

PAPILLON

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 01/07/2025

ORIGIN

France, Belgian.

UTILISATION

Toy.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. for interest – from Wikipedia: The Papillon]:

The history of the Papillon is traced through works of art. The artist, Titian, painted these small dogs in many famous paintings, beginning around 1500. The Papillon's history and long association with royalty have led to many stories about the breed. Marie Antoinette is said to have walked to the guillotine clutching her small dog under her arm, likely an apocryphal tale. However, tradition has it that Marie Antoinette's dog was a small Spaniel that had

been brought to the French court from Spain on the back of pack mules. One version of the history of the two varieties of ear shape in the Epagneul Nain Continental (ENC) is that, toward the end of the 19th century, breed fanciers bred a version of the Spaniel whose ears stood up. This dog was said to have been nicknamed "Papillon" based on the impressively large, erect ears that resembled the wings of a butterfly. The drop-eared variety of the breed came to be called the Phalène (which means "night moth"). Both types are still bred today and can appear in the same litter. The Papillon variety is much more common, although recently, the Phalène has undergone a resurgence in popularity.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Dainty, well-balanced, little dog. An alert bearing and intelligent expression.

CHARACTERISTICS

The name 'Papillon' is derived from the shape and position of the ears. When erect, they are carried obliquely like the spread wings of a butterfly, hence the name. When the ears are completely dropped, this type is known as the 'Phalène' (moth). Head markings should be symmetrical, about a narrow white, clearly defined blaze which is desirable, but not essential, to represent the body of a butterfly.

TEMPERAMENT

Lively, intelligent, friendly, with no aggression; always alert.

HEAD

Skull slightly rounded between ears, muzzle finely pointed and abruptly finer than the skull, accentuating well-defined stop. Length from tip of nose to stop approximately one-third of length of head. Nose black.

Eyes:

Medium size, rounded, never bulging, dark with dark rims, placed rather low in skull.

Ears:

Very large, mobile, with rounded tips, heavily fringed; set towards back of head, far enough apart to show

slightly rounded shape of skull. Leathers firm but fine. When erect each ear should form an angle of approximately 45° to head.

Mouth:

Jaws strong, with perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Lips thin, tight and dark in colour.

NECK

Medium length.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well-developed and sloping. Chest rather deep. Forelegs straight, slender with strong, fine bone. Elbows close to chest.

BODY

Fairly long with level topline; well-sprung ribs, loin strong, of good length, slightly arched belly.

HINDQUARTERS

Well-developed, well-turned stifle. Legs, when viewed from behind, parallel.

FEET

Fine, fairly long, hare-like. Tufts of hair between toes extending far beyond them.

TAIL

Long, well-fringed, set on high, arched over back with fringes falling to side to form plume.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Light, free-flowing, positive, and free from any restriction. Viewed from in front or behind, legs and feet moving parallel to each other, with feet turning neither in nor out. Viewed from side, dog covering ground well with no hint of hackneyed action.

COAT

Abundant, flowing, but without undercoat; long, fine, silky, falling flat on back and sides; profuse frill on chest; short and close on skull, muzzle, and front parts of legs. Rear of forelegs to pasterns, tail, and thighs covered with long hair.

COLOUR

- **White with patches:** may be any colour except liver.
- **Tri-colours:** black and white with tan spots over eyes, tan inside ears, on cheeks, and under root of tail.

* Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE

Height at withers:

20cm – 28cm (approx. 8" – 11").

Dog will appear slightly longer than tall when properly furnished with ruff and hind fringes.

***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. 77: EPAGNEUL NAIN CONTINENTAL (CONTINENTAL TOY SPANIEL)

At FCI International Shows, the two varieties of this breed (Papillon & Phalène) are

judged separately and may each be awarded FCI-C.A.C.I.B.s[®] (Certificate d'Aptitude au Championnat International)

FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.

Section 9.1. Continental Toy Spaniels and others

Without working trial.