



# **THE ILLUSTRATED STANDARD OF THE WELSH SPRINGER SPANIEL**

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Presented by  
**The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club  
of America**

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Prepared by  
**Adrienne Bancker**  
Chairperson, WSSCA Illustrated Standard

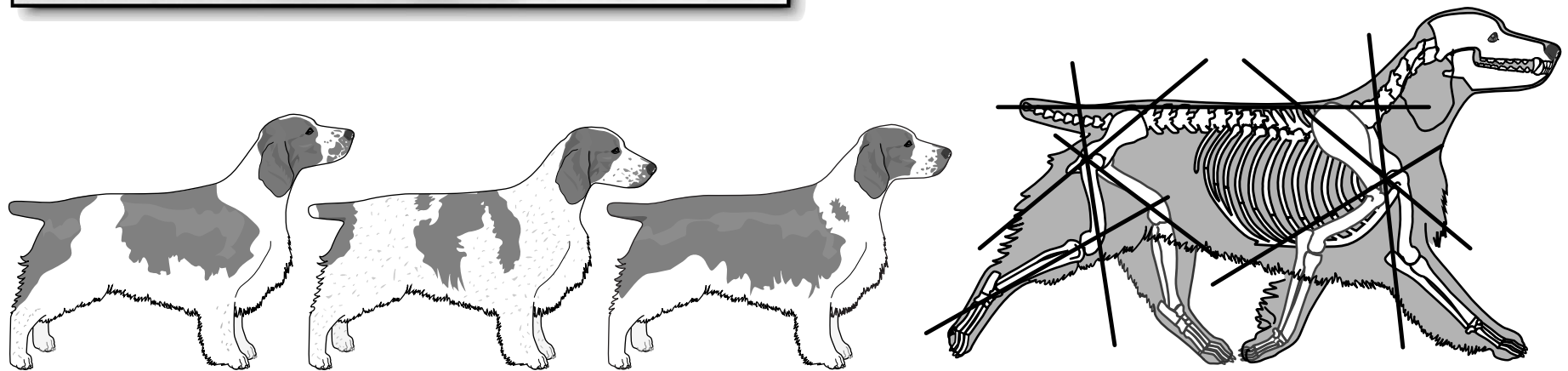
**ISSUE 1 – 2008**

Illustrations by  
**Tonia Farnell**

# Illustrated Standard of the Welsh Springer Spaniel



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# Introduction

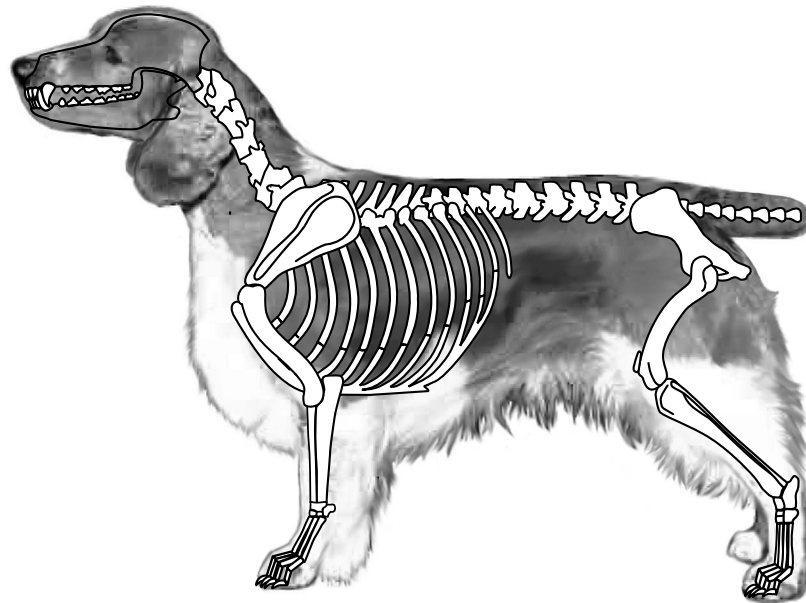
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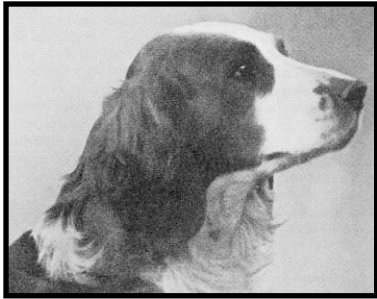
*It is a pleasure and a privilege to present the first edition of "The Illustrated Standard of the Welsh Springer Spaniel".*

*It is important for the reader to understand that the Welsh Springer Spaniel has remained virtually unchanged for over 150 years. It is only through educational efforts and sharing of information that breeders, judges, enthusiasts and newcomers can understand and maintain the integrity of the breed. There is no working-type versus show-type, nor American-type versus foreign-type. There is only one type and that dog will work in the field one day, win in the show ring the next day – no matter from where in the world he originates.*

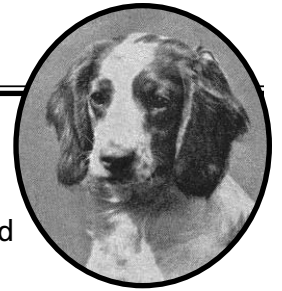
*The committee was directed by the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America to develop illustrations of the ideal Welsh Springer Spaniel as described in the AKC Breed Standard, effective August 1, 1989. We are certain that you will find the content in the material presented here worth consideration.*

**Adrienne Bancker**  
Chairperson WSSCA  
Illustrated Standard





# What is the Welsh Springer Spaniel?



Although no pedigrees or authentic records exist today covering any great length of time, it is generally recognized and accepted that red and white spaniels existed not only in Wales, but other parts of the United Kingdom for several centuries. Dr. Caius referred to

them in the 16th century, and Gainsborough painted them in the late 18th century. In the Neath Valley of South Wales, the members of the Williams family had been shooting over their strain of red and white spaniels since the mid-seventeen hundreds. There were other families in Wales, besides the Williams, who had red and white spaniels that bred true to type and color similar to what was known as the Welsh Spaniel. There is, however, limited information on the Welsh Spaniel or Starter (the other name by which the Welsh Springer Spaniel is known). The existence of the Welsh Springer Spaniel as a separate breed did not begin until 1902 when after lobbying and support by Mr. A.T. Williams, Mr. W. H. David (both of Wales) and Mr. William Arkwright, the Welsh Springer Spaniel was acknowledged by The Kennel Club in Great Britain. The American Kennel Club followed up with recognition of the breed in 1906.

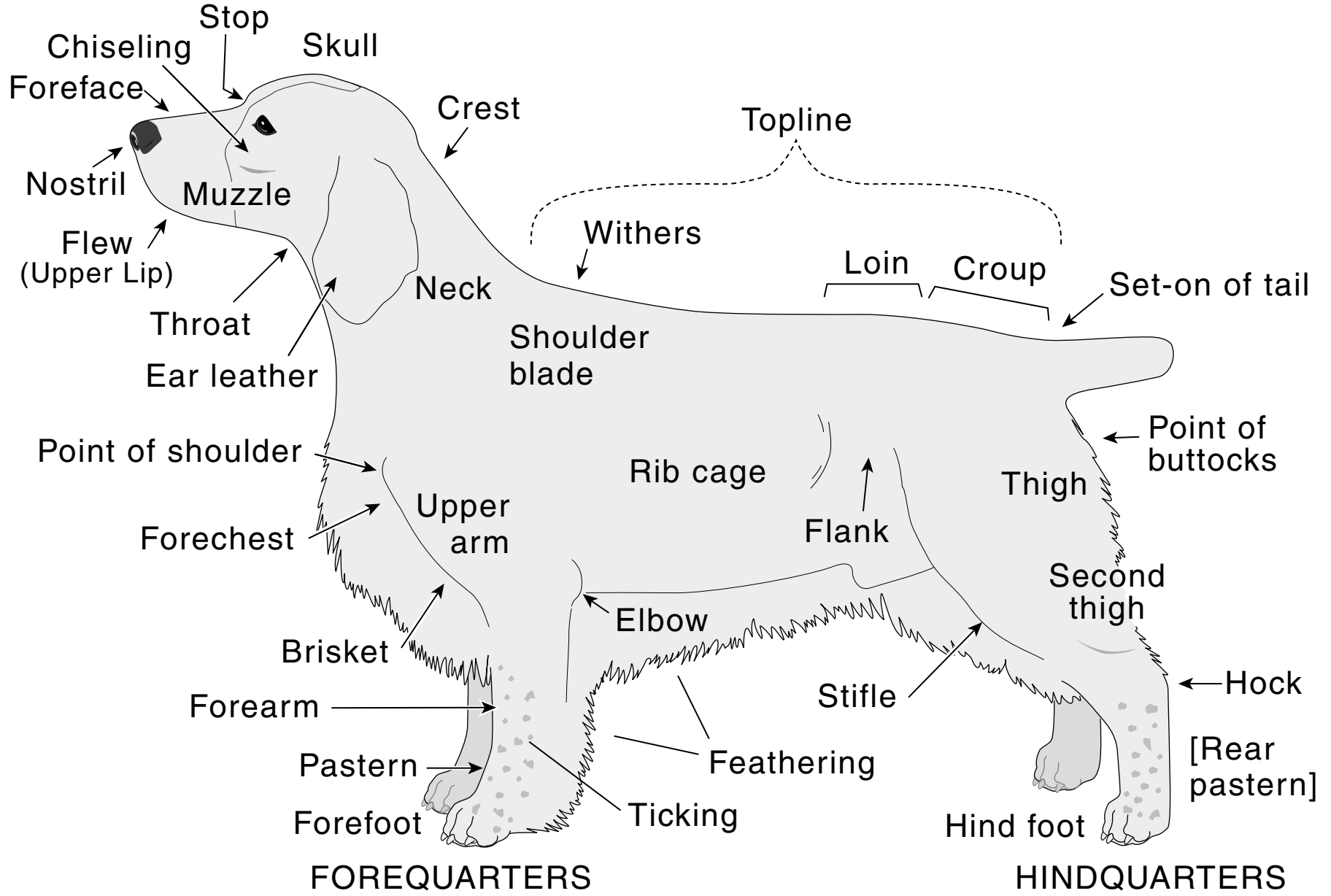
The Welsh Springer Spaniel is a medium-sized, functional, unexaggerated red and white dog. He is a merry, active yet biddable spaniel who is loyal to his humans, and he is an amiable dog who will work within a group of other dogs without being quarrelsome. Like other spaniels, the Welsh Springer goes into or under cover to find and flush game. For such work he must be sturdy enough to hunt in heavy

cover, across deeply plowed furrows, or through brush, thicket, marshland, or even old woodpiles. Though quick and agile enough to clear fences or stone walls with ease, the Welsh Springer should never be refined or overly elegant.

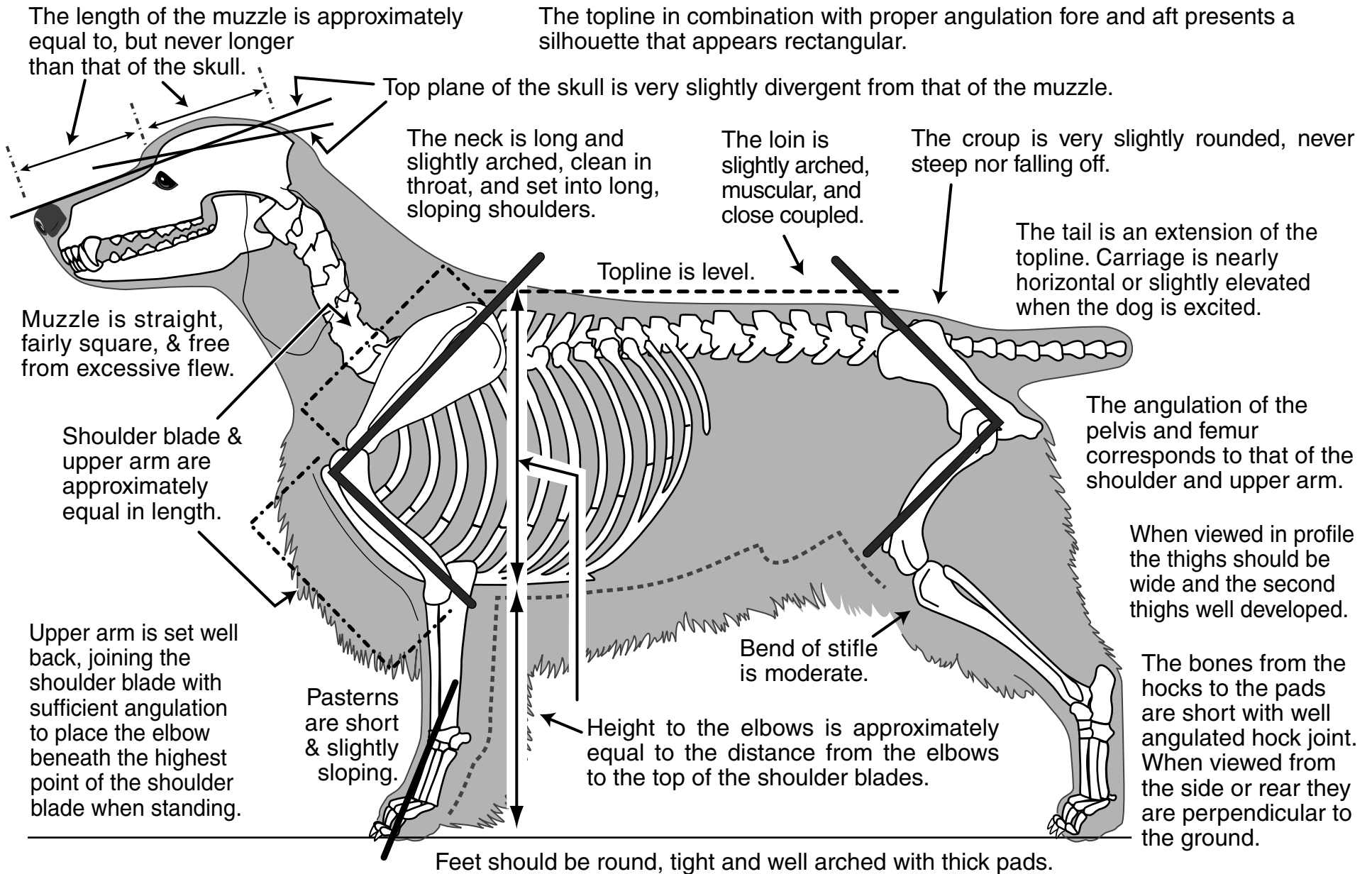
The Welsh Springer Spaniel is often referred to as the 'working man's spaniel'. He was not bred to be glamorous or exaggerated; he was bred purely and exclusively to work, to work in terrain that was comprised of steep and rocky hills, and where the ground was covered with matted bracken and gorse. The Welsh Springer was produced to use his abilities in rough country, to find game (partridge, pheasant, rabbit, etc.), where it was not in abundance and where a great amount of land had to be covered. Due to demands of the area and for his skill, he had to be an able swimmer also. The Welsh Springer Spaniel had to possess not only stamina but endurance; he had to be agile; he had to work in extremes of weather day after day and still enjoy his outings not only with his owner, but with other dogs as well.

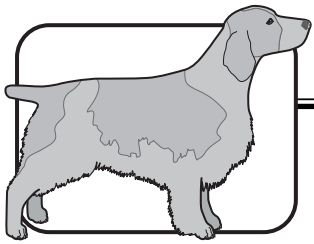


# What is the Welsh Springer Spaniel? *(continued)*



# What is the Welsh Springer Spaniel? *(continued)*





# General Appearance

The Welsh Springer Spaniel is a dog of distinct variety and ancient origin, who derives his name from his hunting style and not his relationship to other breeds. He is an attractive dog of handy size, exhibiting substance without coarseness. He is compact, not leggy, obviously built for hard work and endurance. The Welsh Springer Spaniel gives the impression of length due to obliquely angled forequarters and well developed hindquarters. Being a hunting dog, he should be shown in hard muscled working condition. His coat should not be so excessive as to hinder his work as an active flushing spaniel, but should be thick enough to protect him from heavy cover and weather.

## **IN ADDITION:**

### ***The Welsh Springer is***

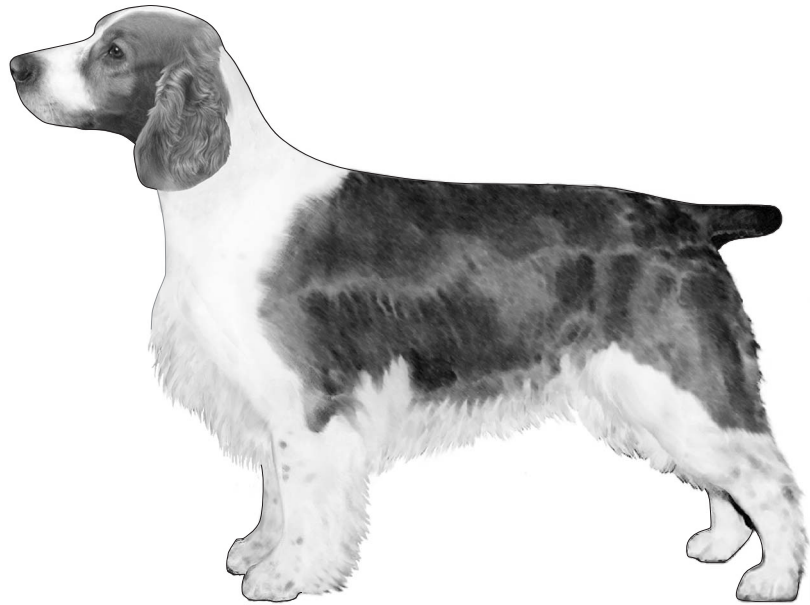
- *a slightly rectangular, medium-sized, red and white, short eared, working spaniel.*
- *a sturdy dog, solid to the touch, relatively low-stationed, with well-developed oval bone, good spring of rib and a wide back and croup.*
- *a moderately angled dog with a well defined point of shoulder and a well defined point of buttock. The appearance, however, is not angular, instead, the impression is built upon flowing, graceful curves.*
- *balanced. All features must blend with no one area calling attention over another.*
- *unexaggerated.*
- *a working spaniel that performs the job for which he was originally intended with an economy of effort while still maintaining an aesthetically pleasing picture.*



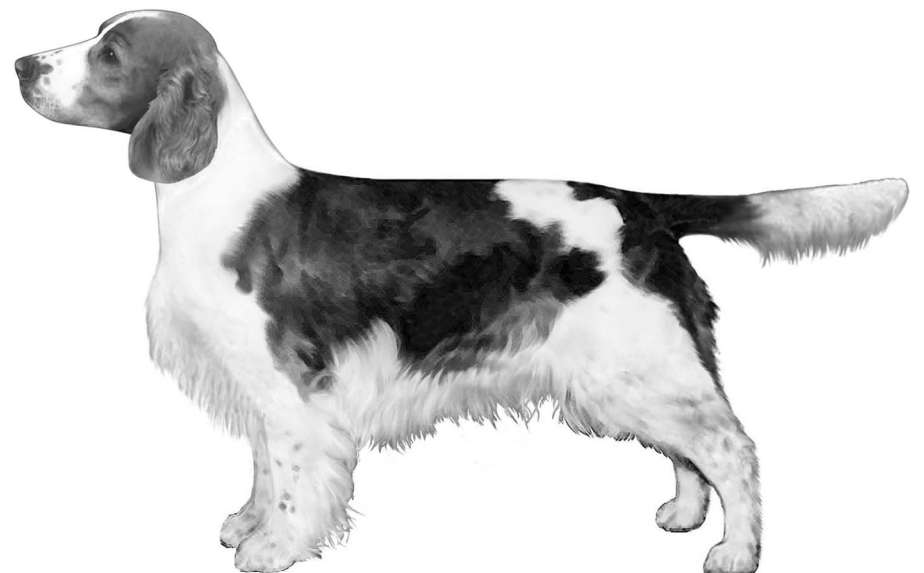
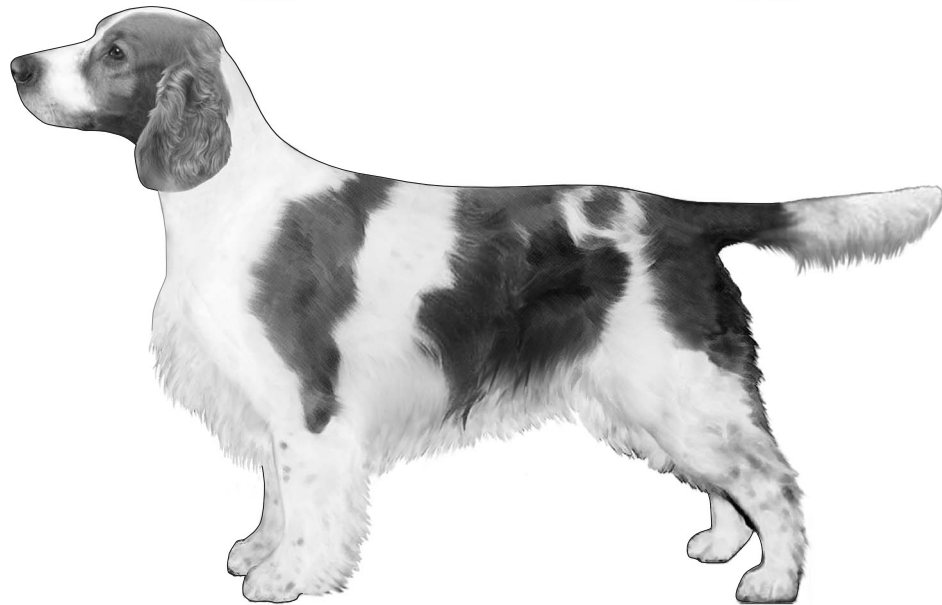
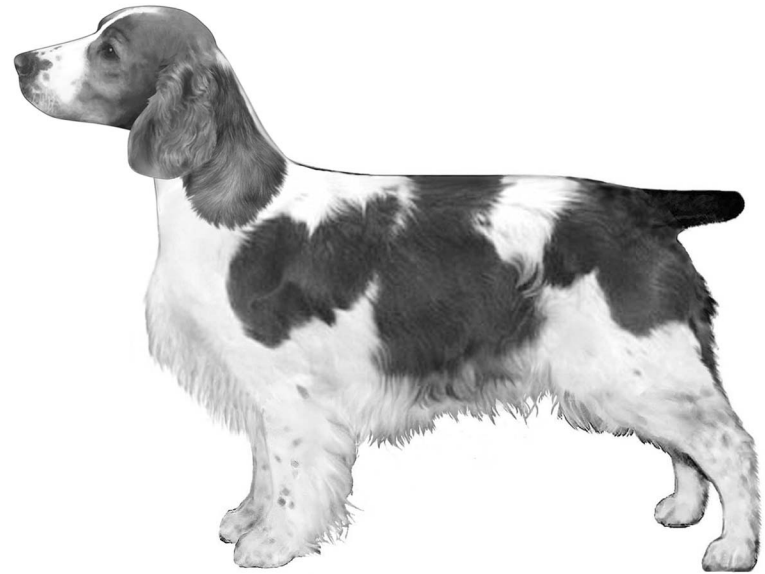
# General Appearance *(continued)*

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*Dog*

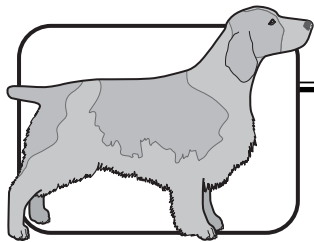


*Bitch*

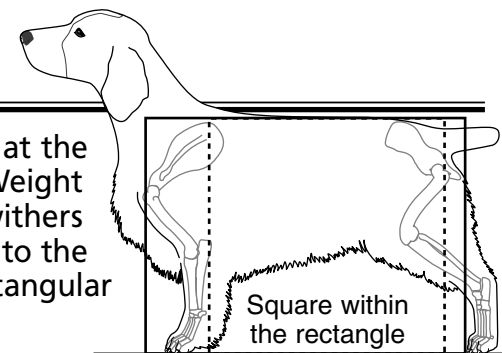




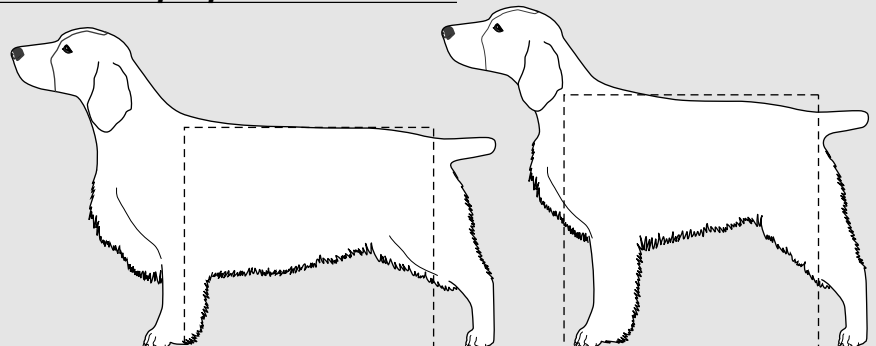
# Size, Proportion, Substance



A dog is ideally 18-19 inches in height at the withers and a bitch is 17-18 inches at the withers. Any animal above or below the ideal to be proportionately penalized. Weight should be in proportion to height and overall balance. Length of body from the withers to the base of the tail is very slightly greater than the distance from the withers to the ground. This body length may be the same as the height but never shorter, thus preserving the rectangular silhouette of the Welsh Springer Spaniel.

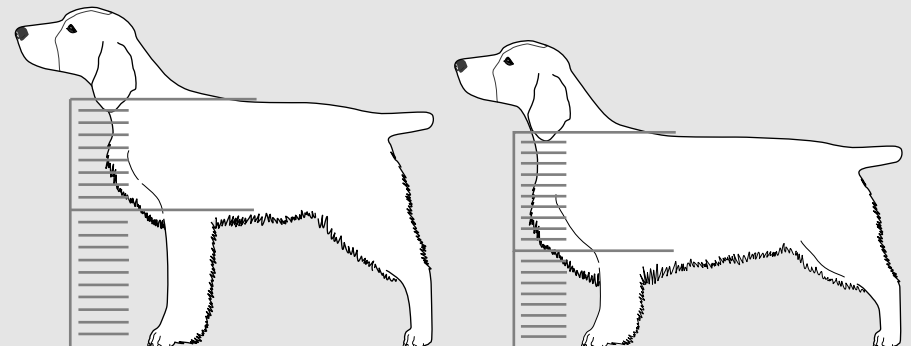


## Incorrect proportions



The rectangle here is measured at the wrong points on this dog.

The square here is measured at the wrong points on this dog.

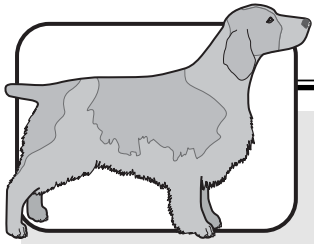


Length of leg is greater than depth of body

Length of leg is shorter than depth of body

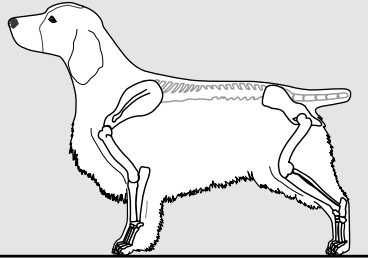
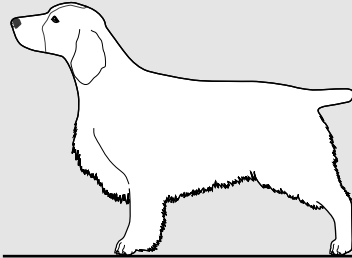
## IN ADDITION:

- *The Welsh Springer Spaniel is a medium-sized dog. In height, according to their respective AKC Breed Standards, the Welsh falls in-between the English Springer Spaniel and the English Cocker Spaniel.*
- *The proper Welsh Springer Spaniel silhouette is slightly rectangular; it is often described as a square within a rectangle. To illustrate: the approximate SQUARE is created by an imaginary vertical line from the back of the front foot up past the elbow to the top of the withers, then a horizontal line across the back to the set-on of the tail, then a vertical line back down to the ground. The approximate RECTANGLE is created by extending the vertical lines out to both the point of the shoulder and the rear most point of the buttock. When this is done the Welsh will be longer than tall – thus creating the rectangular profile.*
- *Although much value is put on the correct proportions, it is still a compact dog. The body is well-knit. It should never be loose and give the impression of being strung together with rubber bands.*
- *Height is an approximation and a slightly over or undersized Welsh should be given consideration when quality and balance warrants. However, it must be kept in mind that a Welsh who is too big or too small can not perform his original intended tasks with the same efficiency as the correctly sized dog.*
- *When measured by the eye, height can be deceiving. A well-boned, well-bodied, properly angled 19 inch dog may give the illusion of being over-sized. Conversely, a correctly boned, well-bodied, yet feminine 17 inch bitch may look under-sized. Look at the entire dog for its virtues and balance. Always remember the ideal.*

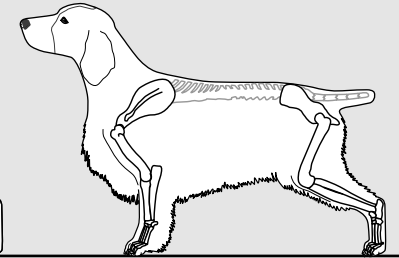
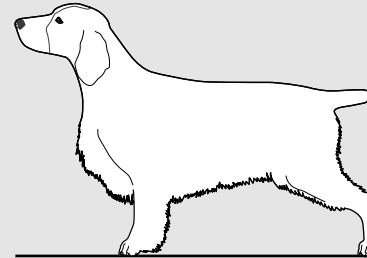


## Size, Proportion, Substance *(continued)*

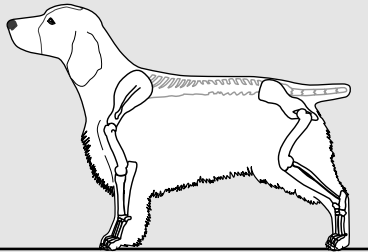
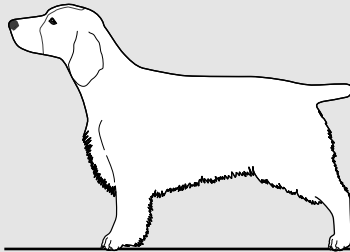
### Different Front and Rear Angulation Combinations



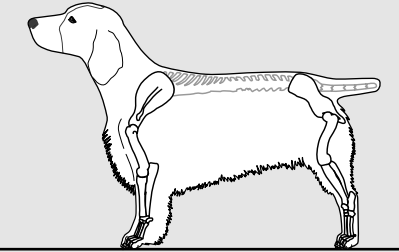
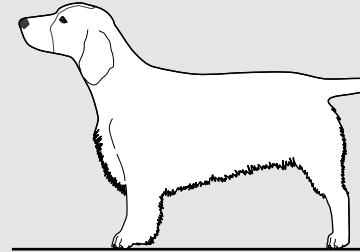
Correct front and correct rear



Correct front with Incorrect rear (overangled)



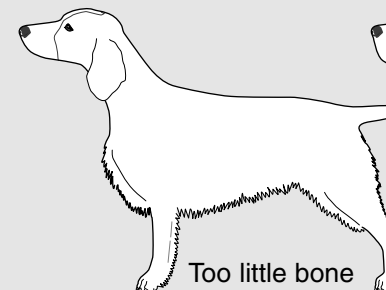
Incorrect front (too steep) with Correct rear



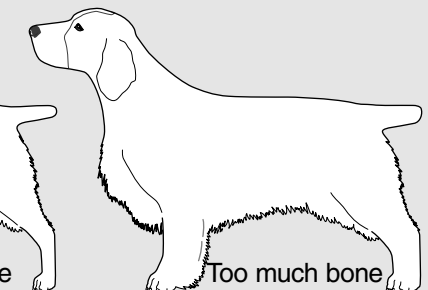
Incorrect front with Incorrect rear (too steep)

- *Balance is more important than weight guidelines. If the Welsh carries proper proportion of substance to height, balance of bone to substance and height, and is in good condition, then weight is of little consequence.*
- *The Welsh Springer is well boned, but not overdone. You should not get an impression of raciness due to light bone, nor coarseness due to too heavy bone.*
- *Quartering and trailing require flexibility and endurance with twists and turns and changes of pace over uneven ground. A well put-together, balanced Welsh Springer should be capable of turning on a dime while at the same time collecting and then extending himself as he springs into cover.*
- *Maturity: a Welsh Springer Spaniel is a slow-maturing breed and in most cases will be around four years old before it is fully developed in the body especially its rib spring and muscling.*
- **Gender should be immediately obvious.** *Dogs should appear masculine without being coarse or overdone. Bitches should appear feminine without being refined or slight.*

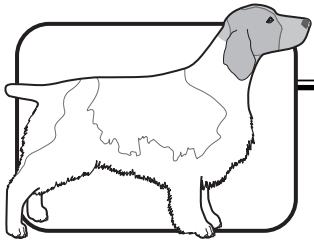
### Incorrect Substance



Too little bone

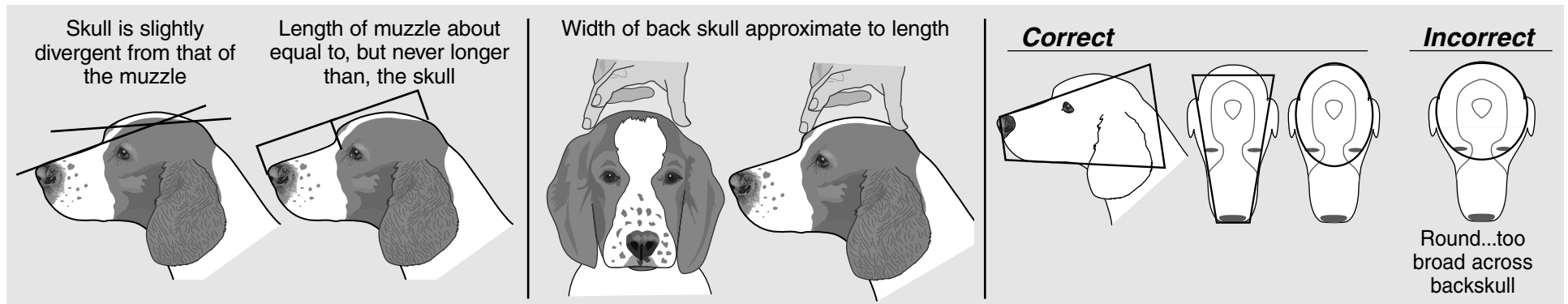


Too much bone



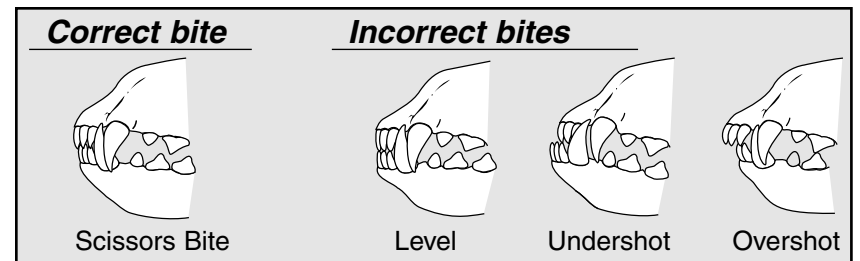
# Head

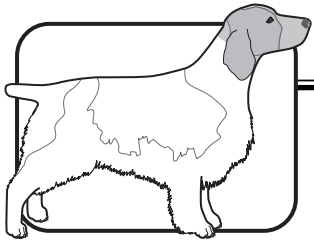
The Welsh Springer Spaniel head is unique and should in no way approximate that of other spaniel breeds. Its overall balance is of primary importance. Head is in proportion to body, never so broad as to appear coarse nor so narrow as to appear racy. The skull is of medium length, slightly domed, with a clearly defined stop. It is well chiseled below the eyes. The top plane of the skull is very slightly divergent from that of the muzzle, but with no tendency toward a down-faced appearance. A short chubby head is most objectionable. Eyes should be oval in shape, dark to medium brown in color with a soft expression. Preference is for a darker eye though lighter shades of brown are acceptable. Yellow or mean-looking eyes are to be heavily penalized. Medium in size, they are neither prominent, nor sunken, nor do they show haw. Eye rims are tight and dark pigmentation is preferred. Ears are set on approximately at eye level and hang close to the cheeks. Comparatively small, the leather does not reach to the nose. Gradually narrowing toward the tip, they are shaped somewhat like a vine leaf and are lightly feathered. The length of the muzzle is approximately equal to, but never longer than that of the skull. It is straight, fairly square, and free from excessive flew. Nostrils are well developed and black or any shade of brown in color. A pink nose is to be severely penalized. A scissors bite is preferred. An undershot jaw is to be severely penalized.



## IN ADDITION:

- *The fact that the Welsh Springer head is free from any sort of exaggeration is what makes it unique from any other Spaniel.*
- *The skull when viewed from above, going from front to back should be slightly oval. The entire head when viewed from above should be slightly wedge-shaped and a very soft wedge-shape when viewed in profile. When measured by hand the width of the skull at its widest point is approximately equal to the length of the skull from occiput to top of stop.*
- *The chiseling below the eyes should be clean and contoured. In concert with the chiseling, the cheeks are clean with no bulging muscle or prominent bone formation.*
- *The skin on the head should be close fitting. There should not be excessive skin anywhere on the head, i.e. not on the backskull, around the eyes, on the cheeks, nor on the flews.*
- *The ear leather should be medium weight; it should not be thin and wispy nor heavy and pendulous.*

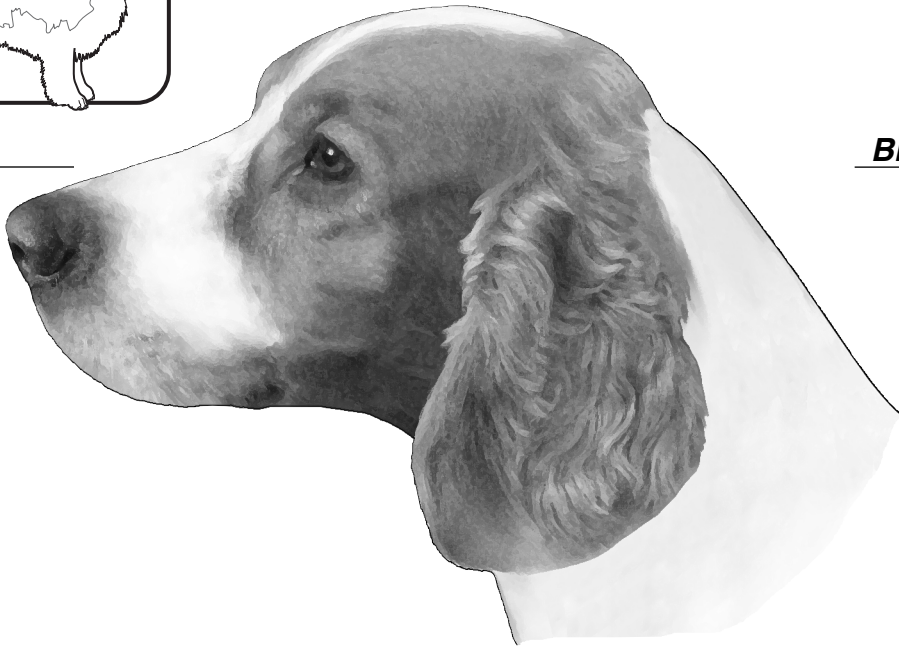




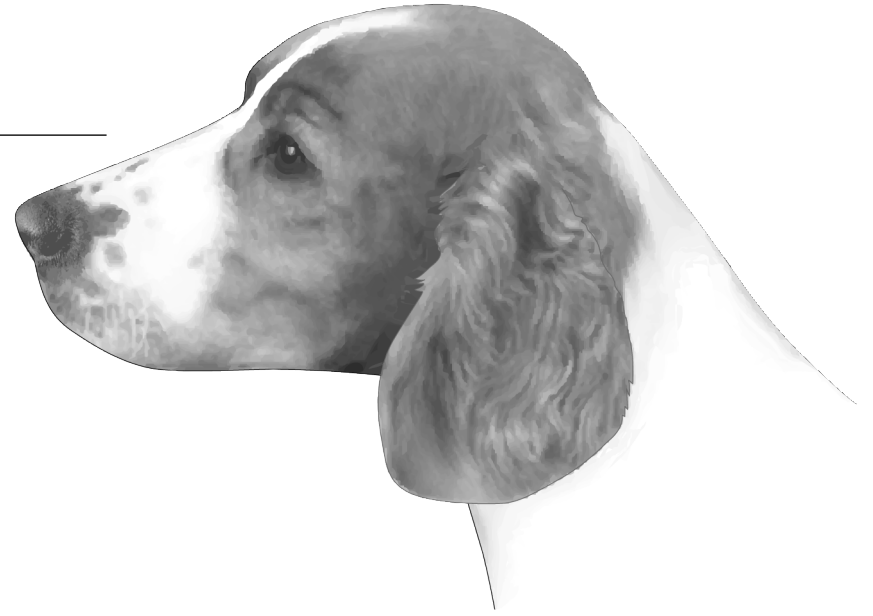
## Head *(continued)*

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***Dog***



***Bitch***



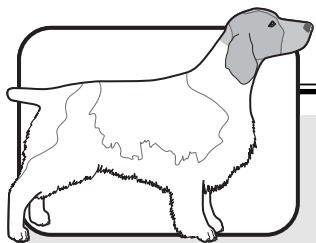
***Expression is kindly and intelligent whether***

***A Dog in attention***



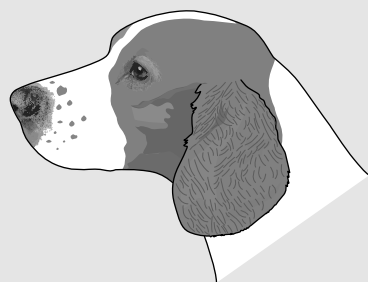
***Or a Bitch in repose***



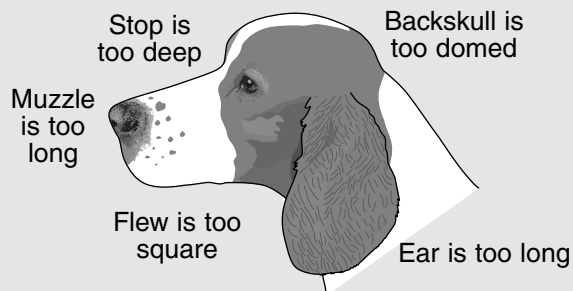


## Head (continued)

### Balance is of primary importance



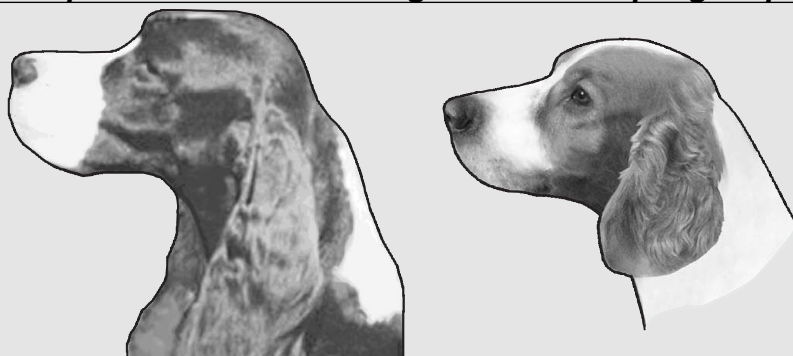
### Areas where exaggeration may occur



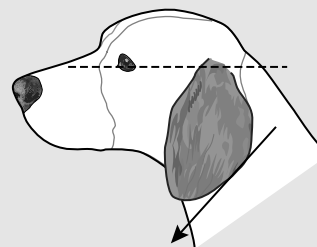
### Incorrect Ear



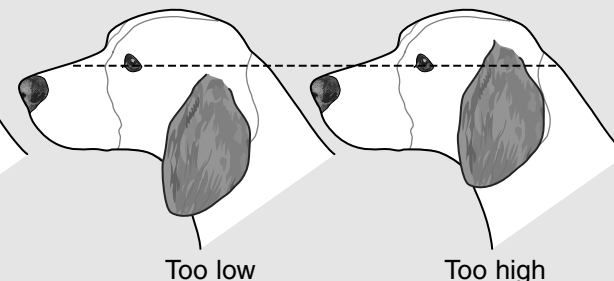
### Head comparison between the English & Welsh Springer Spaniel



### Correct Ear Set

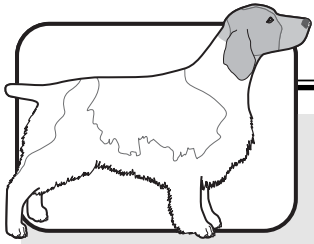


### Incorrect Ear Sets



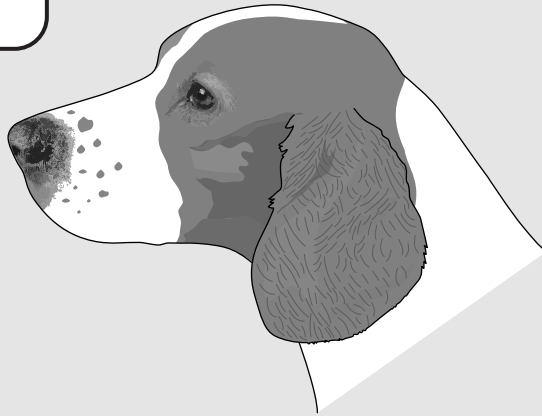
- The WSS has relatively small ears, which should be lightly feathered; such ears are less likely to be torn by briars or tangled by burrs. Light feathering helps protect the ear leather, whereas long feathering collects debris in the field; no feathering – like a hound's ear – leaves the ear without protection and harshens the expression.
- The set on of the ear is at a slight angle to the skull with the ear tips hanging towards the nose, ie. close to the cheeks, instead of straight down.
- The position of the ear set is approximately level with the corner of the eye.
- Many Welsh will carry their ears out and away from their heads when they are being gaited or are just being happy. This is not to be considered as a detriment when the head and expression are being evaluated. It is believed that the ability to change the shape of the ear while hunting may help collect or funnel scent and sound for the dog.
- It is assumed the 'vine-leaf' shape reference to the ear was borrowed from descriptions of the Clumber spaniel early in the 20th century. The important point to remember is not what type of vine-leaf, but that the ear is relatively short and that it gradually narrows toward the tip.
- It should be remembered that this is a scenting breed. The nostrils should be large, wide and open with good width across the nasal bone carried back in a straight line from nostrils to stop. Scent cells are located in the fleshy, moist nose with its large, open nostrils as well as throughout the muzzle and sinuses. Short, narrow, or snipy forefaces contain fewer scent receptors.



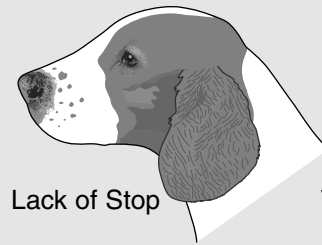


## Head *(continued)*

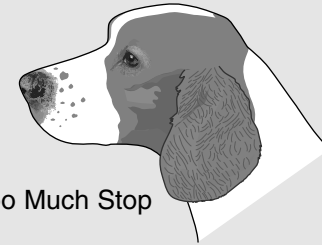
### Correct Head



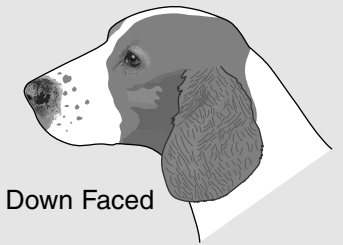
### Incorrect Heads



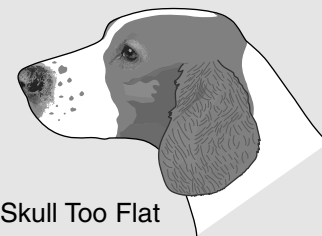
Lack of Stop



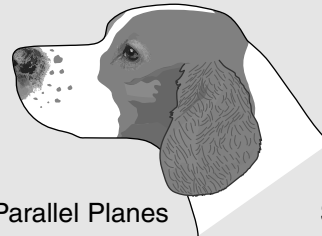
Too Much Stop



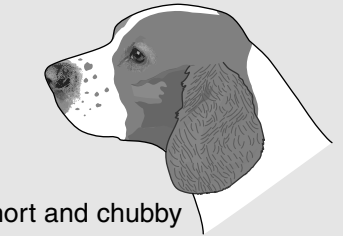
Down Faced



Skull Too Flat



Parallel Planes



Short and chubby

### Correct Oval Eye



### Undesireable eyes



Round



Haw



Harsh, light eye



Almond

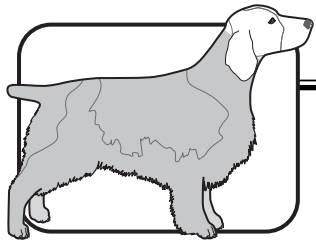


Ringed



Staring eye

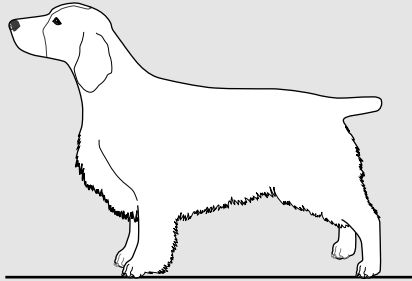
- *The flews are not as heavy as seen in many of the other spaniel breeds, but taper gently to the nose. They are neither excessively wet nor tight and dry, but provide enough elasticity to allow the dog to open its mouth wide enough to comfortably carry game of nearly any size.*
- *The eyes should be well placed in the skull. They should be slightly elliptical in appearance, not bulging, which would increase their susceptibility to injury. They should be forward-looking, not obliquely placed.*
- *A proper Welsh eye is not only shaped correctly, but is kind in expression. A harsh, staring expression or wild-eye look is as incorrect as an improperly shaped eye rim.*
- *Welsh may be shown with or without whiskers trimmed.*



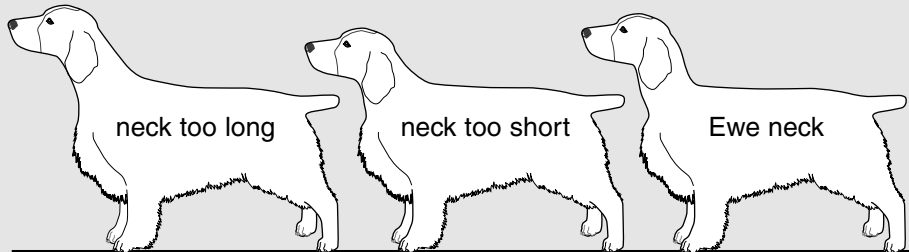
# Neck, Topline, Body

The neck is long and slightly arched, clean in throat, and set into long, sloping shoulders. Topline is level. The loin is slightly arched, muscular, and close-coupled. The croup is very slightly rounded, never steep nor falling off. The topline in combination with proper angulation fore and aft presents a silhouette that appears rectangular. The chest is well developed and muscular with a prominent forechest, the ribs well sprung and the brisket reaching to the elbows. The tail is an extension of the topline. Carriage is nearly horizontal or slightly elevated when the dog is excited. The tail is generally docked and displays a lively action.

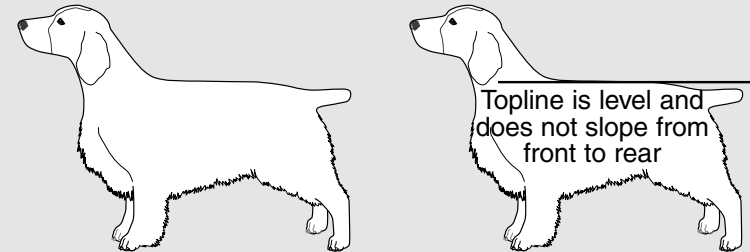
## Correct Neck



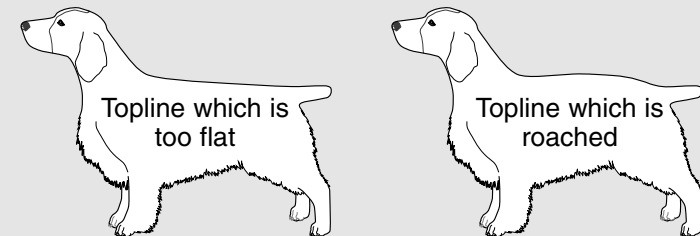
## Incorrect Necks



## Correct Topline



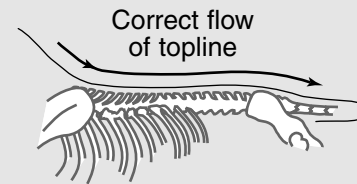
## Incorrect Toplines



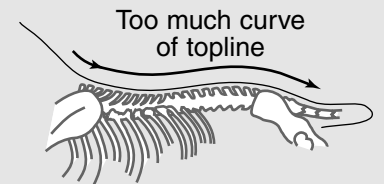
## **IN ADDITION:**

- The neck is muscular and clean. It should give the impression of being long enough for the Welsh to work the ground without having to drop its front legs and strong enough to be able to carry its game while trotting, running, jumping or swimming. It should be in balance with the head and the body and should not be so long as to be swan-like nor as heavy as to be stallion-like.
- The topline from withers to set on of tail is level – that means it does not slope from front to back. The back is level and the withers are on the same line as the croup.
- The Welsh Springer must have an arching over the loin. This development is primarily due to muscling, but also encompasses the necessary slight arch of the lumbar vertebrae that allows for flexibility in collection and extension of movement. A desired firm and level backline must not be confused with an undesired stiff and flat backline, which is one without the appropriate flexibility of the spine and required arch of loin.

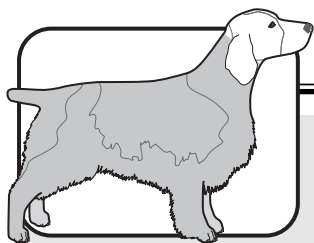
## Correct Topline



## Incorrect Topline

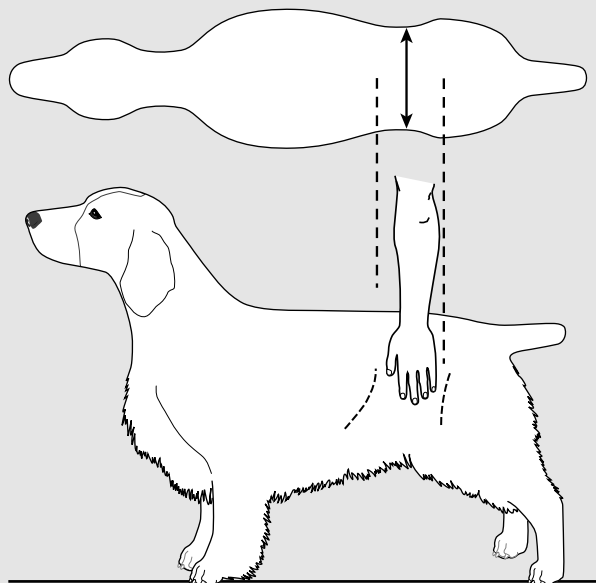


## Neck, Topline, Body *(continued)*

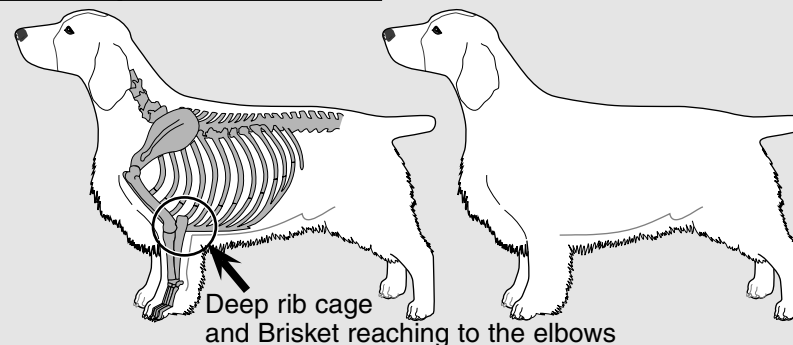


### Correct rib, to loin

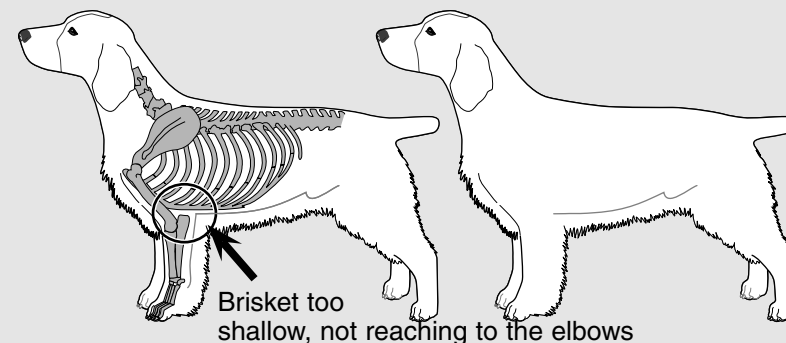
Top view of loin which should appear strong and well-muscled



### Correct Depth of Chest



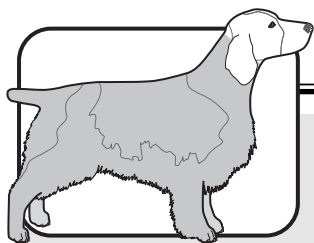
### Incorrect Depth of Chest



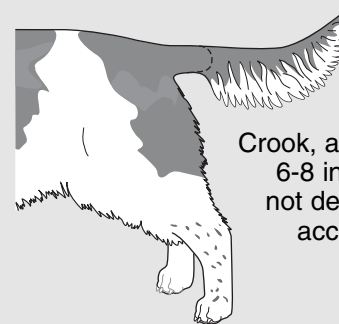
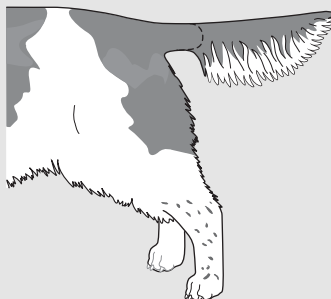
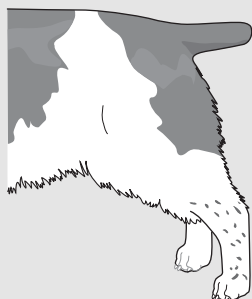
- When viewed in silhouette the flow of the topline from the withers should be a level back into slightly arched loins to a slightly rounded croup and finished with a level tail set.
- The Welsh Springer Spaniel has a rib cage carried well back. When viewed from above, the ribs should be well-sprung behind the elbows and present a tapered oval which curves gently into the loin.
- The back, when viewed from above, should be wide and well muscled.
- The rib to loin proportion should be approximately 2½:1. With the loin being about 3 to 3½ inches long, (about a hand's width). The ratio of rib to loin and the length of loin must be in balance to the height of the dog, but it is important to remember that the length of ribcage, housing the heart and lungs, not be compromised.
- Long Welsh Springer Spaniels are frequently long in loin. A properly built Welsh is compact and held together with firm muscling. Do not, however, confuse compactness with short body. Short-bodied dogs frequently lack the length of rib cage necessary for lung and heart room. A correct Welsh Springer is tightly knit, with a long rib cage and short loin.
- When viewed from above as well as from the side, the loin should appear strong and well-muscled. Too short a loin compromises flexibility. Too long a loin creates loose coupling. A flat or sagging loin is an anatomical weakness.



## Neck, Topline, Body *(continued)*



### Correct tail sets



Crook, approximately 6-8 inches out, not desirable but acceptable.

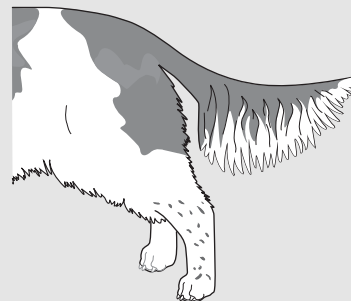
### Incorrect tail sets



Tail set is too low



Tail set is too high, gay tail

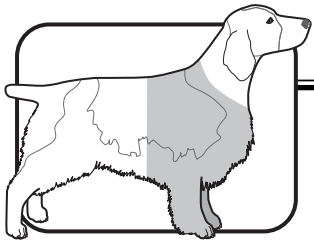


Tail set too low



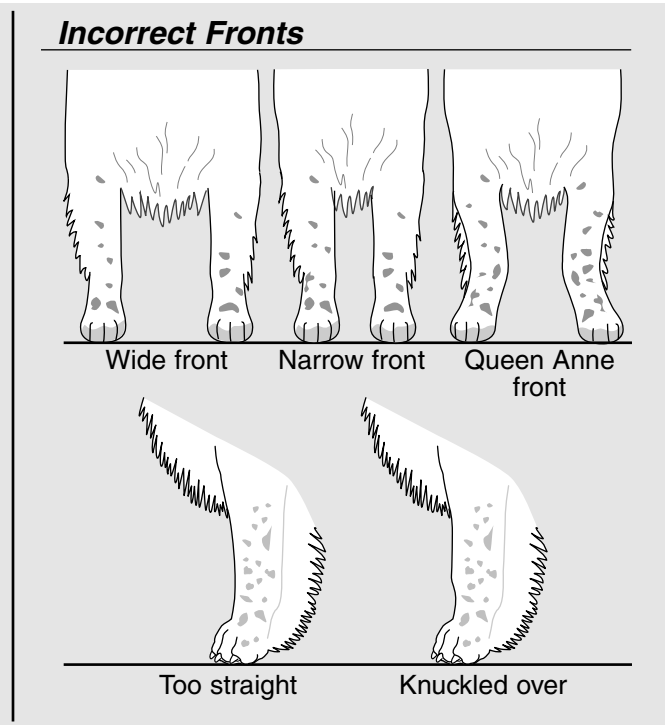
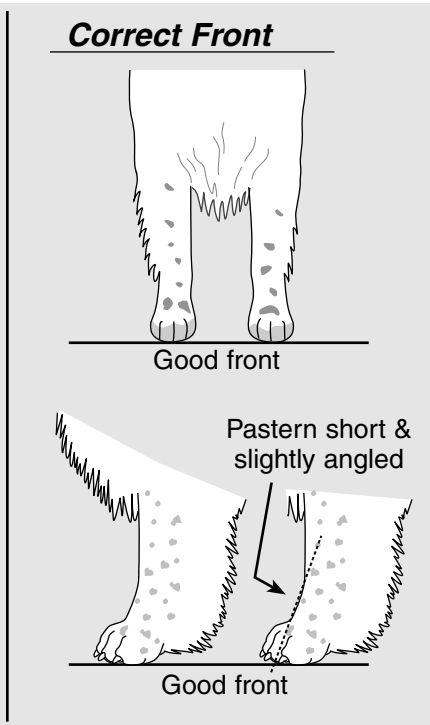
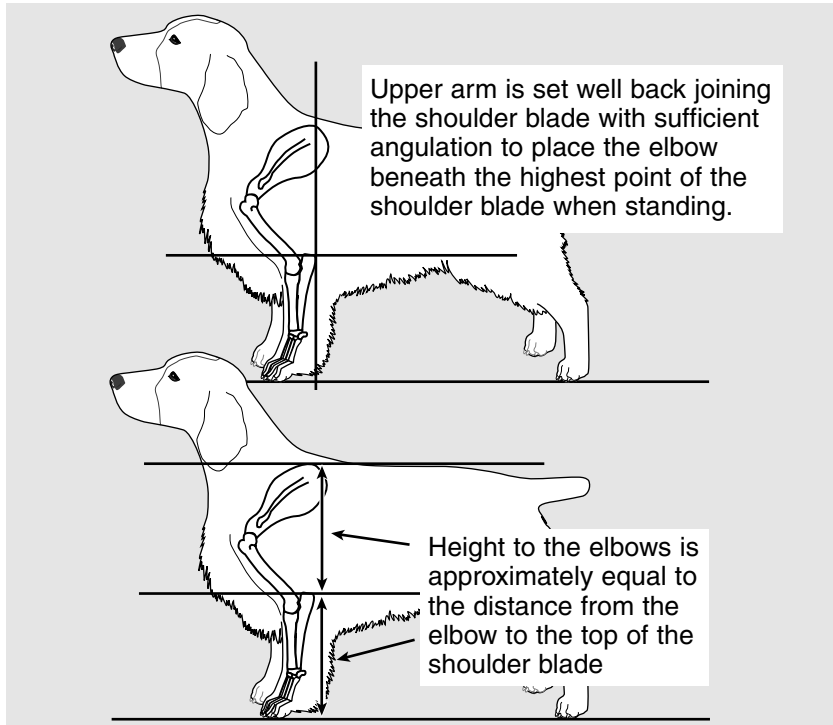
Tail set is too high, gay tail

- When viewed in silhouette, the underline starts at the elbow and stays level until a gentle curve up starting at the flank. There should not be abrupt nor extreme tuck-up.
- The tail should follow the line from a gently rounded croup and should be relatively level when carried on its own. One should not get the impression of a Terrier tail (set too high) nor of a pump handle (set too low).
- The tail should wag symmetrically, it should not be clamped down, carried to one side, nor should it be held in an upright, gay or 'proud' manner. When the dog is excited, the tail may be slightly elevated, i.e. at about a 2 o'clock position, not higher.
- The correct tail carriage IS NOT affected by the length of the tail. An improper tail carriage is only emphasized when the tail is undocked.
- The Standard states that the tail is generally docked, it is, however, not a requirement.
- When evaluating an undocked tail, look at set-on and carriage for only about 6-8 inches from the body. If the tail crooks or bends after that, although not desirable, it is not a fault. If the undocked tail is set-on or carried incorrectly, the fault will occur at the body of the dog, not further out along the tail.



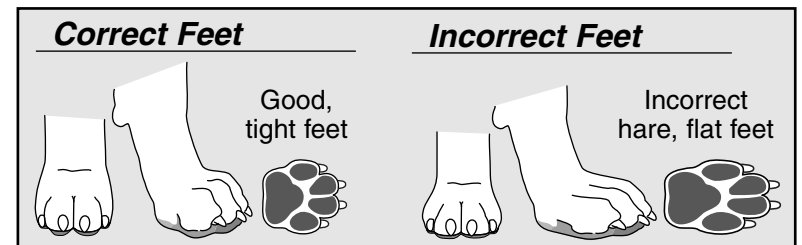
# Forequarters

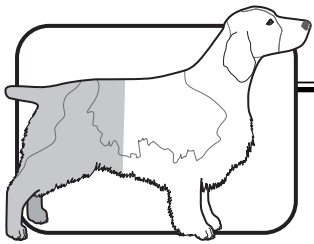
The upper arm is set well back, joining the shoulder blade with sufficient angulation to place the elbow beneath the highest point of the shoulder blade when standing. The forearms are of medium length, straight and moderately feathered. The legs are well boned but not to the extent of coarseness. The Welsh Springer Spaniel's elbows should be close to the body and its pasterns short and slightly sloping. Height to the elbows is approximately equal to the distance from the elbows to the top of the shoulder blades. Dewclaws are generally removed. Feet should be round, tight and well arched with thick pads.



## ***IN ADDITION:***

- There is a well-developed forechest and good fill between the front legs. The prosternum should be well defined and projecting just beyond the point of shoulder.
- The front legs should be straight when viewed from the front. From the side the leg has a slight slope to the pastern.
- The upper arm should set well back under the body and the length of bone in balance to the shoulder blade. Open (sometimes referred to as 'short') upper arms or too steep shoulders are detrimental to proper reach and return of the front leg.
- Each toe on each foot should touch the ground when the dog is standing.

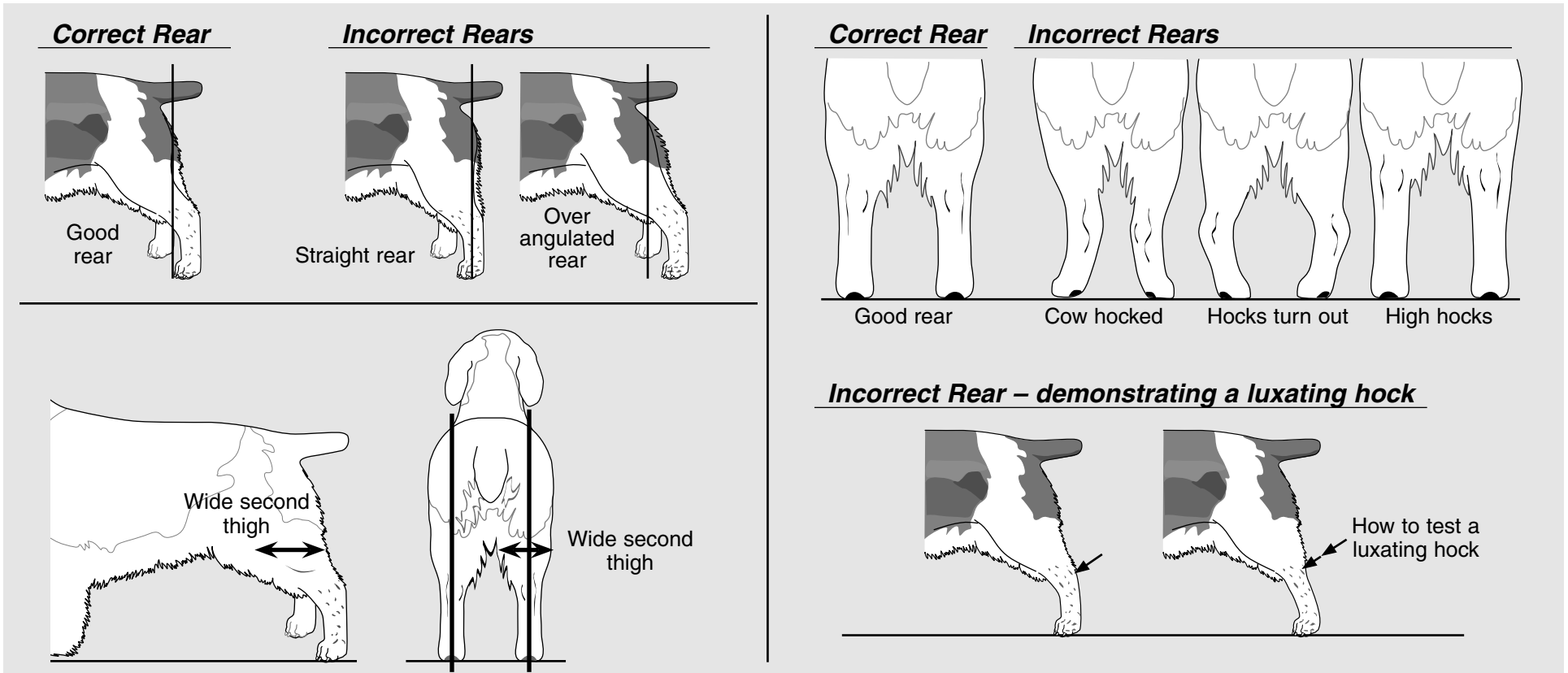




# Hindquarters

The hindquarters must be strong, muscular, and well boned, but not coarse. When viewed in profile the thighs should be wide and the second thighs well developed. The angulation of the pelvis and femur corresponds to that of the shoulder and upper arm. Bend of stifle is moderate. The bones from the hocks to the pads are short with a well angulated hock joint. When viewed from the side or rear they are perpendicular to the ground.

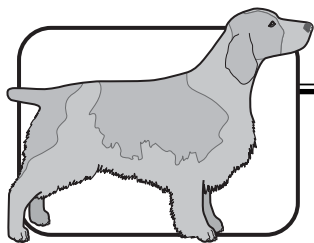
Rear dewclaws are removed. Feet as in front.



## IN ADDITION:

- There should not be a discernible difference in the amount of bone of the front legs and the bone of the rear pasterns.
- The rear should be evaluated with both hocks perpendicular to the ground and parallel to each other.
- When measuring moderate angle – with the hocks perpendicular to ground, one should be able to visualize a straight line from the point of the buttock to the front of the toes of the hind foot.
- The hock joint should have flexibility with stability; there should be no tendency for the hock to hyper-extend (luxate).

# Color and Coat

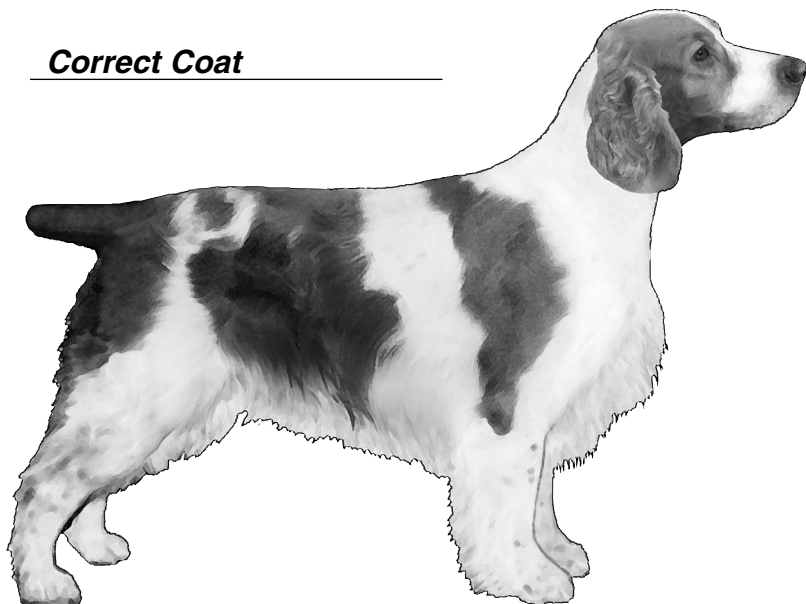


The coat is naturally straight, flat and soft to the touch, never wiry or wavy. It is sufficiently dense to be waterproof, thornproof, and weatherproof. The back of the forelegs, the hind legs above the hocks, chest and underside of the body are moderately feathered. The ears and tail are lightly feathered.

Coat so excessive as to be a hindrance in the field is to be discouraged. Obvious barbering is to be avoided as well. The color is rich red and white only. Any pattern is acceptable and any white area may be flecked with red ticking.



## Correct Coat



### IN ADDITION:

- *The Welsh Springer is a red and white dog. ANY pattern is acceptable, however, both colors must be somewhere on the body. No preference should be given to one type of marking over another just because the judge feels one may be more 'attractive' than another.*
- *Shades of red may vary and the color of the undercoat may be lighter than the guard hairs. Whatever the shade of red, there should always be a depth and richness to the color.*
- *Ticking is described as any area of white flecked with red, it can appear in any amount.*
- *The white should cast a pearly essence, even though it may be flecked with red freckles or ticking.*
- *The mask of the Welsh Springer will typically cover both eyes. When faced with two Welsh of EQUAL quality, one with a full mask and one with white over one or both eyes, the full mask should be given preference. The dog with a full mask, however, should never be given preference over a superior representative without a full mask.*
- *The width or lack of blaze is insignificant.*

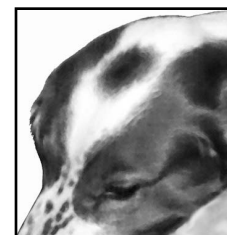
• *The presence of a red thumb print or lozenge-shaped spot on the top of the skull between the ears is traditionally referred to as the Llanharan spot. The name is historically attributed to Colonel Blandy-Jenkins' Llanharan Welsh, as they often had this marking.*

• *The Welsh should have a moderate amount of feathering, however, the quality of the hair must be taken into consideration. A dog with a moderate amount of hair that is woolly in texture must not be given preference over a dog that has the correct silky hair texture, just too much of it.*

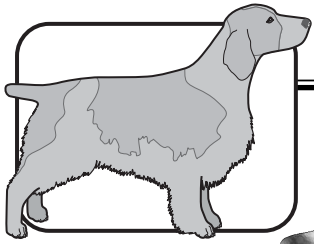
• *The Welsh should be shown in a neatened, but natural looking trim. The coat should not look barbered, shaved or blunt cut. In addition, the set-on, size and shape of the ear should be immediately visible when the ear is correctly groomed.*

• *The body coat's relatively short, flat hairs are typically about 1½ to 2 inches long.*

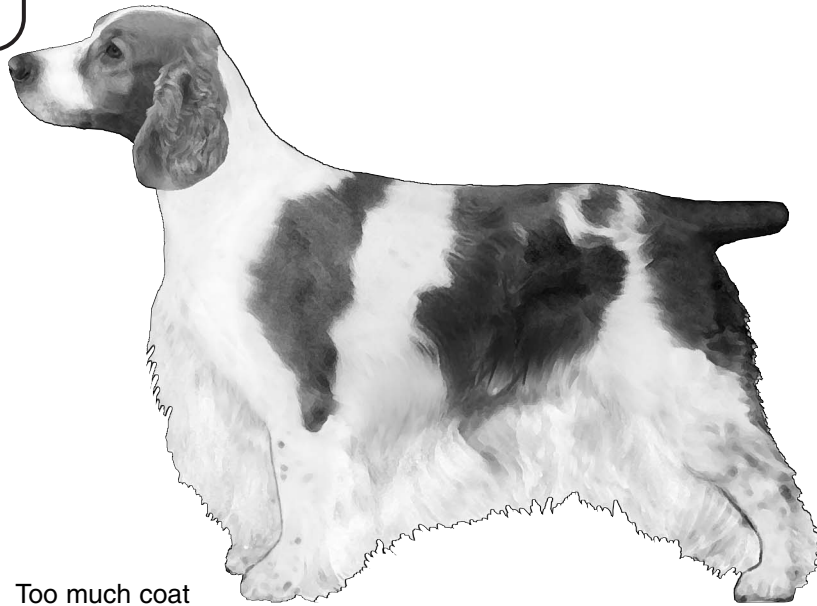
• *A dense undercoat may give the false impression of a wavy coat. Often when Welsh age, the coat will become thicker, and along with a dense undercoat, will have a slight wave to the body coat. A true, undesirable, wavy coat will be throughout the body and into the furnishings.*



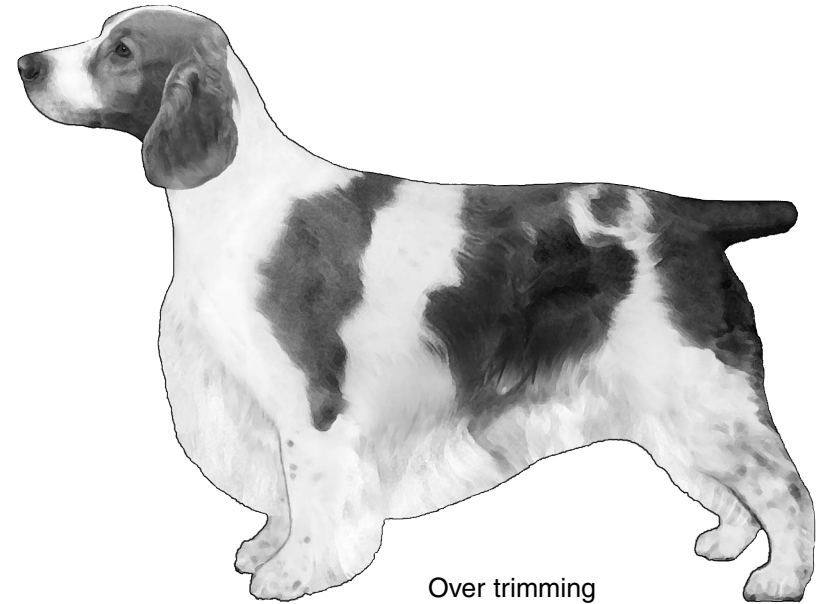
# Color and Coat *(continued)*



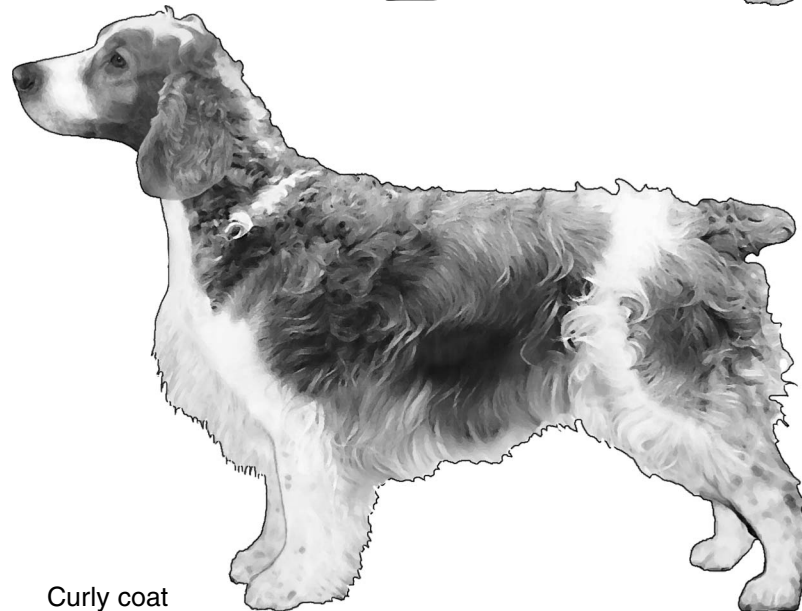
## *Incorrect Coats*



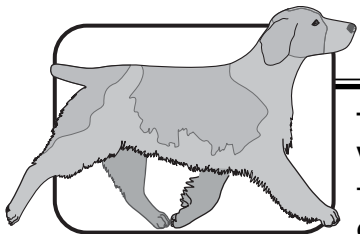
Too much coat



Over trimming



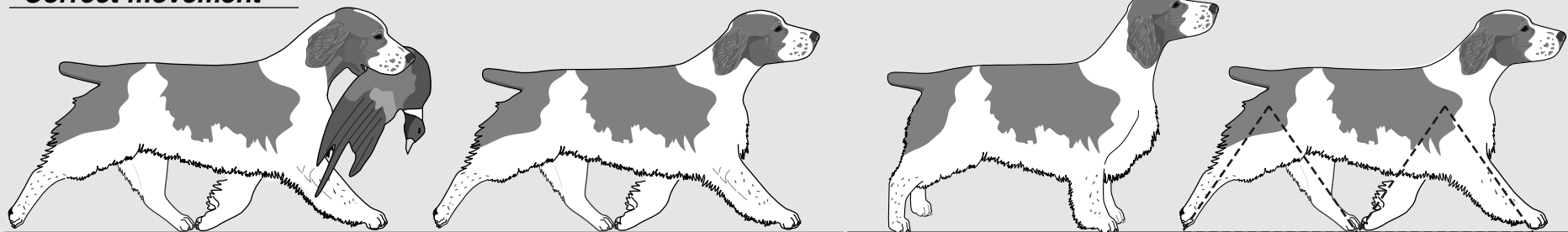
Curly coat



# Gait

The Welsh Springer moves with a smooth, powerful, ground covering action that displays drive from the rear. Viewed from the side, he exhibits a strong forward stride with a reach that does not waste energy. When viewed from the front, the legs should appear to move forward in an effortless manner with no tendency for the feet to cross over or interfere with each other. Viewed from the rear, the hocks should follow on a line with the forelegs, neither too widely nor too closely spaced. As the speed increases the feet tend to converge towards a center line.

## Correct movement



Correct balanced strides front and rear with convergence of legs under the body

## Incorrect movement



Stilted

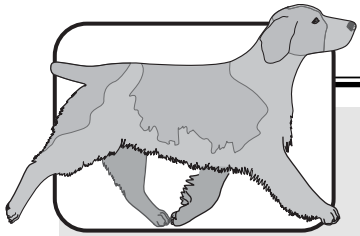
Sickle Hocked. Hock will not extend

Too much kick. Wasted energy

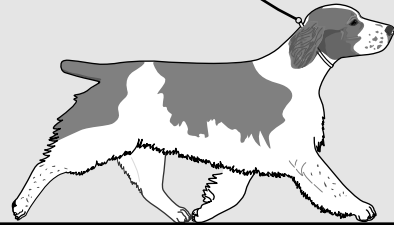
## IN ADDITION:

- *The Welsh Springer is built for endurance trotting with frequent bursts of speed, quick and agile turns off the haunches.*
- *The ideal gait is ground covering, coordinated, effortless, and purposeful. One should get the sense of ease and symmetry of movement, not speed nor unevenness in movement.*
- *The Welsh Springer is not an exaggerated dog and he should not display exaggeration in his movement either. In other words, the fad for tremendous reach and drive (TRAD) is an exaggeration and therefore incorrect for the Welsh Springer.*
- *The Welsh Springer should display sufficient reach from the forequarters and a propulsion from behind with full extension of the rear leg and flexibility of the hock. Being an endurance dog, the Welsh Springer does most of its hunting at a trot. If the dog lacks front or rear angulation, he will lack reach and drive while trotting. A dog lacking angulation must take many more steps during the course of an outing than a dog with good angulation and resulting good reach and drive. Since we are talking about endurance, the dog taking many more steps is more likely to tire quickly.*

# Gait (continued)

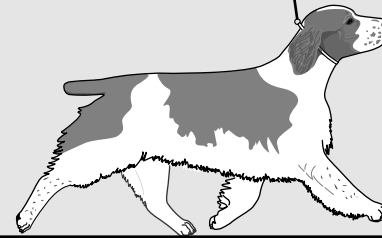


**Correct loose lead**



Correct loose lead, moderate speed

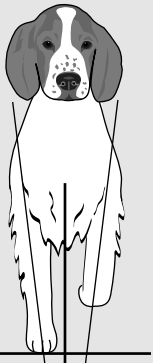
**Incorrect lead, too tight**



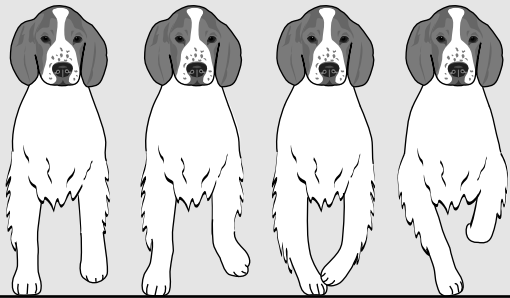
Incorrect, lead too tight, pulling dog up off his front

**Correct movement**

**Incorrect movement – at the correct speed**



Movement at the correct speed. (converge toward center)



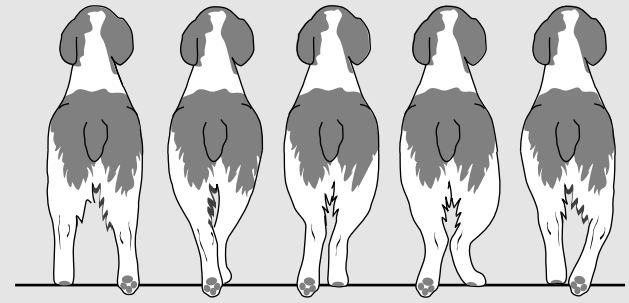
Too Wide (cannot converge)    Winging    Crossing Over    Elbows Out

**Correct movement**

**Incorrect movement – at the correct speed**



Movement at the correct speed. (converge toward center)



Too Wide (cannot converge)    Crossing Over    Moving Close    Cow Hocked    Hocks Out

- Movement is balanced front and rear. One should get the immediate impression that there is strength and push from the rear, not pull from the front.
- The head is carried alertly but not up, instead it is relatively low and forward. Ideally it would be at about a 10 o'clock position. Imagine the Welsh trotting while carrying the weight of a full-grown cock pheasant.
- The tail, regardless of length, is carried level with the flow of the topline.
- The Welsh should be shown at a moderate speed on a loose lead. Faster is not better.
- The Welsh tends to have a bit of looseness to the skin and this may display a SLIGHT roll as he moves; this is not to be confused with a roll due to faulty movement.
- Although the legs tend to converge as speed of movement increases, the Welsh does not track on a single line.



# Temperament

The Welsh Springer Spaniel is an active dog – displaying a loyal and affectionate disposition. Although reserved with strangers, he is not timid, shy, nor unfriendly. To this day he remains a devoted family member and hunting companion.



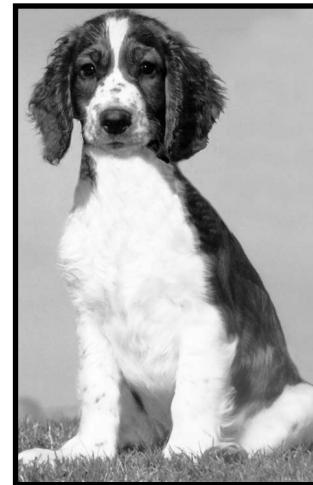
**Breed Standard – Approved June 13, 1989 – Effective August 1, 1989**

## IN ADDITION:

- *Reserved, as in aloof, allows for a dog to be approached/petted/examined without fear or recalcitrance, but also, without outwardly affectionate display towards strangers. In no way should this be interpreted as allowing for any shyness or nervousness.*
- *While the Welsh Springer should display alertness and interest in his surroundings, he should be non-argumentative with other dogs.*
- *While not all Welsh Springers Spaniels are effusive with people they do not know, they should display friendliness and an amiable, agreeable nature. It is essential for the future of the Welsh Springer as family hunting companion for everyone involved – breeders, exhibitors, and judges – to select dogs that are tolerant of strange people and situations. The hunting dog that is confident enough to handle new situations coupled with a willingness to please its handler provides for an ideal hunting dog.*



- *The Welsh Springer is sometimes sensitive, sometimes protective, sometimes stubborn and persistent, but he is always loyal and intelligent with a wealth of energy and stamina. This, coupled with his strong scenting ability, his desire to please, and his sense of humor, makes for a dog that can win in the show ring one day, work in the field the next day, and cuddle on the sofa with the family the day after that.*





# Glossary

<b>TERM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>A</b>	
Angulation	The angles created by bones meeting at various joints (articulation), especially at the shoulder, stifle and hock; the pastern and pelvic areas may also be involved.
<b>B</b>	
Backline	The portion of the entire topline of a dog beginning at the rear end of the withers and ending at the tail.
Balance	The pleasing, harmonious and well-proportioned blend-in of an animal's parts and features, resulting in a final composite effect of total symmetry.
Brisket	A synonym for breastbone or sternum. In the chest anatomy, it consists of a row of eight individual bones joined by blocks of cartilage.
<b>C</b>	
Chiseling	Clean-cut lines and contours., in contrast to bumpy or bulging outlines, especially around the head and foreface.
Coarseness	Applied to overall construction, and especially bone, head and/or muscle properties, meaning lack of refinement, heavier, plainer, larger or clumsier physique than desirable.
Compact*	The union of various body parts, i.e. firmly joined. Sometimes referred to as well-knit. Not loosely-strung together
Coupling	The junction of the chest to the hindquarters. The coupling is in fact the whole muscular band joining the chest and hind-quarters, not just the loin area.
Croup	The muscular area just above and around the set-on of the tail. It merges into the rump in front and technically overlies the lower half of the pelvic region, i.e. from the hip joints to the buttocks.
<b>D</b>	
Divergent Planes*	The geometrical contours, viewed in profile, of the top skull, from occiput to stop and the foreface, i.e. from stop to tip of nose. Divergent planes cross at a point behind the stop, i.e. over the skull as opposed to convergent planes which cross over the foreface or parallel planes which do not cross.
Down faced	Foreface and skull planes that diverge i.e. incline downwards, away from those of the skull. Also used to describe a fore-face that curves downwards from the stop to the tip of the nose.
<b>E</b>	
Elliptical*	Resembling or having the shape of an ellipse. Oval.
Exaggerated*	Unduly emphasized or magnified. Physically enlarged, or disproportionately developed.
Excessive*	Exceeding a reasonable degree, extreme.

Unless identified with an \* glossary terms are taken from:  
 CANINE TERMINOLOGY • Harold R. Spira, 1982 • Howell Book House, Inc • 230 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10169

## Glossary *(continued)*

<i>TERM</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
<b>F</b>	
Flew	The fleshy, sometimes pendulous, upper lip.
Foreface	The portion of the skull in front of the brain case; also referred to as the muzzle.
<b>G</b>	
Gooseberry	Light hazel-colored eyes with a greenish tint.
Guard Hairs	The longer, stiffer hair comprising the outer jacket supported by, as well as, protecting the softer, dense undercoat.
<b>H</b>	
Haunches	The muscular development around the haunch bone area, i.e. the most forward region of the croup.
Haw	The drooping, pouching or sagging of the lower eyelid or lid, due to looseness, resulting in exposure of an abnormally large amount of conjunctival lining.
<b>K</b>	
Keel	The rounded curve or outline of the lower chest (brisket).
Knuckling Over	A forward bending of the leg at the wrist joint when standing.
<b>L</b>	
Llanharan Spot*	The red thumbprint marking surrounded by a clear white blaze situated on the skull between the ears. Also spelled Llanharran.
Luxation	Synonym of dislocation, as applied to joints.
<b>M</b>	
Mask	Dark shading about the head, forming a mask-like pattern. The mask is situated over the top part of the head and around the eyes.
Muzzle	The portion of the skull in front of the brain case, comprising the forward portions of both upper and lower jaws.
<b>O</b>	
Obliquely-Placed Eyes	Eyes with outer corners situated higher up on the skull than their respective inner ones.
<b>P</b>	
Pendulous	In reference to ear types, the lobes hang down from their area of junction to the head, often in longitudinal folds and are incapable of lying flat.
Point of buttock	The furthest point of the buttocks that projects beyond the set-on of the tail when viewed in profile.
Point of shoulder	The joint formed at the meeting of the scapula and the humerus.
Prosternum	The portion of the breast bone that projects beyond the point of the shoulder when viewed in profile.

Unless identified with an \* glossary terms are taken from:  
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## Glossary *(continued)*

<b>TERM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>R</b>	
Raciness	A reference to a refined, streamlined and elegant appearance. The opposite of cobby or stocky.
Roach	A roached back is one that is arched or convex to some degree and/or extent. Slightly different forms are known as camel, carp or wheel back.
<b>S</b>	
Set-On	A term applied to the junction of tail butt and rump.
Spring of Rib	A reference to the shape of ribs after their emergence from their articulation with the thoracic vertebrae. Spring of rib has direct influence upon chest capacity.
Station	A reference to height at withers as compared to leg length from point of elbows to ground.
Steep	An adjective frequently used in relation to angulation, e.g. steep shoulders, steep upper arm, to denote insufficiently acute or wide angles of articulation.
Sternum	See Brisket
Stop	A depression or step down in the topline of the head, situated almost centrally between the eyes, at the junction of the frontal bones of the skull with those of the upper jaw/nasal bones in front.
Substance*	The overall bone and muscle development of the adult dog, calling for good quality oval bone, spring of rib, wide back and croup; the opposite of racy.
Symmetry	Refers to balance and anatomical construction. A symmetrically constructed dog is one in which all parts are balanced harmoniously as regards proportions, shape, size and structure.
<b>T</b>	
Throaty	A reference to loose, pendulous folds of skin under the throat and underside of the neck.
Ticking	Very small areas of hair different in color to the basic ground color and distributed throughout the coat. For Welsh Springers, it is red hair on a white background.
Tuck-Up	The appearance produced by the abdomen's underline as it sweeps upwards into the flank region.
<b>U</b>	
Underline	The combined contours of the brisket and abdominal floor.
<b>W</b>	
Well-Knit	A reference to body sections firmly joined by strong, well developed muscles. Often taken as a synonym for 'well or short coupled'.
Withers	The region of union between the upper portion of the shoulder blade and the spinous processes of the first and second thoracic vertebrae. Topographically, the withers are located just behind the base of the neck at the neck/back junction.

Unless identified with an \* glossary terms are taken from:  
CANINE TERMINOLOGY • Harold R. Spira, 1982 • Howell Book House, Inc • 230 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10169

# Reference Material

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## Printed Material:

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- The Starter Barks – The official newsletter of the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, published quarterly.
- In addition there are publications created periodically by the Heartland and Dogwood clubs, as well as yearbooks produced by many of the overseas clubs.

## Some Books

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### In Print

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- The Welsh Springer Spaniel  
Anne Walton, 1999
- The Welsh Springer Spaniel, A Complete and Reliable Handbook  
(geared more for the pet owner)  
Linda S. Brennan, 1997

### Out of Print

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- The Essential Welsh Springer Spaniel  
John Phillips, 1990
- The Welsh Springer Spaniel, History, Selection, Training and Care  
William Pferd III, 1977

## Other Material Available:

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(refer to Judges Education at [www.wssca.com](http://www.wssca.com) for current list or for information on acquiring a copy)

- The Welsh Springer Spaniel – color PowerPoint presentation.
- A Comparison of the English and Welsh Springer Spaniels – color PowerPoint presentation
- The Working Welshman – DVD demonstrating the WSS breed standard by using form and function in the field.
- The Welsh Springer Spaniel – Video produced by (and available through) The American Kennel Club.

## Website:

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- [www.wssca.com](http://www.wssca.com) – the official website of the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America.

## Clubs

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### National

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- The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America (WSSCA) – the National club for the breed. A member club of the American Kennel Club.

### Regional

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- Refer to the WSSCA website for a complete and current listing of all regional clubs.



### **WSSCA Illustrated Standard Committee**

**Adrienne Bancker**  
Betty Cummings  
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