

# THE GREYHOUND

Form Follows Function





## From *The Boke of Saint Albans*

This rhyme is attributed to Dame Juliana Berners, the abbess of Sopewell Nunery and was written in 1486. It gives a description of the greyhound which is perhaps the most concise statement of the fundamental essentials of the breed throughout history.

*A Greyhound shold be  
heeded lyke a snake  
And neckyd lyke a drake,  
Backed lyke a beam,  
Syded lyke a bream,  
Footed lyke a catte,  
Taylld lyke a ratte.*

The Greyhound Club of America Education Committee has put together the following information in an effort to help judges, potential judges and other interested parties understand and appreciate our breed.

This is a part of a continuing effort on our part so some of the information may change or be modified in the future. Any input you could provide to help us make this information more informative or accessible would be appreciated.



GCA Education Chairperson

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## **The AKC Breed Standard for The Greyhound**

**Head** - Long and narrow, fairly wide between the ears, scarcely perceptible stop, little or no development of the nasal sinuses, good length of muzzle, which should be powerful without coarseness. Teeth very strong and even in front.

**Ears** - Small and fine in texture, thrown back and folded, except when excited, when they are semi pricked.

**Eyes** - Dark, bright, intelligent, indicating spirit.

**Neck** - Long, muscular, without throatiness, slightly arched, and widening gradually into the shoulder.

**Shoulders** - Placed as obliquely as possible, muscular without being loaded.

**Forelegs** - Perfectly straight, set well into the shoulder, neither turned in nor out, pasterns strong.

**Chest** - Deep, and as wide as is consistent with speed, fairly well-sprung ribs.

**Back** - Muscular and broad

**Loins** - Good depth of muscle, well-arched, well cut up in the flanks.

**Hindquarters** - Long, very muscular and powerful, wide and well let down, well-bent stifles. Hocks well bent and rather close to the ground, wide but straight fore and aft.

**Feet** - Hard and close, rather more hare than cat-feet, well knuckled up with good strong claws.

**Tail** - Long, fine and tapering with a slight upward curve.

**Coat** - Short, smooth and firm in texture.

**Color** - Immaterial

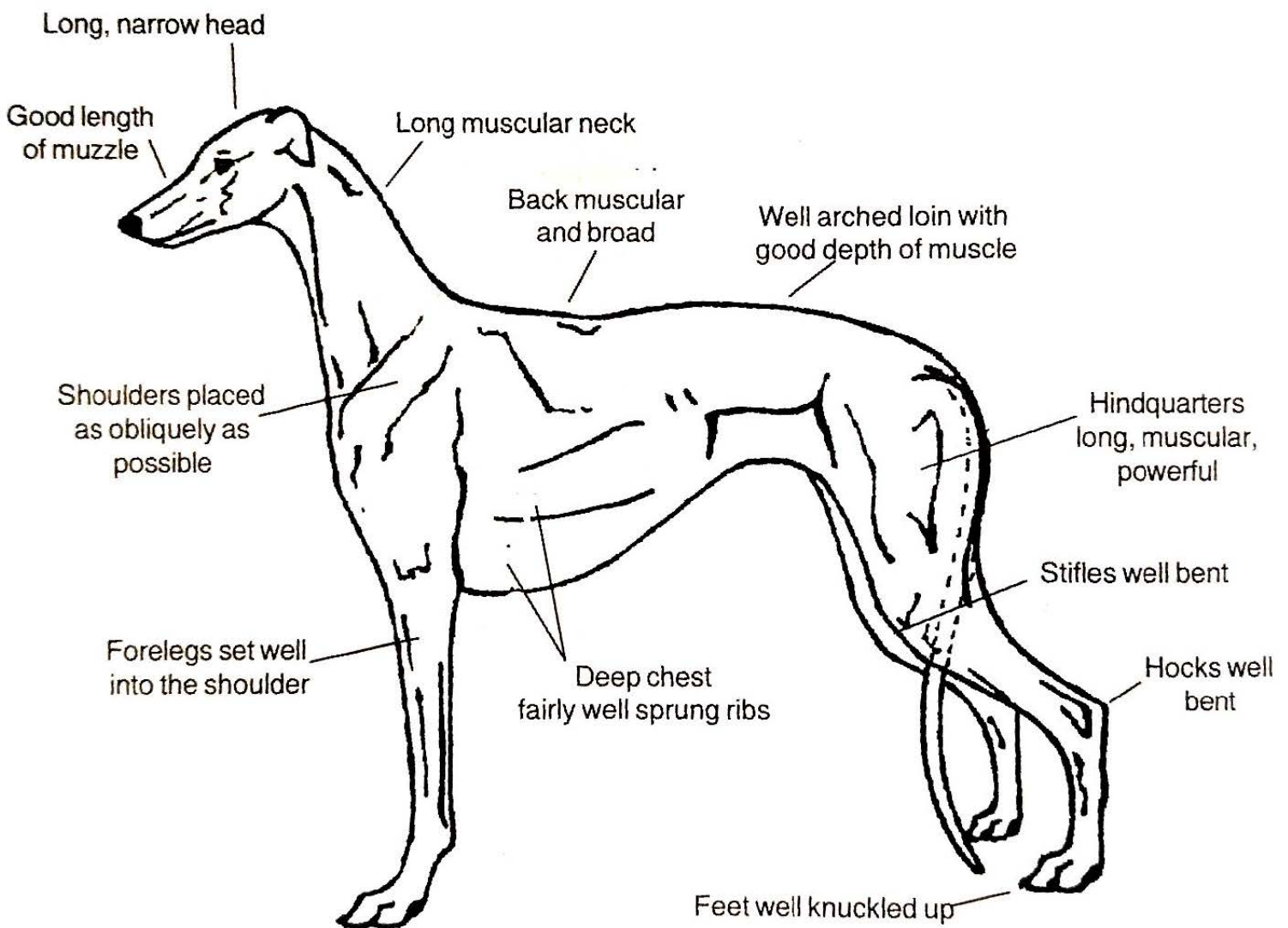
**Weight** - Dogs, 65 to 70 pounds; Bitches, 60 to 65 pounds.

### **Scale of Points**

General symmetry and quality.....	10	Back .....	10
Head and Neck .....	20	Quarters .....	20
Chest and shoulders .....	20	Legs and feet .....	20
Total .....		100	

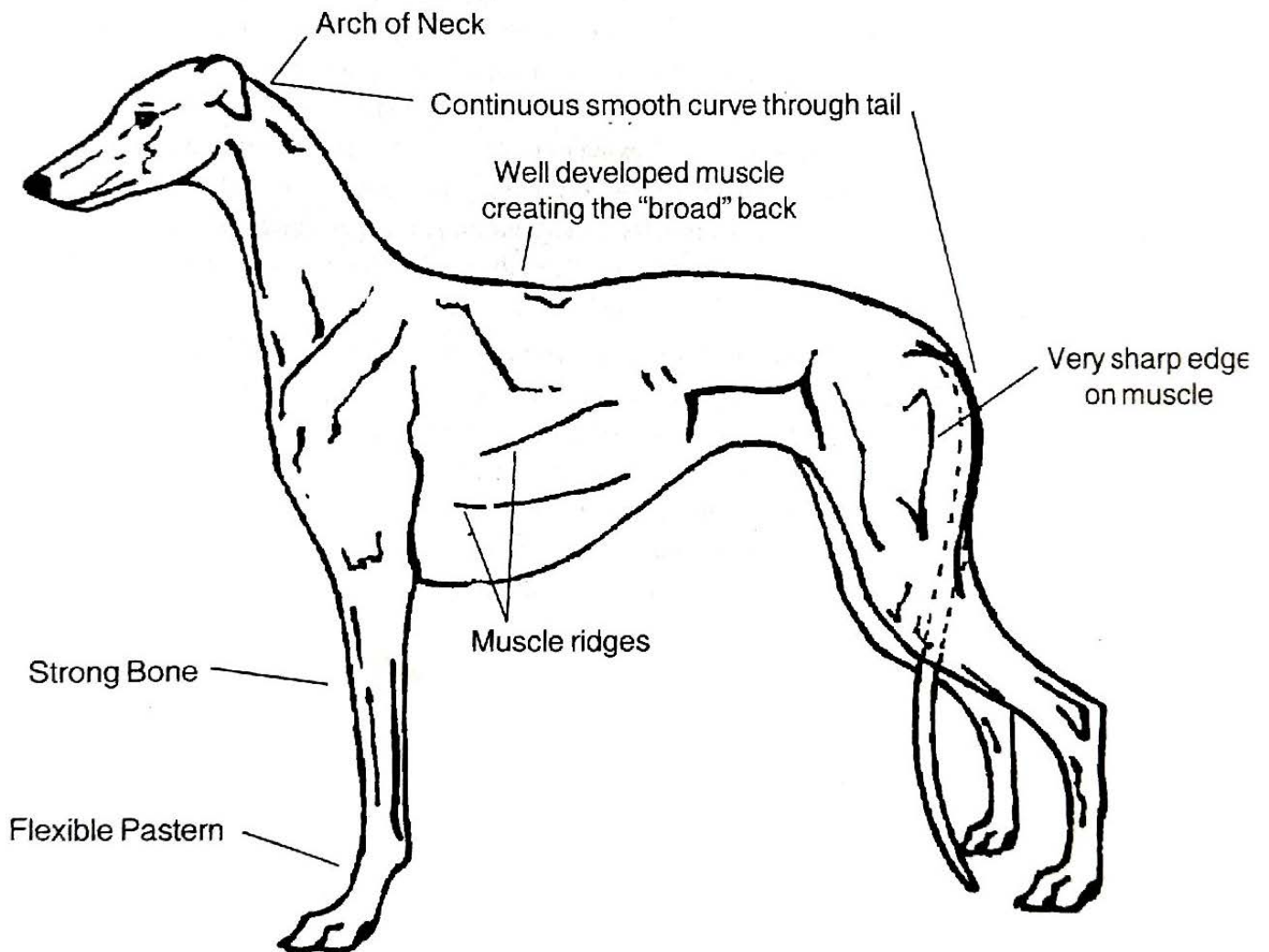


## The Illustrated Standard of the Greyhound





## Ideal Conditioning of the Greyhound

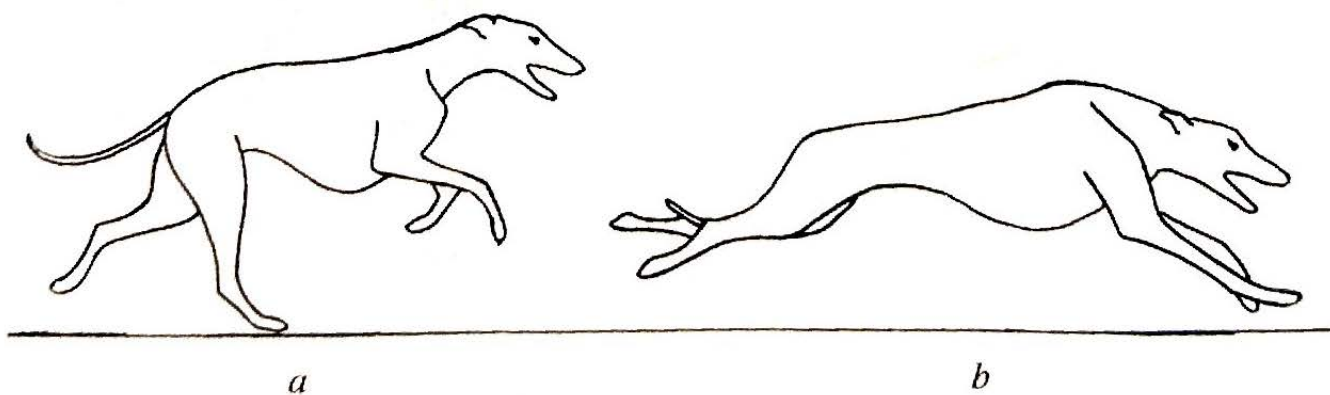


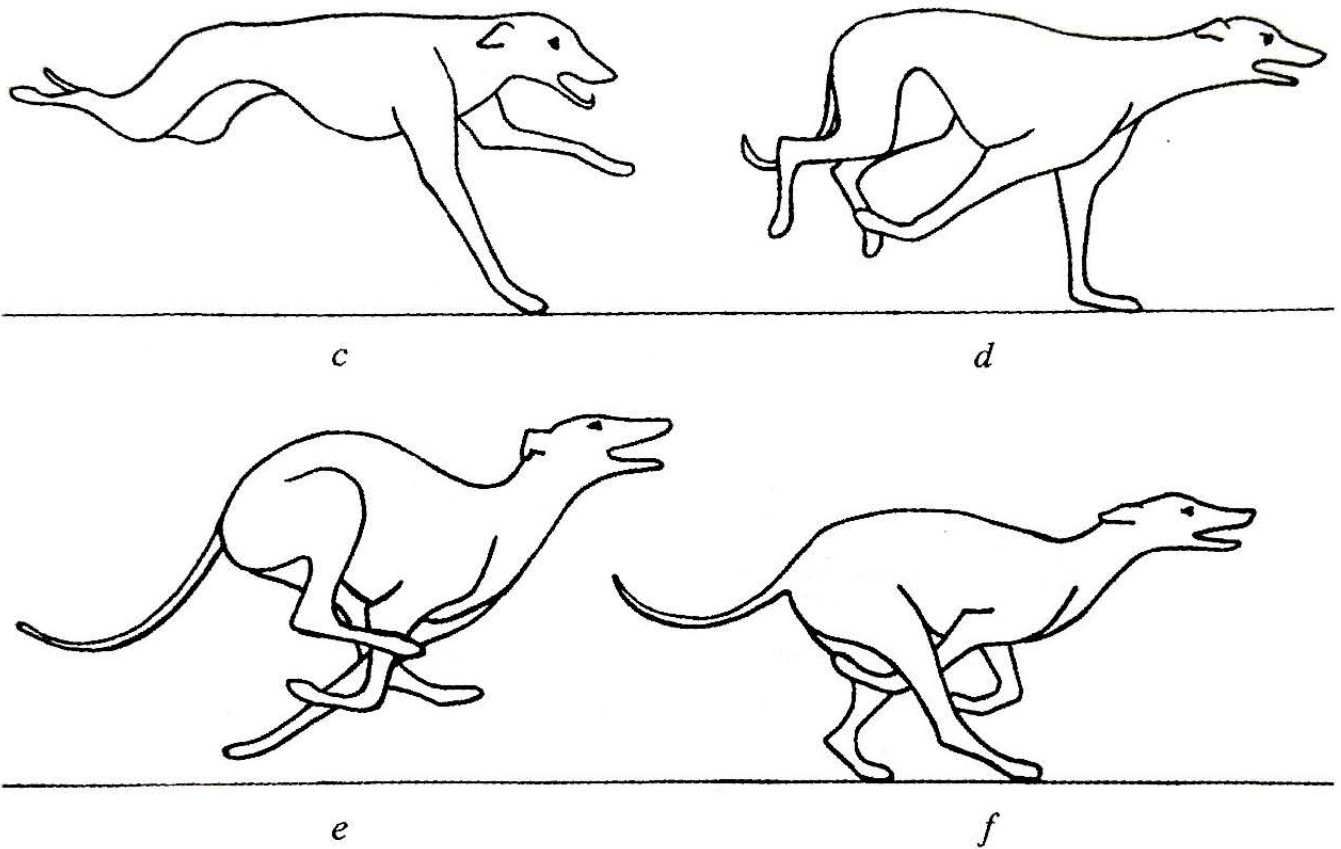


## The Greyhound - Form Follows Function

The function which distinguishes the greyhound (and other sighthounds) from the majority of breeds is the ability to run at speeds of 35 miles per hour or more. As the dogs in the sighthound family were developed to hunt by running down prey and catching it, great speed and agility, along with strength to catch and hold prey, were foremost in selecting stock. The gait of the running greyhound is the double suspension gallop, illustrated below. As the hound begins the gallop, he pushes off with one and then the other rear leg (a), lifting the front into a leap forward and becoming totally airborne in the fully extended position (b). The front feet land one after the other (c) and, as the weight transfers to the second front foot, the rear legs move forward (d) and the body of the hound folds to bring the rear feet forward of the front (e). At this point the front foot pushes off and the hound becomes airborne for the second time. The rear feet then land in sequence (f) and the hound prepares to make another leap forward.

The form of the greyhound reflects the requirements dictated by the functioning of an efficient running machine. In the structure of the greyhound, the segments of the dog are interconnected in such a way that the size and placement of each bone effects the entire structure and therefore the overall conformation of the dog. Let us examine this consideration beginning with the hindquarters and moving forward from there. The function of each major part of the body will be analyzed as well, to try to arrive at the ideal as we move along.

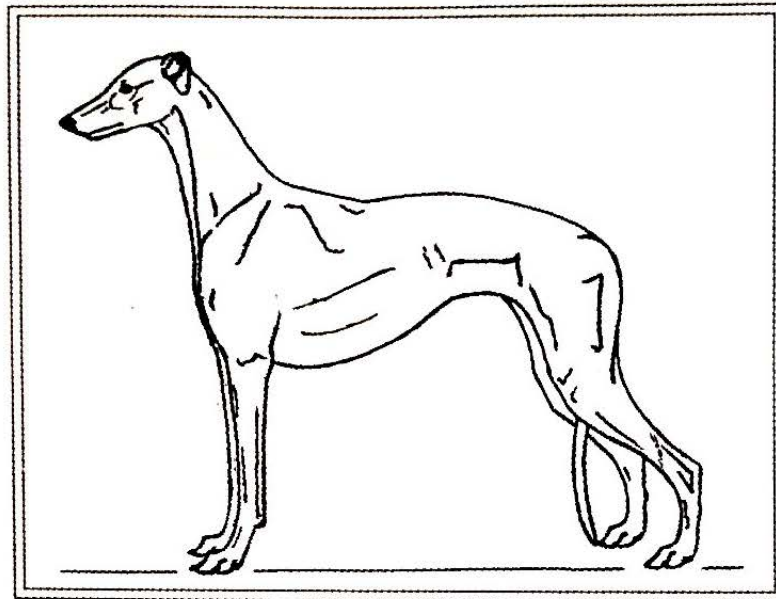




## **Hindquarters**

The four major parts of the hindquarters are the pelvic bone which determines the length and the slope of croup, the upper thigh and the second thigh which meet at the stifle, and the hock. The function of the parts will be addressed in terms of the double suspension gallop, as this is the gait the greyhound is designed to perform.

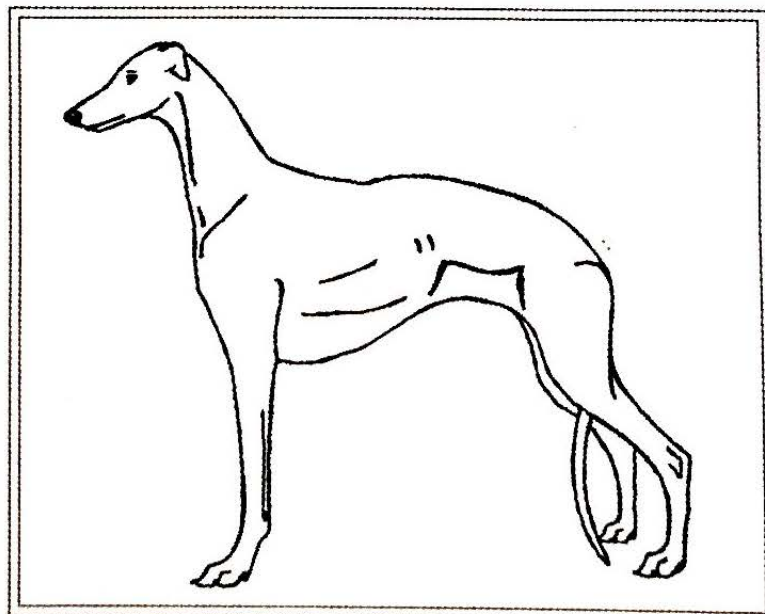
The main lever for the rear driving action is the upper thigh. In order to maximize the thrust of the leg, this bone should be very long, appearing as the longest of the three leg bones. The second thigh adds to the length of the lever with a hinge at the stifle joint and the hock joint is the third hinge to bring additional thrust from the foot. Muscling for the upper thigh is attached to the pelvic bone so, in order to



*Illustration #1  
The Ideal Greyhound*

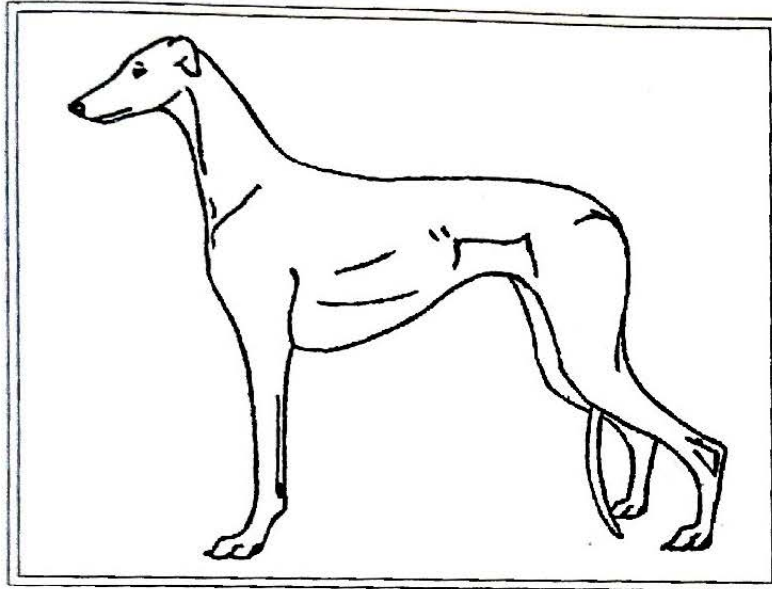
maximize the amount of muscle, the croup should be long and fairly flat. At the same time, a strong well muscled loin will have a gentle arch, leading into some slope of croup. There is room for some variation in slope of croup, as will be discussed later. Illustration #1 shows the ideal greyhound.

If the upper thigh becomes shorter without change in length of second thigh,



*Illustration # 2  
Short Upper Thigh*



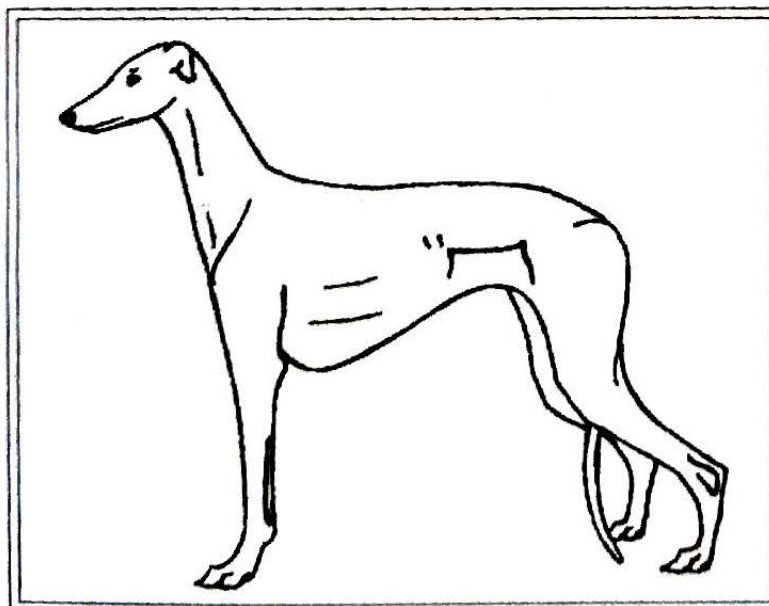


*Illustration # 3  
Long Second Thigh*

the croup must become steeper and this shifts the angle of the spine, increasing the arch over the loin, generally extending it onto the back. See illustration #2.

Lengthen the second thigh and either the croup and the top line will flatten out, as in illustration #3,

or it will be coupled with a very straight shoulder and upper arm assembly

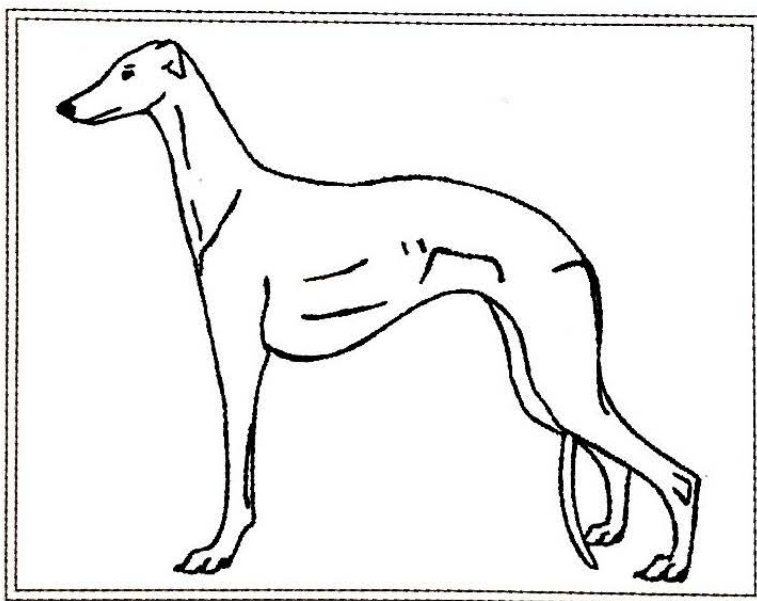


*Illustration # 4  
Straight Shoulder  
Long Second Thigh*



which increases the height of the dog to keep the topline basically level. Accompanying the long second thigh, we usually see a wide hock joint and often sickle hocks. See illustration #4

If both the shortening of the upper thigh and lengthening of second thigh occur, the dog will drop away in the rear and stand very far behind itself. This type of rear gives poor support to the body of the dog and doesn't produce the driving power needed for the gallop. The topline is distorted in that it rises abruptly, then



*Illustration # 5  
Straight Shoulder  
Long Second Thigh  
Short Upper Thigh*

falls away steeply, causing the loin portion to have a distinct slope rather than a gentle arch. Generally, this topline is inflexible. The hips will be low, the croup steep, and often there is an exaggerated bend of stifle. A straight front assembly will only aggravate this condition, as in illustration #5.

There are many more variations possible; for instance, if a steep croup is coupled with short bones all the way down, a very straight rear results. In general though, any alteration of one part of the rear structure will have an impact on the basic outline of the hound, particularly the topline, so it is important to have a good understanding of the correct topline.



## **Back & Loin**

The loin is an essential part of the running dog as there must be sufficient length to allow flexing as the dog moves from the folded position to the extended position. The entire spine takes part in this motion with the head thrown back as the loin folds and thrust down as the back flattens out. The raising and lowering of the head and neck augments the motion in the rest of the spine like waves flowing down a rope when it is moved up and down rapidly. The movement follows through the tail as well. In order to move in this manner, the spine must be flexible and very well muscled, which gives us the broad back called for in the standard. When the greyhound is in peak condition, the strip of muscling on either side of the spine will be quite evident, from the shoulders to the start of the croup. The reason the neck is to be “slightly arched” is that this is indicative of flexibility through the spine. However, it must be coupled with sufficient muscling. A long, mobile tail is the “grand finale” to the flow of motion from the base of the head through the entire dog. This motion is amusingly evident when the greyhound shakes, beginning with a sideways movement of the head which sends ripples all the way down the dog and culminates with a last little wiggle at the end of the tail.

## **Front Assembly**

The main concept behind the form of the greyhound is the ability to get from folded to extended and back again as efficiently as possible, with the addition of the ability to make a sharp change in direction while in motion. The stronger thrust comes from the rear legs as the dog goes into the outstretched position. This means that the front assembly will have to absorb the stronger impact when the airborne dog makes contact with the earth. If the parts are working smoothly together, the impact will be diminished, as the front feet will follow the flow of the forward motion. However, for half of the stride, the front legs will be bearing the entire weight of the dog and propelling it forward with enough force to continue the momentum from the rear thrust. This is why balance between the front and rear is so essential to a running dog.

The pasterns need to be strong but somewhat flexible in order to be “shock absorbers” when the dog lands on the front. A well angled shoulder and upper arm also serve this purpose, although there is much more to the function of that assem-

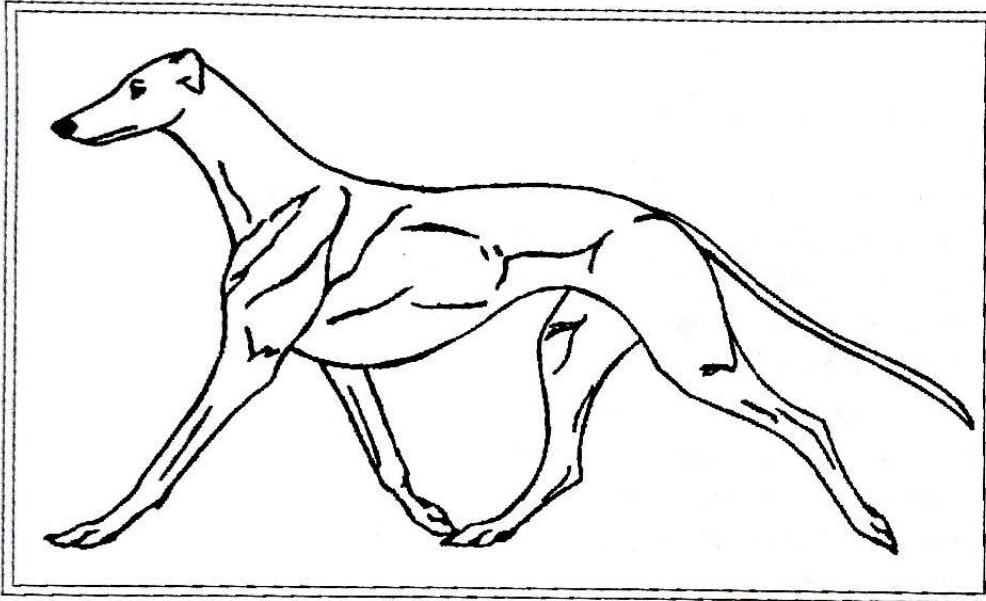


bly. It is important that the dog reach out as far as possible to maximize the length of the stride. This is facilitated by a long well laid back shoulder blade which will determine the angle of the leg at full extension. A long upper arm will extend the length of the leg when outstretched. The forearm needs to be strong in bone and generous in length as it is highly stressed by the impact, and is the main lever in the second half of the stride. The pasterns should be short, strong and flexible, as mentioned before. The shoulder angle doesn't open completely as the front leg extends and when the dog lands, the angles at the shoulder, elbow and pastern cushion the impact. Then, as the stride continues, the shoulder angle closes as the front legs push back and the final push comes from the pastern as it flips back. The two front legs do not make this motion simultaneously. Rather, one leg begins the stride, and the other follows, so the dog actually makes the final push from one pastern and is then airborne for a second time.

## Gait

All of this running motion requires great strength from good muscling. How does this translate into the trot which is observed in the show ring? It should be quite evident that a dog capable of running at speeds around 35 m.p.h. will put out very little effort in order to trot at the speed of his human handler. When the greyhound is actually hunting live game, the trot is his "resting" gait as he looks for something to chase. Even at this moderate speed, it is not easy for a person to keep up. Therefore, when we observe the greyhound in the ring, we should not expect to see a dog putting a lot of energy into his movement. The trip around the ring should be light and effortless. The front will reach out (if the structure is there) but there will not be a hard-working impression. A light flip of the pastern joint will propel the dog forward at human speed. The rear also will not give the impression of hard-driving force as that is reserved for the gallop. There should be a fluidity to the motion, rather than brute force. The greyhound can be described as a balance between "Superman" and "Giselle". At the trot, "Giselle" will be more evident, at the gallop, "Superman".

A lifting motion in the front as the dog trots can be due to a number of causes, all centering around the total balance of the dog. Most commonly, it is a lack of balance between front and rear angulation. Extreme angulation in the rear creates a mechanism which will cover a lot of ground with each stride. When this is coupled



*Illustration # 6  
The Fluid Trot  
(with a fairly  
high head carriage)*

with a straighter front assembly which cannot move as far, the dog has to do something to keep the legs moving in sequence and at the same speed. He adds vertical motion into the front of the stride in order to use up the time of the rear stride. The lifting action can also occur when the rear angle is balanced with a very good front angle, but the body length of the dog is not sufficient. This causes the front and rear feet to interfere with each other and the dog will "crab, "sidewind", or lift the front to keep it out of the way of the rear.

Head carriage while trotting varies somewhat, but a very high head carriage is generally handler induced. The head should be above the shoulder level, but if it is forced to be held too high, restriction of the front movement will result, producing either a short step or a hackney gait. During the hunt, the trotting hound would vary the height of its head depending on the terrain, a higher carriage being required to look over obstructions or to view a more distant horizon, or if game has been spotted at a distance too great to begin a gallop. A greyhound who is excited in the show ring will have a higher head carriage, but one should not be faulted for carrying the head a bit lower, as it is normal and may even contribute to a longer stride. The greyhound should always be shown on a loose lead - not "strung up".



## Agility

Coming back to the croup, we find that more angle gives the legs more reach forward and less to the rear, and vice versa. Extra forward reach with the rear can also contribute to interference with the front at a trot and does not contribute as much to propulsion at the gallop as more extension to the rear does. However, the steeper croup does add to the dog's turning ability, as it gets the rear foot well under the dog's center of gravity at the time of contact, which gives the dog better balance as the turn is made.

When the dog makes the turn on a front foot, flexibility in the shoulders (which translates to good angulation) and good width between shoulder blades are essential. In the front, a balance between muscling and mobility is of the greatest importance. Width in the front, that is, width of body, also assists the dog to maintain balance when making a turn on a front foot.

Body width, or spring of ribs, does not directly affect the ability of the dog to run, but does have an indirect influence. The standard addresses it in terms of interfering with movement if it is excessive, but calls for "fairly well sprung" ribs depth of chest and rib spring provide space for the large heart and for well developed lungs, giving the dog the stamina needed to maintain speed. In addition, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the wider dog is better balanced in a turn. A very tall, narrow dog would be less stable and therefore need to slow down more to make a turn.

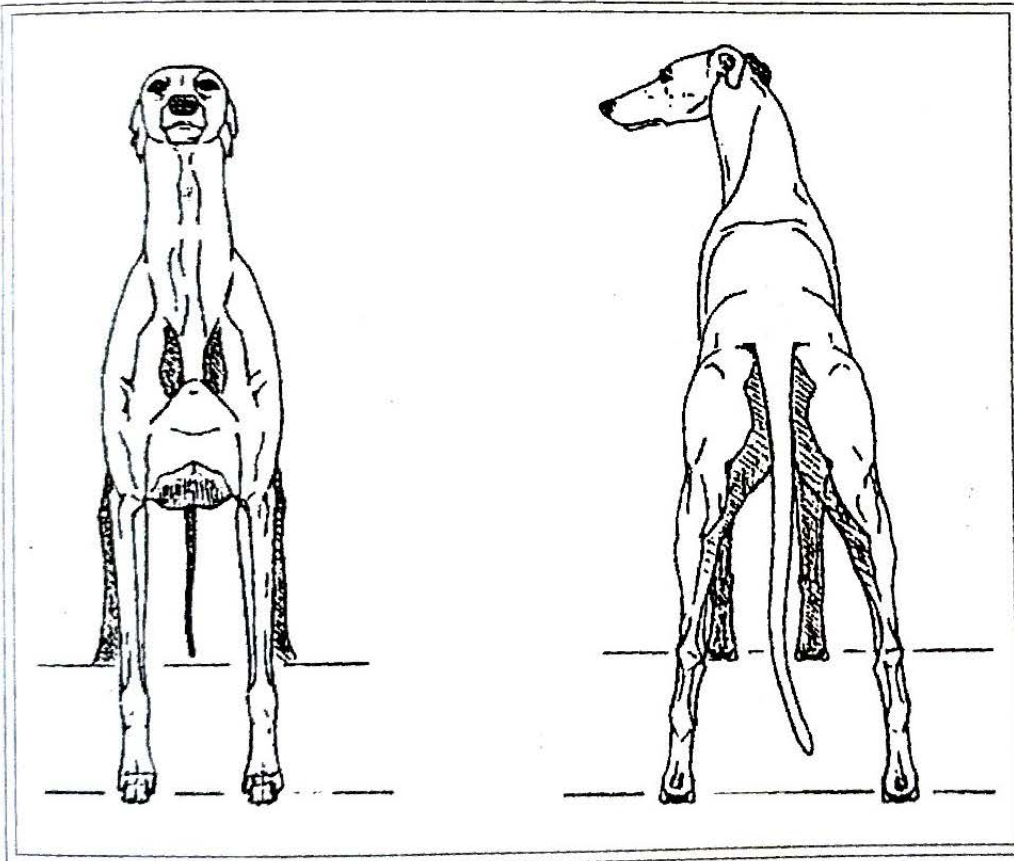
## Muscling

Viewed from the front, good shoulder muscling should be evident, and there should be good fill between the front legs, which extend parallel down to the feet. The bone should be long from elbow to pastern joint, but at the same time must be of adequate substance to take the impact of the full gallop. When the angles of the shoulder blade and upper arm are correct, and the body is well formed, with good depth and spring of ribs, and front fill will be good. If the upper arm does not return well under the body, there will be a hollow, cut-up front. Although the front should be well filled, a forechest such as is seen on many working breeds is not desirable, as this would interfere with the free movement of the front assembly.

Looking down at the hound from the rear, the breadth of the back can be



seen. The muscles along the spine should form a wide, flat surface, with the spine only slightly visible. At the rise over the loin, the vertebrae are more evident, but not strongly pronounced. The muscling extends to the pelvic bones and provides much of the power to the running dog as he flexes the spinal column. The pelvis is broad, with plenty of space between the hip bones to allow free movement forward and backward. The prominence of the hip bones varies somewhat with the angle of the croup, but they are not as pronounced as in the Afghan Hound. Good



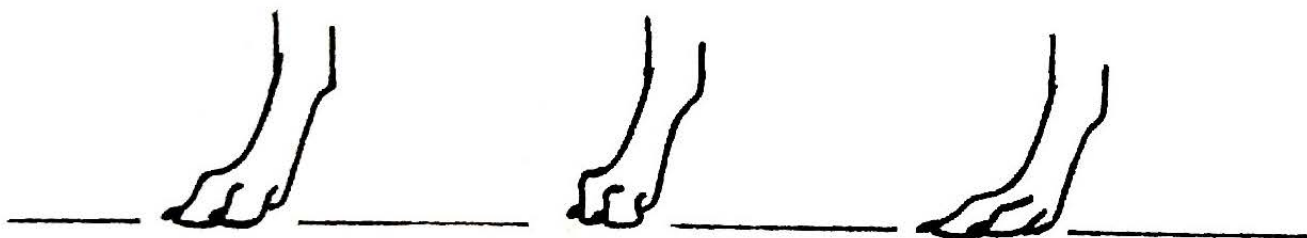
*Illustration # 7  
The Ideal Front and  
Rear View*

muscling should be evident through the hips, the thighs and the second thighs. The upper thigh has the most impressive muscling and, when the dog is in peak condition, it will have almost a knife edge running the length of the thigh. Muscling on the second thighs is important as well, as that section of the leg will contribute little to



running power if there is not sufficient muscle to propel the dog. The width of the rear begins at the hips and continues through the well muscled thighs to the feet, set slightly wider than the width of the hips.

Even the tail of the greyhound serves a function as the dog runs, acting as a counterbalance, especially during a turn. It may spin rapidly as the dog slows, then whip to the side as he makes the turn. This requires good muscle which gives the thick base to the tail. The tailset should be fairly low and the tail tappers gradually to a point, sometimes being long enough to almost touch the ground. It is carried in a gentle S curve, which may tighten as the dog becomes excited, when the carriage may even be somewhat high, but at no time should the angle of the tail leaving the body be above horizontal.



*Illustration # 8 Correct Foot*

*Incorrect Cat Foot*

*Incorrect Hare Foot*

## Feet

Feet are also very important to the running dog, as they are its contact with the ground. They must be fairly large, with long, well knuckled toes, tight together. The shape of the footprint should be oval rather than round, the central toes being somewhat longer than the outer toes. Nails should be strong and long enough to give good traction at the gallop.

## Head

Greyhounds are a pretty breed. In a mixed crowd of dogs, the plainest of greyhounds will stand out as a pretty dog. Even among sighthounds, it is one of the prettiest breeds, especially in the head. Sometimes breeders (and judges) become blinded by the pretty aspects of greyhounds, and begin to overlook some of the essentials which go into making up a sound, well functioning animal, exaggerating



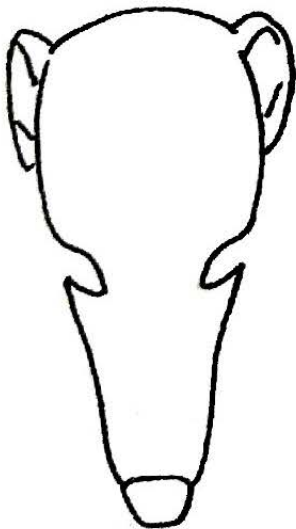


the features which add to the prettiness of the breed and worrying more about the “head, neck and ears” than about the “front, body and rear”, or becoming enraptured with the standing silhouette of the hound without concern for the view from either fore or aft, or for the moving dog. A well balanced greyhound of proper conformation will present a beautiful picture from any angle, at rest or in motion. There is no thrill like watching a greyhound trotting effortlessly along, stopping to focus on a sound or a movement which has caught its attention, standing four-square, ears alert, neck arched and every muscle ready for action, then suddenly bursting into a full gallop in pursuit of its quarry.

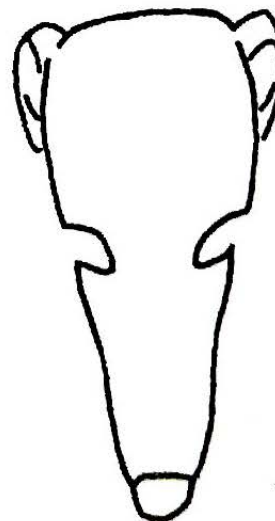
That being said, we have looked at the major parts of the greyhound’s body, let us now look at the aspects of the “head, neck and ears” with both an aesthetic and a functional orientation.

The official standard for the greyhound describes the head as “long and narrow, fairly wide between the ears”. It is only fitting that a dog which is long and narrow should have a long, narrow head, but, as with the body, there are limits to how long and narrow is desired. We must resist falling into the trap of “if some is good, then more is better”. So, how much is enough?

Lets start with the muzzle and jaws. Length gives a wide mouth opening to



*Illustration # 9  
Long Oval Backskull  
Less Length of Muzzle  
Correct*



*Illustration # 10  
Shorter, Squarer  
Backskull  
Longer Muzzle  
Correct*



better grasp the prey, but if there is not sufficient width to the jaws as well, strength and holding ability will be diminished. With a very narrow muzzle, the incisors will be crowded, hampering eating ability (though probably not with the commercial diets we feed our dogs). The underjaw in particular needs to be strong, as that is the part which moves and actually does the grasping. The backskull forms the "fairly wide" part of the head and should be adequate to contain the brain and eye sockets. The top of the skull is flat and blends into the muzzle with a "barely perceptible stop", but should not have the fill between the eyes which is seen in the Borzoi head. The greyhound has a more forward looking eye than the Borzoi, but there should be good width between the eyes, precluding an extremely narrow skull. The meeting of the skull and the underjaw must be well muscled, producing something of a cheek. The strong muscling needs to extend down onto the neck, which is long and somewhat arched. The strength in the neck and jaws of a well muscled greyhound is quite amazing.

The ears are small, fine and held in a rose position, which blends them into the streamlined appearance of the hound. When the dog is excited, they are lifted, but remain partially folded. The muscling on the top of the head moves the ears and contributes much to the expression of the face. The mobility of the ears does have some functional quality as well, as a greyhound's first clue to the presence of game may be a sound (or a scent), before anything is visible.

There are two types of eyes which are seen on the greyhound. One type is the intense piercing eye, before which the timid rabbit collapses of a heart attack, saving the greyhound the trouble of the chase, the other is the large "doe eye", which is a deep well of love, able to melt the coldest of hearts, and even more effective for acquiring a gourmet meal, generally of human quality and far superior to simple rabbit tartare. Arrian praised the fiery eye, but today the doe eye seems more prevalent, at least on the AKC hounds, perhaps because the adoring looks do so much for our egos.

Returning to the overall look of the head, the proportions between the muzzle and the skull should be approximately equal in length. If the skull is too small in proportion to the muzzle, there will not be adequate attachment for muscle to work the jaw. Chiseling of the muzzle, mainly in front of the eyes, adds to the overall elegance of the head, and functionally, allows the hound unobstructed for-



ward vision. The lips should be tight enough to allow the underjaw to be visible and give a clean, smooth look to the muzzle.

Within these guidelines, there are many variations which produce the individual faces of the various hounds. Most of these are very pleasing to the eye, and of course the many colors and markings which are all acceptable in the breed contribute a lot to giving each greyhound his own face. There are also variations in head shape, especially backskull, which give different lines their "family looks". There is nothing wrong with this. Variation within the recommended limitations gives the breed a lot of vitality.

## **Coat & Color**

The coat of the Greyhound is smooth and sleek with a range from satin to fine velvet. The length of hair can vary somewhat, with the slightly longer hair giving the hound a bit more protection from the elements. At any rate, there should not be enough length to create any feathering and the hair should lie very flat on the body. The velvety coat is very short and fine and will not be very dense unless the hound is outside a lot in cold weather, which causes the growth of undercoat.

Color and markings are, according to the standard, "immaterial". Naturally, everyone has a preference, but this should not need allowed to influence judging of the hound's merits.

There are three basic colors for Greyhound; black, brindle and red, with two dilution factors, blue and the rarely seen liver. In addition, there are four patterns of markings; solid color, Irish marked, parti-color and white with very sparse markings. Most of the parti-colors and whites carry ticking (spotting in the hair) and/or flecking (spotting on the skin covered by white hairs). The combination of the three colors with new dilution gives blue, blue brindle and blue fawn with blue pigment on nose and eye rims, and, generally, a somewhat lighter eye color. Even with the dilutes, the darker eye is preferred, and in no case should the eyes be yellow or blue.

The liver factor creates a "chocolate" color over black, a liver brindle which has browned striping on the red background and a red with brown pigmentation. Again, the eyes tend to be lighter than on the full color hounds.

Solid color markings may show a bit of white on the feet, chest and front of



neck, and sometimes a blaze on the muzzle, but the greyhound is mainly colored. And the Irish marked hound, the white extends up the legs to make "stockings" and the white on the neck wraps around, making a collar. Parti-color Greyhound have large or small patches of color on a white background and, as mentioned previously, are often ticked or flecked on the white areas. The white is just that, with only a few small patches of color appearing on the head and base of tail, or even totally devoid of markings, again with some ticking or flecking. It is possible in this pattern to have a hound which is very heavily ticked yet has no patches of color.

The wide variety of color and markings in the Greyhound add to the individuality of each hound and each is as valid as any other. A Greyhound should never be penalized in the ring for a color or markings which may not be as attractive as another hound's.

## Size

Throughout the history of the breed, the Greyhound has been used to hunt a variety of game, from rabbits through deer. Teddy Roosevelt wrote of coursing coyote and wolves in the American West in the early 1900's. This multiplicity of uses has led to a range in size of the hounds and some variation in substance. The standard lists a weight range for dogs and for bitches, giving the idea that the Greyhound is not as large as a Great Dane, not as small as a whippet. However, to estimate the weight of an animal in the ring is a task nearly impossible for even an experienced breeder. At any size, a Greyhound should be well balanced in all aspects (angulation, height to length to breadth, size to substance) and should move gracefully around the ring. In the point scale of the standard there is no reference to size and it should not enter into the evaluation unless it renders the dog ungainly.



## **Gallery of Outstanding Greyhounds**

The following are representative Greyhounds from the past, all conforming to the standard, but illustrating the range of appearance which is acceptable. This is by no means a complete collection of all of the best, but was selected to demonstrate the variety seen in good animals.

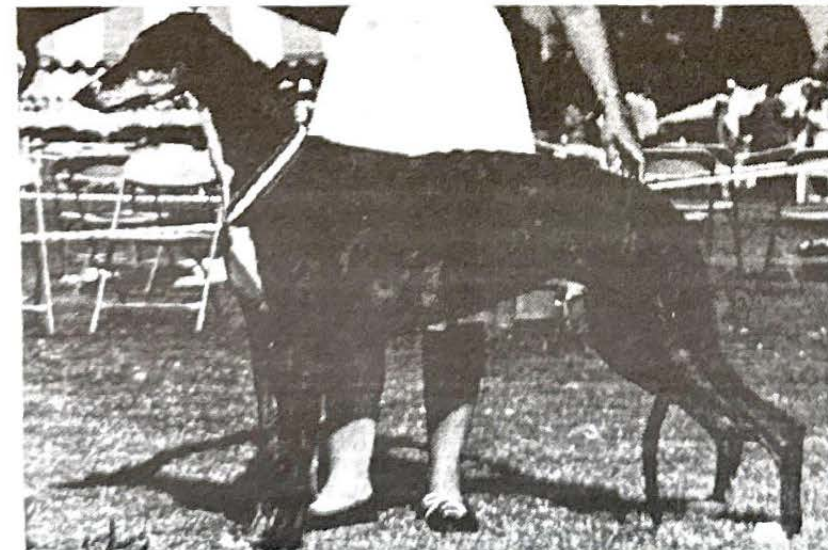
THE GREYHOUND



Ch. Little Andely's Dark Cloud  
Breeder/Owner: Mrs. Harding T. Mason



Boveway Beau Brummel  
Breeder: Harry Peake  
Owner: Harry T. Peters, Jr.



Ch. Myosho My Musketeer  
Breeder/Owner: Mr. & Mrs. William Mooney



*Form follows Function*

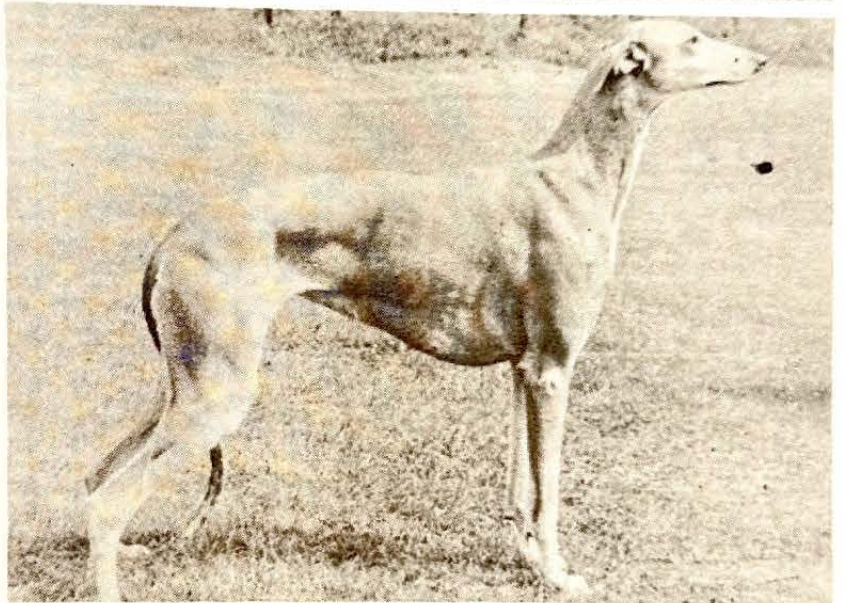
### Ch. Rockets Midnight Traveler

Breeder: Mary Trubek  
Owner: Bonnie Ann Toriani



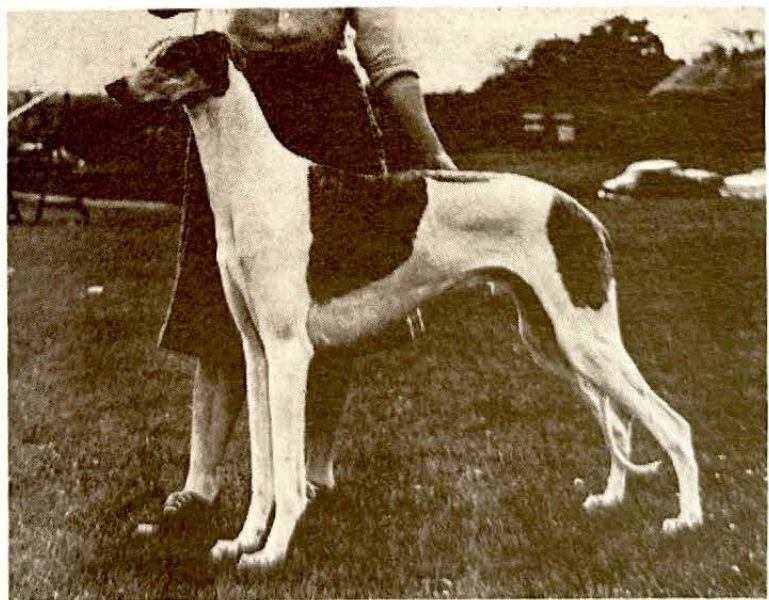
### Shalfleet Shimmering

Breeder: Barbara Wilton-Clark  
Owner: Rita Barlett



### Ch. Rudel's Johnny Come Lately

Breeder/Owner: Drs. Rudolph & Eisie Neustadt



## THE GREYHOUND



### Ch. GreyRoc Winged Victory

Breeder: Peter W. Sans

Owner: Bob Goldstein & Martin Miller



### Ch. Suntiger Traveler

Breeder: Patricia Gail Burnham

Owner: Linda Bell, Dr. Elsie Neustadt,  
& Patricia Gail Burnham



### Ch. Windholme Spring Intrigue

Breeder/Owner: Windholme Kennels





*Form follows Function*

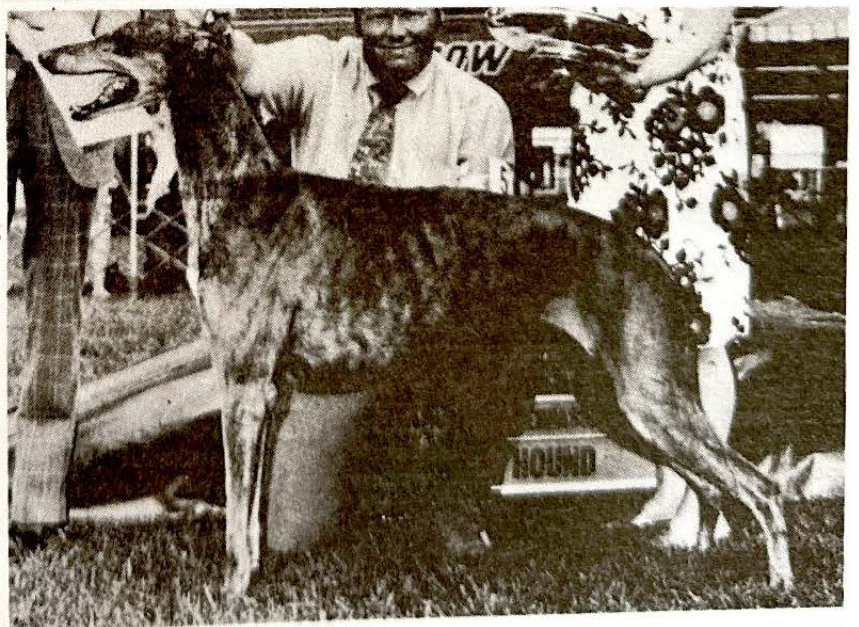
**Treetops Blue Gown**  
Breeder: Judy de Casembroot  
Owner: Mrs. S. Hallock DuPont



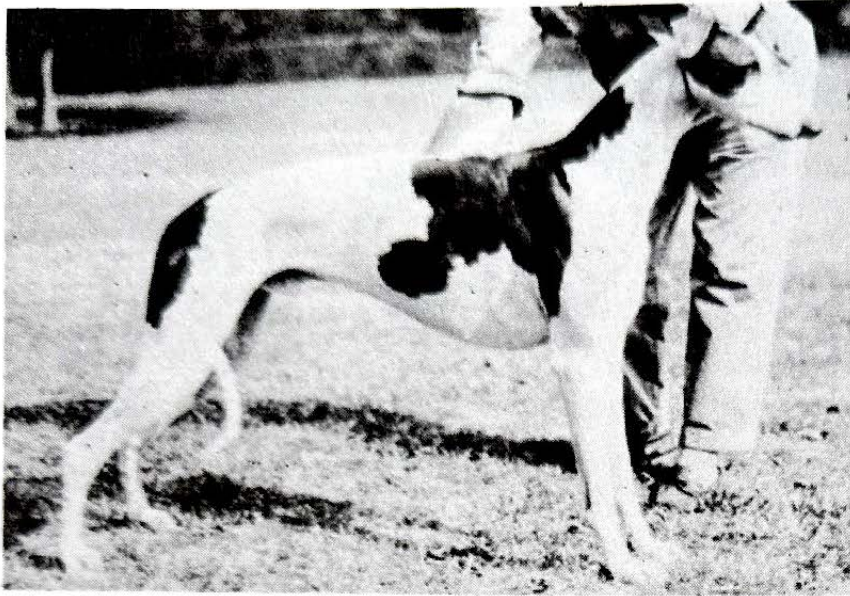
**Ch. Aroi Talk of the Blues**  
Breeder: Georgianna Mueller  
Owner: Nathan & Gloria Reese



**Ch. Huzzah The Drumbeat**  
Breeder/Owner: Pat Ide

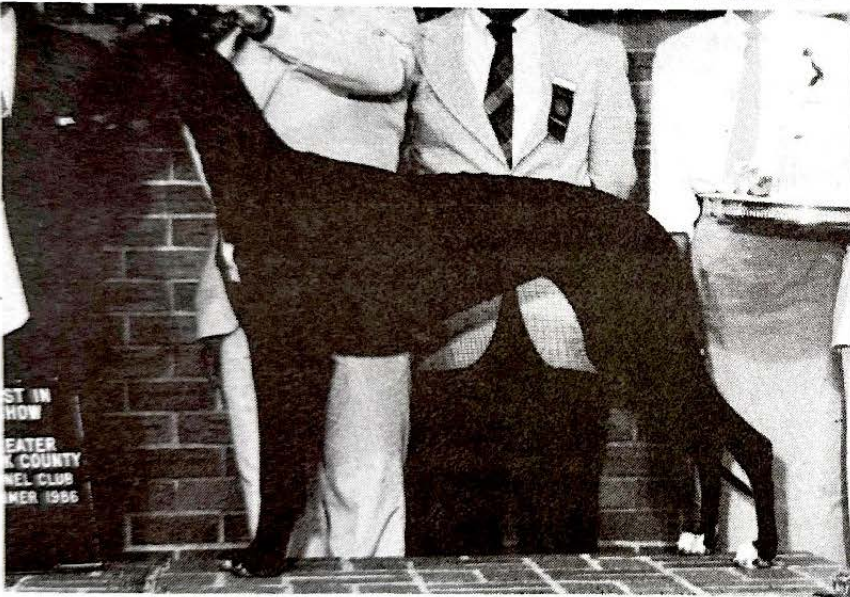


## THE GREYHOUND



**Ch. Downsbraugh Court Martial**

Breeder/Owner: William W. Brainard, Jr.



**Ch. Heathero Gallant Goblin**

Breeder: Jean Metzler & Linda Transchel

Owner: Donald N. Ginter MD

& C. Lee Mayfield



**Ch. Seagift Parcancady Bluebell**

Breeder: Peter George

Owner: Stanley D. Petter, Jr.



## **The English Standard for The Greyhound**

**General Appearance** - Strongly built, upstanding, of generous proportions, muscular power and symmetrical formation, with long head and neck, clean well laid shoulders, deep chest, capacious body, arched loin, powerful quarters, sound legs and feet, and suppleness of limb, which emphasize in a marked degree its distinctive type and quality.

**Characteristics** - Possessing remarkable stamina and endurance.

**Temperament** - Intelligent, gentle, affectionate and even tempered.

**Head and Skull** - Long, moderate width, flat skull, slight stop. Jaws powerful and well chiselled.

**Eyes** - Bright, intelligent, oval and obliquely set. Preferably dark.

**Ears** - Small, rose-shape of fine texture.

**Mouth** - Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

**Neck** - Long and muscular, elegantly arched, well let into shoulders.

**Forequarters** - Shoulders oblique, well set back, muscular without being loaded, narrow and cleanly defined at top. Forelegs, long and straight, bone of good substance and quality. Elbows free and well set under shoulders. Pasterns moderate length, lightly sprung. Elbows, pasterns and toes inclining neither in or out.

**Body** - Chest deep and capacious, providing adequate heart room. Ribs deep, well sprung and carried well back. Flanks well cut up. Back rather long, broad and square. Loin powerful, slightly arched.

**Hindquarters** - Thighs and second thighs, wide and muscular, showing great propelling power. Stifles well bent. Hocks well let down, inclining neither in nor out. Body and hindquarters features of ample proportions and well coupled, enabling adequate ground to be covered when standing.

**Feet** - Moderate length, with compact, well knuckled toes and strong pads.

**Tail** - Long, set on rather low, strong at root, tapering to point, carried low, slightly curved.

**Gait/Movement** - Straight, low reaching, free stride enabling the ground to be covered at great speed. Hind legs coming well under body giving great propulsion.

**Coat** - Fine and close

**Color** - Black, white, red, blue, fawn, fallow, brindle or any of these colors broken with white.

**Size** - Ideal height: Dogs 28-30 ins; Bitches 26-28 ins

**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.

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

*The English standard has been included here because there are areas where it more fully describes the ideal greyhound, notably, the opening paragraphs on "Characteristics" and "General Appearance". The descriptions of forequarters, body and hindquarters are more detailed as well. However, there are two significant differences between the English and the American standards. The American standard calls for a well arched loin, the English for a slightly arched loin. In addition, the English height standard and American weight standard are difficult to reconcile. A dog or bitch who conformed to both would be greatly lacking in substance and probably underweight as well, although a bitch of 26 inches weighing 65 pounds is not out of proportion.*