

**Group 8**

***This standard is approved by  
the RKF Board on 29.01.2020.***

***English version is approved by  
the RKF Board on 29.11.2022.***



**RUSSKIY OKHOTNICHIIY SPANIEL  
(Russian Hunting Spaniel)**



**TRANSLATION:** Russian Kynological Federation (RKF). Official authentic language English (EN).

**ORIGIN:** USSR, Russia.

**UTILIZATION:** Hunting dog on swampy-meadow, field, steppe, upland and water game.

**FCI-CLASSIFICATION:** Group 8: Retrievers, Flushing dogs and Water dogs.  
Section 2. Flushing dogs.  
With working trial.

**It has not yet been recognized by the FCI.**

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:** Russian Hunting Spaniel is a Russian gundog breed that is included in a big Flushing dogs group.

The history of the Russian hunting spaniel starts at the end of the 19th century, when various flushing dog breeds mostly of English origin began to be imported to Russia. At the beginning of the 20th century spaniel lovers began to select more high-legged and vigorous dogs for breeding that suited better for hunting fowl in Russia.

By the end of the thirties of the 20th century a large population of spaniels formed in Russia. It did not fit into any of the known breeds in the group and it had a number of common characteristics. The formation of Russian hunting spaniel breed continued after the Second World War ended. At that time different breeds of flushing dogs from Europe were brought to the USSR. A focused selective work allowed to create a desired breed type on the basis of the livestock preserved during the war as well as imported specimens.

The first standard of the Russian Hunting Spaniel was developed and adopted in 1951.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** Upstanding hunting dog less than medium size, moderately long. Strong bone and general harmony provide endurance and agility in work. High in front legs is characteristic, especially in males. Sexual dimorphism is clearly pronounced.

**IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:**

- The length of body from point of shoulder to point of buttock is longer than the height at the withers at 10–15 % for males and 15–20 % for females.
- Height to elbow corresponds to half the height at the withers.
- The length of muzzle is equal to the length of skull.

**BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT:** Russian Hunting Spaniel is a hardworking, enduring, bright, sociable, and friendly dog.

**HEAD:** Lean, moderately long, in proportion to the dog's size, more delicate in females.

**CRANIAL REGION:** Oval in shape when viewed from above, moderately flat when viewed from the side. Lines of skull and muzzle in profile are parallel.

**Skull:** Moderately broad. Superciliary ridges are rather well developed. The occipital crest is slightly pronounced.

**Stop:** Moderately pronounced.

**FACIAL REGION:**

**Nose:** Wide with open nostrils, preferably black. Brown and brown-white dogs have brown

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nose.

**Muzzle**: Broad when viewed from above, a little narrower than the skull, tapering towards the nose. The length of muzzle is equal to the length of skull.

**Lips**: Lean, closely fitting, pigmented according to the colour. When viewed from the side, upper lip shape is close to rectangular, which is slightly rounded in the front.

**Jaws/Teeth**: Teeth are sound, strong, white, well developed, standing tightly. Full dental formula is to be preferred. Scissor bite.

**Cheeks**: Not prominent.

**EYES**: Moderately large, oval shaped, set straight. Dark-brown or brown in colour, preferably dark. Light brown is acceptable for brown and brown-white dogs. Eyelids are lean, closely fitting, pigmented.

**EARS**: Set above eye line, in line with eyes is acceptable. Hanging, mobile, close to the cheeks, rounded and broad at tips. Long; the edge reaches the nose. Ears are covered with long, slightly wavy and silky coat.

**NECK**: Medium set, smoothly connected to the shoulders, oval in cross-section, muscular, without throatiness. The length of neck is almost equal to the length of head.

### **BODY**:

**Top line**: Slightly sloping from withers to the base of tail.

**Withers**: Pronounced, more pronounced at males.

**Back**: Straight, strong, moderately broad, muscular.

**Loin**: Broad, muscular, elastic, slightly arched.

**Croup**: Broad, moderately long, slightly sloping, muscular.

**Chest**: Long, moderately broad and deep, oval in shape, with well-developed false ribs.

**Underline and belly**: Moderately tucked up.

**TAIL**: Set in line with topline, rather thick at base gradually tapering to the top. At rest the dog carries it harmoniously in line with topline. Alert males can carry it a little higher. The tail is lively and well covered with featherings.

In the countries where tail docking is accepted, tail can be docked at half its length. Natural tail has a sable shape or may be straight reaching to the hock joint.

### **LIMBS**

#### **FOREQUARTERS**:

**General appearance**: With good bone, straight and parallel seen from the front.

**Shoulder**: Muscular, oblique, shoulder angulation is almost 100 degrees.

**Upper arm**: Rather long, with well-developed muscles.

**Elbow**: Directed straightly backwards.

**Forearm**: Straight.

**Metacarpus (Pastern)**: Strong, slightly sloping seen from the side.

**Forefeet**: Rounded, arched with tight feet and thick coat between them. Nails may be of any colour; pads are firm.

#### **HINDQUARTERS**:

**General appearance**: With well-developed muscles, seen from the back – straight and parallel, seen from the side – with well-developed angulations.

Thigh and Lower thigh: Almost the same length forming an angle of approximately 125 degrees. Thighs are oblique with well-developed muscles.

Hock joint: With well pronounced angulations.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Straight, strong, vertically set, dewclaws must be removed (in countries where it is not prohibited by law).

Hind feet: Rounded, arched with tight feet and thick coat between them. Nails may be of any colour; pads are firm.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT**: Free, sound, balanced at all gaits. When speed increases, the dog may start moving in a light gallop.

## **COAT**

Hair: Upper coat is moderately long, shiny, straight or slightly wavy, close to the body. Coat is short and straight on head, and front of legs. It is moderately long and thick on the upper part of neck, back, chest, under body and behind the legs. On the ears and the lower part of the tail the coat is longer, soft, wavy and forms featherings. Coat is thick and brushy between the toes.

Colour:

Pied and spotted colours: Black-white, brown-white, red-white, black-white and tan, brown-white and tan. May be with or without speckles. Speckles may be abundant or not.

Solid colours: Black, red, brown, black and tan, brown and tan. May have small white spots on chest, throat and paws.

## **SIZE AND WEIGHT**:

Height at the withers: Males: 40–45 cm; Females: 38–43 cm.

**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 its ability to perform its traditional work.

## **SEVERE FAULTS**:

- Coarse or light built.
- Weak physical development, flashy skin in folds.
- Explicit excitability, apathy, phlegmatism.
- Sexual dimorphism is not pronounced.
- Short or too long body.
- Very light, yellow, amber eyes in all colours; dampish eyelids or/and eyelids without pigmentation.
- Harsh, curly coat on body and neck; ruffled, wooly, short coat; absence of cover coat.
- A dog carries its tail over the topline at more than 45 degrees at rest; kinked tail.
- Absence of more than two P1, absence of one P2, P3. Presence of two extra or doubled P1.
- Height in withers less than 39 cm for males and less than 37 cm for females; height in withers more than 47 cm for males and more than 45 cm for females.

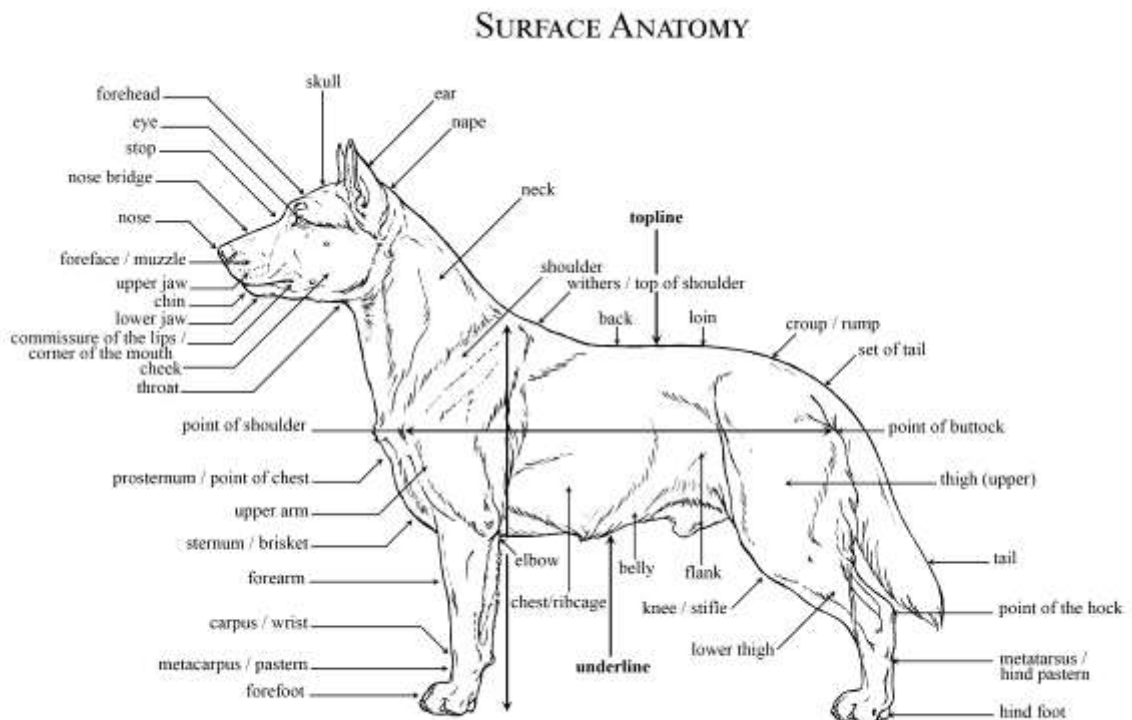
## **DISQUALIFYING FAULTS**:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Aggressive to a human or overly shy temperament.
- Untypical specimen.
- Other bite than scissor bite, regardless of severity; cross bite.
- Presence of extra incisors or/and canines.
- Absence of one and more incisors, absence of at least one canine.
- Absence of at least one tooth, except of P1, P2, P3 and molars M3.
- Any colour, except of the ones listed in standard.
- Nose and lips colour not mentioned in the standard.
- Natural bobtail.

**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 standard was approved, edited and prepared for publication by the RKF Standard Commission on January 9, 2020.*



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