THE FIELD SPANIEL

PRESENTED BY THE

FIELD SPANIEL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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

Material from the Illustrated Standard Text or comments are in Green
Bred for field work first and foremost. The Field Spaniel in the 1800’s was the Landed Gentry’s personal hunting dog.
TODAY’S FIELD SPANIEL

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

IS A DOG FOR ALL REASONS AND SEASONS
The Field is truly a dog for all Reasons and Seasons

Photo by Alyssia
A Short History of the Field Spaniel
Spaniels in the early part of the 19th century were divided into land & water spaniels.

The history of the Field Spaniel basically goes back to the land spaniel of this time.
A PROPOSED FAMILY TREE OF THE FIELD SPANIEL

land spaniel

flushing spaniels

Black Spaniel  Basset

English  Cocker

Springer 1892

American cocker  English cocker

1947

field

water spaniel

Irish Water Spaniel

Sussex
By the mid 1800’s a large solid black spaniel had been developed. It was during this period that the first dog shows took place. The development of the Black Spaniel may well have been an attempt to “Dazzle” the judges of these early exhibitions.
After 1885 the field was distinguished from the cocker on the basis of weight. Solid color dogs over 25 lbs. were Fields and those under Cockers. Thus the saying:

“Before A Hearty English Breakfast a Cocker, after a Field”
In the late part of the 1800’s & early 1900’s Field fanciers wanted something even more unique for the show ring. At this time Sussex & Basset were introduced into the Field Spaniel breeding program. The result was low & long. From this came the pejorative “THE CATERPILLAR DOG”
The resulting dogs were so grotesque and unusable in the field that the breed fell into disfavor. Even after attempts were made to bring the Field back to what it had been the breed’s popularity was never regained.
First registered by AKC in 1894 the Field was used as a hunting dog. By 1909 the 1st show champion had been made. The last was finished in 1916 as the breed lost its popularity. By the 1930’s the Field Spaniel for all intents and purposes had died out in America.
• Due World War II field spaniel numbers fell to an all-time low throughout the world.

• The result was that all of today’s Fields are descended from only 4 bitches & 1 male alive during the period immediately following the war.

• Due to these low numbers, the Kennel Club of Great Britain allowed, in 1958, some inter-breeding with English Springer Spaniels. These crosses are known and are noted in Field Spaniel pedigrees.
In 1967 there were 22 Field Spaniels in Great Britain and the litter that would contain the dogs that would reintroduce the field to the US was born.

This litter was only the 3rd to have been born in England between 1962 and 1967.
Top Fields of the late 1970’s
On the left ShCh Mittina Cleo considered the finest bitch of her time and the right ShCh Adamant of Westacres an very important foundation sire
In 1967 3 Fields were imported to the US from England. 2 dogs & 1 bitch who were traded for 2 American Cockers. Thus the Field Spaniel was reestablished in the US. Instrumental to the reintroduction were Dick & Doris Squier who kept one dog & the bitch and Carl Tuttle who took the other male.
In the early 1970’s a number of Fields were imported to the US. Foremost among these was a black bitch rescued, from a humane society in Canada, by Dick Squier. This rescue brought the black Field back to the US. Since then a number of influential imports have been made from England. Whitelench Hoity Toity.
Today the Field Spaniel is well and alive in the United States and Canada, though the breed is still a rare one. It is estimated that the total population is around 1000 to 2000. This figure includes not only dogs in competition but also pet and geriatric Field Spaniels.
This is a pedigree of an American dog who lived from 1975 to 1988. Note the gene pool is really a “puddle.” In the 5th generation there are only 10 individual dogs and 1 is an English Springer Spaniel.
Breed Registration Rankings 2008

- Cocker: 21
- ESS: 27
- ECS: 68
- Clumber: 115
- Welsh: 120
- AWS: 138
- Field: 134
- Sussex: 145
HOW RARE IS THE FIELD SPANIEL

Individual Registrations 2006

- Cocker: 14790
- ESS: 8205
- ECS: 1281
- Clumber: 266
- Welsh: 247
- Field: 195
- AWS: 152
- Sussex: 79

AKC Ranking