

LEONBERGER CLUB OF AMERICA

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING BREEDING ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST (BACL)

A BACL is designed to describe the strengths and faults of a specific Leonberger by comparing it to the AKC Standard for the Leonberger Dog. A Leonberger that is being considered for breeding should be a quality example of the breed, have a stable temperament and be in good health. BACL's will be offered at all annual LCA meetings and Specialties. Arrangements can also be made for BACL's at Regional events by contacting the event's coordinator. Examiners should avoid evaluating dogs from their own kennels.

ATTENTION EXAMINERS:

An Examiner should keep in mind that a BACL is an ideal time to help educate the owner of the Leonberger being examined. At all times, be conscious of the manner in which the dogs faults are discussed and be sure to point out it's strong points as well. As no dog is perfect and all dogs have some faults, discuss choosing a mate that would not duplicate their dogs faults, but encourage the breeding of similar virtues. The usefulness of pedigrees should be explained and information on obtaining an AKC certified pedigree given to the owner.

A. Begin with the question: "Are you interested in breeding this dog?"

If is a new breeder, discuss what becoming a breeder involves: responsibilities, time for whelping and raising a litter, their lifelong responsibility for the puppies, returned dogs, latent illnesses etc. Discourage if reasons are not sound, suggest they learn more and then reconsider. You may want to have this conversation later, after looking at the dog in detail.

B. Process:

Part 1: Examiner: Proceed in following order:

1. Have discussion regarding questions as stated in A above. **"Are you interested in breeding this dog?"**
2. Collect Fee before the BACL begins. "BACL" and CHIC # to be noted on check memo. Checks to be made out to the LCA. **This fee shall be mailed to the Treasurer upon receipt.** The fee is \$_____.
3. Owner completes personal informational section.
4. Ask: *"Have there been any surgical procedures performed on this dog? (e.g. hernias, testicles, OCD, entropion or ectropion eye surgery)."*
- B. *"Is he/she on any long term medication?"*
5. Owner and Examiner must sign—have owner do this after the form is completed and any questions are discussed.
6. Collect photos and a copy of the CHIC certificate. For dogs that are to be bred, the CHIC # must include a passing hip result. The four required photos should be a formal side body view, front and rear shots of the dog, including the feet and a close-up head shot. If the owner cannot provide appropriate pictures, have a digital camera available to take the photos yourself.
7. Proceed with: *Description of the Leonberger*. Check all boxes that apply in each section. All faults and disqualifications are underlined and all disqualifications should be listed at the end of the BACL along with strengths. Desirable features can be determined by looking at the coinciding section of the AKC Standard.


Part 2: Examiners:

1. Please check the CHIC # test results for passing hip score. If the hips are not passing, counsel the Owner that this dog is not breedable under the LCA Member Practices. The BACL examination may continue if the Owner desires.
2. Enter the findings to the BACL form on the LCA website. If a computer is not available, use a hard copy printed for the LCA website and enter the data as soon as possible.
3. Email all documentation to the BACL Coordinator. If you are unable to email a digital copy, please print and mail the BACL and photos to the BACL Coordinator with all documentation.
4. Make and retain a copy of the BACL in case of loss of original.
5. Send an email copy of the complete BACL to the Owner or mail a hard copy if necessary.
6. Send the BACL fee in the form of a check or money order (no cash) to the LCA Treasurer with a note that it is a BACL fee.

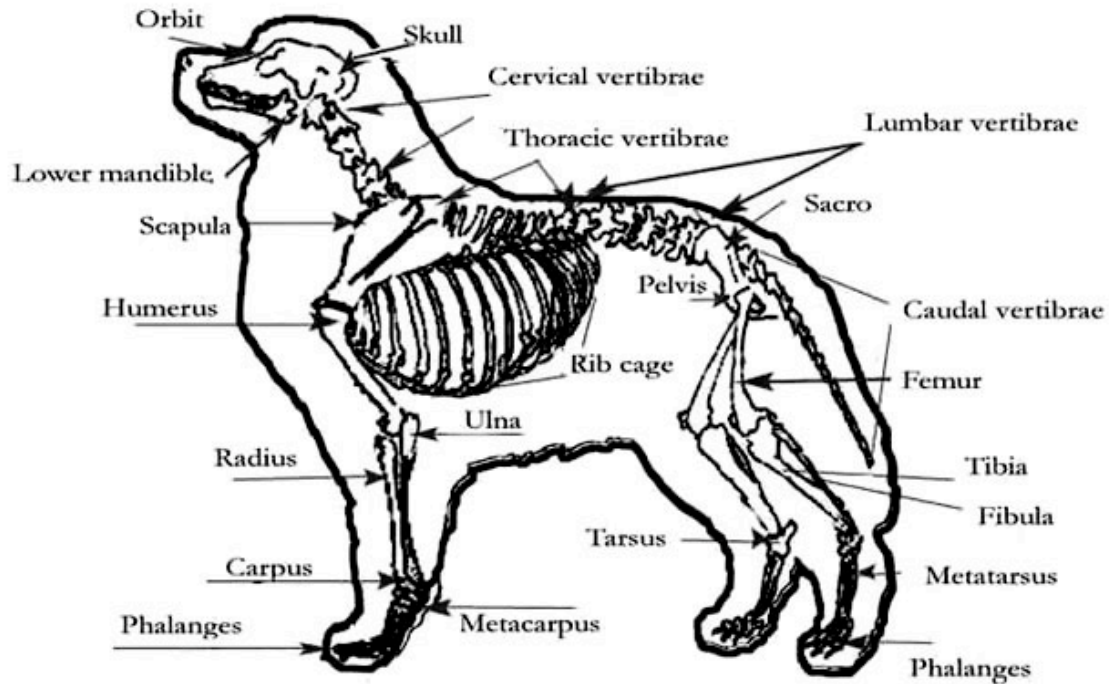
Part 3: Description of the Leonberger:

The attributes of each animal will be described using the following checklist in the left column. The AKC Leonberger Standard is in the right column to assist with visualizing the ideal Leonberger.

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When  symbol appears on the BAFL form, there is additional information in these instructions. Items in the descriptions are underlined> are disqualifications.

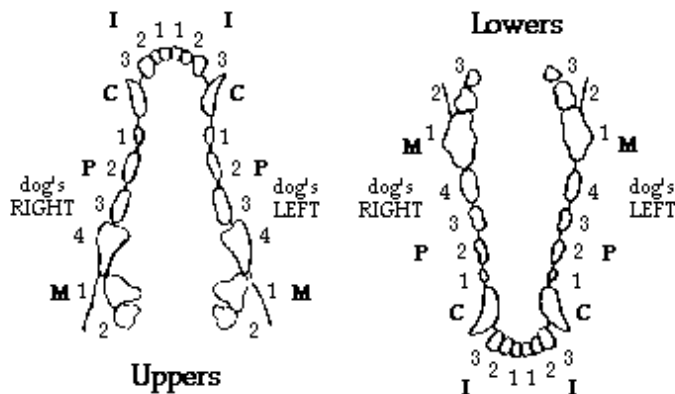
Following are some diagrams that may be helpful as you evaluate the dog:



MOUTH

number of teeth: 42 is a complete dentition; if the count is different, which teeth are missing or in surplus?

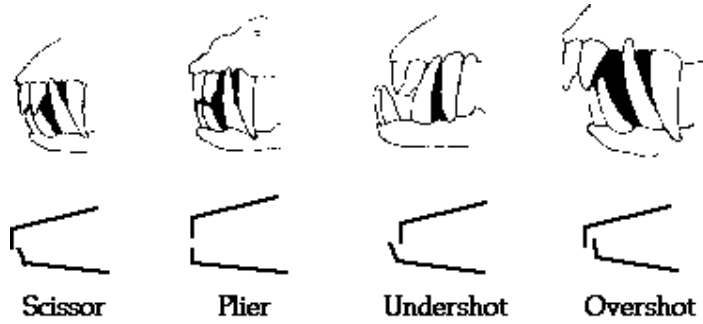
missing teeth: use diagram below to describe



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bite:

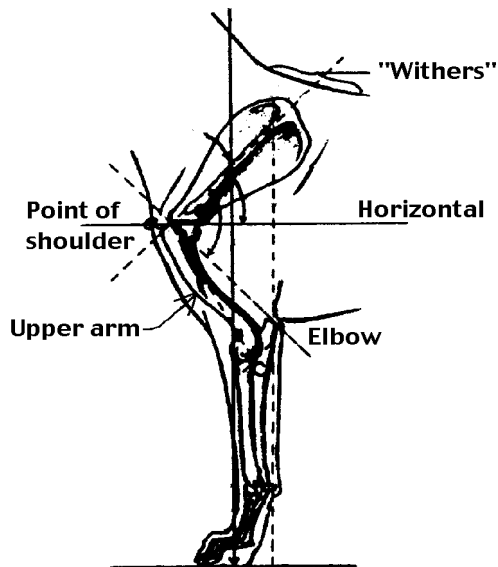
choose from below:



SHOULDER ANGULATION

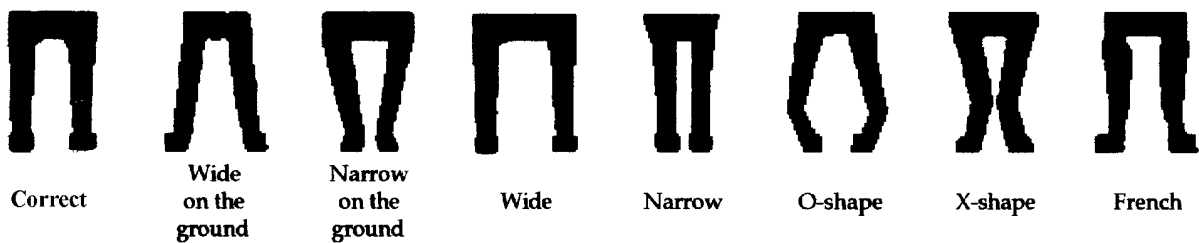
Best shoulder angulation occurs when length of upper arm and shoulder blade are approximately equal. Note: breastbone should protrude beyond point of shoulders in well-angulated dogs.

Note: in diagram, back side of elbow should fall on imaginary line dropped from top of shoulder to elbow to heel. When line falls in front of elbow, is steep angulation, away from elbow is excessive.



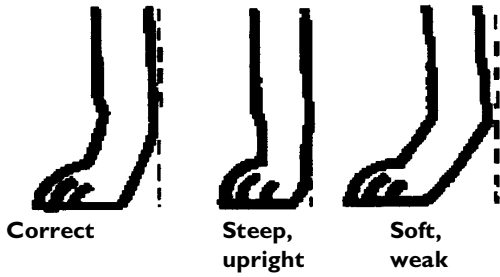
(Adapted from "The Nicholas Guide to Dog Judging" by Anna Katherine Nicholas)

FORELEGS

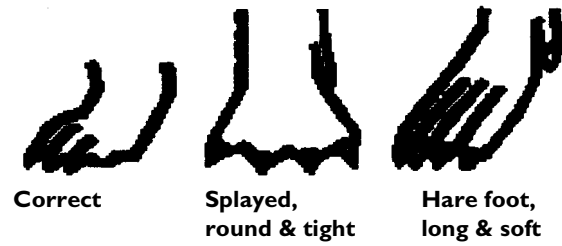


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PASTERNS

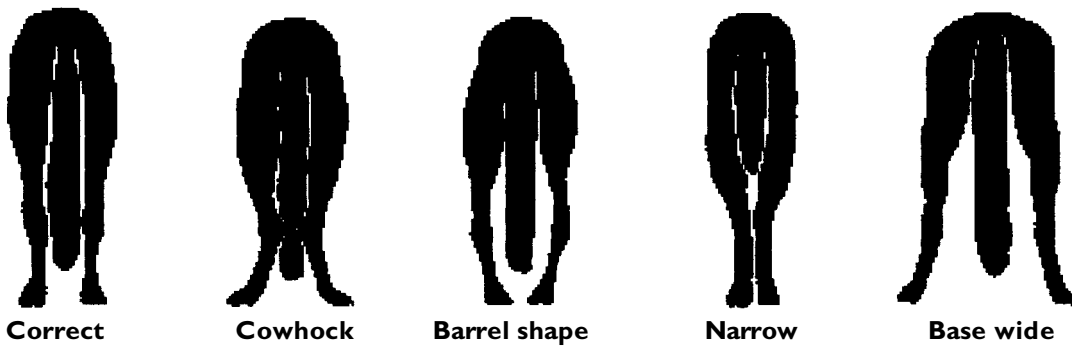


FEET



HIND LEGS from rear:

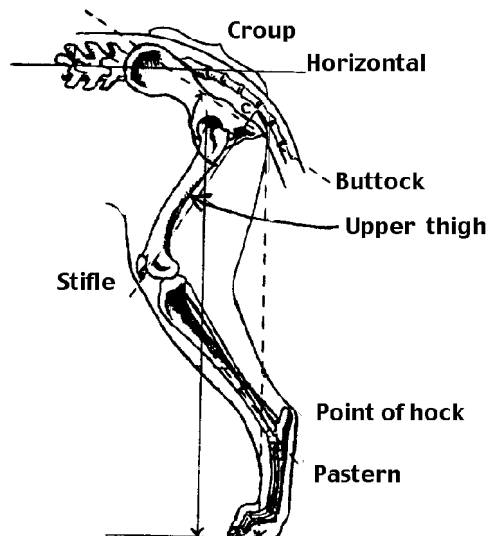
choose from diagram below:



REAR ANGULATION

The length of the croup in relation to the length of the buttock to the stifle should be about equal.

Note: in diagram, imaginary line dropped from buttock should fall in front of pastern. Bend of the stifle and hock should be clearly visible.

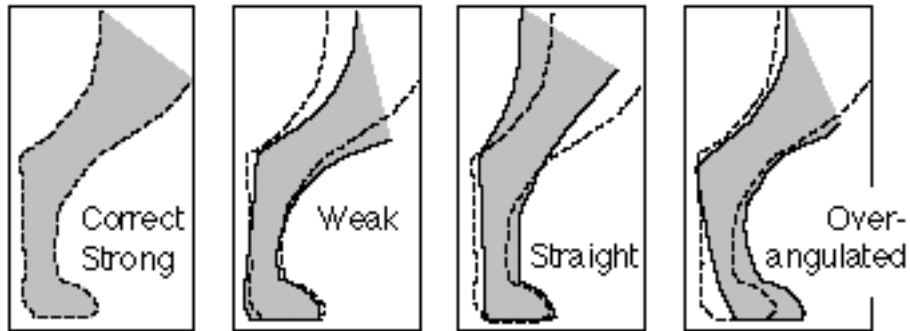


(Adapted from "The Nicholas Guide to Dog Judging" by Anna Katherine Nicholas)

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hocks:

choose from diagram below:



TEMPERAMENT

Observe yourself and ask the owner what is seen at home and away from home; have there been any aggressive behaviors towards dogs or humans? Bites? Owner's description: Examiner's description: Canine Good Citizen Test after age 18 months? Other?

STRENGTHS & FAULTS

List the strengths and weaknesses. This is the time to educate the owner and stress that there is no perfect Leonberger. Help them understand their dog. The goal is to strive to improve upon the parents in the litter they breed. This section needs to have the weaknesses described as characteristics to highlight in the search for a breeding partner. Also important is to carry forward important strengths which their dog possesses. The winningest dog does not necessarily mean the best mate and the geographically closest dog is not the criteria for looking for an appropriate mate either. Counsel the owner regarding the type of this Leonberger. Similar faults, such as hernia, slightly entropic eyes or cow hocks, posterior cataracts, and etc., might be passed onto puppies, in more serious forms.

Attention Examiners

Remember to sign the BACL

If there are concerns or disagreements about observations made at the time of the BACL a request for a re-check may be made by Examiner or by the Owner. A second fee for re-evaluations may be waived.

SUBMIT

All paperwork must be gathered by the Examiner and emailed in its entirety to the BACL Coordinator. Mail check payment to LCA Treasurer, ASAP.