

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



Extended Breed Standard of **THE CHOW CHOW**

Produced by
The Chow Chow Club of NSW
in agreement with
The Chow Chow Club of Victoria
in conjunction with
The Australian National Kennel Council

Pre 1987 Kennel Club (London) Standard
FCI Standard No: 205

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Country of Origin ~ China

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

When man first took the dog as his companion, he almost certainly saw him as a guard, as an assistant on a hunt, and later as a herder. It is most unlikely, however, that he saw him as a potential source of food. Wild game was so plentiful that in most parts of the world there was no need to look upon dogs as part of the diet, but in China things were rather different. The Chow Chow has existed in China for at least the past two thousand years. In the north the rough-coated variety and in the south the smooth, indeed the smooth-coated Chow Chow, or at least a dog very like it still exists in fair numbers in southern China and Hong Kong. It is longer in the leg and looks something like an Akita but it is basically a Chow.

The coat of the northern rough-coated Chow Chow was so rich and warm, that in that very cold country the skins were looked upon as a useful article of clothing, and dog skins were sold in the markets of Manchuria and Mongolia. Not only was the skin used, but in a thickly populated country such as China, nothing that was edible could be wasted, and the flesh of the Chow Chow was an acceptable adjunct to the normal diet.

Dog ranches were by no means unusual, and the breeding of these dogs on a commercial basis was quite common.

He is one of the Spitz types, allied to the other rough-coated prick-eared curled-tailed breeds, and his history in China goes back to very early days even in that country where time is measured in tens of centuries. The first report of the breed in Britain is in the letters of Gilbert White the naturalist, who in the 18th century wrote that he had seen a pair belonging to a neighbour who had brought them from Canton, the description of which is clearly that of a Chow Chow. He was certainly in Britain, by the 19th century he was well established. There was some interest before the First World War, but it was not until the 1920s that they began to hit the headlines, a number being shown at Crufts in 1925, and one particularly outstanding dog being exported to Mrs Earl Hoover of Chicago.

Since that time the breed has made steady progress and registrations increase each year. He is a massive short-backed heavily boned dog with one peculiarity of hind movement, having little or no angulation of stifle. His coat is a very important feature, and whilst the short-coat crops up from time to time, some breeders even deliberately breeding for that characteristic, it is the rough-coated variety which has captured the public interest. He has another peculiarity in that the inside of his mouth should always be black.

The Chow Chow temperament is very different from many dogs. He is somewhat aloof and distant at times, gazing away from those who speak to him and appearing very haughty, but with people that he likes he is most affectionate. He has no vice, though he is not easily trained in the normal way, and is seldom if ever seen in say the obedience ring, as he has a will of his own. He is fairly obedient without being servile, and well-behaved without being self-conscious about it.

The following datum has been agreed on universally; the Chow Chow as it is known today is easily recognisable in pottery and bas-relief sculpture of the Han Dynasty (206 BC to 200 AD). This period was marked by bureaucratic monarchy, a revival of letters and in introduction of Buddhism. It is said to be the era in which modern China was born. Other artefacts indicate that the chow Chow was a distinct breed in China as early as 100 BC, a conservative estimate certainly.

Two distinct theories exist concerning the name Chow Chow. (1) The word Chow or chou is a slang Chinese word meaning edible. The short-haired or smooth Chow is more usually eaten in China than the long-coated variety. The public buying and selling of Chow meat was prohibited by law in China in 1915. 'Will Judy' wrote in his memorable work "The Chow Chow" the following concerning the Chows name "The breed was commonly described not as the Chow but as the edible dog of China.

However as the word Chow means food in English and as at one time the trade in spices and mixed pickles was known as Chow Chow and the Chinaman himself was alluded to by Europeans as a Chow or Chink, any Chinese commodity was called "Chow". Therefore it was natural that in time the edible dog of China acquired the name of Chow Chow". (2) Another theory has also been put forth. In the early 1800s when the Clipper Ships sailed regularly from England to China, the hold of the ship where miscellaneous objects were stored was called the "Chow Chow" hold because he had no usual or regular quarters. Eventually the dog took on the name of the place where he had lived for several months on the sea voyage from China.

The Chow Chow admittedly was only a native Chinese "Hunting Dog" before the Chinese used firearms for hunting. The dogs mentioned in the early Chinese Chronicles and despite the crudeness of the illustrations, have a definite bearing on the Chow. Square dogs that look fierce like lions whom they resemble by the neck being well covered with hair, face colour and nails, falling upon bears and boars 'and that' they seldom do bark except in their hunting chase.

The lack of detail in reference to the early history of dogs in China is mainly due to the destruction of Chinese literature in 225 BC by the Emperor Chin Chih.

The "Book of Rites" classified the canine race of Ancient China under three headings – House, Hunting and Edible Dogs.

The sporting division owned several subdivisions and the definition of this group is 'all dogs used in the capture of game', including the foreign Chow Chow.

According to the evidence in the "Book of Rites" the Standards were contained in the Dog Books of each Imperial Master, together with pictures painted by the Court Artists. Also set down in great solemnity are the procedures in the presentations and acceptances of house and hunting dogs as honoured gifts. The edible dogs were not included in this ritual but sent direct to the kitchen. The forerunners of the Chow Chow were considered a delicacy by some Chinese and on certain farms it was fattened to be eaten when it was between ten and twelve months old. It was said the straighter the back leg the better the meat and easier to carve. The bluer the tongue, the better the flavour.

Among the animals thus presented to the Northern Rulers were several types of Greyhounds and Wolf Hounds and the "Man Kou" (the dog of the Barbarians). The early records as sketchy as they were, have numerous references to the "Tartar Dogs" who were said to partake of the physical and mental characteristics of their human owners.

They were considered strange animals and utterly different from any other breed. They were described as having broad heads and short muzzles, to be of suspicious nature, surly and hostile to strangers but exceedingly courageous, known to attack a wolf without support of any kind. There is a description of huntsmen carrying lances with powerful long haired dogs with broad heads on a leash attached to a curious kind of body harness bound into an iron ring over the back, to which the leash is attached.

The British Standard of the Chow was drawn up by Members of the newly formed Chow Chow Club in 1895 at Carlisle Mansions, London, and, except for a few minor alterations, is the same today. This Standard should be the basis of all judging and breeding, one cannot change the Standards to fit the dog. This Extension is written to help the newcomer or novice to understand what it is all about.

The Standard was based on the top winning Chow of that day, Champion Chow V111, born in 1890 – a red, with light tail and breeches. The actual Standard is printed in bold italics after which comments on its interpretations are made.



Fig.1

Ch Russ Kandy of Briercliffe, owned by C Regan and bred by Mrs M Cunliffe, is considered by Honor Green to be an outstanding Chow of today. Photo: A Wardle.

● GENERAL APPEARANCE

Active, compact, short-coupled and essentially well balanced, leonine in appearance, proud, dignified bearing; well knit frame, tail carried well over back. Should always be able to move freely and must not have so much coat as to impede activity or cause distress in hot weather.

The sound Chow is active, enjoys a long walk and should never tire or seem listless and is not affected by excess heat or extreme cold. The Chow that pants itself to exhaustion at the slightest effort should not be bred from.

Compact means short-coupled.

A well balanced dog, well knit in frame means what it says, not rangy or long backed. "Well balanced" is a head not too big or too small, legs not too short or too long.

With tail carried well over the back. A Chow with good tail carriage almost wears down a mark on the back coat, the tail being kept so firmly on the back, with no loop or teapot tail as it is called. The tail bones are so firmly curled over that it is almost impossible for the Chow to drop its tail like a Samoyed. The more alert the Chow, the flatter on the back is the tail.

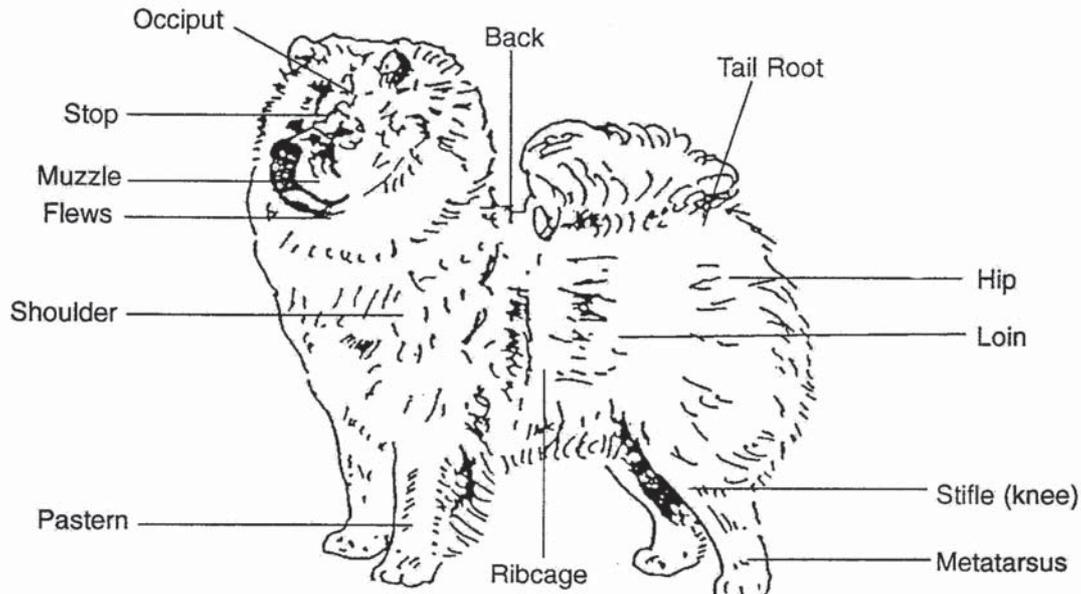


Fig. 2

● CHARACTERISTICS

Quiet dog, good guard, bluish-black tongue.

This could not be plainer, the lion-like appearance and proud bearing of an animal one respects. Stilted hindleg gait (not the up-and-down movement of other breeds) almost like the swinging of a clock pendulum. Unfortunately, this movement is rarely seen nowadays and it has been known for a judge to write a critique on a Chow as “moves too stiffly behind”. The correct Chow movement cannot be too stiff, but, as stated, when it is seen some imagine this a fault. A number of the top winning Chows today move soundly, yet, tragically, not as a Chow should.

Unique in its stilted gait and bluish-black tongue. The tongue must be blue with no pink spots or streaks and in a Chow with good pigmentation, the under part of the tongue where it joins the mouth is a dense black. When the Chow is hot and pants, if well pigmented, the tongue still stays blue. If the novice has a bitch with poor mouth pigmentation, she should be mated with a dog showing excellent pigmentation. Be firm on this point. Both action and pigment are important factors in a Chow’s make-up and unique to this breed.

Touching on a personal note, Honor Green states that her first contact with a Chow was a puppy from a bitch who had “got out” with an Alsatian – result, one crossbred puppy with blue tongue and coal black gums. The pigmentation is so strong in a Chow that it takes quite a while to breed out, even when mated with other dogs.

Conversely, she knew a male Chow dog who had the free run of a country village; many litters in the neighbourhood were a giveaway to the Chinese Romeo – blue tongues appearing in litters most unexpectedly.

● TEMPERAMENT

With proud dignified bearing; loyal yet aloof.

● HEAD AND SKULL

Skull flat and broad, with little stop, well filled out under the eyes. Muzzle moderate in length, broad from the eyes to the point (not pointed at the end like a fox). Nose black, large and wide in all cases (with the exception of cream and white in which case a light-coloured nose is permissible and in blues and fawns a self-coloured nose); but in all colours a black nose is preferable.

Skull flat and broad – this is the forehead which must be flat and broad.

With little stop – is where the forehead joins the muzzle, which should be slightly indented so that the forehead does not run straight down in a line like a Collie's, nor should it, on the other hand, be indented too sharply to give a spaniel-like forehead.

Well filled out under the eyes – the skin under the eyes must be loose, not tight, almost puffy.

Muzzle moderate in length, broad from the eyes to the point (not pointed at the end like a fox) – there are some breeders who appear to think a short muzzle is something to breed for. This has been done, resulting in Chows with faulty breathing who struggle pathetically for breath on even quite mild days – the word is “moderate”, neither very long nor very short. Ideally, to balance the head, the muzzle should be approximately the same length as the stop is to the top of the forehead. A pointed face or muzzle is unattractive in a Chow, giving a fox-like look – hence the expression “not pointed like a fox”. The muzzle should end in a large nose, not a little button stuck on the end, and coal black in all colours except the creams (here a pink nose is not a fault). The blues can have a slate-coloured nose; likewise, fawns can have a light-coloured nose but black in all colours is preferred.

● EYES

Dark and small, preferable almond-shaped (in blue or fawn dogs a light colour is permissible).

Chows eyes are small and almond shaped, giving an inscrutable oriental expression, not round and large but also not deep set, an expression well used by the modern judge. The eyes must be clean and not “weepy”. A lighter eye is permissible in a blue or fawn, but a brown eye is undesirable in a black. A “light eye” is a golden eye, sometimes seen in light red and almost always in fawns. In the latter, it seems to complete the colour picture, but in light reds it is not correct. “Dark and small” the Standard says, so dark and small they must be. In a blue Chow, a bluey-grey eye looks attractive with the blue hair and is not a fault in this colour.

● EARS

Small, thick, slightly rounded at the tip, carried stiffly erect but placed well forward over the eyes and wide apart, which gives the dog the peculiar characteristic expression of the breed, viz., a scowl.

Small, thick does not mean minute ears buried in the ruff. One must keep in mind the words “well balanced” mentioned twice at the beginning of the Standard. The ears must be small but in proportion to the rest of the body. A tiny little ear looks all wrong, is not often seen and is certainly not a point to breed for. The ear must be thick to the feel, set well apart and not sticking straight up on top of the head like a rabbit’s.

Placed well forward means slanting slightly forward, not upwards. Here again, they must not be exaggerated, so that the ear is down almost level with the line of the forehead. The slightly tilted, small (but no freakishly small), rounded ear gives the Chow his unique scowling expression, whereas if they are too small, the scowl vanishes.

● **MOUTH**

Teeth strong and level, giving scissor bite. Tongue bluish black. Flews and roof of mouth black. Gums preferably black.

DENTITION OF THE DOG

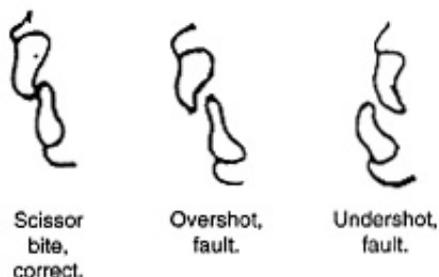
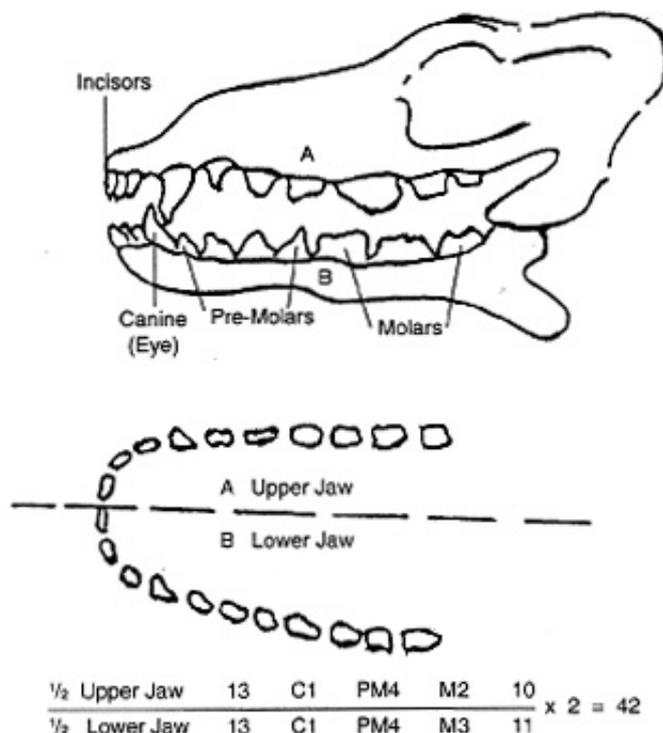


Fig. 3



Scissor bite means like a pair of scissors, the top just, and only just, overlapping and fitting tightly to the bottom row. In old photographs of the first Chows in England, the lips touch together, not overlapping, with a slight lift up either side, giving the breed that air of mystery.

Many of the modern Chows still have this, although some are seen with pendulous lips and folds of loose skin on muzzle and head. It gives the breed a kind of Bloodhound, untypical look.

Now we come to the pigment of the mouth, which is an important and unique feature of the breed and, as written elsewhere, is in danger of being lost altogether. To put it in a nutshell – a Chow’s mouth, when opened, should be wholly black, barring the teeth. Not pink, or mauve, or washed-out blue, but black, with a blue-black tongue. The roof of the mouth, the gums and the flews (or lips) – all black. It is up to the new breeders to ensure that this is maintained and for the judges to penalise for lack of pigment. Unfortunately Chows with bad pigmentation win prizes, so much so that once, when Honor Green drew the attention of a well-known judge to the coal black gums of a six month old light red Chow she has with her, the reply was “Well, I have learned something today – I never knew before that Chows had black gums”. Likewise, another judge told her “...on opening a Chow’s mouth I look for a nice pale blue all round”. But it’s BLACK in the Standard, so black it must be.

● NECK

Strong, full, set well on the shoulders and slightly arched.

Although the word “long” is not mentioned, the neck must be long to get in the “slightly arched”. On a well-made Chow, this can be felt quite easily. A short, “stuffy” neck gives the breed a “bull-like” squat look. Strangely, when a puppy is actually born and is still wet, the long neck is very obvious, and the “slightly arched” look is already seen. (If a puppy is born with a very short neck it will never have a long neck when adult).

● FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders muscular and sloping. Forelegs perfectly straight, of moderate length, with good bone.

Shoulders muscular and sloping – making a nice wide front. The front legs fitting neatly in under the dog, not on the edge, is the best way to describe the front legs.

Good bone means what it says – not massively boned like tree trunks – and they must be quite straight.

Fig. 4



*Front legs.
Straight turned neither
in nor out*

Feet compact and tight

● **BODY**

Chest broad and deep. Back short, straight and strong. Loins powerful.

Chest broad and deep – with plenty of room inside the frame to hold all the essential works like the heart and lungs. A small, cramped-up ribcage is wrong. The ideal chest width is about the width of a human hand. Have your dog standing naturally, put the flat of your hand between his front legs, passing the hand from the back, not in front of the Chow, and you will understand this.

The actual ribs, if you can feel them should curve slightly outward and backwards, but should not be barrel-ribbed like a bulldog. The Chow should not feel slab-sided or narrow right through. Back nice and short, straight, no bumping up, and strong, although a slightly long back in a bitch should not be a fault. The loins should be powerful, not tapering off to a narrow behind.

● **HINDQUARTERS**

Hindlegs muscular, hocks well let down, with moderate angulation. From hocks downwards to appear straight, hocks never flexing forward.

Here again, this is a clear description of the Chow’s back legs and hindquarters. They must look strong and powerful with a perfectly straight back leg. There must be no bending above the hock, which must be small and, as said elsewhere, like little furry boots. To repeat it yet again, the back legs produce the stiff movement which is unique to the breed. Chow puppies with the really stiff back legs are fascinating to watch – they appear to be moving on tiny stilts.

Fig. 5

Hindquarters. Straight as possible. The Chow should have a stilted movement, therefore unlike other breeds requires the minimum of angulation.



Note: Stifle bent giving over angulation. Foot long hare-footed. This dog would move very badly.



Good rear. Legs straight. Tail set high and sweeping over back.



Bad rear. Bow-legged.



Bad rear. Cow-hocked. Tailset too low and not laying on the back.

● FEET

Small, round and catlike, standing well on the toes.

Feet should be quite round and exactly like a cat's, not pointed like a hare's, and standing right on the four front toes. The toes should all be well "bunched up" together – not spread out. Occasionally check the hair growing between the pads and this should be cut carefully with a sharp pair of scissors if necessary.

● TAIL

Set high and carried well over the back.

Tail carriage has been described elsewhere.

● GAIT/MOVEMENT

Relatively short stride. Forelegs and hindlegs moving parallel to each other and straight forward. Dogs should always be able to move freely and soundly without any sign of distress.

This has also been described throughout this Extension.

● COAT

Either rough or smooth.

Rough: Profuse, abundant, dense, straight and stand-off. Outer coat rather coarse in texture, with soft woolly undercoat. Especially thick round neck forming mane or ruff and with good culottes or breechings on back of thighs. Smooth: Coat short, dense, straight, upstanding, not flat, plush-like in texture. An artificial shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline or expression should be penalised.

Must not have so much coat as to cause distress in hot weather.

● COLOUR

Whole coloured black, red, blue, fawn, cream or white, frequently shaded but not patches or parti-coloured (the underpart of tail and back of thighs frequently of a light colour).

Coat and colour are well described and easy to understand.

● SIZE

Minimum height for Chows to be 45.7 cms (18 ins) but in every case balance should be the outstanding feature and height left to the discretion of the judges.

To measure your dog, stand him quite still and measure from the ground to the top of the shoulders – just at the base of the neck. At shows, measuring, if done, should be done with an official measuring stick.

- **FAULTS**

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Drop ears.

Tongue splashed or patchy.

Off black noses except in the colours specified, viz., creams whites, blues or fawns.

Tail not carried over the back.

Any artificial shortening of the coat which alters the natural outline or expression of the dog should be penalised.

Parti-coloured.

- **NOTE:**

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

The Standard of the smooth variety is identical with the above except that the coat is smooth.

This is the Standard of a lovely breed. Let us stick to this and breed for these points, keeping the Chow a bold, proud, unique animal as it has been for so many centuries.

REFERENCES

“The Chow Chow” by Honor Green.

“The Complete Chow Chow” by L J Kip Kopatch.

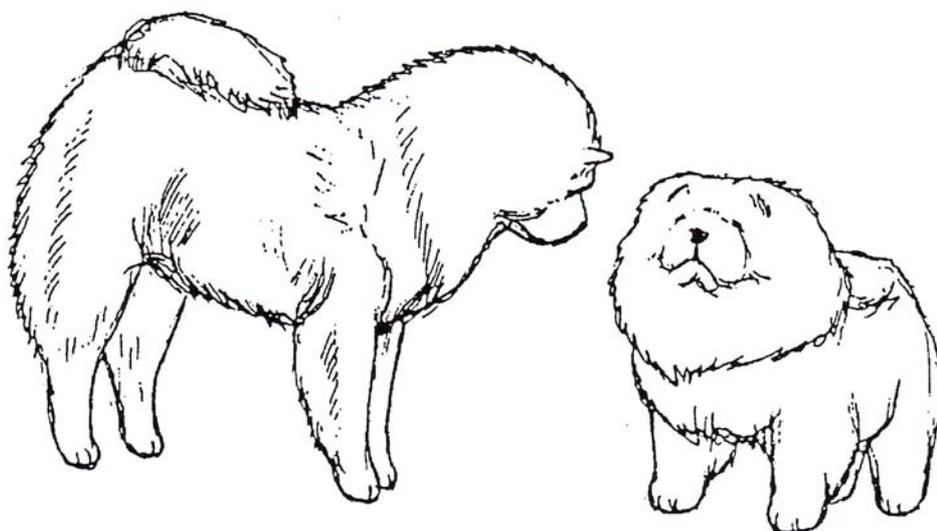


Fig. 6

The average height of adult specimens is 45.7cms – 51cms (18 –20 ins) at the withers but in every case consideration of overall proportions and type should take precedence over size. If too tall, the Chow will invariably be rangy (left). If too short, the Chow will invariably appear proportionately dwarfed with exaggerated features (right).

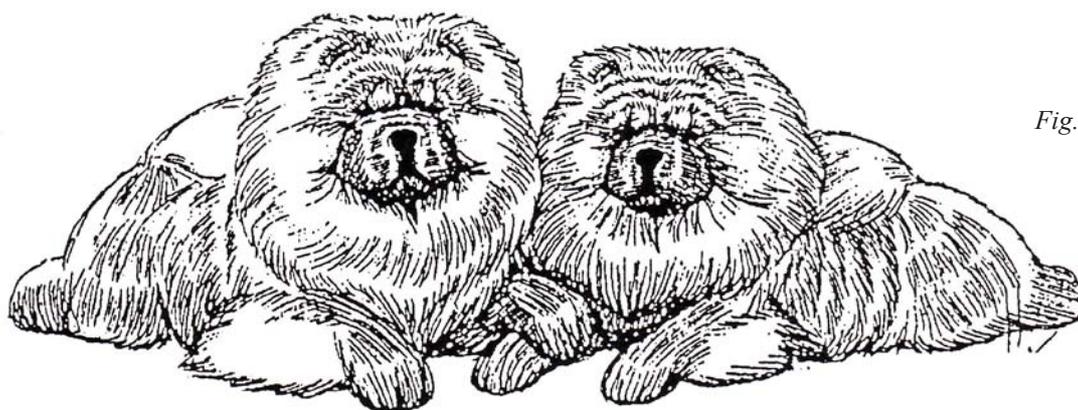


Fig. 7

There is an impression of femininity in bitches as compared with an impression of masculinity in dogs. However, dependent on the bloodline, one might consider a specimen as a doggy bitch or a bitchy dog as compared to another type of Chow.

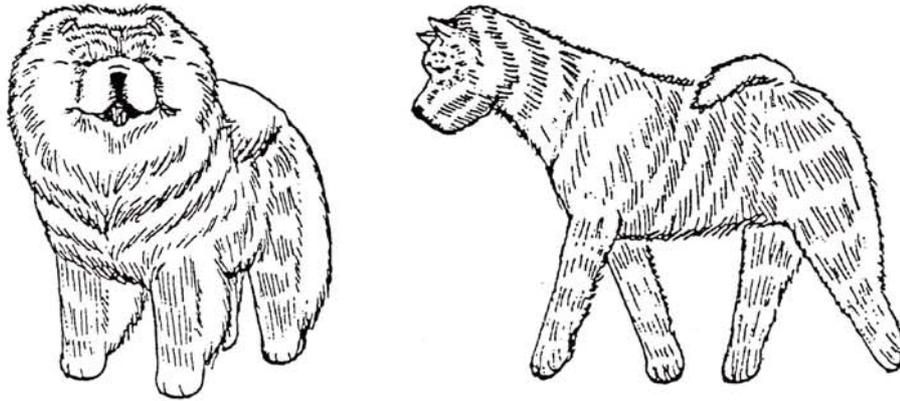


Fig. 8

Clothed in a smooth or an offstanding rough double coat, the Chow is a masterpiece of beauty, dignity and naturalness, unique in his blue-black tongue, scowling expression and stilted gait.



Fig. 9

The head is large in proportion to the dog (left) not small (centre) or so exaggerated as to make the dog seem top heavy (right).

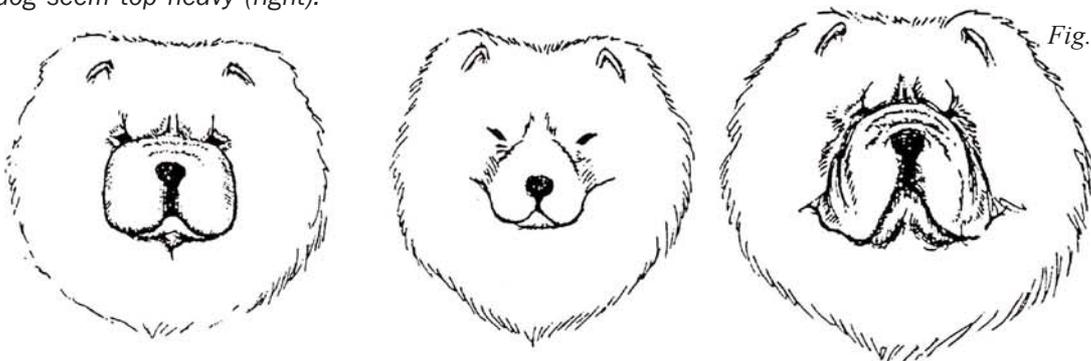


Fig. 10

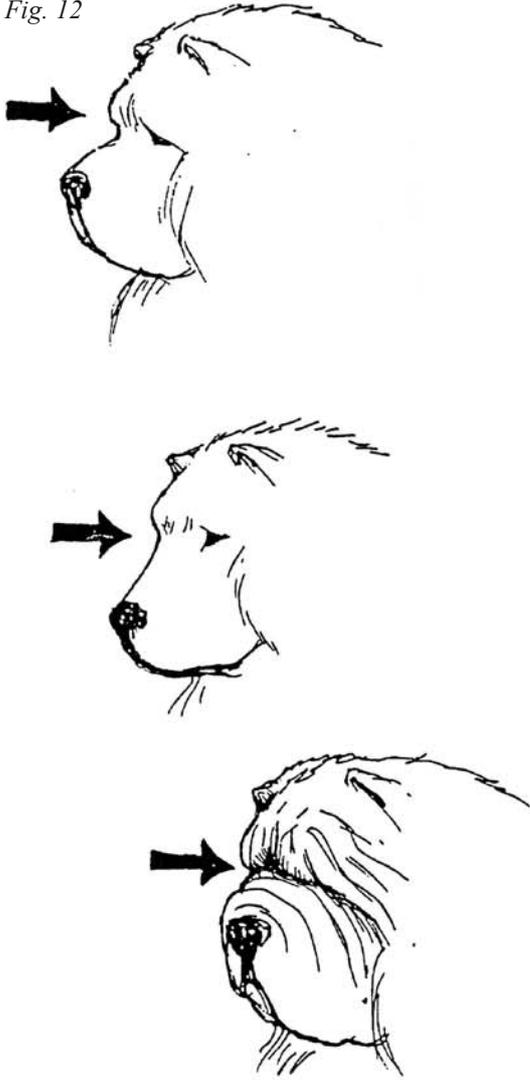
The correct square muzzle (left). The muzzle in the centre falls away under the eyes and the one on the right is overly padded. Both the centre and right illustration fail to impart a square impression.



Fig. 11

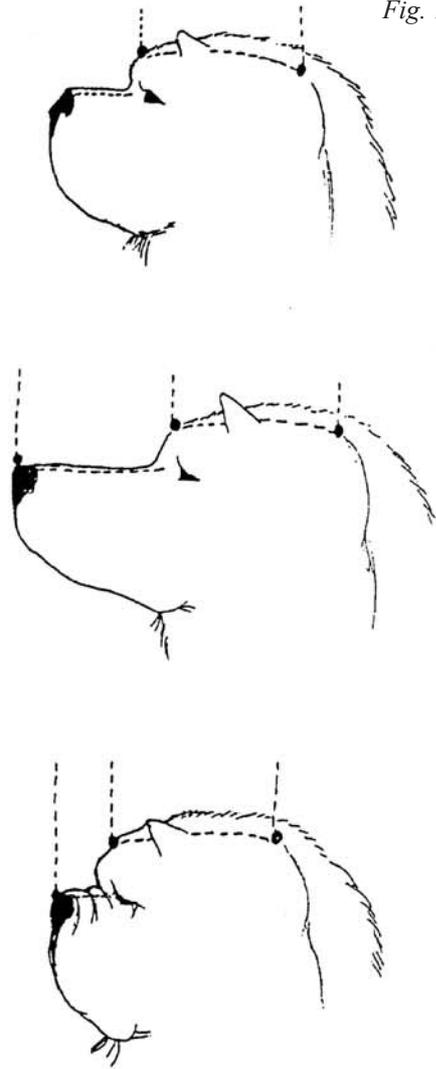
The top skull is broad and flat (left), not domed (centre). The toplines of the muzzle and skull (right) are approximately parallel, joined by a moderate stop.

Fig. 12



The padding of the brows may make the stop appear steeper than it is. Correct stop (top), too shallow (centre) and too deep (bottom).

Fig. 13



The muzzle is short in comparison to the length of the top skull (top) not equal (centre) or less than one-third the head length (bottom).

Fig. 14



The upper lips should completely cover the lower lips (left) not tightly drawn (centre) or pendulous (right).



Fig. 15

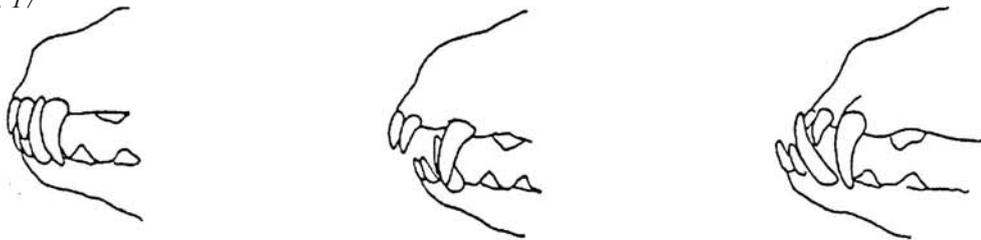
Extremely serious fault – nose spotted or distinctly other colour than black except in blue Chows which may have solid blue or slate noses. Take note: A true cream Chow will eventually have a dudley nose. Judges should therefore check for artificial colouring if the nose on a cream is black.



Fig. 16

(Left) A solid black mouth is ideal. (Right) Extremely serious fault – the top surface or edges of the tongue red or pink with one or more spots of red or pink. The underside of the tongue in this context is not considered to be a serious fault.

Fig. 17



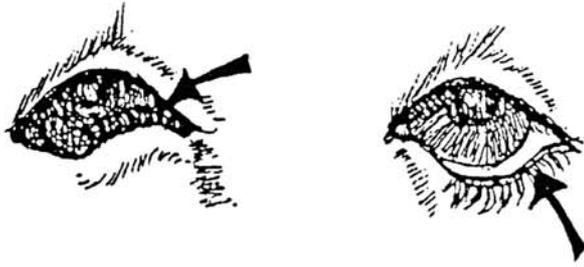
Bite should be scissors (left) not overshot (centre) or undershot (right).

Fig. 18



Eyes placed wide apart and obliquely, of moderate size and almond-shaped (left). Big, round (centre) and downturned eyes (right) ruin expression.

Fig. 19



The serious faults of entropion (left) with the eyelid turning in and ectropion (right) with the eyelid rolling out and drooping.



Serious fault – the pupils wholly or partially obscured by loose skin.

Fig. 20



Correct erect ear with a slight forward tilt (left). Extremely serious faults – drop ears; one broken at the base (centre) and one broken near the tip (right).

Fig. 21



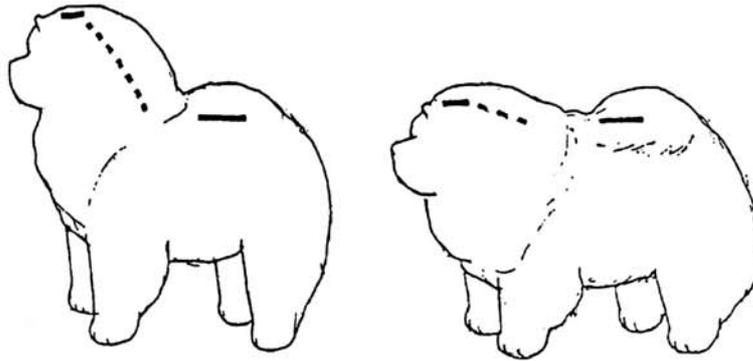
The inner corner of the ear should be on top of the skull and align with the outside corner of the eye (left). Ears set too closely (centre) and too low (right).

Fig. 22



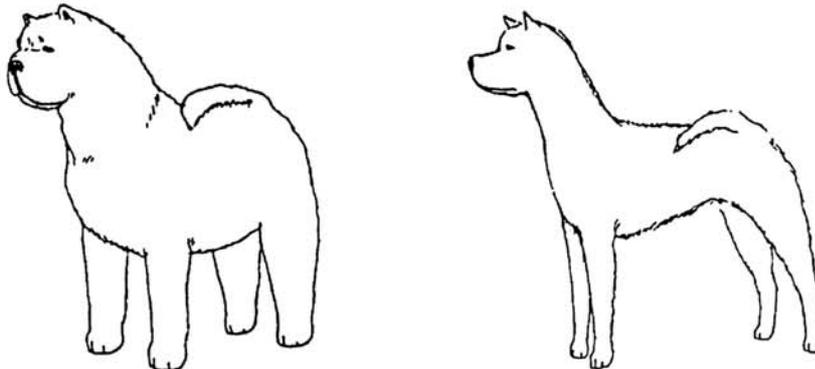
The Chow's expression is essentially scowling, dignified, lordly, discerning, sober and snobbish.

Fig. 23



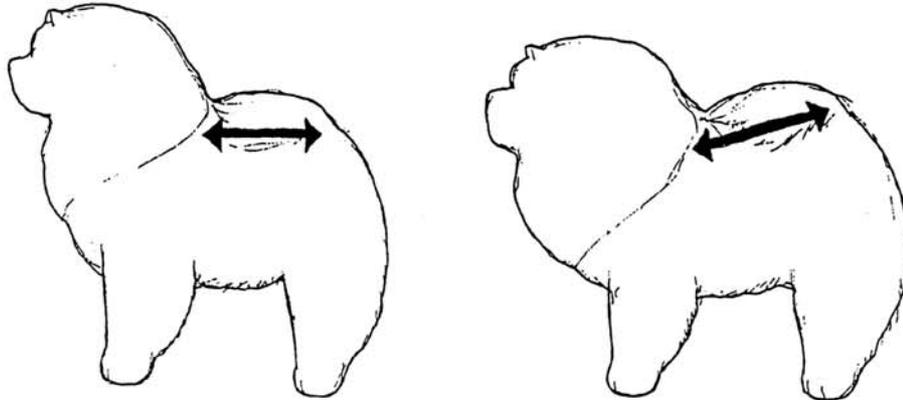
The neck should carry the head above the topline when standing at attention (left) and not be so short set as to give a stunted look (right).

Fig. 24



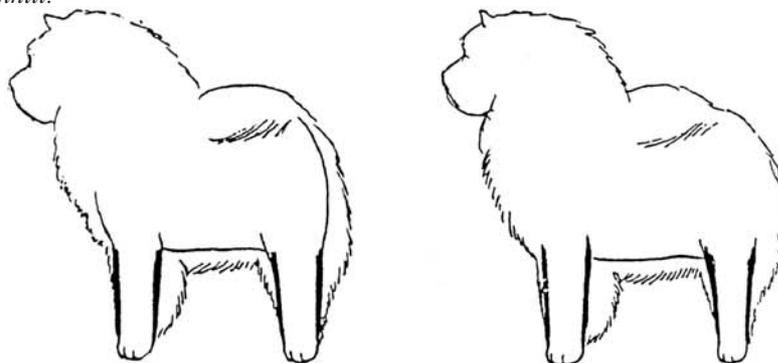
Body to be short, compact, close coupled, strongly muscled, broad, deep and well let down in the flank (left). Not to be long, rangy, lacking muscle, narrow and with a tuck-up of the underline (right).

Fig. 25



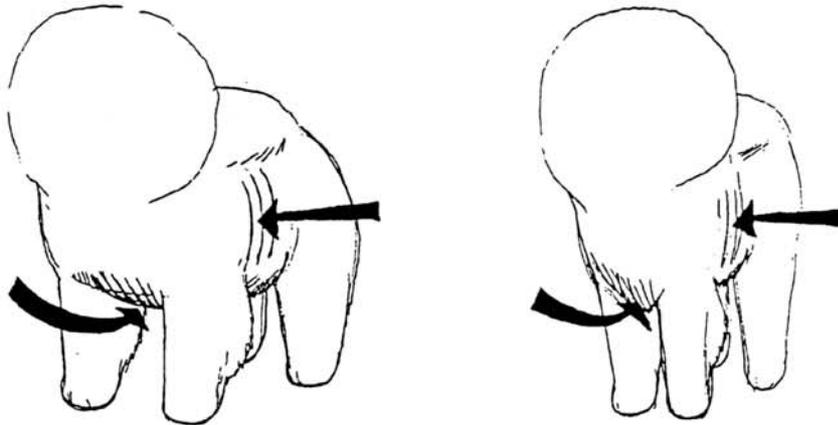
Topline should be straight, strong and level and not jacked-up so as to make the dog appear to be running downhill.

Fig. 26



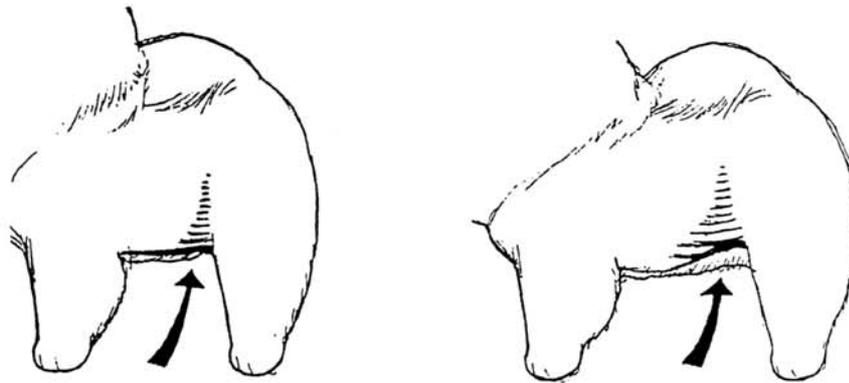
Rear and front bone should be approximately equal (left), not heavier in the front as is all too commonly seen (right).

Fig. 27



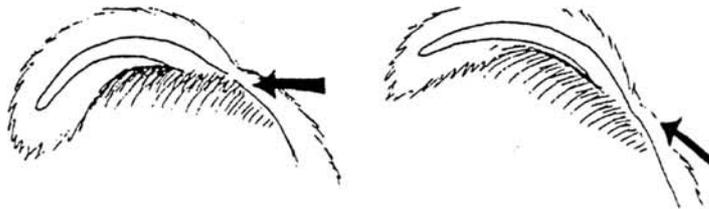
Chest to be broad, deep and muscular (left). Serious fault — narrow or slab-sided chest (right).

Fig. 28



Loins should be short, broad and deep (left), not long, narrow and tucked-up (right).

Fig. 29



Powerful rump and thigh muscles give a level croup (left), not a steeper one (right).

Fig. 30



(Left to right). An ideal tail, set high and following straight up the spine; good tail, set high and begins to follow spine at its start; incorrect tail, set too low.

Fig. 31



(Left to right). Incorrect corkscrew tail; incorrect gay tail and incorrect stub tail.

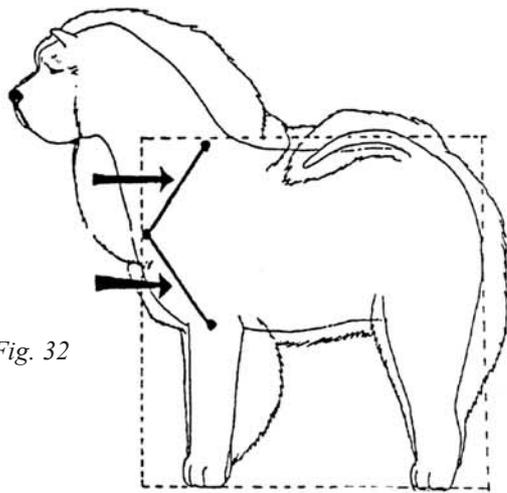
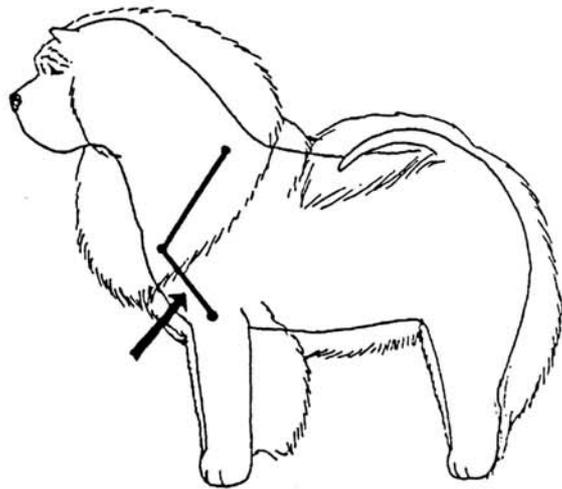


Fig. 32



The length of the upper arm should be comparable to the length of the shoulder blade, not shorter.

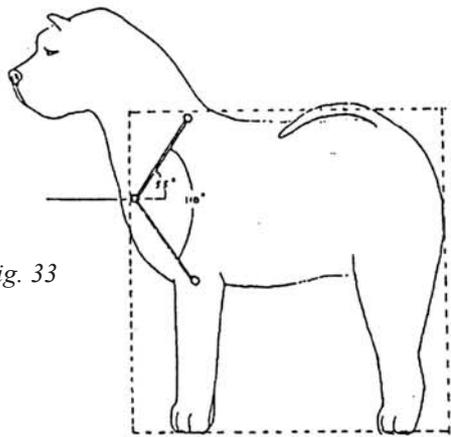
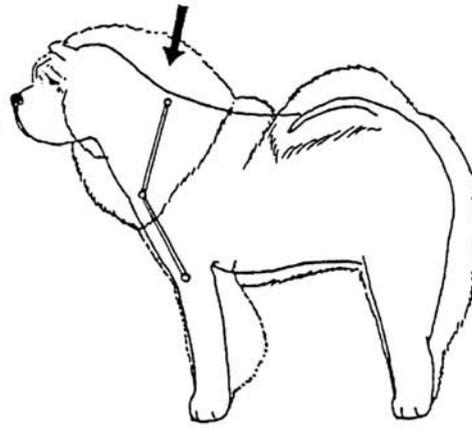


Fig. 33

The spine of the shoulder forms an angle of approximately 55 degrees with the horizontal line and approximately 110 degrees with the upper arm.



An overly straight shoulder will impede neck carriage and movement.

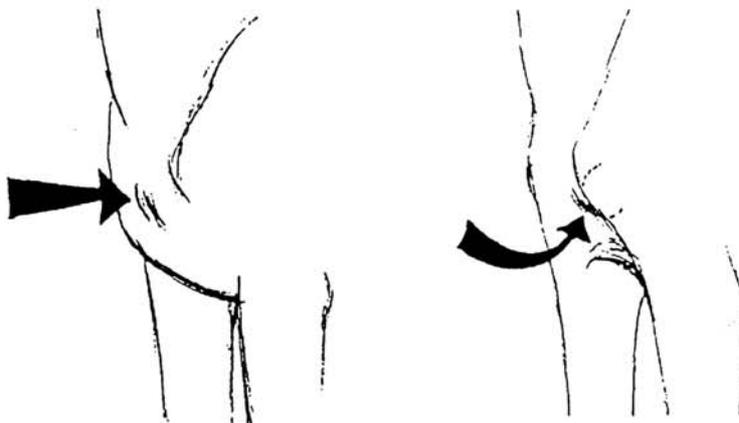
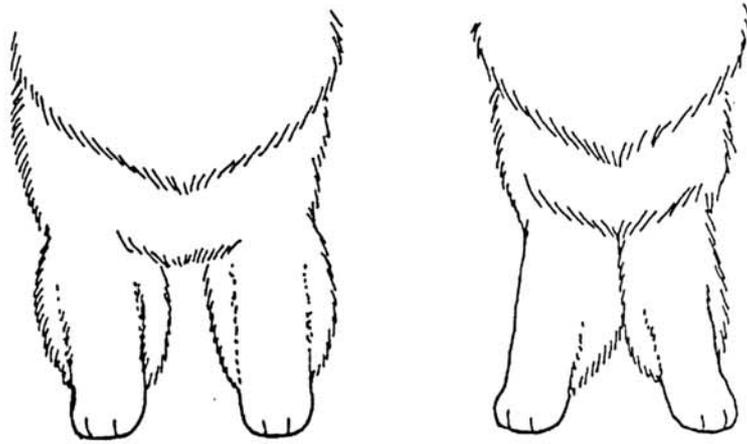


Fig. 34

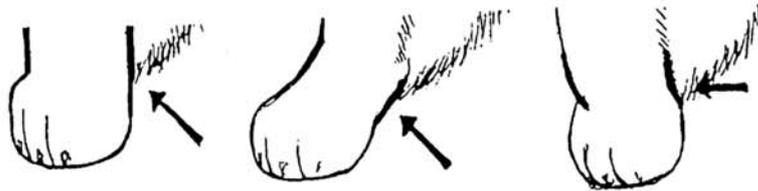
The point of sternum slightly in front of the shoulder points (left) instead of behind (right) which will give a caved-in look.

Fig. 35



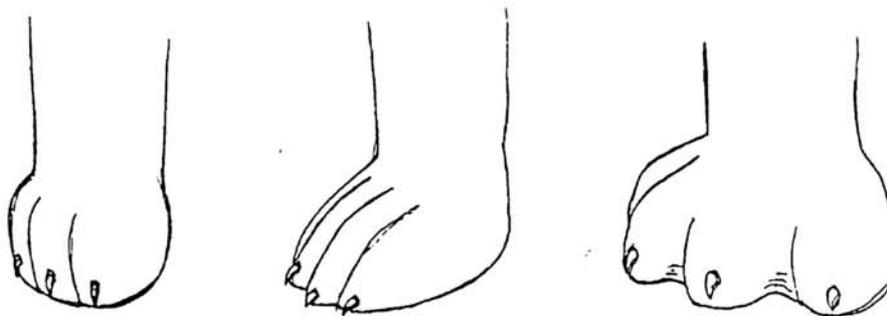
Forelegs pictured in coat, correctly parallel (left) and incorrectly in a tripod (right).

Fig. 36



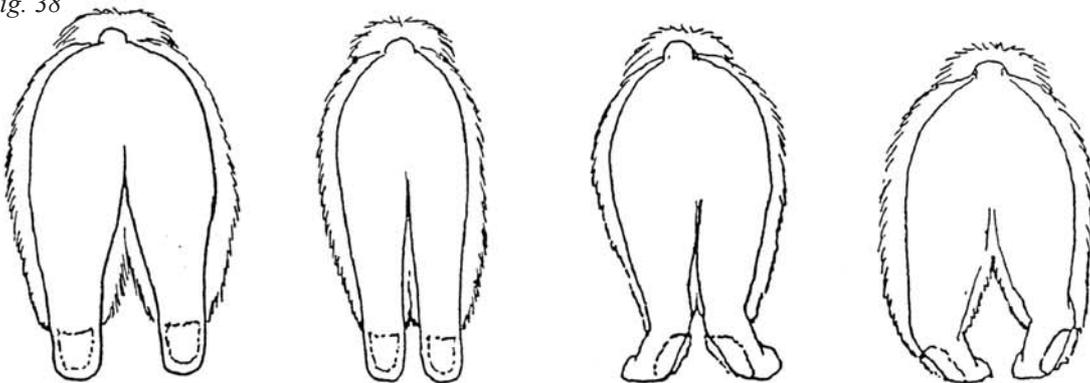
Pasterns to be short and upright (left), not so-called down in the pasterns (centre) or knuckled over (right).

Fig. 37



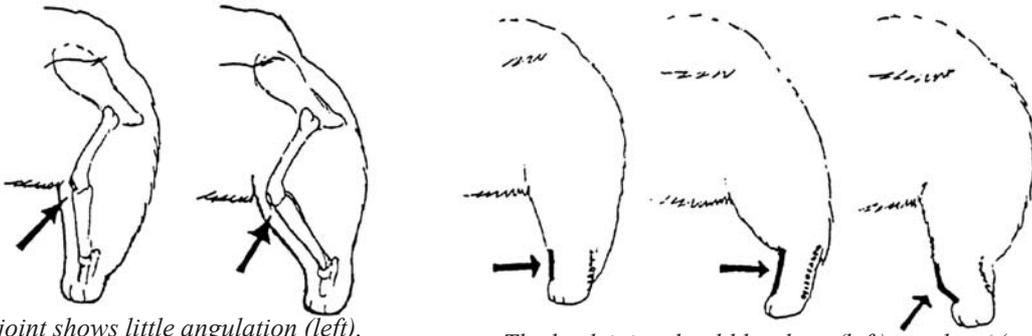
Proper round, cat-like foot (left). Incorrect hare foot (centre) and splayed foot (right).

Fig. 38



(Left to right). The correct hindlegs are straight, parallel and broadly spaced as consistent with a broad pelvis. Incorrect rears include closely spaced hindlegs determined by a narrow pelvis, cow-hocked legs and bowed out legs.

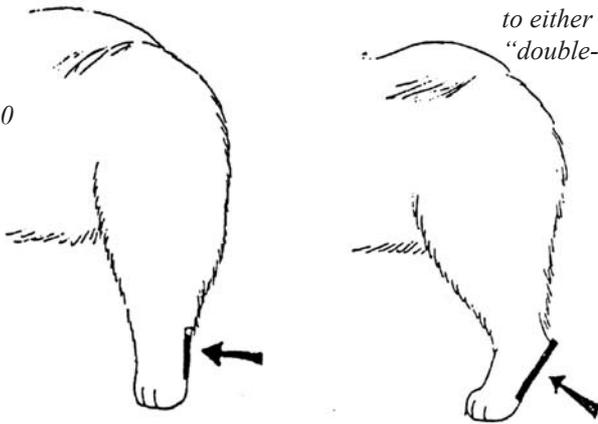
Fig. 39



Stifle joint shows little angulation (left). It is not overly angulated (right).

The hock joint should be short (left), not long (centre) or have the serious fault of bowing forward (right) or to either side. Such a breaking condition is called "double-hocked" in slang.

Fig. 40



The metatarsals are short and perpendicular to the ground (left), not long and incorrectly angled (right).

Rough coat comes in all lengths. Smooth coat should have no obvious ruff or feathering on the legs or tail.

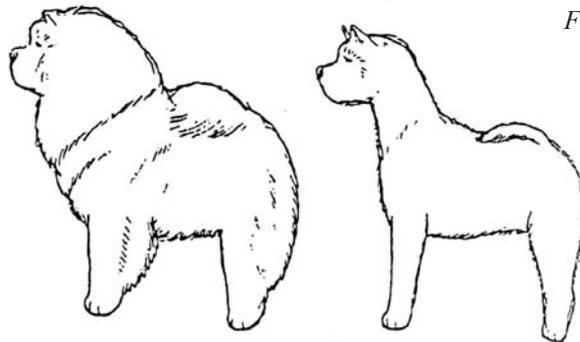


Fig. 41

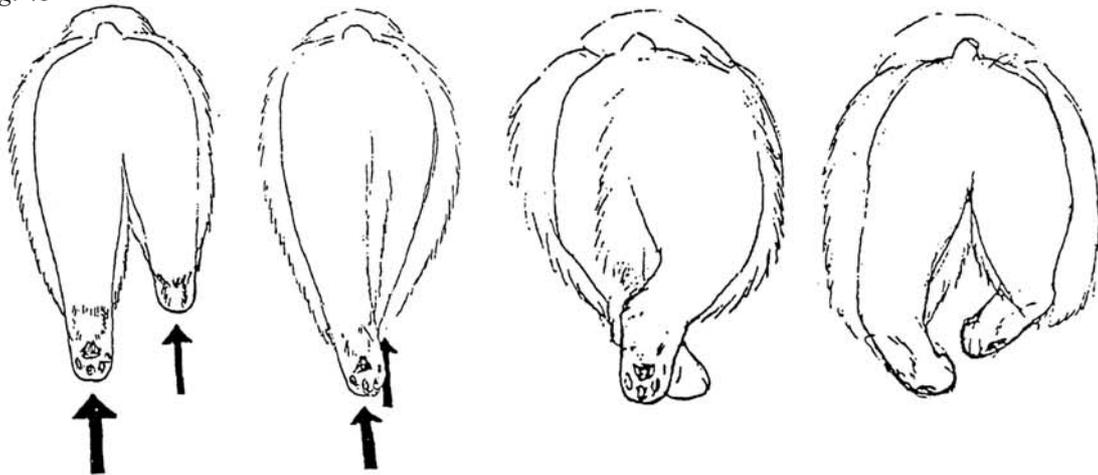
Fig. 42



Viewed from the front, the line of bone from shoulder joint to pad remains straight as the dog moves (left) inclining slightly inwardly as the speed increases (right).

Front legs must not swing out in semi-circles (left) nor mince or show any evidence of hackney action (right).

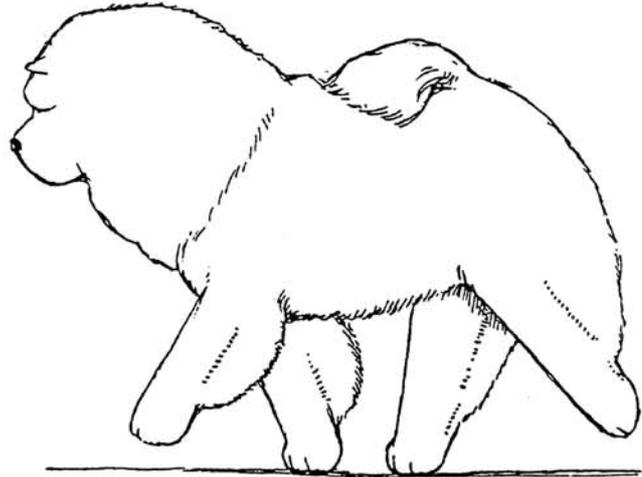
Fig. 43



Viewed from the front, the line of bone from shoulder joint to pad remains straight as the dog moves (left), inclining slightly inwardly as the speed increases (right).

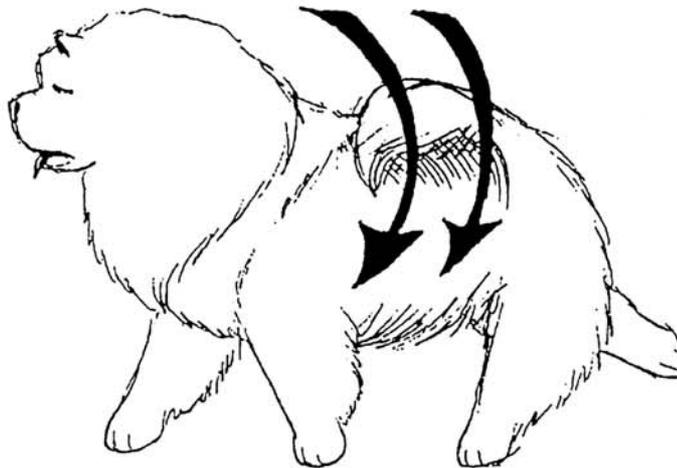
This will happen when the stifle joints incorrectly do not point in the line of travel.

Fig. 44



It is from the side that the unique stilted action is most easily assessed. Also note how the shoulder angle determines restricted front reach. The Chow should move with quick, short steps, not long, lumbering strides or high reach in the front or drive in the reach. A Chow's feet will minimally clear the ground because power is transmitted efficiently through the straight hindquarters, short-coupled body and the front assembly of a properly built Chow.

Fig. 45



There should be no roll through the midsection when a Chow moves.

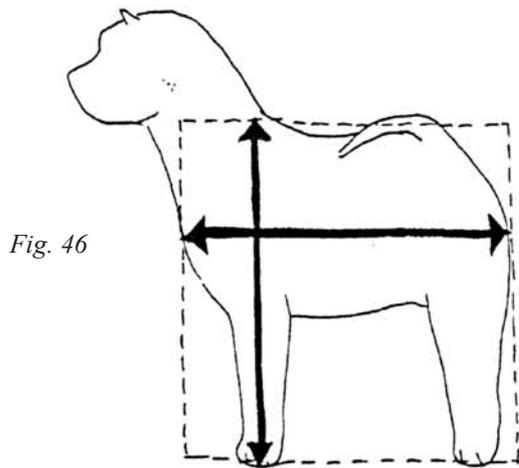
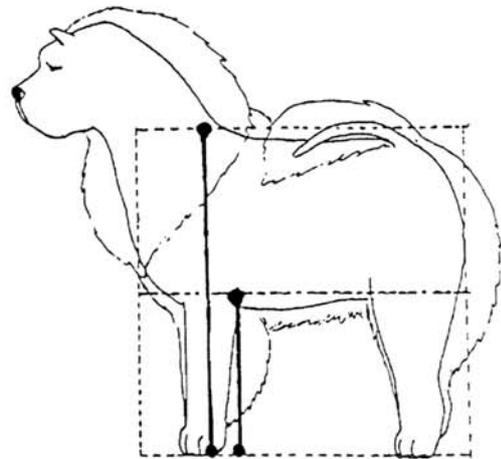


Fig. 46

The square profile is determined by measuring from the forechest to the point of the buttocks. This should equal the height at the highest point of the withers.



Distance from tip of elbow is half the height of the withers.

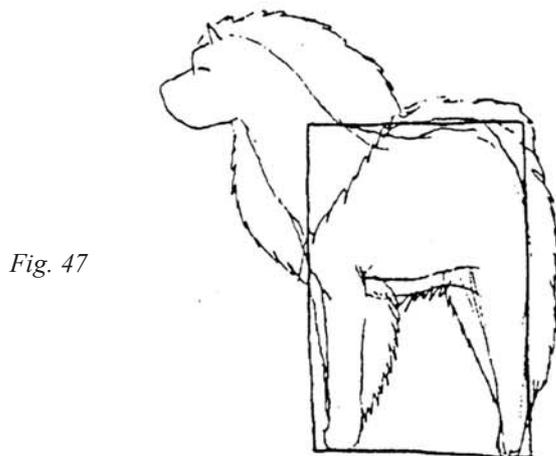
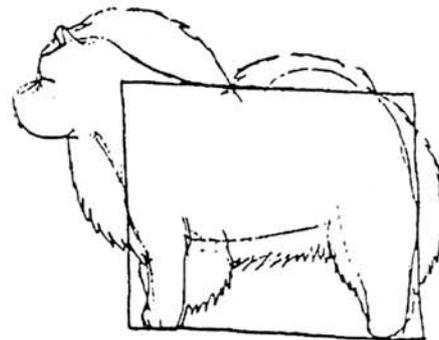


Fig. 47



Serious faults; a vertical rectangle (left) and a horizontal rectangle (right).



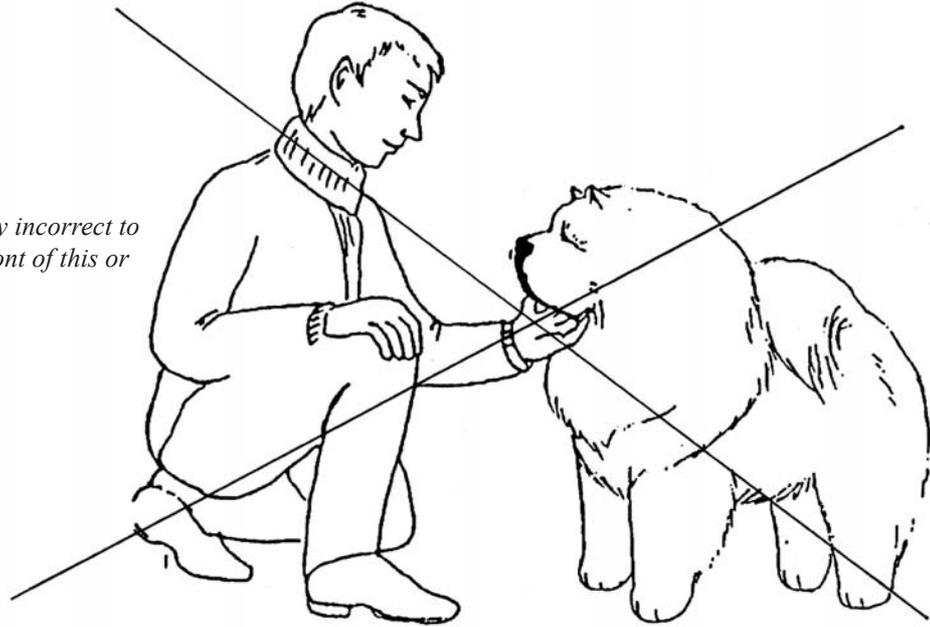
Fig. 48



Equally objectionable are snipey, fine boned specimens and overdone, ponderous, cloddy specimens.

Fig. 49

Note: It is definitely incorrect to kneel or squat in front of this or any other breed.



Because of its deep set eyes, the Chow has limited peripheral vision and is best approached within the scope of that vision (upper right). Coming from above or behind may startle him, causing him to pull back (left) or swing around (right) to see you.