



## BODIES IN MOTION

### The Structure of Breed Type

**Overview:** Locomotion of any animal is determined by its structure. Since various dog breeds are selectively “engineered” for different jobs, their structure will result in movement that is specific for the proportion, balance and function for each breed. While some are very specialized, most breeds can be separated into three categories of locomotion – much like cars:

Rear Wheel Drive – breeds that push themselves forward

Front Wheel Drive – breeds that pull themselves forward

All Wheel Drive – the 4-wheel drive utility jeeps

Discussion includes:

- which body style, shoulder assembly, rear structure and balance fit each of these categories
- how small changes in proportion make large differences in movement.
- how breed type determines that breed-specific movement is unique to the bone.

**Length:** 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 basic 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.