

ENGLISH POINTER

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as unacceptable, it must not be rewarded in the show ring.

Most recent changes to this Standard has an effective date of 01/07/2026

ORIGIN

Great Britain.

UTILISATION

Pointing dog.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

[ed. For interest, from Wikipedia: The Pointer]:

There has been much debate among dog historians about the ancestry of the Pointer. The most commonly held position of the Pointer's origin is that the breed descends from Old Spanish Pointers imported into England in 1713 by soldiers returning from Spain after the Peace of Utrecht. Other early sources suggest Portuguese Pointers, Italian Braccos, or French Pointers were the foundation of the English breed. It is noteworthy that, in those days, dog breeds did not exist as they are known in more modern times, and that a more general pointing type of dog was known in all of these countries. Early Pointers were comparatively heavy, ponderous dogs, able to hold a steady point whilst the hunter readied his gun. With the steady improvement of firearms throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, faster and more agile dogs were sought, so Greyhounds were increasingly introduced to add speed. The introduction of Greyhound blood resulted in the modern Pointer being a much finer dog with a comparatively tucked-up loin, tighter lips and low-set tail, more akin to that of the Greyhound than European Pointer breeds. The Pointer's breed standard was formally adopted in 1936 and has subsequently remained largely unchanged.



Illustration courtesy of NKU Picture Library

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Symmetrical and well-built all over, general outline a series of graceful curves. A strong but lissom appearance.

BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

Aristocratic. Alert with appearance of strength, endurance, and speed. Kind, even disposition.

HEAD & SKULL

Cranial Region:

Skull: Of medium breadth, in proportion to length of foreface. Pronounced occipital bone.

Stop: Well defined.

Facial Region:

Nose: Dark but may be lighter in the case of a lemon and white coloured dog. Nostrils wide, soft and moist.

Muzzle: Somewhat concave, ending on level with nostrils, giving a slightly dish-faced appearance. Slight depression under the eyes.

Lips: Well developed, soft.

Jaws and teeth: Jaws strong, with perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Cheeks: Cheek bones not prominent.

Eyes:

Same distance from occiput as from nostrils, bright and kindly in expression. Either hazel or brown according

to colour of coat. Neither bold nor staring, not looking down the nose. Eye rims dark but may be lighter in the case of a lemon and white coloured dog.

Ears:

Leathers thin, set on fairly high, lying close to head, of medium length, slightly pointed at tips.

NECK

Long, muscular, slightly arched, springing cleanly from shoulders and free from throatiness.

BODY

Loin: Strong muscular and slightly arched. Short coupled.

Chest: Just wide enough for plenty of heart room. Brisket well let down, to level with elbows. Ribs well sprung and carried well back, gradually falling away at loin.

TAIL

Medium length, thick at root, tapering gradually to a point. Well-covered with close hair, carried on a level with back, with no upward curl. In movement, tail should lash from side to side.

LIMBS

Forequarters:

General appearance: Forelegs straight and firm, with good oval bone, with back sinews strong and visible.

Shoulder: Long, sloping and well-laid back.

Carpus (wrist): Flat with front leg and protruding very little on inside.

Metacarpus (pastern): Lengthy, strong and resilient. Slightly sloping.

Hindquarters:

General appearance: Very muscular. The haunch bones well spaced and prominent, not above level of back.

Thigh: Good expanse of first thigh.

Stifle: Well turned.

Lower thigh: Good expanse.

Hock joint: Well let down.

FEET

Oval, well-knit, arched toes, well-cushioned.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

Smooth, covering plenty of ground. Driving hind action, elbows neither in nor out. Hackney action highly undesirable.

COAT

Fine, short, hard, and evenly distributed, perfectly smooth and straight with decided sheen.

COAT

Hair:

Fine, short, hard, and evenly distributed, perfectly smooth and straight with decided sheen.

Colour:

Usual colours are: Lemon and white, orange and white, liver and white, and black and white.

* Self colours and tricolours are also correct.

SIZE

Height at withers:

Males: 63cm – 69cm (approx. 25" – 27")

Females: 61cm – 66cm (approx. 24" – 26")

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.

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, and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Disqualifying faults:

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

©Copyright FCI – Reprinted with permission

The publisher of this edition is the Kennel Union of Southern Africa. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without permission in writing from the publisher.



FCI Standard No. 1: ENGLISH POINTER

FCI Classification: Group 7 - Pointing Dogs.

Section 2.1 - British and Irish Pointers and Setters – Pointer
With working trial.