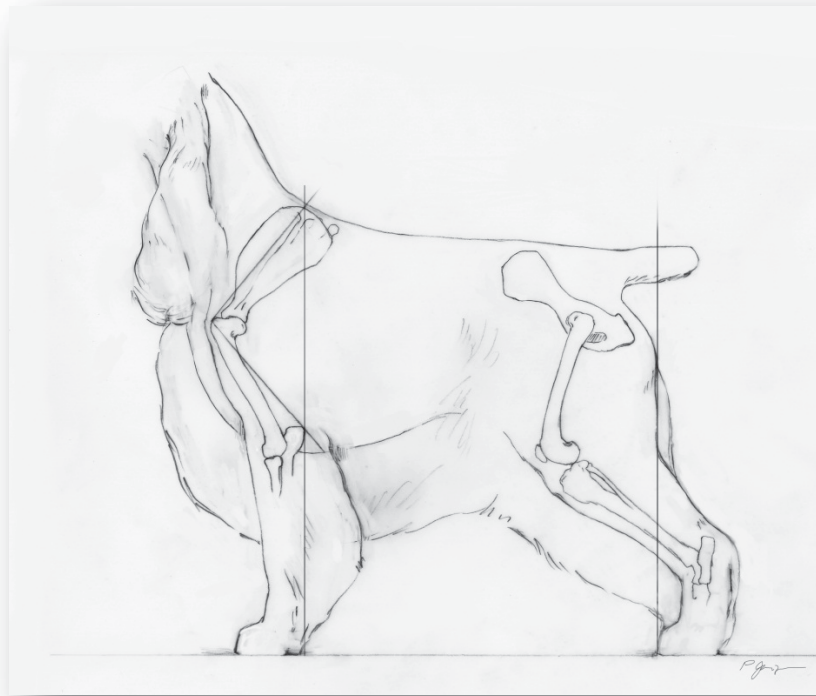
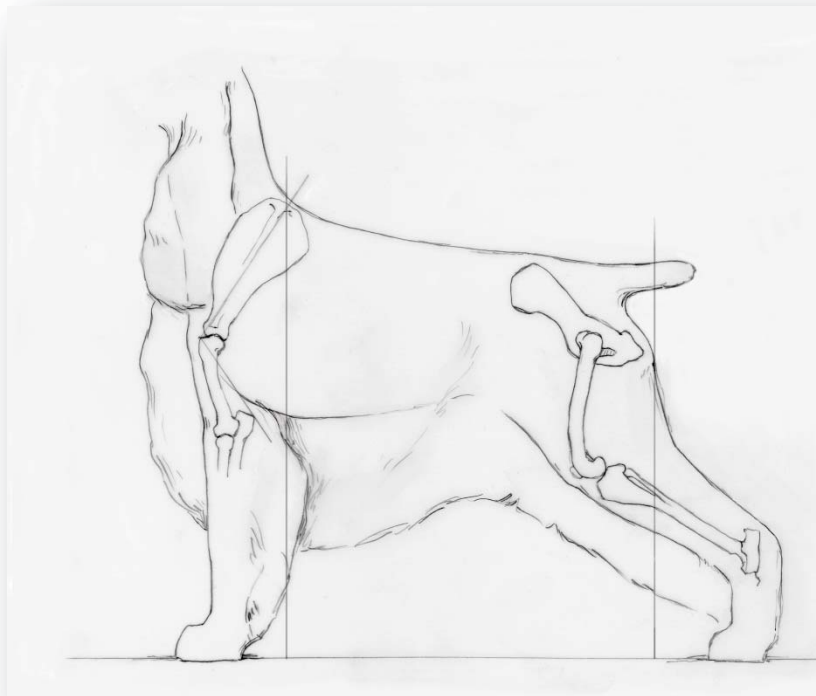


# Understanding English Cocker Rears

*Illustrations courtesy of Patty Janzen*



**Balanced**



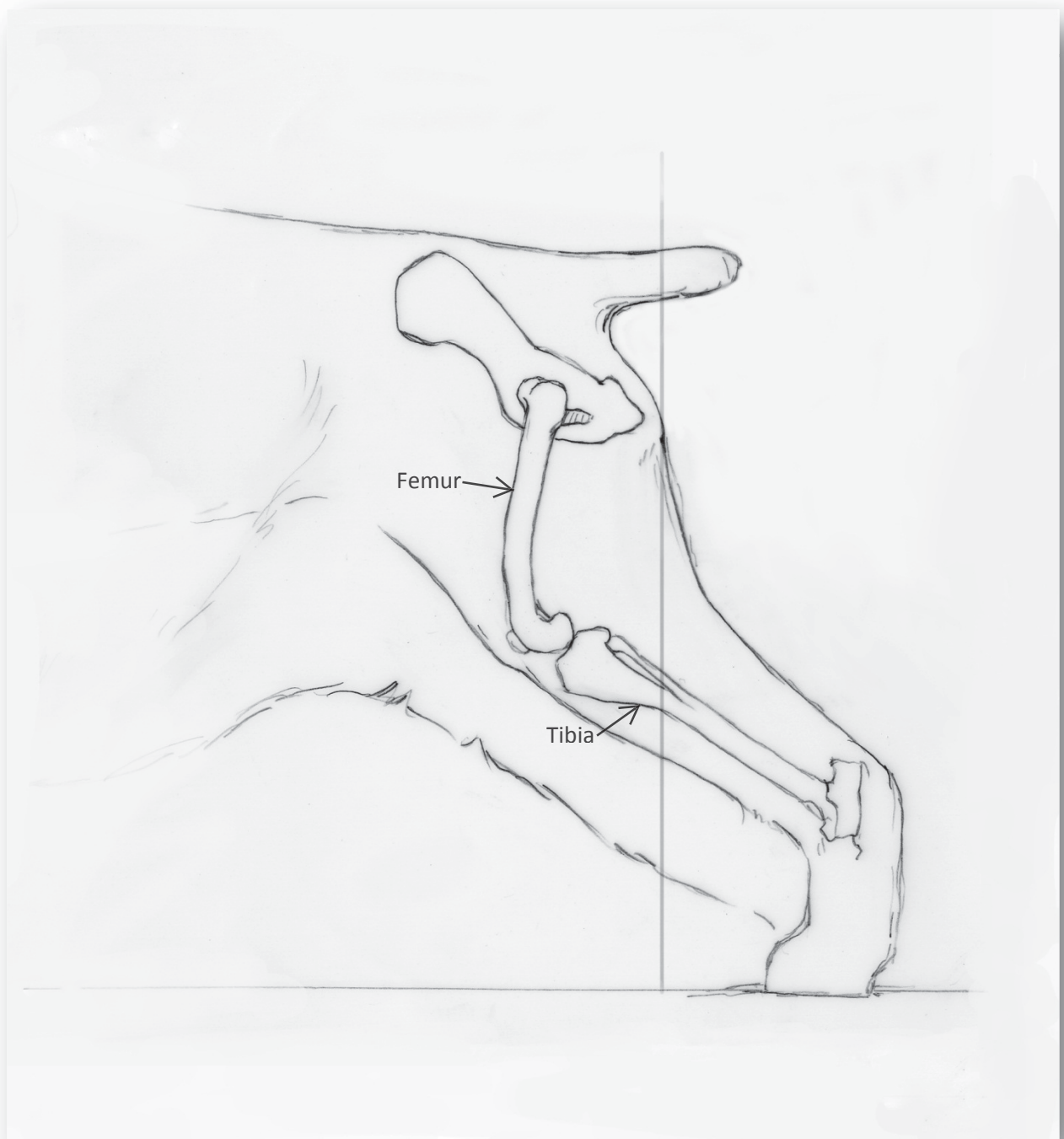
**Unbalanced**

From the English Cocker breed standard: "Hindquarters - Angulation moderate, and most importantly, in balance with that of the forequarters."



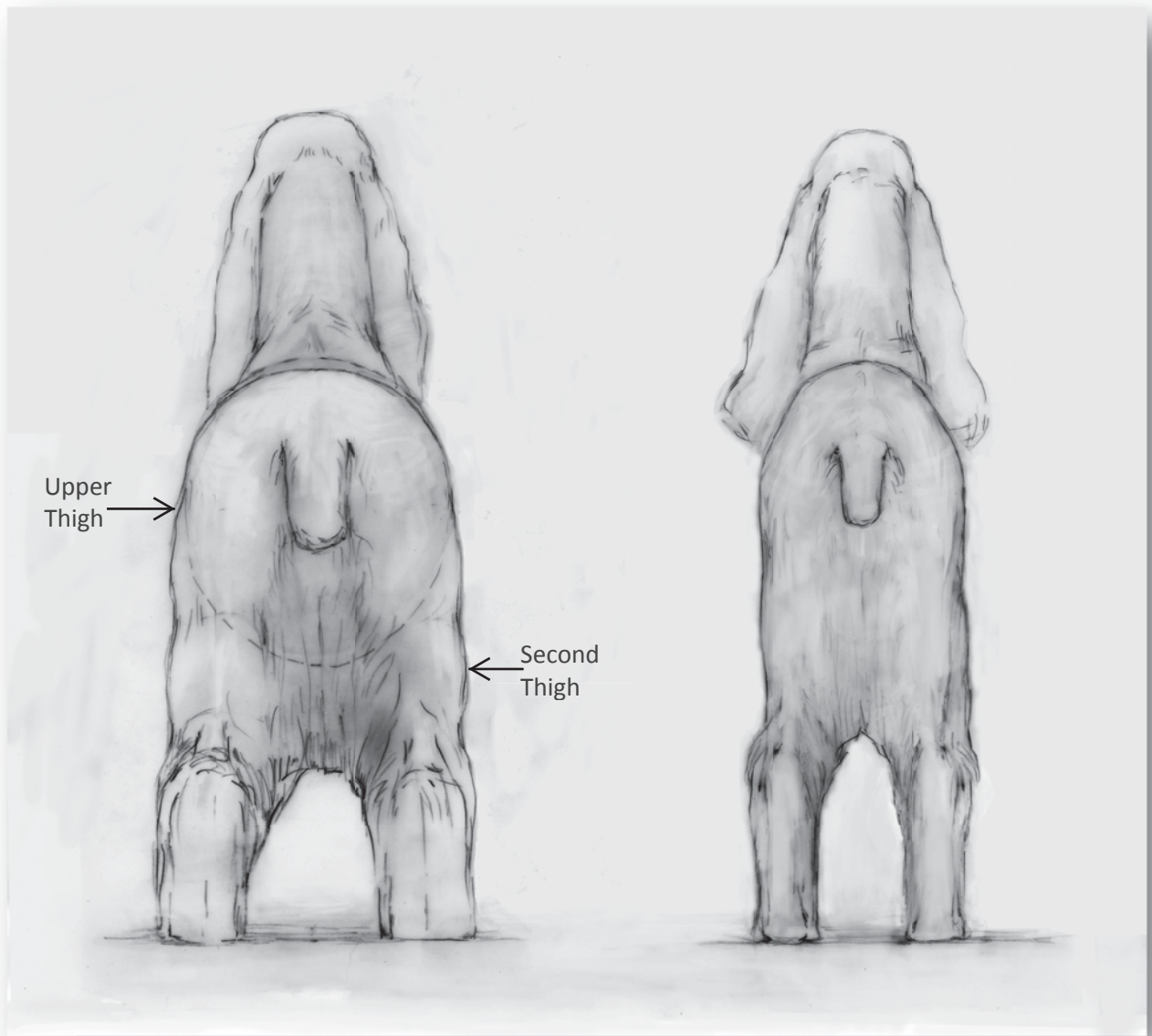
Rear angulation is moderate. A perpendicular line dropped from the furthest projection of the buttock to the ground, should land directly in front of the rear foot. The femur and the tibia are equal in length. The distance from the hock joint to the pad (rear pastern) is short. Thick, shorter muscles attach to this frame.

This rear construction is correct for an English Cocker, and is most efficient for pushing and powering through the dense cover the breed was developed to hunt in.



This is an overangulated rear. The tibia is longer than the femur, placing the rear feet too far behind the body. The distance from the hock joint to the pad tends to be longer. Longer, leaner muscles attach to this frame.

This rear construction is most efficient for speed and galloping for long distances over short cropped terrain and not for powering through thick cover.



Here are the same two dogs viewed from behind.

The dog on the left has moderate angulation, and as a result his hips (upper thigh) are broad and well rounded with thick muscle. His second thigh is also well muscled, outside and inside.

The overangulated dog on the right has appropriate muscling to match his construction, and consequentially is narrow throughout his rear quarters.



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