

UKC to Adopts Breed Standard Identical to the FCI Breed Standard for the Epagneul Breton

The United Kennel Club, Inc. has approved FBGDA's request that the UKC modify the existing breed standard to make it comport identically to the breed standard for the Epagneul Breton as employed in France, the country of origin of the breed. The change was supported by UKC President Wayne Cavanaugh and UKC's approval was conveyed by UKC Executive Vice President Mark Theftall on February 6, 2007. FBGDA believes that the United States is the first country in the western hemisphere to precisely adopt the FCI breed standard for the Epagneul Breton, as the standard has been developed and employed in France, the country of origin of the breed. The same standard is also employed in other FCI constituent countries in Europe.

While the previous UKC breed standard for the Epagneul Breton adopted in 2002 contained only slight deviations in a few areas from the FCI version of the standard, it was felt by the FBGDA Board that complete uniformity in the standard was extremely important in order to prevent gradual deviations from the ideal structure of the Epagneul Breton over time. The revised Conformation Standard as submitted to the UKC by FBGDA was derived from the FCI (Federation Cynologique Internationale) online version of March 25, 2003 (from FCI St. No. 95, May 5, 2003). That FCI version was translated into English by John Miller and Raymond Triquet, France, with such English translation becoming available on September 14, 2004. There are no substantive deviations from the cited FCI Standard as translated into English as submitted to UKC by FBGDA, with only a few words, punctuations and measures adjusted to the usual American form of the English language.

In addition to the actual verbiage of the standard itself, artwork to be included in an appendix was included to highlight desirable (proper) and undesirable (improper) canine characteristics which breeders should select against. The artwork is designed to help one visualize the positive (proper) or negative (improper) aspects of the conformation of the Epagneul Breton dog. The artwork is used with the express permission of and credited completely to Jean Louvet, of France.

The FBGDA board anticipates that the artwork will serve as a visual aid to those studying the standard for the Epagneul Breton, as well as other purebred dogs. Committee members Robert Olson, Edward Smith and Sherry Hughes along with members of the FBGDA Board contributed to this effort. However special thanks is due to FBGDA Vice President (and nominee for 2007-2009 FBGDA President) R.L. Dalrymple for his long time devotion to this project. Mr. Dalrymple. oversaw technical conversion of the material to a usable computer programming format, insured accuracy and correctness of the content by doing research and consulting with veterinarians, and secured permission for use of the artwork materials from Mr. Jean Louvet, of France. It is anticipated that copies of the revised and updated UKC standard for the Epagneul Breton breed will be reproduced for distribution at the National Meeting in Arizona, and will be available to the membership in the near future.