

# A Judge's Guide for The Dalmatian



Prepared by the Dalmatian Club of America

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# This Presentation compliment's the AKC Video and Illustrated Standard

- *Excerpts from the AKC Standard appear in black Italic*
- *Major Faults appear in Blue*
- **Disqualifications appear in Red**

# Presentation Includes

- Brief History of the Breed
- Discussion on Breed Purpose
- Breed Development “Type and Temperament”
- Break Down of the AKC Standard
- Q&A Session
- Tips on Judging the Breed
- Hands On Evaluation

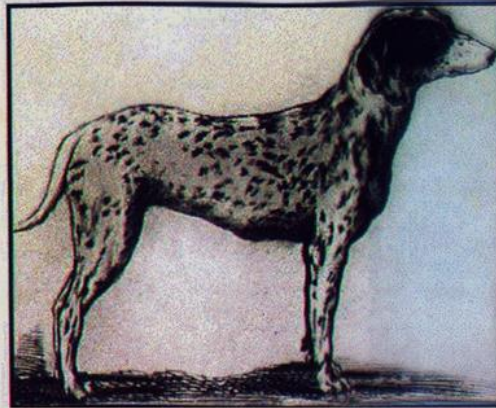
# Spotted dogs in Europe in the 1700's

## History



**1767 the Braque de Bengale. Resembles a Istrian Pointer, believed to be related to Dalmatian**

*This rendering of the Braque de Bengale was done by F. Chereau in 1790.*



**1790 Braque de Bengale**



**1804  
Coach dog of  
Reinagle by  
Scott**

*Reinagle's Coach Dog of Reinagle depicts a spirited and active Dalmatian.*





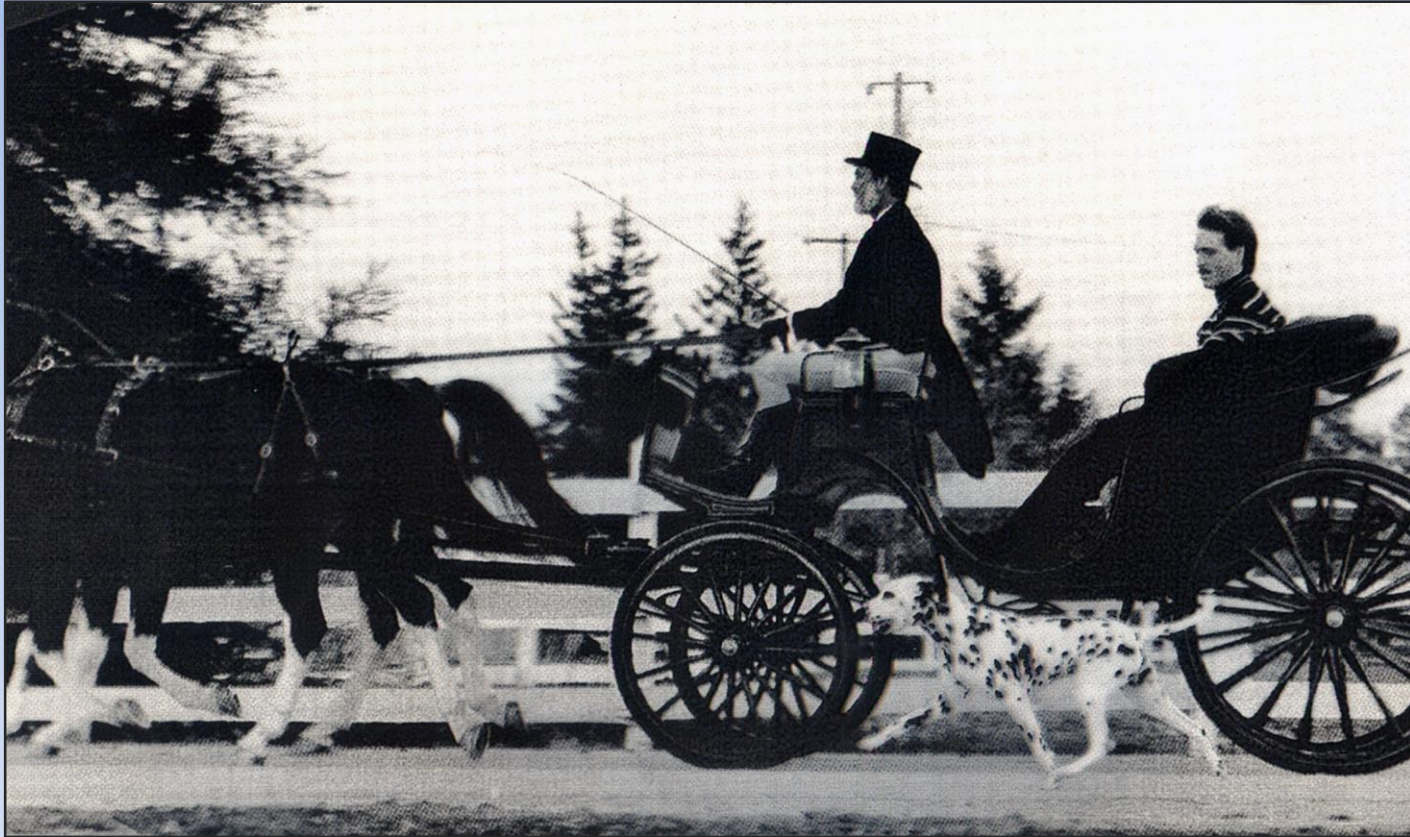
There are some accounts that George Washington owned Dalmatians

# Sporting Dog



Original development was for sporting purpose

# Coaching Dog



Dalmatians then became associated with horse drawn carriages and coaches, running alongside, to guard the coaches and the horses

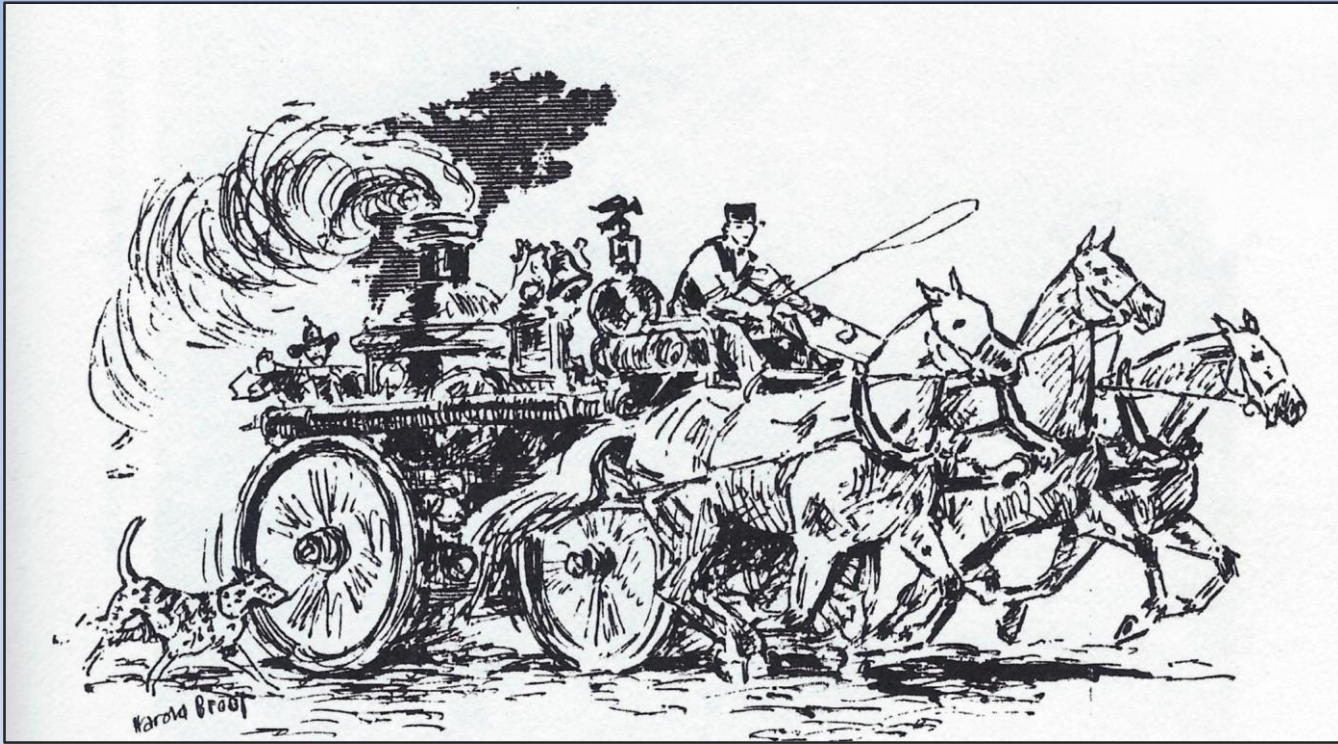


Distance traveled in a day was typically 20-30 miles at 5 mph

Pay special attention to dogs outline under axel

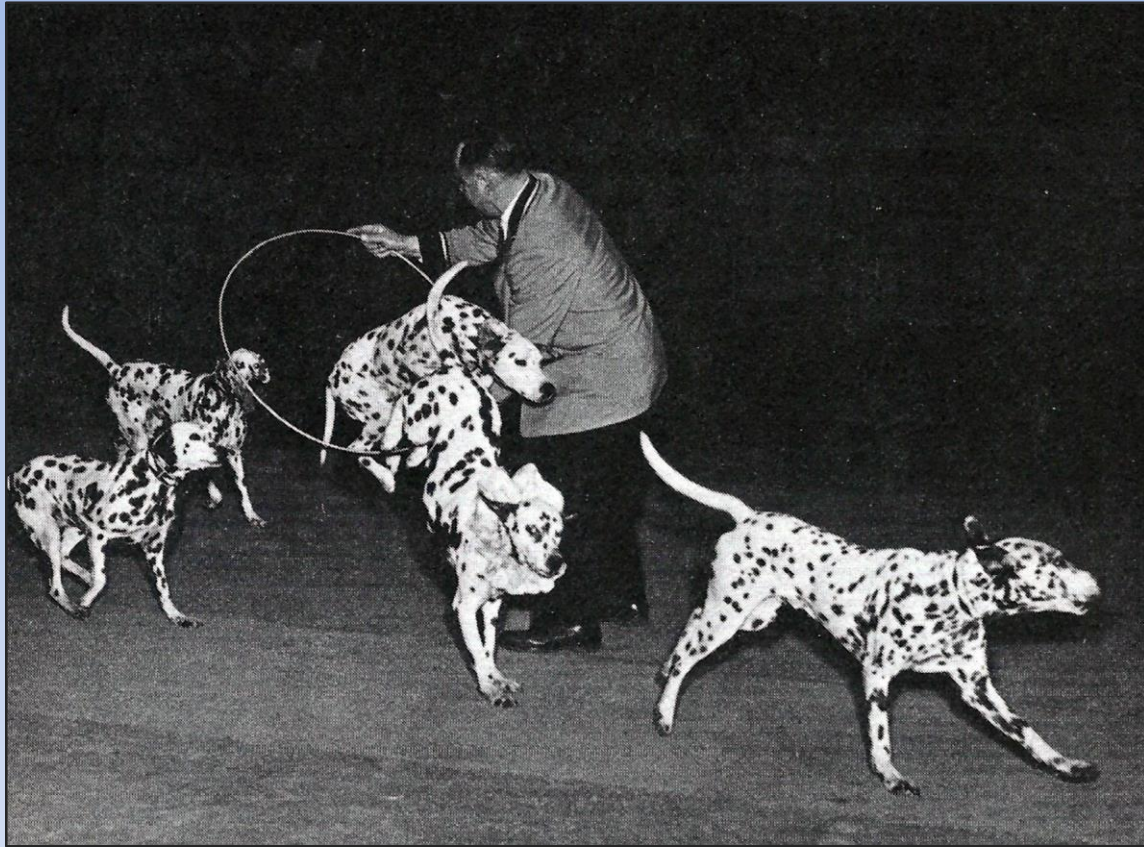


# Fire House Dog



Dalmatians made the transition to the Fire House with the invention of the Horse drawn fire wagon, serving the same purpose to protect horse and wagon with an added duty of protecting the hydrant connection. Dalmatians typically worked in pairs at the Fire House

# Circus Dog



Dalmatians followed the horses to the circus and showcased their versatility and love of people

# The Versatile Dog



Today's Dalmatian can be seen in all AKC events

# Major Breed Developments Last 20 Years

## Movement

Head and Tail carriage rising indicating lack of balance front and aft

## Temperament

A more secure and happy breed increased Performance participation

## Health

Coat condition has improved  
Hearing improvement  
Incorporation of the LUA gene

## Markings

Specifically in livers



# Objective

For each participant

- To understand the breed purpose
- Review current AKC standard
- To understand which Breed characteristics are important
- How to prioritize them when judging

# Purpose - Coaching

- Providing Protection for the Horse and Rider or Carriage Occupants while traversing 20-30 miles of Country side and small towns.
- Staying with Horse and carriage while riders Lodged protecting both their possessions and livestock

# Proper Coaching Positions



# Proper Coaching Position





# Essence of Breed

- Movement  
(Reach, Drive, Topline, Head and tail carriage)
- Body Shape  
(Size and Balance)
- Spotting  
(Distinctive)

Judge the entire dog... Not just one characteristic

*A quality Dalmatian combines all three of these components*

# General Appearance

## 5 points

- *A DISTINCTIVELY spotted dog*
- *Poised and Alert*
- *Strong Muscular and active*
- *Free of shyness*
- *Intelligent in expression*
- *Symmetrical in outline*
- *Without Exaggeration or Coarseness*



# Male Dalmatians



# Male Dalmatians



# Male Dalmatians



# Female Dalmatians



# Female Dalmatians



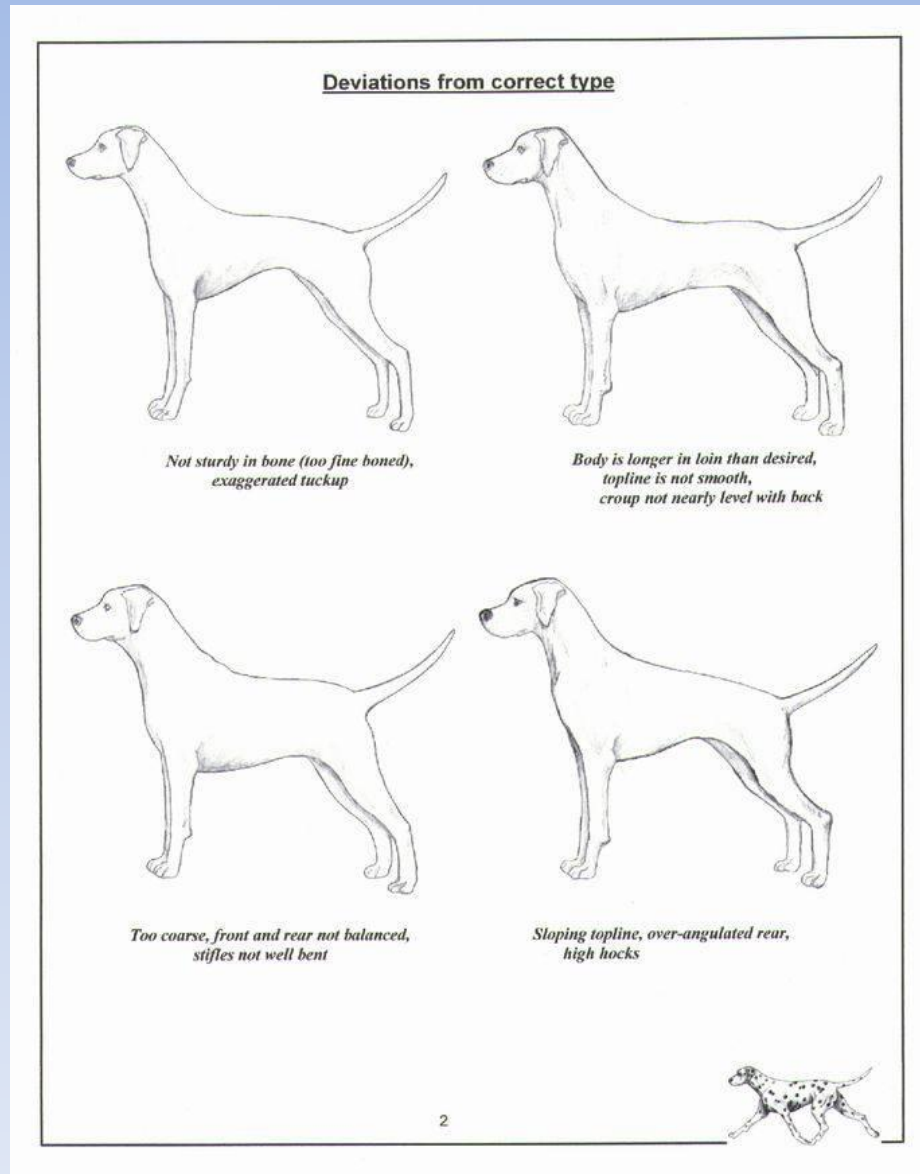
# General Appearance

(continued)

- *Capable of great endurance, combined with a fair amount of speed.*
- *Deviations from the described ideal should be penalized in direct proportion to the degree of deviation*



# Improper Outlines



# Size, Proportion and Substance

## 10 Points

- *Desirable Height at withers 19"-23"*
- *undersize or oversize or is a fault*
- *Over 24" is a DQ*
- *Overall length of body from the forechest to the buttocks is approximately equal to the height at the withers.*
- *Good substance, strong and sturdy in bone, but never coarse*

# Head - 10 Points

- *The head is in balance with the overall dog*
- *It is of fair length and free of loose skin*
- *Expression is alert and intelligent, indicating a stable and out going temperament.*
- *Eyes set moderately well apart, medium size and somewhat rounded in appearance set well into the skull. Color brown or blue or any combination, the darker the better, and darker in black spotted dogs than liver*

# Head

(cont)

- *Ears are of moderate size, proportionally wide at the base, gradually tapering to a rounded tip. Ears are set rather high. Carried close to the head and are thin and fine in texture.*
- *Top of skull is flat and approximately as wide as it is long*
- *Stop is moderately well defined*
- *Muzzle and top of skull are about equal in length*

# Head Study



# Head

- *Incomplete pigmentation of the eye rims is a **Major Fault***



- *Abnormal position of the eyelids or eyelashes(ectropion, trichiasis) is a **Major Fault***

# Unfinished Nose

- *Completely pigmented on the leather*
- *Black in black spotted dogs*
- *Liver in liver spotted dogs*
- *Incomplete nose pigmentation is a **Major Fault***



# Mouth

- *The lips are clean and close fitting*
- *The teeth meet in scissors bite*
- *Overshot or undershot bites are a Disqualification*



# Neck, Topline, & Body 10 Points



- *The neck is nicely arched, fairly long, free from throatiness*
- *The neck blends smoothly into the shoulders*
- *The topline is smooth*
- *The chest is deep, capacious, of moderate width*
- *The brisket reaches to the elbow*

# Neck, Topline, & Body cont.

- *The underline of the ribcage curves gradually to a moderate tuck up*
- *The back is level & strong*
- *The loin is short, muscular, & slightly arched*
- *The croup is nearly level with the back*
- *The tail is a natural extension of the topline*
- *The tail is strong at the insertion, tapers to the tip and reaches to the hock*



# Tail Set & Tail Carriage

- *The tail is carried with a slight upward curve*
- *It is never docked*
- *It should never curl over the back*
- *Ringtails and low set tails are faults*

Tail set and tail carriage should be judged when the dog is moving.

## Forequarters 5 points

- *Shoulders are smoothly muscled and well laid back*
- *The upper arm is approximately equal in length to the should blade and joins it in an angle sufficient to insure that the foot falls under the shoulder*
- *The elbows are close to the body*
- *The legs are straight and sturdy in bone*
- *There is a slight angle at the pastern denoting flexibility.*

# Hindquarters 5 points

- *The hindquarters are powerful, having smooth, yet well defined muscles*
- *The stifle is well bent*
- *The hocks are well let down*
- *When Standing Hocks are Parallel*
- *Cowhocks are a Major Fault*
- **“Gait” requires “powerful drive in the rear, coordinated with extended reach in the front. Balanced angulation fore and aft is crucial.”**

# Feet 5 points



- *Feet are very important*
- *Front and rear feet are round and compact with thick elastic pads and well arched toes*
- *Toenails are black and /or white in black spotted dogs,*
- *Brown and/or white in liver spotted dogs.*
- *Dewclaws may be removed*
- *Flat feet are a **Major Fault***

# Gait 10 Points

- *In keeping with the Dalmatian's historical use as a coach dog gait and endurance are of great importance.*
- *Movement is steady and effortless*
- Balanced angulation for and aft combined with proper head carriage produces smooth efficient action

# Gait - Head Topline and Tail



- *The topline remains level*
- As the Dalmatian moves, the head should be held forward and lowered. The head, topline and tail should create a smooth continuous line.



# Gait



# Gait



# Color and Markings 25 points

Dalmatians are born pure white except patches



2 patches 9 not patched



2 patches 5 not patched

- *Color and Markings and their overall appearance are very important to be evaluated*
- *The ground color is pure white*
- *In black spotted dogs the spots are dense black*
- *In liver spotted dogs, the spots are liver brown.*
- *Any color markings other than black or liver are **Disqualifications***



# Color and Markings

- *Spots are round and well defined.*
- *The more distinct the better*
- *They vary from the size of dime to the size of a half dollar*
- *They are pleasingly and evenly distributed*
- *The less spots intermingle the better*
- *Distinctively spotted*

# Tricolor is a Disqualification

(which occurs rarely in this breed)



Black Spotted  
Tri- Color

Tri-color consists of TAN marking found on the head, neck, chest, leg or tail of a black or liver spotted dog.

Tricolor is a pattern similar to other tricolored dogs.

# Coins

**More distinct**



**Less distinct**



# Old Age Ticking



Notice the difference in spotting from the show side to the off side  
This is the same dog at 2 years of age (left) and 7 years of age (right)



# Color and Markings

- *Spots are usually smaller on the head, legs and tail than on the body.*
- *Ears are preferably spotted*
- Ears can begin as spotted and darken as the dog ages. Solid colored ears usually have some white guard hairs



# Patches

- A patch is a solid mass of black or liver hair containing no white hair.
- A patch is appreciably larger than a normal sized spot
- Patches always have smooth edges Spots are scalloped
- Patches have a silkier feel
- Patches are a **Disqualification**



- Patches are dense brilliant color with sharply defined, smooth edges. Patches are present at birth
- This patch has puppy guard hairs. Notice the smooth edge





- Overlapping masses of spots have uneven edges and or white hairs scattered throughout the mass.
- Overlapping masses of spots frequently appear on the throat neck and underbelly
- Large color masses formed by intermingled or overlapping spots are not patches

- Spotting patterns vary



- All of these patterns are acceptable. Spotting is a major component of breed type













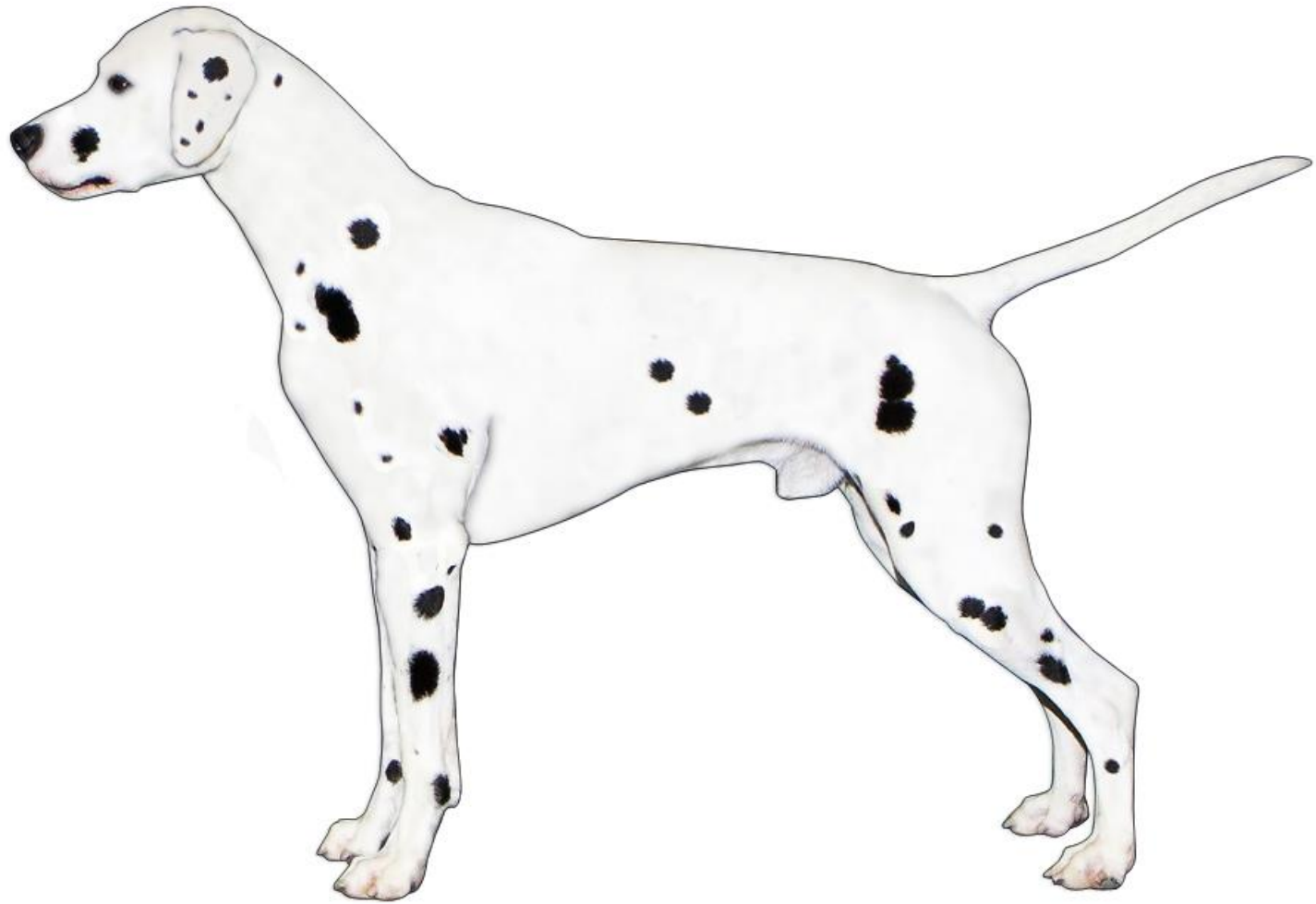
- These dogs are considered very colorful

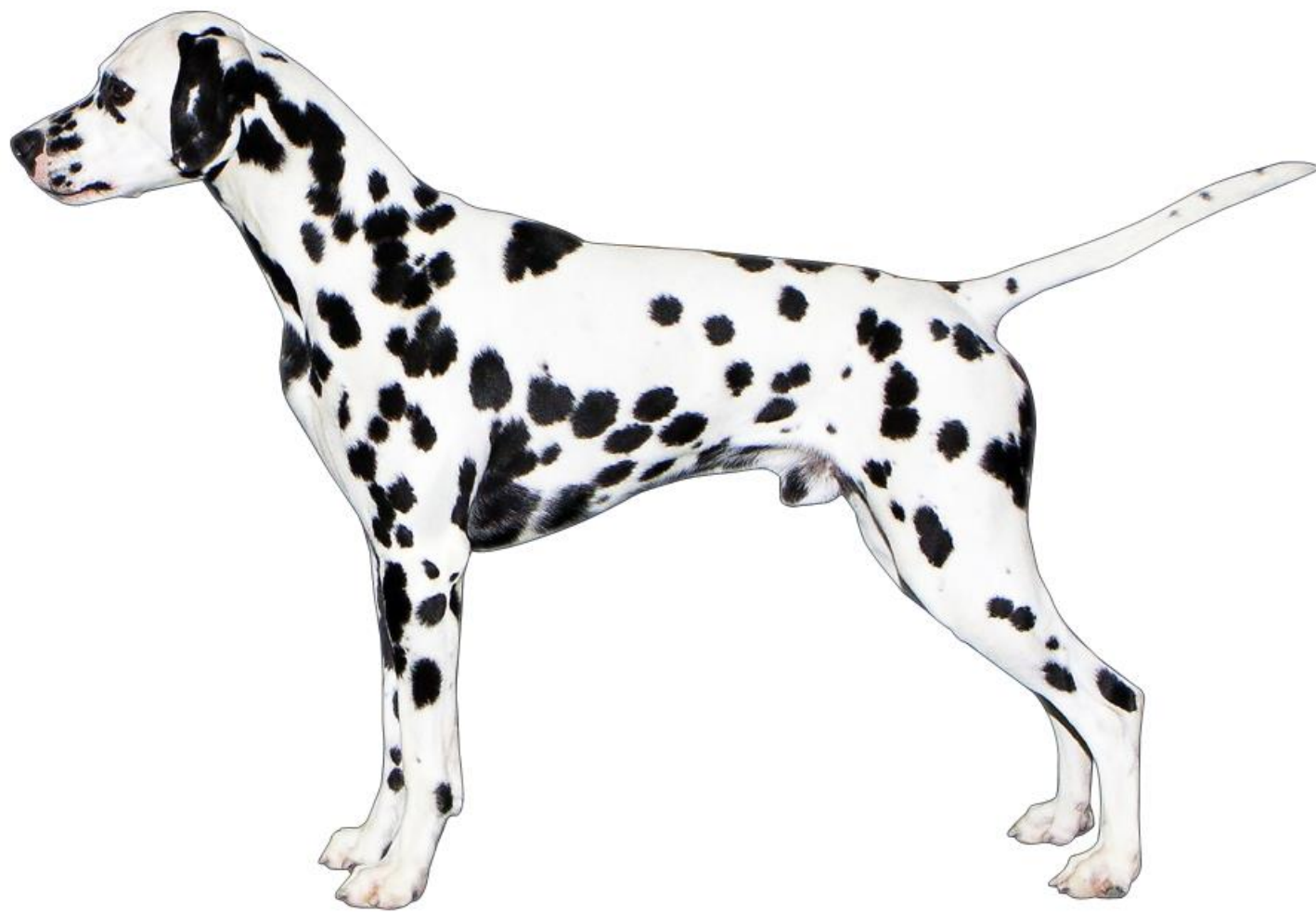




Extreme spotting patterns detracting from breed type



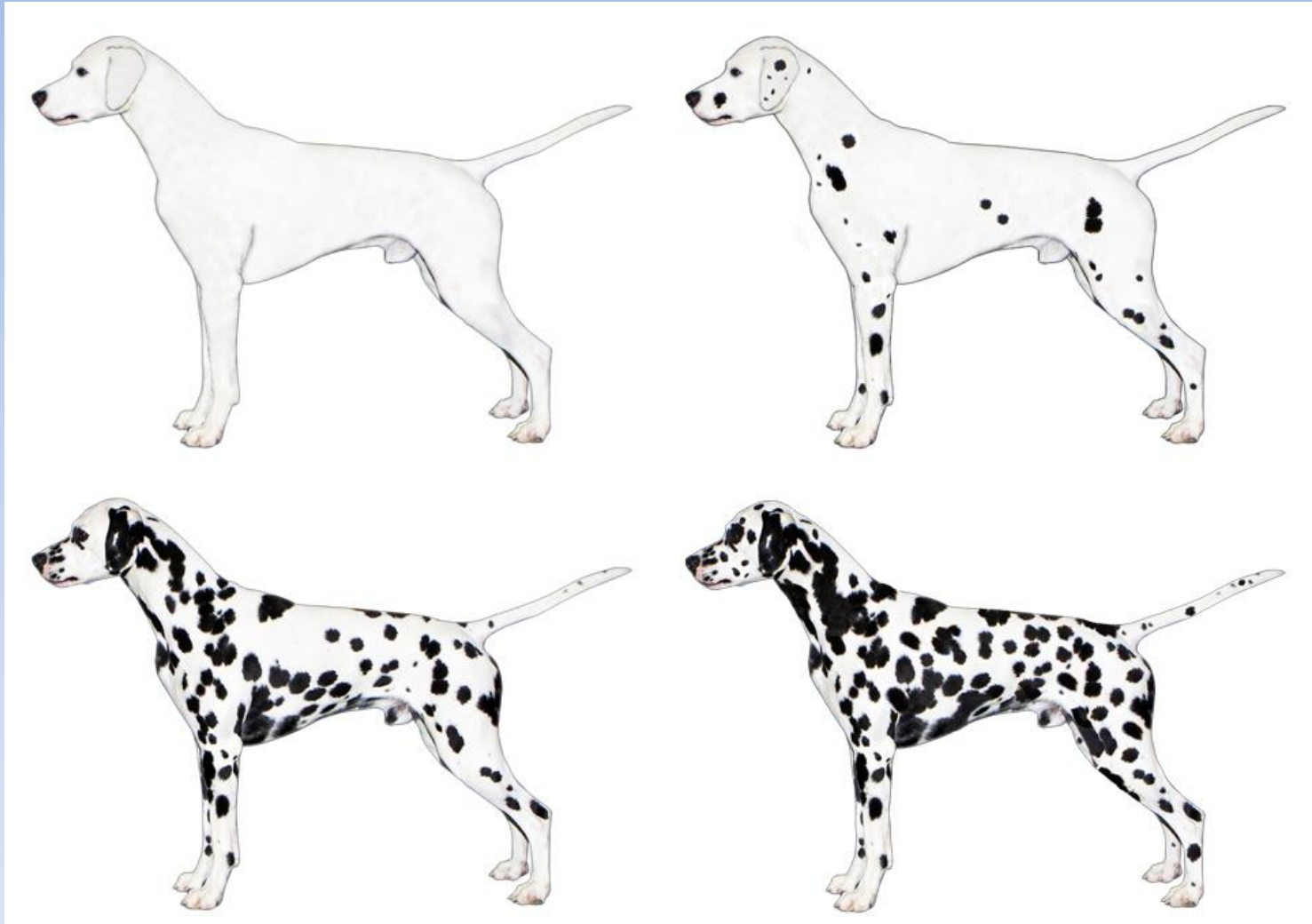








# Spotting changes a dogs appearance and outline don't be fooled





- Bronzing of black spots and or fading of liver spots due to environmental conditions or normal processes of coat change are **NOT** tri-coloration

## Coat 5 points

- *Coat is short, dense, fine and close fitting*
- *Neither woolly nor silky*
- *Sleek, glossy and healthy in appearance*



# Temperament 10 points

- *Stable*
- *Outgoing, yet dignified*
- *Shyness is a Major fault*



- When approaching a Dalmatian, walk casually toward the dog.

# Scale of Points

General Appearance	5
Size, proportion, substance	10
Head	10
Neck, topline, body	10
Forequarters	5
Hindquarters	5
Feet	5
Coat	5
Color and markings	25
Gait	10
Temperament	<u>10</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

# Summary

## Faults

- Ring tail
- Low-set tail
- Under 19 inches,
- Over 23 Inches at withers

# Summary

## Major faults

- *Ectropion & entropion, trichiasis*
- *Incomplete pigmentation of the eye rims or nose (leather)*
- *Flat feet*
- *Cowhocks*



# Summary

## DQ's

- Over 24" at the withers
- Overshot or undershot bite
- Any color markings other than black or liver
- Tri-color
- Patches

# Breed Characteristics

Movement • Body Shape • Spotting

25 pts are assigned to color and markings. After subtracting for head, coat, & temperament, more than half the points relate to structure or function. Thus, both spotting and soundness are essential parts of correct Dalmatian type.

***JUDGE THE ENTIRE DOG***

# Questions and Answers

# Tips on Judging

- First appearance on the go around
  - Look for proper outline
- When viewing from side look for unfortunate markings
- Approach from the front with out hesitation
- Look at both sides of the dog
- Exam is basically Teeth, Touch, Testes
- Do not stress or obsess over Patches and Tri Color