

Illustrated
Standard
of the
Nederlandse
Kooikerhondje



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*Dedicated to
Baronesse van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol,
without whose efforts, our beloved
Nederlandse Kooikerhondje
would have slipped into
the long night of
extinction.*

Foreword

As President of the Dutch breed association for the Kooikerhondje (Vereniging Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje, VHNK) I am honored to have been asked to write this foreword, which I did together with our immediate past president, Mr. Jan van den Berg.

We are delighted to see a growing interest worldwide in our breed, the Dutch Kooikerhondje. Breed associations, now established in various countries, are fortunately keeping pace and promoting the interests of this lovely breed.

In 2014, the VHNK held its third International Symposium. Esteemed breed judge Diana Striegel delivered a presentation on the breed standard of the Dutch Kooikerhondje, which was revised and updated in 2010. The idea quickly arose of transforming Ms. Striegel's presentation into a work of reference, which at the heels of the International Symposium participants would find its way to countries all over the world. That publication was subsequently adapted by Ms. Striegel and members of the KCUSA and VHNK to include US terminology and now is before you.

The VHNK sees itself as a guardian of our national living heritage, the beautiful Nederlandse Kooikerhondje. It gives us great pleasure that the Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., seized the chance to provide the American Cynology with an explicit and well-illustrated reference work on the Dutch Kooikerhondje that will be valuable to breeders, judges and anyone interested in the breed all over the world.

The Dutch Kooikerhondje, though small, is most certainly all dog with a functional construction and attractive though not abundant coat. Breeding of the Kooikerhondje requires special attention not only to health issues but also to avoid any exaggeration.

We believe KCUSA will observe our honors in guarding our living heritage and wish you wisdom and success in working toward and achieving this goal.

—Jan van den Berg
President (1998–2015)

—Kerstin Ueckert
President of the VHNK

Preface

It gives us great pleasure to see the growing interest in our Nederlandse Kooikerhondje. Kooikerhondjes are now starting to show up in city parks, camp grounds, fall frolics, agility trials, obedience, conformation events and of course all sorts of water trials, games and other fun events.

Our club, the Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., has grown enormously since 2004 when the first Kooikerhondje was registered with the American Kennel Club Foundation Stock Service (FSS). On July 1st, 2015, Kooikerhondjes moved from FSS to Miscellaneous Class, with over 300 dogs with a three-generation pedigree registered with the American Kennel Club.

What is important now—and always has been—is with the growing interest in the Kooikerhondjes, we maintain our breed as close to original as possible and improve it where necessary. Health and Genetics will be an important aspect of that goal but we still need to maintain the original breed characteristics and behaviors. This is what people like and love in our Dutch breed.

Too many times we see that an increase in demand for puppies of a certain breed will result in less careful breeding. KCUSA strives to maintain the highest possible standards and walk hand in hand with the Dutch Parent Club, the Vereniging Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje. We, as the AKC Parent Club, take seriously our task of training the US judges and breeders, as both those groups have an extraordinary amount of influence on the breed as a whole and only extensive education on the Standard and breed specifics can keep us on the right path.

We have tried to explain the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Standard as clearly as possible and hope that this booklet will assist you in a better understanding of the Standard. We wish all of you much fun and happiness with your (our) Kooikerhondjes and hope that this publication will be a handbook and a guide to keeping our breed as healthy and beautiful while maintaining the characteristics of the breed.

—Jac M Knoop
President of the KCUSA

The History of the Kooikerhondje

Early History

Historical evidence shows a small orange and white dog has been in the duck decoy traps (Eendenkooi) since 1450.

Dog in Paintings

As long ago as the 17th century, a dog resembling a Spioen (the ancient Dutch term for the original type of Spaniel) appeared in different paintings, not only in our current white and orange but also in black and white and tricolor. Jan Steen and Vermeer were especially fond of painting this type of dog. English, Belgium and Italian painters also painted small parti-colored dogs that resemble the modern Kooikerhondje. Paintings are usually a mirror of daily life, so there really was a dog living in Europe that looked like Kooikerhondje. A famous painting by J.A. Kruseman, “The Widow of Willem van Oranje,” shows the widow griev-



The Widow of Willem van Oranje by J. A. Kruseman (1802–62)



Het Vrolijke Huisgezin by van Jan Steen (1626–79)

ing for her dead husband with her son and a small parti-colored dog on her lap.

These dogs were the ancestors of our modern Kooikerhondje. See the many similarities: the shape of the skull, the skull and muzzle almost equal in length, a blaze, the feathered ears and the parti-colored fur of moderate length.

Willem van Oranje

The Kooikerhondje and Prince Willem van Oranje are inseparably linked. This Prince was the founder of the Dutch monarchy. In 1572, Prince Willem was in his camp, and wanted to save his nephew Lodewijk from the Spanish army. There was a sudden attack, and no time to warn Prince Willem. But Willem had his dog Kunze with him. Kunze woke him up in time to escape. After that night, the Prince was always accompanied by his dog. Unfortunately, Kunze could not prevent Prince Wil-



Paintings of Willem van Oranje death showing a dog resembling a Kooikerhondje



lem's death at the hands of Balthasar Gérard in 1584. Several paintings of this event show a dog that resembles the Kooikerhondje.



Gravestone of Willem van Oranje

But could it have really been a Kooikerhondje?

The prince loved to hunt, but Kooikerhondjes were not known to have been used for the style of hunting he enjoyed. These dogs were used in the Duck Decoys, Eendenkooi in Dutch. There were Duck Decoys close to where the prince lived and hunted, but this was a breed for the poor people and not the people normally around the Prince. Maybe the dog caught his attention on one of his rides and he was attracted to his looks and qualities?

Several paintings of the death of Willem show a dog similar in many ways to a Kooikerhondje.

The gravestone of Willem van Oranje, made almost 200 years after his death, has a dog lying at his feet. That dog has more similarities to a Labrador than a Kooikerhondje.

The Kooikerhondje in the Last Century

There is more of the national history to tell about this lovely breed. Many years later, around 1920, the Duck Decoys began to disappear as more hunters were using guns, so fewer Kooikerhondjes were needed.

Baronesse van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol, a lady of the Dutch nobility (1901–1986) wanted to preserve the breed. In 1939, she started her revival of the breed. She gave pictures of the dogs along with a clipping of fur to peddlers and asked them to look for dogs like the one in the picture, matching in color as well. When the peddlers reported



Baronesse van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol

a dog that looked right, the Baroness took her backpack and bicycle to go look at that dog. She searched the whole country for dogs she could use. She discovered Tommy, a bitch from Friesland, the northern part of Holland. Tommy became the founding bitch of today's Kooikerhondje.

In 1943, Tommy was mated to Bennie and she delivered four puppies, three females and one male. The females were named Trix, Irene and Margriet, after the three little Princesses of the House of Orange who had fled to Canada because of the Second World War.

Breeding Dutch dogs was also a sign of silent resistance against the occupier. The orange color of the dogs was also very important. After all, the name of the Dutch Royal House is Van Oranje (from Orange).

During World War II, a lot of effort went into getting the Dutch breeds recognized. The Dutch people had not been so proud of their dogs before the war, but that changed during the occupation. Besides the Kooikerhondje, the Stabijhoun, Drentsche Patrijshond, Wetterhoun and Schapendoes were all recognized during the war.

After the litter from Tommie and Bennie, the Baroness bred 57 Kooikerhondje litters and used the kennel name Walhalla.



The founding bitch was Tommie and the founding father could be Bobbie, who the Baroness used to sire a lot of litters.

The Baroness did a lot of good work and her effort was successful. More Kooikerhondjes were to be found around the Netherlands. On the fifth of July 1958, the first evaluation or show day took place, with 68 participants. Only eight males and seven females were judged good enough for breeding. More evaluation days were held in 1959, 1961 and 1965.

There was a desire to start an Association, but the Dutch Kennel Club only wanted to recognize the Association after the Kooikerhondje was recognized as an official breed.

The judges needed some guidelines for judging. Temporary guidelines were set in 1962.

A provisional breed standard was written in 1966. In June of that year, the Kooikerhondje was provisionally recognized.

The Dutch Association, the VHNK (Vereniging Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje) was founded on February 11, 1967, and recognized by the Dutch Kennel Club on December 20, 1971.

The Nederlandse Kooikerhondje was officially recognized on May 15, 1971.

The breed standard was revised in 1991 and 2011. When we compare the older breed standards and the present guidelines, the changes are quite small. Black earrings were allowed in the 1962 standard, listed as desirable in 1966, and in 2011 as very desirable.

The mantle dogs—those with solid orange-red back, shoulders and sides—were disqualified in 1962. Nothing was stated about mantle dogs in 1966. Now, distinct patches (plates) on the body are preferred, with the orange-red color predominant on the torso, but mantle dogs are acceptable.

The height at the withers changed from 40 centimeters (15.75 inches) in 1962 to 38 centimeters (14.96 inches) in 1966. In 1971, it was 35–40 centimeters (13.78–15.75 inches). At this moment, 40 centimeters (15.75 inches) for a dog and 38 centimeters (14.96 inches) for a bitch are considered ideal. There is a tolerance for 2 centimeters (0.79 inches) larger and 3 centimeters (1.18 inches) under the ideal size.

Brief Historical Summary

In 1942, during the Second World War, the Baroness Van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol began to recreate the Kooikerhondje. She gave a picture of the type of dog she was looking for to a pedlar and asked him to look out for such dogs. At a farm in the province of Friesland he found the bitch now well known as Tommy. She became the founding bitch of the Kooikerhondje. In 1966 the Raad van Beheer adopted the interim breed and in 1971 the breed was officially recognized.

The Kooikerhondje was and still is used in the duck decoys. His task is still to lure the ducks into the decoy with his gaily waving tail; he does not hunt the ducks. He calmly moves between the decoy-screens in order to provoke the ducks curiosity and lure them further down the decoy pipe where the ducks are captured in a trap. They are either killed for the table or ringed for ornithological research.

The Breed Standard of the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje

Approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC) on May 16, 2014 and effective July 1, 2015

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Kooikerhondje is a harmoniously built orange-red parti-colored small sporting dog of almost square body proportions. He moves with his head held high; in action the well-feathered waving tail is carried level with, or above the topline. The ears have black hair at the tip, the so-called earrings. The dog is presented with a natural, untrimmed coat.





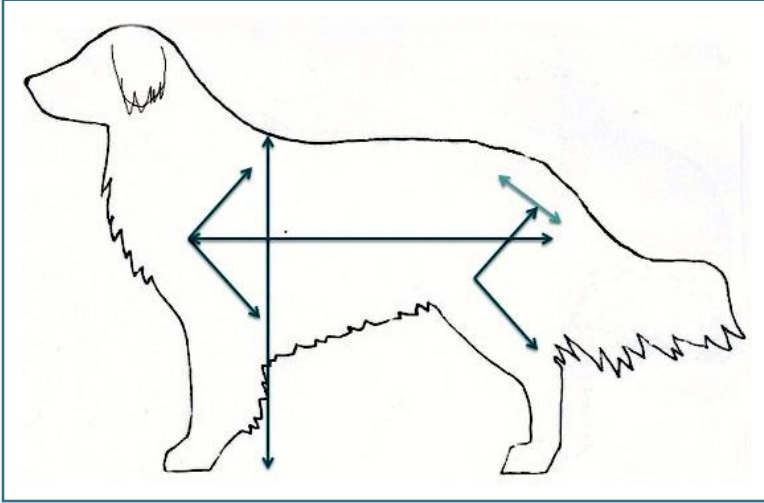
Twelve recent Best in Show and Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Show at the VHNK National Club Show in the Netherlands

Does everything appear balanced: the head with the body, the front with the rear, etcetera? Is it a good representative of the breed? And do you see a clear indication of the sex of the dog; is it a male or might it be a female? This should be obvious without checking the “details.”

The slightly off square body proportions means that the length of the body is almost the same as the height.

The length is measured from the point of the shoulder (at the scapula or humerus) to the end of the ischium (buttocks).

The height is measured from the highest point of the withers to the floor.



A dog of ideal proportions

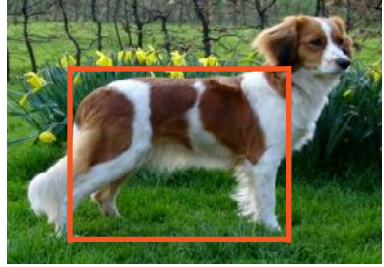
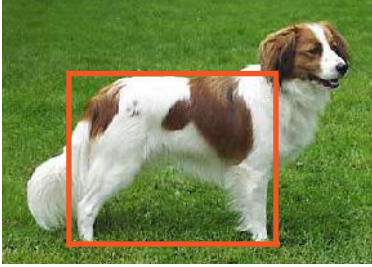


Correct slightly off square body proportion

When you have doubts, it is very easy to check. Just get a rope and measure both lines.

L: Too short backed

R: A bit too long bodied/ low on leg



PROPORTIONS and SIZE

Proportions

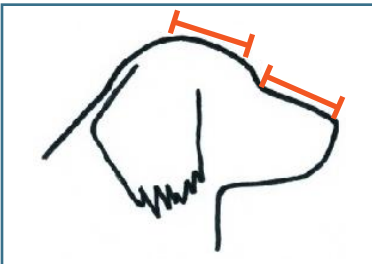
The length of the body from the point of the shoulder (at the scapula or humerus) to the point of the buttocks may be slightly longer than the height at the withers. Skull and muzzle are of about equal length.

Size: Ideal Height at the withers

Males	16 inches
Females	15 inches
Tolerance	1 inch over or 1 inch under the ideal heights are permitted.

About the Proportions

Regarding the head, the length of the muzzle should be as long as the length of the skull. The muzzle starts at the point of the nose and ends at the transition to the skull, between the eyes. The skull starts where the muzzle ends and continues to the occiput, which you can feel as a knot on the skull.



About the Size

In Holland the size is 40 centimeters (15.75 inches) for a male and 38 centimeters (14.96 inches) for a female.

In the Netherlands there is a tolerance for 2 centimeters (0.79 inches) over and 3 centimeters (1.18 inches) under the ideal heights. This indicates that there is more tolerance for smaller dogs than for bigger dogs.

American rules require rounding to the nearest one half inch. Therefore 16 inches at the withers is ideal for dogs and 15 inches for bitches with a one inch over or under allowance. Please keep the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje a small dog.

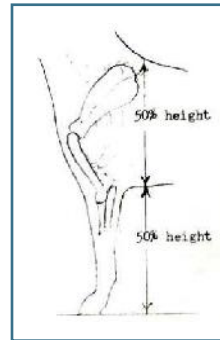
The rest of the breed standard was a literal translation,

The size is measured from the ground to the withers (highest point of the shoulder blade, just behind the neck).

When the dog is well balanced, it can be forgiven for being a bit too large or too small.

The length of the front legs (from the floor to the elbows) needs to be equal to the distance from the elbow to the withers. A dog with legs that are too short, but is the correct height, has a bigger fault than a dog with the correct proportion, but who is an inch over the ideal.

Be careful that the Kooikerhondje does not get too big. After all it must still be a Kooikerhond**JE**. The last two letters means it is a small dog.



L: Good length of legs

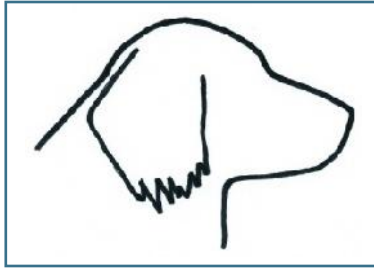
R: Too low on legs

Be careful also the Kooikerhondje does not become too heavy or too broad. He must still show the flowing and springy movement.

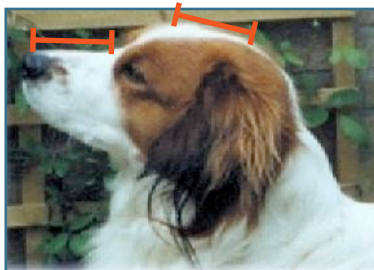
HEAD

The head is of moderate length, fitting in with the general appearance, clean-cut, with flowing lines.

The difference should be noticeable between the dog and the bitch—the male should have a slightly heavier (but not too heavy) head and the female a more refined head.



The skull and muzzle should be of nearly equal length with slightly divergent planes.

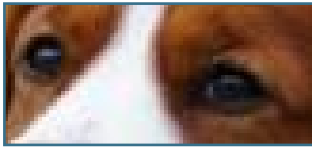


Almond-shaped, dark brown with a friendly, alert expression.



Eyes: The Shape

The eyes of a Kooikerhondje need to be level in the head. The eye is almond shaped. That is almost the same as oval, but the corners are bit sharper.



L: Almond-shaped
R: Too Round

Eyes: The Color

The color of the eye should be dark brown. Sometimes we see a blue eye. Mostly it is when the blaze is so wide that the eye is in the white blaze, but not always.



L: Beautiful dark brown eye
R: Blue or China eye, a severe fault

Eyes: The Eyelids and Rims

The eyelids need to fit tightly around the eyeball; drooping eyelids are undesirable. The third eyelid or the haw should not be visible. The eye should be well set—neither protruding or deep set—and the eye rim should have good pigmentation.

The combination of the set, color, and shape determine the expression. A Kooikerhondje with the perfect eyes can melt even the most hard-hearted person on earth.

Ears

Moderately large, set on just above the line from the point of the nose to the corner of the eye.

The ears are carried close to the cheeks without a fold. Well feathered; black hair tips (“earrings”) are highly desirable.

Ears: The Ear Set

The ears are important and show the mood of the dog. Sometimes, the ears are set a little too high or low on the head.

Ask for the dog’s attention when judging a Kooikerhondje to get a good view of the ear set. The ears should be placed on an imaginary line from the tip of the nose to the corner of the eye.



The ear should fold over gently, lie closely against the head and should be moderately long.



Good ear sets

The ears should not appear higher than the skull when perked up.



Poor ear set and/or color

Sometimes, the auricle is strongly developed, and the ear does not fold at the base but further out, preventing it from lying flat against the head. This is considered a fault. In the photographs above: The two dogs on the left do not carry the ears close to the cheeks. The auricle is well developed and the ear accentuates it. The first dog's ears are also set too high. The dog on the top right has ears that are too low set and a skull that is a bit too round making one think of a Cavalier. The dog on the lower right does not have any ear feathers. This is acceptable in very young dogs, but the overall color is too yellow as well.

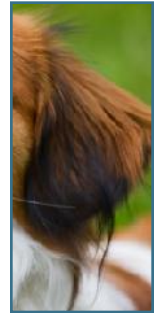
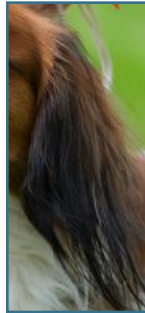
Measuring ear length**Ear length**

The ear should be moderately large and easily reach the inner corner of the eye.

Ear feathering, black hair tips

A treasured characteristic of the Kooikerhondje is the black hair tips on the ears known as “earrings.”

They can be plentiful, they can be sparse, they can be long, or just the same length of the other hair of the ears. The wispy tufts above the ears are another characteristic of the Kooikerhondje and should not be trimmed away.



Skull

Sufficiently broad, moderately rounded.

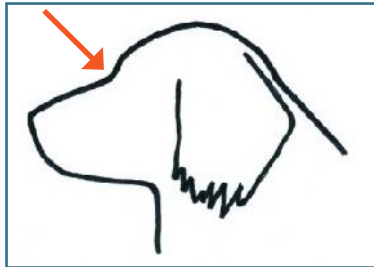
Stop

Seen in profile clearly visible but not too deep.

The stop is where the muzzle ends and the skull begins. The slope of the stop must be moderate.



L: Correct shape of skull
R: Skull too round



Nice stop

Sometimes Kooikerhondjes have too much depth under the eye. When the cheeks are too deep, it changes the shape of the head and spoils the outline

Muzzle

Seen from the side not too deep and slightly wedge-shaped.

Seen from above not tapering too much and well filled under the eyes.

Nose

Black and well developed.

Lips

Preferably well-pigmented, close-fitting and not over-hanging.

*Good
wedge
shaped and
powerful
muzzles*



Make sure that the chin is broad and well developed.



L: Too tapered in muzzle

R: A bit too tapered; not enough fullness under eyes

Nose

The nose should be black and well developed with open nostrils and good pigmentation. Winter nose is acceptable but never a red or “Dudley” nose.



L: Good pigment on the nose

R: Winter or Snow nose

Lips

The lips should be close fitting with good pigment. They should never be drooping or hanging.



L: Well-formed lips

R: Incorrectly hanging lips!

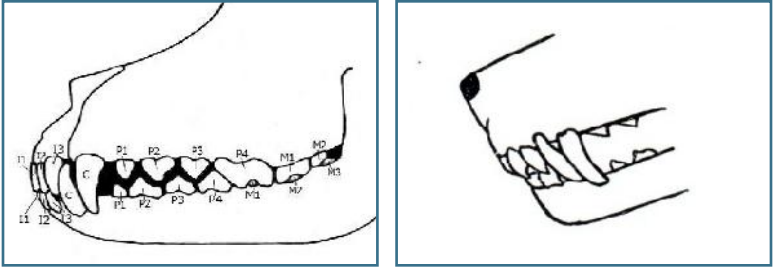
Jaws / Teeth

Scissor bite, complete dentition is desirable. Pincer bite is accepted but less desirable.

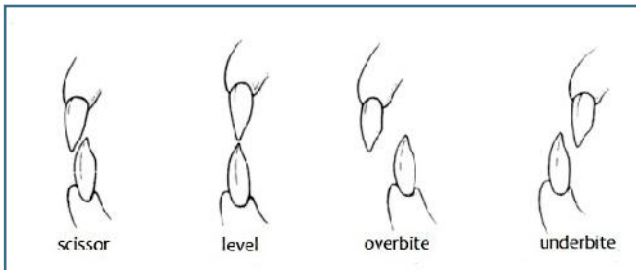
All elements must be present when looking at the teeth. The adult dog should have 42 teeth, divided into 12 incisors, 4 canines, 16 premolars and 10 molars. The dog should have 4 molars in the upper jaw and 6 in the lower jaw.

A scissor bite occurs when the upper incisors are placed just over the lower ones in a scissor-like movement.

When there is too much space between the teeth, we call it an overbite.



When the teeth are at the same level, like pliers, we call it a level or pincer bite. When the lower incisors protrude past the upper ones, it is called an under-bite.

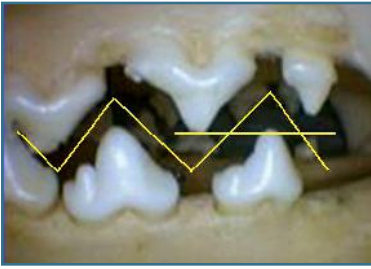


For correct dentition, do not only check the incisors, but also the molars.

The correlation of the upper and lower jaws must be considered.

Sometimes the upper and lower molars are situated on top of one other, instead of being spaced like the teeth of a saw, with the premolars continuing that saw-tooth pattern between the molars and incisors. When the upper and lower molars or premolars align with the points of the

teeth meeting, one of the jaws is too short. It can look like a scissor bite at first, from just the incisors, but is incorrect.



*L: Correct
R: In-
correct*

NECK

Strongly muscled, of sufficient length and clean-cut.



A strong well-muscled neck is often a good indication the rest of the spine will also be strong.

A short neck can be an indication the forequarters of the dog are too straight or placed too much to the front.

TOPLINE

Smooth line from the withers to the tail.

The topline is the line from the head to the tail. It must be flowing without strong curves; except that “flowing” is not saying enough. The line can be flowing but also high in the rear or with a sag in the topline, which are incorrect.

*Good
toplines*



Dogs that are high in the rear have withers which are lower than the croup. This trait is often seen in younger dogs and can disappear as they grow to maturity. However, if it is a conformation flaw, then it will not disappear over time.

Elderly dogs (especially older brood bitches) can develop a sagging topline.

*L: Sagging
topline
R: High in
Rear*



CHEST

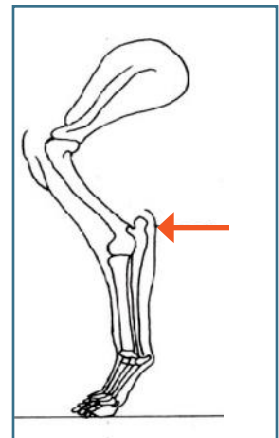
Reaching to the elbows with sufficient spring of ribs.
Sufficiently developed forechest.

Chest: Depth

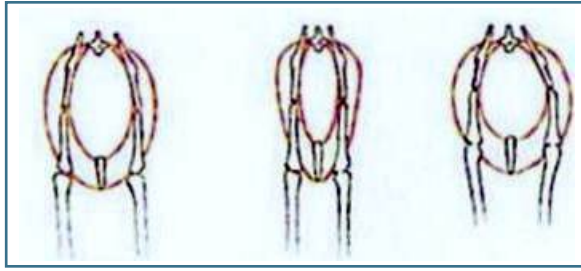
The depth of the chest should reach the elbow.

Chest: Rib Spring

The ribs should taper gradually and not be too round or too flat. When these requirements are satisfactory, the heart and the lungs will have



the room to develop properly, which is important for endurance.



L: Correct ribs

C: Too flat

R: Too round

When the ribs are

too round, they interfere with movement of the front legs, causing the dog to appear out at the elbows. When the ribs are too flat, the heart and lungs will not have the space they need.

Chest: Forechest

It is often said the forechest or pro-sternum should be protruding enough to hang your coat on!

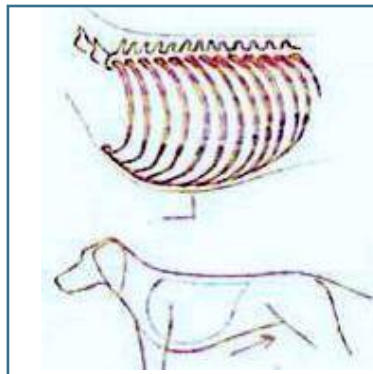


UNDERLINE and BELLY

Slight tuck-up towards the loin.

The underline should have a slight tuck-up. The sternum should extend far enough to reach beyond a line drawn straight down from the withers. The sternum should not have too much slope.

Always feel the sternum. In younger dogs, the underline



can be a bit too tucked up, but the upward line should start after the sternum.

Good underlines



L: Sloping underline



R: Flat underline



BACK

Strong and straight, rather short.

The spinal column from neck to tail, including the loins and croup, is called the top line, in popular terms.

The dog has 13 total thoracic vertebrae, but 9 are considered part of the withers.

The true “back” consists of a bridge of only the 4 vertebrae

between the withers and the loin. The back should be straight and strong for proper transfer of power.



Long backs are less sturdy and tend to be weak. Solid short backs are preferred.

Loin

Of sufficient length and width, strongly muscled.

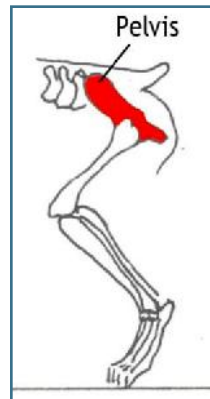
Croup

Slightly sloping and sufficiently broad; the length of the croup should be 1.5 times the width.

The loins should be strong and well muscled. The Kooikerhondje should have an obvious little round “butt.”



The length of the croup, or pelvis, should be 1.5 times the width. Feel the pelvic bones to check. The points of the pelvis or hip bones lie on either side of the spinal column located approximately 6 inches forward of the tail set, where you can feel two nodules. The ischium or the two sit bones lie just below the tail. These form the other end of the pelvis. The length of the imaginary line from the hip bone to the sit bone should be 1.5 times more than the imaginary line between the hip bones.



L: Correct croup and rounded butt

R: In-correct downward sloping croup

TAIL

Set on so as to follow the topline of the body, carried level with the topline or almost straight up (gaily).

Well-feathered with a white plume.

The last vertebra should reach the hock joint.



*Measuring
the tail*

A lot of attention—more than most breeds—is paid to the tail because it is part the Kooikerhondje's working equipment.

The tail consists of 20-23 vertebrae free of kinks or other anomalies.

The tip of the tail of the Kooikerhondje should reach the hock joint.

Do not measure the fur, just the tail itself.

When the dog stands, the tail remains in a lowered position, except for the last third, which should curve gently upwards. When the dog moves, the tail should flow straight outwards, following the topline with a slight bend upwards at the tip but not so as to curl. This, together with the white plume, makes the ducks curious and encourages them to follow the dog into the gate or trap. The tail is covered with long feathered hair without curls or waves.

*L: Good
tailset in
action*

*R: Good
tailset in
rest*





*Acceptable
tailsets*

It is often said that a dog may have a “happy” or gay tail. This has nothing to do with his state of mind, instead it means the tail is carried straight up. An almost gay tail is acceptable, a ring tail is not preferred.



*L: Tail set
too high
R: In-
correct
Ringtail*

The tail carriage depends on the state of mind of the dog and the position of the pelvis. A tail that is carried against the belly shows a dog that is not happy in the ring and one that lacks confidence. This is not preferred.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulder

Sufficiently sloping to create a flowing line from neck to back.

Upper arm

Well-angulated towards shoulder blade that is of equal length.

Elbow

Close to the body.

Forearm

Straight and parallel, strong bone of sufficient density and length.

Metacarpus (Pastern)

Strong and slightly oblique.

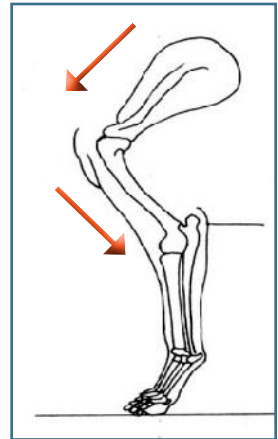
Forefeet

Small, slightly oval, compact with well-knit toes pointing forward.

Shoulder and Upper Arm

These two bones should be almost the same length and the angle formed at the shoulder should be about a 60-degree angle.

Using our hands, it is easy to feel the different position of the bones, but even without x-ray eyes, poor angulation and good angulation are obvious in the pictures below



*L: Good
angulation
front and
rear*

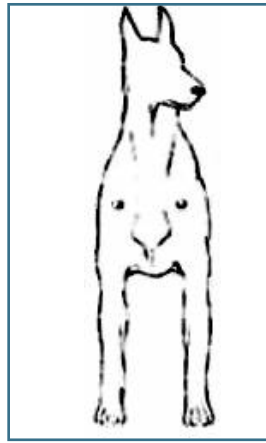


*R: Steep
angulation
front and
rear*



Elbows

Elbows should be close to the body, while standing and in action. The bottom of the chest should reach the elbow.

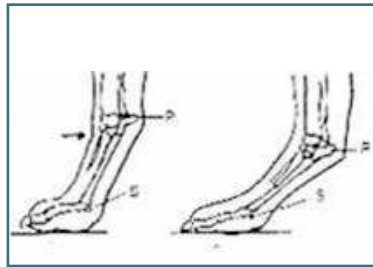


Forearms

Forearms should be straight and parallel. The front legs should be placed directly under the body.

Metacarpus (Pastern)

The pastern should slope slightly when viewed from the side, to have good balance. A pastern that is too steep gives too little resilience and a weak pastern will not have shock absorbing power.



L: Good pasterns
C: Steep pasterns
R: Weak pasterns

Forefeet

The foot must be sturdy, meaning the toes are tight. The foot shape should be oval. Toes must point to the front.



Sometimes the feet turn outwards in a “French” or “eastie/westie” position. This is incorrect!

*Incorrect
forefeet*

HINDQUARTERS

Well angulated, straight and parallel as seen from the rear. Strong bone.

Thigh

Well muscled.

Lower Thigh

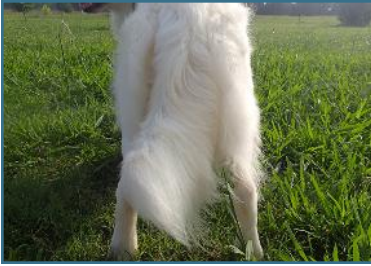
Length equal to thigh.

Hock Joint

Well let down.

Hind Feet

As forefeet.



*A
good
rear*



The pelvis is important for correct rear conformation. It influences the angles of the other bones and the shape of the croup.



*L: Good
angulation
C: Poor
angulation
R: Too
much angu-
lation*

COAT

Hair

Of medium length, slightly wavy or straight and close lying. Soft hair. Well-developed undercoat.

Front legs should have moderate feathering reaching to the pastern joints.

Hind legs should have fairly long feathered breeches; no feathering below the hock joints. The coat on the head, the front part of the legs and the feet should be short. Sufficiently feathered on the underside of the tail. Longer hair on throat and forechest. Earrings (long feathered black hair tips) are highly desirable.

The Kooikerhondje has two different types of fur; the longer harsher guard hairs and the woolly undercoat. In winter, the undercoat will be more developed.

Sometimes a Kooikerhondje will have a slightly wavy coat with a tendency to curl over the croup. This acceptable.

There are differences between the coats of males and females. The male's coat is often a bit longer with longer feathers and a more pronounced ruff.



Color

Distinct patches of clear orange-red color on pure white although a few small spots on the legs are accepted. The orange-red color should predominate. Some black hair intermingling with the orange-red color and a slight form of ticking are accepted but less desirable.

A black tail ring where the color changes from orange-red to white is permitted.

The Kooikerhondje is a parti-colored dog. A good division of color is preferred—a white dog with orange patches with just a little more orange than white.

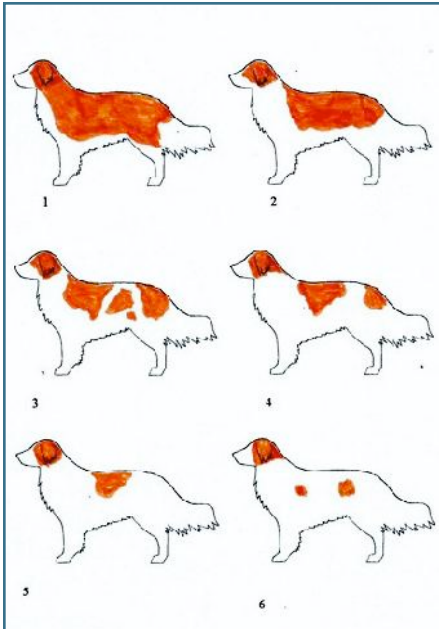


*Nice
markings*



L: Too much white
R: Mantle, too much orange

Parti-colored dogs have many variations in markings. Color should be a consideration only if two dogs are entirely equal in all other respects. It should never be the first factor considered.



All of these dogs have acceptable markings, but Number 3 with its distinct patches, good division of color and predominant orange color on the torso is preferred. How would you rank the remaining dogs, remembering that distinct patches of orange-red color on pure white is the first criterion?

Remember, color should be a consideration only if two dogs are entirely equal in all other respects.

The orange color should be a warm orange-red. Sometimes the color is more orange-yellow or has too many black hairs in the orange patches. These are less desirable.

L: A bit too yellow

R: Too much black hair in the orange



Ticking is sometimes seen on the legs, the muzzle and on the body. This is not preferred, however do not be too hard about a few spots.



Ticking is acceptable, but not preferred



Some dogs looks like black dogs, but when you take a closer look, only the hair tips are black. **This is not a tri-color as mentioned in the breed standard.**



Sometimes the Kooikerhondje has a black tail ring. **This is definitely not a flaw and not a kind of tri-color.**



In fact, the same genes that determine the black earrings also cause the black tail ring. The dogs with a tail ring also tend to have more profuse earrings.

The black earrings, the black hair tips or a black tail ring are **definitely NOT** a kind of tri-color.

Color Disqualification

A black and white or a tri-color coat is a disqualification. A tri-color has tan on the cheeks, the legs, at the inner side of the ears, above the eyes and/or under the tail.



Disqualification for color

Coloring on the Head

A clearly visible blaze running down to the nose.

There should be coloring on the cheeks and around the eyes. A blaze that is too narrow or too wide or only partly colored cheeks are less desirable.

The breed standard is quite clear about the color on the face. We can write a lot about it, but pictures show it better than words.

*These three
Kooiker-
hondjes
have nice
markings
on the head*



Less desirable is a broad or narrow blaze.

*L: Broad
blaze*

*R: Narrow
blaze*



Orange-red color that ends at or before the corner of the mouth and is symmetrical is preferred.



Top L: Both eyes in the white area; right ear partially white

Top R: One eye in white area; also called a "pirate"

L: Colored ears, but no color around the eyes

GAIT

Should be flowing and springy, well extended, with good drive. Limbs parallel.

The Kooikerhondje's movement should be light-footed and flowing, with front and rear limbs moving parallel to one another.



He must have a good stride, meaning he has good power in the rear (drive) and reach in the front.

When the dog is well balanced, he shows his talents best at the trot. Likewise, when the dog has some flaws in conformation, he will show them most clearly at the trot.

From the Back

The limbs should be parallel—not too close, too broad, bow-legged, or cow-hocked. Check to see that the front and rear move in one line, not sidewinding or straddling. Is there power in the rear? Does the dog correctly show the whole rear paw pads while moving away?

From the Side

Does the dog have enough power and what does he do with his tail? Does he keep his top-line straight and level? A well-balanced dog places his hind foot in the spot vacated by the front paw. As mentioned in the general appearance, the Kooikerhondje carries his head a little bit high when he is moving. An imaginary line drawn along his back shows the head a bit above that line.

From the Front

The front limbs are parallel—not too close, too broad, bow-legged or out at the elbows. If the wrists flex too much as the dog is moving, energy is wasted and diminishes endurance. Dogs that move by flexing the front leg at the elbow rather than extending the upper arm look flashy but this hackney or high-stepping movement is a fault.

(Those who are interested in learning more about movement should read “The New Dog Steps” by Rachel Page Elliot.)



Lively and agile, self-confident and with sufficient perseverance and stamina, good natured and alert, however not noisy. The breed is faithful, easy-going and friendly.

Outside the hunting season the dog is expected to find and kill vermin, hence he needs to be keen, swift and tough. He is a true sporting dog, being attentive and energetic and having a zest for working and with a cheerful character.

By “keen, swift and tough” we mean that the dog is spirited, enthusiastic, and active. The word “keen” has more than one meaning and can also indicate aggressive behavior, which is not the intended meaning.

Lively and agile are important qualities for the Kooikerhondje. Does the dog stand without any spirit, without interest in his environment or handler? This is not the correct behavior.

Character

The Kooikerhondje has an attractive and friendly appearance. There is also a lot to the temperament of the breed.

Calm and self-assured behavior is very important for work in the Duck Decoy. The work requires perseverance and endurance.

The Kooikerhondje should show good cooperation with the duck trapper with an attentive attitude and a willingness to please. He can sometimes act a bit reserved towards strangers due to the close connection with his owner.

Ferocity, speed and toughness are properties that are useful to eradicate harmful vermin and chase away larger predators.

Modern Kooikerhondje should still possess these characteristics. They must be free and fearless with enough

confidence to go into the ring and be easily handled by the judge. Fearful and anxious behavior is highly undesirable. Kooikerhondjes are not always friendly to children, unless well socialized as young dogs.



FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and the functional health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to perform its traditional work.

- Ears too small.
- Ears half-erect, “flying ears.”
- Tail that is curled.
- Hackney gait.
- Curly or silky hair.
- Color that is heavily interspersed with black hairs in the orange-red patches.
- Too much ticking.
- Over maximum size or under minimum size.

Severe faults are just that. Dogs with faults in this category, in general, should not be shown. Breeding dogs with these severe faults are prohibited in the regulations of the Dutch Kooikerhondje Association (VHNK).

SEVERE FAULTS

- Anxious behavior.
- Distinctly low on legs, out of proportion.
- Wall eye.
- Undershot or overshot bite.
- Tail too short, not reaching hock joint.
- White color on ears, partly or completely.
- White hair around eyes, one or both.

DISQUALIFICATION

- Coat color that is black and white or is a tricolor.

The tame decoy ducks know the game and go back to the lake. The wild ducks cannot see the lake because the arm curves.

The vegetation is kept short at the end of the trap so the wild ducks fly toward the light. The wild ducks fly into the narrow trap. The trapper closes the door. Some tame ducks do not fly back to the lake but go into the trap and are marked then released. Tame ducks are marked, so the trapper recognizes and releases them to lure more wild ducks into the Decoy.

The trapper trains the Kooikerhondje to weave around the screens.

The Kooikerhondje watches the hand signals of the trapper, working in a silent partnership. The dog must complete his tasks, independently, while keeping an eye on the trapper. Obviously, he cannot bark while working.

The Kooikerhondje traditionally slept in the decoy shed, keeping it free of vermin. This was very important especially during the duck breeding season.



The Population of the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje

The Population in the USA

The early history of the Kooikerhondje in the United States probably began with immigrants from the Netherlands bringing their own pets with them. For example, a Dutch immigrant named, interestingly enough, Dr. Kooiker, produced a number of litters in the Seattle area in the 1980s and '90s.

Dee Nichols, of RedGold Kooikers, became interested in the breed because of the thought that Kooikerhondjes might have been used in the development of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, another breed she loves and shows.

Ms. Nichols got her first Kooikerhondje from a breeder in Holland in 1998. Dee invited the breeder to come to the US for a visit, bringing the puppy along. Dee will never forget what Nell said to her when they met at the airport: "If I do not like you, the puppy does not stay!" Dee must have met with her approval. Fietje came into her home.



It was another year before the Nichols were able to bring another Kooiker to their home, DutchGold's Casanova.

About this time, Ms. Nichols started trying to find other Kooikerhondjes in the USA. She found Nancy MacDonald, a breeder in California, who produced the first known litter of Kooikerhondjes in this country from two FCI registered parents in the fall of 1999.

Ms. Nichols located several others in her online searches for those interested in the breed. She contacted the United Kennel Club (UKC) and American Rare Breed Association (ARBA) to see what procedures were required to have this breed recognized with their registries. After many conversations and emails, she was able to get the first Kooikerhondje registered with both UKC and ARBA in 2000. The Breed Standard from the Netherlands was used for both UKC and ARBA. Dee showed her Kooikerhondjes in both venues, winning the first UKC/ARBA Championships with DutchGold's Casanova. Casanova even got a Best In Show at ARBA.

Dee Nichols organized the Kooikerhondje Club of the USA and the first newsletter went out in November 1999. KCUSA went from three members to eight members in the first year. The Membership Application, a Code of Ethics and Bylaws were produced during that year. Even though the members were spread across the country, KCUSA was able to organize and started recruiting new members. It was slow going. Breeders in Europe were hesitant to send puppies so far from home, but KCUSA persisted. New puppy owners were added to the membership in hopes they would become involved. Sometimes it worked and other times it did not.

KCUSA did not have enough active members in 2003 to staff a board, but continued working toward the goal of AKC recognition.

Kooikerhondjes were accepted to AKC Foundation Stock Service (FSS) in October 2004 with the aid of AKC Judge, Dr. Robert Berndt. KCUSA's Secretary collected pedigrees and import documents from all club members for one joint submission to the American Kennel Club. Most members

received their AKC FSS registration certificates in August of 2006.

Word having spread about the breed, membership then really started taking off.

Nearly 200 KCUSA member households were found in all parts of the country as the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje moved into the Miscellaneous Class on July 1, 2015, the last step before full recognition with the American Kennel Club. There were 301 Kooikerhondjes in the USA with Certified Three-Generation Pedigrees on that date.

The Population in the Netherlands

There were 4,927 Kooikerhondjes born between 1942 and 1990; 10,126 from 1990 to 2012. At least 15,063 Kooikerhondjes have been born since 1942.

Annually about 350 Kooikerhondjes are registered in the Dutch Studbook, the NHSB.

To calculate the current population of a breed, the number of pups is multiplied by 10. However, this is a conservative estimate with Kooikerhondjes because they get quite old. A 15 year-old Kooikerhondje is really no exception!

Litters and Pups from 2005–14, the Netherlands										
Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Litters	84	83	86	78	69	56	43	59	57	69
Pups	432	431	449	452	346	305	309	327	338	400
Different dams	79	79	84	77	69	56	58	59	57	68
Different sires	50	42	44	39	32	33	32	33	29	39
Source: VHNC										

Litters and Pups from 2005–14 in the United States of America

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Litters	0	0	1	2	4	4	5	4	6	4
Pups	0	0	3	7	11	13	29	16	47	18

Source: AKC

The Kooikerhondje in Other Countries, 2012

Country	Annual Litters	Annual Pups	Males	Females
Belgium	1	12	6	6
Denmark	11	56	35	21
Germany	27	144	79	65
England	2	212	120	92
Finland	19	87	42	45
Italy	1	3	0	3
Norway	4	22	13	9
Austria	5	19	11	8
USA	4	16	10	6
Sweden	21	103	52	51
Switzerland	12	67	37	30
Total	106	1212	660	552

Source: VHNC

The Kooikerhondje's beauty is also appreciated abroad. The Vereniging Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje (VHNC), the Dutch association, is proud that other associations see it as the parent club. VHNC takes its responsibility seriously and is always available for consultation and advice.

Every two years, the Board of the VHNC organizes a meeting with representatives of the foreign Kooikerhondje clubs, to encourage cooperation and share information. It

is a popular and important gathering. Nearly every National Breed Club attends. Listening to each other is valuable and can lead to different policies in breeding or other issues. National populations and any problems that have occurred in each country are discussed at every meeting. New developments in the breed, research on health issues, and/or the software program ZooEasy are also points of discussion.

The association has good contact with all the foreign clubs. The various National Clubs also provide information for the Register van Kooikerhondjes of the VHNK.

The Register van Kooikerhondjes



*Logo of the
VHNK*

The VHNK collects information for all Kooikerhondjes in The Register van Kooikerhondjes. The first edition was printed in 1975. Data was collected from every possible source: publications, catalogs and old pedigrees. Almost every Kooikerhondje born since 1942 is included.

The pedigree and registration numbers are collected in the Register. Additional information

is included:

- Health test results
- Dental irregularities
- Color faults
- Date of death
- Disease information provided by the owner, breeder, or from a veterinarian

Today, the Register is maintained by the Information Commission, which obtains the data transmitted through test results, litter visits, examination reports, surveys, statements from owners and/or breeders as well as veterinarians' statements. Good cooperation with the Association's members, who provide the data, is of great importance. Data about the appearance and temperament

are obtained by reading the critiques issued at dog shows and evaluations. A clear articulation of the assessment in the examination reports can help maintain and improve the breed. Thanks to good contacts with other National Kooikerhondje Clubs, the information about Kooikerhondjes born abroad is also submitted. This information can also be found in the Register van Kooikerhondjes, listed alphabetically under each country, following data from the Netherlands.

Health Considerations in the Breed

The Kooikerhondje, while a very healthy and long-lived breed in general, can, like all dogs, have hereditary disorders. It is recommended that breeders reduce inbreeding as much as possible when selecting mates for a possible litter, especially if any of these hereditary disorders have occurred in earlier generations.

Inherited disorders are never completely preventable, despite careful breeding regulations and comprehensive documentation in the Club Register.

The Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., strongly encourages breeders to do the following tests on all breeding animals:

- Eye disease exam, certified through the Orthopediac Foundation for Animals (OFA)
- Blood test for vonWillebrand's Disease (vWD)
- Blood test for Hereditary Necrotizing Myelopathy (ENM) (both vWD and ENM must be performed at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands and results submitted separately to OFA)
- Patella exam, certified through OFA
- Hip x-rays, certified through OFA

Performing these five tests qualifies the dog or bitch for CHIC certification through the AKC Canine Health Information Center.

The Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., encourages breeders to only use dogs with CHIC certification for breeding. Preliminary Hip Results are acceptable for dogs not yet two years old at the time of breeding, but all other tests should be completed prior to producing a litter.

In addition, KCUSA encourages careful review of pedigrees and encourages all to limit the Co-efficient of Inbreeding to no more than 6.5 percent calculated over eight generations.

Here is a list of the diseases known to occur in the Kooikerhondje.

Von Willebrand Disease

The von Willebrand Factor (vWF), which helps clot blood, is lacking. Bleeding can be prolonged and can be life threatening in the event of injury or estrus.

Symptoms

There are three types of Von Willebrand Disease. Type One is the mildest one and sometimes goes undiagnosed. Type Three has a total absence of vW Factor. Gastrointestinal and genitourinary bleeding are common in Type Three.

Frequency in the Breed

Thanks to a genetic test developed in the 1990s, there are no more sufferers born within the Association. A subsidy for members of VHNK is available to help cover the cost of the DNA test. This test is mandatory for all breeding animals in the Netherlands. The Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., strongly encourages all breeders to submit blood samples to the University of Utrecht for testing, and then send the results to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) for certification. The same blood sample may be used for both the ENM and vWD tests.

ENM: Hereditary Necrotising Myelopathy

ENM is also known as Kooikerparalysis. It is a neurological condition in which the white matter is affected in the spinal cord and leads to paralysis.

Symptoms

Affected dogs typically show first symptoms between the ages of 6 and 15 months. At first, the symptoms are subtle. There is a slight lack of coordination, especially in the hindquarters. The progressive nature will appear as time passes. The dog staggers like a drunk in the hindquarters. Then problems in the forequarters appear. The dog will also have impaired postural reactions.

Frequency in the Breed

Fortunately, a DNA marker for this disease was found in 2012. Prior to 2012, a restrictive breeding protocol removed dogs who produced the illness from the breeding pool. Careful documentation limited cases to fewer than one per year. The Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., strongly encourages all breeders to submit blood samples to the University of Utrecht for testing, and then send the results to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) for certification. The same blood sample may be used for both the ENM and vWD tests.

Further Information

The animals do not experience pain, but the course of the disease is so severe that they do not live longer than two years. A definitive diagnosis can only be made by section and pathology of the thoracic and cervical spinal cord.

Patella Luxation

The patella (kneecap) spontaneously dislocates from the groove in the knee joint.

Symptoms

Kooikerhondjes generally have medial patella luxation, sometimes lateral. The mild form causes minimal impairment. Severe forms (PL grade 2 and above) can cause the dogs to suddenly become lame, often with a cry of pain. The leg is no longer flexible. The dogs can walk normally again immediately if the patella spontaneously returns to the groove in the knee.

Frequency in the Breed

Mild cases (up to grade 1) are seen in approximately 15 percent of tested dogs. Severe cases (grade 2 and up) are reported approximately once per year to the VHNC. All breeding dogs should be examined, to keep the frequency of this disease low. The Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., strongly encourages testing with certification through OFA.

Eye Diseases

Some eye diseases are found in the Kooikerhondje.

Cataract

Hereditary cataracts are a clouding of the lens, which can eventually lead to blindness.

This condition is only rarely seen in the Kooikerhondje, because breeders remove affected individuals from their breeding programs as well as pay close attention to pedigree data on ancestors who may have produced it.

Distichiasis

This is a double row of eyelashes, which can be surgically corrected.

A strict policy excluding those dogs with hereditary eye disorders from breeding programs has kept very few eye problems from appearing in the Kooikerhondje.

Hip Dysplasia

The Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., strongly encourages all breeders to test for signs of hip dysplasia.

Symptoms

This is a condition of the hip joint in which the bones are not properly formed, resulting in a loose connection between the hip socket and femoral head, causing pain and lameness ranging from mild to crippling.

Frequency in the Breed

Testing is strongly encouraged by the Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., with certification through OFA. In Finland, where testing for Hip Dysplasia is required, dogs who have C or D Hip scores (equivalent to Borderline to Mild under OFA) may be used in breeding programs if mated to dogs with A/A Hip scores.

Epilepsy

Epilepsy is a disease in which the dog repeatedly has epileptic attacks or seizures. Attacks can be described as recurrent abnormal behavior with, depending on the type of epilepsy, a number of characteristic features.

There is a subdivision in primary and secondary epilepsy. Primary epilepsy is the genetic variant.

“Epilepsy” is the term used in the veterinary world for all epileptic attacks, whatever the cause.

Symptoms

Epileptic seizures can vary from small atypical attacks, with a diverse range of manifestations, to the classic seizure. The first classic attack usually occurs between the ages of 6 months and 5 years (although not always!). The dog is not conscious. He lies on his side and, at first, has straight legs and arcs his head over his back. Then he begins moving as though he is riding a bicycle. An attack can last from a few seconds to several minutes. Sometimes warning signs of an attack are apparent, but not usually. The recovery phase begins when the attack subsides. This can again be diverse and can take seconds to hours. Atypical seizures may sometimes limit themselves to a leg, an eyelid, etc., which may or may not occur with a loss of consciousness.

Frequency in the Breed

Fewer cases are being reported because attention is being paid to this disease within the Associations worldwide. Hereditary Epilepsy may possibly be avoided by removing known sufferers, their parents, their parent’s siblings and the sufferer’s siblings from breeding programs. In the last several years, between one and five dogs per year were reported to the Register. No dogs were reported to the VHNK in 2014 with Epilepsy.

(Poly)myositis

This is an autoimmune disease that causes chronic inflammation to one or more muscles, causing loss of function.

This appears as muscle weakness in the affected muscles. Myositis is a progressive form of the disease with a very poor prognosis.

Two distinct forms are seen. A group of relatively young dogs develop swallowing or eating problems. The second group of dogs are young to middle age and have more musculoskeletal problems, with or without swallowing problems

Symptoms

Depending on the location and the type of myositis the most common symptoms are

- Reduced endurance
- Muscle weakness
- Swallowing problems
- Muscle pain
- Fever
- Total exhaustion, lack of desire to play or walk
- Lameness / stiffness
- Walking with a roached back
- Salivation
- Vomiting
- Anorexia / loss of appetite

The onset of this disorder is often difficult to recognize / identify because many symptoms are also features of other disorders and often are “vague complaints.” Additional blood tests of muscle values, a muscle biopsy supplemented by EMG and, in case of swallowing, a bronchoscopy by a qualified veterinarian is necessary to make a definite diagnosis of (poly)myositis.

Frequency in the Breed

Unfortunately, polymyositis is appearing on a regular basis, reported to be around 1 percent of the population.

Further Information

Treatment is not always successful and the dog typically dies within three to four years of diagnosis. Currently, active research is underway by Dr. P. Mandigers, working as a veterinary specialist in VSC's Wagenrenk and at

Utrecht University (pjjmandigers@uu.nl). He has collected blood samples from healthy as well as ill dogs and this year (2015) began the search for the responsible gene in hopes of quickly developing a DNA test for Polymyositis.

Reported Illnesses, 2014, the Netherlands		
Disease	Number	Particulars
Kidney disease	1	Dog 3 years of age. Contracted kidney
Myositis	5	Two without pedigree, but the parents did have a pedigree
Mega-esophagus	1	Dilated gullet/esophagus
Myasthenia Gravis	1	Muscles that are resistant to control by nerves

Health Surveys/DNA Testing in 2014

DNA Testing for von Willebrand's Disease

A total of 226 dogs were tested and all are free of the gene (54 Dutch and 172 foreign dogs).

DNA Testing for ENM

A total of 259 dogs were tested (55 Dutch and 204 foreign dogs). Of these, 229 dogs are free of the gene, 29 dogs are carriers of the gene and one dog, with two copies of the gene, was diagnosed as affected.

Patella Examination According to Protocol

Of a total of 86 dogs:

- 69 had PL Well appropriate
- 5 had PL good (loose)
- 5 had PL grade 1
- 6 had PL grade 2
- 1 had PL grade 3

Of a total of 61 dogs, 28 dogs for the first time:

- 60 were free from hereditary defects.
- 1 provisionally was not free for Progressive Retinal Atrophy.

* * *

Health test results for dogs in the United States may be viewed on the website of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) at www.offa.org.

For those wanting to know more or seeking help with OFA paper work, etc., read the club webpage on health or contact the Health and Genetics Committee (KCUSA website: www.kooikerhondjeusa.org).

Recommended Literature

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