

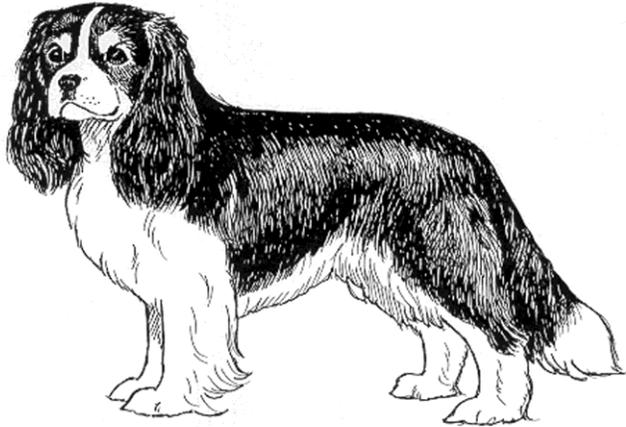
CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL

Official UKC Breed Standard

Revised December 1, 2014

Companion Dog Group

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HISTORY

The goals and purposes of this breed standard include: to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world; and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this breed, and must take the responsibility to see that these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following should be considered a fault, and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

HISTORY

Small toy spaniels have been known in Europe and Great Britain since the 16th century and were popular subjects of the most famous painters from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is descended from these toy spaniels. Early toy spaniels were quite common as ladies' pets, and during the reign of King Charles II, they were given the royal title King Charles Spaniel. When serious show dog breeding began in England, the dog's face structure changed to have the look of the Pug until an American, Roswell Eldridge, offered a cash prize at the Crufts Dog Show for a dog that resembled those in the early paintings. With careful breeding, the shorter-faced dogs became the English Toy Spaniel, and those that more closely resembled the originals became known as the Cavalier.

The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel was recognized by the United Kennel Club in 1980.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Cavalier is an active, graceful, elegant toy spaniel, with a gentle expression. It stands 12 to 13 inches in height and weighs from 12 to 18 pounds. It has a long, silky coat that comes in four color variations, and is characteristically untrimmed.

Absolute soundness and proper muscle tone is a must. Head properties should remain free of exaggeration so as to not obstruct normal vision.

Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.

CHARACTERISTICS

Very gay, fearless and sporting, yet gentle and affectionate, with no tendency toward nervousness.

Disqualifications: Viciousness or extreme shyness.

HEAD

Appears flat across the top due to the high placement of the ears. Stop is shallow.

SKULL - Slightly rounded, but without any dome or prominence of occiput.

MUZZLE - Approximately 1½ inches in length, tapering well towards the end, but without snipiness. The lips are well-covered, but not pendulous. Cushioning below the eyes contributes to the characteristic expression, which is sweet and gentle.

TEETH - A full complement of strong, white teeth meet in a scissors bite.

EYES - Relatively large, dark and round, but not prominent. Set well apart. No haw showing.

NOSE - Nostrils should be well developed, open and black. Fully-pigmented.

EARS - Set high, leather long with plenty of feathering.

NECK

Moderate in length, without throatiness. Slightly arched at the crest. Set smoothly into nicely sloping shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders should slope back with moderate angulation.

FORELEGS - Straight and well under the dog, with moderate bone. Elbows close to sides.

BODY

Short-coupled, with ribs well-sprung, but not barreled. Chest moderately deep, leaving ample room for heart. Back level. Slightly less body at flank than last rib, but no tucked up appearance.

HINDQUARTERS

HIND LEGS - Hind legs moderately muscled; well angulated at the stifles and hocks. Rear pasterns relatively short and at right angles to the ground when standing. Viewed from behind, rear legs should be parallel to each other from hock to heel, with no tendency to cow hocks, spread hocks or sickle hocks.

FEET

Compact and well feathered, with well-cushioned pads.

TAIL

Set to be carried with the level of the back. Tail should be in constant motion when the dog is in action. Docking is optional. If docked then leave at least two-thirds and dock to leave a white tip.

COAT

Long, silky, and free from curl, though a slight wave is permissible. There should be plenty of feathering. No trimming.

COLOR

There are four acceptable colors:

- Black and Tan. Raven black with tan markings above the eyes, on cheeks, inside ears, on chest and legs, and underside of tail. Tan should be bright. White markings are undesirable.
- Ruby. Whole colored rich red. White markings are undesirable.
- Blenheim. Rich chestnut markings well broken-up on a pearly white background. The red on the head must extend around the eyes as well as down over the ears. There should be a white blaze between the eyes and ears in the center of which is the lozenge or "Blenheim Spot" unique within the Blenheim Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, a highly desirable, but not essential characteristic of the Blenheim.
- Tri-color. Jet black markings well broken-up on a pearly white background with tan markings over the eyes, on cheeks, inside ears, inside legs, and on underside of tail.

Any other color, or combination of colors, is highly undesirable.

Disqualification: Albinism.

HEIGHT & WEIGHT

Height, measured at the withers, is 12 to 13 inches.

Weight is in proportion to height, averaging from 12 to 18 pounds.

Slight variations from the ideal are acceptable as long as the dog retains breed type.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

(A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a conformation event, and must be reported to UKC.)

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Albinism.

The docking of tails and cropping of ears in America is legal and remains a personal choice. However, as an international registry, the United Kennel Club, Inc. is aware that the practices of cropping and docking have been forbidden in some countries. In light of these developments, the United Kennel Club, Inc. feels that no dog in any UKC event, including conformation, shall be penalized for a full tail or natural ears.