

## ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

GROUP: Sporting

### SIZE:

Approximate height is about 20 inches at the shoulder; weight is about 50 pounds; well-proportioned and balanced and never over-exaggerated; compact body.

### COAT:

Double-coated, both an outer and under coat; outer coat may be flat or wavy; of medium length; easily distinguished from the under coat, which is soft and dense; quantity of the undercoat is affected by climate and season. In combination, outer and under coat help to make the dog substantially waterproof, weatherproof and thorn-proof. The Springer's ears, chest, legs, and belly are well-furnished with a fringe of feathering. On the head, front legs, and below the hocks on front of hind legs, the hair is short and fine. The coat should have a clean, glossy healthy look. Appearance should be natural. Minimal grooming is necessary to neaten up the head, ears, neck, and feet. Quantity of coat is not to be preferred over correct condition and quality of coat. **Over-trimming, or non-natural looks are to be penalized. Excessive feathering that interrupts the clean outline of the sporting dog is also to be penalized.**

### COLOR:

All the following combinations of colors and markings are equally acceptable:

1. liver or black with white markings
2. liver and white with tan markings
3. black and white with tan markings
4. blue or liver roan
5. predominately white with tan, black, or liver markings

***Serious Fault:* Any color and/or pattern not described above.**

### HEAD:

Skull of medium length and fairly broad, slightly rounded; very important that the size and proportion be in balance with the rest of the dog; impressive without being heavy; its beauty is a combination of its strength and refinement; foreface is approximately the same length as the skull.

Viewed from above, the muzzle should be approximately half the width of the skull. The occiput bone is inconspicuous; as the skull rises from the foreface, it makes a stop, divided by a groove, or fluting, between the eyes. The groove disappears as it reaches the middle of the forehead.

Stop is moderate; it must not be a pronounced feature, rather a subtle rise where the muzzle joins the upper head; it is emphasized by the groove and the position and shape of the eyebrows, which are well-developed. The nasal bone should be straight, with no inclination to a downward turn toward the tip, giving an undesirable down-faced look. Neither is the nasal bone to be concave, resulting in a "dish-faced" profile; nor convex, giving the dog a Roman nose.

The face is well built beneath the eyes, with the cheeks lying flat; jawline has sufficient length and is strong; upper lip comes down full and rather square to cover the line of the lower jaw without being excessive.

The stop, eyebrows, and chiseling of the bony structure around the eye sockets contribute to the Springer's characteristic expression, which is alert, friendly, and trusting.

Eyes: Medium size; oval; set rather far apart; fairly deep in sockets; color harmonizes with coat color, preferably a dark hazel in liver dogs and black or deep brown in white dogs. There is to be full pigmentation around the eye rims, matching the color of the coat; lids tight with little or no haw. ***Serious Faults:* Eyes that jut out, are small, round, golden, or harsh.**

Ears: Leathers should be long enough to reach the tip of the nose; thin; fairly wide; hanging close to the head; set on a level with the eye and not too far back on the skull.

Nose: Nostrils well open and broad; liver or black depending on the color of the coat.

Mouth: Full complement of strong, white teeth; scissor bite. ***Fault***: Even bite or misaligned teeth. ***Serious Faults***: **Overshot; undershot; wry mouth**

FOREQUARTERS:

Neck is moderately long and slightly arched at the crest, gradually blending into the sloping shoulders. Shoulder blades slope back to form an angle with the upper arm of approximately 90 degrees. Forelegs should be straight and nicely feathered; elbows close, with free action from the shoulders; strong, flexible pasterns. Feet are round or slightly oval, compact, well-arched, medium size with thick pads; well feathered between the toes. Excess hair should be removed to show the natural shape and size of the foot.

HINDQUARTERS:

Should be worked and shown in hard, muscular condition with well-developed hips and thighs. The entire rear portion suggests strength and driving power; thighs are broad and muscular; stifle joints are strong; angulation of the hindquarter is never greater than that of the forequarter, nor is it appreciably less. The hock joints are somewhat rounded, not small and sharp in contour; rear pasterns are short (about 1/3 the distance from hip joint to foot) and strong with good bone. Viewed from the behind, the rear pasterns are parallel. Dewclaws are usually removed. Feet are the same as in front, except that they are smaller and often more compact.

BODY:

Topline from withers to tail is firm and slightly sloping, with no arch over the loin. Length from the top of the shoulders to the root of the tail is approximately equal to the height of the dog at the withers. The body should be strong, compact; the chest deep, but not so wide or round as to interfere with the action of the front legs. The brisket should be sufficiently developed to reach to the elbows. Very little tuck up. Hips are nicely-rounded, blending smoothly into the hind legs. The croup slopes gently to the set of the tail.

Tail: Carriage should be nearly horizontal; merry tail action is characteristic of the breed. ***Faults***: **Tail tucked or carried too high; terrier tail.**

MOVEMENT:

The ultimate test of the Springer's soundness and correct conformation is proper movement. A good balance of front and rear assemblies is key to that good movement. Well-laid back shoulders are also essential to permit a long stride, as are good strong rear quarters, providing the driving power for the stride; forelegs should extend well in front of the shoulder in movement; topline should neither dip nor roll during the long strides of the side gait; hocks should drive well under the body, following in line with the forelegs with no tendency for the feet to cross over or interfere with each other. During slow movement, many Springers have a pacing stride typical of the breed. ***Faults***: Elevated strides; uneven or short gait.

TEMPERAMENT:

Friendly, eager to please, quick to learn, and very obedient; should be poised and attentive to his handler and the judge, allowing himself to be examined by the judge with no cringing or resentment; **aggression toward people or other dogs is not in keeping with sporting dog character and purpose and is not acceptable; excessive timidity, with due exceptions made for puppies is to be equally penalized.**

**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**

**Either or both testicles being not present or abnormal in intact males**