



Toy Fox Terrier Official Breed Standard

Approved by the American Kennel Club July 11, 2000

THE ILLUSTRATED BREED STANDARD FOR THE TOY FOX TERRIER

**Presented by:
The American Toy Fox Terrier Club**

Illustrated by : Jeanne Flora
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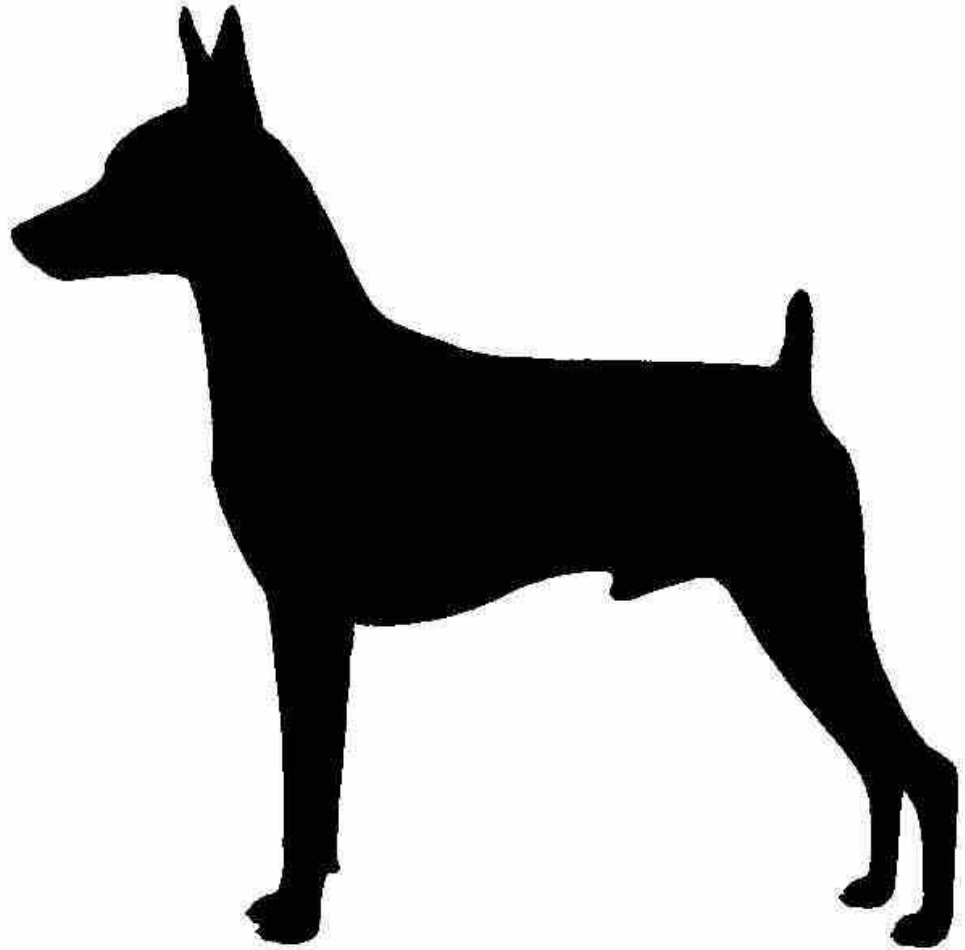
History



- The Toy Fox Terrier is a true American Breed developed by breeding small Smooth Fox Terriers with several toy breeds including the Chihuahua and Manchester Terrier.

Balance

- Today, the Toy Fox Terrier is a **well-balanced toy dog** of athletic appearance displaying grace and agility in equal measure with strength and stamina.
- Balance, grace and agility are important qualities in the breed



Head Piece

- From the hunt to the show ring, the Toy Fox Terrier has become a cherished companion dog and **excellent show piece**.
- The head piece unmistakably stamps the breed as a Toy Fox Terrier.



Agility

- The Toy Fox Terrier has shown that he is at home in conformation, obedience and agility trials

- This is an Athletic breed



Toy and Terrier

- his favorite spotlight is the center stage of his owner's life. The Toy Fox Terrier is a toy and a terrier, and **both have influenced his personality and character.**
- Both Toy and Terrier



Temperament

- **While retaining the terrier gameness, courage and animation.** The cross-breeding with various toy breeds mentioned created a milder disposition.
- This is an intelligent, animated breed



Working Terrier

- Although easier to live with than many terriers, **the Toy Fox Terrier is still a working terrier**, and many of them delight in hunting and going to ground. Given the opportunity, the Toy Fox Terrier will pursue the quarry of the backyard or barnyard with diligence. Known to tree squirrels and flush out rodents, the hunt is always welcome.
- This is a “Working Terrier”



Quick to Learn

- Flyball or fetch are easily learned and perfected for endless hours of activity.



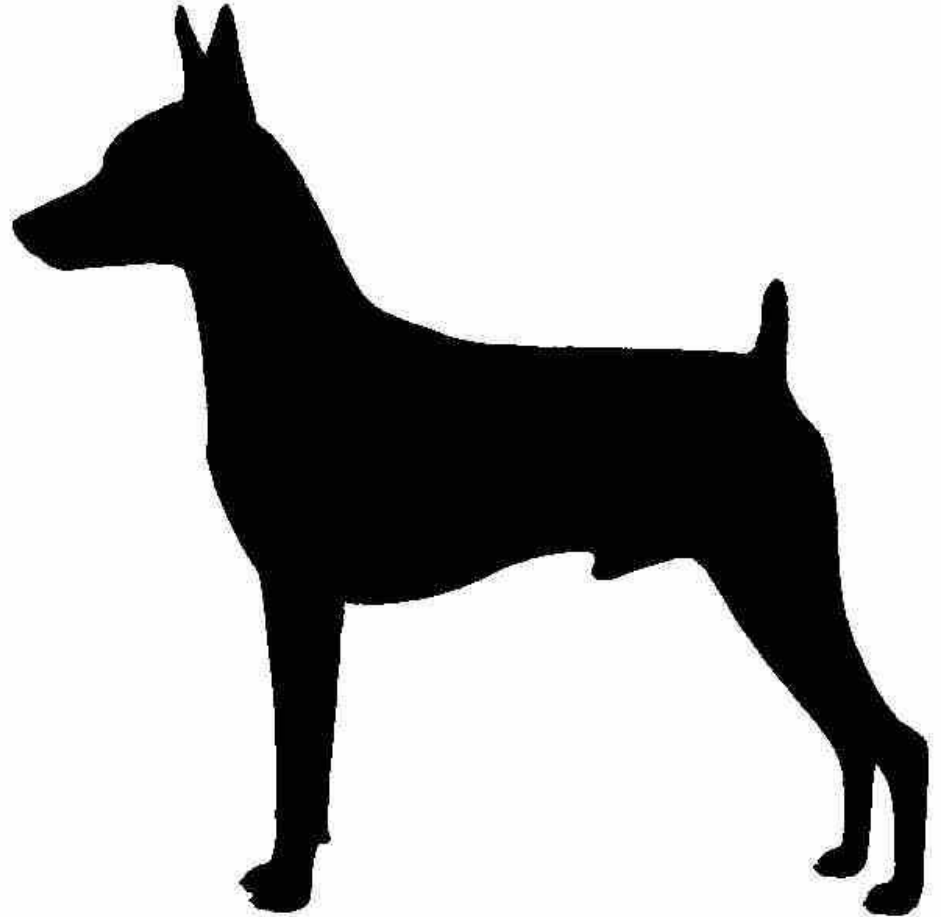
Unending Energy and Zeal for Play

- However, if you enjoy a lap dog, this little companion appears to know the latest in television entertainment of his household. Children especially enjoy the unending energy and zeal for play throughout this dog's life.

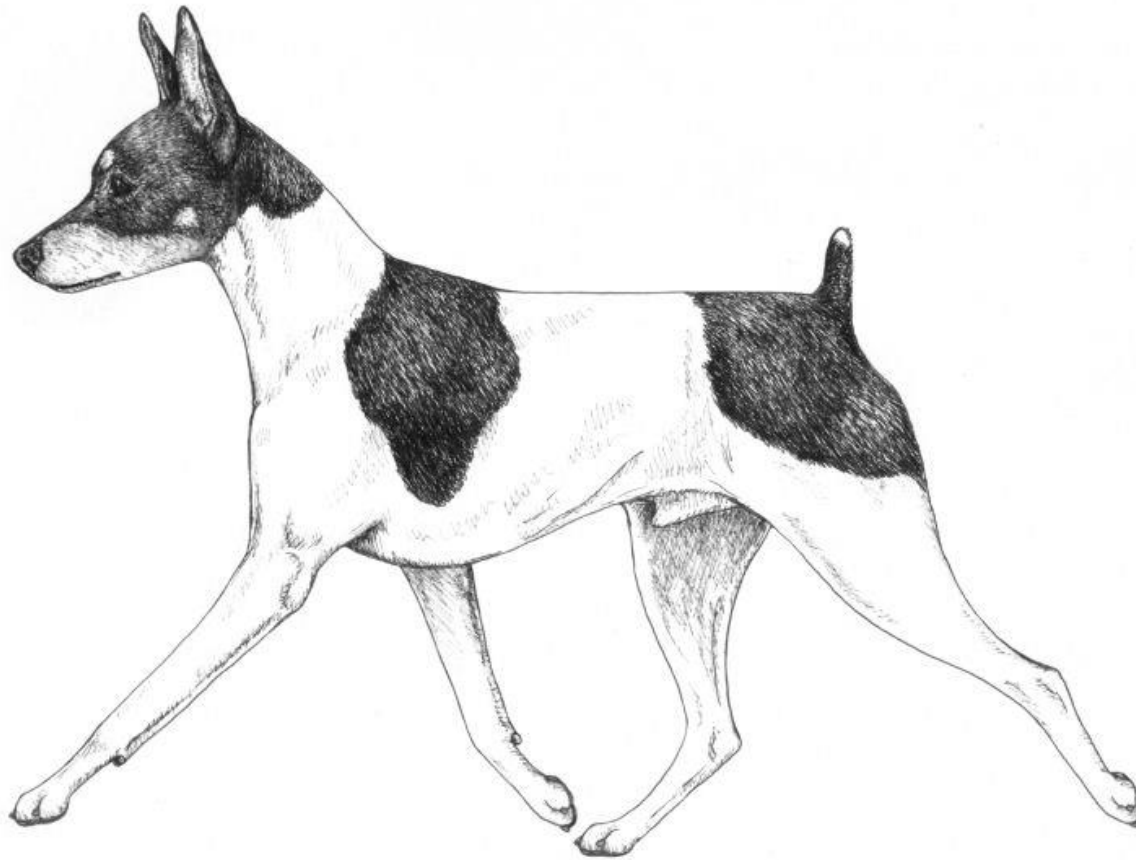


General Appearance

- **The Toy Fox Terrier is truly a Toy and a Terrier** and both have influenced his personality and character.
- **As a Terrier**, the TFT possesses keen intelligence, courage, and animation.
- **As a Toy**, he is diminutive and devoted with an endless abiding love for his master.
- The Toy Fox Terrier is a “**well-balanced Toy dog**” of athletic appearance displaying grace and agility in equal measure with strength and stamina.



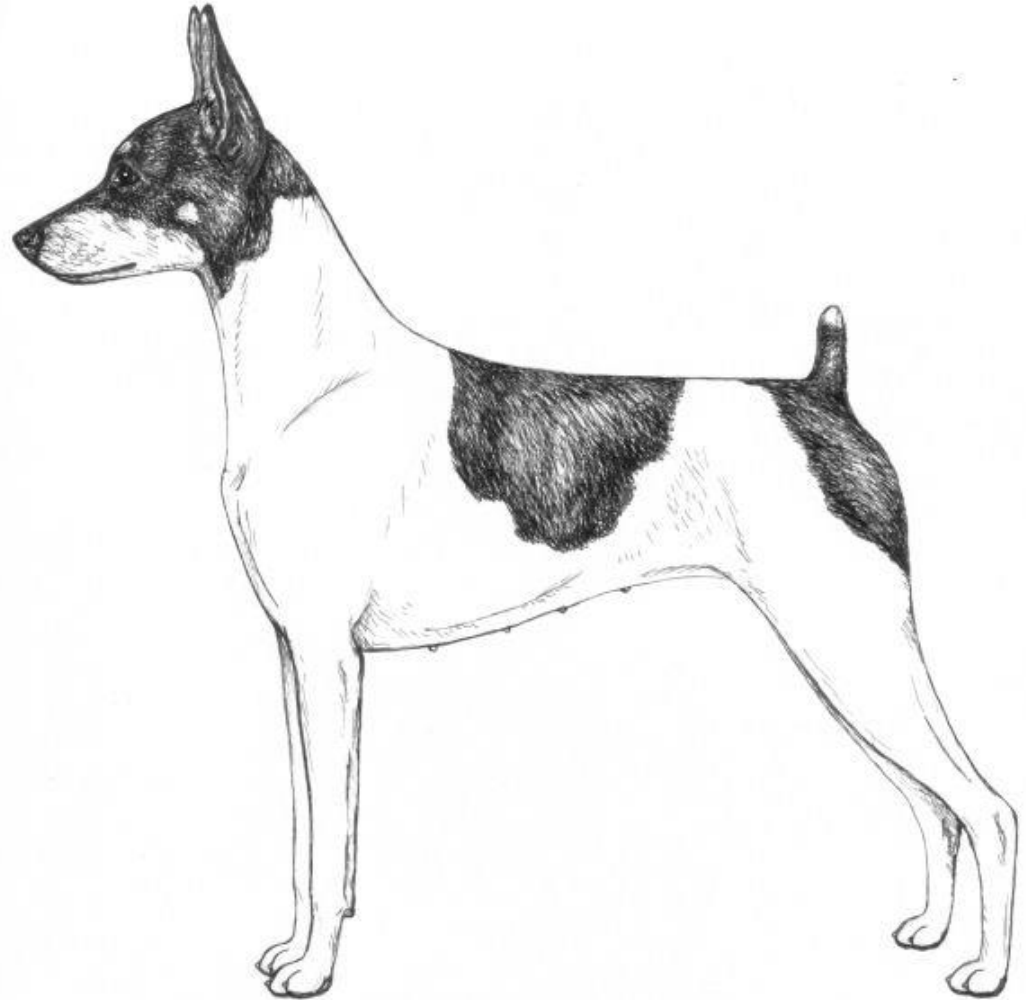
Smooth Elegant Outline



- His lithe muscular body has a “smooth elegant outline”, which conveys the impression of effortless movement and endless endurance.

Proud, Animated and Alert

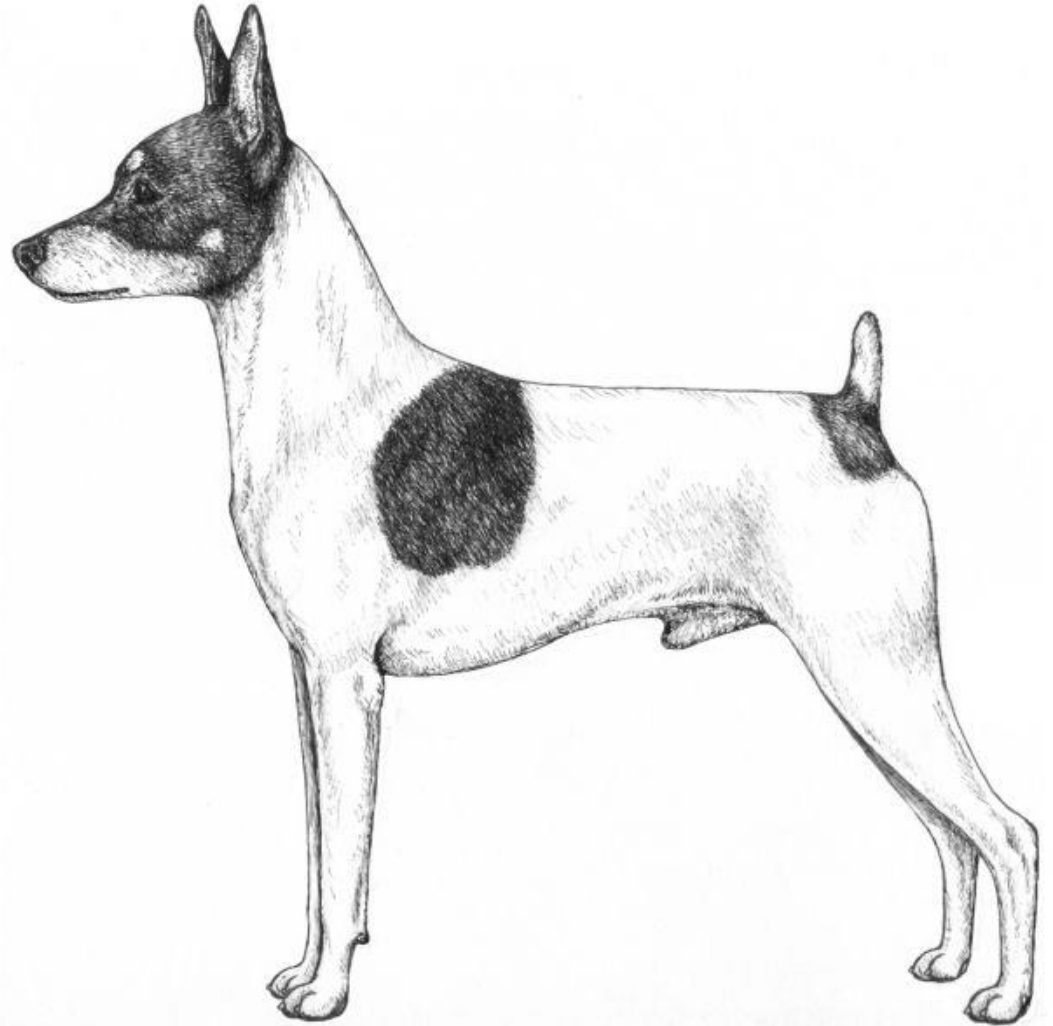
- He is naturally well-groomed, **proud, animated and alert.**
- Characteristic traits are his **elegant head**; his short, glossy and **predominantly white coat** coupled with **predominantly solid head** and his **short high-set tail.**



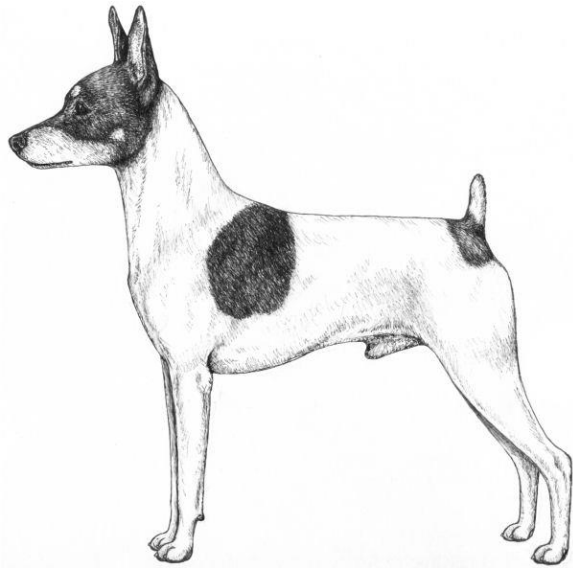
SIZE

- 8.5 - 11.5 inches
- **9-11 inches preferred**
- **Disqualification:**
Any dog under 8.5 inches or over 11.5 inches

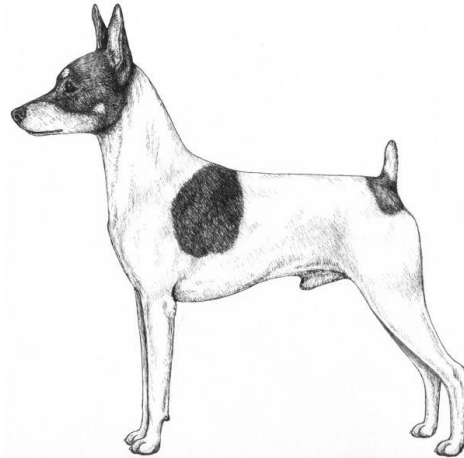
This breed has a **height disqualification** and should be wicketed if there is any question about the dog not being within the allowed size range of 8.5 to 11.5 inches.



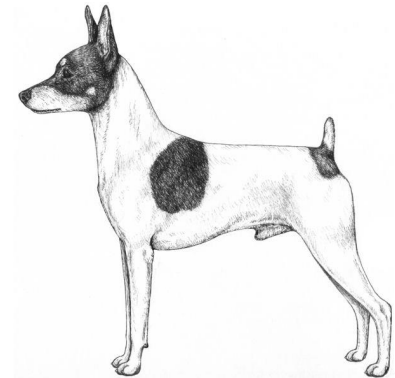
Height Disqualification



12"



10 1/2"

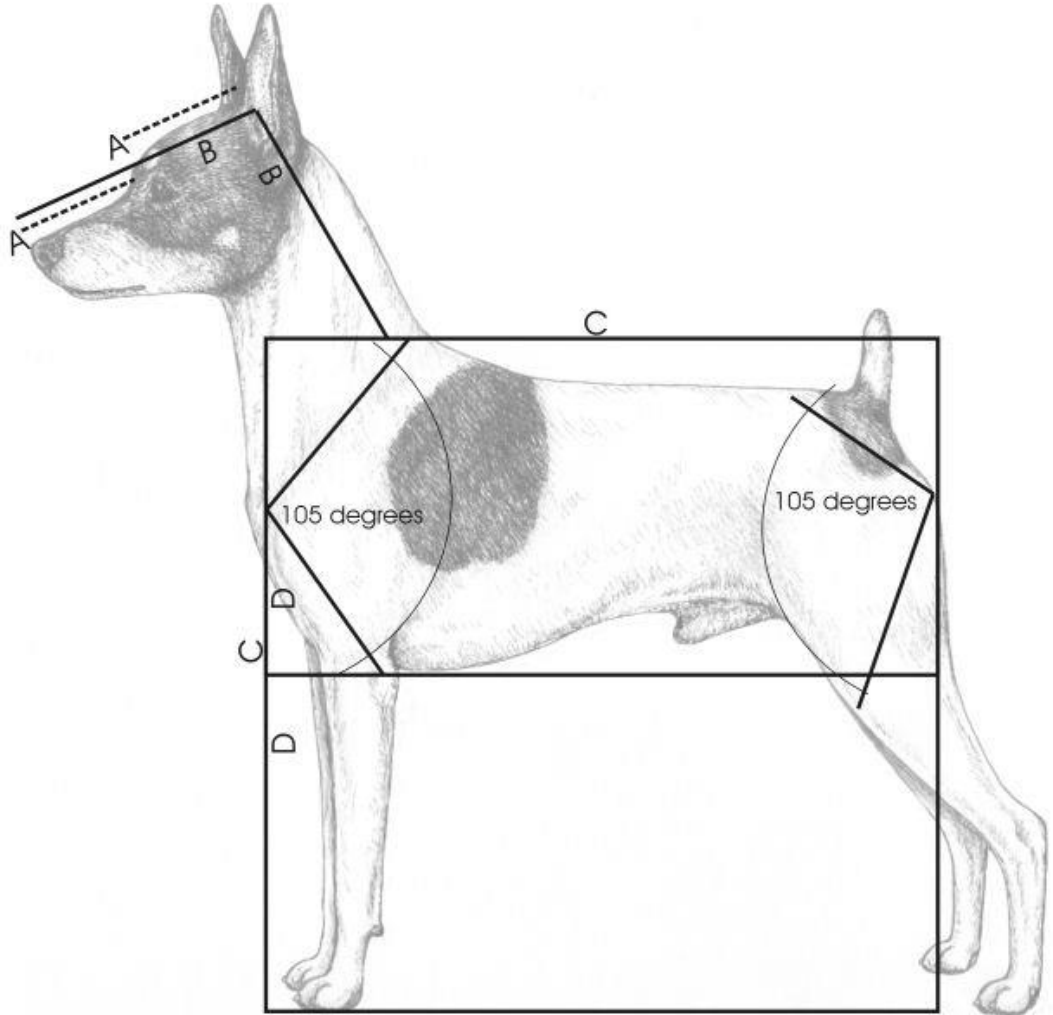


8 1/2"

- **Disqualification**: Any dog under 8.5 inches or over 11.5 inches
- Don't be afraid to use the wicket. The first dog should be wicketed and DQ'd. Remember, this is a TOY breed and it does have a height disqualification.

Proportion

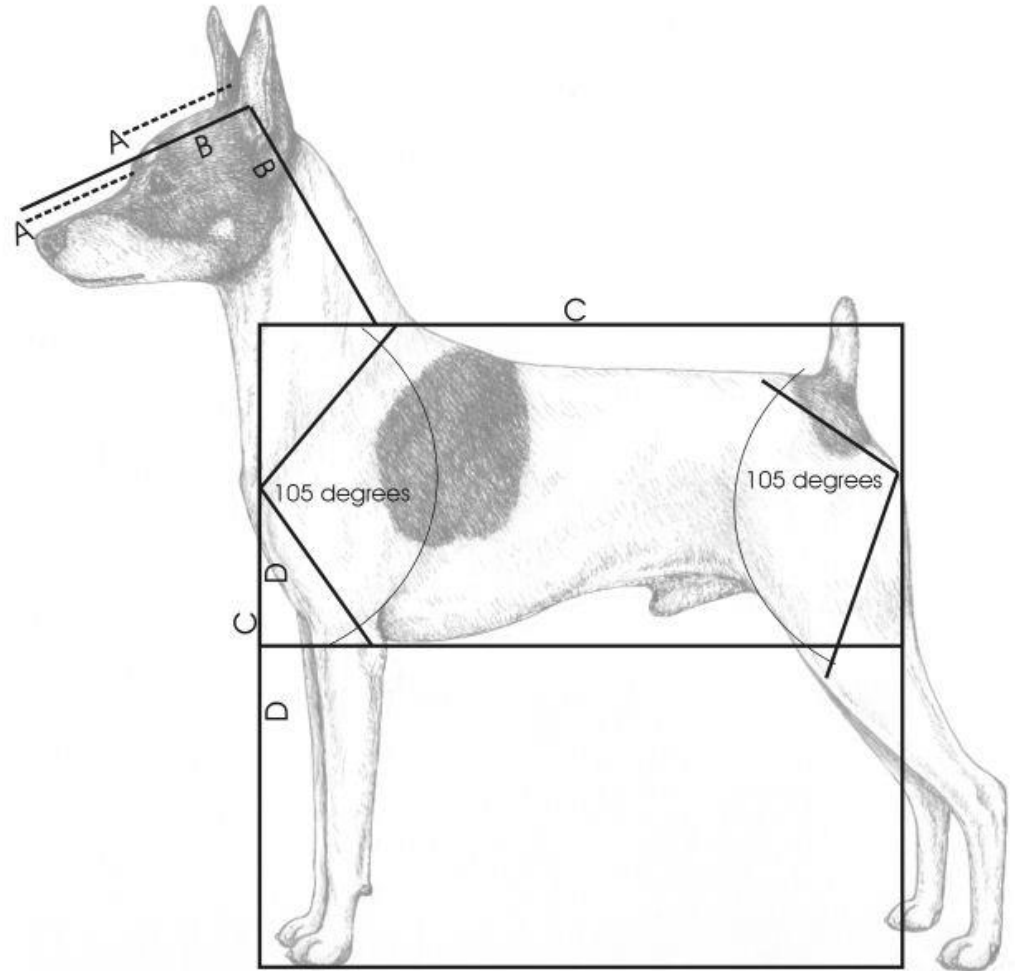
- The Toy Fox Terrier is square in proportion, with height being **approximately** equal to length with height measured from withers to ground and length measured from point of shoulder to buttocks.
- Slightly longer in bitches is acceptable.



This is a “Balanced Breed”

All parts should balance for “Correct Breed Type”

- Height (C) = Length (C)
- Withers (D) to the Elbow = Elbow (D) to the ground
- Length of the Head (B) = Length of the Neck (B)
- Front and rear angulation should be balanced for correct breed type

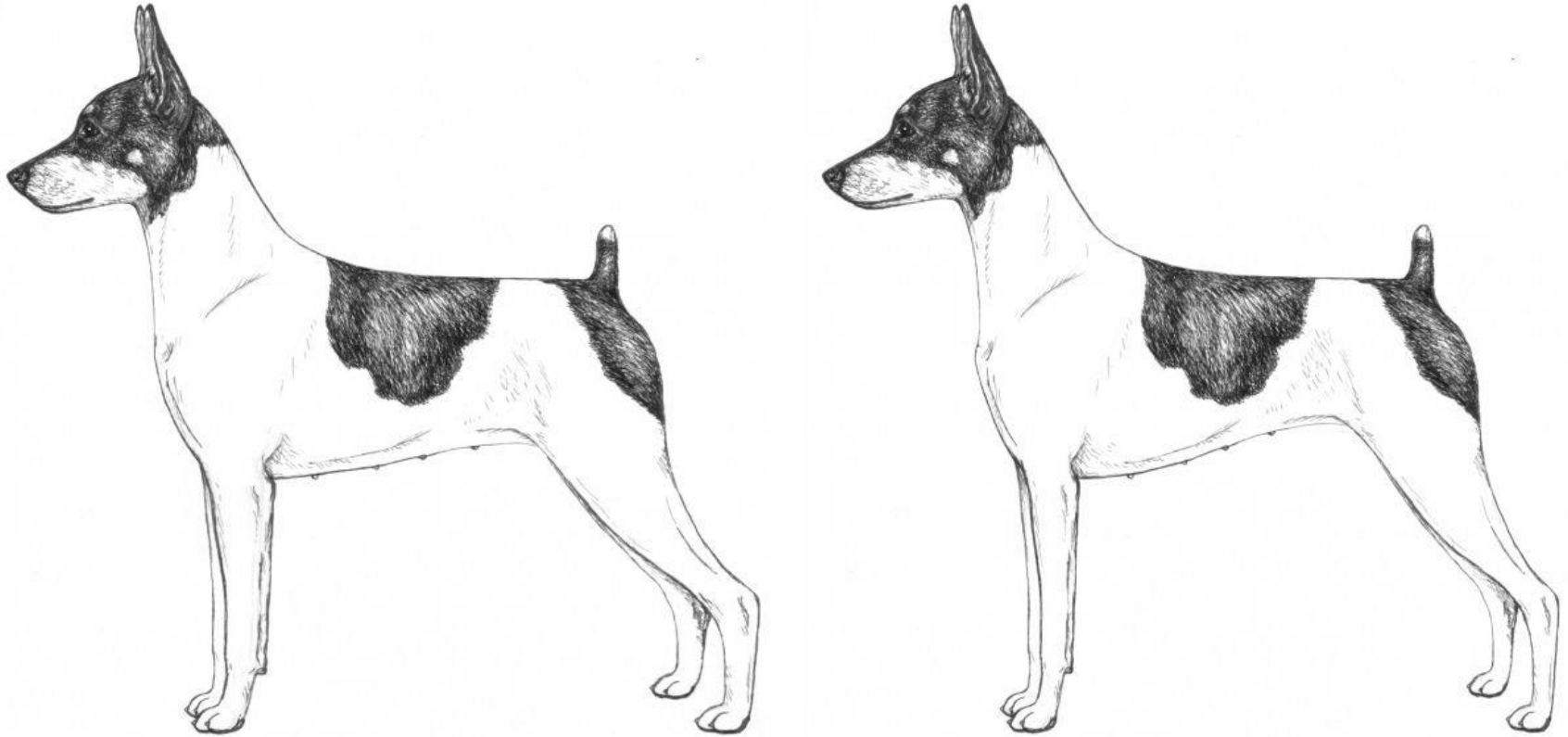


Substance

- Bone must be strong, but not excessive and always in proportion to size.
- Overall **balance** is important!



Well Balanced, elegant, expressive and graceful



“Well balanced, elegant, expressive and graceful” are mentioned numerous times through out the standard. The first bitch is overdone. She has too much bone for her size, her head is coarse, she lacks tuck up and therefore lacks correct breed type.

Head

- The head is **elegant, balanced and expressive** with no indication of coarseness.
- Expression: is intelligent, alert, eager and full of interest.



Eyes

- Eyes: Clear bright and dark, including eye rims, with the exception of chocolates whose eye rims should be self-colored.
- The eyes are full, round and somewhat prominent, yet never bulging, with a soft intelligent expression.
- They are set well apart, not slanted, and fit well together into the sockets.



Ears

- Ears: The ears are erect, pointed, inverted V-shaped, set high and close together, but never touching. The size is in proportion to the head and body.
- Disqualification: Ears not erect on any dog over six months of age.



Skull

- Skull: is moderate in width, slightly rounded and softly wedge-shaped. Medium stop, somewhat sloping.



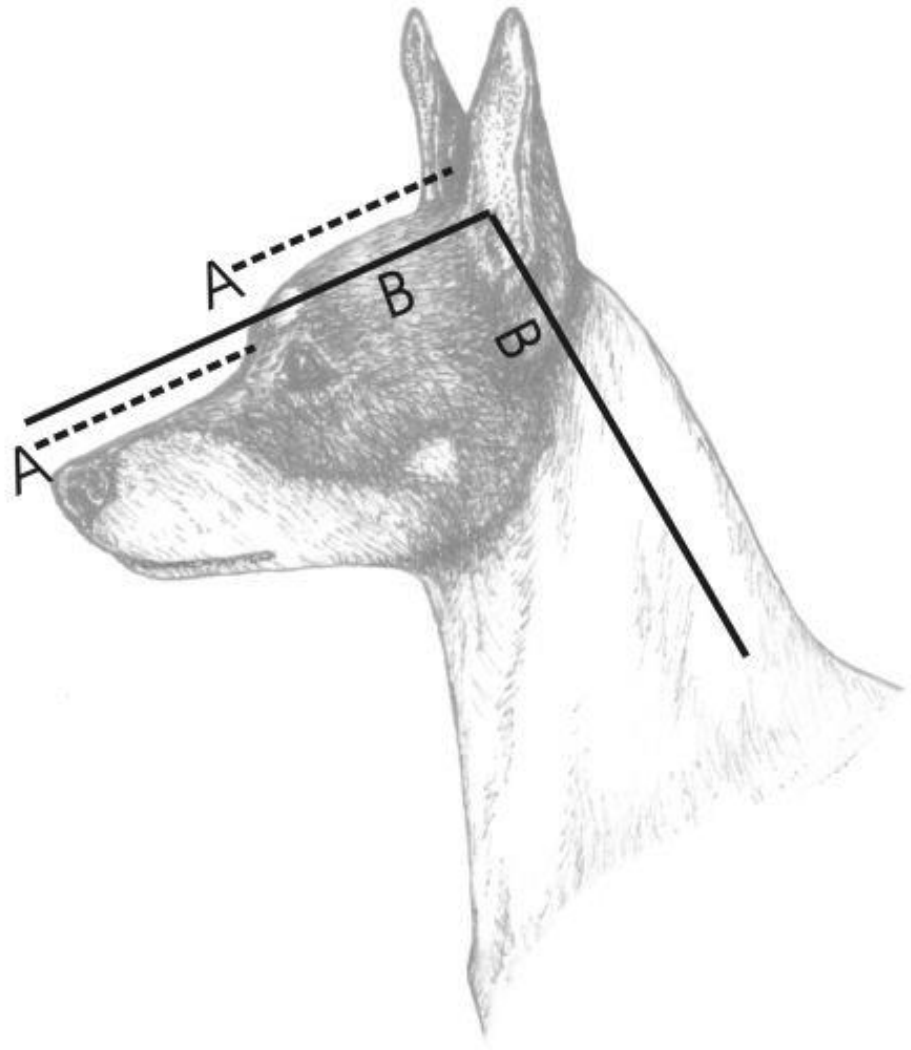
Skull

- When viewed from the front, the head widens gradually from the nose to the base of the ears.
- The cheeks are flat and muscular, with the area below the eyes well filled in.



The Balanced Head

- The distance from the nose to the stop (A) is equal to the distance from the stop to the occipital (A).
- $A = A$



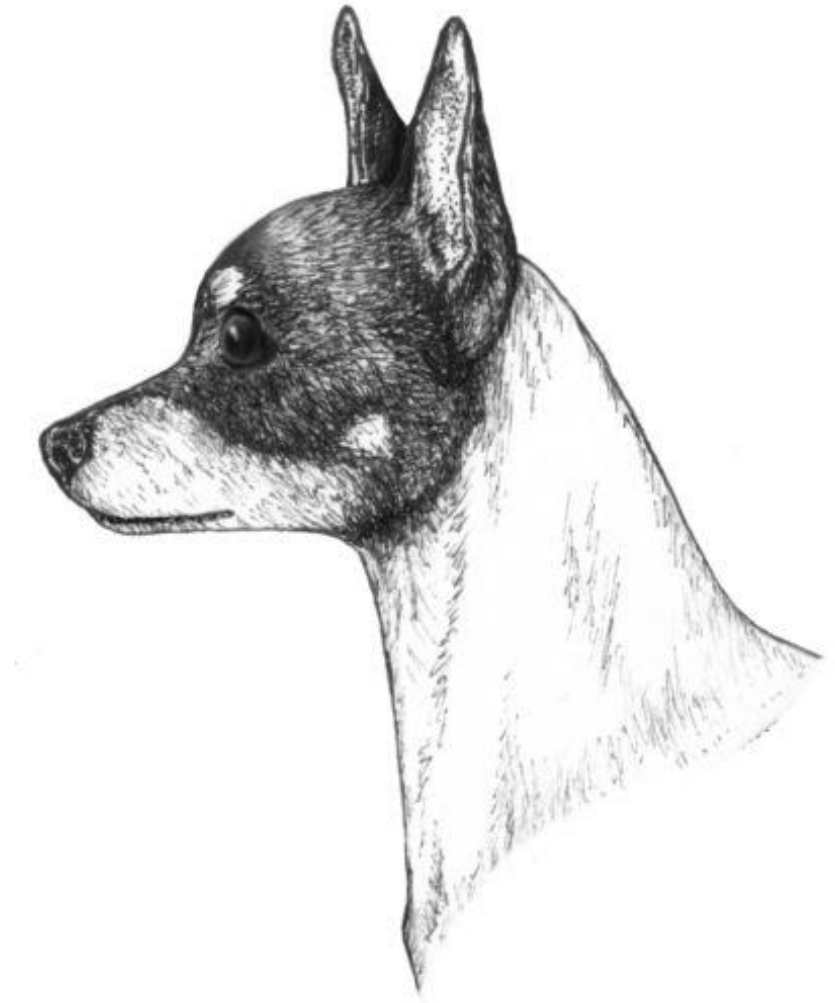
Faults: Apple Head

- This is an incorrect head type. The eyes are bulging and too large. The ears are set wide and low. The muzzle is snippy and lacks fill under the eyes.



Faults: Apple Head

- This head is an Apple type head viewed from the side.
- It also has bulging eyes, too much stop and a short muzzle.
- **An Apple Head is a fault**



Muzzle

- Muzzle: Strong rather than fine, in proportion to the head as a whole and parallel to the top of the skull.
- Lips: are small and tight fitting.



Nose

- Nose: **Black only** with the exception of self-colored in chocolate dogs.
- **Disqualification: Dudley nose.**
- “Dudley” refers to **weakly pigmented** nose color.
- A dudley nose is pink or flesh colored.



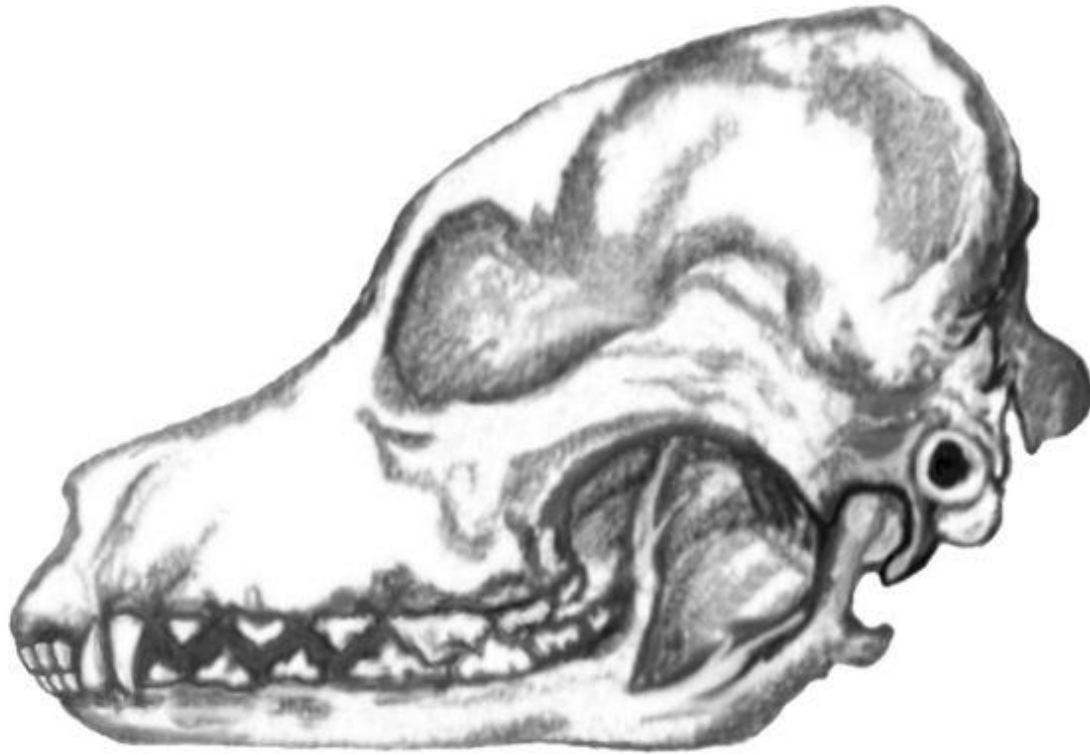
Snow Nose

- A partly unpigmented nose (snow nose) **is not** a fault.
- Notice the light coloration on the front of the nose
- The loss of pigment on the end of the nose is usually due to climate, environmental or nutritional factors and can be temporary.



Correct “Scissors Bite”

- Bite: A full complement of strong white teeth meeting in a scissors bite is preferred. **Loss of teeth should not be faulted** as long as the bite can be determined as correct.



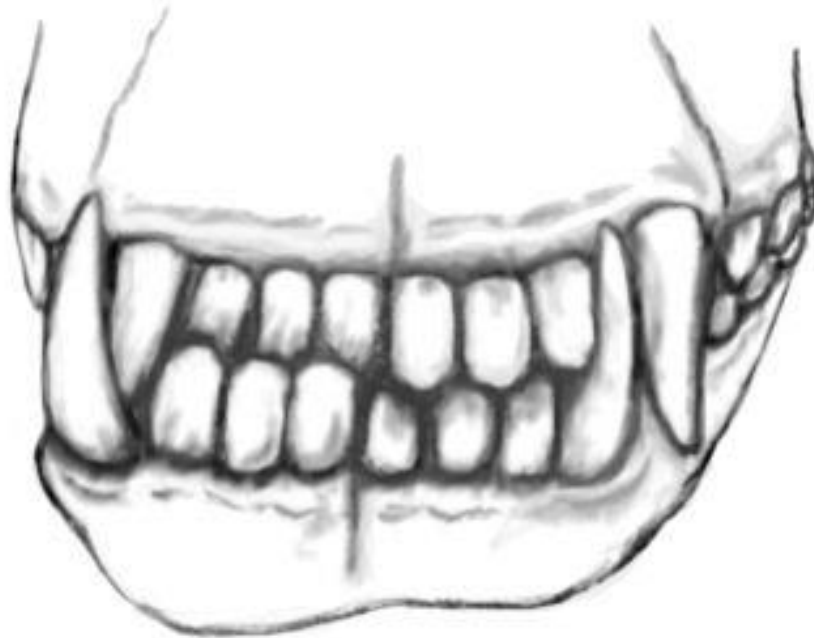
Disqualification: Undershot

Undershot bite is a DISQUALIFICATION!



Disqualification: wry mouth

- Wry Mouth is a DISQUALIFICATION!



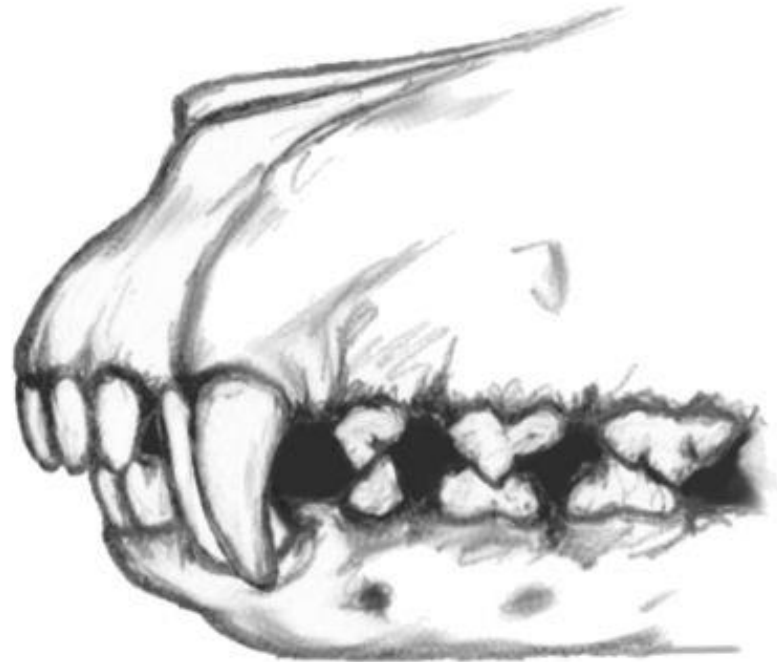
- A Wry Mouth is a type of mouth in which the lower jaw is twisted to one side, placing the upper and lower jaws out of line with one another.

Disqualification: Overshot more than 1/8 inch.

An overshot bite could be a **DISQUALIFICATION!**

Overshot must be more than 1/8 inch to be a disqualification.

1/8" is about the size of a match head.



Neck

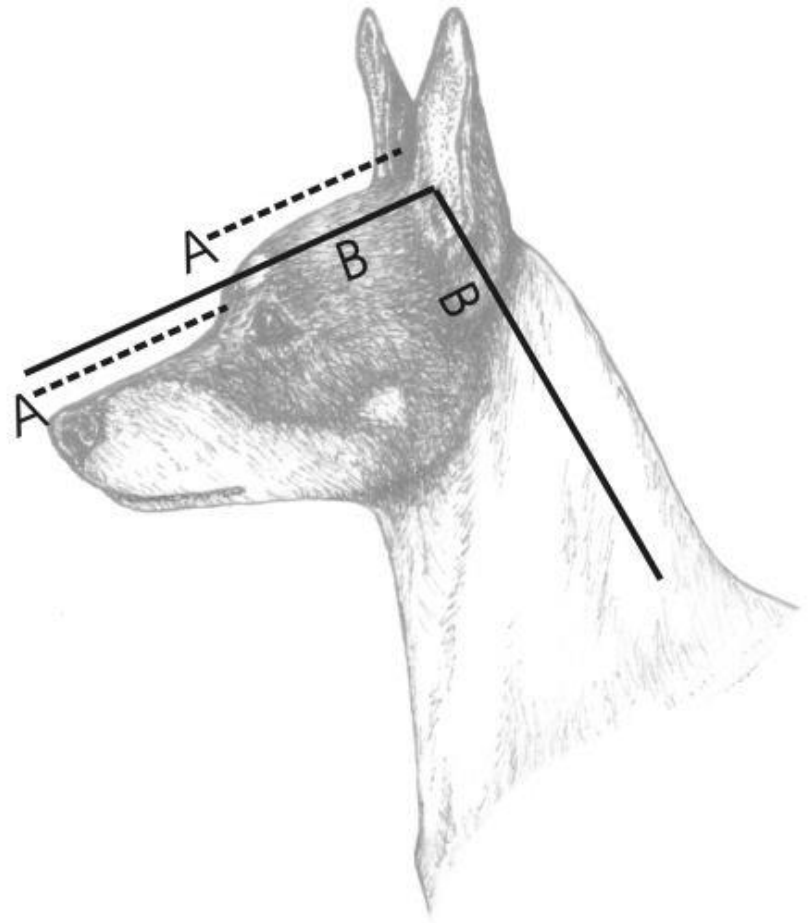
- The neck is carried proudly erect, well set on, slightly arched, gracefully curved, clean, muscular and free from throatiness. It is proportioned to the head and body and widens gradually blending smoothly into the shoulders.





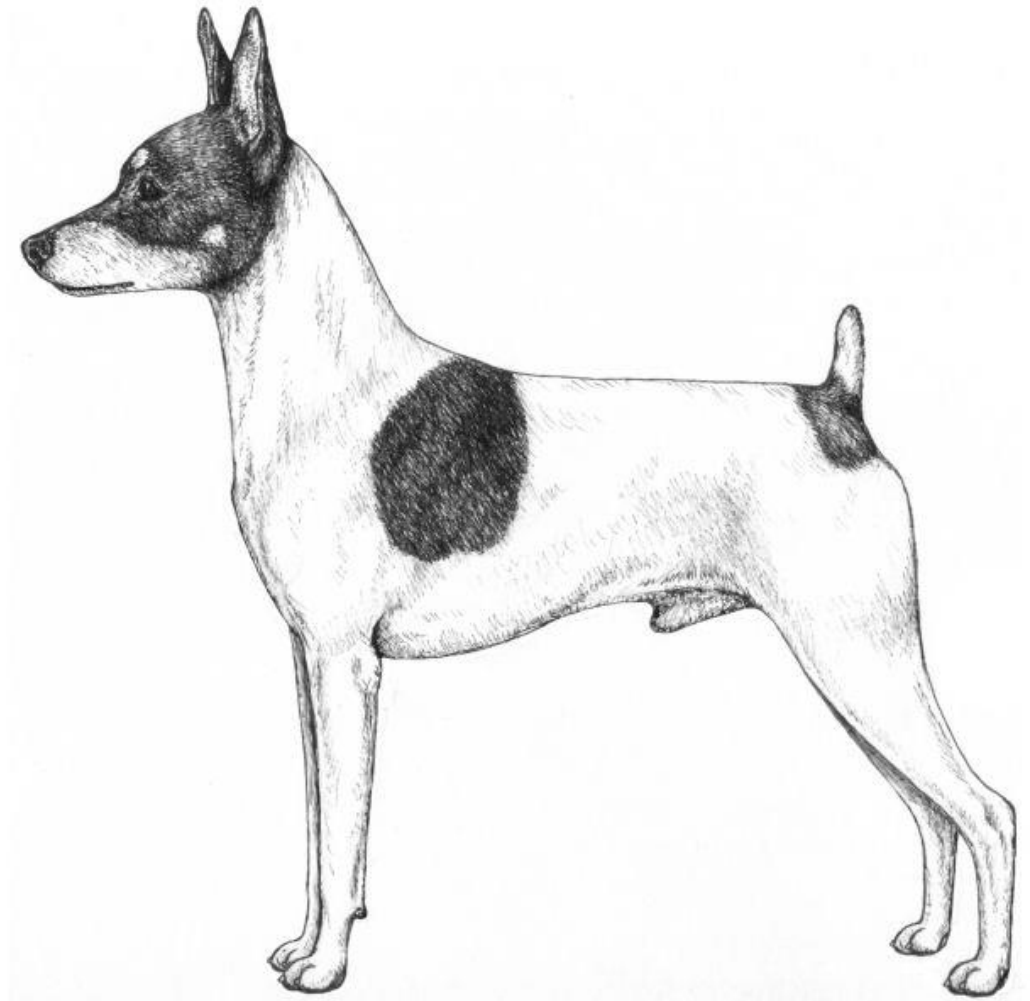
Head and Neck Proportions

- The length of the neck is approximately the same as that of the head.
- Head (B) = Neck (B)



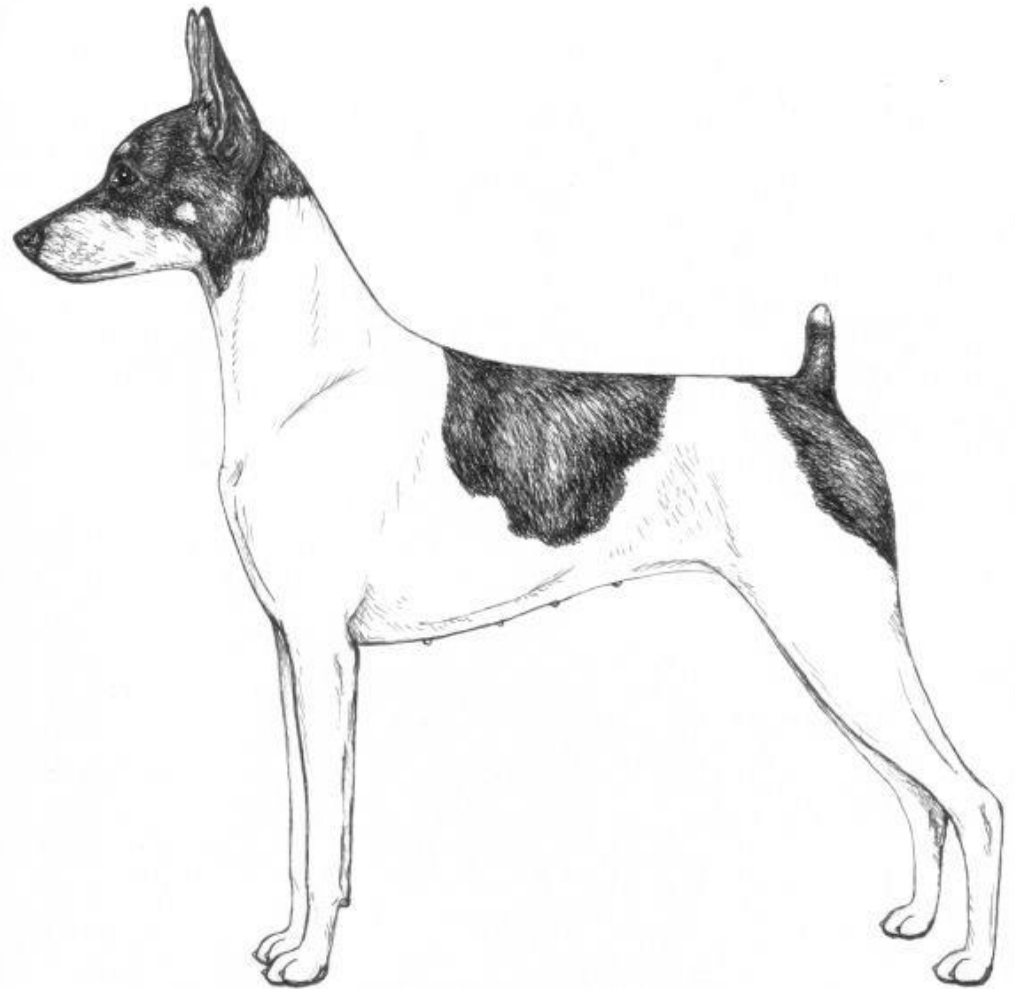
Topline and Body

- The **topline is level** when standing and gaitting. The **body is balanced** and tapers slightly from the ribs to flank with length approximately equal to height.
- Females may be slightly longer.



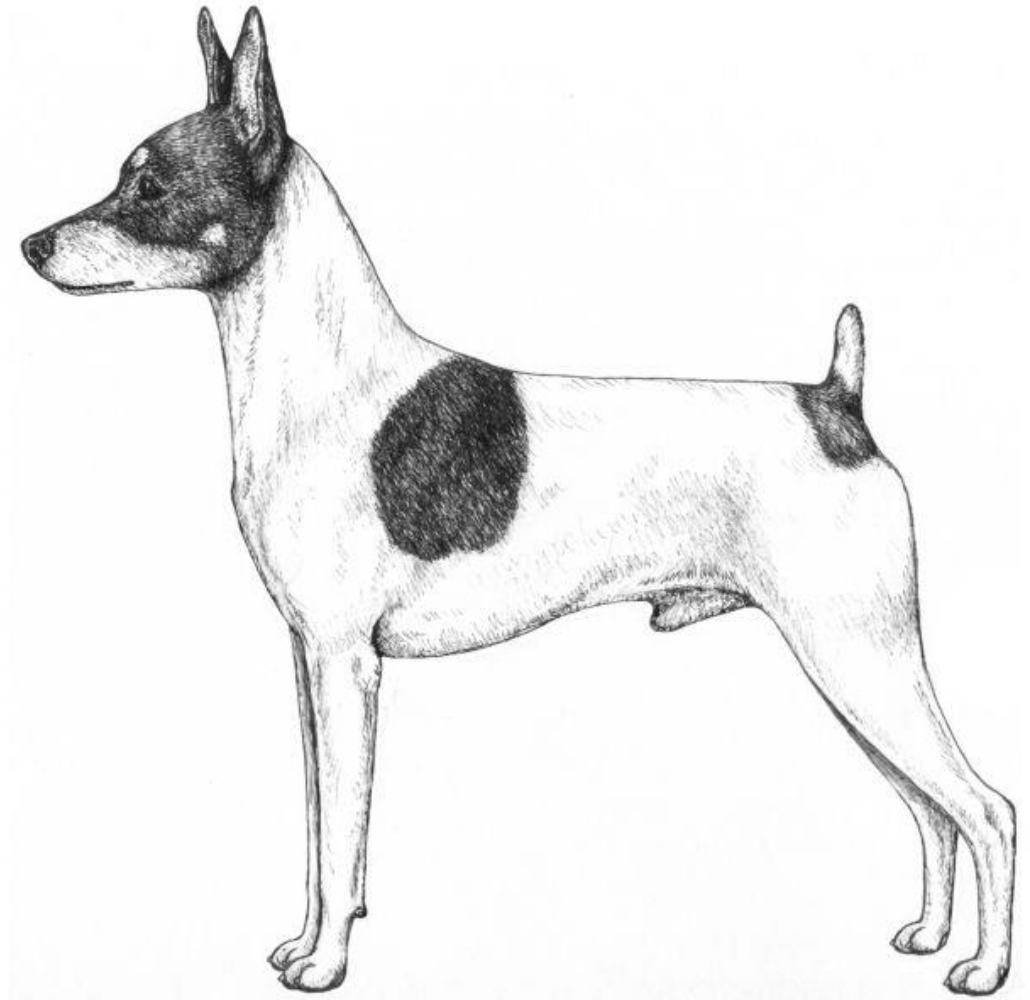
Chest

- The chest is deep and muscular with well-sprung ribs.
- Depth of chest extends to the point of elbow.



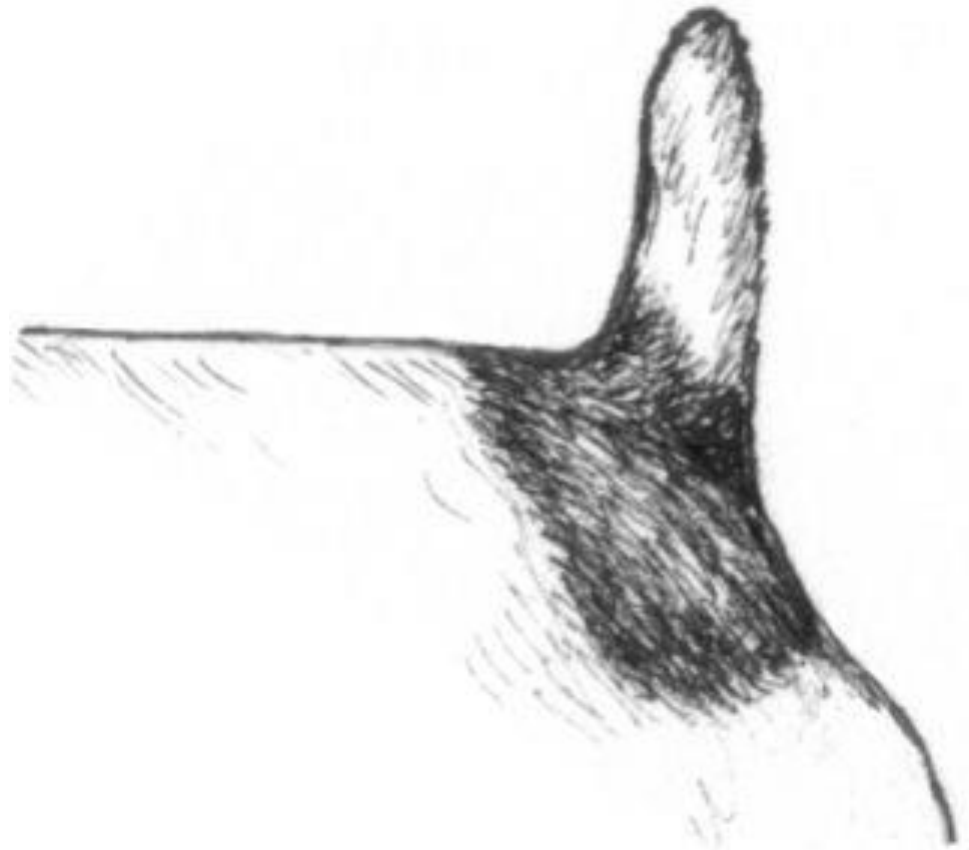
Back and Loin

- The back is **straight, level and muscular.**
- **Short and strong in loin** with moderate tuck-up to denote **grace and elegance.**



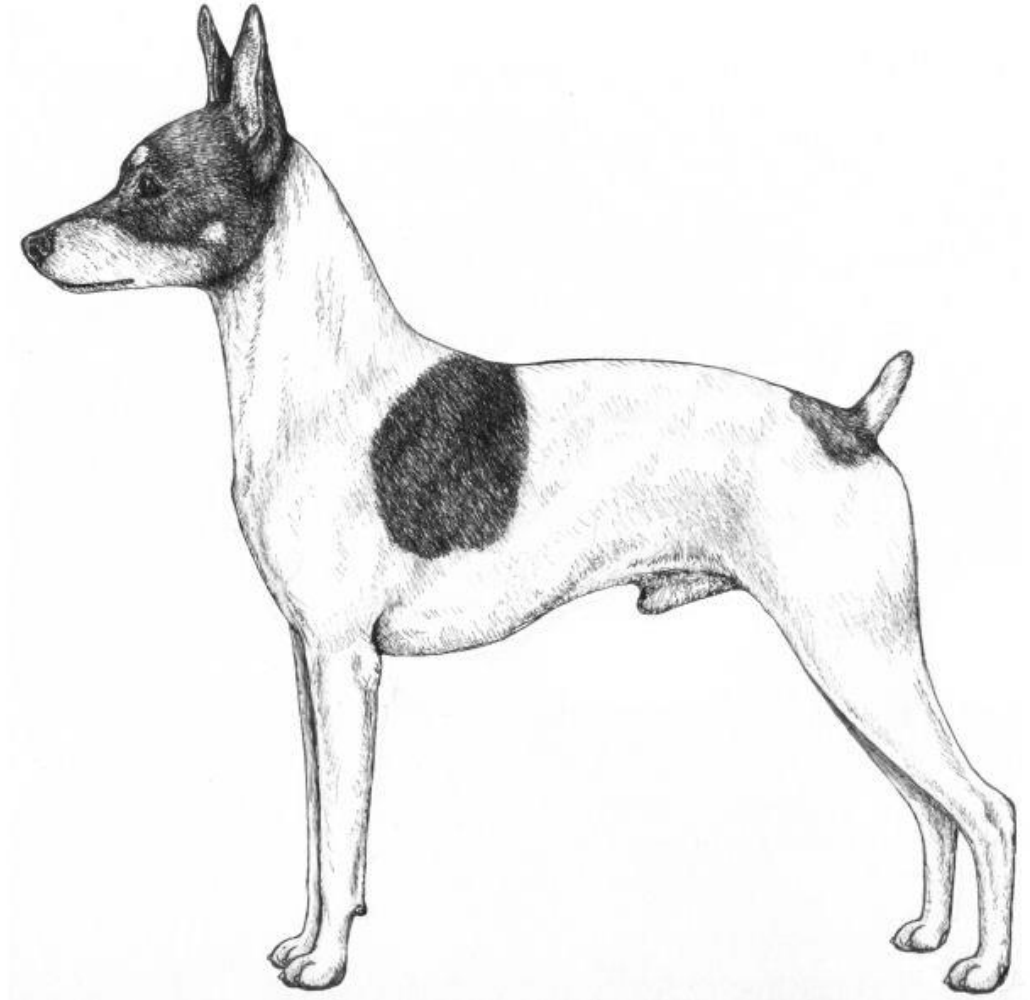
Tail Set

- The croup is level with the topline and well rounded.
- The tail is **set high**, **held erect** and **in proportion to the size of the dog**.
- Tail is docked to the 3rd or 4th joint.



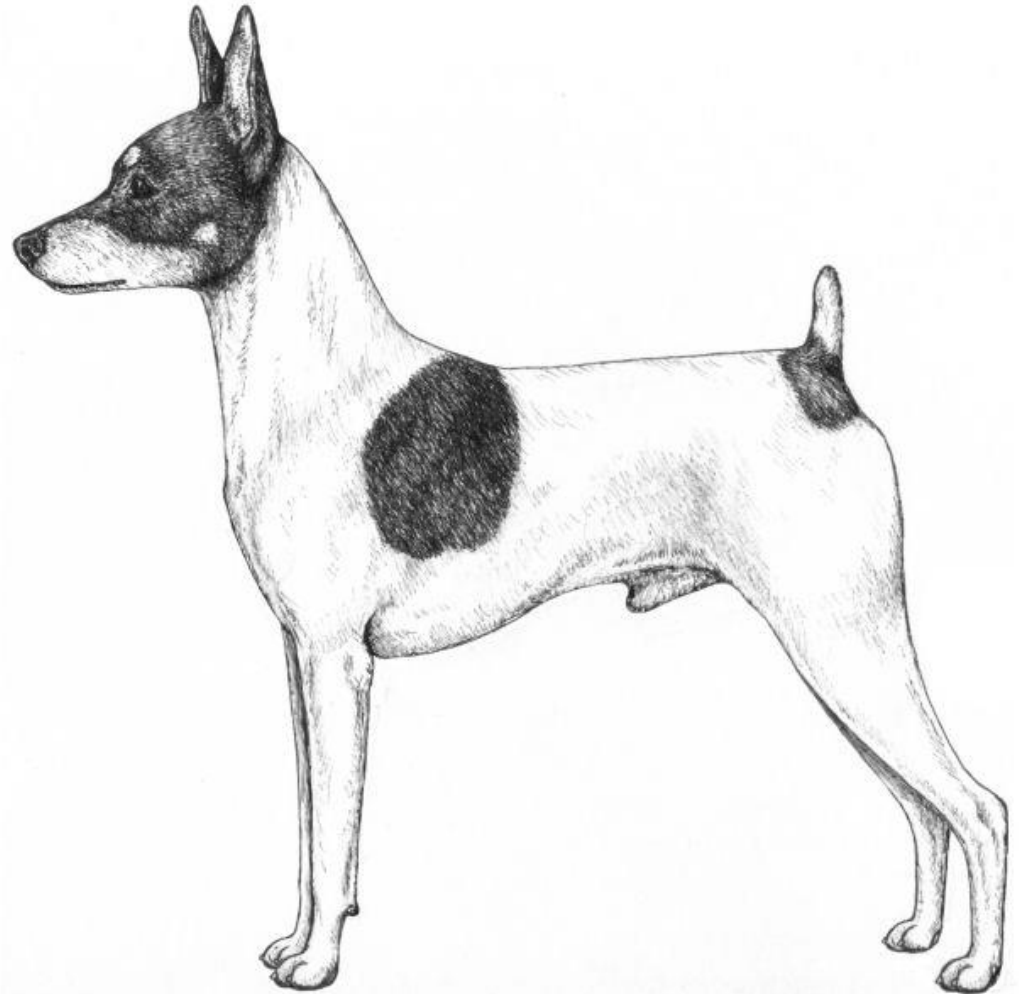
Incorrect Topline and Tail Set

- A Roach Back is an unacceptable Topline for a Toy Fox Terrier and is undesirable in the breed.
- This dog also has a low tail set, another undesirable quality.



Incorrect Topline

- This dog is high in the rear.
- It is undesirable in the breed and not correct for type.
- A correct topline is level.



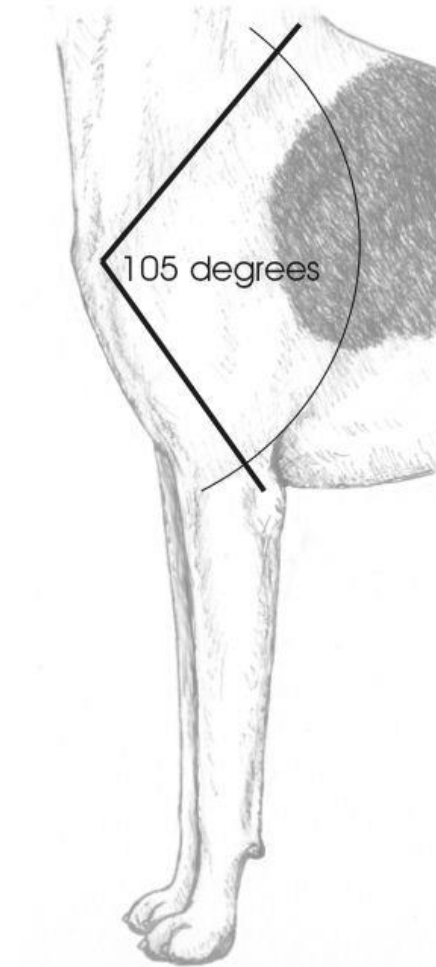
Ideal TFT Silhouette

- All parts must balance for “correct breed type”
- Neck carried proudly erect, well set on, slightly arched and graceful
- Square in proportion
- Level Topline
- High set, erect tail docked to the 3rd or 4th joint



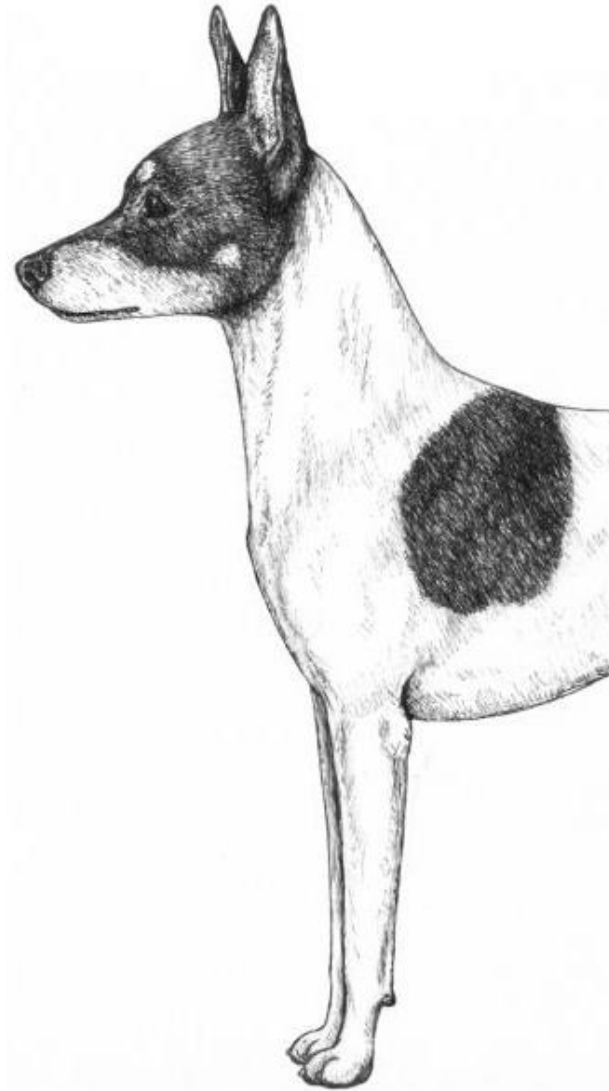
Forequarters

- Forequarters are well angulated. The shoulder is firmly set and has adequate muscle, but is not overdeveloped.
- Well angulated but not overdeveloped.



Forequarters

- The shoulders are sloping and well laid back, blending smoothly from neck to back.



Forechest

- The forechest is well developed.
- The AKC standard is silent in regard to the TFT's upper arm, its length or position on the body. However, there is one clue in the standard that leaves little doubt that the normal canine front is the one that has been adopted by the ATFTC.
- The clue is “**Fore-chest is well developed**”.



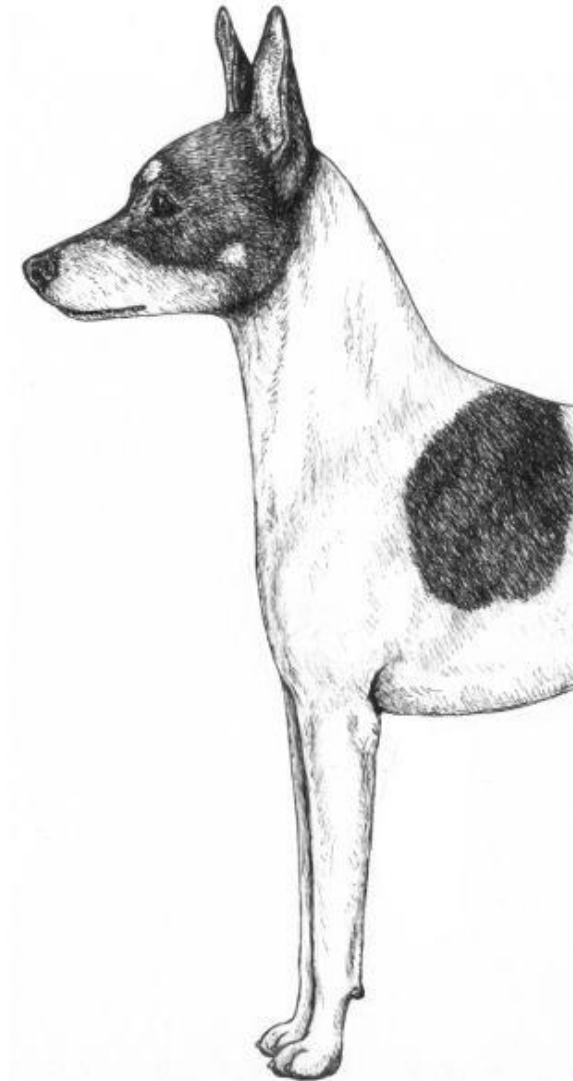
Forechest

- A well-developed forechest goes hand in hand with an upper arm that angles rearward joining the elbow at the deepest part of the brisket. This length and angle greatly influences the outline in profile and the manner in which the breed moves at a trot.

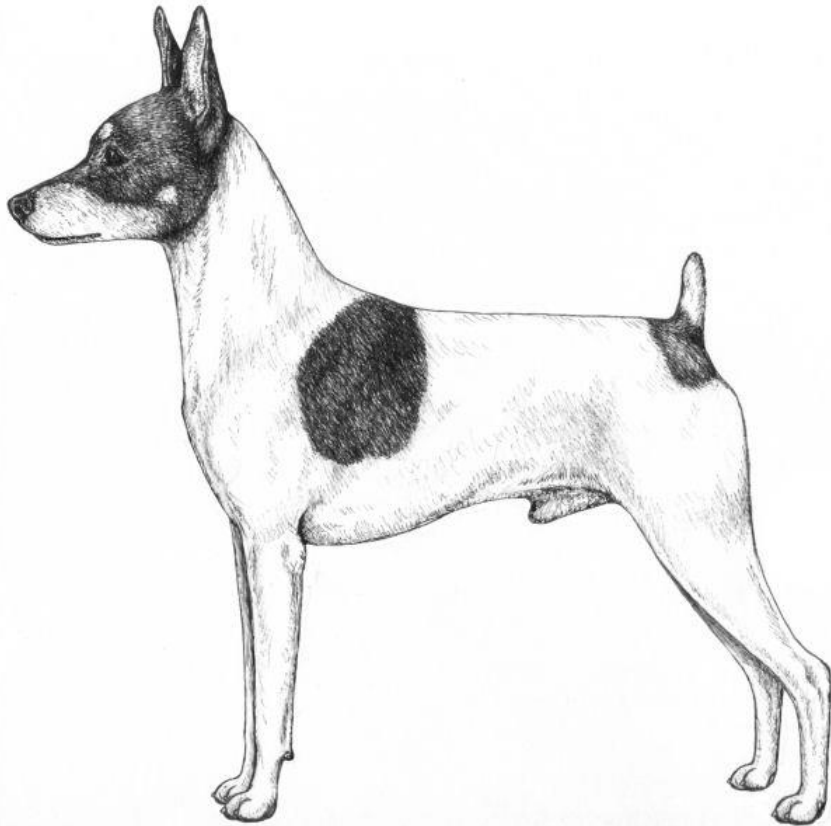


Incorrect Front

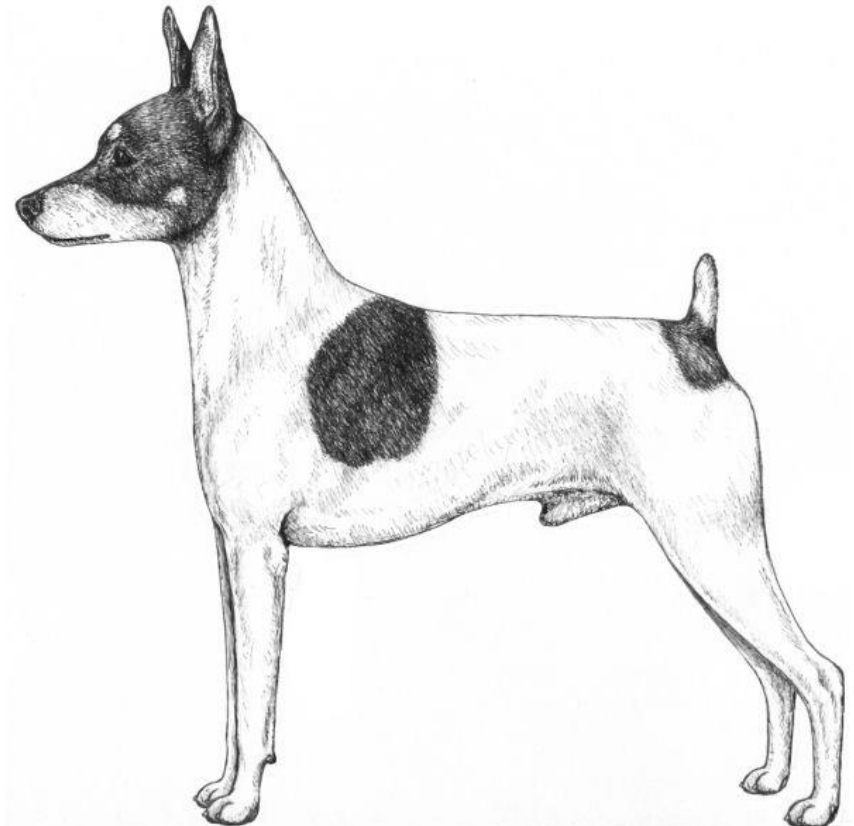
- The “Terrier front” with its shorter upper arm and no forechest is a specialized digging front.
- The “Terrier front” is structurally incorrect for ideal Toy Fox Terrier type.



“Ideal Breed Type”



Correct “Normal Canine front”



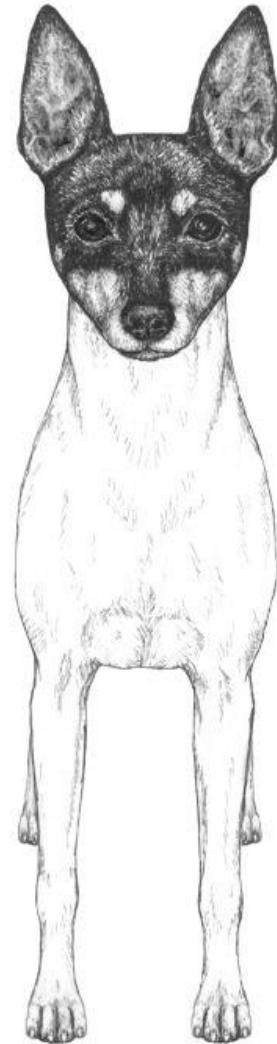
Incorrect “Terrier front”

Correct Bone Structure



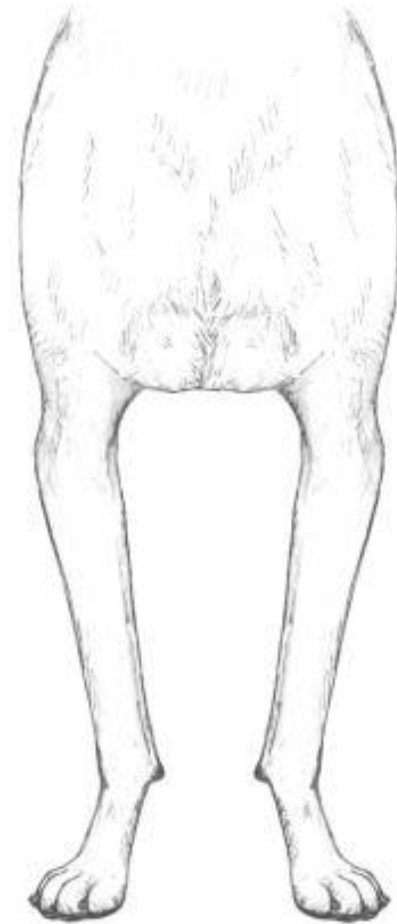
When viewed from the Front

- The elbows are close and perpendicular to the body.
- The legs are parallel and straight to the pasterns, which are strong and straight while remaining flexible.



Incorrect Fiddle front

- Sometimes seen in the breed, this is the “Fiddle front”.
- The elbows are set rather wide apart, the forearms slope towards the center and the pasterns and feet turn out.
- It is incorrect for proper breed type.



Feet



- Feet are small and oval, pointing forward turning neither in nor out. Toes are strong, well arched and closely knit with deep pads

Incorrect feet



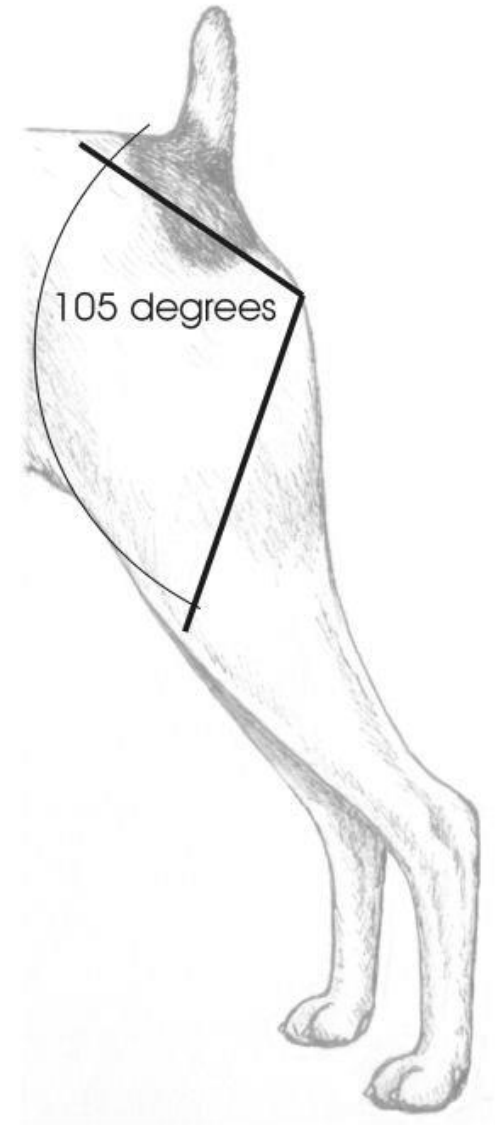
Flat feet



Splay feet

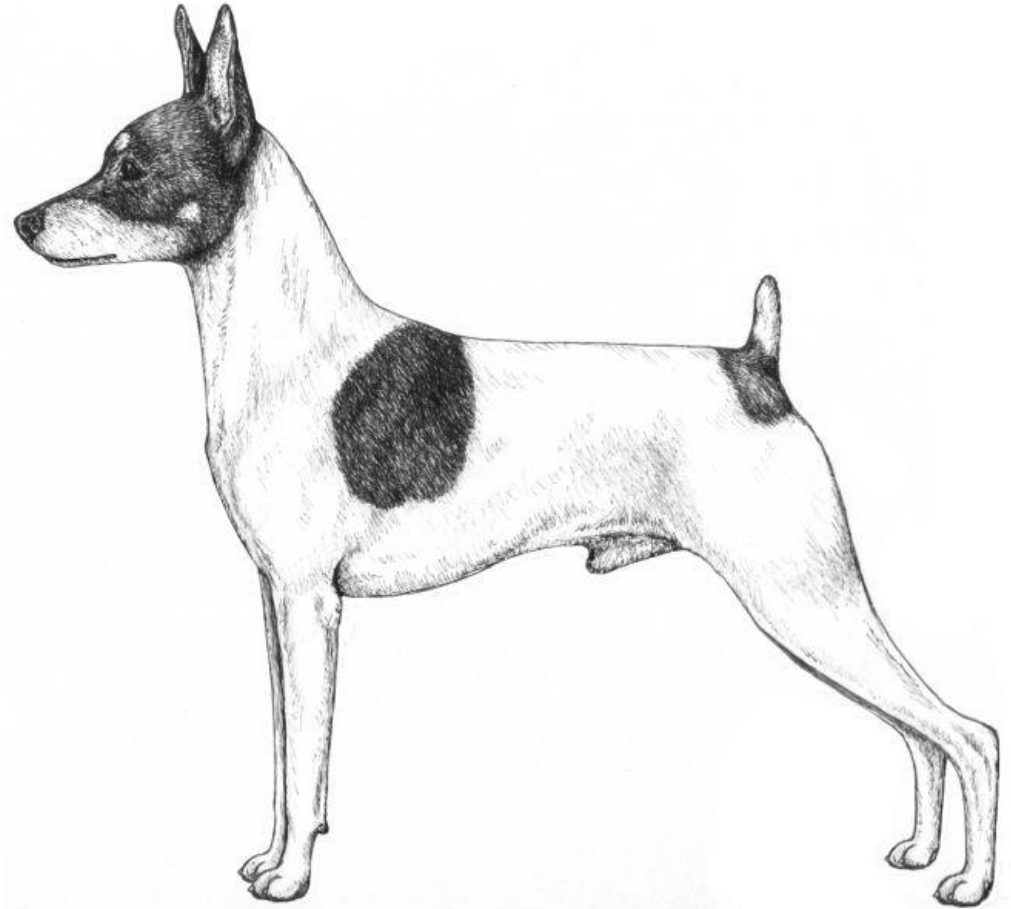
Hindquarters

- Hindquarters are well angulated, strong, muscular and free from droop or crouch.
- It's important to remember that the front and rear angulation must balance for correct type.



Over Angulated

- This dog's rear is over angulated and is not in balance with it's front.



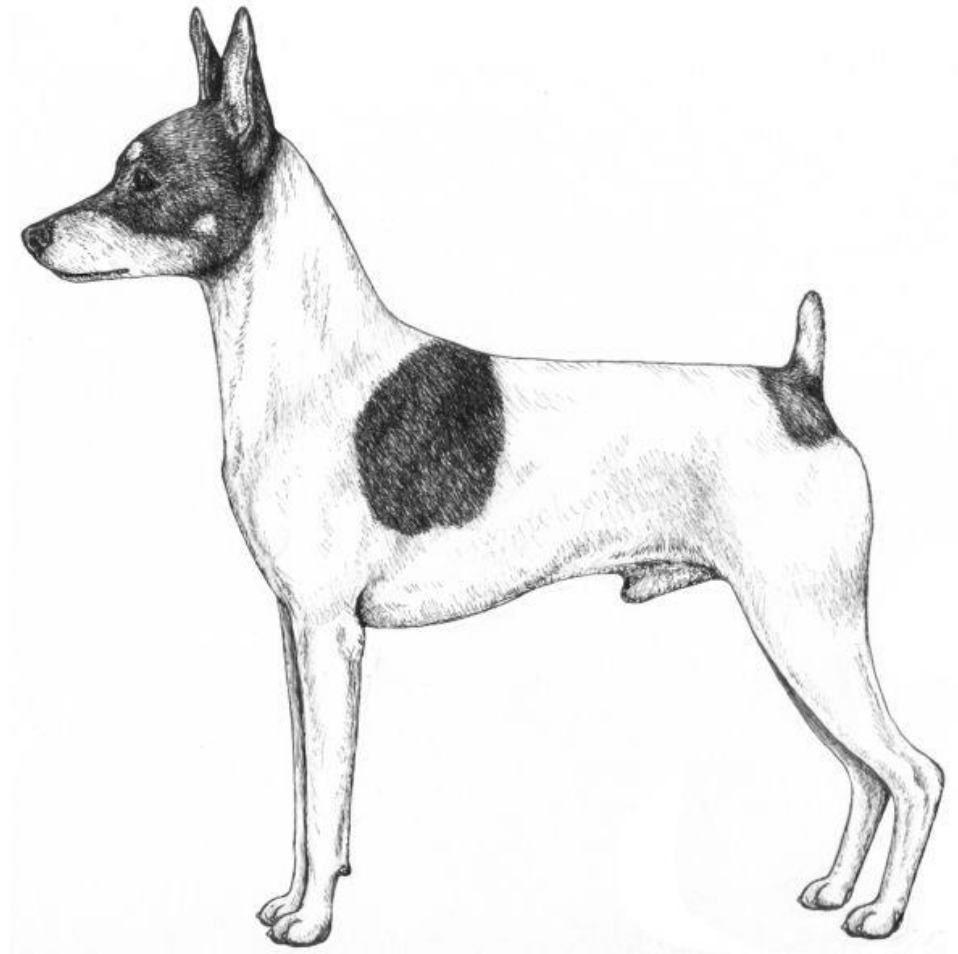
Stifles and Hock

- The upper and lower thighs are strong, well muscled and of good length. The stifles are clearly defined and well angulated.
- Hock joints are well let down and firm.
- The rear pasterns are straight.



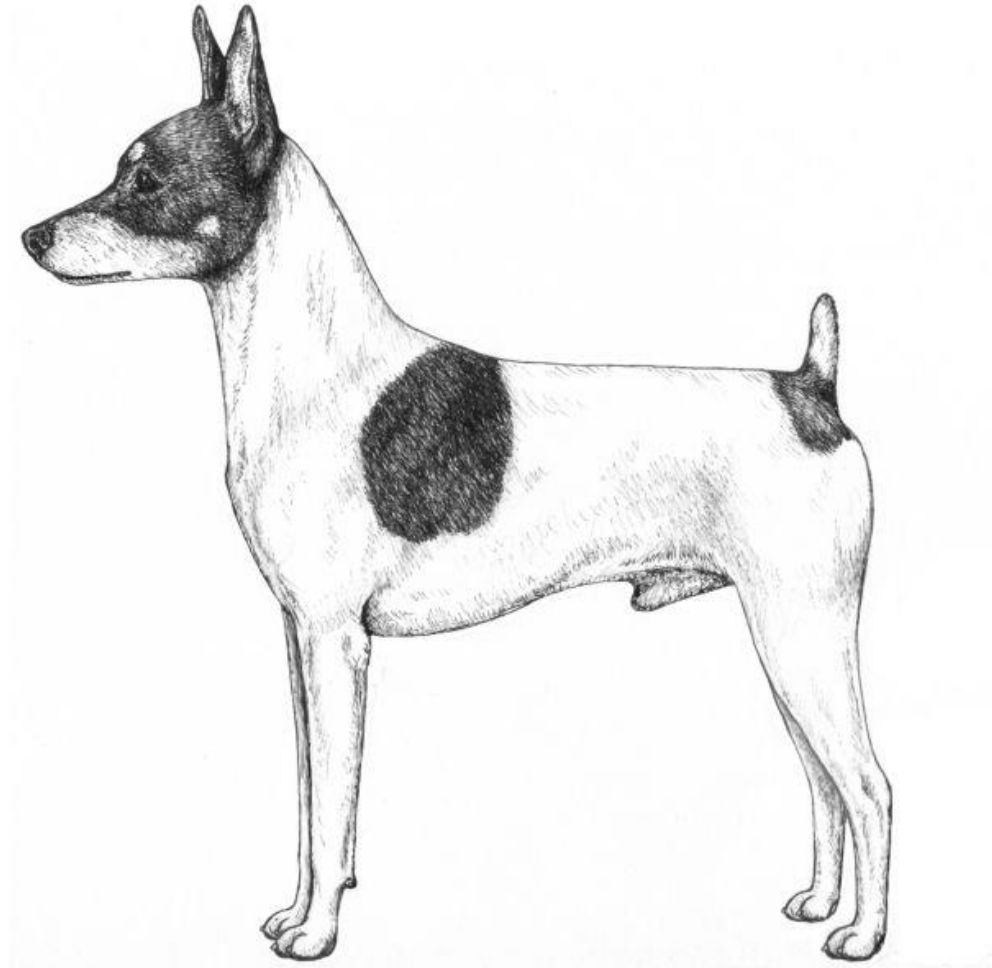
Sickle Hocks

- Sickie Hocks are undesirable in the breed.
- Sickie Hocks will cause a dog to 'stand under itself' and lowers the point of the hock.



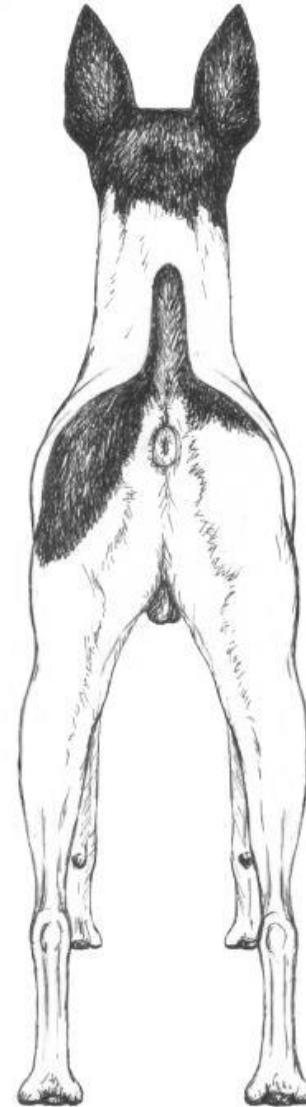
Straight Stifles

- This dog has Straight stifles.
- Straight stifles are a problem in the breed.



When viewed from the Rear

- The rear pasterns are straight. The legs are parallel from the rear and turn neither in nor out.



Cow Hocks

- Hind legs that are cow hocked will have hocks that are not parallel and will tend to 'brush' the inside edges of their rear pasterns against one another in passing.
- The result is a gait severely restricted in freedom of movement.



Coat

- The coat is short, satiny, shiny, fine in texture and smooth to the touch.

(think wrapped in satin)

- It is slightly longer at the ruff, uniformly covering the body.



Tri-Color

- Tri-color: Predominantly black head with sharply defined tan markings on cheeks, lips and eye dots.



This dog has sharply defined tan markings



Body Color

- Body is over fifty percent white with or without black body spots.

**“With OR without
body spots”**



White, Chocolate and Tan

- White, Chocolate and Tan: Predominantly chocolate head with sharply defined tan markings on cheeks, lips and eye dots. Body is over fifty percent white with or without chocolate body spots.



Nose and eye rims are self-colored
in chocolate dogs



White and Tan

- White and Tan: Predominantly tan head. Body is over fifty percent white with or without tan body spots.
- White and Tan dogs have black eye rims and black noses. **The eyes are dark!**
- The tan color should be rich and clear, free from black hairs interspersed in the tan, which in fact would be considered sable.



White and Black

- White and Black:
Predominantly black head. Body is over fifty percent white with or without black body spots.
- This young dog has too much bone. Notice how large his feet are. He will be overdone and coarse when mature.



Color

- Color should be rich and clear.
- This is a good example of rich, clear tan coloration on the head



Color

- Blazes are acceptable, but may not touch the eyes or the ears.
- Clear white is preferred but a small amount of ticking is not to be penalized.



Color

- This is a 7 year old TFT showing signs of graying.
- Many fine examples of the breed tend to 'gray' early
- When judging the TFT graying should be regarded as insignificant.



Color

- This is a 2 year old TFT showing signs of early graying under and around his eyes.
- A TFT should never be artificially colored as some lines gray early.
- Early graying should not be faulted



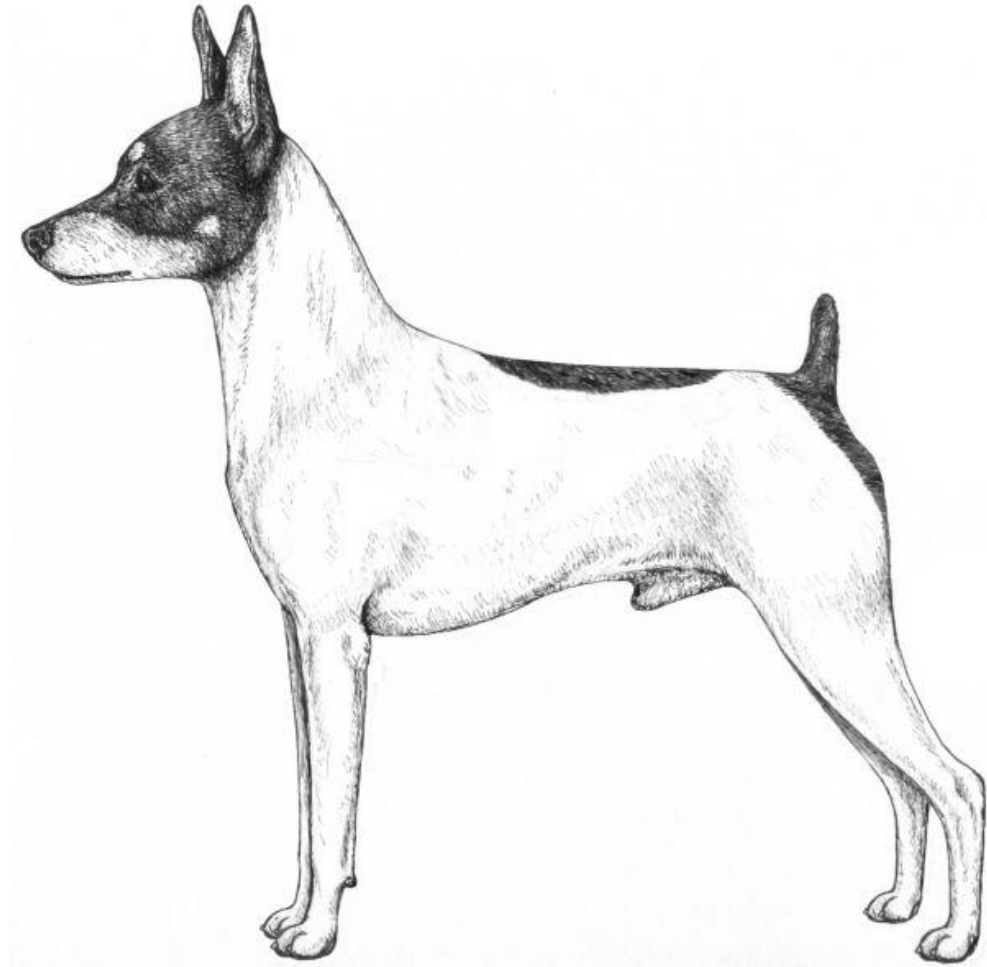
Body Spots

- Body spots on black headed tri-colors must be black; body spots on chocolate headed tri-colors must be chocolate
- White/Black TFTs will have black spots
- White/Tan TFTs will have tan spots



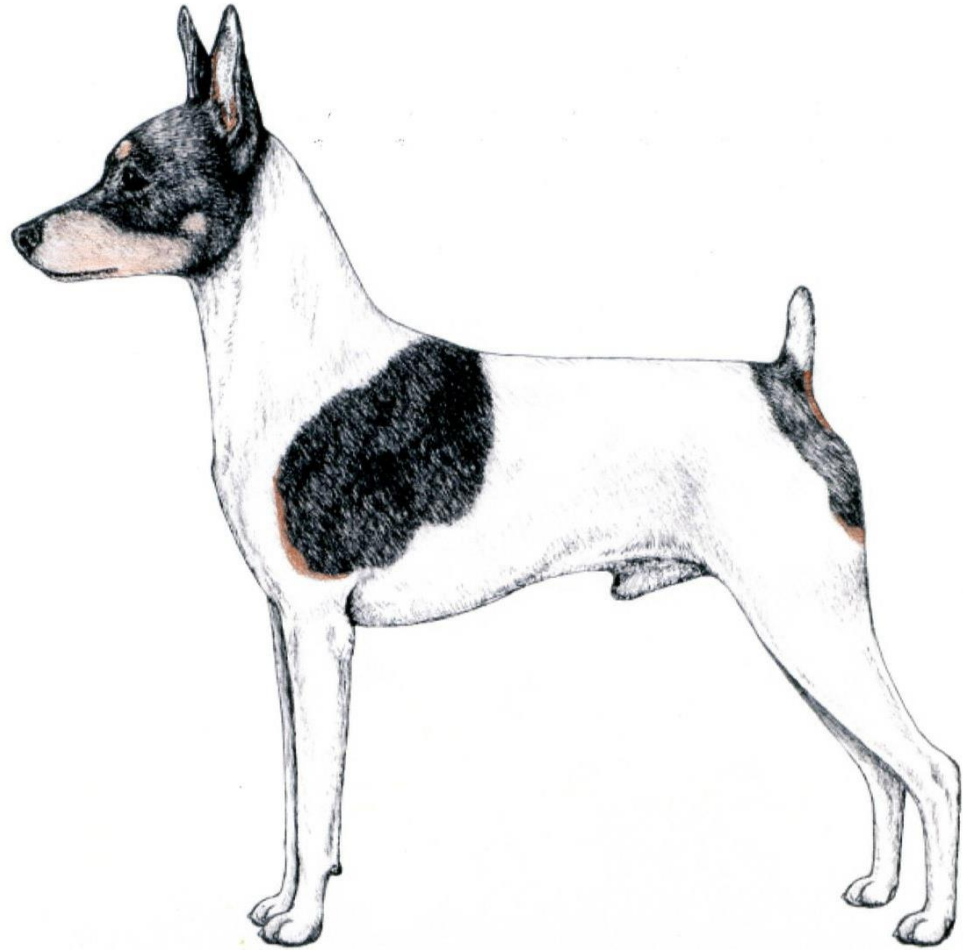
Body Spots

- Body Spots can be deceiving.
- Notice how the placement of these spots make this dog look soft in the topline and dropping off at the croup.
- **Don't let spots fool you!**



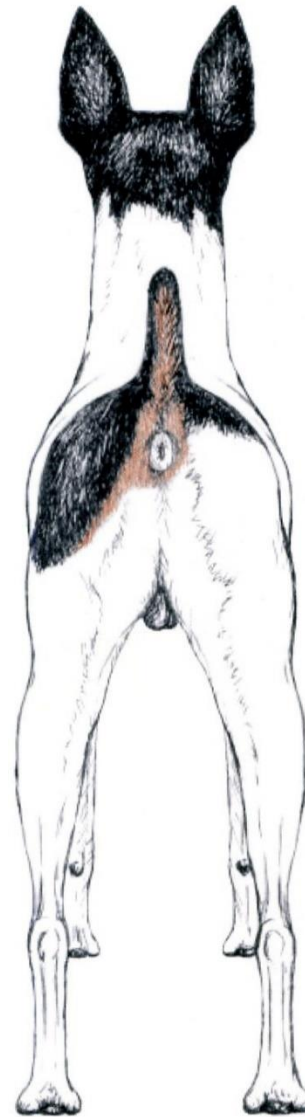
Tan Fringe

- With or without a slight fringe of tan alongside ANY body spots near the chest



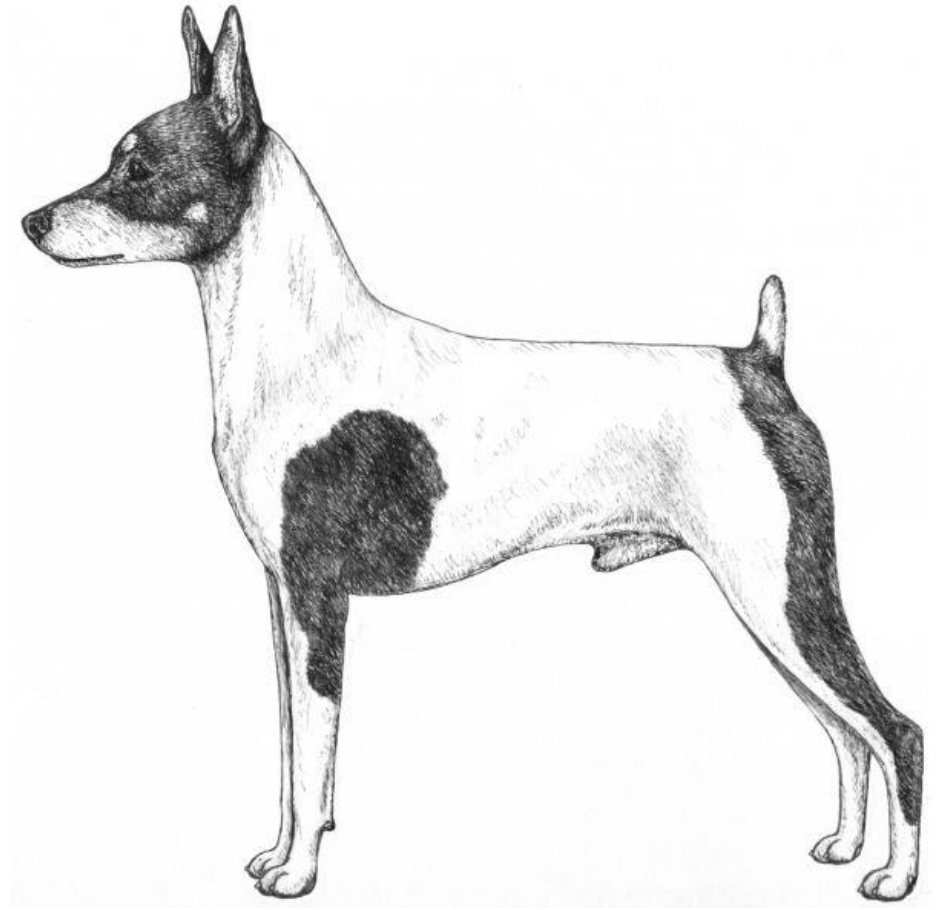
Rear Fringe

- and under the tail as seen in normal bi-color patterning.



Faults

- Faults: Color, other than ticking, that extends below the elbow or the hock.
- Color below the elbow or the hock is a color fault.
- It is NOT a Disqualification!



This puppy has tan fringe but because the color comes below the hock it also has a color fault.
Remember, this is NOT a disqualification!



Disqualification

- Disqualifications: A blaze extending into the eyes or ears.
- Any color combination not stated above.



Disqualification

- Any dog whose head is more than fifty percent white.

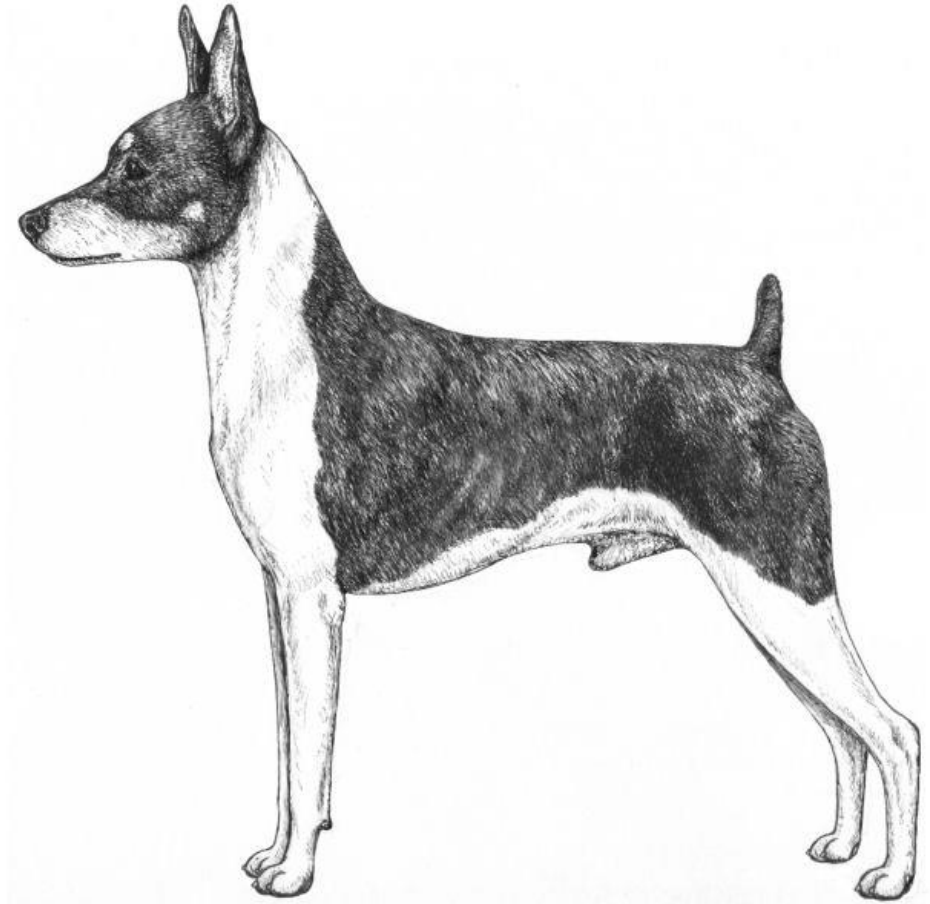


Disqualifying markings



Disqualification

- Any dog whose body is not more than fifty percent white.
- The entire body of the dog should be taken into consideration when deciding if a dog is not more than 50% white!
- Remember, this is a disqualification.

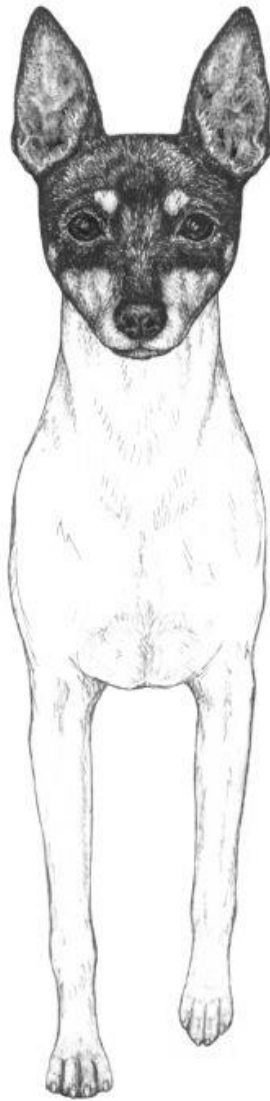


Disqualification

- Any dog whose head and Body Spots are of different colors.



Gait

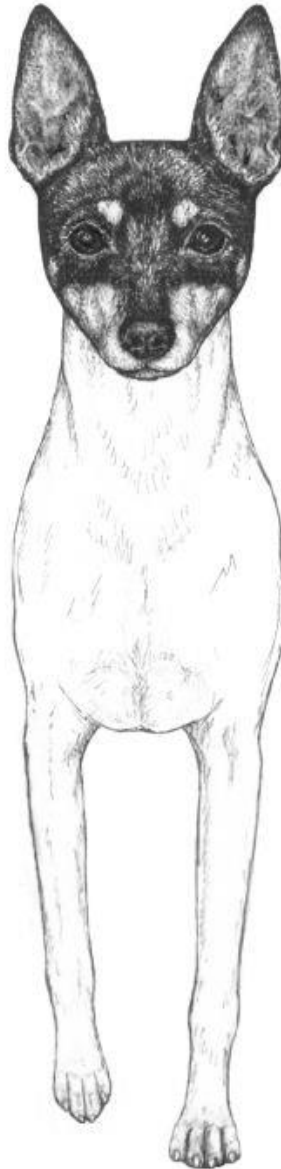


- Movement is smooth and flowing



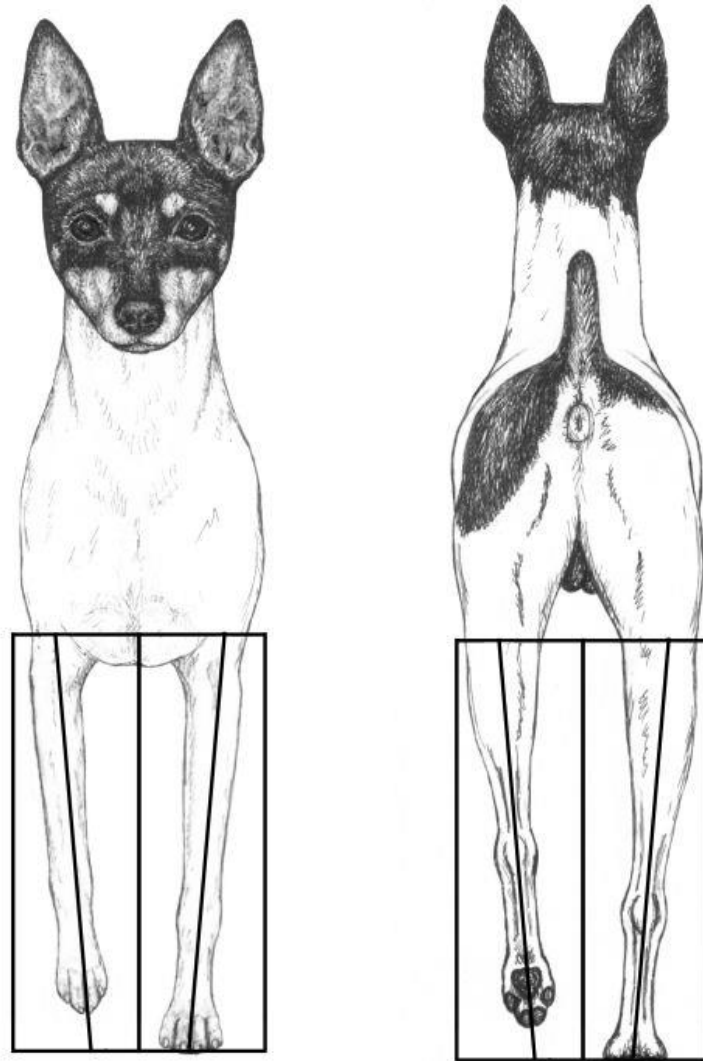
with the legs moving nearly parallel and in a line at a walk

- or slow trot.

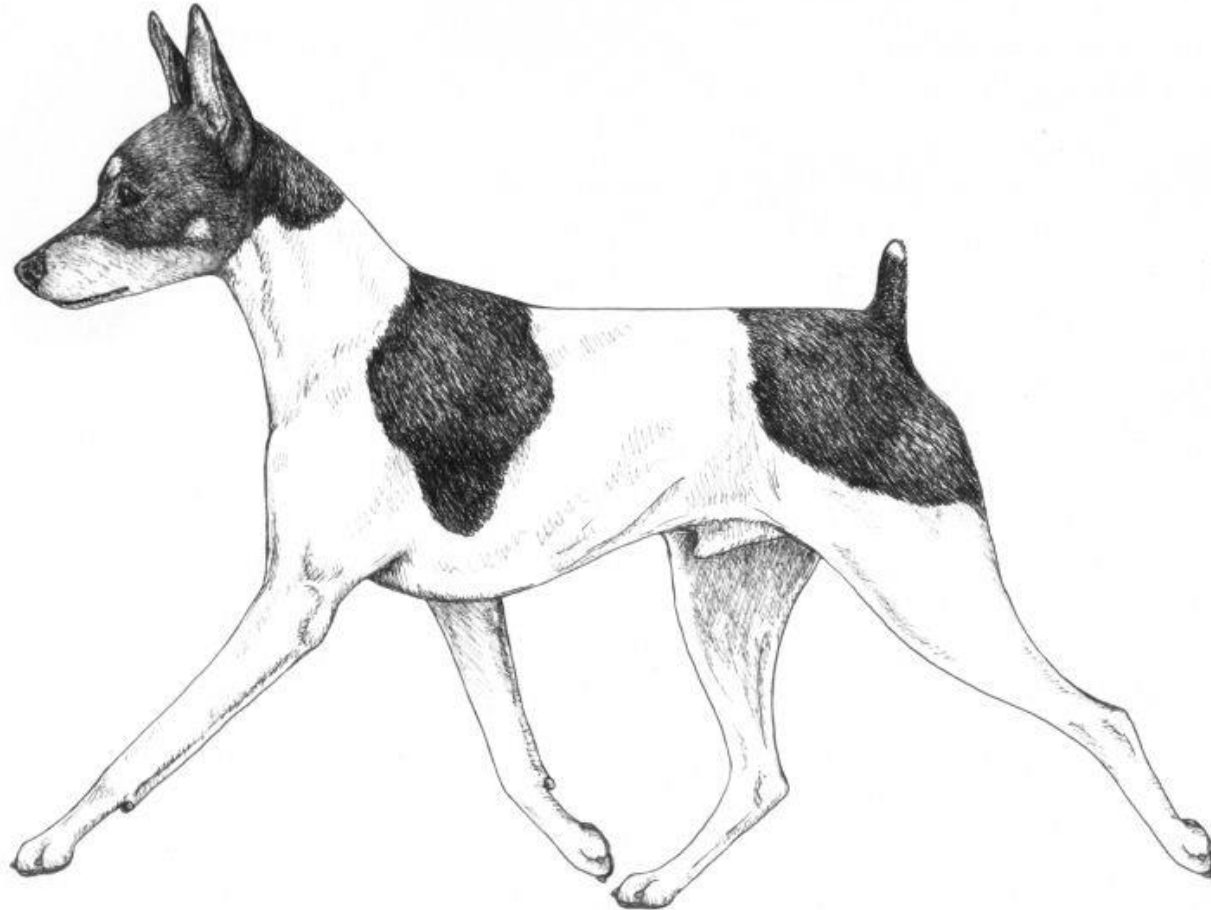


Coming and Going at a Slow Trot

- “Movement is **smooth and flowing** with the legs moving **nearly parallel** and in a line at a walk.”
- When viewing the front as the dog is coming forward, the TFT double tracks with slight convergence at a trot to minimize lateral displacement.
- Single tracking is not correct movement for this breed.

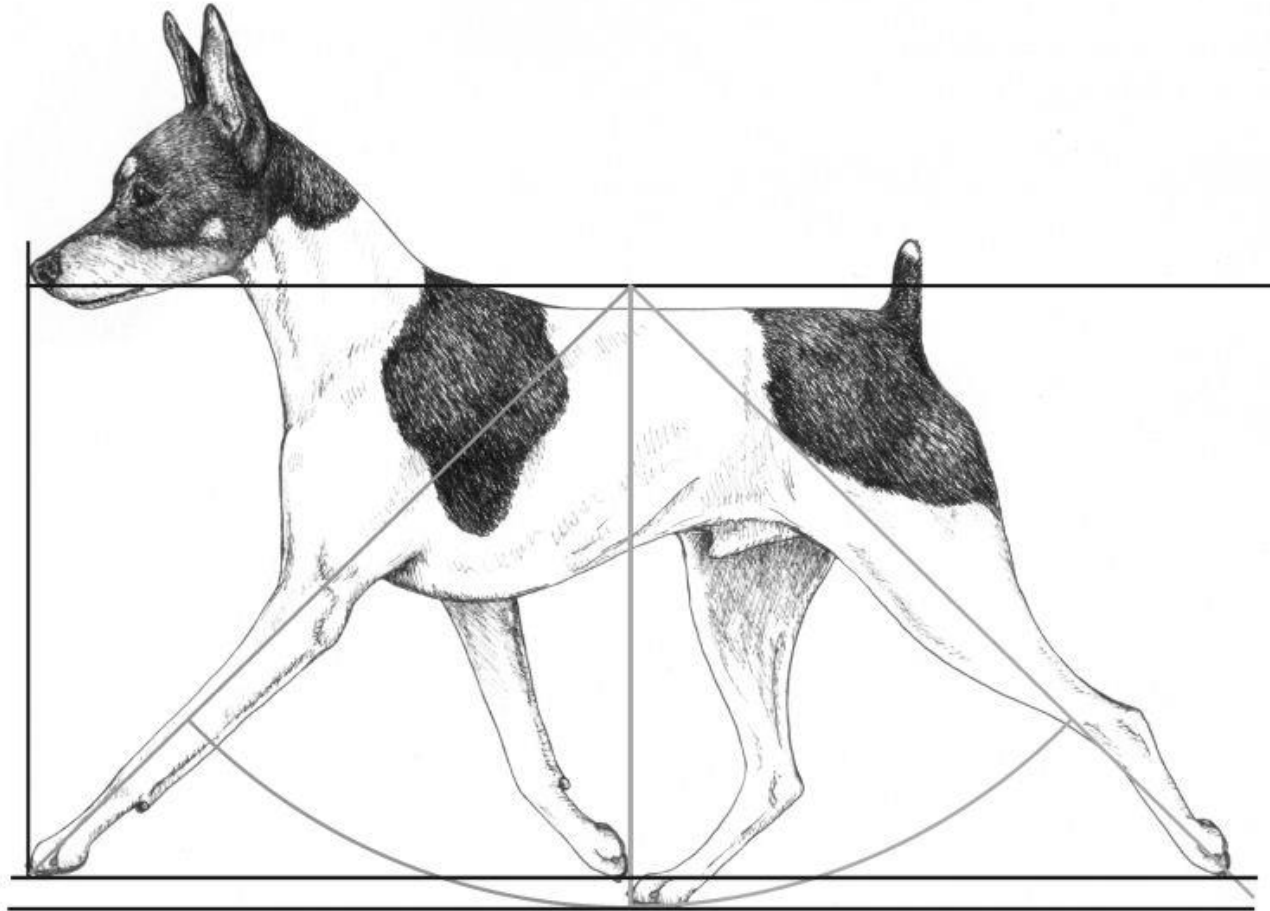


Correct Side Movement



- The topline should remain straight and head and tail carriage erect while gaiting.

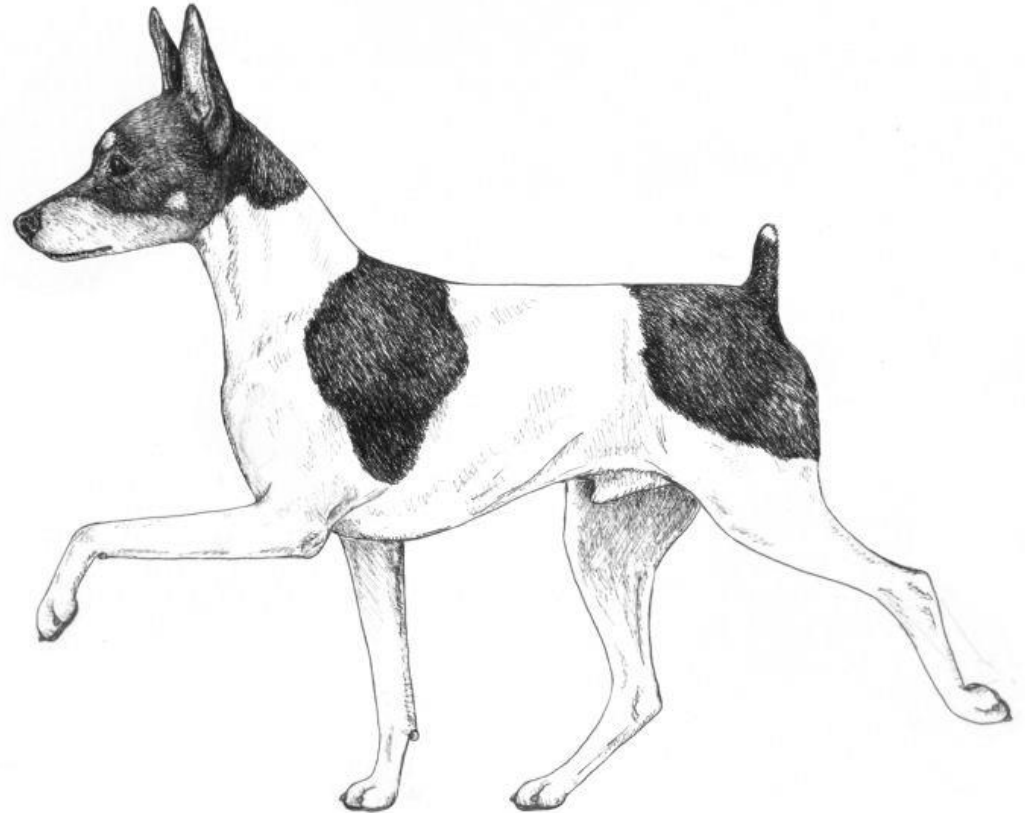
Movement is Balanced and Coordinated



- Movement is balanced and coordinated with good reach and strong drive.
- Movement should not be stilted, bouncing or elevated.

Movement Fault

- **Fault: Hackney gait**
- Hackney gait is distinguished by high flashy action in the front and rear legs. All of the action being in the exaggerated flexing of the joints.
- Hackney gait is not an acceptable gait for the Toy Fox Terrier!



Temperament

- The Toy Fox Terrier is intelligent, alert and friendly, and completely loyal to their owners and protective of them.
- He learns new tasks quickly, is eager to please, and adapts to almost any situation.
- The Toy Fox Terrier , like other terriers , is self-possessed, spirited, determined and not easily intimidated.
- He is highly animated toy dog that is comical, entertaining and playful all of his life.
- Faults: Any individuals lacking good terrier attitude and personality is to be faulted.

General Appearance Summary

Head: elegant, balanced and expressive with no indication of coarseness, medium stop, somewhat sloping

Appearance: Well-balanced TOY dog, displaying grace, elegance and agility in equal measures

Neck: well set on, slightly arched, gracefully curved, clean, muscular and free from throatiness

Topline: Level

Tail: Short, set high

Hindquarters: Well angulated, stifles clearly defined

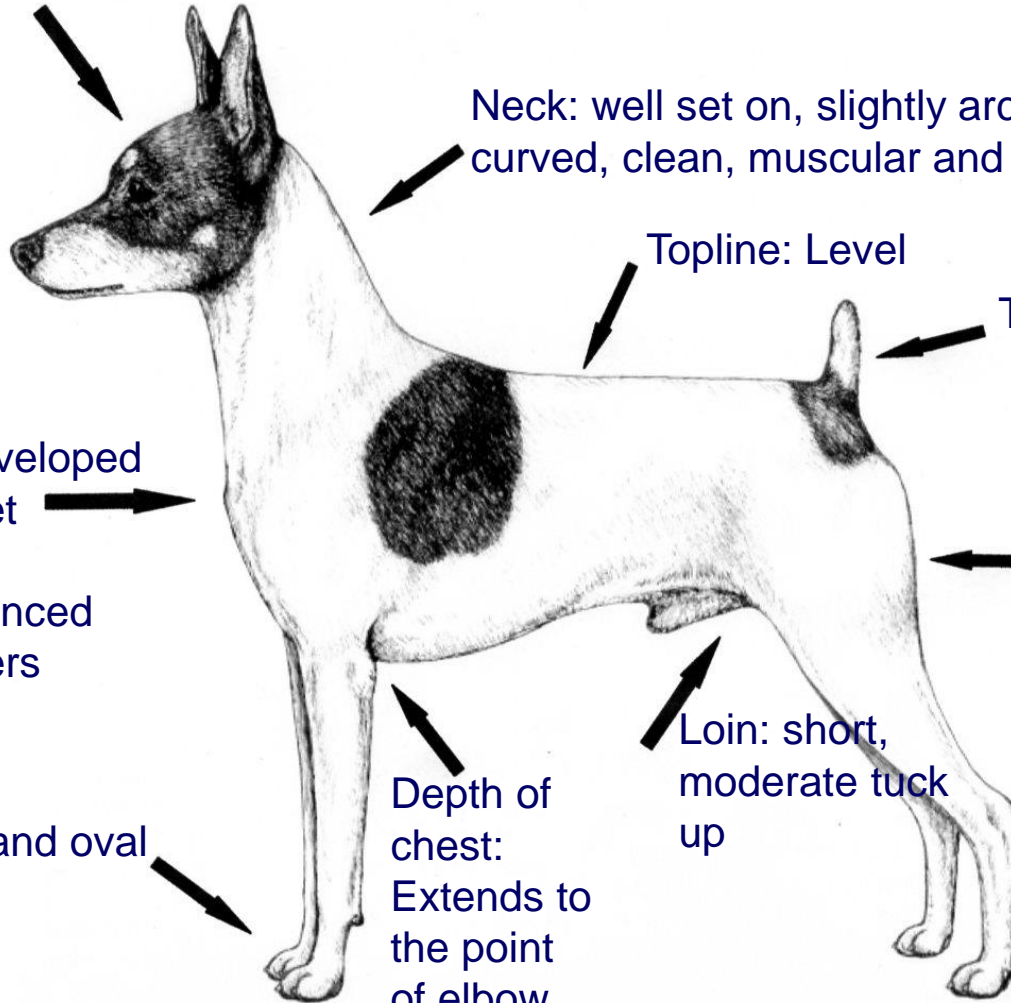
Hocks: well let down and firm

Loin: short, moderate tuck up

Depth of chest: Extends to the point of elbow

Feet: small and oval

Forechest: Well developed
Shoulder: Firmly set
Forequarters: Well angulated and balanced with the Hindquarters



Characteristic traits: Elegant head, short glossy predominantly white coat coupled with a predominantly solid head.

Balance Summary

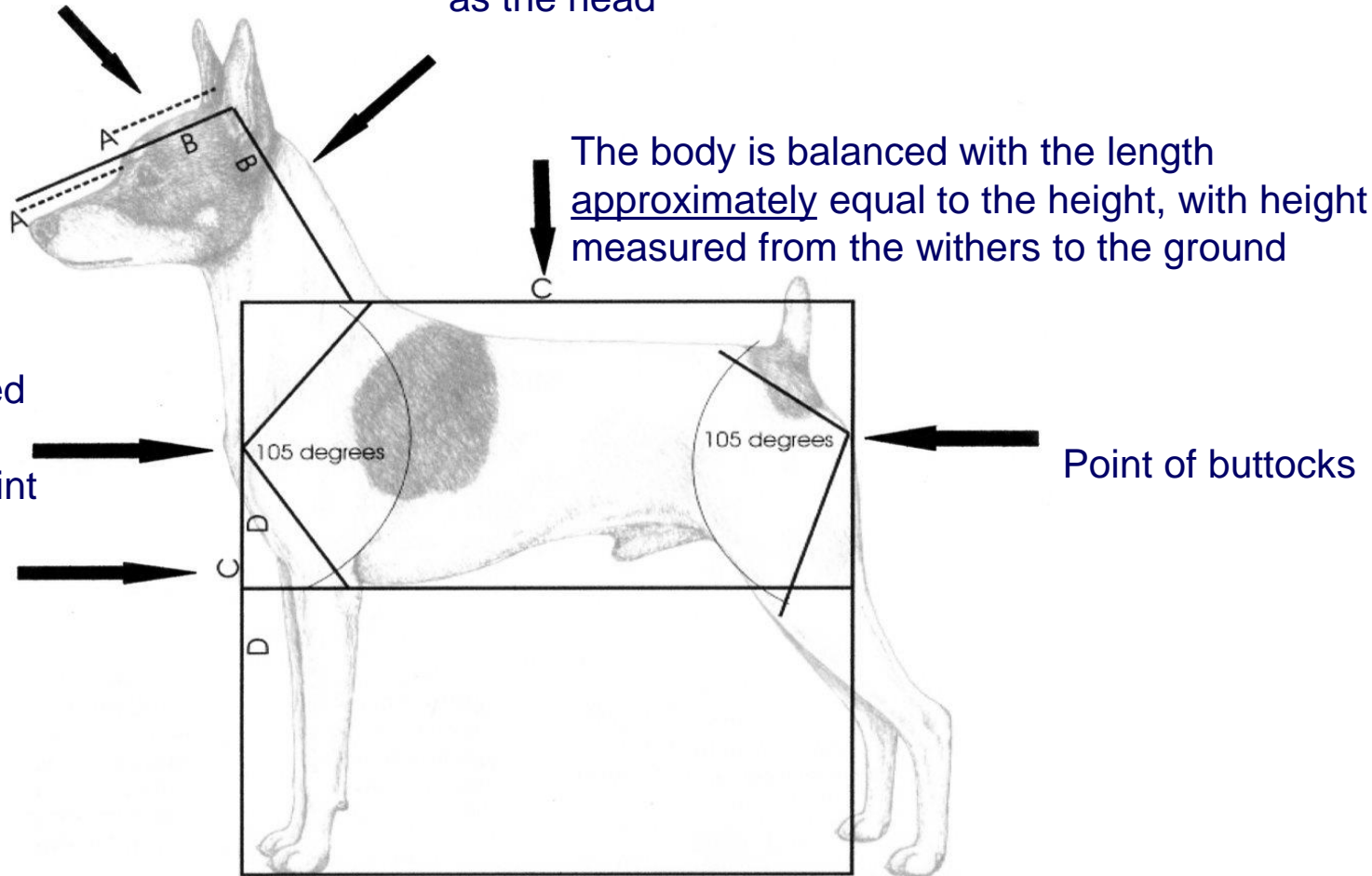
The distance from the nose to the stop is equal to the distance from the stop to the occipital point

The length of the neck is approximately the same as the head

The body is balanced with the length approximately equal to the height, with height measured from the withers to the ground

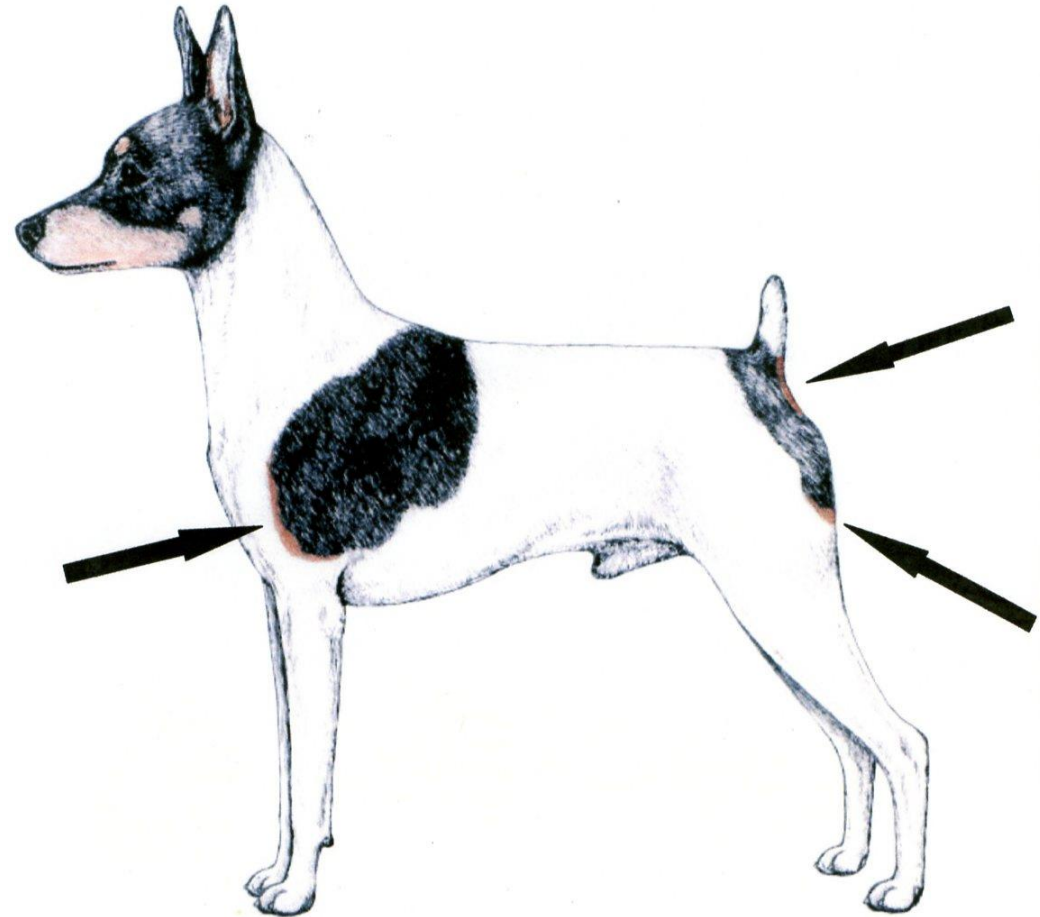
Length is measured from the point of shoulder to the point of buttocks

A = A
B = B
C = C
D = D



Color Summary

- Body spots on black headed tri-colors must be black
- Body spots on chocolate headed tri-colors must be chocolate
- Both with OR without a slight fringe of tan alongside ANY body spots near the chest and under the tail as seen in normal bi-color patterning.



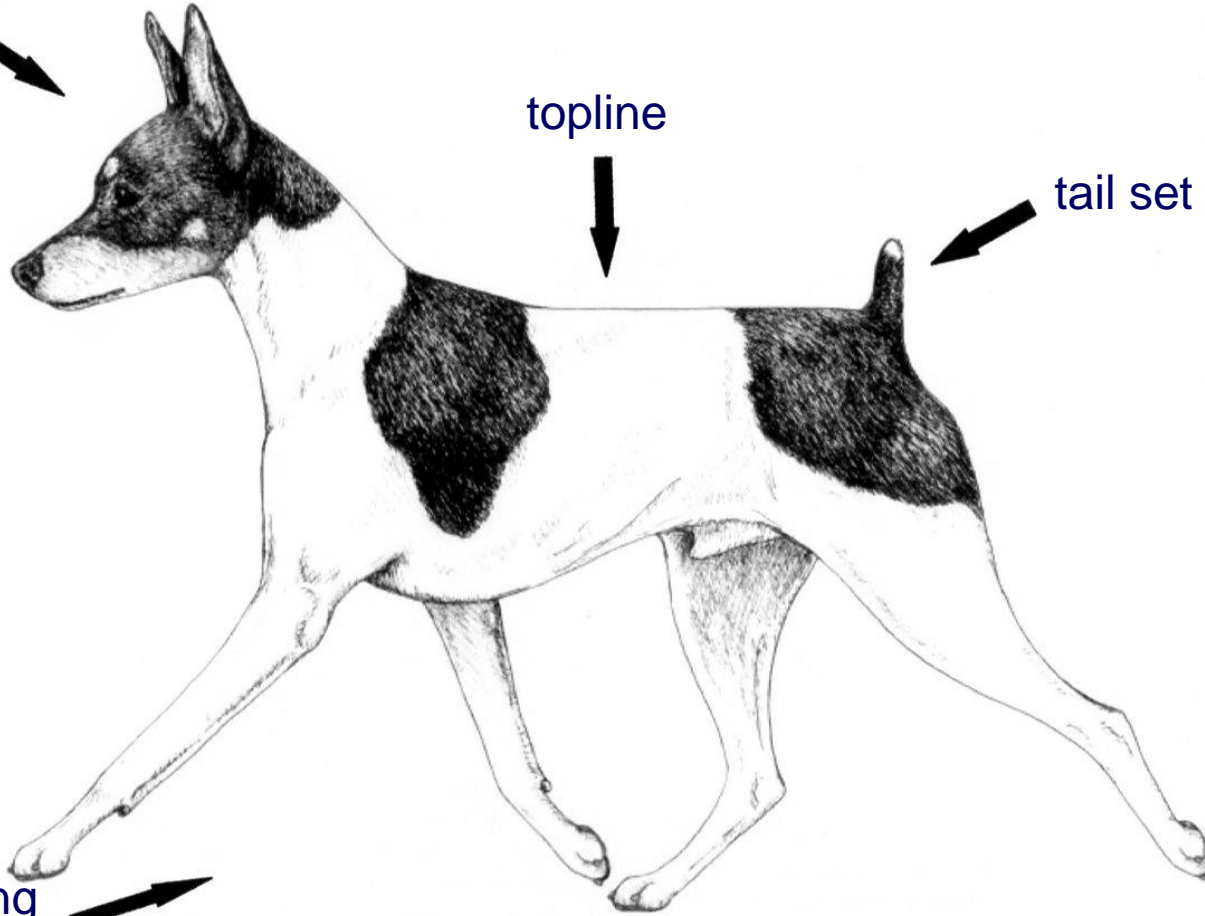
Five “T’s” Type, Temperament, Topline, Tail Set and Tracking

Type and
temperament

topline

tail set

tracking



Type and temperament are embodied in a well balanced, square package of terrier attitude, moving forward with elegance, gusto and style. The topline is level and flat in motion as the little dog double tracks in a straight line with slight convergence at a trot.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Any dog under 8.5 inches or over 11.5 inches.
 - Ears not erect on any dog over six months of age.
 - Dudley nose.
 - Undershot, wry mouth overshot more than 1/8 inch.
 - A blaze extending into the eye or ears.
 - Any color combination not stated above.
 - Any dog whose head is more than fifty-percent white.
 - Any dog whose body is not more than fifty percent white.
 - Any dog whose head and body are of different colors.
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- ***Effective: April 1, 2002***
 - ***Final Approval: August, 2003***