AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
STANDARD OF THE PAPILLON

General Appearance
The Papillon is a small, friendly, elegant toy dog of fine-boned structure, light, dainty and of lively action; distinguished from other breeds by its beautiful butterfly-like ears.

Size, Proportion, Substance
Size - Height at withers, 8 to 11 inches. Fault - Over 11 inches. Disqualification - Over 12 inches. Proportion - Body must be slightly longer than the height at withers. It is not a cobby dog. Weight is in proportion to height. Substance - Of fine-boned structure.

Head
Eyes dark, round, not bulging, of medium size and alert in expression. The inner corners of the eyes are on line with the stop. Eye rims black. Ears - The ears of either the erect or drop type should be large with rounded tips, and set on the sides and toward the back of the head. (1) Ears of the erect type are carried obliquely and move like the spread wings of a butterfly. When alert, each ear forms an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the head. The leather should be of sufficient strength to maintain the erect position. (2) Ears of the drop type, known as the Phalene, are similar to the erect type, but are carried drooping and must be completely down. Faults - Ears small, pointed, set too high; one ear up, or ears partly down. Skull - The head is small. The skull is of medium width and slightly rounded between the ears. A well-defined stop is formed where the muzzle joins the skull. Muzzle - The muzzle is fine, abruptly thinner than the head, tapering to the nose. The length of the muzzle from the tip of the nose to stop is approximately one-third the length of the head from tip of nose to occiput. Nose black, small, rounded and slightly flat on top. The following fault shall be severely penalized - Nose not black. Lips tight, thin and black. Tongue must not be visible when jaws are closed. Bite - Teeth must meet in a scissors bite. Faults - Overshot or undershot.

Neck, Topline, Body
Neck of medium length. Topline - The backline is straight and level. Body - The chest is of medium depth with ribs well sprung. The belly is tucked up. Tail long, set high and carried well arched over the body. The tail is covered with a long, flowing plume. The plume may hang to either side of the body. Faults - Low-set tail; one not arched over the back, or too short.

Forequarters
Shoulders well developed and laid back to allow freedom of movement. Forelegs slender, fine-boned and must be straight. Removal of dewclaws on forelegs optional. Front feet thin and elongated (hare-like), pointing neither in nor out.

Hindquarters
Well developed and well angulated. The hind legs are slender, fine-boned, and parallel when viewed from behind. Hocks inclined neither in nor out. Dewclaws, if any, must be removed from hind legs. Hind feet thin and elongated (hare-like), pointing neither in nor out.
Coat
Abundant, long, fine, silky, flowing, straight with resilient quality, flat on back and sides of body. A profuse frill on chest. There is no undercoat. Hair short and close on skull, muzzle, front of forelegs, and from hind feet to hocks. Ears well fringed, with the inside covered with silken hair of medium length. Backs of the forelegs are covered with feathers diminishing to the pasterns. Hind legs are covered to the hocks with abundant breeches (culottes). Tail is covered with a long, flowing plume. Hair on feet is short, but fine tufts may appear over toes and grow beyond them, forming a point.

Color
Always parti-color or white with patches of any color(s). On the head, color(s) other than white must cover both ears, back and front, and extend without interruption from the ears over both eyes. A clearly defined white blaze and nose-band are preferred to a solidly marked head. Symmetry of facial markings is desirable. The size, shape, placement, and presence or absence of patches of color on the body are without importance. Among the colors there is no preference, provided nose, eye rims and lips are well pigmented black.

The following faults shall be severely penalized - Color other than white not covering both ears, back and front, or not extending from the ears over both eyes. A slight extension of the white collar onto the base of the ears, or a few white hairs interspersed among the color, shall not be penalized, provided the butterfly appearance is not sacrificed.

Disqualifications - An all white dog or a dog with no white.

Gait
Free, quick, easy, graceful, not paddlefooted, or stiff in hip movements.

Temperament
Happy, alert and friendly. Neither shy nor aggressive.

Disqualifications
Height over 12 inches.
An all white dog or a dog with no white.

Approved June 10, 1991
Effective July 31, 1991
A Brief History of the Papillon

The origin of the Continental Toy Spaniel, of which the Papillon is the modern representative, can be traced through the paintings of the Old Masters of every country in Western Europe as far back as the earliest years of the 16th Century. Beginning about 1500, Vecellio, called Titian, painted a number of tiny spaniels, rather similar to the hunting spaniels of the day. In that century and the next, dogs--so like the Titian spaniel that it is safe to assume this was a purebreed --made their appearance in Spain, France and the Low Countries.

We can only speculate on the ancestry of the Titian spaniel. Classical Greece and Rome possessed toy dogs but these were a spitz type which seems to have become extinct. During the Dark Ages only hunting and working dogs would have been of value, but with the dawn of the Renaissance, Italy became a prolific source of toy breeds of many varied types: toy greyhounds, dwarf barbets (a sort of miniature poodle, often clipped lion-fashion), dogs of Cayenne (which were curiously pug-like), and a number of breeds which probably resulted from crosses of various sorts. The toy spaniel was quite different from any of these in its characteristics.

One authority has suggested that the toy spaniel was brought from China, with which country the Venetians had traded since the days of Marco Polo, the Chinese did, in fact, have, as late as the 18th Century, a parti-colored, long-coated dog not unlike the Titian spaniel, along with those resembling the modern Pekingese. But as the breeders of the Renaissance were able to reduce greyhounds and barbets to very small size, it seems unnecessary to resort to the Chinese theory to account for the toy spaniel.

The name spaniel means dog of Spain, for which reason it has often been inferred that the spaniel breeds originated there. The spaniel family, which includes the setters, is as old as such other basic canine patterns as the hounds, the mastiffs or the spitzes. It is therefore probable that the hunting spaniels came to Europe along with successive Asiatic tribes. In this case, spaniel was a misnomer for the hunting breeds as well as for the toy.

The often repeated story that the conquerors of Mexico brought the Chihuahua to Spain and that the Papillon is descended from it seems to have no historical basis. The Titian spaniel had been developed as a pure breed prior to the Conquest of Mexico. Furthermore, this theory seems to have been fabricated to account for the erect, oblique ears of the Papillon. But it explains nothing, because the Continental Toy Spaniel did not become the butterfly dog with erect ears until two and a half centuries after the Conquest.

The continued popularity of the little spaniel in court circles gave the breeders a ready market for their dogs. Evidently they conducted an intensive breeding program for its refinement. Over the years it developed finer bone, more abundant coat and profuse feathering. The most characteristic change, however, was in the shape of the head. Titian's spaniels had relatively flat heads with little stop; a type of toy spaniel painted shortly after by Veronese and others had high-domed, sometimes bulging heads. By the time of Louis XIV, French and Belgian breeders had perfected the type they sought. Mignard, the official court painter, in his portraits of the child Marie de Bourbon, the Dauphin and
His Family, and several paintings of Henriette d'Orleans, shows us a little spaniel that could scarcely be improved upon today.

From Titian through Mignard and his contemporaries, all of the Continental Toy Spaniels had drooping ears. The ears were set high, although far enough apart to show the curve of the skull. They were of medium size, hanging, as one writer has expressed it, "lightly". There may, however, have been an occasional dog with leather of sufficient strength for the ears to stand erect. Two 18th Century paintings suggest this.

Suddenly, toward the end of the 19th Century, the erect ear carriage with its butterfly appearance became highly fashionable. In fact, it so caught the public fancy that the new term of "Papillon" quickly became the name for the entire breed. Several attempts have been made in the past to straighten out the names of the two varieties, without much success. Recently the international Papillon organization, to which the American but not the English club is affiliated, has given to the drop eared variety the name of "Phalene".

The Titian dogs were red and white. Before long, specimens appeared in all shades from pale lemon to deepest chestnut, while some of the most beautiful examples were black and white or silver-grey and white. All these colors were usually marked with a white blaze and often with the thumb mark on the top of the head. Then, toward the end of the 19th Century through the first two decades of this one, the vogue was for solid colors or for dogs with only the feet and chest splashed with white. Today the solid colors have disappeared and the preference is again for an evenly marked parti-color. People often insist on a one-word answer to the question, "Where does the breed come from?" Baron Albert Houtart of Belgium, author of the most authoritative work on this subject, demonstrated that credit for perfecting the Continental Toy Spaniel belongs equally to France and to Belgium. This statement is also true for the development of the erect-eared type. Both countries may rightfully consider the Papillon a native breed.

The little Papillon has survived rather better than the Royal Families in whose courts he was once such a favorite. Men, women and children of all ages and in all walks of life take him into their laps and hearts. Now, as truly as in the past, when he has found his way into a home, he is there to stay, as loving as he is beloved.

RACHEL D. KEMMERER
President Emeritus
Papillon Club of America
(Adapted from the 1957 PCA Handbook)
EYES

Eyes dark, round, not bulging, of medium size and alert in expression. The inner corners of the eyes are on line with the stop. Eye rims black.

The eye should be dark on all colors, including the lighter shades of sable, red or lemon.
NOT DARK

INCORRECT

LARGE BULGING

NOT ROUND
EARS

Ears-The ears of either the erect or drop type should be large with rounded tips, and set on the sides and toward the back of the head.

(1) Ears of the erect type are carried obliquely and move like the spread wings of a butterfly. When alert, each ear forms an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the head. The leather should be of sufficient strength to maintain the erect position.

(2) Ears of the drop type, known as the Phaléne, are similar to the erect type, but are carried drooping and must be completely down.

Faults-Ears small, pointed, set too high; one ear up, or ears partly down.
It is necessary to feel the shape of the ear. On young dogs, the ears may appear pointed because the hair may stand up and out, as it is not yet of sufficient length to fall. A large rounded ear is sought, not a long, thin, bladed ear. The amount of fringe on the ear can obscure the true shape. The size and shape of the ear are equally important on a Papillon and a Phaléne. Only the carriage is different. An erect ear type that is not alert may appear to have a low ear set, but the standard calls for a 45 degree set when alert. The ears of a Papillon are mobile and may rotate backward on both the erect or drop ear types. The Phaléne’s ears, while completely down, do have mobility and some lift where the skull and the ear meet. It is not a dead ear.
SKULL AND MUZZLE (FRONT VIEW)

**Skull**-The head is small. The skull is of medium width and slightly rounded between the ears. A well-defined stop is formed where the muzzle joins the skull.

**Muzzle**-The muzzle is fine, abruptly thinner than the head, tapering to the nose. The length of the muzzle from the tip of the nose to stop is approximately one-third the length of the head from tip of the nose to occiput.

**Nose** black, small, rounded, and slightly flat on top. *The following fault shall be severely penalized*-Nose not black.

**Lips** tight, thin and black. Tongue must not be visible when jaws are closed.

INCORRECT

DOMED

FLAT

WIDE, HEAVY MUZZLE
The markings on the head may distort in appearance the size of the skull. A wide blaze may appear to be a bigger head, while a thinner blaze or a solid head may appear to be too small when it is not.
SKULL AND MUZZLE (PROFILE)

CORRECT

INCORRECT

SHORT MUZZLE
DOMED SKULL

LACKS STOP
LONG MUZZLE

DOWN FACED
LACKS UNDER
JAW
BITE

*Bite*-Teeth must meet in a scissors bite.  
*Faults*-Overshot or undershot.

**CORRECT**

**INCORRECT**

OVERSHOT

UNDERSHOT
BODY TYPE

General Appearance
The Papillon is a small, friendly, elegant toy dog of fine-boned structure, light, dainty and of lively action; distinguished from other breeds by its beautiful butterfly-like ears.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Size-Height at withers, 8 to 11 inches.
Fault-Over 11 inches.
Disqualification-Over 12 inches.
Proportion-Body must be slightly longer than the height at withers. It is not a cobby dog. Weight is in proportion to height.
Substance-Of fine-boned structure.

INCORRECT

CHIHUAHUA TYPE

WEEDY, NARROW, LACKS SUBSTANCE
The standard mentions “fine-boned” on four separate occasions. An 11” dog can be fine-boned and an 8” dog can be heavy-boned. There is no preference as to the height of the dog as long as the animal is fine-boned for his height. One must feel under the coat to evaluate the size of the bone, as coat can be very deceiving. Slightly longer than tall is necessary to the correct silhouette of the Papillon. Slightly is subjective. Again, one must feel under the coat to ascertain the proportion. However, remember that the dog should be only slightly longer and short legs/long body are not correct. Regardless of height, all Papillons should be elegant, of fine-boned structure, light and dainty.
FOREQUARTERS
Shoulders well developed and laid back to allow freedom of movement. Forelegs slender, fine-boned and must be straight. Removal of dewclaws on forelegs optional. Front feet thin and elongated (hare-like), pointing neither in nor out.

CORRECT

INCORRECT

TOES OUT

TOES IN
HINDQUARTERS
Well developed and well-angulated. The hind legs are slender, fine-boned, and parallel when viewed from behind. Hocks inclined neither in nor out. Dewclaws, if any, must be removed from hind legs. Hind feet thin and elongated (hare-like), pointing neither in nor out.
FEET thin and elongated (hare-like)

Trimming is not addressed in the Papillon Standard. Many exhibitors choose to trim the foot in a hare foot shape, with tufts over the toes. Trimming of hair on the pasterns is also common.
TOPLINE
The backline is straight and level.
The topline must be felt as markings or hair can create misleading optical illusions.
BODY
The chest is of medium depth with ribs well sprung. The belly is tucked up.

PROPORTION
Body must be slightly longer than the height at withers. It is not a cobby dog.

INCORRECT

LONG BODY

SHORT BODY

LONG LEGS

SHORT LEGS
NECK

Neck of medium length.

CORRECT

TOO SHORT

INCORRECT
HINDQUARTERS/FOREQUARTERS PROFILE
The ideal degree of angulation is not indicated in the Standard. If forequarters are well developed and laid back, and if hindquarters are well developed and well angulated, and if the two are balanced, the degree of angulation is acceptable. These are toy spaniels and many Papillon breeders desire movement akin to that of a sporting breed.

CORRECT

INCORRECT

LACKS REAR ANGULATION
TAIL

**Tail** long, set high and carried well arched over the body. The tail is covered with a long, flowing plume. The plume may hang to either side of the body.

**Faults**- Low-set tail; one not arched over the back, or too short.

**CORRECT**
INCORRECT

LOW TAIL SET WITH SLOPING CROUP

NOT ARCHED

NOT ARCHED

NOT ARCHED
COAT

Coat-Abundant, long, fine, silky, flowing, straight with resilient quality, flat on back and sides of body. A profuse frill on chest. There is no undercoat. Hair short and close on skull, muzzle, front of forelegs, and from hind feet to hocks. Ears well fringed, with the inside covered with silken hair of medium length. Backs of the forelegs are covered with feathers diminishing to the patterns. Hind legs are covered to the hocks with abundant breeches (culottes). Tail is covered with a long, flowing plume. Hair on feet is short, but fine tufts may appear over toes and grow beyond them, forming a point.
The ears are well fringed, with the inside covered with silken hair of medium length. The Standard does not say the dog with most ear fringe or coat is superior. The size, shape and placement of the ear is more important than the amount of hair on the ear, so long as the ear is “well-fringed.” Genetically, the sables and reds do not carry as much fringing as the tris and black and whites. This is a single coated breed. Double coats have undercoat and are often cottony rather than silky to the touch.
GAIT
**Gait**-Free, quick, easy, graceful, not paddle-footed, or stiff in hip movements.

**CORRECT**

**INCORRECT**

MOVEMENT LACKS EXTENSION

TEMPERAMENT
**Temperament**-Happy, alert and friendly. Neither shy nor aggressive.
DISQUALIFICATIONS

*Height over 12 inches.*
*An all white dog or a dog with no white.*

FAULTS

Over 11 inches at the withers

Ears small, pointed, set too high;

One ear up, or ears partly down.

Bite: Overshot or undershot.

Low-set tail; one not arched over the back, or too short.

SEVERLY PENALIZED

Color other than white not covering both ears, back and front, or not extending from the ears over both eyes

Nose not black.
COLOR

Color - Always parti-color or white with patches, of any color(s). On the head, color(s) other than white must cover the ears, back and front, and extend without interruption from the ears over both eyes. A clearly defined white blaze and nose-band are preferred to a solidly marked head. Symmetry of facial markings is desirable. The size, shape, placement, and presence or absence of patches of color on the body are without importance. Among the colors there is no preference, provided nose, eye rims, and lips are well pigmented black.

INCORRECT SEVERELY PENALIZED

MISMATCH

EYE RIMS, LIPS, NOSE NOT BLACK
The following faults shall be severely penalized:

Color other than white not covering both ears, back and front, or not extending from the ears over both eyes. A slight extension of the white collar onto the base of the ears, or a few white hairs interspersed among the color, shall not be penalized, provided the butterfly appearance is not sacrificed.
Any color is acceptable so long as the nose, eye rims, and lips are well-pigmented black. The colors listed on the AKC registration form are White & Black, White and Lemon, White & Red, White and Sable, White, Black, and Tan. There is no preference with regard to the size of the blaze, placement of body spots, or lack of body spots on the Papillon. Be aware that the color patches can create numerous illusions with regard to the proportions of the head and/or the body. While a white blaze and noseband are preferred to a solidly marked head, solid markings are not a fault. Presence or absence of ticking anywhere on the body is without importance and should not be penalized.
GLOSSARY

Abdomen The belly or under surface between the chest and the hindquarters.

Angulation Angles created by bones meeting at their given joints.

Bad mouth Crooked teeth; when the mouth is closed, upper and lower teeth do not line up according to the standard of the breed.

Balance When all the parts of the dog, moving or standing, produce a harmonious image.

Barrel hocks Hocks that turn out, causing the feet to toe in. Also called spread hocks.

Blaze A white stripe running up the center of the face usually between the eyes.

Brisket Usually refers to the sternum, but in some standards it refers to the entire thorax.

Chest The part of the body or trunk that is enclosed by the ribs.

Coarse Lacking refinement.

Coat The dog’s hair covering.

Cobby Compact, with a short body.

Cow-hocked Hocks turning in, accompanied by toeing out of rear feet.

Crabbing Dog moves with its body at an angle to the line of travel. Also called side-winding.

Croup The region of the pelvic girdle, formed by the sacrum and surrounding tissue.

Culottes The longer hair on the back of the thighs.

Dewclaw An extra claw on the inside of the leg; a rudimentary fifth toe, removed on most breeds.

Domed Evenly rounded in topskull; curved, not flat.

Double coat An outer coat resistant to weather and protective against brush and brambles, together with an undercoat of softer hair for warmth and waterproofing. A dog with this type of coat can also be referred to as a double coat.

Down in pastern Weak or faulty pastern set at an incorrect angle.

Drive A solid thrusting of the hindquarters.

Drop ear The ear leather folds over; not erect or prick ears.

East-west front Incorrect positioning that causes the feet to turn outwards.

Elbow The posterior region of the articulation between the arm and forearm.

Elbows out Turning out or off from the body; not held close.

Even bite Meeting of upper and lower incisors with no overlap. Also called level bite.

Ewe neck A neck in which the top neck-line is concave rather than convex.

Expression The general appearance of all the features of the head.

Feathering Longer fringe of hair on ears, legs, tail, or body.

Femur Thigh bone. Extends from hip to stifle.

Fibula One of the two bones of the leg (i.e., the lower thigh, second thigh, or lower leg).

Fiddle front Forelegs out at elbows, pasterns close, and feet turned out. French front.

Flag A long tail carried high lacks enough arch.

Forearm The portion of the forelimb between the arm and the wrist.

Forequarters The combined front assembly from its uppermost component, the shoulder blade, down to the feet.

Fringes Longer hair on ears.

Furnishings The long hair on the extremities (including head and tail) of certain breeds.

Gait The pattern of footsteps at various rates of speed, each pattern distinguished by a particular rhythm and footfall.

Goose step Accentuated lift of the forelimbs.

Hare foot Foot on which the two center digits are appreciably longer than the outside and inside toes of the foot, and the arching of the toes is less marked, making the foot appear longer overall.

Hindquarters Rear assembly of the dog (pelvis, thighs, hocks, and paws).

Hock The collection of bones of the hind leg forming the joint between the second thigh and the metatarsus; the dog’s true heel.

Humerus The bone of the arm (i.e., the upper arm).

Incisors The six upper and six lower front
teeth between the canines. The point of contact forms the bite.  
**Kneecap** The stifle, with the bone known as the patella.  
**Layback** The angle of the shoulder blade as compared with the vertical plane viewed from the side.  
**Leather** The flap of the ear; the outer ear supported by cartilage and surrounding tissue.  
**Level bite** When the front teeth (incisors) of the upper and lower jaws meet exactly edge to edge. Also called pincer bite, equal bite, or even bite.  
**Loin** The region of the body associated with the lumbar portions of the vertebrae column (i.e., behind the ribs and in front of the pelvic girdle).  
**Metatarsus** Rear pastern.  
**Mismark** Coat or color. (2) A dog that has coat coloration or markings not conforming to which is acceptable for the breed.  
**Moving close** When the hocks turn in and pasterns drop straight to the ground and move parallel to one another, the dog is moving close in the rear.  
**Muzzle** The head in front of the eyes: nasal bone, nostrils, and jaws. Foreface.  
**Neck well set-on** Good neckline, merging gradually with withers, forming a pleasing transition into topline.  
**Nose** Organ of olfaction.  
**Nose band** White marking around the muzzle.  
**Out at the elbows** Elbows turning out from the body as opposed to being held close.  
**Overshot** The incisors of the upper jaw projecting beyond the incisors of the lower jaw, thus resulting in a space between the respective inner and outer surfaces.  
**Paddling** A gaiting fault, so named for its similarity to the swing and dip of a canoeist’s paddle. Pinching in at the elbows and shoulder joints causes the front legs to swing forward on a stiff outward arc. Also called tied at the elbows.  
**Pads** Tough, shock-absorbing projections on the underside of the feet. Soles.  
**Parti-color** Two or more definite, well-broken colors, one of which must be white.  
**Reach of front** Length of forward stride taken by forelegs.  
**Rear pastern** The metatarsus; the region of the hindquarters between the hock and the foot.  
**Rib cage** The collection of paired ribs, cartilage, sternum, and associated tissue that define the thoracic region.  
**Roach back** A convex curvature of the back involving thoracic and lumbar regions.  
**Scissors bite** A bite in which the outer side of the lower incisors touches the inner side of the upper incisors.  
**Sickle hocked** Inability to straighten the hock joint on the backward reach of the hind leg.  
**Sternum** Breastbone.  
**Stifle** The joint of the hind leg between the thigh and the second thigh. The dog’s knee.  
**Stilted** The choppy, up-and-down gait of the straight-hocked dog.  
**Straight shoulders** The shoulder blades rather straight up and down, as opposed to sloping or well laid back.  
**Substance** Bone.  
**Symmetry** Pleasing balance between all parts of the dog.  
**Tail set** How the base of the tail is set on the rump.  
**Thigh** The hindquarter from hip to stifle.  
**Ticking** Multiple small color patches of hair appearing through a white coat.  
**Topline** The dog’s outline from just behind the withers to the tail set.  
**Undershot** The front teeth (incisors) of the lower jaw overlapping or projecting beyond the front teeth of the upper jaw when the mouth is closed.  
**Upper arm** The humerus or bone of the foreleg, between the shoulder blade and the forearm and associated tissues.  
**Vertebral column** The bones of the central axis of the dog posterior to the skull, including cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacral, and caudal vertebrae.  
**Weedy** An insufficient amount of bone; light boned.  
**Withers** Highest point of a dog’s shoulders.  
**Wry mouth** Asymmetrical alignment of upper and lower jaws; cross bite.