

EVALUATING THE GAIT OF THE DOGUE DE BORDEAUX

THE CONTROLLED TROT.

When evaluating the gait of the Dogue de Bordeaux in the show ring, there are certain canine terms that the exhibitor/handler has to understand and recognise to present this gait efficiently

CENTRE OF GRAVITY.

The point at which the entire weight of the dog can be considered as concentrated, in canines this is positioned just behind the withers, this takes into account the weight of the dogs head.

MEDAIN PLANE (LINE)

A plane dividing a bilaterally symmetrical animal into right and left half's that are mirror images of each other along a plane, in gaits, the medain plane (line)is an imaginary line that runs on the ground between the front and back legs of the dog in the centre.

LATERAL DISPLACEMENT.

Immediately a gait is initiated lateral displacement takes place due to the sideways sway created by lifting a foreleg to allow the unsupported weight to move the centre of gravity away from the medain plane (line) ,when the opposite foreleg is lifted the sideways sway is transferred to the opposite direction, (this is more noticeable in the wide chested dogs like the Dogue De Bordeaux) than narrow chested dogs. In the pace gait lateral displacement is double that of the controlled trot.

CONVERGENCE.

To diminish lateral displacement when gaiting,the centre of gravity is moved back towards its original position by converging, (moving the footfalls towards the medain line), in doing so this raises the foot off the ground, when the leg is extended the dog must lower its top line and head carriage just to return its foot to the ground.

CONCLUSION.

When moving the Dogue De Bordeaux to present the controlled trot correctly and efficiently, it is essential that the exhibit must be handled on a loose lead to enable the exhibit to overcome lateral displacement by converging. And in doing so this will allow the head and topline to be lowered to the correct position to promote extention and drive by using its angulation and articulation to there maximum

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