



CONDITION, STANDARDS AND STRUCTURE

What Is a Standard?

A standard is a description of an abstract aesthetic ideal.

- The physical realization of a good standard would result in a work of art or, at the very least, an object possessing artistic unity.
- Artistic unity requires that the individual parts be in harmony with one another; that they possess balance and proportion; that together they enhance each other and strengthen the whole.
- A good work of art has its own inner logic. There is a feeling of inevitability and rightness about each detail.
- We call this **BALANCE**.

What Is a Standard?

- With a standard we aim at some satisfying visual shape that possesses a certain style.
- Style, too, implies an inner harmony and consistency between the parts.
- In the realm of aesthetics, the whole is really greater than the sum of its parts, but each part can enhance or detract from the whole.
- The realization of a standard should possess aesthetic and artistic validity. Balance . . .
- But no standard can or should set down to the last millimeter of a whisker a scientifically exact diagram of a cat.

What Is a Standard?

- Nothing grotesque or distorted or ugly is implicit in any standard.
- Why do some cats look ugly or distorted?
 - Because their features may violate the basic concepts of their particular standard.
 - A cat can have individual "good" features, and yet not fulfill the ideal set forth by the standard.
 - The cat may be out of balance in that all the cat's features do not "go together."

What Is Condition?

Condition mirrors the total cat.

- Diet, care, environment, and heredity all play vital roles in producing a well-conditioned cat.
- Every facet of the cat reflects the results of these important factors.

Physical Condition:

- The show cat should be in prime physical condition.

Cleanliness and Presentation:

- The show cat should be faultlessly clean. Grooming should enhance the beauty of the cat, and emphasize the nature of the breed.

What Is Condition?

Temperament:

- Well balanced temperamentally, the show cat should be receptive to the judging procedure.
- A calm stable disposition enhances the cat and allows the judge to evaluate and display the cat to its best advantage.

Appearance:

- General health and vigor are reflected by clear eyes, shining coat, and alert appearance.
- In movement, the cat will exhibit the characteristic grace and beauty natural to its breed.

What Is Condition?

Feel:

- As an exhibit is handled by the judge, his/her hands record the size and shape of the bone structure, the muscle tone, and the basic conformation of the cat.

Remember - The TOTAL CAT is equal to the SUM of its parts.

- Standard components
- Temperament
- Appearance
- Feel
- And . . .

Feline Structure

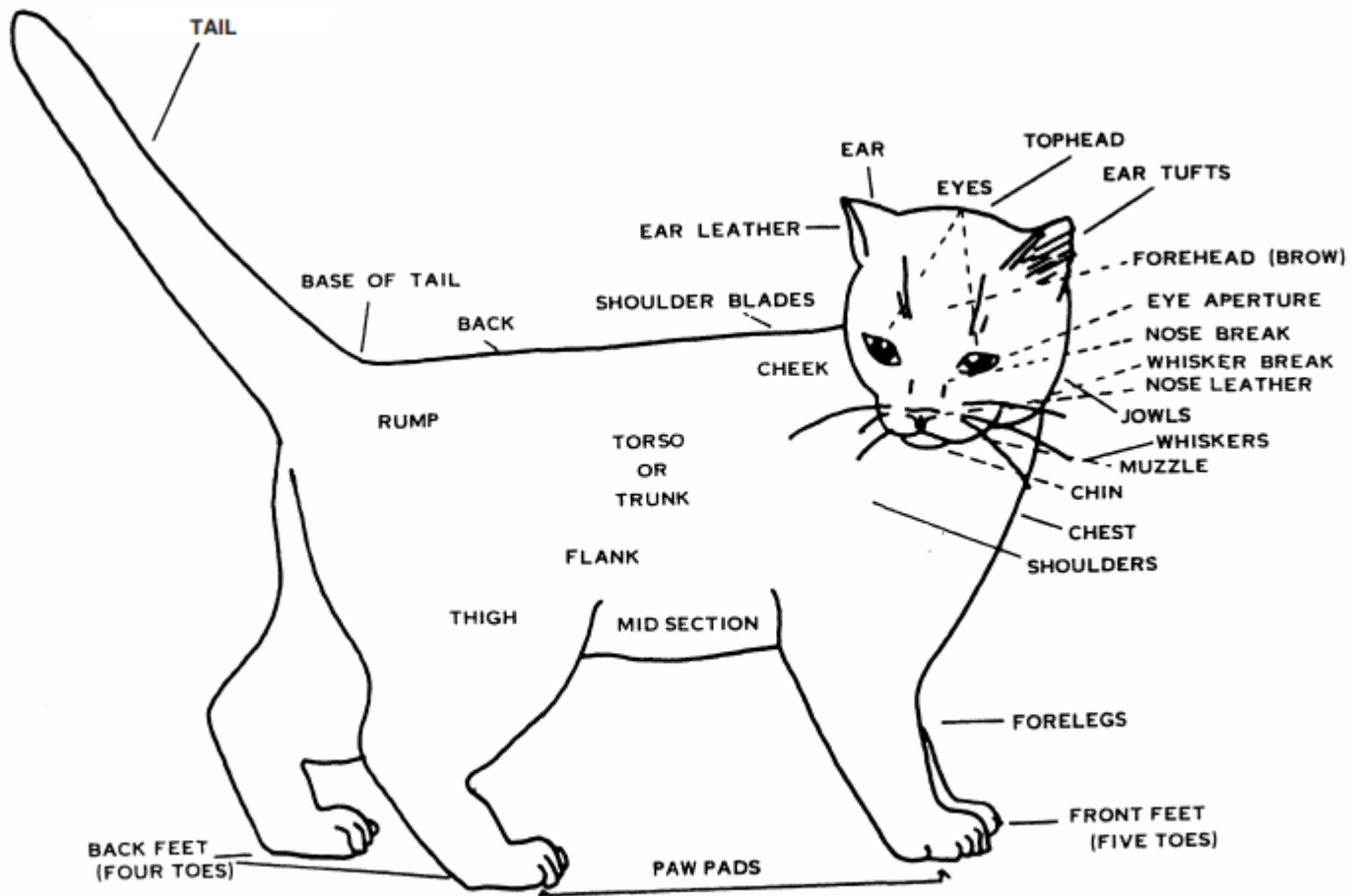


Illustration by Rosemonde S. Peltz, M.D.

Feline Structure

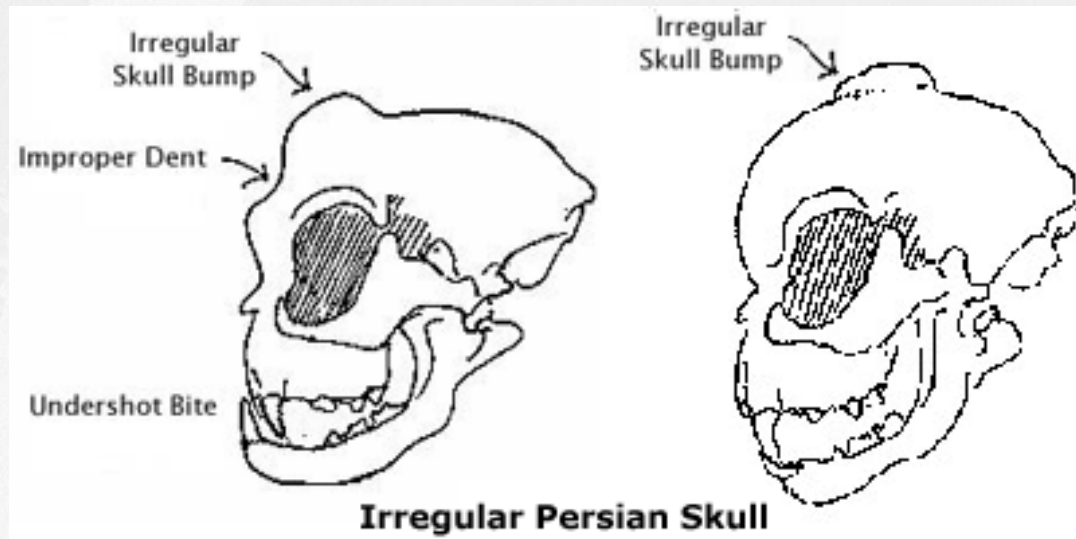
- In order to embody the aesthetic qualities of beauty, grace and agility that epitomize the cat, the ideal show cat reflects excellent health and sound structure.
- Variations in structure help differentiate and distinguish the variety of pedigreed cat breeds. Though individual breed standards sometimes describe unusual physical traits, the ideal show cat is free of any characteristics, exaggerated or otherwise, which cause discomfort or jeopardize health and well-being.



Feline Structure

The Head

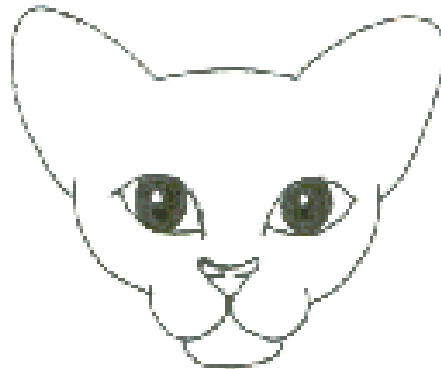
- The mature skull, regardless of head shape - long, medium or short – should be smooth without undesirable depressions or protuberances.



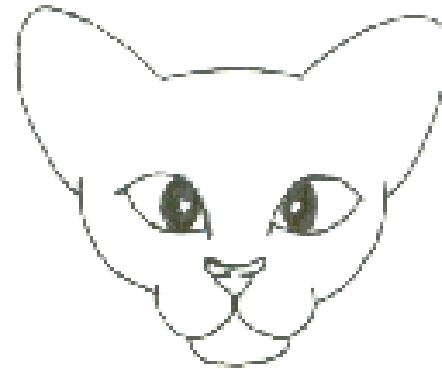
Feline Structure

The Eyes

- The eyes should be clear and bright with coordinated movement.
- Strabismus - Disorder in which one or both eyes are misaligned. Typically, one or both eyes may not line up in the same direction. When they deviate inward toward the nose, we refer to them as cross-eyed.



Normal Eyes

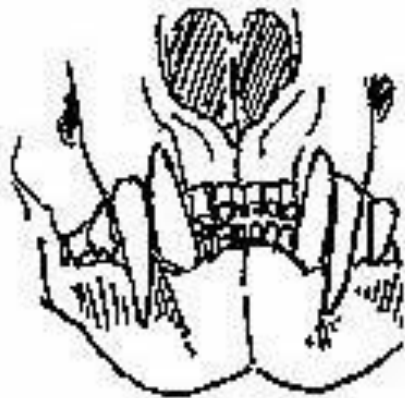


Crossed Eyes

Feline Structure

The Bite

- The face and jaw should be symmetrical and aligned. The mouth should close with proper occlusion. Breathing should be effortless.



PROPER BITE
Frontal

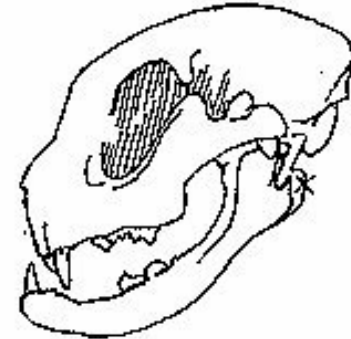


INCORRECT BITE
Offset/Irregular

Feline Structure

The Jaw

- Undershot Jaw - The lower jaw protrudes beyond the upper jaw with the bottom teeth jutting out in advance of the upper teeth rather than meeting.
- Overshot Jaw - The upper jaw protrudes out over the lower jaw with the top teeth jutting out over the bottom teeth rather than meeting.



Undershot Jaw

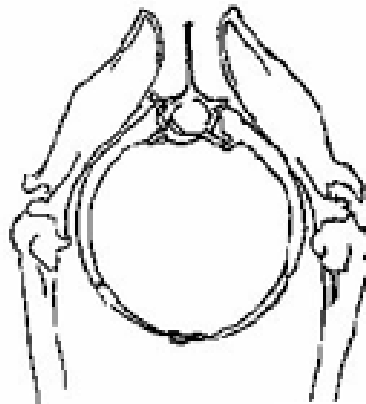


Overshot Jaw

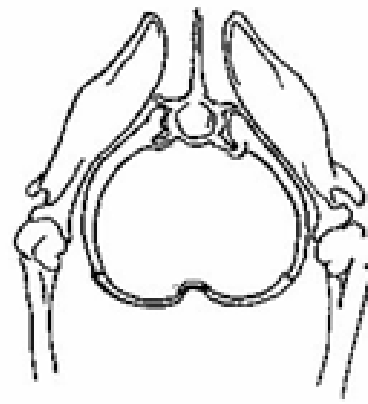
Feline Structure

The Rib Cage

- Abnormal Angulation of Rib Cage - A triangular tendency (if viewed in cross section) can be an expression of flat-chestedness or “swimmer's” chest.
- It is also considered abnormal for the ribs to flare outward.



NORMAL
Rib Cage

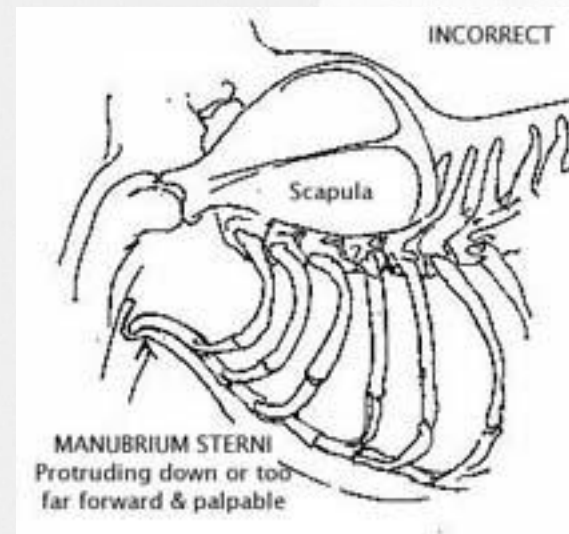
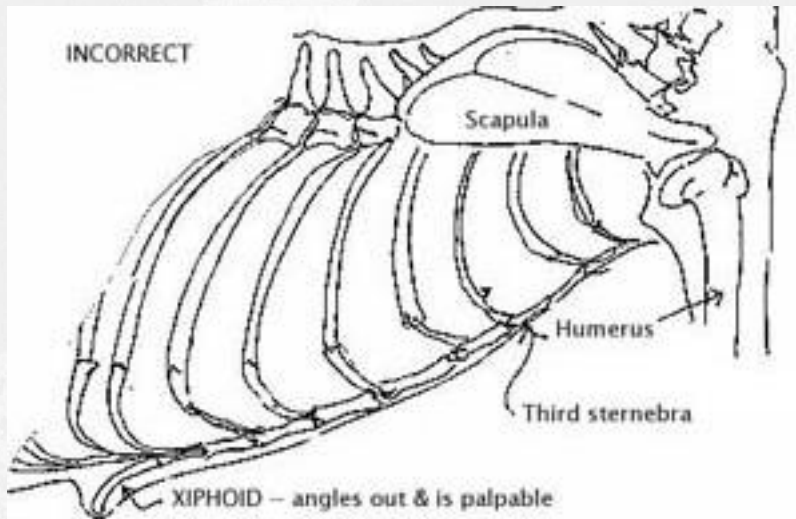


ABNORMAL
Rib Cage

Feline Structure

The Rib Cage

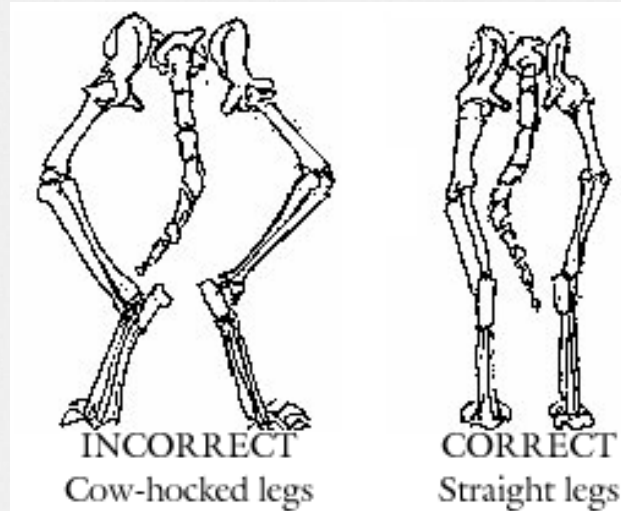
- Fixed Deviation of the Sternum or Xiphoid Process - This is a distinct hook outward or a bend inwards at the end of the sternum, or an asymmetrical alignment of the entire sternum



Feline Structure

The Hind Legs

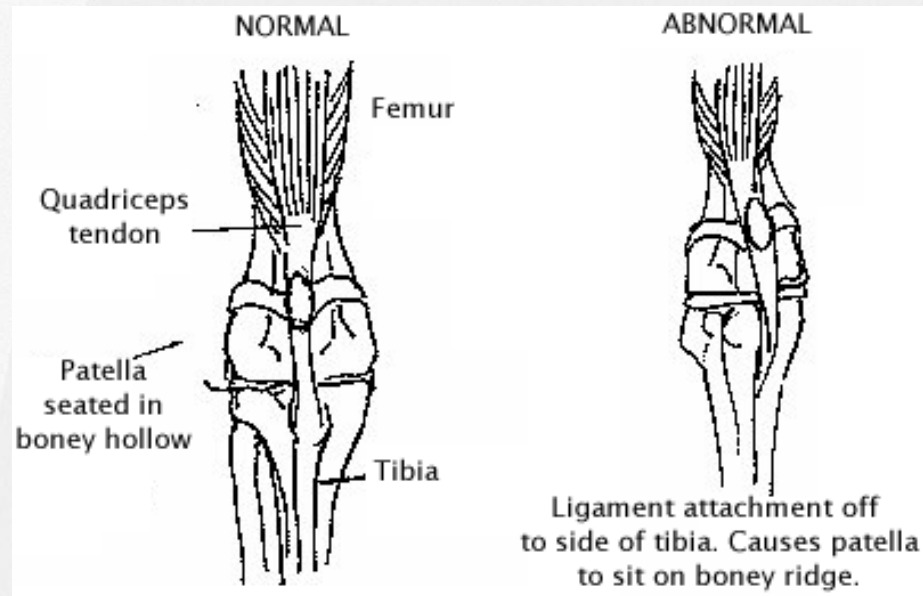
- The skeletal frame, regardless of size - small, medium or large – should function with symmetry and balance. The vertebrae should be aligned without fixation or deviation. The spine should be supple and the joints flexible. The legs should be parallel and able to fully support weight and movement.



Feline Structure

The Legs

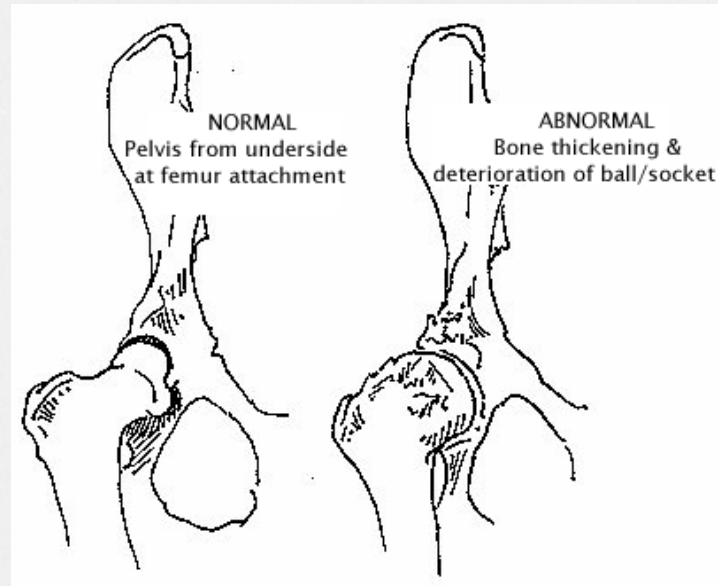
- Patellar Luxation - The kneecap (patella) should freely move away from the front of the joint. In an adult cat only very slight movement should be possible. Recurrent luxation can cause lameness.



Feline Structure

The Legs

- Hip Dysplasia – is an abnormal development of the hip joint affecting the close fit of the femur to the pelvis.
- Seen in larger breeds, it is an inherited disorder and diagnosed by x-ray. Painful, it affects gait and back leg mobility.



Feline Structure

- It must never be forgotten that the cat is a living, breathing, moving being.
- Sound structure and function are integral to the pursuit of the aesthetically beautiful cat.
- Keep in mind as you handle, the joints of the cat move in similar fashion to the joints of humans.
 - They do not swivel
 - They do not twist
 - They do not bend backwards
- In addition, neither the head nor the tail are intended to be used as handles.

Credits

“What is a standard ...” written by Jeanne Singer. This article can be found, in its’ entirety, as the Preface in the CFA Breed Standards.

The section on “Condition” is taken from the CFA Breed Standards.

The “feline structure” illustrations are courtesy of Leslie Falteisek. Text is taken from the printed brochure, *“Feline Structure: Recognizing Normal and Abnormal”*, written by Gayle Hand, Joan Miller and Betty White.

This PowerPoint presentation was organized by Karen Lawrence and edited by Pat Jacobberger.

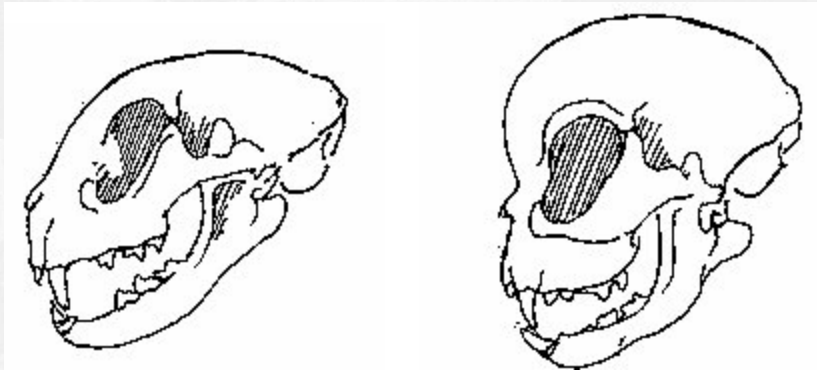
POST TEST

PRINT SLIDES 22 - 28 AND COMPLETE THE POST TEST!

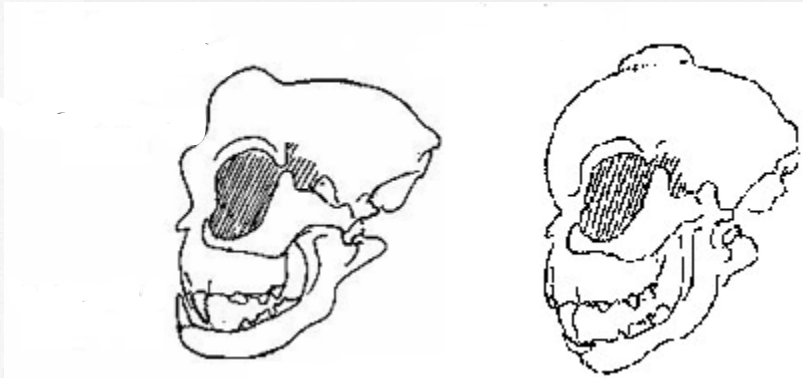
BRING YOUR ANSWER SHEETS TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS!

Which Diagram Depicts Normal Structure?

A.

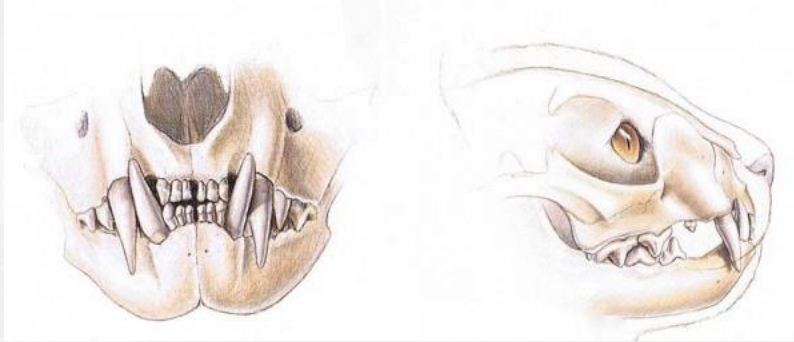


B.



Which Diagram Depicts Normal Structure?

A.

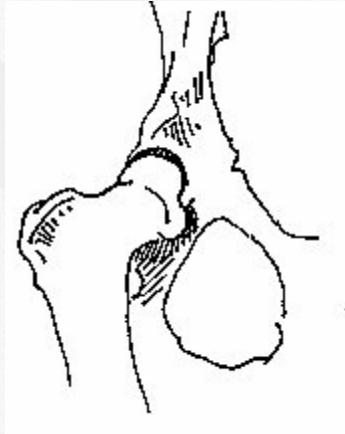


B.



Which Diagram Depicts Normal Structure?

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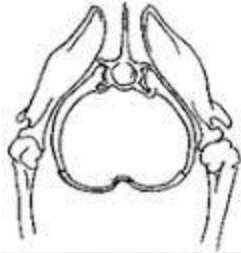


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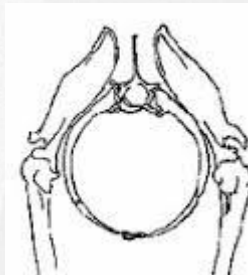


Which Diagram Depicts Normal Structure?

A.



B.



Which Diagram Depicts Normal Structure?

A.

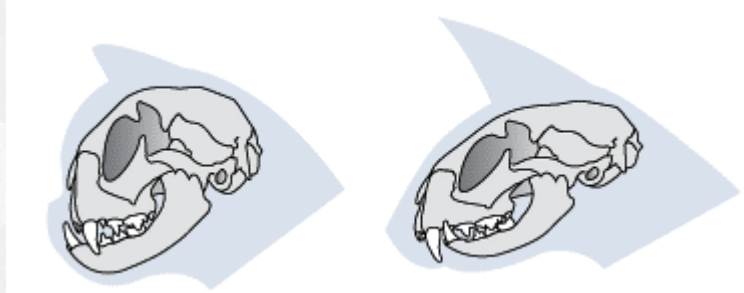


B.

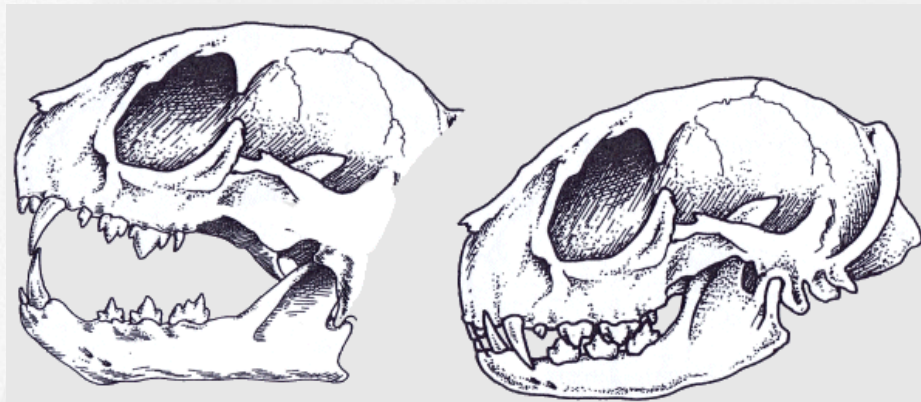


Which Diagram Depicts Normal Structure?

A.



B.



Which Diagram Depicts Normal Structure?

A.



B.

