

## BREED STANDARD COMPARISON

	Welsh Springer Spaniel <small>(Standard Effective 8/1/89)</small>	English Springer Spaniel <small>(Standard Effective 3/31/94)</small>	Brittany <small>(Standard Effective 5/31/90)</small>
<b>General Appearance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attractive dog of handy size</li> <li>• Substance without coarseness</li> <li>• Impression of length</li> <li>• Obviously built for hard work and endurance</li> <li>• Hard, muscled condition</li> <li>• Compact</li> <li>• Not leggy</li> <li>• Coat - not excessive, but thick enough to protect from heavy cover and weather</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments:</b> The Welsh Springer is Simple, Functional and Unexaggerated, and it should give the impression of a working spaniel.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium sized sporting dog with compact body</li> <li>• Well proportioned</li> <li>• Carriage is proud and upstanding</li> <li>• Coat moderately long</li> <li>• Pendulous ears</li> <li>• Suggest power, endurance and agility</li> <li>• Endowed with style, symmetry, balance, and enthusiasm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compact, closely knit dog of medium size</li> <li>• Leggy, appearance of a great ground coverer</li> <li>• Ruggedness without clumsiness</li> </ul>
<b>Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs - 18 to 19 inches</li> <li>• Bitches - 17 to 18 inches</li> <li>• Above or below the ideal to be proportionately penalized</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments:</b> These sizes are approximate. A well-balanced animal should be given consideration over an "ideal height" without quality. When deciding if a certain dog is too big, take the size difference the other way - would that dog be considered too small to perform the tasks required? Ex. A male at 20 inches would equate to a male at 17 inches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs - 20 inches, weight approx. 50 pounds</li> <li>• Bitches - 19 inches, weight approx. 40 pounds</li> <li>• An inch over or under the breed ideal should be faulted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17.5 to 20 inches.</li> <li>• Above 20 or below 17.5 disqualifies.</li> <li>• Weight - between 30 and 40 pounds.</li> </ul>

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<b>Proportion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The length of body from the withers to base of tail is very slightly greater than the distance from the withers to the ground.</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments</b> Another image of desired proportion is to imagine a picture of a square within a rectangle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length of body from point of shoulder to point of buttocks is slightly greater than the height at withers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Height at the shoulders is the same as the length as his body. Body length measured from point of fore chest to rear of the rump.</li> <li>Long body heavily penalized.</li> </ul>
<b>Substance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weight - in proportion to height</li> </ul> <p><b>Comments</b> For weight, an adult male at 19 inches with proportionate bone would weigh about 46 -50 pounds. An adult bitch at 18 inches would weigh about 38-42 pounds. Bone is not mentioned in the standard - however, the Welsh should be moderately boned, with good quality oval bone. The bone of the front and hind legs should be of equal proportion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appears well-knit and sturdy with good bone, never coarse or ponderous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not too light in bone</li> <li>Never heavy-boned and cumbersome</li> </ul>

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<b>Head</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In proportion to body</li> <li>• Neither broad and coarse nor narrow and racy</li> <li>• Skull is medium length, slightly domed</li> <li>• Stop - clearly defined</li> <li>• Well chiseled below eyes</li> <li>• Plane of the skull is very slightly divergent to plane of muzzle</li> <li>• No tendency to downface</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMENTS</b> The divergent planes come from the slightly domed skull with the straight muzzle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In profile the head is approx. the same length as the neck</li> <li>• Impressive without being heavy</li> <li>• Skull is medium length, fairly broad, flat on top and slightly rounded on sides and back</li> <li>• Stop is a subtle rise, emphasized by the groove and position and shape of eyebrows.</li> <li>• In profile the toplines of skull and muzzle lie in parallel planes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alert, eager, soft expression.</li> <li>• Skull is medium length.</li> <li>• Rounded, slightly wedged shaped.</li> <li>• Width not quite as wide as length.</li> <li>• Neither so broad as to be coarse, nor narrow and racy.</li> <li>• Well chiseled under eye.</li> <li>• Stop - well defined but gently sloping.</li> <li>• Never apple headed and never have indented stop.</li> </ul>
<b>Eyes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oval shaped</li> <li>• Medium sized</li> <li>• Dark to medium brown</li> <li>• Soft expression</li> <li>• Yellow or mean looking eyes are to be heavily penalized</li> <li>• Eye rims tight, dark pigmentation</li> <li>• Not prominent, sunken nor showing haw.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMENTS</b> Hazel eye should not be confused with yellow, green or gooseberry eyes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oval shaped</li> <li>• Medium sized</li> <li>• Set rather far apart and fairly deep in their sockets</li> <li>• Dark hazel in liver dogs, deep brown in black dogs</li> <li>• Eye rims fully pigmented</li> <li>• Little or no haw showing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not prominent, full or pop eye.</li> <li>• Well set in head.</li> <li>• Lower lids should not form pockets.</li> <li>• Preference for darker colors.</li> <li>• Lighter shades of amber not to be penalized.</li> <li>• Light and mean looking eyes are heavily penalized.</li> </ul>

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<b>Ears</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set on approx. at eye level</li> <li>• Small - leather does not reach to nose. Hang close to the cheek.</li> <li>• Shaped somewhat like a vine leaf</li> <li>• COMMENTS Shape can be like a vine leaf, can also include a pear shape Moderate leather - not thin or heavy as in some hound. Not pendulous. Feathering does not grow much beyond the length of the leather.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set on level with eye</li> <li>• Long, fairly wide, hanging close to cheeks with no tendency to stand up or out.</li> <li>• Leather thin and approx. long enough to reach nose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set high above level of eyes.</li> <li>• Short, triangular. Tip rounded very slightly.</li> <li>• Reaches about half the length of muzzle.</li> </ul>
<b>Muzzle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equal or slightly shorter than length of skull</li> <li>• Straight</li> <li>• Fairly square</li> <li>• No excessive flew</li> <li>• Nostrils well developed. Black or any shade of brown. Pink to be severely penalized</li> <li>• COMMENTS In profile, the muzzle slightly tapers toward to the nostrils. From the front, the nostril/jaw area should be square - with wide, full nostrils and jaws that allow for full dentition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approx. the same length as the skull and half the width.</li> <li>• Upper lips come down full and rather square to cover the line of the lower jaw.</li> <li>• Nostrils well opened and broad. Fully pigmented, liver or black.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About 2/3 length of skull</li> <li>• Tapers gently in both horizontal and vertical dimension approaching the nostrils.</li> <li>• Flews to be penalized. Lips tight, dry. Upper lip overlaps lower jaw just to cover lower lip.</li> <li>• Nostrils well opened.. Color fawn, tan, shades of brown or deep pink..</li> <li>• Black nose disqualifies.</li> </ul>

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<b>Bite</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scissors</li> <li>• Undershot jaw - severely penalized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideal - close scissors</li> <li>• Under or overshot or wry - severely penalized.</li> <li>• Even bite or slight misalignment - minor faults</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scissors.</li> <li>• Over or undershot to be heavily penalized</li> </ul>
<b>Neck</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long, slightly arched</li> <li>• Clean in throat</li> <li>• Set into long, sloping shoulders.</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMENTS</b> Although the standard states long neck, the intent was to have useful, muscular necks that could be used for balance when swimming and retrieving and for scenting game. There is a fault among breeders and judges to take this statement too literally and reward dogs that exhibit very long, over muscled (stallion like) necks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderately long, muscular, clean, slightly arched</li> <li>• Blends gradually, smoothly into sloping shoulders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium length.</li> <li>• Free from throatiness.</li> <li>• Strong without being over muscled.</li> <li>• Well set into sloping shoulders.</li> </ul>
<b>Topline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMENTS</b> Level topline refers to the overall appearance, i.e. there is no slope downwards from withers to rump. With a correctly arched loin, there cannot be a true level (flat) topline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slopes gently from withers to tail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight slope from highest point of shoulder to root of tail.</li> </ul>

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<b>Body</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loin slightly arched</li> <li>• Croup slightly rounded</li> <li>• Chest - well developed, muscular</li> <li>• Ribs well-sprung</li> <li>• Brisket reaches to elbows</li> <li>• Rectangular silhouette</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loin - short and slightly arched</li> <li>• Croup slopes gently</li> <li>• Chest - deep with well-developed fore chest.</li> <li>• Ribs fairly long.</li> <li>• Body is short-coupled, strong and compact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loins short, strong. Distance from last rib to upper thigh short, about 3 to 4 finger widths.</li> <li>• Back short straight.</li> <li>• Slight drop from hips to root of tail.</li> <li>• Chest - deep, reaching level of elbows.</li> <li>• Neither wide nor rounded.</li> <li>• Ribs well sprung.</li> </ul>
<b>Tail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension of the topline</li> <li>• Carriage is horizontal</li> <li>• GENERALLY docked</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMENTS</b> The tail may be very slightly elevated when the Welsh is excited - this is not to be confused with a gay tail - a common fault in this breed. There is an emergence of more Welsh with undocked tails - they should not be penalized based on a judge's personal preference - however, the set on and carriage will become even more important (and obvious) long tails should still be carried on a line with the back and the dog should still use it when moving . The long tail should not flag nor be carried saber-like.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carried horizontally or slightly elevated.</li> <li>• Docked.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set on high</li> <li>• Tailless to approx. 4 inches. Natural or docked</li> </ul>

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<b>Forequarters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoulder blade and upper arm approx. equal</li> <li>• Upper arm set well back</li> <li>• Forearms medium length, straight</li> <li>• Front legs well boned but not coarse</li> <li>• Pasterns short and slightly sloping</li> <li>• Height to elbow is approx., equal to distance from elbow to top of shoulder blades.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoulder blades flat and fairly close. Blade and upper arm are of apparent equal length.</li> <li>• Front legs set well under body</li> <li>• Forelegs straight with the same degree of size continuing to the foot</li> <li>• Bone is strong, slightly flattened</li> <li>• Pasterns - short, strong slightly sloping.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoulder blades - sloping and muscular. Not too wide, about 2 thumbs width.</li> <li>• Blade and upper arm form nearly 90 degree angle.</li> <li>• Shoulders higher than rump.</li> <li>• Front legs perpendicular, not set too wide.</li> <li>• Leg bones clean, graceful, but not too fine.</li> <li>• Pasterns slightly sloping</li> <li>• Height at elbow approx. equal distance elbow to withers.</li> </ul>
<b>Hindquarters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong, muscular</li> <li>• Well boned but not coarse</li> <li>• Thighs in profile are wide</li> <li>• Second thigh is well developed</li> <li>• Moderate bend of stifle</li> <li>• Hocks short, with a well angulated hock joint</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard, muscular</li> <li>• Thighs broad</li> <li>• Stifle joints strong</li> <li>• Hock joints are somewhat rounded</li> <li>• Rear pasterns short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad, strong, muscular.</li> <li>• Powerful thighs.</li> <li>• Stifle - well bent. Not so bent as to place hock joint far out behind dog..</li> <li>• Hocks short, perpendicular and firm (when shaken by judge).</li> </ul>

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<b>Feet</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round</li> <li>• Tight and well arched</li> <li>• Thick pads</li> <li>• Dewclaws generally removed</li> <li>• Rear feet - as in front</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round or slightly oval</li> <li>• Compact, well arched</li> <li>• Medium size</li> <li>• Thick pads</li> <li>• Dewclaws - generally removed.</li> <li>• Rear feet are the same as front except smaller and more compact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halfway between hare and cat foot.</li> <li>• Strong.</li> <li>• Proportionately smaller than the spaniels.</li> <li>• Close fitting, well arched toes..</li> <li>• Thick pads.</li> <li>• Rear feet - same as front.</li> </ul>
<b>Coat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straight, flat</li> <li>• Soft to touch.</li> <li>• Not wiry nor wavy</li> <li>• Dense</li> <li>• Moderate feathering on chest, forelegs, underside of body and hind legs above hocks</li> <li>• Excessive coat is discouraged, as is excessive barbering</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMENTS</b> Body coat hairs should also be relatively short. Welsh with very long guard hairs, (often seen growing into the feathering), typically do not have correct undercoat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium length, flat or wavy.</li> <li>• Undercoat is short, soft and dense.</li> <li>• Moderate length and heaviness on ears, chest, legs and belly</li> <li>• Excessive feathering to be penalized, as is excessive barbering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat or wavy.</li> <li>• Texture neither wiry nor silky.</li> <li>• Dense.</li> <li>• Some feathering on front, hind legs.</li> <li>• Too little preferable to too much.</li> <li>• Long or profuse feathering or furnishing to be so severely penalized as to eliminated from competition.</li> <li>• Skin is fine and fairly loose.</li> </ul>

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<b>Color</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rich red and white</li> <li>Any pattern</li> <li>Any white area may be flecked with red ticking</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMENTS</b> Shades of red can vary from bright chestnut to a lighter amber color. The shade is not as important as the depth and richness of the color.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black or liver with white markings</li> <li>Blue or liver roan</li> <li>Tricolor</li> <li>Any white portion of the coat may be flecked with ticking.</li> <li>Lemon, red or orange are off colors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orange or liver and white.</li> <li>Clear or roan pattern.</li> <li>Some ticking desirable.</li> <li>Washed out color not desirable.</li> <li>Black disqualifies.</li> </ul>
<b>Gait</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smooth, powerful ground covering action</li> <li>Displays drive from the rear</li> <li>Strong forward stride with a reach that does not waste energy.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long, ground covering stride</li> <li>Rear driving power</li> <li>Front legs swing forward in a free and easy manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smooth, efficient and ground covering.</li> <li>At trot, hind foot should step into or beyond print left by front foot.</li> </ul>
<b>Temperament</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active dog with affectionate disposition</li> <li>Not timid or shy</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMENTS</b> The Welsh is a merry, active spaniel. He has an amiable disposition and is not argumentative towards people or other dogs. Any Welsh other than puppy classes or with an obvious novice handler should never be rewarded if it in any way exhibits fear. No Welsh should be rewarded if it exhibits aggressiveness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friendly, eager to please.</li> <li>Tractability</li> <li>Aggression to people or other dogs not acceptable.</li> <li>Excessive timidity to be penalized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Happy, alert.</li> <li>Neither mean nor shy.</li> </ul>
<b>Disqualifiers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under 17.5 or over 20 inches in height.</li> <li>Black nose.</li> <li>Black in the coat.</li> </ul>

## **In the Group Ring**

**Topline:  
Slopes gently.**



**Topline:  
Level**



**Topline:  
Slopes very gently.**



**Topline:  
Slight slope.**

## COMPARISON OF BREEDS – ILLUSTRATED

**Brittany**



"Height at the shoulders is the same as the length of his body"

Topline: "Slight slope from highest point of shoulder to root of tail"

**Welsh Springer Spaniel**



"Length of body from the withers to base of tail is very slightly greater than the distance from the withers to the ground"

Topline: "Level"

**English Springer Spaniel**



"Length of body from point of shoulder to point of buttocks is slightly greater than the height at withers"

Topline: "Slopes gently from withers to tail"

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America  
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