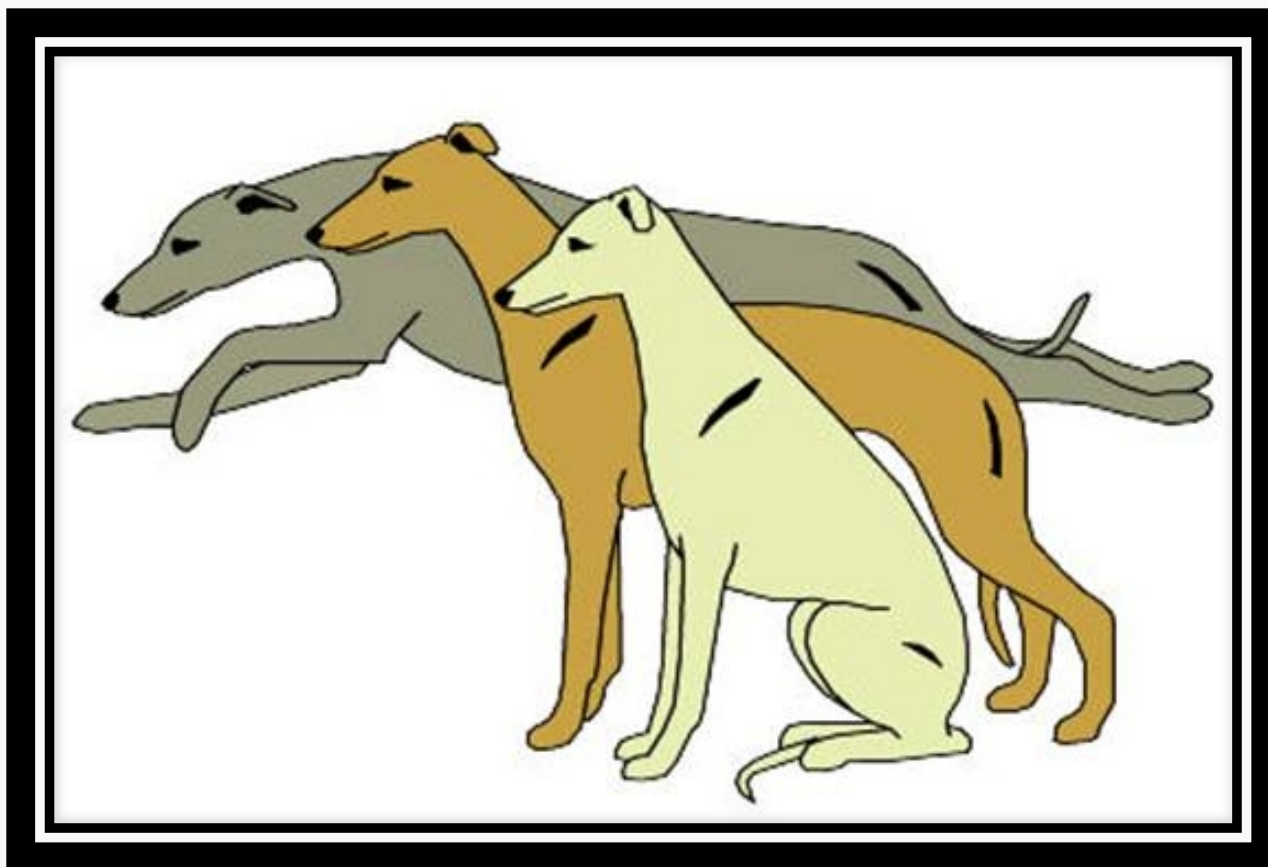


# ILLUSTRATED BREED STANDARD



Svenska Whippetklubben 2014

# Introduction

This Illustrated Breed Standard is prepared to more clearly interpret the breed standard (FCI-Standard N162/14.05.2007)

This Illustrated Breed Standard is especially prepared as an education tool for breeders and judges as well as others who may be interested in expanding their knowledge of the breed.

*Standard text is provided within a frame and in italics.*

**Powerpoint presentation:** Agneta Kappers

**Drawings/Illustrations:** Fredrik Permo

**Swedish Whippet Club's Board of Directors and Swedish Whippet Club's breeder/judges have worked together to create this presentation.**

# HISTORY AND USE

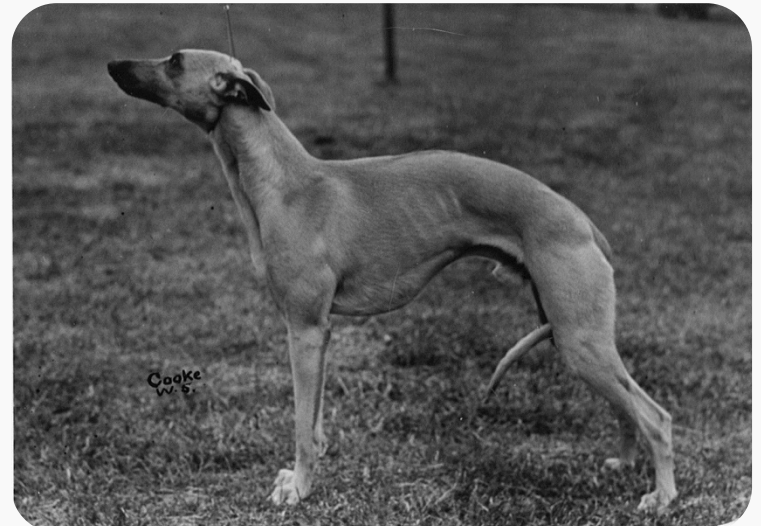
The breed was developed in northern England, where it was bred for hare hunting and short distance racing as well as, a family pet. It may well be regarded as the miners' response to the nobles' Greyhound, as it had the same uses as their larger "relative", but was a much more convenient size and cheaper to feed.

In 1890, the breed was approved by the English Kennel Club and appeared in the Swedish Kennel Club's stud book for the first time in 1914. Although there is mention in 1904, with a record of different breeds under the category of women's and luxury dogs(!) and termed miniature greyhound. The Whippet breed had its first Swedish champion in 1918. The bitch Ch Nelly Whipsnade (Peter Wanderer x Gill Wanderer) was bred in Denmark, and the Swedish whippets of the 1920s and 1930s were based mainly on dogs related to these Danish dogs. In the 1940s, several dogs were imported from England and these dogs still can be found in Swedish Whippet pedigrees today.

Whippets continued to be imported from England into Sweden until the 1970s.

During the 80's fewer Whippets were imported to Sweden, but towards the end of the decade, imports were on the way up again, and from other countries than England as quality dogs are being bred all over the world.

Ch Wingedfoot Marksman of Always.  
One of England's most important stud dogs of the 1950's.



# TODAY'S WHIPPET

The WHIPPET of today still has a strong hunting instinct and use, and as well as other sighthounds, hunts mainly by sight. Lure coursing is the breed's official performance test.

The Whippet's alert and adaptable mentality allows them to be a versatile breed which is capable of excelling in many different sports - tracking, agility and obedience to name a few. Responsive and easy to learn they are able to enjoy all challenges.

# INTELLEGEENCE AND ABILITIES

A whippet should be happy, open and stable and have a harmonious attitude.

Without having the aloofness of the oriental sighthounds, whippets greet strangers while maintaining a certain dignity and their friends with effusive cordiality.

Whippets like to be close to both people and other animals and love the convenience of cozy couches and comfy beds.

Water in all its forms is generally not popular although many take it with equanimity!



# GENERAL APPEARANCE

*Balanced combination of muscular power and strength with elegance and grace of outline. Built for speed and work. All forms of exaggeration should be avoided*

## **Comment to the standard:**

Whippet is a breed without exaggeration - the word you think of when describing a whippet is balance. A whippet should have balance between power and elegance. The symmetry between the top and the under line is a beautiful balance of curves.

The angle of the shoulder and the upper arm is equal to the angle of the upper thigh and the second thigh again ideal balance.

From the head with expressive eyes, well-shaped ears, long muscular neck, with an elegant arch, into smoothly well laid back shoulders and a muscular back line with a definite arch over the loin.

Strong jaws with a perfect scissor bite, down the neck into a well filled front that curves into a deep chest with plenty of room for heart and lungs, up under the well drawn up abdomen down the rear thighs which give the dog an S-shaped curve that harmonizes with the top line.

A whippet is equal strength, balance, elegance and beauty

# BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

*An ideal companion. Highly adaptable in domestic and sporting surroundings. Gentle, affectionate, even disposition.*

## **Comment to the standard:**

A whippet is to be happy, open, stable and have a harmonious attitude within it's environment. It is easily adaptable and willingly follows on all sorts of adventures. It is faithful and loyal to their family.

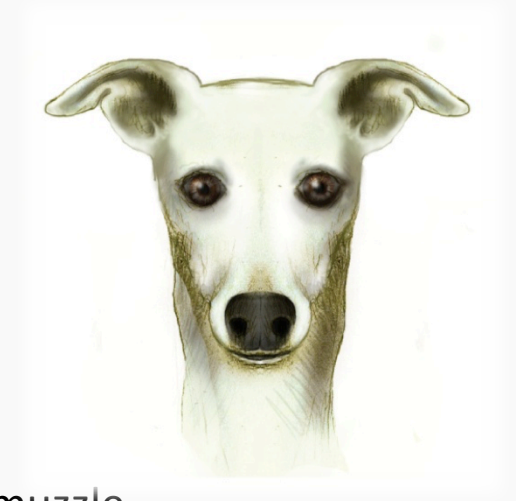
They greet all people, not necessarily in an exuberant manner, if it is a stranger, but polite and interested. They usually do not take long before even strangers are part of their inner circle!

A whippet should not show shyness or aggression, which is completely uncharacteristic of the breed.



# HEAD AND SKULL

Long and lean, flat on top, tapering to muzzle, rather wide between the eyes.



## **Commentary to the standard**

The head should give the impression of a dog who is alert, vigorous, elegant, balanced and intelligent. The head and the muzzle should be of equal length. The muzzle should have good space for the teeth and jaws and must not be too narrow, or too wide. The pigment around the eyes, lips and nose may vary due to all colors are allowed.

## **Commentary to the standard**

Since this is not a “head breed” there are quite a large variation in head shapes. It is Important that the head does not get too narrow and that it should retain a certain width between the eyes.

Regardless of the head shape a whippet needs to have sufficient strength in the jaw, and neck to catch it's prey, and quickly break it's neck. These properties belong to the breed's origin, as a hunter. Today they are not allowed to hunt live game in many countries which is why lure coursing has been a popular activity to show the whippet's native hunting skill.

# STOP

*Slight*

## Comment to the standard:

Great variation exists. If the stop is too little or too much the dog loses it's breed typical expression. Better with a bit too much than too little.



## NOSPART

correct

## FACIAL REGION :

*Nose : Black. In blues a bluish colour. In livers a liver nose. In isabel, creams or other diluted coat colours any colour except pink is allowed. Only in whites or parti-coloured a butterfly nose is permissible but not a completely unpigmented nose..*

## Comment to the standard:

In other words - the nose is not always black but can follow the coat color as long as the nose is not unpigmented!

# Jaws/Teeth

*Jaws strong, powerful and clean cut with a perfect scissors bite, i.e The Upper teeth completely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws*

## **Comment to the standard:**

Malocclusion is now relatively rare but occasionally one sees too thin or/and too narrow jaws preventing teeth from sitting in their proper positions.

# EYES

Oval, bright, expression very alert.

## **Comment to the standard:**

A black pigmented dog usually has very dark eyes while a blue pigmented dog can have a lighter iris.

It is desirable, to have fully pigmented eye rims . Lack of pigmentation may affect the expression, which should not be sharp. Lack of pigment shall not be regarded as an fault.

Whippet's eye color should not disturb the breeds soft overall expression.

It is not desirable that one eye or both are blue or porcelain colored.

The muzzle should be substantial but elegant and well filled under the eyes.

**The focus should not be on eye color but to maintain the “typical” whippet expression.**



# EARS

*Rose shaped, small, fine in texture.*

## **Comment to the standard:**

When the dog is alert, the ears should be folded and have a slight curvature of the sides. They should not point straight out to the sides or stand straight up.

If the earflap is too thick, too heavy or too large this will affect the typical expression of the breed.

Today it is uncommon to find the ideal small and thin ears.



correct



# NECK

Long, muscular, elegantly arched.

## Comment to the standard:

The neck should be properly set with a smooth transition from the shoulders and top line with an elegant arch.

The neck should balance the dog's proportions in general and not be overly narrow or long.

The neck may also be too short - unfortunately a common fault which gives the dogs a less elegant appearance. This is more common today than a neck which is too long.



correct



# BODY

## Topline

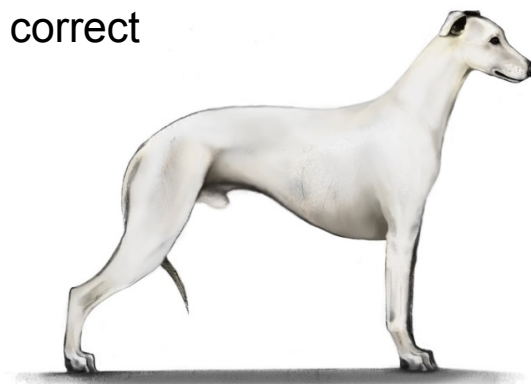
*Showing a graceful arch over loin but the dog's back should not be humped*

### **Comment to the standard:**

There must be an unbroken sweeping and elegant line from the neck to the hock. The clear rise over loin can not start behind the shoulder blades and form a hump over the topline.

The topline must not become flat or end too abruptly which is a common fault today. Top and underline should harmonize with each other

correct



Steep croup



High in the rear



# BACK

*Broad, well muscled, firm, somewhat long.*

## **Comment to the standard:**

“Somewhat long” means longer than short! - A dog that is too long or too short loses the breed typical, the well-balanced impression.

The dog's eleventh vertebra is smaller than the others. This means a natural dip in the back which many judges consider a fault. It may be more or less obvious but is completely correct and should never be considered a fault. This provides the necessary lumbar flexibility that is required during the double extension gait.

# LOIN

*Giving impression of strength and power*

## **Comment to the standard:**

If the loin lacks power it affects the entire hindquarters - the dog loses drive. The loin should not be too long in relation to the overall balance of the dog. The croup should fall slightly but not be too steep, which can make the dog look unbalanced while standing or moving.

# CHEST

*Very deep with plenty of heart room, brisket deep, well defined. Ribs well sprung, muscled on back.*

Comment to the standard:

By “very deep” we mean down to the elbow. “Plenty of heart room” means that the chest/ribcage should not be too short. It should not be too round or too flat.

A prominent sternum is not the same as a well filled front and is not correct.



correct



# BELLY

*With definite tuck up.*

## **Comment to the standard:**

Between the front legs the chest should be the deepest. In a line that then goes up in a **gentle** S-curve towards the loin region where it is obviously tucked up. The chest/ribcage underside must not be too short but should have a certain length to provide smoother curves and room for lungs and heart. The topline and underline should harmonize with each other

# TAIL

*No feathering. Long, tapering, when in action carried in a delicate curve but not higher than the level of the back.*

# LIMBS

*Forelegs straight and upright, front not too wide*

## **Comment to the standard:**

The front should be well filled but not overly so.

A broad front is less elegant and has poorer turning ability.

A broad front could be due to wide set shoulders and/or front, straight upper arm or several other details in front design.

Unbalanced angles can interfere both when moving and standing.



correct



# SHOULDERS

*Oblique and muscular; blades carried up to top of spine, where they are clearly defined.*

## **Comment to the standard:**

The shoulder blades should be set on obliquely, of good length and well laid back. The shoulder should be of approximately the same length as the upper arm.



correct



# UPPERARM

## **Comment to the standard:**

Upper arm and shoulder blade should basically have the same angle to the horizontal. Upper arm angle affects where the elbow lands under the dog.

# ELBOWS

*Set well under body.*

## **Comment to the standard**

A correctly angled upper arm places the elbow at the chest's deepest part.

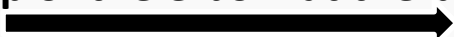
# MEASURING ANGLES

Fig 1



The correct anatomical measurement goes from the highest point of the withers

To the upper arm ball joint at the top and to the tip of the elbow at the bottom.



*It is important to clarify the method of measurement referred to when specifying desired angle and their relationships!*

The front angles are often measured from the top of the scapula to the shoulder joint tip and on to the elbow.



Fig 2



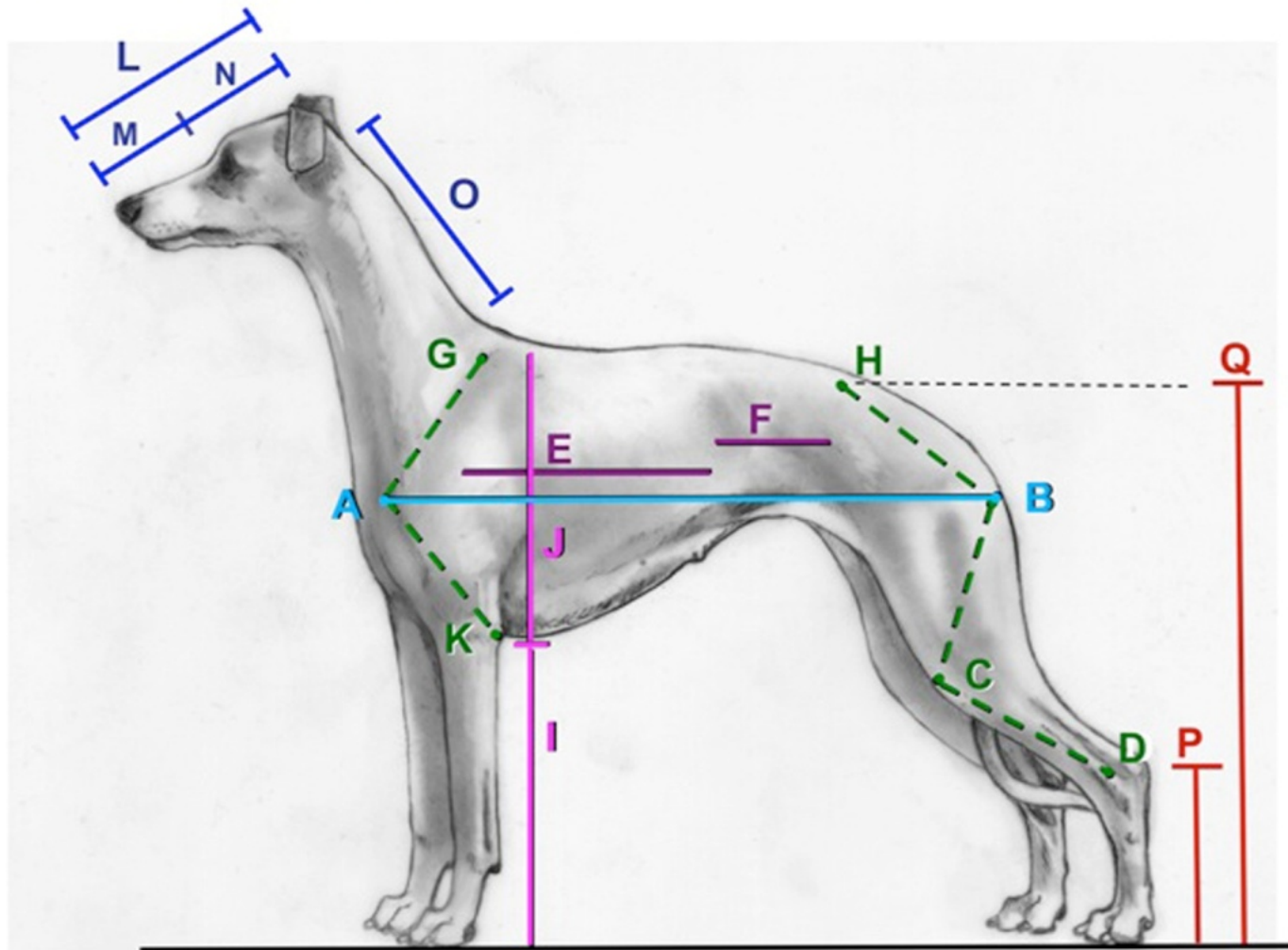
# Measuring the whippet front

If you are looking at the skeleton, it is easy to determine the angular relationship between the shoulder blades and upper arm when you can see the different bones. The so-called anatomically correct measurement is measured from the highest part of the shoulder blade down to the joint of the shoulder blade (fore chest) and upper arm, on down to the lower part of the upper arm to elbow. **Fig.2**

In reality with skin, muscles and ligaments, it can be difficult to measure the angle correctly, which means that one often measures in a simpler but less accurate manner, ie from the top of the scapula to the shoulder joint tip (fore chest) and on to the elbow. This angle is at least 10 degrees less than the correct one. **FIG. 1**

Whippets should have a more open angle than many other breeds. This angle increases the effective movement when they are running in their special double-extension gallop.

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### ***Proportion and Balance in the AKC Whippet***

Point A-Point B = Length of Body. Length equals or SLIGHTLY exceeds height at withers (Point G).

Shoulder angle (G-A-K) equals hip angle (H-B-C). This is what is meant by having a balanced angulation in quarters.

Ratio of ribcage depth to leg length (J:I) is approximately 1:1.

Points G and H are as near to equal height off the ground in as relaxed a stance as possible. H may be slightly lower but should not be higher if type is not to be compromised.

B-C and C-D lengths are equal. So are G-A and A-K. A

short upper arm (G-A to A-K ratio) causes breaking at the pasterns and hackney gait in whippets. A shorter second thigh (C-D) than first thigh (B-C) causes hitching and skipping - an unbalanced gait. A long second thigh is associated with cowhocks or sickle hocks.

Hocks well let down means that the hock length (P) is no greater than one third the height at the hip (Q).

E-F (Ribcage to Loin) is two to one. This is a critical aspect of whippet TYPE. In greyhounds it is usually three to one, while in Italian greyhounds it is closer to one to one.

The length of the head (L) is normally the same length as the back of the neck (O) from occiput to withers.

The length of the muzzle from nose to inside corner of eye (M) is equal to the inside corner of the eye to the occiput (N).

These ratios, if present, create an AKC Whippet which is of harmonious beauty to satisfy the eye, conforms to the AKC standard, and has nothing acting against performance and durability at the gallop.

*Used with permission: Karen Bowers Lee, Kennel Surrey Hill*

# PASTERNS

*Strong with slight spring*

## **Comment to the standard:**

Pasterns which are too angulated(soft/weak) or too upright (straight) are both serious faults.

Most often it is the overly straight pasterns which are seen. Both should be penalized as they negatively affect the function of a sprinter.



correct



# FRONT FEET

*Very neat, well split up between toes, knuckles well arched, pads thick and strong*

## Comment to the standard:

The English text says "well split up between the toes" which means that the toes should be well separated but certainly not loose or weak. The feet of a whippet are very important. They should have neat, moderately long toes to be serviceable and get a firm grip of ground at high speeds when running after prey or for enjoyment.

**Flat feet are a serious fault!**



Correct



# HINDQUARTERS

*Strong. Dog able to stand over a lot of ground*

## **Comment to the standard:**

Standing over a lot of ground means that the dog should give a feel of strength and balance when standing in relation to its size and proportions. Sighthounds and cheetahs are the only animals that move with a double extension gallop, ie that they have all four legs in the air, both when they are fully extended and when they have legs under him. Therefore it is important that a whippet has sufficiently powerful thighs and lower legs that make this possible.



# THIGH

*Broad across*

## **Comment to the standard:**

The thigh should be of the same length as the lower thigh. Muscle/width of the thigh is important.

Thin thighs are a serious fault.

# STIFLES

*Well bent*

## **Comment to the standard:**

The stifle should be balanced and moderately angulated to provide stability to the thigh and lower leg. In motion, you should not see the knee when the dog goes away from you, it should be in line with the hock.



correct



# SECOND THIGH

*Well developed*

## **Comment to the standard:**

The second thigh should be of the same length as the upper thigh, with well developed broad muscles.

If the second thigh is too long or too short the typical free movement will be negatively affected.

Thin long underdeveloped second thigh is a serious fault.

# HOCK

*Well let down*

## **Comment to the standard:**

Hocks must be stable and parallel to the knee as it contributes to a strong propulsion (drive)

# BACK FEET

*See front feet*



correct



# GAIT/MOVEMENT

*Perfectly free action in profile. Should move with a long easy stride, maintaining the topline.*

*The forelegs should be thrown well forward and low over the ground, rear legs should come well under the body giving great and powerful drive. General movement not to be stilted, high stepping, short or mincing. True coming and going.*

## **Comment to the standard:**

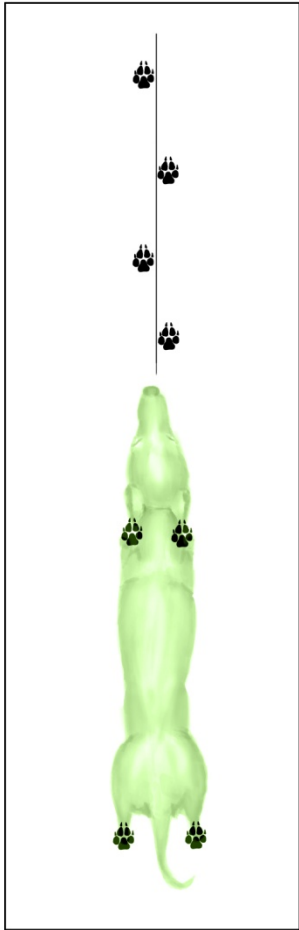
Perfectly free action means stable, ground covering movement. A whippet should have a long, low gait with powerful reach and drive.

As the speed increases the feet come in to the centerline of the body to maintain balance.

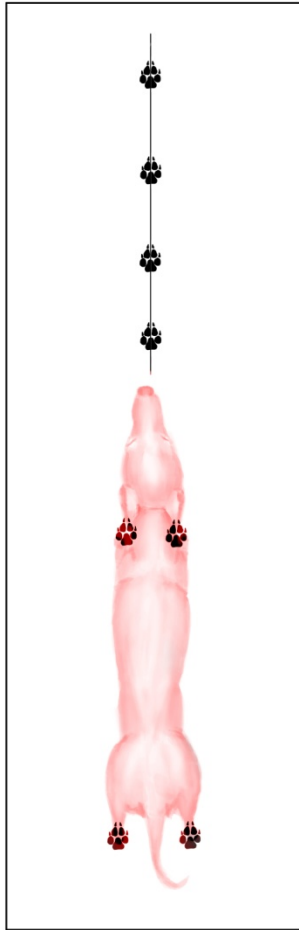
Rear feet should follow in the same line as the front feet.

"Move parallel" in this context to be understood as the knee and hock are parallel, as well as the elbow and the wrist, not wide movement front or rear. Movement should radiate power, elegance and agility while a slight rise over the loin is maintained.

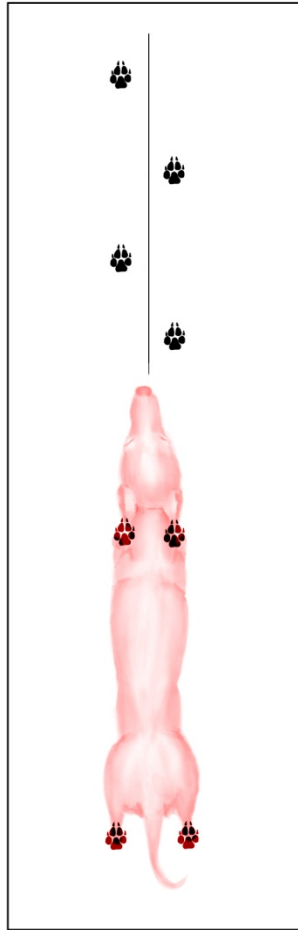




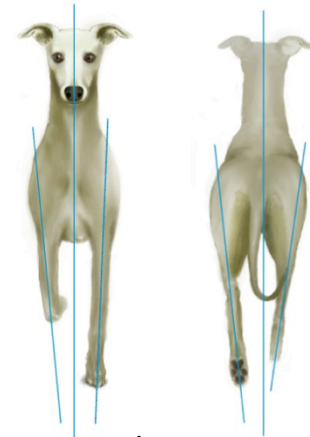
Correct movement in which the rear paws following the tracks of the front paws.



Incorrect movement. So-called "single-tracking" where the feet go directly in to the center line



Incorrect movement. Parallel movement (not to be confused with the standard formulation).



Correct movement: As the speed increases the feet come more to the centerline of the body to maintain balance. Rear feet should follow in the same line as the front feet.

# THE DOUBLE EXTENSION GALLOP



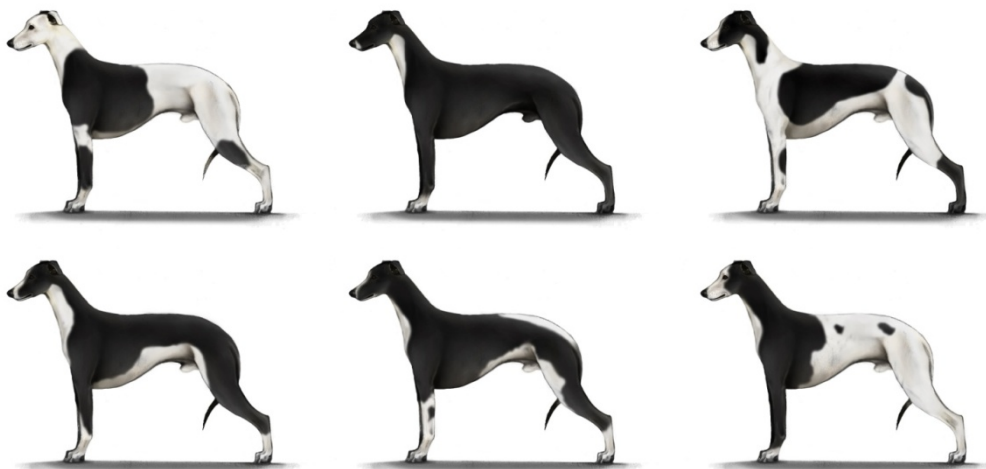


cheetah och whippet

# COAT

*HAIR : Fine, short, close in texture.*

*COLOUR : Any colour or mixture of colours.*



En bra whippet kan aldrig ha en dålig färg eller teckning

**Comment to the standard:**  
The coat of a Whippet should be short, soft and shiny.

Pälsstruktur



# SIZE

## ***Height at Withers:***

***Male:*** 47-51 cm (18 1/2 - 20 ins).

***Female:*** 44-47 cm (17 1/2 - 18 1/2 ins)..

## **Comment to the standard**

These measurements are desirable ideal size. The standard does not specify a min / max size. The English standard from 1945 says:

Size: Desirable height: dogs: 47-51 cms (18.5 to 20 ins); bitches: 44-47 cms (17.5 to 18.5 ins)

"Judges should use their own discretion and not unduly penalize an otherwise good specimen".

**There will always be a "size debate". The size of a whippet is one of the most misunderstood parts of the standard, which is not the same as saying size is irrelevant which it is not but one should not unduly penalize an excellent specimen because of size.**

**In other words - the dog should be judged as a whole. Size should be judged in relationship to all other virtues and faults.**

# FAULTS

*Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.*

## DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- **Aggressive or overly shy.**
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

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

