

Irish Water Spaniel

Height – Dogs 22” to 24”; Bitches – 21” to 23”

--Slightly rectangular in appearance.

Weight – Dogs 55 to 68 lbs., Bitches 45 to 58 lbs.

Distinguishing Characteristics: Topknot of long, loose curls and a body covered with a dense, crisply curled liver colored coat contrasted by a smooth face and a smooth “rat” tail.

Head – Cleanly chiseled. **Skull** – Large and high in dome with prominent occiput and gradual **Stop**. **Muzzle** – Long, deep and somewhat square in appearance with a strong underjaw. **Lips** – Fine in texture, tight and dry.

Nose – Large and dark liver. **Teeth** – Scissors or level. **Eyes** – Comparatively small, almond shaped, medium to dark brown or dark amber. **Ears** – Long, lobular, set low, hanging close to head. **Neck** – Long, arching, strong and muscular. **Body** – Medium length. Ribs carried well back well sprung. Brisket extends to elbows. **Topline** – Rear equal or slightly higher than front. No sag or roach. **Back** – Strong, broad and level. **Loin** – short, wide, muscular and deep. **Croup** – Rounded and full. **Tail** – Strong, low set, carried level with the back; does not reach hock.

Forelegs – Well-boned, muscular and straight, set well under the withers.

Hindquarters – Sound and powerful. Stifles and hocks moderately bent. Hocks set low. Angulation balanced with front. **Feet** – Large, round, well covered with hair. Pads are thick.

Coat – Of vital importance. Short and smooth on face framed by topknot and ears of long, loose curls. Smooth on throat forming a V-shaped patch from back of lower jaw behind beard to breast- bone. Remainder of neck, body and base of tail are covered with dense, tight, crisp curls.

Remainder of tail is short and smooth coated. Forelegs covered to feet with curls and waves. Hindlegs covered with curls and waves except hair is short and smooth on front of legs below the hocks.

Color – Rich liver to dark liver.

Gait – Moves freely and soundly with balanced reach and drive.

Temperament – Very alert, inquisitive and active. Endearing sense of humor.