Spaniel (Irish Water)

General Appearance
That of a smart, upstanding, strongly built but not leggy dog, combining great intelligence and rugged endurance with a bold dashing eagerness of temperament.

Size
Height: Dogs, 22-24 inches (56-61 cm);
            Bitches, 21-23 inches (53-58 cm).

Weight: Dogs, 55-65 lb. (25-29 kg);
            Bitches, 45-58 lb. (20-26 kg).

Coat and Colour
Proper coat is of vital importance. The neck, back, and sides should be densely covered with tight crisp ringlets entirely free from woolliness. Underneath the ribs the hair should be longer. The hair on lower throat should be short. The forelegs should be covered all around with abundant hair falling in curls or waves, but shorter in front than behind. The hind legs should also be abundantly covered by hair falling in curls or waves, but the hair should be short on the front of the legs below the hocks. Colour solid liver; white on chest objectionable.

Head
Skull rather large and high in dome with prominent occiput; **muzzle** square and rather long with deep mouth opening and lips fine in texture. The head should be cleanly chiseled, not cheeky, and should not present a short wedge-shaped appearance. Hair on face should be short and smooth. **Topknot**, a characteristic of the true breed, should consist of long loose curls growing down into a well-defined peak between the eyes and should not be in the form of a wig, i.e., growing straight across. The **nose** should be large with open nostrils and liver in colour. **Teeth** strong and level. **Eyes** medium in size and set almost flush, without eyebrows. Colour of eyes hazel, preferably a dark shade. Expression of the eyes should be keenly alert, intelligent, direct, and quizzical. **Ears** long, lobular, set low with leathers reaching to about the end of the nose when extended forward. The ears should be abundantly covered with curls becoming longer towards the tips and extending two or more inches below the ends of the leathers.

Neck

The neck should be long, arching, strong, and muscular, smoothly set into sloping shoulders.

Forequarters

The entire front should give the impression of strength without heaviness. Shoulders should be sloping and clean. Forelegs medium in length, well boned, straight, and muscular with elbows close set. Both fore and hind feet should be large, thick, and somewhat spreading, well-clothed with hair both over and between the toes, but free from superfluous feather.

Body

Body should be of medium length, with ribs well sprung, pear-shaped at the brisket, and rounder towards the hindquarters. Chest deep but not too wide between the legs. Ribs should be carried well back. Loins should be short, wide and muscular. The body should not present a tucked-up appearance.

Hindquarters

The hindquarters should be as high as or a trifle higher than the shoulders and should be very powerful and muscular with well-developed upper and second thighs. Hips should be wide; stifles should not be too straight; and hocks low set and moderately bent. Tail should be set low enough to give a rather rounded appearance to the hindquarters and should be carried nearly level with the back. Sound hindquarters are of great importance to provide swimming power and drive.

Tail

The so-called "rat tail" is a striking characteristic of the breed. At the root it is thick and covered for 2-3 inches (5-8 cm) with short curls. It tapers to a fine point at the end, and from the root-curls is covered with short, smooth hair so as to look as if the tail had been clipped. The tail should not be long enough to reach the hock joint.

Gait

Should be square, true, precise and not slurring.

Scale of Points
Head
  Skull and topknot.. 6
  Ears.. 4
  Eyes.. 4
  Muzzle and nose.. 6.............. 20
Body
  Neck 5
  Chest, shoulders, back, loin, and ribs .... 12.............. 17
Driving Gear
  Feet, hips, thighs, stifles, and continuity
    of hindquarter muscles 14
  Feet, legs, elbows, and muscles of forequarters.... 9.............. 23
Coat
  Tightness, denseness of curl & texture................ 16
  Colour.. 4.............. 20
Tail
  General appearance and "set on", length
    and carriage .... 5................ 5
General Conformation & Action
  Symmetry, style, gait, weight, and size................ 15............... 15

  Total   **100**