

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 has an effective date of 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

France.

UTILISATION

Pointing.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The English Setter]:

"Setting dogges" is an old term used for Setters, and the original purpose of the English Setter was to set or point upland game birds. From the best available information, it appears that the English Setter was a trained bird dog in England more than 400 years ago. There is also evidence that the English Setter originated in crosses of the Spanish Pointer, the Large Water Spaniel, and the English Springer Spaniel,

which combined to produce an excellent bird dog with a high degree of proficiency in finding and pointing game in open country.

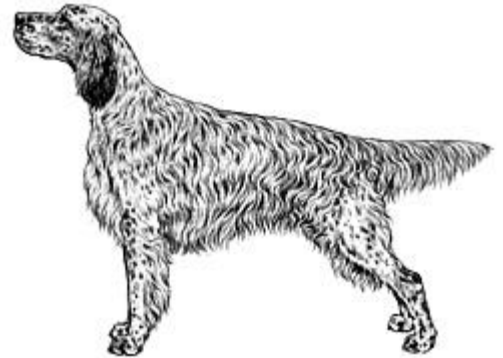


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Of medium height, clean in outline, elegant in appearance and movement. The working English Setter may be proportionally lighter in build.

CHARACTERISTICS

Very active with a keen game sense.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Intensely friendly and good-natured.

HEAD & SKULL

Head carried high, long, and reasonably lean, with well-defined stop. Skull oval from ear to ear, showing plenty of brain room; a well-defined occipital protuberance. Muzzle moderately deep and fairly square, from stop to point of nose should equal length of skull from occiput to eyes; nostrils wide and jaws of nearly equal length, flews not too pendulous; colour of nose black or liver, according to colour of coat.

Eyes:

Bright, mild, and expressive. Colour ranging between hazel and dark brown, the darker the better. In liver belttons only, a lighter eye acceptable. Eyes oval and not protruding.

Ears:

Moderate length, set on low, and hanging in neat folds close to cheek, tip velvety, upper part clothed in fine silky hair.

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. Full dentition desirable.

NECK

Rather long, muscular, and lean, slightly arched at crest, and clean-cut where it joins head, towards shoulder larger and very muscular, never throaty nor pendulous below throat, but elegant in appearance.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well set back or oblique, chest deep in brisket, very good depth and width between shoulder blades, forearms straight and very muscular with rounded bone; elbows well let down close to body, pasterns short, strong, round, and straight.

BODY

Moderate length, back short and level with good round, widely sprung ribs, and deep in back ribs, i.e. well ribbed up.

HINDQUARTERS

Loins wide, slightly arched, strong and muscular; legs well-muscled including second thigh; stifles well-bent and thighs long from hip to hock; hock inclining neither in nor out and well let down.

FEET

Well-padded, tight, with close, well-arched toes protected by hair between them.

TAIL

Set almost in line with back, medium length, not reaching below hock, neither curly nor ropey, slightly curved or scimitar-shaped but with no tendency to turn upwards; flag or feathers hanging in long pendant flakes. Feather commencing slightly below the root, and increasing in length towards middle, then gradually tapering towards end; hair long, bright, soft and silky; wavy, but not curly. Lively and slashing in movement and carried in a plane not higher than level of back.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free and graceful action, suggesting speed and endurance. Free movement of the hock showing powerful drive from hindquarters. Viewed from rear, the hip, stifle, and hock joints in line. Head naturally high.

COAT

From back of head in line with ears slightly wavy, not curly, long and silky as is coat generally; breeches and forelegs nearly down to feet, well feathered.

COLOUR

- Black and white (blue belton)
- Orange and white (orange belton)
- Lemon and white (lemon belton)
- Liver and white (liver belton)
- Tricolour (i.e., blue belton and tan, or liver belton and tan). These without heavy patches of colour on body but flecked (belton) all over preferable.

Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 65cm – 69cm (approx. 25½" – 27")

Females: 61cm – 65cm (approx. 24" – 25½")

***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.*

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. 2: ENGLISH SETTER

