

BRITTANY SPANIEL

GROUP: Sporting

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

A compact, closely knit dog of medium size, a leggy dog having the appearance, as well as the agility, of a great ground coverer. Square, height being the same as the length of body. Strong, vigorous, energetic, and quick of movement; ruggedness without clumsiness is a characteristic of the breed. The tail is no more than four inches in length.

SIZE:

Ideally should measure 17 ½ to 20 ½ inches; Oversized or undersized animals are penalized to the extent of deviation from standard. Quality is not to be sacrificed in favor of size. Weight should weigh between 30 and 40 pounds.

COAT:

The coat is wavy or flat and dense. Feathering of moderate appearance is found on both the front and rear legs. The thighs are well-feathered, but not profusely (too little is preferable to too much), halfway to the hock. The ears carry little fringe. **Dogs with long or profuse feathering or furnishings shall be so severely penalized as to effectively eliminate them. The skin is fine and fairly loose, but so loose as to form pouches is undesirable. Serious faults: Curly coat; Silky coat texture; Long or profuse feathering.**

COLOR:

Orange and white, liver and white, and black and white in clear or roan patterns. Some ticking is desirable. Tri-colors are allowed but not desirable, and should be faulted to their degree of variance. A tri-color as a liver and white dog with classic orange markings on eyebrows, muzzle, and cheeks, inside the ears and under the tail; freckles on the lower legs are orange. Anything exceeding the limits of these markings should be severely penalized. **Washed out colors are not desirable and constitute a serious fault.**

HEAD:

Skull is rounded, of medium length, evenly made, and slightly wedge-shaped. The muzzle is approximately two-thirds the length of the skull. It gradually tapers both horizontally and vertically. Lips are tight to the muzzle. Expression is alert and eager, but with the soft expression of a bird dog. Skull is well chiseled under the eyes so that the lower lid is not pulled back to form a pocket or haw that would catch seeds, dirt and weed dust.

Eyes: Well-set into the head and well protected from briars, etc., by heavy, expressive eyebrows. Darker colored eyes are preferred, but lighter shades of amber are not to be penalized. **Serious Faults: Prominent, full or pop eyes; Haws, drooping or pouching eyelids; light colored eyes; mean-looking eyes.**

Ears: In length, they should reach approximately one-half the length of the muzzle. The short leafy ears are set high on the head, above the level of the eyes. The ears are very slightly rounded, flat and close to the head, covered with dense, relatively short hair with little fringe. **Serious Fault: Pendulous ears.**

Nose: Well-opened nostrils allow for good breathing and scenting; Black, brown, fawn, tan, and deep pink are acceptable colors, matching the darkest body color of the dog. Two-tone or butterfly nose should be penalized. **Serious Faults: Tight nostrils**

Mouth: Lips tight, the upper lip overlapping the lower jaw just to cover the lower lip, dry so that feathers will not stick. **Drooling to be heavily penalized; Flews to be penalized. Bite:** A true scissors bite. **Serious Faults: Overshot or under shot jaw.**

NECK:

Medium length; free of throatiness, though not a serious fault unless accompanied by dewlaps; strong without giving the impression of being over muscled. Well set into sloping shoulders. **Serious Faults: Ewe necked; Concave neck**

BODY:

The body is square. Length is approximately the same as height, measured at the withers. The body length is measured from the point of the forechest to the rear of the haunches. The chest is deep, reaching to the level of the elbows, providing adequate heart room—neither so wide nor so rounded as to disturb the placement of the shoulders and elbows; ribs are well-sprung. **Fault:** Narrow, slab-sided chest. Flanks are rounded, fairly full; not extremely tucked up, or flabby and falling. Loins are short and strong. Distance from last rib to upper thigh is short, about three to four finger widths. **Fault: Narrow and weak loins. In motion, the loin should not sway sideways, giving a zig-zag motion to the back, wasting energy.**

Topline: Short and straight with slight slope from the highest point of the shoulders to the root of the tail. **Never saddle, sway, or roached back.**

FOREQUARTERS:

The shoulders have a 90 degree angle in relationship of the blade and upper arm and to the point of the elbow nearest the ribs. Shoulder blades should not protrude too much; not too wide apart, with perhaps two thumbs' width between. Sloping and muscular. **Fault:** Straight shoulders. Forelegs: Viewed from the front, the front legs are perpendicular; Viewed from the side, the pasterns are slightly bent; Long bones are clean and graceful, but not too fine. **Serious Faults: Weak pasterns; Excessive width in front.**

HINDQUARTERS:

Strong, muscular, and broad, with powerful thighs and well bent stifles, providing the proper structure for strong, powerful drive. The rear pasterns are moderately short, turning neither in nor out, firm when shaken by the judge. Stifles are well bent. **Faults: Fat hindquarters; Falling hindquarters.**

Tail: Set high, as an extension of the spine; naturally bobbed or docked to a length no longer than four inches. **Tails substantially longer than four inches should be severely penalized.**

MOVEMENT:

When at a trot, the Brittany's hind foot should step into or beyond the print left by the front foot. Gait is always smooth, with powerful drive from the hindquarters. The Brittany is a hunting dog, and movement must convey that of a well-balanced, strongly-built, agile, athletic dog capable of great stamina in the field.

TEMPERAMENT:

Friendly and eager to please; happy; alert, neither mean nor shy. These friendly little dogs hunt more like a Setter due to their pointing ability and are higher on their legs than other Spaniels. The Brittany does not require a heavy hand in training. In fact, they may quit if the discipline is too stern. Much more is accomplished with a gentle hand. They seek human attention, which makes them easier to train than some other hunting breeds.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.

Disqualifications:

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid

Viciousness or extreme shyness

Serious Faults as listed in standard.