

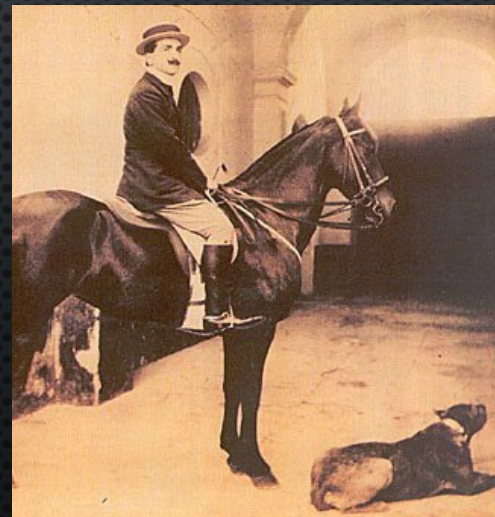


THE CANE CORSO

OFFICIAL BREED SEMINAR OF THE CCAA
2022

HISTORY CREATED TYPE

- THE CANE CORSO IS A DOG OF FUNCTION DEVELOPED IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL ITALY'S RURAL, AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT.
- WAR AND COMBAT DOG
- FLOCK AND HERD GUARDIAN
- PREDATOR CONTROL
- CATTLE MANAGEMENT
- BOAR, BADGER AND BEAR HUNTER
- BEAST OF BURDEN/CART PULLING
- FEARLESS, FAITHFUL COMPANION
- UTILITY, GUARDIAN BREED





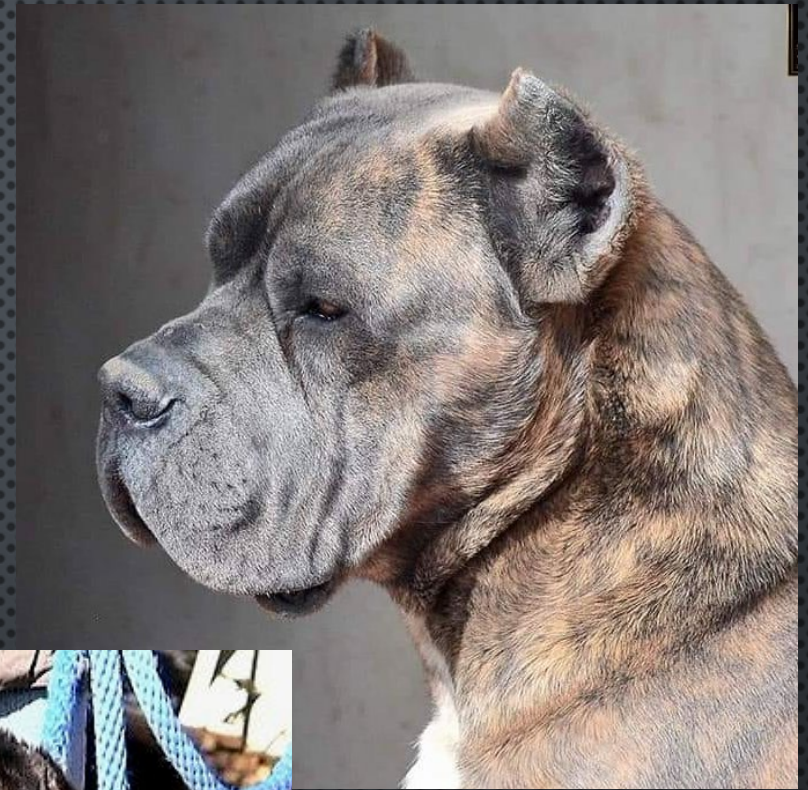
GENERAL APPEARANCE

- THE CORSO IS THE ULTIMATE UTILITY MOLOSSER, WHOSE STRUCTURE COMMUNICATES VERSATILITY
- HIS CHISELED HEADPIECE IS LARGE, IMPRESSIVE AND DISTINCTIVE.
- HIS EXPRESSION IS STRIKING AND INTELLIGENT.
- POWER, MASS AND BONE ARE THE BACKDROP OF HIS ATHLETIC ABILITY AND BALANCE.
- MOVEMENT IS THE EXTENDED TROT, EFFORTLESS AND EFFICIENT; POWER IN FLUID MOTION.

THE HEAD

Correct head type is the defining marker that distinguishes the Corso from other breeds. It is a critical element of type!

- EXTRA CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO LEARN THE PRECISE PARAMETERS OF THE CORSO HEAD.
- CORSO EXPRESSION IS UNIQUE AND SHOULD NOT BE REMINISCENT OF ANY OTHER BREED.
- THERE IS NOTHING “ROUND” ABOUT THE APPEARANCE OF THE HEAD PIECE.
- SQUARE, CUBE, BLOCK - THESE ADJECTIVES ARE WHAT SHOULD JUMP TO MIND
- SLIGHT CONVERGENCE BETWEEN MUZZLE AND SKULL PLANES.
- THE FOREHEAD IS NOT DOMED, BUT FLATTENS IMMEDIATELY ABOVE THE BROW AND INCLINES SLIGHTLY TOWARD THE BACKSKULL



SKULL

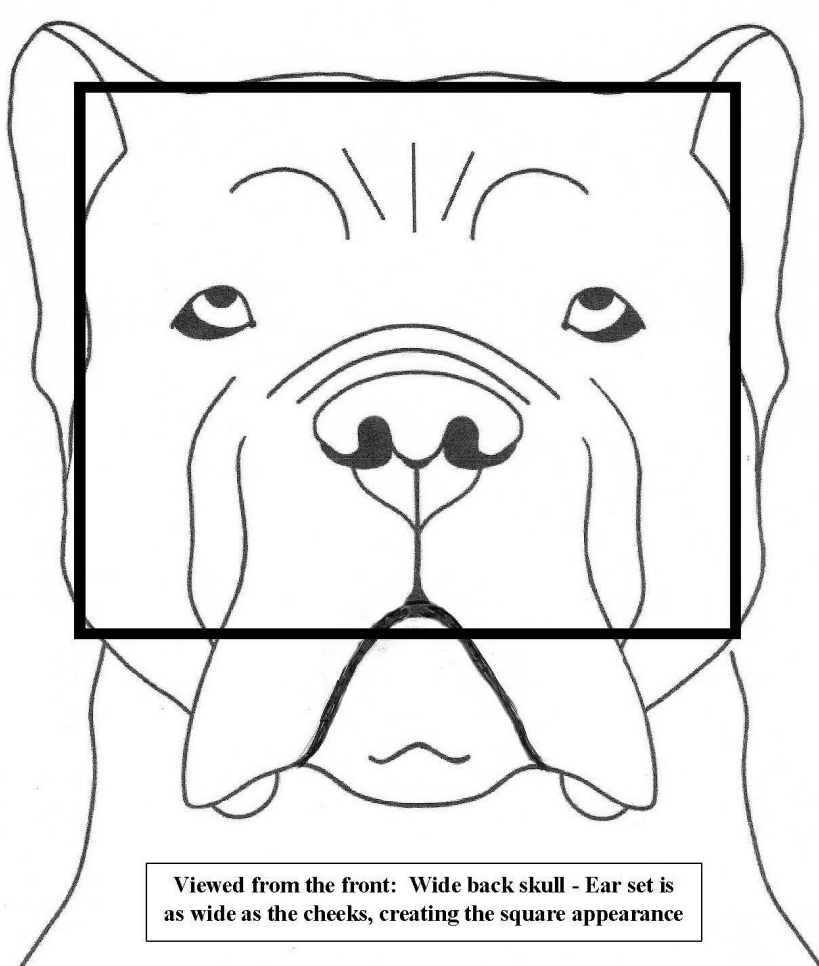
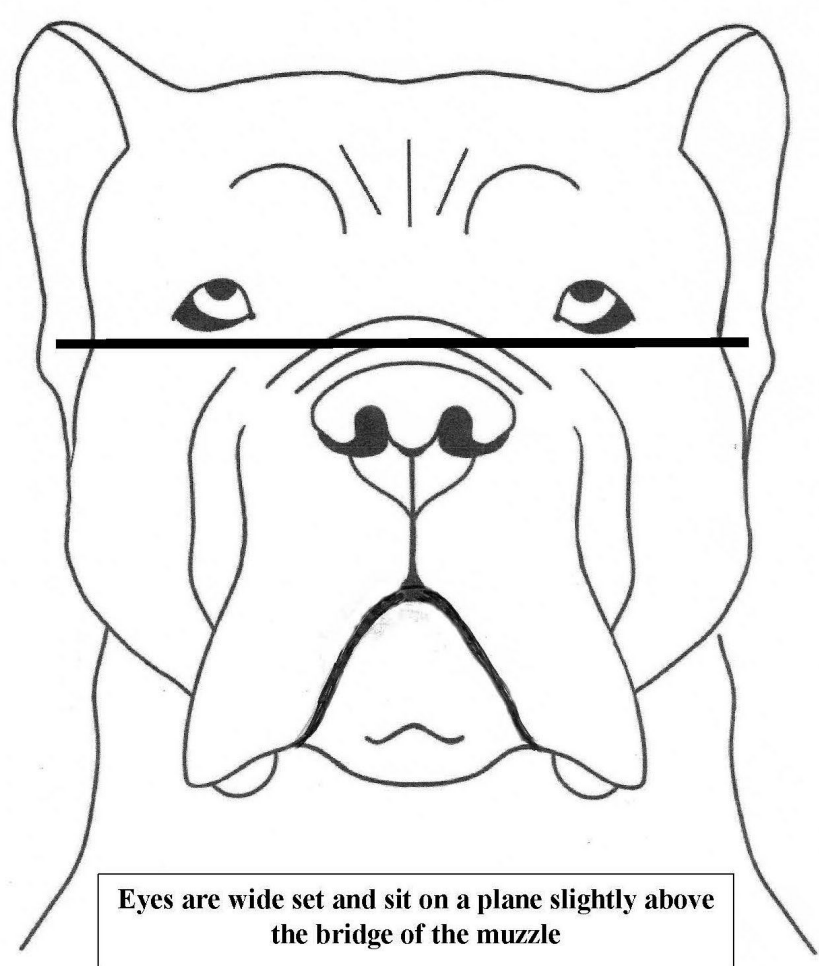
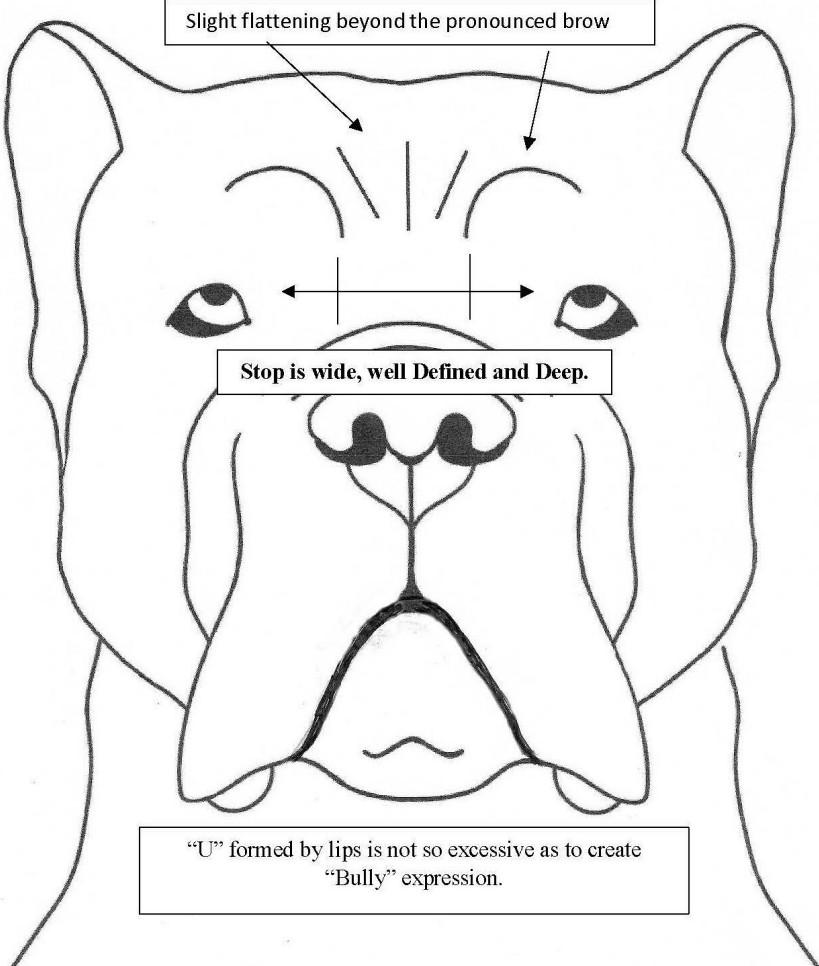
FRONT VIEW: WIDE AS IT IS LONG, FORMING THE IMPRESSION OF A CUBE. EARS AND EYES ARE WIDE SET. BACK SKULL IS HORIZONTAL. THIS CHARACTERISTIC IS A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT IN THE TYPE OF THE CANE CORSO.

THE STOP IS WELL DEFINED. BROWS ARE PRONOUNCED. SKULL FLATTENS SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE BROW.

TOP VIEW: THE SKULL SHOULD APPEAR AS A SQUARE . THE WIDE BACK SKULL MAKES A HORIZONTAL LINE FROM EAR TO EAR.

SIDE VIEW: FROM THE WELL DEFINED STOP AND ARCHED BROW, THE SKULL INCLINES SLIGHTLY TOWARD THE EAR SET. THIS IS CRITICAL TO BREED TYPE. TOO SEVERE OF AN INCLINE OR ROUNDED/DOME ABOVE THE STOP IS NOT CORRECT.





SKULL VIEW FROM THE FRONT

THE EXPRESSION!

ALERT, ATTENTIVE AND INTELLIGENT. A CORSO SHOULD NEVER LOOK ASLEEP OR DULL-WITTED ALTHOUGH HE MAY APPEAR INDIFFERENT. THE WRITINGS OF ANTIQUITY TALK ABOUT THE "PIERCING EYES" OF THE CORSO.

Key components of correct expression:

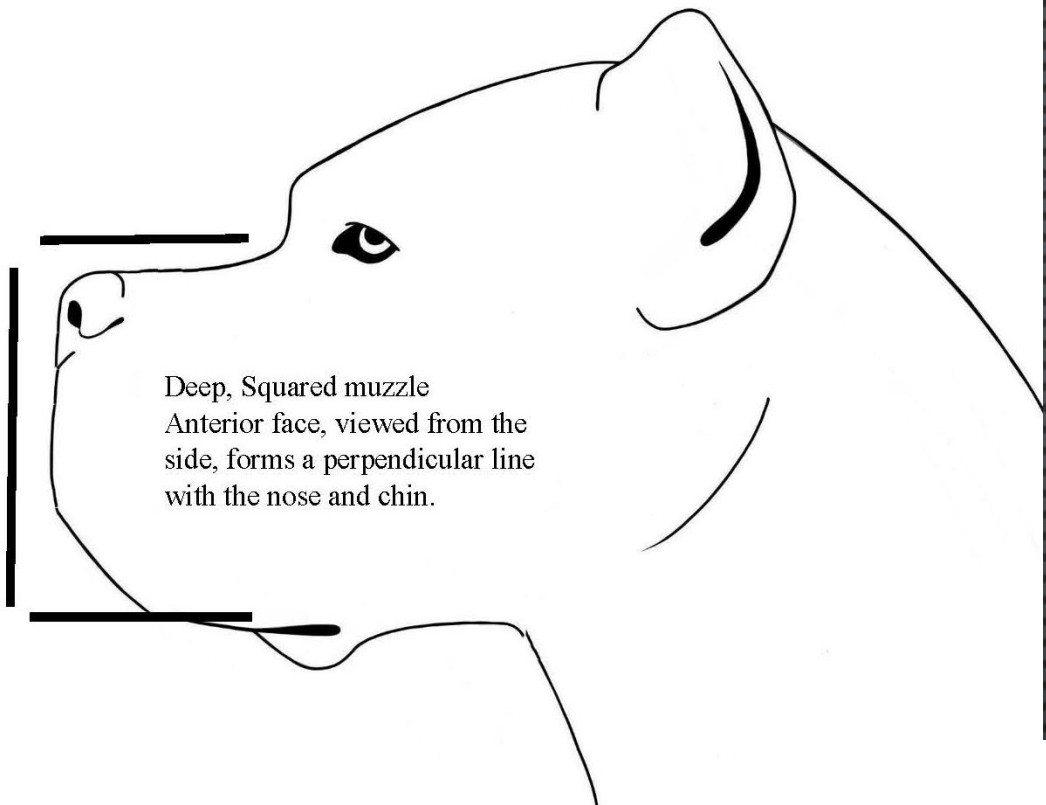
- ❖ Wide set eyes on a plane slightly above muzzle bridge. (A Corso should be able to look over his muzzle without turning his head)
- ❖ Almond or oval eye shape – never round
- ❖ Deep stop, you can put your thumb in it!
- ❖ Pronounced brow arch – Critical to type!
- ❖ Slight Flattening right beyond the brow
- ❖ Slight wrinkling above the brow when alert.



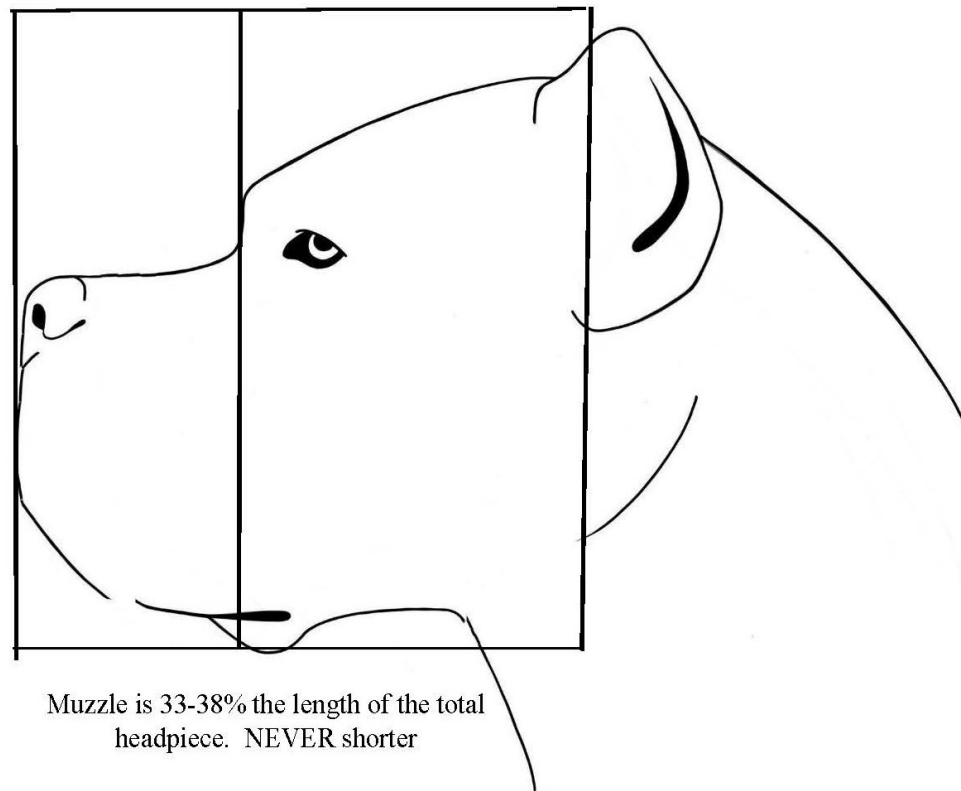
THE MUZZLE

- ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE BREED IS ITS BLOCKY, SLIGHTLY ELONGATED, SQUARED MUZZLE.
- LENGTH: 33-38% OF THE LENGTH OF THE ENTIRE HEAD PIECE, NOT SHORTER.
- THE BITE VARIES, SO THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS IS ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE MUZZLE. RELYING ON THE EXTERIOR APPEARANCE MORE SO THAN WHAT IS IN THE MOUTH. JUST BECAUSE A CORSO HAS A CORRECT BITE DOES NOT MEAN THE STRUCTURE OF THE MUZZLE IS CORRECT.
- DOWNWARD VIEW: THE LATERAL SIDES OF THE MUZZLE ARE PARALLEL, AND IT MUST MAINTAIN THE SAME WIDTH FROM WHERE IT ATTACHES TO THE SKULL TO ITS EXTREMITY. THE NOSE AND END OF THE MUZZLE IS BLOCKY AND, OVERALL, THE DOWNWARD VIEW SHOULD BE REMINISCENT OF A WIDE CUBE. THE NOSE MUST NOT BE PROTRUDING OR POINTY – NEITHER SHOULD IT BE RECESSIVE OR 'PUSHED' BACK
- SIDE VIEW: THE TOP PLANE (THE LINE FROM THE STOP TO TIP OF THE NOSE) IS HORIZONTAL AND PARALLEL TO THE MUZZLE'S BOTTOM PLANE (THE LINE OF THE BOTTOM JAW). THE TIP OF THE NOSE, DOWN THE FACE OF THE MUZZLE TO THE TIP OF THE LOWER JAW FORMS A PERPENDICULAR LINE. NEITHER THE NOSE OR CHIN PROTRUDE.

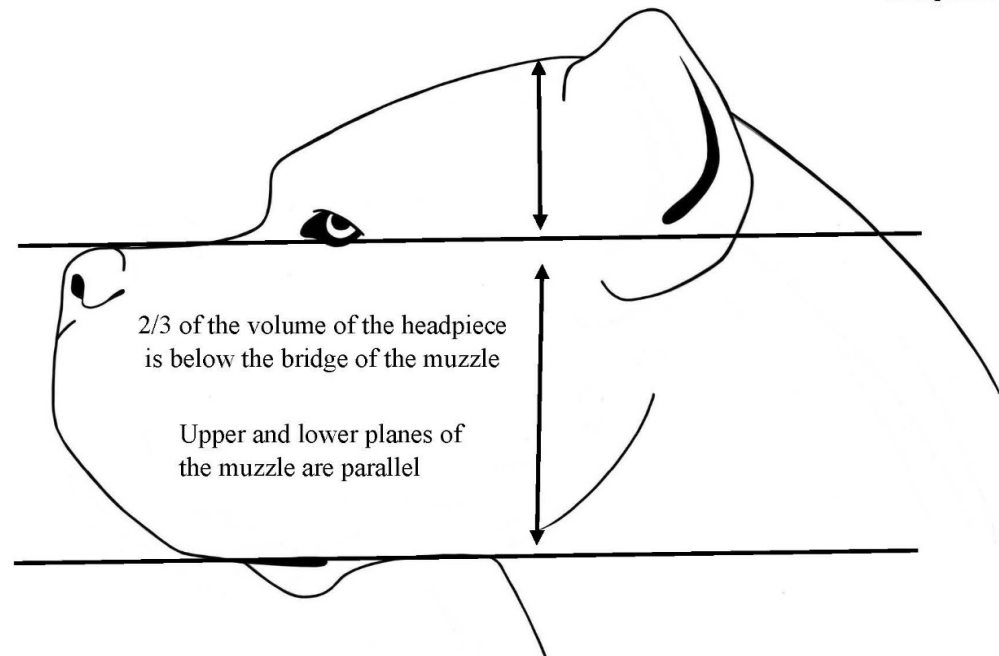




Deep, Squared muzzle
Anterior face, viewed from the side, forms a perpendicular line with the nose and chin.

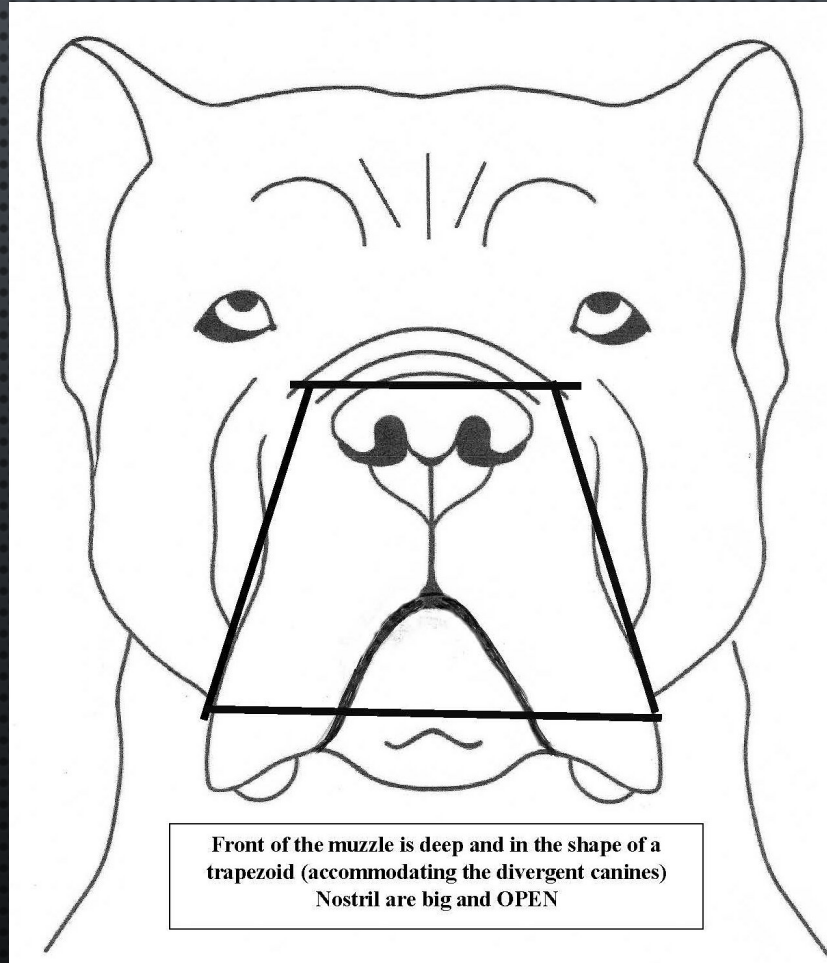


Muzzle is 33-38% the length of the total headpiece. NEVER shorter



2/3 of the volume of the headpiece
is below the bridge of the muzzle

Upper and lower planes of
the muzzle are parallel



Front of the muzzle is deep and in the shape of a trapezoid (accommodating the divergent canines)
Nostril are big and OPEN



BITE

- $\frac{1}{4}$ INCH OR LESS UNDERSHOT & LEVEL PREFERRED
SCISSORS ARE ACCEPTABLE.
- THE CORRECT MUZZLE IS MORE CRITICAL TO TYPE THAN THE BITE!
- SO, JUDGE THE HEADPIECE FIRST.
- THEN GIVE WEIGHT TO WHAT IS IN THE MOUTH.
- A FUNCTIONAL, CORRECT MUZZLE WILL NEARLY ALWAYS HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE BITE.
- **NOTE:** CANINES ARE DIVERGENT. INCISORS ARE SET IN A STRAIGHT LINE. THIS TRAIT CREATES THE FLAT ANTERIOR FACE.



The Corso is a working breed and functionality is a CRITICAL part of type!
Incorrect structure should not be rewarded.



THE BODY

- NECK: SLIGHTLY ARCHED, FLOWING SMOOTHLY INTO THE SHOULDERS WITH A SMALL AMOUNT OF DEWLAP. AT A TROT, THE NECK IS EXTENDED AND CARRIED AT THE 10:00 POSITION.
- BODY: DEPTH OF THE RIBCAGE IS EQUAL TO HALF THE TOTAL HEIGHT OF THE DOG.

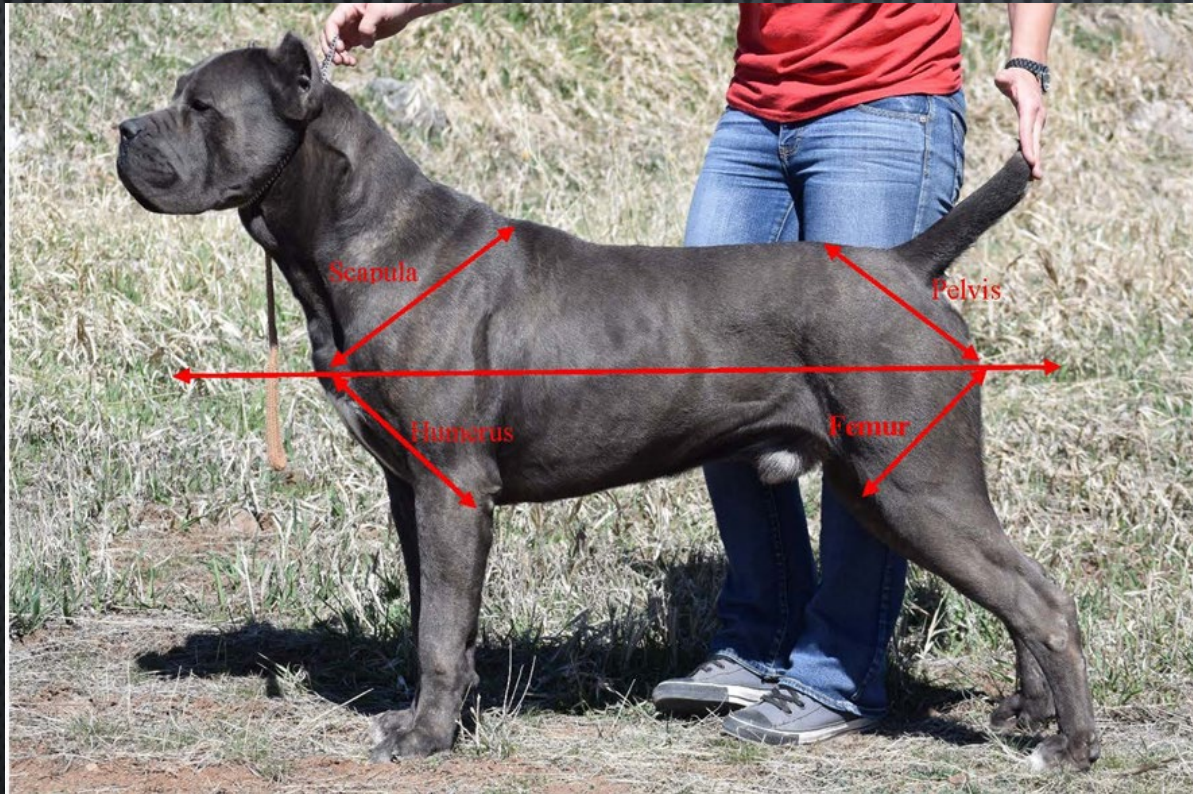
THE ELBOW IS POSITIONED WELL UNDER THE BODY AND SITS AT THE FLOOR OF THE CHEST.

RIBS ARE LONG AND WELL SPRUNG.
MODERATE TUCK UP.

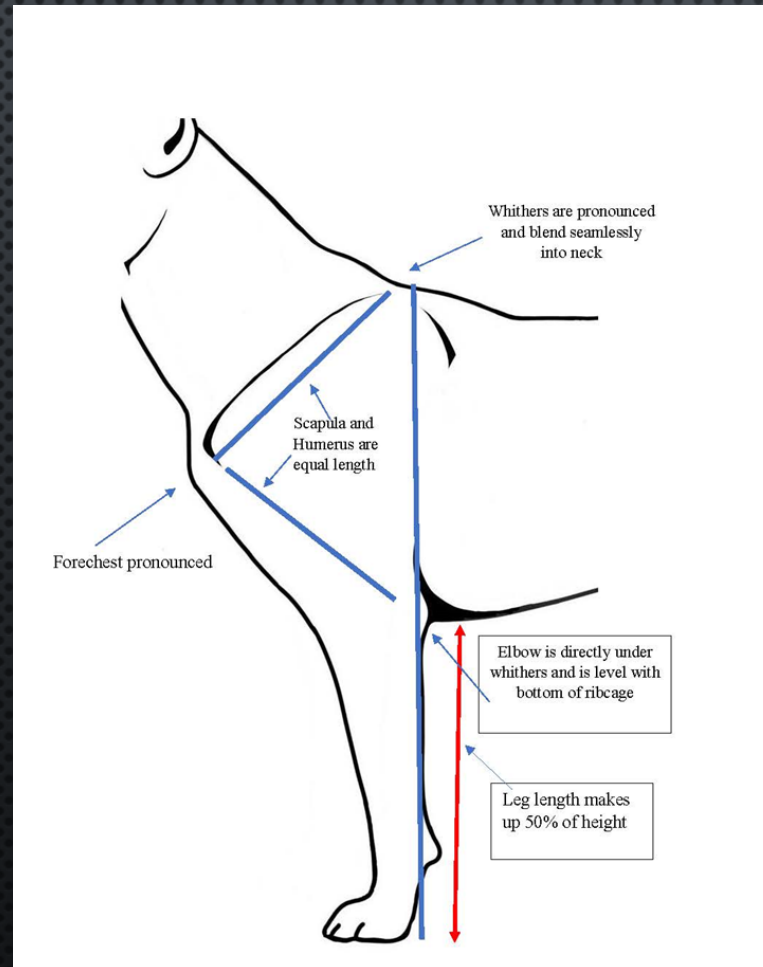
- TOPLINE IS LEVEL STATIC AND AT A TROT



BALANCE AND STATIC PLANES



FOREQUARTERS



FOREQUARTERS: POWERFUL AND MUSCULAR. DISTINCT FORE CHEST. BALANCED WITH HINDQUARTERS.

HEIGHT OF THE LIMB AT THE ELBOW IS EQUAL TO 50% OF THE HEIGHT AT THE WITHERS.

SHOULDERS: MUSCULAR AND LAID BACK.

- SCAPULA AND UPPER ARM ARE OF EQUAL LENGTH.
- THE LEG IS SET WELL UNDER THE DOG IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE HEAVY FRONT END.

CHEST:

- FRONT VIEW – BROAD, DEEP OVAL SHAPE, WELL-MUSCLED, STRONG FOREFRONT.

ELBOWS:

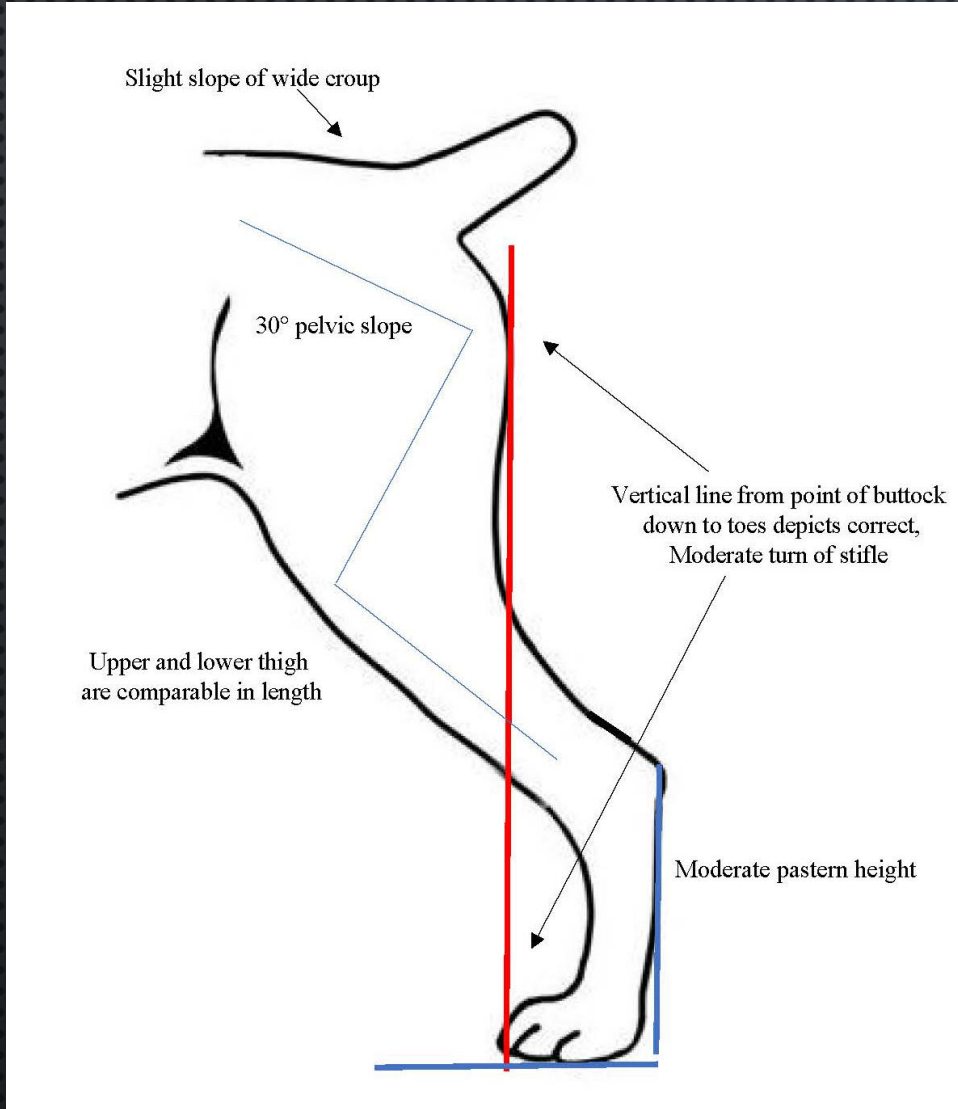
- HELD PARALLEL TO THE RIBCAGE, TURNING NEITHER IN NOR OUT.
- DIRECTLY UNDER THE WITHERS.

FORELEGS: STRAIGHT AND WITH GOOD BONE, WELL-MUSCLED.

PASTERNS: ALMOST STRAIGHT, STRONG BUT FLEXIBLE.

FEET: ROUND AND TIGHT WITH WELL-ARCHED TOES

HINDQUARTERS



- Hindquarters have defined muscle, are power and balance with the forequarters.
- Open pelvis tilt with slight coup incline.
- Thighs: Upper and lower thigh are of equal length.
- Stifle: Should be moderately angulated.
- Hocks: moderate height for quick direction changes. Thick and clean, parallel when viewed from behind.
- Rear Pasterns: Straight and parallel.
- Rear Dewclaws: Any rear dewclaws are removed.
- Hind Feet: Slightly oval shaped and less arched toes than the front feet



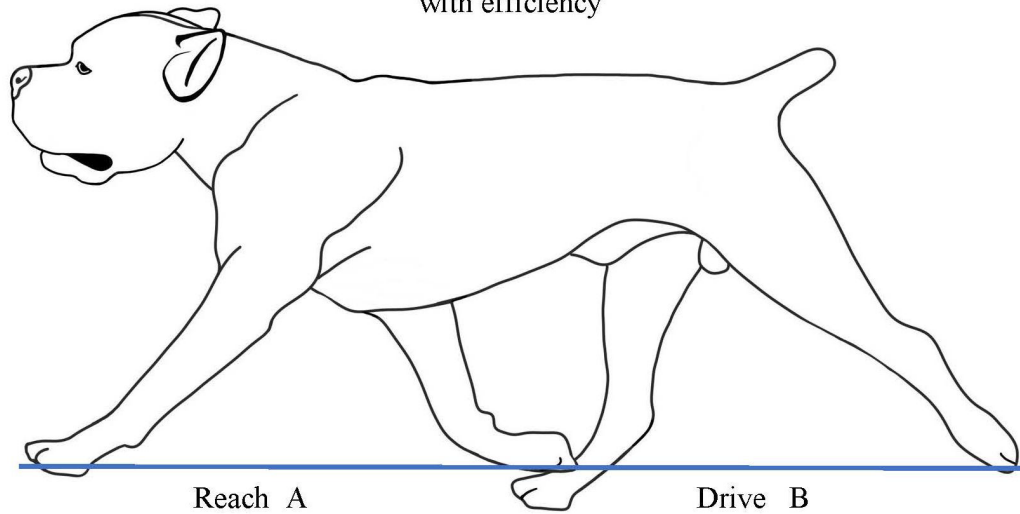
MOVEMENT



- Gait/Movement: The movement is free flowing, powerful yet effortless, with extended reach and drive.
- As the dog accelerates, the feet converge towards a center line of gravity in a near single track. Steps are long & clean, feet are straight.
- When viewed from the side, the topline remains level, with minimal roll or bounce.
- Head and tail are carried in a lower position while at a trot – 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock – balancing each other.

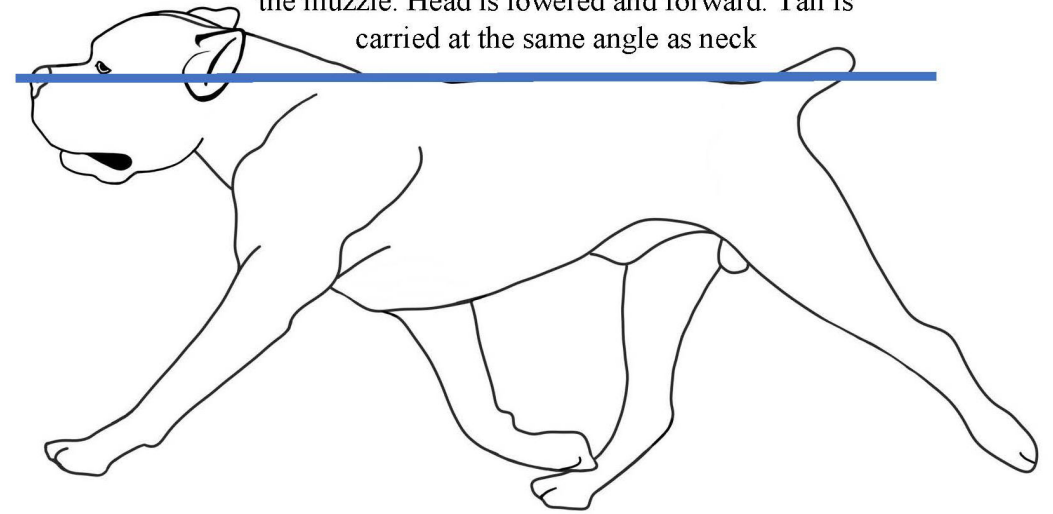
EXTENDED TROT IS THE CORSO'S GAIT

The Extended Trot is the Corso's Primary gait. He uses it to cover ground quickly with efficiency



Reach and drive are of equal length

Backline is level in motion and on the same plane as the muzzle. Head is lowered and forward. Tail is carried at the same angle as neck



COAT COLOR

NO COLOR IS PREFERRED OVER THE OTHER

- Black, lighter and darker shades of gray, lighter and darker shades of fawn and red. **Brindling is common and acceptable on all of these colors, including chestnut brindle.**
- Solid fawn and red, including lighter and darker shades, have a black or gray mask; **it does not go beyond the eyes, but traditionally blends up from the nose.**
- White patches are common on the chest, throat, chin, backs of the pasterns, toes, belly

Eye Color: The Corso eye is self-coloring. Eyes range from dark brown to light amber and match the coat.

Pigmentation of the eye rims & Nose are complete, and match either grey or black base pigment of the dog.



JUDGING TECHNIQUES

- Note the headpiece and movement on the first go around. If they are not within acceptable parameters, the subject should not be considered
- Remember the head is the defining marker and correct structure/movement is of the utmost importance.
- Approach from the front with confidence, greet the handler and avoid direct eye contact with the dog.
- A judge should not expect a mature Cane Corso to be a “wag and greet” kind of dog. An obedient, stoic participant is more than acceptable.
- Ask the handler to show the bite.
- Avoid heavy-handed exams.
- The idea is to see the dog at his full potential and the least amount of intrusion by a stranger accomplishes this best.
- Give the dogs lots of room to move and have them move quickly. The trick is to see if they have extension in reach and drive, covering ground well and smoothly.
- Because the Cane Corso is very sensitive to his surroundings, anyone who is apprehensive about the breed should not judge them.

QUESTIONS?

