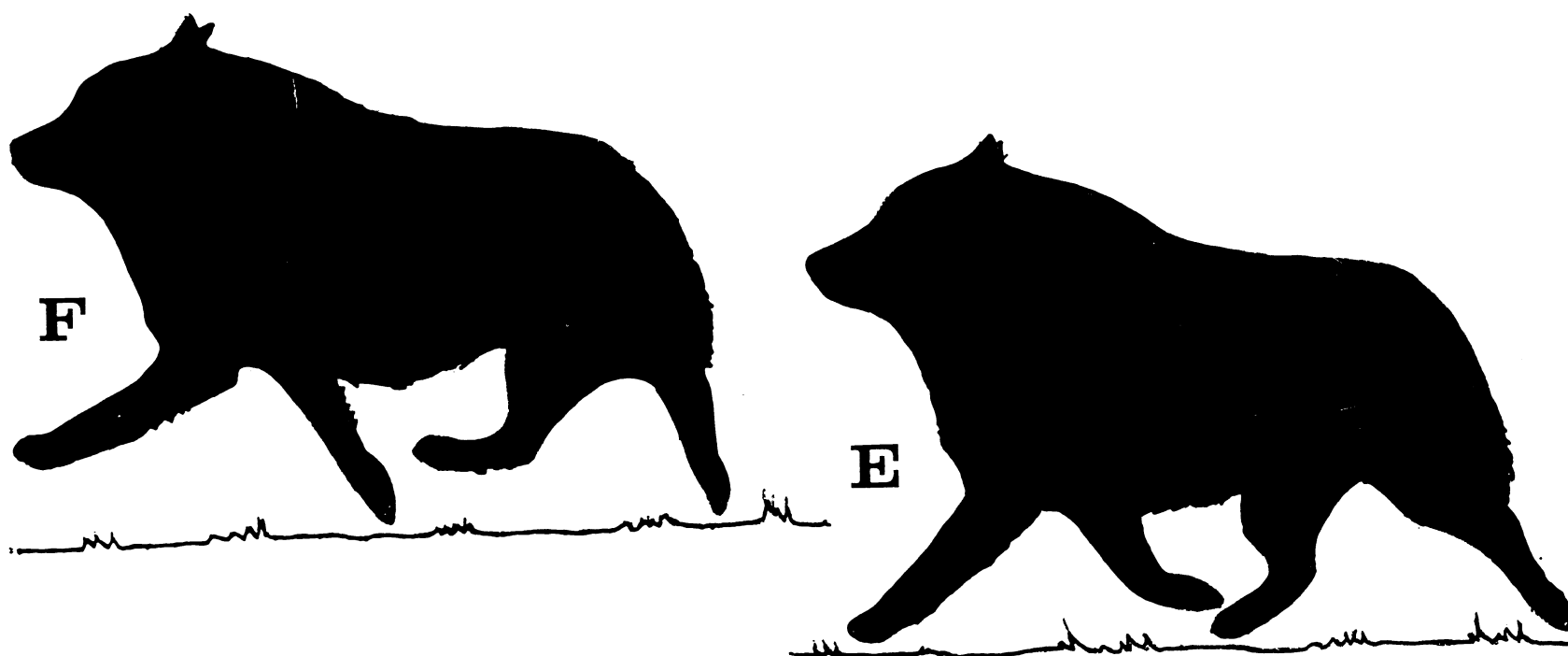


YouBe The Judge

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Gait

Movement at the trot coming and in profile is described in the revised Schipperke standard in part as smooth, well coordinated and graceful. This was not the action the late Curtis M. Brown and I found during the period in the mid 1980's when we were describing and illustrating the distinctive manner in which many breeds moved for the book Dog Locomotion and Gait Analysis. After studying slow motion films of numerous Schips trotting in profile we came to the conclusion that the Schip moves in an energy wasting manner.

Dog F

What we saw on foot after foot of film taken at all-breed and specialty shows was a diminished rearward action of the hind leg, the rear pastern seldom extending beyond the vertical. We assumed that the desire to select for a "well rounded rump" (since changed to "well rounded croup") had apparently altered the structure of the Schip's hind leg in such a way that the hind leg lifted wastefully high as it reached forward under the body and did not extend rearward much beyond the vertical on the follow through.

To compliment this locomotion departure (retain foot coordination) the front leg lifted wastefully high as it reached forward (very little bend at wrist) and rearward due to a short upper arm there was very little flex to the front pastern on the follow through. The action was rapid and mechanical.

Dog E

Fortunately we did not publish our findings. If the filming was done today the conclusion drawn would be quite different. Today Schip movement in profile is much improved as exhibited by

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