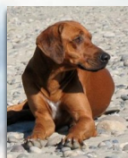




Lifelong mantra:
a dog must be able to perform the
functions for which they were bred



Jack & Girlie **the real story**



- **Even before Girlie, I was interviewed for The Ridgeback magazine (USA) on the topic of breeding otherwise superior ridgeless dogs.**
- **Wanted to provide further data regarding theorized link between DS and ridgelessness.**
- **Consulted my peer mentors.**
- **Consulted representative of RRCUS ethics committee (the breed club to which I belong).**
- **End of a genetic line revived!**
- **I like and trust Ann Chamberlain.**
- **It was a sound pairing upon doing a comparative analysis.**
- **I am a proponent of keeping the ridge as the hallmark of the breed.**

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4

The Problem

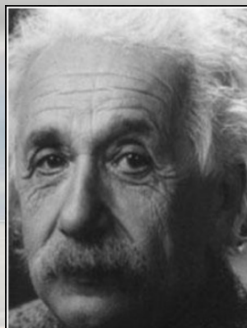
We are **forgiving** *structural flaws* for the sake of the ridge, when we should be **forgiving** *ridge** faults for the sake of structure.

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*(and other **cosmetic**)



We may not have all the answers, but let's put forward some questions that are worth asking.



I have no particular talent. I am
merely inquisitive.

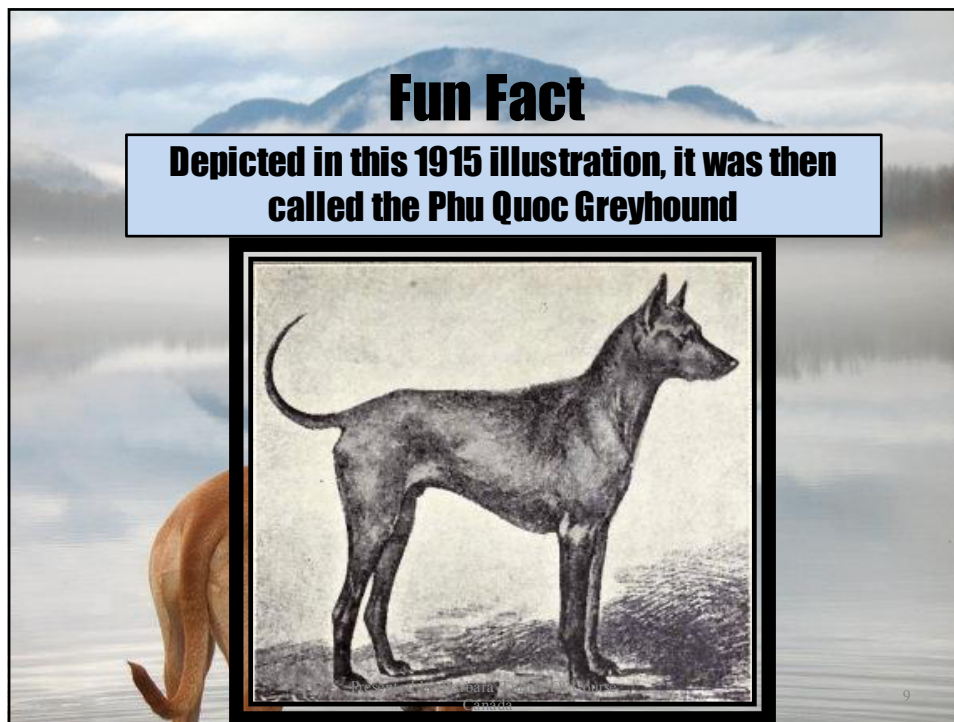
— *Albert Einstein* —

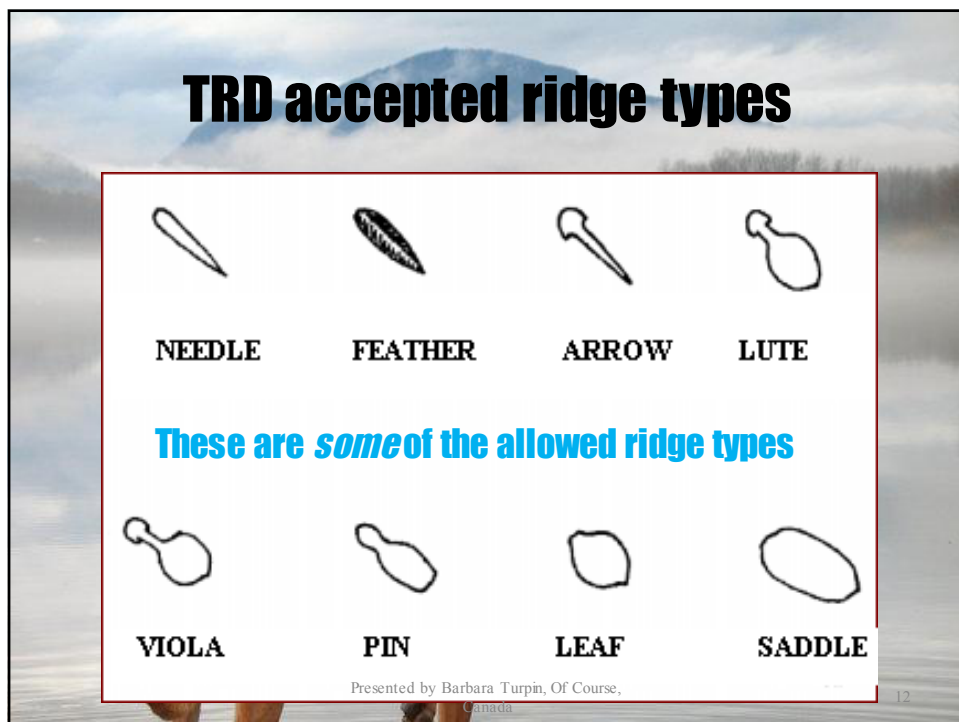
AZ QUOTES

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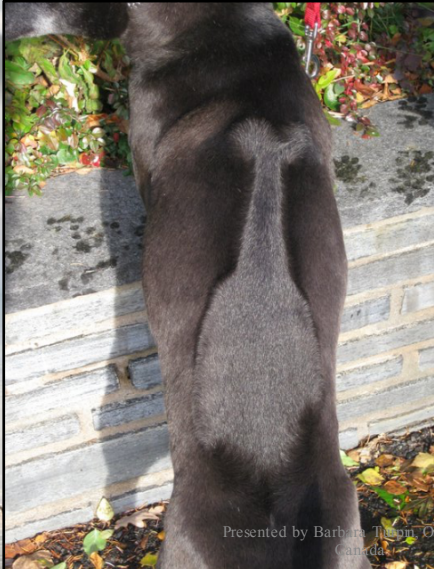
6







Fun Fact




Not included in the preceding diagram is the delightful “sitting rabbit” ridge type.

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13

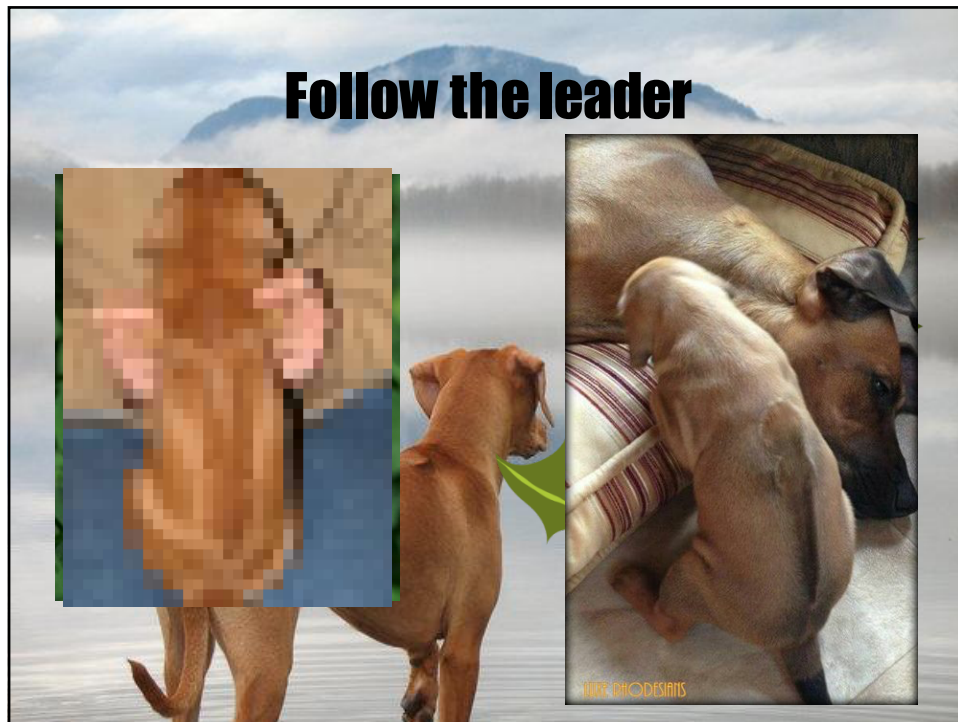
Arrow or nothing!

What is the purpose of the ridge?



Early DNA to determine lineage.

14



Are there consequences in accepting only one ridge type?

- false sense of security with respect to outcomes
- lessons from an ungulate
- forced to accept best ridges as opposed to best dogs
- we really just don't know

16

Due diligence suggested outcome



17

Does science agree?



Imagine evaluations based *solely* on functional attributes



Subjectivity excuses no longer fly

Subjective

- existing in the mind; belonging to the thinking subject rather than to the object of thought (opposed to *objective*).
- Pertaining to or characteristic of an individual; personal, individual: *a subject evaluation*.
- Placing excessive emphasis on one's own moods, attitudes, opinions, etc.; **unduly egocentric**.

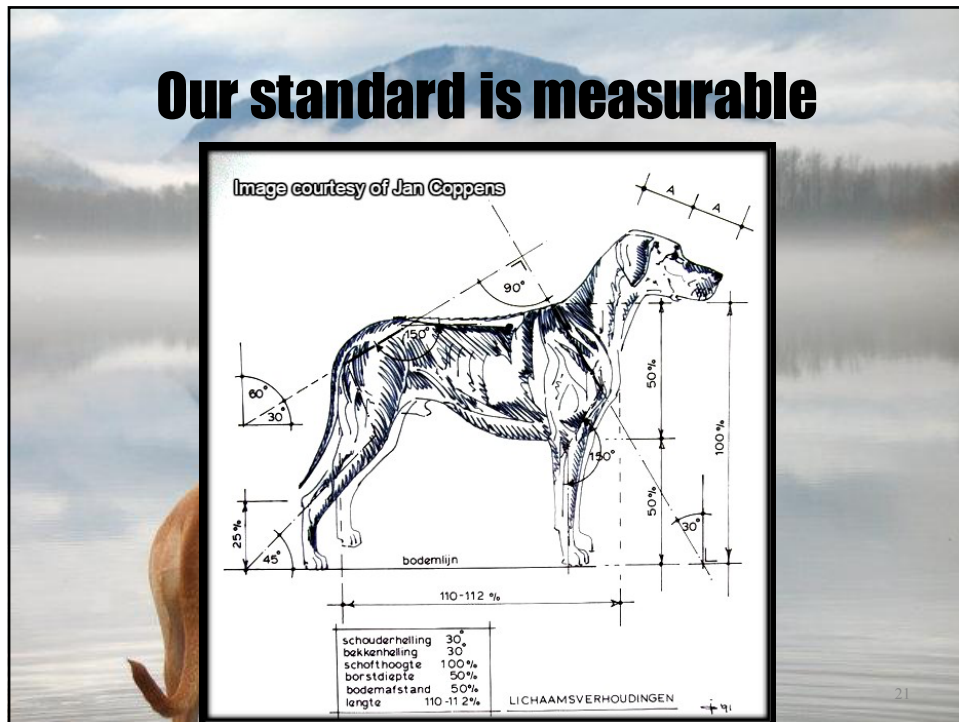
Objective

- Not influenced by personal feelings, interpretations, or prejudice; **based on facts**; unbiased: an objective opinion.
- Of or relating to something that can be known, or to something that is an object or a part of an object; existing independent of thought or an observer as part of reality.
- Being the object or goal of one's efforts or actions.

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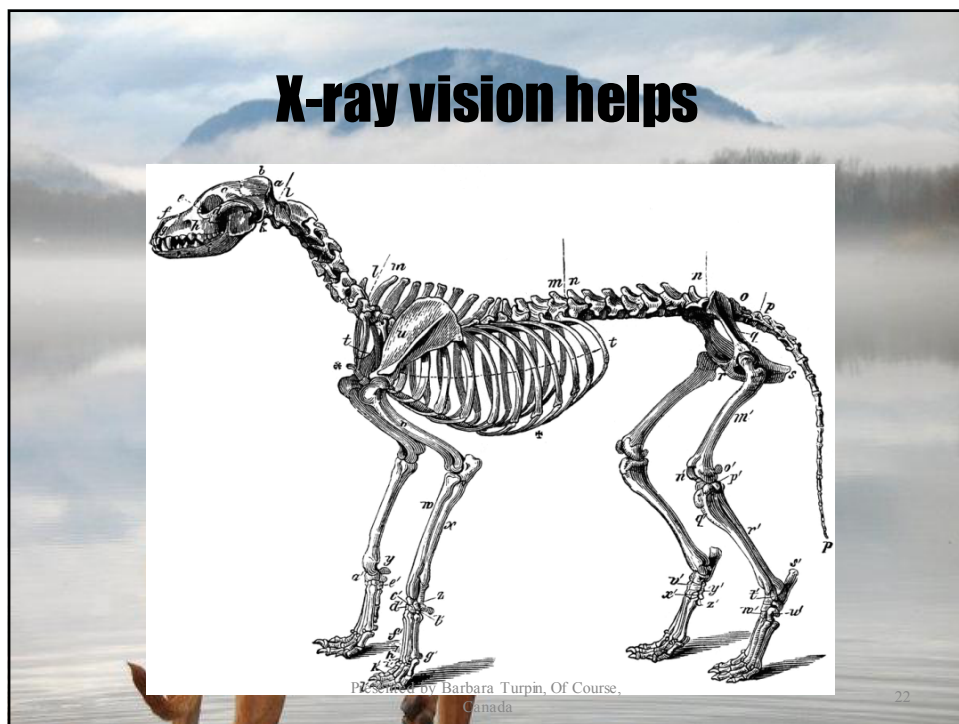
20

Our standard is measurable



21

X-ray vision helps



22

“Mathematics - The Language of the Universe” Documentary

“Our physical world doesn’t just have *some* mathematical properties, but it has *only* mathematical properties.”

Max Tegmark



Max Erik Tegmark is a Swedish-American cosmologist. Tegmark is a professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the scientific director of the Foundational Questions Institute.

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23

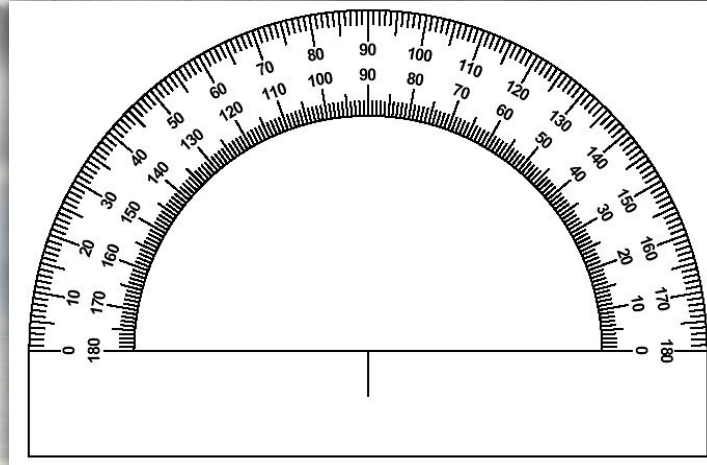
What am I?



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24

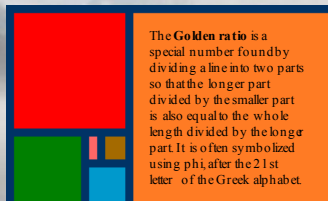
What am I?



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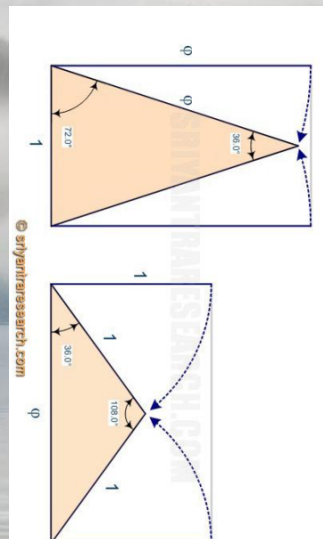
25

The golden rectangle and triangle



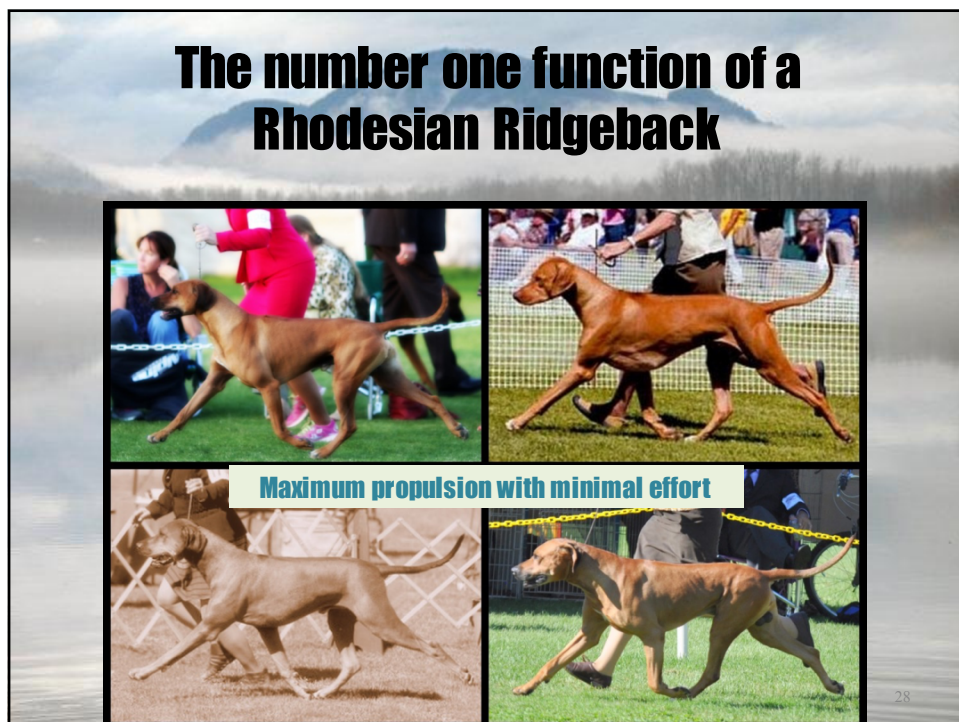
The **Golden ratio** is a special number found by dividing a line into two parts so that the longer part divided by the smaller part is also equal to the whole length divided by the longer part. It is often symbolized using phi after the 21st letter of the Greek alphabet.

A **golden rectangle** is a rectangle that can be cut up into a square and a rectangle similar to the original one. It's dimensions are based on the golden ratio. Namely, 1.618033...



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26





P A S E

Four key areas of function

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>P</u>ropulsion • <u>A</u>gility • <u>S</u>suspension • <u>E</u>ndurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The act of moving out in a given direction, relying on proper construction of bones, muscles, attachments, etc. • The mental and physical ability to maneuver and out-maneuver as required in nearly any challenging task. • The angles required to absorb impacts and rebound the body into its next motion, minimizing potential injuries. • Ample lung capacity, healthy organs, reflective colour and a determined <i>will</i> all contribute to the ability of a dog to endure.
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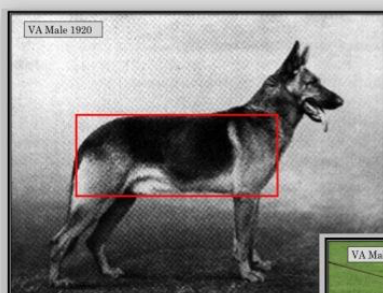
30

Cosmetic “faults”

Ridgelessness
Non-arrow ridges
White
Kinks
Missing premolars
Rose ears
High tail set
Tightly undershot/overshot

31

Fads unfettered become status quo



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We have a golden opportunity

When we know better, we do better




The slipped hock

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Trivia: a Whippet's lung size is the same as what other breed?




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Of what greater importance is brisket to the Rhodesian Ridgeback?

A day in the life of an Of Course Ridgeback



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The devastating consequences of croup droop—quest for 27 degrees



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“No matter how good the dog is , if he has not good legs and feet , buy him a pair of roller skates , but do not breed him.”
C.H.Edmonds (1923)



Find the golden triangle

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37

Wheaten is the colour of wheat

“The more light the object absorbs, the more **heat** absorbed... Objects that are white, on the other hand, **reflect** all wavelengths of light and therefore absorb the least heat.”

(source: scienceline.ucsb.edu)

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Shades of wheaten in other breeds



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39

Wheaten defined:

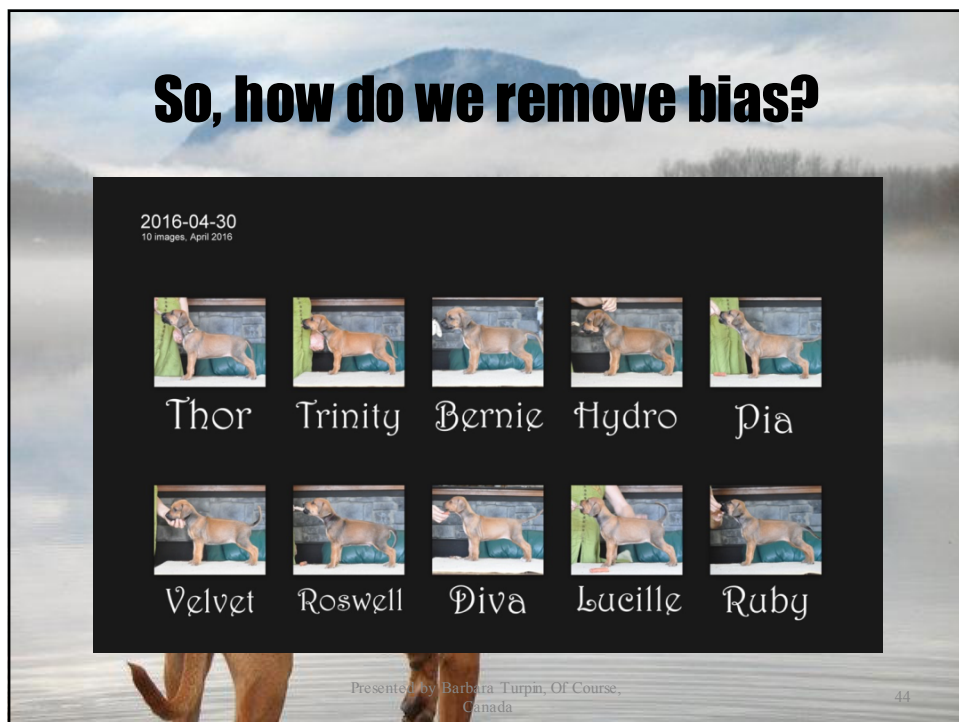
wheat-en (h)wētn/ *adjective*
(especially of bread) made of wheat.
of a color resembling that of wheat;
a pale yellow-beige.



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**We know where we are.
Where are we going?**

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Legacy breeder VS interim breeder

- Fewer, and more carefully planned litters VS chronic multiple litters within a given year
- Refusing to breed according to fads VS breeding for what is winning in the show ring
- Intellectual appetite for learning VS know-it-all experts, especially in the face of new evidence
- Mentoring new breeders VS tearing down other breeders

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What if we fail?

- Total outcross
- Heritage outcross
- Irreversible changes to type
- Pressure from “animal rights” groups to follow mandated COIs

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Get to know underdog breeders

- May not attend a lot of shows
- May not advertise at all
- Consistently breed dogs of type
- Pet out dogs whose conformation is inferior
- Buck trends
- Are invested in their dogs (house dogs, fun yards, do interesting things with their dogs, participate in other activities besides just conformation)
- May seldom boast

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48

