

Clumber Spaniel

Illustrated Study of the Standard



Authorized/Approved by
The Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.
February 15, 2008.



Established in 1972

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Illustrated Standard is to help breeders, judges and fanciers understand and interpret the written standard for the ideal Clumber Spaniel.

The standard is a written guideline to describe those characteristics of type that distinguish Clumber Spaniels from other spaniels. Many years of study, observation and experience are required to properly evaluate type and soundness in the show ring, in the field, in the whelping box, and in the home environment. It is the responsibility of the judge and breeder to interpret the standard as objectively as possible, realizing that the individual relies on his personal experiences and preferences. This illustrated standard is intended to assist the enthusiast in formulating his opinion and proper mental picture as it applies to the ideal dog by offering this objective explanation of the Clumber Spaniel.



Clumber Spaniel Standard

Official Standard for the Clumber Spaniel approved by AKC on 28 March 2001.

Official Standard of the Clumber Spaniel — **Boldface**
Interpretive comments by the committee — Light type

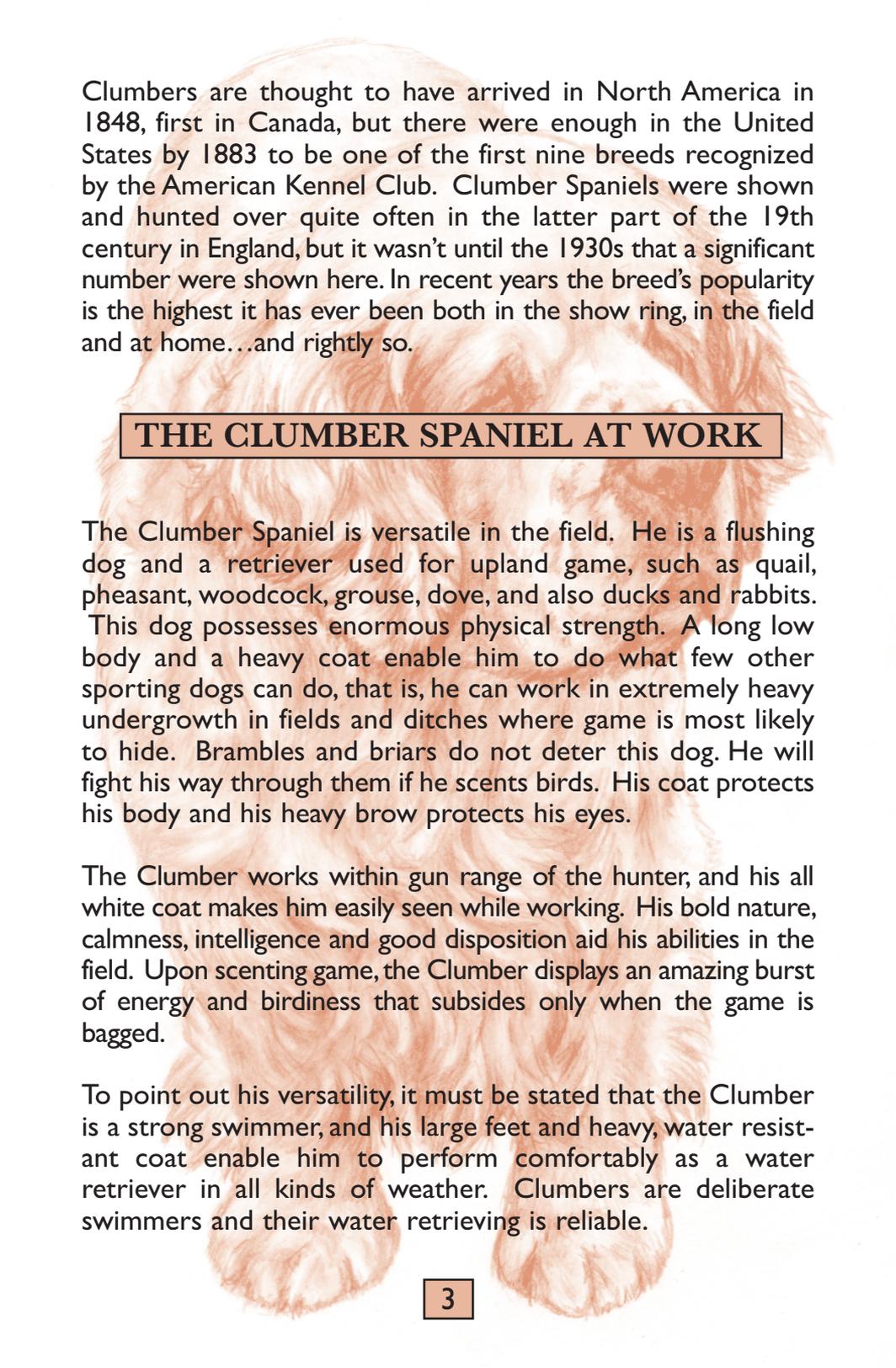
HISTORY

The history of the Clumber Spaniel breed has been marked with colorful tales of Dukes, escapes across the English Channel from the French Revolution and fanciful crossbreeding. However, there is no factual basis for the previously most prevalent story and only speculation about the true origin of the breed. We do hope that in the near future DNA analysis will determine from what canine combinations this wonderful breed has evolved.

It is the current thinking that the gamekeepers who actually cared for, dealt with and hunted with the dogs in the latter part of the 18th and first half of the 19th century combined dogs whose functions fit their needs and demands. It is a most interesting and mentally rewarding exercise for fanciers to think about which characteristics of what breeds would have produced a Clumber, such as Basset Hounds and some form of Alpine Spaniel.

It is true that the name Clumber derives from the Duke of Newcastle's 3,800 acre estate Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire, England. (The name Clumber itself probably derives from the ancient name, Clun, of a local river.) It is known that a number of titled families and landed gentry living in that area, known as The Dukeries, hunted with these sporting spaniels. Certainly, there are records of Clumber breedings among the dogs on these neighboring estates. It has been theorized that the Duke of Newcastle's long time gamekeeper, William Mansell, was himself responsible for the development of this unique breed. It is known that he and his descendants worked in that area for a long time with a significant number of hunting spaniels.

Many examples of vintage paintings depict Clumbers in hunting situations. It is especially interesting to note that many of these dogs closely resemble today's dogs, with sometimes a little less bone and smaller heads. The colors evident in almost all old pictorial records are white and orange, even though early standards and actual written descriptions mention a preference for the color lemon.



Clumbers are thought to have arrived in North America in 1848, first in Canada, but there were enough in the United States by 1883 to be one of the first nine breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club. Clumber Spaniels were shown and hunted over quite often in the latter part of the 19th century in England, but it wasn't until the 1930s that a significant number were shown here. In recent years the breed's popularity is the highest it has ever been both in the show ring, in the field and at home...and rightly so.

THE CLUMBER SPANIEL AT WORK

The Clumber Spaniel is versatile in the field. He is a flushing dog and a retriever used for upland game, such as quail, pheasant, woodcock, grouse, dove, and also ducks and rabbits.

This dog possesses enormous physical strength. A long low body and a heavy coat enable him to do what few other sporting dogs can do, that is, he can work in extremely heavy undergrowth in fields and ditches where game is most likely to hide. Brambles and briars do not deter this dog. He will fight his way through them if he scents birds. His coat protects his body and his heavy brow protects his eyes.

The Clumber works within gun range of the hunter, and his all white coat makes him easily seen while working. His bold nature, calmness, intelligence and good disposition aid his abilities in the field. Upon scenting game, the Clumber displays an amazing burst of energy and birdiness that subsides only when the game is bagged.

To point out his versatility, it must be stated that the Clumber is a strong swimmer, and his large feet and heavy, water resistant coat enable him to perform comfortably as a water retriever in all kinds of weather. Clumbers are deliberate swimmers and their water retrieving is reliable.

The Clumber has a very keen nose and soft mouth. His ability to find and retrieve game is one of his outstanding features.

Photo: Alissa Behn, Pet Personalities



The Clumber's nose makes him a natural dog for tracking work, and his happy disposition and loyalty are beneficial when it comes to obedience and other performance events. He is most often an enthusiastic worker, adding his own antics to the routines to make them interesting.



Photo: C C Photography



Photo: Kenneth Reed Photography



GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Clumber Spaniel is a long, low and substantial dog. His heavy brow, deep chest, straight forelegs, powerful hindquarters, massive bone and good feet all give him the power and endurance to move through dense underbrush in pursuit of game. His white coat enables him to be seen by the hunter as he works within gun range. His stature is dignified, his expression pensive, but at the same time he shows great enthusiasm for his work and play.



Clumber Spaniel Dog

The Clumber Spaniel is a sporting dog that was developed by the aristocracy of Europe as a hunting dog for upland game. As such, the Clumber was a spaniel of massive substance that generally worked in packs close to the hunter. The Clumber Spaniel has evolved into a devoted companion of outstanding character and appeal. As a companion dog his charm, independence, warmth of character and creativity of spirit make him second to none. In the field, Clumbers have maintained their outstanding hunting abilities.

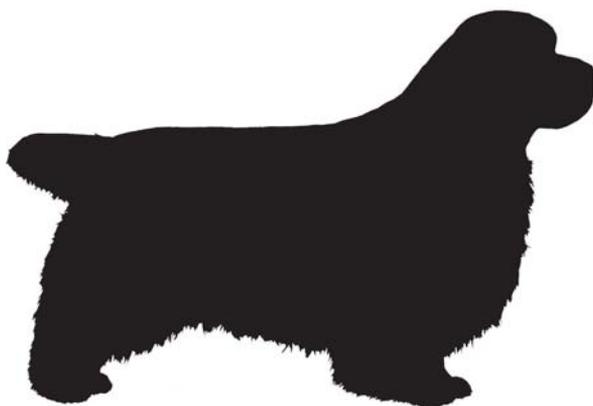


Clumber Spaniel Bitch

The description of the ideal Clumber Spaniel bitch parallels that of the ideal Clumber Spaniel dog, but bitches have somewhat less substance, size and furnishings.

SIZE, PROPORTION AND SUBSTANCE

The Clumber is rectangular in shape possessing massive bone structure and has the appearance of great power. The ideal height for dogs is 18 to 20 inches at the withers and for bitches is 17 to 19 inches at the withers. The ideal length to height is 11 to 9 measured from the withers to the base of the tail and from the floor to the withers. Dogs weigh between 70 and 85 pounds and bitches weigh between 55 and 70 pounds.

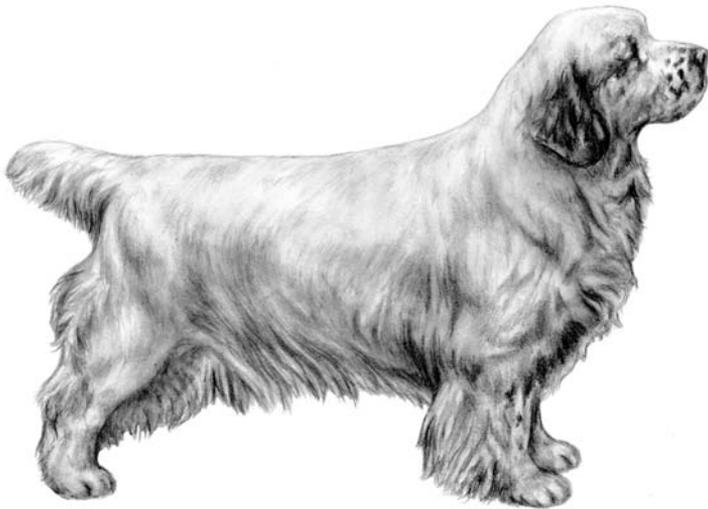
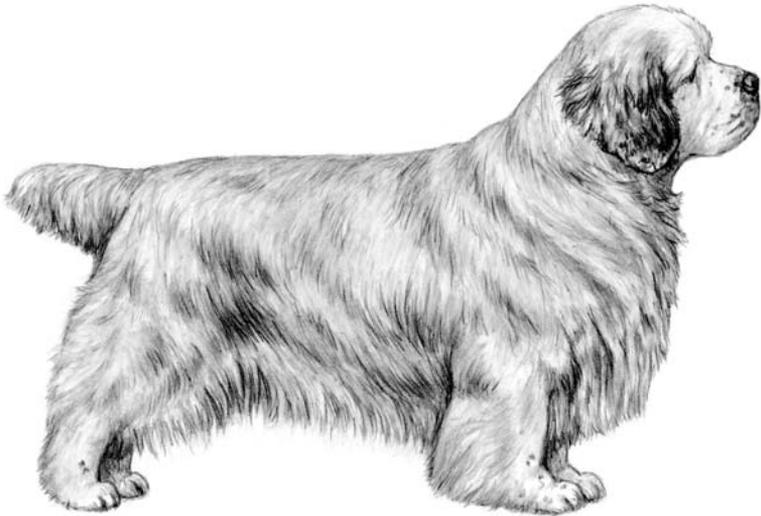


Dog



Bitch

SIZE, PROPORTION AND SUBSTANCE



Correct length of back

As an example, a dog that stands 19 inches at the withers is approximately 23.2 inches in length from the withers to the base of the tail. The Clumber is not measured in the ring.

HEAD

The head is massive with a marked stop and heavy brow. The top skull is flat with a pronounced occiput. A slight furrow runs between the eyes and up through the center of the skull. The muzzle is broad and deep to facilitate retrieving many species of game. The nose is large, square and colored in shades of brown, which include beige, rose and cherry. The flews of the upper jaw are strongly developed and overlap the lower jaw to give a square look when viewed from the side.



There are several acceptable Clumber Spaniel head types that fit the standard description. Some examples are depicted in the following sketches. The Clumber head should not be plain or unappealing.

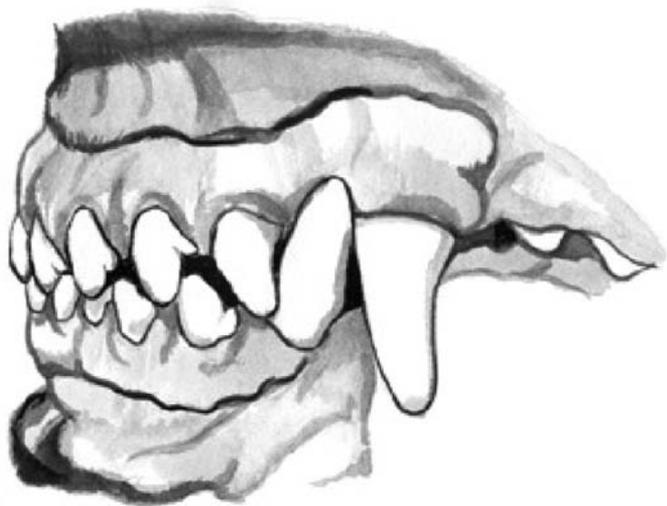


Typical Clumber Spaniel Bitch Heads



HEAD

A scissors bite is preferred.



Scissors Bite

HEAD

The eyes are dark amber in color, large, soft in expression, and deep set in either a diamond shaped rim or a rim with a “V” on the bottom and a curve on the top. Some haw may show but excessive haw is undesirable. Prominent or round shaped eyes are to be penalized. Excessive tearing or evidence of entropion or ectropion is to be penalized.

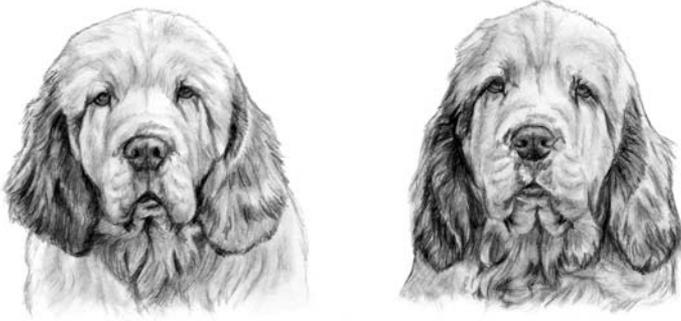


The haw is the nictitating membrane or inner eyelid of the dog, and is a breed characteristic of the Clumber. When the old Clumber Spaniel standards were being written and re-written, there was a great deal of controversy about the presence and amount of haw that should be required on the Clumber. It was generally decided that a moderate amount of haw was necessary to stamp breed type.

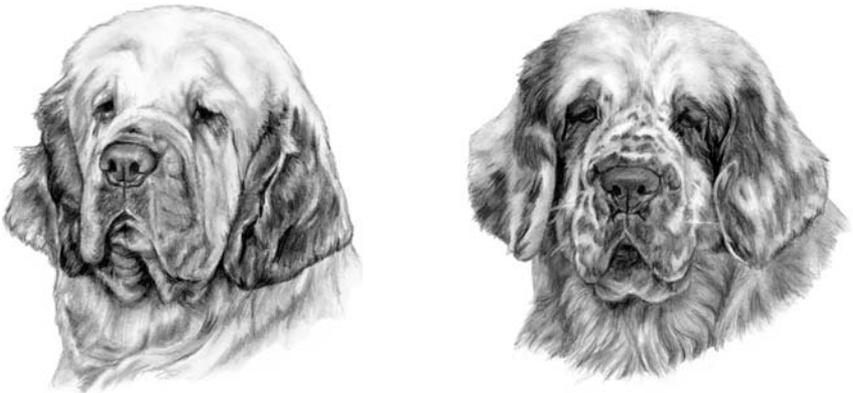
Entropion is an inversion or rolling inward of the margin of the eyelid. Conjunctival or corneal irritation causes blinking and tearing. Ectropion is an eversion of the eyelid, characterized by an outward rolling of the eyelid, exposing the conjunctiva to drying, dust and debris.

HEAD

Ears are broad on top with a thick ear leather. The ears are triangular in shape with a rounded lower edge, set low and attached to the skull at approximately eye level.



Clumber Spaniel Puppy heads



Clumber Spaniel Adult Bitch Heads

The ear is attached at about eye level. Degree of alertness, curiosity, level of interest, and mood alter the position of the ear dramatically. Color and markings may alter the perception of ear set. The carriage of the ear changes the expression and can appear to change the shape of the head. Fully alert Clumbers will have a high ear carriage. This illustration depicts the same dog with a relaxed and alert expression.

NECK, TOPLINE AND BODY

The Clumber should have a long neck with some slackness of throat or presence of dewlap not to be faulted. The neck is strong and muscular, fitting into a well laid back shoulder. The back is straight, firm, long and level. The brisket is deep and the ribs well sprung. The chest is deep and wide. The loin arches slightly.



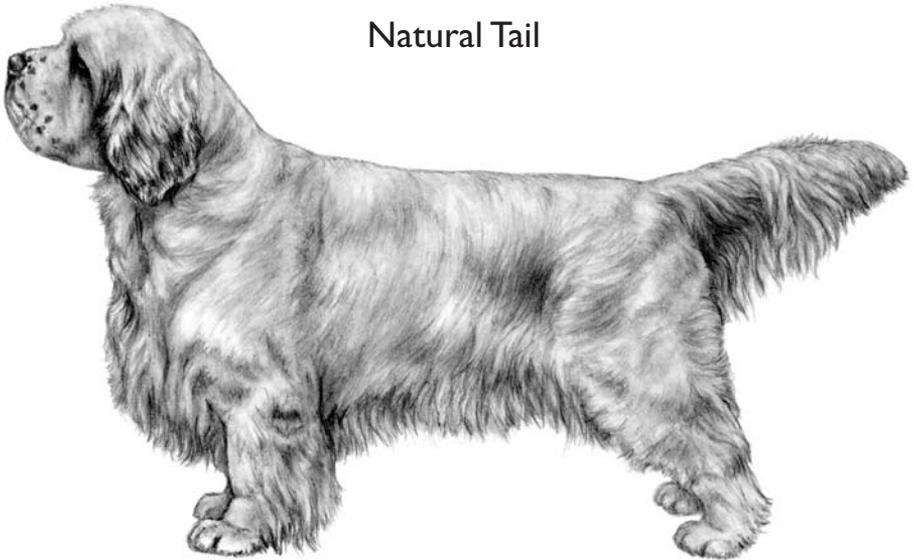
Clumber Spaniel Dog

The importance of a strong back cannot be over-emphasized. The rectangular body shape, considerable weight and short legs of the breed necessitate a powerful back that provides a foundation for the rest of the body.

NECK, TOPLINE AND BODY

The tail is well feathered and set on just below the line of back; its trimming minimal, serving to tidy the feathering to allow for a natural appearance and outline. The tail is normally carried level with the topline or slightly elevated, never down between the rear legs. The tail may be docked or left natural, both being of equal value. If docked, the tail's length should be in keeping with the overall proportion of the adult dog. If natural, the tailbone should extend to the point of hock, but should not extend to the ground.

Natural Tail



Tail Set and Carriage

The tail is an indicator of attitude. When moving, the Clumber's tail is typically carried straight out or slightly above horizontal. An unusually high or clamped-down tail is objectionable. A gay tail is atypical and incorrect.

It must be stressed that the Clumber may have a docked or full tail, either being perfectly acceptable.

FOREQUARTERS

The Clumber shoulder is well laid back. The upper arm is of sufficient length to place the elbow under the highest point of the shoulder. The forelegs are short, straight and heavy in bone, with the elbows held close to the body.



The Clumber Spaniel has good front angulation with the withers aligned above the point of the elbow. The elbows fit close to the body. His forelegs are not long and have good straight bone. The well laid back shoulder gives necessary reach to movement and should be balanced with functional rear angulation.

FOREQUARTERS

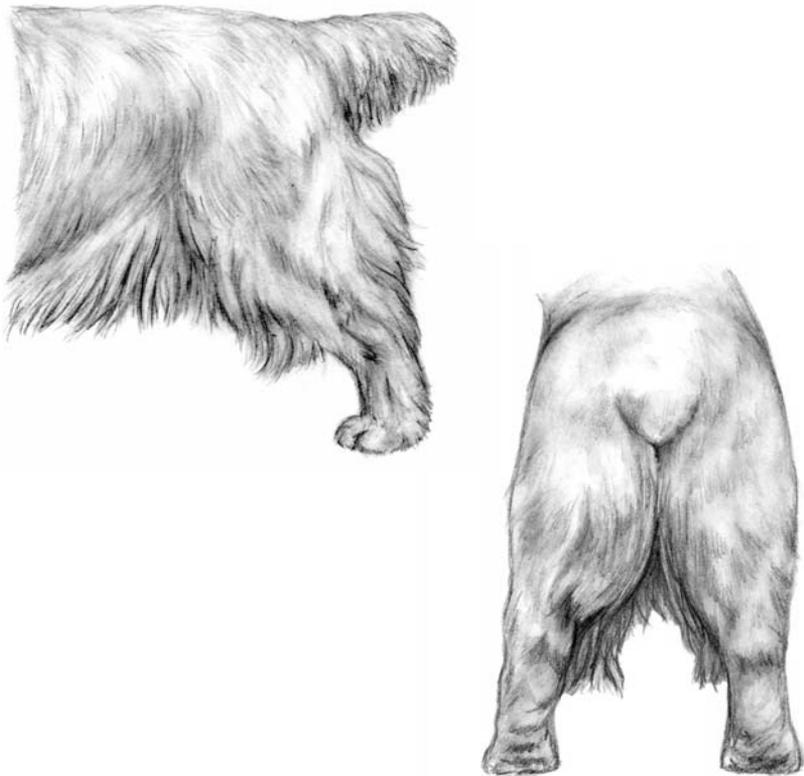
Pasterns are strong and only slightly sloped. The front feet are large, compact and have thick pads that act as shock absorbers. Removal of dewclaws is optional.



The Clumber Spaniel has a round compact foot with thick pads and a strong pastern.

HINDQUARTERS

The thighs are heavily muscled and, when viewed from behind, the rear is round and broad. The stifle shows good functional angulation, and hock to heel is short and perpendicular to the ground. Lack of angulation is objectionable. The rear feet are not as large or as round as the front feet, but are compact, with thick pads and are of substantial size.



The stifle shows good functional angulation. Correct functional angulation refers to the proper balance between the well laid-back shoulder and the corresponding bend of stifle and is essential to desired reach and drive.

COAT

The body coat is dense, straight and flat. It is of good weather resistant texture which is soft to the touch, not harsh. Ears are slightly feathered with straight hair. Feathering on the legs and belly is moderate. The Clumber has a good neck frill and on no condition should his throat be shaved. Evidence of shaving is to be penalized. The hair on the feet should be trimmed neatly to show their natural outline and for utility in the field. The rear legs may be trimmed up to the point of the hock. Tail feathering may be tidied. Trimming of whiskers is optional.



The Clumber Spaniel coat should be flat and smooth with no curl and little wave, although it tends to curl about the withers as the dog ages. It is soft and silky to the touch. The coat lies close to the body and there is no excess of undercoat that would give a fluffy, cotton-coat texture. The Clumber coat is in a constant state of shedding; and length and density can vary according to climate.

The Clumber is a natural dog. Excessive grooming is undesirable and unnecessary. When grooming, under no circumstances is it acceptable to shave any part of the dog.

COLOR AND MARKINGS

The Clumber is primarily a white dog with lemon color or orange color markings. Markings are frequently seen on one or both ears and the face. Facial markings include color around one or both eyes, freckling on the muzzle and a spot on top of the head. A head with lemon/orange markings and an all-white head are of equal value. Freckles on the legs and/or a spot near the root of the tail are also frequently seen and acceptable. The body should have as few markings as possible.



The varied markings on the head are to be weighed equally in evaluation of the breed. The above illustrations are of the same head showing how markings may influence the appearance. It must be emphasized that the dog should appear to be white. A Clumber's white body coat is a distinct characteristic of the breed. Heavy ticking or excessive body patches are not desirable.

GAIT

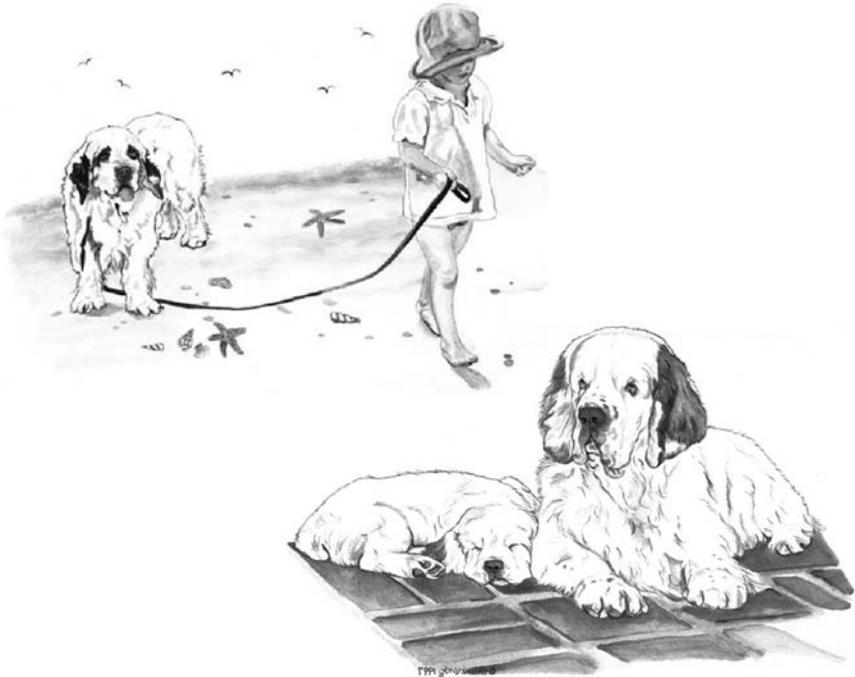
The Clumber moves easily and freely with good reach in front and strong drive from behind, neither crossing over nor elbowing out. The hocks drive in a straight line without rocking or twisting. Because of his wide body and short legs, he tends to roll slightly. The proper Clumber roll occurs when the dog, with correct proportion, reaches forward with the rear leg toward the center line of travel and rotates the hip downward while the back remains level and straight. The gait is comfortable and can be maintained at a steady trot for a day of work in the field without exhaustion.



Proper gait showing reach and drive.

TEMPERAMENT

The Clumber is a gentle, loyal and affectionate dog. He possesses an intrinsic desire to please. An intelligent and independent thinker, he displays determination and a strong sense of purpose while at work. A dog of dignity, the Clumber Spaniel may sometimes seem aloof with people unknown to him, but in time he will display his playful and loving nature. The Clumber Spaniel should never be hostile or aggressive; neither is acceptable and should not be condoned.



The individual characteristic traits of the Clumber Spaniel temperament encompass many features. Expect them to be aristocratic, charming, humorous, entertaining, inquisitive, affectionate, intelligent, gentle, mischievous, stubborn, determined, self-willed, appealing, and naughty. The Clumber should exhibit friendliness and enthusiasm, although some may initially seem aloof.

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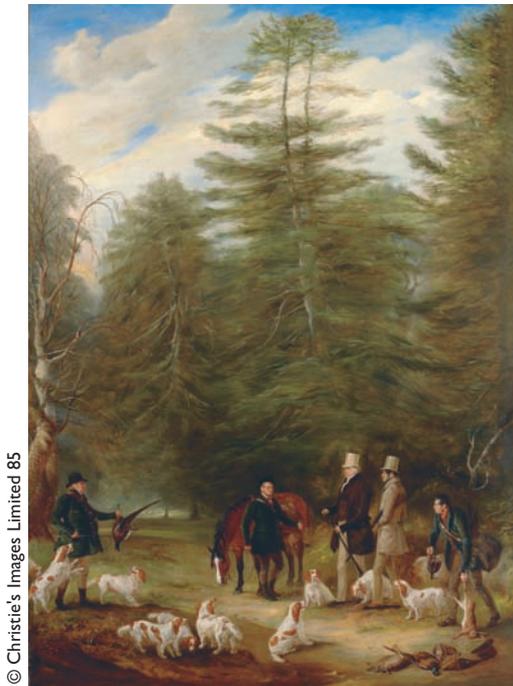
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The Return from Shooting, 1788, at Clumber Park
Painted by Francis Wheatley R.A.
Courtesy of Sheffield Gallery & Trust



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Silver Firs at Osberton, by John Ferneley Sr., 1835
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