Judging the Field Spaniel
The head is carried alertly, neither so high nor so low as to impede motion or stride.

The Field should not carry his head way up in the air as do some English Springers and cockers. To do so will compromise the breed’s correct movement which should be a moderate endurance trot so effortless that the dog may maintain the gait all day long.
A fast, whirling -dervish type movement is not efficient in the field and is very energy consuming. Further any high stepping, or piston-like action is absolutely incorrect in the Field or any hunting breed.

FASTER IS NOT BETTER

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• There is good forward reach from that begins in the shoulder, coupled with strong drive from the rear giving the characteristic effortless, long, low majestic stride.

The Field, as he increases speed will become “longer and lower” as his reach and drive extends and he appears to pull the ground beneath him in front and push it away in the rear.
• When viewed from the front and/or rear elbows and hocks move parallel.
• The legs move *straight* with *slight convergence* at increased speed
Remember, a moderate pace *Faster Is Not Better*
• Side movement is straight and clean, without energy wasting motion. Overreaching and single tracking are incorrect.
• The Field Spaniel should be shown at its own natural speed in an endurance trot, preferably on a loose lead, in order to evaluate its movement.

FASTER IS NOT BETTER
TEMPEMENT

• Unusually Docile, Sensitive and Fun loving
• A great affinity for human companionship
• Independent and Intelligent
The Field’s strong desire to be with and a part of their person’s activities is a hallmark of the breed.
• They may be somewhat reserved in initial meetings

• ANY DISPLAY OF SHYNESS, FEAR, OR AGGRESSION IS TO BE SEVERELY PENALIZED
A Field Spaniel should be *properly socialized and trained* for gentle, but non-threatening, through examination.

As they are inclined to be very aloof, particularly with strangers, even a seasoned competitor may not wag his tail during examination. Be firm but gentle. But, *Under no circumstances should a Field Spaniel growl or snap at a judge, handler or another dog!*

As a judge, you will see many young Fields and inexperienced handlers. Please take your time and make the experience a good one as a bad time in the ring can with Fields and inexperienced handlers have long term effects.
RING PRESENTATION

The Field Spaniel is shown on the ground or a ramp

Not On A Table
Please remember the following points when a Field Spaniel is presented to you:

- The Field Spaniel should **never** be shown with a *sloping topline* and/or raised tail

 ![YES](image1.png)

 ![NO](image2.png)

 ![NO](image3.png)
• Trimming should be limited to that which enhances the natural appearance of the dog.

AND FINALLY

• When gaiting - faster is not better and a loose lead is preferred.
PROBLEMS SEEN IN THE BREED TODAY 2012

- Head Proportions (Short Muzzle)
- Body Proportions (Square)
- Lack of Bone
- Temperment (Excessively shy)
IN THE FIELD SPANIEL STANDARD THERE ARE NO DISQUALIFICATIONS
AND

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WHEN JUDGING THE FIELD SPANIEL THAT

“SYMMETRY, GAIT, ATTITUDE AND PURPOSE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY ONE PART”
Finally, The Field is a rare breed with a gene “puddle”, not a pool.

So when judging, look at the whole animal, not just specific faults and don’t throw the “baby” out with the “puddle”