

WELSH SPRINGER SPANIEL

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/01/2025

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Flushing Dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Welsh Springer Spaniel]:

The origin of the Welsh Springer Spaniel is unknown, but dogs resembling the breed, with its distinctive red and white coat, are frequently depicted in old pictures and prints. This type of dog was known as the Land Spaniel, and is considered to be similar to the modern Welsh Springer. John Caius, writing in 1570, said "Spaniels whose skynnes are white and if marked with any spotted they are commonly red". It is thought that these Spaniels may have made their way into the Welsh valleys, where local sportsmen and hunters managed to conserve them in a pure state. At one time called the Welsh Starter, it was used to spring game, originally for hunters using falcons. Welsh Springers were recognised by The Royal Kennel Club, after the breed had gained popularity, in 1902, under the new name of Welsh Springer Spaniel, and gained recognition by the American Kennel Club in 1906. World War I caused problems for the breed in the United Kingdom, and when the war was over, there were no dogs whose parents had registered pedigrees. The breed restarted with the remaining unregistered dogs, and it is these dogs that formed the modern-day breed.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Symmetrical, compact, not leggy, obviously built for endurance and hard work. Quick and active mover, displaying plenty of push and drive.

BEHAVIOUR & TEMPERAMENT

Very ancient and distinct breed of pure origin. Strong, merry and very active. Kindly disposition, not showing aggression or nervousness.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: Of proportionate length, slightly domed. Well chiselled below eyes.

Stop: Clearly defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: Flesh coloured to dark, nostrils well developed.

Muzzle: Of medium length, straight, fairly square.

Jaws/Teeth: Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Eyes:

Hazel or dark, medium size, neither prominent, nor sunken, not showing haw.

Ears:

Set moderately low and hanging close to cheeks. Comparatively small and gradually narrowing towards tip and shaped somewhat like a vine leaf.

NECK

Long, muscular, clean in throat, neatly set into sloping shoulders.

BODY

Not long, strong and muscular. Length of body should be proportionate to length of legs.

Loin: Muscular and slightly arched. Well coupled.

Chest: Deep brisket, well sprung ribs.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Well set on and low, never carried above level of back. Lively in action.

Undocked: Well set on and low, never carried above level of back. Lively in action. Feathered. In balance with the rest of the dog.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs of medium length, straight, well boned.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Strong and muscular, wide and fully developed. Hindlegs well boned.

Stifle: Moderately angled, neither turning in nor out.

Second thigh: Deep.

Hock: Well let down.

FEET

Round, with thick pads. Firm and cat-like, not large or spreading.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Smooth, powerful, ground covering action; driving from rear.

COAT

Hair:

Straight or flat, silky texture, dense, never wiry or wavy. Curly coat highly undesirable. Forelegs and hindlegs above hocks moderately feathered, ears and tail lightly feathered.

Colour:

Rich red and white only.

SIZE & WEIGHT

Approximate height:

Dogs 48 cm (19 ins) at withers.

Females 46 cm (18 ins) at withers.

***N.B.** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum. Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.*

***Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.**

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to perform its traditional work.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

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FCI Standard No. 126: WELSH SPRINGER SPANIEL

FCI Classification: Group 8 – Retrievers, Flushing Dogs, Water Dogs

Section 2 – Flushing Dogs

With working trial.