



## UNIQUE TO THE BONE

### The Structure of Breed Type

What really determines breed type? Although color, coat 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. They influence every aspect of a breed – from physical structure to basic temperament. Simply put, each breed is “unique to the bone.”

This PowerPoint illustrated presentation is designed to help dog enthusiasts translate the outward standard description of any breed into a mental picture of how that breed is constructed. Once the basic “structure of breed type” is understood, the outward appearance of that structure can be more easily recognized and evaluated. Although the presentation can be focused on a single breed standard for specialty club presentations, the principles discussed apply to any breed standard.

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:** The depth of the presentation can be tailored to fit different requirements. A basic one-hour overview introduces the concept of functional structure. This can be supplemented with both hands-on workshop materials and additional discussion to fit a 3-hour (half day) format or up to a full-day seminar on structure and function. While the introductory material is directed toward all breeds, segments for specific breeds or groups can be added to suit the needs of the sponsoring organization.

**Presenter:** Maureen Gamble, RN MA

Maureen has been showing, training and breeding dogs for over 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.