

BOYKIN SPANIEL – BREED STANDARD

GENERAL DESCRIPTION – The Boykin spaniel is medium in size, sturdy and typically spaniel. He is first and foremost a hunting dog with proven retrieving and flushing abilities characterized by boundless enthusiasm and endurance, moderate speed and agility. Being intelligent and possessing a great desire to please make the Boykin easy to train. He is a strong swimmer, taking to water easily and is valuable for water retrieving as well as field retrieving.

TEMPERAMENT – The typical Boykin is friendly and eager to please. As a pet and companion he is exceptional with an amicable disposition. *Faults:* Hostility towards other dogs or people in normal situations or excessive timidity or hyperactivity is not in keeping with the Boykin's character.

SIZE AND PROPORTION – The Boykin is built to cover rough ground and swim in all conditions with agility and reasonable speed. His appearance should be a sturdy dog with good but not too heavy bone. He should be kept to medium size – neither too small nor too large and heavy to do the work for which he is intended.

Dog: Height - 15 1/2" to 18" Weight - 30 to 40 lbs.
Bitch: Height - 14" to 16 1/2" Weight - 25 to 35 lbs.

The height at the shoulders should approximately equal the length of the body from the top of the shoulders to the base of the tail. *Faults:* Over-heavy, large boned specimens. Leggy individuals, too tall for their length and substance. Oversize or undersize specimens (more than 1" over or under the breed ideal).

HEAD – The head, comprising the muzzle and skull, is impressive without being heavy or snipey and is proportionally in balance with the rest of the dog's body. The skull to be of medium length, fairly broad, flat on top, slightly rounded at the sides and back. The muzzle to be approximately the same length as the skull. Viewed from the top, the width of the muzzle is approximately one half the width of the skull. Viewed in profile, the nasal bone is straight with a moderate stop and a subtle rise at the junction of the muzzle and skull forming two parallel planes between the top lines of the skull and muzzle. The distance from the tip of the nose to the base of the skull is about the same length as the neck. The forehead is covered with smooth, short hair. The jaws are of sufficient length to allow the dog to easily carry game. The nose to be dark liver in color with nostrils well-opened and broad for good scenting power. *Faults:* Pointed or heavy skull, over heavy muzzle, muzzle too short or narrow.

TEETH – Teeth should be straight and meet in a close scissors bite (the lower teeth touching behind the upper incisors). An even bite

(incisors meet each other to edge to edge) is acceptable but not preferred. *Faults:* Over to undershot jaws.

EYES – The eyes are yellow to brown to harmonize with the coat, set well apart, expression alert, intelligent and trusting. Darker shades of yellow preferred over lighter shades. *Faults:* A prominent or pop eye.

EARS – The ears are set slightly above the level of the eyeline and reach the tip of the nose when pulled forward. They lie flat and close to the head.

NECK – The neck is moderately long, muscular, slightly arched at the crest and gradually blends into sloping shoulders without being abruptly angled or excessively throaty.

BODY STRUCTURE – The body is sturdily constructed but not too compact. Sloping shoulders, chest well-developed but not barrel, the back is strong, straight, and level except for a slight arch in the loin area. *Faults:* High hindquarters, roach back (too much arch over the loin extending forward into the middle section), sway back (dip in back).

LEGS AND FEET – The legs are strong, of medium length and well boned, but not too short as to handicap for field work. Legs should be straight when viewed from the front or rear. The feet are found to slightly oval, firm, and well-padded, turning neither in nor out. *Faults:* Fiddle front (front legs out at elbow, pasterns close, and feet turned out). Cowhocks (hocks on rear legs turning towards each other).

TAIL – The tail should be docked so that at maturity it is 2 1/2 to 3 inches long. (Leave 1/3 of the tail plus 1/4" when pup is 3 - 5 days old).

COAT – The coat is flat to moderately curly with medium length, fine hair with light feathering acceptable on the legs, feet, ears, chest, and belly. A short straight coat without feathering is acceptable.

COLOR – The color is a solid, rich liver (reddish brown) or dark chocolate allowing for a small, white spot on the chest. No other white markings are allowed.

GAIT – The Boykin spaniel moves freely with good reach in front and strong drive from the rear with no tendency for the feet to cross over or interfere with each other. Viewed from the rear, the hocks should follow on a line with the forelegs, neither too widely nor too closely spaced. As speed increases, the feet converge towards a center line. Because the Boykin spaniel has been bred primarily for hunting and retrieving, it is essential that there be proper balance between the front and rear assemblies for endurance and efficient use of energy in the field.



OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY ARE:

- (a) to maintain records of all Boykin spaniels registered. These records shall be known as the Boykin Spaniel Registry®;
- (b) to urge members and breeders to use the breed standard in the selection and breeding of the Boykin spaniel;
- (c) to encourage and promote the breeding of purebred Boykin spaniels and to do all possible to perpetuate their natural hunting ability;
- (d) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition.

The success of the Society has been due to the Board of Directors' commitment that all members shall have a direct voice in the future of the breed. Important decisions affecting the Boykin spaniel are put to a vote of the membership. As a result, the Boykin Spaniel Society® has become a viable force which has made great strides in promoting the Boykin spaniel and attaining national recognition for this fine retriever.

For additional information regarding membership in the Boykin Spaniel Society® or the Boykin Spaniel Registry® contact:



THE BOYKIN SPANIEL SOCIETY®

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THE BOYKIN SPANIEL

*"The Dog That Doesn't
Rock the Boat"*



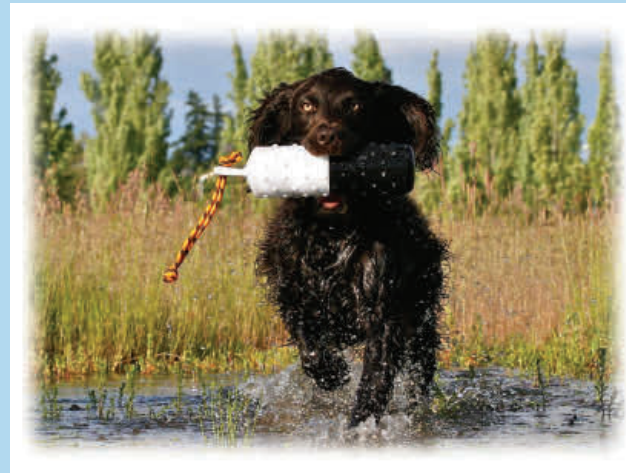
The Boykin Spaniel was first bred by South Carolina hunters during the 1900's to provide the ideal dog for hunting ducks and wild turkeys in the Wateree River Swamp. Hunters on South Carolina's Wateree River needed a small rugged dog compactly built for boat travel and able to retrieve on land and in water. In those days wagons, wooden boats and trains afforded hunters access to the game rich corridors along the river. But boat travel limited what hunters could carry. The typical heavyweight retriever was a drawback in



a craft already loaded with men, guns, provisions and other gear.

On the Wateree River in the early part of this century hunters often used a take apart "section boat." Held together by bolts to form a large craft, the three sections with seats removed could be "nested" to fit neatly into a wagon or train's baggage car. Hunters also used sections as one-man boats just large enough for one person and a compact retriever.

L. W. "Whit" Boykin (1861-1932), a planter, land appraiser and well-known sportsman of the



Boykin community just outside Camden, South Carolina, along with his kinsmen the Canteys, experimented with many breeds to resolve the problems posed by their Wateree hunting trips. With selective breeding and a little luck, Boykin developed a small multipurpose retriever now known as the Boykin spaniel.

The first Boykin spaniel, or the precursor of today's breed, was reportedly a small, stray spaniel type dog that befriended a banker walking from his home to the First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, South Carolina around 1905-1910. Alexander L. White (1860-1942) liked the little dog and took it home. After the dog showed some



aptitude for retrieving, White sent the dog called "Dumpy" to his longtime friend and hunting partner Whit Boykin. In Boykin's hands the little stray developed into a superb turkey dog and waterfowl retriever. This dog became the foundation stock for the Boykin spaniel. Other ancestors are reported to be the Chesapeake Bay retriever, springer spaniel, cocker spaniel, and American water spaniel.



Today this little brown retriever can be found on hunts and in homes across America. Stamina in hot weather and eagerness to please make this dog a favorite in the dove fields, but Boykins have retained their spaniel flushing abilities and readily adapt to a variety of upland game hunting including pheasant, quail and grouse. An aptitude for water retrieving combined with their compact size assures these dogs a place in the duck boats and blinds as well. Boykins have often been described as "the dog that doesn't rock the boat." They are even effective in deer driving or in tracking a wounded deer. Like many of the sporting breeds, Boykin spaniels make the transition from hunting companion to family pet easily. Boykin spaniels are true dual-purpose hunting dogs.

The Boykin's ability in the field and amiable nature have brought him praise in all forms. On April 20, 1984 the South Carolina Wildlife and Conservation Commission endorsed the Boykin Spaniel as South Carolina's state dog. Governor Richard W. Riley proclaimed September 1, 1984, the first day of dove hunting season, as Boykin Spaniel Day. On March 26, 1985, Governor Riley signed into law the act making the Boykin spaniel the official South Carolina state dog. The 1988-89 South Carolina state duck stamp—the most popular stamp of the series—featured a painting by Minnesota artist Jim Killen which depicted a Boykin spaniel holding a widgeon in its mouth and imprinted with the legend "Trained Retrievers Conserve Game".

Whit Boykin's spaniels and the Boykin spaniels of his descendants did not live outside but were house companions and lived indoors with their families, since working dogs like the Boykin spaniel that are family companions perform much better in the field and make for better pets. The original selective breeding stressed this desired attribute, which is still prized today. Their compact size and eager-to-please demeanor adds to their appeal. Boykin spaniels require the physical bond between human and canine, and they do not do well without it. They can learn the rules of the house, but can get into mischief if they are left to invent their own jobs. They aren't troublemakers, they merely think they're helping. The Boykin spaniel needs some type of daily exercise to expend their energy, even if it is just chasing a thrown ball or taking a vigorous swim.

