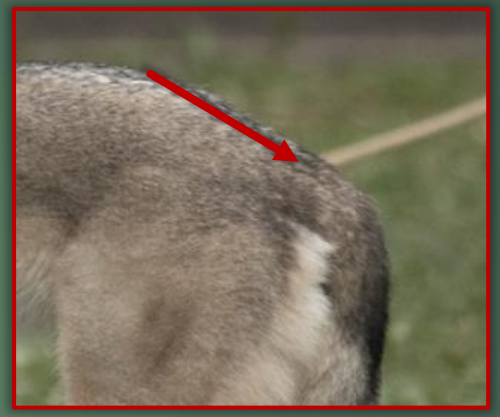
Carp back





Falling topline











Short or shorter, straight croup



Long and very sloping croup with a low-set tail

Forechest, chest, abdomen

The **forechest** should be steep. It is indicated by the angle of the shoulder blade and the humerus. The prosternum does not extend beyond the shoulder joint.

The **chest** is spacious, symmetrical, well muscled, tapering towards the sternum. The depth of the chest does not reach the elbows.

The **abdomen** is firm, slightly tucked up. The loins are slightly tucked up and smoothly connect to the loins.













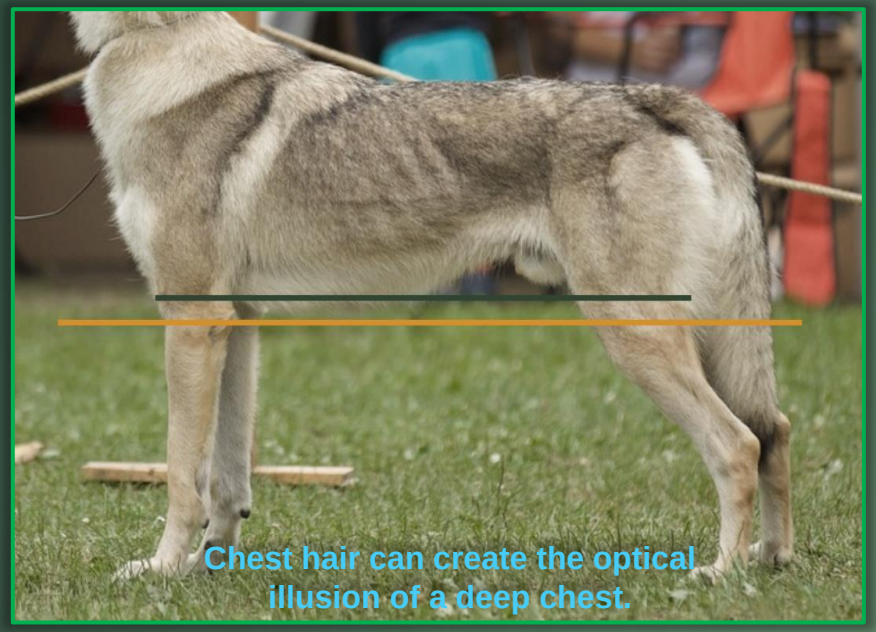


Prominent, strongly expressed forechest. Prosternum extends beyond the shoulder joint.

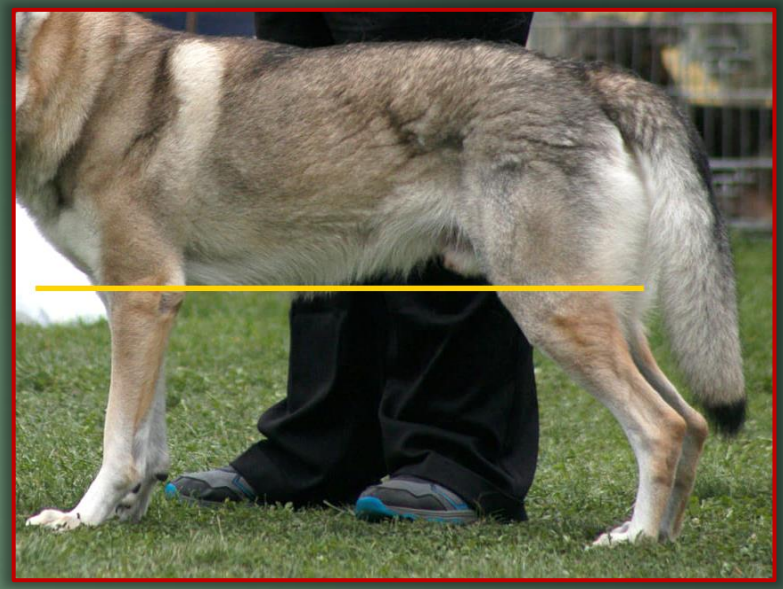





Empty forechest, weakly expressed



The depth of the rib cage does not reach the elbow.



The depth of the rib cage reaches the level of the elbows.





Deep chest – reaches below the elbows.

Forelimb posture

The **forelegs** are straight, dry, narrowly set with slightly turned out paws.

The forearm is straight, dry with strong dry bones, with a perpendicular stance to the ground.

The length of the foreleg to the elbow is 55% of the dog's height at the withers.











They smoothly transition into the torso



Set under the chest



Elbows turned out



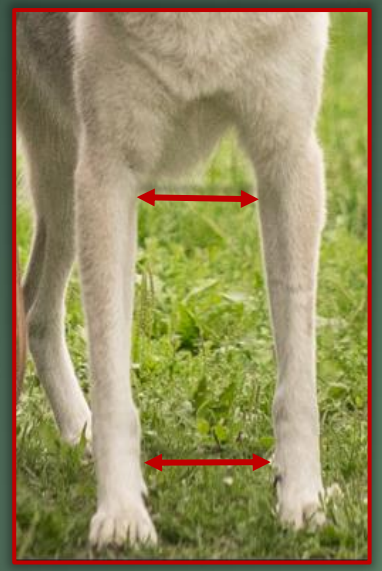




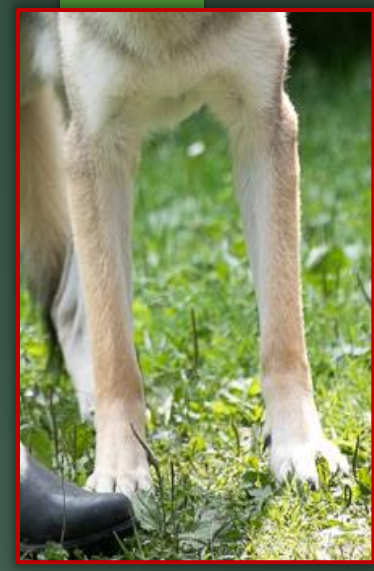




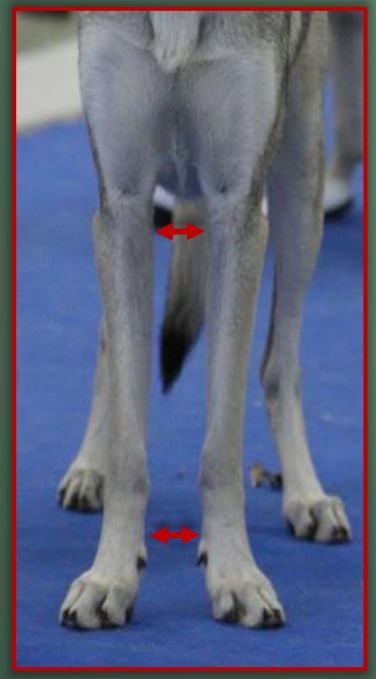
Ideal posture, limbs are "palm-width apart"







Wide stance







Narrow stance

Hip limb posture

The perpendicular from the ischial tuberosity, when viewed from the side, passes just in front of the tip of the toes of the foot.

When viewed from the rear, the perpendicular from the ischial tuberosity, passes the entire length of the limb, including the hock.



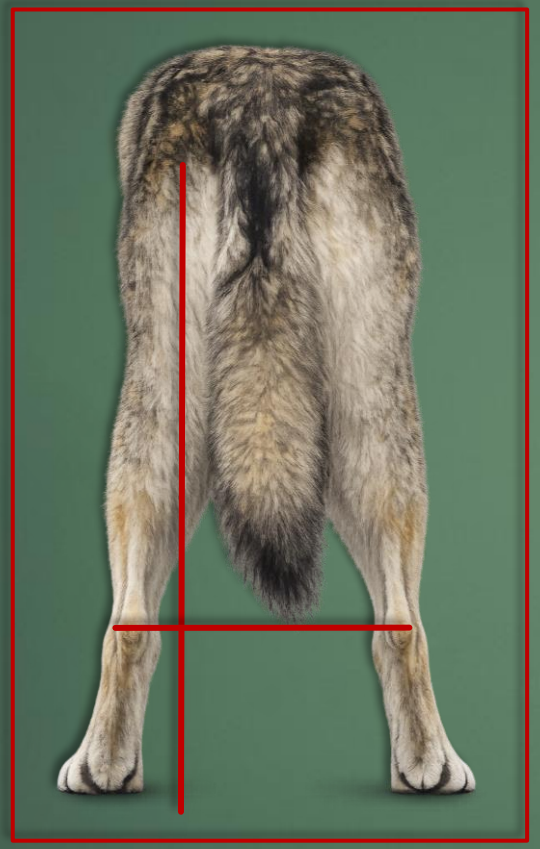




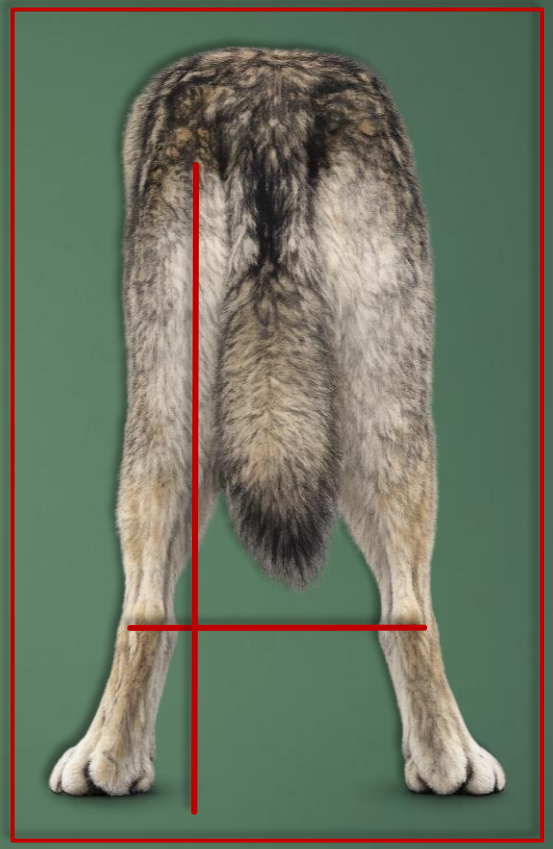


A perpendicular line from the ischial tuberosity when viewed from behind, passes through the entire limb, the hock joint, the hock. The feet point forward.

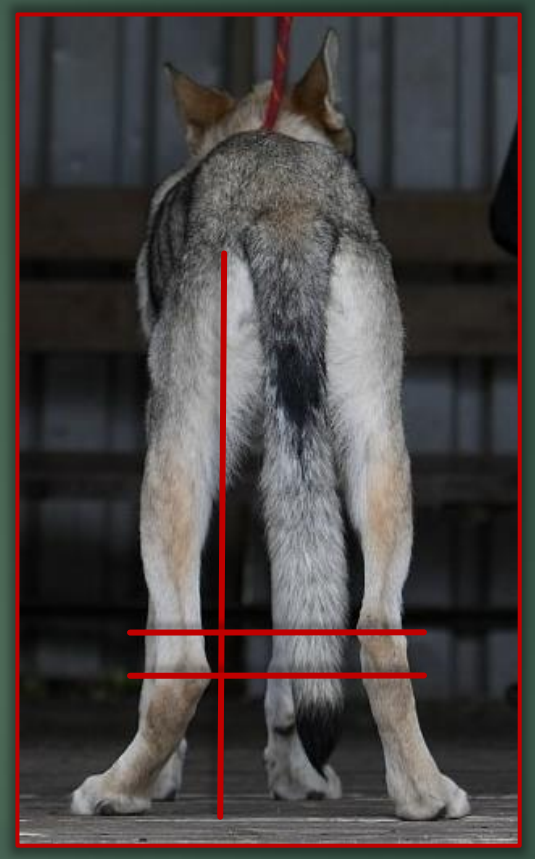




Wide stance, slightly open



Wide stance, open, paws turned out



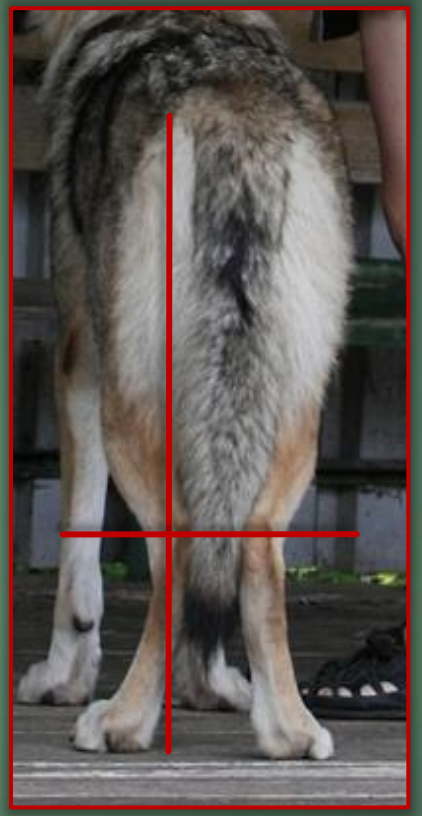
"Cow" stance – heel joints at different heights, paws turned out to the sides, heel set under the body





Narrow stance (both front and rear limbs)







Narrower stance, converging at the heels, turned out paws, with knees pointing to the sides





TAIL

The tail is set high, straight from root to tip, hanging loosely, reaching to the hock joint and well feathered along its entire length.

When excited, carried in a sickle shape.



Wolf tail











Set too low



Ideal set of the tail



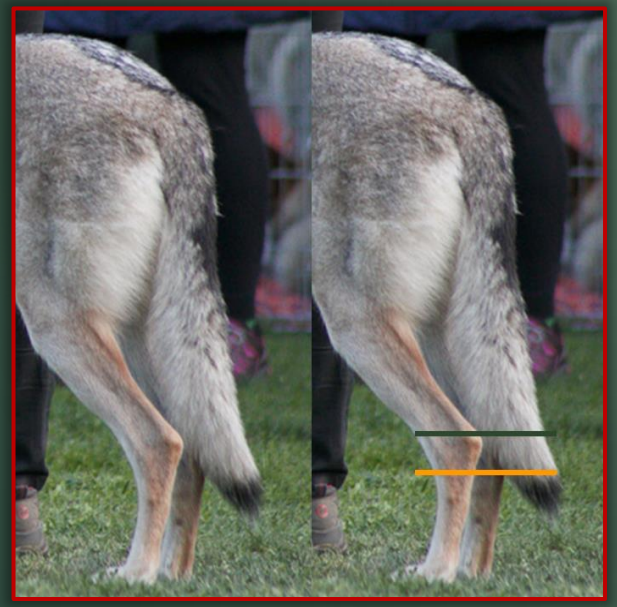
Set too high



The topline can be divided into three levels:

- ❖ Back and loins are zero
- ❖ Withers 1-2cm higher
- ❖ Tail set 1-2cm lower

Long tail









Shorter tail

Short tail







Naturally docked tail





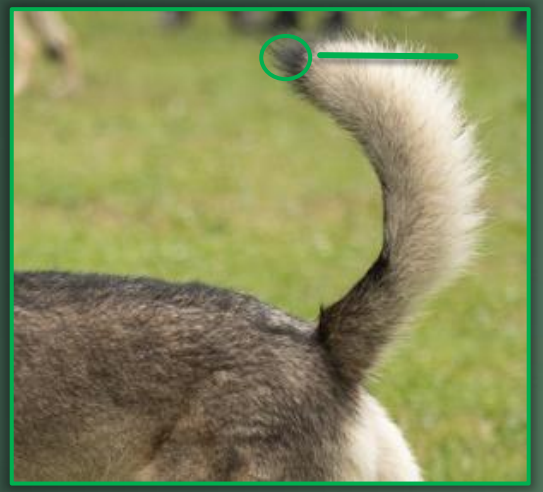
The tail, carried naturally in motion, is lowered or, at most, horizontal with the topline, an extension of the spine.







An excited dog in a ring with other dogs (same sex) may carry the tail in a sickle shape, both in stance and in motion. It is important that the tail is lowered when the dog stops or is at rest. The tip of the tail is the highest point of the tail.



Tail carried sickle-shaped when excited
(tip forms the highest point)







Tail carried up, curled, flipped







Tail carried with a hook at the end in motion





Atypical tail, curled

MOVEMENT

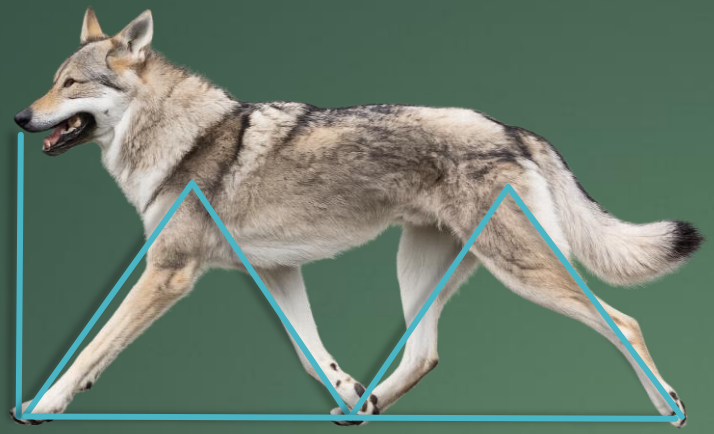
The wolfdog has a harmonious, elegant, light, spacious and economical trot, the limbs move as low as possible above the ground. The head and neck are lowered to a horizontal position.

In the walk is pacing, but in the trot it is undesirable.











Ideal stride and stance – harmony in stride length, strength, and timing of paw impact



Weak stride and grip – short step



High stride, lifting the foreleg high, short step back



Weak reach of the front limbs, high engagement of the hind limbs



Ideal reach and drive – harmony in stride length, strength, and timing of paw impact.



Overstepping – the hind paw crosses the front paw upon impact.







Overreaching can also cause movement to the side - the dog has nowhere to "place" its paw and turns its body to the side.

Performing at high speed, with a strong reach and drive, can have a WOW effect, especially in the final ring, but it is not a natural, easy and harmonious movement for a wolfdog.









Limb Trajectory

At a walk, the limb trajectories are generally wider and more separated from the center line. When transitioning to a trot, the trajectories naturally approach the center line with increasing speed. The degree of approach depends on speed, body structure, balance and limb placement.

Front view

The forelimbs follow a straight path forward and backward. They should not „bow" to the sides, the forearms should not be tucked under the body and the wrists or paws should not deviate freely from the axis of movement. A straight and stable path of the limb in the direction of movement is important.

Rear view

The hind limbs should follow a straight and stable path. From the ischial tuberosity through the knee to the heel, there should be no unwanted deviation to the sides. The heels should remain firm and stable, especially at impact, without turning in or out. The hindquarters are straight and the paw points forward.



A trot in which the tracks come slightly closer together



Single tracking



Pacing in trot



A trot in which the tracks come slightly closer together



Narrow movement, loose hocks

Narrower movement, limbs move in a straight path, but narrowly along the entire length of the limb



Wider movement, limbs move in a straight path, but widely along the entire length of the limb



Diverging movement of thoracic limbs, narrow movement of the lumbar limbs



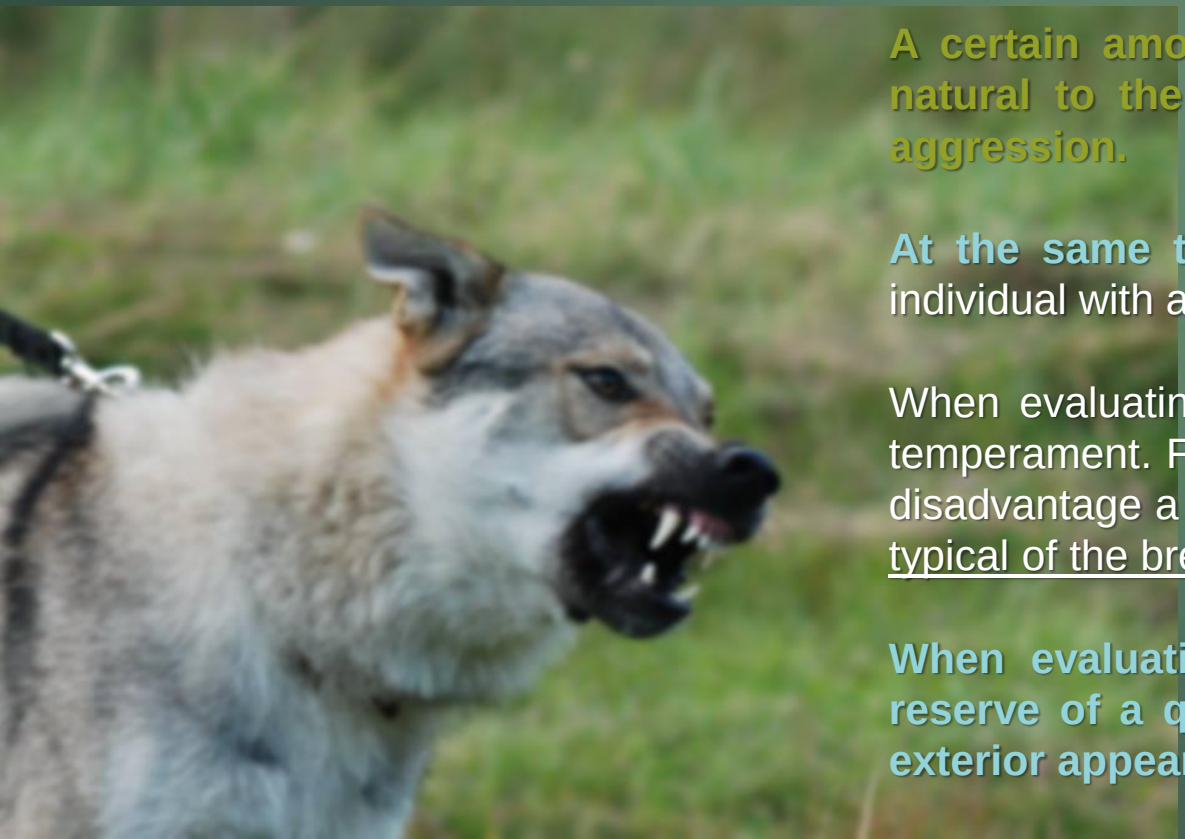
Converging movement – elbow is looser, forearm tucked under the body



CHARACTER

The wolfdog is "distrustful" by the standard... The judge must understand where the natural nature of the breed ends and where a real temperament problem begins...

...understand the specific nature of the breed and be able to distinguish natural restraint from inappropriate manifestations of temperament.



A certain amount of distrust, reserve, a larger ego, and vocalizations are natural to the breed and cannot automatically be considered shyness or aggression.

At the same time, the goal is not an aggressive or shy dog, but a stable individual with a stable psyche and an adequate reaction to the situation.

When evaluating, we must keep in mind the origin of the breed and its specific temperament. For this reason, a slightly reserved nature should not be a reason to disadvantage a quality individual, as long as its temperament is still within the limits typical of the breed.

When evaluating two individuals, it is acceptable to tolerate the natural reserve of a quality individual rather than prefer an individual with weaker exterior appearance just because it has a more open nature.

PUPPY EXTERIOR

- ✓ High quality puppies have short and erect ears in the minor and puppy classes (let's tolerate a SLIGHTLY longer ear or weaker cartilage)
- ✓ Tolerate a SLIGHTLY longer tail
- ✓ Tolerate puppy movement (cheerful, a little loose) - let's let the puppies be happy puppies
- ✓ Tolerate a **SLIGHTLY** (!!!) reserved temperament, take your time and put on a happy face when judging the puppy for their good judging experience










JUNIOR EXTERIOR











- ✓ Tolerate a SLIGHTLY weaker male expression in younger individuals (the head is still developing), BUT we do not prefer a soft or weak male expression
- ✓ Tolerate a SLIGHTLY reserved nature in young bitches, give yourself time to assess
- ✓ Tolerate a SLIGHTLY higher ego in males – tail carried high, growling ("murmuring"),... Do not confuse it with AGGRESSION!!!



VETERAN EXTERIOR











- ✓ Eyes may darken
- ✓ Coat quality may be lower
- ✓ Coat color may be paler
- ✓ Typical senior problems (weaker pasterns, weaker ligaments and muscles, especially in the back,...)

Wolfog are in perfect condition even at an older age (10 years and more!)

