Capybara Drawing: Body Proportion and Fur Direction

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

On a 24 cm total body length, mark the four-part division. State the length of each part and the head length check.

Answer: Each part is 6 cm. Head length is 6 cm, which is one quarter of 24 cm, so the check passes.

Reason: Divide total length by four: 24 divided by 4 equals 6. The head occupies the first part, so head length equals 6 cm.

Check: Add the four parts: 6 plus 6 plus 6 plus 6 equals 24 cm. Confirm head length equals total length divided by four.

Task 2

A chest oval is 8 cm tall, a mid-body oval is 7 cm tall, and a rump oval is 9 cm tall. The back line is level. Which mass is tallest, and where should heavy fur density be placed?

Answer: The rump oval is tallest at 9 cm. Heavy fur density should be placed under the belly, behind the front leg, and at the lower rump.

Reason: Compare heights: 9 is greater than 8 and greater than 7, so the rump is tallest. Heavy density follows form turning away from light, which occurs under the belly, behind the front leg, and at the lower rump.

Check: Order the heights from smallest to largest: 7, 8, 9. Confirm the largest value belongs to the rump. Check that heavy density is not placed on the level back line or top of the head.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Describe the fur-direction strokes for the chest, midsection, rump, and head using the lesson convention. Then state one valid alternative that still describes the form.

Answer: Chest: downward and slightly backward. Midsection: sweeping from back line toward belly along the barrel curve. Rump: fanning outward and downward from the high point. Head: from nose toward ears, with shorter cheek strokes. A valid alternative is slightly more horizontal chest strokes if they still follow the downward-backward flow of the chest form.

Reason: The convention ties stroke direction to local form. Each body region has a dominant flow that describes its curvature. Alternatives are valid when they preserve that form description.

Check: For each region, ask whether the strokes follow the local curve rather than running in one flat direction. Confirm the alternative still reads as downward-backward on the chest.

Task 4

A drawing has total body length 28 cm and head length 9 cm. The back line slopes downward from rump to shoulders. Identify two proportion or construction errors and state fixes.

Answer: Error one: head length should be about one quarter of 28 cm, which is 7 cm, so 9 cm is too long. Fix: reduce head length to about 7 cm. Error two: the back line should be nearly level, not sloping downward from rump to shoulders. Fix: align the tops of the chest, mid-body, and rump ovals to a level back line before refining.

Reason: The four-part division gives 28 divided by 4 equals 7 cm for the head. A sloping back line contradicts the level-back construction check.

Check: Multiply 7 by 4 to confirm 28 cm. Compare the back line to a horizontal guide; if the rump and shoulders differ noticeably in height, adjust the ovals.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Body length is divided into four roughly equal parts for head, chest, midsection, and rump.
- [ ] Head length is about one quarter of total body length and the head is blunt, not pointed.
- [ ] Back line is nearly level and the rump is the highest, most block-like mass.
- [ ] Belly line dips gently without a sharp V.
- [ ] Legs are short and sturdy, attached under the chest and rump ovals.
- [ ] Fur-direction strokes follow local form: downward-backward on chest, back-to-belly on midsection, outward-downward on rump, nose-to-ear on head.
- [ ] Stroke density uses at least two of the three defined levels, with heavy density where form turns away from light.
- [ ] Valid alternatives are accepted if the silhouette reads as a heavy capybara and strokes describe the form.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?