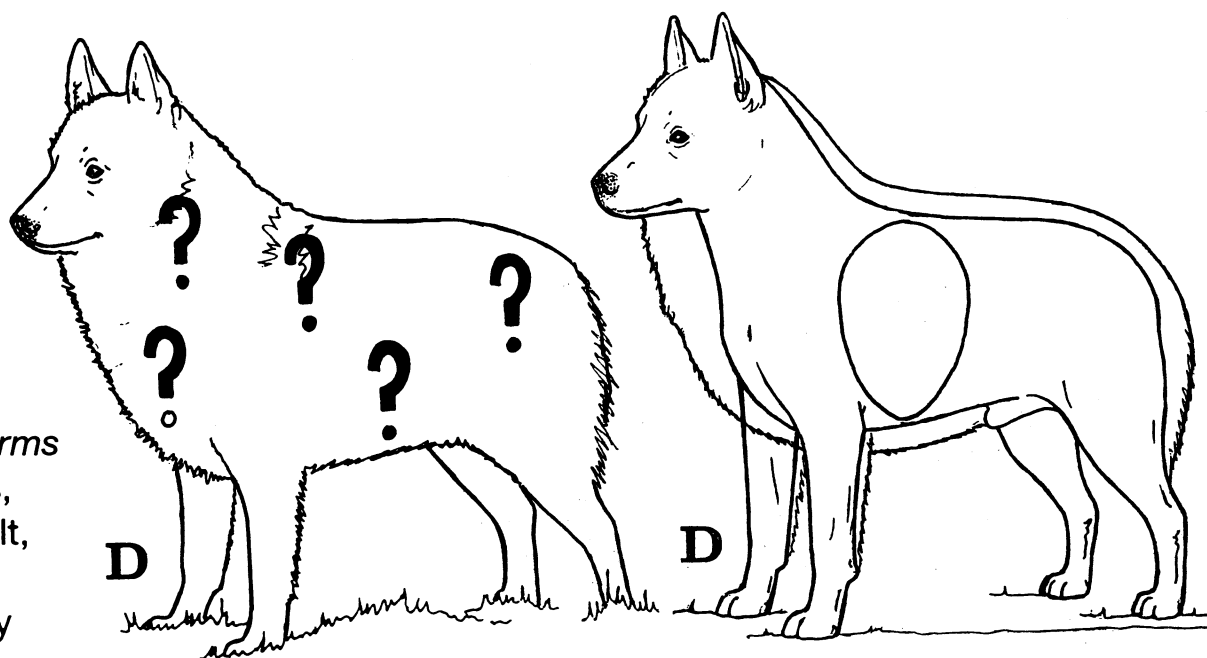


# You Be The Judge

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In the 1959 Standard the body is described as cobby and in the 1991 Standard it is the complete dog that is described as cobby. Frank Jackson in his *Dictionary of Canine Terms* 1995, defines cobby as, "compact, squarely built, short bodied." Two of these dogs are squarely built, only one of the three



can be considered compact. Dog B is long in body, Dog C is high on leg, Dog A is just right.

## Size

The American Schipperke's size was measured in pounds (12 to 18) until 1991. Now it is measured in inches (11-13 inches for males, 10-12 for females). It is assumed a 13 inch male would weigh 18 pounds. Several breeders recommend instituting a height disqualification because the breed is leaning towards large. In turn some breeders would like to see the heights raised because the larger better quality Schips are going to pet homes, and the smaller, poorer quality Schips are the one being exhibited. Still other breeders believe that changing from pounds to inches will encourage the promotion of larger dogs. The Standard wisely includes the rider, "Quality should always take precedence over size."

## Substance

Quality includes substance. The Standard describes substance as "thickset." Breeders are concerned that with the emphasis on height chunky bodies are being lost. "The chest should be broad and deep." If Dog B's body was broad and deep and Dog C's wasn't, would you put long Dog D second?

## Lets Pretend

Lets pretend you are on an ad hoc Illustrated Guide committee. You are presented with a photograph of question marked Dog D and an artist's see-through drawing of the same dog. Your task is to determine if this is the correct substance, outline and proportions that you would like to encounter during a hands-on examination - or to see if the skip was a short coated breed. Both the previous and the revised Standards are available. It might be helpful to compare the two.

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