

BRITTANY SPANIEL

A Breed Standard is the guideline that describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed, and ensures that the breed is fit for function, with soundness essential. Breeders and Judges should, at all times, be mindful of features that could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare, or soundness of this breed.

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/02/2021

ORIGIN

France.

UTILISATION

Pointing dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Of French origin and, more precisely, from the centre of Brittany. At present, in first place numerically among the French sporting breeds. Probably one of the oldest of the Spaniel-type dogs, improved at the beginning of the 20th century by diverse outcrosses and selections. A draft of a breed standard drawn up in Nantes in 1907 was presented and adopted at the first General Assembly held in Loudéac (in former Côtes du Nord department, now Côtes d'Armor), June 7, 1908.

This was the first standard of the "Naturally Short-tailed Brittany Spaniel Club".



GENERAL APPEARANCE

Smallest of the pointing breeds. The Brittany Spaniel is a dog with a continental Spaniel-type head ('braccoïde' in French) and a short or non-existent tail. Built harmoniously on a solid, but not weighty, frame. The whole is compact and well-knit, without undue heaviness, while staying sufficiently elegant. The dog is vigorous, the look is bright, and the expression intelligent. The general aspect is cobby (brachymorphic), full of energy, having conserved, in the course of its evolution, the short-coupled model sought after and fixed by those having re-created the breed.

IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

- The skull is longer than the muzzle, with a ratio of 3 : 2.
- Head is in proportion to the body.
- The depth of the chest, from withers to brisket, is slightly less than half the height of the dog.
- The scapulo-ischial length (from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks) is equal to the height at the withers (the dog fits in a square).

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Dog adapts itself to any environment; sociable, with an intelligent and attentive expression; mentally balanced. Versatile pointing dog, for any game on any terrain, precocious in revealing its hunting passion. Remarkable in its searching for game are its gaits, its scenting ability, its ranging in the field, its spontaneity, and duration of pointing, its retrieving, and its aptitude for training.

HEAD

The features are finely chiselled. The skin fits tightly.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Slightly rounded, as seen from the front or the side. Seen from above, the lateral surfaces are slightly convex. The topline of the head and the muzzle are parallel. The width of the skull measured between the zygomatic arches is less than its length. The superciliary arches are not prominent but form a slightly rounded curve. The frontal furrow, as well as the sagittal crest, are slightly defined.

Stop: The stop is moderate. The occipital crest, as well as the zygomatic arches, are moderately defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: Large, with very wide, humid [*ed. moist*], and well-open nostrils, of a colour in harmony with that of the coat, as is the case of the edges of the eyelids and natural orifices.

Muzzle: Straight, with lateral surfaces practically parallel.

Lips: Not loose, not very large, relatively thin, and fitting tightly. The lower lip is discreetly masked by the upper, whose contour curves progressively until reaching the commissure, which is not too apparent, and tightly closed. The whole is free of depigmentation.

Jaws and teeth: The teeth are set square to the jaws and form a complete and healthy set. Scissor bite.

Cheeks: Not heavy, the skin fitting tightly.

Eyes:

Slightly oblique. With an intelligent, soft, and frank [*ed. open, honest*] expression. Somewhat oval, not protruding, with fine, well-pigmented, tightly fitting eyelids. The colour of the iris is in keeping with the colour of the coat, preferably dark. Eye expression coupled with upward movement of the base of the ears gives rise to the true "Brittany expression".

Ears:

Set high, triangular in shape, relatively large, and rather short, (drawn forward, the tip of the ear reaches the stop). Partially covered with wavy hair, especially in the upper part, the extremity being covered by short hair. Always quite mobile when the dog is attentive or in action.

NECK

Of medium length and well-muscled, in the form of a slightly curved, never arched, truncated cone. Set smoothly to the shoulders and without dewlap.

BODY

Topline: Level to the loins and the beginning of the croup.

Withers: Sufficiently mobile and hardly protruding, without being loaded.

Back: Straight, short, and rigid; well-coupled.

Loin: Short, broad, and muscular.

Hip: Very slightly slanting, broad, and muscular.

Chest: Let down to elbow level; broad, with ribs well-sprung but not barrel-chested. Sternum wide and scarcely rising towards the rear. The rearmost ribs long and supple.

Underline and belly: Slightly tucked-up. Flank slightly rising and short.

TAIL

Set high, carried horizontally (or slightly lowered), often lively when the dog is attentive or in action.

The Brittany Spaniel can be born tailless or with a very short tail. When the tail is docked the ideal length is from 3cm – 6cm, the docked tail should not exceed 10cm.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Limbs well-poised. Joints flexible and sturdy.

Shoulders: Mobile, long (30% of the height at the withers), close to the body with thick muscle. Its slope is that of a galloper, between 55° and 60° from the horizontal. The tips of the shoulder blades are separated by 5cm.

Upper arm: Heavy, thick, and very muscular. It is slightly longer than the shoulder blade. The scapulo-humeral angle (between the shoulder blade and the arm) is between 115° and 120°.

Elbow: Close to body – neither in nor out.

Forearm: Muscular and clean. Slightly longer than the upper arm. It should be practically perpendicular to the ground.

Metacarpus (pastern): Solid, while maintaining a certain flexibility, slightly oblique (between 15° and 20° from the vertical).

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Limbs well-poised and parallel when seen from behind.

Upper thigh: Important [*ed. prominent*] with thick and bulging muscles. It should be slanted between 70° and 75° from the horizontal.

Lower thigh: Very slightly longer than the upper thigh with clean, bulging muscles. Broad in the upper part, diminishing gradually in size towards its junction with the hock. The angle between the upper thigh and lower thigh is close to 130°.

Hock: Clean, with visible tendons.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Solid, nearly vertical when seen from the side.

FEET

Forefeet rather round, toes tight, pads firm, toenails short. Hind feet longer than the forefeet, while maintaining the same characteristics.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

The different gaits are easy but powerful, even, and lively. The legs move straight without exaggerated bouncing of the body and without rolling, the topline staying level. The canter is the most common gait in the field, the strides are rapid and of medium length, the hind legs having little extension to the rear (collected canter).

SKIN

Fine, tight fitting and well-pigmented.

COAT

The coat is fine but not silky, lying flat on the body or with a hint of a wave. Never curly. Short on the head and the front of the limbs. The hind part of the latter has a heavier coat, furnished with abundant feathering, diminishing along their length down to the carpus (wrist) or the tarsus (hock), or even lower.

COLOUR

- White and orange, white and black, white and liver, with more or less extensive irregular white patches.
- Piebald or roan, sometimes with ticking on the top and sides of the muzzle or the limbs.
- Equally, in the case of tricolour coats, with tan spotting (orange to dark tan) on the top and sides of the muzzle, over the eyes, on the limbs, on the chest and over the base of the tail.

* A narrow blaze is desirable with any colour of coat.

* A self-coloured coat is not allowed.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: minimum 48 cm (approx. 19") with a tolerance of 1 cm (approx. ½").

maximum 51 cm (approx. 20") with a tolerance of 1 cm (approx. ½").

Ideal height: 49 to 50 cm (approx. 19½" to 19½").

Females: minimum 47 cm (approx. 18½") with a tolerance of 1 cm (approx. ½").

maximum 50 cm (approx. 20") with a tolerance of 1 cm (approx. ½").

Ideal height: 48 to 49 cm (approx. 19" to 19½").

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.

***Regardless of the provisions of the current KUSA-adopted standard, docked or formerly docked breeds may be shown at all FCI- and KUSA-licensed shows in South Africa, whether their tails are docked or natural. Under no circumstances are Judges permitted to discriminate against exhibits on the grounds of docked or natural tails, and equal consideration for awards must be given to either.**

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.

- Character: Timidity, shifty-eyed.
- Head planes: Somewhat divergent.
- Nose: Very slightly unpigmented, interior of the nostrils unpigmented.
- Teeth: Pincer bite, teeth out of line.
- Muzzle: Pinched or snipey.
- Lips: Heavy, pendulous, upper lip covering the lower either insufficiently or excessively.
- Eyes: Prominent, round, or almond-shaped.
- Ears: Hung too low or falling away too sharply
- Back: Arched or saddle back.
- Croup: Too narrow or falling away too sharply.
- Abdomen: Bulky or too tucked up (whippety).
- Feet: Splayed, too round or too long.
- Neck: Heavy and lacking reach. Throatiness.
- Loin: Long, narrow, weak.
- Flank: Too hollow, often accompanied by a weak loin lacking breadth.
- Limbs: Insufficient bone. Out at the elbows, pigeon-toed, slew feet.

- Coat: Not heavy enough on the body.

Severe faults:

- Behaviour: Sluggish.
- Skull: Zygomatic arches too prominent, stop very pronounced, superciliary arches too prominent.
- Eyes: Light, mean look, hawk-like expression.
- Neck: Excessively long, distinct dewlap.
- Gait: Poor mover.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Lack of type: Insufficient breed characteristics, which means the animal on the whole doesn't resemble other samples of the breed.
- Height: Outside the limits defined by the standard.
- Head planes: Marked convergence.
- Abnormal markings: White spot on the ear or eye in a white patch.
- Eyes: Very light in colour, heterochromia (eyes of different colours), squinting entropion, ectropion.
- Jaws: Overshot or undershot mouth.
- Teeth: The first premolars of both jaws and the last molars of the lower jaw are considered without importance. Can only be admitted the absence of 2 PM2 or 1 PM2 and 1 PM3. Contiguous [*ed. next or together in sequence*] absence of these two teeth (PM2 and PM3) is eliminating.
- Absence of any other tooth is eliminating.
- Pigmentation: Distinct unpigmented areas on the nose or eyelids.
- Presence of dewclaws, even if rudimentary.
- Serious morphological anomaly.

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FCI Standard No 95: EPAGNEUL BRETON (BRITTANY SPANIEL)

FCI Classification: Group 7 – Pointing Dogs

Section 1.2. Continental Pointing Dogs – Spaniel type

With Working Trial