

# Notes on motion

by Sandy Motz

***“Furthest point of extension should touch the ground...”***

How can an Afghan Hound have a free reconnaissance trot and not fit this simple description? Would any other trot be effortless?

There is a big problem with correct trot in the Afghan Hound ring. **It isn't flashy!** This dog **doesn't move** his legs **fast**. He is **boring** because he moves with half the action of most. He appears to move slower even though he is keeping up with the rest of the class.

In the following I have described seven different kinds of movement. These are the big winners ...

1. This dog has a lot of kick and no reach. Full extension in the rear does not touch the ground. The neck is carried too upright and the tail carriage is often very close to the back.



**Figure 1**

2. This dog also has too much kick. The rear extension is inches above the ground. He doesn't extend his upper arm at all. Usually the upper arm is short. Both one and two win because the eye sees that high kick combined with bounce. It is very flashy.



**Figure 2**

3. This dog has an upright neck with no arch. When viewed moving from the side he is high in the front. All of this dog's power is in his rear. The fully extended front is 2 or 3 inches above the ground. The rear pushes that front leg in full extension over the ground in an unnatural suspension. His front leg must fall to make contact with the ground. I have noticed that a lot of dogs that move like his have small feet.

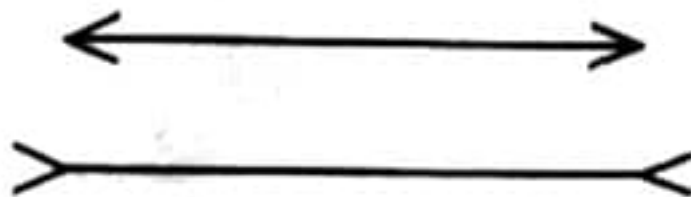


Figure 3

4. This dog is a fast finish – **very FLASHY**. Because yje legs are short and the dog extends equally front and rear, the eye is drawn down to this dog. You see a long low line from tip of front toes to tip of rear toes. Remember the classic optical illusion (**Figure A**). Three and four win big and around the ring people buzz about the super movements of these dogs.



Figure 4



*Which line is longer ?*

Figure A

5. This guy is straight both ends and moderate to restricted in movement. He is balanced and uses what he has. This dog does very well in small indoor ring.



**Figure 5**

6. This dog is truly poor mover. The front never approaches full extension. The rear legs move in small circles with no kick at all. His front and rear are making furious little circles under his body as he hurries around the ring. I wouldn't have believed that a dog with this movement could win anything. Wrong again! This dog in a couple of different colors has picked up some big win of late.



**Figure 6**

7. Perfect extension – perfect balance, spring without bounce, effortless! A wonderful dog and the judges often find him boring. This dog is never in a hurry. When he tires, he slows down, but does not lose extension.



**Figure 7**

Over the years, the dogs I have seen that in the picture of number seven have been dogs with good bodies, strong neck and decent sized feet. Basic over all correctness.

Number seven isn't dead, you will usually find him going third in the class. There were a good number of sevens at our recent shows. Some of them won, some of them didn't and many classes had sevens for every placement. It was a wonderful sight to see. My congratulations to the breeders of all those fine dogs.