

Boykin Spaniel



THE BOYKIN SPANIEL, is an excellent representation of a spaniel within the great spaniel group of breeds.

Exactly when, why or how the Boykin Spaniel originated is somewhat controversial. Although there has been a confusion of its origins, sportsmen have appreciated this little brown spaniel. It was primarily a South Carolina originated breed, but presently there are records of it being throughout the United States and regions of Canada.

Folklore has it that the first Boykin Spaniel was found in a small town in South Carolina by Mr. White. Mr. White soon realized that his new found brown spaniel possessed strong hunting abilities. He sought his good friend Mr. Lemuel Whitaker Boykin to help train his hunting partner. The dog had performed beyond normal expectations, therefore Mr. White in honor of his friend's help coined the breed Boykin Spaniel.

The Boykin Spaniel possesses natural hunting abilities, for all forms of upland shooting as well as water. They use moderate speed and agility, they are not difficult to train, and make excellent companions.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: The Boykin Spaniel was developed in the United States as an all-around hunting dog, with a neat, compact body, and a docked tail. The Boykin Spaniel is medium in size, with emphasis placed on his hunting abilities, characterized by flushing and retrieving, with moderate speed and agility. He appears like a dog that can go and will go, even under the most difficult hunting conditions. With his pendulous ears, soft gentle expression, sturdy build and friendly wagging tail proclaims him unmistakably part of the ancient family of spaniels.

SIZE, PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE: The Boykin Spaniel is built to cover all types of ground conditions with agility and reasonable speed. He should appear as a dog for the endurance of a full day hunt with good but not too heavy bone. He should be kept to a medium size, well-balanced look and sound, showing the ability for the breeds intended function. Solidly built, with moderate bone, smooth firm muscles. A well balanced dog somewhat longer than tall. The ratio of length to height is approximately 7:6 (Length is measured on a level, from the foremost part of the shoulders to the rearmost point of the buttocks). The ideal height for dogs is 15 1/2- 18 inches at the withers; bitches 14- 16 1/2 inches at the withers. The ideal weight dogs 30-40 lbs.; bitches 25-35 lbs. *A dog either too long in body or too long in leg is not in keeping with the standard. Dogs that are large or heavy as well as those that are slight shall be equally penalized.*

HEAD: The head must be in proportion with the size of the dog. Expression is alert, self-confident, attractive and intelligent.

Eyes are dark yellow to brown, set rather well apart, medium size and oval shaped, alert expression, intelligent and trusting, should not be protruding or bulging. Darker shades of yellow and brown preferred over lighter shades. The correct **ear** set slightly above or even with the eye line. The leather of the ear is thin and when pulled forward must reach the tip of the nose. The ears hang close to the cheeks and are flat. **Skull** is medium length fairly broad, flat on top, slightly rounded at the sides and back. The occiput bone is inconspicuous. Moderate stop. When viewed from the side the nasal bone and the top of the skull form two parallel lines. **Muzzle** to be approximately the same length as the skull, viewed from the top the width of the muzzle is approximately 1/2 the width of the skull. The distance from the tip of the nose to the occiput is about the same length as occiput to the base of the neck. **Jaws** are of sufficient length to allow the dog to carry game easily: muscular and somewhat square. **Nose** is to be fully pigmented, dark liver in color with well opened nostrils. **Lips** are close fitting and clean, sufficiently to cover the lower jaw, not snippy or exaggerated. Lips are never pendulous. **Bite** scissors or level but scissors is preferred. *Overshot or undershot and wry jaws are serious faults and should be penalized.*

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

Neck is moderately long, muscular, slightly arched at the crest and gradually blends into sloping shoulders. Topline is straight, strong and well muscled, with no tendency to dip or roach. Loin Short, strong and deep with slight tuck up. Body is sturdily constructed, well developed chest but not too compactly coupled. The shoulders are sloping. Brisket well developed but not barreled, extending to the elbow and not too broad or narrow as to interfere with movement. The docked tail is set on the body level or slightly below the croup to follow the natural line. Carriage should be nearly or slightly raised when dog is in movement displaying a lively attitude. *A tail carried in a gay fashion or one that is clamped down should be penalized.*

FOREQUARTERS: Shoulders sloping, clean and muscular. Legs medium in length, straight and well boned but not too short as to handicap for field work or so heavy as to appear clumsy. Pasterns strong with no suggestions of weakness. Toes closely grouped, webbed and well padded. Size of feet harmonize with dog and be well rounded. Dewclaws should be removed.

HINDQUARTERS: Well developed hips and thighs with the whole rear assembly showing strength and drive. The hock joint slightly rounded, should not be small or sharp in contour, moderately angulated. Legs from hock joint to foot pad moderate in length, strong and straight with good bone structure. Hocks Parallel.

COAT: The Boykin Spaniel has both an undercoat and an outer coat. The coat can range from flat to wavy, with medium length, on the outer coat. The undercoat is short, and dense. The ears, chest, legs and belly are equipped with a light fringe of feathering. Coat may be trimmed to have a well groomed appearance. It is legitimate to trim about the head, throat, ears and feet to give a smart, functional appearance. *A rough, curly or harsh coat or no undercoat to be penalized.*

COLOR: Color is solid- rich liver, brown or dark chocolate. A small white spot on chest is permissible.

GAIT: The Boykin Spaniel moves effortlessly with good reach from well laid back shoulders at an angle that permits a long stride and the rear quarters are just as essential to provide the driving power. It should move smooth and effortlessly. Viewed from the rear the hocks should drive well under the body following on a line with the forelegs neither too widely or too closely spaced. As speed increases it is natural for the legs to fall to a center line of travel. Seen from the side should exhibit a good, long forward stride. *Faults in movement include high stepping, wasted motion short choppy stride, moving with the feet wide giving roll to the body, weaving or crossing the feet.*

TEMPERAMENT: The typical Boykin is friendly, a willing worker, intelligent and easy to train. The Boykin Spaniel thrives on human companionship and gets along well with other dogs and children. He shows great eagerness and energy for the hunt yet controllable in the field. *Any signs of excessive aggression towards people or other dogs in not acceptable. Excessive shyness is to be equally penalized.*