

Spaniel (American Water)

General Appearance

Medium in size, of sturdy typical Spaniel character, curly coat; an active muscular dog, with emphasis placed on proper size and conformation, correct head properties, texture of coat and colour.

Temperament

Of amicable disposition; demeanor indicates intelligence, strength, and endurance.

Size

Height: 15-18 inches (38-46 cm) at the shoulder.

Weight: Males, 28-45 lb. (13-20 kg); Females, 25-40 lb. (11-18 kg).

Coat and Colour

The coat should be closely curled or have marcel effect and should be of sufficient density to be of protection against weather, water, or punishing cover, yet not coarse. Legs should have medium-short, curly feather. Colour solid liver or dark chocolate, a little white on toes or chest permissible.

Head

Moderate in length, **skull** rather broad and full, stop moderately defined, but not too pronounced. Forehead covered with short smooth hair and without tuft or topknot. **Muzzle** of medium length, square and with no inclination to snipiness. Jaws strong and of good length, and neither undershot nor overshot. **Teeth** straight and well shaped. **Nose** sufficiently wide and with well-developed nostrils to ensure good scenting power. **Eyes** hazel, brown or of dark tone to harmonize with coat; set well apart. Expression alert, attractive, intelligent. **Ears** lobular, long and wide, not set too high on head, but slightly above the eyeline. Leather extending to end of nose and well covered with close curls.

Neck

Round and of medium length, strong and muscular, free of throatiness, set to carry head with dignity, but arch not accentuated.

Forequarters

Shoulders sloping, clean, and muscular. Legs of medium length and well boned, but not so short as to handicap for field work. Forelegs powerful and reasonably straight.

Body

Well developed, sturdily constructed but not too compactly coupled. General outline is a symmetrical relationship of parts. Well-sprung ribs. Strong loins, lightly arched; and well-furnished deep brisket but not excessively broad.

Hindquarters

Hind legs firm with suitably bent stifles and strong hocks well let down. Feet to harmonize with size of dog. Toes closely grouped and well padded.

Tail

Moderate in length, curved in a slightly rocker shape, carried slightly below level of back; tapered and covered with hair to tip, action lively.

Faults

Coat too straight, soft, fine, or tightly kinked. Very flat skull, narrow across the top, long slender or snipey muzzle. Cow-hocks. Rat or shaved tail.

Disqualification

Yellow eyes.