

SPANIEL (WELSH SPRINGER)

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. 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 spottes 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.

CHARACTERISTICS

Very ancient and distinct breed of pure origin. Strong, merry, and very active.

TEMPERAMENT

Kindly disposition, not showing aggression or nervousness.

HEAD & SKULL

Skull of proportionate length, slightly domed, clearly defined stop, well-chiselled below eyes. Muzzle of medium length, straight, fairly square. Nostrils well-developed, flesh-coloured to dark.

Eyes:

Hazel or dark, medium size, not prominent or sunken, nor 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.

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

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

FOREQUARTERS

Forelegs of medium length, straight, well boned.

BODY

Not long. Strong and muscular. Deep brisket, well-sprung ribs. Length of body should be proportionate to length of leg. Loin muscular and slightly arched. Well-coupled.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong and muscular, wide and fully developed with deep second thighs. Hind legs well-boned, hocks well let down, stifles moderately angled, neither turning in nor out.

FEET

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

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]

GAIT / MOVEMENT

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

COAT

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

COLOUR

- Rich red and white only.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 48cm (approx. 19")

Females: 46cm (approx. 18")

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. 126: WELSH SPRINGER SPANIEL

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

Section 2 – Flushing Dogs

With working trial.