

KING CHARLES 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 have an effective date of 01/01/2025

ORIGIN

Great Britain

UTILISATION

Companion and Toy dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

An obvious relative of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, this dog is known in some countries as the English Toy Spaniel, and derives his name from a dog which was a great favourite of King Charles II. Toy spaniels have long been treasured as pets both in England and on the Continent and were bred to a smaller and smaller size from setter dogs which established the type for spaniels. Basically, these were little gun dogs, but pampered by wealthy owners, admired for their companionship and crossed with toy dogs from the East, giving rise to their facial appearance.



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GENERAL APPEARANCE

Refined, compact, and cobby.

BEHAVIOUR & TEMPERAMENT

Happy, intelligent, toy spaniel, with distinctive domed head. Reserved, gentle and affectionate.

HEAD

Cranial Region:

Skull: Moderately large in comparison to size, well domed, full over eyes.

Stop: Between skull and nose well defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: Black, with large, wide-open nostrils, short and turned-up.

Muzzle: Square, wide and deep, well turned up.

Lips: Exactly meeting, giving nice finish.

Jaws/Teeth: Lower jaw wide. Bite should be slightly undershot. Protruding tongue highly undesirable.

Cheeks: Not falling away under eyes, but well cushioned.

Eyes:

Relatively large and dark, set wide apart, eyelids block square to face line, pleasing expression

Ears:

Set on low, hanging quite flat to cheeks, very long and well feathered.

NECK

Of medium length; arched giving proud carriage of head.

BODY

Back: Short and level.

Chest: Wide and deep.

TAIL

Docking previously optional.

Docked: Well-feathered, not carried over or above level of back.

Undocked: Well-feathered, not carried over or above level of back. In overall balance with the rest of the dog. Natural short tail (bobtail) and kinked tail tolerated.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

- **Shoulder:** Well laid back.
- **Elbow:** Close to rib cage, neither turning in nor out.
- **Forearm:** Legs short and straight.
- **Metacarpus (Pastern):** Firm.

Hindquarters:

- **General appearance:** Sufficient muscle to give positive driving movement.
- **Stifle (Knee):** Well bent.
- **Metatarsus (Rear pastern):** Hocks well let down and defined. Straight viewed from behind, turning neither in nor out.

FEET

Compact, well-padded and feathered, toes well knuckled, round cat-shaped foot, well cushioned.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, active and elegant, driving from behind. Sound movement highly desirable.

COAT

Hair:

Long, silky and straight, slight wave allowed, never curly. Legs, ears and tail profusely feathered.

Colour:

- **Black and Tan:** Rich glossy black, with bright mahogany-tan markings on muzzle, legs, chest, linings of ears, under tail and spots over eyes. White patch on chest undesirable.
- **Tricolour:** Ground pearly white, with well distributed black patches, brilliant tan markings on cheeks, linings of ears, under tail and spots over eyes. Wide white blaze between eyes and up forehead.
- **Blenheim:** Ground pearly white, with well distributed chestnut-red patches. Wide, clear blaze with the "spot" in centre of skull should be a clear chestnut red mark about the size of a penny.
- **Ruby:** Whole coloured, rich chestnut red. White patch on chest highly undesirable.

SIZE

Weight:

- 3.6-6.3 kgs.

***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.

Disqualifying faults:

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

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FCI Standard No. 128: KING CHARLES SPANIEL

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 7.1. English Toy Spaniels

Without working trial.