

Proposed language change to the English Springer Spaniel Breed Standard to include “natural (undocked) tail”

My proposal is meant to cover concerns on all sides and consistent with some other breed standards. We encourage you approve this change due to the increased number of imports and breeder’s choice for natural tails. This is the first step, once we approve the accepted wording, we will follow the process to include the Judges Education Committee and forward this request to AKC for approval.

Current wording

General Appearance: The English Springer Spaniel is a medium sized sporting dog, with a compact body and a docked tail.

Proposed

The English Springer Spaniel is a medium-sized sporting dog with a compact body and a natural (undocked) or docked tail. Dogs with natural (undocked) or docked tails are to be given equal consideration, neither are preferred.

Reasoning

An increasing number of English Springer Spaniels are imported with natural tails by both field and bench owners. And some U.S. breeders are choosing to keep natural tails opposed to docking them. The natural tailed dogs are good examples of the breed and competitive in field, conformation, and performance venues. This change will allow them to be accepted and compete equally across all venues.

Please contact me with any questions. I will be at the meetings in Boston.

Thank you,

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ESSFTA Governor

ESSFTA/AKC approved mentor

ESSFTA Judges Education presenter

AKC Breeder of Merit

AKC Judge

Experience in field work, conformation, obedience, agility, tracking, therapy dog, etc.