

Grooming Norwich and Norfolk Terriers



Victor Sattler
Wildgoose Norwich Terriers
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INTRODUCTION



Grooming Norfolk and Norwich Terriers are a relatively easy task if you know what “look” you are trying to create, have the patience it takes to “hand strip” a dog and most important an eye for your own creativity. You must also have a thorough understanding of the breed standard. Read the Norfolk written standard or the Norwich written standard to refresh yourself about what, according to the words of the standard, the dogs should look like. Think about the strengths and weakness of the dog you are about to groom. What you should be able to visualize is a silhouette of the perfect dog. I have provided some silhouettes below to help. Despite that silhouettes have a Norfolk head, they apply for the Norwich Terrier as well. With a little practice, like anything, the

grooming gets easier. At worst, as you practice on your dog, if you remove the wrong hairs they will eventually grow back. The purpose of this work is to provide some information on how to groom a Norfolk or Norwich Terrier with consideration for the show ring.

Victor Sattler

EQUIPMENT

There are thousands of grooming tools available. The truth is you only need a few of them to groom your dog. Many are gimmicks and gadgets that don't always perform as per the manufacturer's suggestions. At the very most you will need only a few tools and your selection will be based on what works for you. Here is a list of grooming equipment and how they are commonly used.



Toy Grooming Table

For Norfolk and Norwich Terriers a toy table is often best because the table is higher off the ground (36"), saving you from having to bend over while you groom. The platform (typically 18" wide x 28" to 30" long) is a bit smaller for your dog compared to a regular table. It is also light weight and flat folding.

The best toy table available we have found is from Clearview Creations. In the photo at the right: the table folds very flat for easy traveling (right); is at its full 36" height (centre); and you can even use it as a ringside table (left). I have had my table for many years and it is still as good as new.






Grooming Arm and Noose

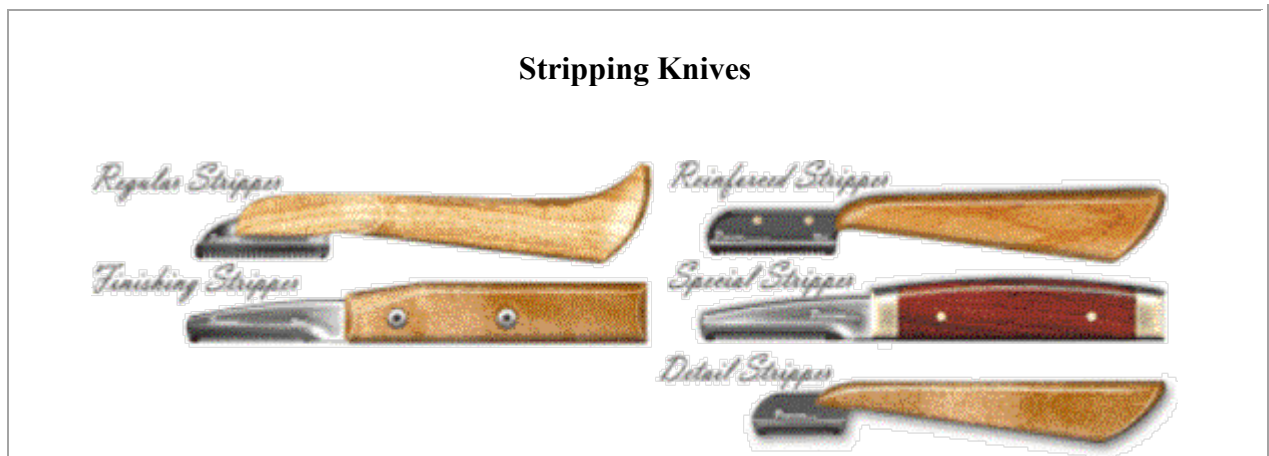
In addition to your grooming table you will need an arm and noose. The design on the left is appropriate for Norfolk and Norwich Terriers. Again this product is available from Clearview Creations.



Original Greyhound Comb

If you could only have one tool this would be it. Regular use of this comb helps the coat shed dead hairs in addition to training the coat to lie flat, in the most flattering direction. There are a number of companies that make this comb. It is 7.5" long with medium and fine teeth.

	<p>Pin Brush</p> <p>This is excellent to use to back brush the legs, face and help dry the hair after washing. The shape of the brush, oval or rectangular, is personal preference. Pin length used on a Norfolk or Norwich is typically $\frac{3}{4}$" to 1".</p>
	<p>Natural Boar Bristle Brush</p> <p>This brush is only really good for getting the oils of the coat to shine a little more prominently or to help train the coat to lie a particular way when blow drying.</p>
	<p>Slicker Brush</p> <p>Many groomers seem to like this to back brush the legs and muzzle. An alternative to this is using your pin brush but the pins on the slicker are much closer together.</p>




There are numerous brands of stripping knives including Pearson (shown above), Mars, Macknyfe, Maclellan and many more. There are also different blades from fine, that take out minimal coat, to coarse which takes out much more coat. It comes down to personal preference as to what works best for the individual groomer. Old school terrier groomers will often tell you that only your hands should be used to hand strip a dog. The reality is a stripping knife, in the skilled hand, can considerably help speed up the stripping, or plucking of the coat. However, novices and pros alike, using a stripping knife can make holes appear in the coat because so much more hair is taken out at each pass. The top dogs are usually always hand stripped since the coat can be that much more evenly stripped. Note that that when purchasing this knife select a blade based on whether you are a right or a left handed.

Which knife to buy? As a general rule for anyone new to stripping their dog, we recommend starting with a medium blade stripper of a type that you would feel comfortable with. That will accomplish most situations. For a second stripper, an extra-fine or fine blade will compliment the first choice. On some breeds with longer coats, Westies, Scotties, and Cairns for instance, a medium or coarse blade stripper may be more appropriate. Much of the considerations of stripper choices depend on the individual groomers' experience and the recommendation of the breeders from whom you buy your dog. At different stages of coat growth, different blades and handle types may work better.

A word of caution. There is a stripping knife called a “Coat King”. This actually cuts the hairs and does not work as other stripping knives. While it is fast it actually cuts the coat rather than strip it. The result of course is disastrous for a show coat since both colour and texture are lost.

<http://www.strippingknives.com/knives.htm>

	Undercoat Stripper
	<p>Made by Hauptner, sometimes called a Spaniel Stripping knife, this knife, when dragged through the coat, removes only the undercoat. The key to its use is dragging it through the coat as opposed to how the stripping knife is used. This lets you shape a coat by removing undercoat and without appearing to have taken any of the topcoat away, permitting the top coat to lay flat. This is the best tool for making toplines straight and “lowering” a high rear. This is a “must have” tool. Note that when purchasing this knife select a blade based on whether you are a right or left handed groomer.</p>



Blunt nose Scissors

Only use scissors between the pads of the feet and around the anus. The blunt nose helps avoid stabbing a fidgeting dog.



Forceps or Hemostats

Here is an excellent tool to aid in hand stripping, especially around the head or feet. With this tool you can pull individual hairs to get precisely the shape you are looking for.



Nail Cutters.

Make sure that the blade is sharp. Dull blades crush the nail instead of cutting it.

Dremel Nail Grinding.

Top groomers prefer to use an electric Dremel tool since it does a quicker, cleaner job. There is no accidental bleeding with a Dremel since the quick is cauterized if nicked. Note that the battery powered Dremel tools or their equivalents don't generate enough RPMs for a quick nail grinding. Make sure that you use the ½" Sanding sleeves 120 fine grit (Dremel product # 432). The correct Dremel attachment is shown here (#407). We do not recommend that you use coarse heads since they can seriously hurt the nail. We also do not recommend any type of stone heads or aluminum drums since they heat up very quickly.

You should also have on hand "styptic powder" in case you nick the quick.



Dental Scraper.

The last tool is a dental scraper. Get one that has a flat head, which is perpendicular to the handle. These are the easiest to use and you won't need any other angled heads. To use, simply put the flat head slightly above the gum line and scrape the plaque of the teeth. You see results immediately. This helps keep the teeth clean for the lifetime of the dog...and then you don't have to put the dog under

CANINE DENTAL HEALTH

Your Dog's Teeth

The normal bite of Norfolk and Norwich Terriers is called a scissors bite. The upper incisors are located in front of the lower incisors when the mouth is closed, and there is a smooth curve from canine to canine without misplaced or rotated teeth. The lower canines should lie exactly between the upper lateral incisors and upper canines, yet touching neither. Premolar crown tips should point to a space between the crowns of the opposing premolars.



Normal scissors bite, notice the midline of upper and lower jaws are aligned

The jaws of puppies do not grow at equal rates. So as puppy is growing to maturity bites may not be textbook as described above. That said it is important to keep an eye on their development merely as a precautionary measure. It is not all that uncommon to have baby teeth that have not fallen out as the adult teeth come in. These are called retained deciduous teeth. They must be removed to ensure a healthy bite for the adult dog.



Normally, the lower canine should intersect the upper lateral incisor and upper canine

Retained Deciduous Teeth

Retained upper canine tooth



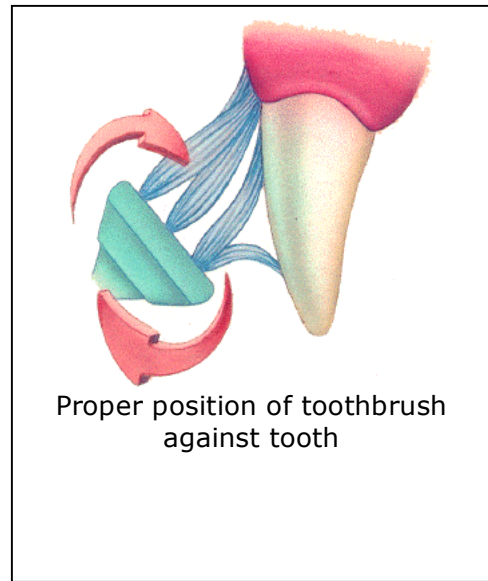
Normally the (baby) deciduous tooth's root is resorbed, making room for an adult tooth. Then the baby tooth falls out. Should this fail, the adult tooth may deviate from its normal position, producing malocclusion. The resulting double set of teeth overcrowds the dental arch, causing food to become trapped between the teeth, leading to early periodontal disease. A double set of roots may also prevent normal development of the socket, and erode periodontal support around the adult tooth, resulting in early tooth loss. A retained deciduous tooth should be extracted as soon as an adult tooth is noted in the same area as the baby tooth. If extraction is performed early, the abnormally positioned adult tooth usually

moves to its normal location.

Brushing Your Dog's Teeth

What would happen if you stopped brushing your own teeth? Even if you only ate hard food as most dogs do, there still would be problems. You should be brushing your dog's teeth at least twice weekly, daily if you can manage it. It's not as difficult as you might imagine.

What are the benefits? Brushing removes the daily accumulation of plaque from the teeth. Even though dogs do not commonly get cavities, they do suffer from periodontal disease. If untreated the gum disease can lead to pain and loss of teeth. Dogs don't get cavities the way humans do, but they do get plaque, tartar, and gingivitis — all of which can cause foul breath and tooth problems. Trips to the doggie dentist can end up being costly, and your dog will have to be put under anesthesia, because no dog ever "opens wide" for any dentist or vet. There have been incidence where a dog put under for something as simple as teeth cleaning simply do not wake up. So if at all possible we try to avoid any unnecessary anesthesia.

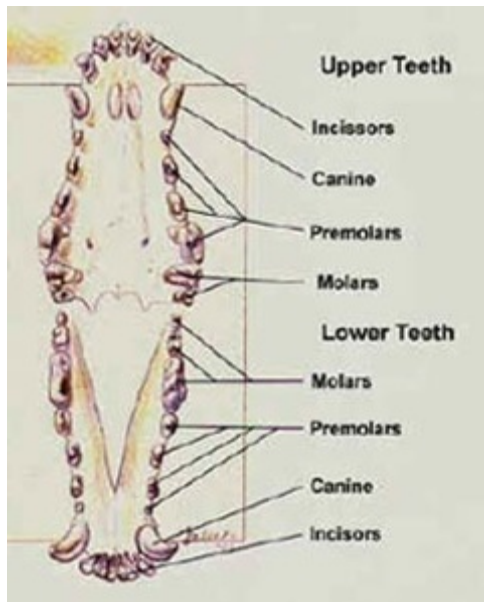


How to brush teeth? Step one is to pick an appropriate pet toothbrush. Save yourself time by not buying a child's toothbrush, which is usually too hard for dogs. The ideal dog toothbrush will have a long handle, an angled head to better fit the mouth and extra soft bristles. Another option is the finger toothbrush that fits over the tip of your finger. You can find these in the larger pet supply stores.

Step two is to select appropriate toothpaste. The best pet toothpastes contain enzymes that help control plaque. Try to avoid toothpastes with baking soda, detergents, or salt sometimes found in human pastes. Fluoride may be incorporated to help control bacteria. Rather than placing the paste on top of the brush try to place it between the bristles. This allows the paste to spend the most time next to the teeth.

Step three is to get the brush with paste into your dog's mouth and all the teeth brushed. Most dogs accept brushing if they are approached in a gentle manner. If you can start when they are young, it's quite easy, but even older dogs will accept the process. Start slowly, you can use a washcloth or piece of gauze to wipe the teeth, front and back in the same manner you will eventually be using the toothbrush. Do this twice daily for about two weeks and your dog should be familiar with the approach. Then take the pet toothbrush, soak it in warm water and start brushing daily for several days. When your pet accepts this brushing, add the toothpaste.

The toothbrush bristles should be placed at the gum margin where the teeth and gums meet at a 45 degree angle. The movement should be in an oval pattern. Be sure to gently force the bristle ends into the area around the base of the tooth as well as into the space between the teeth. Ten short back and forth motions should be completed. Then the brush should be moved to a new location. Cover three to four teeth at a time. Most attention should concentrate on the outside of the upper teeth.



Here is a helpful graphic to get to know the names of the canine's teeth

The Home checkup

Get in the habit of looking in your dog's mouth to check for broken or cracked teeth. Look especially closely at the very large forth tooth, called the canine (which looks like a fang) and the big molars in the back. If the canine doesn't have a sharp point or the molars are cracked or if you can see pulp tissue, the tooth can become infected, develop a big abscess, and even some swelling under the eyes. Contact a veterinary dentist as soon as possible.

Signs of Gum Disease

1. Red, swollen, or bleeding gums
2. Crusty white or yellowish build up along the gum line
3. Foul breath
4. Loose or missing teeth

Dental Instruments

Using a simple dental instrument to help your dog fight the build up of tartar is a very wise investment in the oral health of your dog. A little effort now may save you hundreds of dollars later in dentistry bills. Some tools are double sided but regardless of the style what is important is that the head of the tool is flat, blunt and the scraper is perpendicular to the handle. Here is what the tool looks like. Cost of the tool is under \$10.00. It is often called a 'Miller's Forge Stainless Steel Professional Single End Tooth Scaler'.



TO USE: Simply put the flat tool head just slightly above the gum line and scrape the teeth to remove the plaque. There may be some bleeding. Give your dog the opportunity to swallow after every few

strokes as you remove the plaque. Look well into the back of the mouth

as well for plaque buildup. If you see pulp tissue or black tooth roots chances are you are too late and a dentist will need to remove these teeth in the interest of the remaining health teeth and oral hygiene.

Professional Cleaning

There are occasions that your dog's teeth and gums need to be cleaned by a professional. A veterinarian will anesthetize your dog, scrape all of the plaque buildup from above and below the gum line, and then polish the teeth.

Home Safety

The rule of thumb is not to let your dog chew on something that is harder than their teeth. The result of course is broken teeth. Safer chewing toys are those made of soft rope, or raw bones that are soft enough to provide the necessary chewing exercise without the possibility of breaking teeth. Cooked bones are NOT recommended since they don't easily digest and splinter when broken. Rawhide may be safe for chewing, but stay away from those that have knots in them, rather go for the rolled or flat ones. Undigested rawhide knots have been known to cause an intestinal blockage.

Mouthwash

There are canine mouth sprays that work very well to help kill bacteria in the mouth and may actually heal damaged gum tissue. Ask your veterinarian about these products.

Food

Certainly some foods contribute to plaque more than others. Raw meaty bones, like beef riblets or chicken carcasses, are an excellent natural way to fight tartar buildup. Always supervise dogs eating raw bones. Some dog biscuits can also reduce tartar, but again, only above the gum line. Brushing your dog's teeth does the best job of cleaning the important area below the gum line, where bacteria and plaque hide and can rot away the gums and bone.

Chew toys

There are a variety of bone-shaped therapeutic chew toy device for a dog consisting of a hard and tough material molded in a form having sharp conically shaped spikes distributed over its surface. As the dog chews on the device, the spikes contact the various surfaces of the dog's teeth and gums and are of sufficient hardness to scrape off accumulated tartar and plaque.

CLIPPING NAILS

Trimming your dog's nails is not just a part of grooming, but is important for your dog's health as well. It is important to remember that untrimmed nails can cause a variety of problems including broken nails, which are painful and bleed profusely. In some cases, nails will actually curl and grow back into the dog's feet.

A good indication that dogs' nails are too long is a telltale 'click-click-click' when walking on uncarpeted areas.

How many of us put off trimming our dog's nails until the inevitable veterinary check-up comes around and the veterinarian must do it? If you're like many pet owners, you may be hesitant to trim your dog's nails because you're afraid of cutting the quick of the nail, which may cause pain, or bleeding. Once you learn how to do it, clipping your pet's nails is almost as easy as clipping your own.

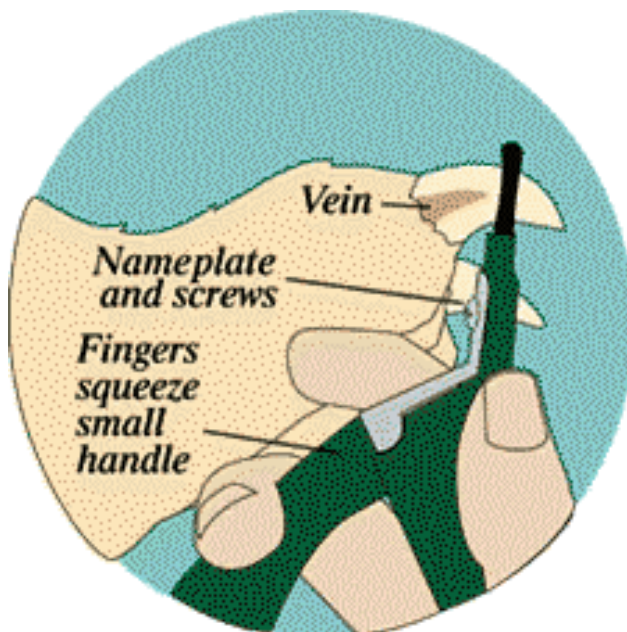
When you are trimming your dog's nails, you are only cutting away the excess. Recognizing what is excess and where the nerves and blood vessels begin is what you need to know to make nail trimming a painless process for both you and your dog.

To Trim your Pet's Nails:

1. Assemble what you will need - trimmers and some styptic powder, Kwik-Stop, CutStop Styptic Pads or other product to stop bleeding if you nick the quick.

2. You may want to sit on the floor with your dog, hold your dog in your lap, or have someone hold your dog on a table. Hold your dog's paw firmly and push on its pads to extend the nail. Locate where the quick ends. With clear or light nails, it is easy to see the pink color where the quick ends.

3. Using a nail trimmer for dogs cut the nail below the quick on a 45-degree angle, with the cutting end of the nail clipper toward the end of the nail. You will be cutting off the finer point. In dogs, especially those with dark nails, make several small nips with the clippers instead of one larger one. Trim very thin slices off the end of the nail until you see a black dot appear towards the center of the nail when you look at it head on. This is the start of the quick that you want to avoid. The good news is that, the more diligent you are about trimming, the more the quick will regress into the nail, allowing you to cut shorter each time.



4. In some cases if the nails are brittle, the cut may tend to splinter the nail. In these cases, file the nail in a sweeping motion starting from the back of the nail and following the curve to the tip. Several strokes will remove any burrs and leave the nail smooth.
5. If your dog will tolerate it, do all four feet this way. If he won't, take a break.
6. If you accidentally cut the quick, wipe off the blood and apply Kwik-Stop or styptic powder to stop the bleeding or just apply pressure for a minute or so. It's not serious and will heal in a very short time.

Some Valuable Tips

- Remember that it is better to trim a small amount on a regular basis than to try and remove large portions. Try to trim your dog's nails weekly, even if long walks keep them naturally short. The 'quick,' a blood vessel that runs down the middle of your dog's nail, grows as the nail grows, so if you wait a long time between cuttings, the quick will be closer to the end of the nail. This means more likelihood of bleeding during trimming.
- Trim nails so that when the dog steps down, nails do not touch the floor.
- Invest in a good pair of nail trimmers in an appropriate size for your dog. They can last a lifetime.
- Make trimming time fun and not a struggle. Trimming your dog's nails doesn't have to be a chore or unpleasant. If your dog is not used to having his nails trimmed, start slowly and gradually work up to simply holding his toes firmly for 15-30 seconds. Do not let him mouth or bite at you. It can take daily handling for a week or more to get some dogs used to this. When your dog tolerates having his feet held, clip just one nail, and if he is good, praise him and give him a tiny treat. Wait, and then at another time do another nail. Continue until all nails have been trimmed. Slowly you will be able to cut several nails in one sitting and finally all the nails in one session.

Dremel Grinding

The pros use a Dremel tool to grind nails. With the 120 fine grit drum simply touch the nails and you will have the nails trimmed in seconds. Stone grinders heat the nail and are not recommended.

HAND STRIPPING

The process of stripping a terrier coat refers to plucking the dead hairs from the skin. One literally plucks the hair out. If left to its normal cycle the hair would eventually reach two to four inches in length and die. Rather than shedding the dead hair tend to linger. It does not break off but eventually falls off at the root. If the dog were to rub on something the hair would likely come out. In effect, stripping hair speeds the natural process of shedding. Regular stripping of the coat greatly reduces itching in this breed. Done correctly, stripping is painless. Of course, care must be taken not to strip too much hair in one stroke. You should pull only as much hair as the dog will tolerate without signs of distress. This will vary from part to part of the coat – with throat, ears and rear end being more sensitive than the back, legs, back of neck and head.

The finger method of stripping is best for beginners, as you learn the process. If the coat is “blown” (dead and ready to be plucked) it will come out easily. Grasp the strands of hair between your index finger and thumb. Pull in the direction of the lay of the coat. Do not grab deeply into the coat. Work down through the coat by stages until the desired length and shape are achieved.

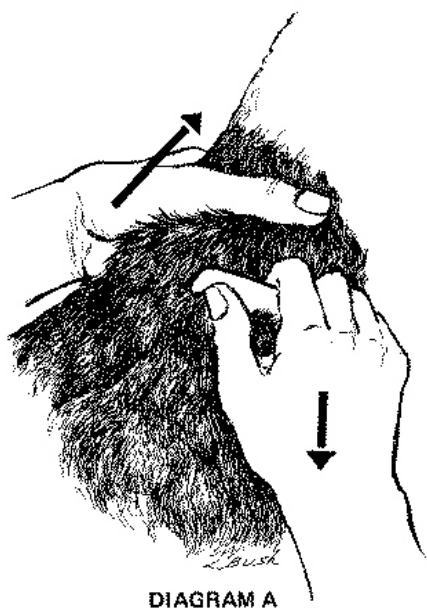
Perhaps the most difficult thing for beginners stripping a coat is determining what is dead hair and what is not. The longest hairs, two inches or more, are dead hairs. You can also see a lighter colour variation in these longer hairs. The lighter hairs are the dead hairs. In preparing to strip your terrier do not bath your dog as you may find the hair harder to grab. If you find you can not grab the hair to pluck it, here are some suggestions:

- Try using a latex glove or plastic thimbles on your fingers to grasp the hair.
- Groomer’s chalk (sometimes called Foo Foo Powder) on your fingers may help your grasp.



Here is how to use a stripping knife. Grasp the hair between your thumb and the knife. Hold the knife perpendicular to the dog (note illustration) and grasp the hair so that you trap the hair between the stripping knife teeth and your thumb. Pull in the direction that the coat lays. Use an arm and

shoulder pulling movement, not a wrist action. If you flex your wrist you will cut rather than pluck the hairs. Compare the hairs you removed using your fingers and those with the stripping knife. If you are plucking and not cutting with the knife, they should appear similar. Cut hairs mixed with plucked hairs, the incorrect method, should be obvious. You want to pluck not cut. Remember to work a small area at a time until the desired hairs have been removed. The key is to remove a few hairs at a time. Use a steel greyhound comb to comb the area frequently to



ensure you are taking the right amount. This is where the art of stripping comes in. Again, take your time. All beginners make holes in coats as they learn how to use a stripping knife. Practice does make perfect.

See the illustration on the left. ALWAYS support the coat skin with your free hand while stripping. You do this by your free hand in front of the stripping knife to hold the skin and coat in place.

Hand stripping a terrier coat is an artistic endeavour and just like an artist uses many brushes while painting, the same holds true for the groomer using stripping knives.

THE COMPANION COAT

At a minimum, the companion Norfolk's or Norwich's coat should be combed thoroughly once a week and bathed only as necessary to keep the dog and your home clean. The companion should be hand stripped once in the Spring and once in the Fall. If you don't plan on showing your dog scissoring around the paws and genitals saves considerable time. Weekly raking through the coat, essentially removing the dead and longest hairs, with a coarse stripping knife easily keeps the companion dog's coat in good condition.

Here is a simple guide on how to keep your companion looking neat and tidy. This is the basis for how to shape the coat to retain the breed type, character and charm.

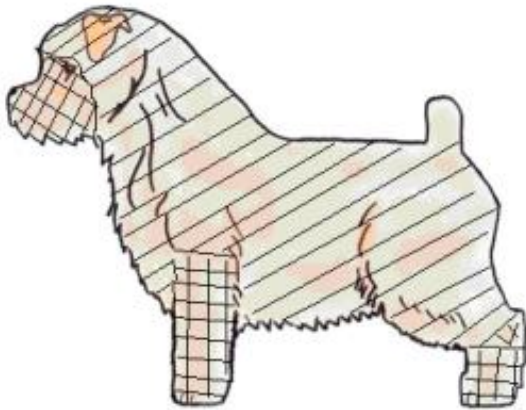


Figure A. Remove all the long surface coat hair from the stripped mark area on the dog represented in figure A. If you aren't sure what to strip (or pluck) put on a latex glove and rub it over the striped area. The hairs that raise themselves as though from the static are ready to be removed.

The hair in checkered marked areas should only be thinned, that is only the longest hairs removed to frame the face and give a columned look to the legs.

For the belly remove the longest here. Inside the ear and around the anus the hair can be trimmed with blunt scissors.

It usually takes three to four months for the new coat to grow to correct length. The time varies with the season of the year, the condition of the coat, the season of the bitch, how old the coat was when stripped, etc.

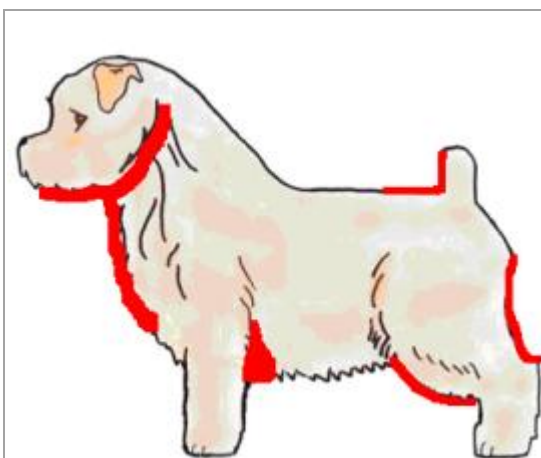


Figure B. Once you have the pattern that you like groomed into your dog in figure A above, all that is required is occasional tidying. The areas indicated in red usually require the most attention and it is these areas that really reinforce the correct silhouette of the breed. Remove the untidy hair as necessary.

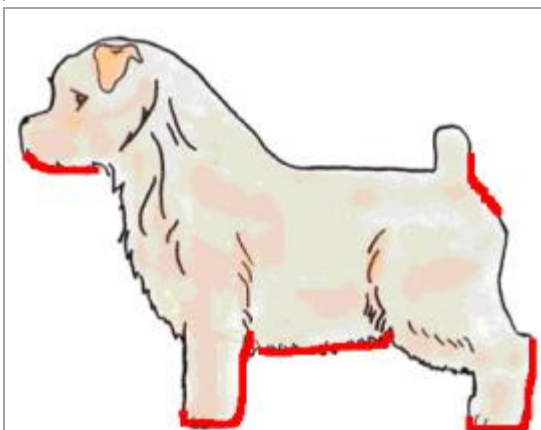
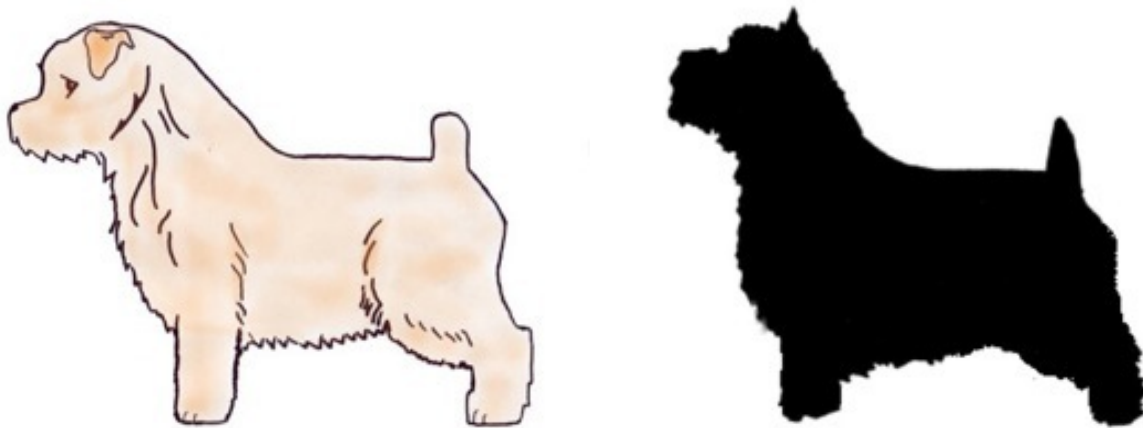


Figure C. I do not recommend using scissors to groom the Norfolk or Norwich Terrier because it ruins the harsh texture of the coat and its beautiful natural colours. The hair shaft is banded with colour, the tips being the darkest colour. When you cut off the tips the colour is lost to something considerably more wheaten in red areas or grey in the black parts of the coat. If you must scissor you can do so safely using blunt nose scissors in the red areas on the dog in the diagram: inside the ear, bottoms and around feet, and around the anus. Again, if you are going to have your dog shown in conformation I do not recommend using scissors for any reason.

THE SHOW COAT

To the other extreme is the show coat. It requires considerably more effort and understanding of the breed standard and functions of the dog to get a polished representation of that you wish to portray. Longer hair isn't necessarily better. In fact, less hair often looks like more hair when done correctly. Hair length of about one inch to two inches on the body looks best on the dogs. In my experience the black and tan Norfolk coats are the toughest to work due to them being softer than the Norfolks with red coats. Black and tan Norfolk coats are best kept shorter than the reds or they look unkempt. The same is not true for Norwich. Generally, the Norwich coat is harder and not at all difficult to roll. The hardest coats generally have great difficulty in growing length for furnishings...no matter what you try.

Dependant on the dog, a show coat is kept at its best if you work the whole coat once a week. Giving time between stripping allows the dog to grow more distinct layers to hand strip in the weeks to come. Ultimately, it permits "rolling" of the coat. A rolled coat, rather than being all one length, has a number of layers in it. The top layer is the longest layer. Once this layer gets too long it is pulled out or "stripped". Allowing a few weeks between stripping makes the layers more obvious and easier to identify. The layers below the longest layers are not quite ready to be pulled but show a healthy, hard coat growing beneath. The different layers lend to the look of a dense and vibrant coat.



OUTLINE

When thinking about where to begin grooming start with considering the overall outline of the dog, the silhouette. A correct outline is the first most important grooming objective. Your grooming should reflect the "General Appearance" of the written standard. From a distance, it is the outline of the whole dog that catches the eye and makes the first and a lasting impression. Good grooming can reinforce the appearance of correct "type" and is the first thing evaluated by the judge. Consider ring procedure at a dog show. You walk in the ring. The judge is standing in the middle. What you are doing is presenting your dog's outline. The judge hasn't touched your dog yet but he/she is in fact judging. The tail must be up and your dog correctly stacked. If the tail isn't up for some judges you have already lost. Next the judge goes to the

front of the line and looks at the head to see the dog's expression. The judge still has not laid a hand on your dog. Portraying the correct outline of the breed is essential.

HEAD

Norfolk and Norwich are sometimes referred to as a "head breed". If you haven't got a correct or "typy" head it can be tough going to achieve a champion title. Re-read the standard on the head. Now lets create a look and reinforce a groomed "type" into the dog.



figure 1

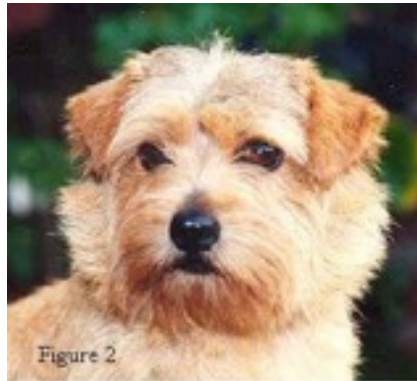


figure 2



figure 3

Ears. I always start with the ears. Expressive ears are essential to the right look for a Norfolk or Norwich. The ears are the most obvious physical difference between the two breeds.

For Norfolk, the ears should have the inside pulled bare leaving a pencil line of hair on the inside corner of the ear. A clean ear underside allows the ears to lie flatter and break close to the skull. The hair on the backside of the ear should be tight to the ear (or short in length) to reinforce a clean look. Pay particular attention to the inside corner of the ear since this is often where an accumulation of hair makes the break of the ear above the skull when it should be at the same level as the skull. If the ears are too small more hair can be left on the fringes to make them look bigger.

Dusted Style



Clean Style



For Norwich, the underside of the erect ear should also have a pencil line of hair that frames the outside of the ear. Some groomers like to pull the hair inside the fringe of the ear bare while others like to keep a clean, dusting of hair so the contrast is not quite as stark. Your choice to some extent is style. Although a larger ear often looks better with some hair left on the inside of the ear.

Norfolk or Norwich, if the ears are set too close together on the head keep the inside corners short and the outside corners longer. The hair in front of the ear should be neat and blended into the lengths surrounding the face. For Norfolk, where the ear meets the skull on the inside front of the head the hair should be short and tidy to reinforce the ears breaking cleanly at the skull.

The outside or back side of the ear should be very clean, about less than a 1/4 inch length. Forceps seems to be the best tool for sculpting ears. The ears need to look correct or they can overshadow the whole head and look unbalanced. Compare figure 1's ear set with figure 2 and 3. You should see figure 1's ears appearing as set a little high. If the hair from the inside corners were pulled shorter this would not look quite as out of balance.

Ruff. For the ruff, only pull a very few hairs out and brush forward. I use either a pin brush or a small slicker brush for this. The length should start behind the ears and be slightly longer than the outside edge of the ears pictured in figures 1, 2 and 3. The ruff frames the face, usually getting a bit longer as it comes forward. The ruff from behind should blend seamlessly into the neck and shoulders. Pull a few more hairs and look how the framing changes. Take your time. They do grow back but it can be painfully slow in some breed lines.

Eyes. In regard to the eyes, I like two distinct eyebrows that are full vice too long and sparse. Starting at the inside brow, the hair is longest. At the outside corner of the eye the brow tapers to be shortest or what is referred to as "tight to the corner". This gives a clean and alert expression vice a sad one when the hair gets too long at the corner of the eye. Also the hair in front of the eyes shouldn't be too long to hide a pretty dark eye. On the other hand a large and/or light eye may require more hair in front of it to give the appearance the eye is smaller and hide the large size and/or light colour.

Muzzle. In front of the stop, on the flat part of the muzzle, I pull the hairs very short to give the stronger appearance of a good stop, regardless if it is there or not. This reinforces to an untrained eye that there is a defined stop. Keep in mind the correct muzzle to skull lengths from the written standard. The wording in the standard perhaps not as clear as it could be. Imagine a line that runs from the tip of the nose to the back of the skull. Now divide this into 5 parts. The length of the muzzle (from the tip of the nose to the stop) should be 2 parts. The length of the skull (from the stop to the back of the skull) should be 3 parts. The hairs on the end of the muzzle I brush up to try to give a fuller appearance of the muzzle. You can groom a longer muzzle to appear shorter by leaving the hair on the end of the muzzle longer. Think of this as a longer moustache. To make a muzzle that is too short appear longer simply keep the hair on the muzzle shorter.

Consider the dog in figure 2. As "typy" as he is he would have a "fresher" look if some of the hair on the muzzle was shortened and removed from the front of the eye. Brush the head again and consider how you want the beard to blend into the cheeks and rough. Pretty much the rest of the head is a blending job where one area blends carefully into the other. Do not use scissors at all on the head! With your hands and patience you can get a wonderfully sculpted, "typy" look.

I have seen some better groomers use scissors to straighten out a muzzle line. Use thinning shears here if you must, but be sure you know what you are doing. I have actually gone overboard a few times where every hair was so correctly in place that the head lost its rough and ready look for something artificial and “un-terrier” like. The look should always be a little rough and ready for a terrier. Balance is what is to be achieved and that balance is slightly different for every dog. Note also that there are annual trends set by the top handlers. If you get the opportunity to go to the National Specialty or bigger shows have a careful look at what the trends are. This year it seemed to be longer mustaches. Remember these are just trends. The beard needs to be full, combed forward and give the finishing outline to the head. That covers the head.

BODY



figure 4

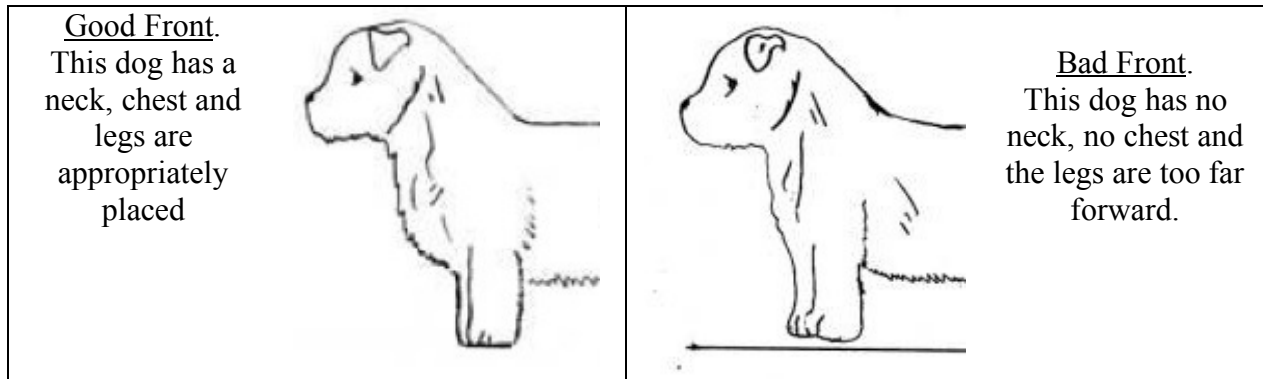
As I said, you make your first impression when you are standing ringside ... and in view of the judge. Knowingly or not, the judge will start evaluating your dog the first time he/she sees it. I swear that I won Winners Dog at the Chicago NNTC Specialty before I walked into the ring because the judge gave my dog a very thorough look before the judging started. My task then became to reinforce what I initially portrayed outside in the ring. My story reinforces that once you are ringside the dog has to be standing properly the whole time and groomed for the judge. If you have some waiting to do place the dog out of view of the judge either with your body or some obstacle.

For body outline you should have clean shoulders blended into the neck as well as the perfectly flat and level topline, finishing with a tidy presented tail. Often overlooked is a clean looking bottom line. The legs look best when groomed into columns. Think of the perfect outline again.

Neck. Correct length and size of neck considerably adds to the overall balance of your dog as well as helps emphasize clean movement. The neck hair should blend and build into the ruff and mane. As it runs to the shoulders the hair should lie flat from the base of the ear to the point of the shoulder. I have found that grooming in a place for the lead helps not only with commands sent down the lead but also the polished look of the head when a lead is on it. Fumbling with getting the lead properly seated well forward and high on the neck can be distracting from the presentation of your dog.

Front and Shoulders. The front and shoulders should be clean and tidy so the hair lies close to the body giving the most polished look. The mane on the neck and shoulders is longer and also

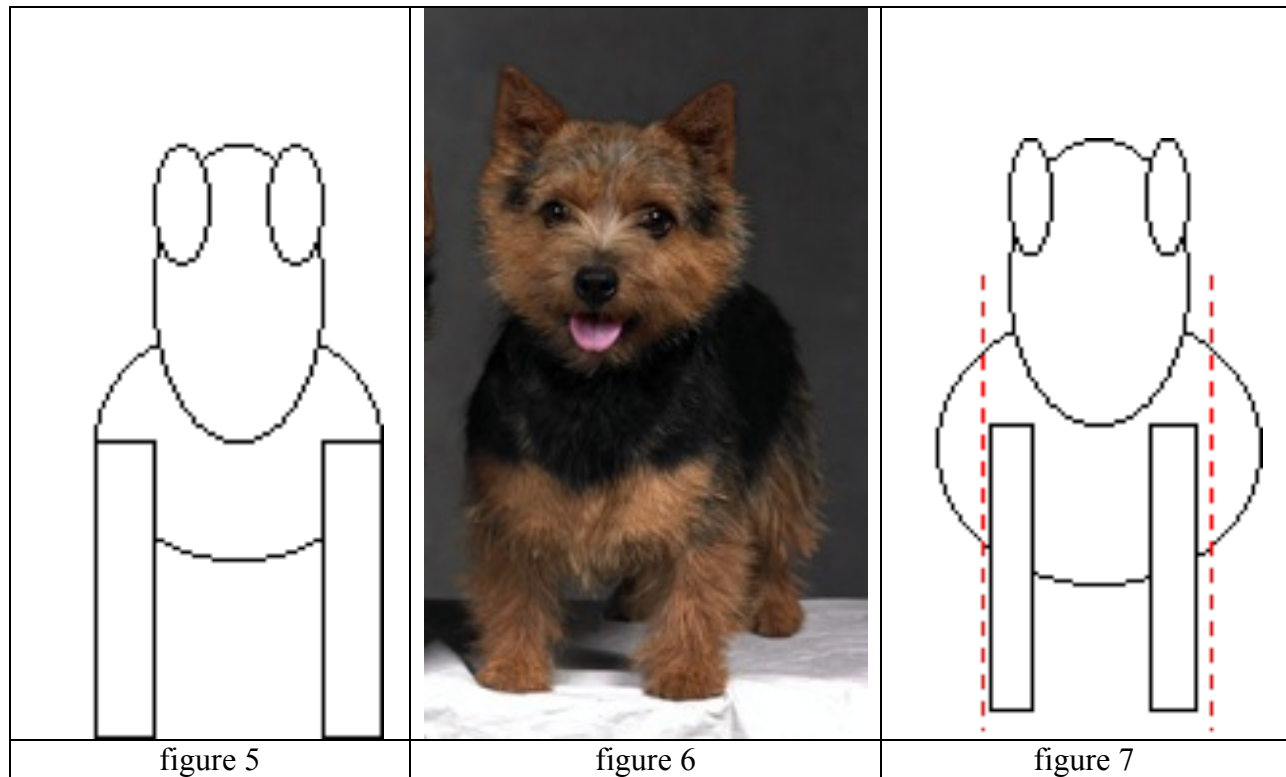
forms a ruff at the base of the ears and the throat. We don't see this all that often in the show ring simply because keeping the mane tidy is a lot of work and can make the dog look long if it is not done right. You do need some hair there though to reinforce a correct front assembly.



Now look at your dog straight on headfirst. The legs should be straight and the hairs on the legs running from the elbow to the foot should reinforce a perfectly straight line. I keep the hair at the elbow extremely short. The stick dog at figure 5 below shows the simplistic pictorial explanation of what you are trying to achieve. Figure 5 is balanced and even. Stick dog at figure 7 demonstrates how the unbalanced bulky shoulders (or a fat dog) can look? If you remove the hair from the outsides of the red lines in stick dog figure 7, you can groom it to be a balanced dog. This reinforces that you need to know what you want to achieve as your final product. Knowing the outline that you need to create you can groom quite a drastic difference into the true conformation of a dog.

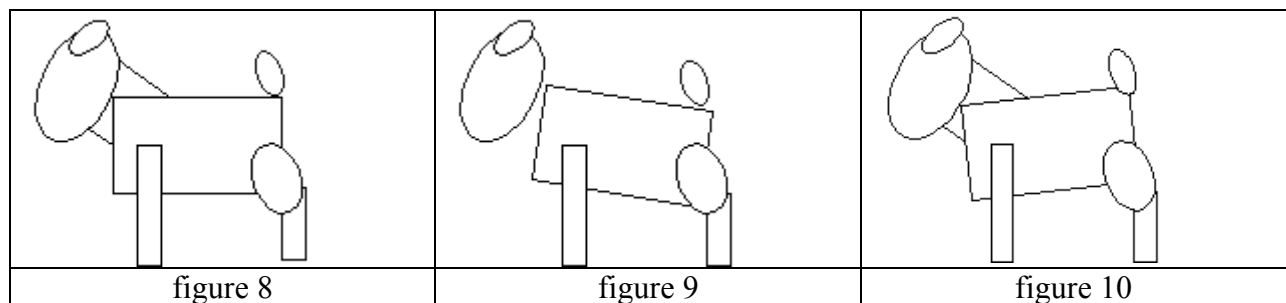
The final product should look something like the dog's front and legs grooming at figure 6. In addition to grooming your dog on a grooming table, you also need to check this while the dog is moving on the ground. Sometimes what looks right when the dog is standing still doesn't look right at all when the dog is moving. As the dog walks toward you there should be no hair sticking out or flopping around especially at the elbow or around the skirt.

Fronts View Outlines



Topline is also something that is key to the outline. The standard says that the topline is to be level. Hair, too much or too little can mess that up! Even a dog with an incorrect topline can usually be groomed to have a perfect one. A common fault is leaving too much hair on the back in front of the tail making the dog look high at the rear like figure 10. Of course stick dog at figure 8 side view and figure 5 front view following are the correct outlines that you want to portray. Note also that the presentation of a topline is best done when the dog is standing at 90 degrees to the judge. Look at photo figure #4. Notice that while the dog does have a level topline when it is viewed on the oblique it is not so obvious.

Side Views Outlines



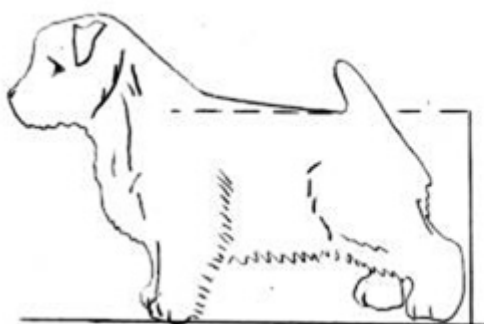


figure 11

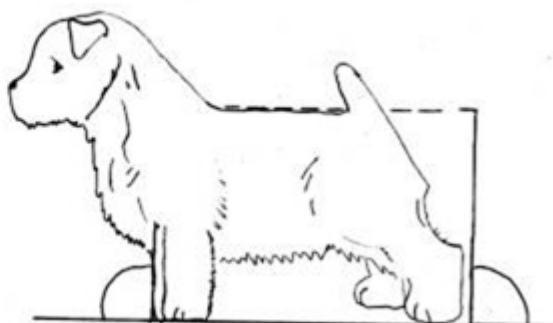


figure 12

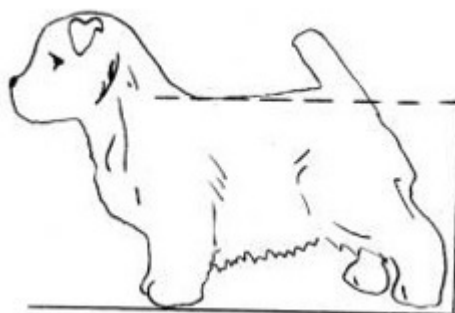


figure 13

See how the sloped topline of stick dog figure 9 just doesn't look right for a Norfolk? Sketch figure 11 also needs to be corrected with some creative grooming to optically regain its level top line. Look also at stick dog figure 10 and sketch figure 13. Note how the higher rear makes him look unbalanced. Now look at the perfect topline of the dog in photo figure 14 following or sketch figure 12. Stunning isn't it compared against the oblique view of figure 4's topline. Don't forget to check that the topline looks level while the dog is moving.

Bottom Line. Look also at the bottom lines of these stick dogs. The bottom lines of figures 8 and 10 work but figure 9 is positively wrong. Your skirt length is what creates the bottom line and the overall finish look of the dog. Slightly longer dogs often look shorter in length with a bottom line that is slightly longer at the front than the back, like figure 10 and 13's bottom lines. Skirts can also give the optical illusion to make a long leg look shorter or a correct length leg look too short. Hand stripping bottom lines is a sensitive area for your dog. Pull fewer hairs than you might elsewhere. You can use thinning shears for errant hairs but as with using scissors elsewhere the coat texture will soften, lose colour and a blatantly scissored look should be penalized according to the written standard.

TAILS

Tails are literally the icing on the cake. Hopefully you have a tail that is correctly positioned, of medium length and in balance with the rest of the body. Tails should be held in an alert manner that is either straight up or bent slightly forward over the back, the base level with the topline. A tail that can lie almost directly over the back is called a "gay" or "squirrel tail" and is not correct. The hair in front of the tail should be tidy and not too long. The hair on the back should blend at a 90 degree angle to the tail, accentuating these lines. The hair on the back closest the

tail is usually kept shorter, but remember the whole top line is to remain level. The hair on the underside of the tail and around the anus should be very short and tidy. Just below the anus the hair can be longer and blend into some length to give a nice finished look to the dog's hind end. Be careful not to over groom the tail so that it looks unnatural. If the tail is set too low, leave the hair on the back longer in front of the tail to make it look more correct.

FRONT LEGS

As seen in photo figure 6 above, and below in figure 15 below, the legs seem to look best as straight columns of hair, much how an Airdale's legs are presented for show. These columns of hair give an illusion of greater substance. This is achieved by regular pulling of the longer hairs to keep a number of layers going. Look at the legs on figures 16 (also 5, 8, and 13 preceding). Now apply that to your dog. Figure 15 demonstrates too much hair at the elbow, making the dog look "out at the elbow". Look at the dog both head on as well as from the side and groom the same straight columns. The best way to groom the legs is with a mirror. Look at the reflection of the dog vice directly at the leg you are grooming. This simulates what the judge might see. Another helpful trick is to photograph the legs to aid you see the shape that you are trying to create.



figure 15



figure 16

Behind the dog's elbow the length is very, very short. The paws are to be kept as tight as possible, like a cat's. The hair that lies flat on the top of the paw lies flat because it is too long. Strip some out and the new shorter hairs will start to help the rest stand straight out. The nails should also be really short. This lends to the cat paw look but more important a paw with shorter nails can push off and kick out with more strength. The pads of the feet should be kept clean by cutting the hairs short. Any hair around the foot ideally should be hand stripped or again use forceps to sculpt. If scissors must be used use fine thinning sheers. Some judges will penalize you heavily if they see the scissor marks. One weekend a judge who strongly objects to scissoring dumped me in the group and the next day I got a group second...because of scissoring. (Know your judge is the other lesson here!) If your dog toes in or out you can also cosmetically adjust the fault by leaving longer hair on one side and shorter hair on the other to give a more correct look to the paw. Don't forget to brush the inside of the legs as well. If you dog is a little wide between the legs leave more hair to fill in the width. Conversely, with a narrow width between the legs keep the hair shorter to accentuate width.

Here is a pictorial look at the actual process of grooming the legs from start to finish. Put your cursor over the photos for a brief explanation. Watch how the columns are created...

Ungroomed



A

Combed



B



C

Initial stripping and visualize outline. The elbow is the marker for the back of the column.



D

Taking shape



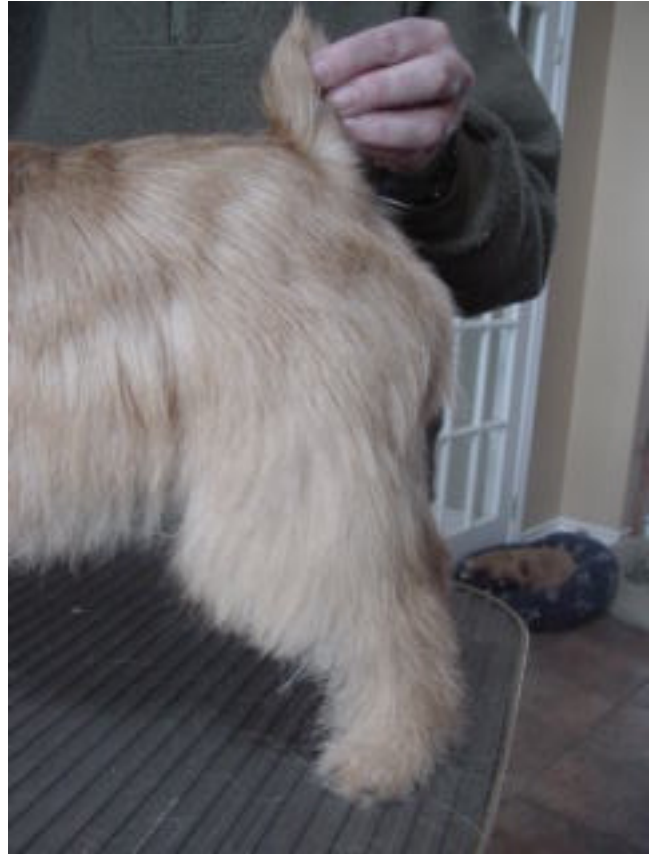
E

Finished leg

See the straight leg that looks like a column from the side or front. The Hair is brushed up. The paw is "cat like". The under pad is clean of hair. The toenails are short.

REAR LEGS

Again refer to the standard to reinforce what you are going to sculpt on the rear of your dog. Assess your dog's rear angulations, length of leg and width between the legs. For good conformation the thighs should be strong, the hocks set low, and the dog should show strong rear propulsion in his gait. As with the front paws, the rear paws should also look cat like. Short nails and a tightly stripped paw gives this look. When the dog gaits you should clearly see the pads of the paw from the rear. Keep the hair between the pads very short. You can use scissors between the pads but the sides of the paws you should hand strip or you can use forceps. Brush the hair upwards using a small slicker type brush to train the hairs to stand straight out and make those columns like on the front legs. Regularly pull the longest hairs to keep new hair growth coming up. Don't be afraid to regularly bath any of the legs at any time. In fact, weekly bathing keeps a show dogs leg hairs in best condition. Washing the hair keeps it clean, as well as a little softer so it won't break off as easily. Accentuate angles with more or less hair. As you look at the dog from the rear the legs should appear straight and the toes should also point straight forward. As for the front legs leave more or less hair to reinforce the correct conformation of the dog. You can optically lengthen or shorten a hock by leaving more or less hair on it.



FINAL TIPS

1. You must pull hair to get hair. Short hard hair is more correct than longer soft hair.
2. Some breed lines have hair that is so hard that it breaks easily and has great difficulty maintaining sufficient furnishing length. You still must pull hair to get hair but in this case pull VERY few hairs. Wash the furnishings and muzzle regularly to keep the hair clean and softer. This helps prevent breaking.
3. More hair is not necessarily better. Layers are the best look for a coat since it shows hair health, and the most vibrant natural colours.
4. The best way to grow hair starts with a premium diet. Hair should grow at a rate of about 1/4 inch (1 cm) per month.
5. Use a natural bristle brush over the coat regularly. Natural bristles won't break the coat and help spread the natural oils of the coat to get a healthy looking shine.

6. The simple daily wetting of the hair (particularly the muzzle area or furnishings) will keep the hair clean, softer and less prone to breaking. This is the fastest way to grow coat. Don't be afraid to wash and/or shampoo areas twice a week that you want to grow as fast as possible. We have tried many, many "miracle" growers and the best is without a doubt simply water. With all the canine shampoos currently available (their PH are designed for dogs) there are numerous safe and beneficial products available that won't harm coats even with frequent washing.

7. If you are only going to tackle one part of the body then make sure you do both sides as a minimum.

CONCLUSION

It is practice that makes perfect in grooming. The more dogs you groom, even of different breeds, the more different grooming challenges you will face. Know what you want to achieve before you begin. It is just hair...it grows back. Good coats are a reflection of good care, good health and good nutrition.

WILDGOOSE NORWICH TERRIERS

Ears: medium size, v-shaped, drooping forward, close to the cheek

Stop: well defined

Eyes: small, dark, oval, wide set and expressive

Muzzle: wedge shaped and strong, slightly shorter than half the length of the skull

Mouth: tight lipped; large, strong teeth; scissors bite

Shoulder Blade: well angulated

Brisket: below point of elbow

Forequarters: clean, powerful shoulders and short powerful straight legs

Skull: wide and slightly rounded with good width between the ears

Neck: medium length and strong; slightly arched; flowing into clean shoulders covered by a protective mane

Topline: level

Withers

Loin

Croup

Tail: medium docked, set level on the topline, not gay; long enough to grasp

Hindquarters: well muscled; broad; deep; great powers of propulsion

Stifle: good turn

Hocks: well let down

Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness of the fault in exact proportion to its degree

Feet: round; toes short; pads thick

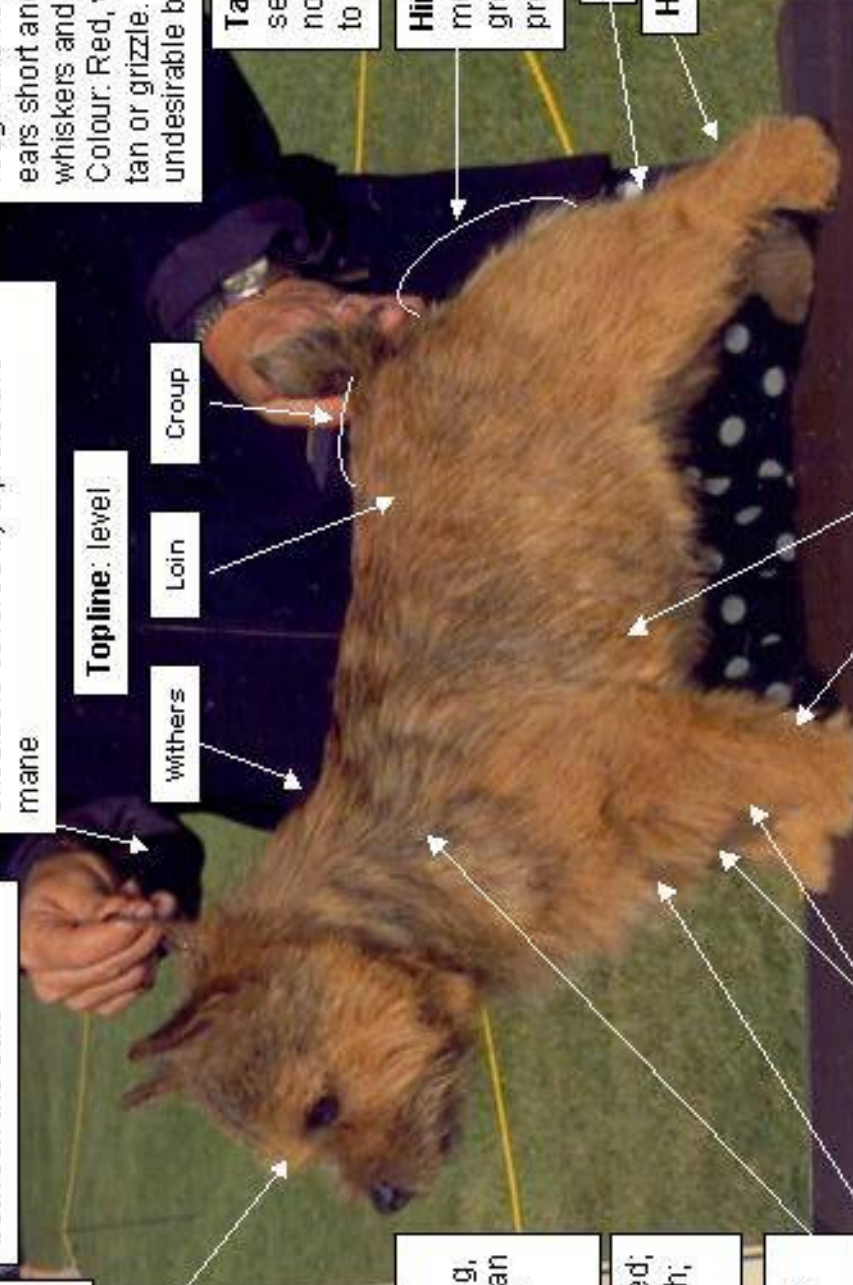
Body: Compact with short back

Ribs: oval and well sprung

Pastern

Legs: short powerful; as straight as possible

Height: 25 cm/10 inches
Weight: 5.5 kg/12 pounds
Temperament: alert and fearless; never quarrelsome



Norwich Terrier

American Kennel Club

Breed Standard



General Appearance

The Norwich Terrier, spirited and stocky with sensitive prick ears and a slightly foxy expression, is one of the smallest working terriers. This sturdy descendent of ratting companions, eager to dispatch small vermin alone or in a pack, has good bone and substance and an almost weatherproof coat. A hardy hunt terrier-honorable scars from fair wear and tear are acceptable.

Size, Proportion, Substance: One of the smallest of the terriers, the ideal *height* should not exceed 10 inches at the withers. Distance from the top of the withers to the ground and from the withers to base of tail are approximately equal. Good bone and *substance*. *Weight* approximately 12 pounds. It should be in proportion to the individual dog's structure and balance. Fit working condition is a prime consideration.

Head: A slightly foxy *expression*. *Eyes* small, dark and oval shaped with black rims. Placed well apart with a bright and keen expression. *Ears* medium size and erect. Set well apart with pointed tips. Upright when alert.

The *skull* is broad and slightly rounded with good width between the ears. The *muzzle* is wedge shaped and strong. Its length is about one-third less than the measurement from the occiput to the well-defined *stop*. The jaw is clean and strong. Nose and lip pigment black. Tight-lipped with large teeth. A scissor *bite*.

Neck, Topline, Body: *Neck* of medium length, strong and blending into well laid back shoulders. Level *topline*. *Body* moderately short. Compact and deep. Good width of chest. Well-sprung *ribs* and short *loins*. *Tail* medium docked. The terrier's working origin requires that the tail be of sufficient length to grasp. Base level with topline; carried erect.

Forequarters: Well laid back *shoulders*. Elbows close to ribs. Short, powerful *legs*, as straight as is consistent with the digging terrier. Pasterns firm. *Feet* round with thick pads. Nails black. The feet point forward when standing or moving.

Hindquarters: Broad, strong and muscular with well-turned *stifles*. *Hocks* low set and straight when viewed from the rear. *Feet* as in front.

Coat: Hard, wiry and straight, lying close to the body with a definite undercoat. The coat on neck and shoulders forms a protective mane. The hair on head, ears and muzzle, except for slight eyebrows and whiskers, is short and smooth. This breed should be shown with as natural a coat as possible. A minimum of tidying is permissible but shaping should be heavily penalized.

Color: All shades of red, wheaten, black and tan or grizzle. White marks are not desirable.

Gait: The legs moving parallel, extending forward, showing great powers of propulsion. Good rear angulation with a true, yet driving movement. The forelegs move freely with feet and elbows the same distance apart, converging slightly with increased pace. Hind legs follow in the track of the forelegs, flexing well at the stifle and hock. The topline remains level.

Temperament: Gay, fearless, loyal and affectionate. Adaptable and sporting, they make ideal companions.

Approved October 13, 1981 Reformatted March 23, 1990

WILDGOOSE NORFOLK TERRIERS

Ears: medium size, v-shaped, drooping forward, close to the cheek

Stop: well defined

Eyes: small, dark, oval, wide set and expressive

Muzzle: wedge shaped and strong, slightly shorter than half the length of the skull

Mouth: tight lipped; large, strong teeth; scissors bite

Shoulder Blade: well angulated

Brisket: below point of elbow

Forequarters: clean, powerful shoulders and short powerful straight legs

Skull: wide and slightly rounded with good width between the ears

Neck: medium length and strong; slightly arched; flowing into clean shoulders covered by a protective mane

Topline: level

Withers

Loin

Croup

Tail: medium docked, set level on the topline, not gay; long enough to grasp

Hindquarters: well muscled; broad; deep; great powers of propulsion

Stifle: good turn

Hocks: well let down

Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness of the fault in exact proportion to its degree

Feet: round; toes short; pads thick

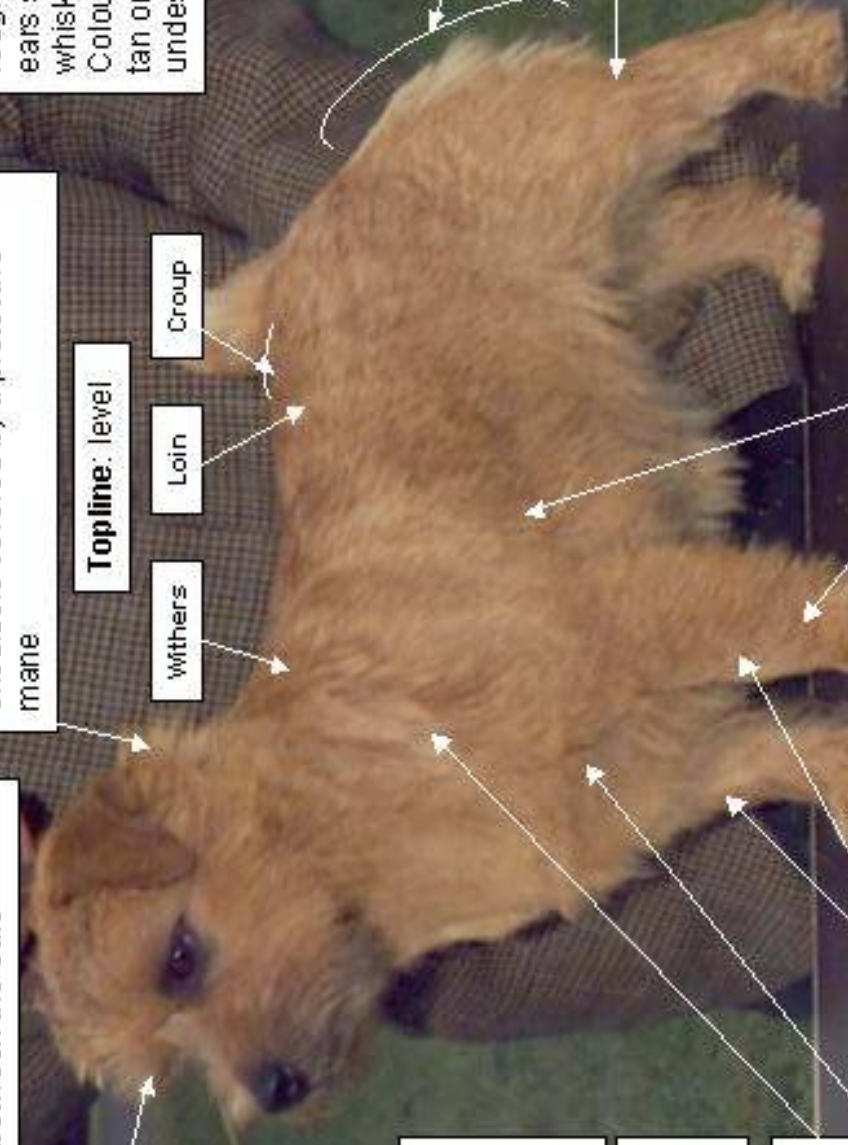
Ribs: oval and well sprung

Pastern

Legs: short powerful; as straight as possible

Height: 25 cm/10 inches
Weight: 5.5 kg/12 pounds
Temperament: alert and fearless; never quarrelsome

Body: Compact with short back



Norfolk Terrier

American Kennel Club

Breed Standard



General Appearance: The Norfolk Terrier, game and hardy, with expressive dropped ears, is one of the smallest of the working terriers. It is active and compact, free-moving, with good substance and bone. With its natural, weather-resistant coat and short legs, it is a "perfect demon" in the field. This versatile, agreeable breed can go to ground, bolt a fox and tackle or dispatch other small vermin, working alone or with a pack. Honorable scars from wear and tear are acceptable in the ring.

Size, Proportion, Substance: *Height* at the withers 9 to 10 inches at maturity. Bitches tend to be smaller than dogs. Length of back from point of withers to base of tail should be slightly longer than the height at the withers. Good *substance* and bone. *Weight* 11 to 12 pounds or that which is suitable for each individual dog's structure and balance. Fit working condition is a prime consideration.

Head: *Eyes* small, dark and oval, with black rims. Placed well apart with a sparkling, keen and intelligent *expression*. *Ears* neatly dropped, small, with a break at the skull line, carried close to the cheek and not falling lower than the outer corner of the eye. V-shaped, slightly rounded at the tip, smooth and velvety to the touch.

Skull wide, slightly rounded, with good width between the ears. *Muzzle* is strong and wedge shaped. Its length is one-third less than a measurement from the occiput to the well-defined *stop*. Jaw clean and strong. Tight-lipped with a scissor *bite* and large teeth.

Neck, Topline, Body: *Neck* of medium length, strong and blending into well laid back shoulders. Level *topline*. Good width of *chest*. *Ribs* well sprung, chest moderately deep. Strong *loins*. *Tail* medium docked, of sufficient length to ensure a balanced outline. Straight, set on high, the base level with the topline. Not a squirrel tail.

Forequarters: Well laid back *shoulders*. Elbows close to ribs. Short, powerful *legs*, as straight as is consistent with the digging terrier. Pasterns firm. *Feet* round, pads thick, with strong, black nails.

Hindquarters: Broad with strong, muscular *thighs*. Good turn of *stifle*. *Hocks* well let down and straight when viewed from the rear. *Feet* as in front.

Coat: The protective coat is hard, wiry and straight, about 1½ to 2 inches long, lying close to the body, with a definite undercoat. The mane on neck and shoulders is longer and also forms a ruff at the base of the ears and the throat. Moderate furnishings of harsh texture on legs. Hair on the head and ears is short and smooth, except for slight eyebrows and whiskers. Some tidying is necessary to keep the dog neat, but shaping should be heavily penalized.

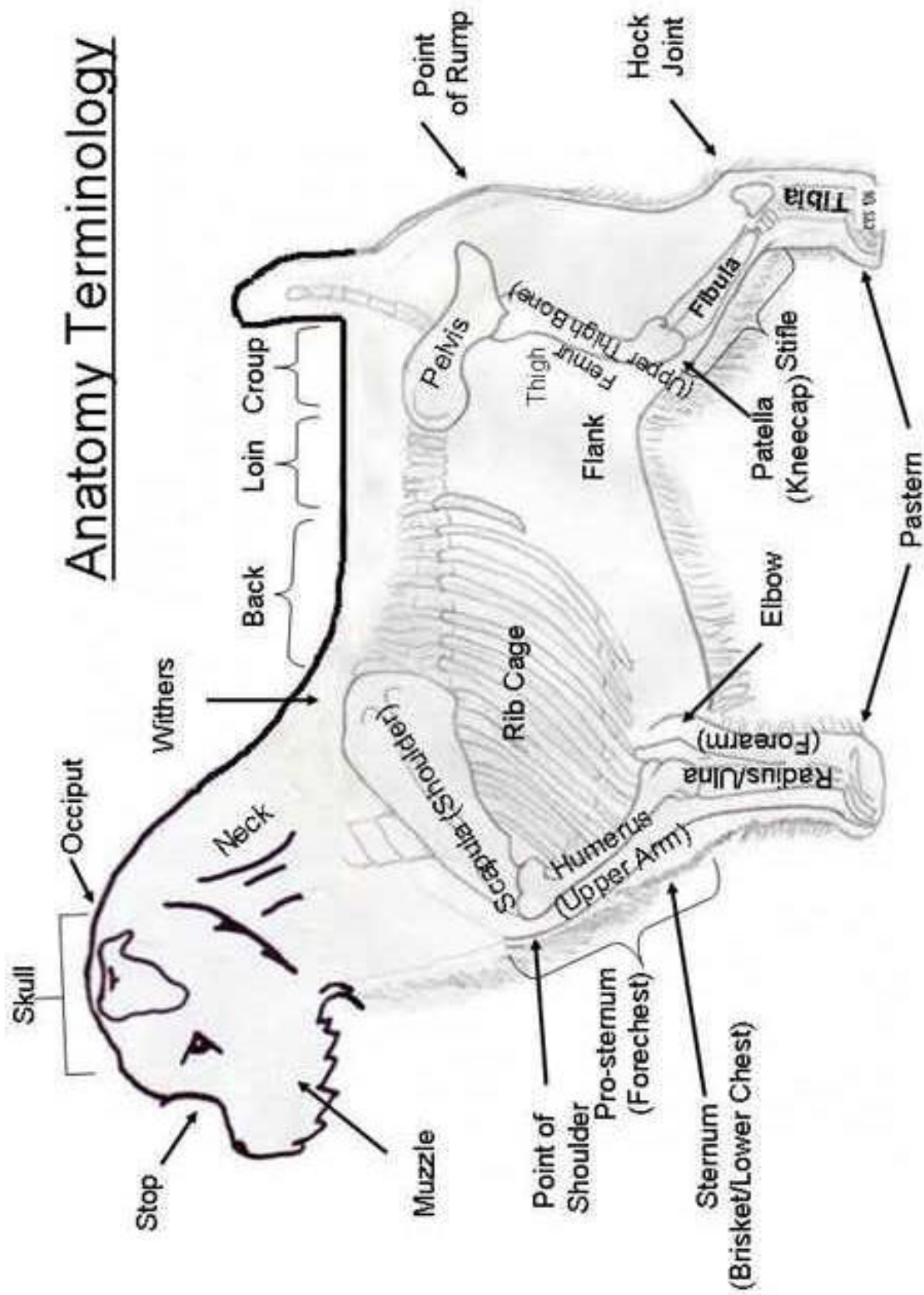
Color: All shades of red, wheaten, black and tan, or grizzle. Dark points permissible. White marks are not desirable.

Gait: Should be true, low and driving. In front, the legs extend forward from the shoulder. Good rear angulation showing great powers of propulsion. Viewed from the side, hind legs follow in the track of the forelegs, moving smoothly from the hip and flexing well at the stifle and hock. Topline remains level.

Temperament: Alert, gregarious, fearless and loyal. Never aggressive.

Approved October 13, 1981 Reformatted March 23, 1990.

Anatomy Terminology



Occiput - top most crest back of skull; **Withers** - the upper portion of shoulder blade union with the spinous processes of the 1st and 2nd thoracic vertebrae. (The highest area of the back). **Loin** - the lumbar area, between the end of the rib cage and the start of the pelvis; **Croup** - (rump) muscular area just above and around the set of tail and overlies the lower half of the pelvic region.

