

FIELD SPANIEL

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/02/2021

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Flushing and retrieving dog. Ideal for rough shooting or companion for the country dweller. Not suitable for city.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Gundogs that are trained to find live game and/or to retrieve game that has been shot and wounded is a very old tradition, not the least in Great Britain. The Field Spaniel belongs to the category of flushing Spaniels that earlier was called "land Spaniels", although Spaniels are capable of doing the same work as retrievers. The Field Spaniel is a product of crossing the one-time Sussex Springer and the Cocker Spaniel in the late 19th century. Twice, the breed nearly disappeared – firstly when fashion fads all but ruined the breed in the early 1900s and, secondly, when, in the 1950s, breed numbers were so small that the Kennel Club withdrew championship status, this being restored in 1969 only after determined efforts by breeders to maintain the breed. Still not a popular breed by modern standards, but nevertheless, it makes a good companion for the country dweller.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Well-balanced, noble, upstanding sporting Spaniel, built for activity and endurance.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Unusually docile, active, sensitive, independent.

HEAD

Conveys the impression of high breeding, character and nobility.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Well-chiselled, occiput well-defined, lean beneath eyes. A thickness here gives coarseness to whole head. Slightly raised eyebrows.

Stop: Moderate.

Facial Region:

Nose: Well-developed with good, open nostrils.

Muzzle: Long and lean, neither snipey nor squarely cut. In profile curving gradually from nose to throat.

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

Eyes:

Wide open but almond-shaped with tight lids showing no haw. Grave and gentle expression. Dark hazel in colour.

Ears:

Moderately long and wide, set low, and well-feathered.

NECK

Long, strong and muscular, enabling dog to retrieve his game without undue fatigue.

BODY

Back: Strong, level, and muscular.

Loin: Strong, level, and muscular.

Chest: Deep and well-developed. Ribs moderately well-sprung. Length of rib cage is two-thirds of the body length.

TAIL

Set on low. Never carried above level of back. Nicely feathered, with lively action. Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Docked by one-third.

Undocked: Reaches approximately to the hocks.

Tail of moderate length in balance with the rest of the dog.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Legs of moderate length. Straight, flat bone.

Shoulders: Long and sloping and well laid back.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Strong, muscular.

Stifle (knee): Moderately bent.

Hock joint: Well let down.

FEET

Tight, round, with strong pads, and not too small.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Long, unhurried stride with great drive from the rear. Short, stumping action undesirable.

COAT

Long, flat, glossy, and silky in texture. Never curly, short or wiry. Dense and weatherproof. Abundant feathering on chest, under body, and behind legs, but clean from hock to ground.

COLOUR

- Black; black and tan
- Blue roan; blue roan and tan
- Liver; liver and tan; liver roan; liver roan and tan.

* In solid-coloured dogs, white or roan on chest is permissible.

* All other colours, including clear black and white, clear liver and white, orange, red, golden, or sable highly undesirable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males and females: Approximately 46cm (approx.18").

Weight:

Males and females: Between 18kg – 25kg.

***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 the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

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

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FCI Standard No 123: FIELD SPANIEL

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

Section 2. Flushing Dogs
With Working Trial