

## KING CHARLES 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 have an effective date of 01/01/2021

### ORIGIN

Great Britain

### UTILISATION

Companion and Toy dog.

### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

*[ed. from FCI Breed Standard No. 128]*

An obvious relative of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, this dog is known, in some countries, as the English Toy Spaniel, and derives his name from a dog that was a great favourite of King Charles II. Toy Spaniels have long been treasured as pets both in England and on the Continent, and were bred to a smaller and smaller size from Setters, which established the type for Spaniels. Basically these were little Gundogs, but pampered by wealthy owners, admired for their companionship and crossed with Toy dogs from the East, giving rise to their facial appearance.



*Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library*

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Refined, compact, and cobby.

### CHARACTERISTICS

Happy, intelligent, Toy Spaniel, with distinctive domed head.

### TEMPERAMENT

Reserved, gentle, and affectionate.

### HEAD

Skull moderately large in comparison to size, well-domed, full over eyes. Nose black with large, wide-open nostrils, short and turned up. Stop between skull and nose well-defined. Muzzle square, wide and deep, well turned up, lower jaw wide, lips exactly meeting, giving nice finish. Cheeks not falling away under eyes, but well-cushioned.

#### Eyes:

Relatively large and dark, set wide apart, eyelids block square to face line, pleasing expression.

#### Ears:

Set on low, hanging quite flat to cheeks, very long and well-feathered.

#### Mouth:

Bite should be slightly undershot. Protruding tongue highly undesirable.

### NECK

Of medium length; arched, giving proud carriage of head.

### FOREQUARTERS

Legs short, straight. Shoulders well laid back, elbows close to rib cage, turning neither in nor out.

### BODY

Chest wide and deep, back short and level.

## HINDQUARTERS

Sufficient muscle to give positive driving movement, stifles well-bent, hocks well let down and defined. Straight when viewed from behind, turning neither in nor out.

## FEET

Compact, well-padded and feathered, toes well-knuckled, round cat-shaped foot, well-cushioned, pasterns firm.

## TAIL

Docking previously optional.

**Docked:** Well-feathered, not carried over or above level of back.

**Undocked:** Well-feathered, not carried over or above level of back. In overall balance with the rest of the dog.

Natural short tail (bobtail) and kinked tail tolerated.

**[\*refer note below]**

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

Free, active, and elegant, driving from behind. Sound movement highly desirable.

## COAT

Long, silky, and straight, slight wave allowed, never curly. Legs, ears, and tail profusely feathered.

## COLOUR

- **Black and tan:** Rich glossy black, with bright mahogany-tan markings on muzzle, legs, chest, linings of ears, under tail, and spots over eyes. White patch on chest undesirable.
- **Tricolour:** Pearly-white ground, with well-distributed black patches, brilliant tan markings on cheeks, linings of ears, under tail, and spots over eyes. Wide white blaze between eyes and up forehead.
- **Blenheim:** Pearly-white ground, with well-distributed chestnut-red patches. Wide, clear blaze with the 'spot' in centre of skull, should be a clear chestnut red mark about the size of a penny. *[ed. As with the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, the spot, or lozenge, is desirable, but not essential.]*
- **Ruby:** Whole-coloured, rich chestnut red. White patch on chest highly undesirable.

## SIZE

### Weight:

3.6kg – 6.3kg.

***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.

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**When judging this breed at FCI International Shows, use:**

**FCI Standard No. 128: KING CHARLES SPANIEL**

**FCI Classification: Group 9 – Companion and Toy Dogs.**

Section 7.1. English Toy Spaniels

Without working trial.