

= Blue Picardy Spaniel =

The Blue Picardy Spaniel (or Épagneul Bleu de Picardie) is a breed of Spaniel originating in France , from the area around the mouth of the River Somme , around the start of the 20th century . It is descended from Picardy Spaniels and English Setters , and is described as a quiet breed that requires much exercise due to its stamina . It is especially good with children . Similar to the Picardy Spaniel , it has a distinctive coloured coat . Recognised by only a handful of kennel associations , the breed is predominantly known in France and Canada .

= = Description = =

= = = Appearance = = =

A Blue Picardy Spaniel on average is around 22 ? 24 inches (56 ? 61 cm) high at the withers and weighs 43 ? 45 pounds (20 ? 20 kg) . Its coat is speckled grey black forming a bluish shade , with some black patches . The coat is flat or a little wavy with feathering on the ears , legs , underside and tail . It has long legs with some setter characteristics .

It has a long broad nose and muzzle , with thick ears covered in silky hair that usually end around the tip of the muzzle . Its chest is of medium size that descends down to the same level as the elbows . Both the forequarters and the hindquarters are well muscled . Its tail typically does not extend beyond the hock and is normally straight .

The breed has many similarities with the Picardy Spaniel due to the two breeds ' recent history . The Blue Spaniel is described as being softer , as well as the obvious difference in coat color . The Picardy has a brown coat whereas the Blue Picardy has a black and grey coat , which was brought into the breed by the introduction of English Setter blood . Similar in the modern era due to the close similarities of the two different breed standards . In addition , the Blue Picardy is a little faster , and has a slightly finer nose .

= = = Temperament = = =

It is a versatile hunting dog , used for its ability to locate and retrieve game in harsh and adverse terrain and conditions . It is not specialised to any one type of terrain , and tends to score well in field trials . The Blue Picardy is considered to be a quiet breed , but requires a great deal of exercise as it has a high level of stamina . It loves to play , and is a responsive and obedient breed which thrives on human companionship . It is especially good with children .

= = Health = =

The breed has no known genetic health issues . Blue Picardy Spaniels can be prone to ear infections , which are common among dogs with pendulous ears , including Basset Hounds and other breeds of Spaniel . It has an average life expectancy of thirteen years .

= = History = =

The first French Spaniel is speculated to have appeared following the Crusades of the 11th century , and it was these breeds of dogs that were described in Gaston III of Foix @-@ Béarn 's 14th @-@ century work Livre de Chasse . Following the French Revolution the commoners in France were allowed to raise and keep their own hunting dogs . This in turn meant that the pre @-@ existing French Spaniel split into several types specific to their own regions , which were classified according to physical appearance and hunting abilities .

At the turn of the 20th century the area around the mouth of the River Somme was considered a paradise for hunters interested in wildfowl . Because of quarantine restrictions in the United

Kingdom , British shooters would board their dogs in the Picardy area , near the mouth of the Somme . This caused the infusion of English Setter blood into the local Spaniel population and developed the Blue Picardy Spaniel .

While the first black , blue @-@ grey Spaniel was recorded in 1875 , it was not until 1904 when the Picardy Spaniel was first shown . This Spaniel was officially classified as a French Spaniel , and was shown at the Paris Canine Exposition . When the Picard Spaniel and Blue Picardy Spaniel Club was formed in 1907 the two different breeds of Picardy Spaniel were categorised .

In France , the Blue Picardy was recognised as a separate breed in 1938 , and there are about 1000 puppies born in France each year . The first person to import the Blue Picardy Spaniel into Canada was Ronald Meunier of Saint @-@ Julien , Quebec , around 1987 , and the breed was then recognised by the Canadian Kennel Club effective 1 June 1995 . The breed is recognised by the American Rare Breed Association , which uses the same standard as the Fédération Cynologique Internationale .