



A Primer On Conformation Defects

The CEB-France provides an established program of formally confirming Epagneul Bretons with trained expert confirmateurs performing these evaluations to determine and certify whether an individual Epagneul Breton meets the official conformation standard of the breed. The CEB-US was the second breed club in the world to attempt to establish, implement and administer a system of formally confirming Epagneul Bretons to see that they meet the breed standard. The United States club was then closely followed by the CEB-Quebec, which has also implemented a system of formally confirming Epagneul Bretons. In France, having the dog formally confirmed is mandatory for the Epagneul Breton's permanent registration to be issued by the French Kennel Club known as the Societe Centrale Canine (SCC). In the United States and in Quebec, the formal confirmation process is highly recommended and encouraged for all breeding stock, but is voluntary.

Below is a list of common conformation defects which can prevent a dog from being confirmed. The list is found upon the Official Conformation Evaluation Form presently in use by the Club de L'Epagneul Breton of the United States (CEB-US). While the list covers most of the defects which can prevent an Epagneul Breton from being formally confirmed under any established confirming system, it is not a comprehensive list of all conformation faults which can prevent formal confirmation. Each dog which is formally confirmed must be carefully and meticulously evaluated in a formal process to determine if the individual breed representative is in compliance with the Official Conformation Standard of the Epagneul Breton breed/race. The list of the most common conformation defects is as follows¹:

Partial List of Serious Faults Which Prohibit Confirmation

1. Excessive or Inadequate Height. (This includes dogs which are too tall or too short when properly measured at the withers.)
2. Improper Markings. (This would include but not be limited to an isolated white patch on the ear or lack of a proper mask.)

3. Unacceptable Color. (This would include a self-colored coat with no white in the coat or sable coloration in the coat which is often most prominently visible on the tips of the ears.)
4. Improper Pigmentation. (This could include splotches of pink in the nose pigmentation or elsewhere or pigmentation which is not in harmony with the color of the coat.)
5. Improper Bite or Defect in the Jaws. (This includes a pronounced or obvious overbite or underbite, which is more than minimally visible upon examination.)
6. Dentition Defects/Problems with Teeth. (This includes the congenital absence of teeth including the absence of more than one consecutive molars, but would not include a tooth removed due to a traumatic injury or for dental reasons.)
7. Behavioral Problems. (This would include viciousness or extreme shyness.)
8. Cryptorchid- (This includes unilateral or bi-lateral absence of testes in males.)
9. Any Other Serious Morphological Anomaly. (This is a category which can include any number of problems in the dog's general appearance, such that it does not meet the proper morphological phenotype of the Epagneul Breton.)
10. Other Disqualification. (This is a broad category, but the confirmer must list the specific defect, if he or she observes one.)

¹ This list of conformation defects is taken from the present CEB-US Official Conformation Evaluation Form. The explanations which are listed in parentheses are added by way of explanation.