

Dog Bytes

WVSSA Newsletter

June/July 2002

Is It Reach And Drag Or Retch And Drive?

by Robert J. Berndt

The mantra of judging gait always seems to be "Reach and Drive." This is the natural gait for a dog that is balanced and sound of musculature. This condition is easy to see when the dog gaits around the ring as there is perfect balance between the front and the rear. The forequarters pull the dog forward as the hindquarters drive the rear forward in perfect lock-step. When there is harmony between the front and the rear the down and back movement should also be in balance.

The above description is of the ideal dog and we know that there are few ideal dogs in any breed. There are many that approximate this condition, but a lot that are quite removed from the ideal. What destroys the smooth even gait is when the balance between the front and the rear is not correct. The degree of correctness determines the degrading, of the movement. The greater the degree of imbalance, the worse will be the movement of the dog.

When the dog has correct or almost correctly well angled shoulders with the scapula and the humerus being of equal lengths, the front gait will be smooth and efficient. However, when the humerus is shorter than the scapula the angle of the shoulders opens up and is wider. Because the pivot point of the

scapula is mid-point on the ridge the tip of the scapula pivots up the neck. This means that the withers will be higher than they should be and in a measurable breed this could be significant. As the angle of the shoulders increases the forward reach of the front legs is restricted and the dog will not have the correct front gait for its breed. On the other hand if the angulation of the rear of the dog is also steep the dog will be in balance resulting in a dog with lack of both forward reach and rear drive.

If the rear is correctly balanced with the ideal front the degree of the angle between the pelvis and the femur will be the same as the degree of angle between the scapula and the humerus. When the dog is overly angulated in the rear he will drive with more force than the forequarters can handle. He will, therefore, be over-reaching and will be stepping on the rear of his front feet. The dog could not move with this condition so he is forced to do one of several things to avoid

this condition. The most common is that the dog will side-wind.

He may also amble but as speed increases he will tend to pad or to pound. When padding the dog will hold the front foot off the ground for just an instant longer than he should. It is easy to see this error in the side-gait as the foot appears to reach its forward most position and then extends just a bit farther. Pounding is very serious as the dog is forced to slam his front foot down before the full force of the rear drive has been spent. This is very hard on the front pasterns and the shoulder as it is constantly receiving more pressure than it should be.

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Breeders in several breeds in recent years have been breeding overly angulated rears as they like the flowing curve that gives to the rear legs. It is easy to tell how serious this is by dropping an imaginary line from the point of buttocks to the ground and see where it passes in relation to the rear pastern. In most breeds this line should go right down the front of the rear pastern. Some breeds allow it to be in front of the toes while others want it right down the middle of the pastern itself. No breed should want it three or four inches in front of the pastern. This would compromise the static stability of the dog and give faulty rear movement as well.

If we say that a dog has reach and drag we mean that the forequarters are moving correctly, but that the rear is less well angulated and cannot keep up with the same ground covering movement as the front. This makes the dog look like he is dragging his hindquarters around the ring. It is not a pleasant sight.

When we say the dog has retch and drive we mean that the front is not moving forward adequately and is therefore pulling back the forward motion of the dog. When the rear angulation is greater than the front angulation we mean that it will drive with greater force and speed than the forequarters can handle. This gait will be choppy with the topline being somewhat higher in the rear than it

should be. This is retched to look at and therefore can be described as retch and drive.

According to many experts the forequarters carry 65% of the weight of the dog so the front angulation is critical in achieving correct movement. The importance of the rear angulation is evident in that it gives stability to the dog when the weight of the forequarters is shifting from the left leg to the right leg. In this instant of shift it is the rear that carries momentum and the balance. Anything less than perfect balance should not be tolerated by a breeder.

Future Meetings

The August meeting is our 2nd Annual Crabfest at Ono State Park in Seal Rock, OR. So grab your beach duds, bring a side dish, handy wipes, drinks, and a chair. Be there at 12 noon or earlier (to reserve tables). And don't forget the dogs!

Please RSVP to Carol Callahan at donahan@aol.com or 541-388-4808

Directions

From Newport, go south from the bridge about seven miles. Ona Beach State Park is just short of milepost 149.

From the South, go to milepost 149 and turn left into the parking lot, just after the curves.

September Meeting

The September Meeting will be Saturday, September 3rd at Melissa Ratzlaff's house after Springers show. The time will be set after the judging program is published.

Melissa will be providing chips and drinks, and the suggested ordering out when everyone gets there.

Directions

From the Fairgrounds (located on 13th Avenue) go North to West 11th Avenue. Go west on West 11th (it becomes Highway 126 right after Beltline Highway) until you come to the "Welcome To Veneta" sign (on the right side of the highway). Take the left turn immediately after the sign onto Huston Road. Turn right on East Hunter (first road to the right) and then left on Baker Lane (less than a 1/2 mile). We are the 4th house on the left.

25450 East Hunter (even though they are actually on Baker Lane) 541-935-9465

If you need directions from the freeway and they are not coming from the show, please contact Melissa.

Our Deepest Sympathy

Our condolences go out to Gretchen Patterson and her family on the loss of her grandfather recently.

Over the Rainbow Bridge

Carolyn Webber's beloved Taylor passed away on May 23, 2002. He was only 10 years old but will be forever in our hearts.

WVSSA Fall Specialties

Don't forget our own specialties. We need raffle items, trophy donations, and volunteers. Please contact Janeé Kemp about the raffle, Christy Will about trophy donations, and Jan Martin about volunteering.

WVESSA Specialty Catalog 2002

The deadline this year for ads in our 2002 specialty catalog is September 5, 2002. Ads are not only for those conformation wins and accomplishments, but also for obedience, agility, rescue, upcoming litters, "In memory of", "I love my dog", etc. Your pictures do not need to be "formal" pictures taken by a show photographer. It can be one of your own pictures of your special dog. Catalog ads do help support the club with the cost of producing the catalogs and also gives you an opportunity to spotlight that special event or dog.

Please include my advertisement in the 2001 WVESSA Specialty Show Catalog as follows:

- Full page including photo: \$35.00
- Half page, no photo: \$20.00
- Business card size: \$10.00
- Booster Page, 3 lines text: \$8.00
- Extra Photos: \$13.50

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Check enclosed (US funds)

Please bill me:

Signed _____

Make check payable to WVESSA and mail to:

Marsha Caldwell

18551 SW 65th

Lake Oswego, OR 97035

503-620-9810

1/2 Page Ad

Please PRINT or TYPE your ad copy legibly on this form or on an attached sheet. Your ad will be typeset.

**DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS:
SEPTEMBER 5, 2002**

Show Results

Olympia Dog Fanciers, 5/4

GP4/BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS CH Marcur's Ariel Michelle
BOW/WB Ramblewood Music
Of My Heart
WD Gleneire's Soaring Above
RWD Ariel And Marcur Sportin' Life
RWB Majic Wilbec American Dream

Olympia Dog Fanciers, 5/5

GP2/BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS CH Marcur's Ariel Michelle
BOW/WB Woodridge Colorfull Sage
WD Ariel And Marcur Sportin' Life
RWD Gleneire's Soaring Above
RWB Ramblewood Music Of My Heart

Klamath Falls Dog Fanciers, 5/11

GP3/BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS/WB Hijinks Trick Or Treat
BOW/WD Donahan's Definitely In Style
RWD Dalin G&J's Chant Of Nakai
RWB Gretelyn's Ruby Wine

Klamath Falls Dog Fanciers, 5/12

BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS/WB Hijinks Trick Or Treat
BOW/WD Dalin G&J's Chant Of Nakai
RWD Hijinks Mocha Madness
RWB Gretelyn's Ruby Wine

Mt. Baker Kennel Club, 5/18

BOB/BW/WD Gleneire's Soaring Above
BOS CH Gold Camp Majic Of Aurora
RWD Amilyn's Flying High
WB Majic Wilbec American Dream

Rogue Valley Kennel Club, 5/18

GP4/BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
WD Marlincourt Eye Of The Tiger
RWD Hijinks Mocha Madness

Mt. Baker Kennel Club, 5/19

BOB CH Avonlea's Ruff N Regal
BOS/WB Majic Wilbec American Dream
BOW/WD Amilyn's Flying High
RWD Ridgewyn N Belvoir Runabout
RWB Beswin's Food For Thought

Rogue Valley Kennel Club, 5/19

BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
WD Marlin Court Shining Knight
RWD Hijinks Mocha Madness

Spokane Kennel Club, 5/25

GP4/BOB CH Ridgewyn N
Belvoir Uprising
BOS CH Farwell's Muse
WD Donahan's Definitely In Style
RWD Amilyn's Flying High

Spokane Kennel Club, 5/26

BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS CH Farwell's Muse
WD Amilyn's Flying High
RWD Donahan's Definitely In Style

Coeur d'Alene Dog Fanciers, 5/27

BIS/GP1/BOB CH Ridgewyn N
Belvoir Uprising
BOS CH Farwell's Muse

Coeur d'Alene Dog Fanciers, 5/28

GP2/BOB CH Ridgewyn N
Belvoir Uprising

Vancouver Kennel Club, 6/1

GP1/BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS CH Marcur's Ariel Michelle
BOW/WD Ariel And Marcur Sportin' Life
RWD Dalco's I Am A Gem
WB Ramblewood Mustang Sally
RWB Ramblewood Music Of My Heart

Vancouver Kennel Club, 6/2

GP1/BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS CH Marcur's Ariel Michelle
BOW/WB Dalins Nitewind Hart to Hart
WD Hijinks Mocha Madness
RWD Dalin G&J's Chant Of Nakai
RWB Ramblewood Music Of My Heart

Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, 6/8

BIS/GP1/BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS CH Ramblewood Centerfold
BOW/WB Farwell's Embrace
WD Ramblewood Chain Of Fools
RWD Amilyn's Flying High
RWB Ramblewood Rumor Has It

Tacoma Kennel Club, 6/9

GP2/BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS CH Ramblewood Centerfold
BOW/WD Amilyn's Flying High
RWD Ramblewood Get Offof My Cloud
WB Ramblewood Rumor Has It
RWB Eldamar's Age Of Aquarius

Pocatello Kennel Club, 6/13

BOB/BOW/WD Ramblewood Chain
Of Fools
BOS/WB Ramblewood Rumor Has It
RWB Tiffany's Games We Play

Pocatello Kennel Club, 6/14

BOB/BOW/WD Ramblewood Chain
Of Fools
BOS/WB Ramblewood Rumor Has It
RWB Ramblewood Anticipation

Eagle Rock Kennel Club, 6/15

BOB/BOW/WB Ramblewood Rumor
Has It
BOS/WD Ramblewood Chain Of Fools
RWB Ramblewood Anticipation

Eagle Rock Kennel Club, 6/16

BOB/BOW/WD Ramblewood Chain
Of Fools
BOS/WB Ramblewood Anticipation
RWB Ramblewood Rumor Has It

Clackamas Kennel Club, 6/22

BIS/GP1/BOB CH Ridgewyn N
Belvoir Uprising
BOS CH Marcur's Ariel Michelle
BOW/BW Farwell's Embrace
WD Gleneire's Soaring Above
RWD Dalin G&J's Chant Of Nakai
RWB Marlincourt Ruff Cut Diamond

Clackamas Kennel Club, 6/23

BIS/GP1/BOB CH Ridgewyn N
Belvoir Uprising
BOS/WB Ramblewood Music
Of My Heart
BOW/WD Gleneire's Soaring Above
RWB Hijinks Trick Or Treat

Bell Vernon Kennel Club, 6/29

GP2/BOB CH Salilyn's Turbulance
BOS/WB Gleneire's Dark Mystique
BOW/WD Darkover Midnight
Onthewater

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Mt. Bachelor Kennel Club, 6/29

BOB CH Vanity Fair's Artful Dodger TD
BOS/WB Gretelyn's Ruby Wine
BOW/WD Dalin G&J's Chant Of Nakai
RWD Marlin Court Shining Knight
RWB Marlincourt Ruff Cut Diamond

Bell Vernon Kennel Club, 6/30

GP3/BOB CH Ridgewyn N
Belvoir Uprising
BOS/WB Eldamar's Age Of Aquarius
BOW/WD Amilyn's Flying High
RWB Gleneire's Dark Mystique

Mt. Bachelor Kennel Club, 6/30

BOB CH Vanity Fair's Artful Dodger TD
BOS CH Farwell's Muse
BOW/WD Dalin G&J's Chant Of Nakai
RWD Marlin Court Shining Knight
WB Marlincourt Ruff Cut Diamond
RWB Gretelyn's Ruby Wine

Coming Events

Conformation & Obedience

July 27 & 28, 2002

Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club
Sequim, WA
Saturday: Christina Hubbell
Sunday: Richard E. Beckwith

July 30 & 31, 2002

PSESSA
Olympia, WA
Conformation: Judith Anderson
Sweeps: Anne Hutchinson

August 1-3, 2002

ESSFTA
Olympia, WA
Conformation: Susanne E.B. Burgess
Sweeps: Monica Collins

August 10-11, 2002

Nisqually Kennel Club
Lacey, WA
Saturday: Forrest W. McCoy
Sunday: Neil W. Graves

August 17-18, 2002

Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.
Enumclaw, WA
Saturday: Dorothy M Macdonald
Sunday: Estelle B. Cohen

August 25, 2002

Sammamish Kennel Club
Redmond, WA
D. Roy Holloway

August 30 - 31, 2002

Umpqua Kennel Club
Central Point, OR
Friday: Donald I. Sandberg
Saturday: David W. Flanagan

Aug. 31 - Sept. 1, 2002

Longview-Kelso Kennel Club
Longview, WA
Saturday: Sari Brewster Tietjen
Sunday: Douglas A. Johnson

September 1-2, 2002

Southern Oregon Kennel Club
Central Point, OR
Sunday: Raymond McGinnis, Jr.
Monday: Jeannette McGinnis

September 5-6, 2002

Eugene Kennel Club
Eugene, OR
Thursday: Eugene Blake
Friday: Houston Clark

September 7-8, 2002

McKenzie Cascade Dog Fanciers
Eugene, OR
Saturday: Edd E. Bivin
Sunday: Karen M. Ericson

September 14-15, 2002

Wenatchee Kennel Club
Wenatchee, WA
Saturday: Ronald D. Pemberton
Sunday: Diane A. Swanson

September 21-22, 2002

Gig Harbor Kennel Club
Shelton, WA
Saturday: Patricia V. Trotter
Sunday: Debbie Campbell

September 28-29, 2002

Richland Kennel Club
Kennewick, WA
Saturday: Pending
Sunday: Dorothy M. Macdonald

October 5-6, 2002

WVSSA
Ridgefield, WA
Sat. Sweeps: Cherrie Zayac
Regular: Dawn Dankemeyer Stafford
Sun. Sweeps: Pat Wilaby
Regular: Pluis Davern

October 12, 2002

Portland Kennel Club
Portland, OR
Elliott B. Weiss

October 17-18, 2002

Idaho Capital City Kennel Club
Boise, ID
Thursday: Carolyn Thomas
Friday: Paula Nykiel

October 19-20, 2002

Lizard Butte Kennel Club
Saturday: Christina Hubbell
Sunday: Betsy A. Yakes

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Agility

July 29, 2002

AKC Agility
Olympia, WA

August 3-4, 2002

AKC Agility
Gig Harbor, WA

August 10-11, 2002

AKC Agility
Enumclaw, WA

August 17-18, 2002

AKC Agility
Enumclaw, WA

August 24-25, 2002

AKC Agility
Spokane, WA

Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2002

AKC Agility
Central Point, OR

September 14-15, 2002

AKC Agility
Oak Harbor, WA

September 21-22, 2002

AKC Agility
Hillsboro, OR

September 24, 2002

AKC Agility
Everett, WA

September 25-26, 2002

AKC Agility
Hillsboro, OR

September 28-29, 2002

AKC Agility
Redmond, OR

September 28-29, 2002

AKC Agility
Sequim, WA

AKC Tracking

July 27 & 28, 2002

VST, TD, TDX
Olympia, WA

September 8, 2002

TR, TX
Duvall, WA

September 22, 2002

VST
Portland, OR

Braggs & Wags

- A/C Ch. Marcur's Ariel Lovely Rita and A/C Ch. Marcur's Ariel Michelle both got OFA "good" ratings on their recent hip x-rays and CERF'ed. Rita and Michelle our proudly owned by Marsha and Curt Caldwell.
- CH Marcur's Ariel Michelle was BOS both days at Olympia DF.
- Ch. English's Satin Brocade AX, OAJ, WD, CGC (Katie) qualified in 3 classes for her Excellent Jumpers with Weaves Title and her first Double Q. Katie is handled by Elaine Resner and owned by Elaine Resner, Cathy & Debbie English.
- CH Farwell's Muse went BOS in Spokane May 25th and 26th and on the 27th in Couer d'Alene. Maggie is owned by Ed and Christy Will.
- CH Ariel & Marcur Sportin' Life went WD/BOW for a 4 point major to finish. is owned by Jan Martin and David Brattin.
- Hijinks Mocha Madness went WD for a 4 point major on June 2nd at Vancouver KC. Mocha is owned by Monda Dew
- CH Ramblewood Windsong and Ramblewood Music of My Heart both CERF'ed and have OFA good hips. They are owned by Dave and Janeé Kemp.
- Donahan's Definitely in Style went WD/BOW, Best BBE at Klamath Dog Fanciers and WD at Spokane KC. Duffy is owned by Don and Carol Callahan.
- Fairhaven N' Aspen's Finest Hour "Cooper" owners: Carol J. Hathaway, Kelly Priestly, and Joan Beck went BOB, Group 1 on May 25th at St Peter KC Match and on May 31st at Fargo Moorhead KC. On June 7th at TCVESSA he went BOS Sweeps, RWD in regular classes. On June 8th at Lake Minntonka KC Match he went BOB and Group 1.
- At SBCESSA "Laurel", Fairhaven's Autumn Laurel 6-9 puppy, WB and Best Puppy. "Max", Fairhaven's Max A Million 6-9 puppy, RWD. "Bee", A/C Ch Venetian Bee Onka Veteran, BOS, Brood Bitch. At Sporting Dog Club of BC Laurel was 4th in sweeps, WB & Best Puppy. Max was 4th in sweeps. Bee was 2nd in 7-9 yr sweeps, BOS. "Omar", A/C Ch Aldwyn's Poet Laureate went first in the 12-18 class, WD and BOW. Kelly Priestley.
- Gretelyns Ruby Wine was WB/BOS for her first point at Mt. Bachelor KC. Ruby is owned by Gretchen and Lynn Patterson.
- Dalin G&J's Chant of Nakai was WD/BOW for his 3rd point at MBKC. Nakai is owned by Gary and Jan Sturm.
- Vanity Fair's Stand Pattie won her championship at W. Yellowstone KC show with a 5 point major. Pattie is owned by Larry & Betty Schwartz.
- CH Vanity Fair's Artful Dodger II, TD was OFA'd "good". And Art was BOB at MBKC. Betty and Larry Schwartz.
- Marlin Court's Shining Knight was rated OFA "good". Percy was also WD at Rogue Valley. Linda and Marcus Eng own Percey
- Marlin Court's Eye of the Tiger was WD for his first point at 9 months. Owned by Linda and Marcus Eng.



Dog Bytes is bi-monthly newsletter published by the Willamette Valley English Springer Spaniel Association.

Any questions, comments, or article submissions can be forwarded to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit or to refuse any copy.

Kelly J. Callahan, Editor
8904 N.E. 15th Ave., D26
Vancouver, WA 98665
(360) 834-8005
callahankj@earthlink.net

Kelly J. Callahan, Editor
8904 N.E. 15th Ave., D26
Vancouver, WA 98665

2002 Officers

Lisa Loeffler, President
3110 S.W. Knollbrook Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 758-4402 • lisaoeffler@earthlink.net

Larry Schwartz, Vice President
P.O. Box 219 • 606 NW Cross St.
Seal Rock, OR 97376-0219
(541) 563-5765 • vanityfr@teleport.com

Jan Sturm, Corresponding Secretary
11965 S.W. Manzanita Ct.
Tigard, OR 97223
(503) 590-6167 • Sturmgi@aol.com

Janeé Kemp, Recording Secretary
33730 S.E. Francis St.
Gresham, OR 97080
(503) 663-1335 • djkemp@teleport.com

Carol Callahan, Treasurer
63215 Peterman Lane
Bend, OR 97701
(541) 388-4808 • donahan@aol.com

Board of Directors

Includes all officers plus:

Jan Martin
(503) 281-1366
ariel@ariel-ess.com

Cathy English
(360) 887-8139
Englishkc@aol.com

Gretchen Patterson
(503) 864-8606
gretelyns@aol.com

Gary Sturm
(503) 590-6167
Sturmgi@aol.com

Christy Will
(360) 748-7957
willcokennel@earthlink.net