

## ENGLISH SETTER

*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 01/01/2026

### ORIGIN

Great Britain.

### UTILISATION

Pointing dog.

### 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.

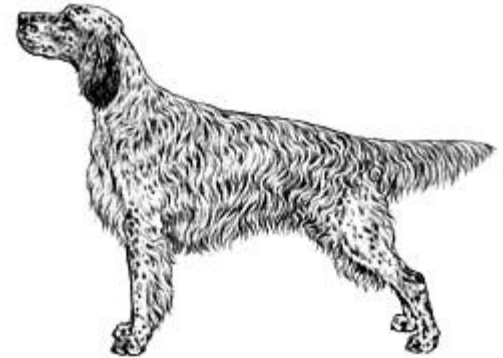


Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

Of medium height, clean in outline, elegant in appearance and movement.

### BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Very active with a keen game sense. Intensely friendly and good-natured.

### HEAD & SKULL

Head carried high: long, and reasonably lean.

#### Cranial Region:

**Skull:** Oval from ear to ear, showing plenty of brain room; occipital protuberance well-defined.

**Stop:** Well defined.

#### Facial Region:

**Nose:** Colour of nose black or liver, according to colour of coat. Nostrils wide.

**Muzzle:** Moderately deep and fairly square, from stop to point of nose should be equal to length of skull from occiput to eyes.

**Lips:** Not too pendulous.

**Jaws/teeth:** Jaws strong and of nearly equal length, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Full dentition desirable.

#### 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.

### 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.

## BODY

Moderate length.

**Back:** short and level.

**Loins:** wide, slightly arched, strong and muscular.

**Chest:** Deep in brisket, very good depth and width between shoulder blades. Ribs good round, widely sprung and deep in back ribs, i.e. well ribbed up.

## TAIL

Set almost in line with back, medium length, not reaching below hock, neither curly nor ropy, 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.

## LIMBS

### Forequarters:

**Shoulder:** Well set back or oblique.

**Elbow:** Well let down close to body.

**Forearm:** Straight and very muscular with rounded bone.

**Metacarpus (Pastern):** Short, strong, round and straight.

### Hindquarters:

**General appearance:** Legs well muscled including second thigh. Long from hip to hock.

**Thigh:** Long.

**Stifle:** Well bent.

**Hock:** Inclining neither in nor out and well let down.

## FEET

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

## GAIT / MOVEMENT

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

## COAT

### Hair:

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)
- or tricolour, that is blue belton and tan or liver belton and tan.

\* Those without heavy patches of colour on body but flecked (belton) all over preferred.

## NOTE OF THE STANDARD COMMITTEE

"Belton" is the customary term used for the description of the distinctive coat-ticking of the English Setter. Belton is a village in Northumberland. This expression has been created and spread out by the book about the English Setter written by Mr. Edward Lavarack, breeder who has had a preponderant influence upon the actual appearance of the breed.

## SIZE

### Height at withers:

**Males:** 65cm – 68cm (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.

### Disqualifying faults:

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



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### **FCI Standard No. 2: ENGLISH SETTER**

#### **FCI Classification: Group 7 - Pointing Dogs.**

Section 2.2 - British and Irish Pointers and Setters, Setter.

With working trial.