

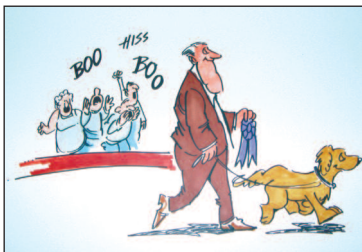
Get The Winning Edge

Faults & Double Faults



Understanding Major Structural Faults

This special report is designed to help breeders in understanding the main structural faults that plague most breeds and what their impact is on the dog.



Like automobiles, dogs are shaped and reshaped by popular tastes and fashions. Forefaces are compressed, ears are reshaped, and shoulders are rotated or slimmed down, even staples like sense of smell, eyesight and hearing are dabbled with all in the name of bettering the breed.

The problem is one man's so-called improvement is another man's disaster. Often a popularity explosion can be a breed's greatest curse. The main reason for this is the influx of new breeders that come with a popularity surge. The net effect is that we have "genetic engineering" being done by people, who by and large, do not truly understand the breed and the rationale behind the standard.

Long ago and far away, when I first began to breed Cocker Spaniels, I learned most from what I observed happening in the show ring. The dogs that won were the good ones, weren't they? I thought so, as a novice, and nearly everyone in the dog game I spoke to seemed to feel the same way. Certainly the winning dogs of the day shaped my "mind's eye" impression of the ideal dog I wanted to breed. Just what was this like and why did I want to breed for that type?

First and foremost he had to have coat. It was obvious that if you had lots of coat you could carve the kind of outline you desired. Next was head, a big well chiseled head and the more muzzle the better. It was obvious from ringside that the judges paid a lot of attention to heads. Next came movement, the fastest ones seemed to get all the attention. I had to breed a fast one! And that was it, that's what my Cocker Spaniel had to be.