



THE SKELETON of the dog, as we study it, consists of two groups: axial and appendicular. In the axial we have: -

1) **Skull** fitted to neck by ball and socket joint: 2) the **Pole joint** behind first two vertebrae: 3) seven vertebrae of the **Neck**; 4) eight vertebrae of the **Withers**; 5) five vertebrae of the **Back**; 6) seven vertebrae of the **Loin**; 7) three fused vertebrae of the **Croup**; 8) three to twenty-six vertebrae of the **Tail**; 9) one pair of **Floating ribs**; 10) three pairs **Asternal Ribs** joining each other at base; 11) nine **Sternal Ribs** connected to the sternum by an intermediate cartilage section; 12) the **Sternum** or breast bone.

In the appendicular, we have: -

13) **Shoulder Blade**, scapula; 14) ball and socket joint at the **Shoulder Point**;

15) **Upper Arm**, humerus; 16) **Elbow**, tip of ulna; 17) **Fore Arm**, radius and ulna;

18) **Pisiform**; 19) seven bones of **Pastern Joint**; 20) five metacarpals, only four active, forming **Pastern**; 21) phalanges forming four **Toes**; 22) **Pelvis**; 23) **Upper Thigh**, femur; 24) **Knee cap** or Patella; 25) **Lower Thigh**, tibia and fibular; 26) five, four active, metatarsal bones forming **Hock**; 27) phalanges forming four **Toes**. The inactive metacarpal and metatarsal bones terminate into **Dew Claws** on the inside of each leg.