

He is above all a well-proportioned dog, free from exaggeration, nicely balanced in every part. His carriage is proud and upstanding, body deep, legs strong and muscular, with enough length to carry him with ease. Taken as a whole, the English Springer Spaniel suggests power, endurance and agility.

# English Springer Spaniel



## Judging Clinic

In evaluating the English Springer Spaniel, the overall picture is a primary consideration. One should look for *type*, which includes general appearance and outline, and also for *soundness*, which includes movement and temperament .

It must be remembered that the English Springer Spaniel is first and foremost a sporting dog of the Spaniel family, and he must *look, behave and move* in character.

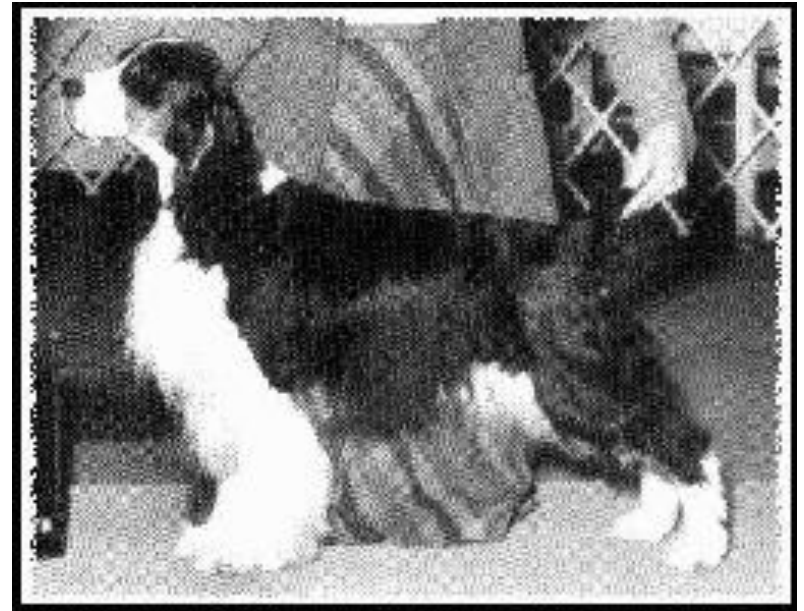
## Size, Proportion, Substance

The length of the body (measured from point of shoulder to point of buttocks) is slightly greater than the height at the withers.

- The dog too long in body, especially when long in the loin, tires easily and lacks the compact outline characteristic of the breed.
- A dog too short in body for the length of his legs, a condition which destroys balance and restricts gait, is equally undesirable.



Ideal height at the shoulder for dogs is 20 inches; for bitches, it is 19 inches.



A Springer with correct substance appears well-knit and sturdy with good bone, however, he is never coarse or ponderous.

## Head

impressive without being heavy ; a combination of strength and refinement

The skull is medium-length and fairly broad, flat on top and slightly rounded at the sides and back.

- 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.
- The amount of stop is moderate. It must not be a pronounced feature; rather it is a subtle rise where the muzzle joins the upper head. It is emphasized by the groove and by the position and shape of the eyebrows, which are well developed.



the head appears approximately the same length as the neck ;

## Head

The muzzle is approximately the same length as the skull and one half the width of the skull. Viewed in profile, the toplines of the skull and muzzle lie in approximately parallel planes.



nose is fully-pigmented, cheeks are flat, upper lips come down full and rather square to cover the line of the lower jaw,



## Teeth

Teeth are strong, clean, of good size and ideally meet in a close scissors bite. An even bite or one or two incisors slightly out of line are minor faults. Undershot, overshot and wry jaws are serious faults and are to be severely penalized.



Young dog on the left. Older dog showing normal wear on right.

## Head/eye & ear

- The eyes, more than any other feature, are the essence of the Springer's appeal.
- Correct size, shape, placement and color influence expression and attractiveness.
- The eyes are of medium size and oval in shape, set rather well-apart and fairly deep in their sockets.
- The color of the iris harmonizes with the color of the coat, preferably dark hazel in the liver and white dogs and black or deep brown in the black and white dogs.
- Eye rims are fully pigmented and match the coat in color. Lids are tight with little or no haw showing.
- Ears are long and fairly wide, hanging close , leather is thin , approximately long enough to reach the tip of the nose ,set is on a level with the eye and not too far back



## Neck



Neck is moderately long, muscular, clean and slightly arched at the crest , blends gradually and smoothly into sloping shoulders



## Topline,

The back is straight, strong and essentially level.

- Loins are strong, short and slightly arched.
- Hips are nicely-rounded, blending smoothly into the hind legs.
- The croup slopes gently to the set of the tail, and tail-set follows the natural line of the croup.
- The tail is carried horizontally or slightly elevated and displays a characteristic lively, merry action, particularly when the dog is on game.





## Body

The body is short-coupled, strong and compact.

- The chest is deep, reaching the level of the elbows, with well-developed forechest;





## Forequarters

- The shoulder blades are flat and fairly close together at the tips, molding smoothly into the contour of the body.
- Ideally, when measured from the top of the withers to the point of the shoulder to the elbow, the shoulder blade and upper arm are of apparent equal length, forming an angle of nearly 90 degrees;



- this sets the front legs well under the body and places the elbows directly beneath the tips of the shoulder blades.



## Forequarters

- Elbows lie close to the body. Forelegs are straight with the same degree of size continuing to the foot.
- Bone is strong, slightly flattened, not too round or too heavy.
- Pasterns are short, strong and slightly sloping, with no suggestion of weakness. Dewclaws are usually removed.
- Feet are round or slightly oval. They are compact and well-arched, of medium size with thick pads, and well-feathered between the toes.





## Hindquarters



- The Springer should be worked and shown in hard, muscular condition with well-developed hips and thighs.
- His whole rear assembly suggests strength and driving power. Thighs are broad and muscular.
- For functional efficiency, the angulation of the hindquarter is never greater than that of the forequarter, and not appreciably less.
- Rear pasterns are short (about  $\frac{1}{3}$  the distance from the hip joint to the foot) and strong, with good bone. When viewed from behind, the rear pasterns are parallel.

## Coat

- outer coat and an undercoat ; The quantity of undercoat is affected by climate and season.
- the Springer is nicely furnished with a fringe of feathering of moderate length and heaviness.





## Color

(1) Black or liver with white markings or predominantly white with black or liver markings; (2) Blue or liver roan; (3) Tricolor: black and white or liver and white with tan markings, usually found on eyebrows, cheeks, inside of ears and under the tail. Any white portion of the coat may be flecked with ticking. Off colors such as lemon, red or orange are not to place.





## Gait

..front and rear assemblies must be equivalent in angulation and muscular development for the gait to be smooth and effortless.

- Shoulders which are well laid-back to permit a long stride are just as essential as the excellent rear quarters that provide driving power.
- Seen from the side, the Springer exhibits a long, ground-covering stride and carries a firm back, with no tendency to dip, roach or roll from side to side.



## Gait

From the front, the legs swing forward in a free and easy manner. Elbows have free action from the shoulders, and the legs show no tendency to cross or interfere. From behind, the rear legs reach well under the body, following on a line with the forelegs. As speed increases, there is a natural tendency for the legs to converge toward a center line of travel.



Long, ground covering, matched strides are very important. A dog with poor reach cannot get his forepaw as far as his chin. A 4-6 inch stride indicates faulty shoulders.

## Gait

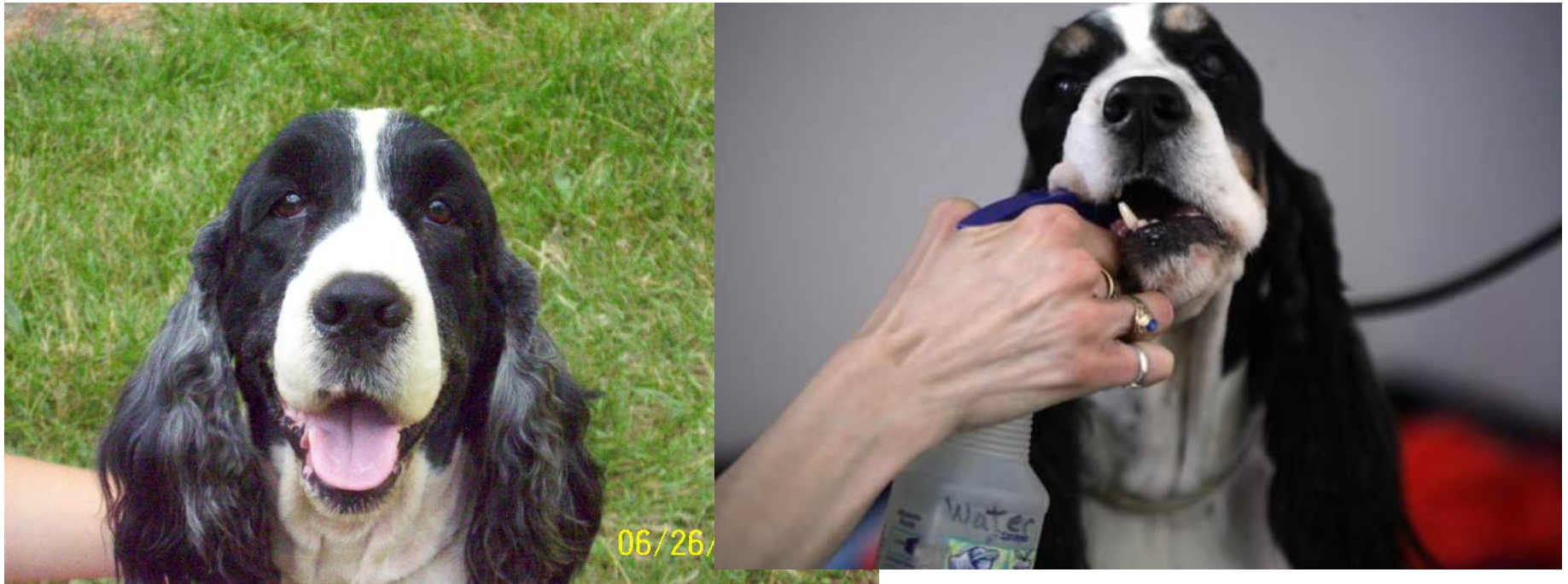
Clean lines from shoulder to foot and hip through the hock to the low finishing extended pad are illustrated here. Wide fronts and single tracking are to be avoided.





## Temperament

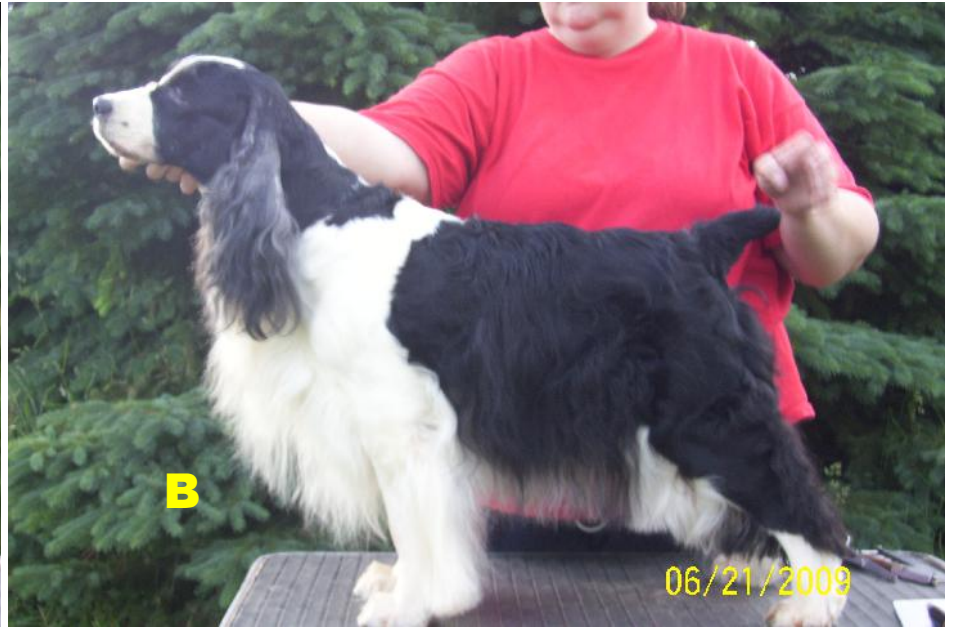
The typical Springer is friendly, eager to please, quick to learn and willing to obey. In the show ring, he should exhibit poise and attentiveness and permit himself to be examined by the judge without resentment or cringing.



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Practice Judging Place 1-4



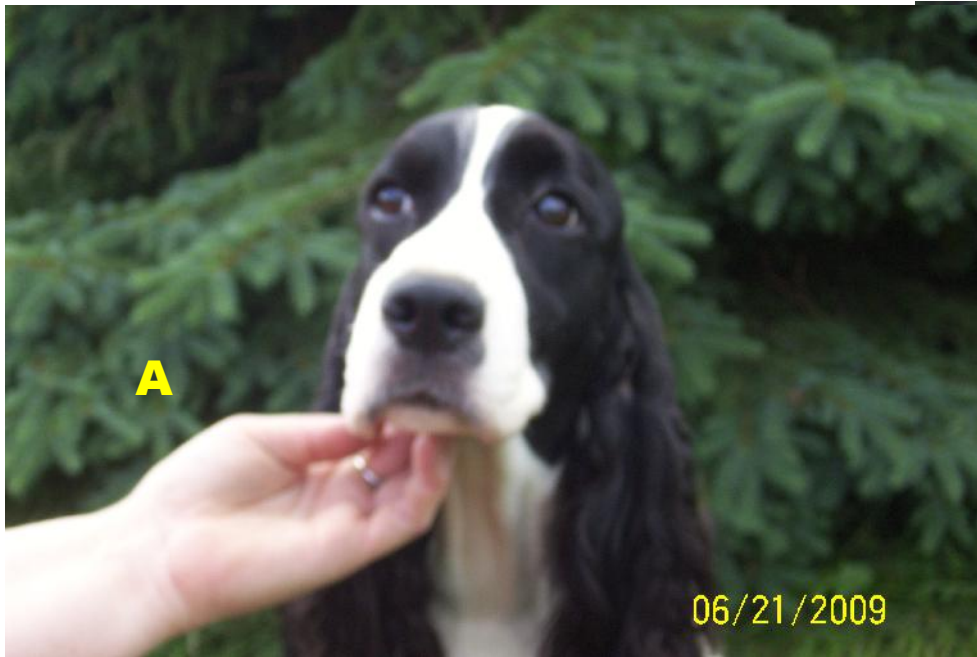




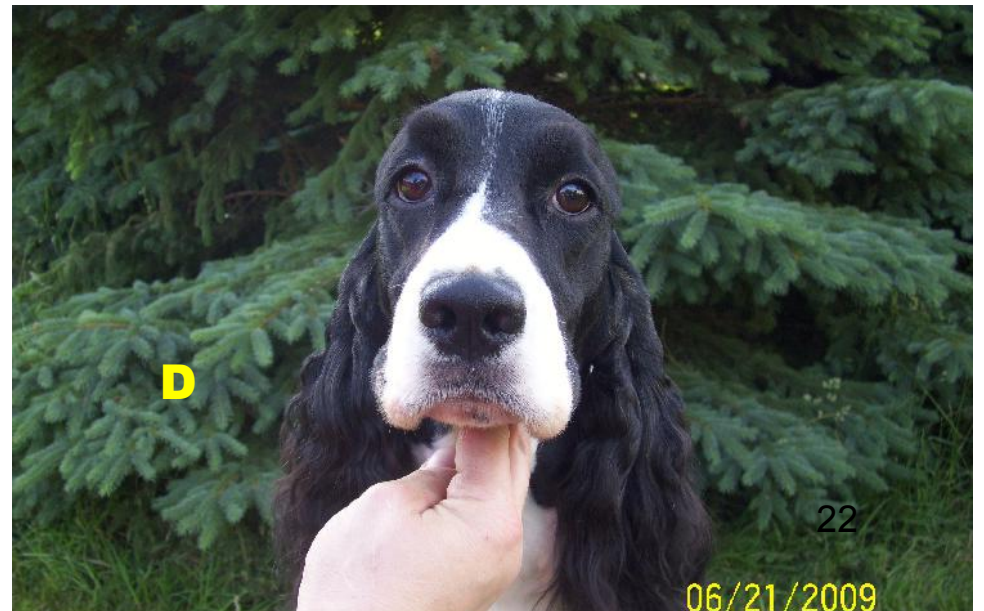
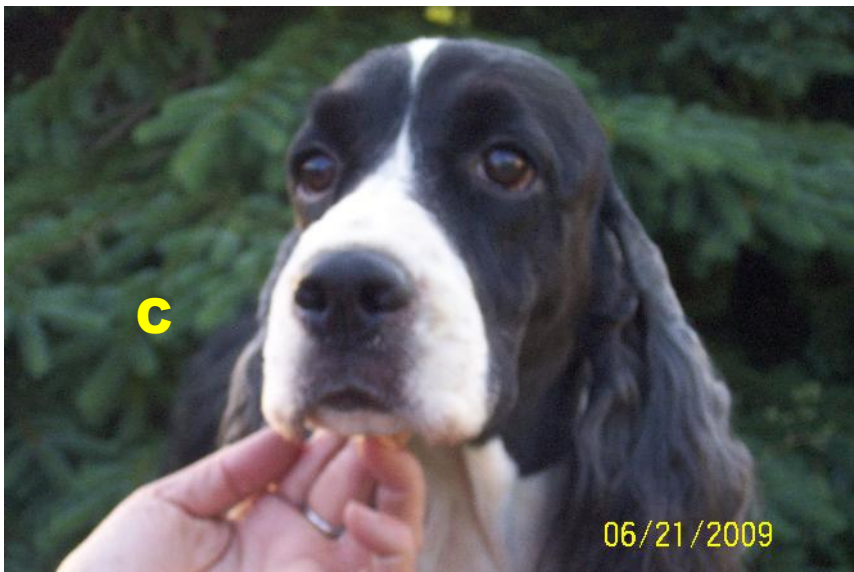
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