

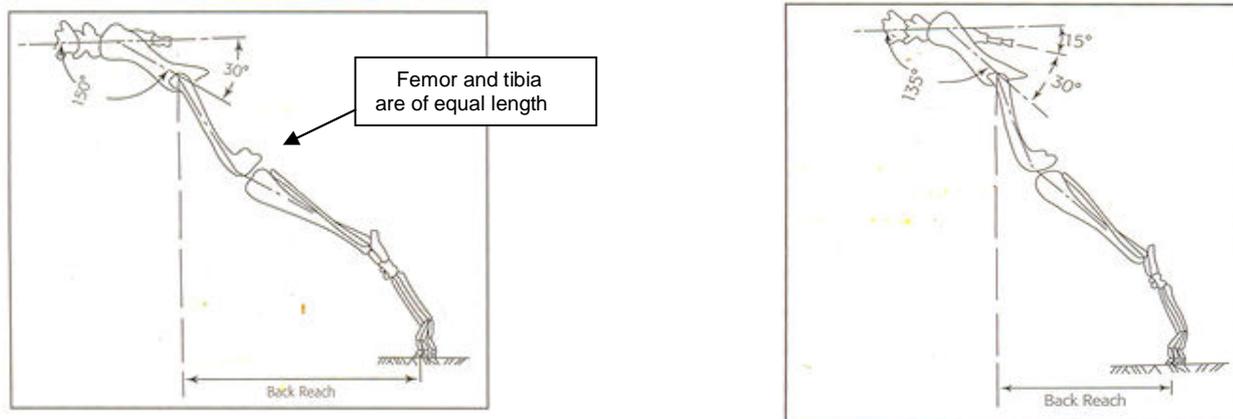
About Movement

By: Katie Winters (as published in the Summer (June 1) 2009 Pinscher Patter)

Movement for me is the foremost factor when assessing a Min Pin's true breed type. Min Pins are a "profile breed" meaning they should be judged most on the picture from the side you see when they are moving. From this view you can easily assess balance, smoothness-coordination, neck set, length of neck, tail set, and length of back, together with reach, drive, lift, and wrist bend (hackney-like movement). Of course, their down and back must be sound.

Wanted is a Min Pin with a pretty head, long neck, short back, and high tail set together with reach, drive and hackney movement. Too often we see Min Pins with high hackney who do not reach (often combined with no rear drive and a lack of rear angulation). The lack of front reach can be caused by too straight shoulders combined with a straight or short upper arm. However, a long upper arm can give reach in spite of straight shoulders.

The lack of rear drive is evident in Min Pins lacking rear butt-- the shelf behind the tail. These Min Pins are "flat assed" because they have a more open 45 degree pelvic angle measured off the horizontal. They have no drive or push to propel them forward, and thus do not cover ground when they move. They hackney up and down and go nowhere. The illustration from Structure and Terminology by Edward Gilbert and Thelma Brown shows how these pelvic angles are determined and what effect they have on rear drive. A normal pelvic slope of 30 degrees off the horizontal allows good rear drive, as opposed to a 45 degree pelvic slope which accompanies restricted rear movement. Tail set does not determine rear drive. For me there is no more beautiful sight than to see a pretty, short-backed MinPin puppy with the tail sitting upright at a 90 degree angle, far forward on a short back, followed by a prominent angular butt (a 30 degree pelvic angle).



Although rear drive did not originate with the Sunbrook Min Pins of the early '90's (rear drive certainly is evident with other Min Pins), it was in these dogs that I saw this trait consistently. The Sunbrook Min Pins-- Ch. Sunbrook Masked Warrior, Ch. Sunbrook Indian Amber, etc. had well angulated rears-- stifle and pelvis, and invariably had good rear drive..