



**Official Breed Standard
of the
Kennel Union of South Africa**



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 flow. 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

Set low, never carried above level of back. Well feathered with lively action. Customarily docked.

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 : 51 cms (20 ins).

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

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

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