

THE FIELD SPANIEL

PRESENTED BY THE

FIELD SPANIEL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

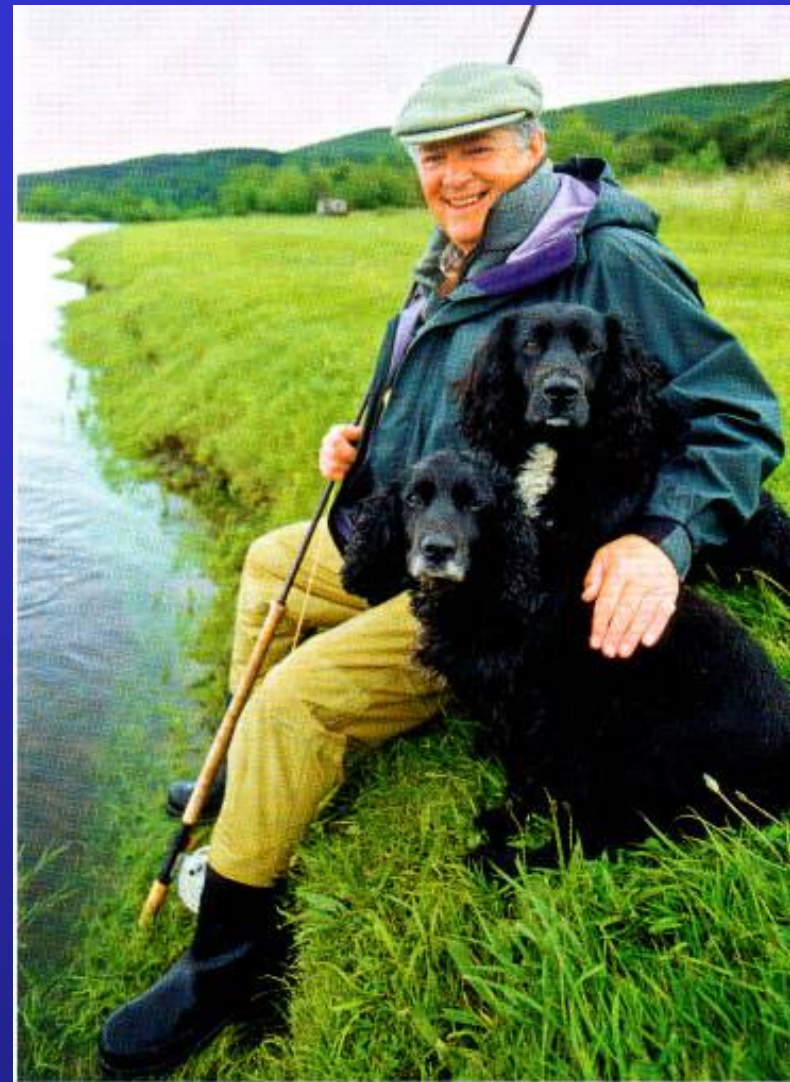
Study Edition

**In the the discussion of the Standard the is
presented in Black Print Standard**

**Material from the Illustrated Standard Text
or comments are in Green**

THE GENTLEMAN'S HUNTER

Bred for field work first and foremost. The Field Spaniel in the 1800's was the Landed Gentry's personal hunting dog.



TODAY'S FIELD SPANIEL

- Is a Family Companion
 - Is a Hunting Companion
 - Is a Show Dog
 - Is a Performance Competitor
 - Is a Therapy and Service Dog

IS A DOG FOR ALL REASONS AND SEASONS

The Field is truly a dog for all Reasons and Seasons



Photo by Alyssia



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FIELD SPANIEL

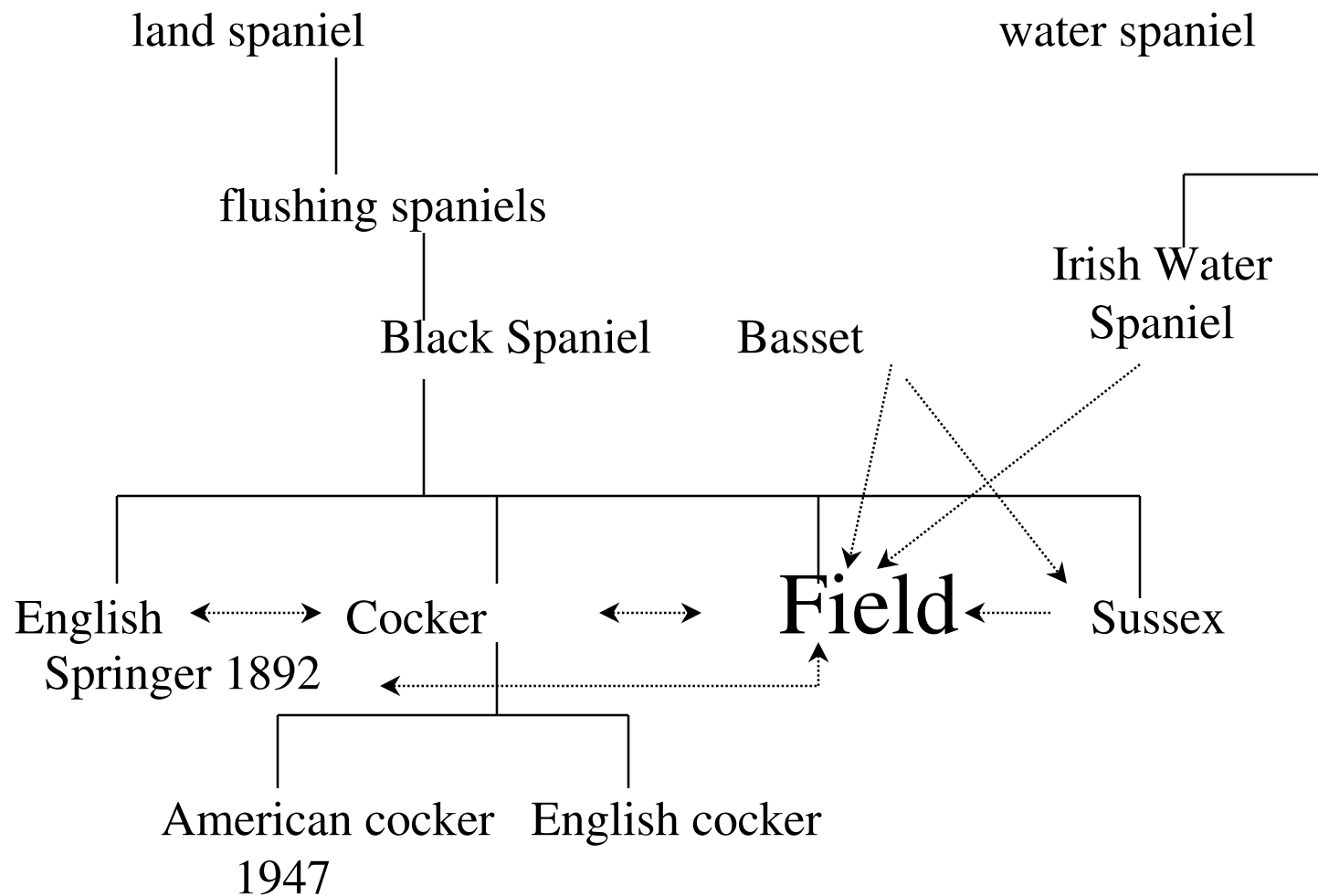
BEFORE THE BREEDS



Spaniels in the early part of the 19th century were divided into land & water spaniels

The history of the Field Spaniel basically goes back to the land spaniel of this time

A PROPOSED FAMILY TREE OF THE FIELD SPANIEL



THE ORIGINAL FIELD SPANIEL

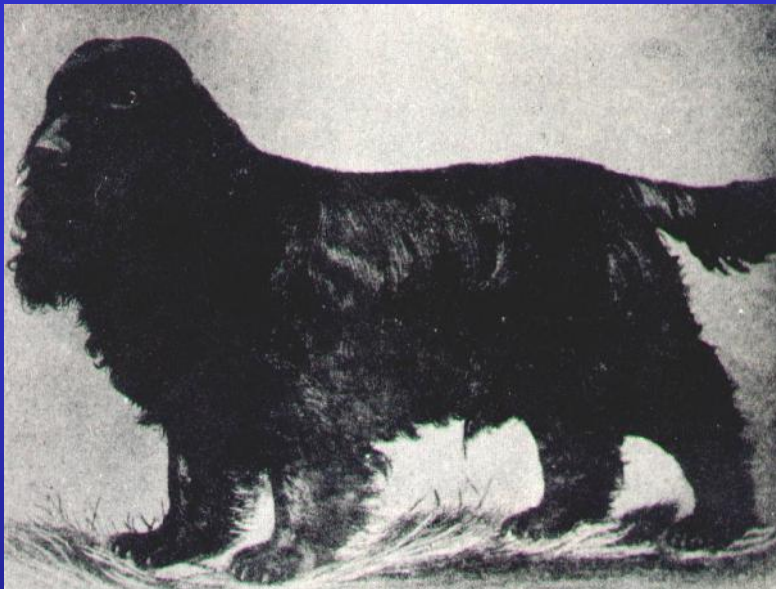
By the mid 1800's a large solid black spaniel had been developed. It was during this period that the first dog shows took place. The development of the Black Spaniel may well have been an attempt to "Dazzle" the judges of these early exhibitions.



(Left) The black Field Spaniel Brush 7371, whelped 1876, bred by Dr Boulton, owned by W Gillett. *(Centre)* His dam, Nellie 2221, breeder Dr Boulton, the most dominant matron in early pedigrees, her own breeding was unknown. *(Top right)* Ladybird, a Cocker of the early 1870's. From Stonehenge. Dogs of the British Isles.

“AFTER BREAKFAST”

After 1885 the field was distinguished from the cocker on the basis of weight.



Cocker - Obo

Field - Bustler

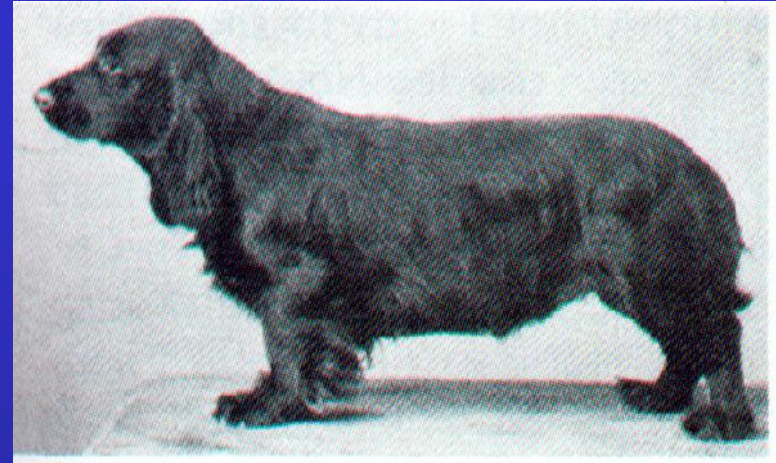


solid color dogs over 25 lbs. were Fields and those under Cocker. Thus the saying:

“Before A Hearty English Breakfast a Cocker, after a Field”

THE "CATERPILLAR" DOG

In the late part of the 1800's & early 1900's Field fanciers wanted something even more unique for the show ring At this time Sussex & Basset were introduced into the Field Spaniel breeding program The result was low & long from this came the pejorative



“THE CATERPILLAR DOG”

DOWNFALL OF THE FIELD SPANIEL

The resulting dogs were so grotesque and unusable in the field that the breed fell into disfavor. Even after attempts were made to bring the Field back to what it had been the breed's popularity was never regained.



THE FIELD SPANIELS BEGINNINGS IN AMERICA

First registered by AKC in 1894 the Field was used as a hunting dog. By 1909 the 1st show champion had been made. The last was finished in 1916 as the breed lost its popularity.

By the 1930's the Field Spaniel for all intents and purposes had died out in America

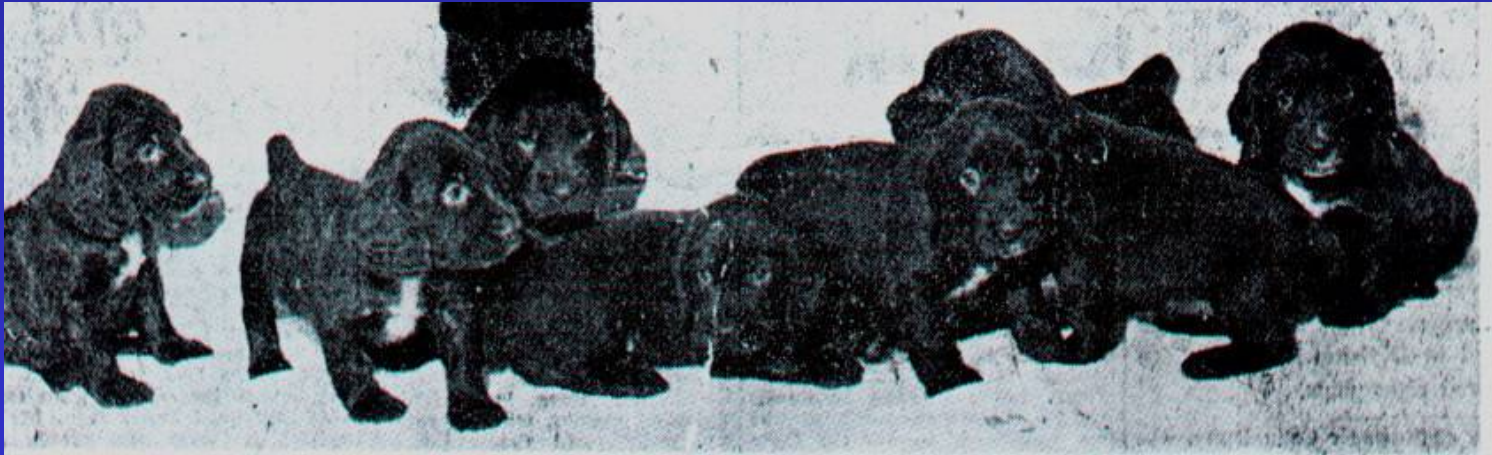


WORLD WAR 2 AND ITS AFTERMATH

- Due World War II field spaniel numbers fell to an all time low throughout the world
- The result was that all of today's Fields are descended from only **4 bitches & 1 male** alive during the period immediately following the war
- Due to these low numbers, the Kennel Club of Great Britain allowed, in 1958, some inter-breeding with English Springer Spaniels. These crosses are known and are noted in Field Spaniel pedigrees

ENGLISH DOGS OF THE 1960'S

In 1967 there were 22 Field Spaniels in Great Britain and the litter that would contain the dogs that would reintroduce the field to the US was born.



This litter was only the 3rd to have been born in England between 1962 and 1967.

ENGLISH DOGS OF THE LATE 70'S



Top Fields of the late 1970's

On the left ShCh Mittina Cleo considered the finest bitch of her time and the right ShCh Adamant of Westacres an very important foundation sire

RETURN TO THE NEW WORLD

In 1967 **3 Fields** were imported to the US from England. **2 dogs & 1 bitch** who were traded for 2 American Cockers

Thus the Field Spaniel was reestablished in the US.



Instrumental to the reintroduction were **Dick & Doris Squier** who kept one dog & the bitch and **Carl Tuttle** who took the other male.

AFTER THE 60'S

In the early 1970's a number of Fields were imported to the US. Foremost among these was a black bitch rescued, from a humane society in Canada, by Dick Squier This rescue brought the black Field back to the US Since then a number of influential imports have been made from England



Whitelench Hoity Toity

FIELDS IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY

Today the Field Spaniel is well and alive in the United States and

Canada, though the breed is still a rare one.

It is estimated that the total population is around

1000 to 2000. This figure includes

not only dogs in competition but also pet and geriatric Field Spaniels.



A FIELD SPANIEL PEDIGREE

This is a pedigree of an American dog who lived from 1975 to 1988. Note the gene pool is really a “puddle.” In the 5th generation there are only 10 individual dogs and 1 is an English Springer Spaniel

Old Pedigree Showing the Limited Gene pool of the Field Spaniel.
Even into the 1970's the Field Spaniel gene pool was very limited.
This dog lived from 1975 to 1988

SIRE -
KARE-DAWN'S KID CURRY LV

CH-SQUIER'S PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

SQUIER'S LILIBET

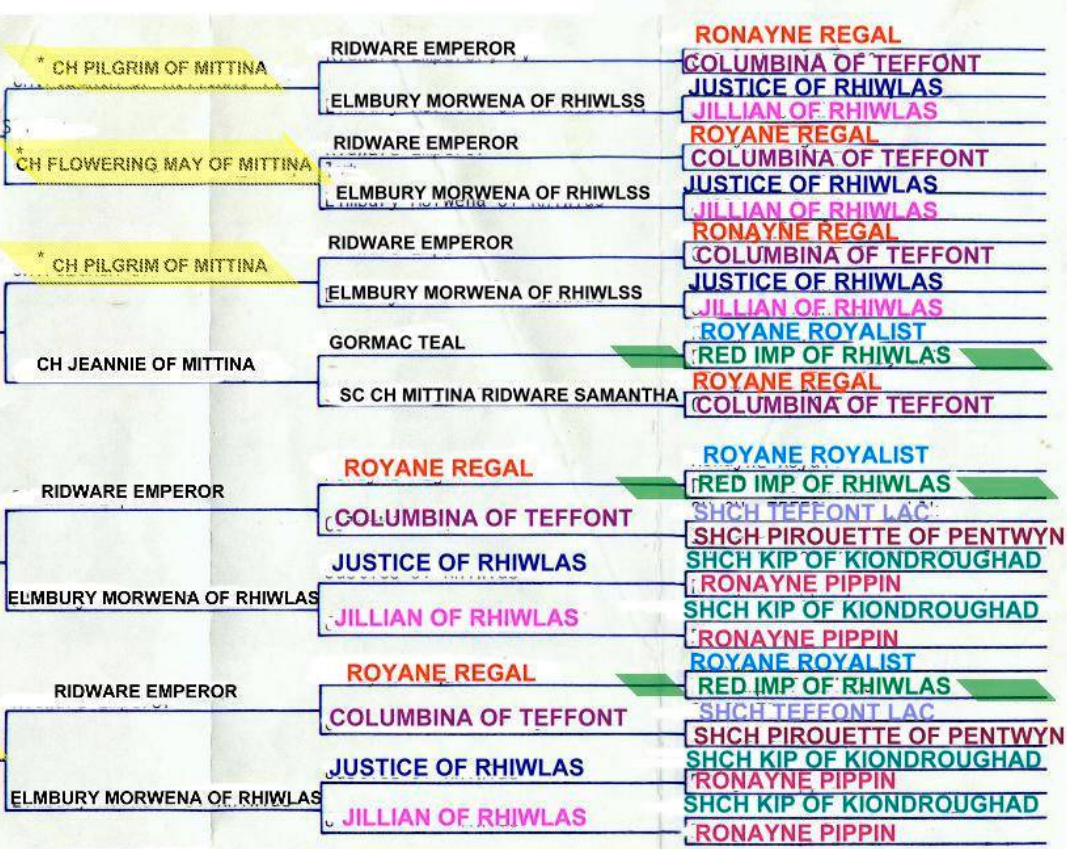
PEDIGREE OF -
CH KARE-DAWN'S GENERAL SHERMAN

BREED - Field Spaniel
COLOR - Liver, Dark
WHELPED - December 8, 1975
SEX - Male

DAM -
CH SQUIER'S MAYFLOWER LV

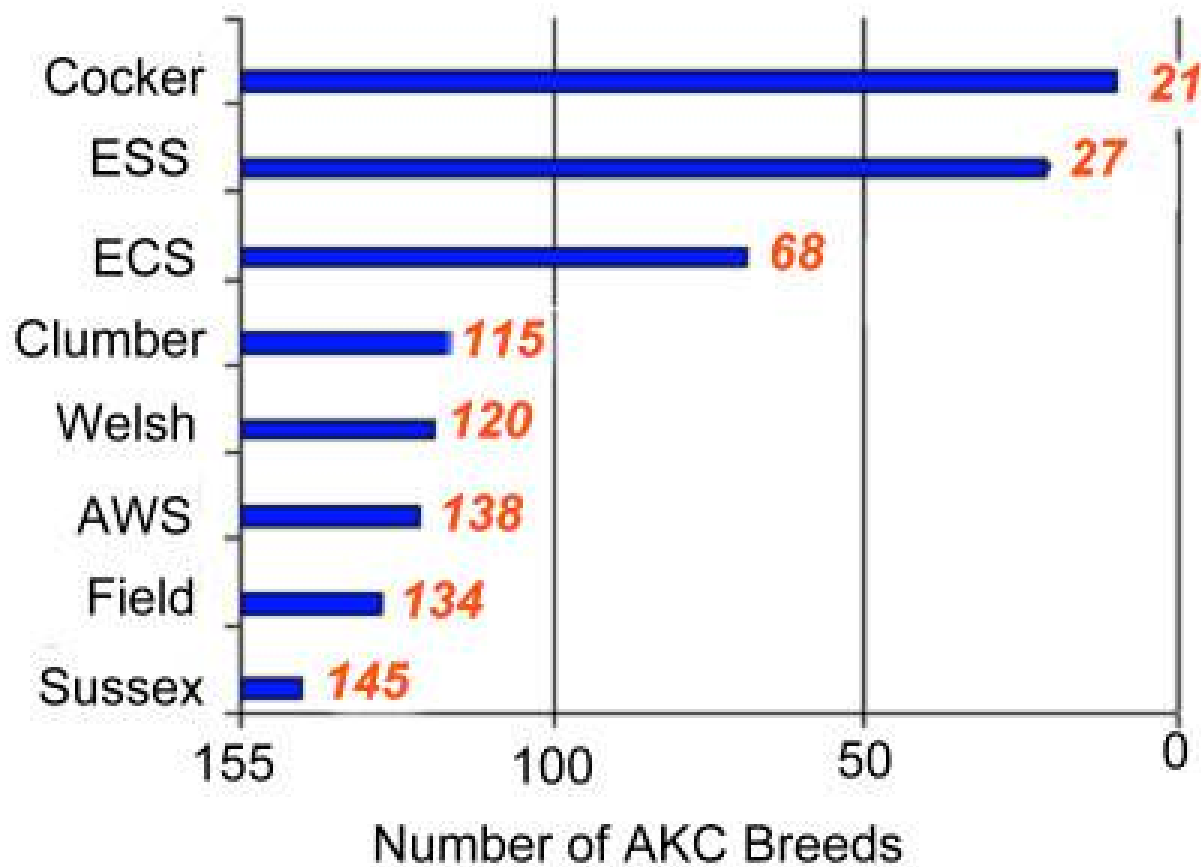
Original English Imports *

Interbred with Springer **



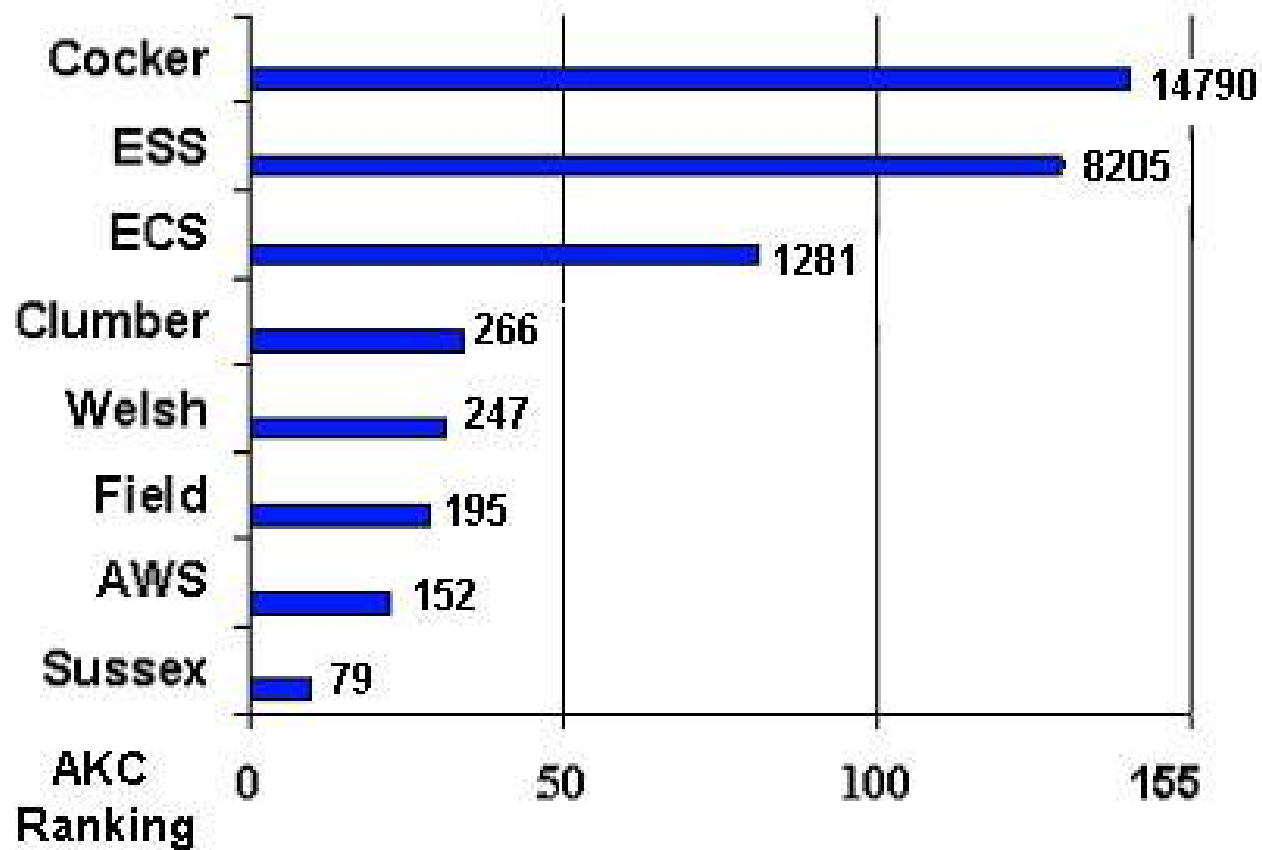
HOW RARE IS THE FIELD SPANIEL

Breed Registration Rankings 2008



HOW RARE IS THE FIELD SPANIEL

Individual Registrations 2006

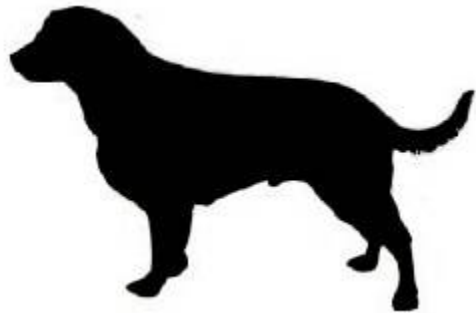


JUDGING THE FIELD SPANIEL

**IN THE
FIELD SPANIEL STANDARD
THERE ARE
NO DISQUALIFICATIONS**

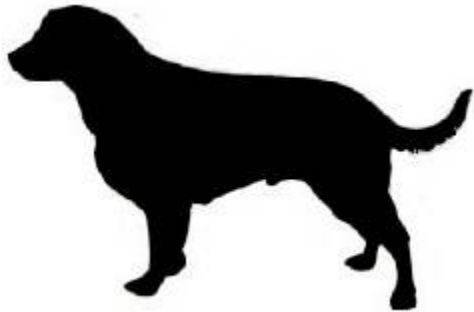
THERE ARE FEW LISTED FAULTS IN
THE FIELD SPANIEL STANDARD
AS IT IS A TRULY DESCRIPTIVE STANDARD
AND RELIES ON -YOU- THE JUDGE
TO FIND THE DOG IT DESCRIBES SO WELL

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO
REMEMBER
WHEN JUDGING THE FIELD SPANIEL THAT
“SYMMETRY, GAIT,
ATTITUDE AND PURPOSE
ARE MORE IMPORTANT
THAN ANY ONE PART”



WHO IS WHO





American Water Spaniel



Clumber Spaniel



English Cocker

WHO IS WHO



Field Spaniel



English Springer Spaniel



Boykin Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



Sussex Spaniel

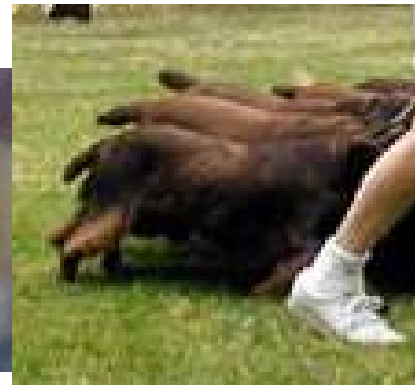


Welsh Springer Spaniel

WHEN JUDGING THE FIELD SPANIEL



LOOK AT THE WHOLE DOG NOT JUST BITS AND PIECES
**To emphasize one attribute at the expense of another does
the breed a disservice**



GENERAL APPEARANCE

- **A well balanced substantial - hunter companion**
- **Medium size**
- **Built for activity and endurance in heavy cover and water**





- **The Field Spaniel has a noble carriage and a proud, but docile attitude**

•Is sound and free moving





He is a dog in which no single feature should stand out. It is the combination of his symmetry, gait, attitude and purpose that makes him a Field Spaniel



SIZE, PROPORTION AND SUBSTANCE

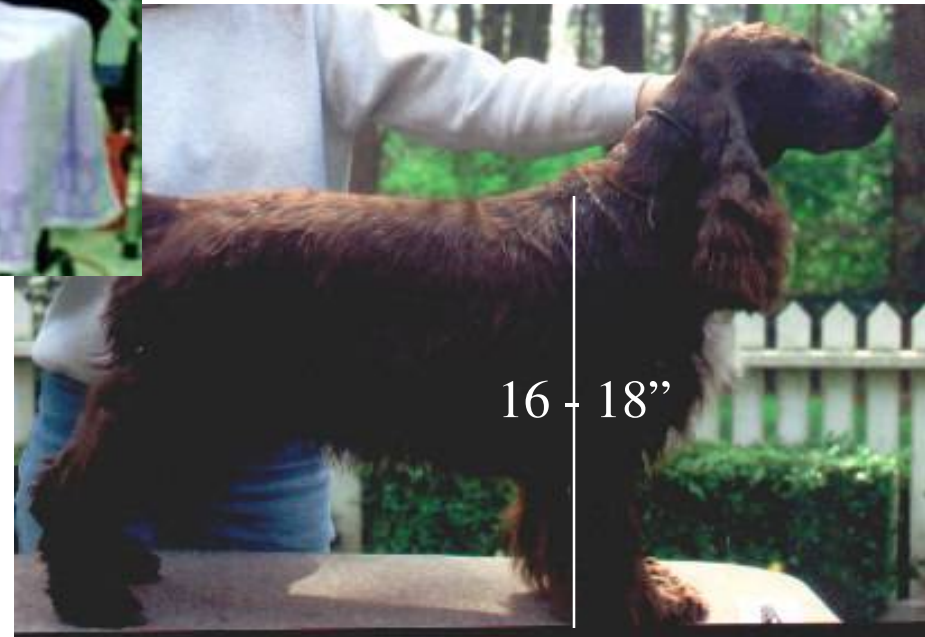
Balance between these three components is essential.

- The Field is a medium sized spaniel.**
- The Field is moderate in length - slightly longer than tall.**
- The front and rear assembly must match.**
- The front should never appear heavier than the rear.**
- The impression of bone should be neither too little or too much for the overall body.**

SIZE

MALES

IDEAL 18"



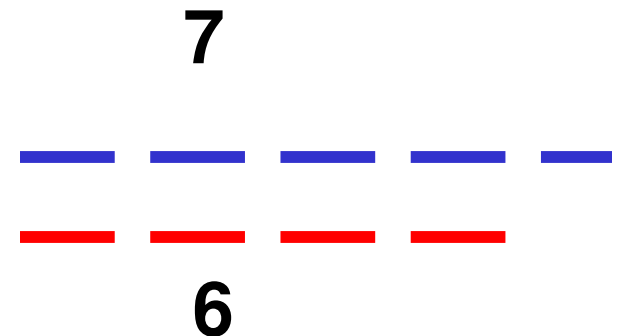
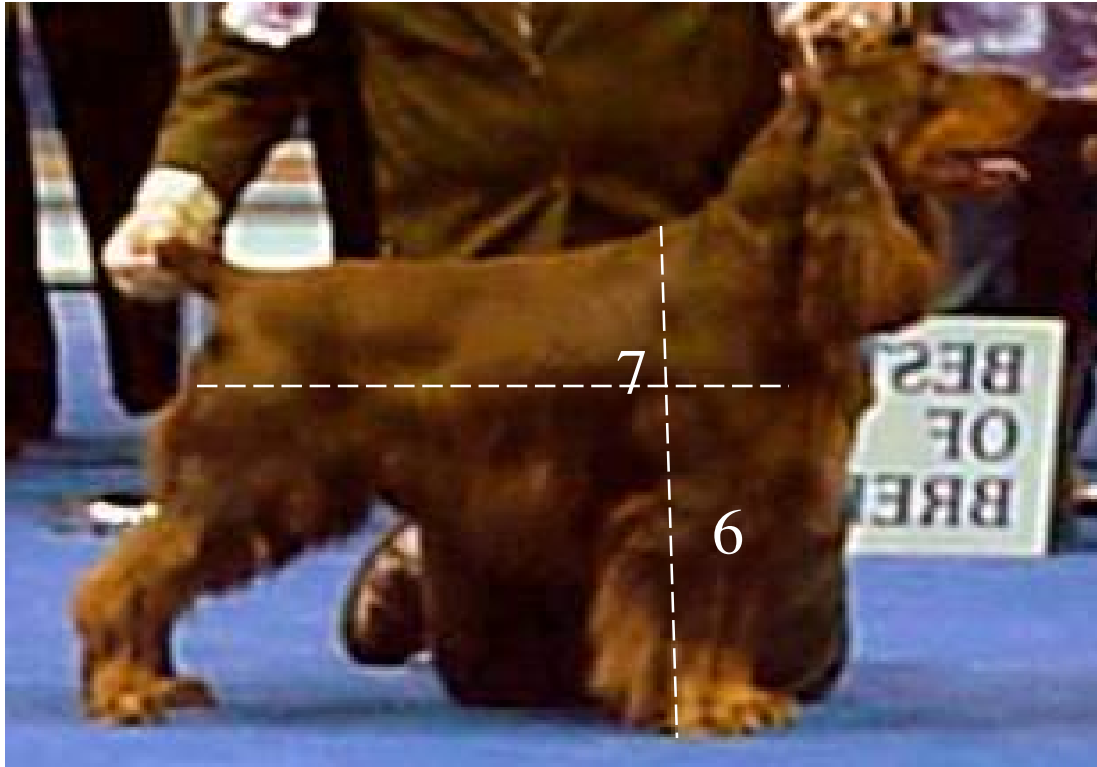
FEMALES

IDEAL 17"

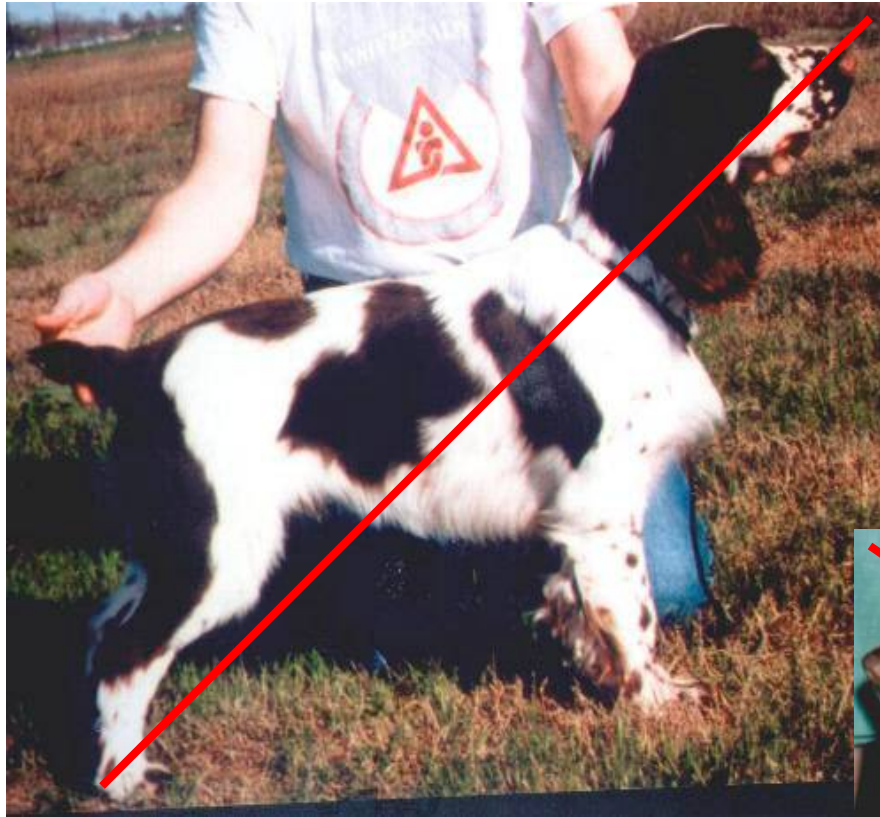
- An one inch deviation either way is acceptable.
Mature weight is 40 - 55 lbs...

PROPORTION

- A well balanced dog somewhat longer than tall

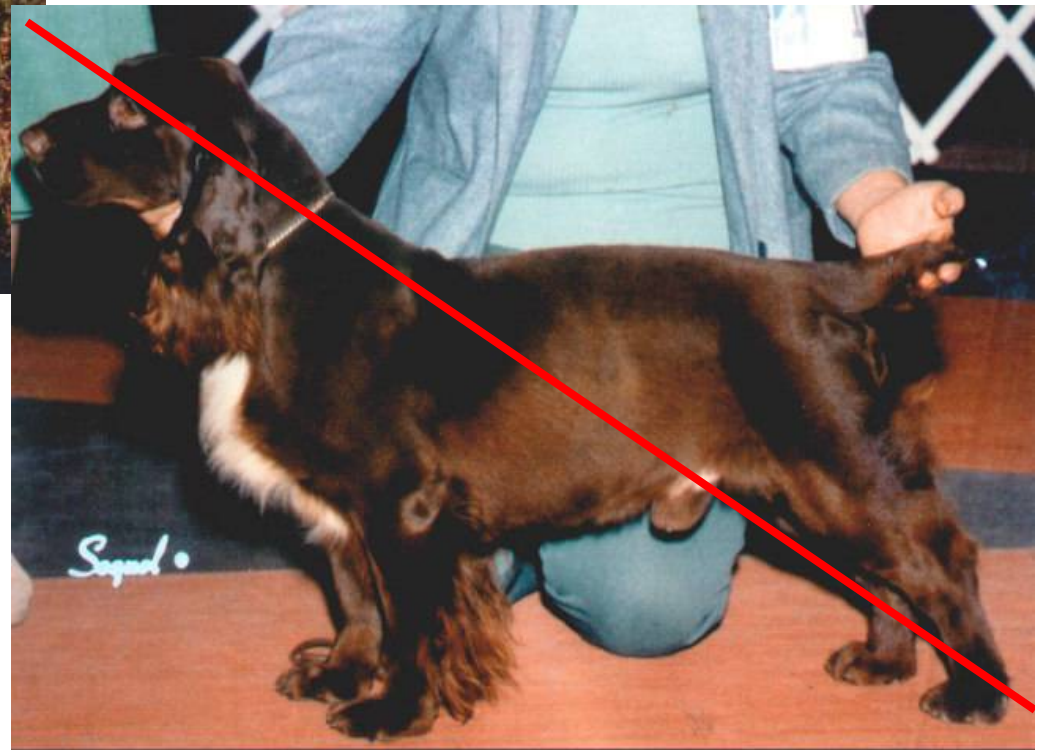


- Ratio length to height **approximately 7 to 6**. Length measuring from foremost point of shoulder to rearmost point of buttocks



The field should be well up on leg but not so much as to be mistaken for an odd-looking English Springer

He should not be too short on leg or too long as this discloses his Sussex and/or Basset ancestry



The Field generally matures slowly and will be 3 to 5 years old before he is filled out.

Most Fields finish at a young age and are not seen again in competition after they are mature.

Truly mature Fields are not common in the ring though more are beginning to be seen in Competition





- **Solidly built**
- **Moderate bone**
- **Firm smooth, hard muscles as befits a hunting dog**

SUBSTANCE

**NOT
Coarse
Weedy or
Insubstantial**

HEAD and EXPRESSION

The head convey's the impression of

- High breeding,
- Character
- Nobility
- It must be in proportion to the size of the dog.



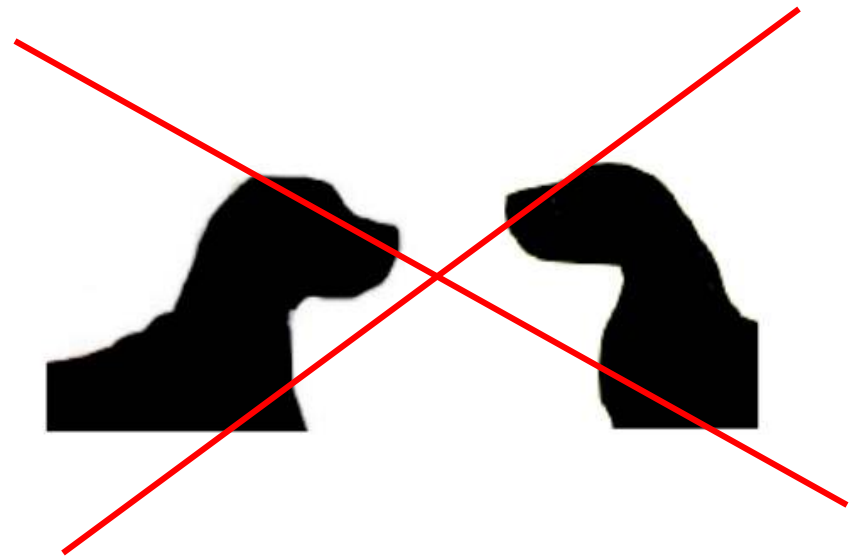


The Field head is distinctive but it **IS NOT** a head breed do not become a head hunter

as symmetry, gait, attitude and purpose are more important than any one part of the dog

However the Field head is very different than that of other spaniel breeds and there should never be a doubt that one is looking at a Field Spaniel. Overly large or massive heads as well as those too small for the size of the dog are incorrect.

The breed has a distinctive head and it should not look like that of an English Springer or an English Cocker



- **Expression is**
grave
gentle
intelligent.



A true soft spaniel look that is grave, gentle and intelligent, but never dull, hard, staring or fearful

EYES

- **Eyes are almond in shape, open and of medium size**



Never round, tricorn or diamond shape.

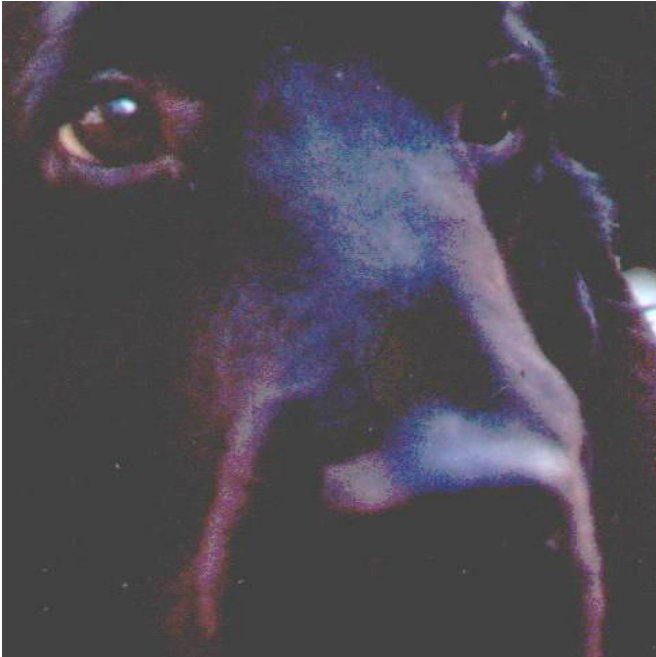
They are not bulging or protruding as this can lead to injury in the field .

- **They are set moderately wide and deep with tight lids showing no haw.**



An eye with a haw can suffer injury in the field as debris can collect in the eye and scratch or puncture it.

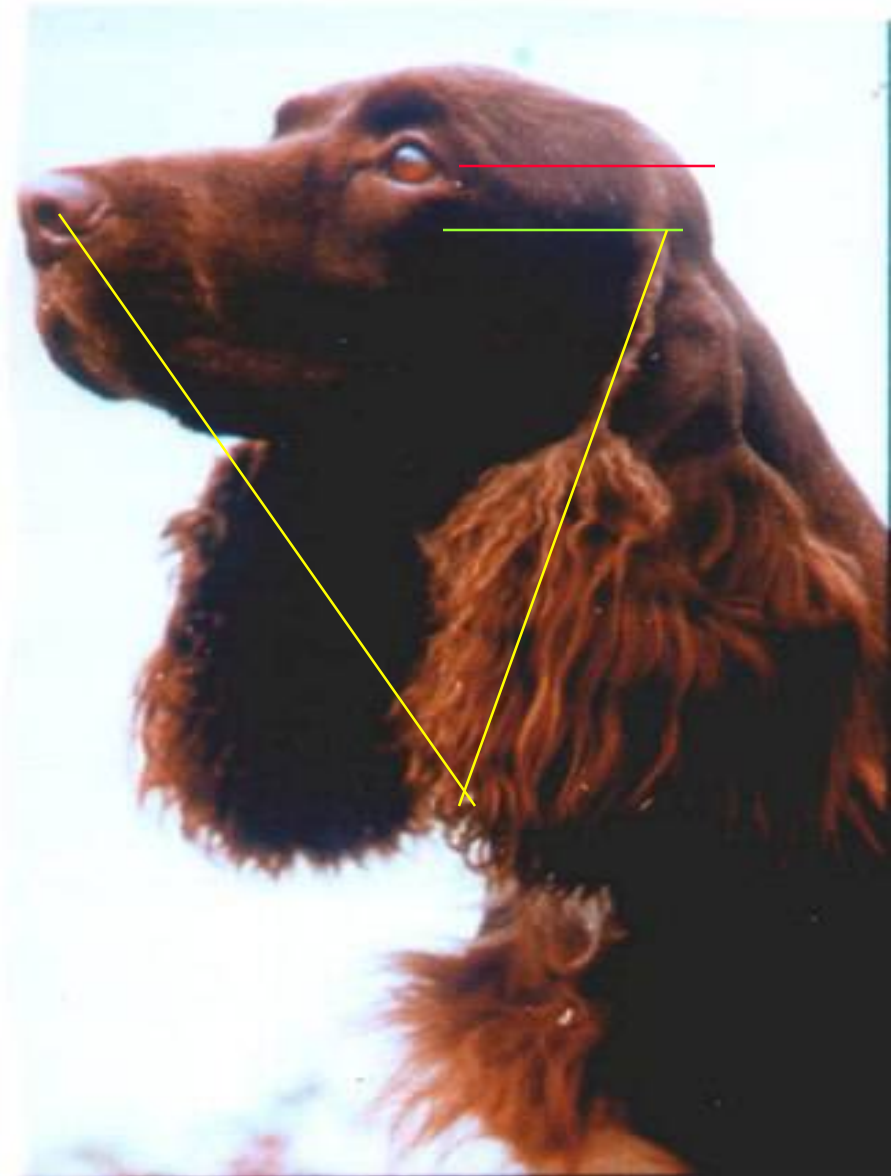
- Color: dark hazel to dark brown.**
- Rims comparable to nose in color**



A dark eye is preferred. A light or yellow eye is to be avoided. Puppies may have a lighter eye which will darken with age

EARS

- Ears are moderately long and wide (leather reaching the end of the muzzle)
The ears do not wrap around the muzzle.





- They are set on slightly below eye level

When the dog is at attention the ears may be raised above eye level.

- **Leather is moderately heavy, supple & rounded at the tip**

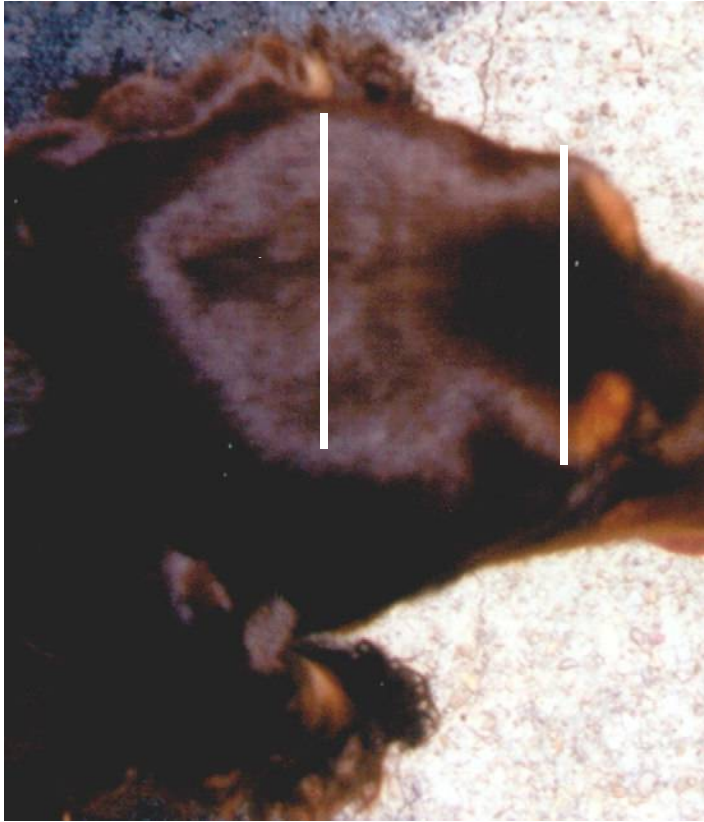
The tip should be round never triangular

- **Ears are pendulous, hanging close to the head; rolled and well feathered**

An inch or two is “well feathered” More than that is excessive and is detrimental to a dog that hunts.



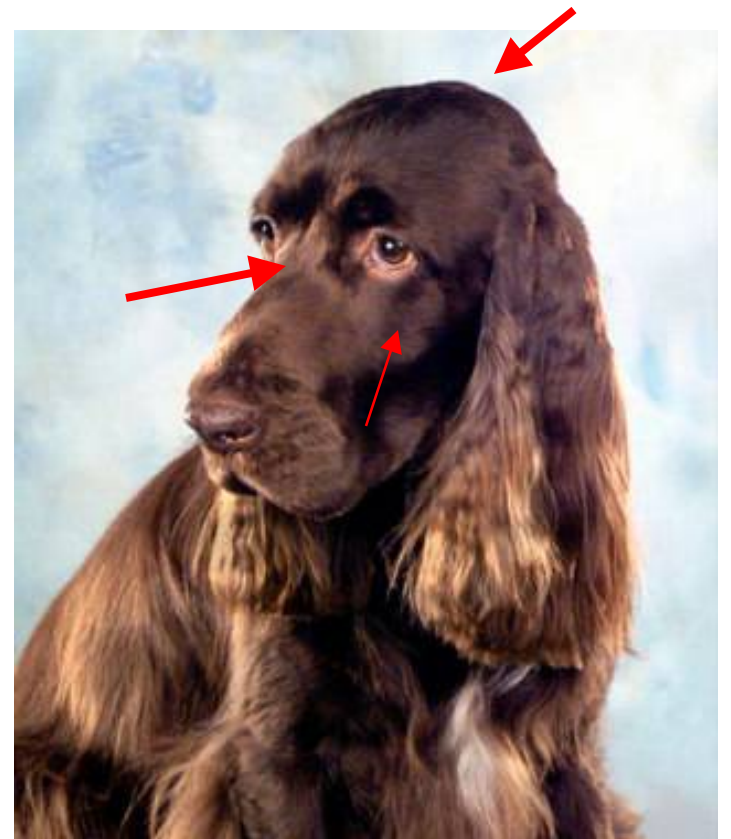
SKULL



- **The crown is slightly wider at the back than at the brow**

- **And is lightly arched laterally**

- **The occiput is distinct and rounded.**
- **The brows are slightly raised.**
- **The stop is moderate, but well defined by the brows.**
 - **The face is chiseled beneath the eyes**



- **Sides and cheeks are straight and clean**





A black head, because of its color absorbs light and will often lose detail and look plain and dowdy



MUZZLE

- **Strong, long and lean, neither snipey or squarely cut.**
- **Jaws are level**
- **In profile, the lower plane curves gradually from the nose to the throat.**



- **Nasal bone is straight and slightly divergent from parallel, sloping downward toward the nose from the plane of the top skull**





Often a Field will have a bit of a roman nose. Many feel that this gives the dog an even more aristocratic look



The muzzle length should be equal to or slightly longer than the skull. A short or snipey muzzle destroys the whole appearance of the distinctive Field head. So too, does a squared off muzzle

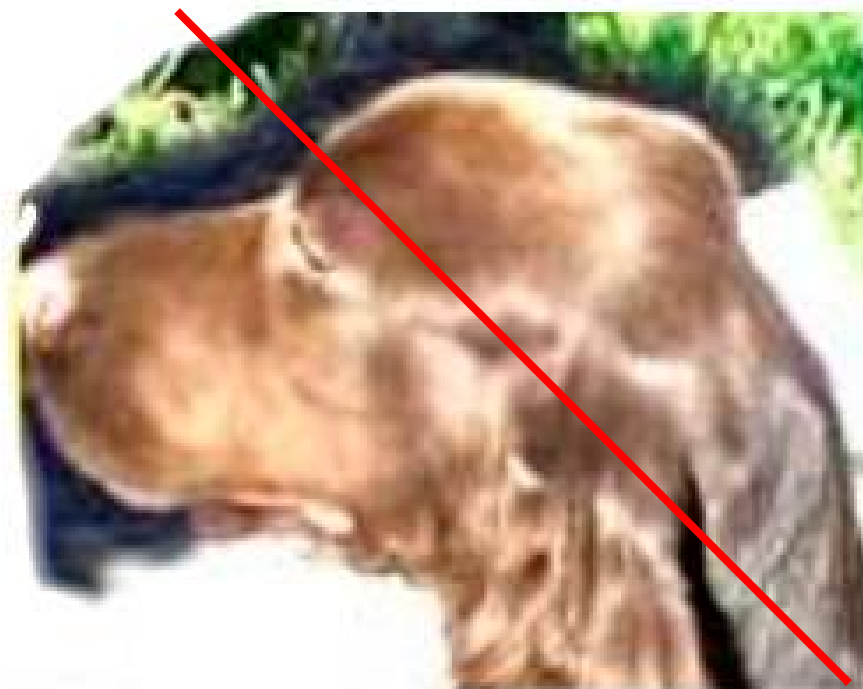
The Field's muzzle is not only beautiful but functional. Length for scenting and retrieving ability. Strength for picking up game.

LIPS



- **Lips are close fitting, clean and sufficiently deep to cover the lower jaw without being pendulous**

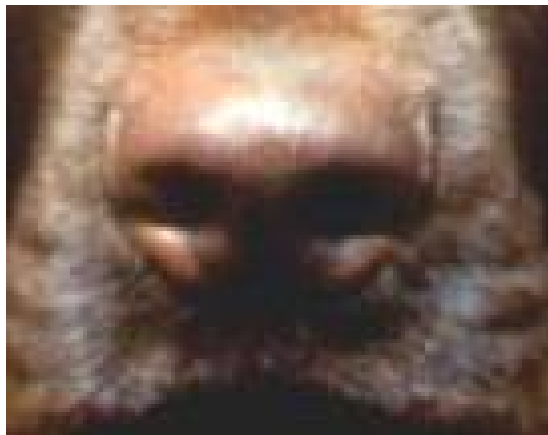
The lips should not be squared off as is seen in some of the other spaniels.



Heavy flews are undesirable as they can be an indication of a wet mouth which is a real fault in a bird dog.

NOSE

- **Large fleshy and well developed with open nostrils**



- **Set on as an extension of the muzzle**



- **Color: solid; light to dark brown or black as befits the color of the coat**

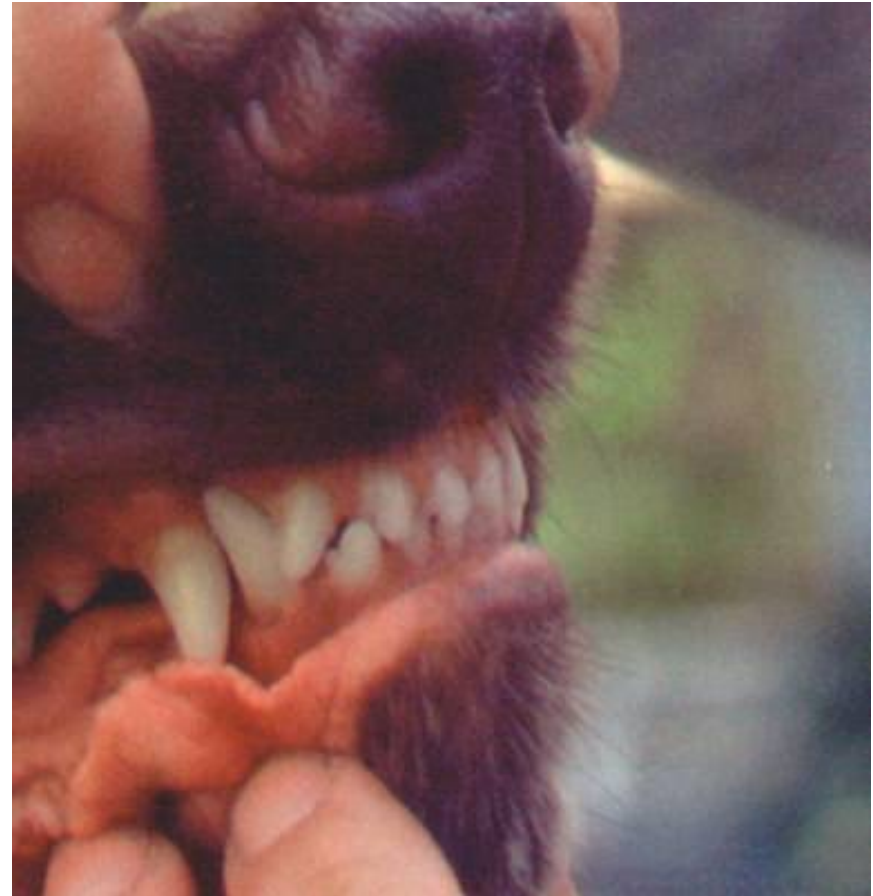
A bi-colored or butterfly nose is undesirable

A tight, small and/ or pushed in nose is not correct in a breed that uses its nose as does the Field

BITE

- **Scissors or level, with complete dentition**
- **Scissors preferred**

A dog with overall type and a bite where the incisors are not perfect but the canines are correctly placed should not be judged lower than an animal with a perfect bite but of less overall quality.



Crooked and dropped incisors occur but should not cause concern, as long as the canines are correctly positioned.

These misalignments are often the result of the Field's termite habits. Underbites do occur and a few years ago were fairly common in the breed. This is not considered a serious fault, ***IF*** it occurs as a reverse scissors and the dog's bite is not wry or severely undershot.



NECK & SKIN

- Long, strong and *slightly* arched
- Clean and well set into the shoulders

The neck should be long and strong enough to easily pick up and retrieve game. It should never be swan like, but should be *slightly* arched. This adds to the aristocratic appearance of the Field Spaniel



A short neck and lumpy shoulders make the forequarters appear top heavy as though the dog is about to tip over on his nose and makes picking up game whether it be fur or feather difficult.

Skin should be loose enough to roll so as not to tear when caught in briars but not so loose so that it hangs in folds

A Dewlap is undesirable



TOPLINE

- The neck slopes smoothly into the withers;
- The back is level, well muscled, firm and strong

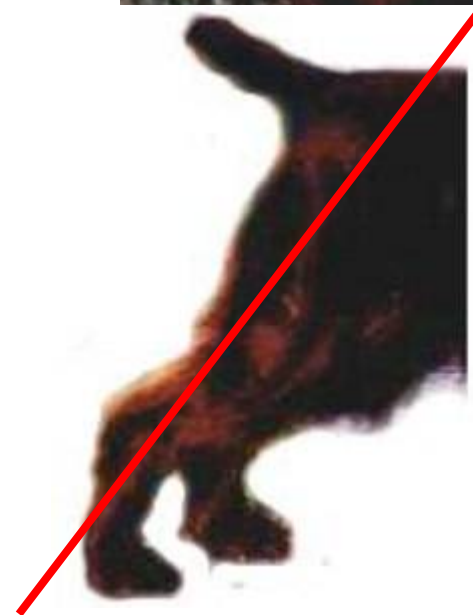
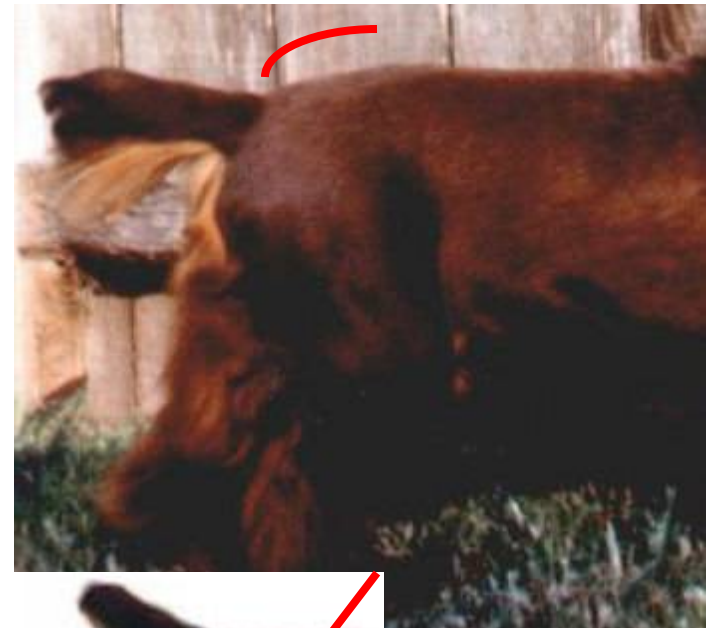
The Field's back should be *level*. He must not have a dip or a roach in the topline. A slope may indicate straight shoulders, an overangulated stifle or a second thigh that is too long



The Field should *never* be shown sloping from the withers to the rump. The Field *is not* a Cocker or English Springer

- The croup is short and gently rounded

**The croup *is not* flat;
neither does it drop
like a ski slope.**



BODY

- The prosternum is prominent and well fleshed



One should *easily* be able to feel the prosternum. On dogs with sparse coat it may even be seen. It should never be lacking as it is an important component of a good front. A dog lacking a proper prosternum will not be able to perform in the field or in other athletic activities as well as one who is well endowed

- **The depth of chest is roughly equal to the length of the front leg from elbow to ground.**

The chest should extend to or below the elbows but must never interfere with front movement. This depth will give the impression that the body is suspended between the legs rather than set over the top of the legs.



The Field should be deep-bodied with only puppies, adolescents and immature adults showing any significant tuckup



A young dog whose chest has not dropped can resemble a body on stilts. This should rectify itself in time. The immature Field looks quite different from the mature adult



Pup



Teenager



Adult

- **The rib cage is long extending into a short loin.**

The Field's rib cage should be long, about 2/3rds of the body length. This gives heart and lung room for a dog who works in the field.

The loin should be short and strong.



- **Ribs are oval, well sprung and curve gently into a firm loin.**

The ribs are oval never round or barrel shaped. The latter will interfere with the front legs when the dog moves. The rib cage itself swells from behind the elbows and then curves gently into the short strong firm loin.



LOIN

- **Short**
- **Strong and deep**
- **Little or no tuck up**



The female may have a slightly longer loin than the male, so that during gestation the whelps have more growing room.

However, the loin should *never* be looong and weak in either sex. On the average not over 4 inches

From above the loin should be broad with just a slight waist visible



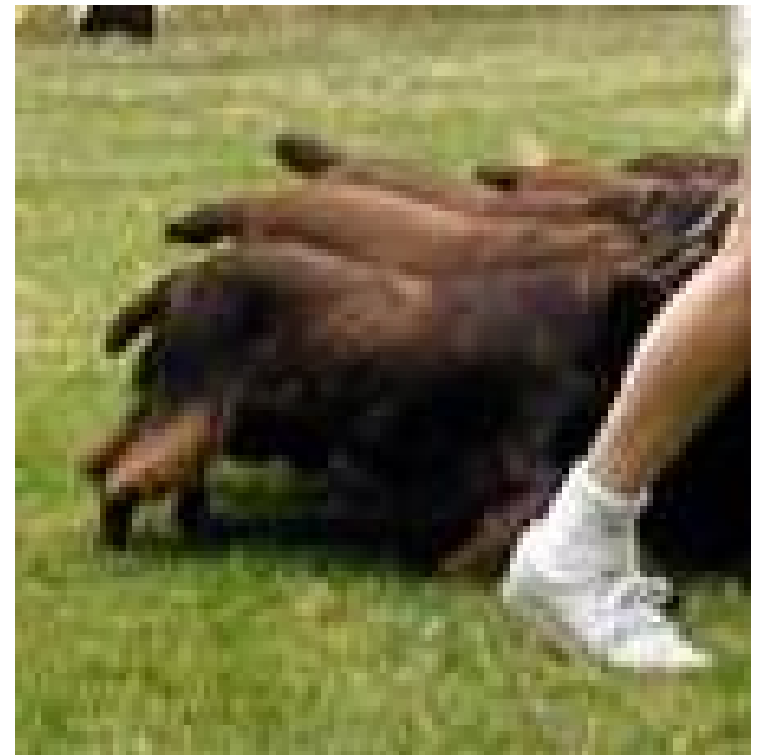


- Set on low, in line with the croup, just below the level of the back.
- At rest the tail slants downward

TAIL SET

The tail does not come straight off the back but follows the line of the croup.

It is naturally carried downward or level with the back.



- **Docked tails are preferred,**
- **Natural tails are allowed.**

Natural tails do occur and with the ban on docking in Europe more will probably appear in the show ring

This type of tail should not be penalized



•The tail, whether docked or natural length should be in balance with the overall dog



When docked 1/3 to 1/2 of the tail should be left

However, sometimes a tail will be short
One must remember that a docked tail is a man
made attribute and mistakes are often made,
resulting in a short tail



Tails may be trimmed or may have the feathering left on as a flag. As the fashion is for the trimmed tail, the tail with a flag will seldom be seen. Both are correct



TAIL CARRAGE

- When moving the tail is carried inclined slightly downward or level with the back, and with a *wagging* motion.



Tail carried *above the back* is incorrect

A gay tail as you are apt see in Cockers & English Springers is not correct. However, if the tail is above the back, just a little don't worry about it as it probably due to excitement
A tail that rises well above the level of the back destroys the ideal profile of the Field Spaniel and may well indicate that there is a structural problem in the rear.



← YES



NO →

Further the Field should never, never be presented with his tail jammed up in the air. An incorrectly carried tail takes away from the proper Field Spaniel look and can make a Field look like an English Springer or cocker in liver or black drag

FOREQUARTERS

- **Shoulder blades are oblique and sloping**

Straight shoulders are a serious fault for a dog used in the field. The shoulder blade should be about the same length as the upper arm in order to give the dog proper reach and prevent sidewinding, pounding and/or a hackney gait.

Muscling is smooth and there should be no over muscling (bulges) apparent when the hand travels over the body



- **The upper arm is close-set;**
- **Elbows are directly below the withers, and turn neither in nor out.**



There is good width of chest between the front legs 4 to 5 inches.

Leg tapers very little from elbow to foot adding to the overall solid look of the dog



- **Fore legs are straight and well boned to the feet**

In previous years the Basset-Queen Anne front was often seen. This thankfully has been pretty well bred out of Fields and if seen should be severely faulted. The field should have a straight front and be well up on leg.

- **Bone is flat**



PASTERNS & FEET

- Pasterns are moderately sloping but strong.



Some young Fields go down in the pasterns when teething but this is normally corrected by time time and good nutrition

When viewed from the side the legs are straight to the pastern. Starting at the pasterns there is a moderate slope to the foot. This acts as a shock absorber for the dog. Straight pasterns contribute to excessive concussion of the shoulders. The pastern should not be so sloped that it no longer provides the solid support required.

- Dewclaws *may* be removed Dewclaw removal is optional but is recommended for a dog who worked in the field as the can snag and cause serious injury

- Feet face forward and are *large*, rounded, and webbed with strong, well arched relatively tight toes and thick pads.



The feet should not turn in or out when viewed from the front. Toes should not spread and feet should not be flat.

The Fields' feet are one of their unique traits. They are large, larger in proportion to the dog than that of the other spaniels. The feet are hairy and the soft hair should be left between the toes when the dog is groomed. These feet make the Field the Hobbit of the spaniel world.

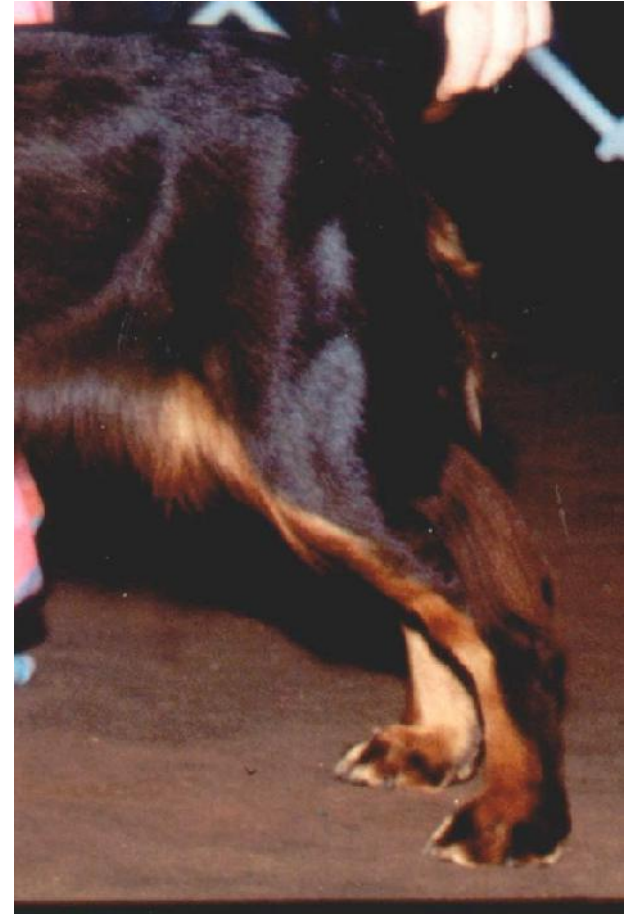


- There is short, soft hair between the toes.



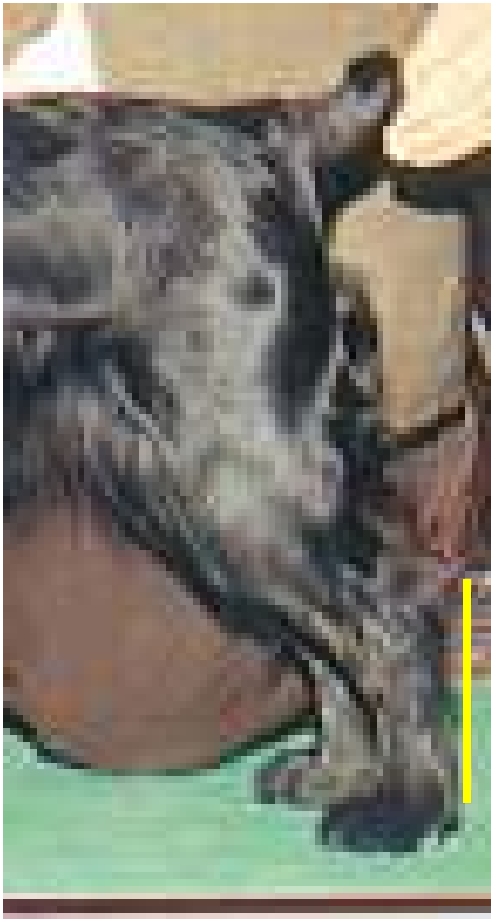
HINDQUARTERS

- **Strong and driving**
- **Hocks well let down**
- **Hips moderately broad and muscular**
- **Stifles and hocks only moderately bent.**

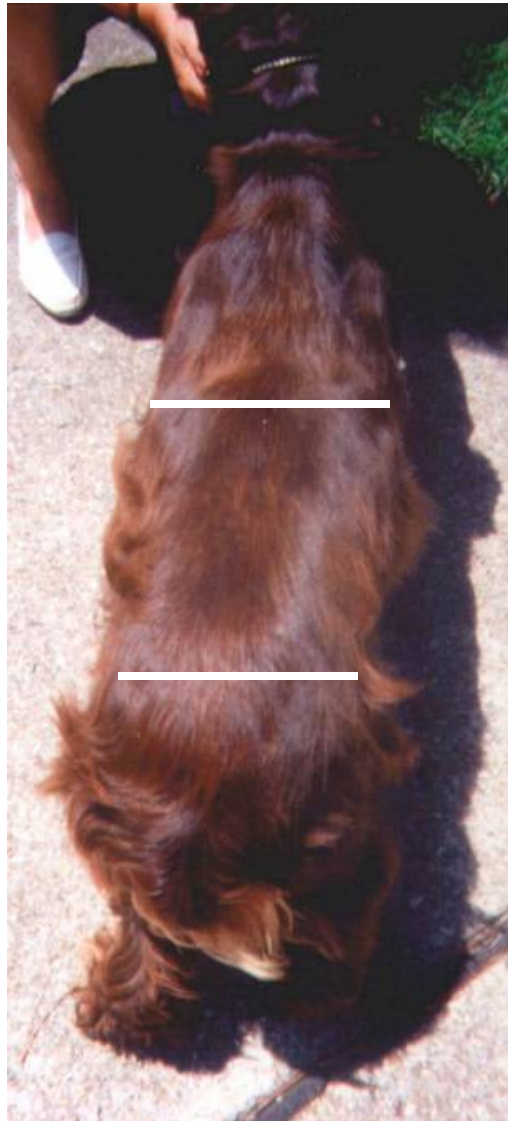
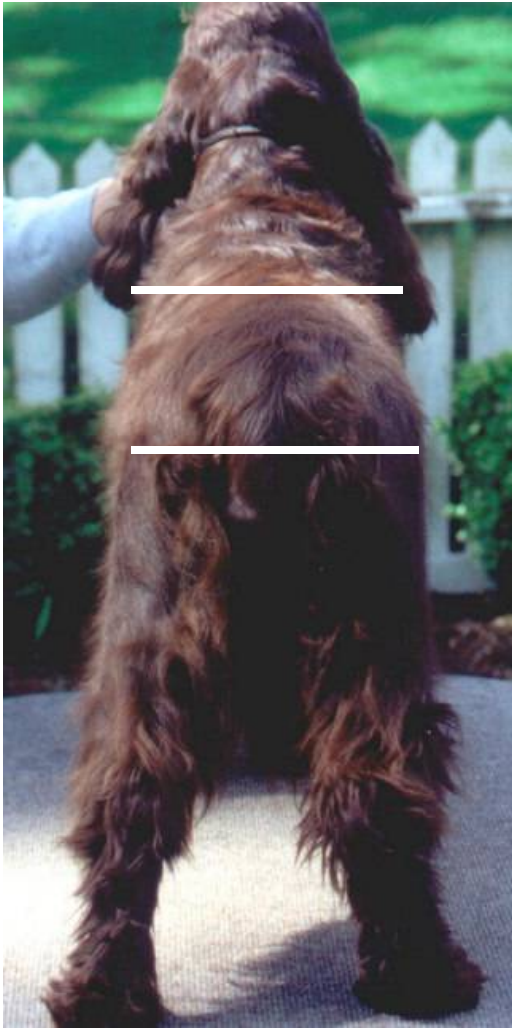


The hindquarters should immediately convey the impression of great strength as they propel the body in movement.





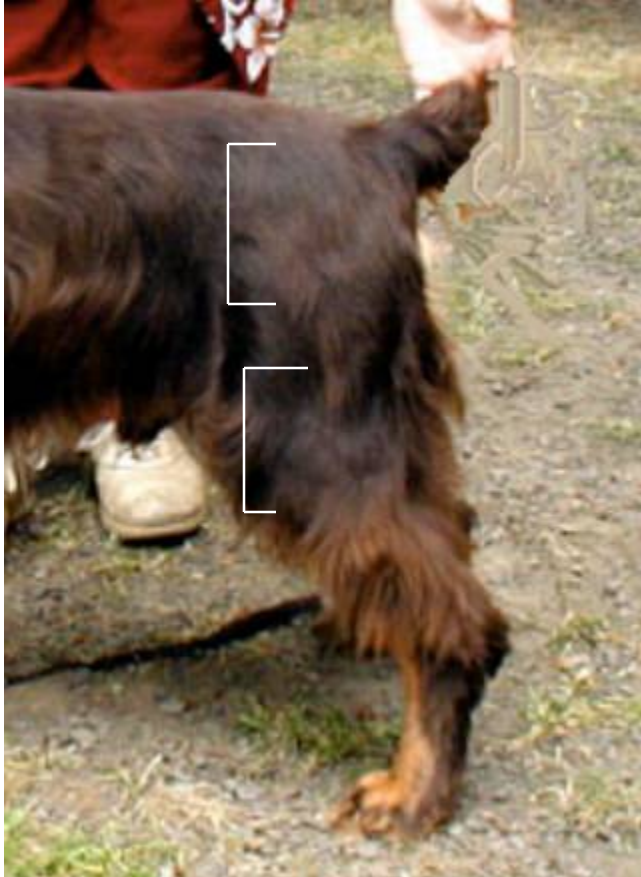
- **Pasterns relatively short, strong and parallel when viewed from the rear.**



When viewed from the rear or from above, the width of the hips matches the good width of the chest.

Narrowness can be an indication of immaturity or incorrectness and the latter should be penalized .

- **Upper thigh broad and powerful; second thigh well muscled.**



The thighs both upper and second should give an impression of solidness and power.

The Field is not a small dog and must have substantial running gear in order to carry him.

- **Bone corresponds to that of the forelegs.**
- **No dewclaws.**



COAT



- **Single; moderately long, flat or slightly wavy; silky and glossy; dense and water-repellent.**

Quality of the coat important. Fuzziness, a sleek hound coat, a wiry or cottony coat is incorrect



- **Moderate setter-like feathering adorns the chest, underbody, backs of legs, buttocks, and may also be present on the second thigh and underside of the tail.**

- **Amount of coat or absence of coat should not be faulted as much as structural faults.**



The key word here is “moderate” Puppies and young dogs will normally have less coat than an adult and bitches generally carry less coat than a male.

- Pasterns have clean outlines to the ground.



However, today's exhibitors are leaving hair on the back of the pastern like an ESS. This is fine but do check the pastern to make sure the dog has proper bone.

- Over abundance of coat or cottony texture, impractical for field work, **should be penalized.**
- Trimming is limited to that which enhances the natural appearance of the dog.



The Field Spaniel should not be “sculpted”
Putting a Field down groomed like an English
Springer or English Cocker is incorrect.

COLOR

Field Spaniels come in a variety of colors and:
ALL ARE EQUAL UNDER THE STANDARD





BLACK



LIVER

ACCEPTABLE COLORS



GOLDEN LIVER

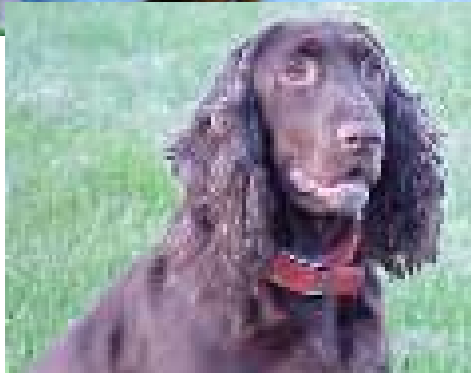


BI-COLORED

SHADES OF LIVER



•Liver may be of any shade and intensity (dark or light)



Golden Liver is the color of a Sussex Spaniel and nothing else.

BI-COLORED



- Bi-colored dogs **must** be roaned and/or ticked in white areas.

A Bi-colored dog is white with color on the white.

The amount of color on the white is irrelevant.

Any combination of ticks, flecks, freckles or any patch of color of any size is acceptable.



If a dog does not appear to have color in their white, ruffle back the hair. Roaning and/or ticking may well show underneath. This is known by some as a “closet roan”



A COLOR YOU MAY SEE

This is a color that you may see.

It appears to be a recessive red.

It is a color found in spaniels and was in the Field Spaniel standard until 1990. At that time it disappeared and no one seems to know why. As there are no disqualifications in the breed each of you must decide what you wish to do if you come across this color.





TAN POINTS

- Tan points are acceptable on the aforementioned colors and are the same as in any normally tan pointed breed. **However, a chest bar of tan is not required. Penciling on the toes is allowed.**

WHITE MARKINGS ON SELF COLORED DOGS

- White is allowed **ONLY** on the throat, chest, and/or brisket of a self-colored dog.



or a streak



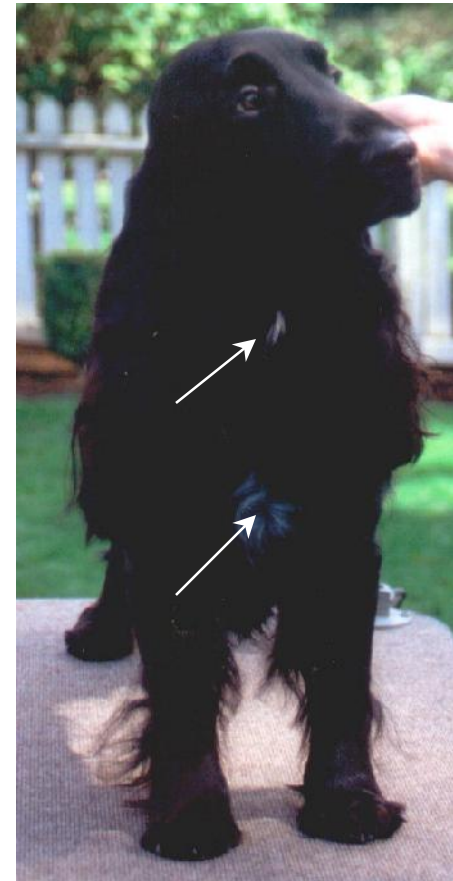
or a good sized
patch



or a shirt front

It may be just
a touch

- The white MAY be clear, ticked or roaned .



But in any case the white on the chest should never extend past the point of shoulder. nor should it extend up onto the side or top of the neck in any way.

**please remember
all colors are equal**

**DO NOT
DISCRIMINATE**

And remember

**Color is not as important as Type, Structure,
Soundness or Movement**

after all

**“SYMMETRY, GAIT, ATTITUDE
AND PURPOSE
ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN
ANY ONE PART”**

GAIT

- The head is carried alertly, neither so high nor so low as to impede motion or stride.



The Field should not carry his head way up in the air as do some English Springers and cockers. To do so will compromise the breed's ***correct movement which should be a moderate endurance trot so effortless that the dog may maintain the gait all day long***

A fast, whirling -dervish type movement is not efficient in the field and is very energy consuming. Further any high stepping, or piston-like action is absolutely incorrect in the Field or any hunting breed.



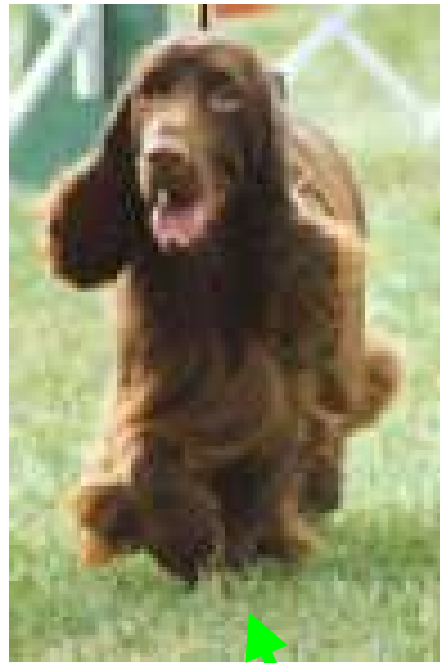
FASTER IS NOT BETTER

- There is good forward reach from that begins in the shoulder, coupled with strong drive from the rear giving the characteristic effortless, long, low majestic stride



The Field, as he increases speed will become “longer and lower” as his reach and drive extends and he appears to pull the ground beneath him in front and push it away in the rear.

- When viewed from the front and/or rear elbows and hocks move parallel.
- The legs move *straight* with *slight convergence* at increased speed





Remember, a moderate pace **Faster Is Not Better**

- Side movement is straight and clean, without energy wasting motion. Overreaching and single tracking are incorrect.
- The Field Spaniel should be shown at its own natural speed in an endurance trot, preferably on a loose lead, in order to evaluate its movement.



FASTER IS NOT BETTER

TEMPERAMENT



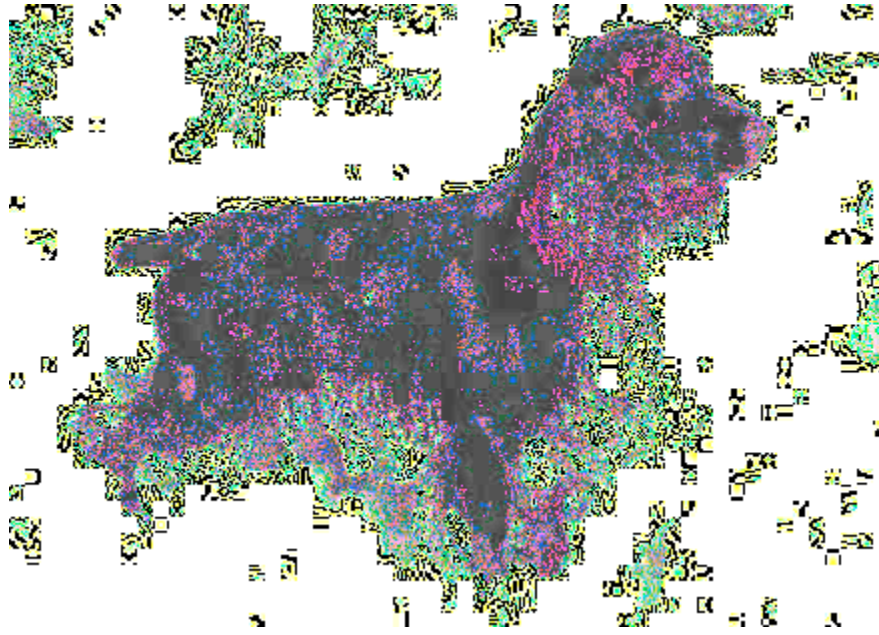
- Unusually Docile, Sensitive and Fun loving





• **A great affinity for human companionship**





•Independent and Intelligent





The Field's strong desire to be with and a part of their person's activities is a hallmark of the breed.





- They may be somewhat reserved in initial meetings

- **ANY DISPLAY OF SHYNESS, FEAR, OR AGGRESSION IS TO BE SEVERELY PENALIZED**

TEMPERMENT

A Field Spaniel should be *properly socialized and trained* for gentle, but non-threatening, through examination.

As they are inclined to be very aloof, particularly with strangers, even a seasoned competitor may not wag his tail during examination. Be firm but gentle. But, *Under no circumstances should a Field Spaniel growl or snap at a judge, handler or another dog!*

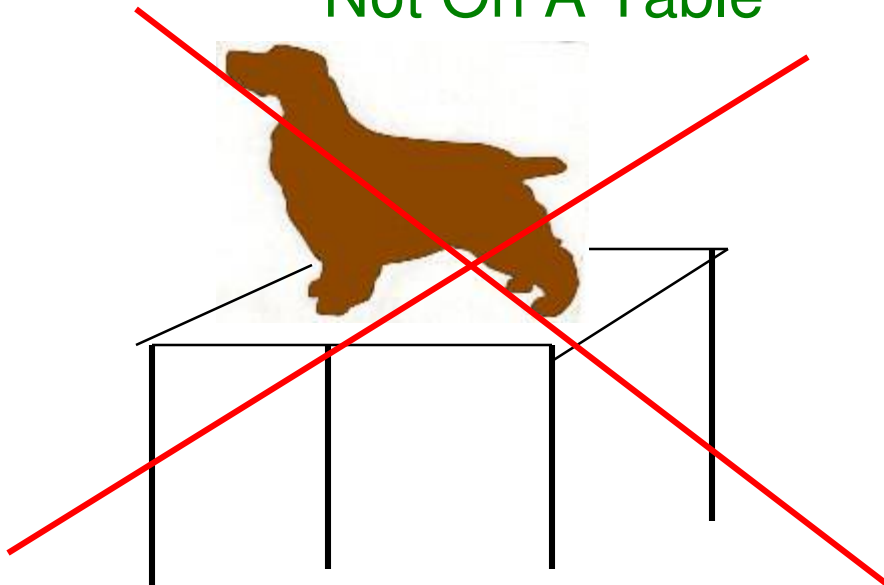
As a judge, you will see many young Fields and inexperienced handlers. Please take your time and make the experience a good one as a bad time in the ring can with Fields and inexperienced handlers have long term effects.

RING PRESENTATION

The Field Spaniel is shown on the ground or a ramp



Not On A Table



Please remember the following points when a Field Spaniel is presented to you:



- The Field Spaniel should **never** be shown with a ***sloping topline*** and/or ***raised tail***

YES



NO



- Trimming should be limited to that which enhances the natural appearance of the dog.

AND FINALLY

- *When gaiting - faster is not better and a loose lead is preferred*



PROBLEMS SEEN IN THE BREED TODAY 2012

- **Head Proportions (Short Muzzle)**
- **Body Proportions (Square)**
- **Lack of Bone**
- **Temperment (Excessively shy)**

IN THE
FIELD SPANIEL STANDARD
THERE ARE

NO DISQUALIFICATIONS

AND

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER
WHEN JUDGING THE FIELD SPANIEL THAT

***“SYMMETRY, GAIT, ATTITUDE
AND PURPOSE ARE
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN ANY ONE PART”***

Finally, The Field is a rare breed with a gene “puddle”, not a pool.

So when judging, look at the whole animal, not just specific faults and don't throw the “baby” out with the “puddle”



A



B



C

Remember that the correct proportions for the Field Spaniel are approximately 7 long to 6 high, point of shoulder to point of buttocks and withers to ground. Which is correct? Why aren't the others

PROPORTIONS



A



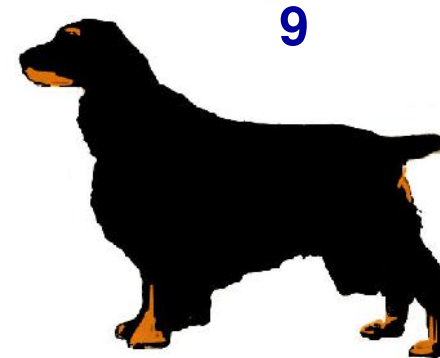
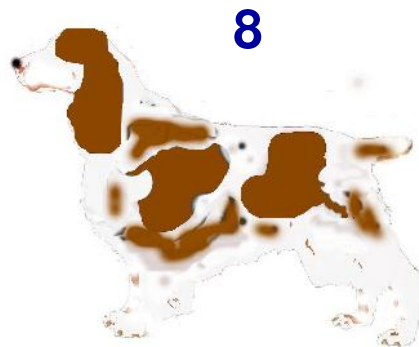
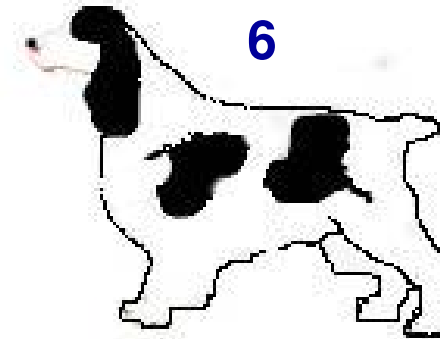
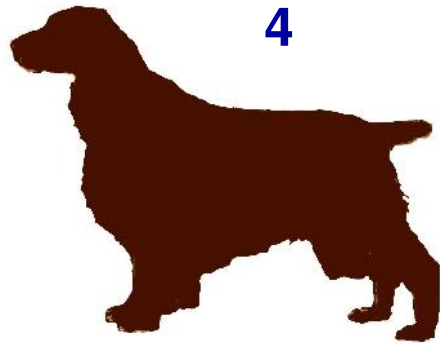
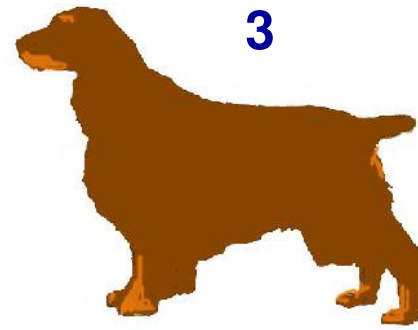
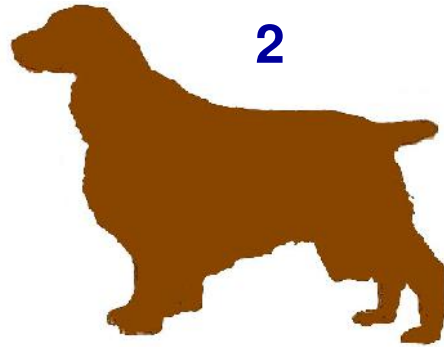
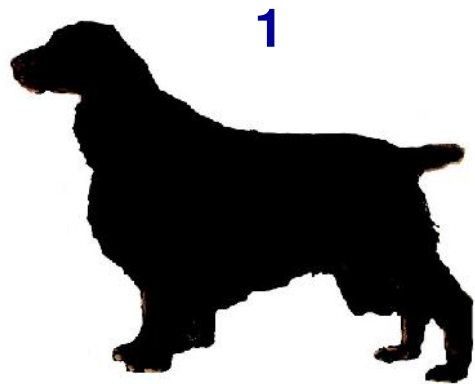
B



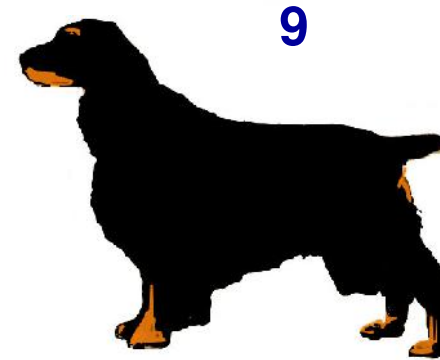
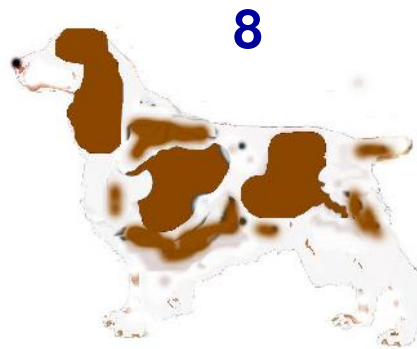
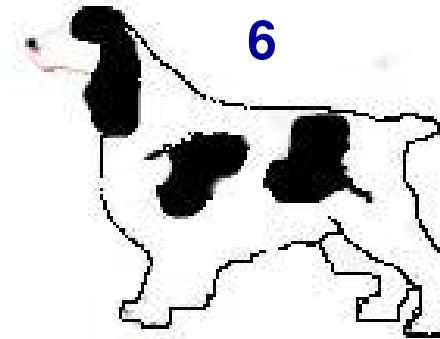
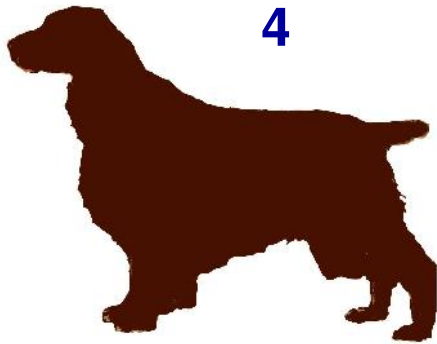
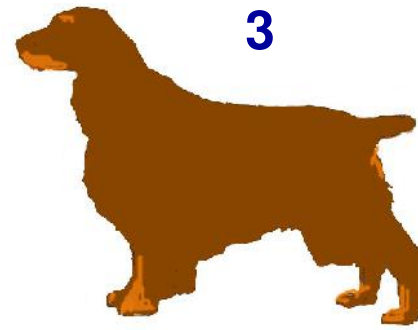
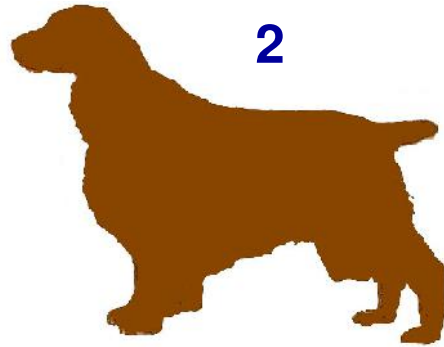
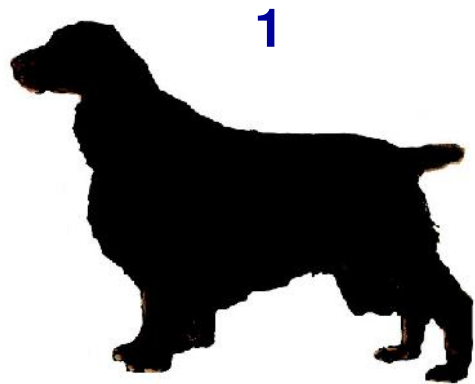
C

Proportion: 1-C- correct 2-B- too long in body & short on leg; 3-A- too short in body & high in leg;

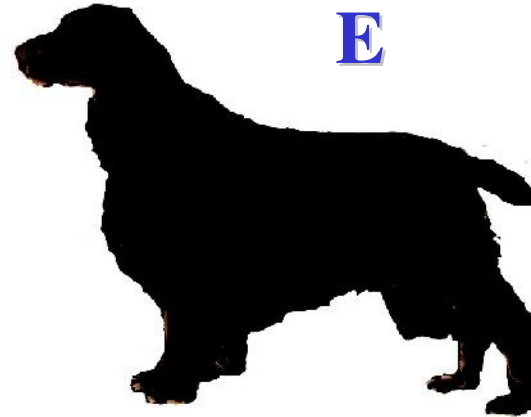
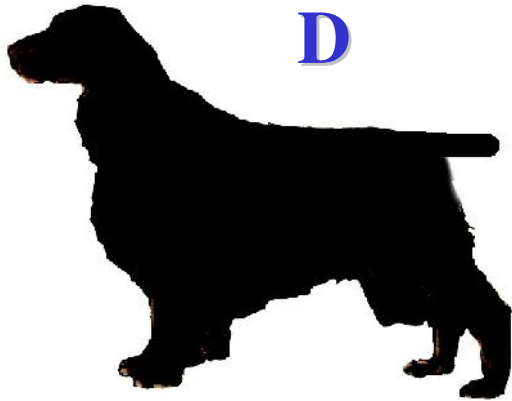
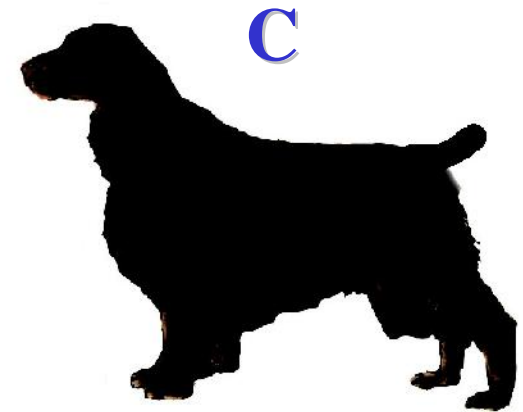
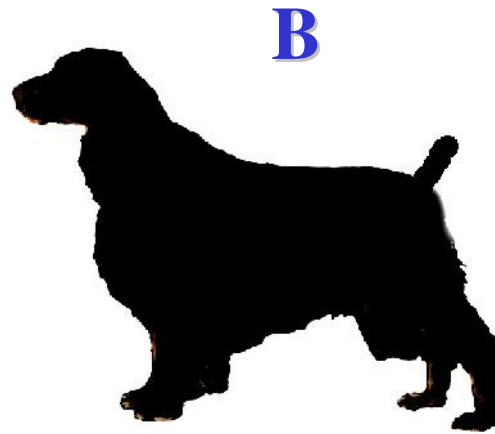
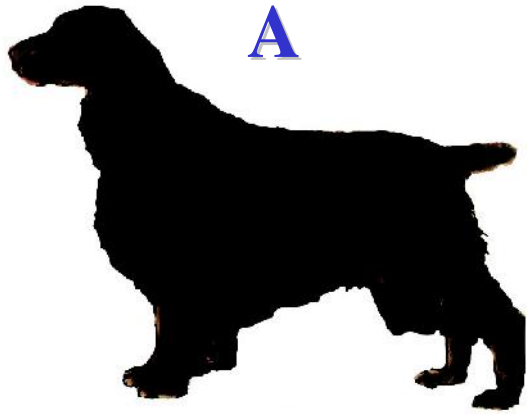
PROPORTIONS



COLORS: Which of these colors are acceptable?
Which are not?

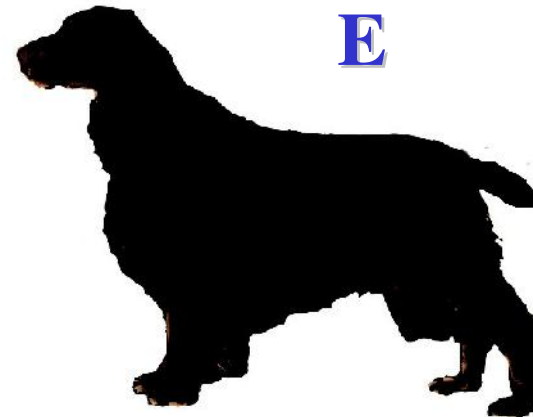
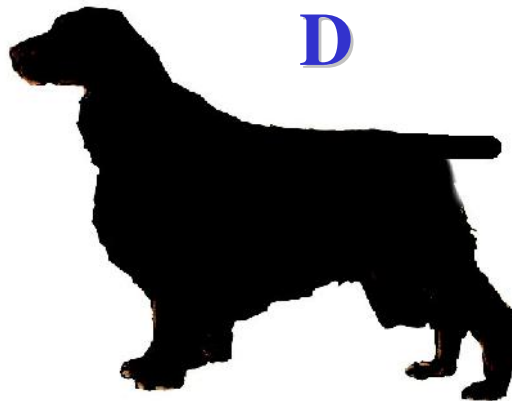
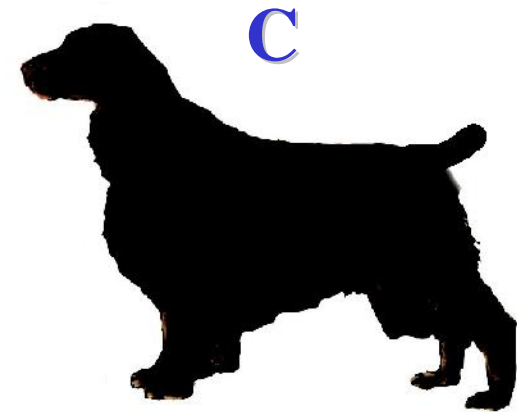
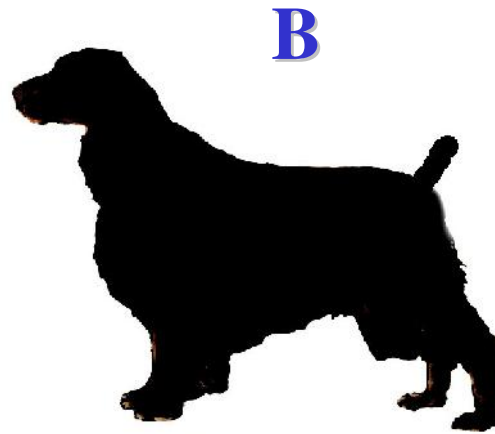
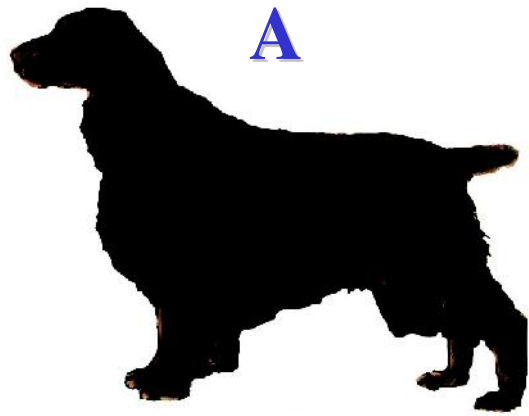


COLORS: Color: All but 6. It has no ticking or roaning



TAIL SET & CARRIAGE:

Which tail set/carriage(s) is/are correct? Why?



TAIL SET & CARRIAGE: **A**-yes, drops off croup
B -no, carriage too high; **C** -no, carriage too high and comes
straight off back; **D**-no, comes straight off back;
E-yes, drops off croup and carried down.



A



B



C



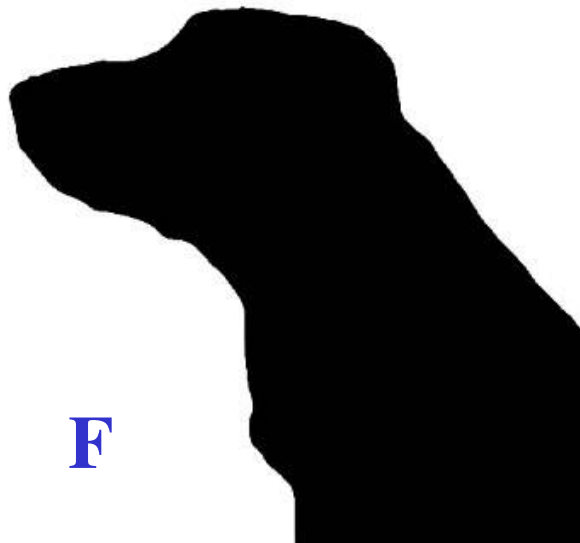
D

These are all Field Spaniel heads.

Put the in order of correctness & give your reasons



E



F



G



A



B



C

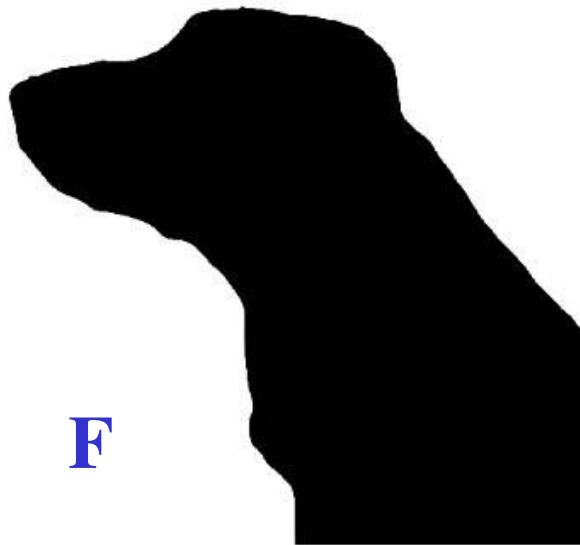


D

HEADS 1-A Nice overall; 2- B very nice also, stop bit sharp. 3-G a little square & a tad short in the muzzle . 4 -D Flattish top skull, steep stop,bit heavy muzzle not as pleasing as A,B &G; C - Longish snipey muzzle, top skull bit too rounded; E - ESS like ,stop too sharp, squared off & shortish muzzle,flattish top skull ; F- Coarse, short in muzzle



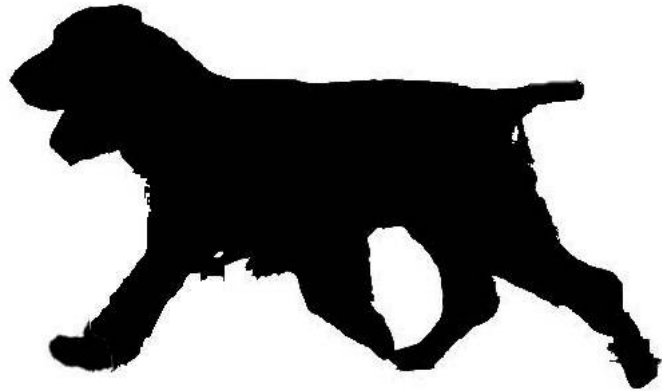
E



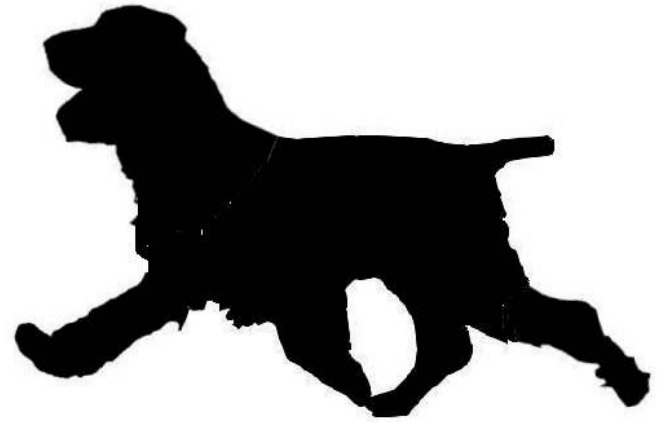
F



G

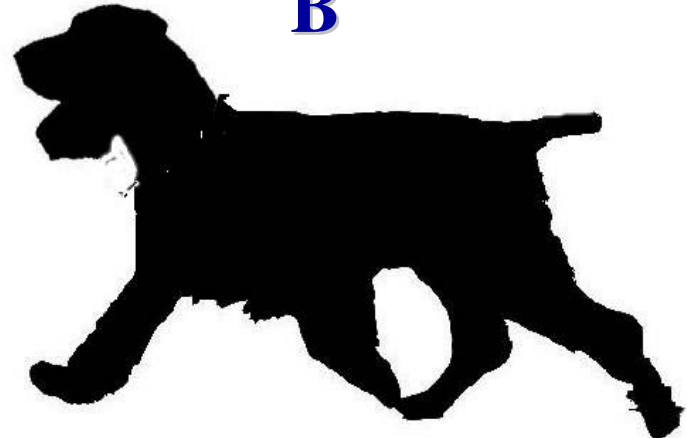


A

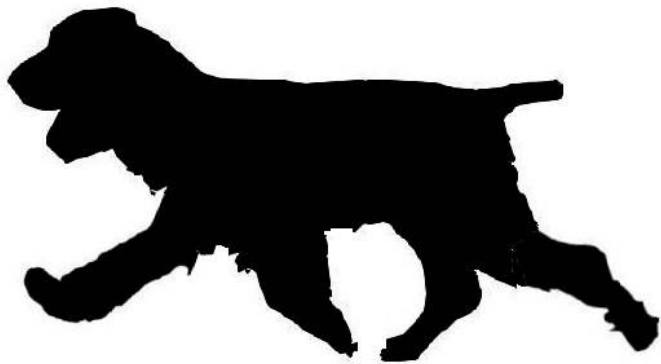


B

Which is the correct side movement? Why & what is wrong with the incorrect ones



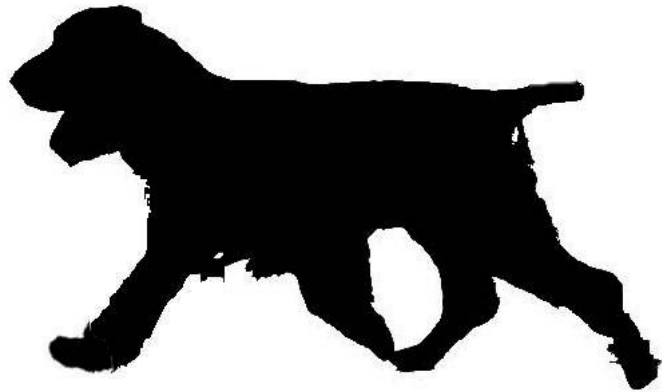
C



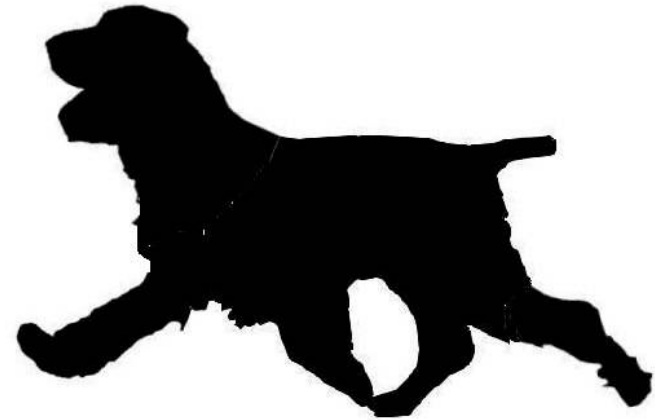
E

D



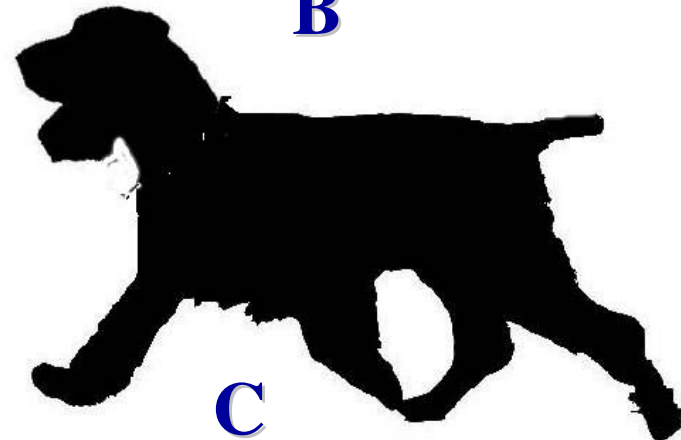


A

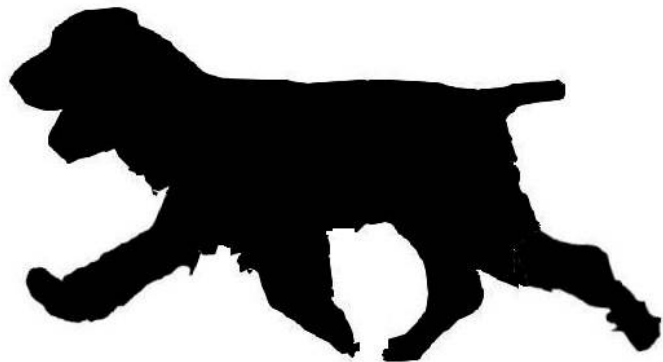


B

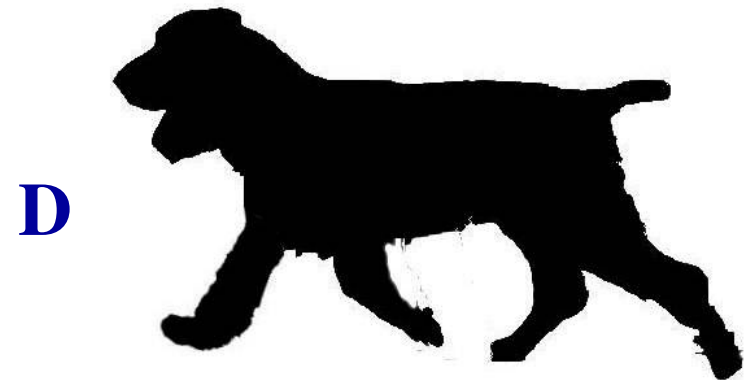
Side movement: **A**- correct;
B- head pulled up causing “flippy front”;
C- Good movement but head pulled up too high;
D- No reach, little drive “pitter patting”
E - “Flippy front”



C



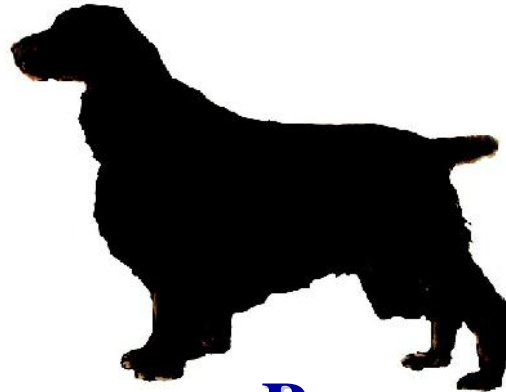
E



D



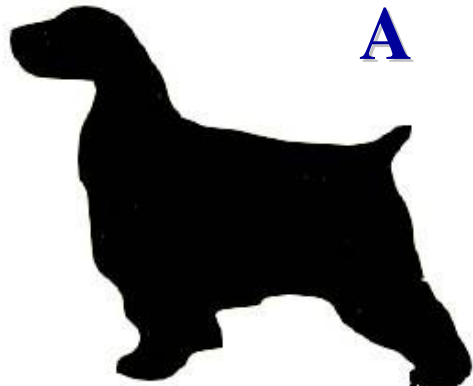
A



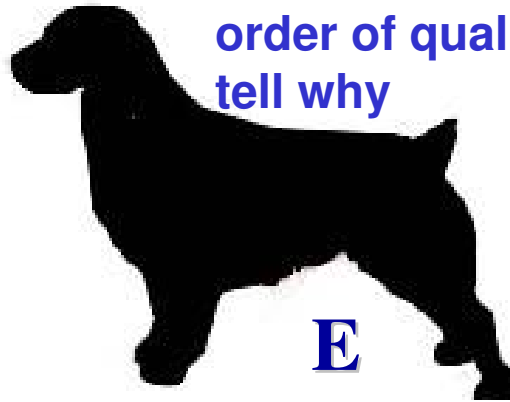
B



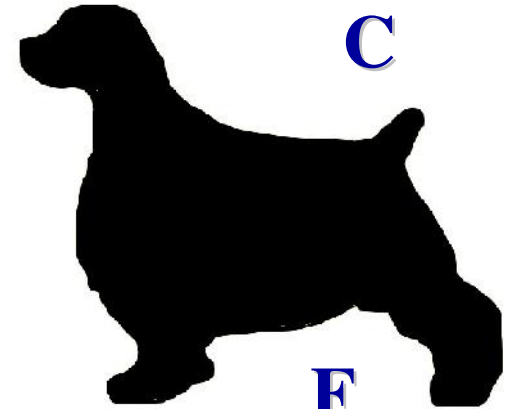
C



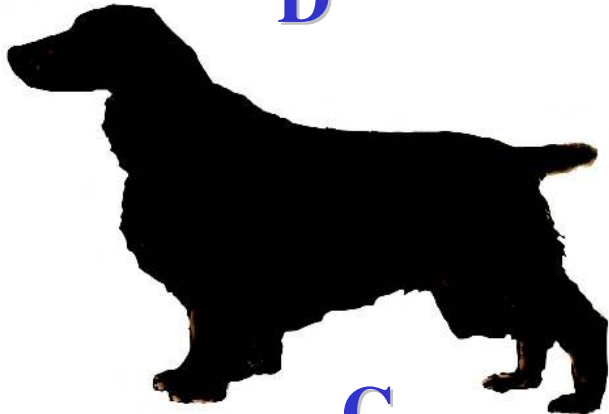
D



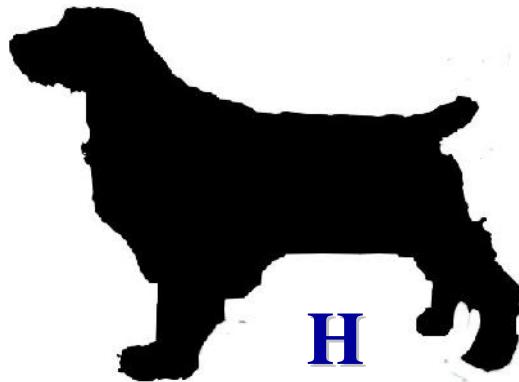
E



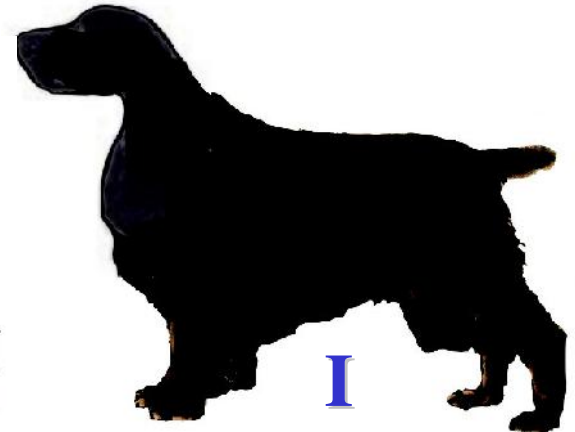
F



G



H



I

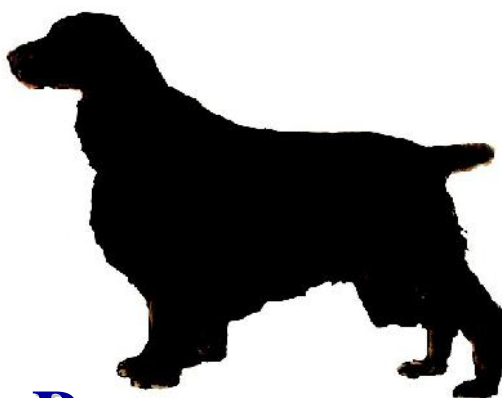
Place these dogs in order of quality. and tell why

3-A-

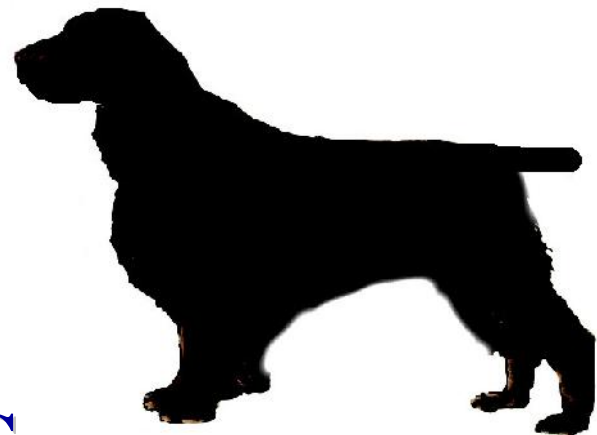
Head, topline good. Bit too much tuckup & tail set too high



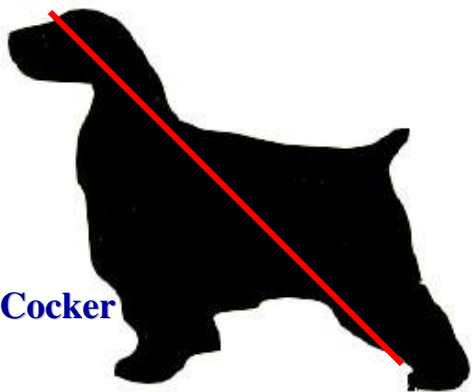
1-B- Overall very correct



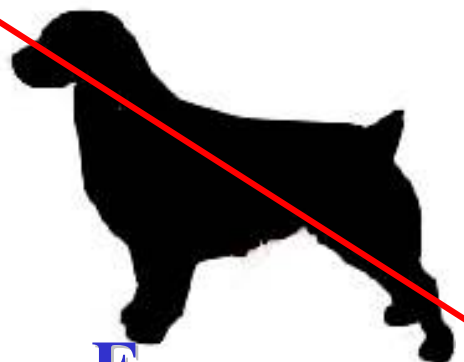
C- Good topline & tail carriage. Too long in body, too much tuck up & head coarse & tail set too high



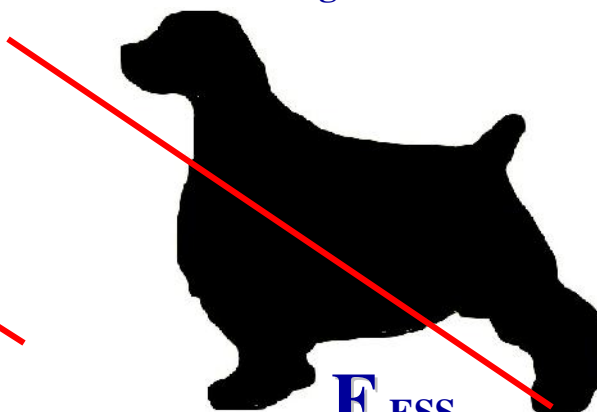
D- English Cocker



E- Boykin Spaniel



F- ESS



4-G- Good topline, tail set & carriage. Head snipey, Body bit long



H- A really bad Field Spaniel rather Boykin like



2-I- Good body & topline, tail set & carriage. Proper proportions. Head coarse





A photograph of a sunset with silhouetted grasses. The sky is a mix of deep red, orange, and purple. The grasses are dark and thin, with some seed heads visible. The text 'THE END' is overlaid in yellow.

THE
END

SOURCES

BOOKS

- 1993 Goodwin, Phyllis . "The Field Spaniel Book of Champions, 1980-1993". Compiled, edited and published by Phyllis Goodwin, Wroxall. - 20.00 Sterling**
- 2003 Goodwin, Phyllis. "The Field Spaniel - Anecdotes And Observations. Phyllis Goodwin, Wroxall. 23.00 Sterling**
- 1984 Grayson, Peggy. "The History and Management of the Field Spaniel". Scan Publishing Limited, London.**
- 1994 Grayson, Peggy. "The History and Management of the Field Spaniel". 2nd ed. Boydell Press, Boydell & Brewer LTD. Suffolk, UK Approximately \$54**
- 1977 Jones, Roger Hall. "Head To Tail Handbook of Field Spaniels". Elmbury Developments LTD.**

SOURCES CONTINUED

1998 Wolkenheim, Becki Jo “The Field Spaniel: A Complete and Reliable Handbook “ TFH Publications, Neptune City, NJ
Most of these volumes are difficult to find except the Wolkenheim which is available through most book outlets. The others, with luck, may be obtained through the companies listed below, checking AMAZON.com, the Internet E-Bay auctions or writing the authors directly.

**DogWise, Inc. (Direct Book Service)
701B Poplar
Wenatchee, WA 98801
1 (800) 776-2665**

**4M Enterprises
1280 Pacific Street
Union City, CA 94587
1 (800) 487-9867**

The Goodwin volumes may be obtained from Phyllis Goodwin, Maydene, Redhill Lane, Wroxall, Isle of Wight PO38 3ER. Prices include shipping & handling 38.00 Sterling for both.

SOURCES CONTINUED

VIDEOS

Field Spaniel Standard. American Kennel Club. New York.

INTERNET WEB SITES

Field Spaniel Society of America <http://fieldspaniels.org/>
(Parent Club in U.S.)

Field Spaniel Society <http://www.fieldspanielsociety.co.uk/>
(Parent Club in Great Britain)

About the Author of the Following Articles

Peggy Grayson of the United Kingdom is a long standing breeder and exhibitor of the Field Spaniel and is known for the dogs whocarry the Westacres prefix. She is the author of “The History And Management Of The Field Spaniel” and has written widely on the subject of Fields in many publications.

She is licensed to judge Fields Spaniels both in the UK and the United States.

Mrs Grayson is considered one of the foremost authorities in the world on the subject of the Field Spaniel and has been a mentor to many fanciers both in the UK and the US

THE FIELD SPANIEL by Peggy Grayson

Originally issued by the Field Spaniel Society (UK), date unknown, but from the early 1970's. Submitted to and reprinted in an early issue of the FSSA newsletter in the mid 1970's. Editorial comments pertaining to the U.S. have been added in italics.

With the importation of so many foreign gundog breeds since the war, (WW II), a number of attractive native breeds have been sadly neglected. The Field Spaniel, whose popularity has risen and fallen alarmingly several times the past 70 years, is one of them. If you are wanting a gundog breed either for companionship, work or to have a bit of fun showing, no more adaptable animal can be found than the Field. The breed has a highly developed sense of humor, a real willingness to please, a healthy streak of naughtiness and a loving and affectionate nature,- guaranteed to melt the stoniest heart.

Most of today's stock will work and work well if given the chance. It's best to start them young as they are headstrong and keen, and need to learn the basics of obedience during puppyhood! They are completely untiring in the field, will face the heaviest cover and are good in water.

As show dogs, they always command attention. In recent years, many have done well in all-breed competition at Open shows, winning right to Best In Show (*as they have done here in the U.S.*). As a minority breed, you need a good specimen correctly trimmed, in spanking condition, sound and a good showman to catch the all-rounders eye, and the ringside too. Most of (*the latter, even here in the States*)... hastily thumb through their catalogues to find out just what sort of spaniel it is.

Once you have had a Field as a pal, you will seldom change to another breed, They are devoted to their owners, but quite ready to welcome and entertain visitors with their winning ways, Easy to feed and enthusiastic motorists, they, like the proverbial White Horse, can be taken anywhere!

The modern Field has its roots in the last century, when it was the most popular spaniel for work or show. Its decline in the early part of this century (*20th*) was due to the breeders who bred it so long and low as to be virtually useless. After the 1914 war, the breed was revived and the Field Spaniel Society (UK) started in 1923. Mr. George Mortimer Smith, whose Wribbenhall dogs dominated the rings, was the "Father" of the modern Field; while Mr. R. R. Kelland and Major Beaumont saw to the working side.

In the 1930's and 1940's, the breed again declined, and it was Mr. & Mrs S. J. Barnett, of Pentwyn, who saved it again from extinction.

Another low came in the early 1960's. when Roger Hall Jones (Elmbury) and his mother. Mrs A. M. "Pat" Jones, MBE (Mittina), took an interest and once more the breed came alive.

Fields can offer all and more than their foreign cousins, so if you are contemplating a gundog, "Buy British!" Our Officers or Committee members will be glad to help in anyway they can.*(As will, here in the U.S., The Field Spaniel Society of America).*

Fields, though mostly seen as solid liver or black. can be bred in a variety of colours and all the partis and roans, though not as desirable are permissible. *(In the U.S. there is and should not be any discrimination shown towards dogs of these colors. The bi-colored varieties as they are known in the U.S. definitely have their own enthusiastic followers.)*

The adult male dog can weigh up to 60 pounds. In appearance, they are handsome and upstanding with a distinctive head and majestic carriage. Longer in body (than tall) and not so high on the leg as the English Springer, they are deeper and more developed in body. Their mostly non-trimmed coats require a good brushing a day to keep them smart. Trimming of the feet and under the ears is usually all that is needed. *(Today's, the 2000's, show Field gets just a bit more tidying up but not so much a to appear sculptured-A natural appearance is the most desired.)*

Fields are classified and can be seen on their benches at Crufts, W.E.L.K.S, Manchester Championship Show, both of the Birmingham shows, Windsor, Peterborough, Scottish Kennel Club, National Gundog, Blackpool, Midland Counties, and at most Gundog Open shows.

(In America the number of shows with a Field entry has risen from less than 10 in the early 1970's to 536 shows in 1997. Every year brings more enthusiastic fanciers to the Field Spaniel: but, hopefully never so many as to bring ruin ation to the breed)

The Essential Field Spaniel

by Peggy Grayson

Article originally published in the Field Spaniel Society (UK) yearbook 1991

This article is written primarily for the newer or novice owners, and for those who are hoping to judge the breed. Firstly, the Field Spaniel is a large spaniel: that does not mean he is tall, some are, but this is a throwback to all the English Springer blood brought in between the wars (WWI and WWII).

A well-proportioned male Field will weight up to 60 pounds, but he must be balanced, in hard condition and move freely and majestically, not in a heavy lumbering manner, nor in a joyful, short-striding bouncy way. The female will weigh less and although she must be feminine in appearance, must not be small, light boned, or weedy in appearance.

The correctly balanced Field has a perfectly laid-back shoulder, and stands with his front legs well under him, with a good forechest and depth of brisket. This gives him a large forehand, so it is most necessary that he is wide and strong in the loin and has well developed quarters with wide thighs, which must be well muscled, to enable him

to drive well on the move and propel himself forward at the right pace

The stifle of the Field is moderately developed. Any over-angulation of the hind leg is highly undesirable, as this changes the outline and also the mode of locomotion. The hind leg, as well as the front, must be well boned, strong at the hock joint and with rear pasterns perfectly straight from joint to ground.

The rib cage is long and well developed, but not over-sprung. The width of the quarters, when viewed from the rear, should be the same width as the rib cage at its widest part. The loin must not only be wide and well muscled, but also deep, as the dog must never look "cut up" in loin. but must present an all of a piece appearance. The topline of the Field starts at the nose and ends at the tip of the tail. It should be one continuous flowing line along the muzzle up between the eyes (where a moderate stop separates the eyes which are fairly wide spaced), sloping slightly up the skull to a raised (but not peaked) occiput, down over this to nip in at the base of the skull and then rises to a slight crest in the neck. The line should continue unbroken down the neck over the withers and onto the end of the tail without encountering any dip behind the withers, usually caused by slack muscles, or any lump at the base of the neck caused by upright shoulders.

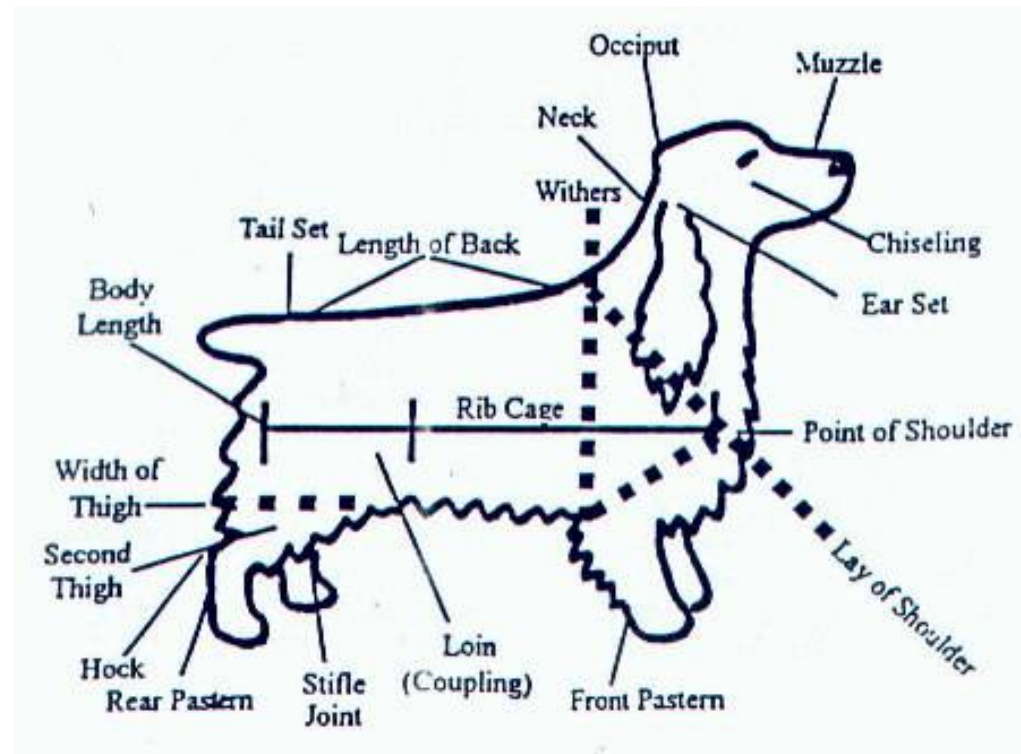
The length of the front leg is approximately one-third of the dog from the withers to ground. The bone of the legs must be well developed and flat, allowing the tendons to lie and work comfortably.

The head of the Field is very distinctive; the muzzle being longer than the skull, and well developed but not square. The curve from the lower lip gives the dog its distinctive and aristocratic appearance. The skull should never be coarse, nor should it be too fine. The chiseling below and above the eyes should be very delicate, giving that look of supreme quality. The skull should be well-worked but flat at the sides. Any prominent bones here are undesirable. The ears should be of quality leather and well clothed with silky hair, and set about level with the eyes; which are wide open almond shape with a gentle expression. The nose must be large and fleshy with well developed nostrils, to enable the dog to use his unique scenting powers to the full. A full mouth of large teeth is desirable, meeting in a Scissors bite. Fields with small teeth tend to be hard-mouthed when retrieving.

The coat of the Field should be composed of long, silky hairs, lying thick, flat and close. Short, hound-type coats with a high gloss are a throwback to the hound crosses of the last century, and are undesirable. The front and rear legs, the brisket and chest should be well-fringed. The rear pastern from hock to ground must be cleaned of hair the same is also true of the front pastern. All four feet are neatly trimmed to give the desired appearance. Clippers should never be used on the Field coat (*clippers may be used on the throat and ears when showing in the U.S.*); as this ruins the texture and gives a hard outline, causing the hair to grow in gray at a very early age, especially in livers.

Movement is a long, majestic stride, with the forelegs hanging straight from well-laid shoulders. There should be no bulge over the shoulders when the dog is viewed from the front, and there should be good width at the rear. All four feet should face forward. The movement should be thorough and true and, especially, not hurried.

The following illustration should give a clear idea of what to accept and what not to accept in the Field Spaniel when judging, choosing a puppy or using a stud dog. However, it is as well to remember that the Field Spaniel takes a long time to develop, especially the males, and complete development is unlikely to be reached much before four or five years of age. Very mature puppies tend to go coarse as adults. When judging the breed, the immature, but promising puppy with room for development is the one most likely to be the best in the long run.



THE COLOURED FIELD

Peggy Grayson

Reprinted from the FSSA Newsletter 19--. Editorial comments have been added in italics.

Regarding colour in Fields, you will find a good deal about This in my book **The History and Management of the Field Spaniel**. At one time there were far more coloured Fields about than there are today, when they only turn up on a hit and miss basis. From 1900 to 1916 there were far more coloured Fields in the Stud Book than blacks and there were just a few liver. The colours then encompassed orange and white, orange roan, lemon and white and lemon roan, all with a tan trim! We have not seen any of these colours since. I did once have a clear black white and tan, but lost her at five months with hard pad.*(a type of distemper)*

At present the colours found are liver, black (both solid colours can have a white shirt front, a frill or just a small spot) *(as can those with tan points.)*, and roan.

These *(the roans)* should be well roaned, but many today look very light

(sometimes termed ticked); although when the hair is turned back there is considerably more colour in the coat than appears at first glance *(a closet roan)*.

As long as all the pads of the feet are all brown the dog is a liver roan; if the pads are

mottled then the dog is technically a liver and white. The same goes for blue roan. They (*the blue roan*) should be the same colour as a blue roan Cocker, and have black pads.

Liver and tan and black and tan should have bright tan markings on lips and cheeks, a spot over each eye, tan on feet and inside leg as far as the pastern joint, and tan under the tail and inside the ears. Tan meeting over the top of the nose is a fault as is too much tan on the face. The markings should be clear and bright. Muddy tan mixed with black hair is wrong. Liver roan and tan are appearing in one or two litters, again (*in a liver roan & tan*) the tan should be bright.

The only colours not accepted are clear white and black, or clear white and liver. (*In the U.S. white areas must be roaned or ticked on the surface or underneath the hair when ruffled. However, no color in the white is not a disqualification in the States as it is in the UK.*)

Liver roans may crop up in any litter, particularly those with Rhiwlas in their pedigree. This line has a number of liver roans in it. With the amount of English Springer blood used in the 1920/30 era, plus the ESS cross in 1958, there is a lot of liver and white and black and white behind all the lines; and each generation brings in more of the past.

We seldom see a correct blue roan or, indeed, a deep liver roan. CH Adam of Elmbury carried the colour gene and produced two good blue roans to black bitches, as well as true liver roans (one of which won a CC).

In a black litter bred in the 1970's there was a blue roan; and once we had a blue roan and tan dog who did quite a bit of winning. He was by a black dog out of a liver bitch. Black and tan, blues, and blue and tan come through the black lines. One parent must be black to produce any of these colours. Liver roan can crop up anywhere, even from two blacks; as no black line of fields is pure. All are dilute (*in other words all lines are mixed*).

Fields with golden liver coats are throwbacks to all the Sussex blood in the lines; while mahogany is probably a throwback to the distant Irish Water Spaniel used in breeding in the past century (*1800's*). Once a colour is put in a breed it cannot be bred out; (*This is true only of recessive colors*) although it may be only seen at rare intervals it will crop up over the years. Field breeders should not seek to change the colours allowed in the breed just in a quest for something unusual.

A mating of two livers can only produce livers, liver and tan or liver roan. All liver is recessive to black. Two livers cannot breed a black no matter what people claim.

The tan gene was carried by Adam's sister, ShCH Anna of Elmbury, and it is possible to trace all the tan appearing back to her. During the 20's/30's the black and white ticked arrived in litters. This was the colour of CH Wribbenhall Whitewash, a pre-war(WWII) winner. In 1939/40 I had a very nice black and white ticked bitch, a granddaughter of Whitewash. In the 1970's I showed and won with a black and white ticked Field dog; bred and owned by Mr. L. French. This dog was bred from two blacks who were uncle and niece, and there was also a liver roan and a black and tan in the litter.

Some judges are very perplexed when confronted by a Field that is a colour other than liver or black mainly because there are not many coloured Fields being shown. I doubt any of the present day judges would ignore colour, however good the dog, as many are rather ignorant about the breed in any country, including some in the UK! The main thing is to get the judges knowing what a good Field should look like - the length of rib cage, the size of bone, the movement and the distinctive head. Those are the important things, colour is a very minor matter. In the past we have had very good Fields with the odd faint white splash on the face and several white toes, none of these mismarks put them down as they were topping good specimens of the breed.

PREFERRED BREED TYPE

Why The Stand-Out Best Dog Can Be A Loser

by

E. K. (Katie) Gammill

The Best of the Best or one that looks like the rest? Let's be honest. Something called "preferred type" is flooding the rings today and in many breeds, it has little to do with the Breed Standard. When "current type" does not equal correctness, the best dog can lose because in many rings, the fatal flaw is being a stand-out.

"The best dog you'll ever breed may be the hardest dog you ever finish!"

A dog show friend, absent from the sport for several years, attended some local shows with me. Welcoming the opportunity to view dogs in general after her sabbatical, she became visually distressed. Her despair increased when a "less than average" class dog received BOB. The waning quality in her beautiful breed breaks her heart. She stated it would be wasted effort to show a dog correct to the standard today, as some judges feel compelled to award dogs conforming to the majority of the entries.

Observing other breeds, she remarks on the lack of neck, restricted front movement and the lack of rear follow through; we discuss “gay tails” and breed type variances. We watch faulty movement and see coats dragging the ground. Weak pasterns and sickle hocks complete the picture. She wonders what causes this to happen to functional dogs in such a short time. It seems the correct dogs have fallen victim to what one may refer to as the “Perfection of Mediocrity”.

Today, many breeders and owners turn to performance, choosing not to participate in a “crap shoot” where such variety in type confuses both judges and ringside. I make this statement at the expense of being tarred and feathered but increasingly, the best dog you’ll ever breed may be the hardest dog you will ever finish. It will be the “odd man out” and look different from the majority of dogs represented in the ring. Why? Some judges, insecure in a breed and therefore lacking courage, choose to walk “different” dogs rather than stick their neck out. Understandable, but should those lacking confidence be passing judgment on another’s dog?

My old mentor said, “The pendulum of type swings to and fro, but those remaining true to the standard triumph in the end.” Those dedicated breeders have the knowledge to restore a breed to its initial form once it hits bottom.

Should a judge reward a dog to suggest it could possibly assist in correcting breed faults? NO! It is a breeder's responsibility to incorporate such animals into their programs, regardless of success in the show ring. Judges are to judge to the written standard to the best of their ability, fairly and efficiently. They avoid awarding "drags of a breed" when possible but judges have little insight into the Pandora's Box of breeding.

A respected dog person of long standing approached me with this statement while at a seminar. "A judge CAN NOT GO WRONG by putting up winners conforming to the majority of the type of dogs in the ring on a given day." My response was "Surely not!" Well, I believe it now! After observing an all breed judge from ringside, I watched two outstanding individuals "walk" because they looked different from the rest of the short neck, sickle hock, smaller than average dogs lacking side gait that toddled around the ring like fuzzy little caricatures of the breed.

This strange "look alike" perspective takes over in many breed rings and not just among judges. Asking a breeder what their standard said about head planes, the response was: "What are parallel planes?" We discussed the occipital bone, short and medium muzzles, balanced heads, etc. Reading a standard and applying it can be two different things.

Judges should have the ability to articulate why one dog wins over another. So is that why they make terminology common among standards - to make it easier for judges? If anyone can describe a bulldog and an afghan using the same language, please step forward. Removing the "point system" from the old standards has had a negative affect. In a final decision between two comparable individuals, one has an idea where to hang their hat regarding prioritizing.

Should we just BREED TO WIN or should we BREED TO THE STANDARD and expect judges to judge to the Standard

It is a "Judas Kiss" to any breed when a judge puts up a dog simply because it looks like the majority in the ring. It encourages people to breed to "winners" rather than to a breed standard. In judge's education, they address soundness but type takes priority. Educators assume that new applicants understand structure and corresponding movement. Type without soundness is as detrimental to a breed as soundness without type. A bad front and bad rear working in sequence produces "balance". Do two wrongs make a right? The goal is "a balance between type and soundness". A breed must be able to walk to the water bowl without falling over its own feet!

This brings us to the next question. Are not judges “protectors of the breed standards?” Judges education is NOT at fault. Perhaps the problem is what some judging applicants do NOT bring to the table! It is a privilege to pass judgment on a breed but one has the responsibility of understanding “Basic Dog 101”. The AKC’s required anatomy test neither assures someone’s knowledge nor is it any guarantee a judge has the ability to analyze structure and movement.

Some breeder judges today send dogs with a handler giving little thought as to their quality or future effect on a breed. Shouldn’t breeder judges be especially careful to send correct dogs for public observation? Breeders have a responsibility to put out “the best of the best” rather than a dog that wins simply because it “looks like the rest.” By so doing, they are sending false signals to both ringside and new judges.

When judges say, “This must be what the breeders want as the ring is flooded with this type” it is detrimental to any breed. It IS NOT about “what breeders want.” Breeders and judges have a responsibility to breed and judge to standard.

Should handlers show dogs for clients when they KNOW the dog or bitch is not a good representative of the breed? Breeders and exhibitors have a responsibility to promote only dogs that DO represent their breed standard and to sell as pets those who do not! A good handler should make every effort to finish a dog but they too are responsible and should be more selective regarding client dogs. Handlers who read the standard and who have the courage to turn down an inferior dog are to be admired.

Advertisement does not always mean a dog represents “breed excellence”. Handlers do not always present “good dogs”. Advertising carries some influence and if a judge selects winners on advertising alone, they do a disservice to the breed and it reflects on their ability as a judge.

“Priority judging” can be detrimental to breeds as Judges become caught up in selecting for individual virtues be it eye, ear set, feet, or coat color. That is why some specialty judges “put up pieces” rather than the whole package. Virtues are important, but a dog should “fill the eye”. A single virtue cannot **take** precedence over a plethora of faults! Priority judging explains why many judges take so long to judge a class.

Dismayed exhibitors approach me with serious concerns regarding the direction of our sport. Time and effort is required to understand what makes a breed “breed specific”, and what constitutes “breed excellence”. There is no short cut. Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. However, it should be a knowledgeable opinion. Personal preference only enters in when two dogs are equal according to the breed standard.

Another issue is “spot entering”. Granted, today people enter under specific judges where they feel there is a chance of winning. However, why on a four-day weekend, do we see one point on Thursday, a major on Friday, one point on Saturday, and a major on Sunday? Should not one support the person who supports them by entering all four days? If there is a major, don’t break it by not attending. Don’t bump up a bitch or dog to BOB without first asking the other exhibitors their preference. Many people drive miles only to find someone failed to show up ringside or” bumped up” a new champion and broke the major. This co-operation is something we used to be able to count on. Today it is “iffy” at best. This is “sportsmanship”!

Watch dogs go around the ring. Some are structurally inefficient. Some shoulders do not open up, the dog reaches from the elbow. Ask yourself why one dog out-moves another. Go analyze short coated dogs.

Take this knowledge to your own breed ring and “look beneath the coat”. Understand top lines, body shape, breed specific movement and toy/moderate/giant. Do some study and then some soul searching. Ringside observers and breed enthusiasts look on in dismay today, wondering where the functional dogs of the past have gone. Sadly, some faults are so prevalent today they are viewed as “virtues”.

"Winning because of an exceptional breeding program takes the breed and breeders toward breed excellence. That should be the goal yesterday, and today."

Requested to address this issue, I decided to take time to sit back and see the “big picture.” The “big picture” is upon us, folks, and it is not pretty! My reason to become a judge was the challenge to select the best of the best according to a written standard. I love dogs! I love SOUND dogs with BREED TYPE! Both virtues, believe it or not, can be present in the same animal! Through combined efforts and a willingness to call “a spade a spade”, our breeds WILL survive. Breeding for the sake of winning is a downhill slide. This alone assures the future of our breeds. Turning things around will take dedicated breeders and judges, critical handler selection, and educated exhibitors. Our sport deserves nothing less than the best of our intentions.

ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS.

1. Why do breeder judges “put dogs with handlers when they know the animal does not represent breed excellence?”
2. Why do handlers accept such dogs knowing once they finish, they will be “petted out”?
3. Are you kennel blind and do you breed to standard?
4. Should breeders and newcomers read the standard prior to stud and bitch selection?
5. When will more mentors open up to newcomers?
6. And lastly, are “gas money” and “filler” dogs destroying our sport?

Putting a breed back on track requires ETHICAL HANDLERS, DEDICATED BREEDERS, AN UNDERSTANDING OF BREED STANDARDS and KNOWLEDGEABLE JUDGES WITH THE COURAGE TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE SELECTIONS. Being a judge is not for the faint of heart. Sending the best dog to the next level and being a part of its journey to the pinnacle of success is a thrill of a lifetime.

There is but ONE standard. “Preferred breed type” is like a flavor of the month, very fleeting! **BREEDERS, JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THEIR BREED STANDARDS. CURRENT FADS AND PERSONAL OPINIONS ARE FLEETING AND DESTRUCTIVE.**

<http://www.thedogpress.com/Writers/Gammill-Katie.htm>

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