

# KUSA



Official Breed Standard

## Spaniel (English Springer) (Gundog Group)



*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.*

**SPANIEL** (English Springer)

### **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

Symmetrically built, compact, strong, merry, active. Highest on leg and raciest in build of all British land Spaniels.

### **CHARACTERISTICS**

Breed is of ancient and pure origins, oldest of sporting gundogs; original purpose was finding and springing game for net, falcon or greyhound. Now used to find, flush and retrieve game for game.

### **TEMPERAMENT**

Friendly, happy disposition, biddable. Timidity or aggression highly undesirable.

### **HEAD & SKULL**

Skull of medium length, fairly broad, slightly rounded, rising from foreface, making a brow or stop, divided by fluting between eyes, dying away along forehead towards occipital bone which should not be prominent. Cheeks flat. Foreface of proportionate length to skull, fairly broad and deep, well chiselled below eyes, fairly deep and square in flew. Nostrils well developed.

### **EYES**

Medium size, almond-shaped, not prominent nor sunken, well set in (not showing haw), alert, kind expression. Dark hazel. Light eyes undesirable.

### **EARS**

Lobular, good length and width, fairly close to head, set in line with eye. Nicely feathered.

### **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**

Good length, strong and muscular, free from throatiness, slightly arched, tapering towards head.

### **FOREQUARTERS**

Forelegs straight and well boned. Shoulders sloping and well laid. Elbows set well to body. Strong flexible pasterns.

### **BODY**

Strong, neither too long nor too short. Chest deep, well developed. Well sprung ribs. Loin muscular, strong with slight arch and well coupled.

### **HINDQUARTERS**

Hindlegs well let down. Stifles and hocks moderately bent. Thighs broad, muscular, well developed. Coarse hocks undesirable.

### **FEET**

Tight, compact, well rounded, with strong, full pads.

### **TAIL**

Previously customarily docked.

Docked: Set low, never carried above level of back. Well feathered with lively action. Undocked: Set low, never carried above level of back. Well feathered with lively action. In balance with the rest of the dog.

**[\*refer note below]**

### **GAIT / MOVEMENT**

Strictly his own. Forelegs swing straight forward from shoulder, throwing feet well forward in an easy free manner. Hocks driving well under body, following in line with forelegs. At slow movement may have a pacing stride typical of this breed.

### **COAT**

Close, straight and weather resisting, never coarse. Moderate feathering on ears, forelegs, body and hindquarters.

### **COLOUR**

Liver and white, black and white, or either of these colours with tan markings.

### **SIZE**

Approximate height: 51cm (20in).

### **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 the health & welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

### **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/02/2018)



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