

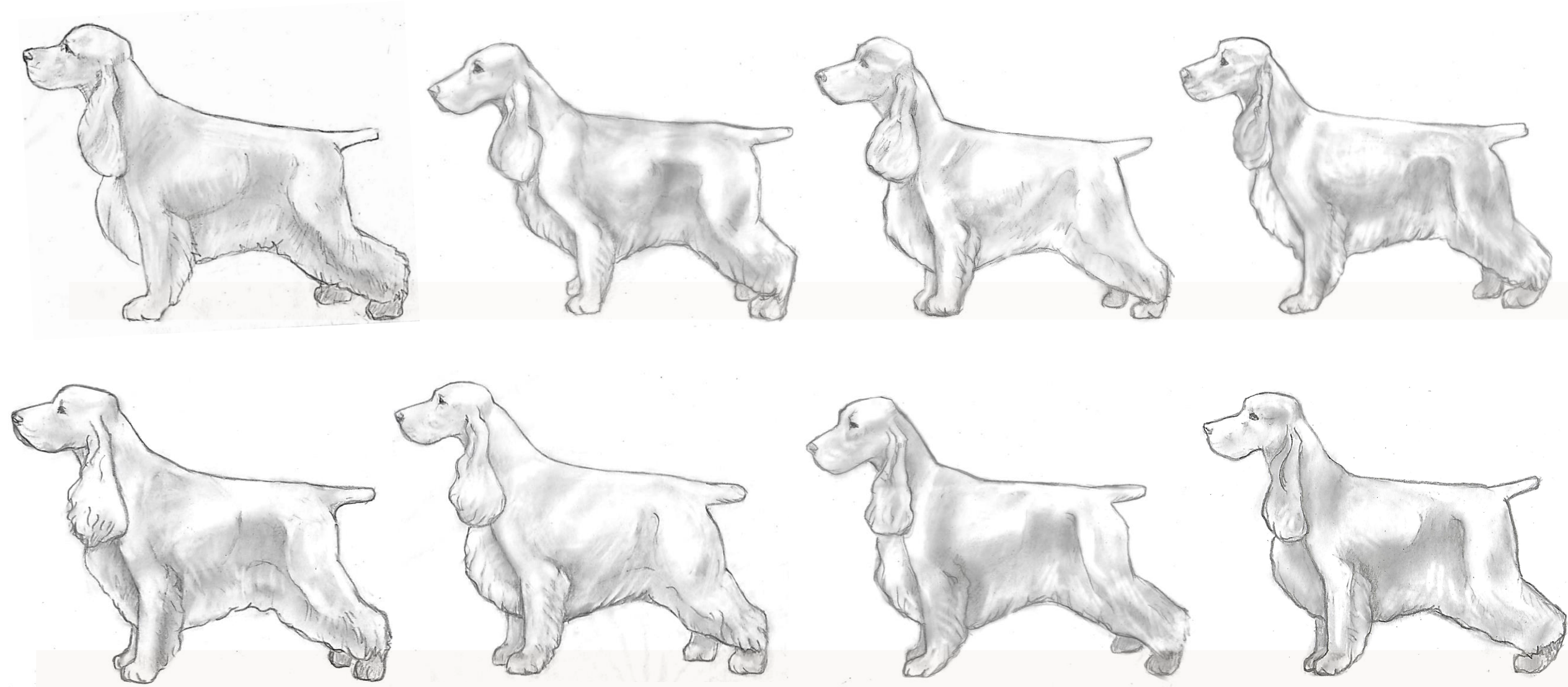


Understanding Correct Type vs Common Faults in English Cocker Spaniels



While it is always better to judge dogs on virtues, it is important to be able to recognize common faults in any breed. In this presentation, we will look at 8 imaginary dogs and explore their qualities as well as their faults.

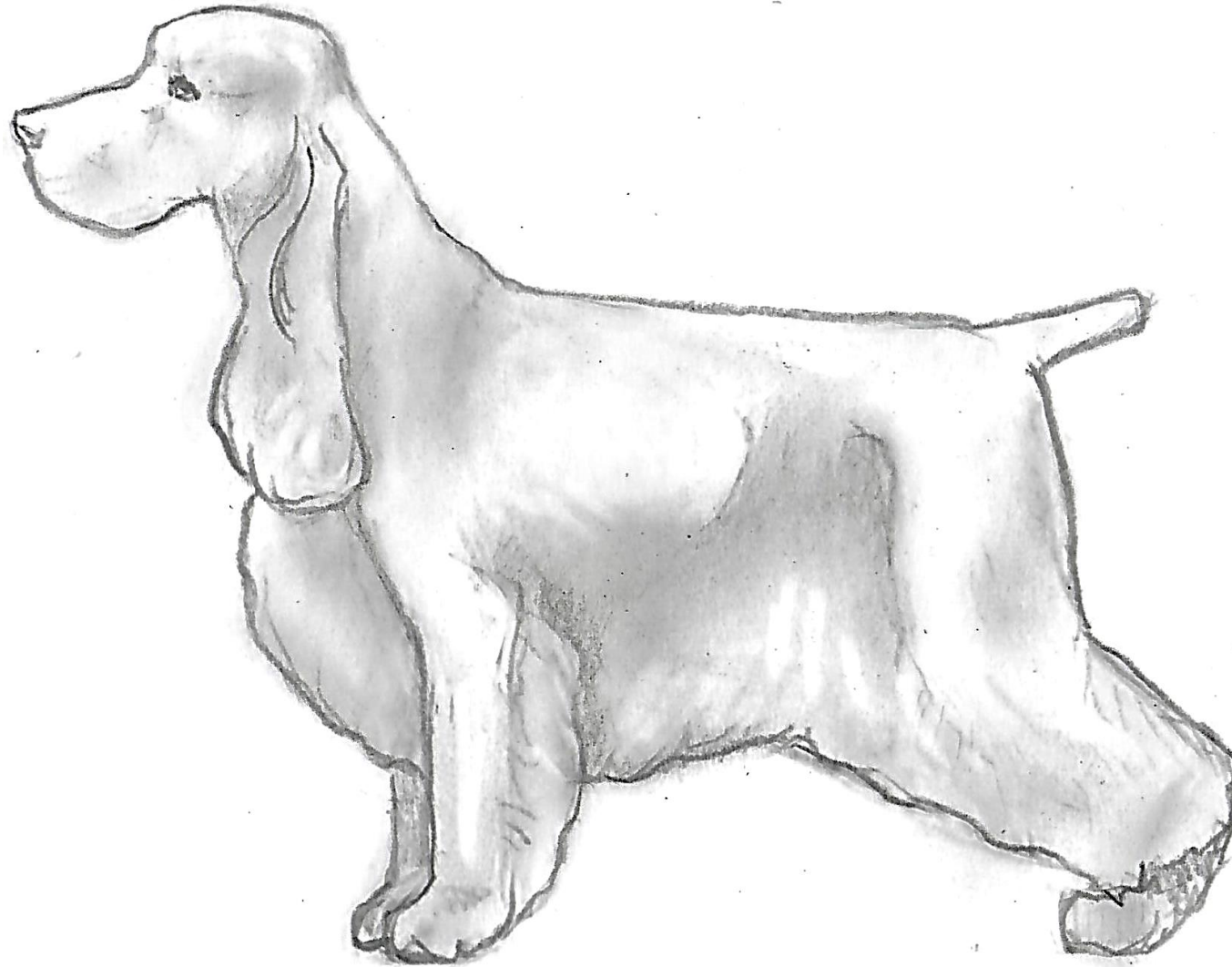
We begin with the image from the ECSCA Illustrated Breed Standard, and excerpts from the AKC English Cocker Spaniel Breed Standard.



In this line up of 8 English Cocker Spaniels there are 7 dogs that have some virtues, but also present many common faults you find in the breed today. One of these 8 examples is ideal.

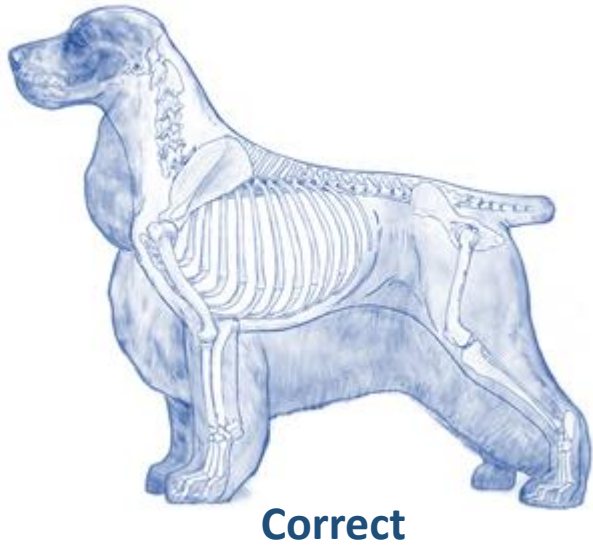
Remember, you're looking for the moderate, compact animal that is free from exaggerations and balanced at both ends.

Example #1



What virtues can you see in this dog?
How would you change this dog to make it more ideal?

Example #1



Example #1 is fancy and appealing to those who do not understand the breed. Although he has adequate bone, correct feet and good proportions, he lacks the essential qualities of balance and moderation.

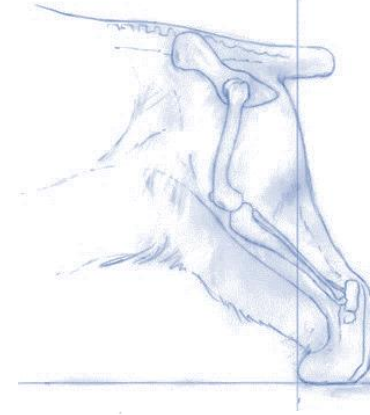
Correct head



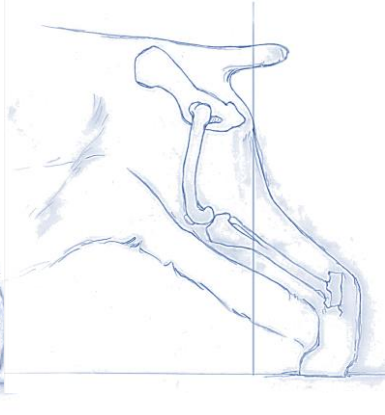
Too much stop

Excessive lip

Correct rear



Incorrect rear



Upright scapula

Short, flat croup, lacks muscling

Lacking fore chest and depth of body

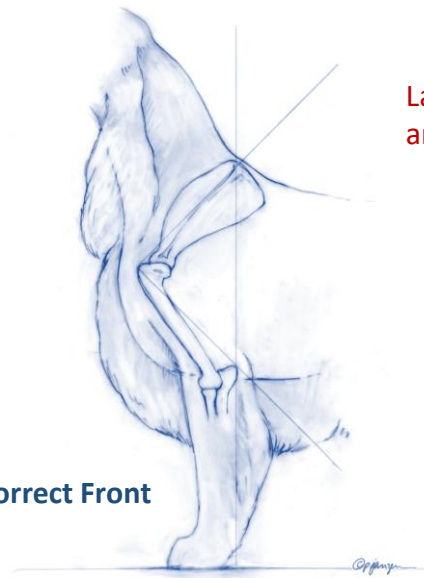
Lacking length and return of upper arm

Too much length and bend of stifle

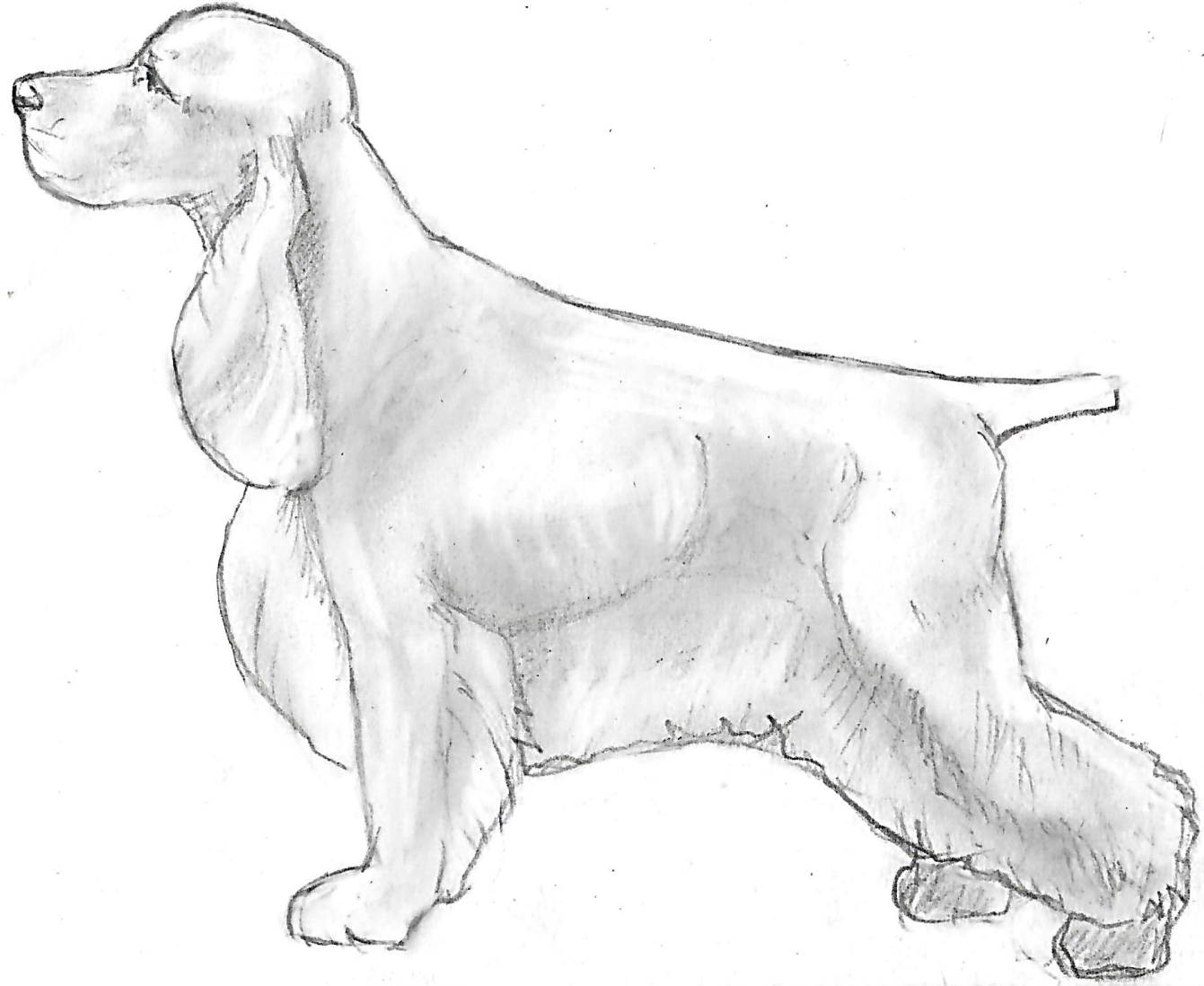
Shallow, tubular, short rib and long loin

Sickle hocks

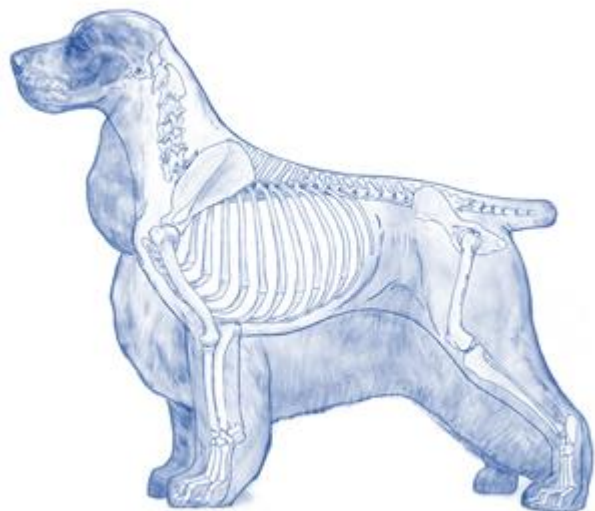
Correct Front



Example #2



What virtues can you see in this dog?
How would you change this dog to make it more ideal?



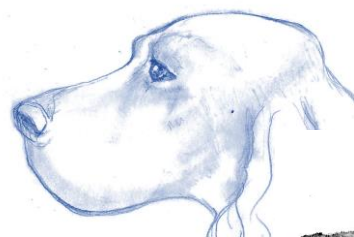
Correct

Example 2 is eye-catching, flashy and more American Cocker-like in make and shape. As you can see, he presents many common faults in the breed.

The upright scapula and short, straight upper arm, paired with the sweeping, overdone rear creates a sloping topline that is not desirable. The head is also atypical of the breed.

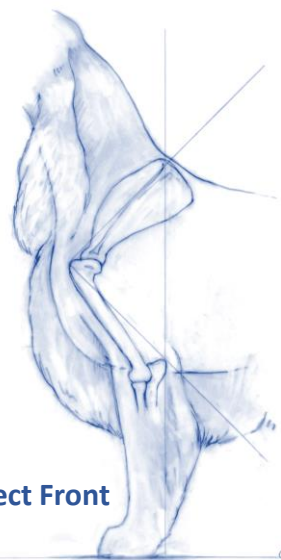
Example #2

Correct head



Too much stop, domed skull

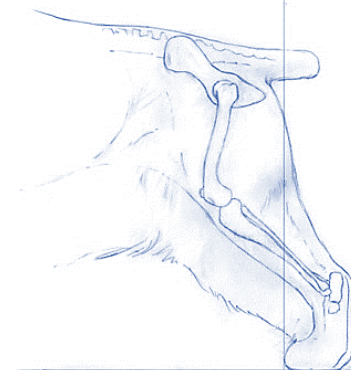
Overdone head



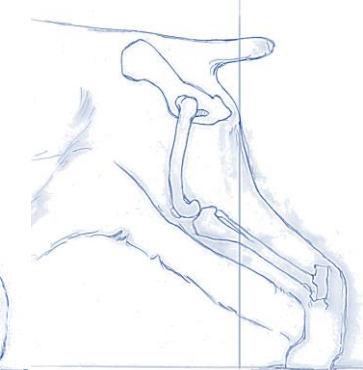
Correct Front

Upright upper arm, lacking return and length

Correct rear



Incorrect rear



Upright scapula

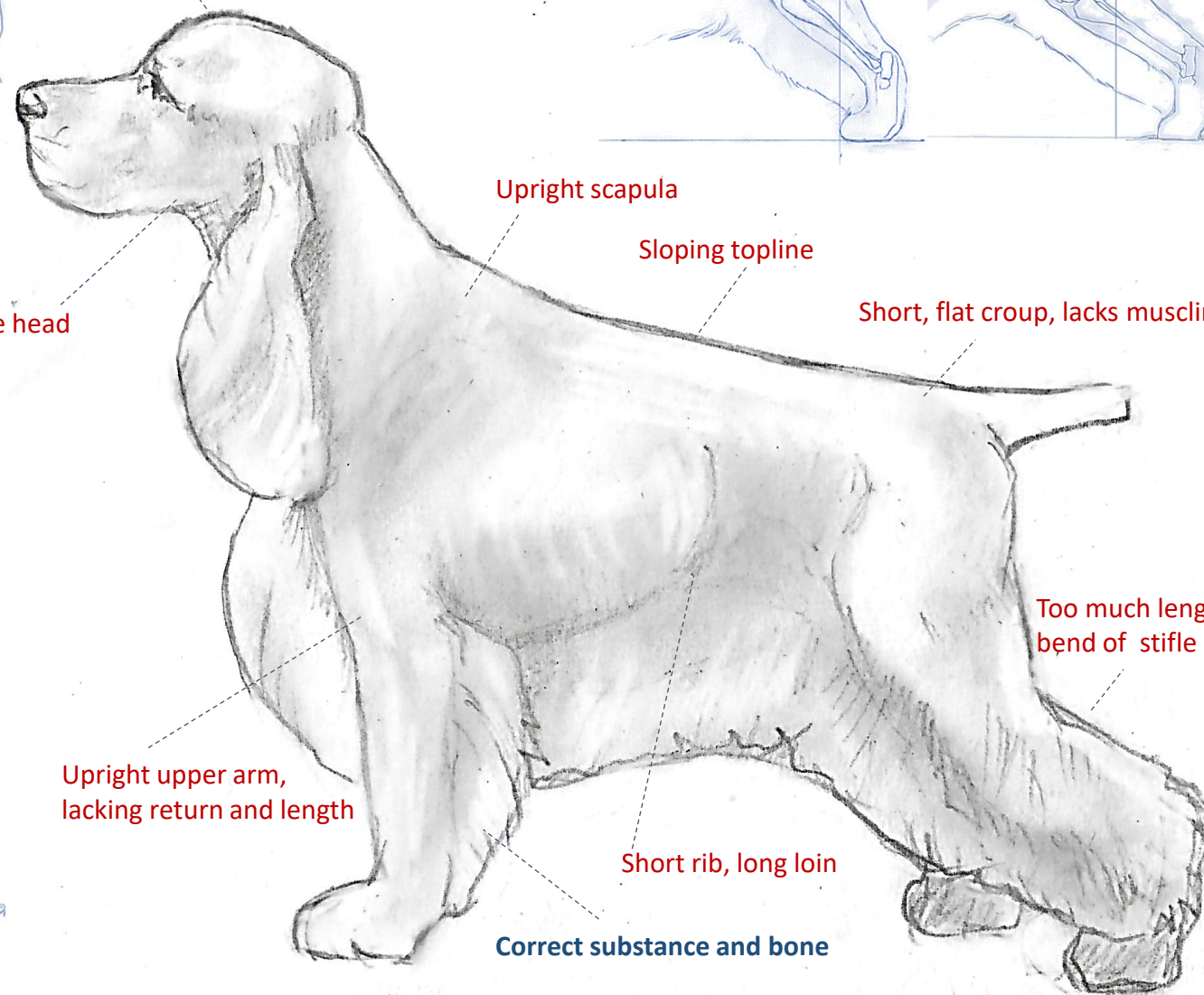
Sloping topline

Short, flat croup, lacks muscling

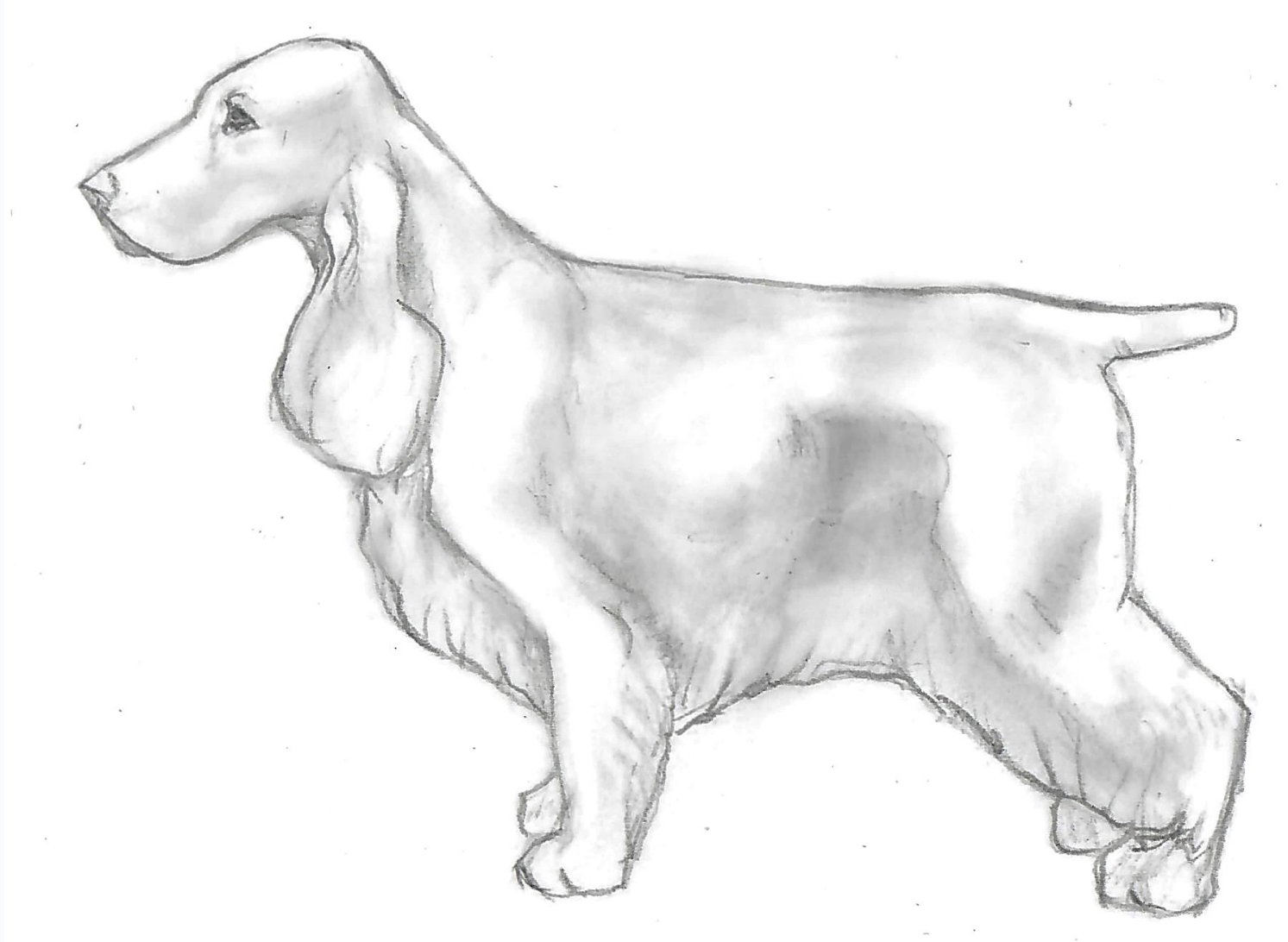
Too much length and bend of stifle

Short rib, long loin

Correct substance and bone



Example #3

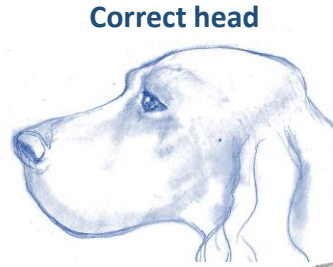


What virtues can you see in this dog?
How would you change this dog to make it more ideal?



Correct

Example #3 has a round, deep body and good substance which gives him the desired overall “cockery” appearance. However, his shoulder is tipped forward instead of being laid back towards the rear of the dog. This places the withers well forward of the elbow. When in motion, the dog will look as if he is falling over his front, which is exactly how he is made to move. Due to the incorrect placement of the scapula, the neck juts forward and is very restricted in its range of motion, a true detriment in the field.



Correct head

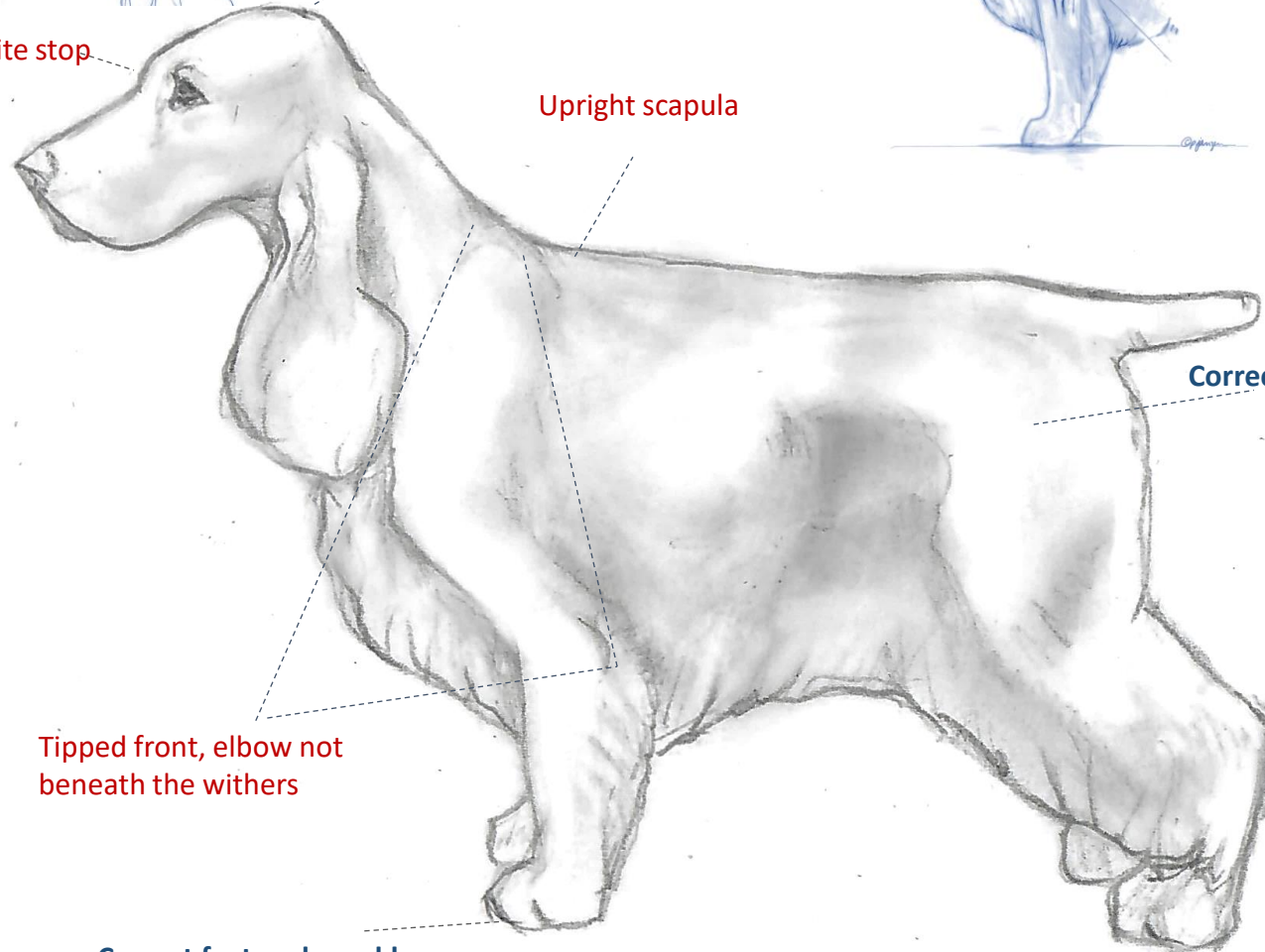
Lacks definite stop

Flat, setter-like skull

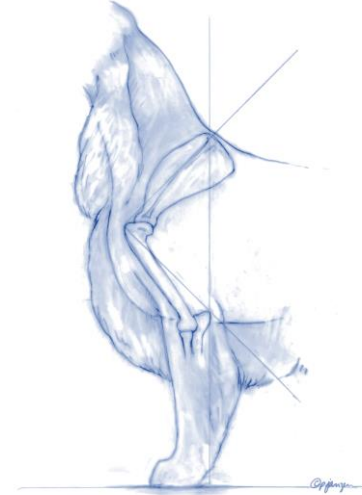
Upright scapula

Tipped front, elbow not beneath the withers

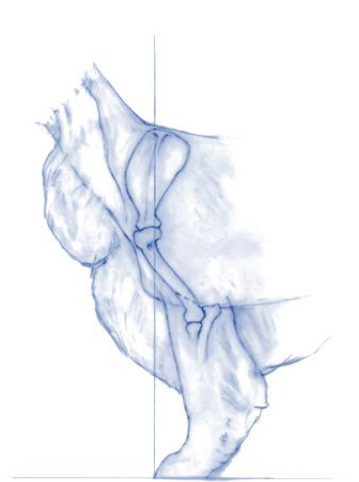
Correct feet and good bone



Correct Front



Incorrect, Tipped Front



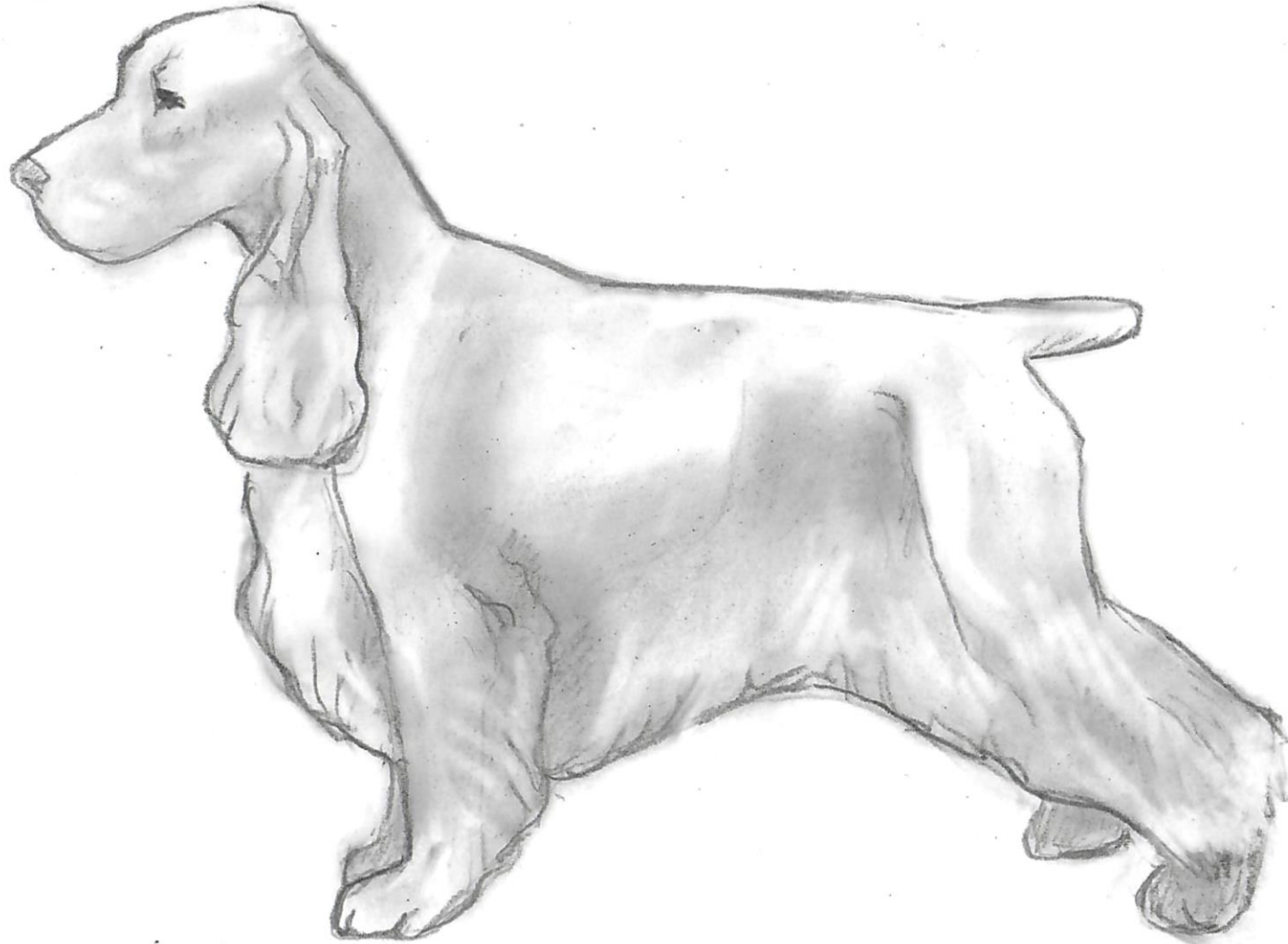
Correct hip, well muscled thigh

Tall, sickle hocks

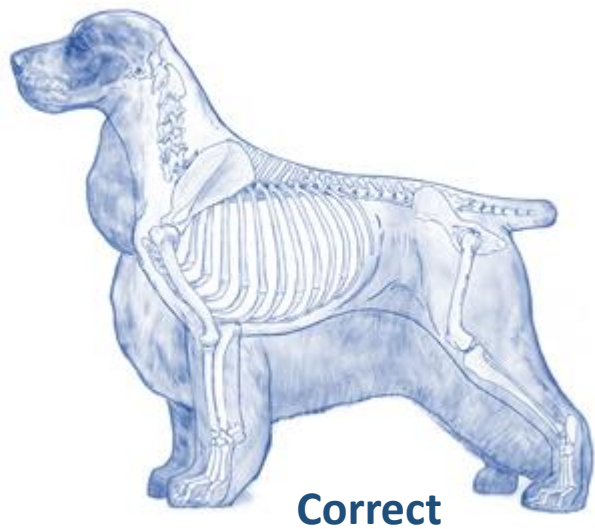
Correctly let-down hock joint



Example #4



What virtues can you see in this dog?
How would you change this dog to make it more ideal?

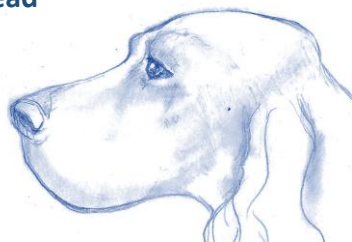


Correct

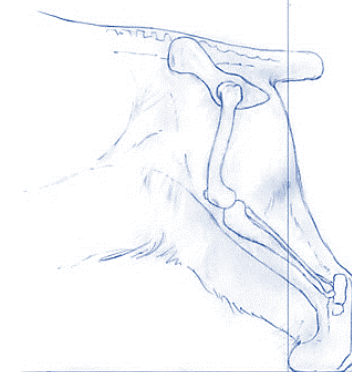
Example #4 makes a pretty outline at first glance; however, he is a rangy dog and not tightly knit. His front is too far forward and upright, his rear is long and lacks width and muscling. This creates a dog that stands over too much ground, rather than being compact and moderate.

Example #4

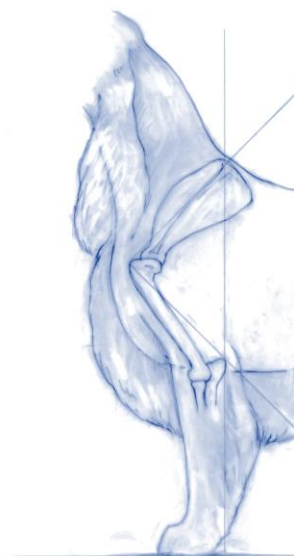
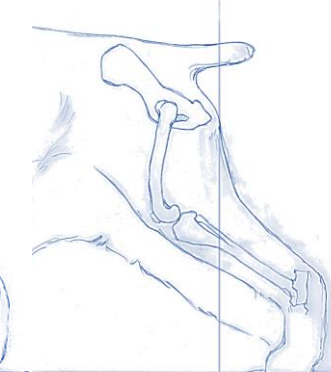
Correct head



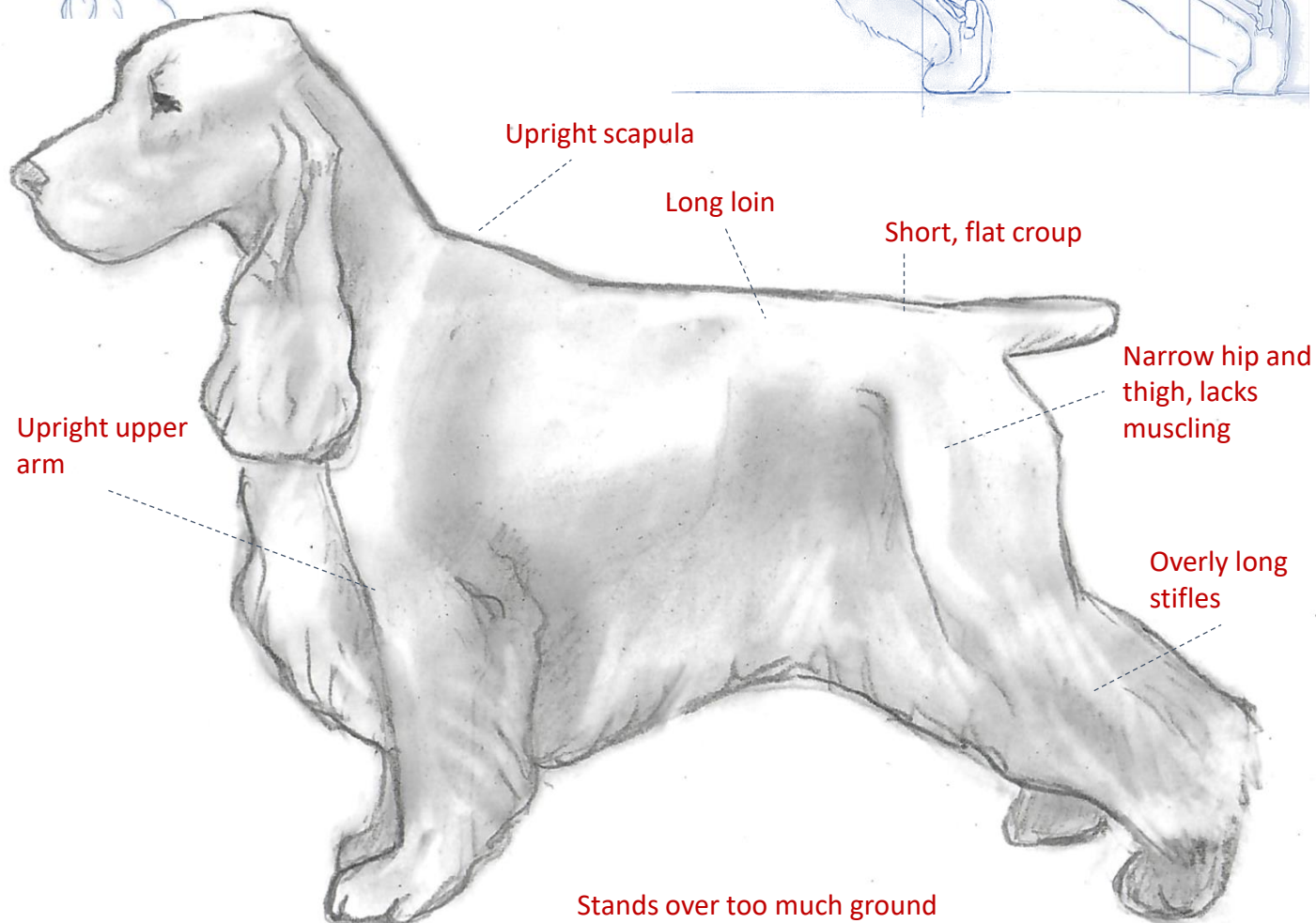
Correct rear



Incorrect rear



Correct Front



Upright scapula

Long loin

Short, flat croup

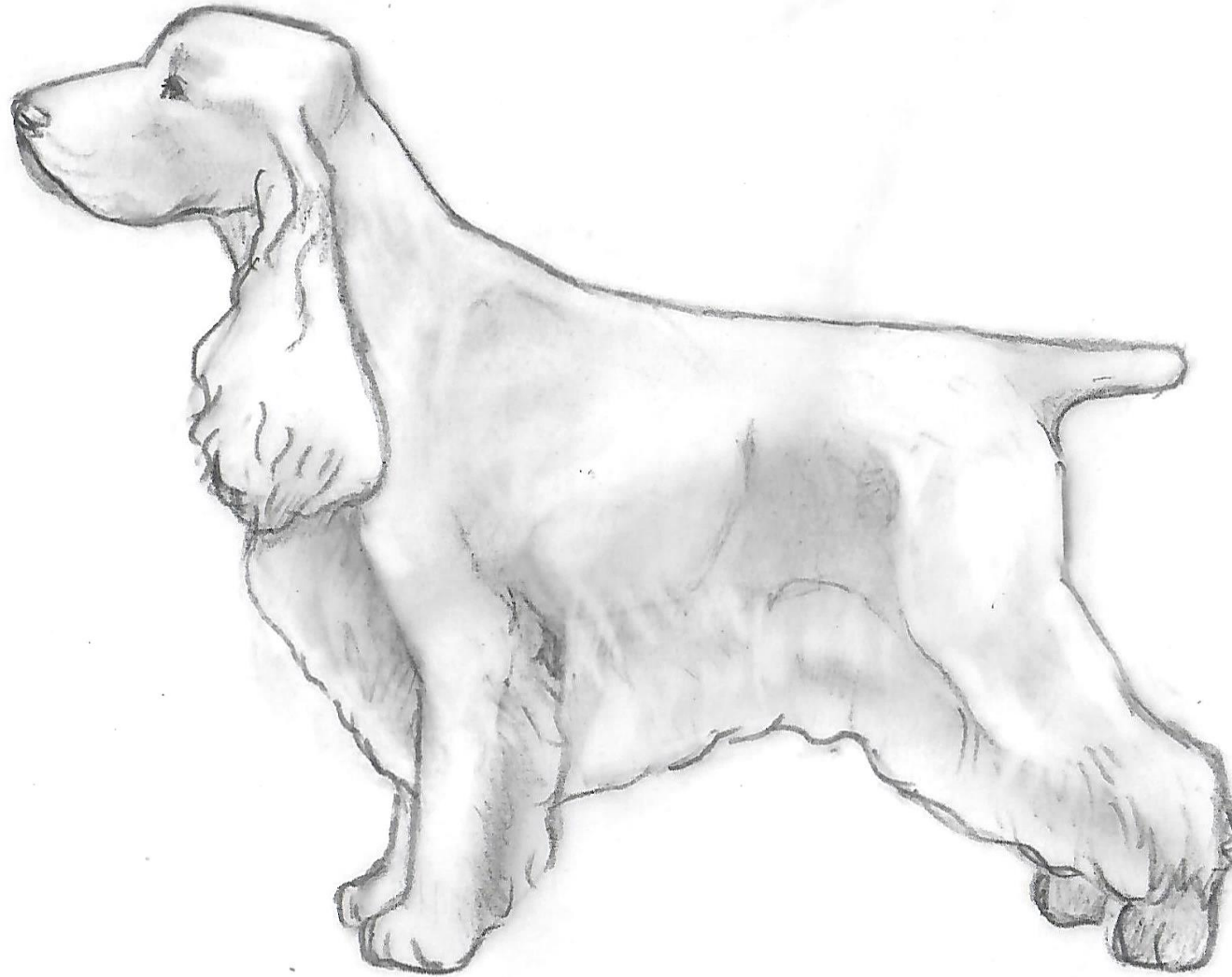
Narrow hip and thigh, lacks muscling

Overly long stifles

Upright upper arm

Stands over too much ground

Example #5



What virtues can you see in this dog?
How would you change this dog to make it more ideal?

Example #5

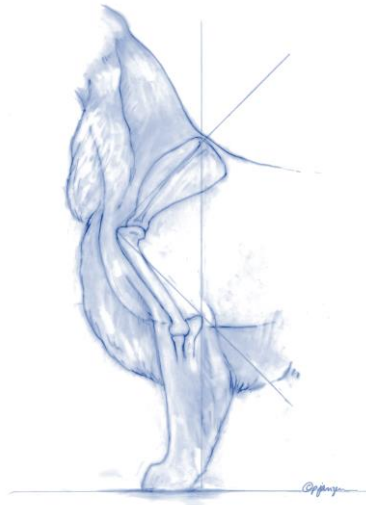


Correct

Correct head



Example #5 has good feet and correctly let-down hocks. He has the appearance of being front heavy, which is caused by the straight and loaded front construction, the heavy, atypical head and the lack of width and muscling behind. This example is lacking balance and symmetry.



Correct front

Too much stop, the flat backskull falls away

Short neck

Upright scapula

Short, flat croup, lacks muscling

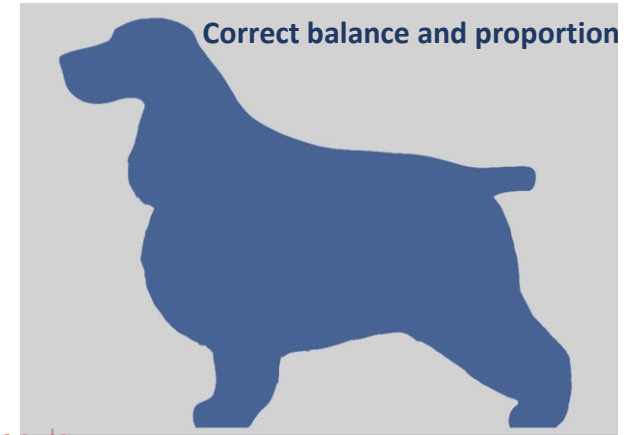
Narrow hip and thighs, lacking muscling

Lacking fore chest and depth of body

Lacking return of upper arm

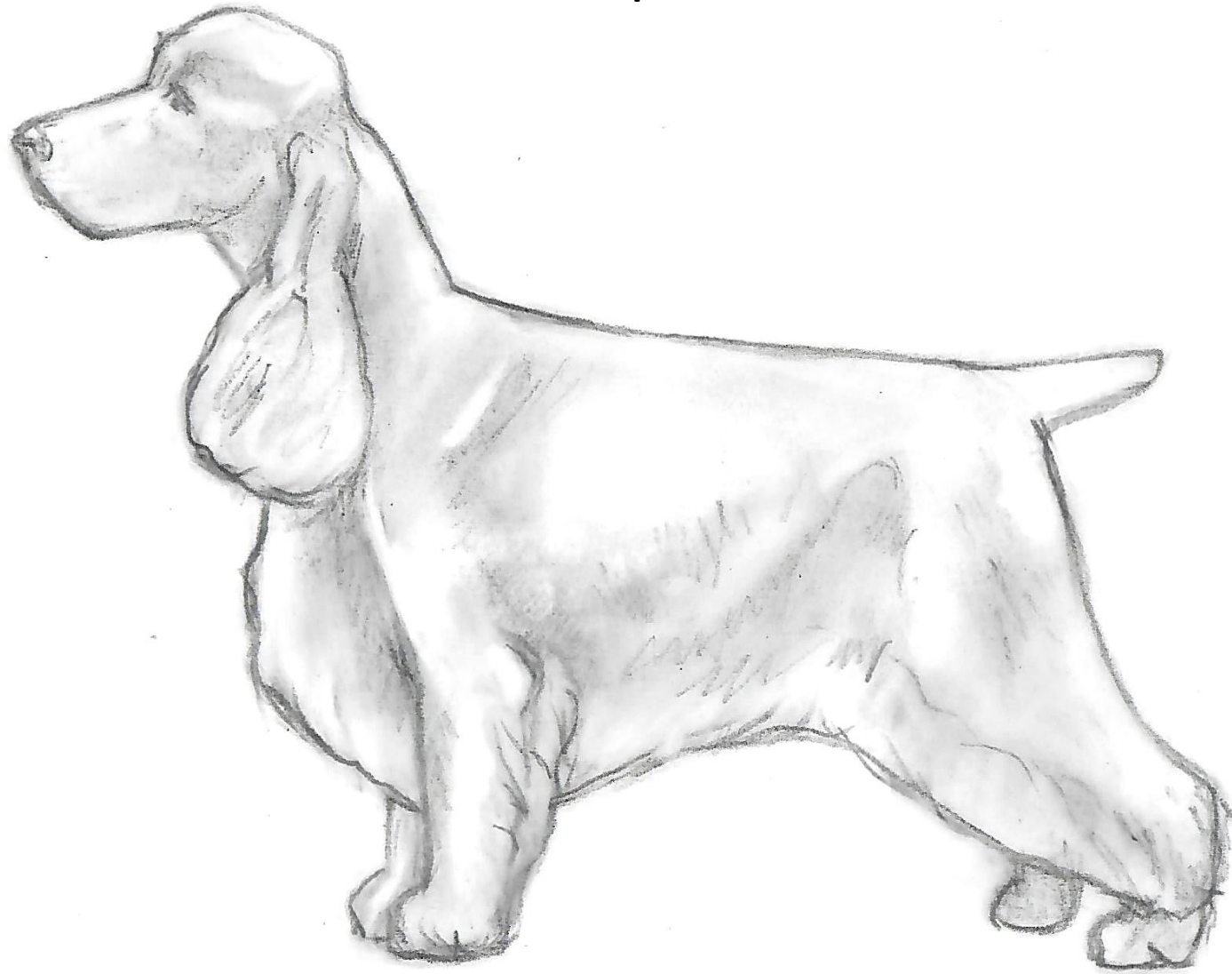
Lacking bone

Short rib, long loin



Correct balance and proportion

Example #6



What virtues can you see in this dog?
How would you change this dog to make it more ideal?

A blue-toned anatomical illustration of a dog's skeleton, shown in profile. The drawing highlights the skull, cervical vertebrae, thoracic cage with ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvis, and the bones of the forelimbs and hindlimbs. The dog is standing on all fours, facing left. The illustration is a detailed line drawing with some shading to indicate the three-dimensional structure of the bones.



Diagram illustrating the body structure of a dog, showing various anatomical features and their relative positions:

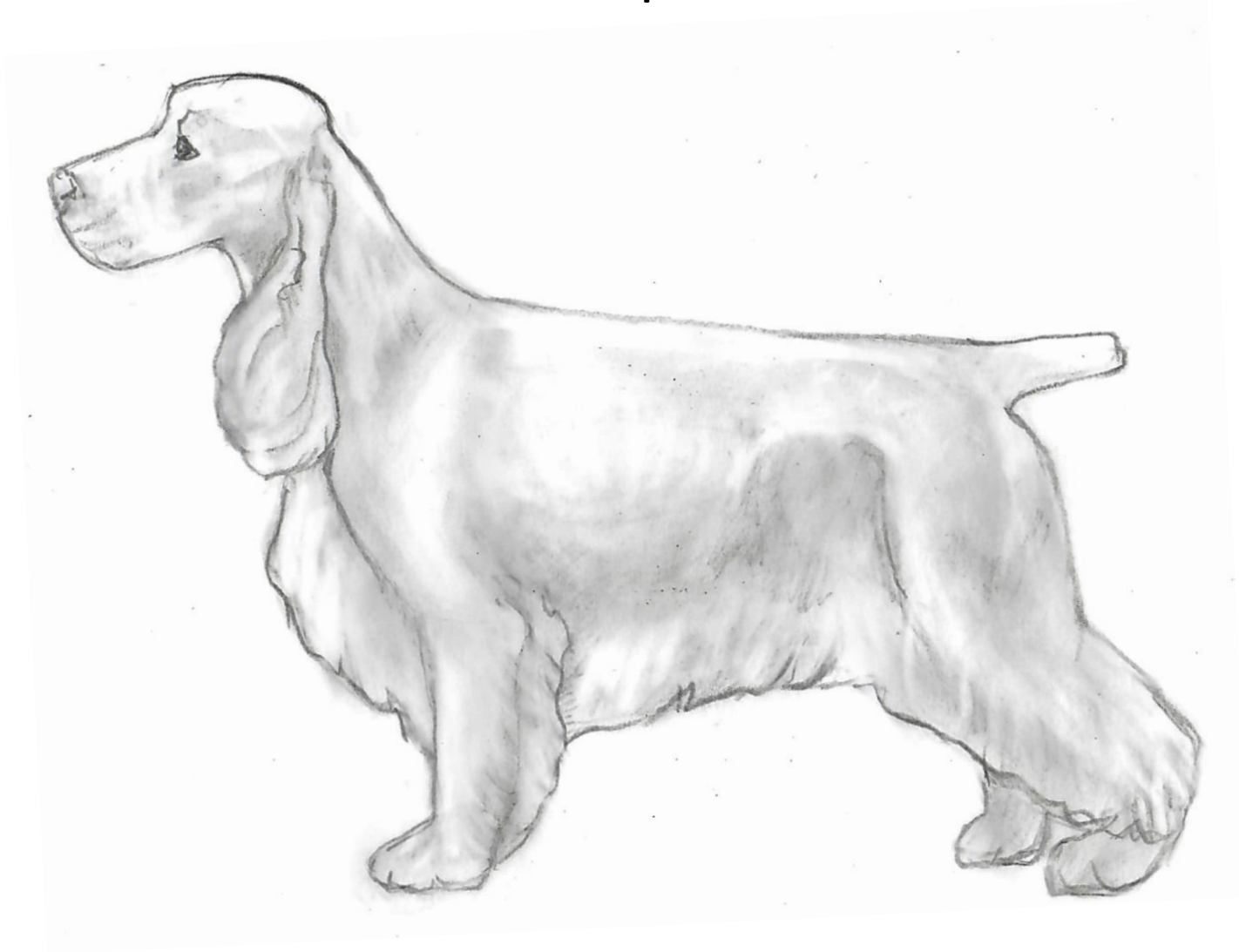
- Short scapula
- Short, flat croup,
- Good th width a muscle
- Correct rib and loin
- Short legged, throws off balance height to length
- ng forechest and n of upper arm
- ed

Correct feet

Correct proportions, elbow midway between withers and ground

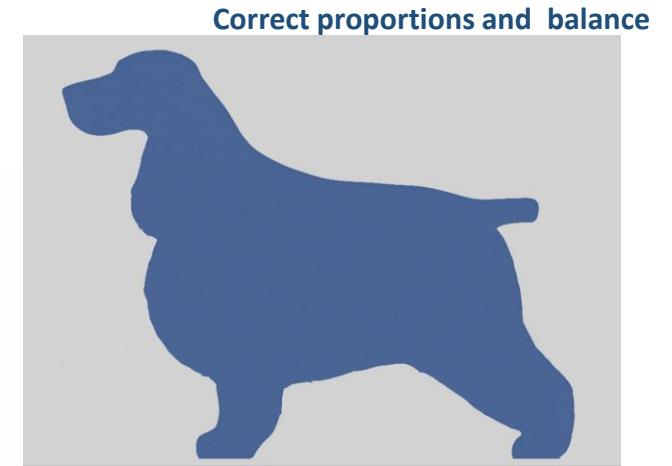
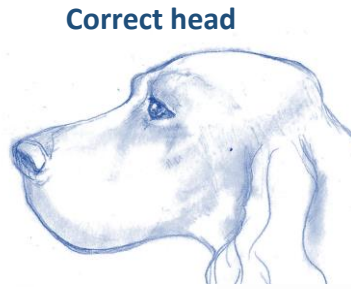
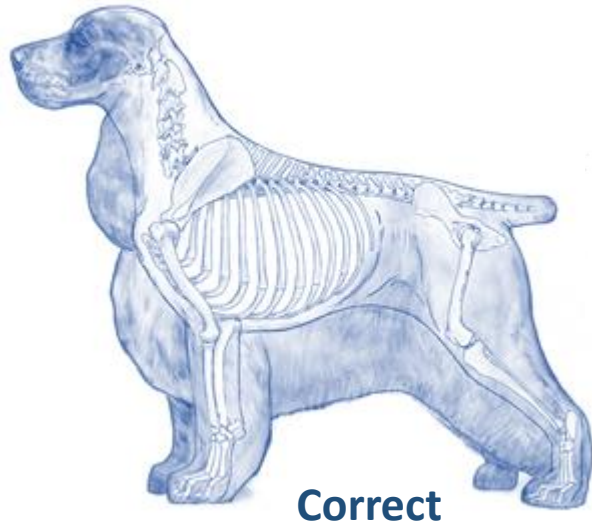
Short legged, throws off balance height to length

Example #7

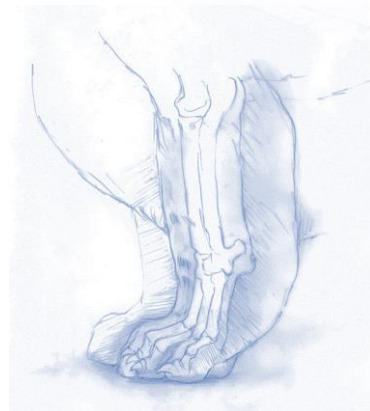


What virtues can you see in this dog?
How would you change this dog to make it more ideal?

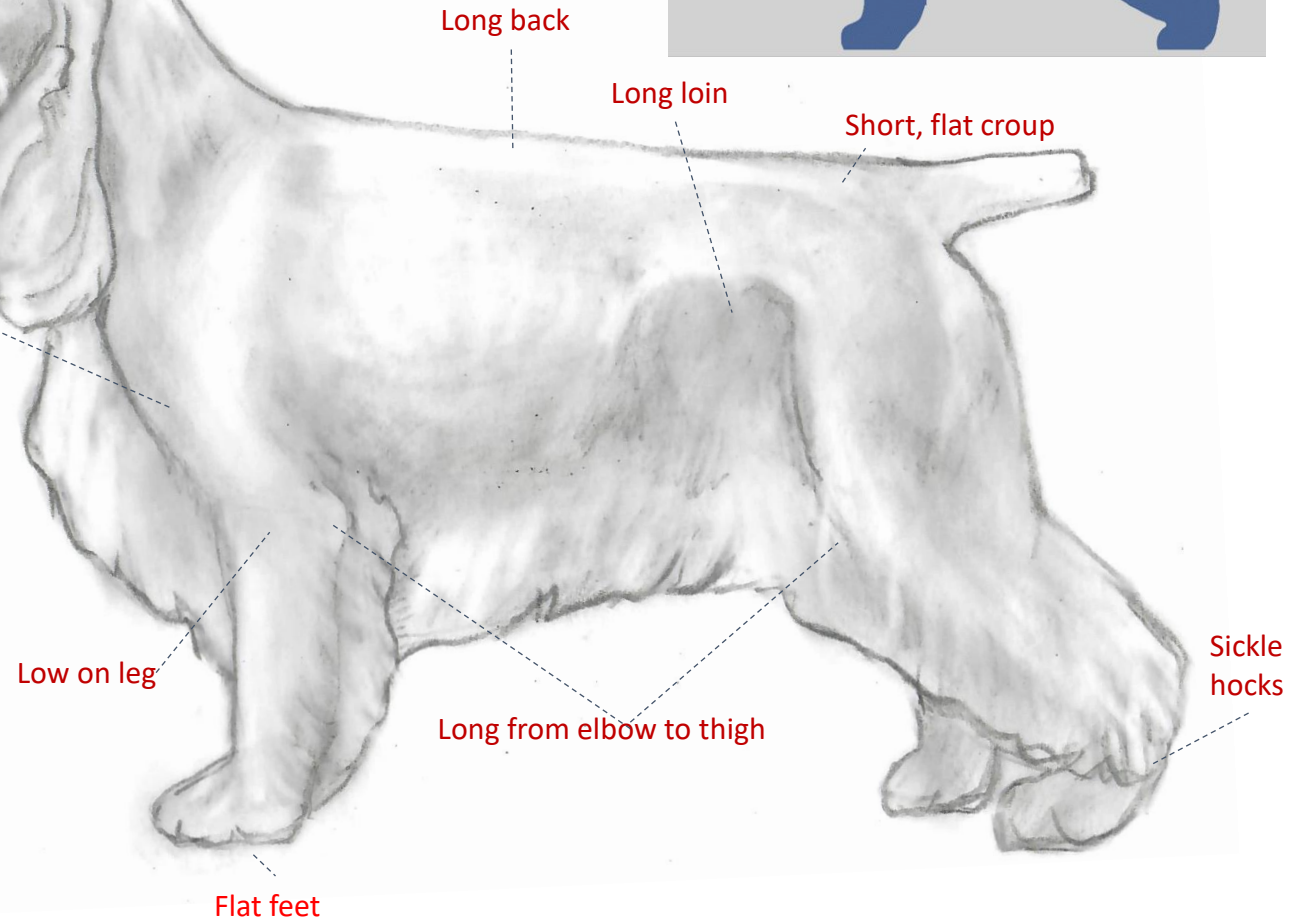
Example 7



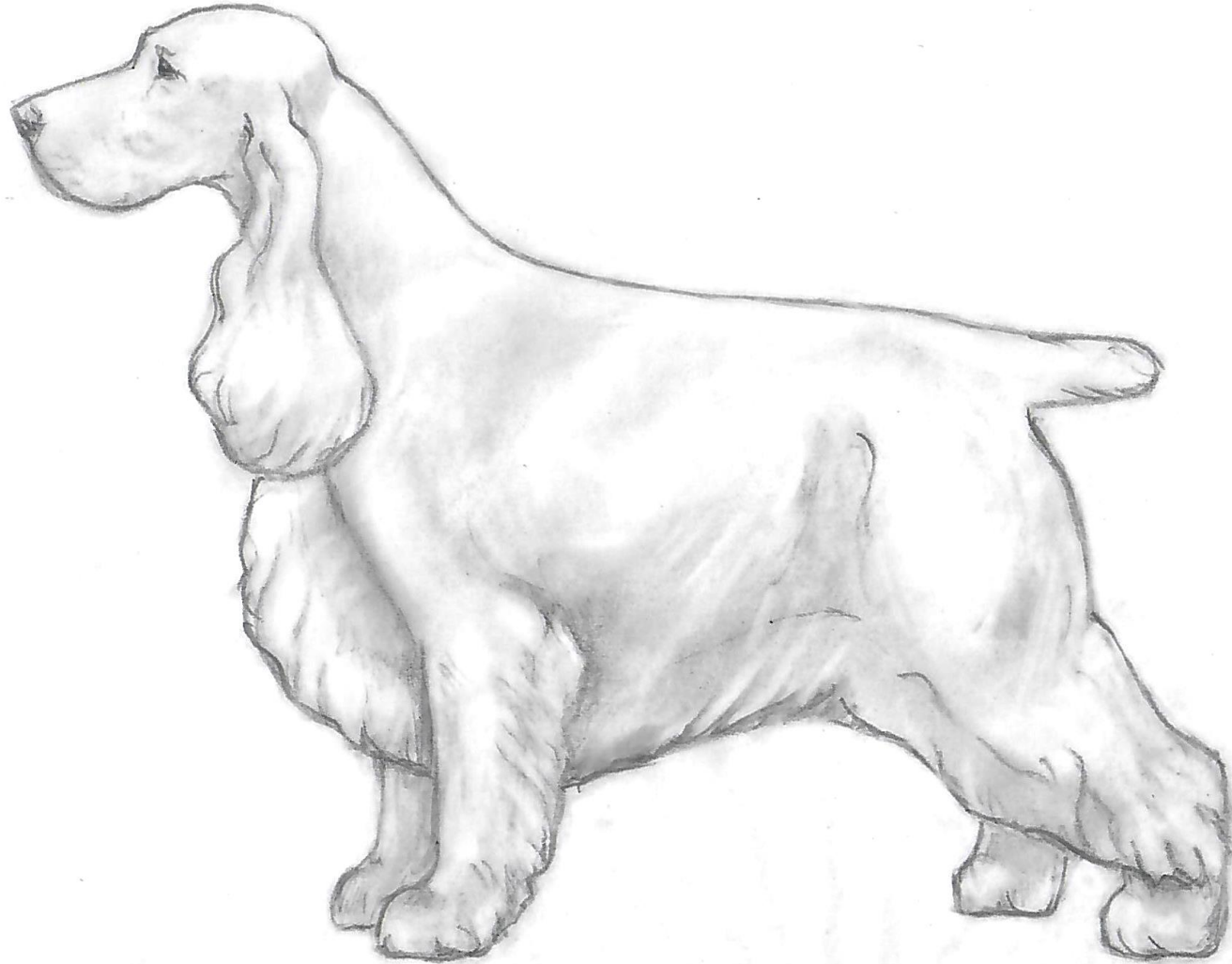
Example #7 has an acceptable head, neck and shoulder, with length and return of upper arm. He is long in body and short legged (long and low), which throws off the balance and keeps this dog from being the desired compact and cobby Cocker.



Good shoulder and return of upper arm



Example #8



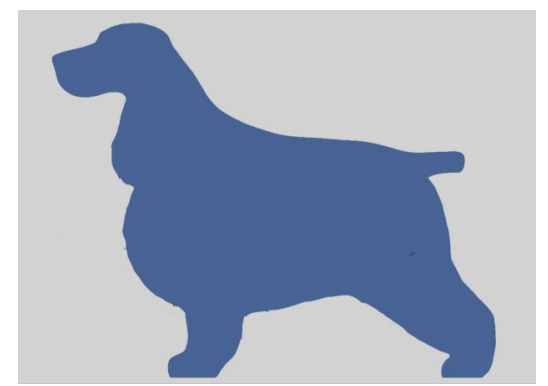
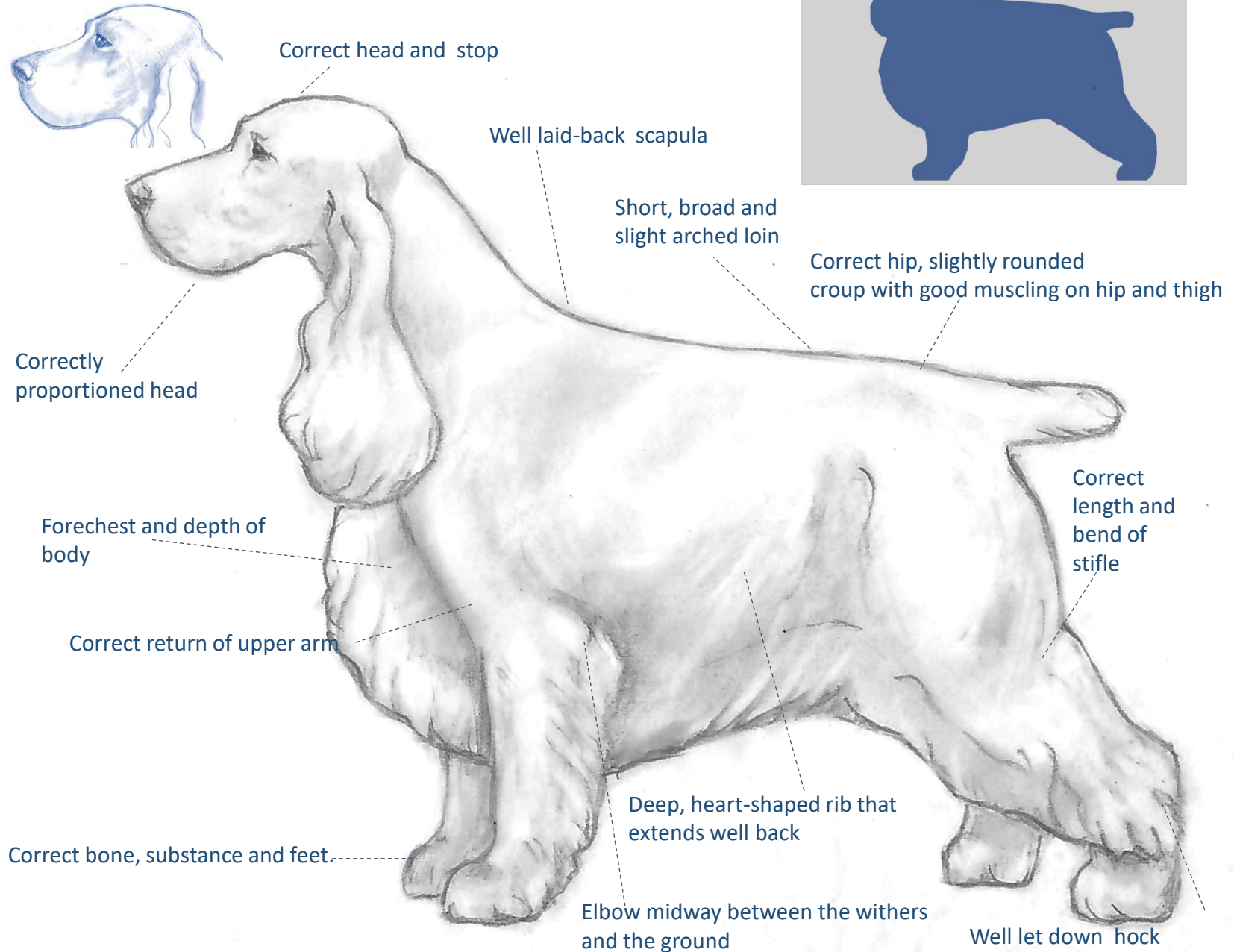
What virtues can you see in this dog?
How would you change this dog to make it more ideal?

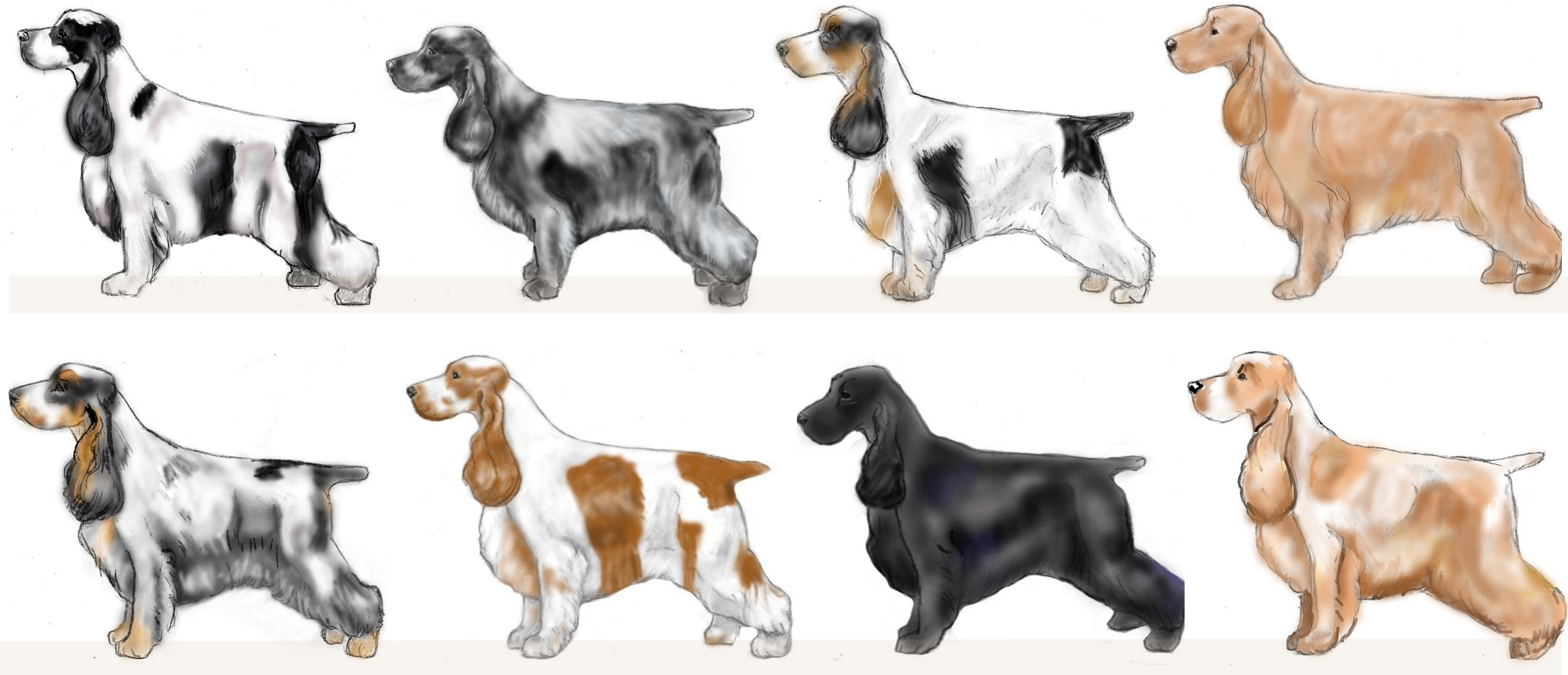


Correct

Here we have a correct example of the breed, possessing the qualities that make an English Cocker Spaniel efficient and capable of carrying out the work they were bred to do.

Example #8





Looking again at these 8 examples, does the ideal dog stand out to you? Can you easily identify the faults in the other 7 dogs? Are you ready to prioritize virtues and find the typical and correct English Cocker Spaniel?