



# American Brittany Club

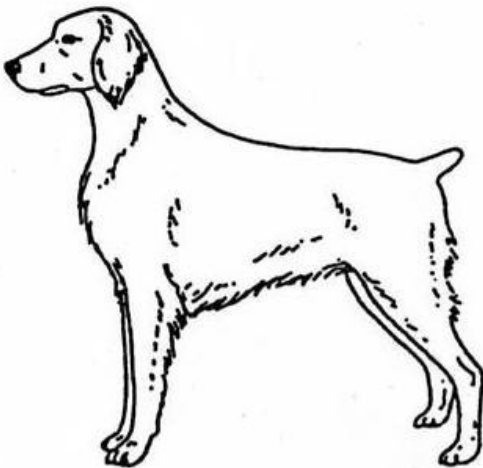
## *The Illustrated Standard of the Brittany*

Factors that might operate to mitigate the effects of unsoundness are: Intensity of Hunting Desire, Refusal to Quit, Stamina From Other Sources, Wisdom, Field Experience, and Trainability. No Show Judge can assay these qualities in the Ring. He cannot know that the straight-stifled and/or straight shouldered dog has the Stamina, Intensity and Experience to be a great Field Dog. He cannot know whether the dog can face any kind of weather, the roughest terrain, briars, and heavy cover, or whether under these circumstances it will quit. The Judge cannot, in short, estimate what we call “Heart” or “Guts”. The Judge then has to base his decision on Type, Soundness, on his conception of the Standard of perfection of the breed, and upon Temperament.

## ***Official Standard for the Brittany***

### **General Appearance**

A compact, closely knit dog of medium size, a leggy dog having the appearance, as well as the agility, of a great ground coverer. Strong, vigorous, energetic and quick of movement. Ruggedness, without clumsiness, is a characteristic of the breed. He can be tailless or has a tail docked to approximately four inches.

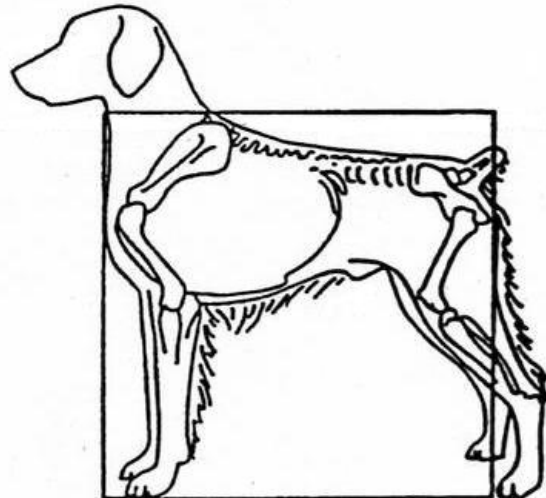


***Compact, Leggy, Closely Knit Dog of Medium Size***

### **Size, Proportion, Substance**

**Height:** 17 1/2 to 20 1/2 inches, measured from the ground to the highest point of the shoulders. Any Brittany measuring under 17 1/2 inches or over 20 1/2 inches shall be disqualified from dog show competition. **Weight:** Should weigh between 30 and 40 pounds.

**Proportion:** So leggy is he that his height at the shoulders is the same as the length of his body.



***Height – Highest Point of Shoulder 17.5"-20.5"***

**Body Length:** Approximately the same as the height when measured at the shoulders. Body length is measured from the point of the forechest to the rear of the rump. A long body should be heavily penalized.

**Substance:** Not too light in bone, yet never heavy-boned and cumbersome.

## Head

**Expression:** Alert and eager, but with the soft expression of a bird dog.



**Eyes:** Well set in head. Well protected from briars by a heavy, expressive eyebrow. A prominent, full or pop eye should be heavily penalized. It is a serious fault in a dog that must face briars. Skull well chiseled under the eyes, so that the lower lid is not pulled back to form a pocket or haw that would catch seeds, dirt and weed dust. Preference should be for the darker colored eyes, though lighter shades of amber should not be penalized. Light and mean-looking eyes should be heavily penalized.

**Ears:** Set high, above the level of the eyes. Short and triangular, rather than pendulous, reaching about half the length of the muzzle. Should lie flat and close to the head, with the tip rounded very slightly. Ears well covered with dense, but relatively short hair, and with little fringe.

**Skull:** Medium length, rounded, very slightly wedge-shaped, but evenly made. Width, not quite as wide as the length and never so broad as to appear coarse, or so narrow as to appear racy. Well defined but gently sloping stop. Median line rather indistinct. The occiput only apparent to the touch. Lateral walls well rounded. The Brittany should never be "apple-headed" and he should never have an indented stop.

**Muzzle:** Medium length, about two-thirds the length of the skull, measuring the muzzle from the tip to the stop, and the skull from the occiput to the stop. Muzzle should taper gradually in both horizontal and vertical dimensions as it approaches the nostrils. Neither a Roman nose nor a dish-face is desirable. Never broad, heavy or snipy.

**Nose:** Nostrils well open to permit deep breathing of air and adequate scenting. Tight nostrils should be penalized. Never shiny. Color: fawn, tan, shades of brown or deep pink.

A black nose is a disqualification. A two-tone or butterfly nose should be penalized.

**Lips:** Tight, the upper lip overlapping the lower jaw just to cover the lower lip. Lips dry, so that feathers will not stick. Drooling to be heavily penalized. Flews to be penalized.

**Bite:** A true scissors bite. Overshot or undershot jaw to be heavily penalized.

## Neck, Topline, Body

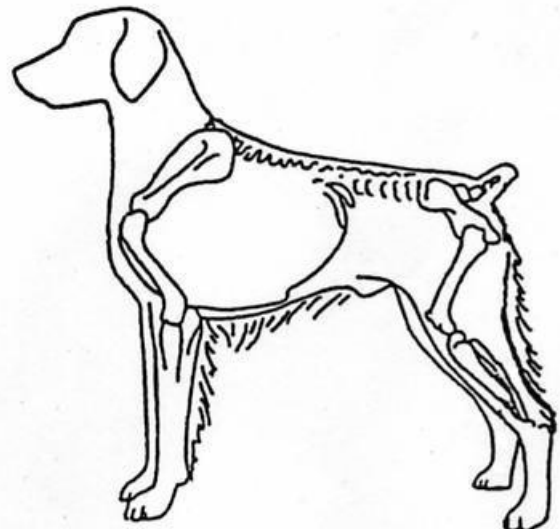
**Neck:** Medium length. Free from throatiness, though not a serious fault unless accompanied by dewlaps, strong without giving the impression of being over-muscled. Well set into sloping shoulders. Never concave or ewe-necked.

**Topline:** Slight slope from the highest point of the shoulders to the root of the tail.

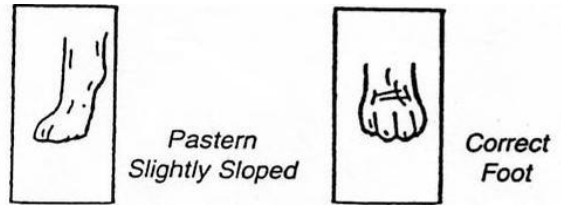
**Chest:** Deep, reaching the level of the elbow. Neither so wide nor so rounded as to disturb the placement of the shoulders and elbows. Ribs well sprung. Adequate heart room provided by depth as well as width. Narrow or slab-sided chests area fault.

**Back:** Short and straight. Never hollow, saddle, sway or roach backed. Slight drop from the hips to the root of the tail.

**Flanks:** Rounded. Fairly full. Not extremely tucked-up, or flabby and falling. Loins short and strong. Distance from last rib to upper thigh short, about three to four fingers widths. Narrow and weak loins are a fault. In motion, the loin should not sway sideways, giving a zig-zag motion to the back, wasting energy.

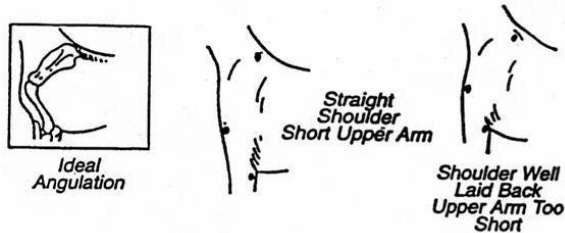


**Tail:** Tailless to approximately four inches, natural or docked. The tail not to be so long as to affect the over-all balance of the dog. Set on high, actually an extension of the spine at about the same level. Any tail substantially more than four inches shall be severely penalized.

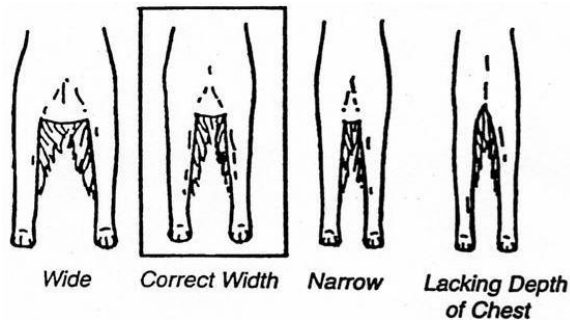


**Forequarters**

**Shoulders:** Shoulder blades should not protrude too much, not too wide apart, with perhaps two thumbs' width between. Sloping and muscular. Blade and upper arm should form nearly a ninety degree angle. Straight shoulders are a fault. At the shoulders the Brittany is slightly higher than at the rump.



**Front Legs:** Viewed from the front, perpendicular, but not set too wide. Elbows and feet turning neither in nor out. Pasterns slightly sloped. Down in pasterns is a serious fault. Leg bones clean, graceful, but not too fine. Extremely heavy bone is as much a fault as spindly legs. One must look for substance and suppleness. Height at elbows should approximately equal distance from elbow to withers.



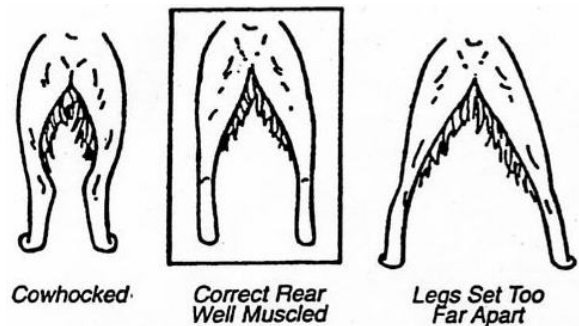
**Feet:** Should be strong, proportionately smaller than the spaniels', with close fitting, well arched toes and thick pads. The Brittany is "not up on his toes." Toes not heavily feathered. Flat feet, splayed feet, paper feet, etc., are to be heavily penalized. An ideal foot is halfway between the hare and the cat foot. Dewclaws may be removed.

**Hindquarter**

Broad strong and muscular, with powerful thighs and well bent stifles, giving the angulation necessary for powerful drive.

**Hind Legs:** Stifles well bent. The stifle should not be so angulated as to place the hock joint far out

**Feet:** Same as front feet.



**Coat**

Dense, flat or wavy, never curly. Texture neither wiry nor silky. Ears should carry little fringe. The front and hind legs should have some feathering, but too little is definitely preferable to too much. Dogs with long or profuse feathering or furnishings shall be so severely penalized as to effectively eliminate them from competition.

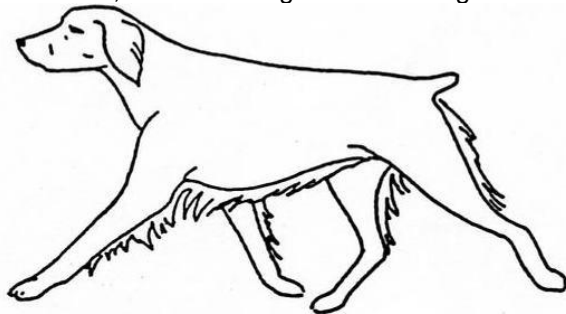
**Skin:** Fine and fairly loose. A loose skin rolls with briars and sticks, thus diminishing punctures or tearing. A skin so loose as to form pouches is undesirable.

## Color

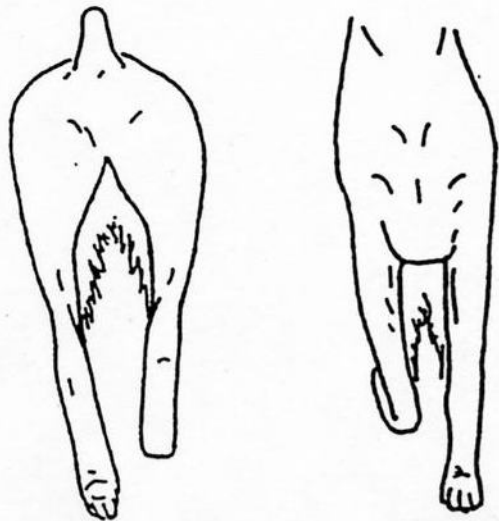
Orange and white or liver and white in either clear or roan patterns. Some ticking is desirable. The orange or liver is found in the standard parti-color or piebald patterns. Washed out colors are not desirable. Tri-colors are allowed but not preferred. A tri-color is a liver and white dog with classic orange markings on eyebrows, muzzle and cheeks, inside the ears and under the tail, freckles on the lower legs are orange. Anything exceeding the limits of these marking shall be severely penalized. Black is a disqualification.

## Gait

When at a trot the Brittany's hind foot should step into or beyond the print left by the front foot. Clean movement, coming and going, is very important, but most important is side gait, which is smooth, efficient and ground covering.



*Good Reach and Drive*



*Legs Thrown Neither In Nor Out*

## Temperament

A happy, alert dog, neither mean nor shy.

## Disqualifications

- Any Brittany measuring under 17.5 inches or over 20.5 inches
- A black nose
- Black in the coat

**Approved April 10, 1990**  
**Effective May 31, 1990**