

SPANIEL (CLUMBER)

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 31/03/2016

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Flushing Dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 109]:

Clumber Spaniels are said to have come, in the first place, from France over two hundred years ago, the Clumber was brought to Great Britain by the Duke of Newcastle, and bred at his family home of Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire. It is a very heavy dog, and his pace of working is more leisurely than that of other Spaniels. That has been allowed to become ever heavier since around the 1950s, and though the top weight for dogs now stands at 34 kgs, it would appear that some are in excess of even this figure. However, lovers of the breed should make certain that his great size does not encourage any weakness in his hindquarters.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Balanced, well-boned, active, with a thoughtful expression, overall appearance denoting strength. The Clumber should be firm, fit, and capable of a day's work of beating in heavy cover.

CHARACTERISTICS

Stoical, great-hearted, highly intelligent with a determined attitude enhancing his natural ability. A silent worker with an excellent nose.

TEMPERAMENT

Steady, reliable, kind, and dignified; more aloof than other Spaniels, showing no tendency towards aggression.

HEAD & SKULL

Large, square, medium length, broad on top, with decided occiput; heavy brows; deep stop. Square muzzle with well-developed flews. No exaggeration in head and skull.

Eyes:

Clean, dark amber. Full light eyes highly undesirable. Acceptable to have some haw showing but without excess. Free from entropion and obvious eye problems.

Ears:

Large, vine-leaf shaped, well-covered with straight hair. Hanging slightly forward, feather not to extend below leather.

Mouth:

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

NECK

Fairly long, thick, powerful.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders strong, sloping, muscular, legs short, straight, well-boned, strong.

BODY

Long, well-muscled, and strong. Chest deep. Well-sprung ribs that are carried well back. Muscular loin, well let down in flank.

HINDQUARTERS

Very powerful and well-developed. Hocks low, stifles well-bent and set straight.

FEET

Large, round, well-covered with hair.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Set low, well-feathered, carried level with back.

Undocked: Set low, well-feathered, carried level with back.

[*refer note below]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Moving straight fore and aft, with effortless drive.

COAT

Abundant, close, silky, and straight. Legs and chest well-feathered.

COLOUR

- Plain white body preferred with lemon markings; orange permissible.

* Slight head markings and freckled muzzle.

SIZE

Weight:

Males: 29.5kg – 34kg

Females: 25kg – 29.5kg

***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.

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When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:

FCI Standard No. 109: CLUMBER SPANIEL

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

Section 2 – Flushing Dogs

With working trial.