

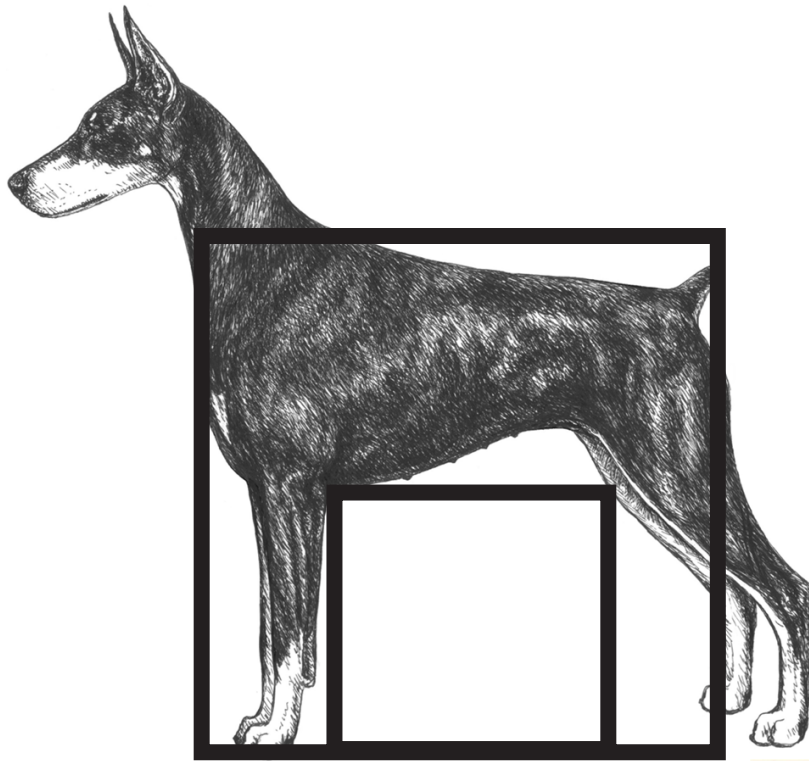
Judging the Doberman

Faye Strauss DPCAEducationJudges@dPCA.org

DPCA Judge Education Committee Chairman

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America Judges' Education Committee has received a number of concerns regarding the judging of our breed. Legendary breed authority Peggy Adamson said "our breed type emerges from the whole standard."

The Doberman was bred as a personal companion and protection dog. These qualities require certain mental and physical attributes. The dog must be stable, confident, energetic, driven and still be sociable and biddable. The DPCA Judges' Education Committee would like to emphasize the following:



The Doberman Pinscher is a MEDIUM sized dog with a body that is SQUARE. The Doberman is NOT tall or rectangular. Dogs are 26"-28" and bitches are 24"-26". Either sex will look imposing if it possesses the correct broad chest and heavy bone required. Although the Doberman may seem bigger than his inches, any deviation from the correct size should be faulted.

The square, compact Doberman is measured from the forechest to the rear projection of the upper thigh. The topline will appear level when gaiting if the dog is balanced with approximate square and equal

angles at both ends. The withers are the highest point of the body. The depth of the body is one half the height of the dog at the withers. The underline is well tucked, but not overstated. The loin is wide and muscled. The coat is smooth, short, hard, thick and close lying.

The head should appear long and dry resembling a blunt WEDGE from both frontal and profile views. The planes are parallel with a slight stop. The



eyes are dark and ALMOND SHAPED. The jaw is strong, with underjaw visible from the front or side. The mouth has 42 correctly placed teeth. Poor occlusion is a problem and the mouth should be thoroughly evaluated, both closed and opened. Four or more missing teeth are a disqualification, as is overshot by more than 3/16" or undershot more than 1/8".

The Doberman is elegant in appearance, of proud carriage, reflecting great nobility. The elegant appearance is a result of the smooth transition of the neck into the well laid back shoulder blades, the smooth straight topline blending into a slightly rounded, well filled out croup. The tail is carried only slightly above the horizontal. The Doberman looks like he was poured into his tight fitting skin.



The dog must hold his silhouette when moving. His head comes forward to lead the way. His body maintains balance and square appearance and the topline remains firm. The Doberman is a balanced, agile, quick, powerful mover with fully extended reach and drive.

Like a fine oil painting, the profile must first be appreciated from a distance. Then a closer view from front, rear and above will give a true assessment of correct structure.

The Doberman is a breed of BALANCE. To quote the standard "Length of head, neck and legs in proportion to length and depth of body. Length of neck proportioned to body and head." Height to length is equal, depth of body to length of leg is equal, front and rear angulation is equal, shoulder and upper arms are equal and upper and lower thighs are equal. Everything is in proportion and NOTHING IS EXAGGERATED.

Good temperament is a MUST. The standard states, "...of proud carriage, reflecting great nobility and temperament. Energetic, watchful, determined, alert, fearless, loyal and obedient." All this in a confident dog that is aware of everything and in control. The Doberman was bred as a personal companion and guard, therefore good temperament is ESSENTIAL.

Good Doberman judging will encompass the foregoing points. The Doberman fancy will applaud the efforts of conscientious judges who do so.

Additional information is available on the DPCA website at www.dpca.org under the heading "Education". Click on the "Judges' Education" link. There are many articles used in the DPCA Judges' Education program that are included in this section. A free copy of the DPCA ILLUSTRATED STANDARD is available to all judges by emailing DPCAEducationalMaterialsProject@dpca.org.