



GROUP I: SPORTING DOGS

SPANIEL (FIELD)

RECOGNIZED: 1889

Effective: January 2004

The breed standard outlines the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed, and ensures that a dog can carry out its original purpose. Breeders and judges should be mindful to prioritize dogs that are healthy and sound in both mind and body.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

That of a well-balanced, noble, upstanding sporting dog; built for activity and endurance. A grand combination of beauty and utility, and bespeaking of unusual docility and instinct.

SIZE

Height at the shoulder: About 45.75 cm (18 in)

Weight: From about 15.75 to 22.75 kg (35 to 50 lb)

COAT

Coat flat or slightly waved, and never curled. Sufficiently dense to resist the weather, and not too short. Silky in texture, glossy, and refined in nature, with neither dullness on the one hand, nor curl or wiriness on the other. On the chest, under belly and behind the legs, there should be abundant feather, but never too much, especially below the hocks, and that of the right sort, viz setter-like. The hindquarters should be similarly adorned.

COLOUR

Black, liver, golden liver, mahogany red, or roan; or any one of these colours with tan over the eyes and on the cheeks, feet, and pasterns. Other colours, such as black and white, liver and white, red or orange and white, while not disqualifying, will be considered less desirable since the Field Spaniel should be clearly distinguished from the Springer Spaniel.

HEAD

Should be quite characteristic of this grand sporting dog, as that of the Bulldog, or the Bloodhound; its very stamp and countenance should at once convey the conviction of high breeding, character and nobility; **skull** well developed, with a distinctly elevated occipital tuberosity which, above all, gives the character alluded to; not too wide across the **muzzle**, long and lean, never snipey or squarely cut, and in profile curving gradually from nose to throat; lean beneath the eyes – a thickness here gives coarseness to the whole head. The great length of muzzle gives surface for the free development of the olfactory nerve, and thus secures the highest possible scenting powers. **Nose** well developed, with good open nostrils. **Eyes** not too full, but not small, receding or overhung, colour dark hazel or brown, or nearly black, according to the colour of the dog. Grave in expression and showing no haw. **Ears** moderately long and wide, sufficiently clad with nice Setter-like feather and set low. They should fall in graceful folds, the lower parts curling inwards and backwards.

NECK

Long, strong and muscular, so as to enable the dog to retrieve his game without undue fatigue.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders long, sloping and well set back, thus giving great activity and speed. Forelegs should be of fairly good length, with straight, clean, flat bone, and nicely feathered. Immense bone is no longer desirable.

BODY

Should be of moderate length, well ribbed up to a good strong loin, straight or slightly arched, never slack. Chest deep and well developed, but not too round and wide. Back and loin very strong and muscular.

HINDQUARTERS

Strong and muscular. The stifles should be moderately bent, and not twisted either in or out. Feet not too small; round, with short soft hair between the toes; good, strong pads.

TAIL

Well set on and carried low, if possible, below the level of the back, in a straight line or with a slight downward inclination, never elevated above the back, and in action always kept low, nicely fringed with wavy feather of silky texture.

FAULTS

Any departure from the aforementioned ideals shall be considered faulty to the degree in which it interferes with the health and well-being of the dog and the breed’s traditional purpose.

SCALE OF POINTS

Head and jaw	15
Eyes	5
Ears.....	5
Neck	5
Body.....	10
Forelegs	10
Hind legs.....	10
Feet	10
Stern	10
Coat and feather	10
General appearance	10
TOTAL	100