

## Guidelines: Brittany Presentation Approved by the American Brittany Club

1. **Introduction** - Welcome the participants & introduce yourself. "Hello. Welcome to this presentation on the Brittany. This is a parent club approved presentation. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and my assistants are \_\_\_\_\_.  
  
I am a breeder, owner and handler with \_\_\_\_ years at the "game" in the show & field trial arenas. (quick credentials/bio)
2. *Pass out a tablet & ask everyone to list their name, address, phone and e-mail. (Send this back to Diana Kubitz.) PLEASE REMEMBER TO PASS OUT CERTIFICATES AT THE END OF THE PRESENTATION.*
3. **Materials** - *Pass out the breed information book and take 5 minutes to go through the table of contents with them.*
  - Point out that we do have an illustrated standard & it is included in the packet.
  - Point out that the standard is also included as well as a guide to the process for judging a Brittany with comments by Dorothy Macdonald.
  - Point out to them we have provided a grooming guide so they know that grooming outside the limits of this guide is really not what the breeders intend to have occur with the breed.
  - State that the other articles address topics of concern to breeders & are of importance for judges to understand.
4. **Optional Point #4** - At this point, I usually pass out a photo of a quail, a chuckar and a pheasant. I also have made paper bags full of dry beans or dry rice that are equal in weight to a quail, a chuckar and a pheasant. I have also pasted a photo of the appropriate bird on those paper bags. I pass these around so they have a sense of the weight of each of these birds that the dogs must retrieve to hand. I do this so they appreciate the importance of the standard as it describes the proportions of the head & muzzle, the length & condition of the neck, and the proportion of leg to body so they can efficiently pick up the bird. (These aren't sent through the mail due to shipping costs, but if you want to include step 4 in your presentation, you can make this visual aid yourself; otherwise, skip this step.)

### Speech Prior to Start of Slide Presentation

This presentation will focus on the form & function of the Brittany. This is not a “pretty” breed; IT IS A FUNCTIONAL BREED. Of course, we think it is a beautiful breed!! In history, it was considered “everyman’s poaching dog”. The object of the dog was to get in and out of a neighbors estate quickly & efficiently with both fur & feather game.

The Brittany was imported into New Jersey in 1934 and recognized by the AKC for showing in 1935. The Brittany Spaniel Club of America was founded in 1936 and the American Brittany Club was formed in 1942. The two clubs merged in 1944 under the name of the American Brittany Club. The first standard was approved in 1940 and revised in 1966, 1986 & 1990. The most recent change in 1990 was to remove the disqualification for length of tail - formerly, tails longer than 4 inches were a disqualification. This is no longer the case.

There are only THREE disqualifications in our breed: height (17.5” to 20.5”), black in the coat and a black nose. So, those of you who learned the standard prior to 1990, don’t embarrass yourself by disqualifying a dog with a tail longer than 4 inches.

### The Slide Program (numbers refer to slide/page numbers)

1. Into Slide
2. The Brittany is bred for the field first and is most often a personal hunting dog.
3. The majority of owners use the breed for hunting purposes.
4. The Brittany is so versatile, however, that he is much in demand as a family dog
5. .... as an obedience dog
6. .... as an obedience dog
7. .... as an agility dog
8. .... agility again
9. .... and for fly-ball.
10. The Brittany is also used for show. Whatever is asked of a Brittany, they give. They are happy & alert, neither mean nor shy, and ask for love & attention in return.

The Brittany is no longer called a “Brittany Spaniel” in the United States. The name was changed in 1982 because the Brittany is really a pointing breed. The spaniels are flushing breeds. Pointing breeds locate game & point the scent location of the game and waits for the hunter to flush the game & shoot. Or he can wait for the hunter to

get close enough before commanding the dog to move in on the game to flush it. The flushing breeds locate game and flush it without stopping to point.

11. This is a slide of the SAME DOG top and bottom. The single most important feature to look for in judging Brittanys is athleticism. Yesterday, today and tomorrow the Brittany's sole desire is to be your companion in the field. Every structural feature, every cosmetic finishing touch, every temperament characteristic should be judged with this in mind. The purpose of our breed standard is to inform everyone of what the dog's conformation should be so he is able to run & hunt in the field ALL DAY.

A Brittany is happy, alert & friendly but can be reserved. Most find showing a BORE and would rather be somewhere else. They do not enjoy being posed. So by all means, try and see your line of Brittanys free standing if possible.

12. This is a compact, closely knit dog of medium size.
13. This is a leggy dog which has the appearance as well as the agility
14. .... of a great ground coverer. "ruggedness without clumsiness" is called for in the standard. They can be tail-less or have a tail docked up to approximately 4 inches in length. As of 1990, there is no disqualification for tail length.
15. Males & females are held to the same height standards; this is different from most other sporting breeds. The height is 17.5 to 20.5 inches for both males & females. This is measured from the ground to the highest point of the shoulders. Any Brittany measuring under 17.5" or over 20.5" shall be disqualified from dog show competition.
16. Measuring is serious and must be done with full concentration & knowledge. Do it when justified, but be careful and DO IT RIGHT. There is more information on this in your information packet. You should want to measure a dog IN; you are not trying to measure a dog out.
17. If you come from a non-measurable breed, take lessons and PRACTICE. Brittany people will thank you. Don't forget to measure those you suspect are undersized as well as oversized.
18. The weight should be between 30-40 pounds. They should have an hourglass figure. Fat, out of condition dogs effect field performance. ROLLING IN THE LOIN IS WASTED MOTION. It is OK to see and feel ribs in field conditioned dogs; better ribs than fat.
19. The body length of a Brittany is approximately the same as the height when measured at the shoulders. Body length is defined in our standard ... no guessing PLEASE. Body length is measured from the point of the forechest to the rear of the rump. PENALIZE a long body; these are SQUARE dogs.
20. The coat should be dense, flat or wavy. Never curly. This is what we mean by "curly" ... you probably won't see it in the ring.

21. Ears should carry little fringe as in this slide.
22. This is a dog in the field with a less groomed ear, but it is a very proper ear.
23. Dogs with long or profuse feathering shall be so severely penalized as to eliminate them from competition. This is "profuse".
24. Our standard states that too little furnishings are preferred to too much.
25. The coat of a Brittany should NEVER be clipped (like a Springer).
26. Profuse feathering & cottony texture impedes field work.
27. Result of cottony texture in the field.
28. Often, one will find a collar mark on a Brittany from the field competition identification collar. This is what one of those collars looks like.
29. This is the type of mark you may see on a field Brittany which is being exhibited in the show ring. We have more Dual Champions than any other breed. As of May 2006, there were over 500 Dual Champion Brittannys. Ignore this collar mark; it is practically impossible to groom out without blading down the fur.
30. The following four slides show acceptable degrees of coat. ALL ARE ACCEPTABLE. Also, the skin of a Brittany is fine and fairly loose, so that it will roll when meeting briars and sticks. This diminishes punctures and tearing. Skin so loose that pouches form is undesirable. Here is an orange in the field.
31. And another orange ...
32. A heavily blanketed liver ...
33. another heavily blanketed liver.
34. Brittannys do come in several colors. The most common is clear orange and white - in both standard pie-bald or parti-color patterns.
35. They are also clear liver and white in standard pie-bald or parti-color patterns. Our standard DOES NOT state percentages of color to white. Washed out colors are NOT desirable in either orange or liver.
36. This is an orange roan - very acceptable and the most common roan combination.
37. This is a liver roan - very acceptable but not often seen.
38. This is a white & orange with HEAVY TICKING; it is NOT quite a roan. This is also very acceptable. Ticking can be heavy in both the liver and the orange colorations. Don't be put off by these color combinations. We aren't.

39. This is a liver & white with heavy ticking - again, it is not quite a roan.
40. Tri-colors, to quote our standard "are allowed but not preferred". Our standard even defines what we mean by tri-color ..... "it is a LIVER AND WHITE dog with classic orange markings on eyebrows, muzzle and cheeks, inside the ears and under the tail. Freckles on the lower legs are orange. ANYTHING EXCEEDING THE LIMITS OF THESE MARKINGS SHALL BE SEVERELY PENALIZED." They are permitted because they are a natural occurrence in our breed when you breed orange & white to liver & white. We don't want breeders purposely breed for tri-s hence the compromise wording in the standard. In November 2002, there was an article in the AKC Judges Education Newsletter asking judges to NOT REWARD mis-marked "tri" Brittany's. Judges are asked to write in their book "excused, color or markings not allowed by breed standard." These mis-marked "tri-s" are three color Brittany's ... with the third color (orange) splashed indiscriminately over the body of the dog. Please read the article on "Color and the Brittany" in our packet carefully and adhere to it.
41. Black is a DISQUALIFICATION. Here are three slides of black Brittany's. This one is in the field.
42. These two have black noses; one is black in the coat as well.
43. These puppies have black noses and one is a tri-colored black pup. Remember if the nose is black, so is the dog. OFTEN, liver dogs have very, very dark liver coats; LOOK AT THE NOSE TO BE SURE. If the nose is liver, the coat is liver.
44. Acceptable nose colors are shades of brown and tan as in this orange and white
45. .... and in this roan
46. .... shades of brown as in this liver
47. .... shades of brown as in this correctly marked TRI-color head
48. .... and deep pink as in this orange and white dog. In this particular photo, the "freckles" in the nose pigmentation are due to his 16.5 years (this "young" man obtained his last title at 16 years of age). PLEASE, if you are judging veterans sweeps or ESPECIALLY DUAL CHAMPION sweeps, breeders take these classes VERY seriously. Please do so as well.
49. Don't let your eye for the balance of the dog be thrown off by coat patterns. Patterns are immaterial, but can impact your perception of the structure of the dog. Those of you from self-colored breeds need to train your eye to see around the variety of patterning. Heavy blankets can occur in orange/white as well as liver/white as seen in this slide.
50. Very white dogs can have a spot of color in just the wrong place (i.e.: middle of the back & start of the tailset !!!)
51. Sometimes the color spot throws off the perception of the side gait as in this slide.

52. We have a variety of eye and ear patch patterns. The standard does not address these, so they are all acceptable. This is an area of breeder preferences; judges should be impartial.
53. Solid or half-solid heads are common. One of our DC/AFC Master Hunters who won the 2001 summer specialty has a half-solid head and heavy orange and white blanket ... and moves like a dream.
54. There are also a variety of leg markings. Don't let it bother you.
55. The head of our breed is of medium length, rounded and SLIGHTLY sedge shaped, but evenly made. In width, it is not quite as wide as the length, and NEVER so broad as to appear coarse OR so narrow as to appear racy. The muzzle is about 2/3rds the length of the skull measuring the muzzle from the tip of nose to the stop and the skull from occiput to stop. The muzzle should taper gradually in horizontal and vertical dimensions as it approaches the nostrils. NEITHER DISH FACE OR ROMAN NOSE IS DESIRABLE.
56. This is a lovely head
57. Note the nice earset and clearly liver nose on this Britt
58. Another nice head
59. Another nice head with nice pink nose and lovely expression
60. A collection of head studies in all 5 color combinations - orange & white, liver & white, orange roan, liver roan & tri-color.
61. The nose of the Brittany should be wide open to permit deep breathing of air. Tight nostrils are to be penalized.
62. This is a two-tone or butterfly nose. It is to be penalized. But this one is well opened. The less pigmented spots can disappear with age.
63. The lips are tight and the upper lip overlaps the lower just to cover the lower lip. Lips should be dry so feathers won't stick. No excessive dewlaps. The bite is a true scissors bite.
64. Another view of the bite
65. The eyes of a Britt are well set in the head and are protected from briars by a heavy, expressive eyebrow. Prominent, full or pop-eyes are HEAVILY PENALIZED. It is a serious fault in a dog that must face briars. The skull is well chiseled under the eyes so the lower lid is not pulled back to form a pocket or haw.
66. The preference is for darker colored eyes, though lighter shades of amber should not be penalized. Light and mean-looking eyes should be HEAVILY penalized.

67. Ears are set high, above the level of the eyes. They are short and triangular - reaching half the length of the muzzle. They are flat, close to the head, with a rounded tip. They have dense, short hair with little fringe. Ears are important to our breed because they are the easiest indicator of cross breeding to both pointers and setters. Pay attention to the ears.
68. These are nice on this partial white-eared male. These are absolutely acceptable ear markings.
69. These ears are too rounded. The stop is also rather severe.
70. These are too heavily fringed, too long and note the very prominent occiput (similar to that found in an English Setter).
71. These are very "houndy" and long.
72. The neck is critical for carrying game (remember the weight of the birds). The neck is of medium length and free from throatiness. It is strong, but not over-muscled. It is well set into sloping shoulders. This neck is just right.
73. This neck is too short and over-muscled.
74. This neck is too long (and the grooming didn't help much either !!!).
75. A Brittany is so leggy that his height at the shoulders is the same as the length of his body. Remember - body length is measured from the point of forechest to the rear of the rump. There is no difference in males and females. A long body with a short ribcage impedes performance in the field. The length is in the ribcage.
76. This is also a nice square dog.
77. The topline has a SLIGHT slope from the highest point of the shoulders to root of the tail. This is a nice topline
78. The shoulders should not protrude too much. There is two thumbs width between the shoulder blades. The shoulders should be sloping and muscular. STRAIGHT SHOULDERS ARE A FAULT. These are nice shoulders.
79. The chest is deep, reaching the level of the elbow. They are not so rounded as to disturb the placement of the shoulders or elbows. The ribs are well sprung. This is a chest at a distance.
80. This is a nice, deep chest.
81. Remember the hourglass figure.
82. This is a well-muscled dog. Notice the rounded full flanks. The distance from the last rib to the upper thigh is short ... 3-4 fingers. Narrow and weak loins are a fault.

In motion, the loin should not sway sideways giving a zig-zag motion to the back. This wastes energy.

83. These hindquarters are strong, muscular and powerful
84. .... as are these in a dog that is clearly currently active in the field.
85. Viewed from the front, the front legs should be perpendicular, but not set too wide. Elbows and feet should turn neither in nor out. Extremely heavy bone as a Springer is as much a fault as spindly legs. **The height at the elbows should approximately equal the distance from the elbow to the top of the withers.** This is a lovely front.
86. This slide shows both too heavy and too light in bone.
87. The pasterns should be slightly sloped as in this slide. This is important for cushioning over rough ground when hunting. Down in the pasterns is a serious fault.
88. These feet, while nice on some breeds, are incorrect for a Brittany and there is no slope to the pastern. The Brittany is NOT "up on his toes".
89. These do not meet the ideal foot. The ideal foot is half-cat for cushioning and half-hare for gripping.
90. These are good feet for a Brittany. They are strong, proportionately smaller than spaniels with close-fitting, well-arched toes and thick pads.
91. Flat feet, splayed feet and paper feet are to be heavily penalized due to their breakdown in the field. These feet are too flat.
92. The stifles should be well bent, but a Brittany should not be condemned for straight stifles.
93. The stifle should not be so angulated as to place the hock joint far out behind.
94. A Brittany should not be condemned for straightness in the stifle until the judge has checked the dog in motion from the side.
95. Hocks should be moderately short, pointing neither in nor out. These are nice hocks
96. These are nice hocks.
97. Hocks should not point in or out (such as these).
98. Brittany's can be tail-less or to approximately four inches. They are either a natural bob (as in this slide) or docked. Any tail substantially more than four inches shall be severely penalized (remember, the DQ was removed in 1990). The tail not to be so long as to affect the overall balance of the dog. Set on high, actually an extension of the spine at about the same level.

99. THIS IS AN INAPPROPRIATE TAIL CARRIAGE.
100. A dog should not be faulted for lack of coat due to it being ripped out in the field. The American Brittany Club is NOT kidding when it states "too little is definitely preferable to too much" and again "long and profuse feathering or furnishings shall be so severely penalized as to effectively eliminate them from competition."
101. Though lean, this dog should not be eliminated. Though the ribs may slightly show, this is a dog in field condition and is not in emaciated condition. He must have muscle tone. He will have that hourglass figure.
102. This hackney gait is inefficient and un-balanced, and should be SEVERELY PENALIZED.
103. This lovely dual has it all.
104. When at a trot, the Brittany's hind foot should STEP INTO OR BEYOND THE PRINT LEFT BY THE FRONT FOOT.
105. Clean movement coming ....
106. .... and going is very important (they do not single-track)
107. BUT ... most important is SIDE GAIT .....
108. .... which is smooth, efficient & ground covering.
109. Rear legs drive well under the dog and extend freely behind. Eager and energetic, the Brittany should cover ground with lightness and power with no wasted movement.
110. The breed is in the hands of the show judges. The ABC mission statement is dedicated to the DUAL concept of keeping our breed functional. It is one of the few dual breeds left.
111. The ABC Mission statement is "to discourage the breed from becoming split into groups of "field dogs" and "show dogs" and to strive to keep it forever a DUAL DOG."
112. closing slide.

THANK YOU for your time. Please feel free to ask any questions.

*PASS OUT CERTIFICATES AT THE END OF THE PRESENTATION!!!*

I'd like to encourage you all to GO SEE THESE DOGS IN THE FIELD. Go online to [www.AKC.org](http://www.AKC.org) and find a pointing breed field trial or hunt test in your area. These are VERY different than those run for retrievers or spaniels. Call ahead, and get a contact person to help you out on the logistics. If it is a field trial ... the desire or ability to ride a

horse may be needed to see much. You may be able to borrow a horse. At a very few trials, there is a "brandy" wagon that follows the course to carry spectators.

In certain regions of the country, field trials are closed to Brittanys only due to the large entries in the breed. Hunt tests are always open to all pointing breeds, and are a great way to view the different hunting styles of the different pointing breeds.

If you are really need additional help to get further field trial or hunt test information, write me at the email on your attendance certificate, and I can either guide you or steer you to someone who can help you.

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### Ideas for Providing Hands-On Exhibits

1. Make sure that no judges in the room will be judging Brittanys for Breed or Group.
2. Have the dog handlers come about 45-50 minutes after your scheduled time to start.
3. Select dogs according to the following criteria:
  - Top twenty Brittanys (can be obtained on-line from Canine Chronicle, <http://www.caninechronicle.com/>)
  - BOB, BOS, BOW, or Winners or Reserve at the National or Summer Specialty, AKC Classic or Westminster.
  - OR ... top specials in your area (only if none of the above are available).
4. Line up these dogs; no introductions or names are necessary. Just say all are quality dogs and let the judge-students go over them and ask questions of the handlers and you. Instruct the dog handlers that they are not to talk about the winnings of their dog.
5. If there is a nice DUAL in the area, invite it to come.
6. Try to get a 17.5" and 20.5" (quality not required but is nice) for measurement purposes or at least to let the judges set their eye for size.
7. If you can locate a roan, liver or unusually marked dogs, great. Quality no necessary here as this isn't the point.
8. Be sure to take some time to gait the quality exhibits in a circle together. Have them go:
  - Too fast ... shows dip in topline
  - Too slow ... shows incorrect footfall
  - Just right ... emphasize location of rear foot into or beyond placement of front foot ... this is a different pattern than most judges are used to seeing and unless pointed out to them, they will fault them for this gait.

## Getting Ready to Go To A Field Trial

This is a short (about 20 minute) fun presentation for judges or for individuals who have never attended a field trial. This takes the perspective of starting with a puppy and going through the steps and language of trials. The emphasis is on breed characteristics that are important for a field dog. Which means, for Brittanys, breed characteristics that are important for judges to consider in the show ring.

1. We all start out as part of a team ...
2. Learning to get along
3. Seeking independence and climbing about in a secure environment.
4. Visiting our friends and learning about the outdoors.
5. I'm being assessed for style, size, conformation, shoulder and hindquarter placement for balance, reach and drive and appropriate length of neck. How that tail is held is important as well.
6. Ooops ... what is this wonder smell ... a homing pigeon in a bird release box. I'd better stop and get a good smell.
7. Wow ... it moves. I think I'll chase it. After about three times, the puppies realize that chasing birds is no fun; finding and smelling them is more fun.
8. Look ... I found another one; good, my owner wants me to stop and smell it really good. I guess that word "whoa" means there are good smells around.
9. Gee, this is fun. Traveling around with all my buddies in a horse trailer. It sure smells good around here.
10. Hey look ... there are some of those great smelling birds here too. This must be a really fun trip. No wonder everyone was excited and jumped right into their traveling box.
11. OK ... I'm here, but what is this stake I am chained to? At least I can watch those birds.
12. This is cool. I can get food, water, and still watch all the action.
13. It's my turn now ... look, he has one of those birds again. I'll stand and watch it.
14. I found another one ... I have to remember not to chase the bird and to stand still and look at it. My owner keeps saying "Whoa ... whoa" really soft and gentle-like and pets my side carefully. I must be doing this right.

15. Oh boy, oh boy ... I love this and he loves me.
16. Picture perfect.
17. Picture perfect.
18. Guess Suzi needs to practice standing still some more on the Whoa barrel.
19. What is this fake dog doing out here? Why is my owner saying "whoa" ... that's not a BIRD !!!
20. Oh, I get it. When I see another dog pointing a bird, I have to stop too.
21. OK, I've got it ... stop when I smell a bird; stop when I see another dog stopped. My owner calls that an "honor". Guess I have to be polite sometimes and let that other dog get the bird. Sure wish I had gotten here first though.
22. OK ... time to roll. Hope I get to bring one back this time.
23. Those guys on foot and horseback are just too slow.
24. Hey ... I found a bird; look ... it is right in front of me. Hurry up and GET HERE!!! Hope they are a good shot.
25. GREAT! They sent me to retrieve it ... oh boy, oh boy, oh boy.

*Stop at this point. Remind them that at most Midwest Brittany trials, we liberate birds and don't shoot them. The next 3 slides were from a real hunt and demonstrate the soft mouth.*

26. I am one happy fella ... here I come; man, am I glad they keep me healthy. I love to stretch out all my muscles; it sure feels good. Do I look spiffy with my tail up? Can you see how happy I am!!
27. This is the life ... glad I have a good strong neck.
28. I have to be gentle with this bird; my mouth is so soft; my lips just cover my teeth so I can bring this back to my owner. I am SOOOOO happy.
29. This is cool; exercise. Better than lying down all day. I love to run.
30. This is the life; there's one in here, folks.
31. Even in the snow, I can find and point birds.
32. How's this for a classic point. I really don't do it this way very often.
33. This is a more comfortable way to point since sometimes I have to wait for awhile for my owners to come.

34. Man, is this bird CLOSE. Hope I can stare it down so it will stay put.
35. OK, now what!! We both found this one at the same time. Who gets to go? Look, I even made a classy pose for you. Hope it's me ...
36. Hey ... this one is up in a tree. Can't you tell?
37. I won a bag of dog food. Everyone is happy.
38. Here are all of us that won together today. What a blast (by the way, the banner says it's a GSP trial!!).
39. It's time to get combed out from those darn stickers. I HATE spring-time.
40. This is the part I love the best. Back on the line with my friends and getting some loving.