

Anatomy & Conformation Quick Reference

One structural standard for Toy, Miniature and Standard - the landmarks a judge checks, point by

Twelve Landmarks, Four Regions

Landmark	What it is, and what the standard calls for
Stop	Step up from muzzle to skull, between the eyes. Standard: "slight but definite" - present, not absent or exaggerated.
Muzzle	Foreface forward of the stop; long, straight and fine, roughly matching skull length. Short or snipey is a conformation fault under the standard; any link to bite or breathing is judged by eye, not measured.
Withers	Highest point of the shoulder blades. Every height measurement starts here - never the head, never the topline further back.
Brisket	Chest floor, down to the elbow. Standard: "deep and moderately wide" - judges read depth as a traditional proxy for chest room, by eye rather than by measurement.
Elbow	Front-leg joint, set directly below the withers. Standing out or tucked in, it throws off everything below, down through the pastern.
Pastern	Between wrist and toes on the front leg. Standard: "strong" - a soft, sloping pastern is a weight-bearing fault, not just a look.
Topline	Back's outline, shoulder blade to tail base. Standard: level, "neither sloping nor roached," with a slight hollow behind the shoulders allowed.
Loin	Short section between the last rib and the hindquarters. Standard: "short, broad and muscular" - overlong reads as weak through the middle.
Croup	Musclad area over the pelvis, from the loin's end to the tail set. Its angle sets tail carriage and rear driving power.
Tail Set	Where the tail joins the body, at the end of the croup. Standard calls for set on high, carried up - a low set usually traces to croup angle.
Stifle	The hind leg's knee joint. Standard: "well bent" - patellar luxation is a documented concern in Toy and Miniature Poodles, which is why this joint gets screened.
Hock	Hind-leg joint between stifle and foot, the "ankle." Short and near-perpendicular - a long or angled hock ("sickle hock") costs drive.

Read in motion, not just standing still

A level-looking topline can roach at a trot; a well-bent stifle can be too straight to flex properly. Reading the landmarks is step one - watching what they do on the move is the step that actually predicts soundness.

WHAT A JUDGE IS ACTUALLY CHECKING

THE POODLE GENETICS LAB REFERENCE SET

E & B Loci - Merle Health Risk - Phantom Matrix - Silver & Blue - Parti Planner - Full Loci Card

Full guides, the calculator and sources at poodlegenetics.com/genetics-guide faults.

Squarely built - body length (foreasthorne to point of rump) should approximate height (withers to ground) - checked
 poodlegenetics.com my single landmark.

Anatomy & Conformation Quick Reference Educational use - confirm every genotype by DNA test