

The Generic Show dog.

I have thought about the term Generic Show Dog and have used it myself. The discussions on the list have made me crystallize the term in my mind.

The Generic Show Dog looks like the breed being judged. It will usually be an example of the Unpardonable Fault: **MEDIOCRITY**. It will resemble the dogs of the breed being shown in that area. It will have no outstanding fault but will probably have no outstanding virtue either, for that would make it look different from all of the rest of the group in the ring. It will look best from profile, because the details of the breed that can only be judged head on will be less important. It may even be exaggerated in profile making it really look like a line drawing of the breed. The Generic Show Dog will have lots and lots of neck but not necessarily set on correctly. It will be an upright dog, a little straighter in front. The topline will be flat. Coat will be profuse. The rear will be over angulated. But most of all, the dog will be ON much like a terrier. This will be true, even if it is a breed that is not supposed to be ON all the time. The movement of the Generic Show Dog will be flashy. The head will be held high because of the straighter front. The overangulation in the rear will require that the dog's front to be held on a tight rein. They will move fast, with front feet flying and back legs kicking high behind. (I call this the Champion Feets-a-Flyn' gait.) The uneducated will think that this animal is really covering ground, with a lot of drive. In reality, it is spending a lot of energy getting nowhere. A good moving, correctly built canine (including the wolf and coyote) lowers its head to about 10:00 and stretches its front legs out so that the toes land just even with its nose. The rear legs do not kick up high behind, but sweep under the animal landing in the diagonally opposed front footprint. There is no flash or high kicking. In fact the animal does not appear to be moving fast at all, but will cover the ground effortlessly. Thus there is no unnecessary energy expended. The true representative of the breed may not be flashy, and may in fact look different from the rest of the entry. When faced with a class of cookie cutter dogs and one that looks different, remember it may be right and the rest wrong.

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Mrs. Schwartz, whose initial breed was collies, is licensed to judge conformation and Junior Showmanship.