

SPINONE ITALIANO

GROUP: Sporting

HISTORY: The Spinone Italiano is a rough-haired dog of Italian origin and is thought to be a very old and established hunting breed. The thought is that there was a “griffon” which came from the Piedmont region of Italy. In the Middle Ages and the 15th century, this type of dog was often represented by famous artists. It is also referred to as the Italian Coarsehaired Pointer.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Spinone is a solid dog, robust and vigorous. It has powerful bone, well-developed muscles and rough hair. Its build tends to fit into a square. The length of the body is equal to or slightly longer than the height of the dog.

HEIGHT: At withers, males are from 23 ½ to 27 1/2 . Females from 23 to 25 ½ inches.

WEIGHT: Males from 70 to 80 pounds-Females 62 to 66 or so.

COAT AND SKIN: Body hair is from 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches long. It is stiff, dense, and rather flat, with little or no undercoat. The hair is shorter on the muzzle, head, ears, the front side of the legs, and on the feet. On the back side of the legs, the hair is a rough brush, but never with fringes. Long, stiff hair furnishes the eyebrows and the lips, forming eyebrows, a moustache, and a tufted beard. Very thick skin fits close to the body. It is thinner on the head, throat, groin, under the arms, and on the back parts of the body. In the elbow folds, it is soft to the touch. There are two folds (dewlaps) from the sides of the lower jaw, gradually disappearing at the first half of the neck. When the head is carried low, there is a fold that descends from the outer corner of the eye over the cheek in its hind edge. This fold ends in a tuft of hair. Skin pigmentation varies according the coat markings color.

COLOR: Pure white; white with orange markings; white speckled with orange; ; white with brown (chestnut) markings; roan or roan-brown (chestnut)

STANDARD:

Head: Long: The profile of the Spinone is unique to this breed. Expression is of extreme importance. The length of the head is equal to 40% of the height of the dog. The width of the head measured at the zygomatic arch (the bony ridge forming the lower border of the eye socket) should be less than half the length of the head. The planes of the skull and the muzzle diverge, making the dog downfaced. **Serious Faults: Parallel planes of the skull and muzzle. Dish faced.**

Eyes: Must have a soft, sweet expression. Yellowish brown color, darker eyes with darker colored dogs. They are large, well opened, set well apart. Both eyes are set on the same frontal plane, almost round. Lids are closely fitting the eye to protect the eye from gathering debris when hunting. **Loose lids must be faulted.** They are neither protruding nor deep set. Eye rim is clearly visible and from flesh colored to brown. **Disqualification: Walleye**

Ears: The ears are practically triangular. They are not more than two inches longer than the line of the throat. They are set at a level just below the eye, carried low with little erectile power.. The leather is fine, covered in short, thick hair mixed with a longer, sparser hair, which becomes thicker along the edges. Length, if measured along the head, would extend to tip of nose and no more than 1 inch beyond the tip. The forward edge adheres to the cheek, not folded, but turned outward; the tip of the ear is slightly rounded.

Muzzle: Square viewed from the front. Muzzle length is equal to that of the back skull. Its width, measured at its midpoint is a third of its length. Stop is barely perceptible. Bridge of the muzzle is preferably slightly Roman; however, straight is not to be faulted. Lips should fit tightly to the jaw line. **Convergence of planes of the skull and muzzle, or a dish-faced muzzle is to be faulted so severely as to eliminate the dog from further competition.**

Nose: the nose is in the same line as the nasal bridge. It is voluminous and spongy with a very thick rounded upper edge. The nose protrudes over the vertical line of the lip. Nostrils are large and well opened. In profile, the nose protrudes past the forward line of the lips. Pigment is flesh colored in white dogs and darker in white and orange dogs, brown in brown or brown roan dogs.

Disqualification: Any nose pigment other than described here.

Bite: The jaw is powerful. A full complement of strong, white teeth meet in a scissors or level bite. **Disqualification: Overshot or undershot bite.**

Neck: Strong, thick, and muscular. It is clearly distinguished from the nape and merges well into the shoulders. The length of the neck must not be less than two thirds inch of the length of the head. Its circumference reaches a third of the height of the dog. The lower edge of the neck has a lightly-developed dewlap.

Topline: Consists of two segments. The first slopes slightly downward in a nearly straight line from the withers to the eleventh thoracic vertebrae, approximately 6 inches behind the withers. The second rises gradually and continues into a solid and well-arched loin.

Body: The body should be almost square. The chest, descending to at least the level of the elbows, is broad, deep, and well rounded. The slanting ribs are well sprung with wide spaces between the ribs. The back ribs (false ribs) are long, oblique, and well opened. The slightly convex loin has well-developed muscles. Croup is long, and the hipbones fall away from the spine at an angle of approximately 30 degrees, making a slightly rounded croup. The underline should be solid and should have minimal tuck up.

Forequarters: Shoulder blades should be powerful, long and sloping, forming an angle with the upper arm of about 105 degrees. Withers are not too prominent. Tips of shoulder blades are not set close together, ideally about two inches apart. Angulation of the shoulder should be in balance with the angulation in the rear. Forelegs are perfectly parallel and perpendicular to the ground when viewed from the front. They have strong bone and well developed muscles. Elbows are set under the withers and close to the body. Pasterns are long, lean, and flexible following the vertical line of the forearm. In profile they are slightly slanted. Feet are large but compact, rounded with well arched toes, which are close together, covered with short, dense hair, including between the toes. Pads are lean and hard with strong nails curving toward the ground, well pigmented but never black.

Hindquarters: When viewed from the rear, the hindquarters are parallel and perpendicular to the ground. From the side, the back edge of the buttocks is slightly convex. The hindquarters are well angulated. Thighs are strong and well muscled. The hock, with the proportion of one third the distance from the hip joint to foot being ideal, is strong, lean, and perpendicular to the ground. **Fault: Cowhocks** Feet are slightly more oval than the forefeet with the same characteristics.

Skin: The skin must be very thick, close fitting to the body, thinner on the head, throat, groin; under the legs and in the folds of the elbows is soft to the touch. Pigmentation depends on the color of the coat.. **Disqualification: Any black pigmentation**

Coat: The hair on the body is from 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches in length, stiff, dense, and rather flat, with absence of undercoat. It is shorter on the muzzle, the head, the ears, the front side of the legs and on the feet. On the back side of the legs, the hair is a rough brush, but never with fringes. Long, stiff hair garnishes the eyebrows and the lips, forming eyebrows, a moustache, and a tufted beard. There are two folds from the sides of the lower jaw, gradually disappearing at the first half of the neck. When the head is carried low, there is a fold that descends from the outer corner of the eye over the cheek in its hind edge. This fold ends in a tuft of hair.

Tail: The tail is thick, especially at the base. It is carried horizontally or down. There are no fringes. Generally, the tail is docked to a length of from six to ten inches.

Movement: The dog moves with an easy, loose step. When hunting, the dog moves with an extended fast trot, changing to an intermittent gallop as needed. Profile of the topline kept throughout the trotting gait, light body roll in mature bitches is characteristic of the breed.

Temperament: The Spinone is naturally sociable, docile, and patient. This breed is an experienced hunter in all terrains, is very resistant to tiredness goes easily into brambles and readily enters cold water.

Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points constitutes a fault which when judging must be penalized according to its deviation from the standard.

Disqualifications:

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Overshot or Undershot bite

Albinism.

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid

Wall Eye

Any nose pigment other than stated above

Black pigmentation of the skin or mucous membranes

Tri-color Coat

Tan markings

Black coat coloring