



UNIQUE TO THE BONE

The Structure of Breed Type

What really determines breed type? Although color, coat, temperament and other outer qualities are stressed in breed standards, it is clear that there are more “essential” factors that separate each breed from another. The genetic coding for size and shape of each bone, the proportion of bones to each other and the musculature that supports specific function are the real underlying elements of breed type. Put simply, each breed is “unique to the bone.”

A one-hour PowerPoint illustrated presentation is designed to help dog enthusiasts translate the outward description of any breed into a mental picture of how that breed is constructed – and why. Once the basic “structure of breed type” is understood, the outward appearance of that structure can be more easily recognized and evaluated. The basic principles discussed apply to any breed and standard. This broad overview sets the foundation for discussion of specific breeds.

The second half of the presentation is an in-depth examination of form and function for the Labrador Retriever. From its sensitive nose to the tip of its unique tail, the Labrador is built to excel at specific tasks. Understanding the “why” of these functional features helps to make the description in the standards easy to apply.

The interactive discussion format and casual style make this presentation both informative and entertaining. Bring your open mind, sense of humor and spirit of adventure - they'll enjoy the workout!

Length: Two hours with a short break.

Presenter: Maureen Gamble, RN MA

Maureen has been showing, training and breeding dogs for 40 years. Her Nimloth kennel name boasts champions in four breeds and group winners in three. Although she was a handler for breeds in nearly every group over the years, she now limits her ring activities to judging her favorite sporting breeds. She has been an active writer in many technical fields and presents seminars in a variety of health-related topics for people as well as animals.