

Illustrated Standard of the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje

Judges' Education Presentation for AKC



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The Program

- Introduction
- The Netherlands
- The History of the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje
- The work of the Kooikerhondje in the Duck Decoy
- Evaluate the Kooikerhondje by the breed standard

The Nederlandse Kooikerhondje, or Kooiker for short, is a lovely orange red and white parti-colored spaniel with black ear tips - called earrings and occasional black tail rings where the color changes from orange –red to white. The breed has a long history, coupled with a unique method of capturing ducks for the table prior to the development of accurate fowling guns.

The Kooikerhondje's very name indicates his task – Nederlandse just means "Dutch" in Dutch and was added to the breed name in 2010. In Dutch -"Kooi" is a trap. "Kooiker" is the man who runs the trap. "Hond" is dog and "Hondje" means little dog. So the literal translation of the breed name is "The Dutch Duck Trapper's Little Dog.

The Netherlands



The Netherlands is a small country in the west of Europe. The population is a little more than 17 million people. Holland is the name of two of the twelve provinces of Netherlands. Many people, even the Dutch themselves sometimes refer to the country as Holland.

The History of the Kooikerhondje



Spioen



The Spioen is the dog from the old Dutch paintings. It is the ancestor of the Kooikerhondje.

The History of the Kooikerhondje



The breed was well known and established in the Netherlands by the 1500's.

The history of the Dutch monarchy is linked to the history of the Kooikerhondje.

The founder of the House of Orange, Prince William the Silent (24 April 1533 -10 July 1584) is said to have had a small orange –red and white dog named Kuntze, who was credited with saving his life on one occasion.

The History of the Kooikerhondje



The founder of the House of Orange, Prince William the Silent (24 April 1533 -10 July 1584) is said to have had a small orange –red and white dog named Kuntze, who was credited with saving his life on one occasion. Among his many titles was Baron of Breda- an estate which includes the Eendenkooi Brabants – where the Prince may have seen the cheerful little red and white dogs at work.

First photo is a image of an illustration in “Saints and Heroes Since The Middle Ages” by George Hodges with a colorized insert.

Second is a painting in the Rijksmuseum: “Prince William I, after the failed assination attempt in 1582 by Jean Jauregui, nursed by Charlotte de Bourbon” by Nicolaas Pieneman.

The History of the Kooikerhondje



Balthasar Geraerts doont den prins te Delft.



The breed also appears in the paintings of numerous Dutch masters – Jan Steen being especially fond of the cheerful appearance of the striking little dog.

Here are two more pictures. The first depicts the assignation of Willem with his little Kooiker look-a-like dog. This dates from approximately 50 years after his death.

The second picture is of his wife grieving for the loss of her husband with her child and dog on her lap, completed circa 1850.

The History of the Kooikerhondje



As fowling guns became more accurate, the need for the elaborate trapping system declined and by the early 1900's the breed had as good as disappeared.

Thanks however to the Baroness van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol, the breed was recovered before it disappeared entirely. As part of her silent resistance to the Occupation during the Second World War, she undertook the recovery of the breed. She sent peddlers out from her estate with a photograph of the dog and a snippet of cloth so as to help identify dogs of the correct orange red color. In this way, she found Tommie, a bitch from Friesland in the far north of the country, who became the foundation of the breed.

The Baroness bred 57 Kooikerhondje litters and used the kennel name Walhalla.

The History of the Kooikerhondje



The first breeding guidelines were written in 1961, and the breed was recognized by the Raad van Beheer, the Dutch Kennel Club in 1971.

This photograph is of the Baroness and her pack at the first Evaluation Day.

The History of the Kooikerhondje

1971

Recognition by the Dutch Kennel Club
The Raad Van Beheer

October 2004

Entry into The Foundation Stock Service

July 2015

Entry into AKC Miscellaneous Class

The breed standard was revised in 1991 and 2011. When we compare the older breed standards and the present guidelines, the changes are quite small.

Black earrings were allowed in the 1962 standard, listed as desirable in 1966, and in 2011 as very desirable.

The mantle dogs—those with solid orange-red back, shoulders and sides—were disqualified in 1962. Nothing was stated about mantle dogs in 1966. Now, distinct patches (plates) on the body are preferred, with the orange-red color predominant on the torso, but mantle dogs are acceptable.

The height at the withers changed from 40 centimeters (15.75 inches) in 1962 to 38 centimeters (14.96 inches)

in 1966. In 1971, it was 35–40 centimeters (13.78–15.75 inches). At this moment, 40 centimeters (15.75 inches) for a dog and 38 centimeters (14.96 inches) for a bitch are considered ideal. There is a tolerance for 2 centimeters (0.79 inches) larger and 3 centimeters (1.18 inches) under the ideal size.

The AKC standard, calls for 16 inches plus or minus 1 ½ inches for a dog and 15 inches plus or minus 1 ½ inches for a bitch.

The History of the Kooikerhondje

January 2018
AKC full recognition and move to
Sporting Group

The first Kooikerhondje litter born to two FCI registered parents was in Palo Alto CA in 1999 and the breed was off and running here. Added to Foundation Stock Service in 2004, admitted to the Miscellaneous Class in 2015 and to full recognition by the American Kennel Club in January 2018.

Something about working

Used for working in the Eendenkooi



The work of the Kooikerhondje was threefold. They lured ducks ,they warned of poachers and they kept the area free of vermin.

The map shows the number of Eendenkooi still in existence today.

The Duck Decoy

Used for working in the Duck Decoy



Kooikerhondjes worked in the Eendenkooi – a Dutch invention. This is an elaborate man-made hand-dug pond trapping system. Eenden is the Dutch word for Ducks. Indeed, the English word “Decoy” is derived from “de Kooi” - this trapping pond. A Duck Decoy therefore originally did not refer to a small carved wooden replica of a waterbird, as many would suppose, but rather a 3-5 acre pond with multiple catching arms or pipes coming off the pond.

The Duck Decoy

Used for working in the Duck Decoy



Here you can see the fence panels. The Kooikerhondje walks around it and when the ducks get closer into the catching pipe, he takes hand signals or commands from his handler to move to the next fence.

The Kooikerhondje must be very obedient and must be silent at all times.

He couldn't be too big otherwise the ducks would see a dog instead of just the plume that makes them curious.

The red color seems to have a soothing effect on the ducks as compared for example to black and white dogs.

The Duck Decoy

Used for working in the Duck Decoy



Sir Ralph Payne-Gallwey, in his 1886 work, “The Book of Duck Decoys” preserves a description of the working method of the Kooikerhondje called “Dogging”:

“The dog having jumped into view from the corner of the screen, runs round its front between it and the ditch of the pipe, and pops back over the next dog-jump behind the same screen.

He repeats this manoeuvre, springing into view of the ducks again from the jump he just disappeared over, and so encompassing screen number two.

The Decoyman, hidden himself, also moves from screen to screen towards the tail of the pipe, keeping pace with his dog, and taking a quick look now and then...he encourages [the dog] by gestures to be smart and cheerful in his movements, rewarding him from time to time with tidbits of cheese, meat or cake.

The sprightlier the dog works, the better, so long as he is absolutely mute and obedient.”

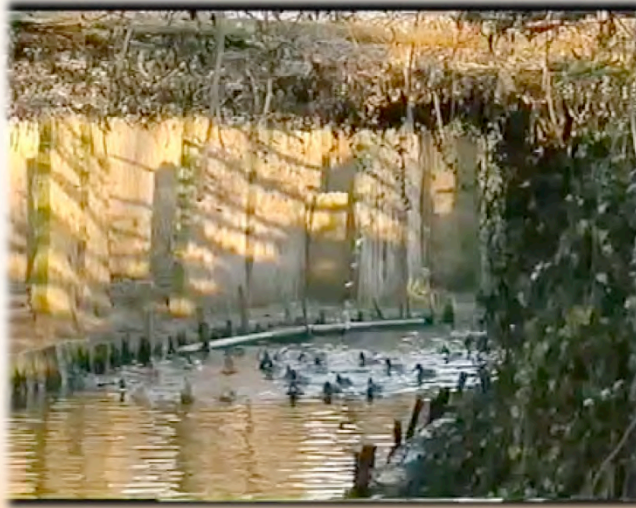
While these words describe an English Decoyman, they also apply equally to the Dutch Kooi Baas.

The Duck Decoy



Here are two videos about the working Kooikerhondje. In this first one, clearly you can see why it must be a SMALL DOG! Eendenkooi Brabants video.

The Duck Decoy



Here is a video about the working Kooikerhondje. “Feeding and Dogging” is depicted in this “Werken in de kooi” video.

Here you can see the Decoy owner with his dogs. He starts to feed the ducks. The tame ducks see the Kooikerhondje and they know it’s dinner time. The wild ducks want to follow the tame ducks, but they are careful. The Kooikerhondje appearing now and then makes them curious.

The decoy owner stays behind the fences. All the ducks see is the dog and the food, which is drawing the ducks deeper into the duck decoy.

All the ducks are getting deeper into the pipe. When the Decoy owner shows themselves, the wild ducks become frightened and fly deeper into the decoy while the tame ducks finish their meal. Then the wild ducks have nowhere else to go....

Something about working

When you don't own a Duck Decoy.....



Currently there are only a handful of Kooikerhondjes working in decoys.

The Kooikerhondje is intelligent and needs physical and mental challenges. They can excel at flyball, agility, rally, obedience, barn hunt and other dog sports.

The Breed Standard



Judging the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje

- The breed is always examined on the table in the United States, to better evaluate size, to help calm the sensitive alert dogs, and for the ease of our judges
- While the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje is striking in that it is a particolored red dog with dark eyes and black pigment, it is still a working spaniel with moderation being its hallmark in all ways. For this reason, this breed should be seen and evaluated in natural untrimmed coat. To the eye of many an American fancier, they may look a bit unkempt with their tufts above the ears, long earrings and un-scissored leg feathers. **THIS IS HOW THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO LOOK!** Please reward a dog for good structure, breed type and movement, not merely for having a good groomer prepping it for the show ring. Structure and the easy care coat do not need the fussing of chalk and scissoring to make them beautiful. The only allowed trimming is on the feet for tidiness.

General Appereance Kooikerhondje

- Harmoniously built
- Orange-red parti-colored
- Small sporting dog
- Slightly off square body proportions
- Natural untrimmed coat

- Harmoniously built: All parts should fit together in a complete package. No one feature should overwhelm any other.
- Orange-red parti- colored: Our breed standard describes color of the dog precisely and then closes with this statement; color should be a consideration only when all else between two dogs is equal.”
- Small sporting dog.: Size is strict – this is a “hond-JE” – a small dog. Please feel free to call for a wicket.
- Slightly off square body proportions: Measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock.
- Natural untrimmed coat: This breed should be seen and evaluated in natural untrimmed coat.

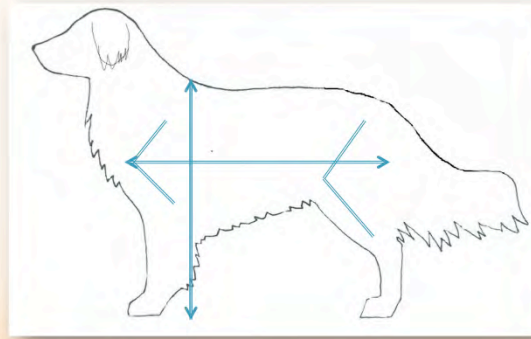
Proportions

The length of the body from the point of the shoulder (at the scapula/humerus) to the point of the buttocks should be slightly longer than the height at the withers.

In the general appearance, it is called almost square body proportions or slightly off square.

Proportions

Slightly off square



The height of the dog at the withers is almost as tall as the length of the body. We measure the length from the point of the scapula point of buttocks. The height is measured from the highest point of the withers to the floor. The Kooikerhondje should not be more than 10 % longer than tall.

Proportions

Slightly off square body proportion



This dog is of ideal proportion.

Incorrect Proportions

Square body proportions



This dog is square – too short in length for height.

Incorrect Proportion

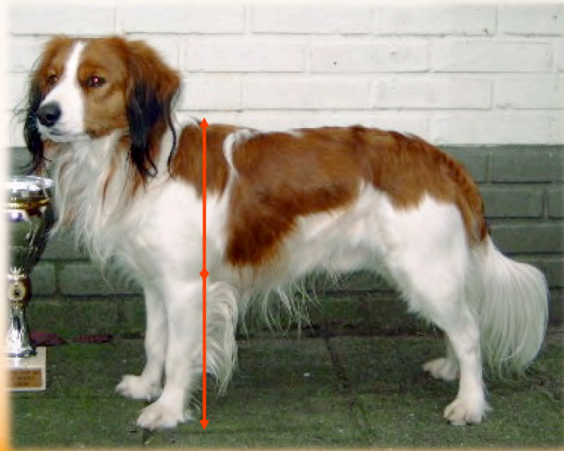
Too long bodied/too low on leg



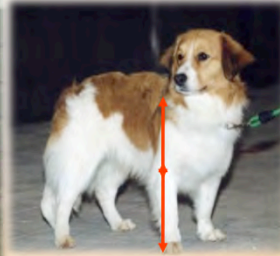
The dog shouldn't be more than 1 ½ inches longer than it is tall. On a 16 inch dog, that is almost 10%.

Proportions

Size / Length of legs



Incorrect



A dog with legs that are too short, but is the correct height, has a bigger flaw than a dog with a good length of legs, but an inch too tall.

The elbow should be at the midpoint between the withers and ground.

Years ago, height was very important in Holland. Every dog that was $\frac{1}{2}$ inch too tall was excluded from breeding. So the out-of-proportion dogs with the short legs that had the correct height were used for breeding, but the typical dogs that were a half inch too tall, were not.

In 1998, the VHNK eliminated the height requirement for breeding certificates. Now we are noticing the dogs are getting taller and taller and that is not correct either.

We are working hard to get the right size as well as proportion. Size is really an issue in this breed.

Size

Ideal height at the withers:

Males: 16 inches

Females: 15 inches

DQ: 1 ½ inches under after 1 year of age

Or

1 ½ inches over at any age



Don't forget; it is Kooikerhondje

The height is measured from the ground to the withers
With the translation, there was a miscalculation from centimeters to inches.

The actual translation for males from 40 cm, is 15.75 inches. The females are 38 cm, is 14.953 inches, so almost 15 inches.

The size is a bit too tall for the dogs, but correct for the bitches.

Please remember that the Kooikerhondje is a small dog and must not be too big. The last part of his name, the JE, means that it's a small dog.

Head

- Moderate length
- Fitting in with the general appearance
- Clean-cut, with flowing lines



Clean cut means without any folds or dewlaps.

Head

- Noticeable difference between dogs and bitches



We should see a noticeable difference between the male and the female. The male should have a slightly heavier (but not too heavy) head and the female a more refined head.

Head

Skull and muzzle of
about equal length.



Head

Almost parallel planes



The balance between the muzzle and the skull is important. These should be almost equal in length.

Be careful of too long and snipey muzzles.

The planes of the Kooikerhondje skull are slightly divergent, not parallel like a Setter.

Eyes



The eyes can melt the hardest of hearts! Almond shaped, dark, shining with intelligence, they are a striking feature of the breed. They should be neither round nor protruding but softly set in the middle of the face with nice distance between.

One picture is worth a thousand words on this point

Eyes

- Almond-shaped
- Dark brown
- With a friendly, alert expression



Beautiful dark almond shaped eyes.

The eyelids need to fit nicely around the eyeball; drooping eyelids are undesirable. You should not be able to see the third eyelid or the haw. The rim of the eye should have good pigmentation.

Eyes

Eyes a bit too round.



These eyes are a bit too round.

“China” or blue eye is a serious fault



The color of the eye should be dark brown. Yellow or light eyes are not desirable.

Sometimes we see a blue or “China” eye.

Sometimes it is seen when the blaze is so wide that the eye is in the white, but not always.

This is a serious fault.

Ears

- Set on just above the line from the point of the nose to the corner of the eye.



Ears are set on an imaginary line from the nose through the corner of the eye, but never above the top of the head.

Tufts of hair that stick up above the ear may confuse, but these are another characteristic of the breed and should never be trimmed away

Ears

- The ears are carried close to the cheeks without a fold.
- Well feathered



When the ears are perked up, the ears shouldn't be higher than the skull.

The ear should fold over gently, lie closely against the head and should be moderately long.

Again, the tufts of hair that stick up above the ear may confuse, but these are another characteristic of the breed and should never be trimmed away

Ears

- Moderately large and easily covers the inner corner of the eye



There are two breed specific “checks” we ask judges to perform. The first relates to the ears – the ear leather itself should easily cover the eye on the same side of the head. This gives the correct ear size and prevents small or overly large ears from creeping in.

(The second breed specific check is measuring the length of the tail – see page 60.)

Incorrect Ears



Sometimes, the auricle is strongly developed, and the ear does not fold on the base but further out, preventing it from lying flat against the cheeks. This is considered a fault.

The dogs on the left do not carry the ears close to the cheeks.

The upper dog on the right has ears that are too low set.

The lower dog on the right does not have any feathers. Lack of feathering should not be judged too harshly on a puppy.

Ears



The treasure of the Kooikerhondje are black hair tips on his ears. The earrings are highly desirable but not mandatory!

They can be profuse or sparse, long or the same length as the rest of the ear feathers. Young dogs especially will just be growing theirs.

No dog should be penalized for lack of earrings

Ears



Another treasure of the Kooikerhondje are the wispy tufts above the ears. These should never be trimmed away!

Ears

- Well feathered
- Black hair tips (“earrings”) are highly desirable.



All of these are acceptable and equally as desirable.

Skull

- Sufficiently broad
- Moderately rounded



The skull should be sufficiently broad and moderately rounded.

The males should have a bit broader head than the females.

Incorrect

Skull too long



Skull too round



The first dog is not well-filled under the eyes, the muzzle is too long and is not blunt.

Rounded skulls often have low ear sets resembling a Spaniel. These are not correct.

Incorrect!

“Domed” Forehead

Deep Stop

Snipey muzzle



Round Eye



The first dog is not well-filled under the eyes, the muzzle is too snipey and is not blunt.

The forehead is too prominent and overall the muzzle is too small. These faults are sometimes accompanied by round eyes. These are also not correct.

Stop

- Seen in profile clearly visible
- But not too deep



Incorrect – Too Deep



The stop should be slightly indicated. The dog on the left has a nice stop.

We sometimes see stops that are too deep.

Quite often we see too deep a stop with a short muzzle.

This is not correct

Muzzle

- Seen from the side: not too deep and slightly wedge-shaped;
- Seen from above: not tapering too much and well-filled under the eyes



The muzzle should be wedged shaped and end in a blunt finish.

We often see dogs that lack under jaw and thus lack the blunt finish to the muzzle.

The muzzle should blend smoothly into the head, hence well-filled under the eyes.

Incorrect Muzzle

Too Long



Too Tapered



The first dog's the muzzle is too long and does not end with a blunt finish.

The second dog is a bit too tapered with not enough fullness under the eyes.

These are not correct.

Nose

- Black and well developed.
- “Winter” or “snow” nose acceptable



The nostril should be open and the dog must show good pigmentation.

Bitches are especially prone to a winter or snow nose following puppies or a heat cycle.

Lips

- Preferably well-pigmented
- Close-fitting and not overhanging

INCORRECT



On the right, we see good lips with good pigment and they are close fitting.

The lips on the left are too loose and overhanging.

Jaws / Teeth

Scissor bite;



- Complete dentition is desirable



- Pincer bite is accepted but less desirable



Scissors bite is preferred.

Level bite is acceptable but not as desirable.

Complete dentition is desirable.

When examining the bite of the Kooikerhondje, it is not necessary to open the mouth. Just have the exhibitor lift the lips on both sides and the front.

The Neck

- Strongly muscled
- Of sufficient length and clean-cut



A neck of sufficient length is easy to spot when imaginary rulers are laid along the dog's back and on the line from elbow to withers. The dog's entire head should be above the back line and in front of the withers-to-elbow line. If the head is partly below or behind the intersection of those two lines, the neck is too short.

Topline

Smooth level line from withers to hipbones
with a slightly rounded croup

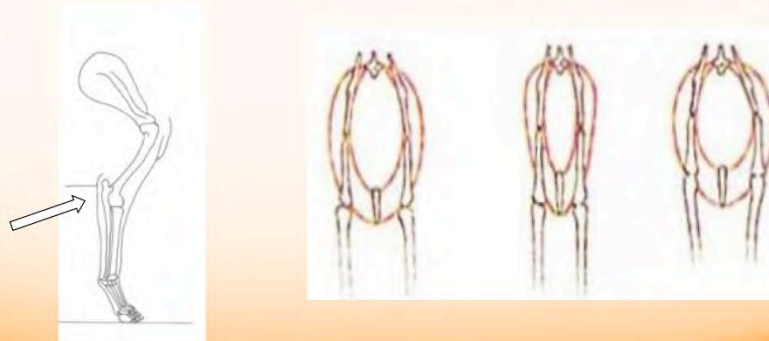


The top line should be level, the back should be straight, and the loin must be strong.

Chest

Chest should reach to the elbow

Moderate spring of ribs



The ribs must taper gradually and should not be too round or too flat.

Chest

- Reaching to the elbows
- Moderate rib spring



The chest should always reach at least to the elbows – not higher or lower. It must be neither barrel shaped nor slab sided.

When the chest extends below the elbow, the upper arm may be too short or the front angulations too severe.

When the chest fails to reach the elbow, the angulations are usually too open.

Young dogs may not have fully developed so a little forgiveness should be granted to puppies.

Underline and Belly

Slight tuck-up towards the loin.



The underline should be slightly tucked-up.
The rib cage should extend well back.

Back and Loin

- Back strong and straight, rather short
- Loin short and broad
- Strongly muscled



In popular terms, the spinal column from the neck to the tail, including the loins and croup, is often referred to as the topline or back.

The true “back” consists of a bridge of only 4 vertebrae located between the withers and the loin of the dog.

This dog has a strong and straight back which is rather short, but not the best example of a topline....

The loin should be short, broad and strong muscled.

Croup

The Kooikerhondje should have an obvious little round “butt”



The palm of a hand cupped over the rump is an easy way to gauge the appropriate amount of rounding on the croup.

Tail

- Set on so as to follow the topline of the body, well feathered with a white plume
- Carried level with the topline or almost straight up (gaily)



There is a difference in the tail carriage depending on whether the dog is standing or moving.

When the dog stands, the tail may remain in a lowered position, except for the last third which may point upwards in a gentle curve.

When the dog moves, the tail should flow straight outwards, following the topline with a slight bend upwards at the tip but not so as to curl.

This, together with the white plume, makes the ducks curious allows them to follow the dog into the trap.

These are both desirable tail carriages.

Tail

- Last vertebra should reach the hock joint



The second breed specific examine we ask judges to perform relates to an important working feature of the breed – the tail.

The tail vertebrae should reach at least to the hock joint. Be sure to measure the actual vertebrae, not the hair.

Up to 1/3 inch too short can be considered, but more than that is serious.

Short tails are less visible to the ducks following the dog in the traps and are considered a severe fault – one sufficiently serious as to preclude placement according to our Dutch mentors.

Tail

Acceptable tail carriage



The tail may be carried level to almost straight up with a moderate upward curve, never circling over the back of the dog while gaitting. All of these are acceptable.

Incorrect Tail

Incorrect tailset / Incorrect tail carriage



The tail should not curl over the back.

Forequarters

- **Shoulder** moderately angled to create a flowing line from neck to back.
- **Upper arm** moderately angled to match layback of the shoulder blade, which is of equal length



The shoulder blade and the upper arm must be about the same length and moderately angled. The smooth flow from neck to back should be maintained without abrupt changes.

Forechest/Prosternum

- Point of the forechest should be slightly protruding beyond the point of the shoulder.



The forechest or prosternum should be at least level with the point of the shoulder and ideally slightly protruding!

Elbow and Forearm

- Elbow close to the body
- Forearm straight and parallel
- Strong bone of sufficient density and length



Elbows should be close to the body, while standing and in action.

The rib cage should reach the elbow.

The forearms should be straight and parallel, as we can see in the picture.

Pastern

Strong and slightly oblique.



INCORRECT



When viewed from the side, the pastern must have a slight slope.

A too steep pastern gives too little resilience and a weak pastern will not have shock absorbing power.

We both see these faults in the Kooikerhondje

Forefeet

- Small, slightly oval
- Compact with well-knit toes pointing forward.



The feet should be small, slightly oval and compact with well-knit toes pointing forward.

Often we see the feet are pointing outwards - “eastie-westie”. This is a fault.

Hindquarters

- Moderately angulated to match forequarters
- Seen from the rear straight and parallel
- Strong bone



Strong parallel and correct.

Hindquarters

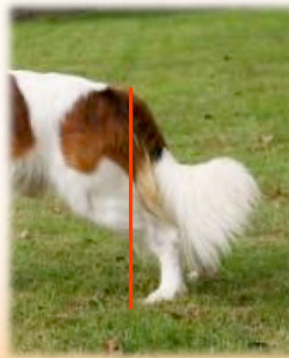
- Upper thigh well muscled,
- Second thigh equal in length to upper thigh
- Well-let down hock
- Small oval compact feet, toes pointing forward



These dogs are in balance. If we draw an imaginary line from the point of buttocks to the ground, it will pass through the hind feet.

Hindquarters

Under and Over angulated,



The first dog does not have enough angulation.
The second dog shows too much angulation.

Coat / Hair

- Of medium length, close lying, slightly wavy or straight. Never curly or open
- Soft hair, but weather resistant
- Functional undercoat.



Should not be so heavily coated that one thinks of a Shetland Sheepdog.

Sometimes a Kooikerhondje will have a slightly wavy coat with a tendency to curl over the croup. This acceptable.

This soft but weather-resistant coat with its functional undercoat has no tendency towards matting or snarling thanks to the texture. This texture is apparent in even young dogs. Be mindful that a soft open cotton coat is not correct

Coat

- Front legs should have moderate feathering reaching to the pastern joints
- Hind legs should have fairly long feathered breeches
- No feathering below the hock joints



The key is moderate. Profusion of coat is not desirable.

Coat

- Differences between Dogs and Bitches



Another distinction is the difference between the dogs and bitches in the amount of coat. Most bitches carry far less coat than the boys. Males tend to have full dense ruffs, longer tail and leg feathering and more hair in general. The girls are prone to blowing coat completely after hormonal changes and frequently appear in their “bikini” look – with skin showing through! This is normal and should not be faulted, for doing so could set up the breed for increasing profusion of coat. The easy care nature of the breed is to be preserved above all else.

Color

- Distinct patches of clear orange-red on pure white with minimal ticking
- Orange-red color predominant on the head and torso
- Chest, belly, and the majority of the legs and tail should be white



Distinct patches of color are preferred.

The orange color should be a warm orange-red color. We also see the orange-yellow color, which is less desirable or too many black hairs in the orange patches.

The muzzle, legs, chest and end of the tail should be as white as possible. Color should predominate on the torso, but color should only be a consideration if all else about two dogs is totally equal. In other words, it should not be the first or even second consideration.

Color is important, but don't be too strict on a few spots or too much orange. Only in case of two equal dogs, should color be a factor

Color

- The Baroness and Company



What the Baroness considered her best dogs as an example.

Lovely coats, color, and size. But rear angles could use improvement.

Color

Acceptable but not preferred



Too much white, but you need to look at both sides of the dog before deciding.

This is acceptable but not preferred.

Color

Acceptable but not preferred



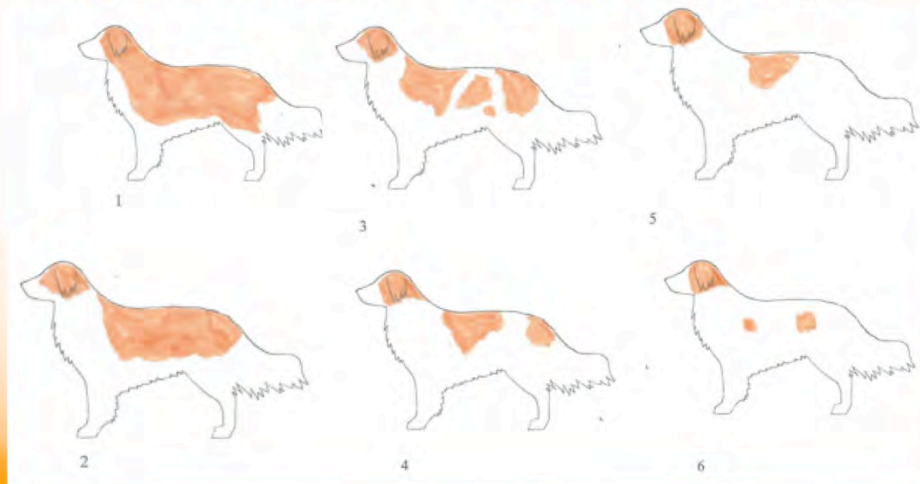
This is a lovely dog but has too much orange. Also called a Mantle.

This is acceptable but not preferred.

Color is important, but don't be too strict on a few spots or too much orange. When the dog is well built, a mantle is acceptable. It's just that in case of two equal dogs, the one with the best color division should win.

Color

- **Coloring should be a consideration only when all else between two dogs**



All of these dogs have acceptable markings, but numbers 3 and 4 with their distinct patches, good division of color and predominant orange color on the torso are preferred.

How would you rank the remaining dogs, remembering that distinct patches of orange red color on pure white is the first criterion?

Remember, our breed standard describes color of the dog precisely and then closes with this statement: Color should be a consideration only when all else between two dogs is equal." In other words, markings are gravy - not meat and potatoes.

Please know markings are of less importance than the structure beneath.

Coat / Color

Ticking is acceptable but less desirable



We also see ticking on the legs, the muzzle and sometimes on the body. We prefer not to see any ticking, but don't be too hard on a few spots.

Color

- A clearly visible blaze running down to the nose
- Coloring on the cheeks and around the eyes.



These are the preferred face markings.

The orange-red color ideally ends at or before the corner of the mouth and is symmetrical.

The blaze is moderately broad and symmetrical.

Color

Less Desirable

Narrow blaze with color on muzzle



Broad blaze



Severe Faults



The first photo depicts a blaze that is too narrow and the second a blaze that is too broad.

These are acceptable but not preferred.

Severe faults are depicted in the bottom photos.

White color on ears, partly or completely.

White hair around eyes, one or both. Again, severe faults are sufficiently serious to preclude placement.

Color

A black tail ring where the color changes from orange-red to white is permitted.

This is NOT a tri-color!!!!



Sometimes the Kooikerhondje has a black tail ring
This is definitely not a flaw and not a type of tricolor.

In fact, it's the same genetic factor that causes of the black ear rings. Generally, the dogs with a tail ring also have more profuse ear rings.

Color

Black ear tips, or “earrings” = desirable.

This is NOT a tri-color!!!



The treasure of the Kooikerhondje are black hair tips on his ears.

Remember that they are highly desirable, not required!

These are not tri-colors

Color

- Some black hair intermingling with the orange-red color
- A slight form of ticking is accepted but less desirable



These are NOT Tri-colors!!

These dogs show too many black hairs in the orange plates. The color is not clear orange-red.

Some dogs look like black dogs, but when you take a closer look, only the hair tips are black. This is not preferred but is not a disqualification.

These dogs are not a tricolor as mentioned in the standard.

Color

So just to make it clear: Dogs with

- A Black tail ring
- Black earrings
- Black hair tips

ARE NOT TRI-COLORED DOGS!!!!

Dark eyes and pigment makes for a striking face in this breed. Few other red-patched dogs have this depth of color. It is all because, in reality, this is a sable dog as the presence of black feathering on the ears and an occasional black tail ring where the color changes from orange red to white attests. Sometimes black hair can be intermingled within the red patches as well. Small amounts are permitted, too much is a fault. Remember this a sable dog and color should only be a consideration when two dogs are otherwise equal.

Color

Black and White or Tri-color coat is a disqualification.



A black and white or a tricolor is a disqualification. Black and white is not often seen, but the tricolor is more common.

With tri-colored dogs, we see a black and white dog with tan points.

Gait / Movement

- Should be flowing and light-footed
- Moderate reach and drive
- Limbs parallel



In keeping with the sprightly working in the Duck Decoy, the movement of the Kooikerhondje should be light, effortless, and flowing. Think of a bubbling brook as it wends its way across a meadow. So too should the Kooikerhondje move about the ring – with ease and joy in every step.

Gait / Movement

- Moves with his head held high
- Tail is carried level with, or above the topline



As we noticed in the general appearance, the Kooikerhondje carries his head a little bit high when he is moving. When you draw an imaginary line over his back you will see that the head is a bit above this line.

The tail is carried level, or above the topline, but never over the back or in a curl.

Temperament

- Lively and agile
- Self-confident with persistence and stamina
- Good natured and alert, however not noisy
- Faithful and friendly to his owners, reserved with strangers
- Keen, swift and tough
- Having a zest for working with a cheerful character

Judge these traits by observing how the Kooikerhondje behaves in the ring.

Keep in mind, that in this context, the word keen means alert and attentive, not aggressive.

Faults

- Ears too small
- Ears half erect
- “Flying” ears
- Tail that is too curled
- Hackney gait
- Curly or silky hair
- Open coat
- Black hairs too heavily interspersed with in the orange-red patches
- Too much ticking

These listed faults should be judged in accordance with the severity in which they impede the dogs ability to perform its original function or to the degree in which they deviate from the standard.

Severe Faults

- Anxious, aggressive or overly shy
- Distinctly low on legs, out of proportion
- Blue or yellow eye(s)
- Undershot or overshot bite
- Tail too short, not reaching hock-joint
- White color on ears, partly or completely
- White hair around eyes, one or both

Severe faults are quite big faults and those dogs should not receive a placement. The faults are severe enough that you must reconsidering showing or breeding the dog. These flaws are also considered as non-breeding issues in the breeding regulations from the Dutch Kooikerhondje Association (VHNK)

Disqualification

- 1 ½ inches under ideal height after 1 year of age
- 1 ½ inches above ideal height at any age
- Color that is black and white or tri-color

Only three disqualifications.

Winners at Dutch National Club Show

Club Winner 2005



Clubwinner 2005

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Best Bitch 2005



Best Bitch 2005

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Club Winner 2006



Clubwinner 2006

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Best Male 2006



Best Male 2006

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Club Winner 2008



Clubwinner 2008

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Best Bitch 2008



Best Bitch 2008

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Club Winner 2009



Clubwinner 2009

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Best Bitch 2009



Best Bitch 2009

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Club Winner 2010



Clubwinner 2010

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Best Bitch 2010



Best Bitch 2010

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Club Winner 2011



Clubwinner 2011

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Best Bitch 2011



Best Bitch 2011

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Club Winner 2012



Clubwinner 2012

Winners at Dutch National Club Show
Best Bitch 2012



Best Bitch 2012

Winners at Dutch National Club Show

Club Winner 2013



Clubwinner 2013

Questions????



Any questions should be sent to the Breed Standard and Judges' Education Committee Chair.

Photo Credits

- All dogs depicted in the photographs live in Europe and most are from The Netherlands, country of origin for the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje.
- We are grateful to the following for permission to publish photographs: Jan van den Berg, Margo Kleinjan, Birgitta Lindblad, Susanne Martin, M.D., Henna Palmunen, and Astrid Straaijer.

We wish to maintain the Kooikerhondje as its original self, without Americanization.

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Breed Standard and Judges' Education Committee

- Carol Brown: Judges' Education Coordinator (JEC)



Carol got involved in dog shows because of a daughter. Her daughter loved dogs and started her show career at age 12. Beginning as the driver to shows, she eventually began showing and breeding Vizslas and Pointers after her daughter grew up and left home. Her career evolved over the years from all breed professional handler, pet grooming shop owner, handling instructor, professional ring steward, licensed show superintendent, to an approved AKC judge of the Sporting and Working Groups, and Herding, Hound and Non-Sporting breeds, as well as Jr. Showmanship and BIS, to date. As a handler, she finished dogs in all seven groups; as a judge, she exhibits her love of dogs and people, and always tries to help and encourage new people, especially Juniors, in the sport and dog fancy.

Her involvement with the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje began in 2014 when she was asked to judge their national show, one year prior to moving into Miscellaneous Class with AKC. She has served on the Breed Standard and Judges' Education committees for KCUSA, working toward the goal now realized: becoming fully recognized in the Sporting Group in January 2018!

Breed Standard and Judges' Education Committee Members

- Diana Striegel: Dutch FCI Judge and Breed Specialist
- Three additional members



Who is Diana Striegel? Here I was 23 years younger and buying my first dog. It was a Stabijhoun, also a Dutch breed.

In my daily life I am a Human Resource Manager and sometimes I officiate at wedding ceremonies.

In 2001, I passed my first exam for judging. It was for the Dutch Kooikerhondje. Since then, I have been approved to judge many more breeds, mostly Dutch breeds. The Kooikerhondje will always keep a special place in my heart.

And - besides being a Human Resource Manager, I am also married and the mother of a school age girl.

I am one of the founders and the Secretary of the Cooperation for Dutch Breeds. I am also the Secretary of the Royal Dutch Kennel Club.

In addition there are some other tasks I do for breed associations like the international contact for the Stabijhoun Association, the arbitration board of the Dutch Kooikerhondje association and more like that. Some are more time consuming than others. The arbitration board from the Kooikerhondjes is very, very, very quiet.