FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (AISBL)
SECRETARIAT GENERAL: 13, Place Albert 1er B – 6530 Thuin (Belgique)

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FCI-Standard N° 128

KING CHARLES SPANIEL

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ORIGIN / PATRONAGE: Great Britain.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD: 08.09.2026.

UTILIZATION: Companion and Toy Dog.

FCI-CLASSIFICATION: Group 9 Companion and Toy Dogs
Section 7 English Toy Spaniels
Without working trial.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY: An obvious relative of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, this dog is known in some countries as the English Toy Spaniel, and derives his name from a dog which was a great favourite of King Charles II. Toy spaniels have long been treasured as pets both in England and on the Continent and were bred to a smaller and smaller size from setter dogs which established the type for spaniels. Basically these were little gun dogs, but pampered by wealthy owners, admired for their companionship and crossed with toy dogs from the East, giving rise to their facial appearance.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Refined, compact and cobby.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT: Happy, intelligent, toy spaniel, with distinctive domed head. Reserved, gentle and affectionate.

HEAD

CRANIAL REGION:
Skull: Moderately large in comparison to size, well domed, full over eyes.
Stop: Between skull and nose well defined.

FACIAL REGION:
Nose: Black, with large, wide-open nostrils, short and turned-up.
Muzzle: Square, wide and deep, well turned up.

Lips: Exactly meeting, giving nice finish.
Jaws/Teeth: Lower jaw wide. Bite should be slightly undershot. Protruding tongue highly undesirable.
Cheeks: Not falling away under eyes, but well cushioned.

EYES: Relatively large and dark, set wide apart, eyelids block square to face line, pleasing expression.

EARS: Set on low, hanging quite flat to cheeks, very long and well feathered.

NECK: Of medium length; arched giving proud carriage of head.

BODY:
Back: Short and level.
Chest: Wide and deep.

TAIL: Docking previously optional.
Docked: Well feathered, not carried over or above level of back.
Undocked: Well feathered, not carried over or above level of back. In overall balance with the rest of the dog.

Natural short tail (bobtail) and kinked tail tolerated.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:
Shoulder: Well laid back.
Elbow: Close to rib cage, neither turning in nor out.
Forearm: Legs short and straight.
Metacarpus (Pastern): Firm.
Forefeet: Compact, well-padded and feathered, toes well knuckled, round cat-shaped foot, well cushioned.

HINDQUARTERS:
General appearance: Sufficient muscle to give positive driving movement.
Stifle (Knee): Well bent.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Hocks well let down and defined. Straight viewed from behind, turning neither in nor out.
Hind feet: Compact, well-padded and feathered, toes well knuckled, round cat-shaped foot, well cushioned.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: Free, active and elegant, driving from behind. Sound movement highly desirable.

COAT:
Hair: Long, silky and straight, slight wave allowed, never curly. Legs, ears and tail profusely feathered.

Colour:
- Black and Tan: Rich glossy black, with bright mahogany-tan markings on muzzle, legs, chest, linings of ears, under tail and spots over eyes. White patch on chest undesirable.
- Tricolour: Ground pearly white, with well distributed black patches, brilliant tan markings on cheeks, linings of ears, under tail and spots over eyes. Wide white blaze between eyes and up forehead.
- Blenheim: Ground pearly white, with well distributed chestnut-red patches. Wide, clear blaze with the "spot" in centre of skull should be a clear chestnut **r**ed mark about the size of a penny.
- Ruby: Whole coloured, rich chestnut red. White patch on chest **undesirable**.

Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

WEIGHT:
Weight: 3,6-6,3 kg.

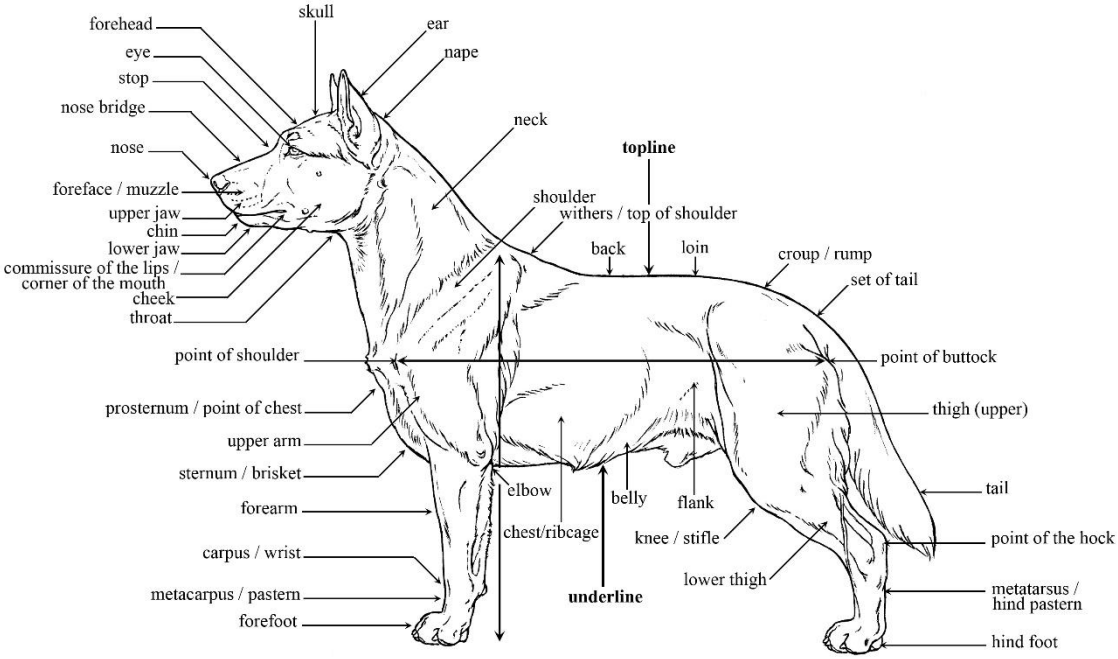
FAULTS: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.

N.B.:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.

The latest amendments are in bold characters.

Surface Anatomy