

Old Danish Pointing Dog

Breed Standard





Preface

It is with great pleasure and pride that this judges' compendium for the Old Danish Pointer is presented. The purpose is to provide judges with a solid, professional, and nuanced foundation for evaluating the breed in accordance with FCI Breed Standard No. 281. The compendium has been created as a practical tool that both conveys the requirements of the standard and offers insight into the qualities that make this breed truly unique among pointing dogs.

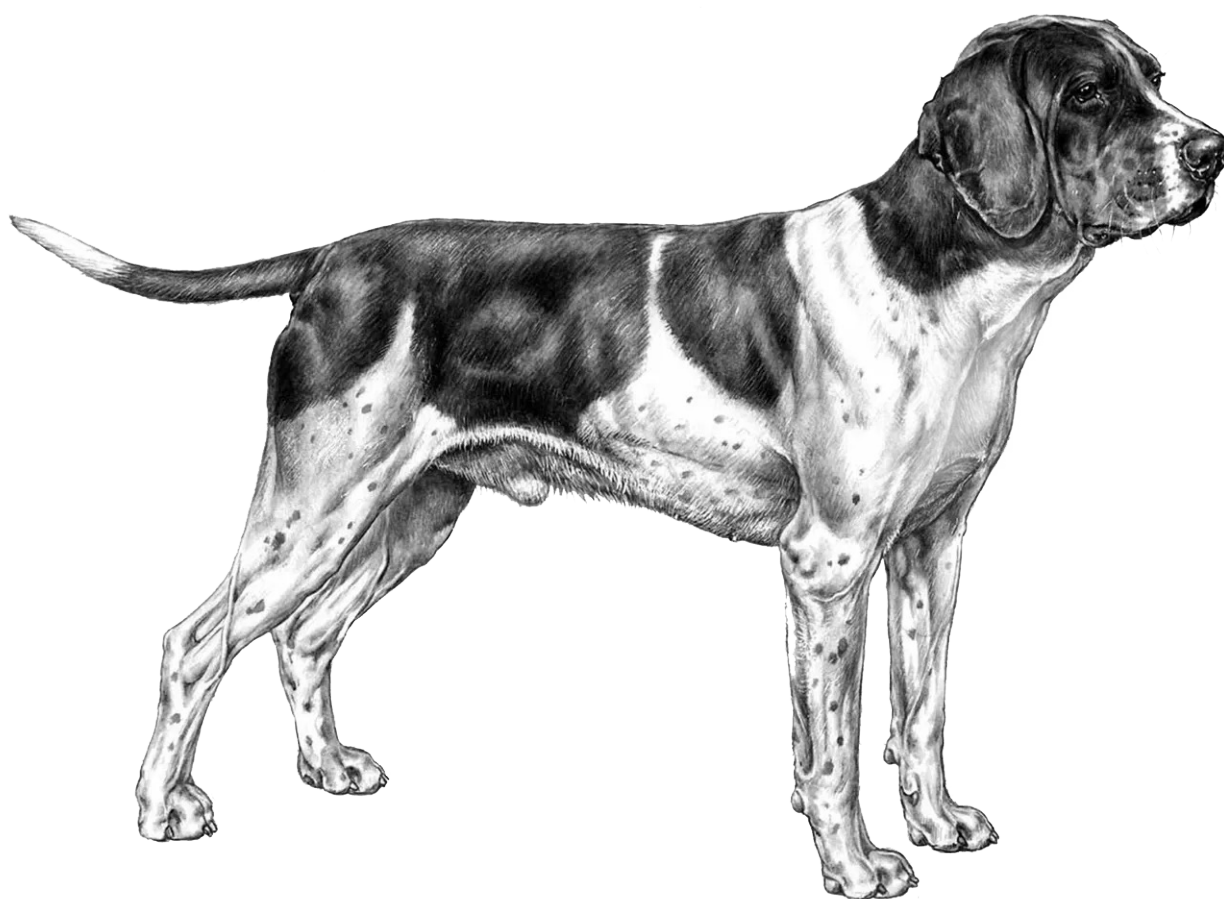
The Old Danish Pointer is one of Denmark's most distinctive national breeds - shaped by Danish landscapes, hunting traditions, and temperament. The breed's history dates back to the 18th century, when Morten Bak in the Glenstrup area laid the foundation for the breed by crossing local farm dogs with Spanish pointers. The result was a dog with an exceptional combination of calmness, scenting ability, endurance, and willingness to cooperate. It quickly became the hunter's loyal companion, known for its close-ranging search and its ability to work steadily and reliably - qualities that still define the breed today.

At a time when many breeds have undergone significant changes, the Old Danish Pointer stands as a living testament to preserved functionality. Its harmonious build, clear sexual dimorphism, and calm, purposeful working style are not merely aesthetic ideals, but direct reflections of its original purpose. Judging the breed therefore requires both an understanding of its history and respect for its functional heritage.

May this compendium serve as a support for judges in the work of preserving and promoting the qualities of the Old Danish Pointer - and as a reminder that we share the responsibility of safeguarding a breed deeply rooted in the Danish national cultural heritage.

On behalf of the Club for Old Danish Pointers

René Ahm Hansen
Chairman
March 2026



Original drawing from the FCI breedstandard

FCI Standard N° 281

Dato: 12.10.1998 (EN)

(ORG. 08.01.1998)

Gammel dansk hønsehund

Old Danish Pointing Dog

Origin: Denmark

Utilization

Versatile gundog for birds

FCI-classification

Group 7 Pointing dogs.

Section 1.1 Continental pointing dogs, « Braque » type.

With working trial.

Brief historical summary

The origin of the breed can be traced back to the year about 1710 when a man named Morten Bak, living in Glenstrup near the towns of Randers and Hobro, through 8 generations was crossing gypsy dogs with local farmdogs and in this way established a pure breed of piebald white and brown dogs called Bakhounds or Old Danish Pointing Dogs. The local farmers called their farmdogs « Bloodhounds », but it seems more likely that these hounds were offspring from the Squire's scent hounds, which in their turn were descendants from mainly St. Hubert Hounds (Bloodhounds). Likewise it is probable that the gypsy dogs generally descended from Spanish pointing Dogs and other breeds of scent hounds like the ones mentioned above, so in many ways St. Hubert Hounds have contributed to the breed Old Danish Pointing Dog.

General appearance

Medium sized dog, rectangular and strongly built. One of the most charming features of the breed is the great difference between male and female. While the dog is powerful and substantial, the bitch is characterized by being lighter, more spirited and capricious.

Important proportions: The ratio of height at withers to length of body is about 8 : 9.

Comment:

The dogs must be strongly built. A pronounced difference between male and female does not mean that the females may become lightly built. They must still be strongly constructed.

Behaviour/character: Conveys the impression of a quiet and stable dog showing determination and courage. During the hunt progressing rather slowly, always maintaining contact with the hunter and accomplishing its task as a pointing Dog without creating unnecessary disturbance of the ground. The breed is suited for small as well as large hunting grounds

Comment:

The dogs must not be shy, suppressed, or deviant in temperament. They should give an impression of calmness, solidity, determination, and courage.

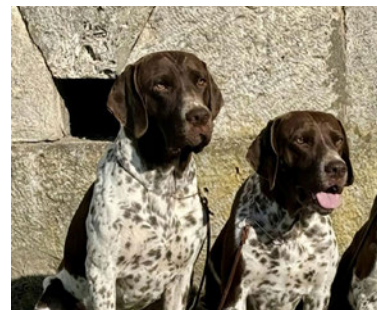
Examples of breed-typical males and females:



Breed-typical male



Breed-typical female



Breed-typical example of male and female of the same age

Head

Short and wide, without pronounced stop. Occiput prominent and clearly visible from any angle.

Skull: Sufficiently wide and distinctly rounded.

Stop: Not pronounced.

Nose: Fleшы, strongly defined, nostrils wide open. Colour from dark to more light liver.

Muzzle: Bridge of nose wide.

Lips: Flews deep all the way from the nose and covering the lower jaw. The deep flews contribute to giving the head its characteristic depth.

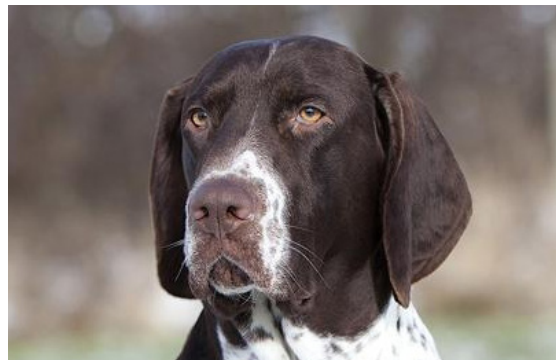
Jaws /Teeth: Powerful jaws with regular scissor bite. Full dentition wanted.

Cheeks: Well defined and deep, very muscular.

Comment:

Lips: It is important that the lips are not too insufficient, as this gives too light an expression, which is not typical of the breed.

Breed-typical head male



Breed-typical head female

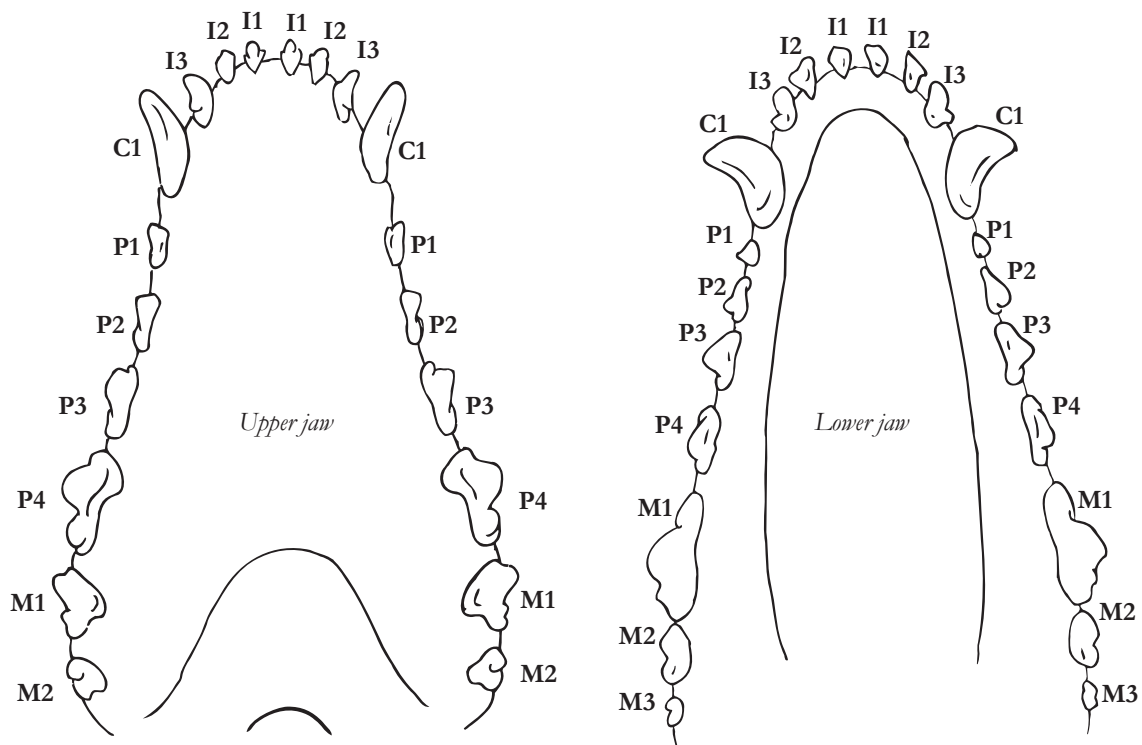


Jaws and teeth

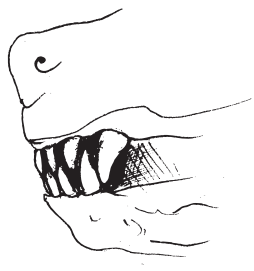
Powerful jaws with regular scissor bite. Full dentition wanted.

Comment:

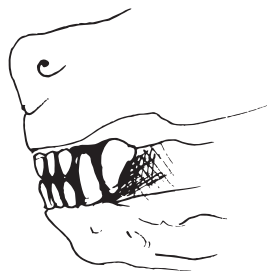
Greater emphasis on bite and dentition is desired.



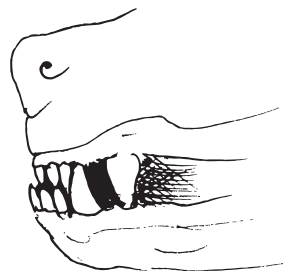
Complete dentition of 42 teeth: 20 in the upper jaw and 22 in the lower jaw.



✓ Scissors bite



✗ Pincer bite



✗ Underbite



✗ Overbite

Eyes

Medium sized, neither sunk nor prominent. Dark brown colour desirable. Considering the origin of the breed a slight drooping of the lower eyelid is tolerated, but should not be encouraged.



✓ *Preferred: dark brown*



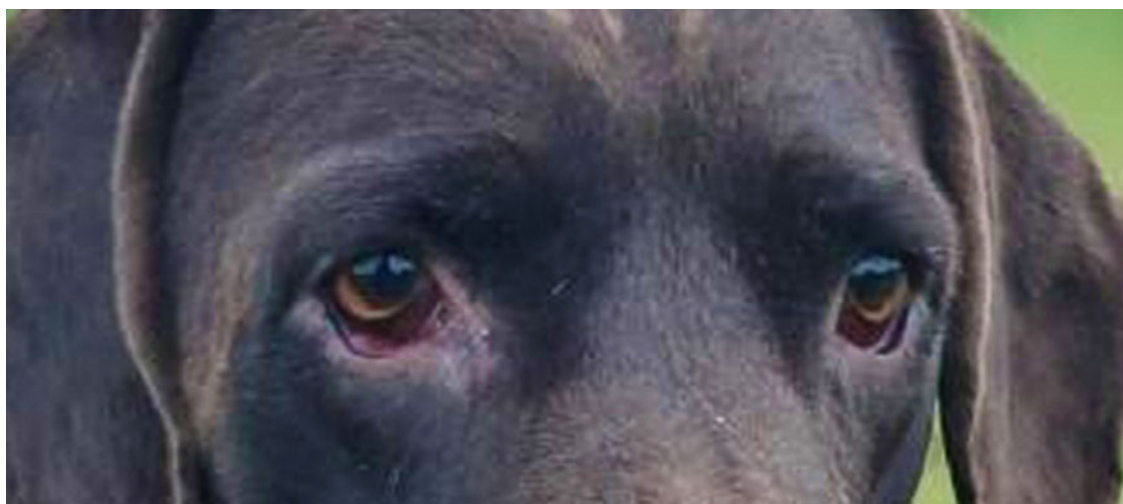
✓ *Correct: amber brown*



✗ *Too light and piercing*

Comment:

The ideal eye colour is dark brown. The eyes must not be too light or yellow, as this gives a piercing and staring expression. Young dogs may have very light eyes, which later develop into amber-brown.



Ears

Set rather low, broad and slightly rounded at the ends. Length is correct if the ear, when held towards the nose, will leave free a little more than the outer third of muzzle. Front edge of ear should hang nicely close to the cheek.

Comment:

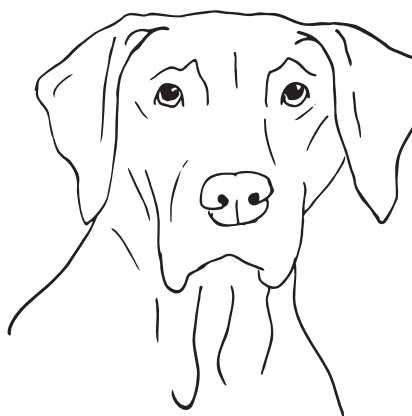
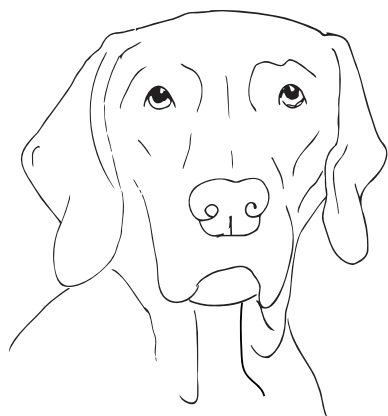
It is important that the ears are not too short and/or set too high on the skull, as this negatively affects the overall expression of the head.



Correctly placed ears

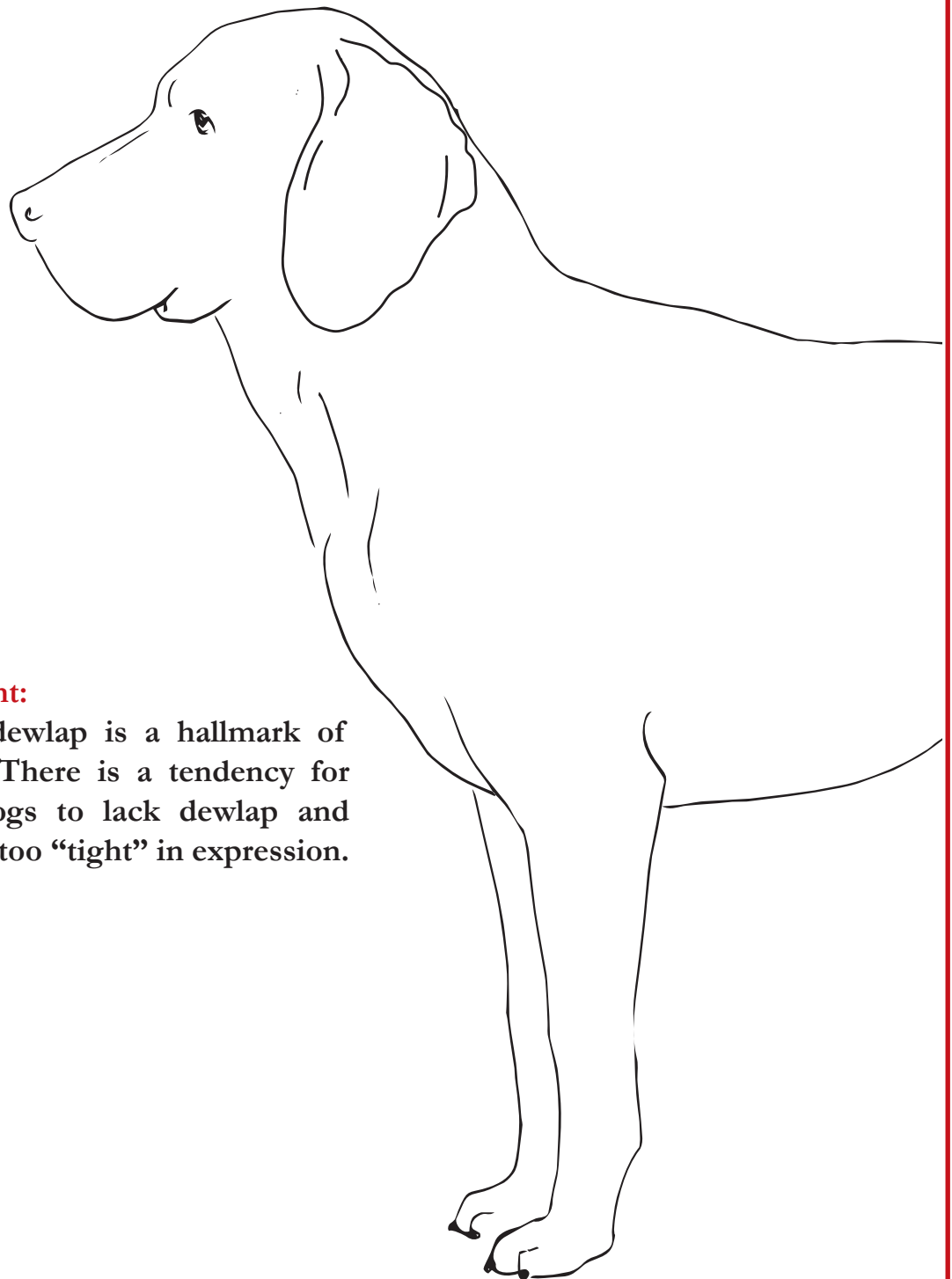


Ears placed too high



Neck

Muscular and well furnished. Throatiness is considered a hallmark of the breed, but should not be exaggerated.



Comment:

Ample dewlap is a hallmark of quality. There is a tendency for more dogs to lack dewlap and become too “tight” in expression.

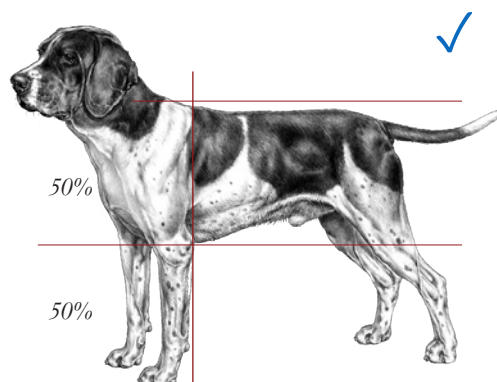
Body

Withers: Well defined. Highest point of topline at the withers, falling slightly to the croup.

Back: Firm and very muscular.

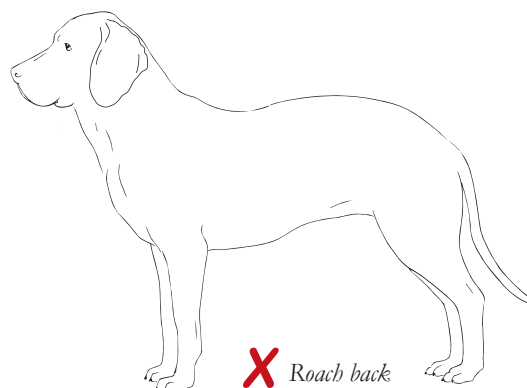
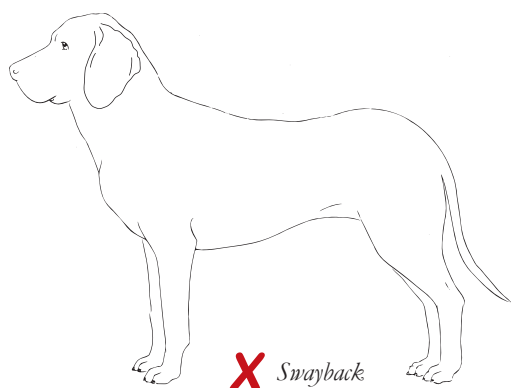
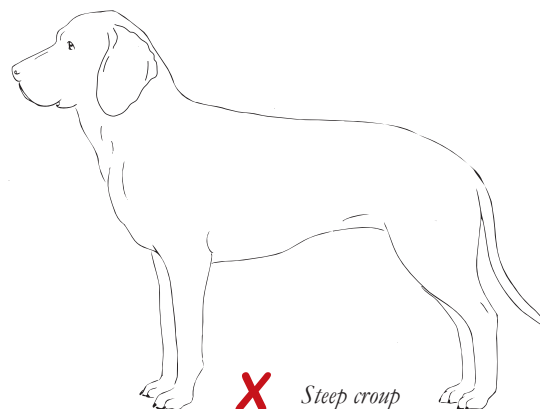
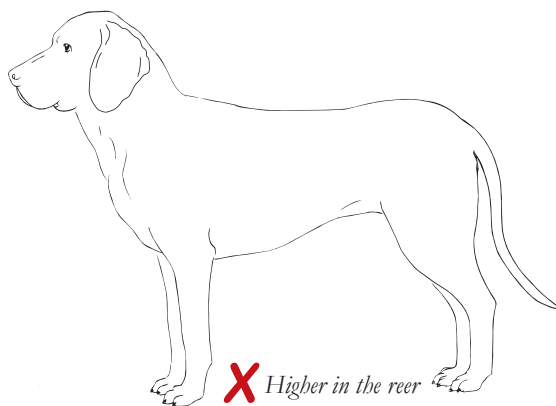
Loin: Short, wide and muscular, strongly coupled.

Croup: Broad, not too short, slightly sloping towards set-on of tail.



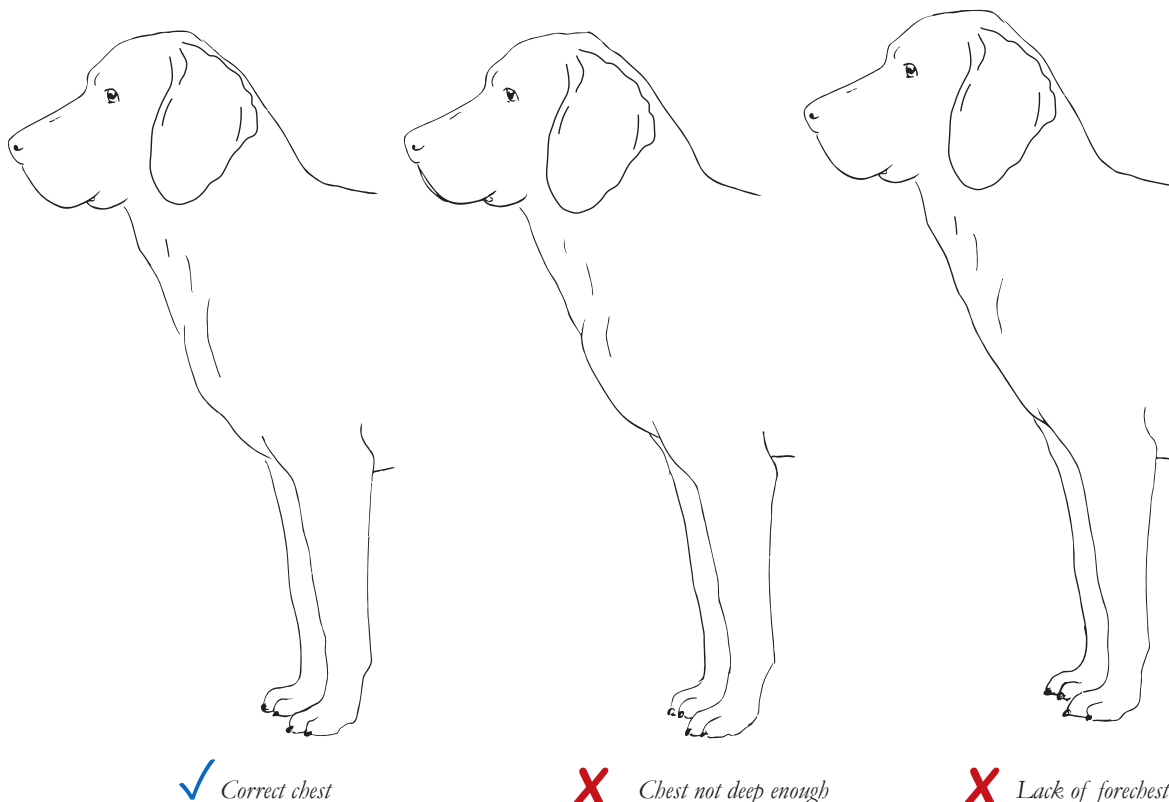
Comment:

The dogs must not be under-angulated, and an excessively sloping croup results in inefficient movement and an incorrect overall impression. Several dogs have far too sloping a croup.



Body: chest

Chest: Deep and wide ; a good width desired especially for males. Brisket reaches down to elbows. Ribs well sprung and reaching far back. Ribcage neither flat nor barrel-shaped. A well developed forechest is most desirable



Comment:

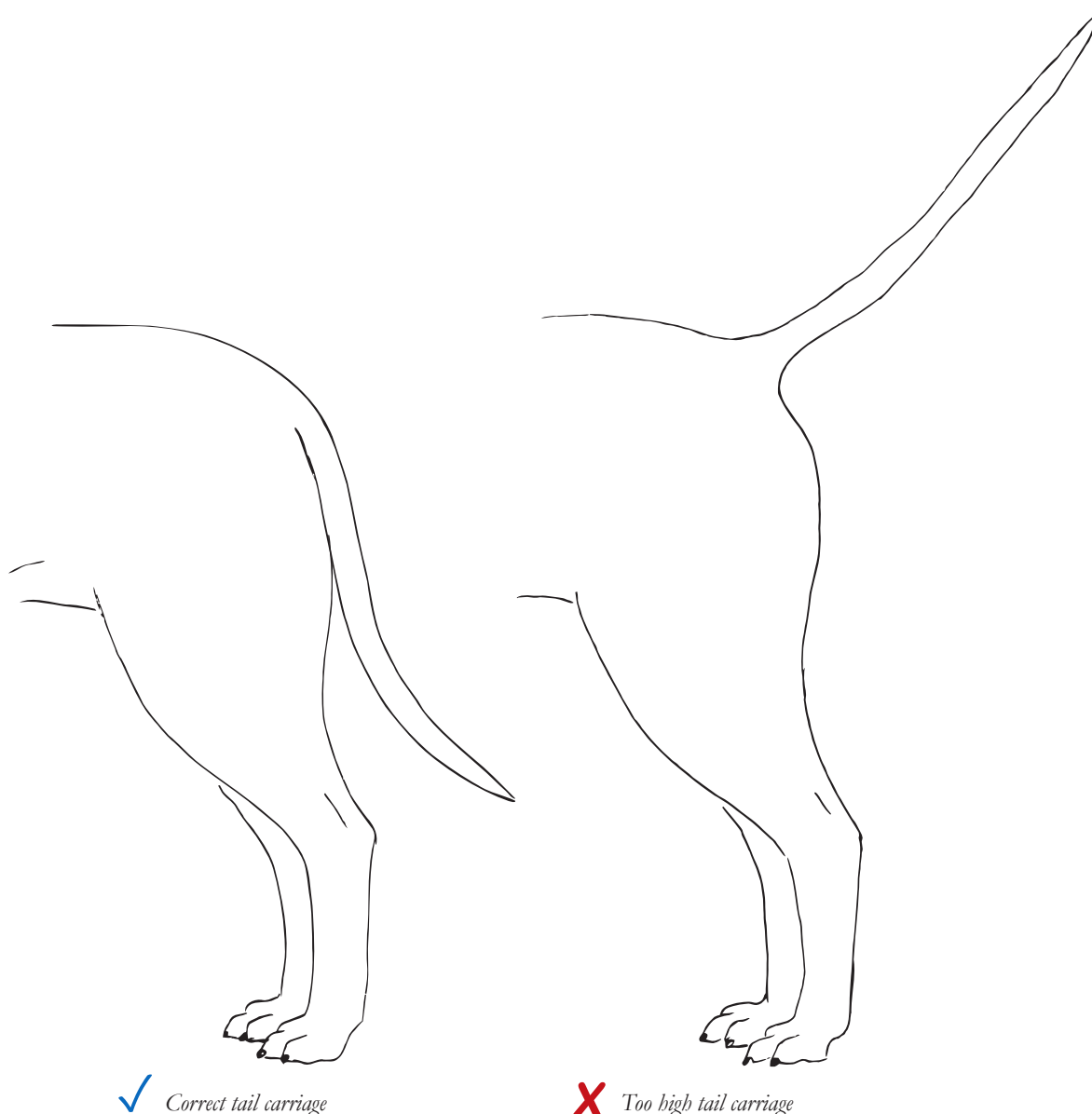
The brisket must be neither flat nor barrel-shaped. The chest should be broad and deep. Some dogs lack sufficient forechest.

Tail

Set somewhat high rather than too low. Fairly wide at base, tapering towards the end. Medium length, reaching almost to the hocks. Tail is carried naturally drooping. Docking is not allowed.

Comment:

Naturally, the tail is carried handing - sometimes you see a too high tail carriage.



Forequarters

Viewed from the front strong, straight and parallel.

Shoulder: Lying flat and tight against the chest, with strong muscles clearly showing when moving or standing.

Upper arm: Of good length, very muscular.

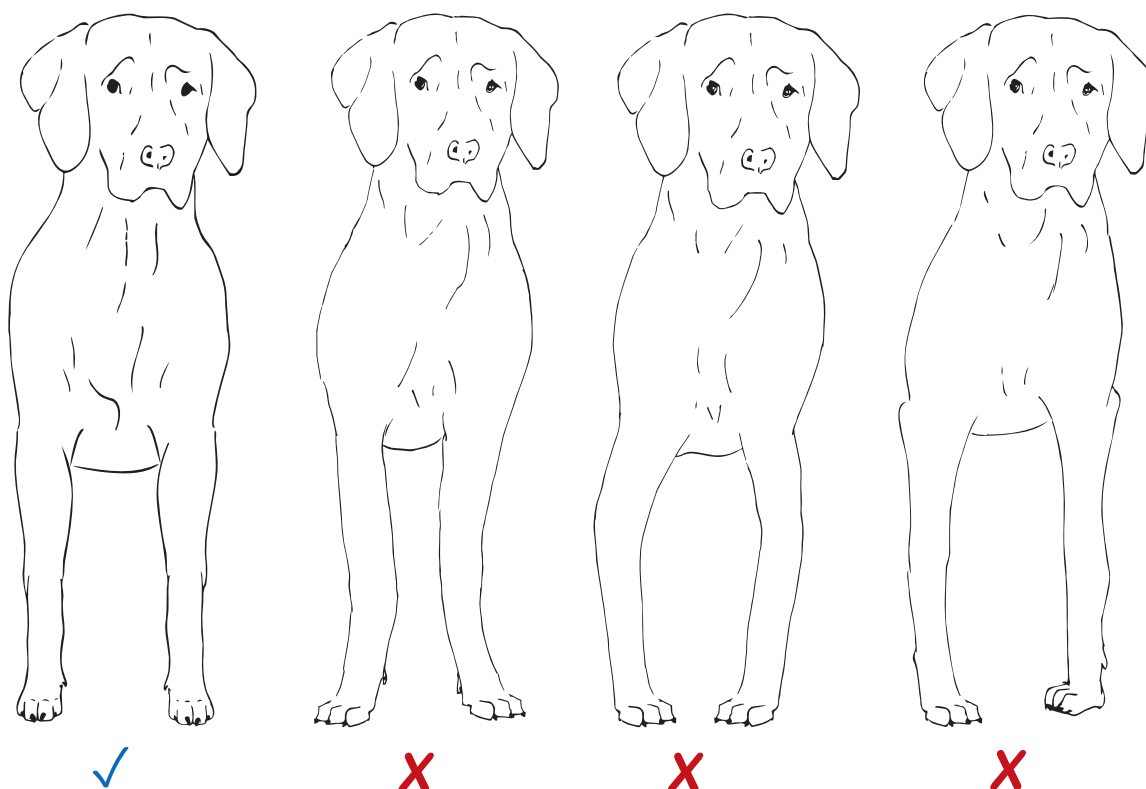
Elbow: Close, but not too tight to the body, neither turned in nor out, set rather far back. Good angulation upper/lower arm.

Forearm: Straight, with powerful muscles and good bone.

Carpal joint : Powerful.

Pastern: Slightly bent in relation to the forearm.

Front feet: Strong and firm, well arched and with tough pads.



Hindquarters

Viewed from behind straight and parallel. Good angulation and powerful bone.

Upper thigh: Muscular, fairly long and broad. Good angulation pelvis/thigh.

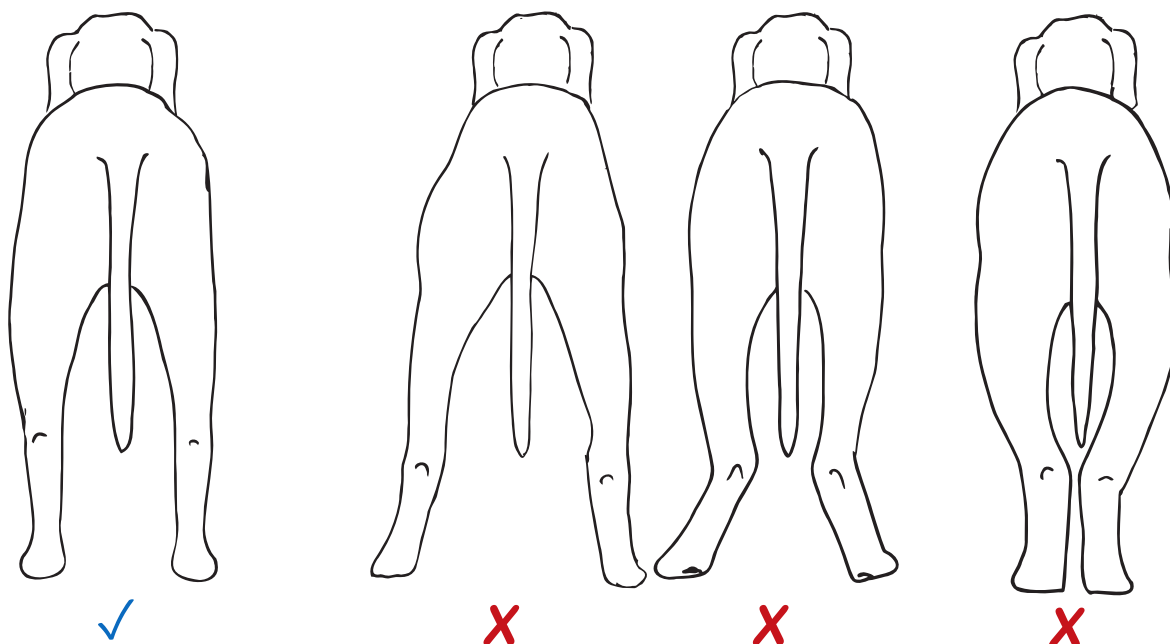
Stifle: Strong, well bent.

Lower thigh Fairly long, muscular.

Hock joint: Strong and powerful.

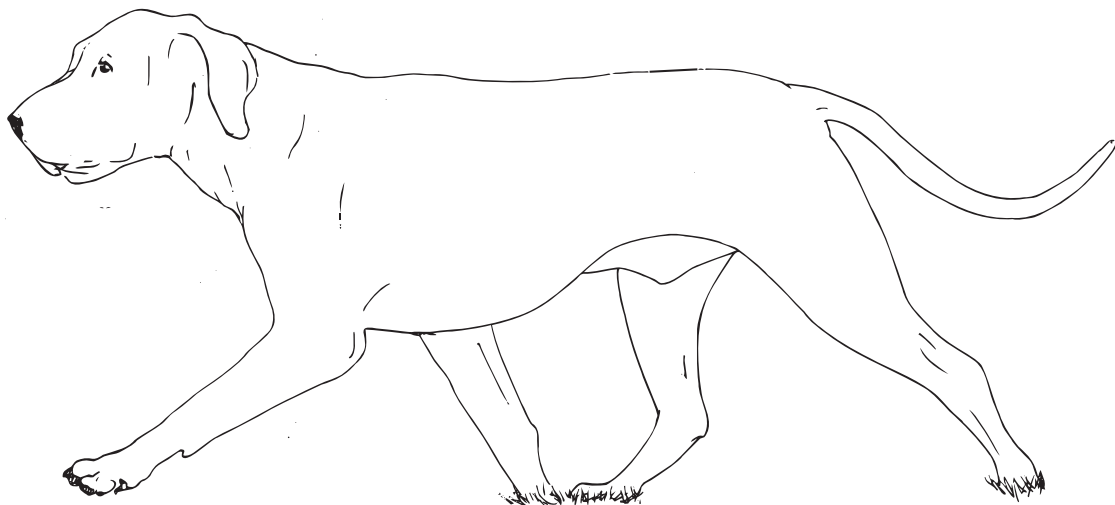
Hocks (Metatarsus): Slight angulation to lower thigh.

Hind feet: Strong and firm, well arched and with tough pads.

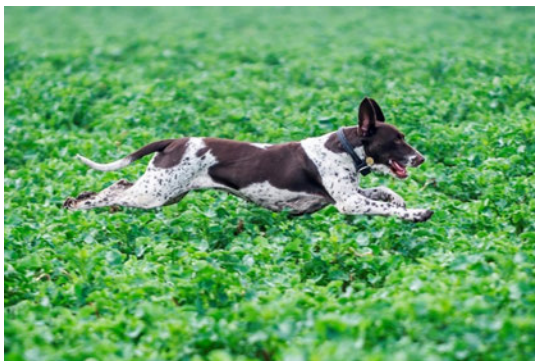


Gait

Reachy strides with good drive from behind and corresponding reach in front. Movement straight and parallel front and rear. Good, high carriage of head.



Good ground-covering movement and correct tail carriage in the show ring.



Good and efficient movement in the field (female and male).

Comment:

Good, ground-covering movement is desired. It is important that, in motion, the dog is not higher over the loin than over the withers.

Skin and coat

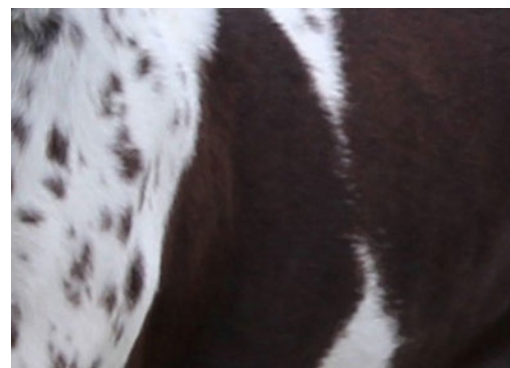
Skin

Not too fine, rather tight fitting on body and limbs. On head and neck the skin is looser, forming dewlap and fold at the corners of the lips.

Coat

Hair: Short and dense, somewhat hard to the touch. Hair must cover the body entirely.

Colour: White with brown markings, a few large or many small, brown specks (freckles) on white. The brown colour may vary, but brown to dark brown is preferred.

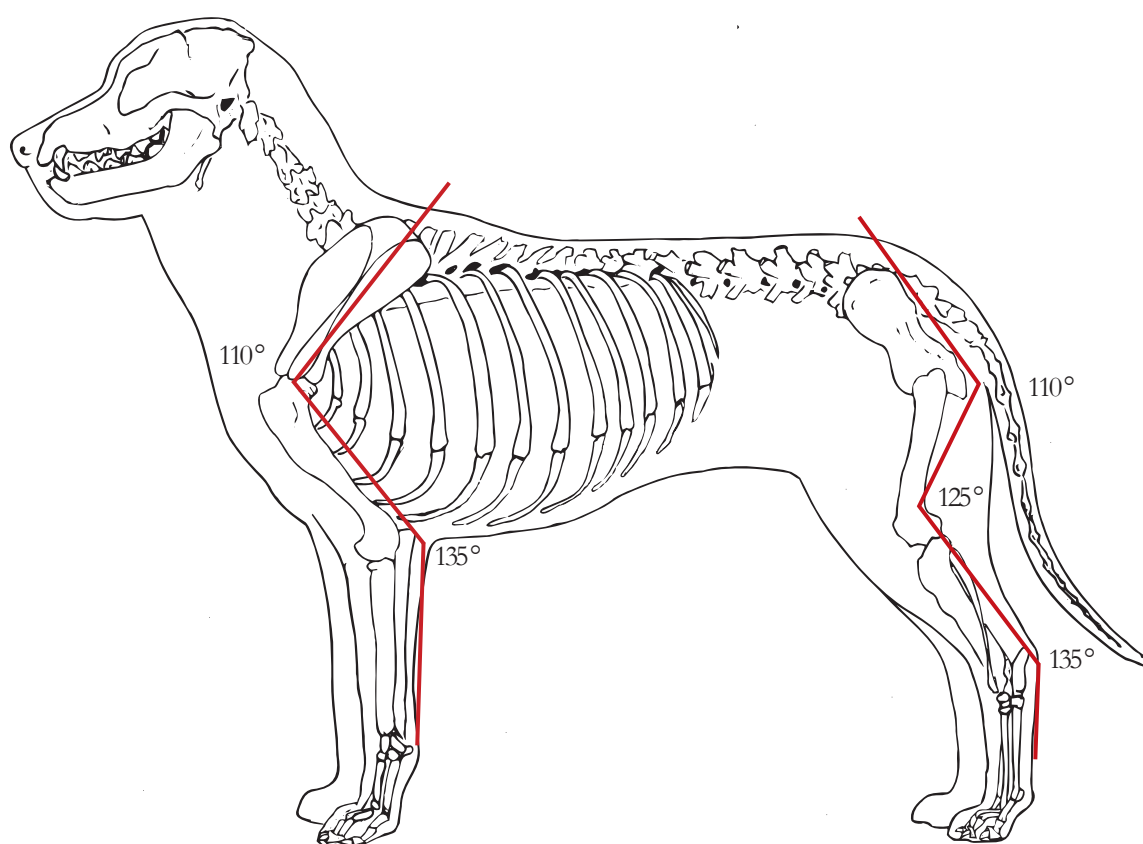


Comment:

All variations of large or small markings are correct, as well as any amount of specks in the white.

Size

	Male	Female
Height at withers	54-60 cm	50-56 cm
Ideal height (withers)	+56 cm	+52 cm
Weight	30-35 kg	26-31 kg



Comment:

Many dogs have become too light and too small. There must be a clear difference between male and female without compromising substance. Both sexes must still be strongly built.

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

Faults

- Bad carriage of head.
- Nose flesh-coloured or spotted.
- Muzzle too short.⁶
- Flews insufficiently deep.
- Missing one or two PM1.
- Eyes too light.
- Slight roach back.
- Croup too short.
- Tail carried too high over topline.
- Slightly bow-legged, slightly cow-hocked.
- Hair too sparse.
- Small departures in size (1-2 cm) above and below limits

Severe faults

- Bone too fine.
- Pronounced stop.
- Muzzle snipey.
- Pincer bite.
- Missing teeth one tooth other than PM1.
- Pronounced roach back, slight swayback.
- Obvious lack in chest development. Brisket not sufficiently defined. Ribcage too flat or barrel shaped.
- Elbows turned strongly in or out.
- Heavily cow-hocked or bow-legged.
- Weak pasterns.
- Flat or splay-feet.
- Weak, timid behaviour.

Disqualifying faults

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Strong deviation in sex characteristics.
- Teeth: More than two P1 plus one other tooth missing. Nonvisible teeth will be considered missing unless their existence at a previous show can be certified.
- Undershot, overshot bite or any other faulty bite.
- Cleft palate or hare lip.
- Ectropion, entropion, distichiasis (double row of eyelashes).
- Malformation of chest or ribcage (e.g. too short sternum causing abrupt rise of underline behind ribs).
- Deviations from size more than 2 cm above or below limits.
- Very shy and weak behaviour.

Comment:

It is desired that, in judging, due consideration is given to identified faults, including serious and, not least, disqualifying faults.

N.B.:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

The Danish Kennel Club's note:
Conditions that negatively affect a dog's health are regarded as a serious fault.

The characteristic features of the Old Danish Pointer are a well-developed dewlap and substantial build – a powerful dog with ground-covering movement and a good temperament.

DKK breed winners and BIS



Best in show (BIS) Herning 1971



Danish Kennel Club breed winner 2008, 2009, 2010

DKK breed winners and BIS



Danish Kennel Club breed winner 2011, 2012



Danish Kennel Club breed winner 2013, 2014

DKK breed winners and BIS



Danish Kennel Club breed winner 2016



Danish Kennel Club breed winner 2017

DKK breed winners and BIS



Danish Kennel Club breed winner 2018



Danish Kennel Club breed winner 2015, 2019, 2021

DKK breed winners and BIS



*Danish Kennel Club breed winner 2022, 2023, 2024
Best in show (BIS) Herning 2024*



Danish Kennel Club breed winner 2025

Acknowledgements

This compendium has been created through dedicated collaboration, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed along the way. Special thanks to the board and the show committee – Heidi Harbo and Jenny Mikkelsen – for their efforts, valuable input, and dedication to the project.

A particular thank you goes to Marika Vejen Jochumsen, whose outstanding illustrations and graphic design elevate the compendium and bring the breed's distinctive characteristics to life in a way that both inspires and informs.

Last but certainly not least, our sincere thanks to the Brebøl Foundation for its financial support of this publication. The Foundation's backing is invaluable in the work to promote the breeding of the Old Danish Pointer.

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Drawings and illustrations

Marika Vejen Jochumsen

