

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

## Terminology pertaining to the English Cocker Spaniel

Presented by the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America's Breed Education Committee

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**\*Terms for desirable or general traits appear in white areas, terms for undesirable traits in shaded areas.**

## Type

<b>Balance</b>	When all the parts of the dog, moving or standing, produce a harmonious image
<b>Cockery</b>	Compactly built dog of moderation, a lot of dog in a small space, free from exaggeration, befitting the standard.
<b>Cobby</b>	Compact, short bodied and square.
<b>Moderate</b>	A dog that is not extreme, nor excessive; neither too much nor too little.
<b>Substance</b>	Possessing generous bone, body and muscling.
<b>Station</b>	Comparative height from the ground, as in high-stationed or low stationed. <i>Stationing</i> .
<b>Typey</b>	Possessing breed specific qualities called for in the breed standard.

<b>Cloddy</b>	Low, thickset, comparatively heavy.
<b>Coarse</b>	Heavy to the extreme, <i>cloddy</i> , <i>overdone</i> .
<b>Settery</b>	The opposite of <i>cockery</i> , of comparatively slight build, long in body, high on leg, light-framed; gangly, elegant. Also called <i>rangy</i> or <i>racy</i>
<b>Shelly</b>	A shallow, narrow body, lacking the correct amount of bone.

## Movement

<b>Bustling</b>	"Merry nature with ever-wagging tail" shows a typical bustling movement, particularly when following scent, fearless of heavy cover, alive with energy and intent.
<b>Drive</b>	A solid thrusting of the hindquarters, denoting sound locomotion.
<b>Effortless</b>	Moving without friction or wasted motion.
<b>Trot</b>	A rhythmic two-beat diagonal gait in which the feet at diagonal opposite ends of the body strike the ground together; i.e., right hind with left front and left hind with right front. Also called <i>two-beat gait</i> or <i>good timing</i> .
<b>Reach</b>	Using the front on the move, extending the front leg to the end of the nose.

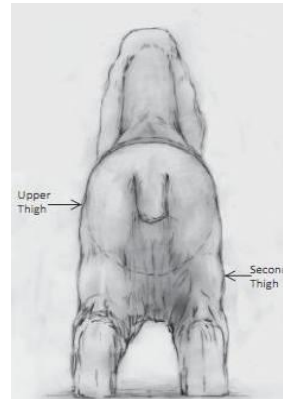
<b>Crabbing</b>	Dog moves with its body at an angle to the line of travel. Also called <i>sidewinding</i> .
<b>Crossing over</b>	Unsound gaiting action that starts with twisting elbows and ends with crisscrossing and toeing out. Also called <i>knitting</i> and <i>purling</i> and <i>weaving</i> .
<b>Hackney action</b>	A high lifting of the front feet accompanied by flexing of the wrist like that of a hackney horse.
<b>High in the Rear</b>	Moving with a reverse slope to the topline.
<b>Mincing</b>	Taking small steps underneath its self.

## Movement (cont.)

- Padding** A compensating action to offset constant concussion when a straight front is subjected to overdrive from the rear; the front feet flip upward in a split-second delaying action to coordinate the stride of the forelegs with the longer stride from behind.
- Padding** A gaiting fault, so named for its similarity to the swing and dip of a canoeists paddle. Pinching in at the elbows and shoulder joints causes the front legs to swing forward on a stiff outward arc. Also called *tied at the elbows*.
- Pounding** Gaiting fault resultant of a dog's stride being shorter in the front than in the rear; forefeet strike the ground hard before the rear stride is expended, also known as *poor foot timing*.
- Overextending in front** When the front extends too far (past the end of the nose) causing the wasted motion of flipping the front foot and/or landing on the back of the pad.
- Overreaching** Fault in the trot caused by more angulation and drive from behind than in front so that the rear feet are forced to step to one side of the forefeet to avoid interfering or clipping.
- Single tracking** All footprints falling on a single line of travel. A correctly made English Cocker cannot single track.
- Stilted** The choppy, up-and-down gait of the straight-hocked dog.

## Body

- Bodied up** Mature, well-developed.
- Close-coupled** Comparatively short from the last rib to the commencement of the hindquarters; occasionally used to characterize a comparative shortness from withers to hipbones.
- Croup** The region of the pelvic girdle, formed by the sacrum and surrounding tissue.
- Depth of chest** An indication of the volume of space for heart and lungs, and commonly referenced to the elbow (i.e., above, at the level of, or below).i.e., forelegs, chest, brisket, and shoulder line.
- Front** The forepart of the body as viewed head-on and from the side.
- Hammy** Upper and Lower thighs thick, solid, well muscled.
- Heart-shaped rib** When viewed in cross section, the rib cage should spring out in a fairly horizontal manner then taper to meet at or below the elbow. The ribbing is also narrower underneath the scapula and upper arm, allowing for more efficient movement. The rib should never be so narrow or shallow as to have insufficient lung capacity, nor so wide at it's lowest point (*barrel*) to obstruct efficient movement.
- Layback** The angle of the shoulder blade as compared with the vertical plane viewed from the side.



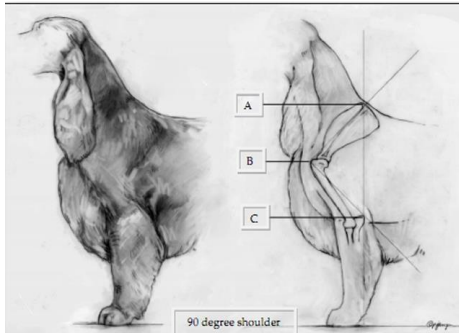
## Body (cont.)

**Loin** The region of the body associated with the lumbar portions of the vertebrae column (i.e., behind the ribs and in front of the pelvic girdle).

**Ribbed up** Long, well sprung ribs that angle back from the spinal column. A reference to a long rib cage.

**Second thigh** That part of the hindquarters from the stifle to the hock, corresponding to the human shin and calf. Lower thigh, including the tibia and fibula.

**Sloping shoulder** The shoulder blade set obliquely or *laid back* towards the rear of the dog.



**Standing over the front** When viewed from the side, a dog with a correctly constructed shoulder and upper arm, placing the front legs well underneath the dog for proper body support.

**Sternum** Breastbone.

**Stifle** The joint of the hind leg between the thigh and the second thigh. The dog's knee.

**Tail set** How the base of the tail is set on the rump.

**Topline** The dog's outline from just behind the withers to the tail set.

**Upper arm** The section from the point of the shoulder to back of the elbow.

**Barrel** A rib region that is round in cross section

**Ewe neck** A neck in which the topline is concave rather than convex. Associated with a *straight shoulder*.

**Goose neck** An elongated, tubular-shaped neck. Also called *swan neck*.

**Rumpy** Too steep or sloping a croup, rising too much over the hip.

**Loaded shoulders** Excessive development of the muscles associated with the shoulder blades.

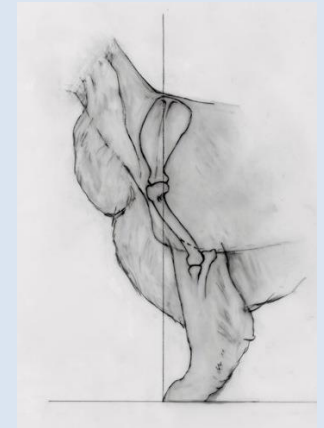
**Roach back** A convex curvature of the back involving thoracic and lumbar regions

**Slab sided** Flat ribs with too little spring from the spinal column.

**Sickle hocked** Inability to straighten the hock joint on the back reach of the hind leg when in motion.

**Straight front** Viewed from the side the shoulder blades are open angled with an upper arm that is straight and / or short.

**Tipped front** Viewed from the side, the shoulder is tipped forward, placing the withers well forward of the elbow.



## Body (cont.)

**Tubular rib** From above will appear to have good ribspring, but from the side, the ribs aren't deep (nowhere near approaching the elbow) & appear like a tube running along the side of the topline.

**Pronounced Tuck-up** Characterized by markedly shallower body depth at the loin. Small-waisted.

## Head

**Cushion** Fullness or thickness of the upper lips.

**Chiseled** Clean-cut in head, finely finished, as contrasted with bumpy or bulging outlines, particularly beneath the eyes.

**Haw** A third eyelid or membrane on the inside corner of the eye.

**Head planes** Viewed in profile, the contours of the top portion of the skull from occiput to stop, and the foreface from stop to tip of the nose. In the English Cocker Spaniel, arched and slightly flattened when



seen both from the side and from the front. Viewed in profile, the brow appears not appreciably higher than the back-skull. Viewed from above, the sides of the skull are in planes roughly parallel to those of the muzzle.

**Expression** The general appearance of all the features of the head.

**Foreface** The front portion of the skull that articulates with the cranium

**Occiput** Dorsal, posterior point of the skull.

**Stop** The step up from muzzle to back skull; indentation between the eyes where the nasal bones and cranium meet.

**Zygomatic arch** A bony ridge extending posteriorly (and laterally) from beneath the eye orbit.

**Blocky** Square or cube-like formation of the head.

**Flat skull** Lacking the arch in the skull when viewed both from the side and from the front. Appearing very flat above the eyes.

**Dewlap** Loose, pendulous skin under the throat and neck. Also called *throaty*.

**Dish-faced** A slight concaveness of foreface when viewed in profile.

**Domed** Evenly rounded in top skull; curved, not flat.

**Down-faced** The muzzle inclining downwards from the skull to the tip of the nose.

**Pendulous flews** Loose, overdone lateral part of a dog's upper Lip.

## Head (cont.)

- Roman nose** Viewed in profile, the muzzle rises to form a slight convex line from the nose tip to the skull.
- Skully** Thick and course through the back skull.
- Snipy** A pointed, weak muzzle, lacking breadth and depth.

## Legs and Feet

- Cat foot** Neat, round foot, with high-arched toes held closely together with thick pads.
- Hocks well let down** Hock joints close to the ground; a short hock.
- Pads** Tough, shock-absorbing projections on the underside of the feet. Soles.
- Down in pastern** Weak or faulty pastern set at an incorrect angle.
- Straight in pastern** Little or no bend at the wrist.
- Paper foot** A flat foot with thin pads.
- Splayfoot** A flat foot with toes spreading. *Open foot, open-toed.*

## Coat

- Double coat** An outer coat resistant to weather and protective against brush and brambles, together with an undercoat of softer hair for warmth and waterproofing.
- Guard hairs** The longer, smoother, stiffer hairs that grow through and normally conceal the undercoat.

*"An English Cocker should have the face of a duchess,  
and the bottom of the cook....."*

