

Encyclopedia of the Dog

CATALOGUE OF BREEDS | GUNDOGS

French Spaniel

HEIGHT: 15-16 in (38-41 cm)
WEIGHT: 20-24 lb (9-11 kg)
LIFE SPAN: 12-14 years

In its native land the French Spaniel is claimed to be the original of all hunting spaniels. It is still used for hunting at home and abroad, but because it is head-holded and more inclined to bark, it also makes a good city dog, as long as it gets enough exercise and attention.

Full name: Spanish pointer
Silly smile
Pendant ears set far back
Light and easy to train
White with brown markings
Shy
One eye occasionally
Red and white
Can walk with one ear up and one down
Shy
Strong build with long neck
Fine coat

English Setter

HEIGHT: 15-17 in (38-43 cm)
WEIGHT: 25-30 kg (55-66 lb)
LIFE SPAN: 12-13 years

CHANGE IN BREED HISTORY
Use before
Use before they were for working

EDWARD LAVERACK

In the 19th century breeder Edward Laverack transformed the traditional English Setter from two dogs with the traditional 1555 Laverack developed a distinct strain that set game birds, a more elegant stance than was usual, and the variation more elegant look and more heavily feathered than the earlier dogs. Laverack's dog formed the base of the breed standard dating to the 1820s. The first written form around 1850 (below) shows an early example of the English Setter.

The perfect country-house dog in both looks and character, this tireless breed loves wide open spaces

The oldest of the "setter" dogs, which date back at least 400 years, this breed takes its name from its habit of "setting" – stopping and facing the game in a backward stance enables the hunter to find the animal.

The English Setter's ancestors probably included the English Springer Spaniel (see pp. 234-235), the Spanish Pointer, and large Water Spaniel. The result was a dog that was skilled in tracking and finding game on open moorland.

The modern breed was founded by two men. Edward Laverack developed the pure English Setter in the 1820s. In the late 19th century R. Purcell Llewellyn used some of the Laverack dogs to breed a distinct strain for field work. His dogs differed in appearance from those of Laverack's and some people refer to Llewellyn setters as a separate breed.

The English Setter is still worked today, although different bloodlines are used for hunting and the show ring. The hunting dogs have slightly shorter legs than their Irish and Scottish cousins. An elegant dog, the English Setter has a calm, reliable nature, making it a good family dog. However, it does need lots of exercise and space to run. Show dogs have a longer, more wavy coat than the field type.

One eye occasionally
Red and white
Can walk with one ear up and one down
Shy
Strong build with long neck
Fine coat
Can sit
Droop head with slight movement
Blue roan
Well feathered tail
Slightly ruffled with light pendant hairs
Lighter markings on face

Gordon Setter

HEIGHT: 15-16 in (38-41 cm)
WEIGHT: 20-24 lb (9-11 kg)
LIFE SPAN: 12-13 years

Originally employed in Scotland to track game birds and then horses once it had learned them, changes in hunting fashions have seen this breed move from field to forest. It brings with it a head-holded and tail set stance, but also a need for vigorous daily exercise and a good deal of space.

Shy
Can bark
Can bring work
Elegant but more reserved than other setters
Full hunting on long moorland hills
Typical stance with upright ear and low setting

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