

## ENGLISH COCKER SPANIEL

GROUP: Sporting

### SIZE:

At withers, for males, 16 to 17 inches; for females, 15 to 16 inches. Deviations should be penalized. Weight for males, 28 to 34 pounds; females, 26 to 32 pounds. Quality is not to be sacrificed in favor of weight. ***Serious faults: Any deviations from the height standard.***

### COAT:

Short and fine on head; medium length on body; flat or slightly wavy; silky in texture; well-feathered, but not so profusely as to interfere with field work; trimming is permitted to remove overabundant hair and to enhance the dog's true lines, providing it is done so as to appear as natural as possible.

### COLOR & MARKINGS:

Color and markings are immaterial.

### HEAD:

Strong, yet free of coarseness, softly contoured, without sharp angles; taken as a whole, the parts combine to produce the expression distinctive of the breed, that being soft and melting, yet dignified, alert and intelligent.

Skull: Arched and slightly flattened, viewed from either front or side; viewed in profile, the brow appears to be not appreciably higher than the backskull; viewed from above, the sides of the skull maintain the approximate planes of the muzzle.

Eyes: Full, slightly oval-shaped, of medium size and set well apart; dark brown, except in livers and liver parti-colors where hazel is permitted, but the darker the hazel the better; tight eyelids; inconspicuous haws may be pigmented or unpigmented; the eyes are essential to the overall characteristics of the head.

Ears: Set low, lying close to the head; leather fine, extending to the nose, well covered with long, silky, straight or slightly wavy hair.

Muzzle: Equal in length to the skull; well-cushioned; only as much narrower than the skull as is consistent with a full eye placement; cleanly chiseled under the eyes; strong jaws, capable of carrying game; wide nostrils for proper development of scenting ability; black color except in livers and parti-colors of that shade where they should be brown; reds and parti-colors of that shade may be brown, but black is preferred; square lips, but not pendulous or showing prominent flews.

Nose: Wide nostrils, indicative of proper development of scenting ability; color black, except in livers and parti-colors of that shade where they will be brown; reds and parti-colors of that shade may be brown, but black is preferred.

Bite: Full complement of strong, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite. Fault: Level bite. ***Serious faults: Overshot or undershot bites.***

### NECK:

Graceful and muscular, arching toward head and blending cleanly into sloping shoulders; of moderate length and in balance with length and height of dog. ***Faults: Short, thick, with dewlap or excessive throatiness.***

### BODY:

Compact and well-knot, giving the impression of strength without heaviness. Back should be short and strong with a short, broad, and very slightly arched loin. Loin should not be arched enough to affect topline appreciably.

Topline: Neck line blends into the shoulder and backline in a smooth curve; backline slopes very slightly toward gently rounded croup, and is free from sagging or rumpiness.

Chest: Deep, but not so wide as to interfere with foreleg actions, nor so narrow as to cause the front to appear narrow or pinched; brisket reaches to the elbow, sloping gradually to a moderate tuck-up; well-developed forechest with the posternum projecting moderately beyond the point of the shoulder.

Croup: Gently rounded without the tendency to fall away sharply.

forequarters:

Moderately angulated with sloping shoulders, the blade flat and smoothly fitting; shoulder blade and upper arm are approximately equal in length; upper arm set well back, joining the shoulder with sufficient angulation to place the elbow beneath the highest point of the shoulder blade when the dog is standing naturally. Forelegs are straight with bone nearly uniform in size from elbow to heel; elbows set close to body; pasterns nearly straight, with some flexibility.

HINDQUARTERS:

Moderate angulation and, most importantly, in balance with that of forequarters; hips relatively broad and well rounded; upper thighs broad, thick and muscular, providing plenty of propelling power; second thighs well muscled and approximately equal in length to the upper; stifle strong and well bent; hock to pad short.

Feet: Proportionate in size to the legs, firm, round, and catlike; toes arched and tight; thick pads. Dewclaws removed.

Tail: Docked; set on to conform to croup; ideally carried horizontally and in constant motion while the dog is in motion; when excited, the dog may carry the tail somewhat higher, but not cocked up.

MOVEMENT:

Gait is characterized by drive and appearance of power, rather than speed, indicative of the breed's use as a hunter in dense cover and upland terrain; correct angulation enables the dog to cover the ground effortlessly with extension in the front and rear; head is carried proudly while in motion; topline remains much the same whether in motion or standing still; movement should be in a straight line with width between the front and rear legs that is appropriate to build and gait. ***Serious faults: Crabbing. Rolling.***

TEMPERAMENT:

Merry and affectionate, of equable disposition, neither sluggish nor hyperactive, a willing worker and a faithful and engaging companion.

**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:***

**Viciousness or extreme shyness.**

**Albinism.**