

SUSSEX 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

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Flushing dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Sussex Spaniel]:

The Sussex is a native breed to the county of West Sussex - a breed of Gundog able to work in districts where the terrain is rough and the undergrowth very dense, where a Spaniel was needed that could give tongue or to alert the hunter on his quarry. The Sussex was bred specifically to giving tongue (barking at the quarry) that was not common in most Spaniel breeds. The Sussex Spaniel was one of the first to be registered by the UK Kennel club when it formed in 1872 and was one of the first ten breeds admitted into the stud book by the American Kennel Club in 1884, but lost what little popularity it had achieved in the 1940s. During World War II, breeding was discouraged but the Sussex saved from extinction by English breeder Joy Freer. All modern Sussex Spaniels are descended from the dogs she saved. In 1947, only ten Sussex Spaniels were registered in the Kennel Club. In 2004 the breed was identified as a vulnerable native breed by Kennel Club of Great Britain.



GENERAL APPEARANCE

Strongly built. Active, energetic dog, whose characteristic movement is a decided roll, and unlike that of any other Spaniel.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Natural working ability, gives tongue at work in thick cover. Kindly disposition.

HEAD

Well-balanced.

Cranial Region:

Skull: Wide, showing moderate curve from ear to ear, neither flat nor apple-headed, with centre indentation. Brows frowning; occiput decided, but not pointed.

Stop: Pronounced.

Facial Region:

Nose: Nostrils well-developed and liver in colour.

Jaws and teeth: Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular, and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Eyes:

Hazel colour, fairly large, not full, but soft expression and showing little, if any, haw.

Ears:

Thick, fairly large, and lobular, set moderately low, just above eye level. Lying close to skull.

NECK

Long, strong, and slightly arched, not carrying head much above level of back. Slight throatiness, but well-marked frill.

BODY

Whole body strong and level with no sign of waistiness [*ed. marked waist*] from withers to hips.

Back: Well-developed and muscular in both width and depth.

Loin: Well-developed and muscular in both width and depth.

Chest: Deep and well-developed; not too round and wide. The back ribs must be deep.

TAIL

Previously customarily docked to 13cm – 18cm.

Docked: Set low and never carried above level of back. Tail thickly covered with hair but not feathered.

Undocked: Set low, of medium length, and not carried above the level of the back. It should taper gradually to a point and be moderately feathered. Lively tail action is typical of the breed.

[*refer note below]

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Shoulder: Sloping and free.

Forearm: Legs rather short and strong. Well-boned and muscular.

Carpus (wrist): Large and strong.

Metacarpus (pastern): Short and well-boned.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Legs short and strong with good bone. Hind legs not appearing shorter than forelegs or over angulated.

Thigh: Strongly boned and muscular.

Metatarsus (rear pastern): Hocks large and strong.

FEET

Round, well-padded, well-feathered between toes.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

True fore and aft, with distinctive roll.

COAT

Abundant and flat with no tendency to curl and with ample undercoat for weather resistance. Ears covered with soft, wavy hair, but not too profuse. Forequarters and hindquarters moderately well-feathered.

COLOUR

- Rich golden liver and hair shading to golden at tip; gold is predominating.

* Dark liver or puce undesirable.

SIZE

Height at the withers:

Males & females: 38cm – 41cm (approx. 15" – 16")

Weight:

Approximately 23kg.

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.

Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

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FCI Standard No 127: SUSSEX SPANIEL

FCI Classification: Group 8 – Retrievers, Flushing Dogs, Water Dogs
Section 2 – Flushing Dogs
With Working Trial