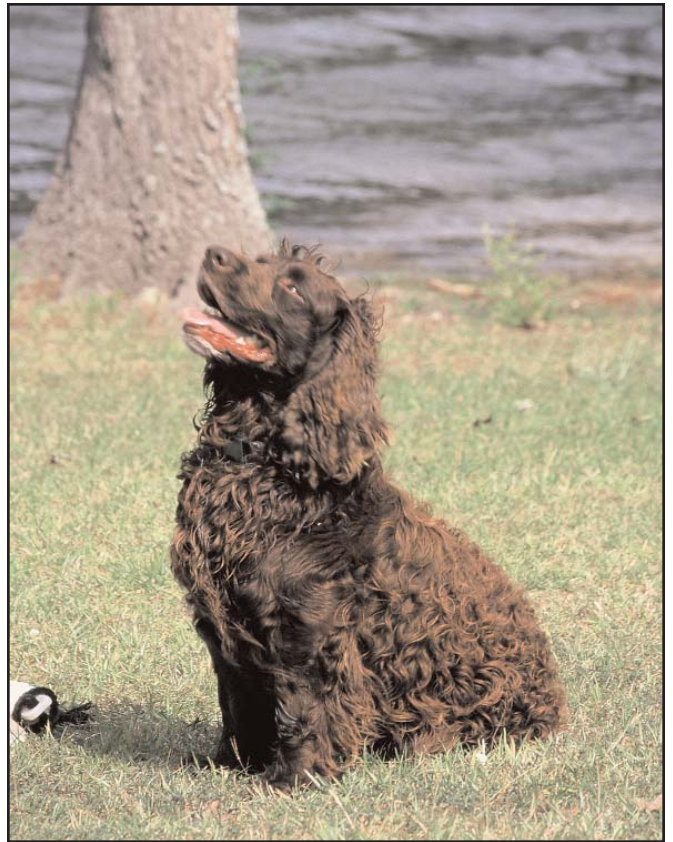
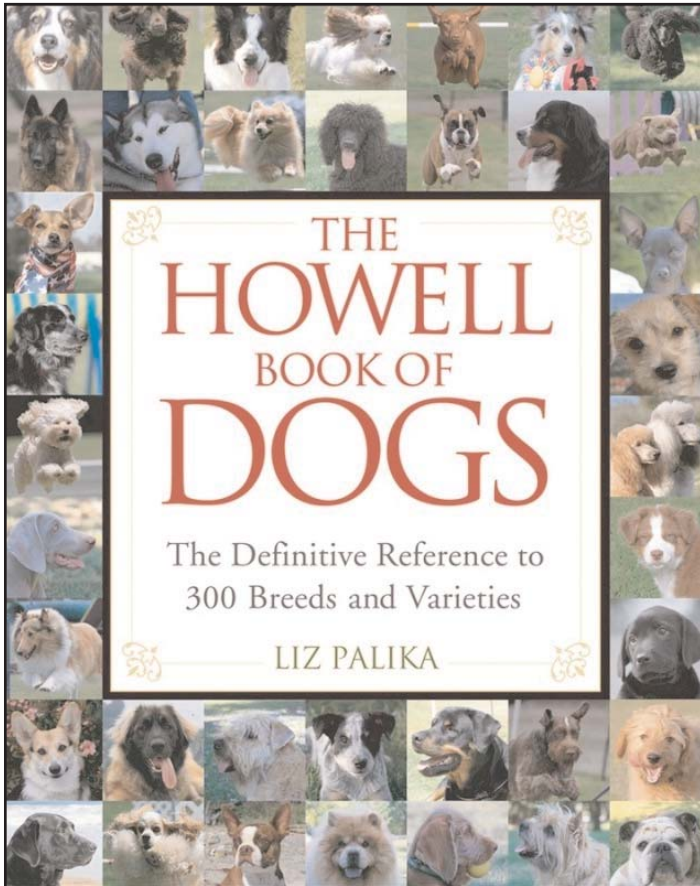


Editorial - Great News!!!



Page 171

The photograph above was selected to appear in the **Howell Book of Dogs**

UWPO UWPCH GRCH HOLLOW CREEK'S GUS, CGC

**Owner: Patricia L. Watts,
Hollow Creek Kennel, Leesville, SC**

BoykinSpanielsForever.com

(Gus has been awarded many titles and he received the "Oscar" of the dog world by being selected Best of Breed at the UKC Premier 2003)

Hi Pat,

For about a year and a half now, myself and my photo editors – Sheri and Buddy Wachtstetter – have been compiling photos for my latest book project. You were kind enough to send us photos, and I just wanted to let you know that one of the photos has made the final cut and will be in the book.

*The book is called "The Howell Book of Dogs" by Liz Palika; publisher Howell Book House and is **due to be released August 27th, 2007.***

Thank you so much for the help; your dog's photo was wonderful and I'm very happy to have it in my book.

-Liz Palika LLC; Freelance Writer

Hi Pat,

We got the galleys for Liz's dog book and your Boykin Spaniel made it into the book, page 172 to be exact. Congratulations!!

*All my best,
Sheri*



Must Read - The Boykin Spaniel Breed Standard

What is a "breed standard"? A breed standard is a description of a specified breed of dog. It is the written description that a dog will be conformationally judged against to evaluate their physical appearance and structure as potential breeding stock.

A standard will state what a perfect example of the breed will look like as well as what are acceptable parameters and variations within the description of a perfect breed example. It may outline minor and major faults that are allow but not desirable trait that a person may see within the breed. It will also state the "disqualifying" fault; faults that are not allowable in the breed and will cause individuals with these traits to be disqualified from conformational evaluations.

At a conformation or "bench" show, a judge will be given the task of evaluating dogs against their interpretation of the breed standard and ranking the dogs in order from their choice as the best representation and several runners-up. To a conformation judge the breed standard draws a mental picture whether accurate or not of the breed. A poorly written standard will produce a poorly drawn mental picture.

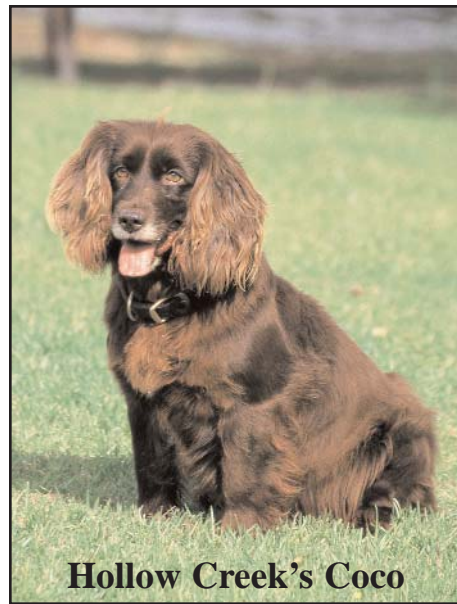
A "breed split" can occur when breeders select stock for only a certain trait and overlook the evaluation of the whole dog. This can happen in field trial stock if breeders only select for dogs that do well in a highly competitive event and do not select for other important traits that comprise the complete picture of the breed. It can happen in the conformation stock if breeders value a trait such as coat texture or eye color and select for stock with those criteria although said stock may not present other important aspects of the breed.

The Boykin Spaniel has not seen a breed split yet. A portion of the Boykin Spaniel devotees has split politically between those favoring the BSS or the UKC or the AKC. However, the breed bloodlines themselves are only a few genera-

tions removed from each other.

The Boykin breed is in jeopardy of becoming split in generations to come. Witnesses only need to observe other Spaniel breeds to see what might be forthcoming. Field trial lines of some flushing spaniels are hyperactive and not suited for a companion dog lifestyle while big-winning conformation show lines have lost their birdiness and require hours of grooming to keep their coat detangled.

Unfortunately the most recent Boykin Spaniel standard instated is very supportive to the conformation show enthusiasts. In 2005 the Board of the Boykin Spaniel Club and Breeders Association of America (BSCBAA) appointed themselves as the committee to write the standard that would be submitted to AKC for breed recognition. The standard was just released to the public in 2007.



This version of the standard is very accommodating to those backers of the breed that might wish to trot around a ring with a coifed beauty contestant but it is lacking elsewhere. The description of how to groom your pup does not include a cooling summer clip. It denies the heritage of those bloodlines that carry genes for commonly seen traits such as curly or short coats.

It changes the appearance of the Boykin expression by changing those classic golden yellow eyes to only allow brown eyes with darker brown preferred. The new standard also requires that the Boykin have a double coat although no standard in past history has ever called for this South Carolina breed to be bred with an undercoat.

If conformation show breeders choose to follow the new BSCBAA standard to create a breed that is capable of winning in the ring then they will cause a breed split in that direction. Not only is the physical description of the breed going to be forever altered but also the health. This breed has a very small gene pool. To exclude the bloodlines based on traits that are deemed unacceptable by a select few people within the BSCBAA is to dispose of valuable genes needed to keep the breed healthy.

Luckily the AKC allows all National Parent Clubs to alter their standard every few years. The AKC Board meeting minutes located at:

[http://www.akc.org/pdfs/about/boa rd minutes/1106.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/about/boa%20rd%20minutes/1106.pdf) specify the "Guidelines for Writing Breed Standards". This process requires that concerned individuals become active members of the BSCBAA. The active membership of the National Parent Club may call every 5 years for changes to be instituted to the standard. The club must then form a committee of members to hear and draft the requested amendments. Those changes must be approved by a vote from the membership before a request is sent to the AKC to give the final approval on the revisions to the standard.

Time will tell whether enough guardians of the breed will be allowed membership in the parent club in order to re-write the AKC standard to a less damaging depiction or if it will remain as the epitaph of the AKC Boykin Spaniel.



- Chris Prince