

The Irish Wolfhound Breed Standard 2011

Federation Cynologique
Internationale



Presented by Mr. Peter Pask -
Baronglen Irish Wolfhounds.
South Wales - UK

The Beginning



The Wolfhound by Reinagle, 1800.





General Appearance

The Irish Wolfhound should not be quite so heavy or massive as the Great Dane, but more so than the Deerhound which in general type he should otherwise resemble. Of great size and commanding appearance, very muscular, strong though gracefully built, movement easy and active, head and neck carried high, tail carried with an upward sweep with a slight curve towards the extremity.

Great size including height at the shoulder the desideratum to be aimed at and it shall be desired to firmly establish a race that shall average 32 inches 81 cms to 34 inches 86 cms in dogs, showing the requisite power, activity, courage and symmetry.

General Appearance





In 1982 the UK Kennel Club removed all references to other breeds.

The Irish Wolfhound is the largest and tallest of the galloping hounds, it combines power and swiftness with keen sight and in general type is a rough coated greyhound like breed. Of great size and commanding appearance, very muscular, strongly though gracefully built, movement easy and active and head and neck carried high, tail carried low with a slight upward sweep towards the extremity.

Behaviour and Temperament

Lambs at
home,
lions in the
chase.





Head

Long and level, carried high; the frontal bones of the forehead very slightly raised and very little indentation between the eyes.

Cranial Region

Skull : Not too broad

Facial Region

Muzzle - long and moderately pointed.

Teeth - scissor bite ideal, level acceptable.

Eyes - dark

Ears - small, rose ears (Greyhound like in carriage)

Head



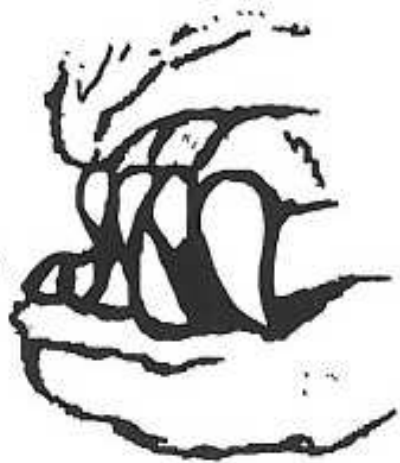
Head



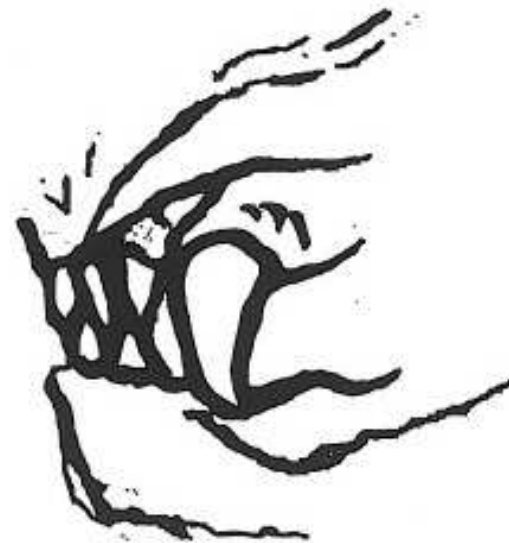
Teeth



Overshot



Undershot



Correct Scissor



Head – the faults

- Unbalanced
- Too light or too heavy a head
- Domes skull, round eye sockets (Mastiff)
- Square head
- Badly constructed jaw, narrow lower jaw, parrot jaw, wry mouth.
- Too highly arched frontal bones (similar to a Great Dane)
- Incorrect bite, overshot, undershot, dentition fault not so serious
- Light eyes
- Round or slitted eyes
- Large or flat ears
- Incorrect pigmentation - (lips and nose)

Head - faults



Neck

Rather long, very strong and muscular, well arched without dewlap or loose skin about the throat.





Neck – the faults

- Ewe Neck
- Swan Neck
- Overlong
- Short
- Dewlap

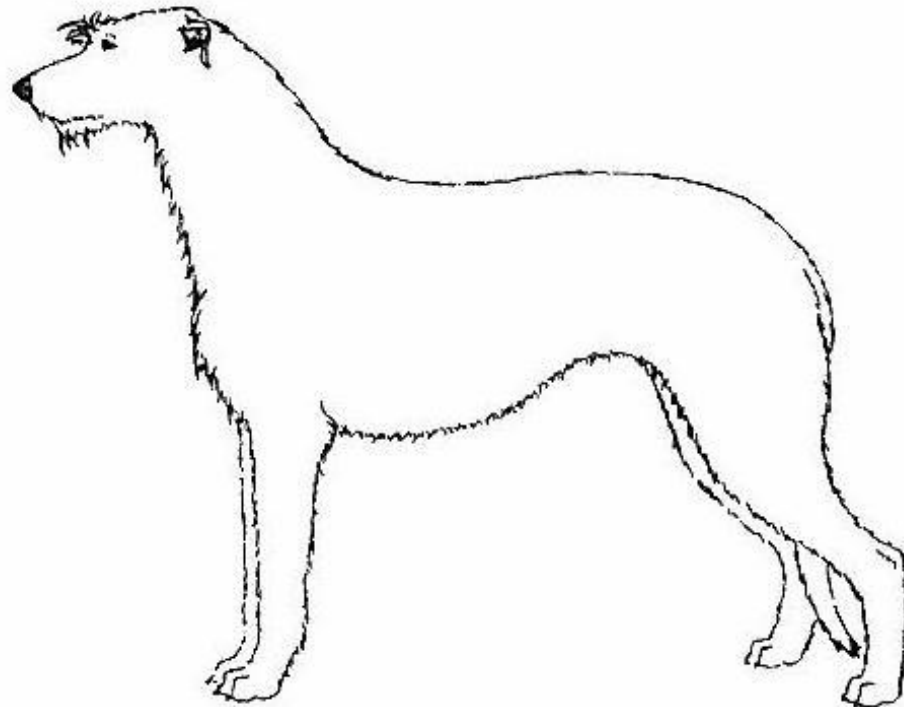
A long strong well arched neck is self evident but rarely found today.

Body

- Long, well ribbed up
- Back - Rather long than short
- Loins - Slightly arched
- Croup - Great breadth across hips
- Chest - Very deep, moderately broad, breast wide
- Ribs - Well sprung
- Belly - Well drawn up



Body – correct outline

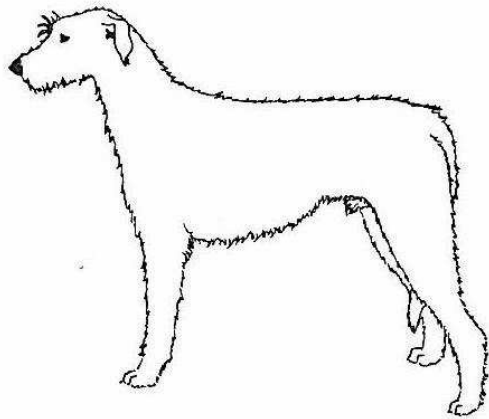




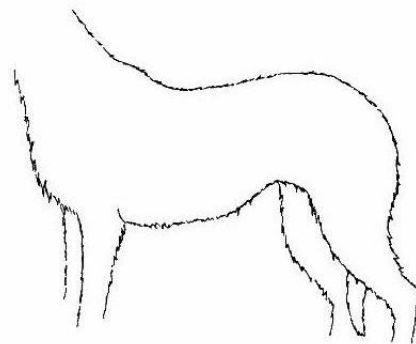
Body – the faults

- Too shallow
- Too narrow
- No spring to ribcage
- Too short in ribcage, too long in loin
- Herring gutted
- Cathedral chest
- Barrel chest
- No arch over loin
- Hollow back
- Roach Back

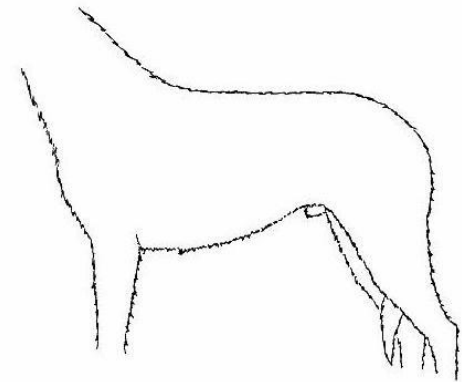
Body – incorrect outline



Thin neck, straight shoulders & upper-arms, flat back & croup, high tail-set. Straight thin stifles, & straight through the hock joint.



Sunken & hollow back.



Flat back.

Tail

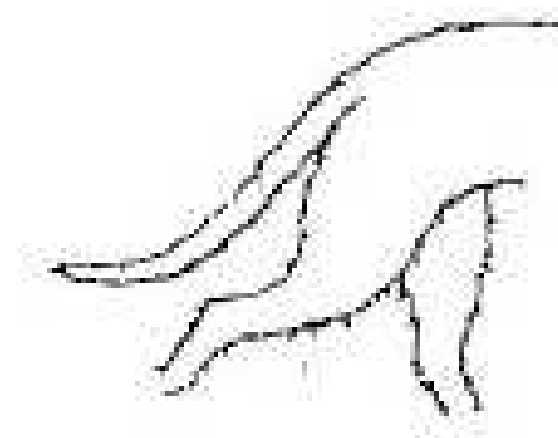


Long and slightly curved of moderate thickness, and well covered with hair.

Tail

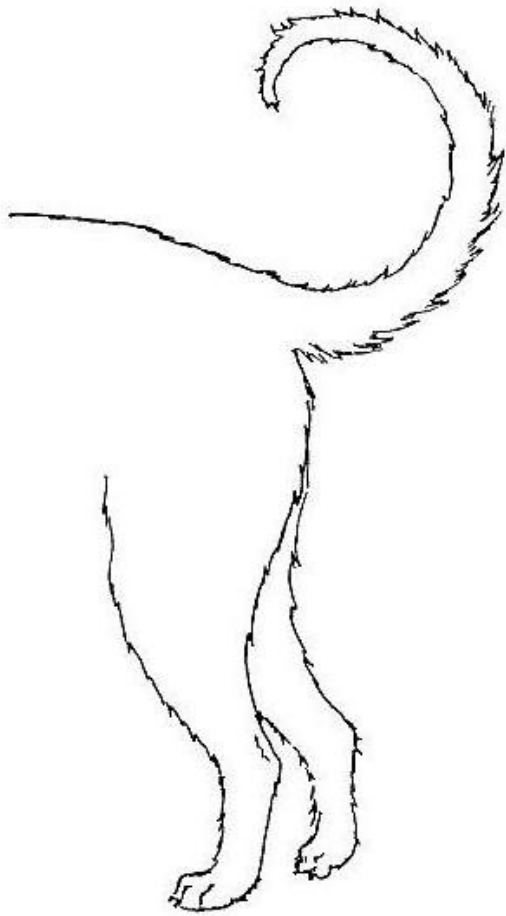


Correct: well-set tail of minimum length for the Breed Standard.



Correct: The same dog showing tail carriage on the move.

Tail - the faults



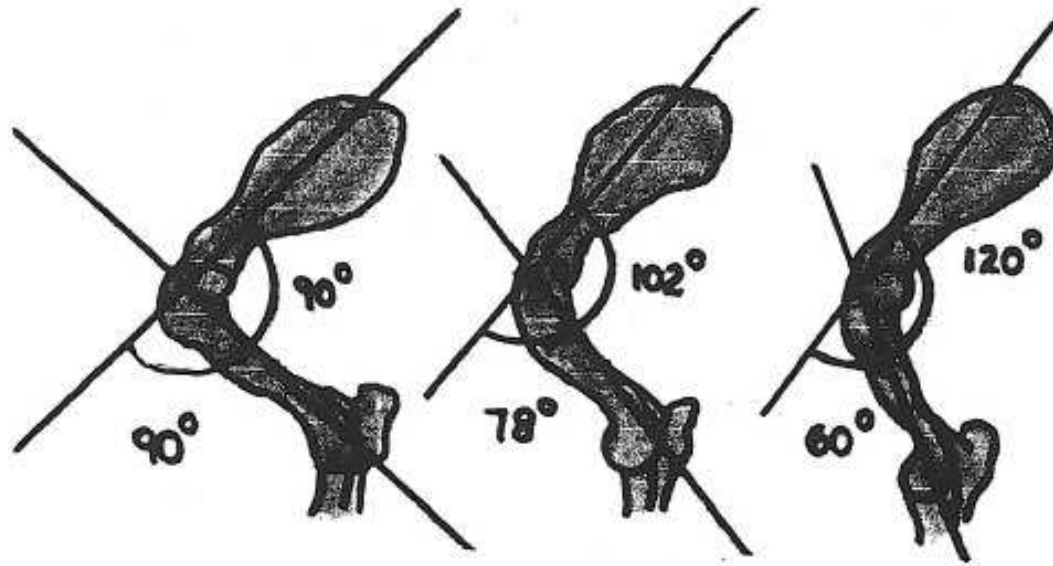
- Wrongly set on to body (to straight at pelvis)
- Thin tail
- Too short (should be between hock and ground)
- Gay Tail

Incorrect: high tail carriage is typical of the dominant male or female.

Limbs

Forequarters

- Shoulders: Muscular, giving breadth of chest, set sloping
- Elbows: Well under, neither turned inwards or outwards
- Forearm: Muscular, heavily boned, quite straight



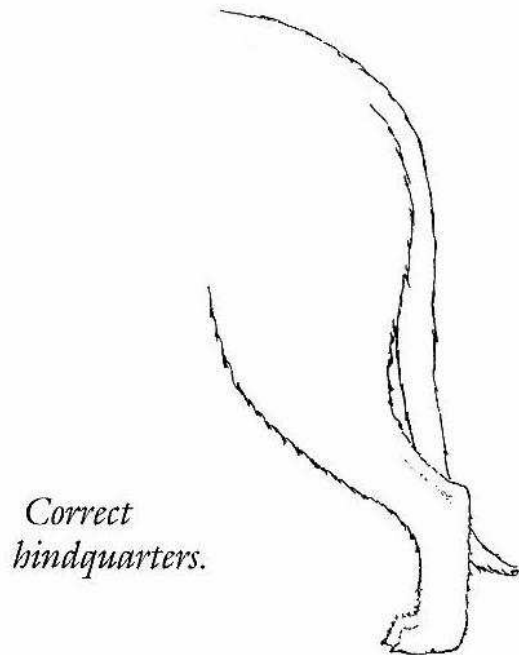


Limbs – the faults

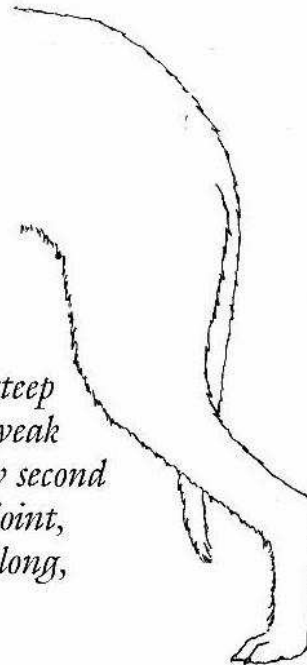
- Too little angulation at shoulder
- Short scapula or humerous
- Loaded shoulder
- Out at elbow
- Bent forelegs
- Knuckling over at pastern

Hindquarters

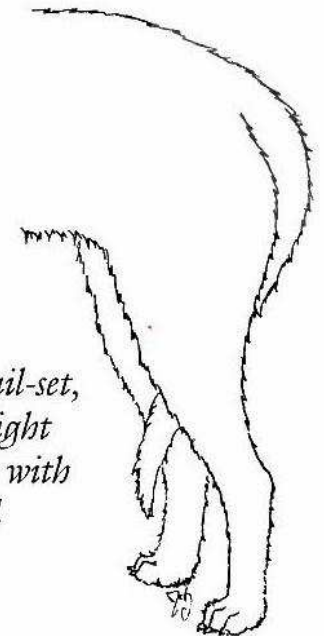
- Thighs: Long and muscular
- Stifle: Nicely bent
- Second thigh: Well muscled, long and strong
- Hocks: Well let down and turning neither in or out



Incorrect: A very steep croup, with thin, weak stifle, long, narrow second thigh, small hock joint, thin pastern, and long, flat foot.

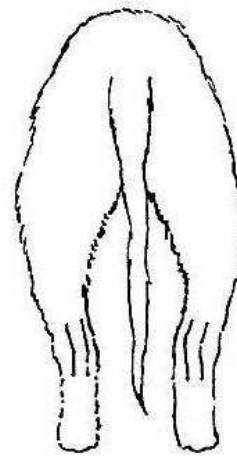


Incorrect: A poor tail-set, combined with straight stifles, twisted hocks with no angulation, and turned out feet.

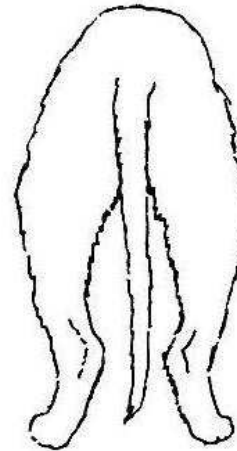


Hindquarters – the faults

- Over-angulated pelvis (correct approx. 30 degrees to horizontal)
- Short or narrow thighs
- Straight stifles
- Cow hocks
- Sickie hocks



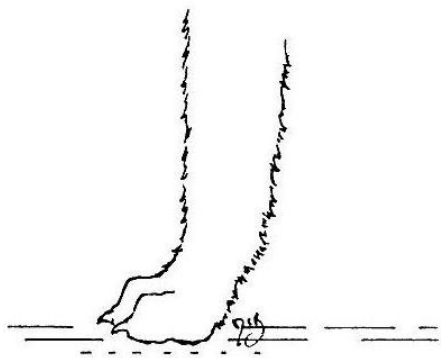
Keyhole
hindquarters



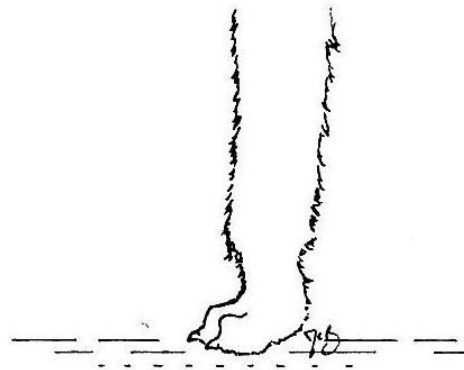
Cow
hocks

Feet

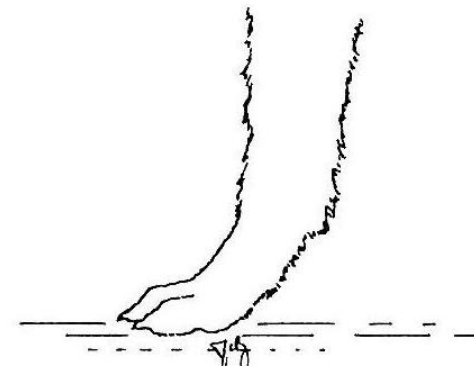
Moderately large and round, neither turned inwards or outwards. Toes, well arched and closed. Nails very strong and curved.



Correct foot & pastern: deep, round, tight foot with slightly sloping pastern.



Incorrect foot & pastern: note how the main pad is lifted off the ground by the bowing forward of the wrist.



Incorrect foot pastern: long, thin, flat foot & long weak pastern with too much slope.

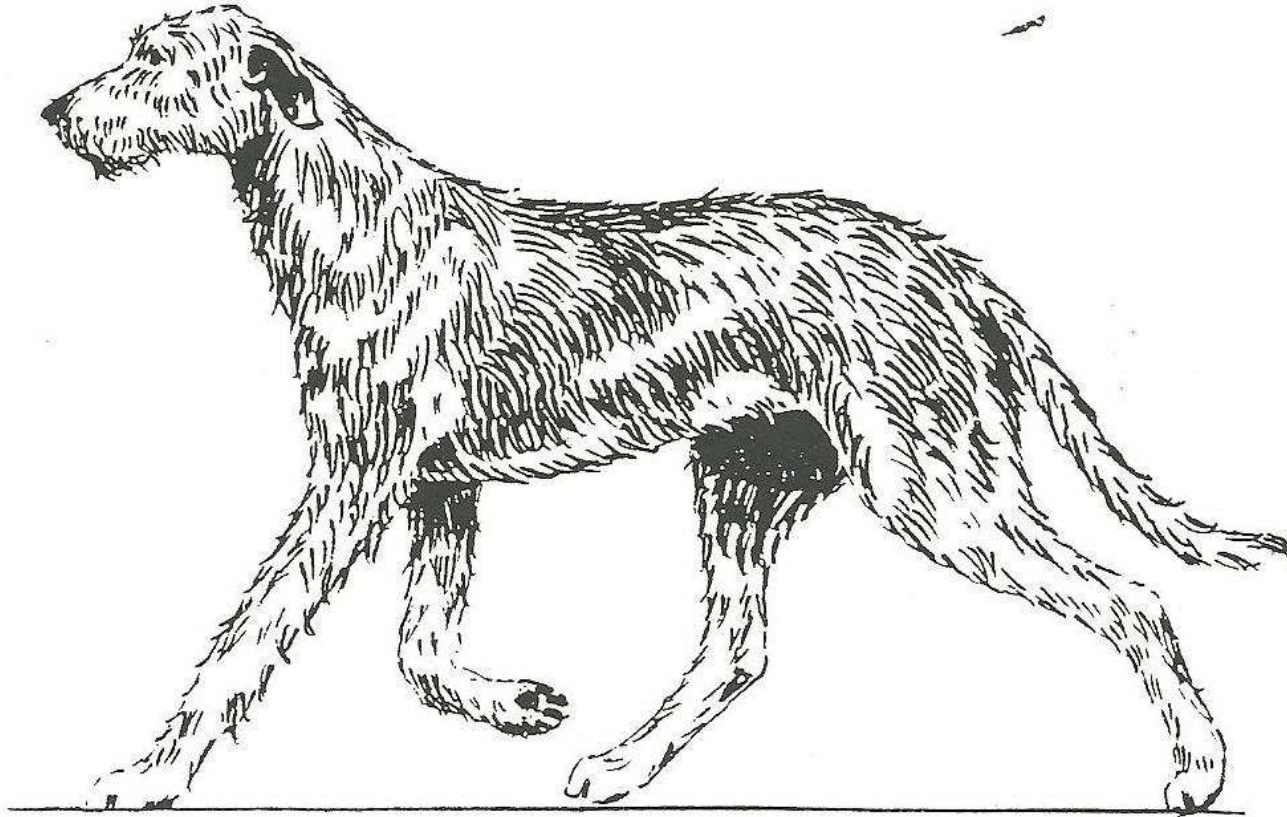


Feet – the faults

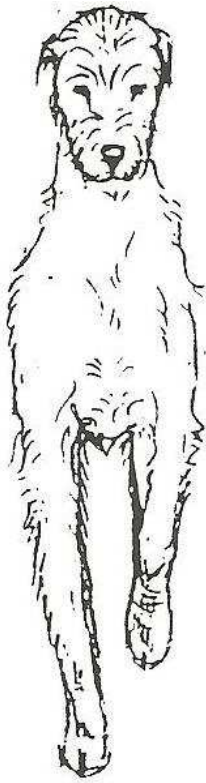
- Hare feet
- Thin pads
- Feet turning in and out
- Splayed feet

Gait / Movement

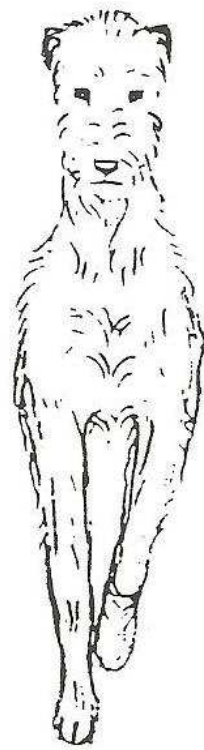
Movement easy and active



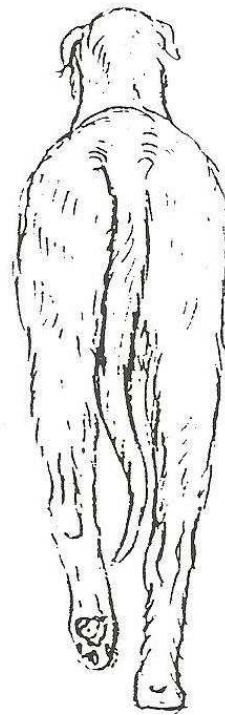
Gait / Movement



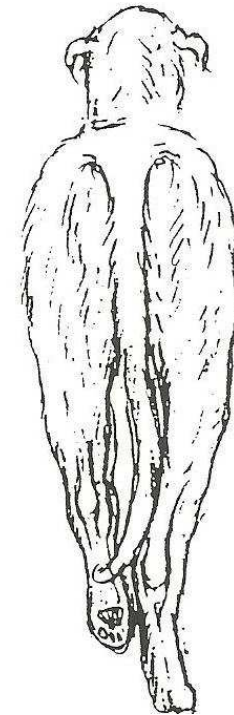
True



Close



True



Close

Gait / Movement

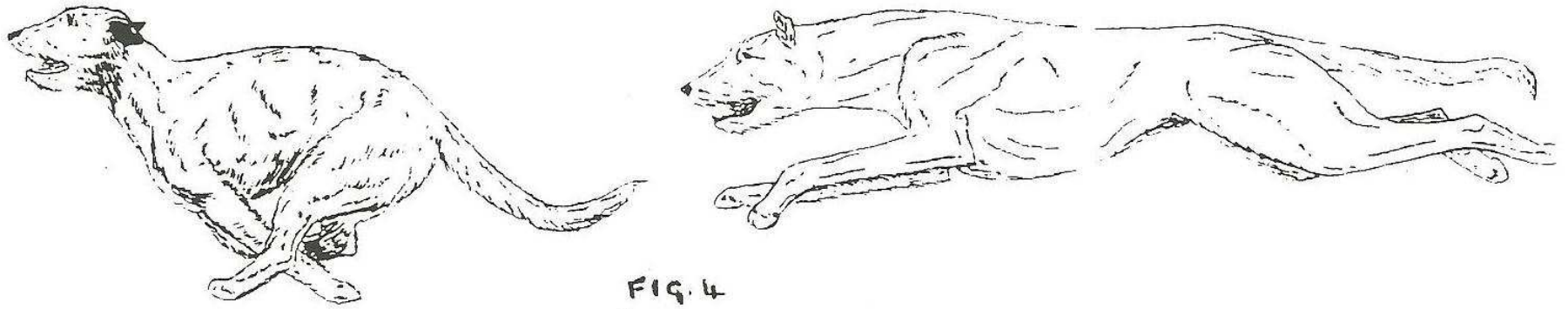


FIG. 4

Coat

Hair Rough and hard on body, legs and head; especially wiry. Hair over eyes and beard especially wiry.

Colour & Markings
The recognised colours are grey, brindle, red, black, pure white, fawn or any colour that appears in the Deerhound.





Coat – the faults

- Smooth coat - no undercoat
- Woolly long thick undercoat, no outer coat
- Afghan coat- normal undercoat, long silky outer coat

Size and Weight - dogs

- Minimum Height Dogs: 31 inches (79 cm)
- Minimum Weight Dogs: 120 pounds (54.5 kg)



Size and Weight - dogs

- Minimum Height Bitches 28 inches (71 cm)
- Minimum Weight Bitches 90 pounds (40.5 kg)





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

- Too light or too heavy a head
- Too highly arched frontal bone
- Crooked forelegs; weak pasterns
- Weak hindquarters and a general want of muscle
- Too short in body
- Back sunken or hollow or quite straight
- Large ears hanging flat to the face
- Twisted feet
- Spreading toes
- Short neck; full dewlap
- Chest too narrow or too broad
- Tail excessively curled
- Nose of any colour other than black
- Lips of any colour other than black
- Very light eyes. Pink or liver coloured eyelids



List of Points in Order of Merit

1. Typical. The Irish Wolfhound should not be quite so heavy or massive as the Great Dane, but more so than the Deerhound, which in general type he should otherwise resemble.
2. Great size and commanding appearance.
3. Movement easy and active.
4. Head long and level, carried high.
5. Forelegs heavily boned, quite straight; elbows well set under.
6. Thighs long and muscular; second thighs well muscled, stifles slightly bent.
7. Coat rough and hard, specially wiry and long over eyes and under jaw.
8. Body long, well ribbed up, with ribs well sprung, and great breadth across hips.
9. Loins arched, belly well drawn up.



List of Points in Order of Merit

10. Ears small, with Greyhound-like carriage.
11. Feet moderately large and round; toes close, well arched.
12. Neck long, well arched and very strong.
13. Chest very deep, moderately broad.
14. Shoulders muscular, set sloping.
15. Tail long and slightly curved.
16. Eyes dark.

Note – The above in no way alters the “Standard of Excellence” which must in all cases be rigidly adhered to; they simply give the various points in order of merit. If in any case they appear at variance with the Standard of Excellence, it is the latter which is correct.

Questions?

