

## AMERICAN CHESAPEAKE CLUB BREED INFORMATION REPRINTS OF ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE AKC GAZETTE

### **Article titled - "Outline"**

The former standard, under the heading "Symmetry and Quality", said, "The Chesapeake dog should show a bright and happy disposition and an intelligent expression, with general outlines impressive and denoting a good worker. The dog should be well proportioned....."

This heading disappeared when the standard was revised to fit the AKC's format. An introductory section on "General Appearance" containing much of the same material begins the 1993 standard, which seems to have been rewritten without mentioning the outline as such. Yet a truly typical Chesapeake can't lack a correct outline.

Think about the former standard. A well-balanced, well- proportioned dog is "impressive" in it quality. Massive, coarse and overly boned are faults that detract from quality. You should sense a dog that is built to work. "Denoting a good worker" means a sporting dog that works afield and in the water and should not be confused with the look of a powerful draft dog such as in the Working Group. The Chesapeake should suggest a well-honed athlete with agility as well as power to deal with rough waters and punishing cover in inclement weather.

In a retriever the center of gravity moves as the dog adds weight to the forehand when retrieving, which requires a structural flexibility. The head should not be overly large and so heavy as to over balance the dog when carrying game.

The Chesapeake in particular has been bred for heavy and powerful well-muscled hindquarters, well angulated to provide drive from the rear, and with a short, strong back to carry the propulsion of this drive to the forehand, which is distinguished by a well-laid-back shoulder and upper arm of sufficient length to produce a forward reach that makes use of all the power that is transmitted from the rear. Its work requires a deep chest and well-sprung ribs to provide for heart and lungs, and its body is carried with an ease and grace that must not interfere with the action of the front assembly.

Because it is a swimming dog, the Chesapeake is noted for hindquarters as high as or a trifle higher than the shoulders. Its flexible topline may not always be level but should never suggest a soft, weak back. Tail carriage is part of the outline. The tail is a natural extension of the back that functions to preserve balance as the dog makes quick sharp turns on land or in the water. Reach of neck should be sufficient to enable an easy pickup of game and must have the power to carry the game. An overlong neck suggests weakness. The dog that is truly balanced, with excellence in all its parts, is impressive in outline and stands out from the average to catch your eye. -- Janet Horn

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### Article titled - "Proper Type Both Moving and Standing"

Are movement and structure part of type? I say *yes!*

I was prompted to write this article by a comment that I recently encountered. "Often the dog in the ring who does not look like the others is correct but overlooked by judges."

Fanciers have a tendency to separate and categorize aspects of type, such as head and coat. They assume that these features are the only ones that represent type, and in doing so they isolate structural features and movement as separate entities. However, breeding and judging dogs is much more complicated than putting a good head and coat on a Chesapeake and coupling that with sound movement.

The Chesapeake is unique structurally and in his movement. His proper movement is comparable to accomplished swimming. He must have well-balance angulation. His shoulders are well laid back. Typically he stands higher on leg than a Golden or a Labrador. In contrast to other retriever breeds, he has a medium-length hock and hare feet. He should possess good bone -- not so light as to show weakness, nor so heavy as to appear coarse.

The words medium and moderate describe this breed. His proportions are slightly longer than tall; slightly means very little, therefore he is almost square. Ample leg should exist underneath him. The Chesapeake must have flanks well tucked up. This trait is unique to this retriever and is often coupled with a fit and conditioned dog. The topline varies at the rear quarters from being as high as to a trifle higher than the front quarters. A level topline and the *gentle S-curve* topline are equally acceptable. All other retrievers are level in topline.

Picturing the above as described, we can envision the structure and movement of the Chesapeake. From the side, we want to see the described outline with plenty of reach and drive and the ability to cover ground or make great strides in the water with strength and power. The down-and-back should show a dog who approaches you with efficient, ground-covering steps. A dog moving away from you should have drive that comes from a strong, well angulated rear.

Avoid the following; short legs and too much length of body, with a sway back, straight shoulders, and poor rear angulation. Avoid a tubular body, one with not enough tuck-up. These lead to incorrect structure and movement for the Chesapeake. Also avoid the good, sound dog who lacks characteristics of the Chesapeake breed, such as one who lacks in reach and drive, ample tuck-up, or evidence of good disposition.

In conclusion, recognize the Chesapeake and his type, and avoid refugees from the Working Group (dogs of Mastiff, Newfoundland, or Saint Bernard type) or the generic retriever. The most-respected breeders need to be passionate about what they breed and must produce specimens who meet the goal of excellence and best meet the standard's specifications.

Judges must recognize the nuances of this breed and judge accordingly. *Too often, judges find it acceptable to put up a sound dog who is unfortunately not really of breed type* but may be doing a lot of winning and is well advertised and well-schooled.

The judges who are really respected are those who can go beyond and not miss exceptional specimens who don't always have the advantage of looking like the majority and whose owners are not equipped with the monetary resources that include top handling and exposure in advertisements. -- Nat Horn

