

HOW TO DRAW

PETS



Easy to follow  
**AMAZING ART!**  
Step-by-step

Mark Bergin

HOW TO DRAW

# PETS

*Mark Bergin*



**Hatch**





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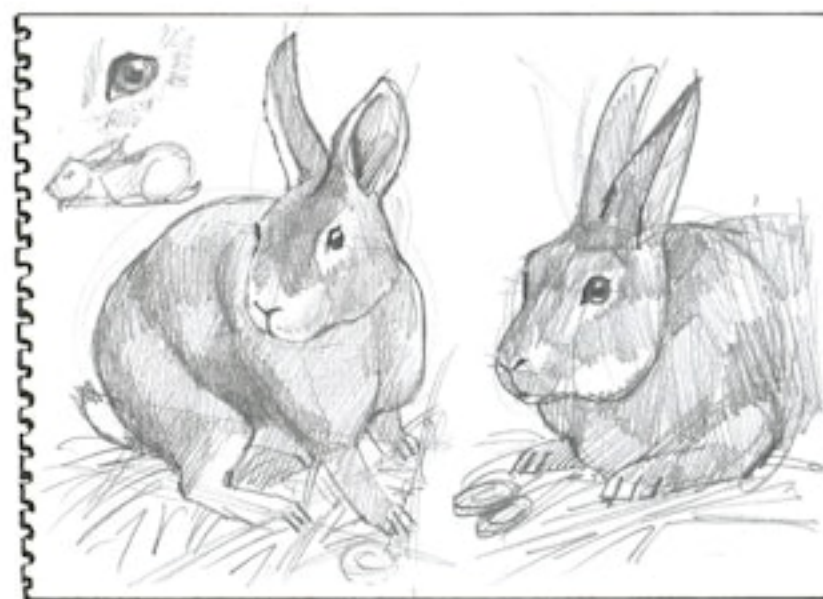
# Contents

- 4..... Making a start
- 6..... Drawing materials
- 8..... Perspective
- 10..... Heads, paws and claws
- 12..... Using photos
- 14..... Dog
- 16..... Cat
- 18..... Hamster
- 20..... Rabbit
- 22..... Fish
- 24..... Parrot
- 26..... Mouse
- 28..... Snake
- 30..... Bearded dragon
- 32..... Glossary and index

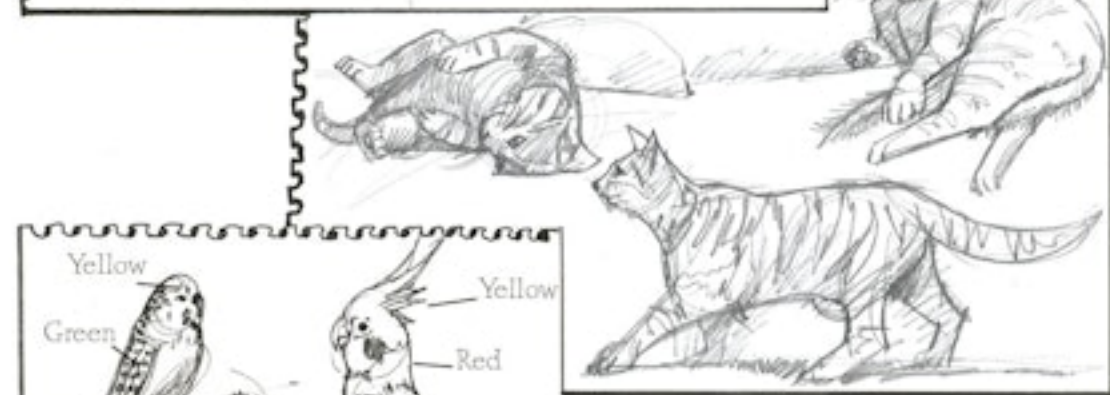


# Making a start

Learning to draw is about looking and seeing. Keep practising and get to know your subject. Use a sketchbook to make quick drawings. Start by doodling and experiment with shapes and patterns. There are many ways to draw; this book shows only some methods. Visit art galleries, look at artists' drawings, see how friends draw, but above all, find your own way.



Make a range of sketches, from detailed drawings to quick sketches trying to capture the form of the animal as quickly and accurately as possible.



Make a note of any of your subjects' features which may help later when doing a finished drawing, such as its colouring and any outstanding features.



# Drawing materials

Try using different types of drawing paper and materials. Experiment with charcoal, wax crayons and pastels. All pens, from felt-tips to ballpoints, will make interesting marks – you could also try drawing with pen and ink on wet paper.



Felt-tip

**Silhouette** is a style of drawing that uses only a solid black shape.



Lines drawn in **ink** cannot be erased, so keep your ink drawings sketchy and less rigid. Don't worry about mistakes as these lines can be lost in the drawing as it develops.



Ink



**Hard pencils** are greyer and soft pencils are blacker. Hard pencils are graded from 6H (the hardest) through 5H, 4H, 3H and 2H to H. Soft pencils are graded from B, 2B, 3B, 4B and 5B up to 6B (the softest).

**Charcoal** is very soft and can be used for big, bold drawings. Ask an adult to spray your charcoal drawings with fixative to prevent smudging.

**Pastels** are even softer than charcoal and come in a wide range of colours. Ask an adult to spray your pastel drawing with fixative to prevent it from smudging.

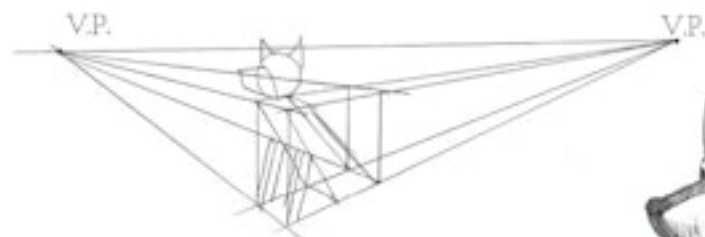
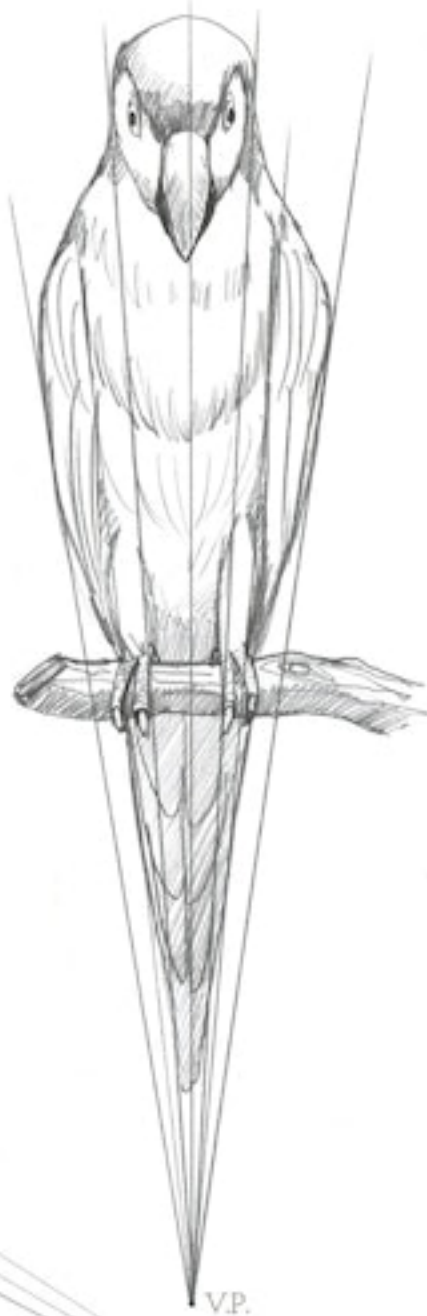
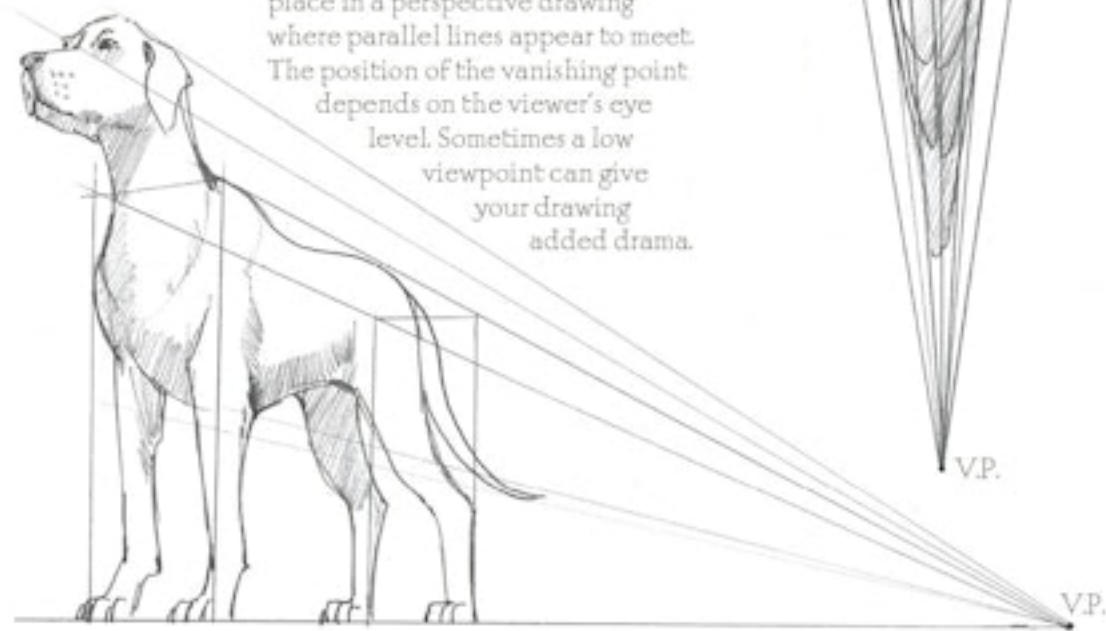


# Perspective

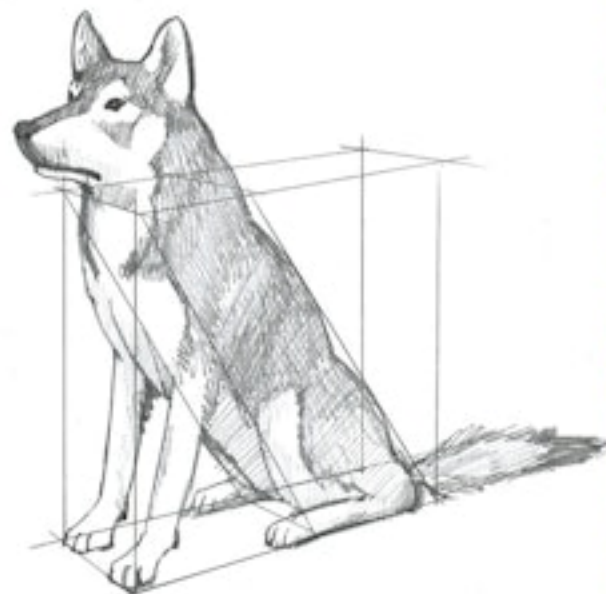
If you look at any object from different viewpoints, you will see that the part that is closest to you looks larger, and the part furthest away from you looks smaller. Drawing in perspective is a way of creating a feeling of depth - of showing three dimensions on a flat surface.



The vanishing point (V.P.) is the place in a perspective drawing where parallel lines appear to meet. The position of the vanishing point depends on the viewer's eye level. Sometimes a low viewpoint can give your drawing added drama.

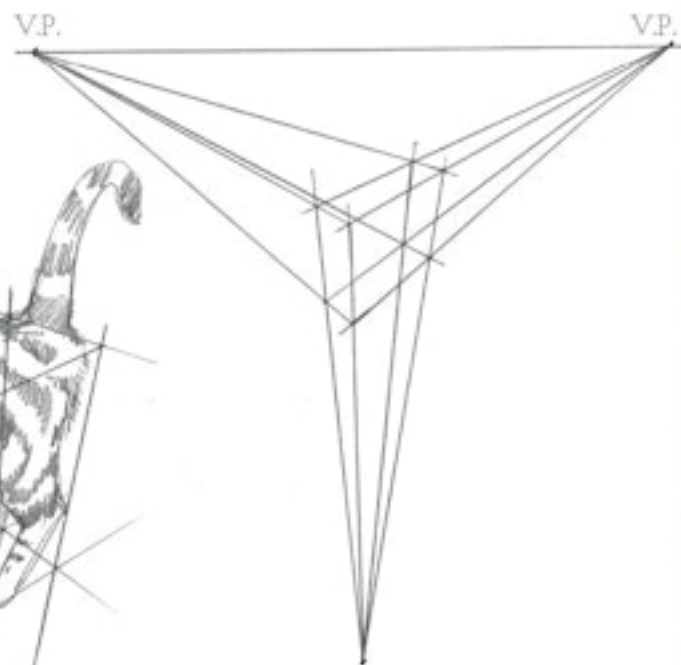


Two-point perspective uses two vanishing points: one for lines running along the length of the subject, and one on the opposite side for lines running across the width of the subject.



Three-point perspective uses a third vanishing point for lines running vertically up or down. This gives a very realistic three-dimensional effect.

High eye level  
(view from above)



V.P. = vanishing point



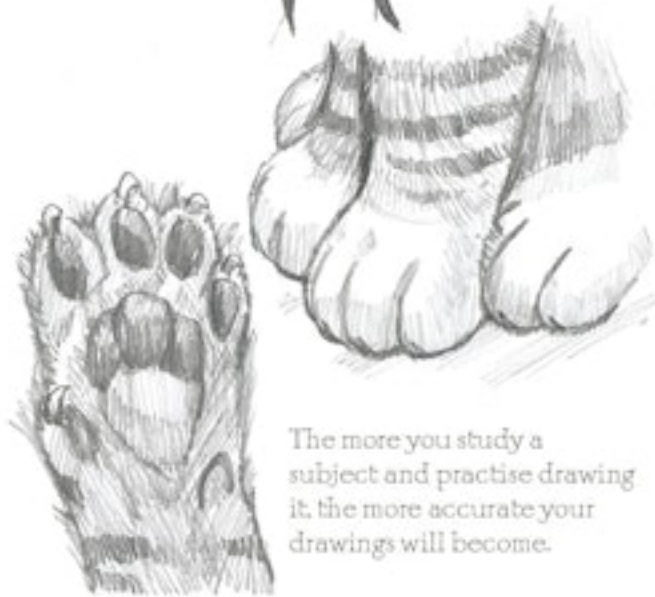
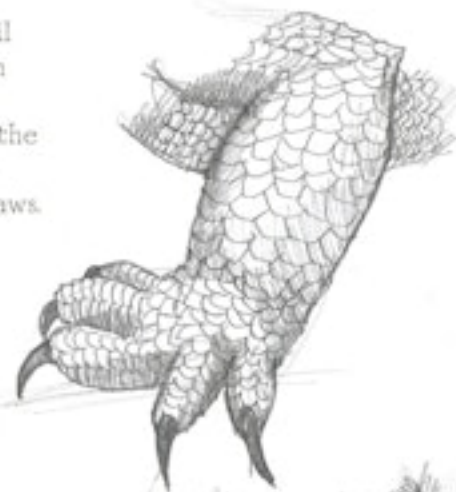
# Heads, paws and claws

Pets have many different types of heads, paws and claws. Studying and sketching the detailed features of a pet will help you with your final drawings.



Quick pencil sketches can help you to understand the structure of paws and claws.

Look for areas where tone should be darker and also for changes of texture.



The more you study a subject and practise drawing it, the more accurate your drawings will become.



Try to capture as much detail as you can in your sketches.



Always consider the light source and add tone to the darker areas.



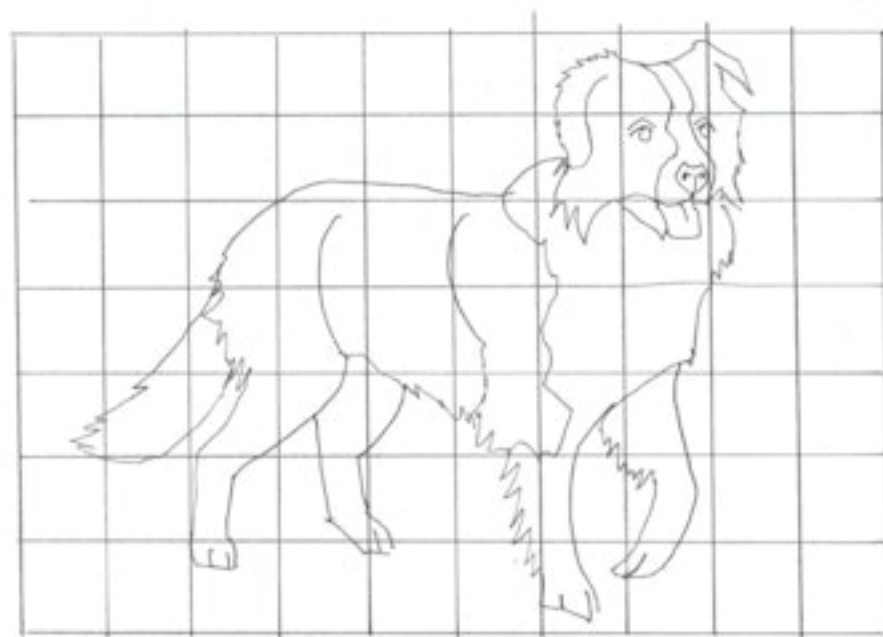
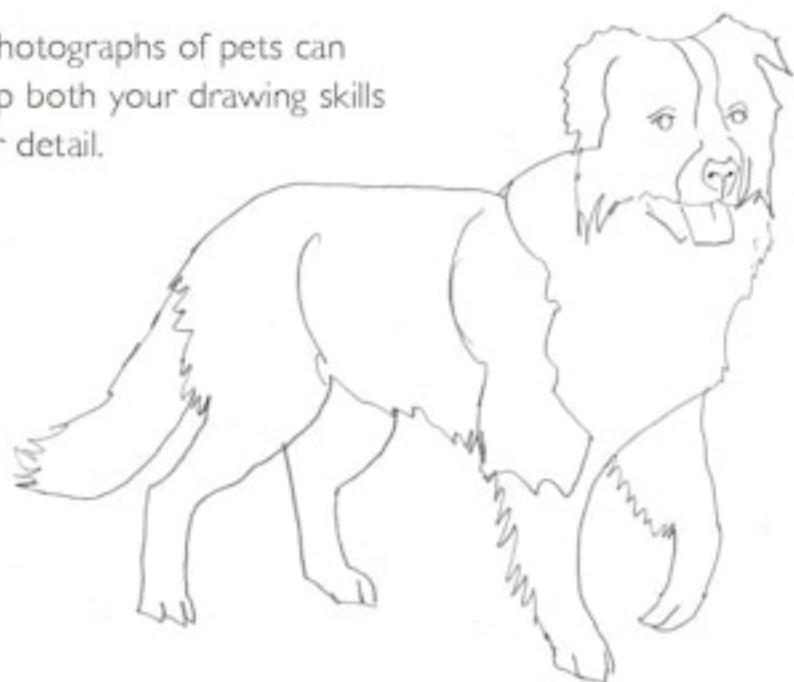
Look carefully at the size and shape of the eyes, ears and nose. Note the length of the whiskers.



# Using photos

Drawing from photographs of pets can help you develop both your drawing skills and your eye for detail.

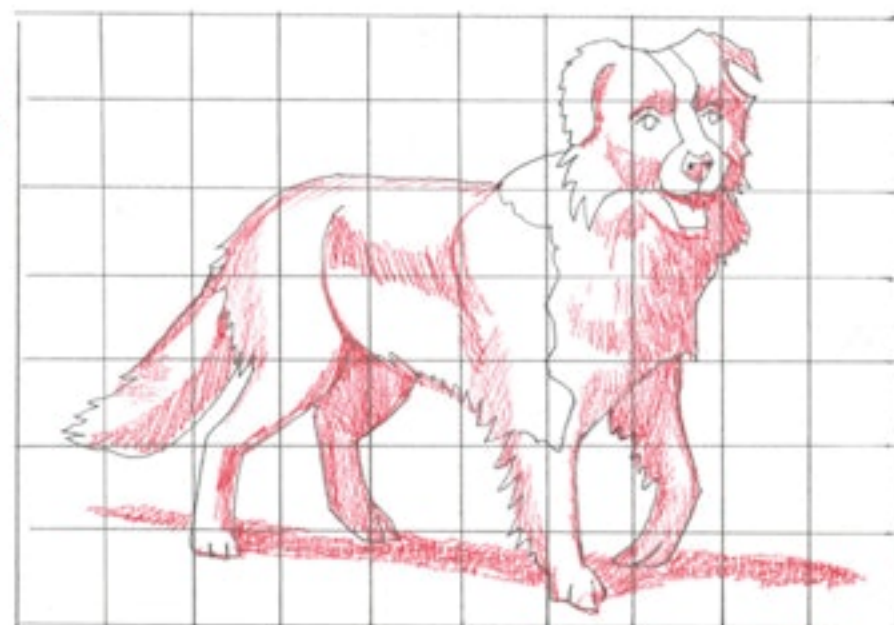
Make a tracing of a photograph and draw a grid of squares on it.



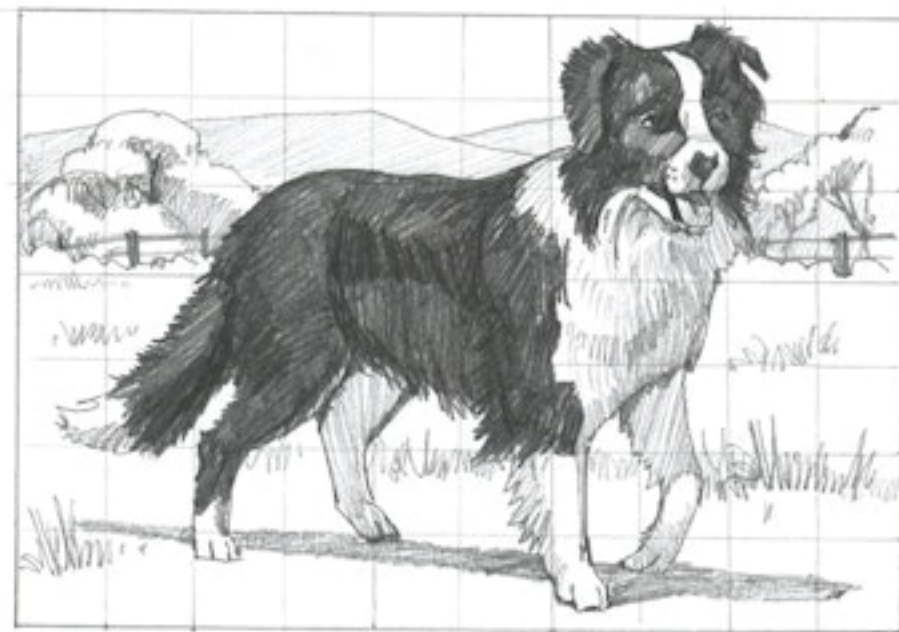
Now take a piece of drawing paper of the same proportions and draw another grid on it, either enlarging or reducing the square's size. You can now copy the shapes from each square of the tracing to the drawing paper, using the grid to guide you.

Light source

To make your drawing look three-dimensional, decide which side the light source is coming from, and put in areas of shadow where the light doesn't reach.



Sketch in an overall tone and add surrounding textures to create interest and a sense of movement. Pay attention to the position of your drawing on the paper; this is called composition.





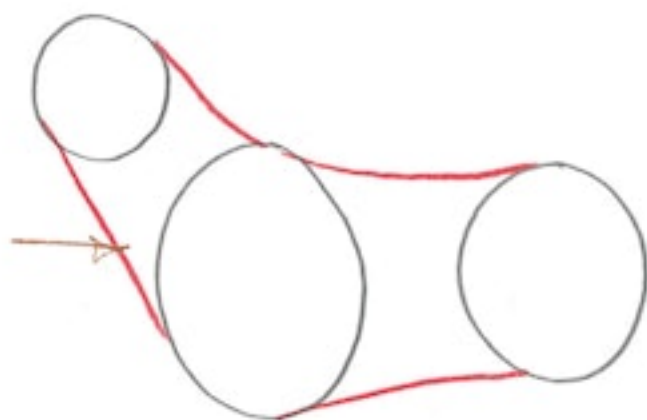
# Dog

Dogs are often kept as domestic pets but some, like sheepdogs, are used for work.

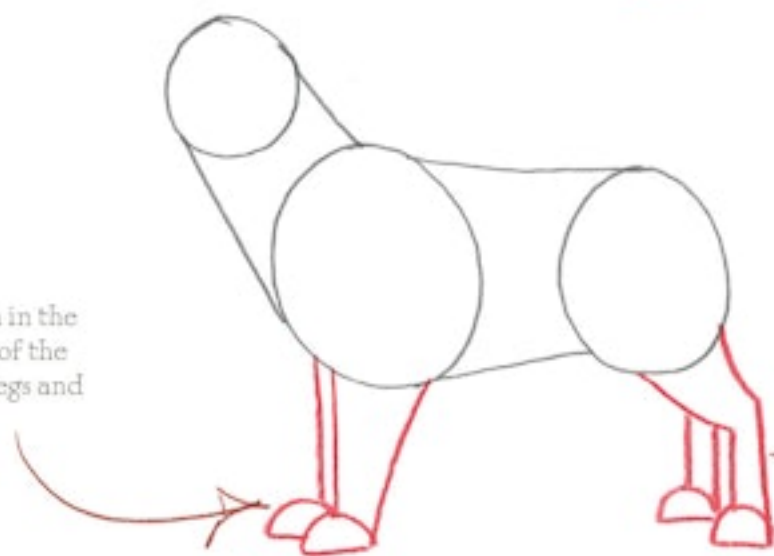
Draw a circle for the head. Draw two ovals, the larger one for the top of the front legs and the other for the top of the hind legs.



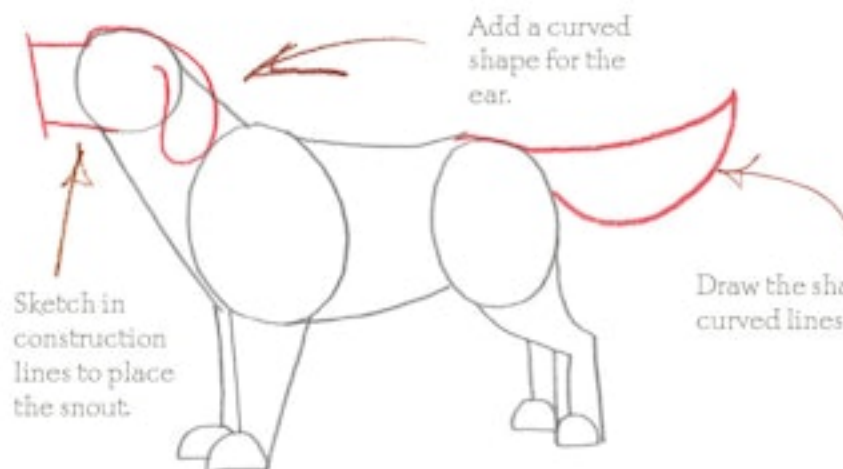
Join the two ovals and the circle with simple lines.



Sketch in the shape of the front legs and paws.



Sketch in the basic shape of the hind legs, remembering that the top half of each leg curves outwards.



Add a curved shape for the ear.

Draw the shape of the tail with curved lines.

Draw in the dog's snout, adding its teeth and nose.

Start to add fur to the body.

Complete the details of the head.

Add areas of short lines to create the fur texture on the dog's body.

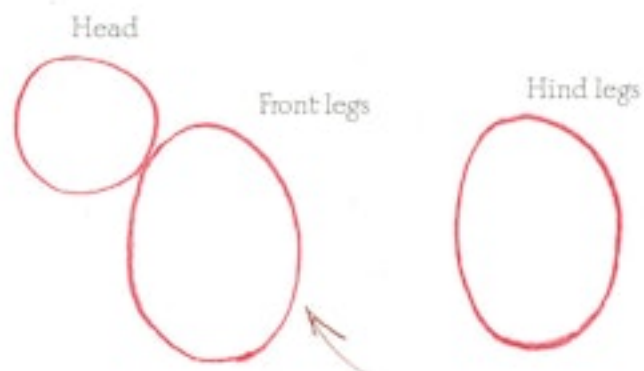
Sketch in darker areas of fur to help define the shape of the dog's muscles.

Add lines to the feet to define the paws.

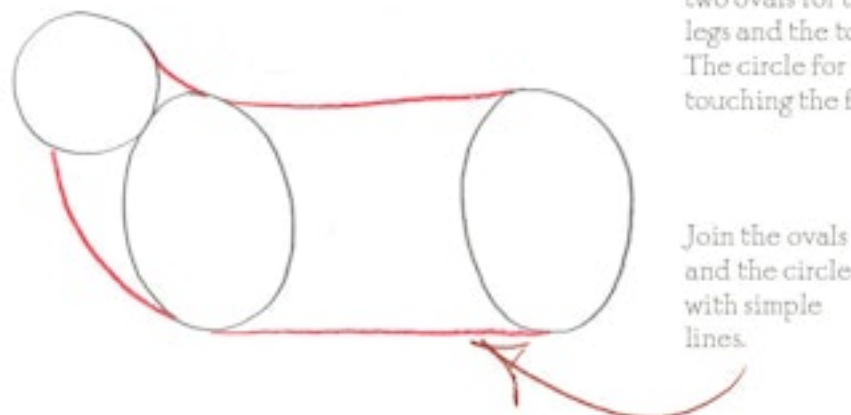
Remove any unwanted construction lines with an eraser.

# Cat

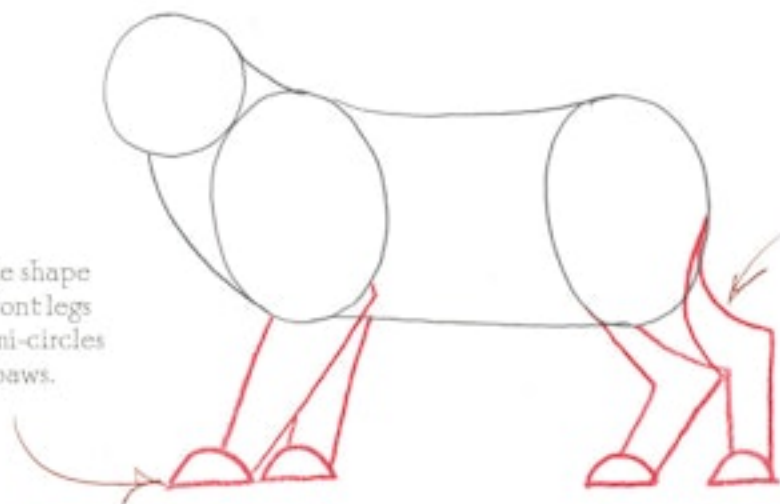
Cats are fast, agile and very independent animals. They are one of the most popular pets.



Draw a circle for the head. Draw two ovals for the top of the front legs and the top of the hind legs. The circle for the head should be touching the front oval.

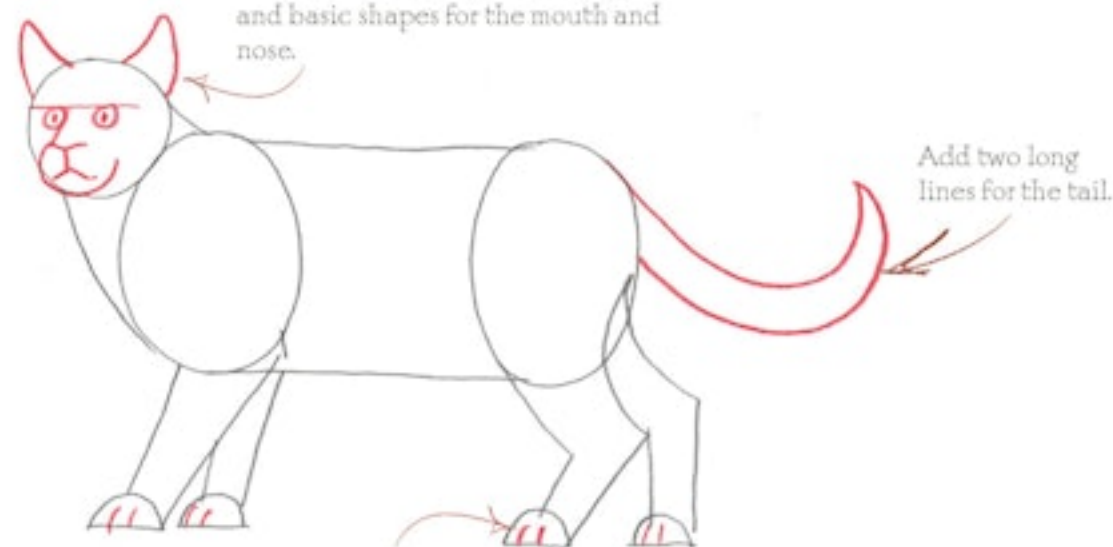


Draw the shape of the front legs with semi-circles for the paws.



Sketch the shape of the rear legs with the top halves curving outwards. Add semi-circles for the paws.

Position triangular shapes on top of the head for ears, circles for eyes and basic shapes for the mouth and nose.



Add lines to define the paws.

Complete the head details: add short hair inside each ear and whiskers on each side of the face.

Shade in the cat's eyes and leave a lighter area around them to help them stand out.

A series of short lines gives the cat striped fur.

Add jagged lines around some edges of the cat's body to create fur.

Remove any unwanted construction lines with an eraser.



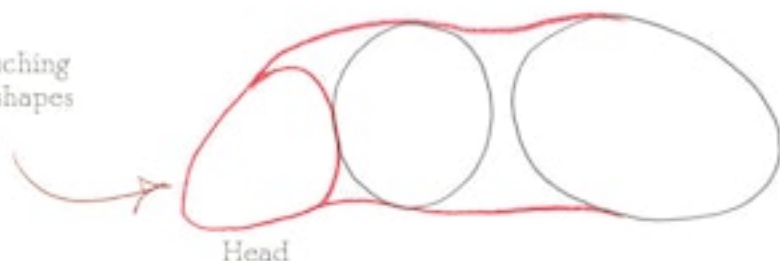
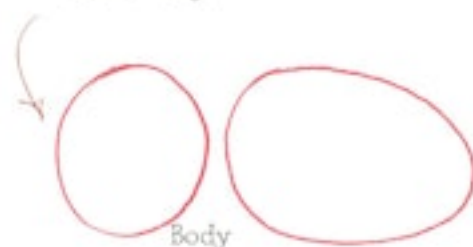


# Hamster

Small, furry hamsters have large cheek pouches for carrying food.

Draw in the head shape touching the first oval. Join all three shapes together with curved lines.

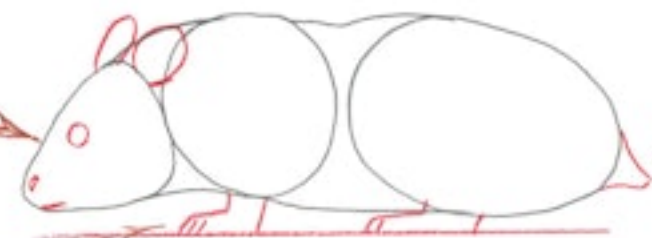
Draw a small oval and a large oval for the body.



Sketch in the position of the hamster's ears, eyes, nostrils and mouth.

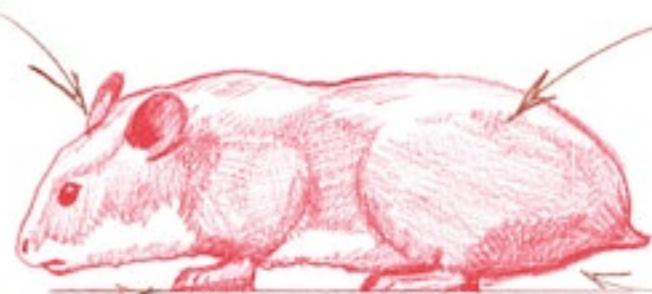
Add a short stubby tail.

Draw in the basic shape of the paws.



Shade in the eyes and the inside of the ears.

Complete the details of the paws.



Add areas of tone to the body shape to suggest fur.

Add darker shading to areas that light would not reach.



Draw overlapping circles and ovals for the head and body.

Body

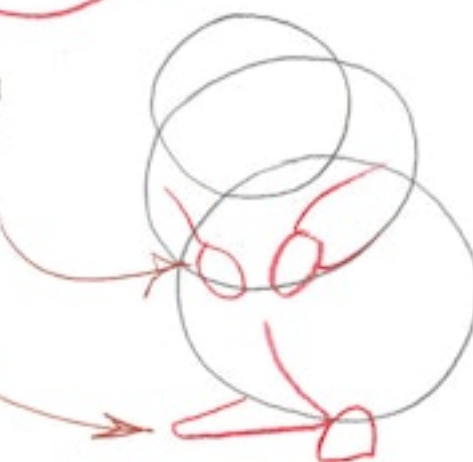
Add two small ovals for paws and connect them to the body with curved lines.

Draw in the basic paw shapes.

Complete the head details by adding dark tone to the ears and the eyes.

Draw in jagged lines around the hamster for a furry texture.

Leave some of the hamster's belly mostly white to suggest fur colour.



## Using a mirror

You can often see mistakes more easily by looking at the drawing in reverse, using a mirror.

Sketch in the position of the ears, eyes, nose and mouth.

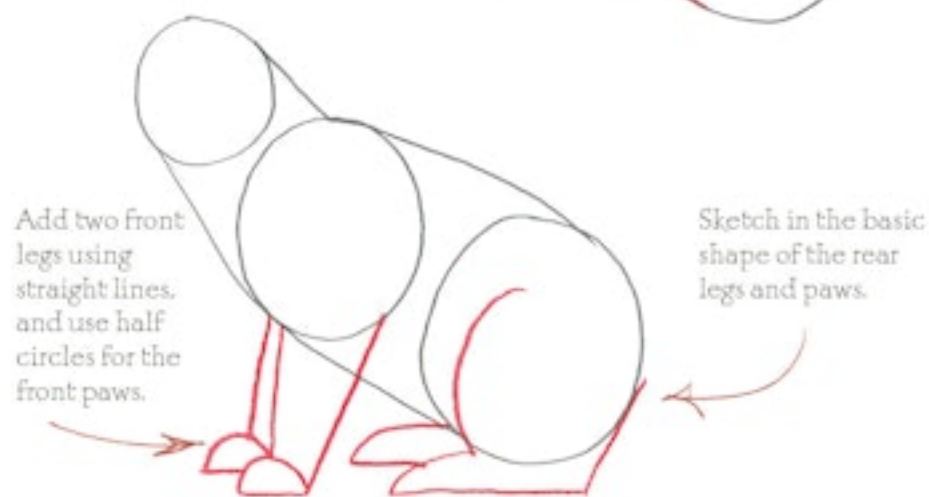
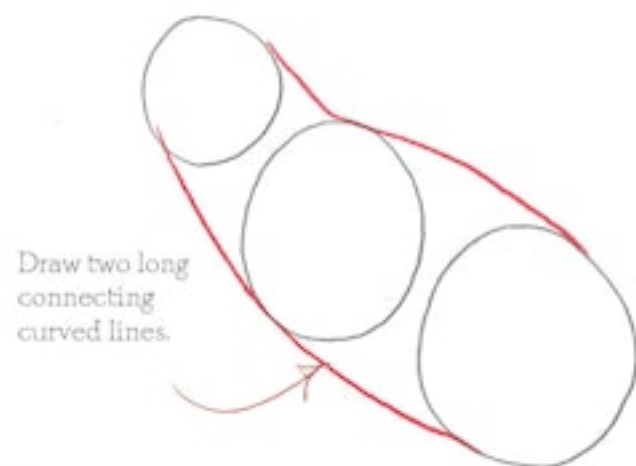
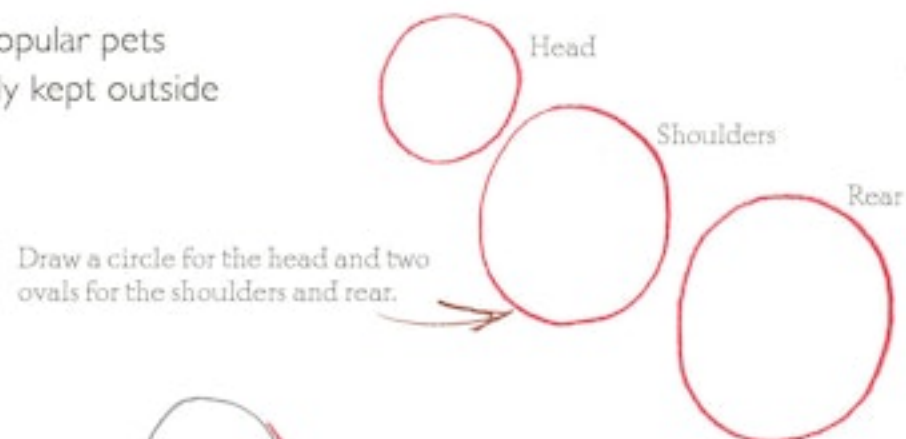
Complete the body shape by adding curved lines.



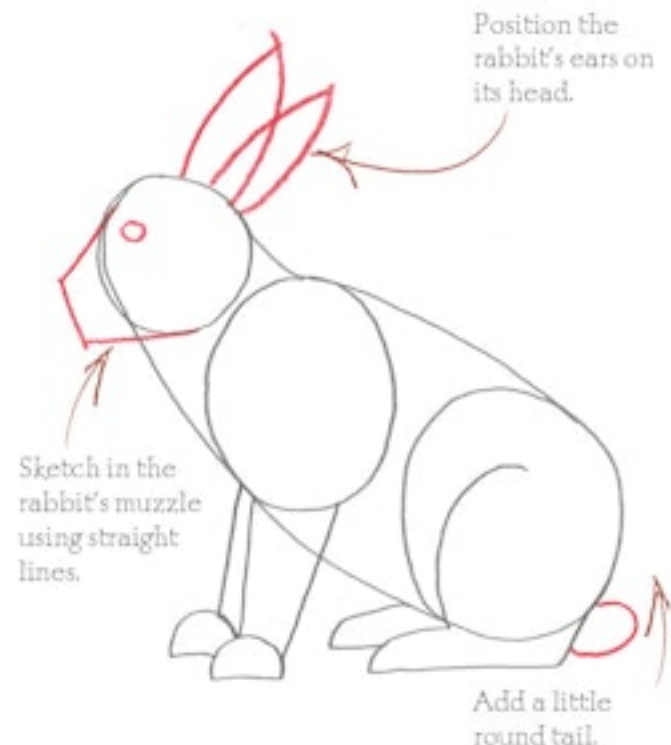
Add lines to define the paws.

# Rabbit

Rabbits are popular pets that are usually kept outside in a hutch.



This drawing of a rabbit from a different angle shows all the construction lines used.



Add the head details: draw in the ears, eyes, small nose and mouth.





# Fish

Pet fish are often highly decorative and brightly coloured.

Draw a long oval shape for the body of the fish and a small oval for its tail.

Body

Tail

Add a series of curved lines for the fins.

Add a small circle for the eye and put a dot in the middle.

Draw in curved lines to show the pattern on the fish's body.

Add tone to define the pattern and to create darker areas of shading.

Many different types of fish can be drawn using the same basic construction lines for the body and tail fin. These can then be adapted to show different features.

Fish fins are drawn with fine lines radiating from the body.

The shape of the extra fins can be added depending on the type of fish you want to draw.

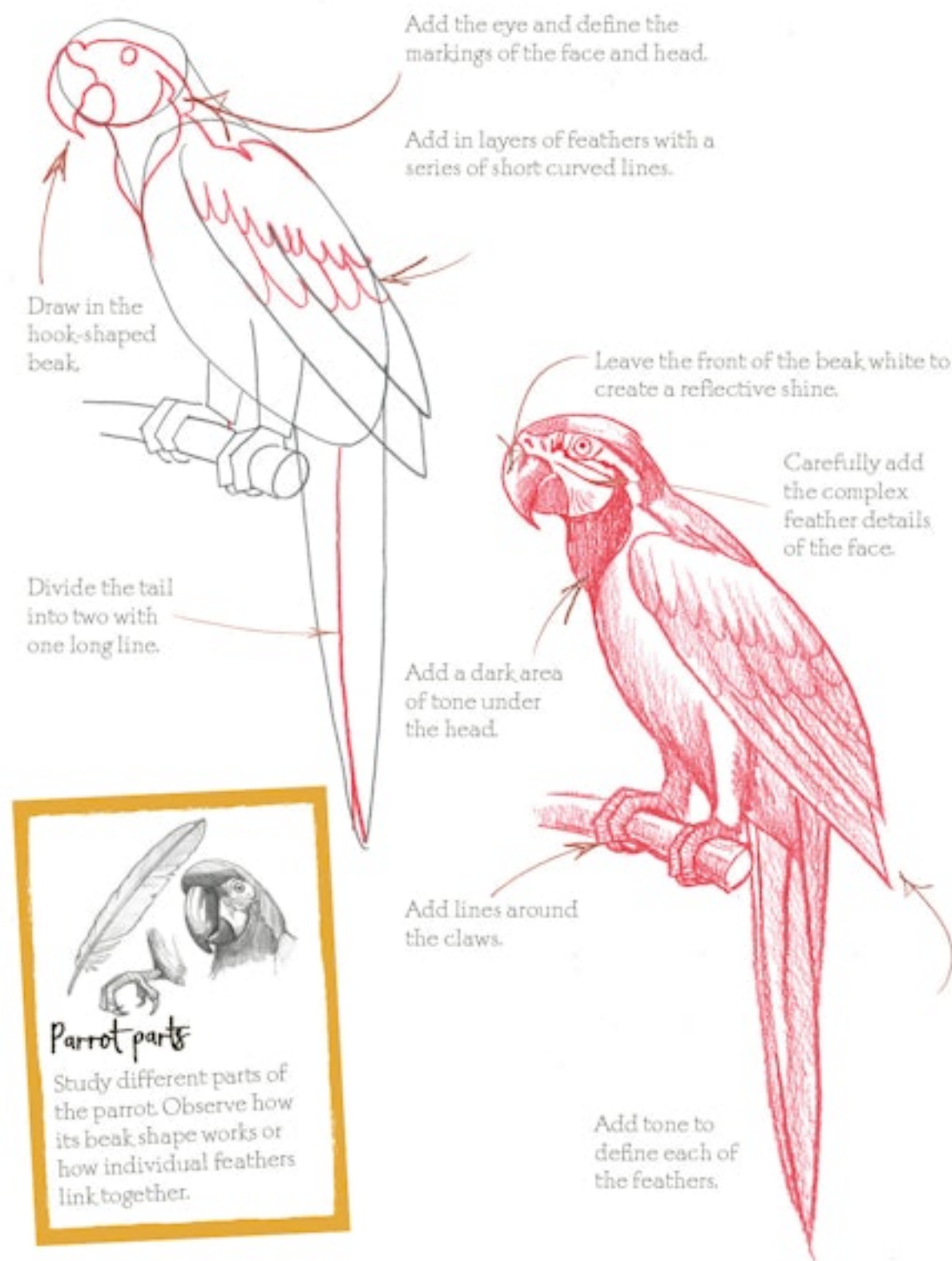
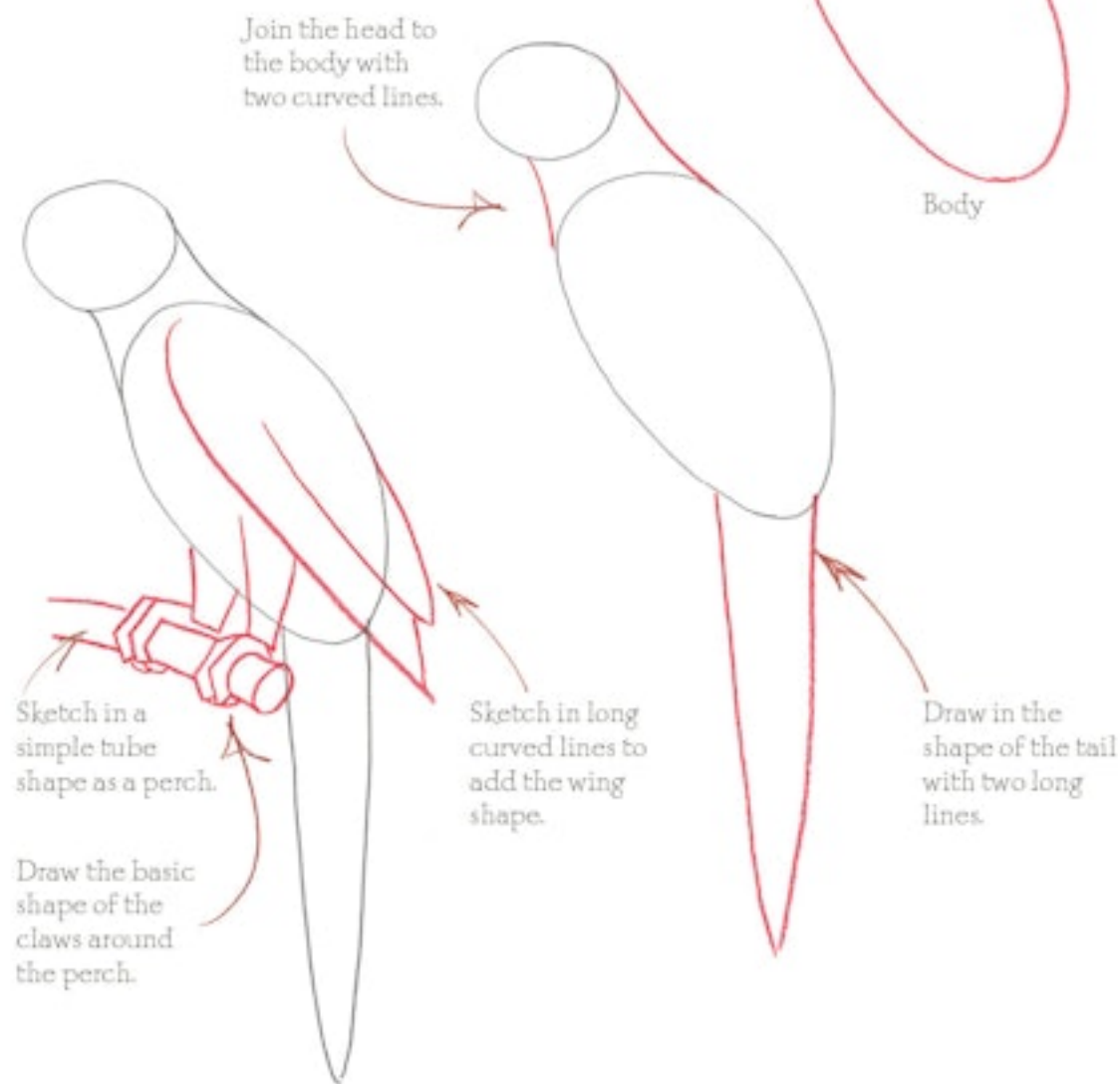
Add bubbles to create interest.

Drawing a centre line shows which direction the fish is facing.

Using an eraser, remove any unwanted construction lines when the drawing is finished.

# Parrot

Parrots are large, colourful birds that can often mimic a person's speech.



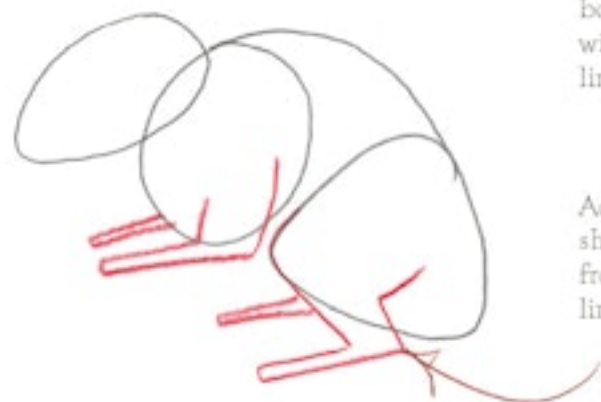


# Mouse

Mice are small members of the rodent family and make good pets.



Connect the body shapes with a curved line.



Sketch in rounded shapes for the ears.

Draw in the eye shape.

Sketch in paws at the end of each limb.

Draw two long curving lines for the tail.

Add dark areas inside the ears.

Add whiskers.

Add patches of tone to create a fur texture. Pay attention to the direction of the tone to make it as realistic as possible.

Add detail to the tail.

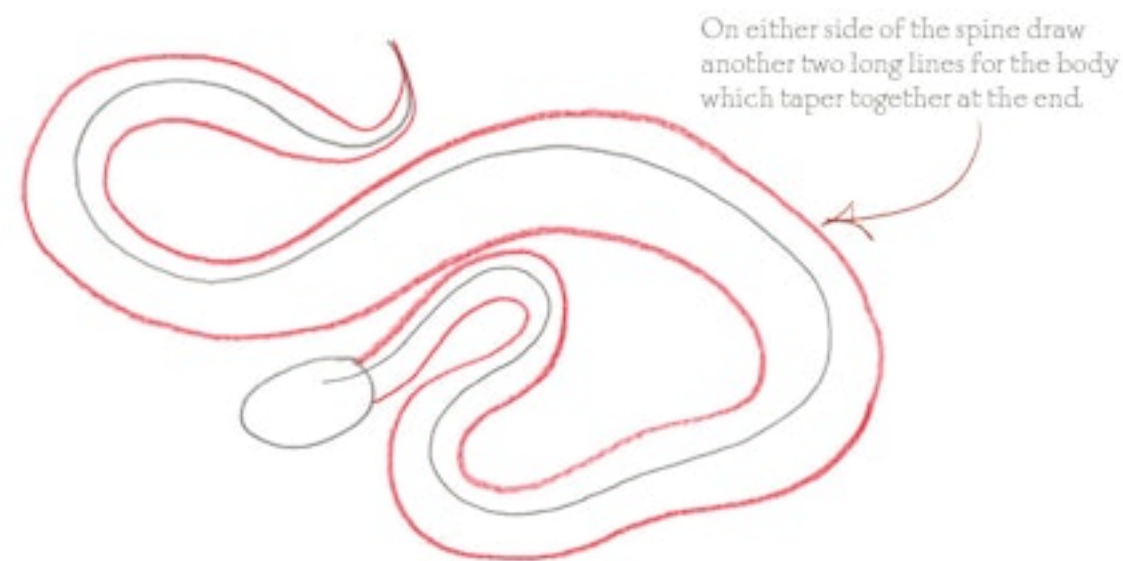
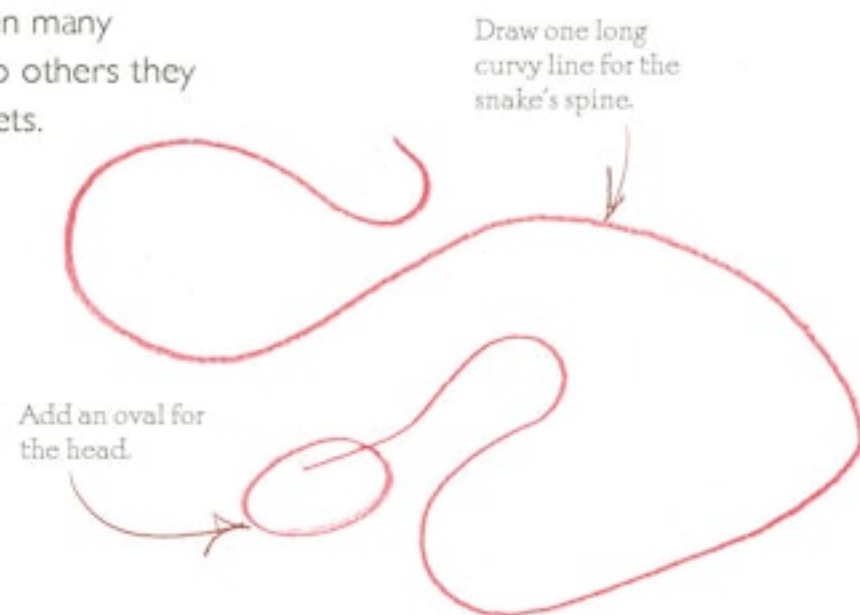
These three examples show how to use the construction lines to draw a mouse in different positions.

Mice are very flexible. The body can look long or short depending on the angle you view it from.

Fur can have many patterns and shades so use different depths of tone to describe these patterns.

# Snake

Snakes frighten many people, but to others they make great pets.



Add in the shape of the snake's head (see instructions below).

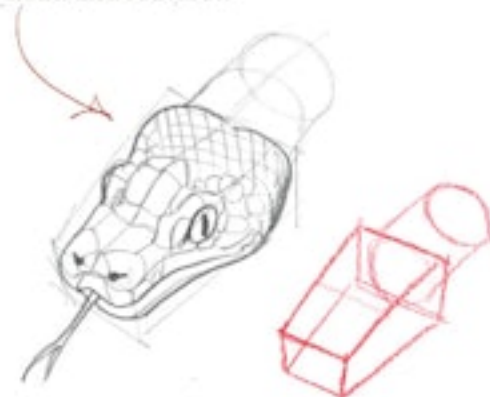


Complete the head details, adding its eyes, nostrils and tongue.

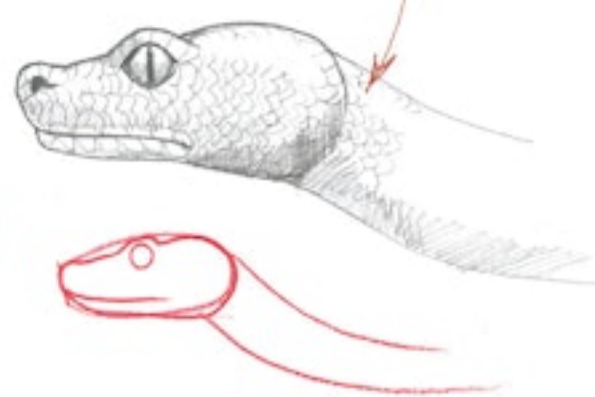
Add shadow under the snake depending on the direction of the light source.

Add shadow under the snake depending on the direction of the light source.

A snake's head has a distinctive shape. Create a construction line box as shown here to help you draw the head and features.



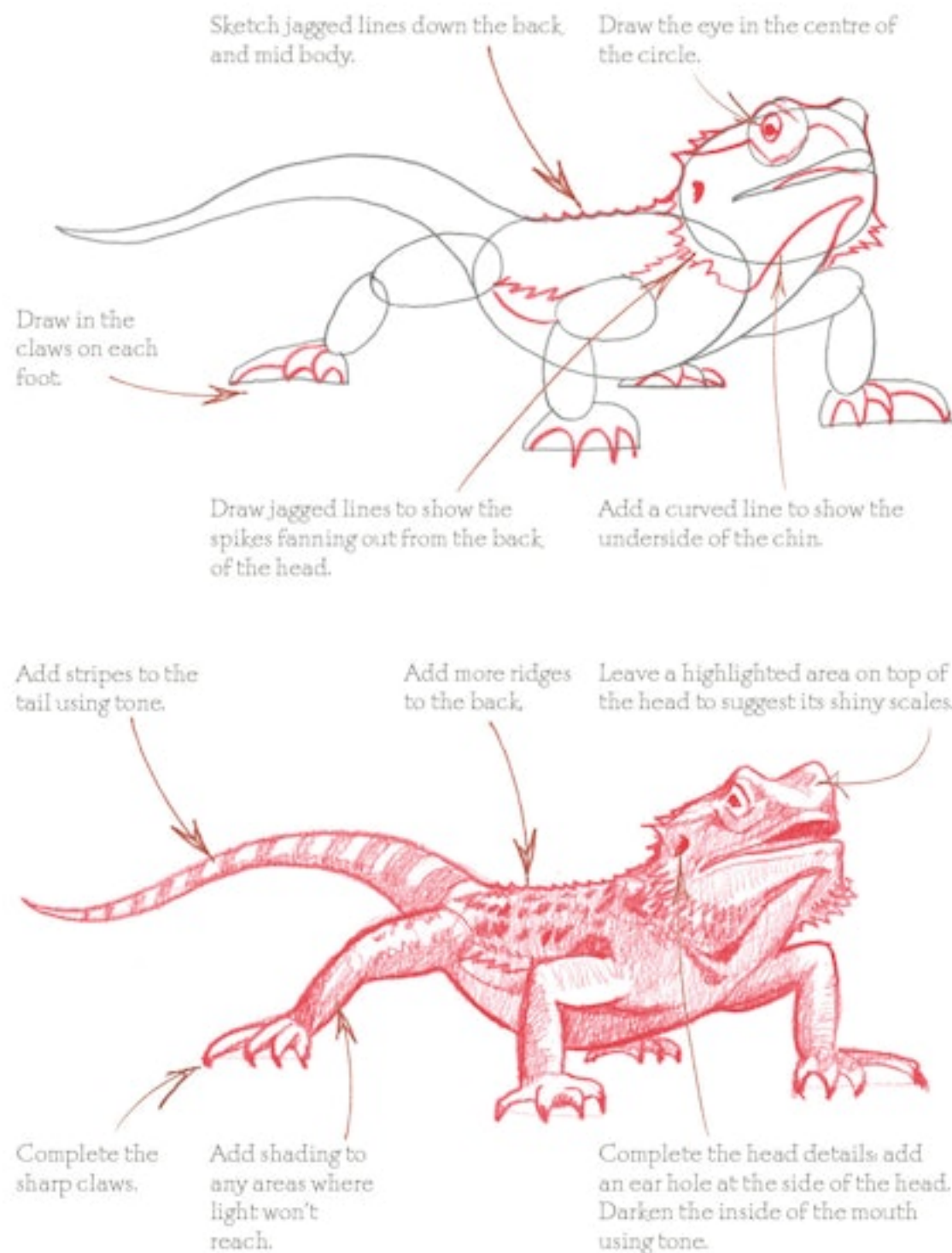
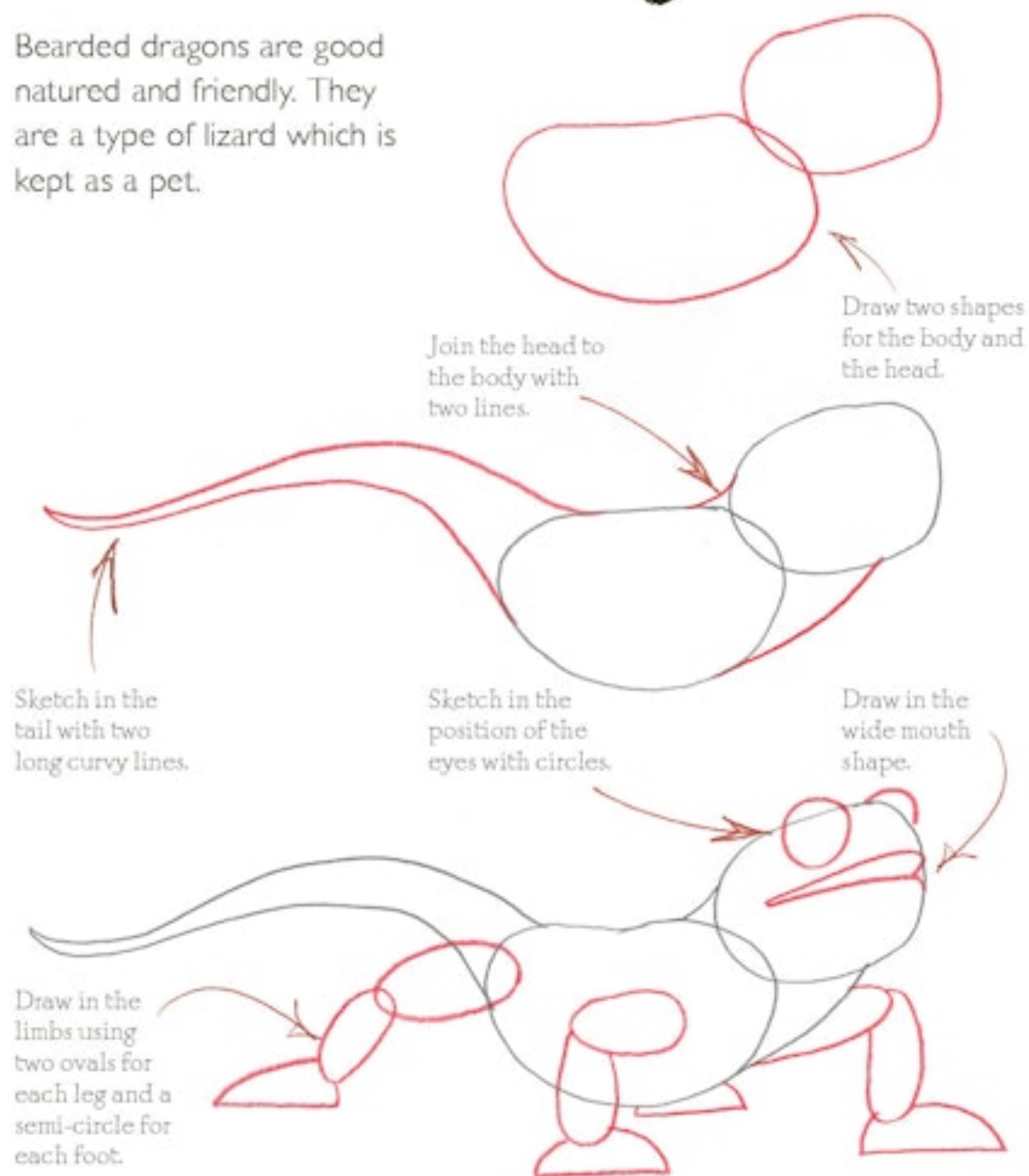
A drawing of a snake's head from the side shows the raised areas and position of the features.





# Bearded dragon

Bearded dragons are good natured and friendly. They are a type of lizard which is kept as a pet.





# Glossary

**Composition** The arrangement of the parts of a picture on the drawing paper.

**Construction lines** Guidelines used in the early stages of a drawing. They are usually erased later.

**Fixative** A type of resin used to spray over a finished drawing to prevent smudging. **It should only be used by an adult.**

**Light source** The direction from which the light seems to come in a drawing.

**Perspective** A method of drawing in which near objects are shown larger than faraway objects to give an impression of depth.

**Pose** The position assumed by a figure.

**Proportion** The correct relationship of scale between each part of the drawing.

**Silhouette** A drawing that shows only a flat dark shape, like a shadow.

**Vanishing point** The place in a perspective drawing where parallel lines appear to meet.

# Index

B  
bearded dragon 30,  
31

C  
cat 4, 5, 16, 17  
charcoal 6, 7  
composition 13, 21  
construction lines 13,  
15, 17-19, 21, 23,  
25, 27, 29, 31

D  
dog 4, 10-15

E  
ears 11, 13, 17-19,  
21, 26, 27  
eyes 11, 17-19, 21,  
26, 29

F  
fish 22, 23  
fur 15, 17-19, 21,  
27

H  
hamster 18, 19  
head 10, 14-21,  
24-26, 28-31

I  
ink 6

L  
light 11, 13, 18, 21,  
31

M  
mistakes 19  
mouse 26, 27

N  
nose 11, 17, 19, 21

P  
paper 6  
parrot 4, 5, 24, 25  
pastels 6, 7  
paws 10, 14, 15-20,  
26  
pencils 7  
pens 6  
perspective 8  
photograph 12

R  
rabbit 4, 5, 20, 21

S  
shadow 13, 29  
silhouette 6  
snake 28, 29

T  
tail 15, 17, 21, 22,  
24, 26-28, 30, 31  
texture 10, 13, 15  
tone 10, 13, 18, 19,  
21, 22, 25, 27, 29,  
31

V  
vanishing point 8

W  
wax crayons 6  
whiskers 11, 17, 27  
wings 24