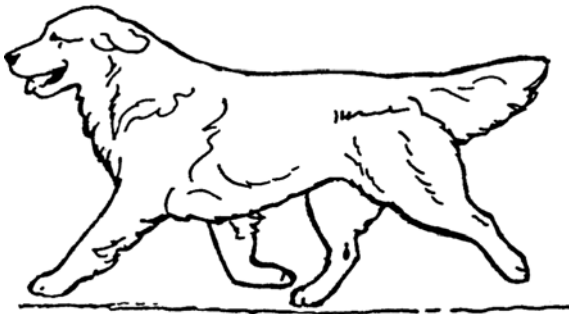


Gait

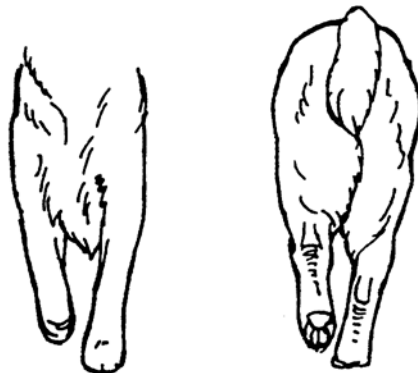
When trotting, gait is free, smooth, powerful and well coordinated, showing good reach. Viewed from any position, legs turn neither in nor out, nor do feet cross or interfere with each other. As speed increases, feet tend to converge toward center line of balance. It is recommended that dogs be shown on a loose lead to reflect true gait.

Comment: As in other qualities, extremes in gait are not desired. The Golden should demonstrate a balanced level trot on a **loose lead**, maintaining a strong, level, "working back", freedom and ease of movement, coordination and good foot timing. The dog should be allowed to carry his head forward in a natural manner. The retriever is not a trotting specialist. and exaggerated "reach and drive" are not called for. The retriever's working gaits include canter, gallop and walk (as well as swimming), with the ability to cover all sorts of terrain. Dogs should be moved at a moderate speed which best demonstrates the dog's efficiency of movement, without excessive speed, a tight lead or any interference by the handler

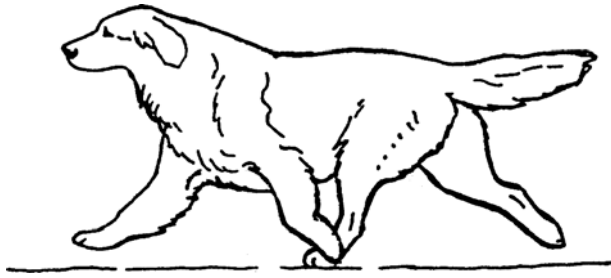
Good: balanced, coordinated



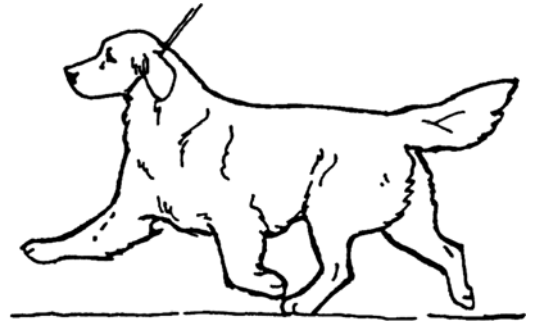
Correct coming and going, showing straight columns of support with proper convergence



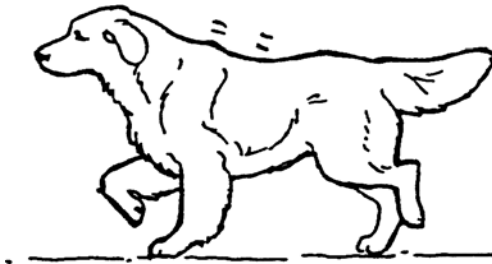
Movement Faults:



Overreaching, overextended



Tight lead; padding; not coordinated



Loose; bouncing topline



**Poor foot-timing, unbalanced,
overextended in rear**