

The English Setter Association of America



2012 Judges' Education
Presentation

The first dog registered with the AKC was Adonis, an English Setter.



"I was taught that in order to properly interpret the standard of a breed it is necessary to know the underlying reasons for which it was written."

Alva Rosenberg

**Original
Purpose & History
of the
English Setter**



"A dog developed by man as a tool to aid him in the hunting of game birds."





Mother nature has given upland game birds a natural camouflage. They blend into their surroundings so well that you can walk within a few feet of them and not know they are there.

"A dog that will locate game birds by detecting the bird scent in the air currents and not follow foot or ground scent"



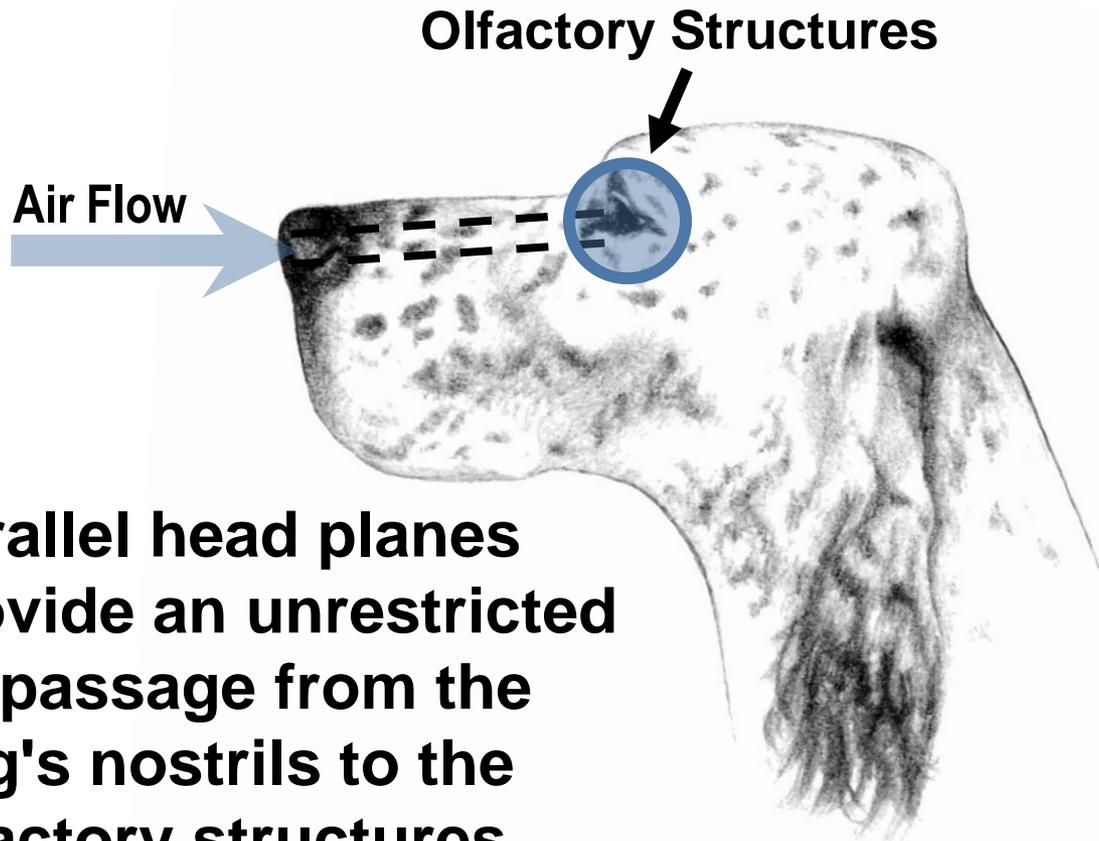
Hunter



Bird

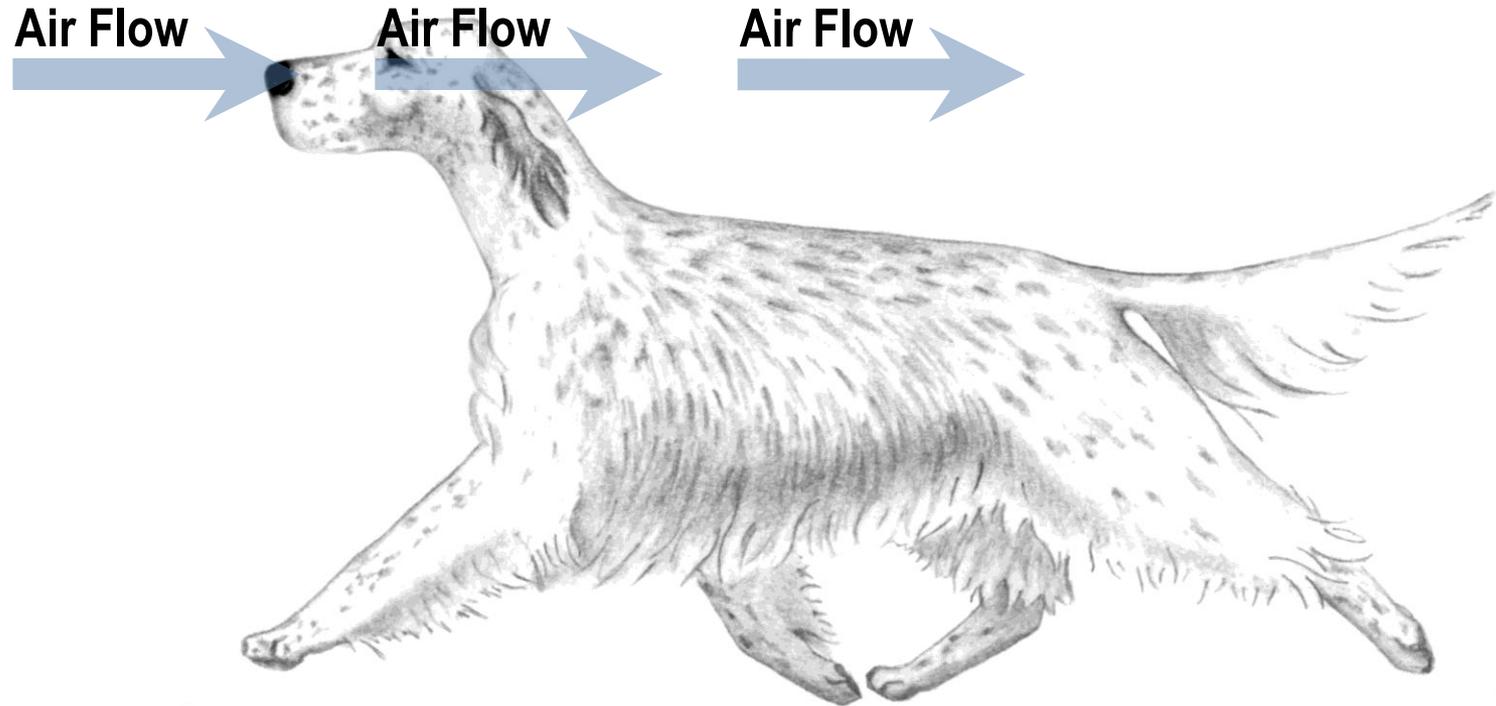
Wind

"The Brain Box"

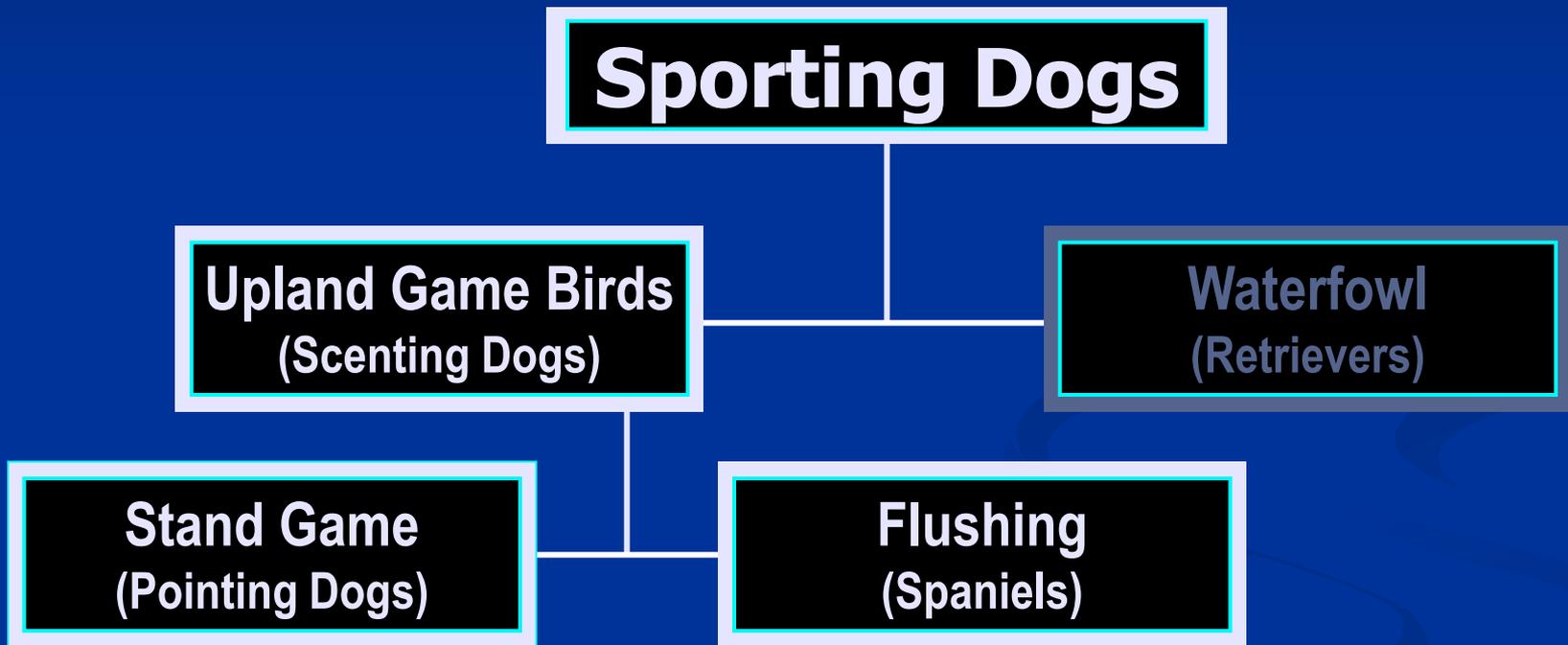


Parallel head planes provide an unrestricted air passage from the dog's nostrils to the olfactory structures.

The Functional Way of Going



"A dog developed by man as a tool to aid him in the hunting of game birds."



Sporting Dogs

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graph TD; SD[Sporting Dogs] --- UGB["Upland Game Birds  
(Scenting Dogs)"]; SD --- WF["Waterfowl  
(Retrievers)"]; UGB --- SG["Stand Game  
(Pointing Dogs)"]; UGB --- F["Flushing  
(Spaniels)"]; SG --- S[Setters]; S --- I[Irish]; S --- EN[English]; S --- G[Gordon]; S --- RW[Red & White];
```

Upland Game Birds
(Scenting Dogs)

Waterfowl
(Retrievers)

Stand Game
(Pointing Dogs)

Flushing
(Spaniels)

Setters

Irish

English

Gordon

Red & White

The Setters... Four Individual Breeds

There are four individual breeds of setters recognized by the American Kennel Club.



Always remember that the Setter was developed as a tool and we modify our tools as our needs change.

The Scenting Gundog

"In spite, however, of the numerous families into which the Setter is now divided, there can be no doubt that the origin of each was the Spaniel, and it is a curious subject for contemplation that Spain should have the credit of supplying us with the three breeds of sporting dogs – Spaniels, Setters and Pointers – upon which we English so greatly pride ourselves.

The credit of improving these dogs is of course our own, but it is impossible to claim any one of them as indigenous to this country, closely identified with it as we are at the time of this writing."

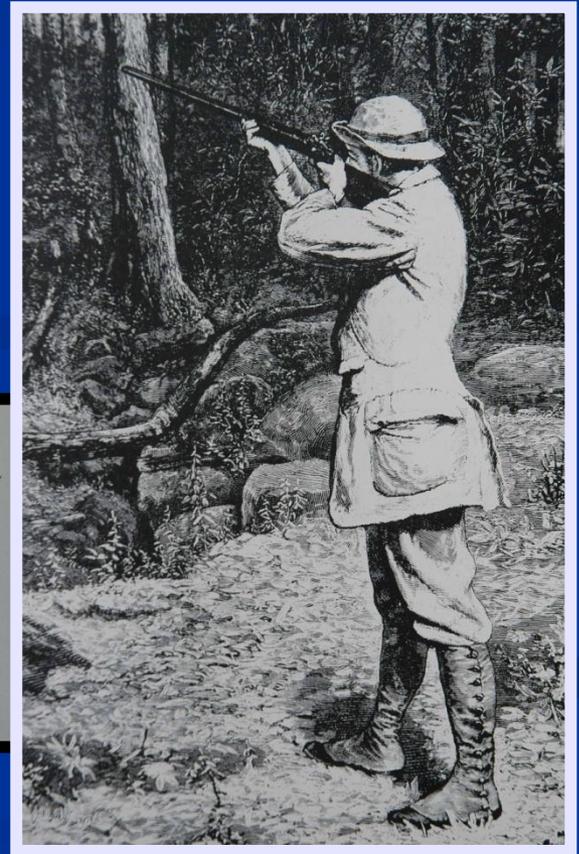
From: *The Illustrated Book of the Dog* by Vero Shaw,
published in England, 1879.



"Spanish Pointer"
Stubbs, George 1760

- Originally called a Setting Spaniel, the English Setter is one of the oldest gun dog breeds.
- Before the use of firearms, game birds were captured by netting.
- The English Setter would crouch down on its front legs or "set" when it found game allowing hunters to cast the net over both bird and dog.

- As guns became more popular, the pointing stance was bred into the setter so that he could be more easily seen.
- On occasion you may still see an English Setter that will point in an actual "set" position.



The Term: Setter

Before the advent of guns:

- Nets (crouches)
- Falcons



Since the advent of the shotgun:

- "**Standing**" or "**setting**" game are synonymous with what we call "pointing".
- Even within the same breed there are different styles of doing the same thing.

Setting Dogs

The earliest documented references to "setting dogs" that is found was reported by Wildermar Marr, in his book *Pointers and Setters*, published in Germany in 1963.



Marr quotes accounts that went as far back as 1335 in France, but these dogs were trained to stop at the game; they did not have the inherited trait to do so.

They were in fact hound dogs that followed ground scent and some reportedly resembled a long-haired Spaniel.

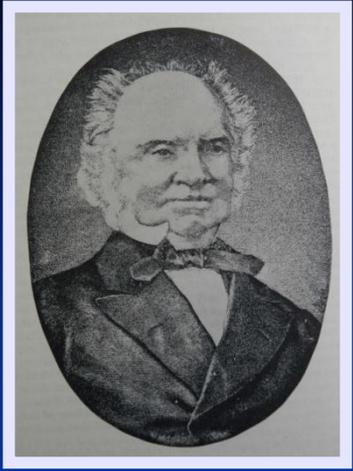
There were no reports of these or any other dog having the inherited pointing and backing instinct until the 1500s.

The earliest reports of Setters as a distinct breed possessing these instincts was recorded in England in 1776 by Rev. Simmons, a sportsman who wrote under the pen-name, A Gentleman of Sussex.

- **"Pointing"** refers to a dog becoming catatonic when strong scent of a bird enters their olfactory structures.
- **"Backing"** refers to a dog becoming catatonic when viewing another in that state.



Honoring the Point



The modern English Setter owes its appearance to **Mr. Edward Laverack** who developed his own strain of the breed by careful inbreeding during the 19th century.

Another Englishman, **Mr. R. Purcell Llewellyn** began a second strain based upon Laverack's line that today is known as the Llewellyn Setter.

This working setter is not a separate breed, but a different type, more often referred to as the Field Setter.



Llewelin English Setters in the Field



Bench Type (Laverack) English Setters in the Field











- Although the Llewelin English Setter is still the predominate type seen in the field today, Laverack English Setters are making their mark.
- The first Dual Champion finished in 1985.
- There are 14 Dual Champions to date.
- Numerous show English Setters have earned hunting titles.
- Whiskers in the show ring?



Did You Know?

- The first AKC-licensed pointing-breeds field trial was conducted by the English Setter Association of America in 1924 in Medford, NJ.



The Setters...

four

Individual Breeds



The Setters... Four Individual Breeds

Man developed the bicycle as transportation. He later redesigned it according to the geography of the land where it was used. It is for the same reason that the Setter-type dog was developed into four distinct breeds.



Geographical Determination

Irish Setter: Ireland is made up of many wide-open fields to hunt. The Irish Setter, therefore, was bred to be the fastest sporting dog.

Gordon Setter: The Scottish moors where they hunted have the heaviest cover and harshest ground in all of Great Britain.

Irish Red & White: In the rougher topography of Ireland, such as the Peat bogs.

English Setter: In England near the border of Wales, the terrain was moderate.

Irish Red & White Setter

- We have not included the Irish Red & White Setter in the following comparisons because their silhouette is so different from that of the other three setters.



Returning to the metaphor of the bicycle, we can say:

- The Irish Setter is the lightweight racing bike designed for speed and to be used on a smooth, flat surface.
- The Gordon Setter is the heavily built mountain bike, designed not for speed, but to hold up in rough off-the-road conditions.
- The English Setter and the Irish Red & White Setter would be what bicycle enthusiasts call a Hybrid or Cross and is midway between the two, designed to be used in moderate terrain.



"The Racing Bike"



"The Mountain Bike"



"The Racing Bike"



"The Cross/Hybrid Bike"



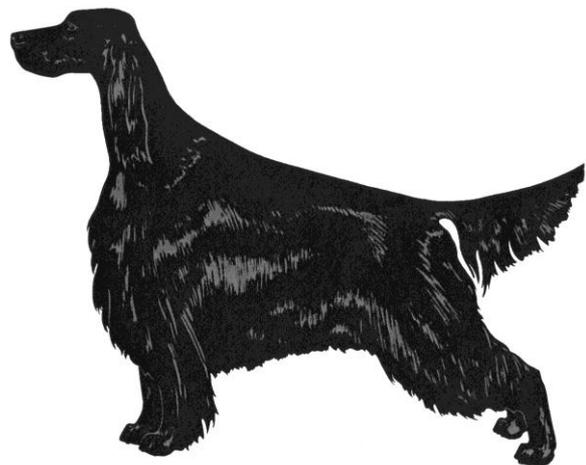
"The Mountain Bike"

The Irish Setter

The English Setter

The Gordon Setter

Irish Red & White Setter



"The Racing Bike"

"The Cross/Hybrid Bike"

"The Mountain Bike"



UK & AKC Setter Standards

	UK:	AKC:
Irish:	"Must be racy"	"A field the Irish Setter is a swift moving hunter"
Gordon:	"Consistent with its build which can be compared to a weight carrying hunter"	"He suggests strength and stamina rather than extreme speed"
Irish Red & White	"Athletic rather than racy"	"Athletic rather than racy"

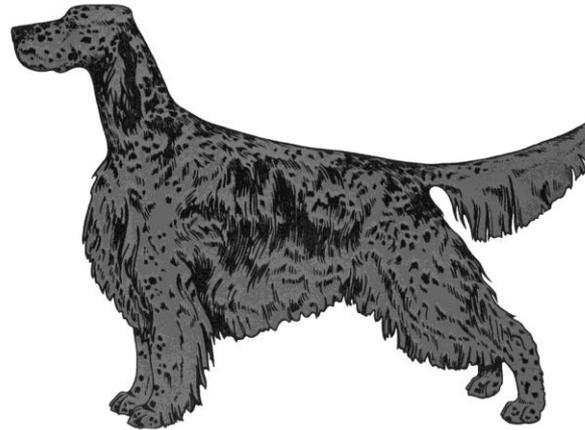
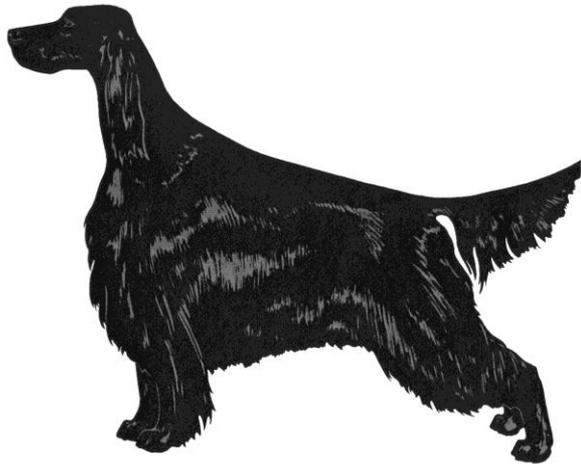
AKC English Setter Standard:

"Above all,
extremes of anything distort type
and must be faulted"

The Irish Setter

The English Setter

The Gordon Setter



A Moderate Dog

UK: "Must be Racy"

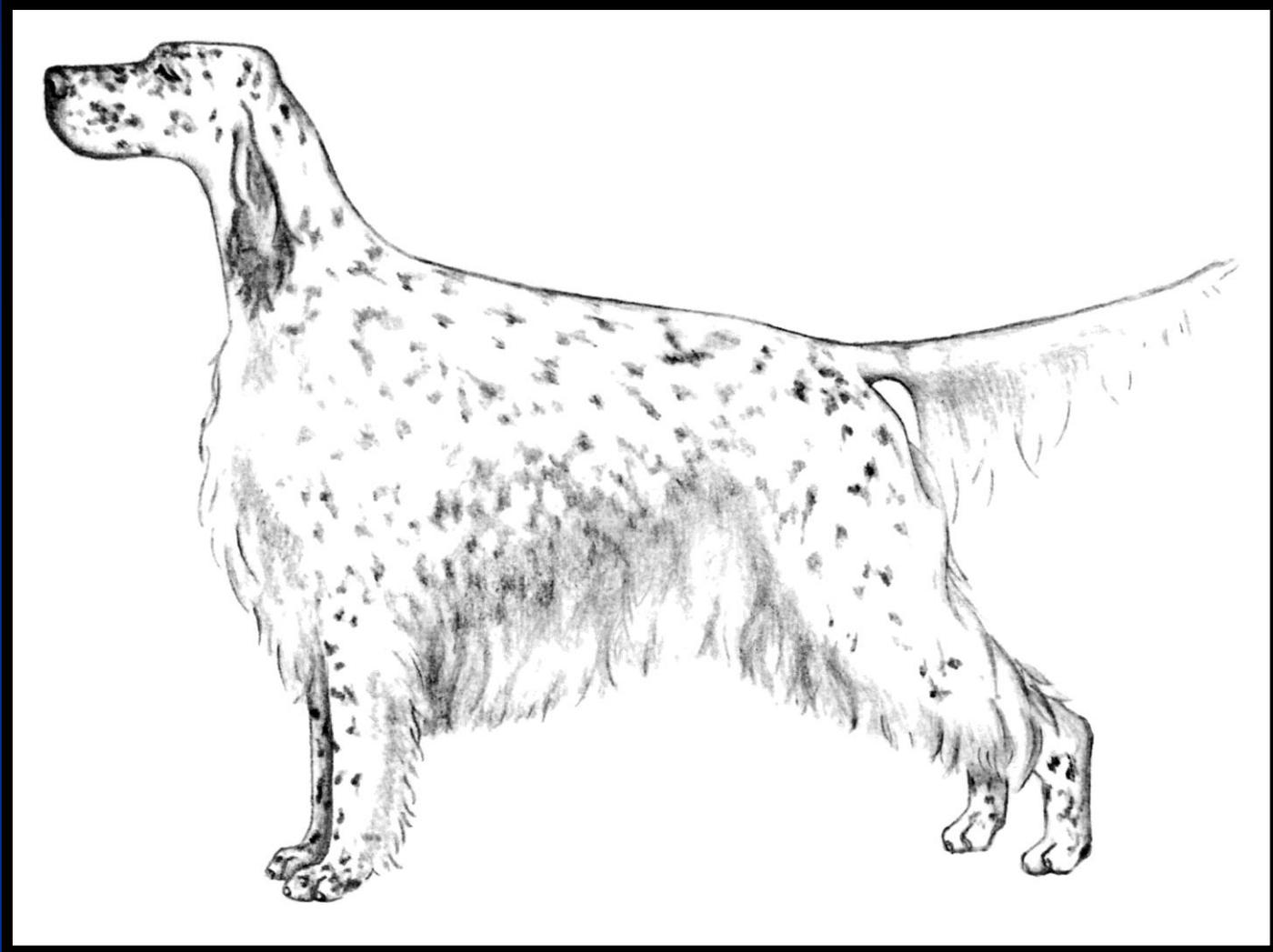
AKC: "A field the Irish Setter is a swift moving hunter"

"Above all, extremes of anything distort type and must be faulted"

UK: "Consistent with its build which can be compared to a Weight Carrying Hunter"

AKC: "He suggests strength and stamina rather than extreme speed"

The English Setter – a Moderate Dog



Looking back to better understand the modern Laverack type English Setter.

These are great English Setters from the 1940's to 1980's. All would be competitive in the ring today.



Ch. Rock Falls Colonel

- Retired from the show ring in 1955
- First dog in the history of the AKC to have won 100 Bests in Show



Ch. Rock Falls Colonel

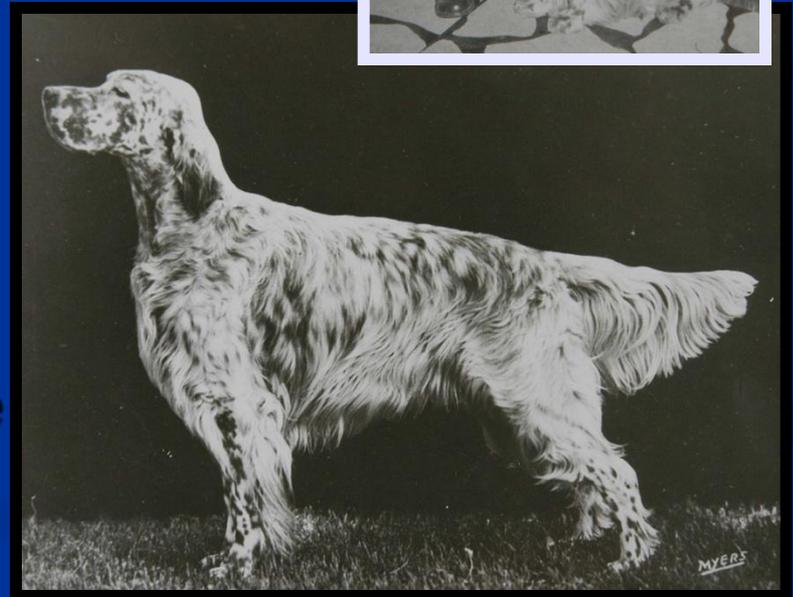
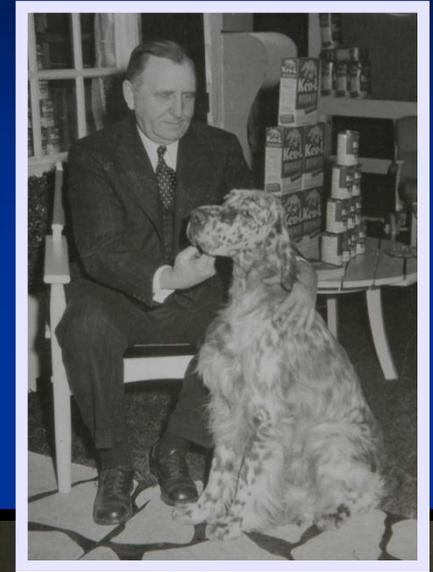


Well balanced:

- Correct front and rear angles
- Correct flow of neck into shoulder
- Correct topline

Ch. Lem of Blue Bar

- Bred by C. N. Myers of Hanover Shoe and trotting horse fame.
- Mr. Myers' was the dominate breeder of his day, producing dogs under the Blue Bar kennel name.
- Blue Bar English Setters had a tremendous influence on the breed. It is rare to find a pedigree today that does not include Blue Bar breeding.



Ch. Missy of Blue Bar



Ch. Rip of Blue Bar



Ch. Flecka's Flash of Cabin Hill



Then and Now

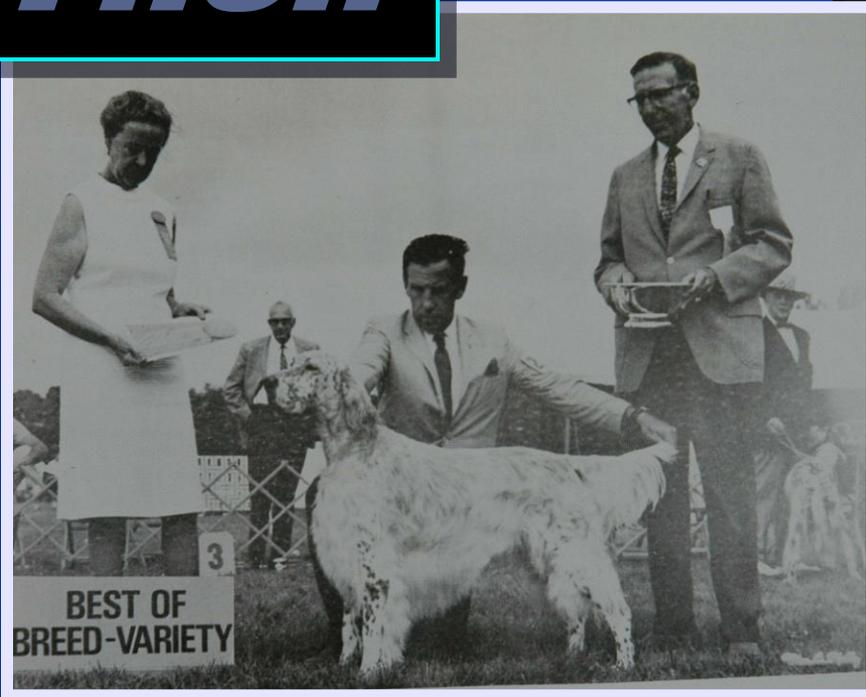
The following photos show how English Setter type has not changed significantly through the years.

Grooming style *has* changed and dogs carry more coat, partly due to better nutrition and coat care products.

Ch. Sir Kip of Manitou

- Shown in the late 1960's
- National Specialty winner in 1968 and 1969

Then





Now

Ch. Merry Rover of Valley Run

- Shown in the mid 1960's
- Won 10 Bests in Show & 8 Bests in Specialty
- 1966 National Specialty winner

Then





Now

Ch. Rip of Blue Bar



Standard
for the
English Setter



General Appearance

- An elegant, substantial and symmetrical gun dog suggesting the ideal blend of strength, stamina, grace and style.
- Flat coated with feathering of good length.
- Gaiting freely with long forward reach, strong rear drive and firm topline.
- Males decidedly masculine without coarseness.
- Females decidedly feminine without over-refinement.

Overall appearance, balance, gait and purpose to be given more emphasis than any component part.

- Above all, extremes of anything distort type and must be faulted.
- There are no disqualifying faults in the English Setter standard.

Head and Expression

Head:

- Long & lean with a well defined stop.
- Side View: Head planes are parallel.
- Top View: Skull oval and slightly wider at the ear set than at the brow.

Muzzle:

- With good depth, long and squared with fairly pendant flews and equal in length to skull.

Eyes:

- Dark brown with eyelid rims fully pigmented.
- Nearly round, neither deep set or protruding.
- Lids fit tightly so that haw is not exposed.
(so as not to collect debris in the field)

Expression:

- Should be mild and intelligent.

Ears:

- Set well back and low, even with or below eye level and of moderate length.

Observation: Orange beltons often have a shorter ear length and feathering than blues and tri colors. This is acceptable.

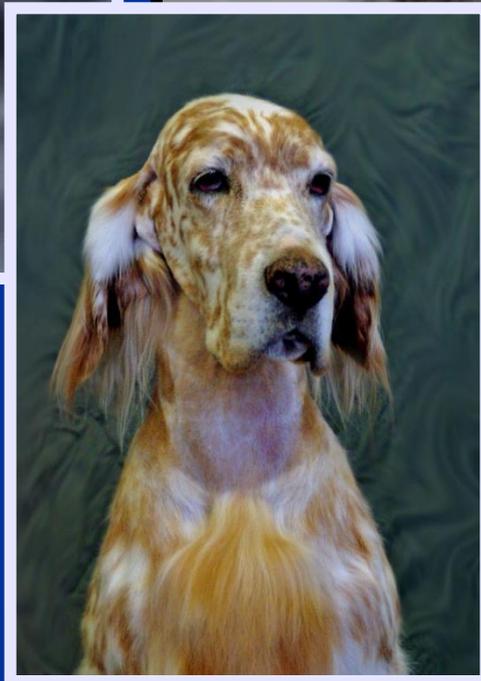
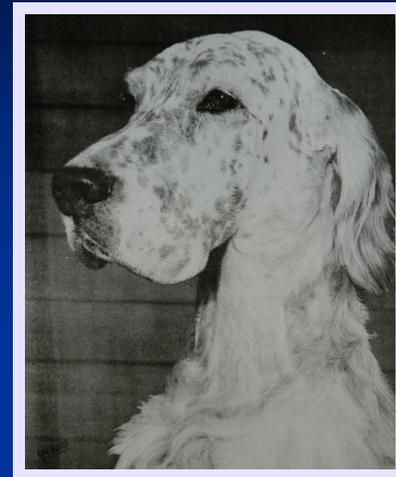
Nose:

- Black or dark brown (with allowance for winter nose) and fully pigmented.

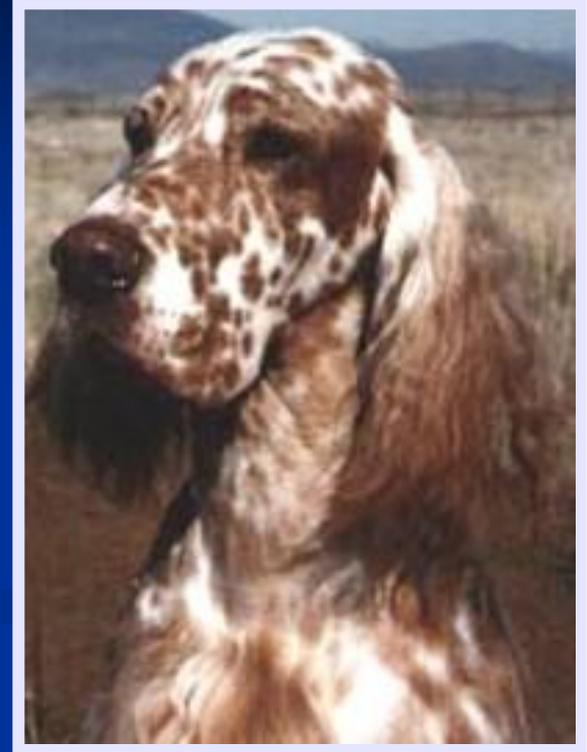
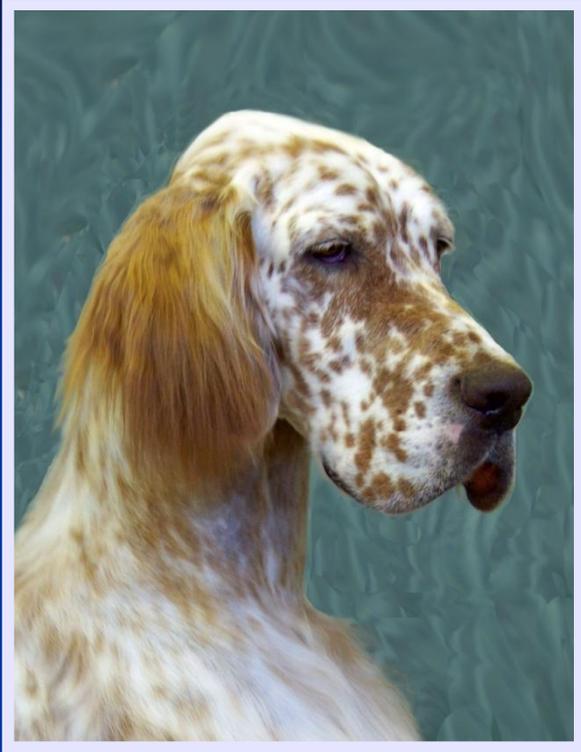
Bite:

- Scissors preferred, level acceptable.

English Setter Head Examples

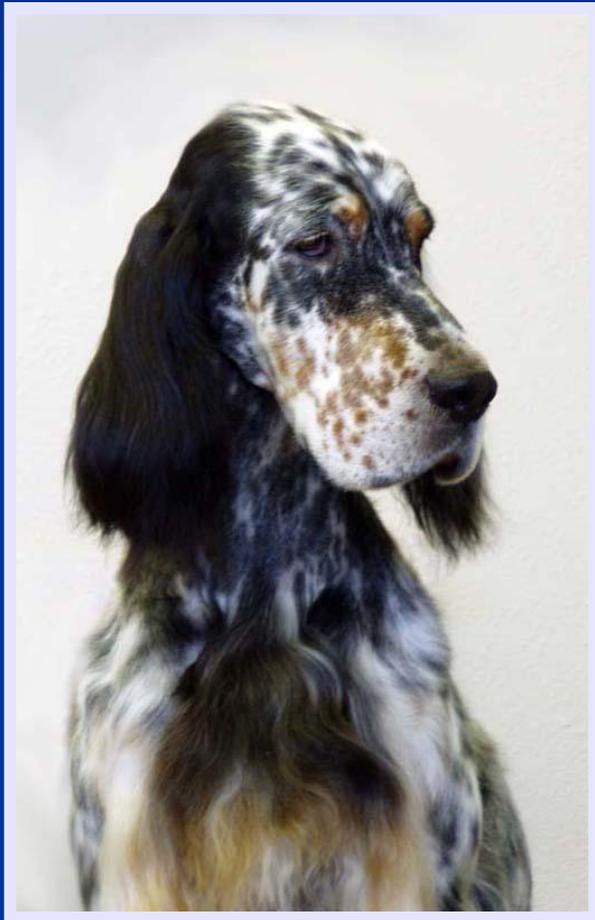


Dogs



Bitches

Soft expression and correct planes



Heads with Eye and Ear Patches

Head patches can create an optical illusion that can sometimes alter the observed shape of the head.



Height

- **Dogs:** about 25 inches
- **Bitches:** about 24 inches



Neck and Body

Neck:

- Long, muscular, lean and flowing smoothly into the shoulders. Not too throaty.

Topline:

- Strong and level or slightly sloping.

Forechest:

- Well developed with point of sternum slightly in front of shoulder.

Chest:

- Brisket deep enough to reach the level of the elbow with a gradual rib spring.

Loin:

- Strong, moderate in length. Slightly arched.

Hips:

- Croup nearly flat with hip bones wide apart.

Tail:

- Smooth continuation of the topline with length not to exceed the hock joint. Carried straight and level with the back.

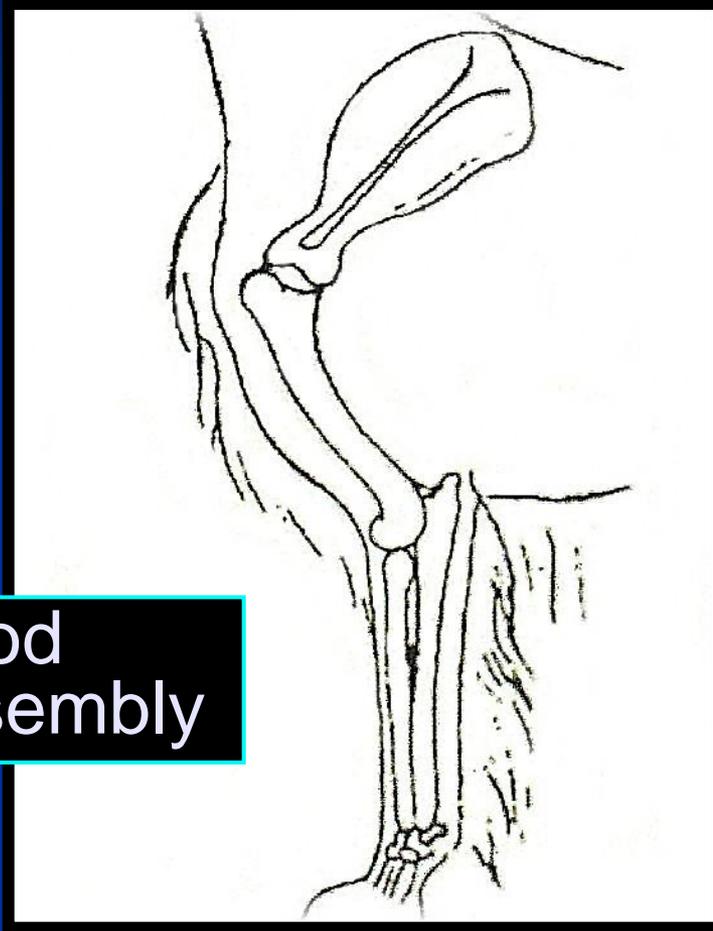
**Example of smooth neck to shoulder
and proper tail set.**



Examples of smooth neck to shoulder, proper forechest, rib spring and strong topline.



Forequarters and Hindquarters

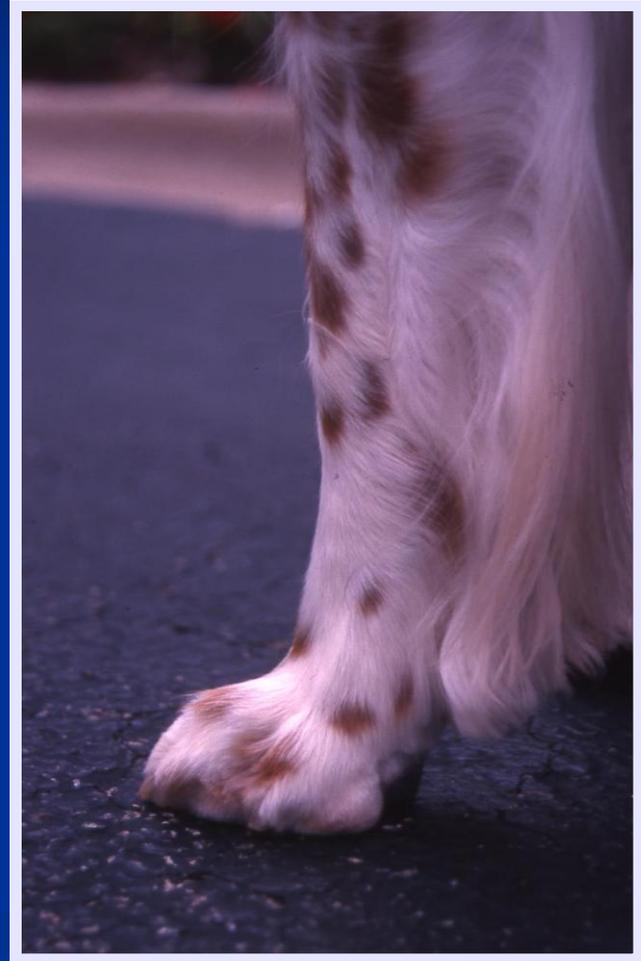
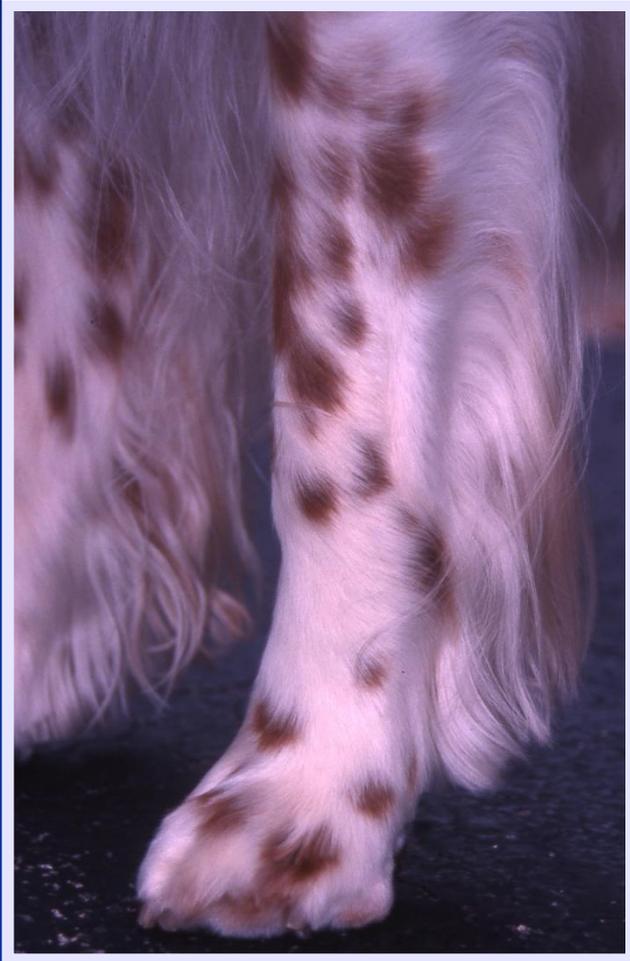


Good
Assembly

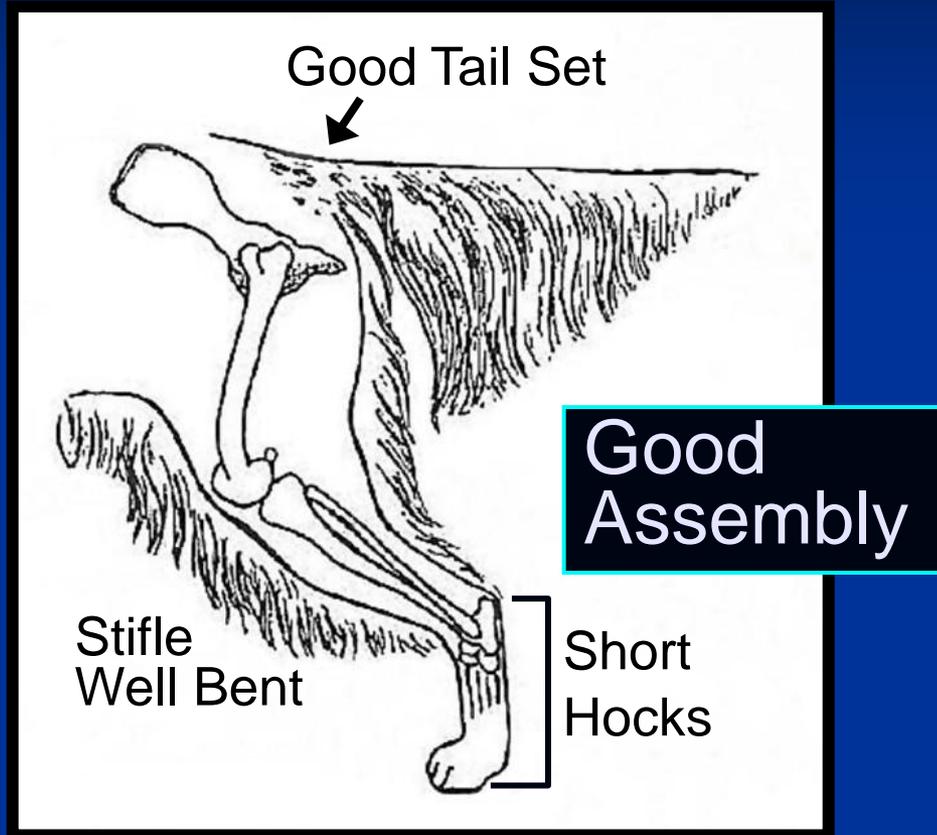


Correct Front Angle

Correct Foot and Slightly Sloping Pastern



Correct Rear Angle



Straight, Short Hock



Front and rear angles should be complimentary.



Ch. Rock Falls Colonel

Proper balanced angles provide the English Setter with the desired movement for endurance and athleticism in the field.

The English Setter is a hunting dog

Good Complimentary Angles



Coat, Markings and Color

The English Setter Coat:

- Flat without curl or wooliness.
- Feathering of good length but not so excessive as to hide true lines and movement or to affect the English Setter's appearance or function as a hunting dog.

Acceptable Colors:

- Orange Belton
- Blue Belton
- Tricolor
- Liver Belton
- Lemon Belton

The color pattern that we refer to as Belton is thought to come from the town of [Belton, England](#).

In Belton, English Setters had predominately flecked coats rather than the more popular patched color pattern of the time.

Color Patterns:

- Each color ranges from almost white or very open marked to dark roan.
- All variances are acceptable colors.
- Flecked all over is preferred—even in a dark roan, the flecking is visible.
- Head and ear patches are acceptable.
- Heavy body patches are undesirable.

Orange Beltons



Blue Beltons



Tricolors



Tricolor

Tricolor showing the typical tan points.

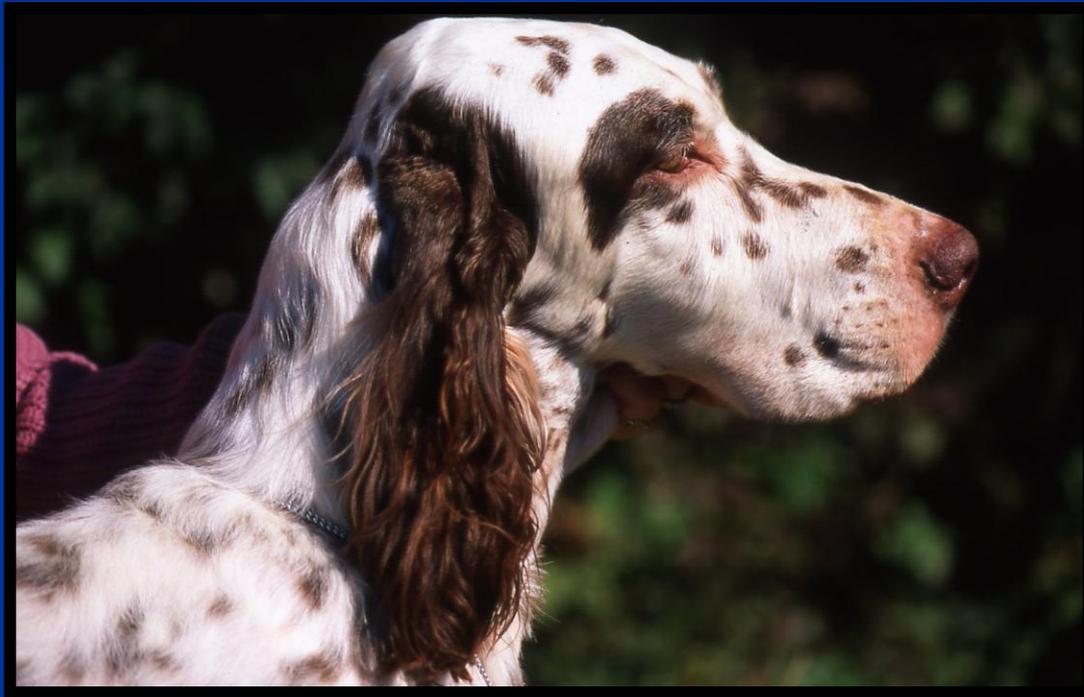


Liver Beltons

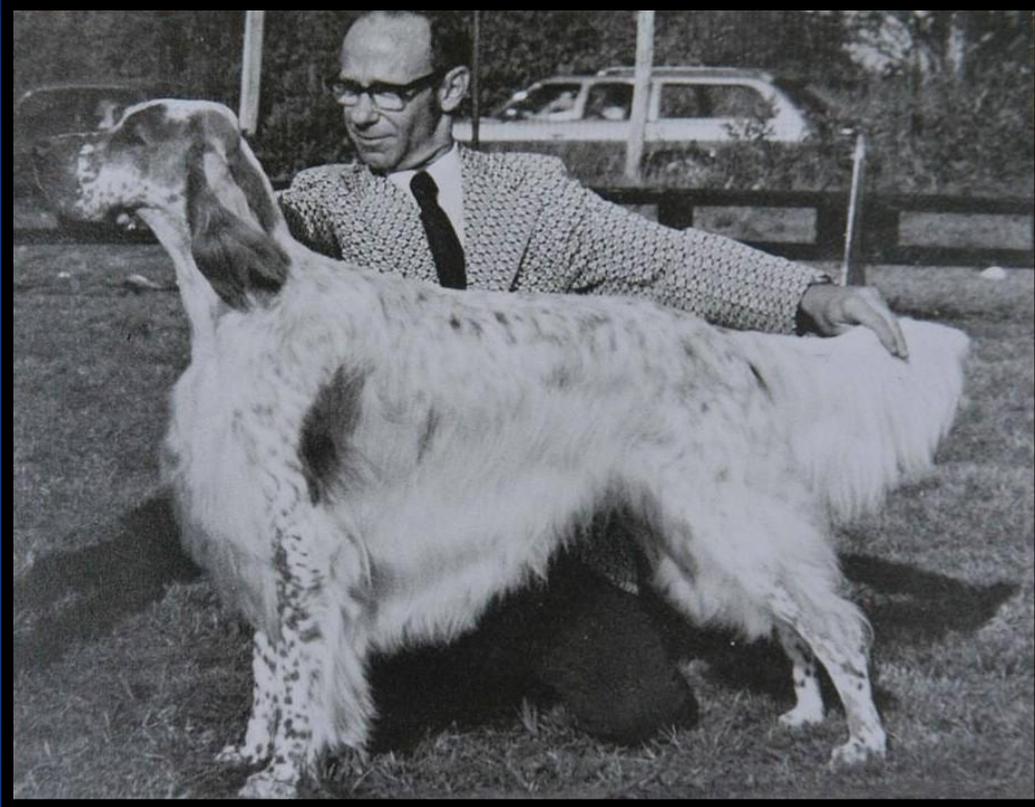


Liver Belton

Liver dogs have a lighter eye color and pigment.



Body Patches



- Head and ear patches acceptable
- Heavy body patches undesirable

Movement and Carriage

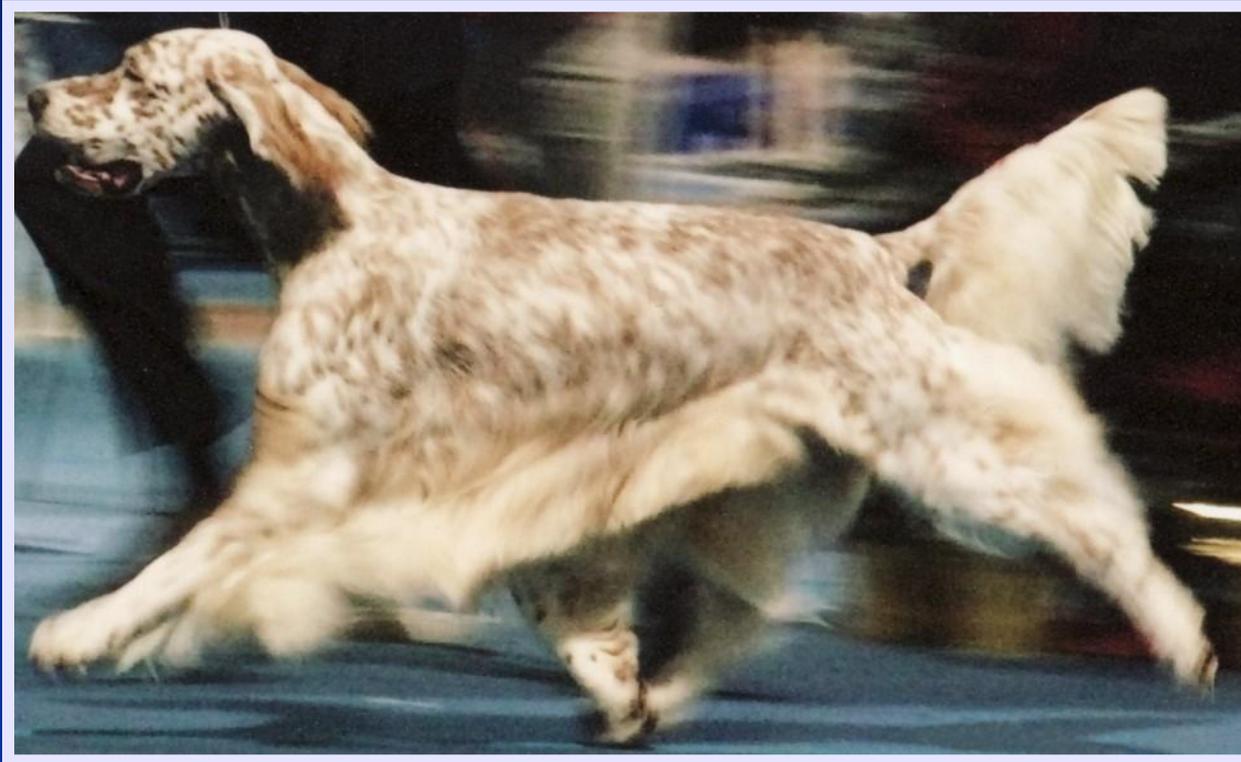


- An effortless and graceful movement demonstrating endurance.
- Long forward reach and strong drive to cover ground efficiently.



- Feet should meet in the center but not over reach each other.
- Back strong, firm and free of roll.
- At a trot, legs tend to converge towards a center line.

At a trot, the dog's stride reveals a series of triangles.



- Lively tail and proud head carriage.
(head may be carried slightly lower when moving to allow for greater reach).

- The tail should be straight and carried level with the back.
- Topline should be firm, level, strong and without roll.



Examples *of* Age Progression



The English Setter goes through several growth stages before maturity, unlike some faster maturing breeds.



Dog

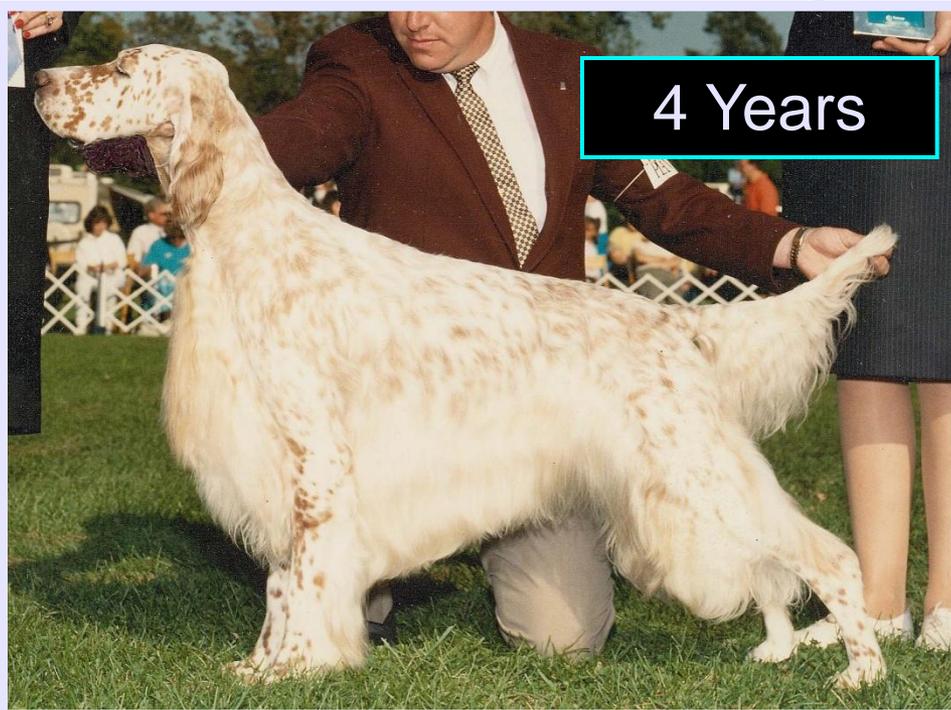
8 Weeks



20 Months



4 Years



Bitch



8 Weeks



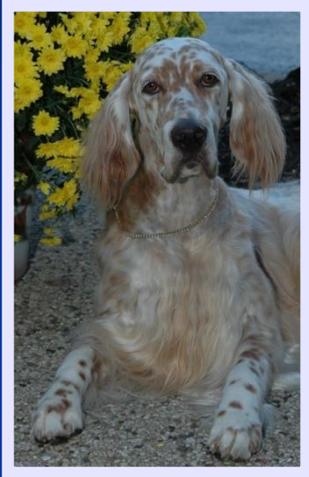
15 Months



4 Years

In Summary the English Setter is:

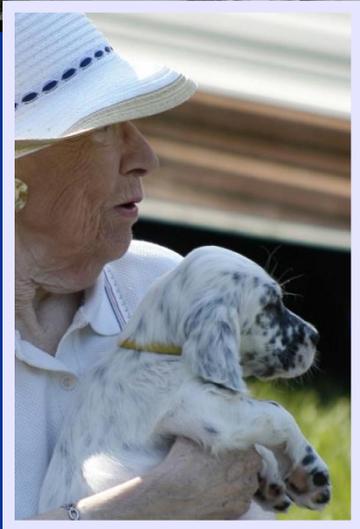
Kind in Nature and Expression.



A Balanced Hunting Dog
with...

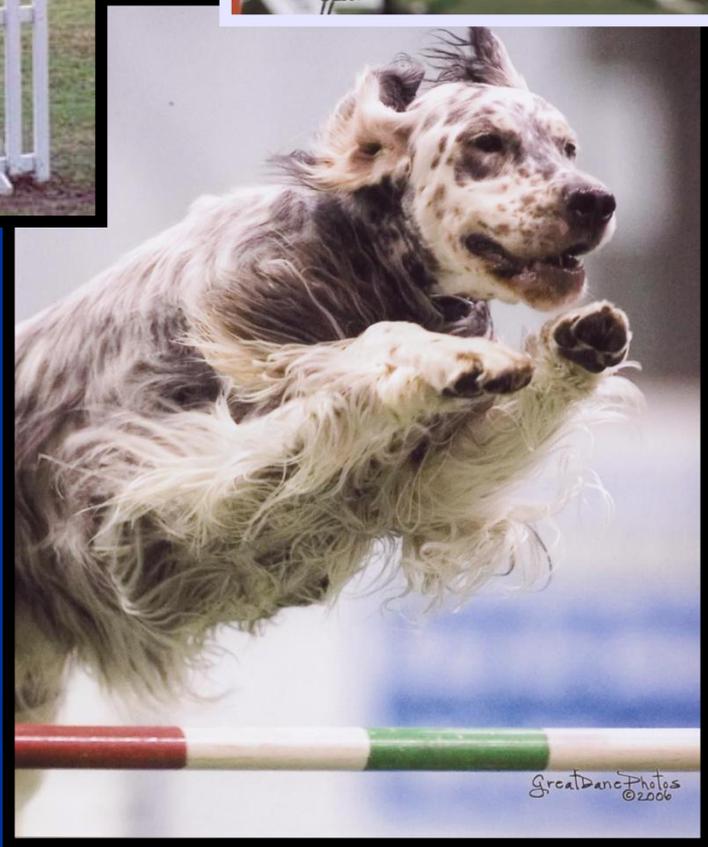


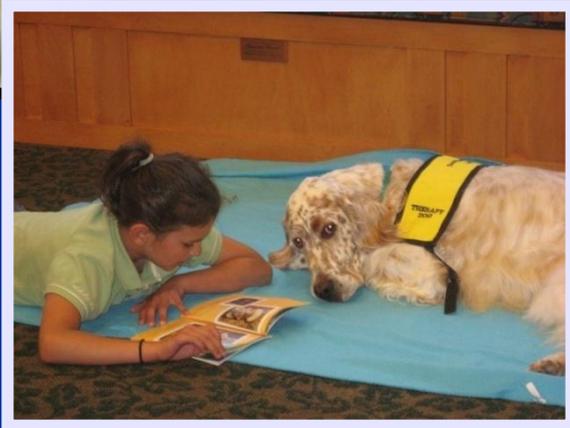
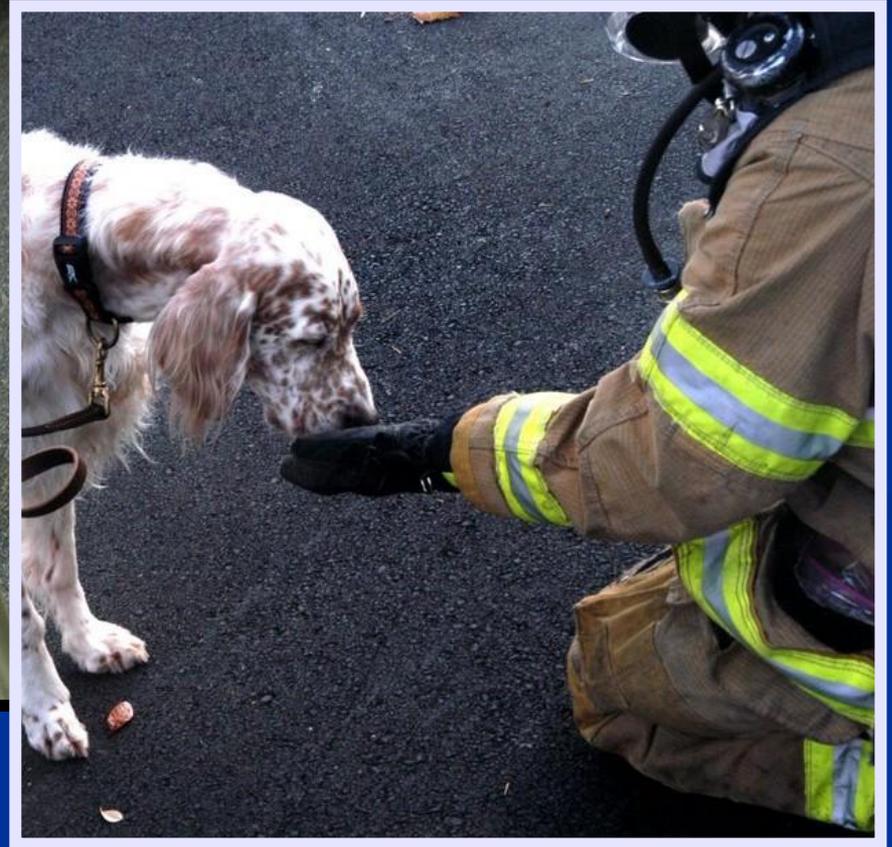
a gentle temperament,
a hallmark of the breed.



Affectionate and friendly without shyness, fear or viciousness.







English Setter Health Concerns...

- Deafness: unilateral/bilateral
- Hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia to a lesser degree
- Thyroid disease

Presentation:

Extreme

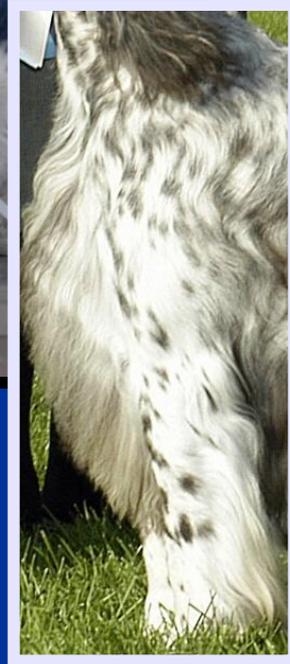


Correct



Common Faults

- Straight fronts
- High tail carriage



Specialty Winners *of the* Past



The following photos courtesy of Craig Sparkes
From: *The History of English Setter Show Dogs in America*

Int. Ch. Silvermine Wagabond



Ch. Guys 'N Dolls Annie O' Brien



Ch. Kelyric California Sun



Ch. Esthete Splendorinthegrass



Ch. Goodtime Royale Salute



Ch. Honeygait Goodtime Hot Topic



Ch. Lampliter's Attah-Tud O-Trabeiz



Ch. Reidwood Poetry In Motion



Ch. Set'r Ridge Wyndswept In Gold



Dual Ch. & Can. Ch. Set'r Ridge's Solid Gold, CDX, MH, HDX, CGC



Ch. Goodtime's Silk Teddy



Am., World, Int., Mex. Ch. Stagedoor Rock It Man





Produced by:

Garth Gourlay, Sandra McCue, Joan Savage, Kate Simon,
Debi Mack and Elliott Weiss