THE FIELD SPANIEL

PRESENTED BY THE

FIELD SPANIEL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Study Edition

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JUDGING THE FIELD SPANIEL
NECK & SKIN

• Long, strong and *slightly* arched
• Clean and well set into the shoulders

The neck should be long and strong enough to easily pick up and retrieve game. It should never be swan like, but should be *slightly* arched. This adds to the aristocratic appearance of the Field Spaniel.
A short neck and lumpy shoulders make the forequarters appear top heavy as though the dog is about to tip over on his nose and makes picking up game whether it be fur or feather difficult.

**Skin should be loose enough to roll** so as not to tear when caught in briars but not so loose so that it hangs in folds.

* A Dewlap is undesirable.
TOPLINE

• The neck slopes smoothly into the withers;
• The back is level, well muscled, firm and strong.

The Field’s back should be *level.* He must not have a dip or a roach in the topline. A slope may indicate straight shoulders, an overangulated stifle or a second thigh that is too long.

The Field should *never* be shown sloping from the withers to the rump. The Field *is not* a Cocker or English Springer.
• The croup is short and gently rounded

The croup is not flat; neither does it drop like a ski slope.
• The prosternum is prominent and well fleshed

One should *easily* be able to feel the prosternum. On dogs with sparse coat it may even be seen. It should never be lacking as it is an important component of a good front. A dog lacking a proper prosternum will not be able to perform in the field or in other athletic activities as well as one who is well endowed.
• The depth of chest is roughly equal to the length of the front leg from elbow to ground.

The chest should extend to or below the elbows but must never interfere with front movement. This depth will give the impression that the body is suspended between the legs rather than set over the top of the legs.
The Field should be deep-bodied with only puppies, adolescents and immature adults showing any significant tuckup.
A young dog whose chest has not dropped can resemble a body on stilts. This should rectify itself in time. The immature Field looks quite different from the mature adult.
•The rib cage is long extending into a short loin.

The Field’s rib cage should be long, about 2/3rds of the body length. This gives heart and lung room for a dog who works in the field. The loin should be short and strong.
• **Ribs are oval, well sprung and curve gently into a firm loin.**

The ribs are oval never round or barrel shaped. The latter will interfere with the front legs when the dog moves. The rib cage itself swells from behind the elbows and then curves gently into the short strong firm loin.
The female may have a slightly longer loin than the male, so that during gestation the whelps have more growing room. However, the loin should *never* be long and weak in either sex. On the average not over 4 inches.
From above the loin should be broad with just a slight waist visible.
The tail does not come straight off the back but follows the line of the croup. It is naturally carried downward or level with the back.

TAIL SET

• Set on low, in line with the croup, just below the level of the back.
• At rest the tail slants downward
• Docked tails are preferred,
• Natural tails are allowed.

Natural tails do occur and with the ban on docking in Europe more will probably appear in the show ring

This type of tail should not be penalized
• The tail, whether docked or natural length should be in balance with the overall dog.

When docked 1/3 to 1/2 of the tail should be left.
However, sometimes a tail will be short
One must remember that a docked tail is a man
made attribute and mistakes are often made, resulting in a short tail
Tails may be trimmed or may have the feathering left on as a flag. As the fashion is for the trimmed tail, the tail with a flag will seldom be seen. Both are correct.
TAIL CARRAGE

• When moving the tail is carried inclined slightly downward or level with the back, and with a wagging motion.

Tail carried *above the back* is incorrect
A gay tail as you are apt see in Cockers & English Springers is not correct. However, if the tail is above the back, just a little don’t worry about it as it probably due to excitement. A tail that rises well above the level of the back destroys the ideal profile of the Field Spaniel and may well indicate that there is a structural problem in the rear.

Further the Field should never, never be presented with his tail jammed up in the air. An incorrectly carried tail takes away from the proper Field Spaniel look and can make a Field look like an English Springer or cocker in liver or black drag.