

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL



## Extended Breed Standard of **THE SHETLAND SHEEPDOG**

Produced by  
National Shetland Sheepdog Council (Australia)  
in conjunction with  
Australian National Kennel Council

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## **HISTORY OF THE BREED**

### **The History of the Shetland Sheepdog in UK**

The remote Shetland Islands lay between the northern most tip of Scotland and Norway and were settled by the Norse (Vikings) in 920 AD. These settlers brought with them cattle, sheep and dogs; archaeological remains of the dogs indicate they were of typical Spitz decent resembling what we now know as Buhund and related breeds. These dogs were an all purpose dog, useful around the Crofts or farms, but with no specific role, in what was a hard windswept environment where only low and sparse vegetation could grow and few sheep, cows and ponies could exist; a hard and poor environment for man and animals alike to survive.

It is thought, that with the importation of some sheep to increase the vigour of the flocks, in 1760, a dog(s) was also introduced being, of what then was called The Scottish Shepherd Dog, which is the ancestor in part of both the Rough Collie and the modern day Border Collie.

It is known that following the Highland clearances, after Bonnie Prince Charlie was defeated, to make way for large-scale sheep farming, that an unproductive attempt was made to deal similarly with the Shetland Isles in 1820 and shepherds and their dogs were imported from mainland Scotland. By now, the appearance of a 'Spitz' dog had been modified somewhat, by these newer dogs, and it is thought probable that a dog not dissimilar from very early working sheepdogs, later to be called Border Collies, which were mostly black and white and black and tan, occupied the islands, still carrying out the non specific role of a crofters dog and thought by many to spend rather more time driving pack ponies than herding the sheep which were grazed communally on the Moorlands of Shetland, being only gathered on two occasions per year.

At the start of the 1900's Officers of the Royal Navy, whose ships were stationed near Shetland, had started bringing back to England, as pets for their families, small fluffy puppies, which were purchased from one source in the port of Lerwick. It is believed that these dogs were the product of breeding the resident dog with Papillon and Pomeranians, known to be also in the ownership of the trader. Soon the friends of Royal Navy personnel were also owning these dogs.

The first Breed Club had been formed at Lerwick in Shetland in 1906 but called the Shetland Collie Club and it was not to prosper for very long. The first 'shelties' appeared at a show in Glasgow in 1908 and were described, by a respected authority of the time, as "little more than mongrels, about 8" high"; hardly an auspicious start! The Ladies Kennel Association became the first English show to schedule the breed separately in 1909, which generated huge interest, particularly from the Rough Collie breeders of that time, as the preferred name of these early pioneers of the breed was Shetland Collie, but strenuous campaigning by the Rough Collie breeders resulted in the name Shetland Sheepdog being allocated as perhaps an acceptable compromise.

In 1909 the Scottish Shetland Sheepdog Club was formed and exists strongly to this day, but it was not until 1914 that the English Shetland Sheepdog Club was formed and today boasts the largest membership. By 1914, astoundingly, the breed was recognised by the UK Kennel Club and the first breed standard was approved. Much development to standardise the wildly varying type took place over the next 20 years, with one faction wanting to preserve the more 'traditional' Shetland dog and a rival faction, whose aim was to produce a Rough Collie in miniature. Inevitably the Rough Collie influence, through repeated outcrosses to the breed and intense inbreeding, won the often acrimonious battle over the rather fewer in number 'traditional' dogs.

In 1914 a dog named Woodvold was shown and achieved his title in 1915. His dam was a Rough Collie named Greta and together with a dog called Wallace, whose unregistered sire Butcher Boy become a founder of the breed, as we know it, and few dogs do not trace back to this line. In 1915 the first ever Challenge Certificate was won in UK by a black and white bitch Frea and in the same year the tricolour male Clifford Pat became the breed's first Champion winning the first CC at the breed's first appearance at Crufts in 1916. In 1951 Ch. Helensdale Ace became the breed's first Best Exhibit In Group winner, winning Best Male in Show at Birmingham Championship Show. Three years later Ch Riverhill Rare Gold became Best Bitch in Show at the Ladies Kennel Association and her grand daughter Ch Deloraine Dylis of Monkwood became the highest placed Shetland Sheepdog to date, at Crufts, when in 1967 was awarded Best Bitch in Show.

### **The History of the Shetland Sheepdog in Australia**

The first Shetland Sheepdogs were imported into Australia from the United Kingdom in May 1936 by Mrs Esler (Victoria) a sable male **Claudas of Cameliard** DOB 26/7/1935 (Eng Ch Gawaine of Cameliard x Eng Ch Mary of Camevock) and a tri bitch **Riverhill Regal** DOB 4/10/1933 (Eng Ch Tilford Tweed x Kilda of Clerwood). Both these dogs were believed to have become Victorian Champions. Although they had several litters the line died out due to the lack of other bloodlines.

In 1954 Mr & Mrs Wilson from Wollongong NSW imported from the United Kingdom, a sable male **Hallinwood Golden Dawn** DOB 11/2/1953 (Eng Ch Hallinwood Flash x Catherine of Hildlane) and a sable bitch **Hallinwood Gay** DOB 19/6/1953 (Hallinwood Skylon x Hallinwood Merriment). Records show that they were only shown once and bred one litter which contained the sable bitch **Ch Kiltarra Karen CD** - DOB 18/1/1957 and she was the first Shetland Sheepdog in Australia to gain the Companion Dog title.

Mr & Mrs Frank Taylor imported from the United Kingdom a sable male **Ch Hallinwood Eagle Feather** DOB 20/11/1954 (Eng Ch Hallinwood Flash x Hallinwood Duchess) who was the first Royal Challenge winner at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 1955 and was exhibited in the AOV class, he sired five Australian and two New Zealand Champions. They also imported a sable bitch **Hallinwood Golden Fern** DOB 7/3/1954 (Hallinwood Golden Ray x Hallinwood Merriment) and she was the dam of 2 champions one of which was Aust Ch Sheltie Gold Surprise who was the dam of five Champions.

Mr & Mrs Taylor also imported a tri colour bitch **Lorna of Exford** DOB 14/11/1954 (Eng Ch Lothario of Exford x Lady Ellen of Exford) who was born in the United Kingdom and taken by the Taylors to Canada. Prior to leaving England she was mated to Riverhill Red Coat. This mating produced one tri colour pup in Canada, **Captain Morgan of Sheltie Croft** DOB 10/7/1956 and he was later imported to Australia with his dam. Frank also imported from the United Kingdom a black and white bitch **Sheltiecroft Medley of Exford** DOB 8/3/1958 (Houghton Hill Buffoon x Gala of Exford) and **Drumcauchlie Tontine** sable - DOB 24/3/1959 (Eng Ch Laird of Whytelaw x Drumcauchlie Kerstin) who was the dam of two Australian Champions & one New Zealand Champion.

Ron Scott of Almaroy Kennels imported from New Zealand **Ch Riverbank Shane** Sable - DOB 22/10/1955 (NZ Ch Riverbank Sean x NZ Ch Riverbank Shadrach) & **Riverbank Seraph** Sable (NZ Ch Cuillin of Callart (Imp UK) x Riverbank Startler (IID)). A litter from these two produced the first Australian Bred Champion, **Ch Almaroy Apple Blossom** who was the dam of four Champions, and won Best Opp Sex SSC of NSW Nov 1960 & Easter 1961, Challenge Bitch Sydney Royal 1958 & 1960 & Challenge Bitch Melbourne Royal 1959.

The first Shetland Sheepdog Championship show held in Australia was conducted by the Shetland Sheepdog Club of NSW in November 1960 in conjunction with the Great Dane Club and was judged by Mr Wes Stacey. Dog Challenge & Best in Show was **Ch Supiter of Shelert (Imp UK)**; Bitch Challenge & Best Opposite Sex in Show was **Ch Almaroy Apple Blossom**.

Over the years many imports have arrived in Australia, to list them all would be impossible however some early influential sires and dams include –

**Ch, Eng Ch Riverhill Rampion (Imp UK)** Sable - DOB 2/11/1966 (Stalisfield Samphire x Eng Ch Riverhill Rather Nice) who was the sire of 36 Champions. His sons include **Ch Anmoray Gay Shannon** sire of 18 Champions, **Ch Jentam Yendys Yeldeh** sire of 11 Champions and **NZ Ch Rollingstone of Twoseas** sire of 11 Champions. "Rampions" Grandson **Ch Daestar Dannaher** sired 48 Champions and "Dannaher's" son **Ch Daestar Dandara** sired 20 Champions. "Tam's" influence in Australia is immeasurable and continues to this day.

**Ch Blazon of Callart (Imp UK)** Sable - DOB 15/9/1961 (Eng Ch Trumpeter of Tooneytown x Tanera of Callart) sired 29 Champions. His progeny include **Ch Nigma Altair** sire of 11 Champions, **Ch Kerondi Falling Star** dam of 8 Champions, **Ch Lisronagh Can Can** dam of 8 Champions, & **Oakland Scintilla** dam of 6 Champions.

This male line is coming to an end with only a few male descendants remaining in 2008.

**Ch, Eng Ch Starlight of Callart (Imp UK)** Sable - DOB 9/2/1954 (Rising Star of Callart x Carolyn of Callart) Sired 11 Champions.

**Ch Rodanieh Rock Mundi (Imp UK)** Sable - DOB 21/1/1959 (Ir Ch, Eng Ch Ireland's Eye Trefoil of Arolla x Ir Ch Ireland's Eye Francehill Swagger) Sired 18 Champions.

**Ch Rodanieh Francehill Typhoo (Imp UK)** Sable - DOB 6/5/1962 (Rodanieh Ready Made x Francehill Little Flighty) Sired 15 Champions, the most notable of these was Aust Ch Heatherburn Ace who sired 19 Champions.

**Ch, Eng Ch Selskars Cloudberry of Greensands (Imp UK)** Blue Merle – DOB 2/7/1971 (Eng Ch Loughrigg Dragon Fly x Selskars Myosotis) sired 4 Champions.

**Snabswood Sandbagger (Imp UK)** – Sable – DOB 23/3/1980 (Eng Ch Marksman of Ellendale x Snabswood Siobhan) Sired 2 English, 3 Australian and 2 New Zealand Champions.

**Ch Hightown Fiona (Imp UK)** Sable – DOB 14/7/1957 (Dan Ch, Swd Ch Glyntirion Wee Laird of Marl x Hazelhead Golden Ray) dam of 3 Champions, her progeny include Oakland Vega dam of 6 Champions.

**Ch Soldanella of Shelert (Imp UK)** Sable – DOB 25/10/1956 (Sovereign of Shelert x Fleurette of Shelert) Dam of 4 Champions

**Ch Kendoral Nymph (Imp UK)** Sable - 16/5/1960 (Kendoral Waterman x Zoe of Brownspring) dam of 2 Champions including Aust Ch Heatherburn Ace sire of 19 Champions

**Ch, Eng Ch Happy Song of Tooneytown (Imp UK)** Sable - DOB 9/7/1963 (Fanfare of Tooneytown x Chortle of Tooneytown) "Chit Chat" was the dam of 5 champions. She arrived in Australia in whelp to **Riverhill Rolling Home**, two from the resulting litter of five sable puppies went on to gain their titles, they were **Ch Nigma Rolled Gold (IID)** sire of 6 champions and **Ch Nigma Shenandoah (IID)** dam of 8 Champions.

**Ch Yewdale Golden Gypsy (Imp UK)** Sable – DOB 18/11/1979 (Myriehewe Spanish Crown x Yewdale Golden Mist) dam of 8 Champions including **Ch Nigma Nobel** sire of 23 champions and **Ch Nigma Nostalgia** dam of 6 champions.

Descendants from all the above imports are still breeding on to this day.

The recent United States and Canadian imports are now making their mark on the Australian sheltie scene, these include **Ch, Am Ch Kensil's Dreams 'N Schemes (Imp USA)** Tri Colour - DOB 9/11/1995 (Am Ch Kensil's Ice Skater x Am Ch Kensil's Will O'The Wisp) sire of 10 Australian bred Champions; "Dreamer" was the first American Champion to gain the Australian Champions title. **Grand Ch, Can, Ch, Am Ch Enclave Jade Mist Tapestry (Imp USA)** Sable - DOB 21/9/1994 (Am Ch Jade Mist Beyond Tradition x Tapestry Harvest Treasure) sire of 16 Champions, including 10 Australian bred, "Cameron" was the first American Champion to earn the Grand Champion title. **Grand Ch, Can Ch Grandgables Zulu Warrior (Imp Can)** Tri Colour - DOB 24/4/2001 (Am & Can Ch Apple Acres Expedition x **Grand Ch & Can Ch Grandgables Love In The Snow (Imp Can)**, "Impy" is the sire of 12 Champions, 10 of which are Australian bred. "Donna" his dam has produced seven Champions, 2 of which were bred in Australia.

## **BREED STANDARD EXTENSION**

The current format of the Breed Standards (published in 1986) results from a Kennel Club decision that it would be convenient for all Standards to conform to an identical unified format.

While in the case of the Shetland Sheepdog the present version covers the essential points, some additional evaluation of these will certainly be required by the serious breeder, exhibitor and judge.

The unified layout of the current Standard has involved slightly different paragraph headings and consequent rearrangement or splitting up of various requirements when compared with the previous Standard. In the following evaluation, some of these qualities have been brought together in order to add clarity or emphasis.

Since the first requirement of any standard is to convey a vivid, instantly recognisable mental picture of the specified breed, the Shetland Sheepdog's family resemblance to the Rough Collie (of which, however, it is not an exact miniature copy) makes a good starting point.

### **● GENERAL APPEARANCE**

***Small, long haired working dog of great beauty, free from cloddiness and coarseness, action lithe and graceful. Outline symmetrical, so that no part appears out of proportion to the whole. Abundant coat, mane and frill, shapeliness of head and sweetness of expression combine to present the ideal.***

A combination of the first sentence of this heading with phrases taken from later paragraphs would read "Small, longhaired working dog of great beauty. Strong and active but lithe and graceful, free from cloddiness and coarseness". This would complete a picture of substance and refinement in perfect balance. The dog should of course always appear masculine and the bitch feminine.

### **● CHARACTERISTICS**

***Alert, gentle, intelligent, strong and active.***

### **● TEMPERAMENT**

***Affectionate and responsive to his owner, reserved towards strangers, never nervous.***

It will be helpful to read these two paragraphs in conjunction with one another. The resultant combination of qualities explains why, given sensible rearing, the Shetland Sheepdog makes an ideal family dog and why, with sympathetic training, he shows such a marked aptitude for Obedience and Trials work.

## ● HEAD AND SKULL

***Head refined and elegant with no exaggerations; when viewed from top or side a long, blunt wedge, tapering from ear to nose. Width and depth of skull in proportion to length of skull and muzzle. Whole to be considered in connection with the size of dog. Skull flat, moderately wide between ears, with no prominence of occipital bone. Cheeks flat, merging smoothly into well rounded muzzle. Skull and muzzle of equal length, dividing point inner corner of eye. Topline of skull parallel to topline of muzzle, with slight but definite stop. Nose, lips and eye-rims black. The characteristic expression is obtained by the perfect balance and combination of skull and foreface, shape, colour and placement of eyes, correct position and carriage of ears.***

The character, quality and individual breed type of many dogs is expressed most eloquently in the head properties and this is certainly true of the Sheltie.

Continuing the suggestion of symmetry which permeates the breed Standard, the head must be balanced and in proportion to the individual dog. It must be refined, but not fine, and the required wedge-shape, though comparatively long, should be blunt when seen (it must be noted) from the top or from the side.

The Standard lists quite accurately all the individual qualities which contribute to the perfectly balanced head and although it does not appear in the official requirements, the term “one-piece head” suggests the smooth moulding which enables the flat skull, the flat cheeks and the ideal stop to blend with the rounded foreface into a harmonious whole.

Seen from the side, the flat skull (not too frequently seen) should be absolutely parallel with the topline of the muzzle, but the skull must be on a very slightly higher plane because of the slight rise of the stop. Although slight, the outline of the stop is of course accentuated by the eyebrows. If the stop is too pronounced, the head frequently appears “old fashioned” because a deep stop often seems to accompany a broad skull and possibly a dished face (in which the muzzle is slightly higher at the nose than in front of the eyes).

If the stop is too slight, the space between the eyes will be filled in, giving a decidedly “foreign” look to the profile and the expression. The skull may appear to recede, and in some cases actually does so, a grave fault.

If the stop is too gradual, starting to rise well in front of the eyes, it will probably spoil the profile of the muzzle which, instead of being perfectly smooth and level throughout its length, may show a dip hollow.

So too little, too much, or an incorrectly placed stop can alter the profile of the head and the expression quite drastically. This applies also to any lumps on the muzzle profile, any dip or droop of the nose-tip, or any bumps on the skull. Any deviation from the smooth parallel lines detract greatly from the type and quality of the profile.

Since the underline of the muzzle when seen from the side must also suggest a blunt wedge, there should not be too much depth from the eye down through the back of the jaw, and the under jaw should be reasonably well-developed. If the depth is too

great and the under jaw weak, the effect will be sharply triangular rather than a blunt wedge.

As the Standard clearly states, the head should be in proportion to the size of the dog.

Fig. 1



*Correct outline of head showing skull and muzzle equal in length and on parallel lines*



*Drooping nose and head too deep through*



*Receding skull and over long foreface*



*Rounded skull and head too deep through*



*Two piece head, stop too deep and dish-faced*



*Total absence of stop (straight through head) and lacking in under-jaw*



Fig. 2

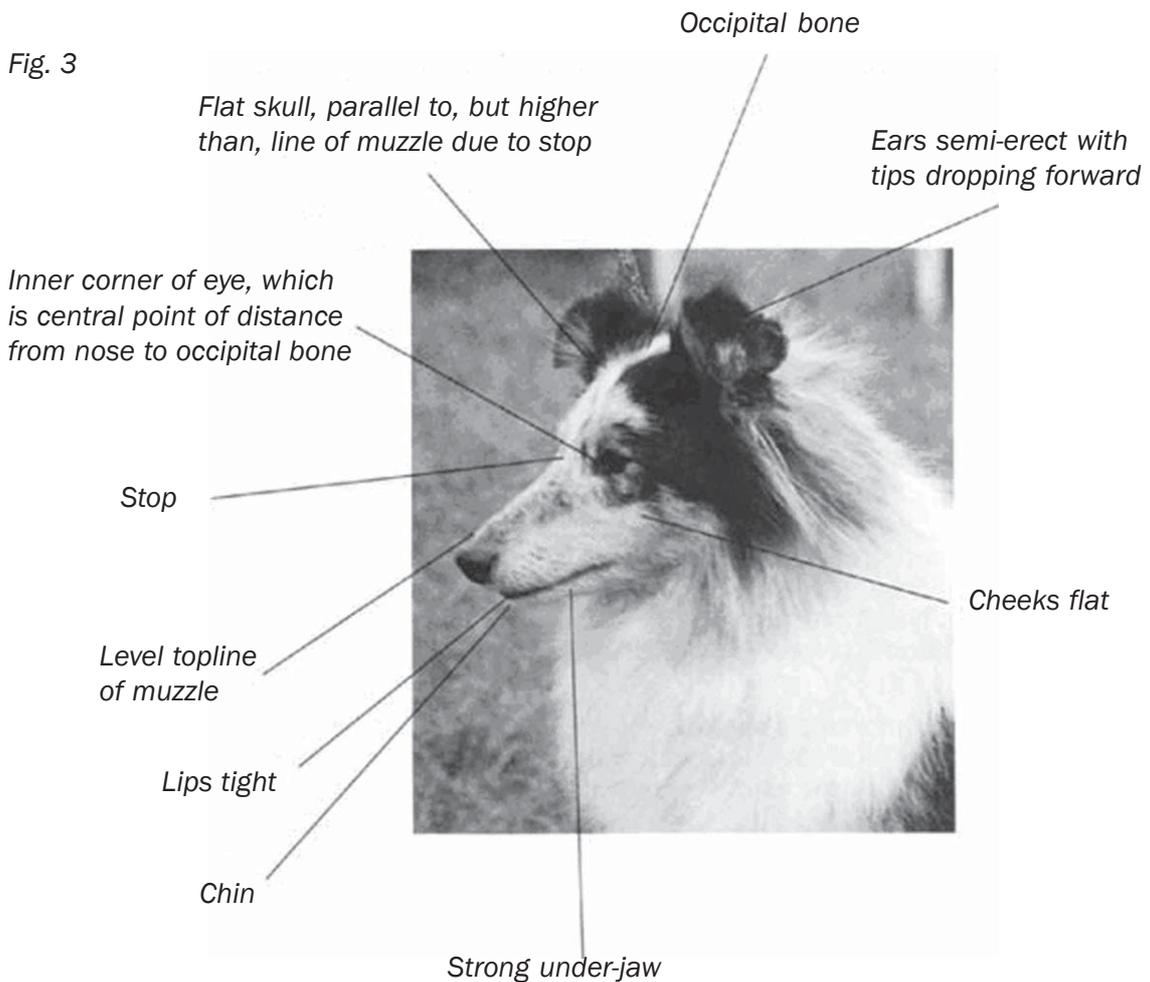
*Ears semi-erect with tips falling forward*

*Eyes obliquely set, almond shaped*

*Well rounded muzzle*

*Note the clean smooth wedge shape of the head and the desired expression of sweet, alert, gentle intelligence*

Fig. 3



Occipital bone

Flat skull, parallel to, but higher than, line of muzzle due to stop

Ears semi-erect with tips dropping forward

Inner corner of eye, which is central point of distance from nose to occipital bone

Stop

Cheeks flat

Level topline of muzzle

Lips tight

Chin

Strong under-jaw

## ● MOUTH

**Jaws level, clean, strong with a well-developed under jaw. Lips tight. Teeth - sound with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws. A full complement of 42 properly placed teeth highly desired.**

The well developed, under jaw, besides completing the wedge, is usually associated with the desired tight lip formation. A weak under jaw, possibly accompanied by inadequate lip formation, tends to reveal the incisors, especially when the dog's head is raised. This is an unsightly fault.

The markedly overshot jaw (mercifully seldom seen) can go with an over-long muzzle, possibly with a tendency to a roman nose - a very bad and very ugly fault.

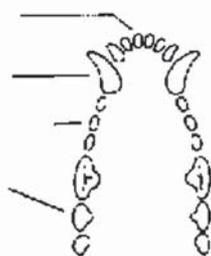
A level bite causes undue wear on the incisors.

An undershot jaw is a very rare (and serious) fault in a Sheltie, but individually misplaced lower incisors are sometimes seen and are certainly not desirable. Misplaced canines are a very serious fault both from the functional and aesthetic point of view.

Dentition faults (or omissions) appear to be hereditary to some extent, so although few Sheltie judges are likely to be too censorious over a single missing tooth or one very slightly misplaced incisor, breeding plans should not ignore the desirability of complete dentition.

Fig. 4

6 Incisors  
2 Canines  
8 Premolars  
4 Molars



Total 20

6 Incisors  
2 Canines  
8 Premolars  
6 Molars



Total 22

## ● EYES

**Medium size, obliquely set, almond shape. Dark brown except in the case of merles where one or both may be blue or blue flecked.**

The correct eye is adequately described here, but its shape and placement make such a vital contribution to the typical expression that its importance cannot be over-emphasised. It is also the ideal complement to the wedge-shaped head into which it fits as though streamlined into position.

A large round eye on the other hand does not fit the shape of the head and gives a decidedly faulty expression. Because in the past this type of eye was a common problem, there has been a tendency for a "nice small eye" to be regarded as desirable. This is certainly not the case. A really small eye can give a very hard expression as can a black or light brown eye as opposed to a dark brown one.

The permitted range of eye colour in the blue merle Sheltie is quite wide. Either or both eyes may be dark brown, blue or a combination of blue and brown. The eyes do not have to “match” in colour. Two very pale blue eyes can produce a somewhat staring look but are unlikely to be penalised unless the expression produced has an adverse effect on the general appearance. Two darker blue eyes on the other hand can contribute to a very pleasing expression. There is also the rare but beautiful “merle eye” in merles where the eye is brown but with a blue fleck, patches or lights.

Any trace of blue in the dark brown eyes of sables or tricolours would be a serious fault.

## ● EARS

***Small, moderately wide at base, placed fairly close together on top of skull. In repose, thrown back; when alert brought forward and carried semi-erect with tips falling forward.***

These standard requirements are reasonably explicit and it should be noted that the ears should be placed FAIRLY close together on top of the skull. While low-set, obliquely carried ears are obviously ugly and faulty, ears that are placed VERY close together can give an uncharacteristically sharp expression. Sheltie ears are NOT required to be “bang on top - practically touching” as sometimes described with misplaced enthusiasm.

In case a change of a single word in the Standard should cause uncertainty, (“falling” has replaced “dropping” forward) it should be mentioned that the ears should curve gently over rather than appearing to drop sharply from a crisp crease. The latter carriage is another feature likely to give a sharp, terrier-like expression. The tips of the ears should point forward and not to the side. Ears, which are placed low on the side of the head, can make the skull look broad, and heavy ears detract from the desired expression.

The character and appeal of the breed, including its essentially sweet, alert yet gentle, expression are so dependent on the ideal combination of the eyes and ears with the head properties, that all the remarks appearing under these headings must really be read and considered as part of a whole.

## ● NECK

***Muscular, well-arched, of sufficient length to carry the head proudly.***

Although quite adequately described, this feature needs special emphasis because it is currently too seldom seen. This is a great pity as besides contributing to the flowing outline and proud head carriage, a reachy, crested neck adds so greatly to the look of distinction which a really top-class Sheltie should possess.

It is also important because in a breed of normal construction such as this, adequate length of neck will generally accompany adequate length of body and reasonable shoulder angulation. Without all these features, a Shetland is unlikely to be able to stride out with the necessary freedom.

Conversely, the short, thick neck, frequently combined with steep shoulders and insufficient length of body, gives a dumpy outline and restricted movement, neither of which can be described as graceful.

It must be remembered that the full adult coat (more especially the mane of the male) tends to disguise the reach of neck, so a “stuffy” necked puppy is most unlikely to grow into an adult with proud and impressive head carriage.

## ● FOREQUARTERS

***Shoulders very well laid back. At the withers separated only by vertebrae, but blades sloping outwards to accommodate desired spring of ribs. Shoulder joint well angled. Upper arm and shoulder blade approximately equal in length. Elbow equidistant from ground and withers. Forelegs straight when viewed from front, muscular and clean with strong, but not heavy bone. Pasterns strong and flexible.***

Some people profess to find shoulders difficult to assess which is presumably the reason that the upright shoulder is a common and persistent fault. In fact the good shoulder is not difficult to recognise and should be apparent without the need to handle the dog. The poor shoulder is even easier to recognise as it is likely to produce glaringly obvious faults in both stance and movement.

The well-laid-back shoulder (scapula) descends diagonally from well-defined withers to meet the upper-arm (humerus) at what is generally called the “point of shoulder”. The upper-arm should then run back at an angle of about 90 degrees from the shoulder to the elbow, the elbow, it will be remembered, should be equidistant from both the withers and the ground. If all the lengths and angles are correct, the elbow will be placed approximately beneath well set back withers. The dog will then be standing with its legs well under it, with a well-developed forechest.

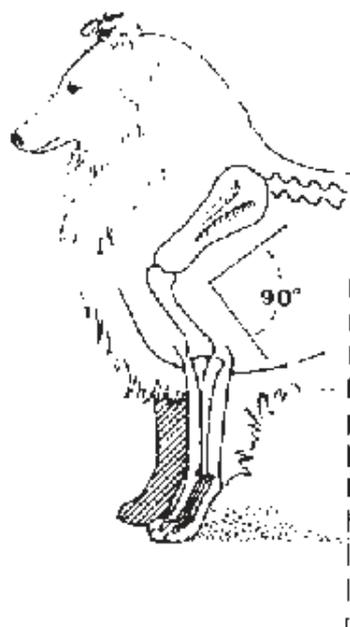
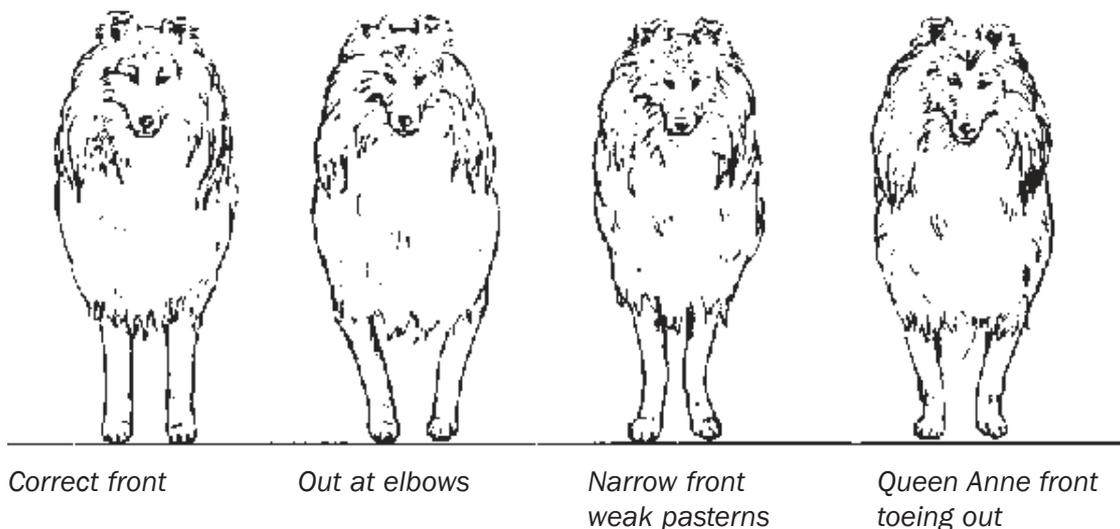
If the shoulder and/or upper-arm are too steep, the withers will be scarcely discernible as the upper tip of the scapula will be obscured by the base of the neck.

The legs may appear to be in a perpendicular line down from the ears to the ground and there will be no apparent forechest because the sternum (breastbone) will be obscured by the upper-arm. The stride will be short and choppy and the forelegs may well be lifted too high. In fact the dog will look quite unbalanced in both stance and movement.

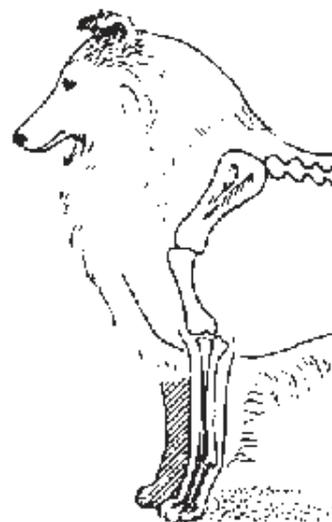
Now for the stipulation that the upper-arm and shoulder blade should be approximately equal in length. The short upper-arm is one of the faults most frequently criticised, but it may not be quite as common as suggested, if only because the term “point of shoulder” is highly ambiguous. The shoulder-assembly is really the combination of the shoulder blade (scapula) and upper-arm (humerus), which meet in a ball-and-socket joint. The tip of the humerus, and then continues slightly to enclose and protrude slightly beyond the end of the scapula. So it is the upper-arm, not the shoulder-blade which should be measured from this point. The end of the shoulder-blade lies fractionally farther back.

The foreleg is required to have “strong” bone. This does not mean “heavy” bone. The heavily-boned foreleg will seldom accompany a flexible pastern but it will all too frequently run straight down, with a “thick ankle” instead of a flexible pastern, to a clumsy round foot. The flexible pastern is vital as a shock absorber, but it must not be so sloping as to indicate weakness.

Fig. 5



*Diagram of correct shoulder angulation*



*Incorrect front angulation showing upright shoulder and short, steep upper arm*

● **BODY**

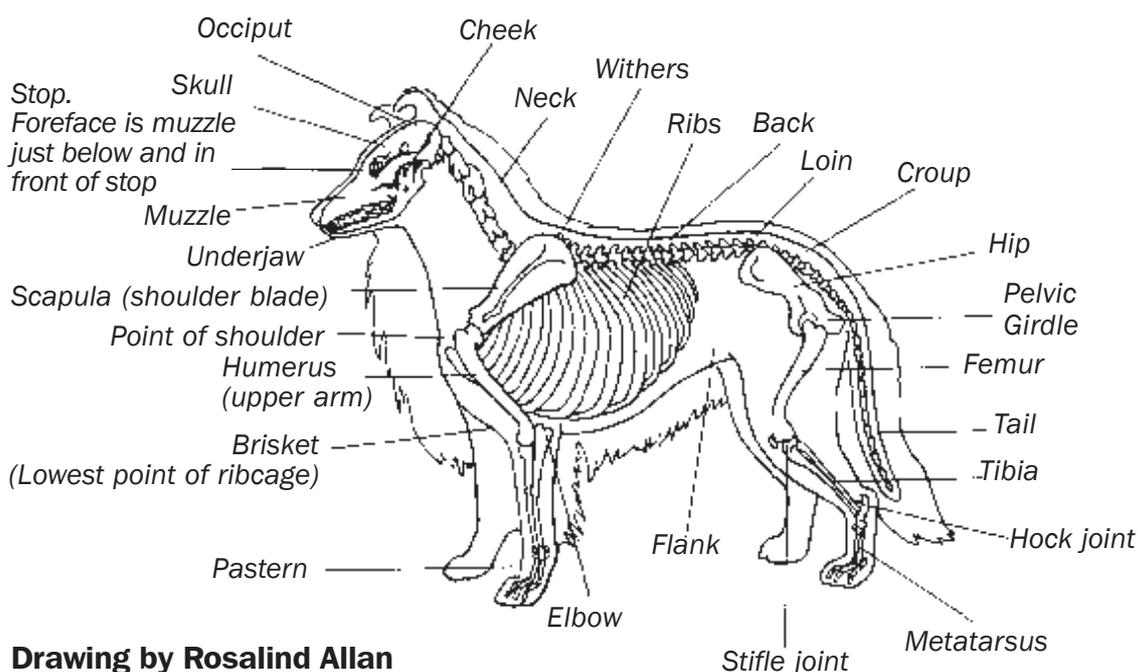
***Slightly longer from point of shoulder to bottom of croup than height at withers. Chest deep, reaching to point of elbow. Ribs well sprung, tapering at lower half to allow free play of forelegs and shoulders. Back level, with graceful sweep over loins; croup slopes gradually to rear.***

This description of the length of body corrects an error in the previous Standard and should be noted carefully. The measurement now given provides for a body of medium length. It should not be too long in the back (i.e. from the withers to the hips), as this would suggest a weak spine. The length that gives strength is that measured from the point of really well-angulated shoulders to the lowest point of a correctly sloping croup. This construction allows scope for powerful hindquarters to achieve maximum propulsion and to combine with well-angulated forequarters to provide the desired length of stride. A too short body inhibits freedom of movement and the flexibility required for turning at speed.

The depth of chest is often flattered by a profuse coat and should be checked by touch when judging. The well-sprung but tapering ribs are very important. Barrel ribs (or, for that matter, obesity) can force the shoulders and elbows out of alignment and so distort the movement as well as making the dog look dumpy. On the other hand “slab sides” (narrow flat ribs) may be associated with tied elbows and mincing movement as well as causing a narrow chest with consequent lack of heart-and-lung-room.

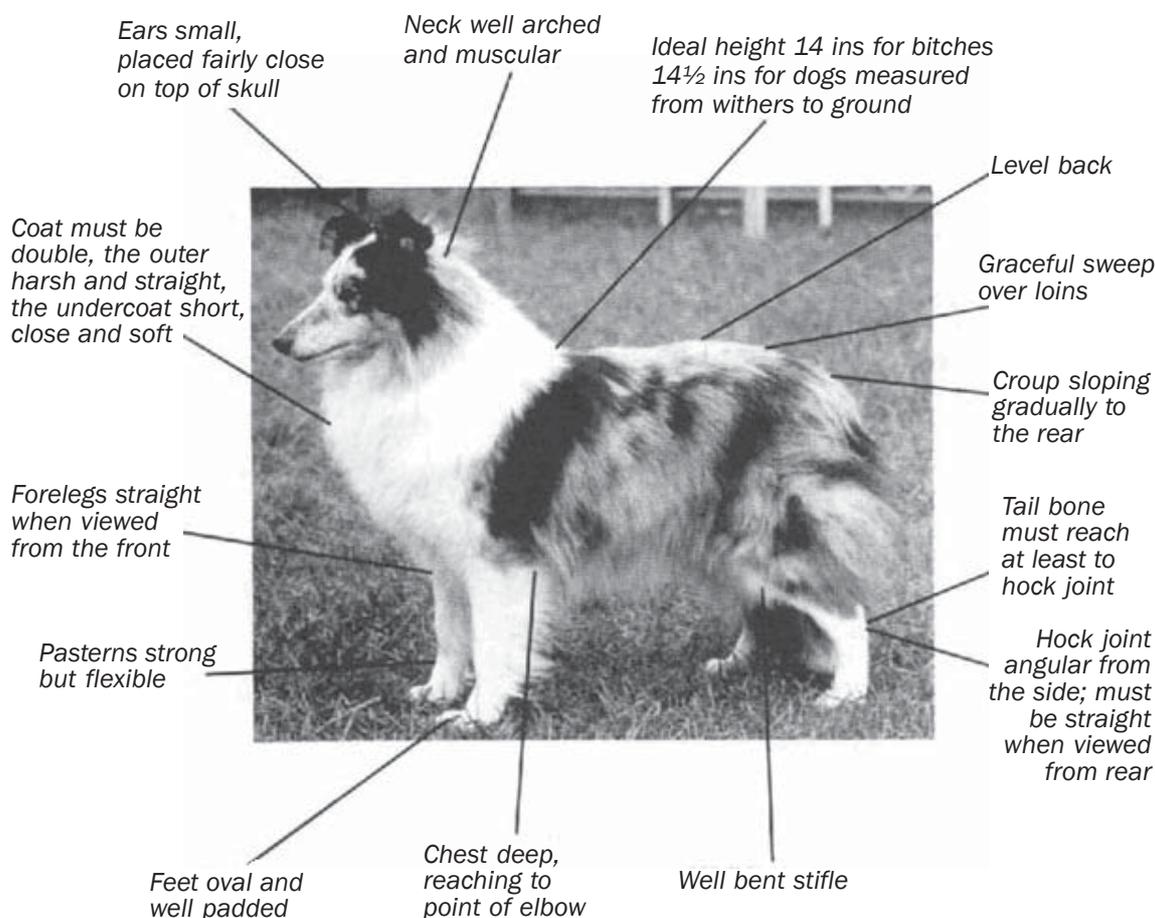
The level back (i.e. without dippiness) flowing into the graceful sweep over the loins should not suggest a hint of roach, being simply the fact that the Sheltie, as a galloping breed, should have strong, very slightly arched loins, the “graceful sweep” being enhanced by the gradually sloping croup and low-set tail.

Fig. 6



**Drawing by Rosalind Allan**

Fig. 7

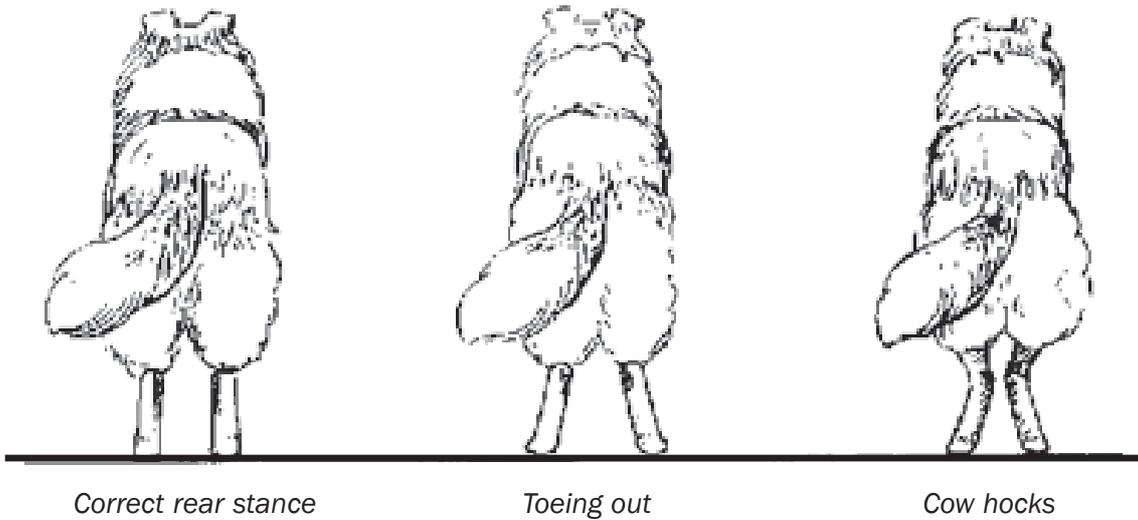


## ● HINDQUARTERS

**Thigh broad and muscular, thigh bones set into pelvis at right angles. Stifle joint has distinct angle, hock joint clean cut, angular, well let down with strong bone. Hock straight when viewed from behind.**

The description of muscular, well-angulated hindquarters sweeping down to lowset, well-angled hocks suggest yet again the construction necessary to provide powerful, flexible propulsion at any speed. As with the steep shoulder or too short upper-arm, lack of angulation or of adequate length of any of the bones of the hindquarters will give a short, stilted stride with too much up-and-down motion. To achieve rhythmic movement it is obvious that the construction of the fore- and hindquarters must balance one another perfectly. The ideally angulated forehand cannot function correctly without the cooperation of equally well-angulated hindquarters and vice versa. Obviously the bone structure cannot function adequately without the help of well-exercised, normally developed muscles. On the other hand, muscles, which are grossly over-developed in some specific area, may be compensating for a fault of construction or an injury.

Fig. 8



Correct rear stance

Toeing out

Cow hocks

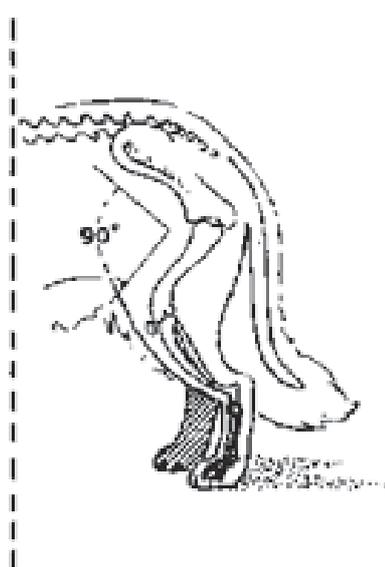


Diagram of correct rear angulation



Incorrect rear angulation showing straight stifle

## ● FEET

***Oval, soles well-padded, toes arched and close together.***

This is the ideal foot for the small, active dog required to move at speed on rough, rocky or slippery ground. The big, round foot (likely to accompany heavy bone) or thin, flat, splayed foot (usually seen with thin, weak and spindly bone, sometimes the result of generations of poor rearing) are much less efficient as well as aesthetically unpleasing. Like the flexible pasterns, thick -pads act as shock absorbers as well as protection, while strong, well-arched toes give grip when changing speed or direction.

Fig. 9



*Correct oval foot, soles well padded, toes arched and tight. Flexible pasterns*



*Incorrect 'cat' foot and inflexible pasterns*



*Incorrect long thin flat foot and weak pasterns*

## ● TAIL

***Set low; tapering bone reaches to at least hocks, with abundant hair and slight upward sweep. May be slightly raised when moving but never over level of back. Never kinked.***

This is self-explanatory. A continuation of the spine, the long, gracefully carried tail completes the beautiful flowing outline.

The upward sweep (neither an acute twist nor a hook) may only be noticeable in movement. In the case of a too-short tail it may not be apparent even then, but the inert tail that hangs absolutely lifelessly even when the dog is moving at speed is likely to have been injured or otherwise damaged.

The maximum height to which the tail may be raised when moving is a line, which continues that of the back.

When checking the tail for length, it should also be examined carefully in case it is kinked. Kinks are misplaced (sometimes accidentally displaced) vertebrae. Kinks can be situated anywhere along the tail, from the root to the tip. Occasionally puppies may be born with very short tails which are kinked in several places, this is not only most unsightly, but can also present practical problems. So kinked tails should be avoided at all costs.

## ● GAIT/MOVEMENT

***Lithe, smooth and graceful with drive from hindquarters, covering the maximum amount of ground with the minimum of effort. Pacing, plaiting, rolling or stiff, stilted up and down movement highly undesirable.***

Most aspects of correct and faulty movement have already been covered under "forequarters" and "hindquarters" so it will already be understood that the required long, smooth, effortless stride which only just clears the ground ("daisy-cutting action") is dependent largely upon the construction, angulation and, above all, the balance of the fore-and rear-assembly.

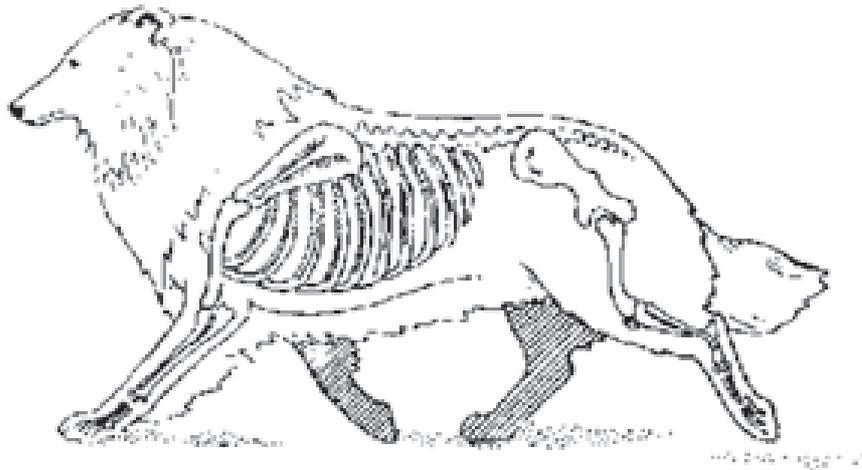
If, for instance, the dog has a steep shoulder but well-angulated hindquarters, the forelegs will impede the potentially longer stride from behind. This may mean that the hindlegs may have to take evasive action in one of several different ways. Both hind feet may pass between the path of the forefeet causing the dog to move very close behind. Alternatively, the body may swing slightly sideways so that one hind foot may pass between and the other outside the track of the forefeet. If the forefeet are plaiting, the hind feet may need to pass outside the forefeet to one side, causing the body swing to be accentuated. Since the dog with steep shoulders may tend to raise the forefeet rather high in any event, this tendency will be exaggerated as it tries to remove the front feet as quickly as possible from the path of the rear feet. There are many variations on the theme of lack of balance between the forequarters and the hindquarters. All of them could result in ungainly and inefficient movement.

“Pacing” is, as often as not, a habit. It may be adopted by an obese or lazy dog or, more likely, as a result of faulty exercise on the lead. “Road work” is only useful if the dog can be kept at a brisk trotting pace over a considerable distance. [“pacing” occurs when the legs on the same side move in unison (instead of for example, front right leg, left back leg); this gives a rolling kind of movement.]

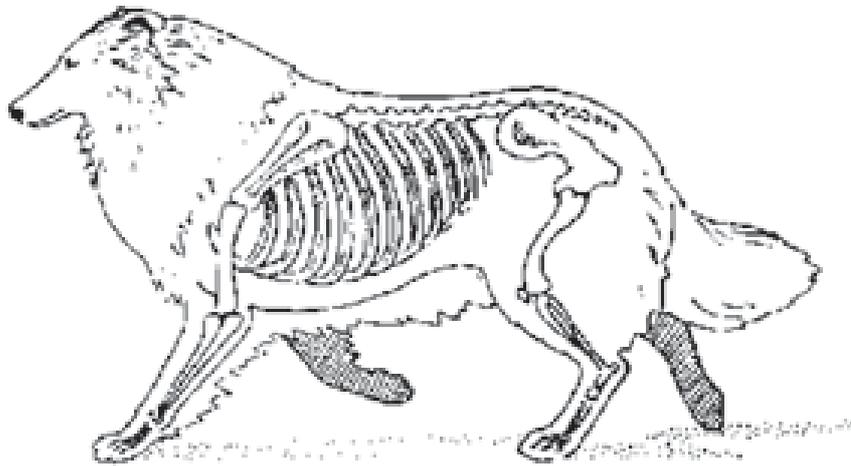
Other movement faults can result from the handler’s bad habits! Dogs adapt themselves to the handler’s pace and no dog is likely to move with a long, smooth stride if its accompanying human is tripping along with a stiff, stilted up-and-down movement!

Finally it should be explained that although the fact is not mentioned in the Standard, the really well-made Sheltie, like most other breeds of perfectly natural construction, uses the gait known as single-tracking in order to achieve the desired balance and economy of movement. Although in stance and at a walk the dog’s legs remain perpendicular to the ground, as its speed increases, its legs begin to converge slightly until at a fast trot the inner edge of each foot would touch (but never cross) an imaginary central line.

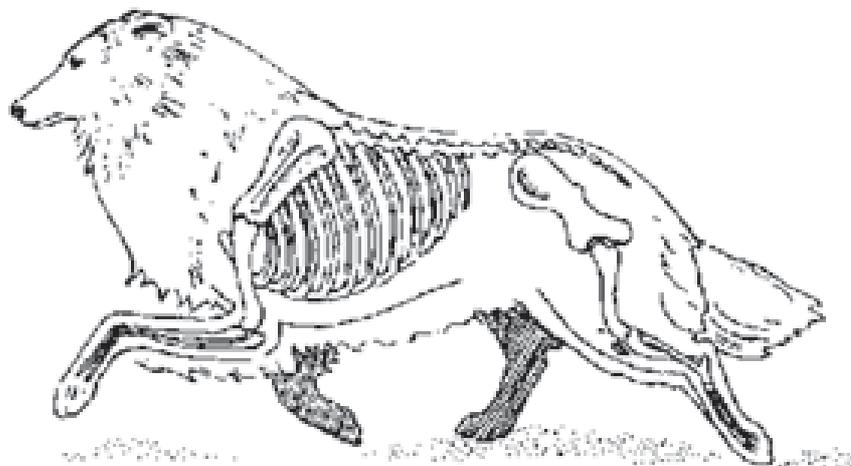
Fig. 10



*Correct movement at the trot*



*Faulty gait, showing dog pacing  
both feet on same side moving in unison*



*Wrong – 'hackney' like action due  
to insufficient lay-back of shoulder*

Fig. 11



*Correct slow  
trot*



*Throwing hock  
joint out*



*Cow hocks  
in action*



*Correct fast  
trot*

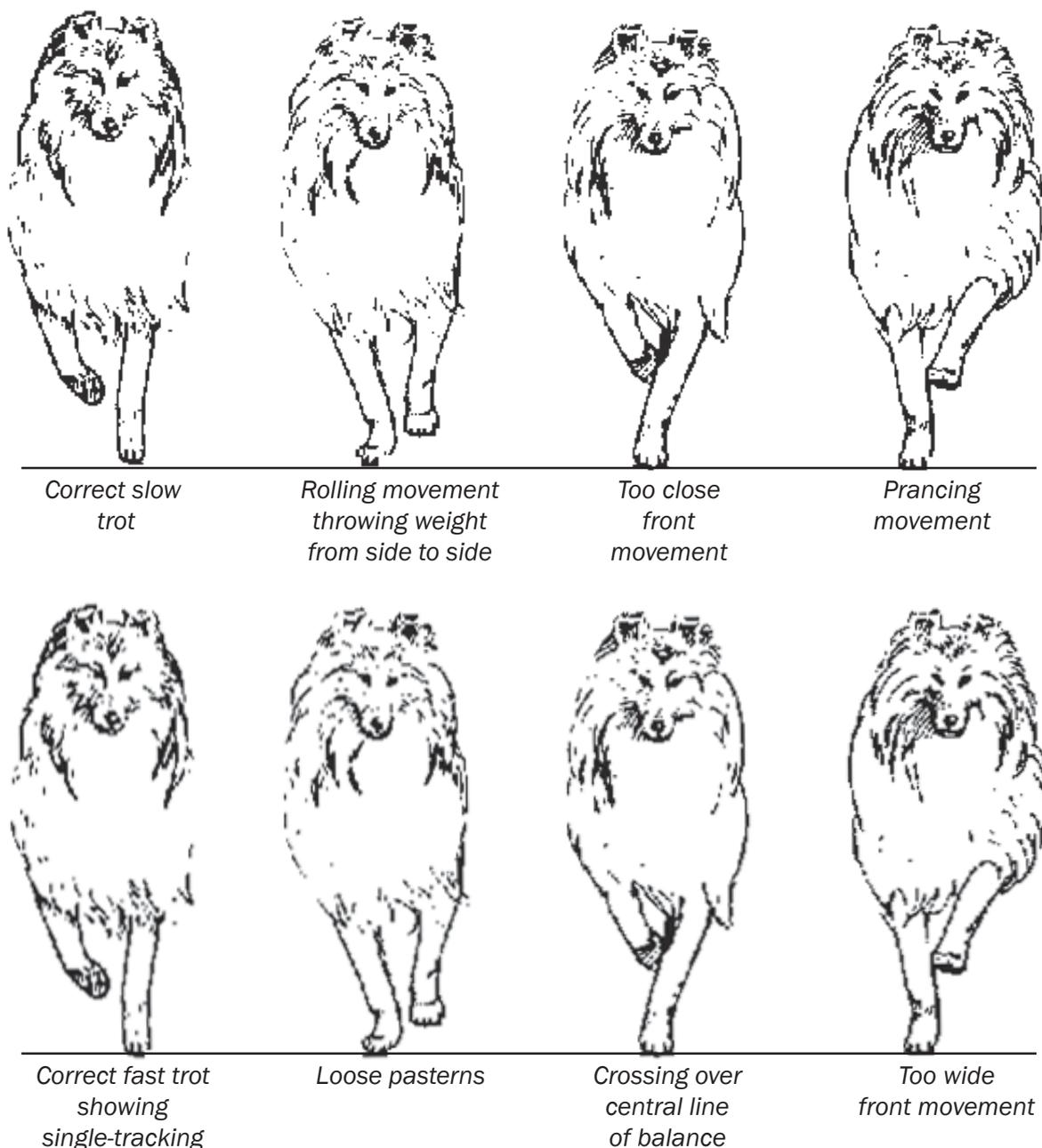


*Hock joint  
too high*



*Crossing over*

Fig. 12



#### ● COAT

**Double; outer coat of long hair, harsh textured and straight. Undercoat soft, short and close. Mane and frill very abundant, forelegs well-feathered. Hindlegs above hocks profusely covered with hair, below hocks fairly smooth. Face smooth. The coat should fit the body and not dominate or detract from the outline of the dog. Smooth-coated specimens highly undesirable.**

This paragraph is self-explanatory. The correct double coat with the furnishing as described, is one of the breed's chief beauties, while the texture offers maximum weather-resistance. When a dog is in full coat it is virtually impervious to rain. The incorrect soft, fluffy coat, however, will absorb moisture like cotton wool.

The so-called smooth coated specimen was fairly common during the breed's formative years but is never seen nowadays.

## ● COLOUR

**SABLES:** *Clear or shaded, any colour from pale gold to deep mahogany, in its shade, rich in tone. Wolf sable and grey undesirable.*

**TRICOLOURS:** *Intense black on body, rich tan markings preferred.*

**BLUE MERLES:** *Clear, silvery blue, splashed and marbled with black. Rich tan markings preferred but absence not penalised. Heavy black markings, slate or rusty tinge in either top or undercoat highly undesirable; general effect must be blue.*

**BLACK & WHITE AND BLACK & TAN:** *are also recognised colours. White markings may appear (except on black and tan) in blaze, collar and chest, frill, legs and tip of tail. All or some white markings are preferred (except on black and tan) but absence of these markings not to be penalised. Patches of white on body highly undesirable.*

Little comment is required in the case of sables and tricolours except to point out the preferences for richness of tone and intensity of colour in the cases of the respective background colours, and the richness of tan markings in the case of the tricolours.

In the case of blue merles the requirements are more specific so present more difficulties to the breeder and to the judge. Blue merles should be blue (not iron grey or mostly black!). As the Standard requires, the blue should be a clear silvery blue splashed or marbled with black. Large black patches are unattractive as is a rusty tinge. A merle does not need to have tan markings but when these occur they should be rich, in which case they contribute a lot to the beauty of a good blue merle. Although colour in merles must always be an important factor, this must be taken into consideration with the whole dog.

In tricolours, the black should be really black (not rusty or "ticked" with white), the tan rich and the white really white.

Sables may be all colours from a very pale gold to a dark rich shaded sable and all colours in between. Wolf sables (where there is a greyish hue) are undesirable. So-called "wheatens" (an extremely pale sable) are permissible.

Coloured ticking on white legs should not be penalised in any of the colours. Quite understandably, most breeders and judges have their personal preferences as regards colour and (especially) white markings. The only real problem that may arise is if personal preference is allowed to become personal prejudice, and here judges must always be on their guard. However, there are always limits to which markings are acceptable from the point of view of general appearance. The Standard makes it clear that white patches (no matter how small) are not acceptable on the body (i.e. the trunk). A marking that disturbs the general effect of "great beauty" can only be regarded as a handicap, but such prejudices as, e.g. a white blaze, a white strip up the stifle, a dark muzzle on a shaded sable or odd eyes in a merle, must be kept firmly under control when judging.



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Breed Standard Extension

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### **The History of the Shetland Sheepdog in UK**

#### **Malcolm Hart - (Hartmere)**

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### **The History of the Shetland Sheepdog in Australia**

#### **Mrs. J. Tolley on behalf of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of NSW.**

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