

# YOU BE THE JUDGE

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## THE WHIPPET

Base your selection of first, second, third and fourth place in this class of eight Whippets solely on apparent (graphic) physical virtues and faults. The four remaining less favoured examples illustrate serious departures. Place the best four of the eight examples in order of preference, or, for an added challenge, place all eight.

### TYPICAL

A medium sized sighthound, my representation of typical conveys an impression of beautifully balanced muscular power and strength, combined with great elegance and grace of outline. Her symmetry of outline, muscular development (and powerful gait) are the main judging considerations.

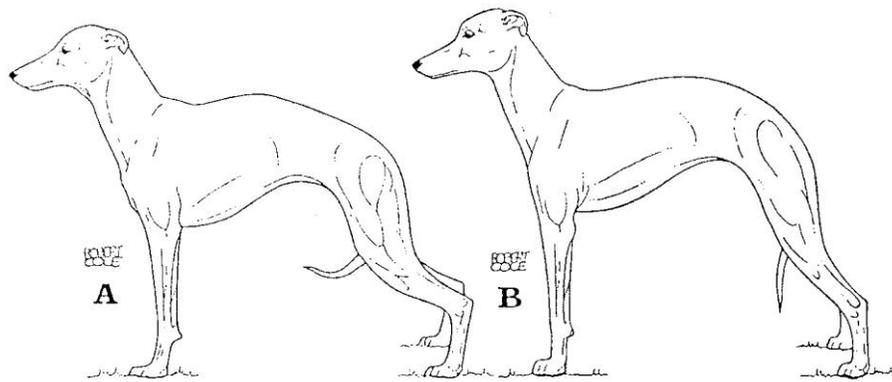
Her long, lean skull is fairly wide between the ears, flat on top, tapering to muzzle; the stop is slight. The muzzle is long and powerful, the underjaw strong. Her large, dark, oval eyes produce a keen, intelligent, alert expression. The eyelids are fully pigmented, the nose is entirely black, the teeth are perfect with regular and complete scissors bite, and small rose ears are fine in texture.

Her neck is long, clean and muscular, well arched with no suggestion of throatiness, widening gracefully into withers. The broad back is firm and well-muscled. There is length over the loin. The gentle, curving line beginning behind the ears arches smoothly into well laid back flat shoulders, continues along the back, rising in a slight, but perceptible, natural arch beginning over the loin. The line then falls gently away over a rather long croup, ending in a pleasing curve along the second thigh.

The underline is similarly curved; the chest is deep, level with the elbow; the tuck up is definite. The upper arm appears to be the same length as the long shoulder blade. The upper arm slopes rearward, and places the elbow directly under the withers, creating a slight forechest. Her straight forelegs are longer than her body is deep, the pasterns strong and slightly sloped. Her long, powerful hindquarters are broad and muscular. Her hindlegs are well angulated at stifle and hock, the hocks well let down. Well-formed feet are more hare like than cat like (both are acceptable), and the hard pads are thick.

### BITCH A

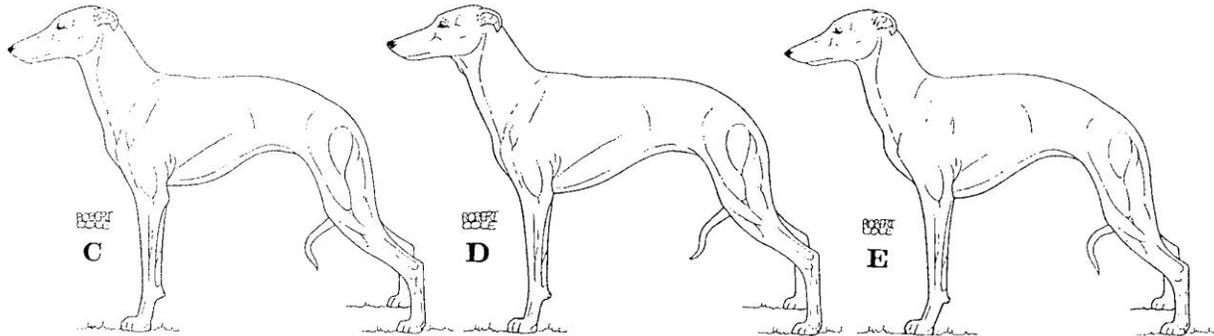
This example's domed skull and throatiness detract from her appearance. Her neck lacks arch, and there is a dip behind the withers. Both are due to steep shoulders, which are also partly responsible for her humped topline. The topline flattens behind the hump, drawing to overly long second thighs and sickle hocks. Her flat feet should be strictly penalized.



### **BITCH B**

Aside from correct ears, feet and tail, very little is right about this girl. She lacks underjaw, has too much stop, and her thin neck lacks strength. Her shoulders and upper arms are steep, raising the body above the elbows and forward on the forechest. Front pasterns lack slight slope.

There is a faulty dip behind the shoulders. The unnatural topline arch begins its rise too early and drops off too quickly. Lack of angulation at stifle and hock matches the steep shoulder blades and upper arm.



### **BITCH C**

This typey, well-constructed Whippet departs from typical in two ways. The first is lack of ideal brisket depth; the brisket should reach as nearly as possible to the point of elbow. This young female has not fully matured.

The second departure is short body but not a short loin. This length to height ratio is included because the revised (1990) AKC Whippet standard now allows for both equal length to height and slightly greater length than height. This American revision can be applied to Canadian Whippets. The CKC Whippet standard does not state body length(s).

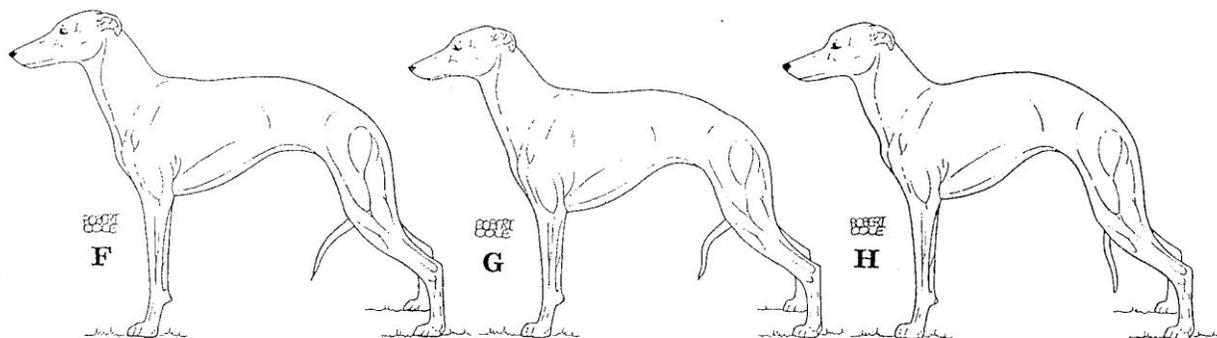
### **BITCH D**

The loose skin at the throat of this sound, competitive example is as distracting as her Greyhound like topline. A natural arch over the loin is absent. Interestingly, her flat topline makes the body appear long, thus drawing attention to the fact that an arch adds to topline length without adding to body length.

In the rear, her hocks are not well let down. Her rear pasterns between hock and foot are long, thereby reducing endurance at the trot and gallop.

## **BITCH E**

Her shark like muzzle lacks chin. Her weak ewe neck should be penalized. Her faulty steep shoulders have caused the upper arm to slope rearward at too great an angle, thus positioning the elbow too far back and creating an exaggerated forechest. This, in turn, has caused her front pasterns to adopt a compensating slope, greater than attributed to the Whippet. In the rear, her second thigh lacks length. She is neither sound nor balanced.



## **BITCH F**

This Whippet illustrates the virtues defined in the paragraphs describing typical.

## **BITCH G**

This example has weak underjaw, short muzzle and short legs. The CKC standard does not specify foreleg length. The forelegs should be long – sighthound long – longer than the body is deep. This female's forelegs are the same length as the body is deep (similar to most endurance trotting dogs such as the Golden Retriever). Given her good angulation front and rear and her more rectangular profile, she could excel at the show ring trot, but not at the fast gallop.

## **BITCH H**

Her step up from muzzle to skull is more pronounced than the required “scarcely perceptible” stop. Her neck is both short and thick. She is, however, balanced front with rear, but the in between portion is incorrect.

The loin is short, producing a cramped, wheel back appearance when stacked, thus reducing coursing ability at the double suspension gallop. Instead of a natural arch over the loin, producing a cramped, wheel back appearance when stacked, thus reducing coursing ability at the double suspension gallop. Instead of a natural arch over the loin, the arch is pronounced and begins too close to the withers. Unlike most wheel backs, her forequarters and hind quarters are nicely angulated.

## **1,2,3,4**

My first place choice is typical representation Bitch F. Second place I gave to shorter bodied Bitch C, the young female lacking a degree of brisket depth. The level topline on Bitch D did not disturb as much as her long pasterns. I awarded her third place and Bitch H fourth place.

## **5,6,7,8**

I would have awarded short legged Bitch G fourth place over short necked, wheel backed, short loined Bitch H, except for Bitch G's short muzzle and serious lack of underjaw. Sixth place went to Bitch E, seventh place to Bitch A, and eighth place to Bitch B.