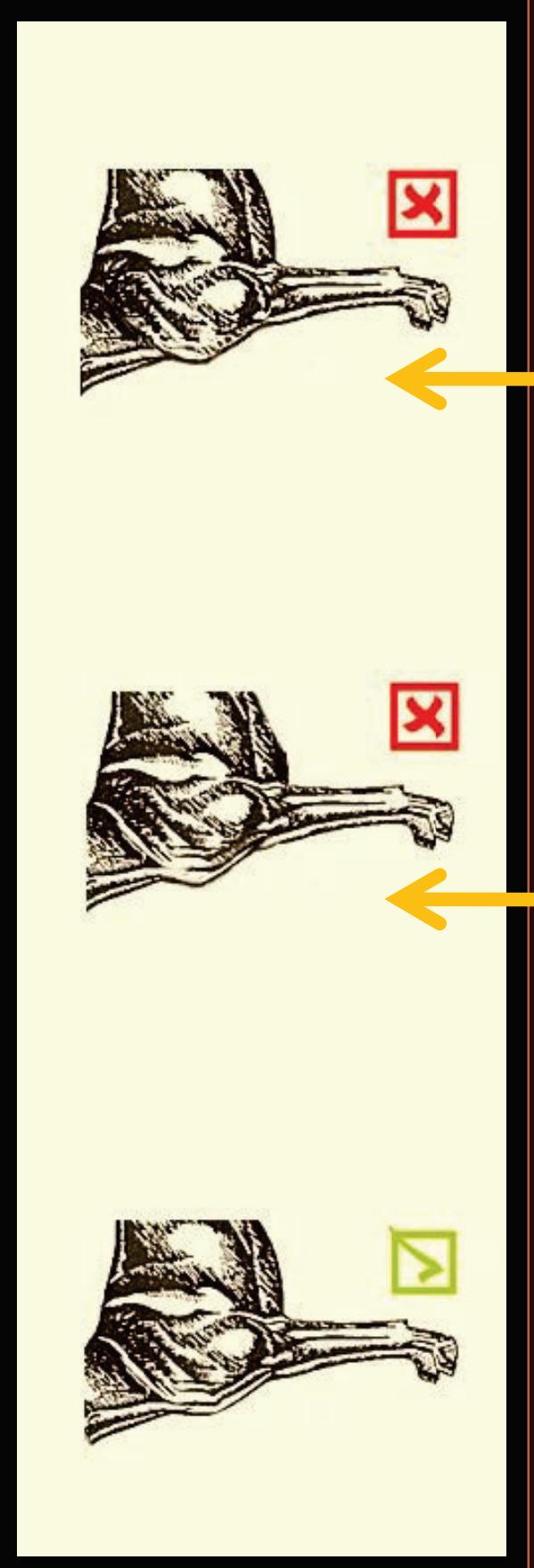


by the way...



➤ if prosternum is too high, angle to brisket is too sharp, leading to clipped keel

➤ if shoulder assembly is set too far forward, prosternum is not visible

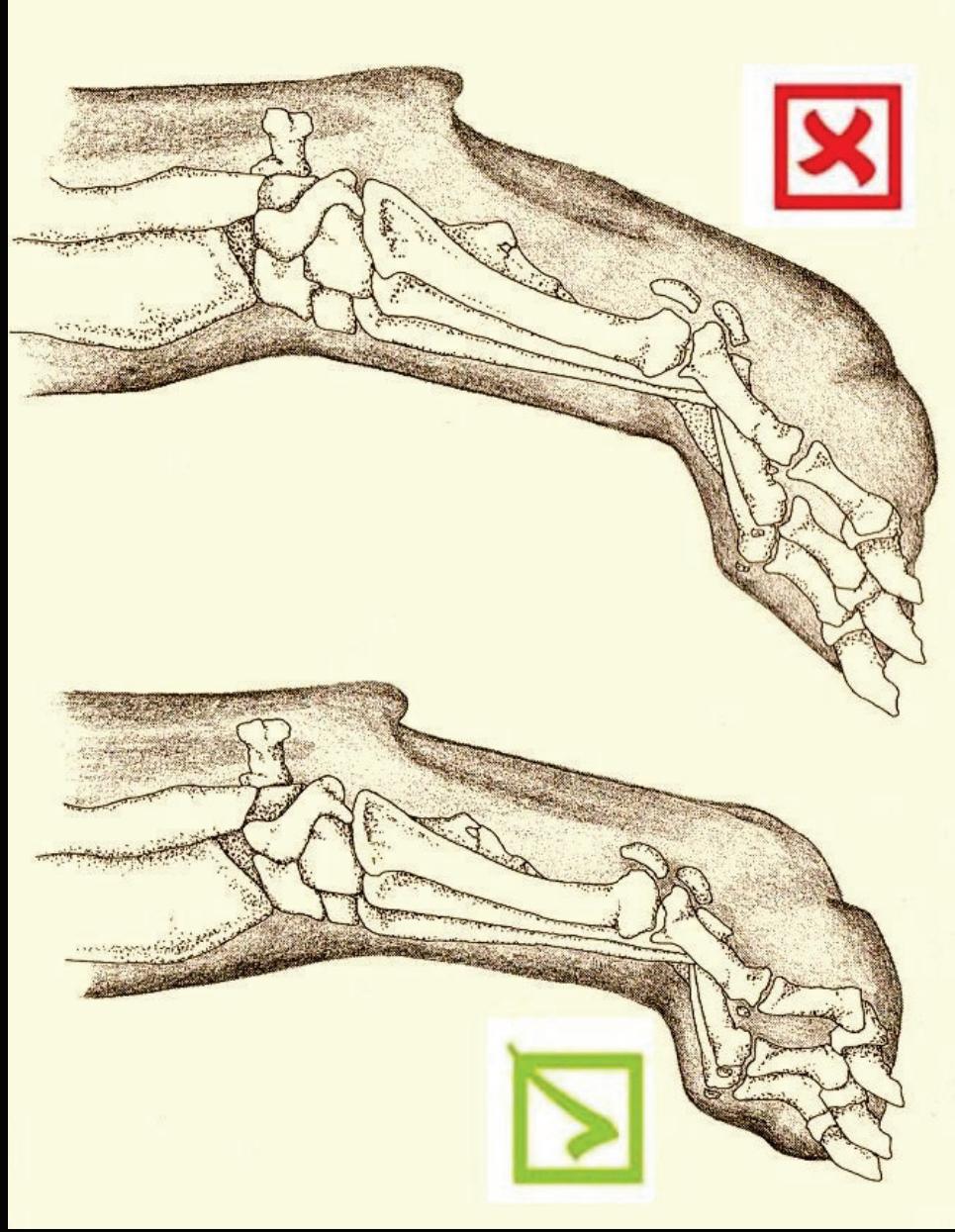
What to look for when judging



foreleg

- straight viewed from the front, dropping straight down from shoulders
- from side, forelegs wider near elbow than at pastern
- oval bone – *never round or coarse*

by the way...



*flat, splayed foot, long toenails
and weak pasterns*

compact,
well-arched toes

- pastern is strong and slightly angled – *upright pastern is a fault*
- feet face face forward

What to look for when judging



shoulder assembly

- shoulders are well laid back, sloping, with clean, powerful, long muscles
- shoulder blades fairly close together at withers, elbows tucked firmly
- test the stability of the elbows by gently rocking the body sideways and back at the withers – **weak elbows will pop out of alignment**

What to look for when judging



depth at brisket

- deep chest produces good heart room and lung capacity
- brisket should reach to or nearly to the elbows

What to look for when judging



spring of rib

- ribcage should extend well back, giving length to the body (the length of the dog is in the length of ribcage, **not in the coupling**)

- capacious – **not barrelled**

What to look for when judging



coupling

- coupling is moderate – *neither too short nor too long*
- bitches typically slightly longer-coupled than dogs
- *if too long in the coupling, it may show weakness in the back*

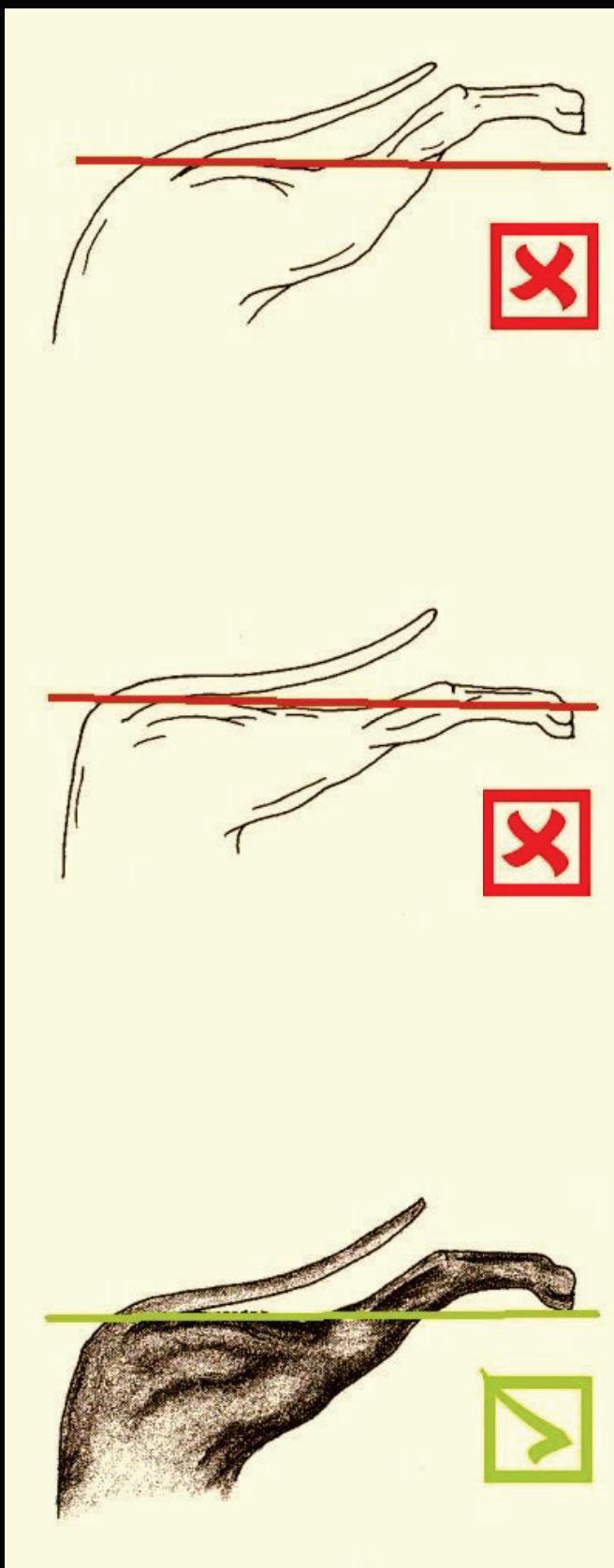
What to look for when judging



stifle

- moderately angulated for efficient endurance movement
- feel for firm muscle tone in the upper and lower thigh

by the way...



correct stifle

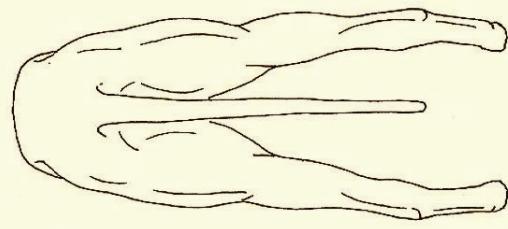
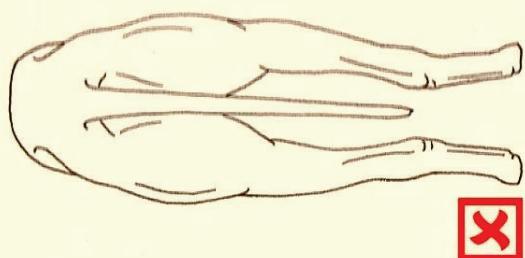
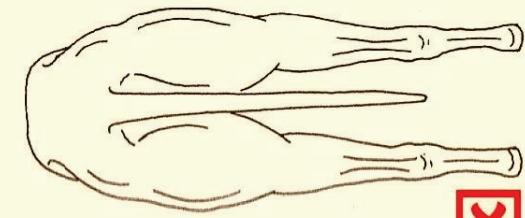
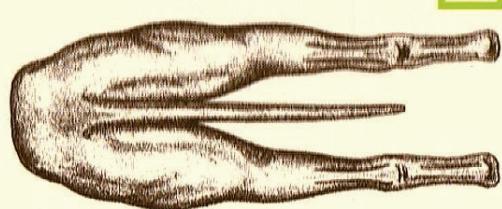
straight stifle

over-angulated stifle

➤ *over or under angulation is highly undesirable*

➤ *when over angulation occurs, the upper arm is usually shorter and straighter to compensate for the hind leg that drives too far forward*

by the way...

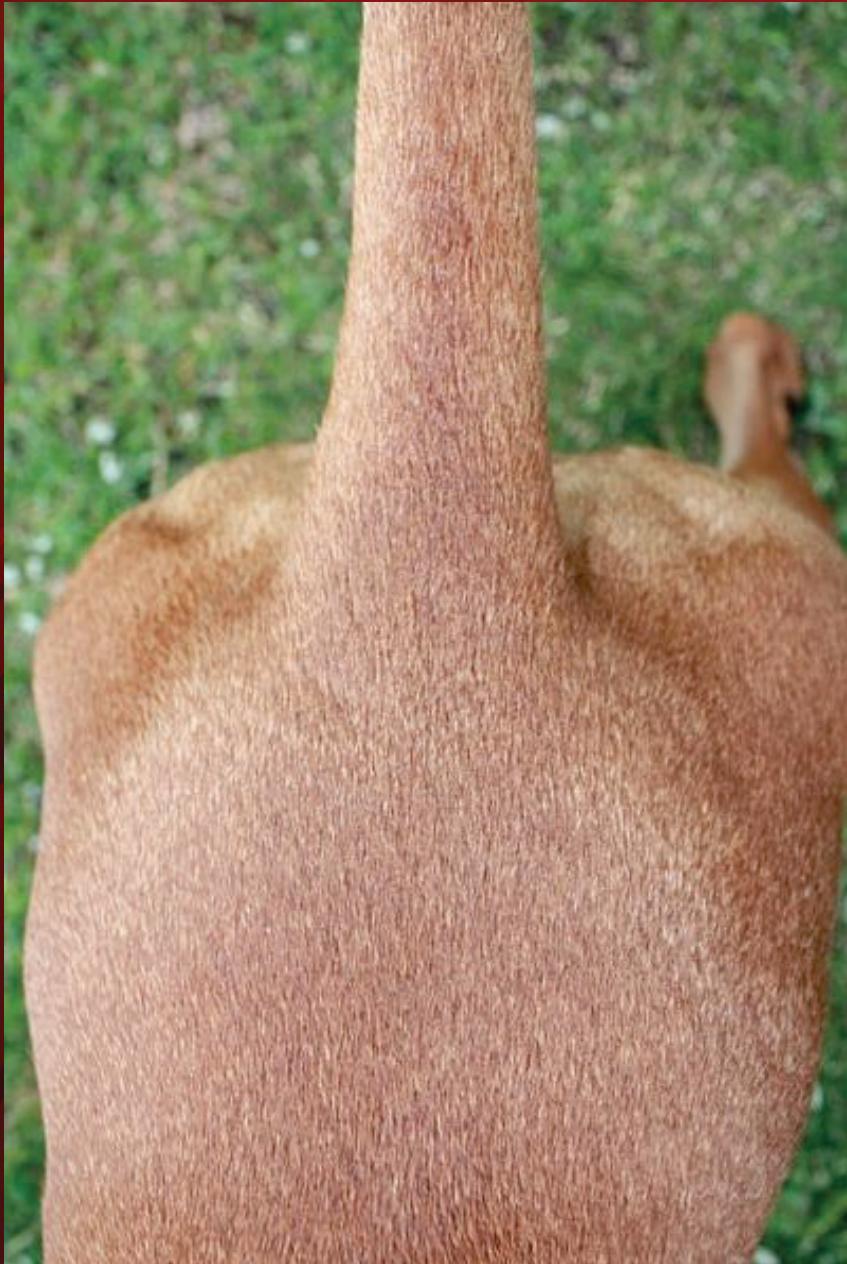


muscle bound

cow-hocked

open-hocked

What to look for when judging



tail insertion

- thick and strong at insertion point

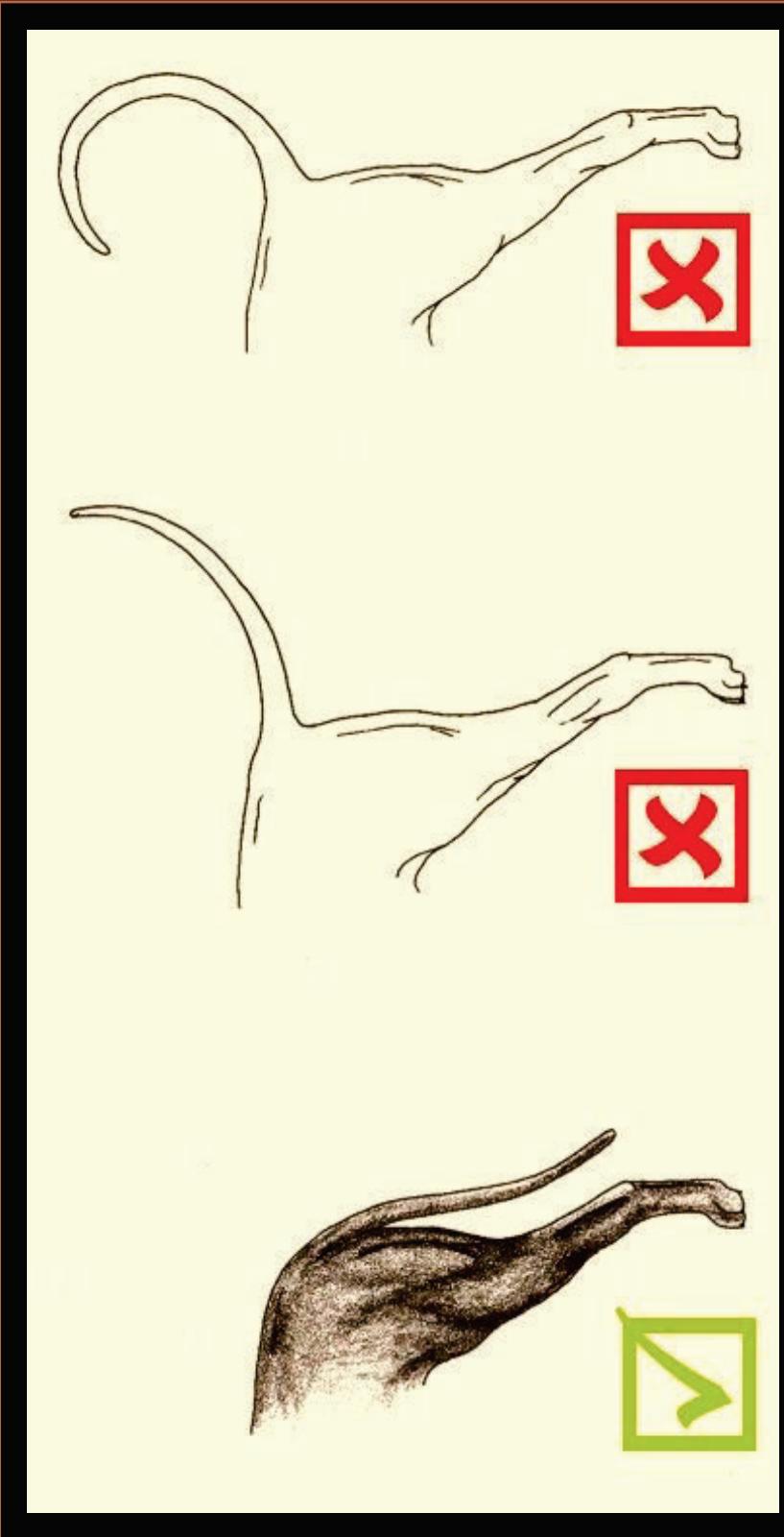
What to look for when judging



tail

- check for correct length – it should reach the hock
- a kinked tail is a serious fault

by the way...



correct

acceptable in movement

gay tail



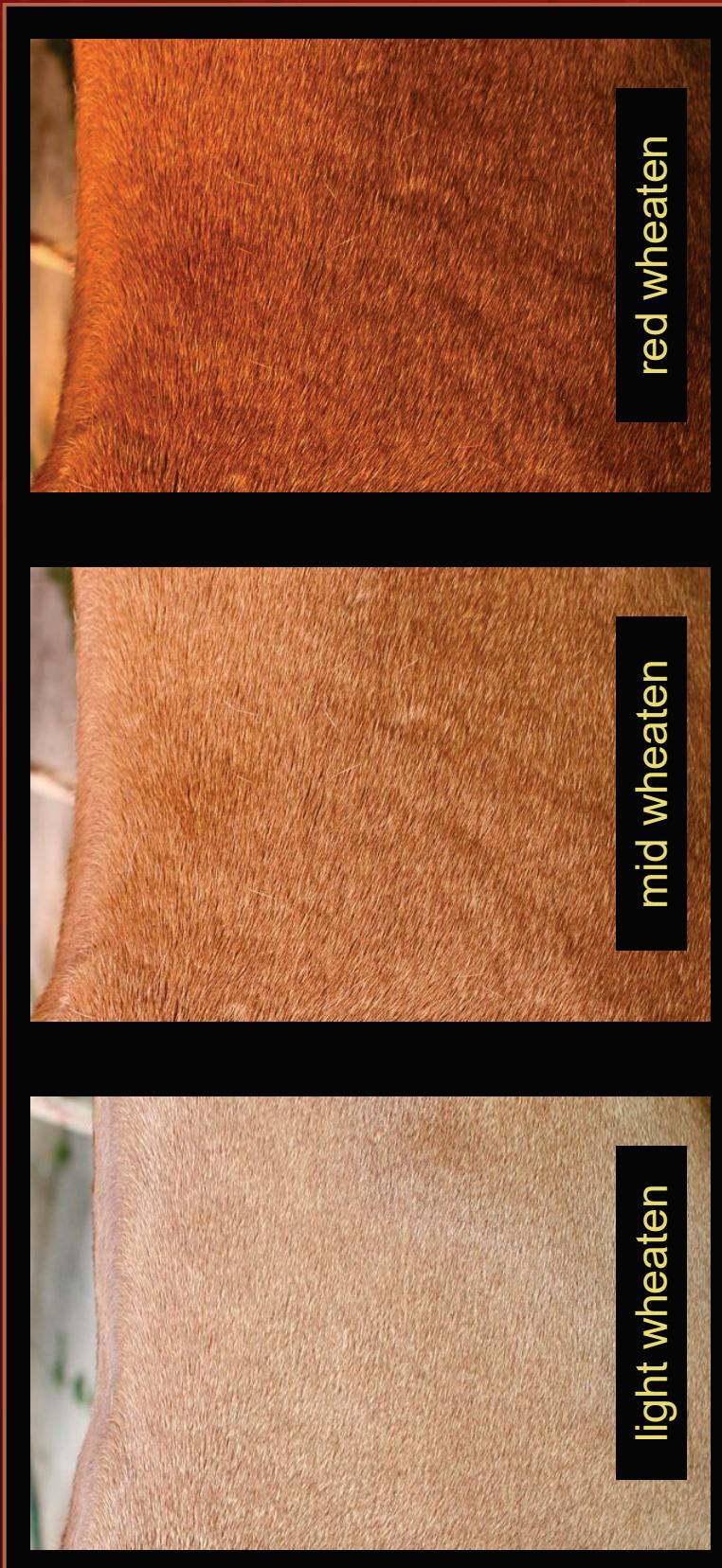
Let's look at that elusive wheaten colour

Colour

colour is light wheaten to red wheaten

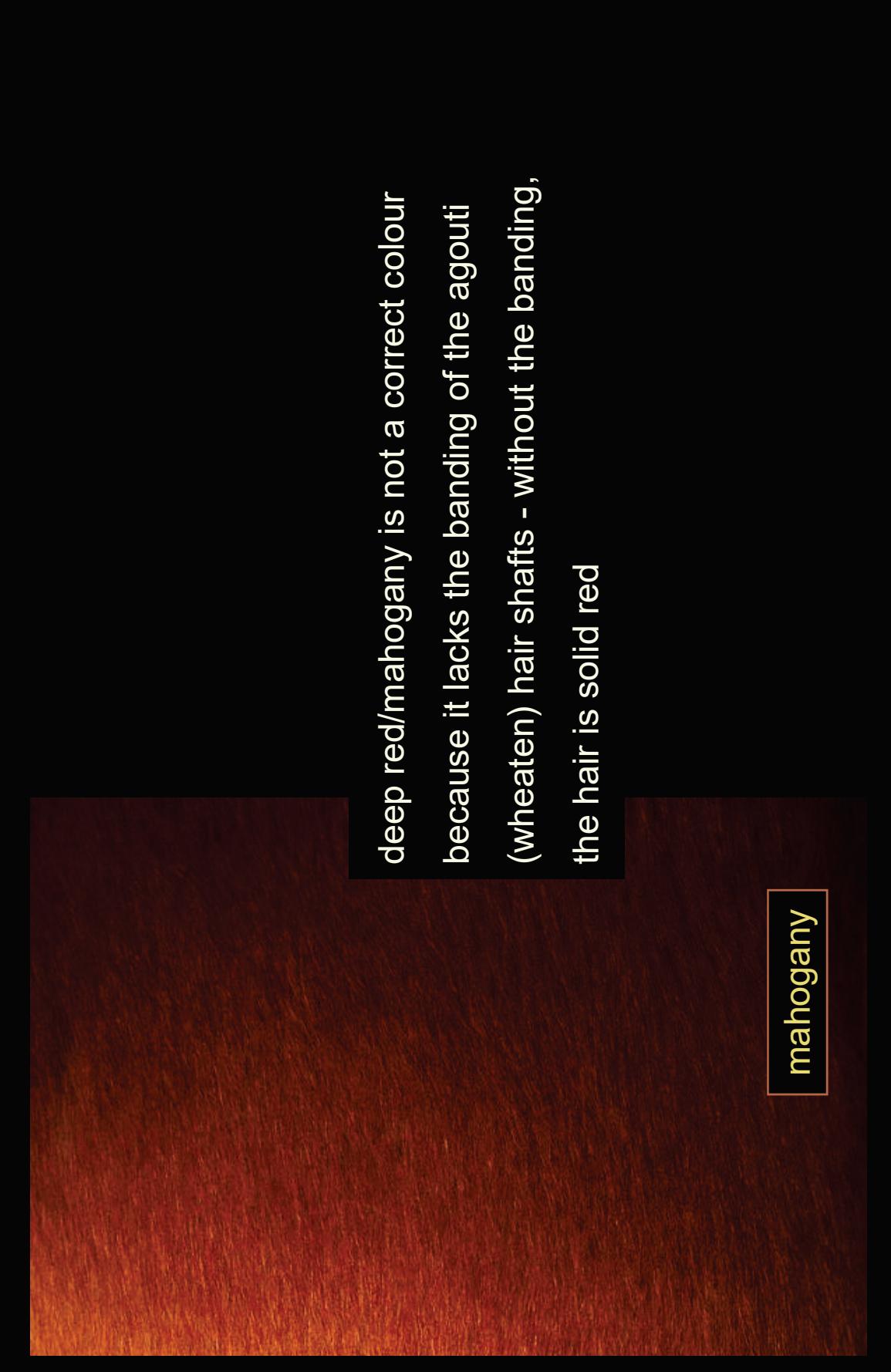
“wheaten” = reddish, banded hair where the root is lighter and the tip is darker

- genetically, called “agouti”



- a little white on chest and toes – not on body or above toes
- dark muzzle and ears permissible - no excessive black hairs in coat

Colour



deep red/mahogany is not a correct colour because it lacks the banding of the agouti (wheaten) hair shafts - without the banding, the hair is solid red

mahogany

Colour

these other diversions are also incorrect:



blue: sometimes
progeny of two
dark dogs – coat
has a blue-grey
tinge; born with blue
eyes that go
grey/amber



Images courtesy of www.kalaharir.com

Colour

more unacceptable colours



mosaic



black wheaten



brindle



black and tan

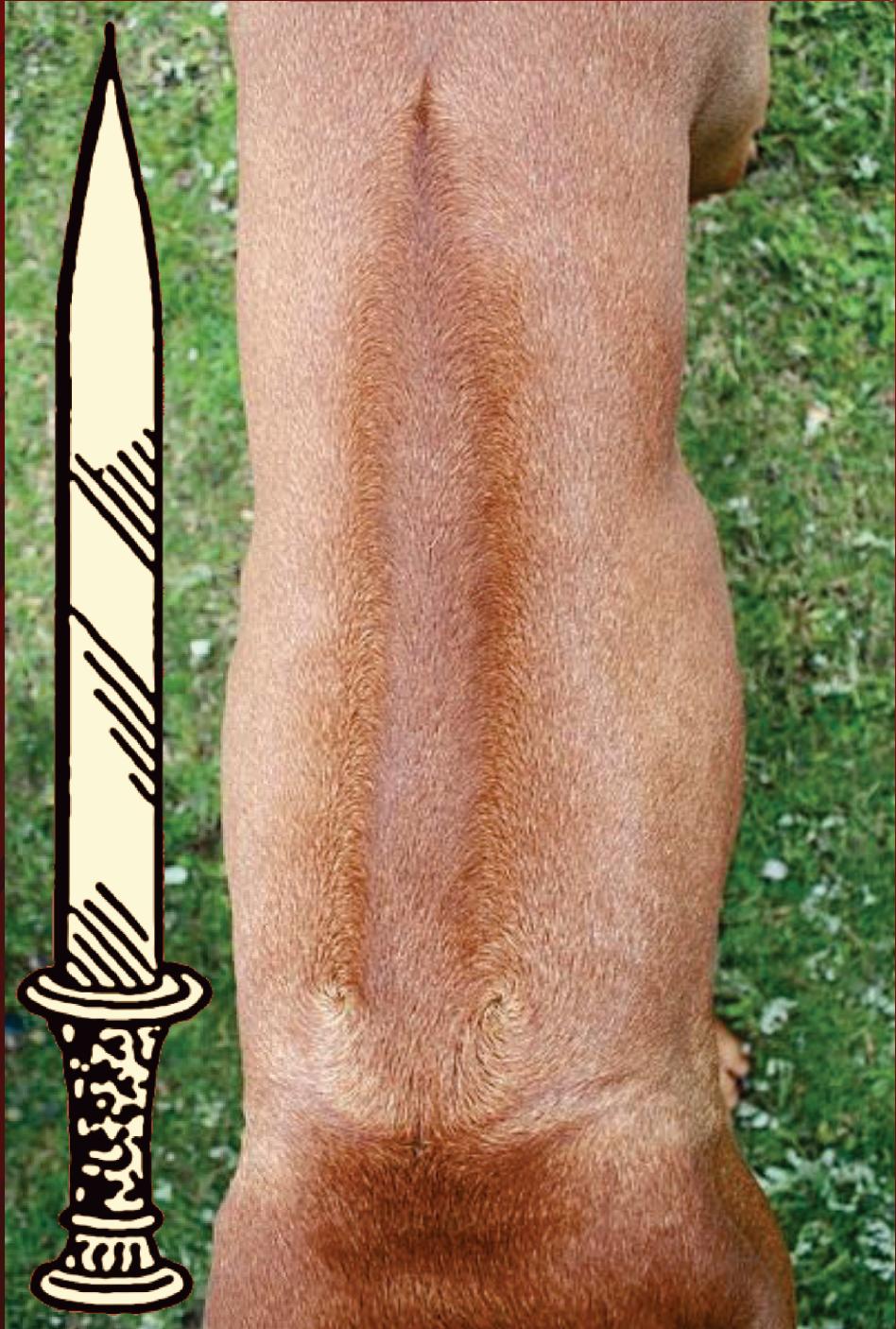


sable



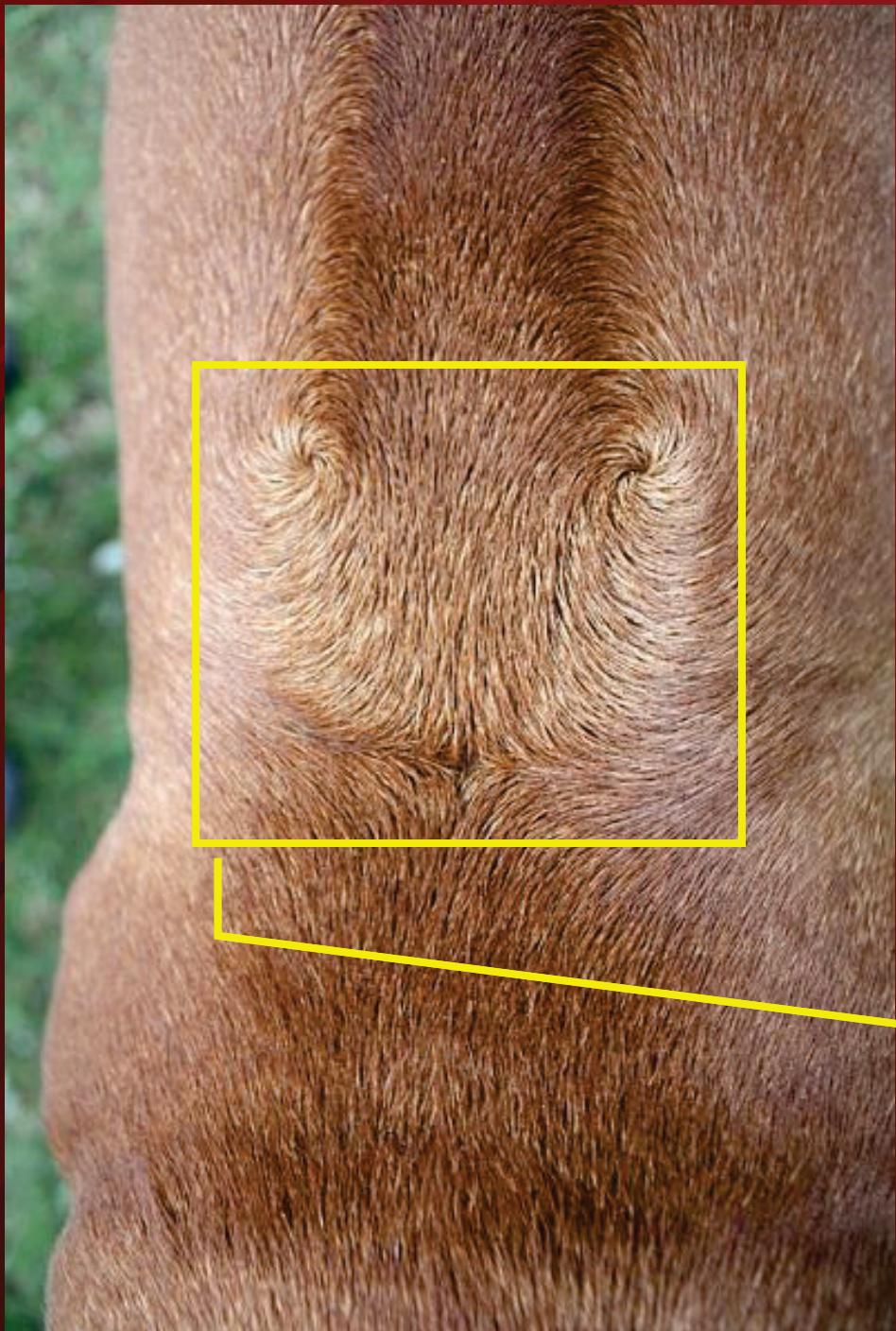
Now we examine the escutcheon of the
Rhodesian Ridgeback

The ridge



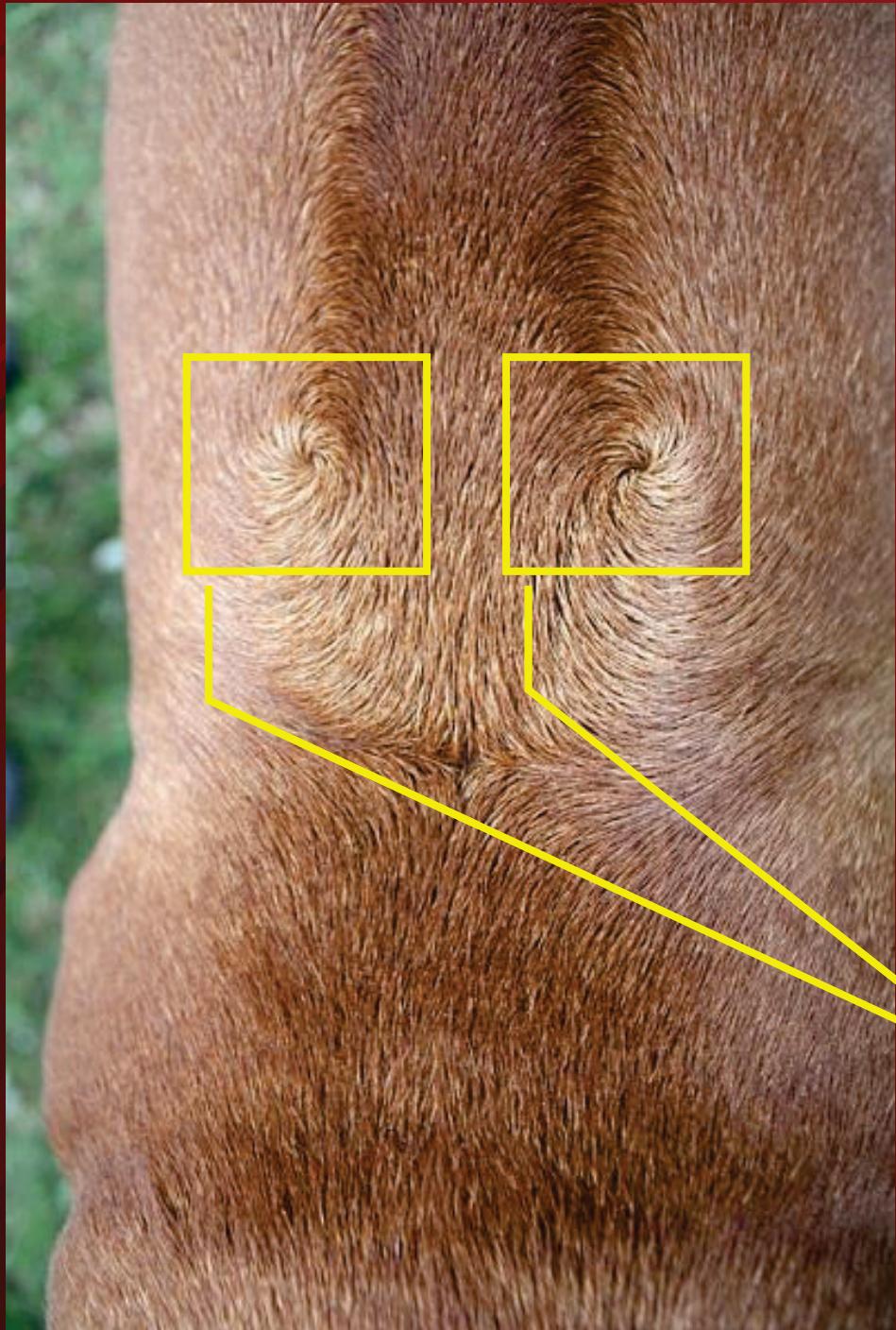
- shaped like a dagger – ideally 5cm (2") wide, tapering to a point
- should extend from immediately behind the shoulders to the hip bones

The ridge



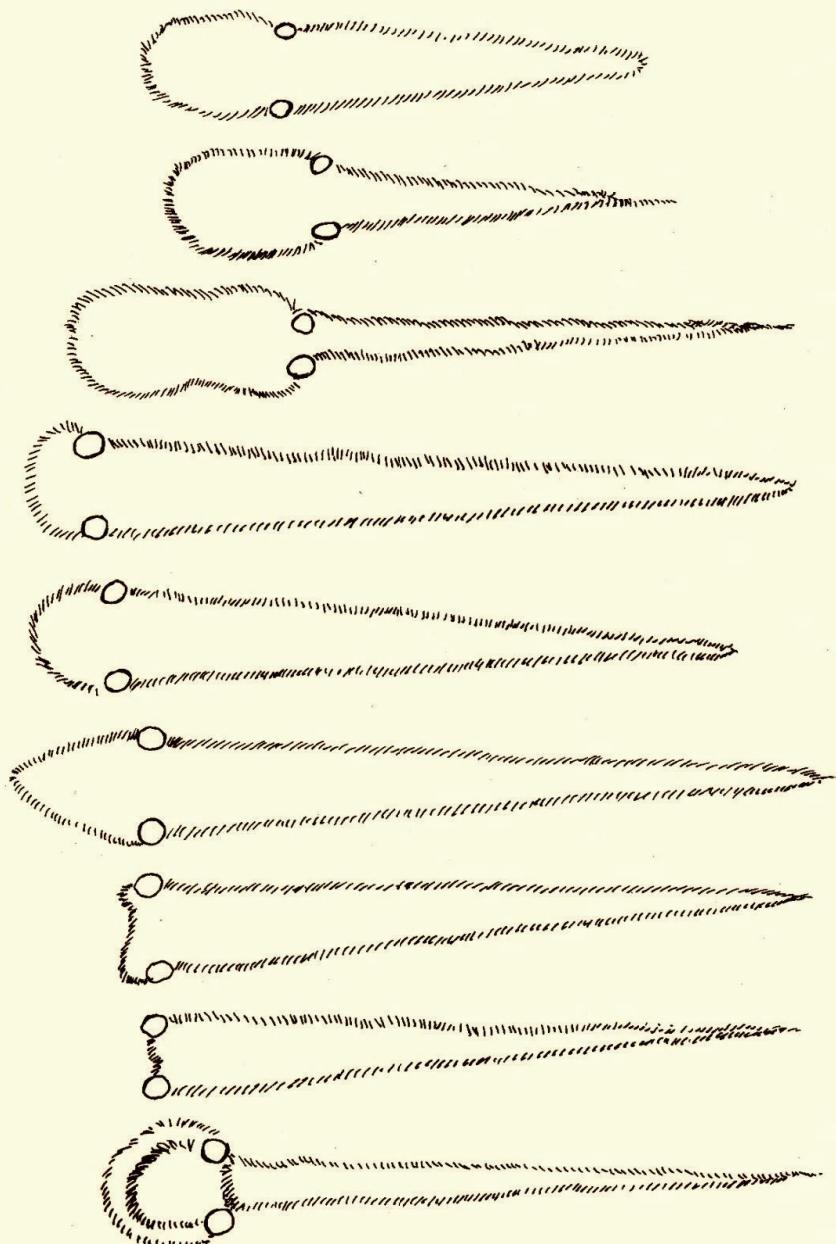
- examine the box (if there is one) without stretching it
 - a broken or heart-shaped box acceptable as long as there is no third crown
 - the box may not extend further than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total length

The ridge



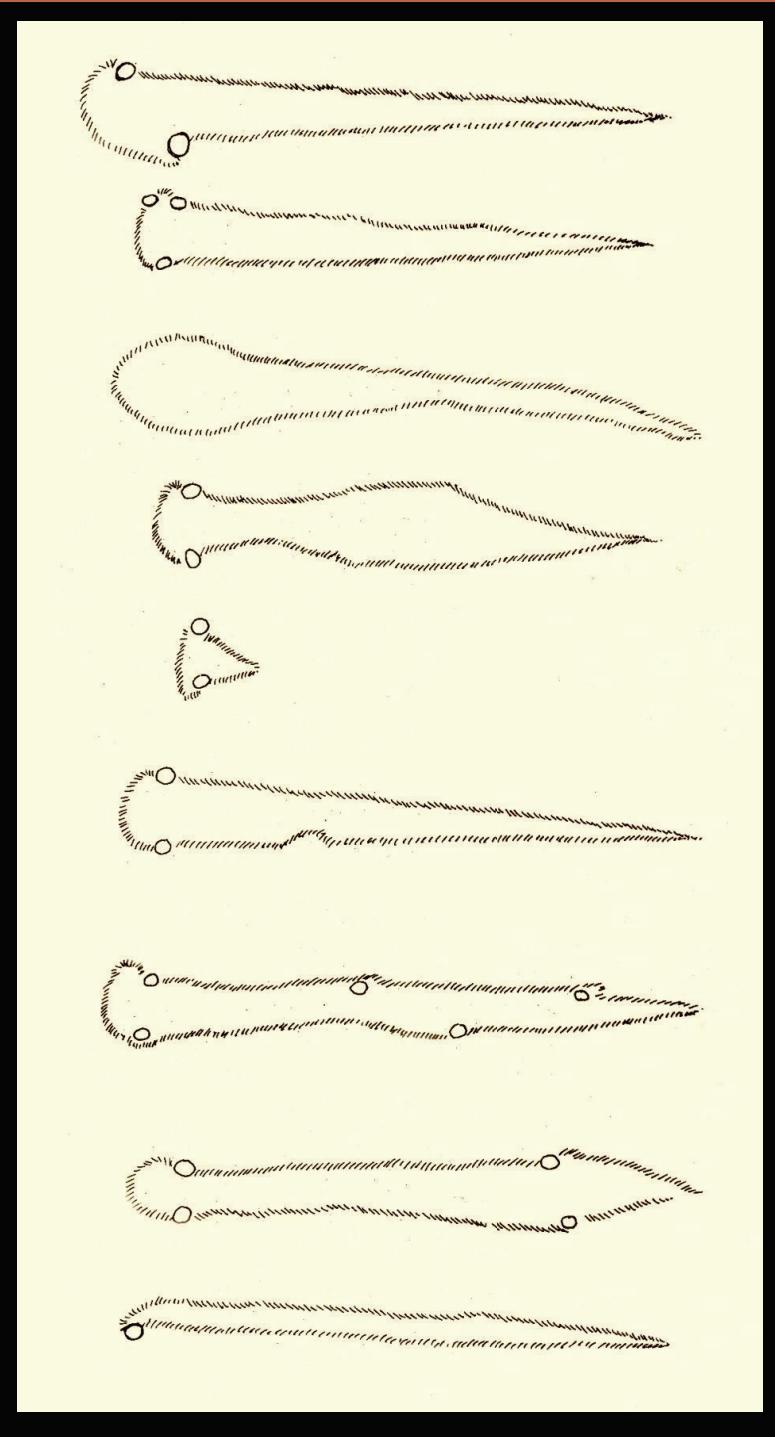
- two crowns, symmetrically placed and perfectly formed
- size of the crown depends on the length of hair

The ridge



acceptable ridge patterns – crowns are all opposite each other

The ridge

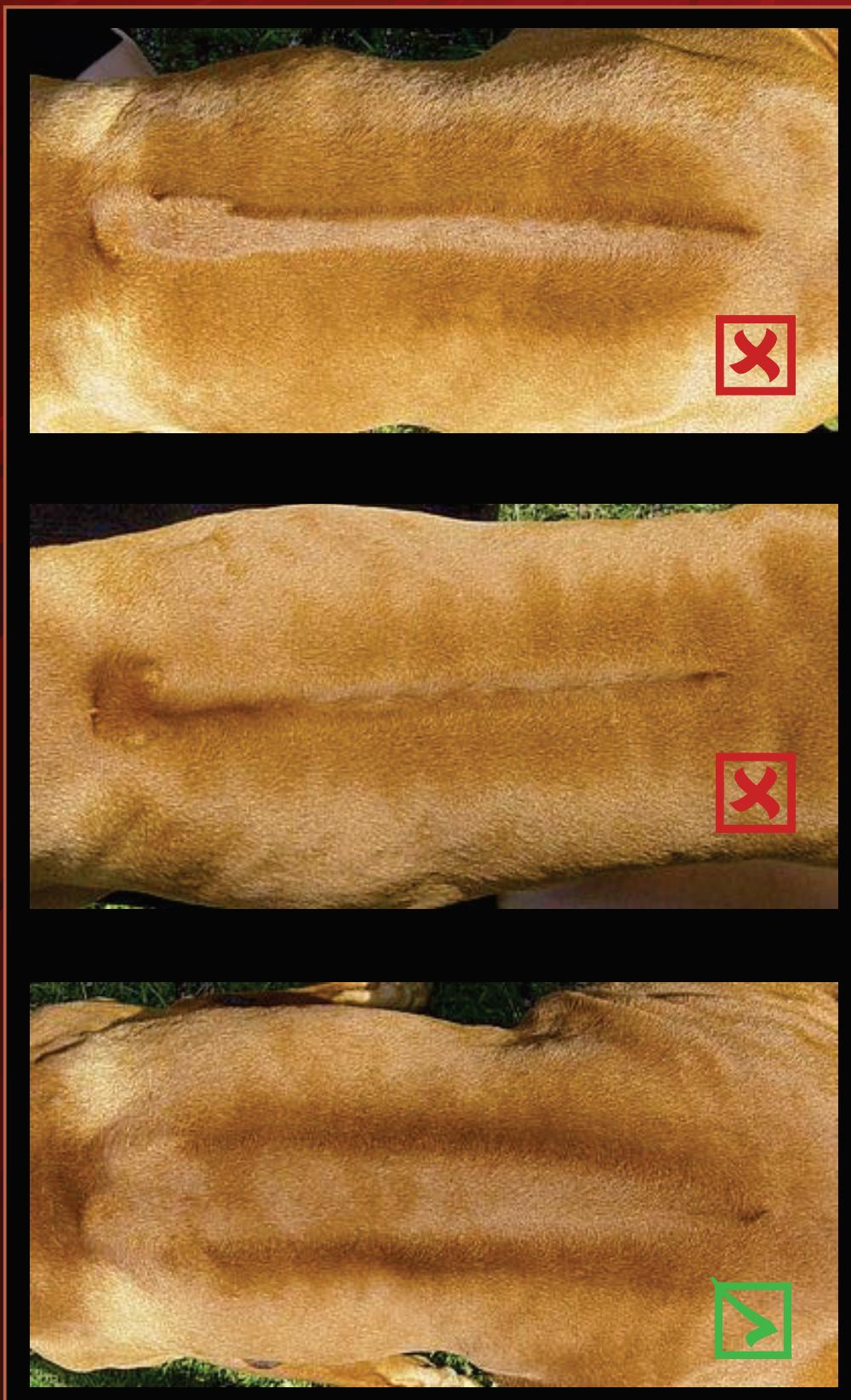


1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

Incorrect ridges:

1. single crown
2. & 3. multiple crowns
4. nick in the ridge
5. ridge too short
6. ridge irregularly shaped
7. no crowns
8. third crown
9. off-set crowns

The ridge



three crowns

off-set crowns

very broad ridge



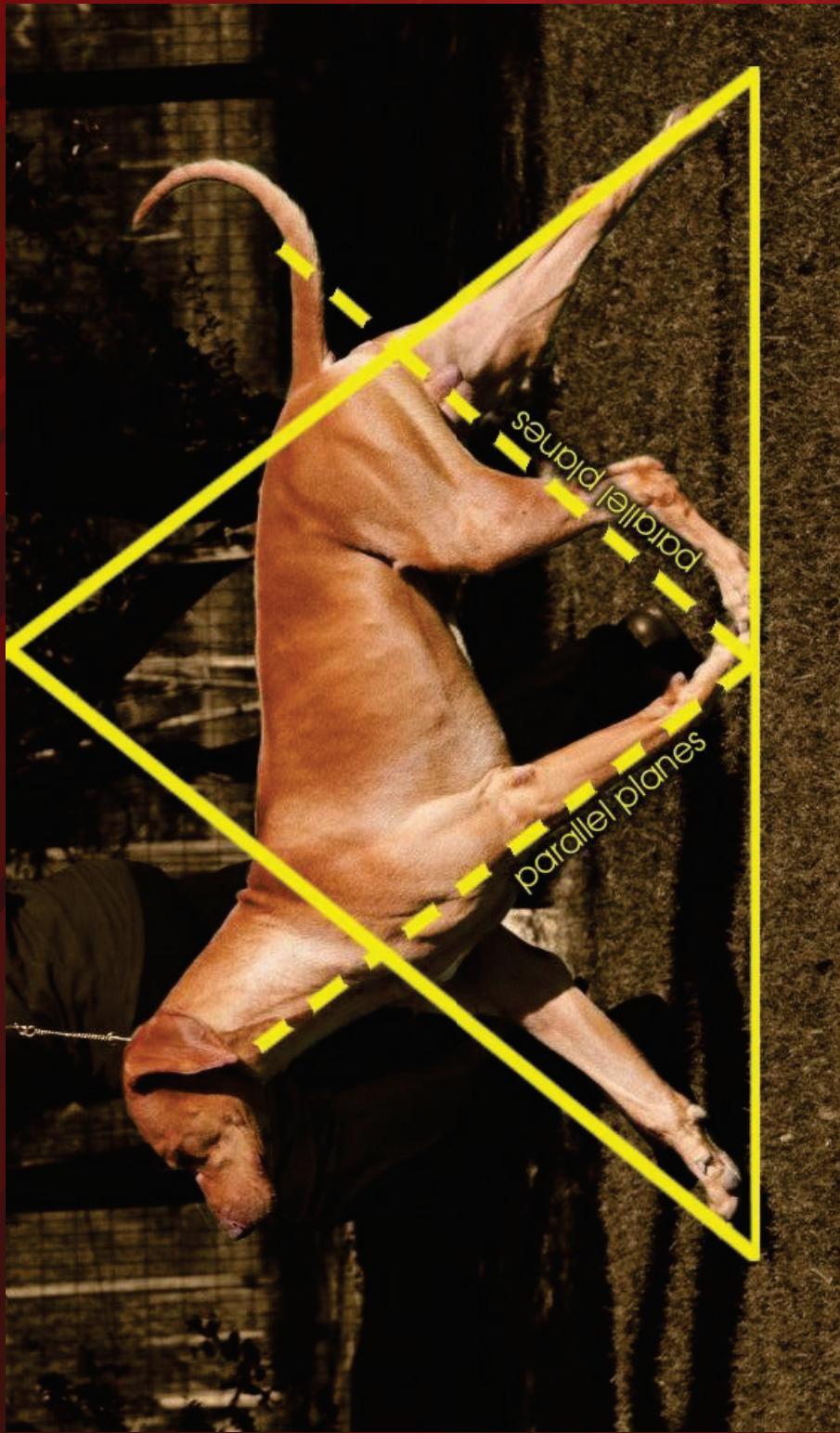
Let's take a look at movement

Let's talk about movement



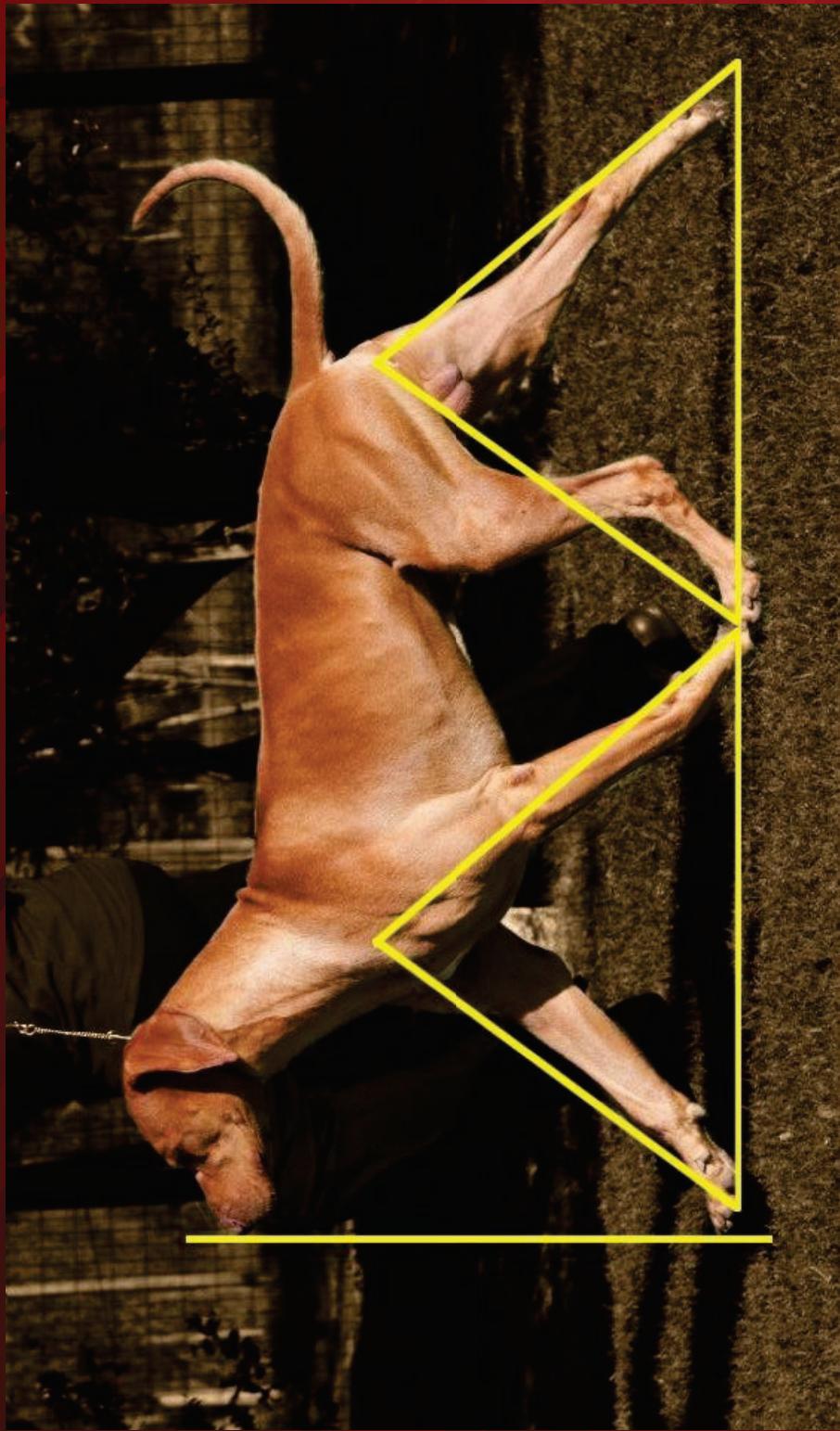
“Once around, please ma’am” ...

Let's talk about movement



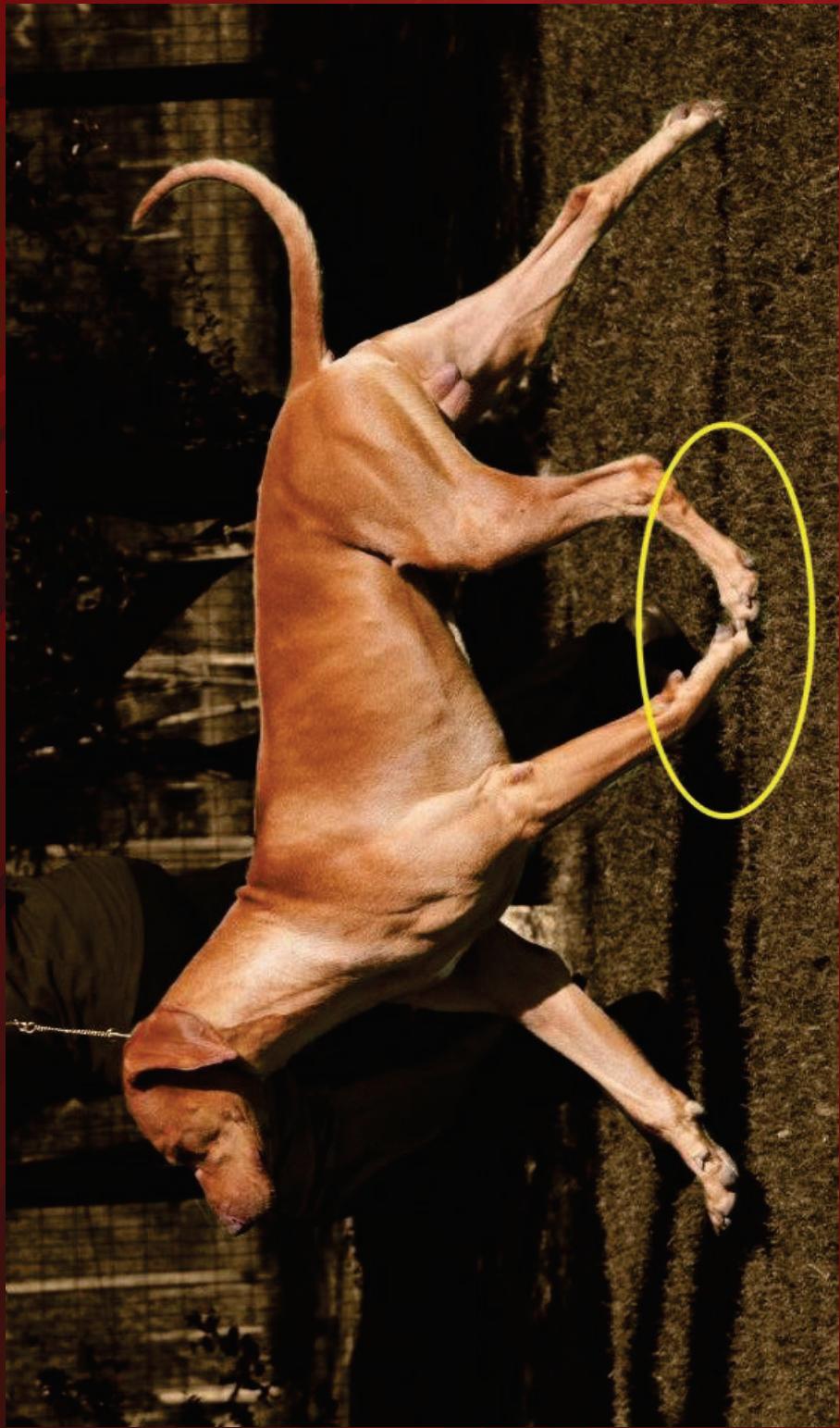
- look for balance in movement – equal reach and drive

Let's talk about movement



- balance calls for identical triangular action in front and back
- reach should not extend beyond plumb line from nose

Let's talk about movement



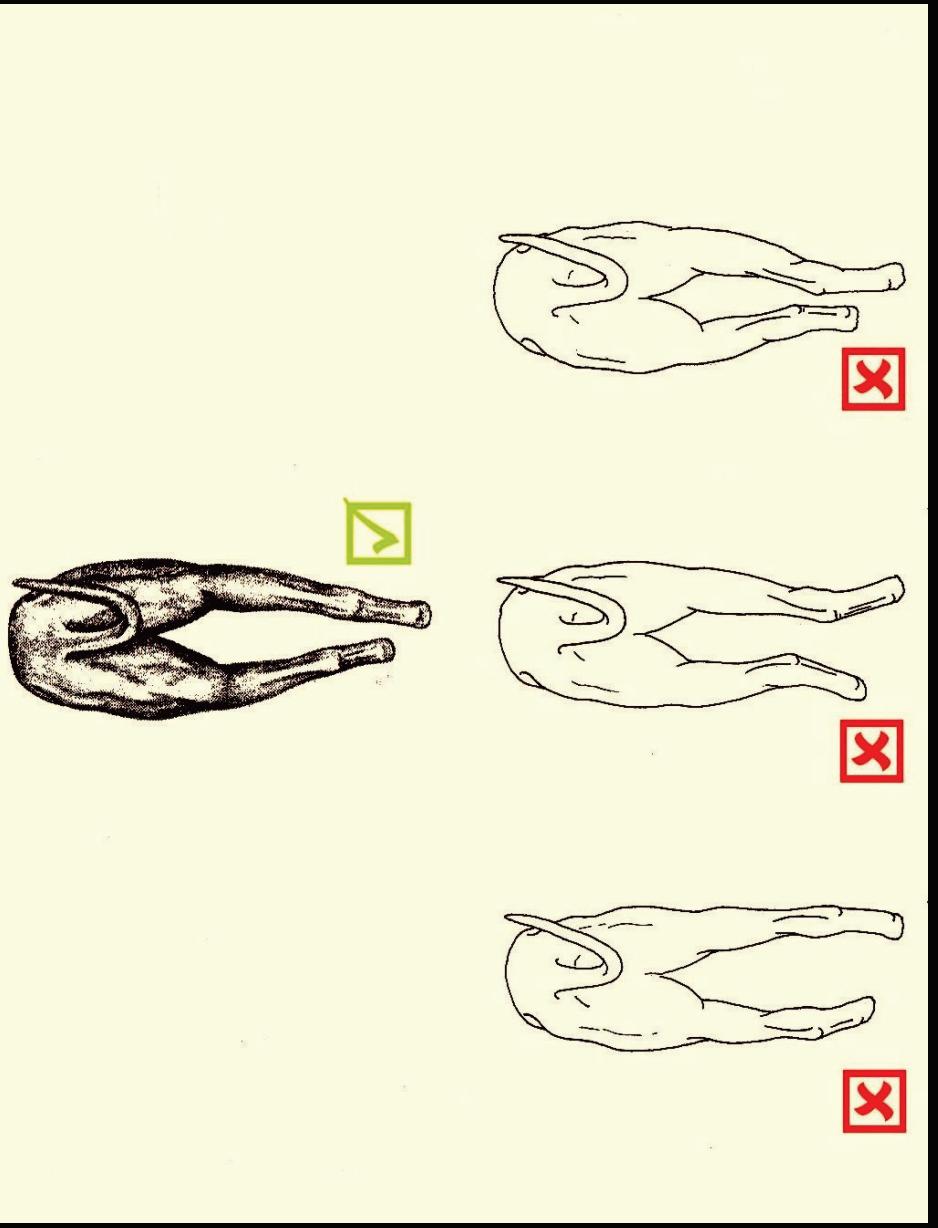
- hind foot steps into impression made by front foot – penalise over-tracking or under-tracking

Let's talk about movement



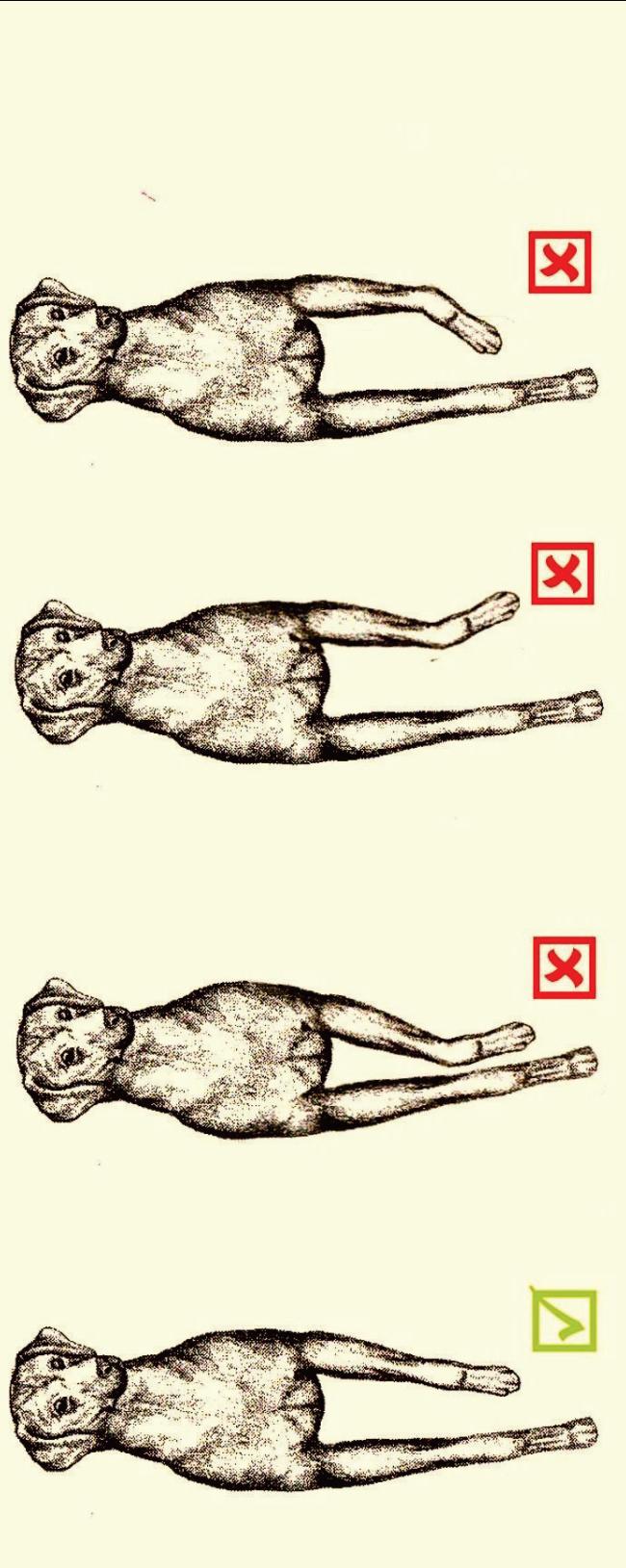
- it's acceptable for them to drop their heads when gaiting
- pacing is a natural, energy-saving gait (but obviously undesirable in the ring)

Let's talk about movement



open-hocked
cow-hocked
too wide
close behind

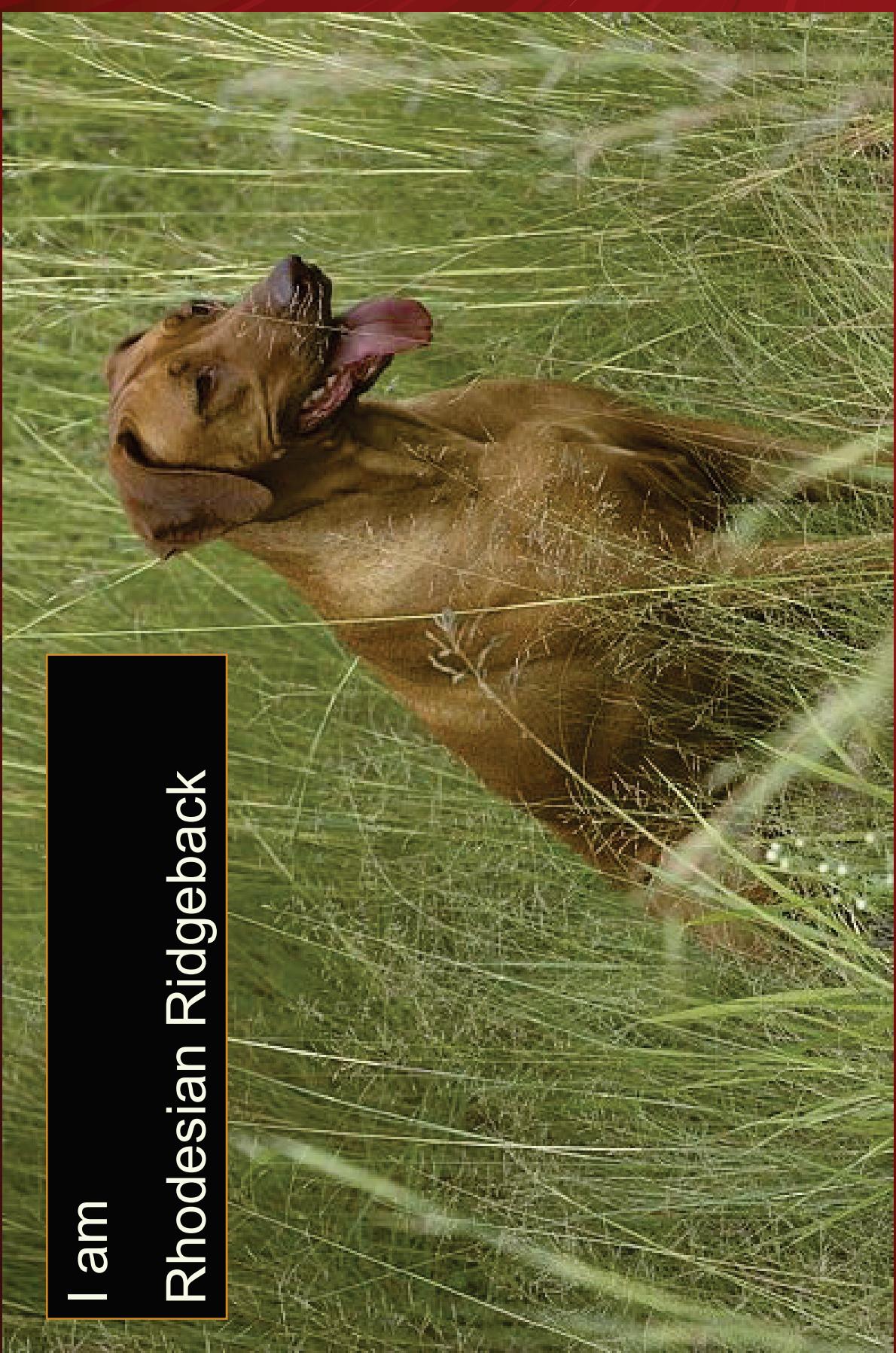
Let's talk about movement



converging close gait toeing out paddling



I am loyal, dignified,
intelligent, aloof with
strangers, but show no
aggression or shyness...

A close-up photograph of a Rhodesian Ridgeback dog lying down in a field of tall, green grass. The dog's coat is a rich, golden-brown color, and its characteristic ridge of hair runs along its back. It is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is filled with the blades of grass, creating a textured, natural setting.

I am
Rhodesian Ridgeback

Further reading and acknowledgements

- *Rhodesian Ridgeback: Guide to Judging* by Monika Tusanova
- *The Definitive Rhodesian Ridgeback* by David Helgesen.
- *The Rhodesian Ridgeback, the Origin, History and Standard* by T C Hawley.
- *The Rhodesian Ridgeback Indaba* by J N Murray.
- *The Rhodesian Ridgeback Today* by Stig. G. Carlson.
- *The Complete Rhodesian Ridgeback* by Peter Nicholson & Janet Parker.



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Prepared by Joy McFarlane for the Kennel Union of Southern Africa,
with grateful thanks to the collaborators, Janet Wang, and Elrena Stadler