



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

06.10.2026/ EN

FCI-Standard N° 127

SUSSEX SPANIEL



©J.Campin, illustr. KC Picture Library

ORIGIN: Great Britain.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICIAL VALID STANDARD: 08.09.2026

UTILIZATION: Flushing dog.

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

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Strongly built. Active, energetic dog, whose characteristic movement is a decided roll, and unlike that of any other Spaniel.

BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT: Kindly disposition, aggression unacceptable.

HEAD: Well balanced.

CRANIAL REGION:

Skull: Wide, showing moderate curve from ear to ear, neither flat nor apple headed, with centre indentation. Brows frowning; occiput decided, but not pointed.

Stop: Pronounced.

FACIAL REGION:

Nose: Nostrils well developed and liver in colour.

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

EYES: Hazel colour, fairly large, not full, but soft expression and showing little, if any, haw.

EARS: Thick, fairly large and lobular, set moderately low, just above eye level. Lying close to skull.

NECK: Long, strong and slightly arched, not carrying head much above level of back. Slight throatiness, but well marked frill.

BODY:

Whole body strong and level with no sign of waistiness from withers to hips.

Back: Well developed and muscular in both width and depth.

Loin: Well developed and muscular in both width and depth.

Chest: Deep and well developed; not too round and wide. The back ribs must be deep.

TAIL: Previously customarily docked to 13-18 cms.

Docked: Set low and never carried above level of back. Tail thickly **covered** with hair but not feathered.

Undocked: Set low, of medium length, and not carried above the level of the back. It should taper gradually to a point and be moderately feathered. Lively tail action is typical of the breed.

LIMBS

FOREQUARTERS:

Shoulder: Sloping and free.

Forearm: Legs rather short and strong. Well boned and muscular.

Carpus (Wrist): Large and strong.

Metacarpus (Pastern): Short and well boned.

Forefeet: Round, well padded, well feathered between toes.

HINDQUARTERS:

General appearance: Legs short and strong with good bone. Hindlegs not appearing shorter than forelegs or over angulated.

Thigh: Strongly boned and muscular.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern): Hocks large and strong.

Hind feet: Round, well padded, well feathered between toes.

GAIT / MOVEMENT: True fore and aft with distinctive roll.

COAT

Hair: Abundant and flat with no tendency to curl and with ample undercoat for weather resistance. Ears covered with soft, wavy hair, but not too profuse. Forequarters and hindquarters moderately well feathered.

Colour: Rich golden liver and hair shading to golden at tip; gold is predominating. Dark liver or puce undesirable.

Any other colour or combination of colours unacceptable.

SIZE AND WEIGHT:

Ideal height at the withers: 38 - 41 cm.

Weight: Approximately 23 kgs.

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 its ability to perform its traditional work.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

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

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

