

Head Properties of the English Cocker

Illustrations courtesy of Eileen Weston

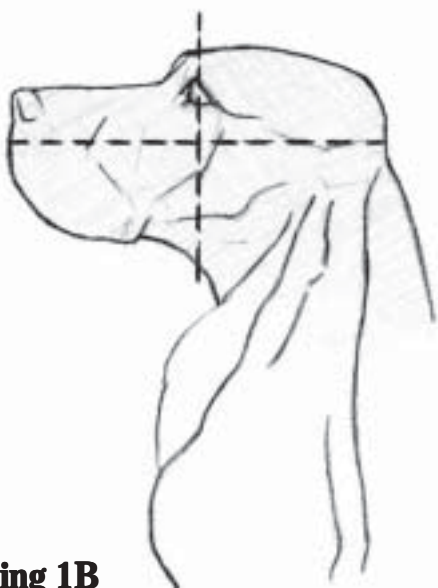
(Presented by the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America's Education Committee)

Side View of a Well-balanced Head



Drawing 1A

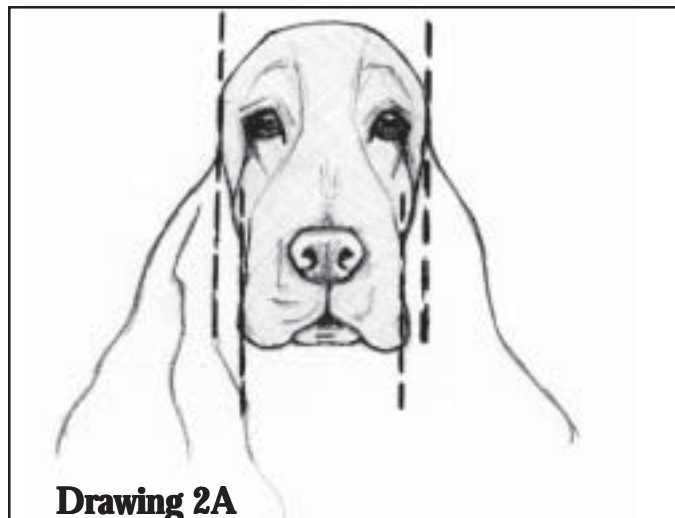
illustrates the side view of a well-balanced head, with a skull that lies in a plane not quite parallel to the muzzle and joined by a definite, but moderate stop. The lips are square, neither overly pendulous nor snipey in relation to the rest of the skull.



Drawing 1B

shows the same head and points out the approximately equal lengths of the muzzle and skull.

Correct Frontal View



Drawing 2A

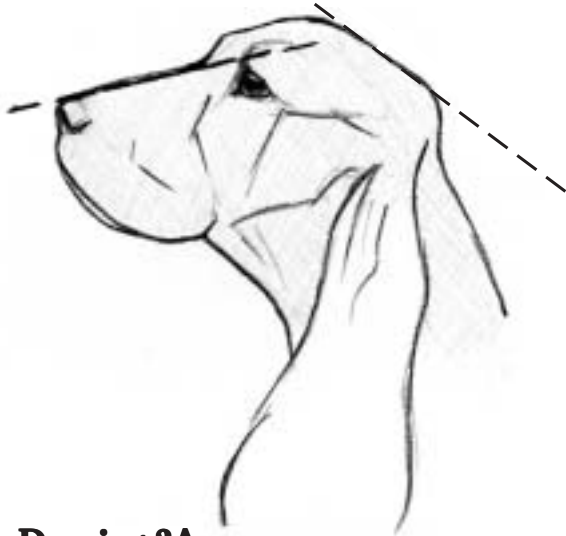
shows a nicely balanced head, with the muzzle only as much narrower than the skull to allow for a full eye placement. The skull is arched on the sides, essential for proper attachment of the jaw muscles, and slightly flattened on top. Planes of the sides of the skull are roughly parallel to those of the muzzle. Eyes are medium in size, slightly oval and set wide apart with tight lids.



Drawing 2B

is the same head from the top, showing comparison of skull to well-cushioned muzzle. Notice again that both lie in roughly parallel planes.

Head Faults in English Cockers



Drawing 3A

illustrates a “downfaced” head, with too much arch over the brow and a backskull that drops off steeply, throwing the planes of the skull and muzzle at an incorrect angle. When this dog’s muzzle is lifted to carry a bird, he will be looking into the sky instead of where he is going. This dog also is excessively throaty.



Drawing 3B

shows a common fault in English Cocker heads—a too-wide backskull accompanied by a round, loose eye. Note the incorrect planes of the skull and muzzle.

Head Slight in Stop and Snipey



Drawing 4A

illustrates a head that is too slight in stop with a short, snipey muzzle that lacks depth.



Drawing 4B

is the same head from the top, showing a broad backskull and snipey foreface.