

# AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIER ILLUSTRATED STANDARD



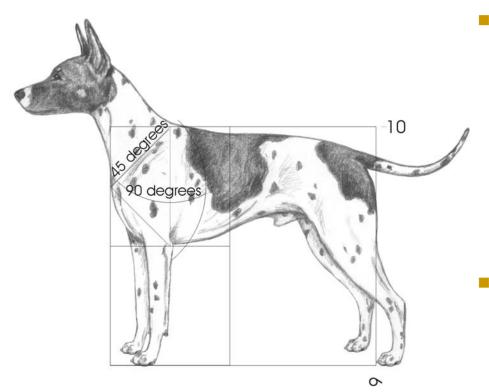
#### **AHT Illustrated Standard**

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- Illustrator: Jeanne Argostar (<u>www.argostar.com</u>)
- Please Note: The drawings represent the "Ideal". We began with a breed that lacked in many areas. They had been bred for lack of hair coat and not conformation.
- In a few short years there have been dramatic improvements but there remain a few areas that will take longer.
- Breeders have had to make choices as to what needed to be improved upon, one fault and a time.
- As you see the breed in the ring please keep in mind this is still a "work in progress" and we have not yet met our Ideal dog

## From the Official UKC Standard:

The first American Hairless Terrier, a female named Josephine, was born in 1972, part of a litter of purebred, coated Rat Terriers. The breeder, Edwin Scott, began to develop the breed from Josephine's descendants. Although he never used any dogs but Rat Terriers in his breeding program, it was always Scott's intention for the hairless dogs to be a separate breed. However, in 1999, when United Kennel Club recognized the Rat Terrier, Scott and his fellow breeders agreed to allow the hairless dogs to enter the UKC registry as Rat Terriers, hairless variety. Upon separation, all of the hairless Rat Terriers and all of their coated descendants, products of careful breeding to the finest coated Rat Terriers, were given the name originally chosen for the breed by Edwin Scott: American Hairless Terrier. While it may seem contradictory to have coated dogs in a hairless breed, it will be necessary for the foreseeable future to continue to include some Rat Terrier crosses until there are sufficient hairless dogs to maintain a separate and healthy gene pool. The American Hairless Terrier was recognized by the United Kennel Club on January 1, 2004

#### IDEAL MEASUREMENTS FOR THE AHT

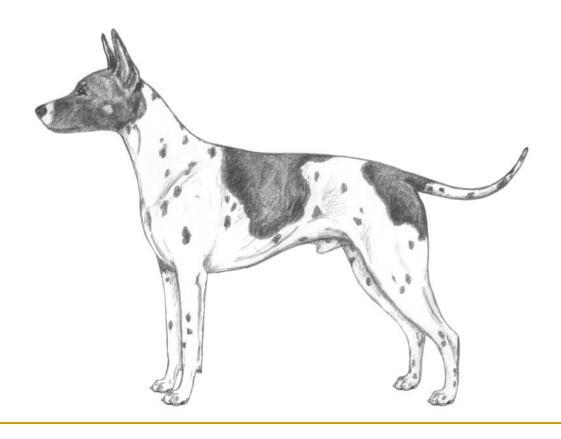


- The American Hairless Terrier is a smoothly muscled, active, small-to-medium terrier. The preferred ratio of length of body to height is 10:9. (measured from prosternum to point of buttocks and withers to ground)
- Viewed from the side, the fore chest extends in a shallow oval shape in front of the forelegs

Disqualification: A short-legged dog whose proportions vary significantly from the
 10:9 ratio lacks breed type and must be disqualified

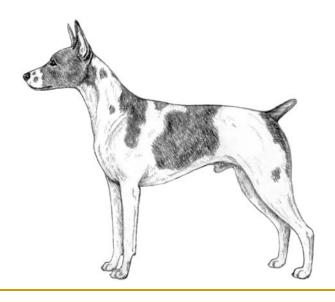
### **Characteristics**

•The American Hairless Terrier is an energetic, alert dog whose curiosity and intelligence make him easy to train.



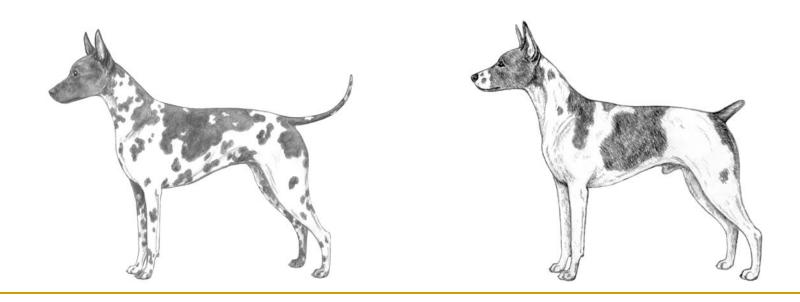
#### Characteristics cont.

- The ancestors of this breed were bred to hunt.
- The lack of coat makes the hairless variety unsuited for hunting, but both varieties still have a strong hunting instinct and the coated dogs are fearless, tenacious hunters with seemingly unlimited energy.



#### Characteristics cont.

- The American Hairless Terrier is an exceptionally friendly companion, getting along well with children, other dogs, and even cats.
- American Hairless Terriers enjoy human companionship immensely and will enthusiastically share any activity with their owners.
- The hairless dogs require protection from the sun and winter cold weather.
- American Hairless Terriers should not be sparred during conformation judging.



#### **Ideal Head -Front View**

 The head is broad, slightly domed, wedge-shaped, and proportionate to the size of the body.



#### **Ideal AHT Head**

- **Skull** is broad and slightly domed. It tapers slightly toward the muzzle. Jaws are powerful with well-muscled cheeks.
- Serious fault: Apple head
  - Ears are Vshaped, set at the outside edges of the skull



• MUZZLE – The muzzle is well filled-out under the eyes, well-chiseled, and tapers slightly from the stop to the nose. Jaws are powerful and hinged well back allowing the dog to open his mouth wide enough to catch rats and other rodents. Lips are dry and tight with no flews. Lip pigment matches nose pigment.

• Fault: Snipey muzzle.

### Ideal AHT Head cont.

#### **Hairless and Coated Varieties**

NOSE – The nose is black or self-colored. Faults: Dudley or butterfly nose.

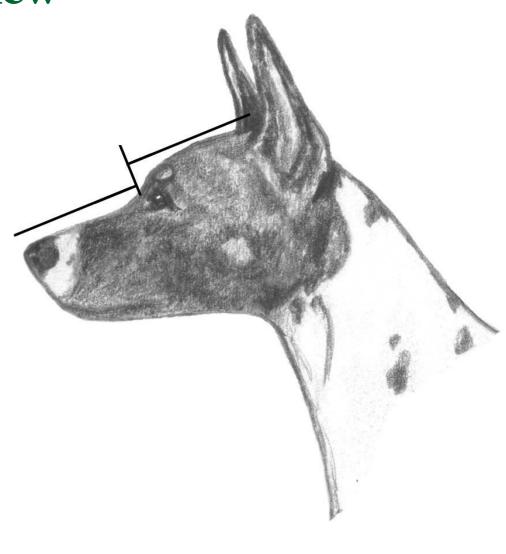


- **EYES** Eyes are set obliquely and are round, moderate in size, and somewhat prominent. Eye rims match nose pigment.
- Eye color ranges from dark brown to amber and corresponds with coat color. Hazel eyes are acceptable in dogs with lighter coat color. Blue or amber eyes are permitted in blue-colored dogs only, but a dark gray eye with gray eye rims is preferred.
- Faults: Bulgy eyes; deep-set eyes; light-colored eyes in a dog with black coat color or black pigment; both eyes not of matching colors; eye with iris containing more than one color; wall or china eye.

#### Ideal Head - Side View

- The head is proportionate to the size of the body.
- When viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are of equal length and joined by a moderate stop





## **Head - Faults**

Abrupt Stop



## Skull

- The skull is broad and slightly domed.
- Serious Fault : Apple Head







#### Muzzle

#### The muzzle is well filled-out under the eyes, well-chiseled, and tapers slightly from the stop to the nose.

 Jaws are powerful and hinged well back allowing the dog to open his mouth wide enough to catch rats and other rodents.

Lips are dry and tight with no flews.

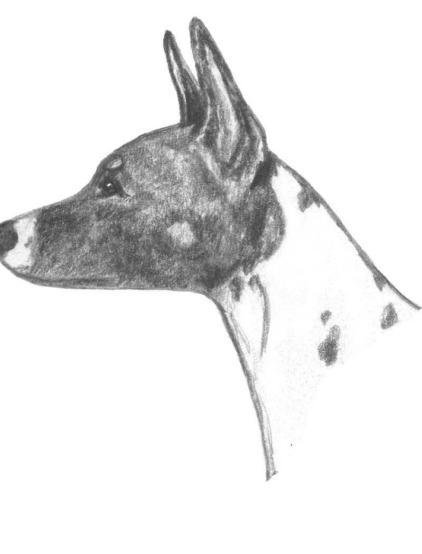
Lip pigment matches nose pigment.

#### Ideal Head





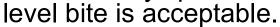
#### •Fault: Snipey Muzzle



### Nose/Teeth

NOSE – The nose is black or self-colored.

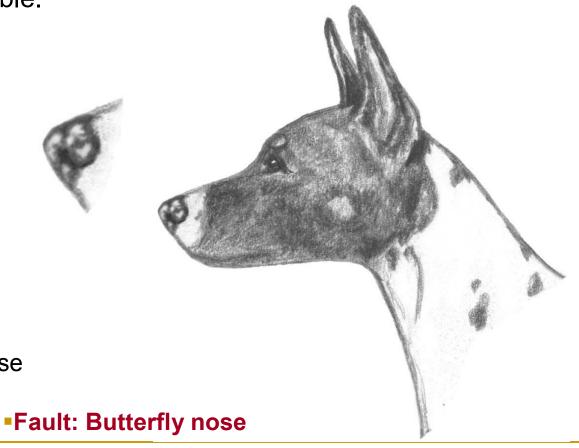
Teeth: The American Hairless Terrier has a complete set of goodsized, evenly spaced, white teeth. A scissors bite is preferred but a







Butterfly – Spotted or partially pigmented nose



## Nose cont.

\*\*Nose pigment can help you determine the color genetics of your dog. Genetically black dogs have black noses and genetically red dogs have red noses. A black nose on a red dog is a "red flag" that the dog isn't really red but is either a yellow or a sable.\*\*



Dudley – Flesh colored Nose, lack of pigment



Fault: Dudley nose

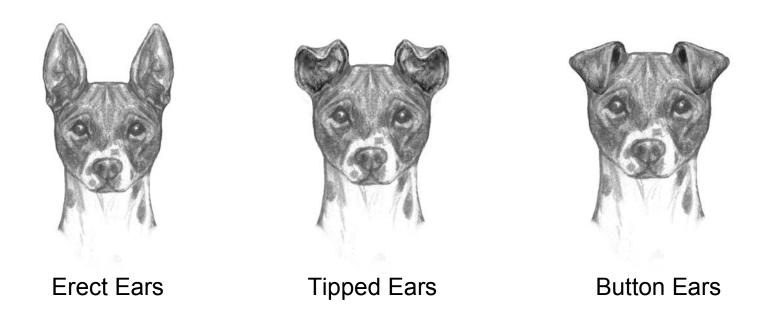
#### **EYES**

- Eyes are set obliquely and are round, moderate in size, and somewhat prominent. Eye rims match nose pigment
- Hairless Variety: Eyes may be any color found in the coated variety.
- Coated Variety: Eye color ranges from dark brown to amber and corresponds with coat color. Hazel eyes are acceptable in dogs with lighter coat color. Blue or amber eyes are permitted in blue-colored dogs only, but a dark gray eye with gray eye rims is preferred.



■ Faults: Bulgy eyes; deep-set eyes; light-colored eyes in a dog with black coat color or black pigment; both eyes not of matching colors; eye with iris containing more than one color; wall or china eye.

## **Acceptable Ear Carriages**



- Ears are V-shaped, set at the outside edges of the skull. Erect ears are preferred but tipped or button ears are acceptable. Matching ears are strongly preferred. Non-matching ear carriage should be penalized to the degree of the variation
- Note: Ear carriage may not stabilize until a dog is mature. Dogs under one year of age should not be penalized for variations in ear carriage.

#### **EAR FAULTS**

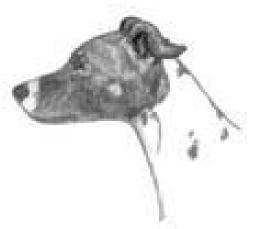


Mismatched Ears
•Over 1 year of age



Rose Ears





Rose Ears -Side View



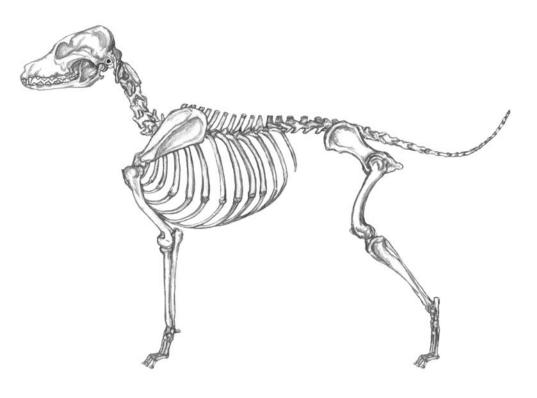
Hanging Ears

et •Disqualification

High Ear set

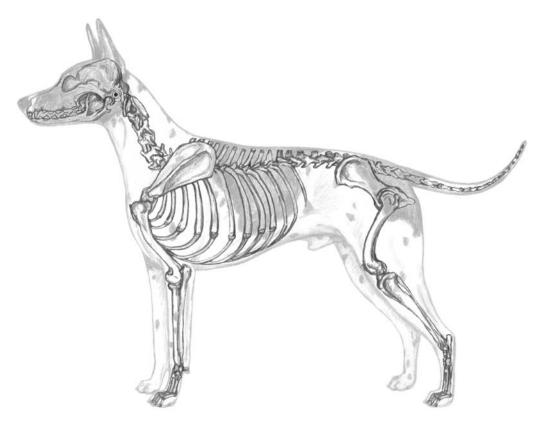
Wide Ear set

#### PROPERLY SCALED SKELETON FOR THE AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIER



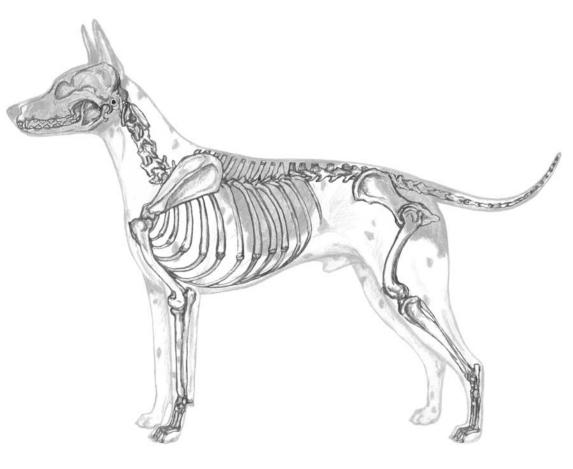
- The importance of angulation cannot be overemphasized when evaluating gait.
- The most significant angles are at the shoulder and hip joints.
- These joints counterbalance one another as they lift, open and shut with the swing of the limbs.
- The front of the dog normally carries about 60% of the total body weight and works like a shock absorbing mechanism as it coordinates with drive from the rear and absorbs impact with the ground.

# Forequarters



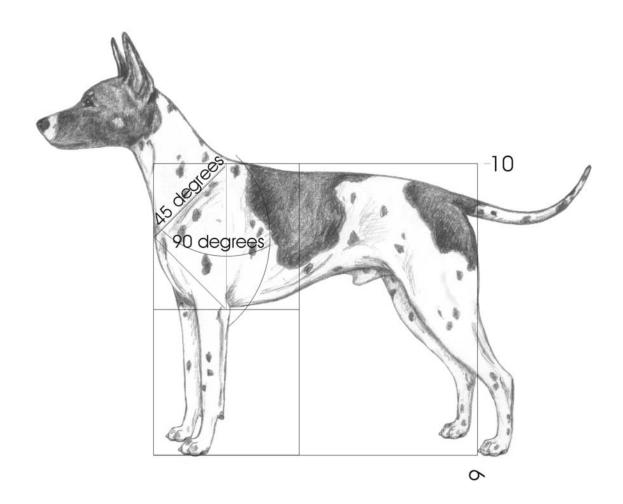
- The shoulder blades are well laid back with the upper tips fairly close together at the withers
- The upper arm appears to be equal in length to the shoulder blade and joins it at an apparent right angle
- The elbows are close to the body
- Viewed from any angle, the forelegs are straight, strong, and sturdy in bone
- The pasterns are strong, short, and nearly vertical

#### SKELETON FITTING CORRECTLY INTO THE AHT BODY



- Whether viewed from the side or from front or rear, the action should be smooth and harmonious with no twisting or jerking.
- Problems arise when one part has to overwork or compensate for lack of balance, injury or weakness in another.
- It is important to note that excessive angulation in any part of a dog's body is detrimental to joint support and endurance.
- It is never a question of the more...

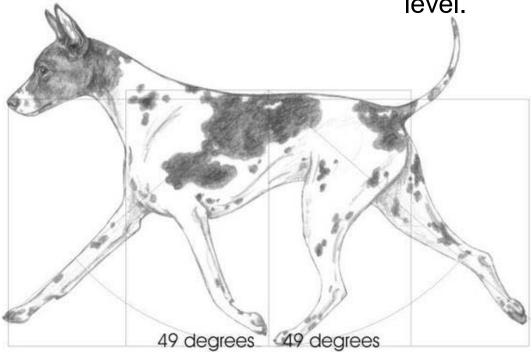
## **AHT Body**



A properly proportioned **American Hairless** Terrier is slightly than tall and length of the front leg (measured from point of elbow to the ground) should approximately equal one-half of the dog's height.

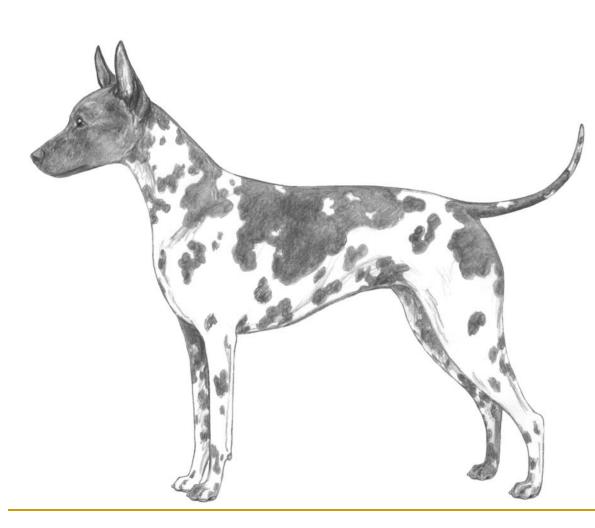
## AHT Body cont.

• Whether the dog is standing or moving, the line of the back is strong and level.



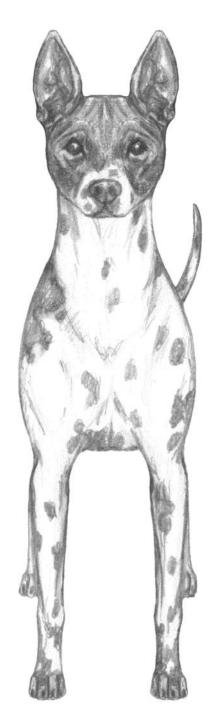
## AHT Body cont.

#### **IDEAL STANDING BITCH**



- The loin is moderately short, slightly arched, and muscular, with moderate tuck-up.
- The croup is slightly sloping.
- The ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from the spine, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body.
- The brisket extends to or just below the elbow.

# AHT BODY cont. IDEAL FRONT

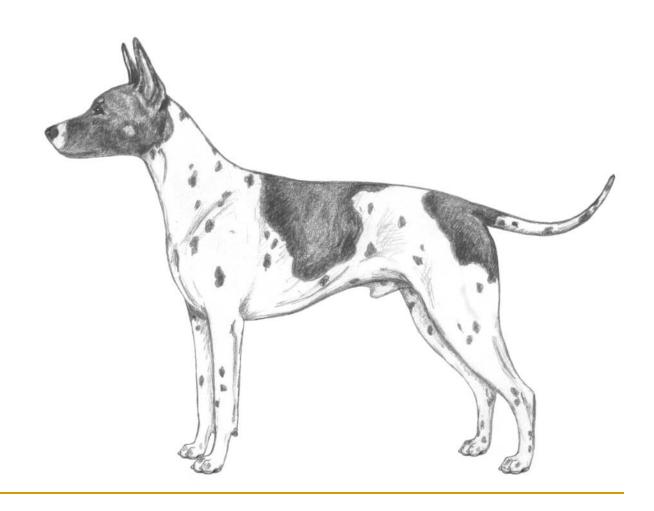


- Viewed from the front, the chest between the forelegs is well filled and of moderate width.
- (Please note this is an area that nearly all AHTs need improvement on.)

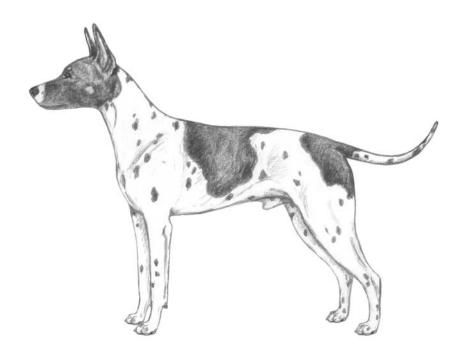
#### AHT BODY cont.

#### **IDEAL STANDING DOG**

 Viewed from the side, the forechest extends in a shallow oval shape in front of the forelegs



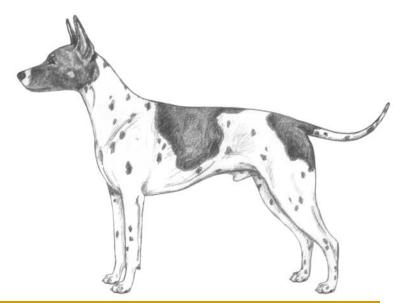
# **Body Faults**



Lack of Depth to Chest



Short in Body

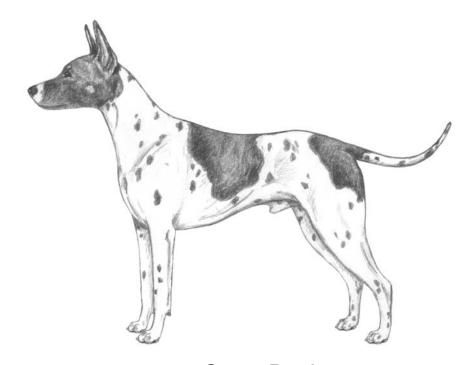


Long in Body

## **Topline Faults**



Roach Back



Sway Back

#### **IDEAL FRONT**

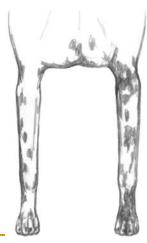
Viewed from the front, the chest between the forelegs is well filled and of moderate width.



 Please note this is an area that nearly all AHTs need improvement on.

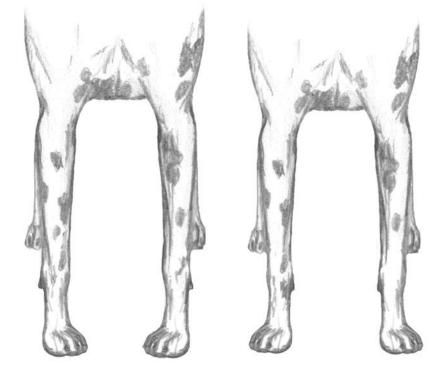


Fiddle Front

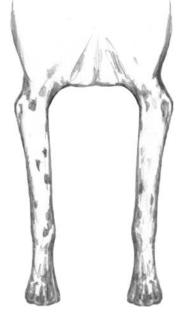


Wide front

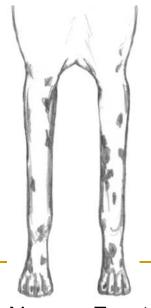
# **Standing Front Faults**



Toes in Toes Out

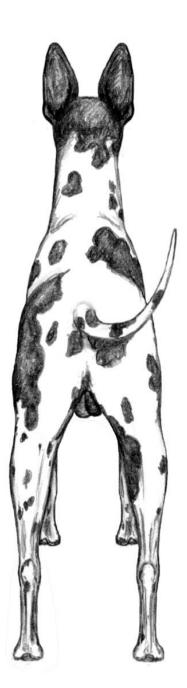


Out at the Elbows



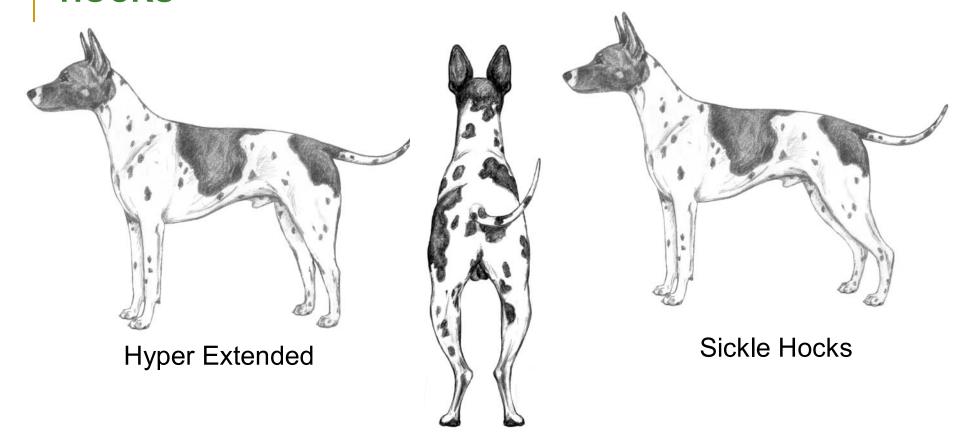
**Narrow Front** 

#### **IDEAL REAR**



- The HINDQUARTERS are muscular with the length of the upper and lower thighs being approximately equal.
- The angulation of the hindquarters is in balance with the angulation of the forequarters.
- The stifles are well-bent, and the hocks are well let down. When the dog is standing, the short, strong rear pasterns are perpendicular to the ground and, viewed from the rear, parallel to one another.

#### **HOCKS**



#### **Cow Hocks or Bow Hocks**

Frequently a clever handler can conceal cow hocks or bow hocks by deft manipulation when stacking a dog. These structural faults are revealed however, when the dog is being gaited The **FEET** are compact and slightly oval in shape. The two middle toes are slightly longer than the other toes. Toes may be well split up but not flat or splayed. Front dewclaws may be removed. Rear dewclaws must be removed.



Correct Feet (left side) & Foot Faults (right side)

2400

Flat Feet

Correct Foot – Side View



Cat foot



Splayed Foot

Correct Foot - Front View

Faults: Flat feet; splayed feet; rear dewclaws present.



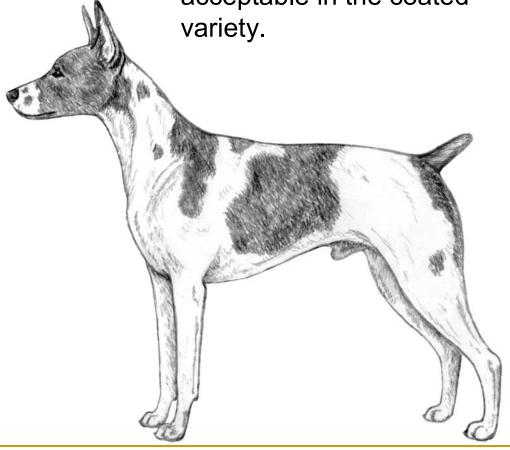
croup. The natural tail is thick at the base and tapers toward the tip. When the dog is alert, the tail is carried in an upward curve. When relaxed, the tail may be carried straight out behind the dog.

It should be noted this variety is very important to our breed. The coated dogs are necessary as we move into the future. They should demonstrate the progress we are making with our breed.

## **Coated Variety – Docked Tail**

- In the conformation ring an excellent coated specimen should be equally considered.
- The best specimen for type, coated or hairless should be rewarded accordingly.

A docked tail is a DQ in the hairless variety. However, docked or full tail is equally acceptable in the coated variety.

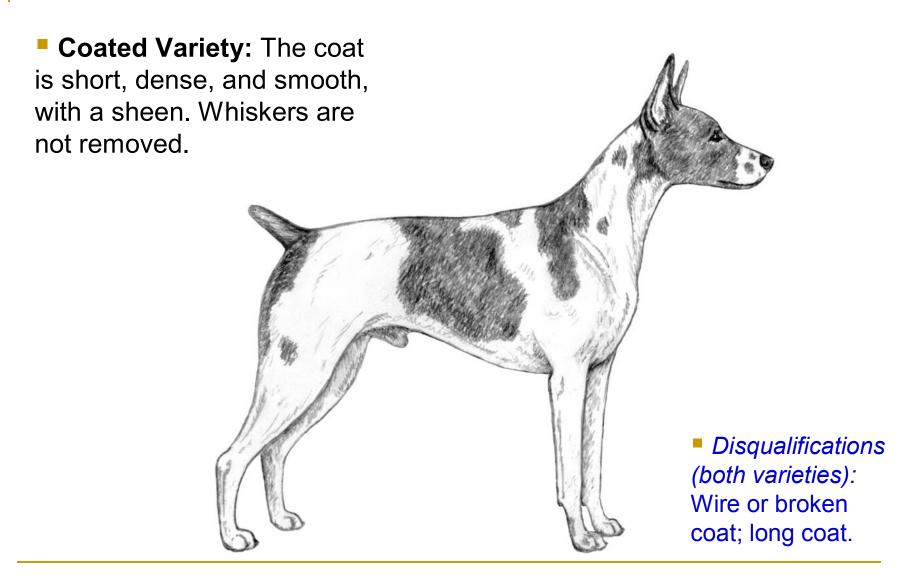


## **COAT- Hairless Variety**



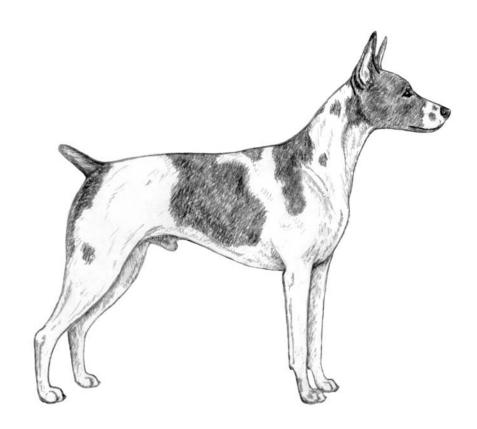
- Hairless Variety: Puppies are born with a soft, vestigial down that generally covers the body.
- This "down" gradually diminishes until age 6 to 8 weeks, by which time the pup should be completely hairless.
- A mature American Hairless Terrier, Hairless variety, is free from hair except for whiskers and guard hairs on the muzzle, and eyebrows.
- Short, very fine (vellus) hair may be present on the body of a mature dog.
- The skin is smooth and warm to the touch.
- The hairless variety may sweat when overheated or stressed, but this is not to be faulted in the ring.
  - Serious faults (Hairless variety): Vellus hair longer than 1mm on a dog over six months of age

## **COAT- Coated Variety**

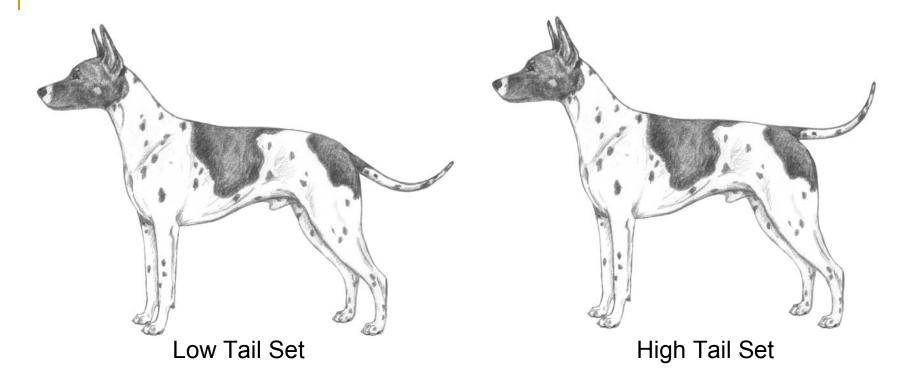


#### **Correct Tail Set**

- The tail is set on at the end of the croup.
- The natural tail is thick at the base and tapers toward the tip.
- When the dog is alert, the tail is carried in an upward curve.
- When relaxed, the tail may be carried straight out behind the dog.
- The tails of the coated variety dogs may be docked. If so, docking should be between the second and third joint of the tail.

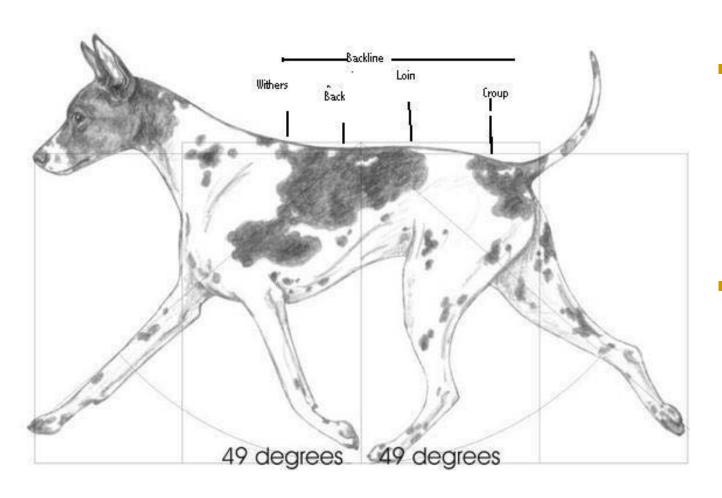


#### **Incorrect Tail Sets**



- Outline of the croup and set-on of the tail is influenced by the slant of the pelvis and affected by the arch, dip or straightness of the lumbar section of the spinal column
- Faults( both varieties) Bent tail; ring tail
- Disqualification (both varieties) Natural Bobtail

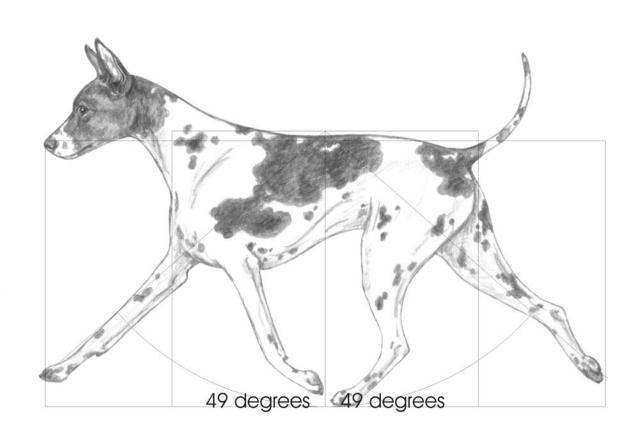
## **Importance of Good Angulation**



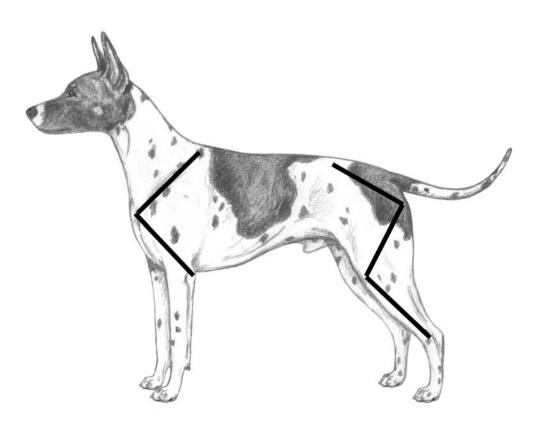
- Good
  Angulation
  facilitates
  a long
  stride.
- Balance facilitates good foot timing

#### PROPERLY PROPORTIONED MOVING AHT

- Whether the dog is standing or moving, the line of the back is strong and level.
- The loin is moderately short, slightly arched, and muscular, with moderate tuck-up.
- The croup is slightly sloping.



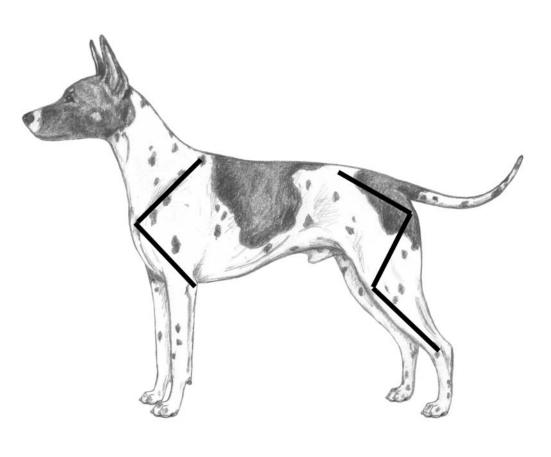
# **Ideal Dog With Angles Shown**



- A COMMON METHOD for evaluating the slant of the bones in the forequarters is to take a line from the uppermost edge of the scapula to the front most prominence of the humerus (the point of shoulder), then take another line from there to the elbow.
- AS A GENERAL RULE, the distance between these points of reference should look or feel about equal, and if the front is balanced the elbow will be set approximately on a line dropped from the rearmost angle of the scapula.

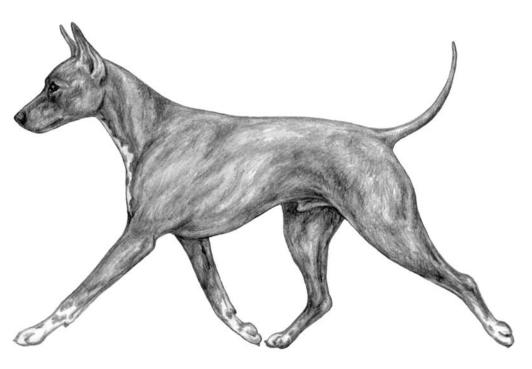
## Ideal Dog With Angles Shown, cont.

- Another way to measure this angle is to feel the ridge of the scapula, and to determine the angle between this ridge and the slant of the humerus (measured from its upper center to its lowest end (not the elbow).
- These latter
  measurements differ from
  the first procedure and will
  give the impression of less
  shoulder layback and a
  greater angle between
  shoulder and humerus, but
  the findings are more
  realistic as to the actual
  bone placement and joint
  angles



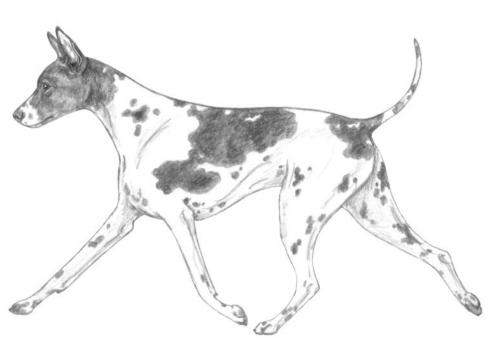
#### PROPERLY PROPORTIONED MOVING AHT

- The ribs extend well back and are well sprung out from the spine, forming a broad, strong back, then curving down and inward to form a deep body.
- The brisket extends to or just below the elbow.
- Forechest extends in a shallow oval shape in front of the forelegs
- The loin is moderately short, slightly arched, and muscular, with moderate tuck-up.
- The croup is slightly sloping



**IDEAL MOVING DOG** 

#### **IDEAL MOVING BITCH**



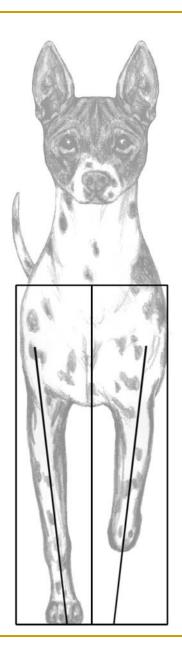
- Whether the dog is standing or moving, the line of the back is strong and level.
- A dog with good angles and balance will have joints that flex easily and smoothly, providing strong thrust from the rear and spring and resilience in the front



## **Ideal Moving**

#### Front

- The American Hairless Terrier moves with a jaunty air that suggests agility, speed, and power.
- American Hairless Terrier gait is smooth and effortless, with good reach of forequarters without any trace of hackney gait.
- Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other.
- As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance.

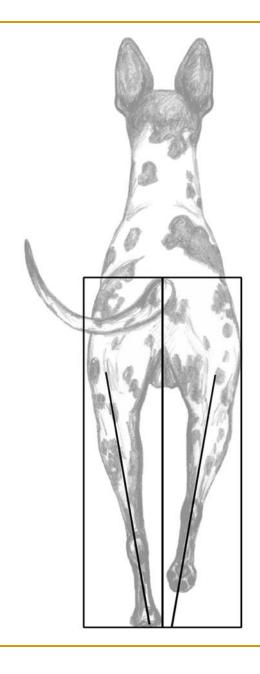


This better demonstrates the action of the muscles and bones in the shoulder area as the leg moves accordingly.



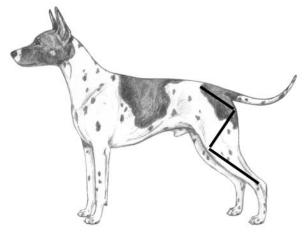
### **Ideal Moving Rear**

- Rear quarters have strong driving power, with hocks fully extending.
- Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other.
- As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance.

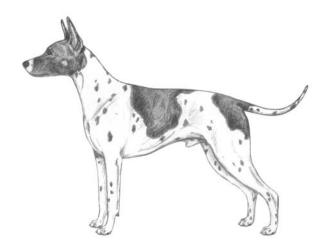


- Same rear movement with boxes and lines over it showing the straight column and "landing points."
- The foot fall depicts the dog moving at a medium trot with the fall converging toward the center line at the closest point of fall.

## Over Angulated •



Over angulated with angles shown



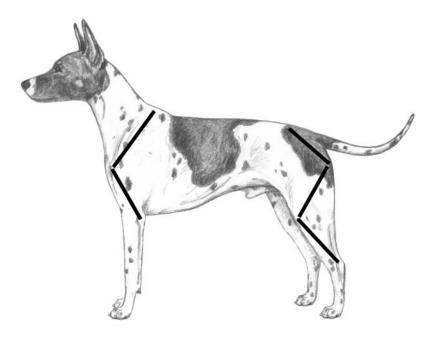
Over Angulated

- To measure the length and slope of the pelvic assembly can be approximated by taking a line from the forward edge of the pelvis (ilium) to the buttock (ischium).
- Pelvic slope and outline of the croup are not one and the same.
- While the outline of the croup and set-on of the tail may be influenced by the slant of the pelvis, the outline may be more affected by the arch, dip or straightness of the lumbar section of the spinal column.
- The angle between the lower thigh and the rear pastern (the hock joint) is also significant.
- The rear pastern should drop vertically, however, if the hock angle is too great (straight in hock), the rear pastern will slope backwards, and if the hock angle is too small (sickle hocks), it causes the dog to stand under itself

### Straight Front and Straight Rear



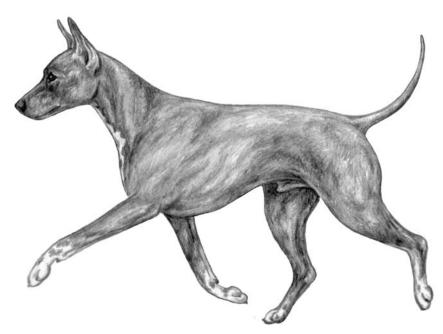
A dog that is straight, front and rear, has a short, stilted gait, BUT, IF IN BALANCE, may be better off than a dog lacking balance, where one end has to compensate for the faultiness of the other



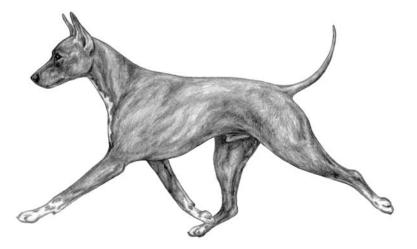
- The entire front is straightened, so withers, shoulder, angles, and entire front placement is changed. The multiple angles in the rear are also changed.
- Very important thing to illustrate because it shows you how many things actually are changed by these faults

### **Side Movement**

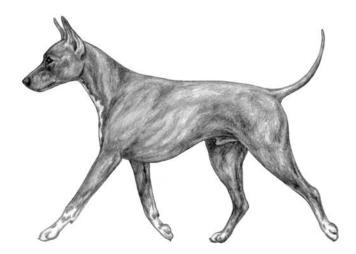
**Faults** 



Hackney Gait in Front with Piston Action in Rear

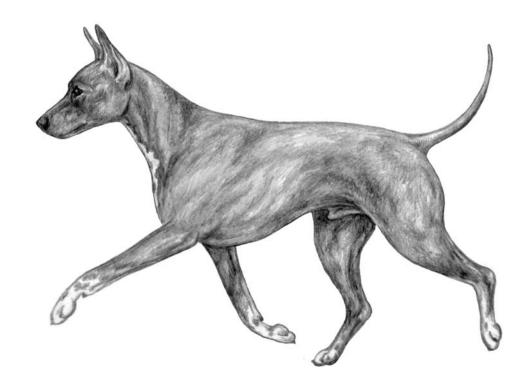


Over Reaching



Lack of Reach

# Front Hackney Gait & Rear Piston Action



- In order to keep the paws out of the way of the oncoming back feet the dog is forced to resort to extra high action of the forelegs.
- Hackney action is caused by more angulation and drive from behind than in front.
- Correct gait for the Miniature Pinscher, however it is an abnormal movement that requires rather steep shoulder angulations, coupled with upright pasterns.

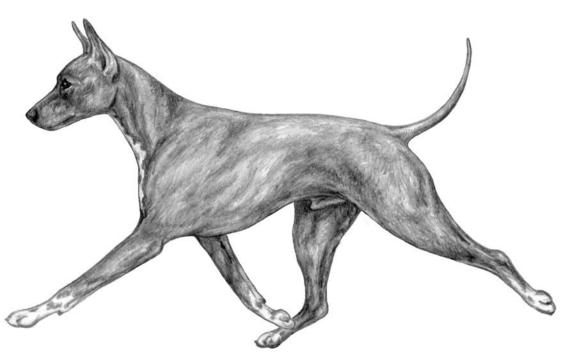
#### **GOOSE-STEPPING**

Faulty in any breed.

Goose-stepping is a movement typified by accentuated lift of the forelimbs, similar in most respects to a hackney gait, but coupled with full extension of the front pasterns and feet before placing them in contact with the ground.

The dog seems to have good reach, but close observation will reveal that the actual front foot contact with the ground is delayed, and therefore the effective reach is considerably shorter.

#### Over Reaching

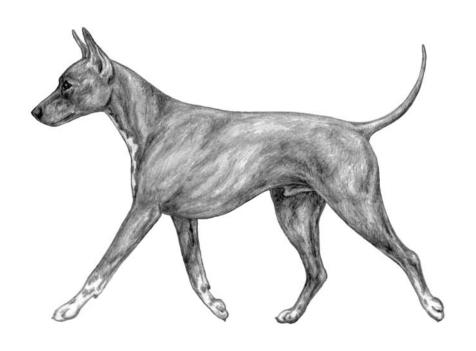


- Observable in profile and especially when moving fast, in which the hind feet are thrust past their front counterparts.
- Overreaching at the trot is a common fault.
- Caused by more angulation and drive from behind than in the front.
- So that the rear feet are forced to step to one side of the front feet to avoid interference or clipping.
- This is one of the many forms of poor foot timing, but it must not be confused with the natural overreach in the suspension trot, or in the canter or gallop.

## Overreaching in Puppies

- Overreaching is a common fault in puppies as they develop through "leggy" stages when the height at withers may exceed length from buttocks to shoulder joint by a fractional difference.
- As the puppy develops and the body proportions come into balance, the overreaching ceases.

#### **Lack of Reach**



 A dog with a shortened stride has poor angulation because the bones meeting at the shoulders and hips are steeply set, forming joints with wide angles



#### **Front Movement**

#### **Faults**

Paddling is incorrect and energy wasting movement of the forequarters in which the pasterns and feet perform circular, exaggerated motion, turning or flicking outwards at the end of each step

Crossing over is an abnormality of gait in which the feet when extended cross over in front of one another as well as over an imaginary center line drawn under the body



is faulty forward movement in which the spinal column is not pointed in the direction of travel, rather, it deviates at an angle so that one rear leg passes on the inside of the front foot, while the other does so on the outside of its partner, instead of traveling in a straight

line with them



#### Rear Movement Faults

When moving close, the fore or hind limbs are insufficiently well separated from each other during movement, and, in extreme cases the legs may interfere by brushing up against one another along their inner borders



# Height and Weight

The American Hairless Terrier ranges in height from 10 to 18 inches tall.

Faults: Height under or over allowed range;
 Obesity

# Disqualifications

- Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid
- Viciousness or extreme shyness
- Unilateral or bilateral deafness
- A short-legged dog whose proportions vary significantly from the 10:9 ratio
- Hanging ears
- Natural bobtail
- Wire or broken coat
- Long Coat
- Albinism
- Merle

## Color – Hairless Variety

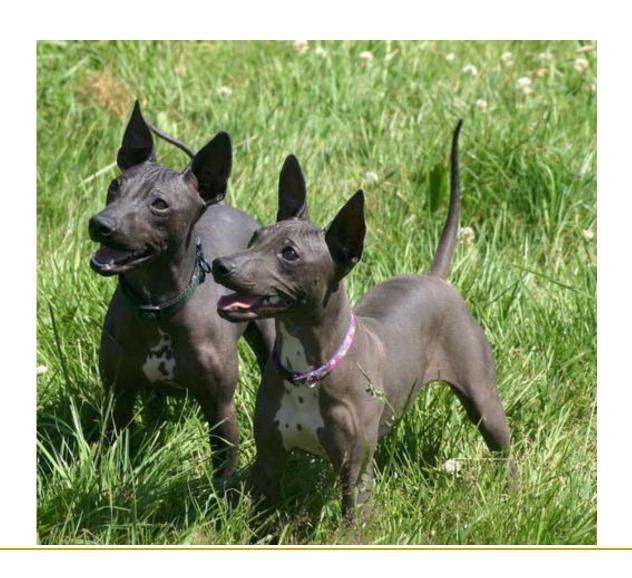
- Any skin color is acceptable.
- The skin is usually parti-colored with an underlying skin color and freckles or spots of contrasting color.
- Freckles enlarge with age, and skin color will darken when exposed to the sun.

Disqualification: Albinism

### **Color – Coated Variety**

- The coated American Hairless Terrier may be solid white, bi-color, tri-color, sable or brindle, but must always have some white, which may be of any size and located anywhere on the dog.
- The white area may be ticked as long as white predominates.
- The remaining accepted colors are: black, tan (ranging from dark tan to very light tan and from intense dark mahogany red to light red with black nose and eye rims), chocolate (ranging from dark liver to light chocolate with self-colored nose and eye rims), blue and blue fawn (with self-colored nose and eye rims), apricot (ranging from orange to faded yellow with black nose and eye rims), and lemon (ranging from orange to faded yellow with self-colored nose and eye rims).
- Faults (Coated variety): Fawn (pale yellowish tan with self-colored nose), cream (pale yellow to off-white), fallow with black mask (very light yellowish tan with black mask), and silver (the extreme dilution of blue).
- Disqualifications (Coated variety): Merle; absence of white; any solid color other than white, albinism.

# Hairless: Black/White (suntanned)



## Hairless: Black/Tan/White

(suntanned)



# Hairless: Black/Tan/White (suntanned & tipped ears)



# Coated: Black/Tan/White (saddle back pattern)



## Coated: Black/Tan/White (full tail)



## Coated: Black/Tan/White (tipped ears)

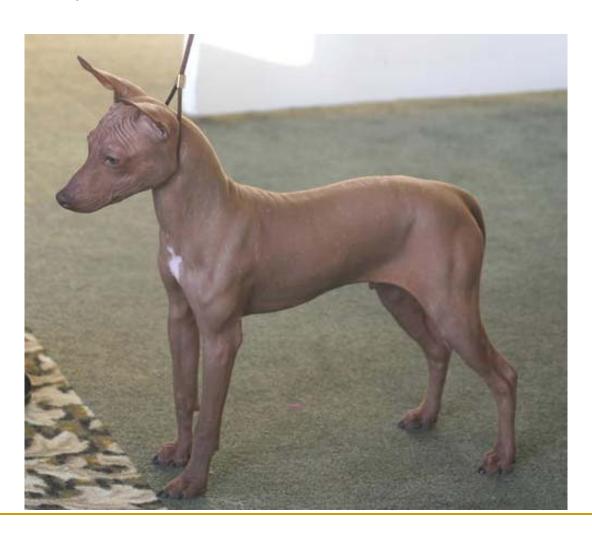


# Coated: Red Brindle/White (tipped ears)

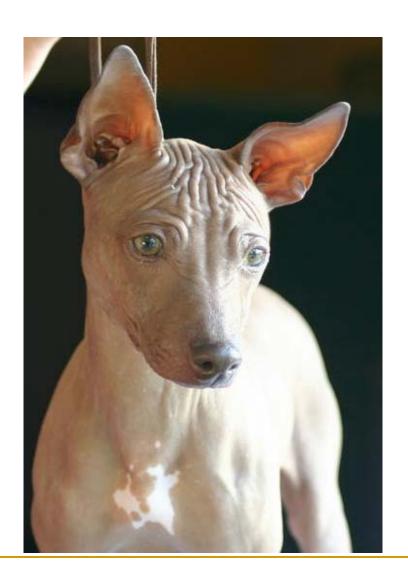


## **Hairless: Chocolate/White**

(suntanned)

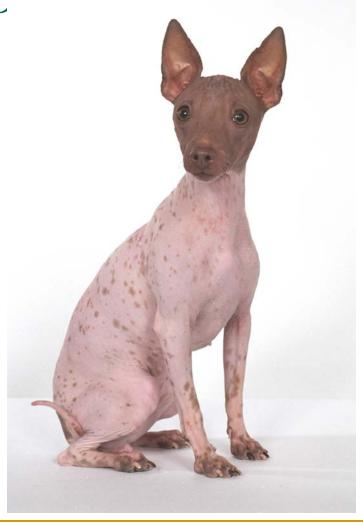


## Hairless: Chocolate/White



## Hairless: White/Chocolate

(suntanned)



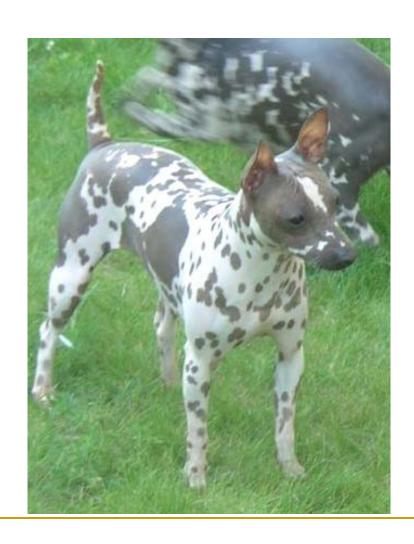
# Coated: Apricot/White



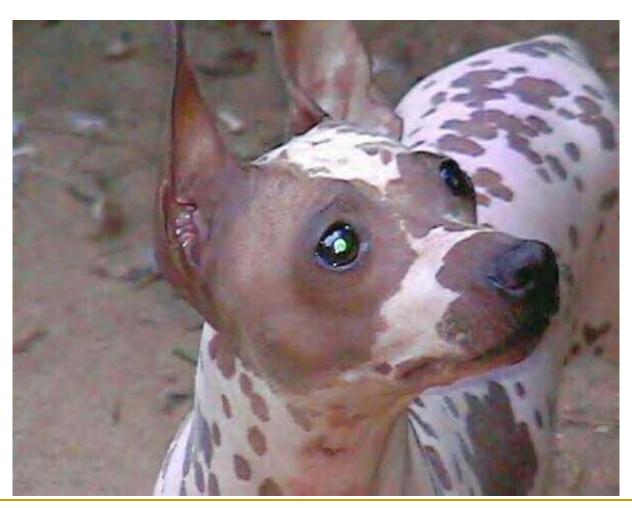
# Coated: White/Apricot



# Hairless: White/Apricot



# Hairless: White/Apricot (with suntan)



#### Hairless: Apricot/White (with suntan)



#### Hairless: White/Apricot (with suntan)



# Hairless: Black Sabled Red (with suntan)



#### **Hairless: Black Sabled Red**

(with suntan)



#### Hairless: White/Black Sabled Red/Tan

(blanket back pattern & suntanned)



## Coated: Black Sabled Red/White



### Hairless: Black Sabled Red/White

(without a suntan) and cold feet!



# Coated: White/Black/Tan



# Hairless: White/Black/Tan (ticking and suntanned)



## Hairless: White/Black (with suntan)



### Hairless: White/Black/Tan (with filled

in color and suntan)



#### Hairless: One dog with body color heavily filled in and suntan and the other with little ticking



## Coated: Black/White (with ticking)



#### Hairless – White/Black/Tan



# Hairless: White/Black/Tan (no suntan and often mistaken for blue)



### Hairless: Black/Tan/White (no suntan-

often mistaken for blue)



# Coated: Blue/Brindled Tan/White



# Hairless: Blue/White (deep suntan)



## Hairless: White/Blue (no suntan)



# Hairless: Black/Tan/White (no suntan-often mistaken for blue)



## Puppies: Hairless - Black & Blue Newborns

 These pictures show true blue is easily distinguished from a black on newborn hairless puppies.





### Puppies: Newborn - All Hairless

(**BLACK**/tan/white); (WHITE/apricot); (**APRICOT**/white); (**BLACK SABLED RED**/tan/white); (WHITE/black/tan)



### Puppies: Newborn - Mixed Litter

(BLACK/tan/white - coated); (WHITE/black/tan- hairless);

(WHITE/black sabled red/tan-hairless); (WHITE/black sabled red/tan -

coated)



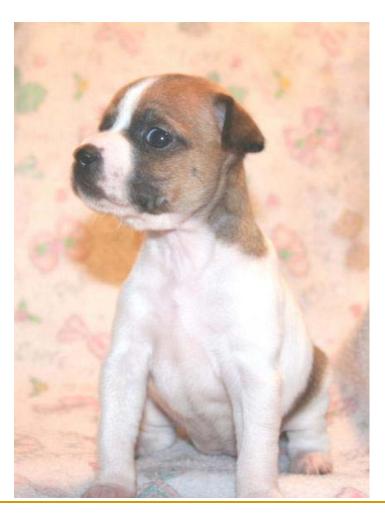
## Puppies (4wks) Littermates

Hairless

&

Coated





#### **Credits**

[Credits: UKC Breed Standard, Elliott, Rachel Page, The New Dogsteps, Second Edition, Howell Book House, New York, 1983. Nicholas, Anna Katherine, The Nicholas Guide to Dog Judging, Howell Book House, New York, 1989. Spira, Harold R., Canine Terminology, First Edition, Howell Book House, New York, 1982.]