

Guidelines: Brittany Presentation Approved by the American Brittany Club

1. **Introduction** - Welcome the participants & introduce yourself.
“Hello. Welcome to this presentation on the Brittany. This is a parent club approved presentation. My name is Diana Kubitz and I am the Judge’s Education Coordinator for the American Brittany Club.

I am a breeder, owner and handler with 40 years at the “game” in show, field trial and hunt test arenas. GIVE FURTHER HISTORICAL INFO HERE

2. *Pass out attendance sheets & ask everyone to list their name, address, phone and e-mail. (Send this back to Diana Kubitz for her records and so she can submit to the AKC.) PLEASE REMIND ME TO PASS OUT CERTIFICATES AT THE END OF THE PRESENTATION.*

3. **Materials** - *Pass out the breed information packet, and tell them there will be plenty of time for them to review the information later. Telling them about the packet using the items below is optional:*

- Point out that we do have an illustrated standard & it is included in the packet.
- Point out that the standard is also included as well as a guide to the process for judging a Brittany with comments by Dorothy Macdonald.
- Point out to them we have provided a grooming guide so they know that grooming outside the limits of this guide is really not what the breeders intend to have occur with the breed.

- State that the other articles address topics of concern to breeders & are of importance for judges to understand.
4. Optional Point #4 - At this point, I usually pass out a photo of a quail, a chukar and a pheasant. I also have made bags full of dry beans or dry rice that are equal in weight to a quail, a chukar and a pheasant. I have had the appropriate bird embroidered on those bags, but you can do paper bags with a picture of each bird on them. I pass these around so they have a sense of the weight of each of these birds that the dogs must retrieve to hand. I do this so they appreciate the importance of the standard as it describes the proportions of the head & muzzle, the length & condition of the neck, and the proportion of leg to body so they can efficiently pick up the bird. (These aren't sent through the mail due to shipping costs, but if you want to include step 4 in your presentation, you can make this visual aid yourself; otherwise, skip this step.)

Speech Prior to Start of Slide Presentation

This presentation will focus on the form & function of the Brittany. The Brittany is a FUNCTIONAL BREED. Of course, we think it is a beautiful breed!! In history, it was considered “everyman’s poaching dog”. The object of the dog was to get in and out of a neighbors estate quickly & efficiently with both fur & feather game.

The Brittany was imported into New Jersey in 1934 and recognized by the AKC for showing in 1935. The Brittany Spaniel Club of America was founded in 1936 and the American Brittany Club was formed in 1942. The two clubs merged in 1944 under the name of the American Brittany Club. The first standard was approved in 1940 and revised in 1966, 1986 & 1990. The most recent change in 1990 was to remove the disqualification for length of tail - formerly, tails longer than 4 inches were a disqualification. This is no longer the case.

This breed should be judged primarily on their movement and not standing, as they need considerable stamina in the field. Type is defined as the form of the overall, well-balanced animal following its function of being a hunting/field dog. Thus, movement should take precedence over coat color, coat condition or head.

There are only THREE disqualifications in our breed: height (17.5” to 20.5”), black in the coat and a black nose.

I like to use my 3 M’s as the most important thing to remember when judging a Brittany: * Movement *Moderate *Medium

The movement is most important because without proper movement the Brittany cannot perform its field duties efficiently and without injury.

The words moderate and medium describes almost every aspect of the breed.

The Slide Program (numbers refer to slide/page numbers)

1. Introduction Slide
2. The Brittany is bred for the field first and is most often a personal hunting dog.
3. The majority of owners use the breed for hunting purposes.
4. The Brittany is so versatile, however, that he is much in demand as a family dog
5. as an obedience dog
6. as an agility dog
7. Therapy dog
8. the versatile Brittany
9.the Brittany is a pointing breed
Pointing breeds locate game & point the scent location of the game and waits for the hunter to flush the game & shoot. Or he can wait for the hunter to get close enough before commanding the dog to move in on the game to flush it. The flushing breeds locate game and flush it without stopping to point.
10. athletic in both field and show

Whatever is asked of a Brittany, they give. They are happy & alert, neither mean nor shy, and ask for love & attention in return. The Brittany is no longer called a “Brittany Spaniel” in the United States. The name was changed in 1982 because the Brittany is really a pointing breed. The spaniels are flushing breeds.

The single most important feature to look for in judging Brittanys is athleticism. Yesterday, today and tomorrow the Brittany’s sole desire is to be your companion in the field. Every structural

feature, temperament characteristic should be judged with this in mind. The purpose of our breed standard is to inform everyone of what the dog's conformation should be so he is able to run & hunt in the field ALL DAY.

A Brittany is happy, alert & friendly but can be reserved. Most find showing a BORE and would rather be somewhere else. They do not enjoy being posed. So by all means, try and see your line of Brittans free standing if possible. The Brittany should be judged moving.

11. GENERAL APPEARANCE

12. This is a compact, closely knit dog of **medium** size.
13. This is a leggy dog which has the appearance as well as the agility
14. Of a great ground coverer.
15. "Ruggedness without clumsiness" is called for in the standard. They can be tail-less or have a tail docked up to approximately 4 inches in length. As of 1990, there is no disqualification for tail length. There will be further discussion of this under the "Tail" section.

16. Size, Proportion, Substance

17. Height

Males & females are held to the same height standards; this is different from most other sporting breeds. The height is 17.5 to 20.5 inches for both males & females. This is measured from the ground to the highest point of the shoulders. Any Brittany measuring **less than 17.5" or over 20.5"** shall be disqualified from dog show competition.

18. Measuring is serious and must be done with full concentration & knowledge. Do it when justified, but be careful and DO IT RIGHT.

There is more information on this in your information packet. You should want to measure a dog IN; you are not trying to measure a dog out.

If you come from a non-measurable breed, take lessons and PRACTICE. Brittany people will thank you. Don't forget to measure those you suspect are undersized as well as oversized.

19. Weight

The weight should be between 30-40 pounds. They should have an HOURGLASS FIGURE. Fat, out of condition dogs effect field performance. ROLLING IN THE LOIN IS WASTED MOTION. It is OK to see and feel ribs in field conditioned dogs; better ribs than fat.

20. Proportion & Body Length

The Brittany is described as a “leggy breed.” Square being defined in the next slide - if the dog looks square they usually are not really and that will be clear when they move. If the dog looks rectangular, it is usually square and the movement will prove this. (Tip: during hands on measure a dog using a show lead to demonstrate these slides.)

21. The body length of a Brittany is approximately the same as the height when measured at the shoulders. Body length is defined in our standard ... no guessing PLEASE. Body length is measured from the point of the forechest to the rear of the rump. PENALIZE a long body; these are SQUARE dogs.

22. Substance

“Not too light in bone nor too heavy boned and cumbersome. Remember these dogs are Athletes! This slide shows both too heavy and too light in bone.

23. HEAD

24. Expression

Alert and eager, but with the soft expression of a bird dog. This is a nice head with nice pink nose and lovely expression.

25. Eyes

The eyes of a Britt are well set in the head and are protected from briars by a heavy, expressive eyebrow.

26. The preference is for darker colored eyes, though lighter shades of amber should not be penalized. Puppies' eyes can darken as they age

27. Prominent, full or pop-eyes are HEAVILY PENALIZED. It is a serious fault in a dog that must face briars. The skull is well chiseled under the eyes so the lower lid is not pulled back to form a pocket or haw.

28. Light and mean-looking eyes should be HEAVILY penalized..

29. Ears

Set high, above the level of the eyes. Short & triangular, rather than pendulous, reaching about half the length of the muzzle.

30. Should lie flat & close to the head with dense, but relatively short hair, and with little fringe, as in this slide.

Ears are set high, above the level of the eyes. They are short and triangular - reaching half the length of the muzzle. They are flat, close to the head, with a rounded tip. They have dense, short hair with little fringe. Ears are important to our breed because they help show the expression that is so necessary to the breed.

31. Skull & Muzzle

The head of our breed is of **medium** length, rounded and SLIGHTLY wedge shaped, but evenly made.

Here is a nice liver demonstrating the SLIGHTLY wedge shaped head. And another slide of the same dog demonstrating the muzzle tapering gradually in the horizontal and vertical dimensions. Remember the word “**MEDIUM**”.

32. In width, it is not quite as wide as the length, and never so broad as to appear coarse OR so narrow as to appear racy.

33. The occiput should only be apparent to the touch. These are too heavily fringed, too long and note the very prominent occiput (similar to that found in an English Setter).

34. The muzzle is about 2/3rds the length of the skull measuring the muzzle from the tip of the nose to the stop and the skull from occiput to stop.

35. The muzzle should taper gradually in horizontal and vertical dimensions as it approaches the nostrils. NEITHER DISH FACE NOR ROMAN NOW IS DESIRABLE. When evaluating the head, remember the word “**MEDIUM.**”

36. Nose

Nostrils well open to permit deep breathing of air and adequate scenting. Tight nostrils should be penalized.

37. the perfect reason why they need to have well open nostrils

38. Acceptable nose colors are shades of brown and tan as in this orange and white

SPECIAL NOTE - PLEASE, if you are asked to judge a sweeps, veteran's sweeps or dual sweeps, the Brittany breeders take these classes VERY seriously. If you are asked to judge a specialty, we take the veterans and field trial classes VERY seriously. Older dogs may develop age spots.

39. A black nose is a disqualification.

This dog has a two-tone or butterfly nose. It is to be severely penalized. But this one is well opened. The less pigmented spots can disappear with age.

40. **Lips**

The lips are tight and the upper lip overlaps the lower just to cover the lower lip.

41. Lips should be dry so feathers won't stick. No excessive dewlaps.

42. **Bite**

The bite is a true scissors bite. Overshot or undershot bite to be heavily penalized

43. **NECK, TOPLINE, BODY**

Never forget that hourglass figureor the slightly sloping topline.

44. **Neck**

45. The neck is critical for carrying game (remember the weight of the birds). The neck is of medium length and free from throatiness. It is strong, but not over-muscled. It is well set into sloping shoulders.

46. Field collars can leave this type of mark on the neck.

47. **Topline**

A Brittany is so leggy that his height at the shoulders is the same as the length of his body. Remember - body length is measured from the point of forechest to the rear of the rump. There is no difference in males and females.

The topline has a SLIGHT slope from the highest point of the shoulders to root of the tail. This is a nice topline.

48. Chest

“Deep, reaching the level of the elbows with adequate heart room provided by depth as well as width of chest.”

49. Back & Flanks

This is a well-muscled dog. Notice the rounded full flanks. The distance from the last rib to the upper thigh is short ... 3-4 fingers. Narrow and weak loins are a fault. In motion, the loin should not sway sideways giving a zigzag motion to the back. This wastes energy.

A long body with a short ribcage impedes performance in the field. The length is in the ribcage.

50. Tail

Brittanys can be tail-less or to approximately four inches. They are either a natural bob (as in this slide) or docked. Any tail substantially more than four inches shall be severely penalized. The tail should not be so long as to affect the overall balance of the dog.

51. Set on high, actually an extension of the spine at about the same level.

52. These tails are not set at the same level as the spine. The left is too low and the right is considered too high. Because the Brittany is a dual dog, a high tail is desirable in the field, but should never be carried over the back like a Terrier tail.

53. FOREQUARTERS

When reviewing Fore- & Hind-quarters ... keep the following in mind ... The dog, particularly in the field ... will drive 75% with his rear, and absorb 75% of the impact with his front.

54. Shoulders

“Sloping and muscular.” Shoulder blade and upper arm should form a 90 degree angle. The shoulders should not protrude too much. There should be approximately two thumbs width between the shoulder blades. The shoulders should be sloping and muscular. STRAIGHT SHOULDERS ARE A FAULT.

This diagram demonstrates the ideal shoulder configuration.

- 55. Correct front angulation: Front leg is directly below the shoulders, neck is set forward.
- 56. Incorrect front angulation, front leg is below the neck.
- 57. Incorrect angulation, upper arm is too short and upright. This often causes hackney motion, which is inefficient in the field and can even cause injury.

58. Front Legs

Viewed from the front, the front legs should be perpendicular, but not set too wide. Elbows and feet should turn neither in nor out. Extremely heavy bone as a Springer is as much a fault as spindly legs.

- 59. The height at the elbows should approximately equal the distance from the elbow to the top of the withers. This is a lovely front. As you see, the red and orange lines are of equal length.

60. Feet

The pasterns should be slightly sloped as in this slide. This is important for cushioning over rough ground when hunting. Down in the pasterns is a serious fault.

The Brittany is NOT “up on his toes”. These do not meet the ideal foot. The ideal foot is half-cat for cushioning and half-hare for gripping. They are strong, proportionately smaller than spaniels with close-fitting, well-arched toes and thick pads.

61. Flat feet, splayed feet and paper feet are to be heavily penalized due to their breakdown in the field. These feet are too flat.

62. Incorrect, cat feet with upright pasterns. Incorrect - knuckling over.

63. HINDQUARTER

64. The hindquarters are broad, strong, muscular and powerful thighs and well bent stifles, giving the angulation necessary for powerful drive.

65. as are these in a dog that is clearly currently active in the field.

66. Incorrect hindquarters

67. The stifle should not be so angulated as to place the hock joint far out behind. This dog is over angulated. A Brittany should not be condemned for straightness in the stifle until the judge has checked the dog in motion from the side.

68. Hocks should be moderately short, pointing neither in nor out and perpendicular when viewed from the side.

69. COAT

70. A dog should not be faulted for lack of coat due to it being ripped out in the field. The American Brittany Club is NOT kidding when it states “**too little is definitely preferable to too much**” and again “long and profuse feathering or furnishings shall be so severely penalized as to effectively eliminate them from competition.” The coat should be dense, flat or wavy, never curly.

71. Our standard states that too little furnishings are preferred to too much. The coat of a Brittany should NEVER be clipped (like a Springer).
72. Profuse feathering & cottony texture impedes field work. Result of cottony texture in the field.
73. Dogs with long or profuse feathering shall be so severely penalized as to eliminate them from competition. This is “profuse”.
74. Brittanys should be constructed to work in all types of cover.
75. Same dog at the start and the end of hunting season.
76. Skin
“Skin should be fine and fairly loose. A loose skin rolls with briars and sticks, thus diminishing punctures or tearing.”

77. COLOR

Brittanys do come in several colors. The most common is clear orange and white - in both standard pie-bald or parti-color patterns.

78. They are also clear liver and white in standard pie-bald or parti-color patterns. Our standard DOES NOT state percentages of color to white. Washed out colors are NOT desirable in either orange or liver.
79. This is a white & orange with HEAVY TICKING; it is NOT quite a roan. This is also very acceptable. Ticking can be heavy in both the liver and the orange colorations. This is a liver & white with heavy ticking - again, it is not quite a roan. Don't be put off by these color combinations. We aren't.
80. This is an orange roan - very acceptable and the most common roan combination. This is a liver roan - very acceptable but not often seen.

81. Tri-colors, to quote our standard “are allowed but not preferred”. Our standard even defines what we mean by tri-color”it 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 MARKINGS SHALL BE SEVERELY PENALIZED.” They are permitted because they are a natural occurrence in our breed when you breed orange & white to liver & white. We don’t want breeders purposely breeding for tri-s hence the compromise wording in the standard. In November 2002, there was an article in the AKC Judges Education Newsletter asking judges to NOT REWARD mis-marked “tri” Brittany. Judges are asked to write in their book “excused, color or markings not allowed by breed standard.” These mis-marked “tri-s” are three color Brittany ... with the third color (orange) splashed indiscriminately over the body of the dog. Please read the article on “Color and the Brittany” in our packet carefully and adhere to it.
82. Tri-color roan - not often seen.
83. Black is a DISQUALIFICATION.
84. Don’t let your eye for the balance of the dog be thrown off by coat patterns.
85. Patterns are immaterial, but can impact your perception of the structure of the dog. Those of you from self-colored breeds need to train your eye to see around the variety of patterning. Heavy blankets can occur in orange/white as well as liver/white as seen in this slide. OFTEN, liver dogs have very, very dark liver coats; LOOK AT THE NOSE TO BE SURE. **If the nose is liver, the coat is liver.** Very white dogs can have a spot of color in just the wrong place (i.e.: middle of the back & start of the tail set!!!) Sometimes the color spot throws off the perception of the side gait as in this slide.

86. We have a variety of eye and ear patch patterns. The standard does not address these, so they are all acceptable. This is an area of breeder preferences; judges should be impartial. These are absolutely acceptable ear markings. These examples are show for ear color only - not necessarily correctness of head.
87. Solid or half-solid heads are common. There are also a variety of leg markings. Don't let it bother you.

88. GAIT

Rear legs drive well under the dog and extend freely behind. Eager and energetic, the Brittany should cover ground with lightness and power with no wasted movement.

Hackney gait is inefficient and un-balanced, and should be SEVERELY PENALIZED. This is due to a short upper "arm".

89. When at a trot, the Brittany's hind foot should STEP INTO OR BEYOND THE PRINT LEFT BY THE FRONT FOOT.
90. Clean movement coming and going is very important and should NOT be ignored ...
91. BUT ... most important is SIDE GAIT
92. which is smooth, efficient & ground covering. Rear legs drive well under the dog and extend freely behind. Eager and energetic, the Brittany should cover ground with lightness and power with no wasted movement.
93. Inefficient and Incorrect movement - Reach and drive is forward motion, not how high the foot lifts.

94. TEMPERAMENT

Brittanys may not always show enthusiasm at a show, finding birds & playing with the family is more fun, but they should NEVER be

timid or mean. A bird dog, while it can be gentle, must be bold and sound in mind & body.

95. The breed is in the hands of the judges and breeders. The ABC mission statement is dedicated to the DUAL concept of keeping our breed functional. It is one of the few dual breeds left.

The mission statement is “to discourage the breed from becoming split into groups of “field dogs” and “show dogs” and to strive to keep it forever a DUAL DOG.” The Brittany has more dual champions than all of the other sporting breeds combined. (Last count)

96. Closing slide.

THANK YOU for your time. Please feel free to ask any questions.

PASS OUT CERTIFICATES AT THE END OF THE PRESENTATION!!!

I'd like to encourage you all to GO SEE THESE DOGS IN THE FIELD. Go online to www.AKC.org and find a pointing breed field trial or hunt test in your area. These are VERY different than those run for retrievers or spaniels. Call ahead, and get a contact person to help you out on the logistics. If it is a field trial ... the desire or ability to ride a horse may be needed to see much. You may be able to borrow a horse. At a very few trials, there is a “brandy” wagon that follows the course to carry spectators.

In certain regions of the country, field trials are closed to Brittanys only due to the large entries in the breed. Hunt tests are always open to all pointing breeds, and are a great way to view the different hunting styles of the different pointing breeds.

If you are really need additional help to get further field trial or hunt test information, write me at the email on your attendance certificate, and I can either guide you or steer you to someone who can help you.

Ideas for Seminars (per AKC's guidelines as of 4-1-06)

In an effort to establish uniformity and clarify requirements, "Seminars" and "Hands On Workshops" are specifically defined as follows. For all institutes, seminars and workshops attended after April 1, 2006, credit toward the requirements for additional breeds will only be given according to the following conditions.

One component will be counted for attendance at a breed specific "Seminar" providing its sole purpose is the presentation of information essential to judge that breed and:

- There is a 90 minute or longer presentation that includes history, form and function of the breed, an in-depth consideration of the Standard and a question and answer period.
- The presenter and content are Parent Club approved whenever possible.
- One or two live dogs are available for illustration and examination.
- Class size should be limited to 40.
- Attendance must be certified and reported to Judging Operations.

PLEASE CHECK THE AKC WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION AS OF SEPTEMBER 1st 2015!

The following field presentation is available and the script follows. However there are now slide presentations of ABC gun dog championships with no script that may be used instead. Jessica Carlson is in the process of compiling field and show video that will be incorporated into the main presentation as soon as it's available.

Getting Ready to Go To A Field Trial

This is a short (about 20 minute) fun presentation for judges or for individuals who have never attended a field trial. This takes the perspective of starting with a puppy and going through the steps and language of trials. The emphasis is on breed characteristics that are important for a field dog. Which means, for Brittanys, breed characteristics that are important for judges to consider in the show ring.

1. We all start out as part of a team ...
2. Learning to get along
3. Seeking independence and climbing about in a secure environment.
4. Visiting our friends and learning about the outdoors.
5. I'm being assessed for style, size, conformation, shoulder and hindquarter placement for balance, reach and drive and appropriate length of neck. How that tail is held is important as well.
6. Ooops ... what is this wonder smell ... a homing pigeon in a bird release box. I'd better stop and get a good smell.
7. Wow ... it moves. I think I'll chase it. After about three times, the puppies realize that chasing birds is no fun; finding and smelling them is more fun.
8. Look ... I found another one; good, my owner wants me to stop and smell it really good. I guess that word "whoa" means there are good smells around.

9. Gee, this is fun. Traveling around with all my buddies in a horse trailer. It sure smells good around here.
10. Hey look ... there are some of those great smelling birds here too. This must be a really fun trip. No wonder everyone was excited and jumped right into their traveling box.
11. OK ... I'm here, but what is this stake I am chained to? At least I can watch those birds.
12. This is cool. I can get food, water, and still watch all the action.
13. It's my turn now ... look, he has one of those birds again. I'll stand and watch it.
14. I found another one ... I have to remember not to chase the bird and to stand still and look at it. My owner keeps saying "Whoa ... whoa" really soft and gentle-like and pets my side carefully. I must be doing this right.
15. Oh boy, oh boy ... I love this and he loves me.
16. Picture perfect.
17. Picture perfect.
18. Guess Suzi needs to practice standing still some more on the Whoa barrel.
19. What is this fake dog doing out here? Why is my owner saying "whoa" ... that's not a BIRD !!!
20. Oh, I get it. When I see another dog pointing a bird, I have to stop too.
21. OK, I've got it ... stop when I smell a bird; stop when I see another dog stopped. My owner calls that an "honor". Guess I have to be

polite sometimes and let that other dog get the bird. Sure wish I had gotten here first though.

22. OK ... time to roll. Hope I get to bring one back this time.
23. Those guys on foot and horseback are just too slow.
24. Hey ... I found a bird; look ... it is right in front of me. Hurry up and GET HERE!!! Hope they are a good shot.
25. GREAT! They sent me to retrieve it ... oh boy, oh boy, oh boy.

Stop at this point. Remind them that at most Midwest Brittany trials, we liberate birds and don't shoot them. The next 3 slides were from a real hunt and demonstrate the soft mouth.

26. I am one happy fella ... here I come; man, am I glad they keep me healthy. I love to stretch out all my muscles; it sure feels good. Do I look spiffy with my tail up? Can you see how happy I am!!
27. This is the life ... glad I have a good strong neck.
28. I have to be gentle with this bird; my mouth is so soft; my lips just cover my teeth so I can bring this back to my owner. I am SOOOOO happy.
29. This is cool; exercise. Better than lying down all day. I love to run.
30. This is the life; there's one in here, folks.
31. Even in the snow, I can find and point birds.
32. How's this for a classic point. I really don't do it this way very often.

33. This is a more comfortable way to point since sometimes I have to wait for awhile for my owners to come.
34. Man, is this bird CLOSE. Hope I can stare it down so it will stay put.
35. OK, now what!! We both found this one at the same time. Who gets to go? Look, I even made a classy pose for you. Hope it's me ...
36. Hey ... this one is up in a tree. Can't you tell?
37. I won a bag of dog food. Everyone is happy.
38. Here are all of us that won together today. What a blast (by the way, the banner says it's a GSP trial!!).
39. It's time to get combed out from those darn stickers. I HATE spring-time.
40. This is the part I love the best. Back on the line with my friends and getting some loving.