Draw Creatures in Perspective: Foreshortened Limbs and Body Depth

Topic reference / ordinary illustration



Ordinary topic reference. Hypothetical dimensions in the four tasks are supplied in their own text; this illustration is not their measured answer.

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Worked example / complete source key

A creature stands in a front-facing setup box. Its right foreleg points toward the viewer along a guide line to the VP. In side view the foreleg is 8 cm long. In the drawing it appears 5 cm long. The left foreleg extends sideways and appears 8 cm long. The near paw is 3 cm wide; the far paw is 2 cm wide. Check foreshortening and near-far size.

Answer: The foreshortened foreleg ratio is 5/8 = 0.625, which is less than 1, so it is correctly foreshortened. The sideways foreleg ratio is 8/8 = 1, so it is not foreshortened, which is correct for a sideways limb. The near paw is 3 cm and the far paw is 2 cm, so the near paw is larger by 1 cm, consistent with depth. The drawing passes both checks.