

The Bernese Mountain Dog ~ An Illustrated Commentary on the Breed Standard

Structure & Proportion Studies 2



Angle of croup indicated by arrows



Tailset

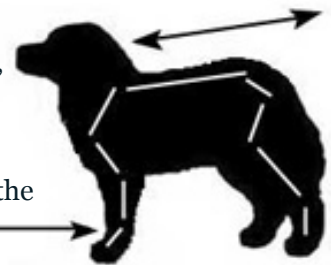
Angle of croup affects tailset.

A long pelvic bone set at the correct angle results in a correct tailset.

The first dog has an incorrect croup angle and carries his tail high, over his back. The second dog shows a good tailset. His tail will be carried low when in repose. It will not be carried over his back.

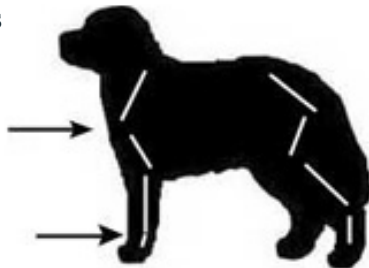
The dog below ↓ is low in front and high in rear.

The topline inclines (slopes down, rear to front). This type of conformation places considerable stress on the front end assembly. The body's weight is shifted onto the dog's front quarters due to the slope of the topline.



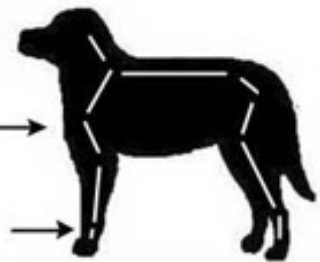
Note the angle of the pastern. The pasterns are weak.

Please notice how straight shoulders affect the tie in of the neck to the back. The transition is not smooth.

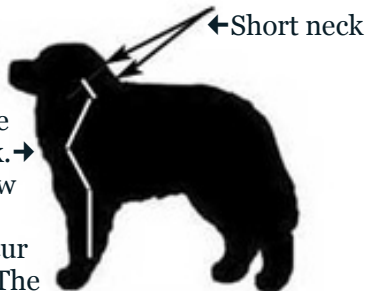


The dog shown above ↑ has straight shoulders and pasterns. When a dog gaits, straight pasterns do not absorb the weight of the front quarters as well as pasterns with a gentle slope. The dog's fore and rear quarter's angulation are not balanced.

The dog shown on the right → has slight angulation of fore and rear quarters. The pasterns are straight as well.



The dog shown on the right has a short neck. → The forequarters show straight angulation. These traits often occur together in Bernese. The elbows are not set well under the ribcage. The front of the chest appears flat.



While the dog's structure is balanced, it does not provide a framework for good muscling or substance. A structure such as this shortens stride. This dog will take more steps to cover ground and tire more quickly than a dog with moderate angulation.