Draw a Dog Paw and Leg: Anatomy Construction Guide

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw a front-view paw with paw height 3 units and paw width 4 units. Place the main pad so its width is one third of the paw width. Add four toes in an arc. State the pad width you used.

Answer: Pad width is about 1.33 units, since one third of 4 is approximately 1.33. The drawing shows a centered rounded-triangle pad and four arced toes within a 4-by-3 paw.

Reason: The pad width is calculated from the given paw width. Toe placement follows the arc convention, with middle toes slightly longer and outer toes angled outward.

Check: Measure the drawn paw width and pad width. Confirm pad width is close to 1.33 units and that toes touch or nearly touch the pad's upper edge.

Task 2

Construct a lower leg from wrist to elbow using a wrist-to-elbow distance of 5 units. Make the wrist width 2 units and the elbow width 3 units. Draw the leg sides and a gentle elbow bend.

Answer: The leg tapers from 3 units at the elbow to 2 units at the wrist over a 5-unit distance. Side lines are gently curved and meet at a soft elbow bend without crossing.

Reason: The widths decrease toward the wrist, matching the taper convention. The elbow bend is kept subtle so the leg reads as a dog leg rather than a sharp joint.

Check: Measure the drawn widths at wrist and elbow and the distance between them. Confirm the taper is gradual and the side lines do not cross.

Task 3

Draw a paw and leg where the paw height is 4 units and the wrist-to-elbow distance is 1.5 times the paw height. Calculate the wrist-to-elbow distance and draw the leg with that landmark spacing.

Answer: The wrist-to-elbow distance is 6 units, because 1.5 times 4 equals 6. The drawing shows the wrist 6 units below the elbow, with the paw below the wrist.

Reason: The ratio is applied directly to the paw height. The landmark spacing is then used to build the leg outline and check proportion.

Check: Measure the paw height and the wrist-to-elbow distance. Confirm the distance is about 6 units and that the paw remains wider than the wrist.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a side-view paw and leg. Show the main pad, three visible toes, and the wrist and elbow landmarks. Keep the paw wider than the wrist and state one valid difference from the front-view convention.

Answer: A valid side view shows the pad in profile, three toes visible along the paw edge, and wrist and elbow landmarks. One valid difference is that fewer toes are visible and the pad shape appears narrower than in front view.

Reason: Side view changes which shapes are visible but does not remove the need for pad, toe, and joint landmarks. The rubric accepts this alternative if anatomy remains readable.

Check: Check that the pad and toes are visible, wrist and elbow are marked, and paw width exceeds wrist width. Confirm the stated difference is consistent with the drawing.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Main pad is a rounded triangle centered under the leg.
- [ ] Four toes form an arc and touch or nearly touch the pad.
- [ ] Outer toes angle outward and middle toes are slightly longer.
- [ ] Leg tapers toward the wrist and is narrower than the paw.
- [ ] Wrist, elbow, and shoulder landmarks are placed and readable.
- [ ] Elbow bend is gentle and leg side lines do not cross.
- [ ] Proportions are internally consistent with the stated convention.
- [ ] Valid alternatives such as side view, dewclaw, or long fur are accepted if anatomy remains readable.

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