



*A Breed Standard is the guideline which 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 which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.*

#### **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

Active, graceful and well balanced, with gentle expression.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS**

Sporting, affectionate, absolutely fearless.

#### **TEMPERAMENT**

Gay, friendly, non-aggressive; no tendency to nervousness.

#### **HEAD AND SKULL**

Skull almost flat between ears. Stop shallow. Length from base of stop to tip of nose about 3.8 cms (1½ ins). Nostrils black and well developed without flesh marks, muzzle well tapered. Lips well developed but not pendulous. Face well filled below eyes. Any tendency to snipiness undesirable.

#### **EYES**

Large, dark, round but not prominent; spaced well apart.

#### **EARS**

Long, set high, with plenty of feather.

#### **MOUTH**

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

#### **NECK**

Moderate length, slightly arched.

#### **FOREQUARTERS**

Chest moderate, shoulders well laid back; straight legs moderately boned.

#### **BODY**

Short-coupled with good spring of rib. Level back.

#### **HINDQUARTERS**

Legs with moderate bone; well turned stifle - no tendency to cowhocks or sickle-hocks.

#### **FEET:**

Compact, cushioned and well feathered.

#### **TAIL**

CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL

Length of tail in balance with body, well set on, carried happily but never much above the level of the back. Docking optional. If docked, no more than one-third to be removed.

**[\*refer note below]**

### **GAIT/MOVEMENT**

Free-moving and elegant in action, plenty of drive from behind. Forelegs and hindlegs move parallel when viewed from in front and behind.

### **COAT**

Long, silky, free from curl. Slight wave permissible. Plenty of feathering. Totally free from trimming.

### **COLOUR**

Recognised colours are:

Black and Tan: Raven black with tan markings above the eyes, on cheeks, inside ears, on chest and legs and underside of tail. Tan should be bright. White marks undesirable.

Ruby: Whole coloured rich red. White markings undesirable.

Blenheim: Rich chestnut markings well broken up, on pearly white ground. Markings evenly divided on head, leaving room between ears for much valued lozenge mark or spot (a unique characteristic of the breed).

Tricolour: Black and white well spaced, broken up, with tan markings over eyes, cheeks, inside ears, inside legs, and on underside of tail.

Any other colour or combination of colours highly undesirable.

### **SIZE**

Weight            5.4-8.2kg (12-18 lb)

A small, well balanced dog well within these weights desirable.

### **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 on health & welfare of the dog

### **NOTE**

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only clinically and functionally 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.** (Fedco 12/2017 Amended DR/01/2018)



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the official KUSA breed standard.

