

The American Rottweiler Club  
Presents

# **The Rottweiler**

## **A Judging Handbook**

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# **The Rottweiler**

## **A Judging Handbook**

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### **Introduction**

The purpose of this handbook is to provide an easy to read, convenient guide to judging Rottweilers. This handbook is not a replacement of the American Rottweiler Club's Illustrated Standard, but rather an accompaniment. Our goal is to reinforce the total Rottweiler, a dog of substance and type, sturdy and correct in body and temperament, and one who is distinguishable as only a Rottweiler. We hope this handbook will help make your judging of Rottweilers a rewarding and pleasant experience.

The Rottweiler is a versatile working dog. In a day's work, he should be capable of herding and moving a flock of sheep or cattle; pulling a cart with a load; moving athletically among obstacles to watch and protect property; tracking a lost person's scent; and, ultimately, be a very devoted and loyal companion and protector.

To do this, the Rottweiler must be structurally correct and should exemplify sturdiness and substance, without being fat or overpowering. He must possess the stable temperament which enables him to deal intelligently with the situation at hand.

Type is of paramount importance in the judging of any breed and certainly in the judging of a strong, hard working dog like the Rottweiler. Type is the essence of a breed. It is that image, that silhouette, which distinguishes one breed from all others. In the Rottweiler type has its origins in the purpose and function of the breed and is those characteristics which have been bred into the breed long enough that they have become stable and are reproducible with some uniformity. When you think of the "typical" Rottweiler you not only picture body structure and head model, but also movement and character.

How do you determine type and learn to recognize it? You study the breed standard. You learn the history and function of the breed and take as many opportunities as possible for direct observation of individual dogs functioning on the working field, at home or in the conformation ring. A list of approved Breed Mentors may be found on the ARC website at [www.amrotclub.org](http://www.amrotclub.org) .

## **History of the Breed**

It is believed that the Rottweiler is descended from the most ancient of breeds. His origin is from the Roman times, in which era he performed the duties of guard and drover dog. When the Roman Legions traversed the Alps, the dogs accompanied them protecting the soldiers and driving the herds. Settling in the area of Rottweil, the Roman Army dogs came into contact with dogs native to the area. The natural result was an interbreeding of the two.

The principle duties of these interbred dogs remained the guarding and driving of large herds, the defense of their masters and the master's property. Since there was a large concentration of the dogs in the vicinity of the Old German Empire City of Rottweil, the dog acquired the name: ROTTWEILER, "butcher dog."

The butchers bred this type of dog solely for its working ability and their personal use. With the passage of time, an outstanding guarding and drover dog, as well as cart dog, was the result. With the dawn of the 20th Century when the police were soliciting service dogs, the Rottweiler was readily recognized as admirably suited to this type of duty. It was the natural protective instinct and hardiness, coupled with the willingness to please and trainability that led to his use by police and military and enabled him to survive two world wars. These characteristics certainly influenced the enormous population explosion of the breed in the 90's. Although the Rottweiler remains one of the more popular breeds in the Working Group, AKC registrations for Rottweilers have dramatically declined in recent years.

The American Kennel Club recognized the Rottweiler as a breed in 1935. The standard remained unchanged until 1979. The last revision in 1990 reflected changes in the Allgemeiner Deutscher Rottweiler Klub of Germany/Federation Cynologique International (ADRK/FCI) Standard which modified their description of the dog from LARGE to MEDIUM LARGE, the ears from SMALL to MEDIUM, and the head proportions (back skull to muzzle) from 50/50 to 3 as to 2. It brought the AKC Standard more in line with the ADRK Standard although the 1990 AKC Standard provides a disqualification for 2 or more missing teeth while the ADRK Standard does not allow any missing teeth. The character, working temperament and general conformation remained the same.

In 1998, in response to the Animal Rights movement, the Federal Government in Germany banned the cropping of ears and docking of tails on dogs. Many European countries and those under the FCI followed suit. Fortunately, the

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Rottweiler still remains a docked breed in the AKC ring in the United States today. The 1990 revision is the standard by which you will judge the Rottweiler in the AKC conformation ring.

The objective in the breeding of Rottweilers is to produce a powerful yet vigorous dog, black with clearly defined rust (mahogany) markings which, despite its substance, is stamped with an air of nobility and is capable of fulfilling the role for which it was bred as companion, guardian, and working dog. Your mission as a judge of Rottweilers is to learn to recognize this typical dog in the two to three minutes you are allowed to examine each entry.

## **Official Standard for the ROTTWEILER**

### **General Appearance**

The ideal Rottweiler is a medium-large, robust and powerful dog, black with clearly defined rust markings. His compact and substantial build denotes great strength, agility and endurance. Dogs are characteristically more massive throughout with large frame and heavier bone than bitches. Bitches are distinctly feminine, but without weakness of substance or structure.

### **Size, Proportion, Substance**

Dogs: 24 inches to 27 inches

Bitches: 22 inches to 25 inches

with preferred size being mid-range of each sex. Correct proportion is of primary importance, as long as size is within the standard's range.

The length of body from prosternum to the rear-most projection of the rump, is slightly longer than the height of the dog at the withers, the most desirable proportion of the height to length being 9 to 10. The Rottweiler is neither coarse nor shelly. Depth of chest is approximately fifty percent (50%) of the height of the dog. His bone and muscle mass must be sufficient to balance his frame, giving a compact and very powerful appearance.

*Serious Faults: Lack of proportion, undersized, oversized, reversal of sex characteristics (bitchy dogs, doggy bitches).*

**Head** of medium length, broad between the ears; forehead line seen in profile is moderately arched; zygomatic arch and stop well developed with strong broad upper and lower jaws. The desired ratio of backskull to muzzle is 3 to 2. Forehead is preferred dry, however some wrinkling may occur when dog is alert.

**Expression** is noble, alert and self-assured.

**Eyes** of medium size, almond shaped with well-fitting lids, moderately deep-set, neither protruding nor receding. The desired color is a uniform dark brown.

*Serious Faults:* Yellow (*bird of prey*) eyes, eyes of different color or size,  
hairless eye rim.

*Disqualification:* Entropion. Ectropion.

**Ears** of medium size, pendant, triangular in shape; when carried alertly the ears are level with the top of the skull and appear to broaden it. Ears are to be set well apart, hanging forward with the inner edge lying tightly against the head and terminating at approximately mid-cheek.

*Serious Faults:* Improper carriage (*creased, folded or held away from cheek/head*).

**Muzzle** - bridge is straight, broad at base with slight tapering towards tip. The end of the muzzle is broad with well developed chin. Nose is broad rather than round and always black.

**Lips** - always black; corners closed; inner mouth pigment is preferred dark.

*Serious faults:* Total lack of mouth pigment (*pink mouth*).

**Bite & Dentition** - Teeth 42 in number (20 upper; 22 lower), strong, correctly placed, meeting in a scissors bite; lower incisors touching inside of upper incisors.

*Serious faults:* Level bite; any missing tooth.

*Disqualifications:* Overshot, undershot (*when incisors do not touch or mesh*);  
wry mouth; two or more missing teeth.

### **Neck, Topline, Body**

**Neck** - Powerful, well muscled, moderately long, slightly arched and without loose skin.

**Topline** - The back is firm and level, extending in a straight line from behind the withers to the croup. The back remains horizontal to the ground while the dog is moving or standing.

**Body** - The chest is roomy, broad and deep, reaching to elbow, with well pronounced forechest and well sprung, oval ribs. Back is straight and strong. Loin is short, deep and well muscled. Croup is broad, of medium length and only slightly sloping. Underline of a mature Rottweiler has a slight tuck-up. Males must have two normal testicles properly descended into the scrotum.

*Disqualifications:* Unilateral cryptorchid or cryptorchid males.

**Tail** - Tail docked short, close to body, leaving one or two tail vertebrae. The set of the tail is more important than length. Properly set, it gives an impression of elongation of topline; carried slightly above horizontal when the dog is excited or moving.

**Forequarters** - Shoulder blade is long and well laid back. Upper arm equal in length to shoulder blade, set so elbows are well under body. Distance from withers to elbow and elbow to ground is equal. Legs are strongly developed with straight, heavy bone, not set close together. Pasterns are strong, springy and almost perpendicular to the ground. Feet

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are round, compact with well arched toes, turning neither in nor out. Pads are thick and hard. Nails short, strong and black. Dewclaws may be removed.

**Hindquarters** - Angulation of hindquarters balances that of forequarters. Upper thigh is fairly long, very broad and well muscled. Stifle joint is well turned. Lower thigh is long, broad and powerful, with extensive muscling leading into a strong hock joint. Rear pasterns are nearly perpendicular to the ground. Viewed from the rear, hind legs are straight, strong and wide enough apart to fit with a properly built body. Feet are somewhat longer than the front feet, turning neither in nor out, equally compact with well arched toes. Pads are thick and hard. Nails short, strong, and black. Dewclaws must be removed.

**Coat** - Outer coat is straight, coarse, dense, of medium length and lying flat. Undercoat should be present on neck and thighs, but the amount is influenced by climatic conditions. Undercoat should not show through outer coat. The coat is shortest on head, ears and legs, longest on breeching. The Rottweiler is to be exhibited in the natural condition with no trimming.

*Fault:*                      *Wavy coat*

*Serious Faults:*        *Open, excessively short, or curly coat; total lack of undercoat; any trimming that alters the length of the natural coat.*

*Disqualifications:* *Long coat.*

**Color** - Always black with rust to mahogany markings. The demarcation between black and rust is to be clearly defined. The markings should be located as follows: a spot over each eye; on cheeks; as a strip around each side of muzzle, but not on the bridge of the nose; on throat; triangular mark on both sides of prosternum; on forelegs from carpus downward to the toes; on inside of rear legs showing down the front of the stifle and broadening out to front of rear legs from hock to toes, but not completely eliminating black from rear of pasterns; under tail; black penciling on toes. The undercoat is gray, tan, or black. Quantity and location of rust markings is important and should not exceed ten percent of body color.

*Serious faults:*        *Straw-colored, excessive, insufficient or sooty markings; rust marking other than described above; white marking any place on dog (a few rust or white hairs do not constitute a marking).*

*Disqualifications:* *Any base color other than black; absence of all markings.*

**Gait** - The Rottweiler is a trotter. His movement should be balanced, harmonious, sure, powerful and unhindered, with strong forereach and a powerful rear drive. The motion is effortless, efficient, and ground-covering. Front and rear legs are thrown neither in nor out, as the imprint of hind feet should touch that of forefeet. In a trot the forequarters and hindquarters are mutually coordinated while the back remains level, firm and relatively motionless. As speed increases the legs will converge under body towards a center line.

**Temperament** - The Rottweiler is basically a calm, confident and courageous dog with a self-assured aloofness that does not lend itself to immediate and indiscriminate friendships. A Rottweiler is self-confident and responds quietly and with a wait-and-see

attitude to influences in his environment. He has an inherent desire to protect home and family, and is an intelligent dog of extreme hardness and adaptability with a strong willingness to work, making him especially suited as a companion, guardian and general all-purpose dog. The behavior of the Rottweiler in the show ring should be controlled, willing and adaptable, trained to submit to examination of mouth, testicles, etc. An aloof or reserved dog should be not be penalized, as this reflects the accepted character of the breed. An aggressive or belligerent attitude towards other dogs should not be faulted.

A judge shall excuse from the ring any shy Rottweiler. A dog should be judged fundamentally shy if, refusing to stand for examination, it shrinks away from the judge. A dog that, in the opinion of the judge, menaces or threatens him/her, or exhibits any sign that it may not be safely approached or examined by the judge in the normal manner, shall be excused from the ring. A dog that in the opinion of the judge attacks any person in the ring shall be disqualified.

### **Summary**

***Faults:*** *The foregoing is a description of the ideal Rottweiler. Any structural fault that detracts from the above-described working dog must be penalized to the extent of the deviation.*

***Disqualifications:*** *Entropion, ectropion. Overshot, undershot (when incisors do not touch or mesh); wry mouth; two or more missing teeth. Unilateral cryptorchid or cryptorchid males. Long coat. Any base color other than black; absence of all markings. A dog that in the opinion of the judge attacks any person in the ring.*

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#### **Discussion Of The Standard**

Early in 2000 imports with natural full tails began showing up in a number of breeds in AKC rings. When asked what to do when a dog enters the ring with a natural tail where the standard describes the tail as docked (i.e., Rottweiler Standard: Tail docked short, close to body leaving one or two tail vertebrae), AKC gave judges the following choice: “In accordance with Chapter 7, Section 15 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, *A judge’s decision shall be final in all cases affecting the merits of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given to withhold any or all prizes for want of merit.* It is the judge’s interpretation of the breed standard on the day. In each case when a natural tailed dog enters the ring, you may judge the exhibit and place the dog as you feel appropriate based on its quality in comparison to the other dogs being exhibited. Or, you may excuse the dog from the ring noting that the exhibit is not consistent with the breed standard, natural tail.

An important point to remember as you study the standard to determine type (balance and proportion) is that it will help you if you categorize deviations from the standard into faults of structure versus faults of beauty. In judging the Rottweiler, you should give more importance to faults of structure than to beauty or cosmetic faults. You should place great importance in how the structure functions in movement (gaiting), but, in the final analysis, you should go back to type (the sum of them all) in determining your placements.

You should always judge the TOTAL dog as he is presented to you that day in that ring. You will only get an impression of his character in those few minutes you have, but how he presents himself to you in those minutes is also important in determining type. To quote well known All Rounder, Arnold Woolf, “What role does the judge play in our Dog World? I believe the answer is a very important role for the judge must oversee the continuity of the breed standards---perhaps a small task, but an important one.”

**Serious Structure & Beauty Faults and Disqualifications**

**Serious Faults of  
STRUCTURE/WORKING ABILITY**

Any deviation from correct canine structure.

Temperament.

Lack of proportion,  
undersized, oversized,  
reversal of sex characteristics  
(bitchy dogs, doggy bitches).

Level bite; any missing tooth.

Open coat,  
excessively short coat,  
total lack of undercoat

**DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

Overshot, undershot, wry mouth,  
two or more missing teeth.

**Serious Faults of  
BEAUTY/COSMETICS**

Yellow (bird of prey) eyes, eyes of  
different color or size, hairless eye rim.

Improper ear carriage (creased, folded  
or held away from cheek/head).

Total lack of mouth pigment  
(pink mouth).

Wavy, or curly coat, any trimming  
which alters natural coat.

Straw-colored, excessive, insufficient  
or sooty markings;  
white markings any place on dog.

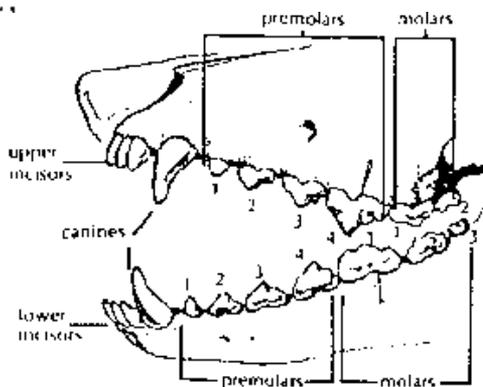
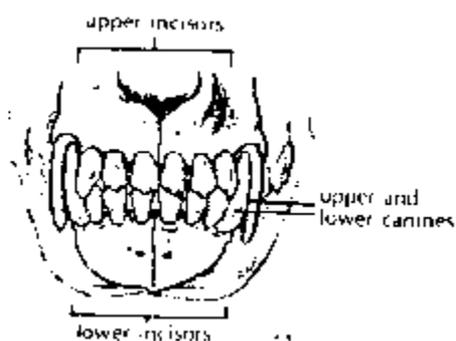
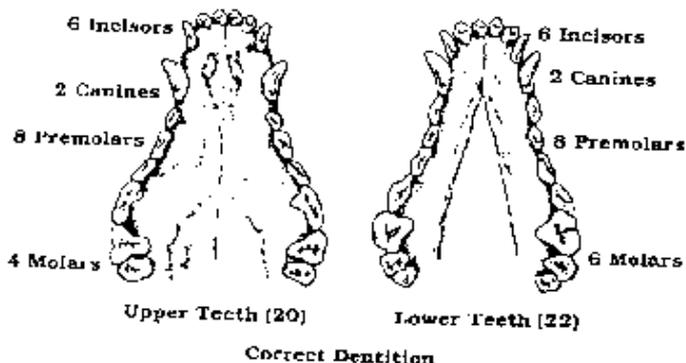
**DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

Entropion. Ectropion

Long coat.

Any base color other than black;  
absence of all markings.

**Correct Dentition**



## **Checking Dentition**

The Rottweiler Standard says:

**Bite and Dentition** - Teeth 42 in number (20 upper; 22 lower), strong, correctly placed, meeting in a scissors bite (lower incisors touching inside of upper incisors).

*Serious faults:*    *Level bite; any missing tooth.*

*Disqualifications:*    *Overshot, undershot (when incisors do not touch or mesh); wry mouth; two or more missing teeth.*

## **Comments On Checking Dentition**

It is important to count teeth in all exhibits. Do not just look for gaps between teeth and only count if there is a gap. In Rottweilers, who do not have long muzzles and have large teeth, there is not always an obvious gap when a tooth is missing. With practice and technique, counting teeth can be done quickly and easily.

Count by groups. Look for 6 incisors and 2 canines each, upper and lower. This can be done when checking the occlusion. Look for the 4 premolars and 3 molars on each side lower and the 4 premolars and 2 molars on each side upper. The fourth premolar on the bottom is a large tooth, and looks like it should be a molar. On the other hand, the last molars are small and quite easily missed. The good news is that it is usually a premolar that will be missing. It is also, usually, a premolar, which will be an extra tooth. Regarding extra teeth, while the AKC Rottweiler standard calls for 42 teeth, it and the FCI (Federation Cynologique International) standard do not address the problem of extra teeth. Therefore, extra teeth should not be considered a serious or disqualifying fault. Remember that faults of dentition are faults of structure.

Most handlers are very good at showing the bite and teeth, but you may need to ask for the mouth to be opened 'like an alligator' to see the small back molars. It is also easy to see and count the groups of teeth while the dog is relaxed with his mouth open and panting. Be aware of where the handler places his fingers when showing the bite; a missing P-1 is easily missed.

If you find any deviations, tell the handler what you found. This is also a good time to make a mental note of the mouth pigmentation.

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#### **How To Correctly Approach And Examine A Rottweiler**

This is a dog that normally is very alert and responsive to his surroundings and the people in it. Your attitude and stance are important to the dog's acceptance of you as a complete stranger, invading his area. Approach him in a deliberate, confident and friendly manner. When first approaching, (slightly at an angle from the front) to assess head type and expression, do not stare as this can be perceived as a challenge to the dog. You can assess ear set, eyes, head proportions without staring. Ask the handler to show the dentition and then examine the body and testicles quietly and confidently with gentle firm hands. It takes very little "hands on" examination to judge a Rottweiler. Rottweilers do not require a heavy touch and, in fact, may resent it. However, the AKC does require that a judge physically examine the dog.

#### **The DOs and DON'Ts Of Approaching, Examining And Handling A Ring Full Of Rottweilers**

DO remember to give each entry the same consideration and pattern.

DO realize that large entries mean more novice handlers. Your understanding can make the novice handler want to become the pro of the future.

DO have the large classes lined-up in catalog order for your ease in checking the number in your judge's book, for the ring stewards, exhibitors, and spectators ease in keeping track of the entries, to say nothing of videographers and photographers.

DO, when possible, split large classes and excuse the group not being judged from the ring. A ring full of Rottweilers gaiting next to a ring full of waiting Rottweilers can cause some unwanted disruptions of the judging process.

DO ask the handlers, when gaiting the dog to: keep their space, not run-up on the dog in front of them, and gait the dog at a moderate speed and under control at all times. It's your ring; it is NOT the "INDY 500!"

DO respect the character of the breed when you go to approach and examine the individual dog. Not all Rottweilers enjoy being examined by a stranger, but all Rottweilers can be trained to do so. Just in case you meet that one in a thousand that is not, approach from the front, but slightly at an angle, shoulder down, at ease, yet confident. This is the submissive position, which we have learned

from temperament testing. You are no threat. Stand at the side of the dog when checking the teeth and body. Go over the dog quickly and smoothly, checking for the undercoat and the texture of the outer coat, and the testicles; remember that undercoat is greatly affected by climate.

Do keep your hand(s) on the dog while examining and avoid the temptation to reach back to touch the dog once you have completed your exam and removed your hands. The dog may mistake you for another dog.

DO ask the handler to show the bite and dentition. If the handler is having trouble, you have the option of asking to see the gait which may settle the dog down so that you can proceed with the individual examination alleviating the necessity of having to excuse a dog that could not be examined on that day.

DON'T be a "hero". If you feel the dog cannot on this day be examined safely, excuse him. If the dog is causing a continual disruption in your ring affecting the other entries, excuse him.

DON'T over examine a Rottweiler. You can see most of what you need to know.

DON'T grab head, ears, pound back, pinch thighs, pull legs out from behind, kneel in front of the dog, or stare at him.

DON'T bait the dog yourself with noises, food, or arm movements. The dog may be trained to focus on the handler.

DON'T reposition or stack the dog for the handler. The dog may tolerate his own handler, but not a stranger.

DON'T judge Rottweilers **until** you feel completely comfortable with the breed. Rottweilers sense when a person is nervous and it may put them on guard. Set up a visit or two with the Mentors listed on the ARC website and get your hands on their dogs. They can demonstrate how to handle them with confidence.

And finally, DO remember that the exhibitor, by asking for your opinion on his dog, has given you the greatest compliment you can have in the dog world. This is your ring, your domain, but also your responsibility. The "buck stops" with you, the judge.

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### **Suggested Reading**

*The Rottweiler: Centuries of Service* by Linda Michels & Catherine Thompson  
(Howell Book House - Macmillan)

*Our Friend the Rottweiler* by Yrjola & Tikka  
(Powderhorn Press)

*Rottweilers* by Les Price  
(Howell Book House-Macmillan)

*Step By Step Book About Rottweilers* by Heinrich Von Beine  
(T.F.H.)

*The Complete Rottweiler* by Muriel Freeman  
(Howell Book House)

*The Rottweiler* by Jim Pettengell  
(Howell Book House)

*The Ultimate Rottweiler* by Andrew H. Brace  
(Howell Book House - Macmillan)

*The Rottweiler* by Joan Blackmore  
(Tetra Press)

*The Rottweiler Experience* by Joan R. Klem & Susan Rademacher  
(Howell Book House - Macmillan)

### **Suggested Videos**

*Let's Talk About Rottweilers* by Joan Klem

Ultimate Goals for Today's Rottweilers and How to Select for Them, by Joan Klem

*The Rottweiler*, The American Kennel Club video

*In The Ribbons: Rottweiler*, Canine Training Systems

*Dogsteps* by Rachel P. Elliott

### **Suggested CD-ROM**

*The Rottweiler CD*, Sherlock Multimedia

**Judging The Rottweiler by Les and Pat Price (“Dog World” April 3, 1998)**

The first thing one must bear in mind before judging the breed is what was its original function and what was its origin. The Rottweiler was a drover’s dog from southern Germany who was capable of not only herding cattle, but protecting them from attack from wolf or bear. He is a cattle dog, not a sheep dog, and consequently need not be as fast as a dog who is required to herd sheep.

He is a self-confident dog who is alert and has great courage and protective instinct—a dog built for endurance and a limited turn of speed. His aptitude for work is high and his ability to use his nose and willingness to retrieve is also very good.

In modern Germany there are no more long cattle drives; they were banned by law many years ago. The Rottweiler’s working ability and his adaptability soon found him other vocations as diverse as working as a guide dog to undertaking police and army duty. Today in Germany all Rottweilers to be used for breeding are required to compete and be successful in the schutzhund working tests. The motto of the German breed club is: “Rottweiler breeding is working dog breeding.”

An ideal Rottweiler, therefore, is a medium/large, robust and powerful dog. That should not be in any way misunderstood to mean “mastiff type” for that would be a mistake. He should have a clean outline in all respects including the head and neck where no loose skin should be seen. His build should denote great strength, agility and endurance. Dogs are more massive throughout with larger frames and heavier bones than bitches. Bitches are feminine without being in any way weak or snipy.

He is what some people would call a head breed and that is a fair comment. The head is very important and makes the breed very distinct from others. The head should be dry and the flews should be tight and in no way resemble a St Bernard. Large, round, bucket-type heads should be penalized. The best heads are of a chiseled appearance with well-defined stop, good depth of muzzle and strong cheek bones giving support to a strong bite. The ratio of skull to muzzle is 3:2. Ears should not be too large or too small and should always lie flat against the head. Carried alertly, the ears are level with the top of the head and appear to broaden it.

The eye is important because it affects the expression: it should always be a dark and medium size and almond in shape. As it is a Germanic breed, the bite

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is of utmost importance. There are the usual 42 teeth and a scissors bite is required.

The neck is an important aspect of the breed and there has been a problem of late with necks being too short, giving a stuffy appearance. A good reach of neck is so important in the overall balance of the dog and is also important to the agility and working ability of the breed.

The topline is firm and does not roll like an OES. The back remains horizontal to the ground while the dog is moving or standing.

The body is roomy with well sprung ribs; the chest is broad and deep reaching to the elbow. The forechest is so important because it gives us a clue to the angulation of the front assembly; he must have a good forechest. Make no mistake, this is the biggest problem we have at the moment in the modern British [*and American*] Rottweiler; there are so few now with the correct forechest and the problem needs urgent attention by breeders and judges. Despite constant nagging, judges are continuing to put up dogs with straight front assemblies which to the untrained eye can look smart, as in terriers, which do have this type of front.

The shoulder blades should be long and well laid back and the arms should also be of a good length so that the elbows are well under the body with no daylight between elbow and chest. Ideally, shoulder and upper arm should form a 90-degree angle. The depth of chest is 50 percent of the height of the dog which means the legs are also 50 percent of the height which is not always the case—short legs should be heavily penalized.

Pasterns are strong and springy and are almost perpendicular to the ground. Feet are round and compact with well arched toes turning neither in nor out. We have a problem in the breed at the moment with open and flat feet; remember the old saying, “no foot, no horse”. The standard says that back feet are larger than the front yet in our experience they are usually the same size in a quality animal.

The croup is broad and of medium length and only very slightly sloping. Hindquarters are well angulated and mirror the front assembly. The upper thigh is fairly long, broad and well muscled. The stifle joint is well turned and the second thigh must be well developed. A lack of a second thigh should make you suspicious of the rear assembly—a lack of development here may mean a problem elsewhere. Hocks should be strong, short and nearly perpendicular to the ground, pointing neither in nor out.

The coat is straight, coarse, dense and of medium length and lays flat. The coat is never of the short, Doberman texture. Undercoat must be present on the neck and thighs but should not show through the coat. In hot countries the undercoat may disappear. Color is always black with mahogany markings, never yellow or straw. The demarcation between black and mahogany should be clearly defined and not sooty.

He is a trotter and should be assessed at this gait; however the walk can sometimes tell you things the trot cannot. It is not necessary to run him around at a very fast pace—this will only serve to hide the faults you are trying to uncover—a steady trot will tell you all you want to know if you as a judge are capable of reading the signs.

Adults should be moved more than once around the ring for the best results. Sometimes the class judges itself when the dogs are moved out properly and the judge is a capable one. He should move straight with drive and nothing flapping. On the stand be aware that handlers will try to cover faults by stretching out their exhibits to improve the appearance of the topline and the position of the shoulders.

The temperament is basically a calm, confident and courageous dog with a self-assured aloofness. It is not a breed that likes to be over-handled and it is not necessary to do so—what you see is what you get.

Dogs stand 24-27 inches (60-68 cm.), bitches 22-25 (55-63 cm.).

In a nutshell, he is: medium/large, strong, handsome, muscular, dry, agile, well-angulated, compact, clean-cut, balanced, noble, arrogant, intelligent, self-confident, protective, fearless, harmonious in action and a joy to own.

He is **not**: wrinkly, stuffy, clumsy, massive, roly poly, stubby, lumbering, narrow, fluffy, sooty, yellow, fine, snipy, stupid, cowardly or ungainly

## **The Rottweiler**

### A Judging Handbook

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#### **Rottweilers Must Be Balanced: “You Be the Judge” by Robert Cole**

Balance is important to Rottweiler type because a working dog cannot perform properly if it is not correctly balanced. I have drawn eight variations of balance and added some differences in head and structure. The eight examples have been divided into two classes, four in Bred-By Exhibitor Class and four in Open Class. In addition to four placements in each class, select a Winner's Dog and a Reserve Winner. I will inform as to the order and reasons for my 10 decisions after you have made yours.

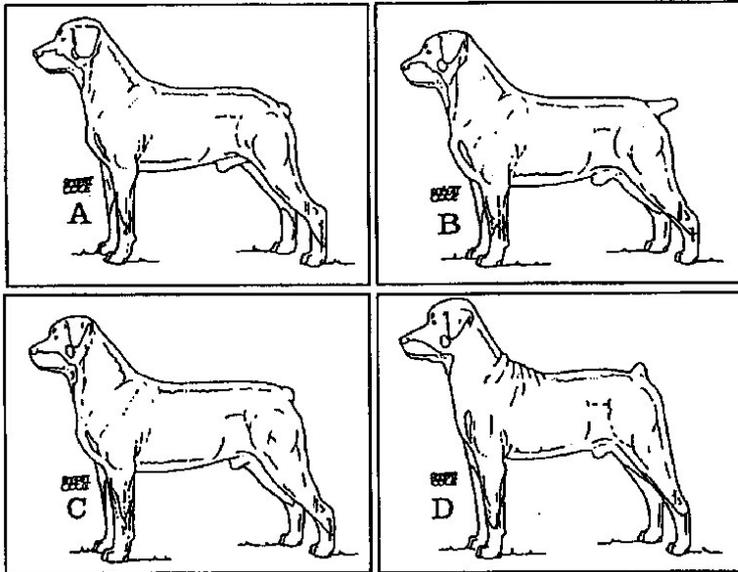
#### Bred-By Exhibitor: A, B, C, D

The best (height to length) balance dog, but not the best Rottweiler, in this Bred-By Exhibitor class is Dog A. Dog B and C are better Rottweilers even though they depart from typical balance. Dog D serves to illustrate twelve head and structural faults.

First place is between Dog B and Dog C. Both are competitive; I have not taken their separate departures from typical balance to an unacceptable degree. If I did their departures would be obvious. Dog B's legs are short; they should be the same length as the body is deep. Dog C's body is longer than the ideal height to length ratio 9 to 10. Dog B's tail could have been docked shorter, however, his correct tail set is more important than length.

Best height to length balanced Dog A is lighter boned than desired. Like Dog B and C, he is sound but lacks the full compactness and substance required in guarding home, family, property and in police work, but again, not to an unacceptable degree. His large rather than small, round rather than triangular, and low rather than high ears detract from an otherwise good head. In the rear, his croup slopes down more than desired, and his hocks could be lower.

Dog D departs from typical in twelve visible ways: (1) his forehead is too pronounced; (2) muzzle is long; (3) ears are set on low; (4) neck lacks fullness, strength and arch; (5) skin is loose a junction of neck and withers; (6) shoulders are steep; (7) upper arm is equally steep and; (8) hides forechest, and (9) in conjunction with steep pasterns, forces body to rise above elbow; (10) his rear is raised up higher than withers by; (11) steep hind leg lacking required angulation at stifle and hock; (12) tail is incorrectly set too high (it should only be carried slightly above horizontal when the dog is excited or moving).

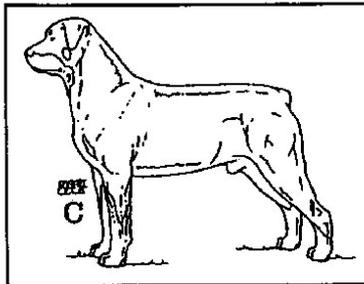


Bred-By Exhibitor: 1,2,3,4

Dog C is long in body, not long in loin. He is my choice for first place. He is alert, but calm and has a high degree of the self confidence necessary in dogs bred for working, guarding and tracking.

Looking at the whole dog, my second place is short-legged Dog B. I awarded third place to Dog A and fourth place to Dog D.

***Bred-By Exhibitor***  
***First Place:***



## **The Rottweiler**

### **A Judging Handbook**

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#### Open: E, F, G, H

Finding the best Rottweiler in this class is not too difficult. Dog G represents my description of typical. Second and third place is between long-legged Dog E and heavy, but sound Dog F. The extent, by contrasting these two types, reinforces appreciation for Rottweiler balance. Fourth place Dog H's six visible faults are interesting.

Dog E's body and legs are incorrectly long, yet he presents an impressive picture. He also lacks stop (step up from muzzle to skull) has a high tail set and poor feet. Sound, but heavy Dog F's legs are correct length, he is just very heavy. The Rottweiler should exemplify sturdiness, stoutness and substance, without being fat or overpowering. The seven faults possessed by Dog H are (1) shallow top; (2) flat skull; (3) round eyes; (4) short ribcage/long loin; (5) rouches topline; (6) low set tail; (7) pronounced tuckup.

#### Open: 1,2,3,4

First place is awarded to Dog G, Second Place to heavy Dog F, Third Place to long legged Dog E, Fourth Place to interesting Dog H.

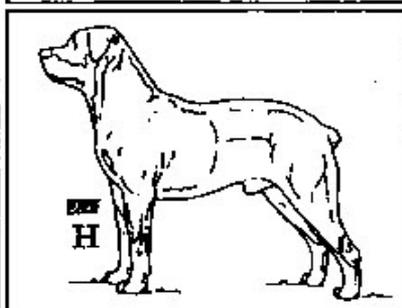
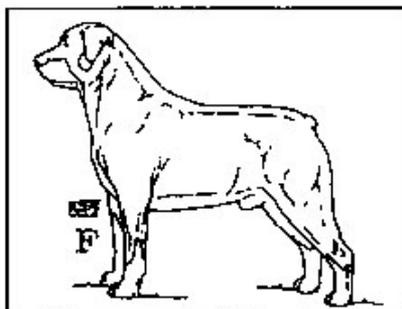
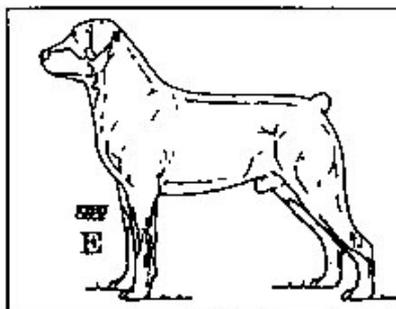
#### Winner and Reserve

Winner is between first place Dog C and first place Dog G. My choice for Winner is Dog G. Reserve is between first place Dog C and second place Dog F (who has only been defeated by Winner Dog G). My choice is Dog C.

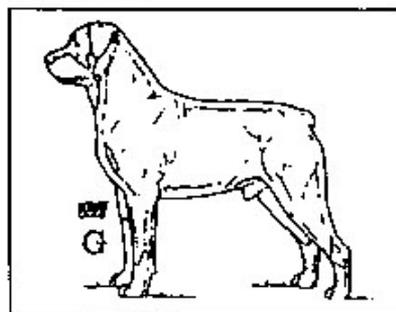
#### **Let's Suppose...**

Consider Dog G and Dog F again at the Open Level. If Dog G had any one of the following serious faults; (1) yellow eyes; eyes of different size; or hairless eye rims; (2) total lack of mouth pigment (pink mouth); (3) a level bite; (4) an open, excessively short, or curly coat; (5) straw-colored, excessive, insufficient or sooty markings (all five are serious faults); would you forgive this fault or would you award Dog F first place?

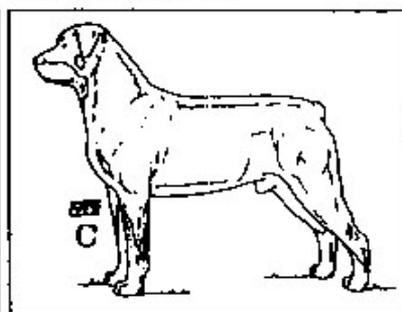
Suppose you have forgiven one (or more) of these faults and Dog G was your Open Class first place. Could you then award him Winners over long bodied, Bred-By Exhibitor first place Dog C?



*Winner's Dog:*



*Reserve Winner's Dog:*



**Rottweilers At Work**

**Carting**



**Herding**



**Obedience**



# Tracking



# Rottweilers at Work Agility

