

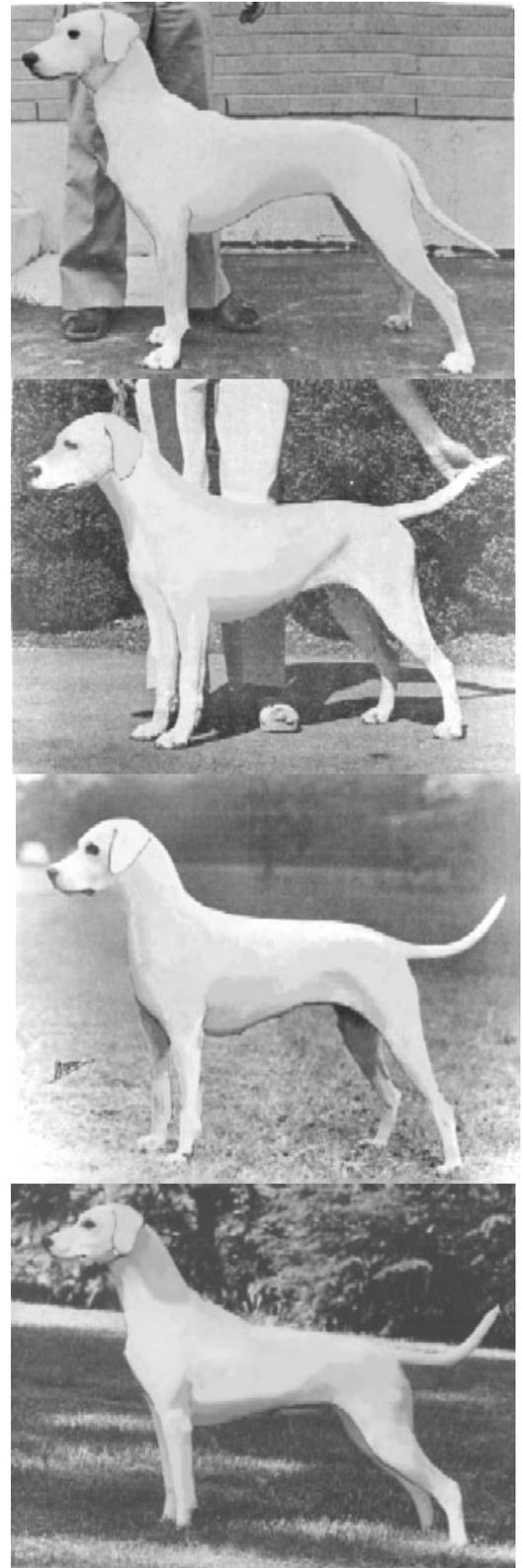
In the previous article I introduced the subject of **breed type** and quoted extensively from Anna Katherine Nicholas who argued that there can be only one breed type - that which exemplifies the breed by conforming to the Standard for that breed. Others might claim that most breed standards are not sufficiently detailed to define the breed thereby allowing diverse interpretations. In this case, and I believe it to be the rule rather than the exception, each breeder and each judge forms his own picture of the ideal for the breed. In a recent issue the *AKC Gazette*¹ discussed the issue of type with several notable judges; their comments are of considerable interest.

Edd E. Biven: "A fad or whim in a breed can do irreparable harm. In the more than 30 years I have been judging, I have seen the 'commonization' of several breeds - a process by which breeds migrate, under the influence of several individuals, from their original intended type to that which more closely resembles the breed that is enjoying great favor. . . Some people try to justify changing a breed by saying it makes the breed prettier or gives it a better chance to win or place in its group. . . Some people referred to this process as modernization. I happen to feel it is an aberration. Breeds must be preserved beyond the integrity of the registry. Type is steeped in the past and must be guarded in the present for the future."

Anne Rogers Clark: "Type, to me, is what makes the dog look like its breed. First we must read and understand the standard for the breed we are evaluating . . . Next we must apply what we've read to the animal at hand. . . Now, how does the dog move from the side? . . . Now look at the dog's soundness coming and going . . . What we have done is judge the overall picture, made the first selection on type and rewarded the soundest of the typical specimens. An untypical dog that is sound is worthless; a typical dog that is sound is priceless."

Derek G. Rayne: "A judge new to any breed is unable to recognize that the current winners may be of a far different type than those of another era. . . . Frequently today we hear exhibitors and judges say a certain dog is the greatest living example of that breed. Unfortunately, this dog may be very showy and sound but is not, in reality, the true type of this breed as were the winners of 20 or 30 years ago. Many breeds today have lost their true type. . . We must realize that true type is the quintessence of any breed. A healthy farm dog trotting down a country lane has all the attributes that are found in most standards of most breeds - all it lacks is type!"

R. William Taylor: "There are those who will say that there can be only one correct in a breed, others that a breed should have various types needed to breed and maintain the ideal. . . While these different types perhaps are necessary in the breeding kennel, it is seldom that a judge will vary his or her idea of type when judging both sexes of a breed, taking into account the variations of the sexes. . . It is the virtues of a breed, when found together in abundance, that will decide type in an individual dog. All dogs possess faults in varying degrees, most of which will not alter type. A Pekingese must have a bowed front. If it has a straight terrier front, that fault will preclude the dog from being typical. It is therefore lacking in type. Back in the 1950s Ernest Eberhard wrote, 'An ability. to recognize type at a glance is a breeder's greatest gift. Ask the successful breeders to explain this subject. There is no other way of learning.' "



*A study in breed type - - Dalmatians all!
And each a champion bitch. Only the
spots have been removed to protect the
innocent.*

¹ "What is TYPE?", in *AKC Gazette*, August 1994, pp 34-39.

CANINE TERMINOLOGY - TYPE REVISITED

Continued

Dorothy Welsh: “Certainly, when we view old paintings depicting dogs of the past, type was different. . . . A trip to the Dog Museum in St. Louis makes us aware of basic breed types and how they have evolved. As our civilization progresses, change is the only constant. So what do we mean when we call a dog “typey” or lacking in breed type? The essence of the reason for the breed’s existence should be easily visible, definable and reproducible. In my opinion the true test of type is in the whelping pen. Unless a dog or bitch can reproduce the best of his or her breed type, the term has no lasting effect on the future of that breed. We, as fanciers, breeders and judges, must be able to define type and find it, or the lack of it, in dogs in the show ring. We must constantly work to hold that type, so that 100 years from now we will be known as good stewards of the breeds we are involved in.”