JUDGING THE FIELD SPANIEL
HEAD and EXPRESSION

The head conveys the impression of:
- High breeding,
- Character
- Nobility
- It must be in proportion to the size of the dog.
The Field head is distinctive but it *IS NOT* a head breed do not become a head hunter

as symmetry, gait, attitude and purpose are more important than any one part of the dog
However the Field head is very different than that of other spaniel breeds and there should never be a doubt that one is looking at a Field Spaniel. Overly large or massive heads as well as those too small for the size of the dog are incorrect.

The breed has a distinctive head and it should not look like that of an English Springer or an English Cocker.
• Expression is grave
gentle
intelligent.

A true soft spaniel look that is grave, gentle and intelligent, but never dull, hard, staring or fearful.
**Eyes**

- Eyes are almond in shape, open and of medium size
  - Never round, tricorn or diamond shape.
  - They are not bulging or protruding as this can lead to injury in the field.

- They are set moderately wide and deep with tight lids showing no haw.
  - An eye with a haw can suffer injury in the field as debris can collect in the eye and scratch or puncture it.
• Color: dark hazel to dark brown.
• Rims comparable to nose in color

A dark eye is preferred. A light or yellow eye is to be avoided. Puppies may have a lighter eye which will darken with age
• Ears are moderately long and wide (leather reaching the end of the muzzle)
The ears do not wrap around the muzzle.
• They are set on slightly below eye level

When the dog is at attention the ears may be raised above eye level.
• Leather is moderately heavy, supple & rounded at the tip

The tip should be round never triangular

• Ears are pendulous, hanging close to the head; rolled and well feathered

  An inch or two is “well feathered” More than that is excessive and is detrimental to a dog that hunts.
• The crown is slightly wider at the back than at the brow

• And is lightly arched laterally

SKULL
• The occiput is distinct and rounded.
• The brows are slightly raised.
• The stop is moderate, but well defined by the brows.
• The face is chiseled beneath the eyes.
• Sides and cheeks are straight and clean
A black head, because of its color absorbs light and will often lose detail and look plain and dowdy.
• Strong, long and lean, neither snipey or squarely cut.

• Jaws are level

• In profile, the lower plane curves gradually from the nose to the throat.
- Nasal bone is straight and slightly divergent from parallel, sloping downward toward the nose from the plane of the top skull
Often a Field will have a bit of a roman nose. Many feel that this gives the dog an even more aristocratic look.
The muzzle length should be equal to or slightly longer than the skull. A short or snipey muzzle destroys the whole appearance of the distinctive Field head. So too, does a squared off muzzle.

The Field’s muzzle is not only beautiful but functional. Length for scenting and retrieving ability. Strength for picking up game.
Lips are close fitting, clean and sufficiently deep to cover the lower jaw without being pendulous.
The lips should not be squared off as is seen in some of the other spaniels.

Heavy flews are undesirable as they can be an indication of a wet mouth which is a real fault in a bird dog.
Nose

- Large fleshy and well developed with open nostrils

- Set on as an extension of the muzzle

- Color: solid; light to dark brown or black as befits the color of the coat

A bi-colored or butterfly nose is undesirable
A tight, small and/or pushed in nose is not correct in a breed that uses its nose as does the Field
**BITE**

- Scissors or level, with complete dentition
- Scissors preferred

A dog with overall type and a bite where the incisors are not perfect but the canines are correctly placed should not be judged lower than an animal with a perfect bite but of less overall quality.
Crooked and dropped incisors occur but should not cause concern, as long as the canines are correctly positioned. These misalignments are often the result of the Field’s termite habits. Underbites do occur and a few years ago were fairly common in the breed. This is not considered a serious fault, if it occurs as a reverse scissors and the dog’s bite is not wry or severely undershot.