

= Picardy Spaniel =

The Picardy Spaniel is a breed of dog developed in France for use as a gundog . It is related to the Blue Picardy Spaniel , and still has many similarities , but the Picardy Spaniel is the older of the two breeds . It is thought to be one of the two oldest continental spaniel breeds and was favoured by the French nobility , remaining popular for hunting after the French Revolution due to its weather resistant coat that enabled it to hunt in a variety of conditions and terrain . However its popularity waned following the influx of English hunting breeds in the early 20th century . Slightly smaller than an English Setter but larger than most of its spaniel cousins , it has no major health issues although as with many breeds with pendulous ears , it can be prone to ear infections .

= = History = =

The French Spaniel and the Picardy Spaniel are considered to be the two oldest continental breeds of spaniel . Both breeds are speculated to have stemmed from the Chien d ' Oysel described in the writings of Gaston Phoebus . Hunting during this period in France was one of the favourite sports of the nobility and the French type of Spaniel became the favourite hunting dog of the French Royalty . The breed can be seen in paintings dating from this period by artists Alexandre @-@ François Desportes and Jean @-@ Baptiste Oudry . They were also the first breed of dog to be admitted into salons .

The breed became more popular still following the French Revolution and the aftermath in which hunting was no longer restricted to the nobility . Although spread throughout France , a large concentration was located in the north west where the weather resistant coat of the breed made it ideal for the wooded and swampy conditions . During the early 19th century , British hunters crossed the channel to hunt in the grounds of north west France . The British brought their own hunting dogs , and this resulted in a change of preference as French hunters switched to English breeds and caused a major blow to the existence of the Picardy Spaniel . In addition the infusion of blood from the English Setter into the local spaniel population created the Blue Picardy Spaniel .

= = = Recognition = = =

The Epagneul Picard Club was formed in 1921 and was merged with the Club of Blue Picardy Spaniel on 28 July 1937 . A further merger took place on 21 May 1980 when these clubs merged with the Pont @-@ Audemer Club to form the Club des Epagneuls Picards , Bleus de Picardie & Pont Audemer .

The Picardy Spaniel is recognised by a variety of Kennel Clubs and associations including the North American Kennel Club , American Rare Breed Association , United Kennel Club , and the Fédération Cynologique Internationale . All four associations use the standard as set by the FCI . It is also recognised by the Continental Kennel Club , but unlike the closely related Blue Picardy Spaniel , it is not recognised by the Canadian Kennel Club .

= = Description = =

= = = Appearance = = =

Typical examples of the breed measure between 22 ? 24 inches (56 ? 61 cm) at the withers , with the average weight between 20 ? 25 kilograms (44 ? 55 lb) . The breed is similar in size to the English Setter , although is slightly smaller . Of the Spaniel type breeds , only the Large Münsterländer and Drentse Patrijshond are recognised as possibly growing to larger sizes , with the Drentse measuring 21 @. @ 5 ? 25 @. @ 5 in (55 ? 65 cm) , and the Münsterländer slightly smaller with a narrower range at 23 ? 25 in (58 ? 64 cm) .

The breed has a squarely built muscular body and an oval shaped head with a long muzzle and

long ears that hang fairly low . Its coat can vary in colours from chocolate , chestnut brown and white with sandy coloured markings on the head and white or grey spots on the legs . Its hair is abundant with a slight wave , enabling it to work in dense cover and even in water .

= = = Temperament = = =

The Picardy Spaniel is a docile breed of dog and is fond of playing with children and bonds well with their master . It is described as having a gentle sociable nature , possessing a good character and being relatively easy to train . In France , the breed is used for hunting in wooded areas for Pheasants , and in swamps for Snipes . However it can also be used for hunting ducks , hares and rabbits . The breed excels at hunting in marshes and will not hesitate to jump into water . It can also adequately serve as a retriever should it be required . The dog is content with a small amount of space and could suit life in the city , but also loves open spaces .

= = Health = =

The Picardy Spaniel has no known hereditary health problems , and has an average lifespan of 14 years . However being a hunting spaniel , the breed is prone to ear infections . These infections are common among dogs with pendulous ears , including Basset Hounds and other breeds of spaniel . Overfeeding a Picardy Spaniel may lead to overweight .