

The  
PHARAOH HOUND  
Illustrated Guide

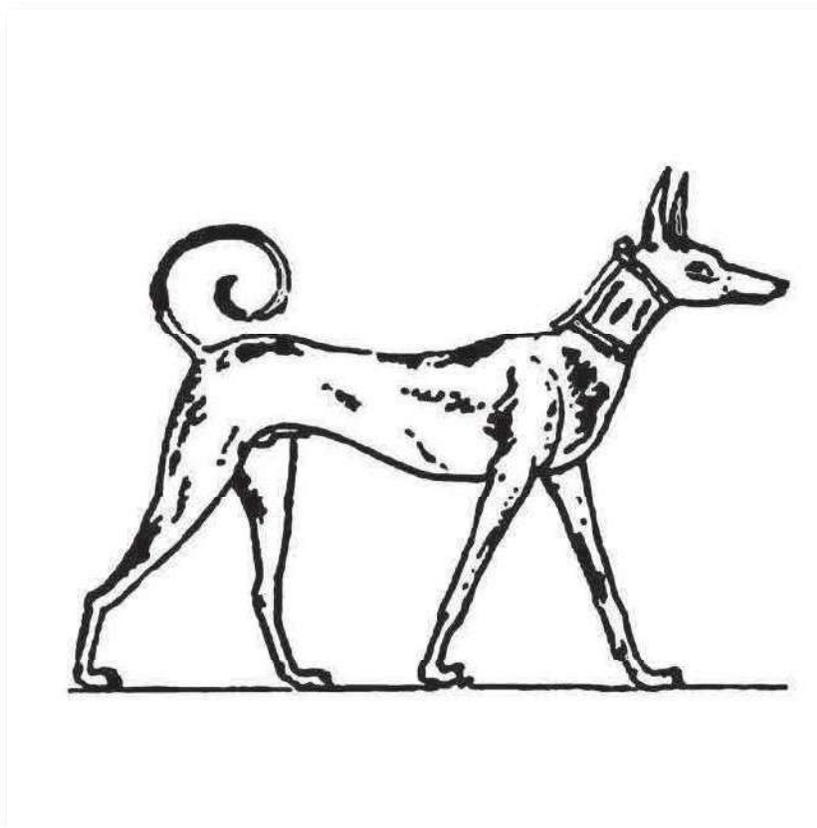


An illustrated discussion of the Pharaoh Hound  
AKC breed standard

Prepared by:  
**THE PHARAOH HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA, Inc.**  
(2025 edition)

*“ . . . a great responsibility . . . to keep faith with 5,000 years of true breeding. . . they must shun man's natural tendency to 'improve' which so often in dog breeding terms means to alter out of all recognition.”*

The Pharaoh Hound Club, United Kingdom July, 1971



The Pharaoh Hound Club of America logo was adopted from artwork discovered in the tomb of Antefa II (3000 B.C.) and bears a striking resemblance to today's Pharaoh Hounds.

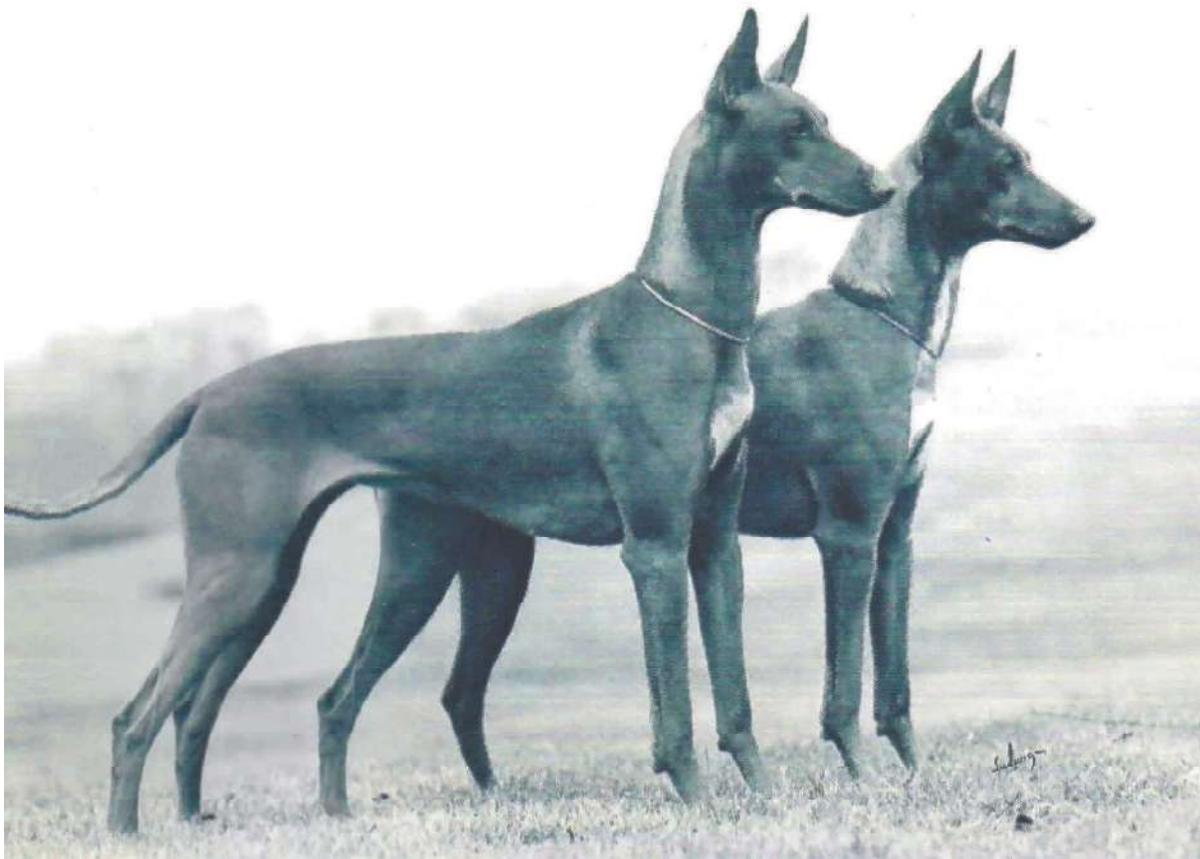
This booklet has been prepared by the Judges' Education Committee of the Pharaoh Hound Club of America for the purpose of promoting better understanding of the Pharaoh Hound.

It is hoped that the comparison of the AKC Standard text with the illustrations and discussion will assist judges, breeders and fanciers alike in understanding correct breed type.



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*“...grace, power and speed.” “... noble bearing with hard clean-cut lines”  
“...graceful, well-balanced”.*

## AKC PHARAOH HOUND BREED STANDARD

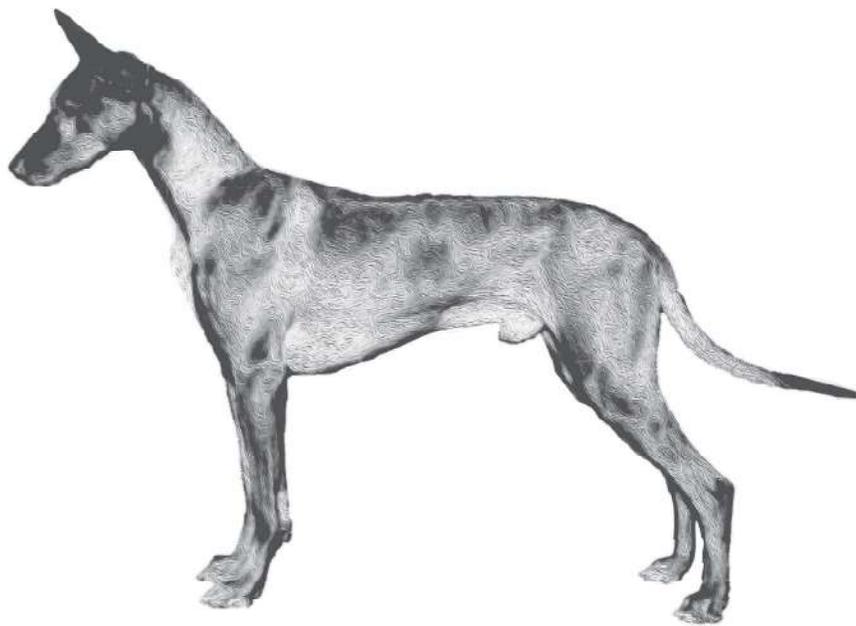
**General Appearance:** *General Appearance is one of grace, power and speed. The Pharaoh Hound is medium sized, of noble bearing with hard clean-cut lines-graceful, well balanced, very fast with free easy movement and alert expression.*

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** *Height - Dogs 23 to 25 inches. Bitches 21 to 24 inches. All-over balance must be maintained. Length of the body from breast to haunch bone slightly longer than height of withers to ground. Lithe.*

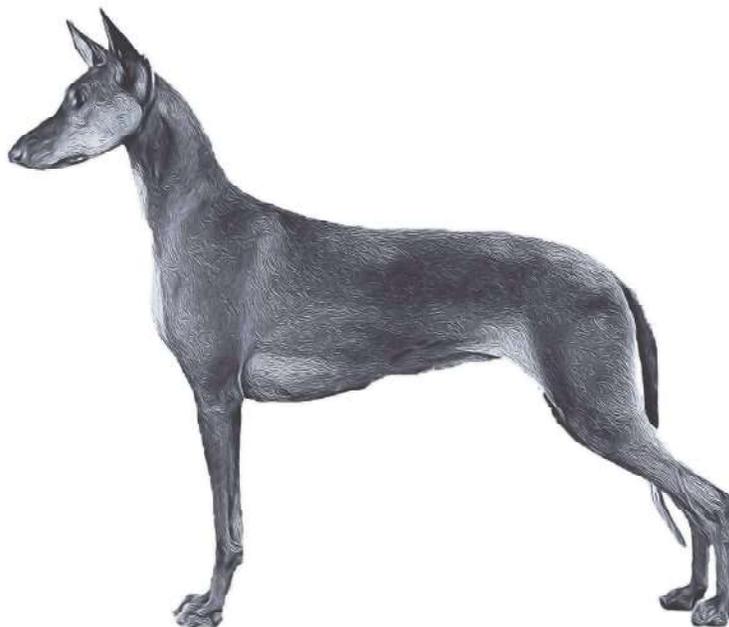
### DISCUSSION

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** The Pharaoh Hound, medium sized, is slightly longer in body than in height when measured vertically from the ground to the highest point of the withers, as opposed to the length of the body when measured horizontally from the point of forechest to the rear projection of the upper thigh or buttocks. This is a breed in which the word "slightly" is less subjective than in many breeds due to the quantifiable points of measurement given. A correctly proportioned Pharaoh Hound should appear slightly off-square in profile and not obviously rectangular. An overtly rectangular profile indicates a dog who, when measured, would measure significantly longer than tall from the given points of measurement.

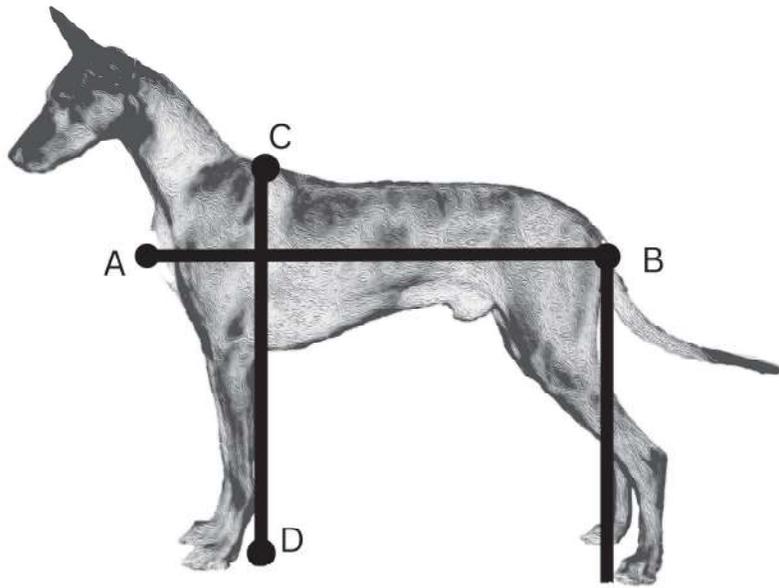
The body is muscular and powerful, possessing great endurance and capability of speed. "*Sturdy elegance*" has been a term aptly used to describe the ideal general appearance and build of a Pharaoh Hound. A fault in overall appearance is that of coarseness, which is a lack of elegance and nobility. An equally serious fault is that of a Pharaoh Hound with a racy or fine greyhound build. This means that there is generally not enough bone and substance to the dog's structure, resulting in a dog that is too lightly built, not powerful enough, or undersize. In striving for elegance and grace, the breeder may easily fall into the trap of producing a racy, fine or greyhound-like Pharaoh Hound, completely losing Pharaoh Hound type. **The most serious of faults is the loss of Pharaoh Hound type.**



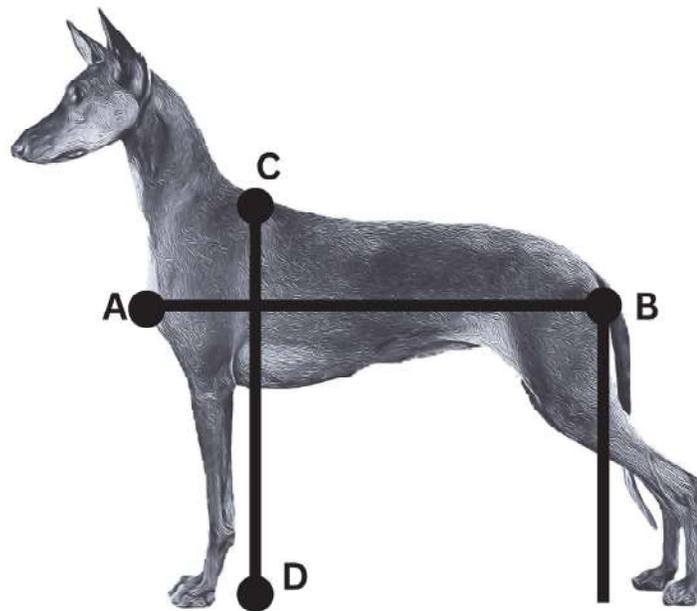
Correct proportions, angulation, and balance



Incorrect proportions (too long) and unbalanced angulation  
(underangled in front and overangled in rear)



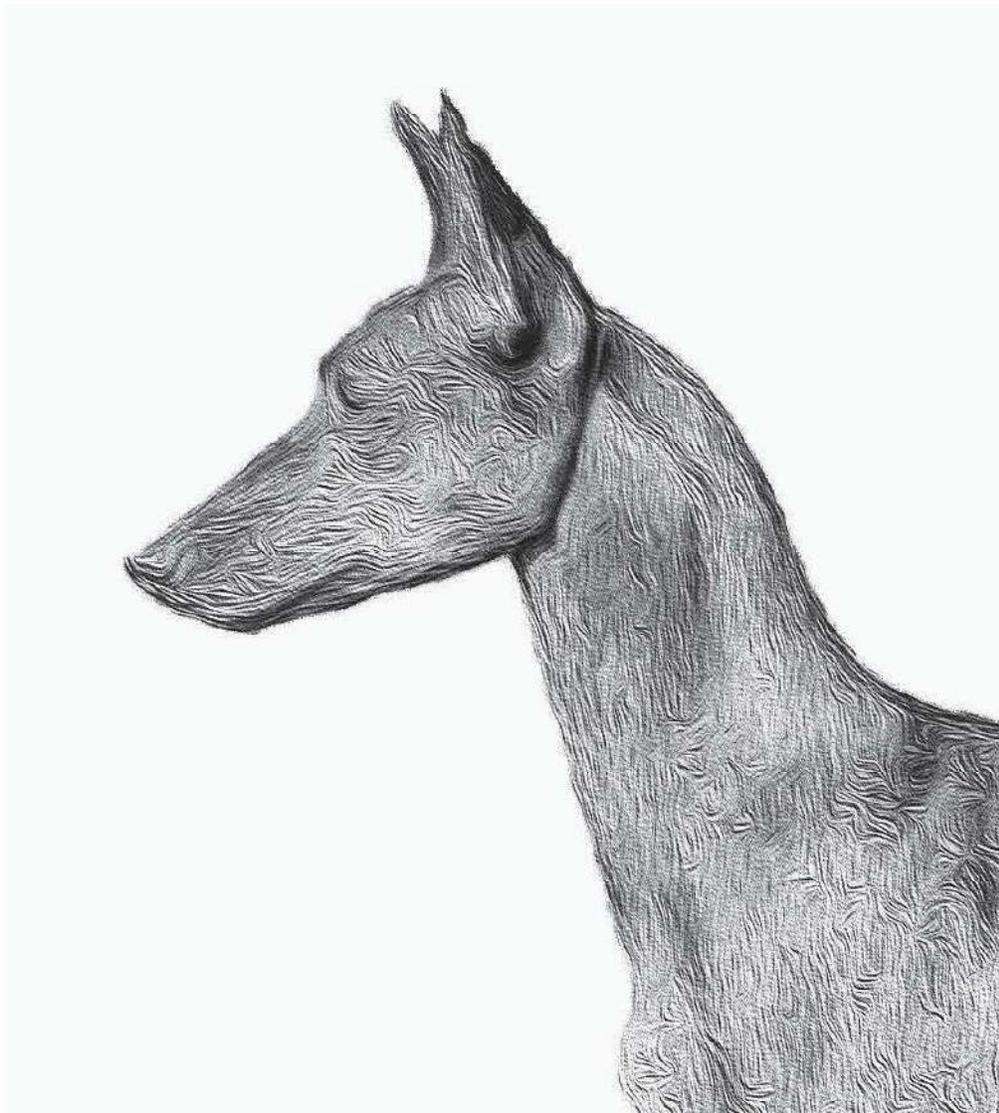
Length of the Pharaoh Hound is measured from "A" to "B," with "A - B" measuring slightly longer than "C - D." A plumbline dropped perpendicularly from "C" should fall through the back of the elbow and hug the back of the front legs all the way to the ground. A plumbline dropped perpendicularly from "B" should parallel the hock and fall directly in front of the rear toes if the dog is balanced in the rear.



This example measures significantly longer from "A - B" than from "C - D" and is therefore too long-cast. The plumbline dropped from "C" falls noticeably behind the elbow and front legs. Likewise, the plumbline dropped from "B" falls significantly in front of the rear toes when parallel to the perpendicular hock.

## AKC STANDARD

**Head:** Alert expression. Eyes amber colored, blending with coat; oval, moderately deep set with keen intelligent expression. Ears medium high set, carried erect when alert, but very mobile, broad at the base, fine and large. Skull long, lean and chiseled. Only a slight stop. Foreface slightly longer than the skull. Top of the skull parallel with the foreface representing a blunt wedge. Nose flesh colored, blending with the coat. No other color. Powerful jaws with strong teeth. Scissors bite.



## DISCUSSION

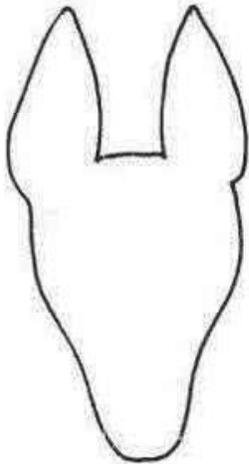
**Head:** The oval **eye** set properly in the head gives the dog his expression, and, in turn, gives us the feeling of the character of the dog as well as a form of communication with him. Pharaohs should have a pleasing, alert, and observant expression, exuding intelligence and thinking ability. **Eyes** in an adult dog should be a shade of amber that blends with the coat color (lighter colored Pharaohs may have lighter amber eyes, whereas chestnut pharaohs will have deeper amber eyes). Light eyes tending towards more gold/yellow, which is a fault in an adult exhibit, can be a normal developmental stage in a puppy as the eyes slowly darken to fully mature color, so this should be taken into account when judging the puppy and junior classes. Likewise, a Pharaoh Hound's eyes continue to darken into their veteran years as well, and some develop darker pigment around the eye rims as veterans - this is also normal and should not be faulted.

Faults are blue eyes, pale yellow eyes, slit eyes, round eyes, triangular eyes, bulging eyes, eyes which are set too close together, and expression faults such as a startled or severe/harsh expression. None of these faults, other than the blue eyes, is significant.

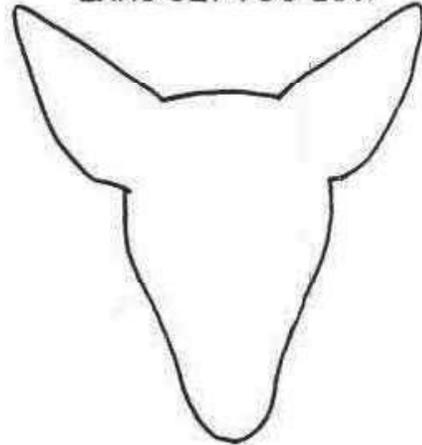
A "trademark" of the breed, the magnificently maneuverable **ear**, may well be considered the emotional gauge of the Pharaoh Hound. The ear completely enhances the expression of the dog. When he is excited or alert, the ears will stand erect. When he is quietly happy, he will often hold them back flat. The blush of the inside of the ear shows the emotion of the dog, becoming deeper in color when he is excited or very happy. It is most important that the **ears** not be perpendicular to the skull or parallel to each other, resulting in an ear set that is too high. A very high ear set is not characteristic of the breed, and therefore not desirable.

Faults are soft ears which do not stand completely erect, ears with tips bending either forward or backward, ears set low on the head and carried sidewise, and ears that are too small in proportion to the head.

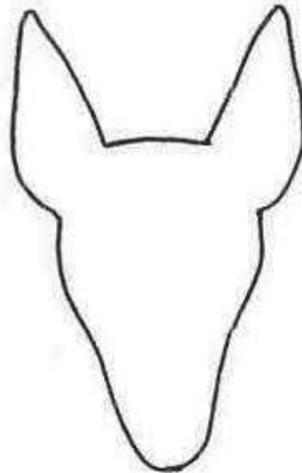
EARS SET TOO HIGH



EARS SET TOO LOW



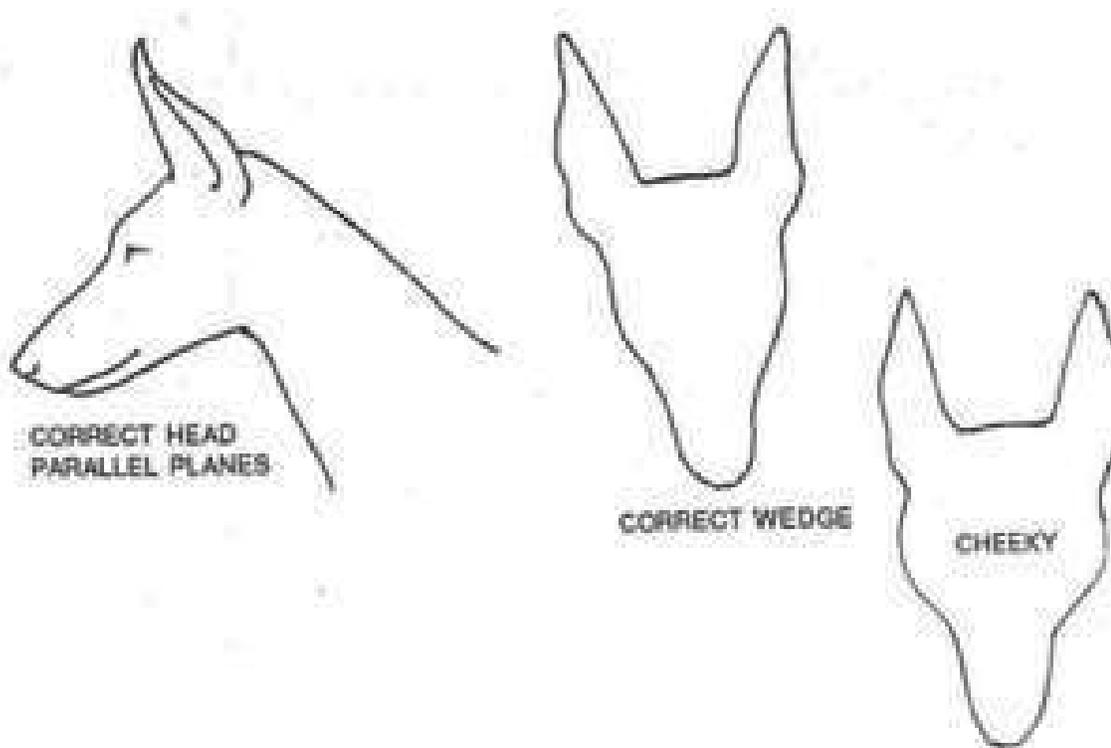
PERFECT EARSET



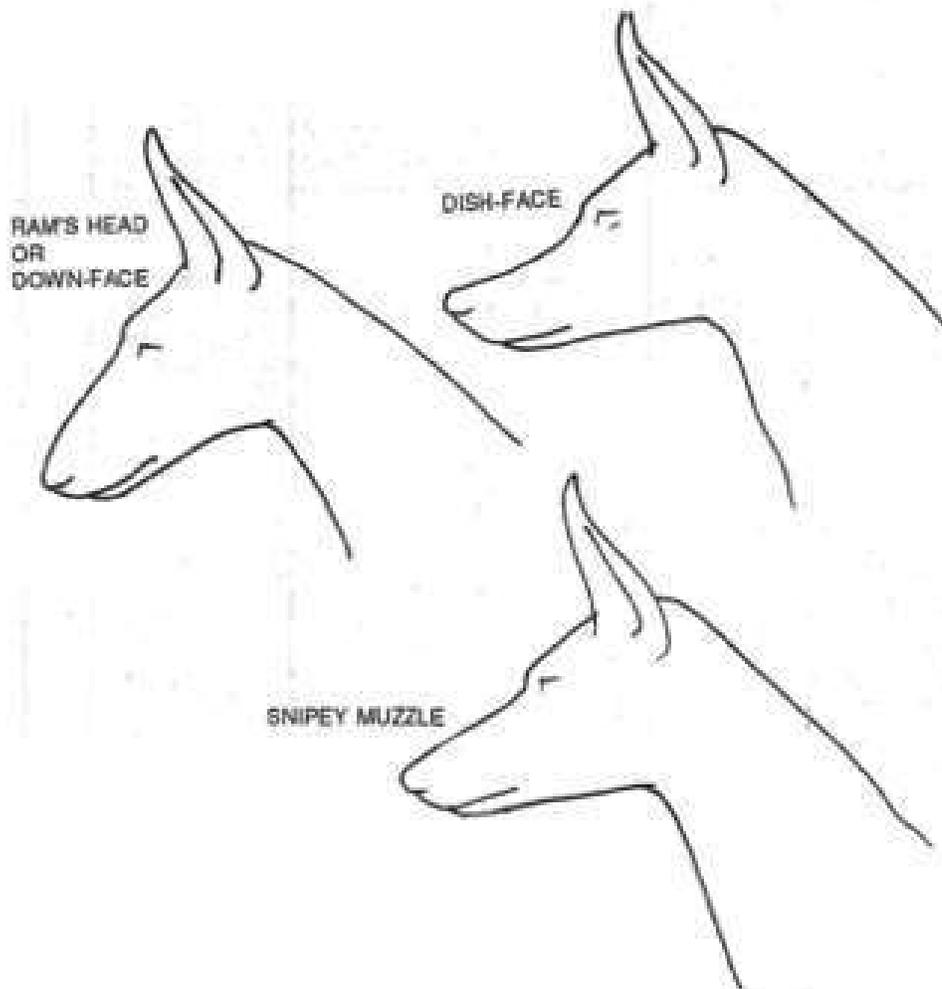
A long head with a long neck, common to all coursing hounds, is required for speed. The **foreface** (as measured from the brow line to the tip of the nose) should be slightly longer than the **skull** (as measured from occipital point to brow line). The size of the entire head must be proportionate to the size of the body, that is, in balance with each other. The length of the entire skull (from tip of nose to occipital point) should be approximately equal in length to the neck in a well-proportioned hound.

Faults are a noticeably short foreface, and likewise, an overly-long or snipey/pointed muzzle tending more towards racing sighthound type. Also faults are a head that is too small for the body and a head which looks too large/heavy for the body. Both are out of balance.

The ideal Pharaoh Hound head resembles a blunt wedge when viewed from the side or from the front. A dog with bulging cheeks is called cheeky. This fault gives the dog a coarse-looking head. The interrupted clean flow of line spoils the elegant look. The cheeks must be muscular and lie flat, with no hollow under the eyes.



The **planes of the head** should be parallel, when viewed from the side. This means that the top of the skull and the top of the muzzle or foreface must be parallel to each other. The ram's head or down-face is a fault. A dish-face is a fault. Both a down-face and dish-face are faults caused by divergent skull/muzzle planes, which cause an unusual and undignified expression that detracts from the look of nobility so important to the Pharaoh Hound, even if the eye shape and color are otherwise correct. A snipey muzzle lacking in depth and an underjaw is also a fault. A snipey muzzle is too pinched or pointed sometimes resulting in weak jaws and poor bite: A dog with a snipey muzzle/lack of underjaw does not have nobility of expression. The look of power is lost in the weakness of the foreface.

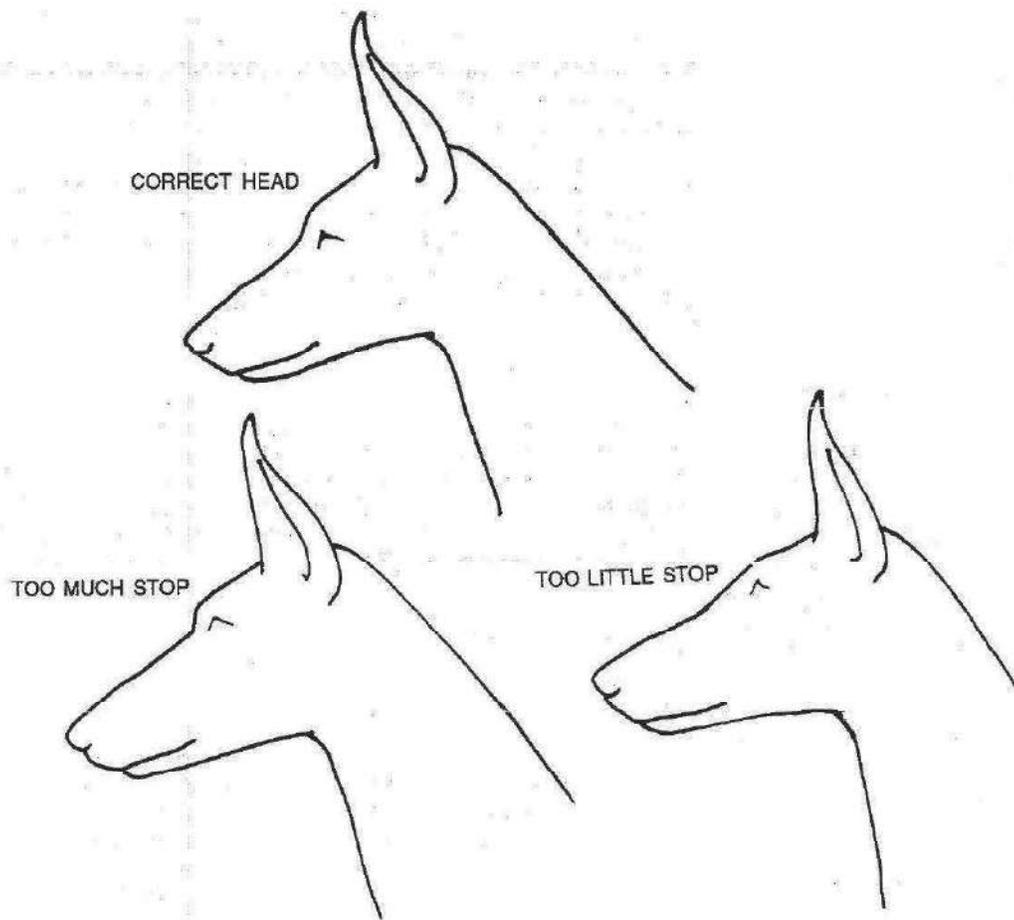


A less serious fault is too much or too little stop, which changes the expression to a degree. Faults which detract from expression and therefore general appearance are a too-wide skull, a too short foreface, and heavy, thick or drooping lips. This last fault detracts severely from the Ideal Pharaoh Hound head, the skin of which must fit the head as closely as the skin of the body – “like that of a glove.”

Although not mentioned in the standard, **nostrils** should be generous, not pinched or stingy, for the obvious requirements of hunting by scent and for breathing easily after a hunt with a mouth full of kill. There are times when the color of the nose will change because of the ability (or habit) of the Pharaoh Hound to “blush” when excited or happy. When the Pharaoh Hound blushes, the flesh of the nose and the inside of the ears turn a deep rose color, while the amber eyes also seem to reflect a deeper, almost rosy hue. Here, perhaps, we can see back into

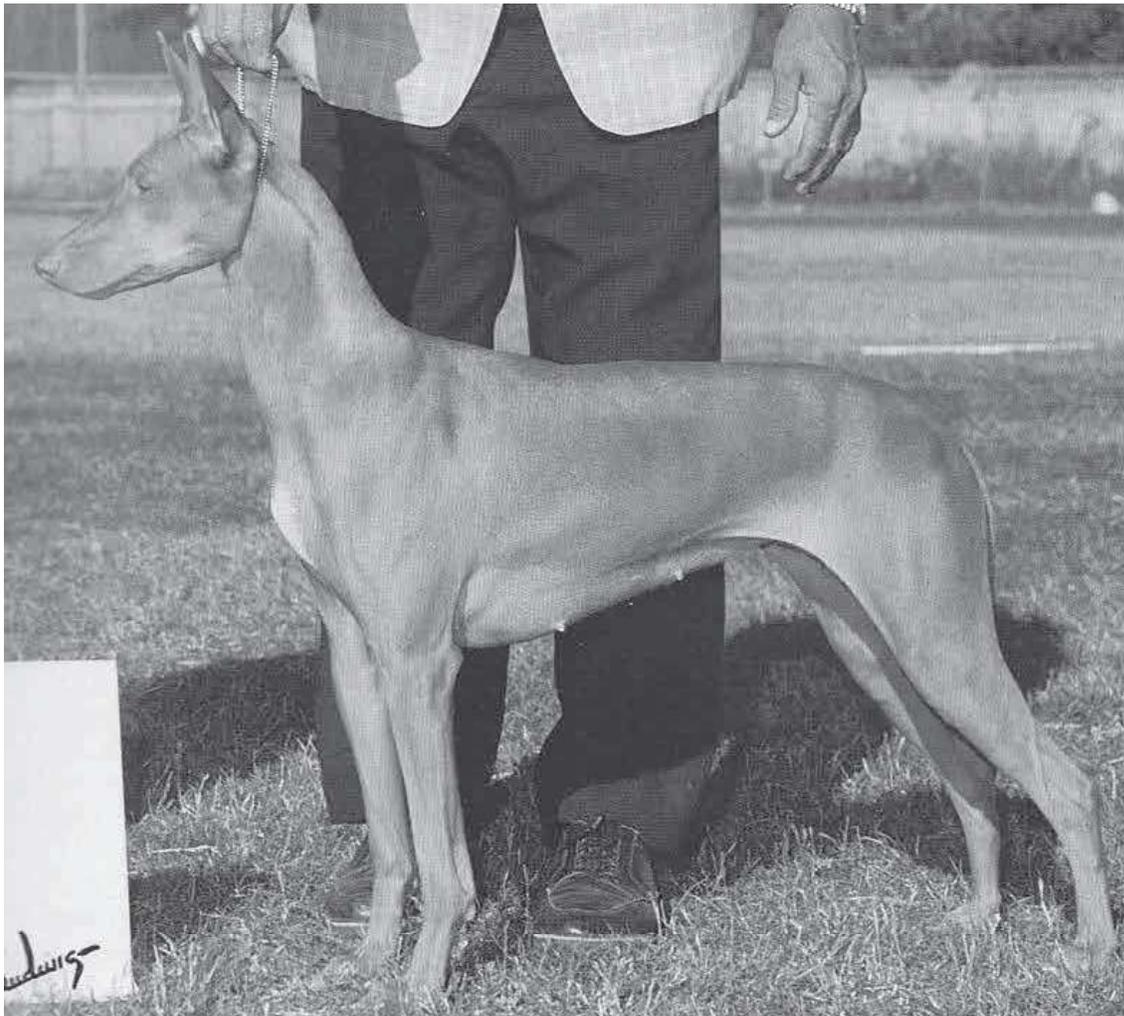
Ancient Egypt and apply the following translated quotation, “*The red long tailed dog goes into the stalls of the hills, he is better than the long-faced dog. He makes no delay in hunting, his face glows like a God and he delights to do his work.*” Surely this must be a description of the ancient Pharaoh Hound blushing with joy and excitement, just as he does to this day.

A true scissors bite is that in which the lower incisors are upright and touching inside the upper incisors. Faults are undershot or overshot bite. Although not noted in the Standard, full dentition is a most desirable and necessary part of powerful jaws and teeth. It should be noted that missing teeth can be a disadvantage to a breed that uses its teeth for more than just eating. However, missing teeth are not to be considered a fault.



## AKC STANDARD

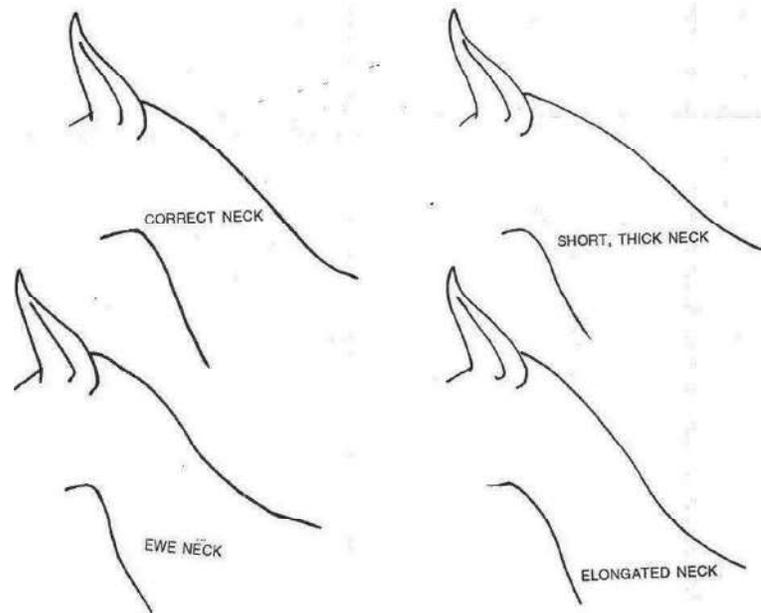
**Neck, Topline, Body:** Neck long, lean and muscular with a slight arch to carry the head on high. Clean throat line. Almost straight topline. Slight slope from croup to root of tail. Body lithe. Deep brisket. almost down to the point of elbow. Ribs well sprung. Moderate tuck-up. Tail medium set - fairly thick at the base and tapering whip-like, reaching below the point of hock in repose. Well carried and curved when in action. The tail should not be tucked between the legs. A screw tail is a fault.



## DISCUSSION

**Neck, Topline, Body:** The **neck** should show both strength AND elegance, and nobility of bearing. The combined head and neck should have a sculptured appearance. The neck must be firmly and smoothly set into sloping shoulders and must carry the head with a look of ease. The dry clean throat line means that there should be no flabbiness or loose folds in the skin. The balance and overall look of the dog depends a great deal upon his having the correct neck. The neck must be in balance with the rest of the dog. A dog of good substance should have a heavier neck than a less substantial and/or taller dog. In other words, the neck must suit both the head and body of the dog in order to merit description by the much-used word “balance.” The length of neck should be approximately equal to length of the skull (from tip of nose to occipital point) - long enough for the dog’s nose to easily go to ground to scent, without being excessive in length, and strong enough for the dog to catch and hold its prey on the run.

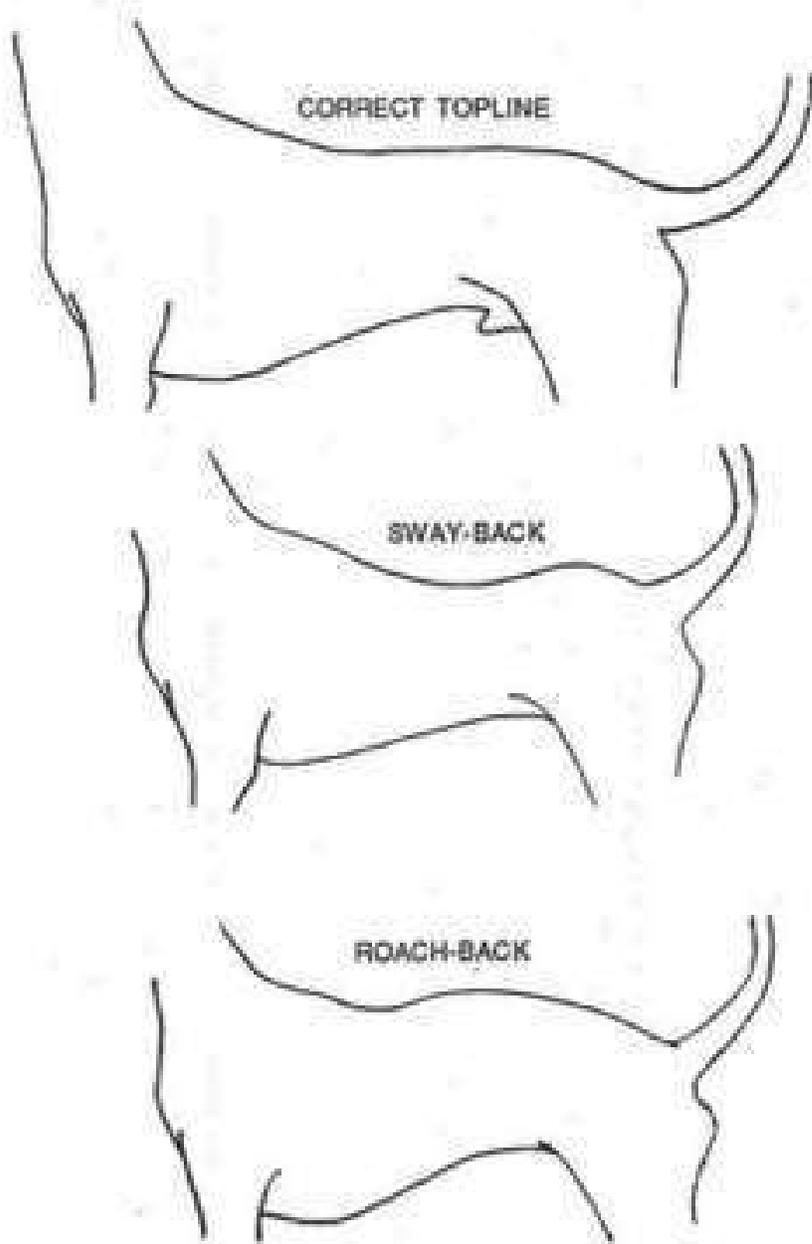
Faults are short thick neck, an overly elongated neck, and a ewe neck, which has a concave, sheep-like arch to the cervical vertebrae and is often set poorly and overly upright on the shoulders. A ewe neck is a most serious fault as it is weak, lacks soundness, and often injury-prone, as well as having a poor outline that detracts from the smooth lines of the breed’s profile.



The **topline**, which is almost straight, is at its highest point at the withers. It should be firm. Sagging, or sway-back, a weakness of the spine, is a fault. The opposite fault is a roach-back, which constricts the spine. However, a slight rise over the loin due to natural vertebral anatomy is permissible and is common, though this rise should be slight in profile. A dog in correct weight should show no more than the suggestion of three vertebrae and possibly the hint of the last rib when moving or turning.

The **underline** is smooth, with a seamless transition from bottom of ribcage to moderate tuck-up. Any greyhound-type curve or excessive “wasp-waisted” appearance to the tuck-up, often accompanied by a roached back, is a serious fault. Looking down at the body, the width across the hip should equal the width at the widest point of rib-spring in a mature exhibit. In addition to being well-sprung, the Pharaoh has an ample run-of-rib and is shorter coupled in the loin than many other sighthound breeds. Once again, balanced. MODERATE is the key word to apply to the physical characteristics of the Pharaoh Hound body.

The **tail** is long enough to reach the point of hock in repose. When relaxed, most Pharaohs’ tails will hang naturally between their hind legs. When in motion, the tail should come up and be carried gently curved, either up and curved slightly over the backline, or outward as if continuing the backline and curved so that the tip is carried above. A lower carriage merely detracts somewhat from the picture and should not be considered a fault. Experience has shown us that many bitches with correct tails tend to carry the tail out and lowered rather than up, when in the show ring. Tail faults are tightly curled tail, off-center tail carriage, tip of tail resting on dog's back, tail set too high, tail set too low, and feathering on tail. A tail tucked between the legs is most undesirable and a serious fault.



## AKC STANDARD

***Forequarters:** Shoulders long and sloping and well laid back. Strong without being loaded. Elbows well tucked in. Forelegs straight and parallel. Pasterns strong. Dewclaws may be removed. Feet neither cat nor hare but strong, well knuckled and firm, turning neither in nor out. Paws well padded.*

## DISCUSSION

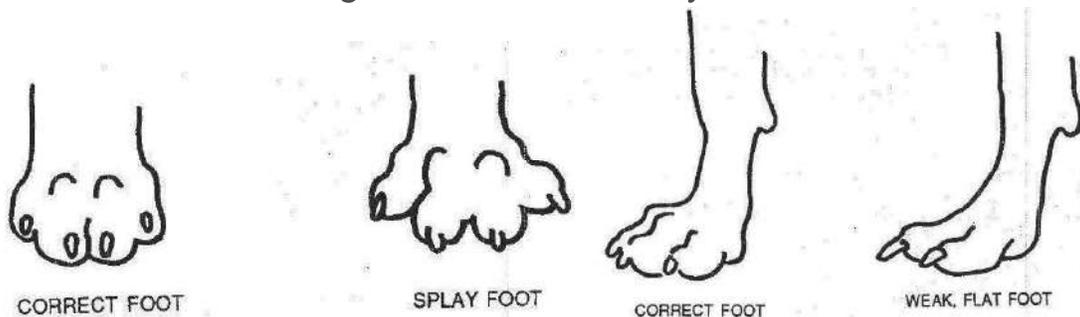
**Forequarters:** The importance of properly angulated **shoulders** is reflected in the dog's gait in that the dog's front extension is directly dependent on the layback of the shoulder. A well-laid back **shoulder** should have the blades falling noticeably behind the base of the neck, with a smooth neck-into-shoulders transition. Properly balanced **front assembly** can be visualized by an imaginary plumb line dropped from the top of the shoulder blade perpendicular to the ground. If properly balanced, this line should hit the point of the elbow. The length of the shoulder blade and of the upper arm should be equal. Correct **withers** are those with a distinct space between the tops of the shoulder blades. Shoulder blades should not be noticeably high and tight *nor* lower and loaded. Both should be equally faulted as they impede breed typical effortless and efficient range of motion and gait.

The **muscles of the shoulders** should be long, flat, and smoothly laid on. Overly muscled, bulging or "loaded" shoulders are unpleasing to the eye and cause a more 'heavy' footfall that detracts from the proper effortless gait. They are an indication of faulty shoulder construction.

The height from the **elbows** to the **withers** should be approximately equal to the height from the ground to the elbows. When the dog is in normal stance and when he is gaiting, the elbows should lie close to the brisket, well-tucked in, without being pinched. Loose elbows that point outwards or have a tendency to bend and twist underneath the dog's weight are a fault of construction and an impediment to the breed's agility. Elbows that fall significantly in front of the bottommost point of the ribcage, falling more underneath the forechest, indicates a cathedral front assembly that is set on too far forward. This again impedes agility and, ultimately, endurance.

From a frontal view, the **forelegs** should be parallel to each other, the feet toeing neither in nor out, but pointing directly forward. The front legs should be perpendicular to the ground when viewed either from the front or the side. There is a very slight bend to the **pasterns**, allowing the Pharaoh Hound some “give” when leaping or coursing. However, this does not permit the dog to be down in pastern, which is a weakness and a fault. When the dog toes out below the pastern the fault is called “French front”, and that same terminology can be used for the fault in which the entire leg below the elbow turns outward. The most extreme example is when the elbows themselves turn out. It is an absolute malformation of the Pharaoh Hound front, but it is not uncommon. All of these problems of faulty fronts, from the slightest to the most extreme, are detrimental to sound locomotion.

The **feet** of the Pharaoh Hound have been a most important factor in the survival of the breed. The foot is used like a hand, gripping harsh terrain. The grasping toes and nails are necessary for climbing. Often, when reaching for an object, the Pharaoh Hound will spread his toes, using his foot as though it were a hand. On certain surfaces, such as sand or gravel, or even in outdoor show rings with slightly uneven or bumpy ground, the Pharaoh Hound foot will spread slightly to give him sure control on an unstable surface. It is essential to the character of the breed that the nails be kept as natural as possible and not mutilated by clipping or excessive filing. We must accept the foot as it is, remembering the cat-footed Pharaoh Hound could not have survived, nor a weak, flat-footed or hare-footed one, in its countries of origin. Though acceptable, it is not required that front dew-claws be removed. Dew-claws on hind legs are an abnormality and should be removed



## AKC STANDARD

***Hindquarters:** Strong and muscular. Limbs parallel. Moderate sweep of stifle. Well-developed second thigh. Dewclaws may be removed. Feet as in front.*

## DISCUSSION

**Hindquarters:** The hindquarters of the Pharaoh Hound, while strong and well-muscled, must not be overly muscular or 'beefy'. **Muscling** should be hard and smooth, adding to the “lithe” appearance of the breed. The moderate **sweep of stifle** should be clearly defined, so that one can easily see its bend, without being overly-pronounced or excessive. Correct construction of the hindquarters is where the pelvis and upper shank meet at an equal angle to that of the upper and lower shanks which make up the stifle joint. The length of upper shank (femur) and lower shank (tibia/fibula) is equal. Properly balanced **rear assembly** can be visualized by an imaginary plumbline dropped from the point of buttocks to the ground. If properly balanced, this line should hit the ground directly in front of the rear foot when the dog is stacked with hocks perpendicular to the ground. A plumbline that falls significantly in front of the rear foot is indicative of excessive rear angulation, usually due to one or both of the rear shanks being too long.

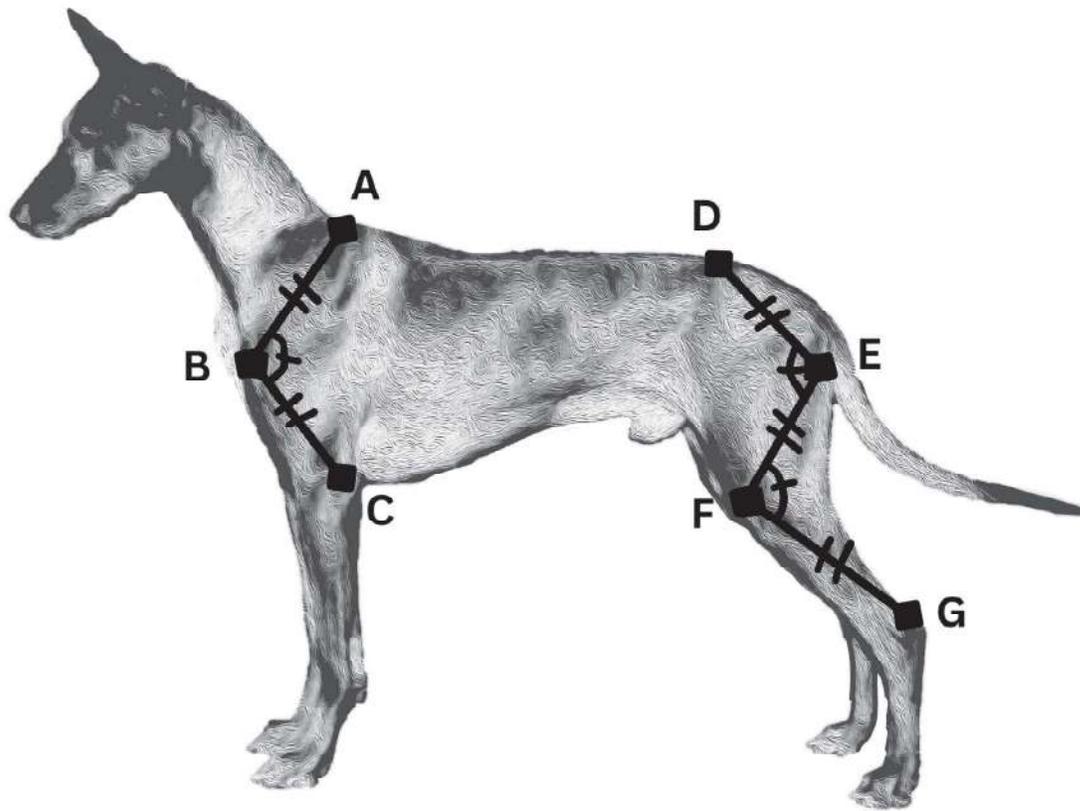
The forequarters and hindquarters must be in balance with each other, not only for appearance but for the purpose of correct gait. Over-angulation in the forequarters, to be properly balanced, should have over-angulation to the same degree in the hindquarters. The same holds true for lack of angulation, front and rear. Although correct angulation is called for, *slightly* over or *slightly* under is acceptable, if balance is maintained front and rear. However, severe over or under-angulation, front and rear,

although balanced, is a fault, as is front and rear angulation not in balance. ***A most serious fault is a lack of balance, front to rear.***

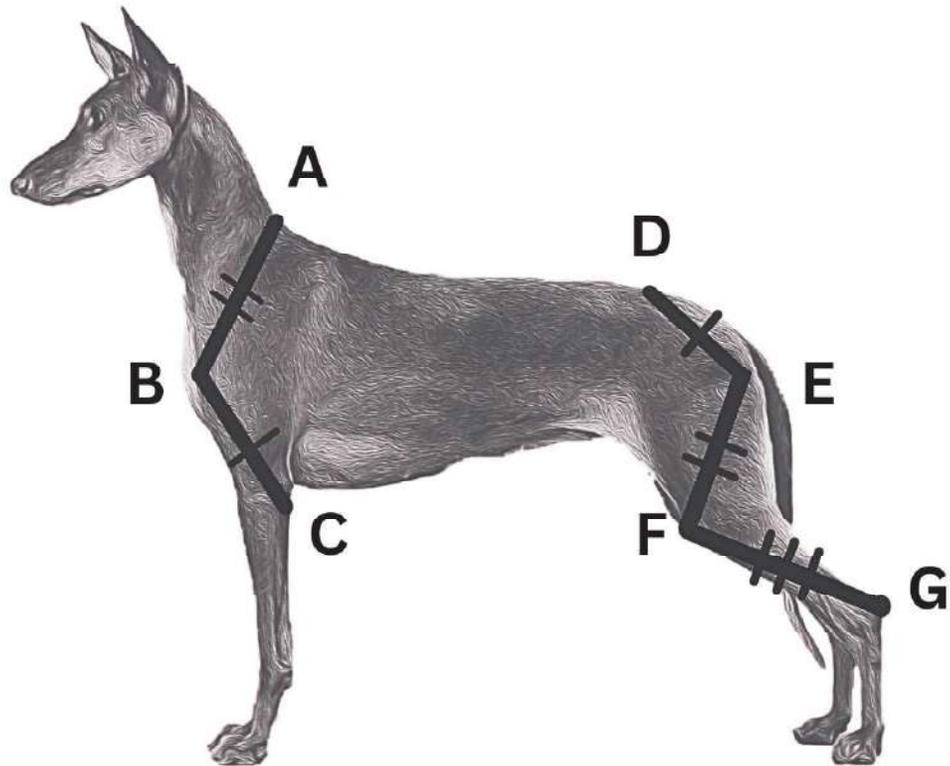
The well-developed second thigh is necessary to support correct angulation. The hindquarters support part of the dog's weight and also give him the strength to propel himself forward. The greater the angulation, the further back the dog's rear paw will be, when standing with hocks perpendicular to the ground. He will have greater difficulty supporting his weight and his weaker hindquarters will lessen his ability to move forward with adequate drive and power. Lack of rear angulation results in a stiff action. Fluid motion and powerful drive are impossible to achieve with a straight rear leg. Neither the over-angulated stifle nor the steep stifle will produce the necessary forward motion of the Pharaoh Hound. Only the moderate bend of stifle will result in the smooth, strong drive required of the breed.

The **hocks** are upright and perpendicular to the ground when viewed from side or rear. Viewed from the rear, the legs and hocks are parallel to each other. Hind feet should toe neither in nor out but point directly forward.

Faults are cow-hocks, where the hocks converge, turning in on each other, and divergent (or barrel) hocks, where the hocks turn outward. Cow hocks are a slightly worse fault, but both faults are signs of weakness and impair proper movement.



Correctly balanced front and rear bone lengths and angulation:  
Angle "A-B-C" = "D-E-F" and "E-F-G." Lengths "A-B," "B-C," "D-E," "E-F," & "F-G" are also approximately equal.



This example has incorrect angulation both front and rear (underangled in front and overangled in rear), and unequal lengths of bone (scapula "A-B" longer than humerus/upper arm "B-C", and second thigh "F-G" longer than femur "E-F" and pelvis "D-E").

## AKC STANDARD

**Coat:** *Short and glossy, ranging from fine and close to slightly harsh with no feathering. Accident blemishes should not be considered as faults.*

## DISCUSSION

**Coat:** Most coats are short and glossy, fine and close, but many young dogs develop a “puppy” coat which is somewhat longer and a bit fuller than the coat would be at maturity. They tend to keep this slightly rougher coat until a year of age, when it begins to shed and is replaced by a finer closer coat. A small percentage of Pharaoh Hounds, after shedding the puppy coat, will grow a slightly longer, slightly harsher coat. This is acceptable if the variation is slight. Some Pharaohs have natural cowlicks and most have slightly longer furnishings on the buttocks, sides of neck, and underside of tail, which is normal. Distinguishable feathering, however, is a fault, as is a marked lack of coat which leaves the underbelly or underside of neck bare or nearly bare.

## AKC STANDARD

**Color:** *Ranging from tan/rich tan/chestnut with white markings allowed as follows: White tip on tail strongly desired. White on chest (called “the Star”). White on toes and slim white snip on center line of face permissible. Flecking or other white undesirable, except for any solid white spot on the back of neck, shoulder, or any part of the back or sides of the dog, which is a disqualification.*

**Disqualification:** *Any solid white spot on the back of neck, shoulder, or any part of the back or sides of the dog.*

## DISCUSSION

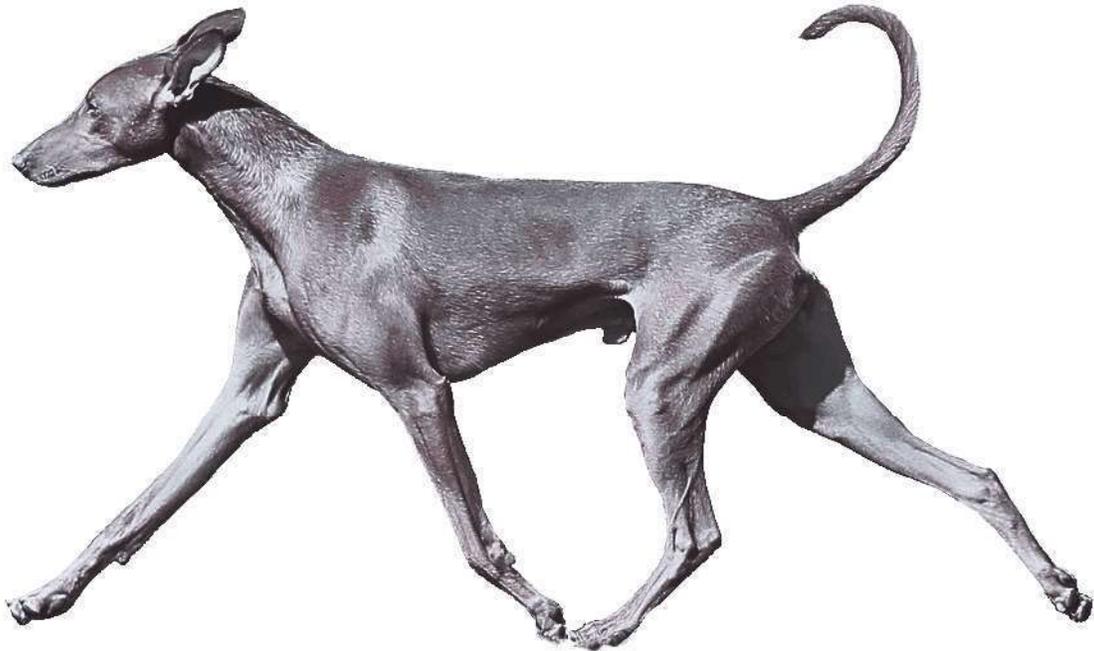
**Color:** The shade of the Pharaoh Hound coat may vary from a beige-tan to a rich reddish copper or chestnut. In AKC, the breed can be registered as one of four recognized colors: tan, rich tan, red-golden, or chestnut. *All colors are equally correct*, and no dog should be rewarded nor placed down due to color. Usually the color deepens as the dog matures, the darker coat gradually replacing the puppy coat. However, the coat very often begins to fade with the approach of middle age, with many once chestnut-colored dogs becoming light tan in their last years. This should not be faulted. Pharaoh Hounds also begin to turn gray on the face, many at an early age. This also should not be faulted. Shaded coloring is not unusual. Often the deepest color will appear down the dog's back, where the hair on the neck, shoulder blades, lower ribcage, and buttocks will be lighter in shade. This shading is breed-typical and not a fault.

White markings are allowed in very specific areas defined in the standard. Some dogs may have markings in all allowable areas, and others may be solid red without any white markings. Either is correct. It's the job of breeders to monitor and manage white markings in their programs, as the permissible "star" on the chest can become a blaze within a few generations, the white on the toes can become socks, and the allowable slim snip on the centerline of the face can become a blaze, and, unfortunately, this has been proven to occur in Pharaoh Hounds. Excessive white drastically changes the total look of the breed and should be penalized.

The white "star" is not really a star shape. Therefore, a white patch on the chest or small streamers of white on the chest (and/or throat) are acceptable. A white tip of the tail is the only marking that is desirable, however, lack of a white tip is by no means a fault. A dog should not win or lose by the marking on its tail. Flecking, defined as a patch of white mottled with red or dappling of color within it, is a fault. Most serious, of course, is the disqualification as described in the standard. If the integrity of the breed is to be maintained, one should adopt a conservative approach with respect to the amount of white considered permissible.

## AKC STANDARD

**Gait:** *Free and flowing; the head should be held fairly high, and the dog should cover the ground well without any apparent effort. The legs and feet should move in line with the body; any tendency to throw the feet sideways, or a high stepping "hackney" action is a definite fault.*

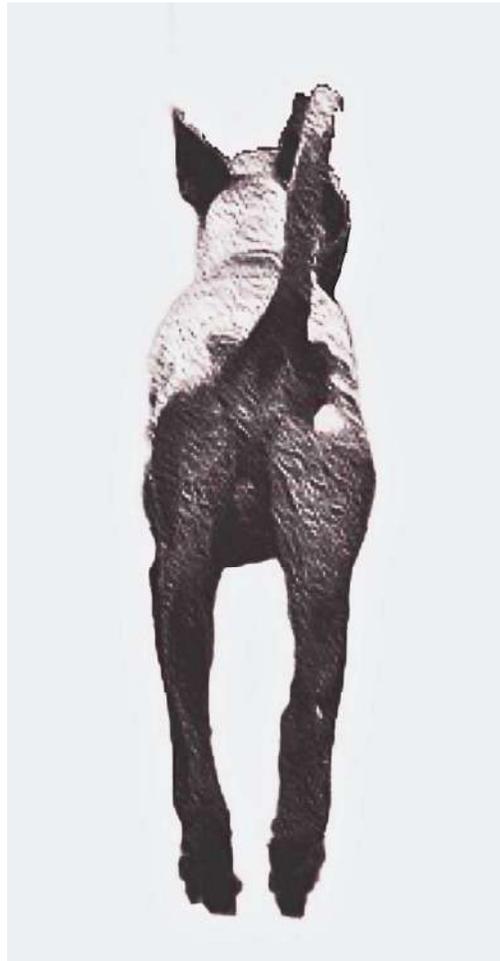


## DISCUSSION

**Gait:** Viewed from the side, the gait of the Pharaoh Hound is a trot of ***moderate*** speed. This is not a breed that should be raced around the ring. The gait should be free, smooth and powerful, with the reach in front equal to the drive behind, without overstepping or over-reaching in the rear. This necessitates correct and balanced front and rear angulation. Viewed from the side, the back should remain level while the dog is in motion and should not sag, sway or bounce, nor be constricted or roached. The side view reveals if the front step is the same length as the rear step and if front and rear angulation are correct and in balance.

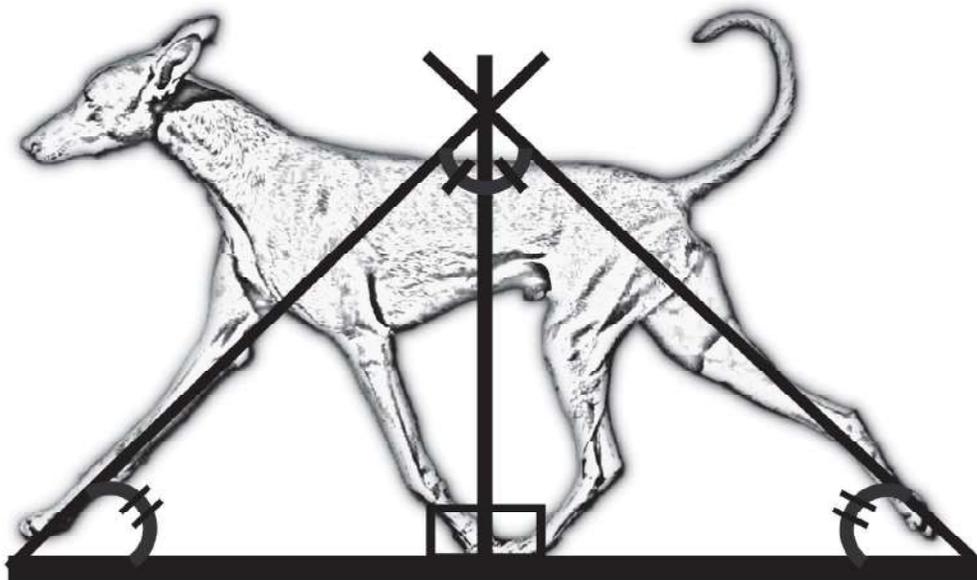
'Head held fairly high' does not mean a head held in a bolt upright position, or strung up high over the shoulders, but merely a head that is carried easily and naturally above the highest point of the backline when in motion, typical of an endurance hunting hound.

Single tracking, although a mark of excellence in many other breeds, should be severely penalized in the Pharaoh Hound. When moving away from the viewer, the rear feet and legs of the dog should move directly forward with hocks parallel to each other and in line with the body. If the hocks are too wide apart or too close together, the dog will not have freedom of movement. Cow-hocks make correct movement impossible to achieve. Although the fault of hocks turning out is not as common as the fault of moving too closely or with hocks turning inward, all of these faults are to be considered serious.



*"The legs and feet should move in line with the body"*

When approaching the viewer, the dog's front legs should move in line with his body and should be parallel to each other. Shoulder problems become apparent here. Loose shoulders usually are illustrated in motion by the elbows turning outward and front feet turning inward. The total action in this case is a fault called "weaving", which is actually the crossing of the front feet while gaiting. Another serious fault is "padding" caused by constriction of the shoulder, in which the front feet are thrown outward while moving and at the same time the elbows remain close to the body. Equally serious is that fault in which the dog throws his weight from side to side in a 'lumbering' or 'heavy' manner when moving towards the observer. This is usually caused by a too-wide front, barrel rib cage, or low and loaded shoulders impeding the action of the elbows, causing them to turn outward when the dog is in motion. Additional faults are a high-stepping "hackney" action or dragging the feet. The dog must clear the ground easily, without prancing, an action which would inhibit the required powerful flow of movement.



Correct, sound, and balanced gait:

At full extension, the impression of two equilateral triangles should be created between front and rear, with rear footfall and front footfall meeting in the middle without any over-reaching by the rear. Front extension is equal to rear drive, and fully-extended front and rear feet are at equal vertical distance from the ground.

## AKC STANDARD

**Temperament:** *Intelligent, friendly, affectionate and playful. Alert and active. Very fast with a marked keenness for hunting, both by sight and scent.*

## DISCUSSION

**Temperament:** The Pharaoh Hound is generally an agreeable and friendly breed that has a surprisingly high desire to participate (and excel) in training, activities and events that are play and fun-focused. Playfulness in the ring should not be faulted, nor should mild distractibility by movement and other sights and sounds, as these are keen hunting hounds with very acute senses that are always “on.”

The breed’s intelligence and independent thinking abilities can sometimes masquerade as fear or softness. It is a phase that many young Pharaohs go through as they test the limits of their influence and control. A puppy reluctant to stand for exam, for example, may not truly be fearful, but rather just testing boundaries.

Though generally friendly and accepting, the breed can at times be indifferent with strangers, not liking them to make motions that would cover their eyes in any way. They will often pull or duck their head away. This is not shyness, but a natural Pharaoh Hound instinct. When meeting or judging/examining him, it is always best to approach with a stroke under the chin rather than patting him directly on the head.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

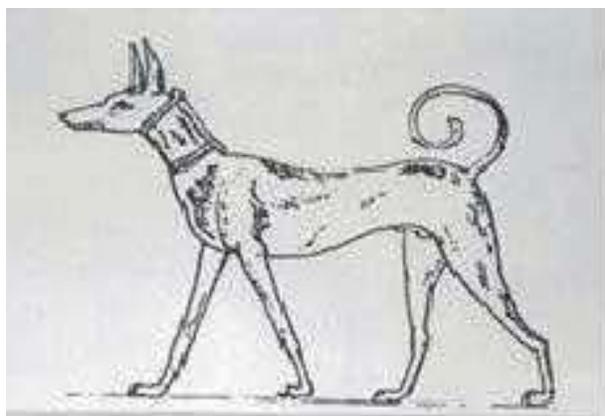
This work is largely based on the chapter "Interpretation of the Standard" by Rita Laventhall Sacks, from the book, "The Pharaoh Hound", written by Pauline Block and Rita L. Sacks.

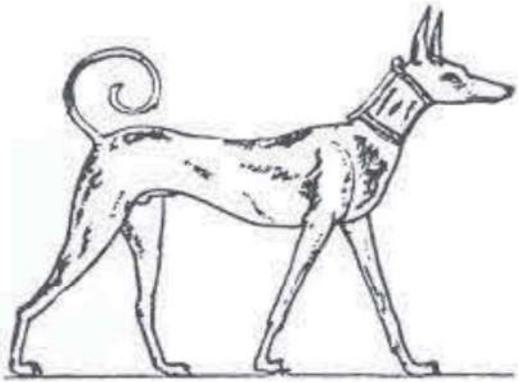
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*Update approved by the PHCA Board of Directors, December 2024  
with minor formatting changes approved in March 2025*





From the TOMB OF ANTEFA II, 3000 BC