

Illustrated
Standard
of the
Nederlandse
Kooikerhondje



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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: Birgitta Lindblad, Margo Kleinjan, Dr. Susanne Martin, Henna Palmunen, Astrid Straaijer, and Jan van den Berg.

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*Dedicated to
Baronesse van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol,
without whose efforts, our beloved
Nederlandse Kooikerhondje
would have slipped into
the long night of
extinction.*

Foreword

As President of the Dutch breed association for the Kooikerhondje (Vereniging Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje, VHNK) I am honored to have been asked to write this foreword, which I did together with our immediate past president, Mr. Jan van den Berg.

We are delighted to see a growing interest worldwide in our breed, the Dutch Kooikerhondje. Breed associations, now established in various countries, are fortunately keeping pace and promoting the interests of this lovely breed.

In 2014, the VHNK held its third International Symposium. Esteemed breed judge Diana Striegel delivered a presentation on the breed standard of the Dutch Kooikerhondje, which was revised and updated in 2010. The idea quickly arose of transforming Ms. Striegel's presentation into a work of reference, which at the heels of the International Symposium participants would find its way to countries all over the world. That publication was subsequently adapted by Ms. Striegel and members of the KCUSA and VHNK to include US terminology and now is before you.

The VHNK sees itself as a guardian of our national living heritage, the beautiful Nederlandse Kooikerhondje. It gives us great pleasure that the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA, Inc., seized the chance to provide the American Cynology with an explicit and well-illustrated reference work on the Dutch Kooikerhondje that will be valuable to breeders, judges and anyone interested in the breed all over the world.

The Dutch Kooikerhondje, though small, is most certainly all dog with a functional construction and attractive though not abundant coat. Breeding of the Kooikerhondje requires special attention not only to health issues but also to avoid any exaggeration.

We believe KCUSA will observe our honors in guarding our living heritage and wish you wisdom and success in working toward and achieving this goal.

—Jan van den Berg
President (1998–2015)

—Kerstin Ueckert
President of the VHNK



*Logo of the
VHNK*



The History of the Kooikerhondje

Early History

Historical evidence shows a small orange and white dog has been in the duck decoy traps (Eendenkooi) at least since 1450.

Dog in Paintings

As long ago as the 17th century, a dog resembling a Spioen (the ancient Dutch term for the original type of Spaniel) appeared in different paintings, not only in our current white and orange but also in black and white and tricolor. Jan Steen and Vermeer were especially fond of painting this type of dog. English, Belgium and Italian painters also painted small parti-colored dogs that resemble the modern Kooikerhondje.

Paintings are usually a mirror of daily life, so there really was a dog living in Europe that looked like Kooikerhondje. A famous painting by J.A. Kruseman, “The Widow of Willem van Oranje,” shows the widow grieving for her dead husband with her son and a small parti-colored dog on her lap.



The Widow of Willem van Oranje by J. A. Kruseman (1802–62)

*Het Vrolijke
Huisgezin
by van
Jan Steen
(1626–79)*



These dogs were the ancestors of our modern Kooikerhondje. See the many similarities: the shape of the skull, the skull and muzzle almost equal in length, a blaze, the feathered ears and the parti-colored fur of moderate length.

Willem van Oranje

The Kooikerhondje and Prince Willem van Oranje are inseparably linked. This Prince was the founder of the Dutch monarchy. In 1572, Prince Willem was in his camp, and wanted to save his nephew Lodewijk from the Spanish army. There was a sudden attack, and no time to warn Prince Willem. But Willem had his dog Kunze with him. Kunze woke him up in time to escape. After that night, the Prince was always accompanied by his dog. Un-



*Paintings
of Willem
van Oranje
death
showing a
dog re-
sembling
a Kooiker-
hondje*



fortunately, Kunze could not prevent Prince Willem's death at the hands of Balthasar Gérard in 1584. Several paintings of this event show a dog that resembles the Kooikerhondje.



Gravestone of Willem van Oranje

But could it have really been a Kooikerhondje?

The prince loved to hunt, but Kooikerhondjes were not known to have been used for the style of hunting he enjoyed. These dogs were used in the Duck Decoys, Eendenkooi in Dutch. There were Duck Decoys on the estates of many nobleman, including those where the prince lived and hunted. But this was a breed for the poor people and not the people normally around the Prince. Maybe the dog caught his attention on one of his rides and he was attracted to his looks and qualities? Several paintings of the death of Willem show a dog similar in many ways to a Kooikerhondje.

The gravestone of Willem van Oranje, made almost 200 years after his death, has a dog lying at his feet. That dog has more similarities to a Labrador than a Kooikerhondje.

The Kooikerhondje in the Last Century

There is more of the noble history to tell about this lovely breed. Many years later, around 1920, the Duck Decoys began to disappear as more hunters were using guns, so fewer Kooikerhondjes were needed.

Baronesse van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol, a lady of the Dutch nobility (1901–1986) wanted to preserve the breed. In 1939, she started her revival of the breed. She gave pictures of the dogs along with a clipping of fabric to peddlers and asked them



Baronesse van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol

to look for dogs like the one in the picture, matching the fabric color as well. When the peddlers reported a dog that looked right, the Baroness took her backpack and bicycle to go look at that dog. She searched the whole country for dogs she could use. She discovered Tommie, a bitch from Friesland, the northern part of Holland. Tommie became the founding bitch of today's Kooikerhondje.

In 1942, Tommie was mated to Bennie and she delivered four puppies, three females and one male. The females were named Trix, Irene and Margriet, after the three little Princesses of the House of Orange who had fled to Canada for the duration of the Second World War.

Breeding Dutch dogs was also a symbol of silent resistance against the occupier. The orange color of the dogs was also very important. After all, the name of the Dutch Royal House is Van Oranje (from Orange).

During World War II, a lot of effort went into getting the Dutch breeds recognized. The Dutch people had not been so proud of their dogs before the war, but that changed during the occupation. Besides the Kooikerhondje, the Stabijhoun, Drentsche Patrijshond, Wetterhoun and Schapendoes all started working on recognition before or during the war.



After the litter from Tommie and Bennie, the Baroness bred 57 Kooikerhondje litters and used the kennel name Walhalla.

The founding bitch was Tommie and the founding father could be Bobbie, who the Baroness used to sire a lot of litters.

The Baroness did a lot of good work and her effort was successful. More Kooikerhondjes were to be found around the Netherlands. On the fifth of July 1958, the first evaluation or show day took place, with 68 participants. Only eight males and seven females were judged good enough

for breeding. More evaluation days were held in 1959, 1961 and 1965.

5

There was a desire to start an Association, but the Dutch Kennel Club only wanted to recognize the Association after the Kooikerhondje was recognized as an official breed.

The judges needed some guidelines for judging. The first breeding guidelines were set in 1962.

A provisional breed standard was written in 1966. In June of that year, the Kooikerhondje was provisionally recognized.

The Dutch Association, the VHNK (Vereniging Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje) was founded on February 11, 1967, and recognized by the Dutch Kennel Club on December 20, 1971.

The Kooikerhondje was officially recognized on May 15, 1971. The name of the breed was changed in 2011 to Nederlandse Kooikerhondje.

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, in the Dutch standard.

Brief Historical Summary

In 1942, during the Second World War, the Baroness Van Hardenbroek van Ammerstol began to recreate the Kooikerhondje. She gave a picture of the type of dog she was looking for to a pedlar and asked him to look out for such dogs. At a farm in the province of Friesland he found the bitch now well known as Tommy. She became the founding bitch of the Kooikerhondje. In 1966 the Raad van Beheer adopted the interim breed and in 1971 the breed was officially recognized.

The Kooikerhondje was and still is used in the duck decoys. His task is still to lure the ducks into the decoy with his gaily waving tail; he does not hunt the ducks. He calmly moves between the decoy-screens in order to provoke the ducks curiosity and lure them further down the decoy pipe where the ducks are captured in a trap. They are either killed for the table or ringed for ornithological research.



The Baroness with her pack at the Evaluation Day in 1961.

The Breed Standard of the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje

Approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC) on October 28, 2016 and effective April 1, 2017.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Kooikerhondje is a harmoniously built orange-red parti-colored small sporting dog of almost square body proportions. He moves with his head held high; in action the well-feathered waving tail is carried level with, or above the topline. The ears have black hair at the tip, the so-called ear-rings. The dog is presented with a natural, untrimmed coat. Visible scissoring or grooming, except for neatening the feet, is to be severely penalized.





Twelve recent winners at the Dutch Kooikerhondje Club Annual Show, illustrating both the European style of presentation and different styles of Kooikerhondjes along with the variation in acceptable markings.



About Harmoniously Built

Does everything appear balanced: the head with the body, the front with the rear, etcetera? Is it a good representative of the breed? Does the outline “fill the eye”? And do you see a clear indication of the sex of the dog; is it a male or might it be a female? This should be obvious without checking the “details.”

Size Ideal height at the withers: Males 16 inches, Females 15 inches.

Disqualification: 1 1/2 inches under the ideal height after one year of age or 1 1/2 inches over the ideal height at any age.

Proportion Skull and muzzle are of about equal length. The length of the body from the point of the shoulder (at the scapula and humerus) to the point of the buttocks should be slightly longer than the height at the withers. Length of forelegs from the ground to the elbow should be equal to depth of body from elbow to withers.

Substance Strong bone but not heavy.

About the Size

In Holland the size is 40 centimeters (15.75 inches) for a male and 38 centimeters (14.96 inches) for a female.

In the Netherlands there is a tolerance for 2 centimeters (0.79 inches) over and 3 centimeters (1.18 inches) under the ideal heights. This indicates that there is more tolerance for smaller dogs than for bigger dogs.

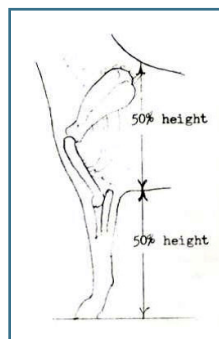
American rules require rounding to the nearest one half inch. Therefore 16 inches at the withers is ideal for dogs and 15 inches for bitches, with a disqualification at 1 1/2 inches under the ideal height after one year of age or 1 1/2 inches over the ideal height at any age.

The size is measured from the ground to the withers (highest point of the shoulder blade, just behind the neck).

When the dog is well balanced, it can be forgiven for being a bit too large or too small.

- 10 The length of the front legs (from the floor to the elbows) needs to be equal to the distance from the elbow to the withers.

A dog with legs that are too short, but is the correct height, has a bigger fault than a dog with the correct proportion, but who is an inch over the ideal.



L: Good length of legs



R: Too low on legs

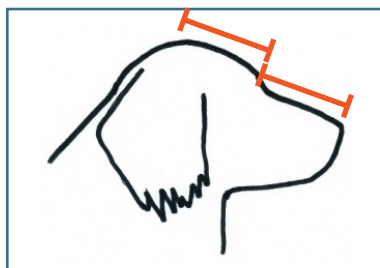


Be careful that the Kooikerhondje does not get too big. After all it must still be a KooikerhondJE. The last two letters means it is a small dog.

Be careful also the Kooikerhondje does not become too heavy or too broad. He must still show the flowing and light-footed movement.

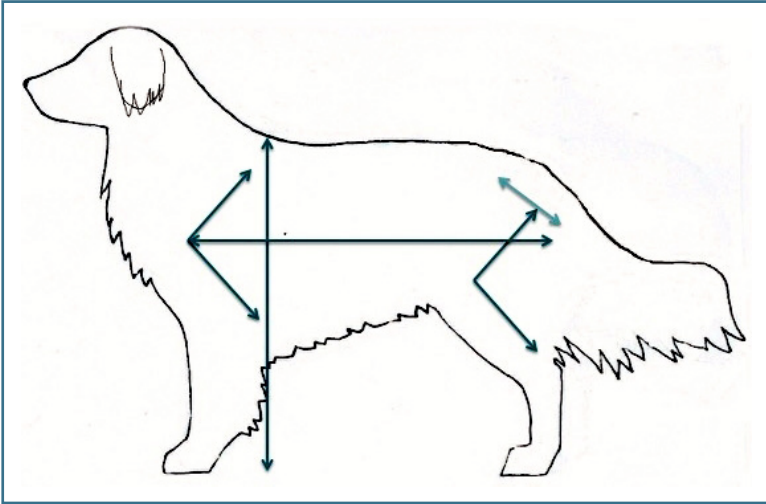
About Proportions

Regarding the head, the length of the muzzle should be as long as the length of the skull. The muzzle starts at the point of the nose and ends at the transition to the skull, between the eyes. The skull starts where the muzzle ends and continues to the occiput, which can be felt as a knot at the





A dog of ideal proportions



Correct slightly off square body proportion

back of the skull. The slightly off-square body proportions means that the height at the withers is almost the same as the length of the body. The length of body is measured from the point of the shoulder (at junction of the scapula and humerus) to the end of the buttocks (ischium). The height is measured from the highest point of the withers to the floor.

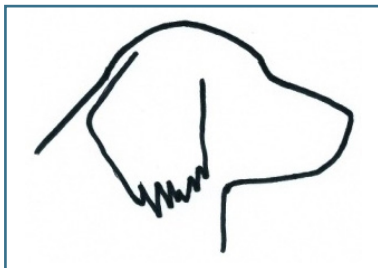


L: Too short backed

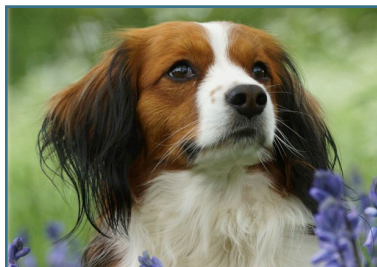
R: A bit too long bodied/ low on leg

HEAD

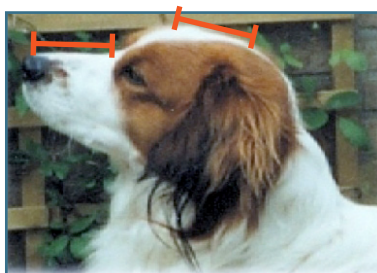
Head The head is of moderate length, fitting in with the general appearance, clean-cut, with flowing lines.



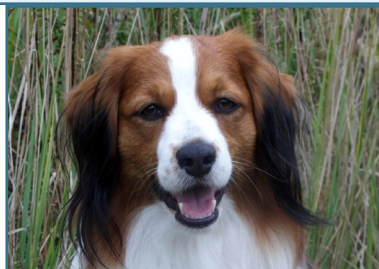
The difference should be noticeable between the dog and the bitch—the male should have a slightly heavier (but not too heavy) head and the female a more refined head.



The skull and muzzle should be of nearly equal length with almost parallel planes.

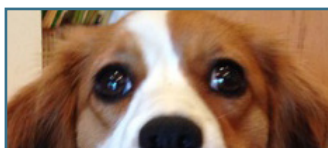


Eyes Almond-shaped, dark brown with a friendly, alert expression



Eyes: The Shape

The eyes of a Kooikerhondje need to be level in the head. The eye is almond shaped. That is almost the same as oval, but the corners are bit sharper.

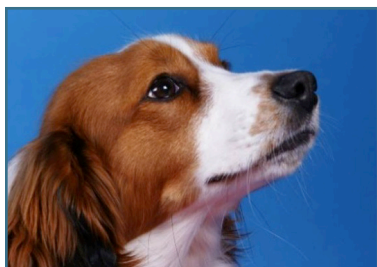


*L: Correct
Almond-
shaped*

*R: INCOR-
RECT Too
Round*

Eyes: The Color

The color of the eye should be dark brown. Sometimes we see a blue eye. Mostly it is when the blaze is so wide that the eye is in the white blaze, but not always



*L: Beautiful
dark brown
eye*

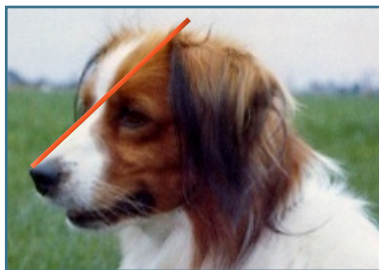
*R: Blue or
China eye,
A SEVERE
FAULT!*

Eyes: The Eyelids and Rims

The eyelids need to fit tightly around the eyeball; drooping eyelids are undesirable. The third eyelid or the haw should not be visible. The eye should be well set - neither protruding or deep set - and the eye rim should have good pigmentation.

The combination of the set, color, and shape determine the expression. A Kooikerhondje with the perfect eyes can melt the most hard-hearted person on earth.

Ears Medium in size, set above the eye level but always lower than the top of the skull. The ears are carried close to the cheeks without a fold. Ear leather should easily reach the inner corner of the eye. Well Feathered. Black hair tips ("earrings") are highly desirable.

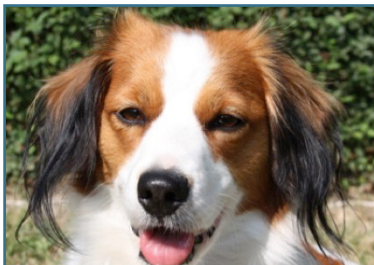


Ears: The Ear Set

The ears are important and show the mood of the dog. Sometimes, the ears are set a little too high or low on the head.

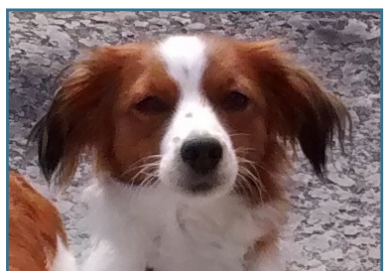
Ask for the dog's attention when judging a Kooikerhondje to get a good view of the ear set.

*Good ear
sets*



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

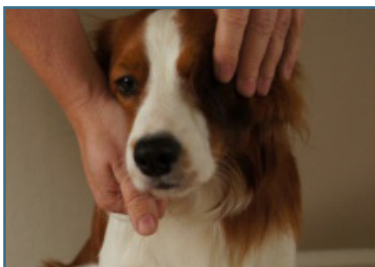
The ears should not appear higher than the skull when perked up. Sometimes, the auricle is strongly developed, and the ear does not fold at the base but further out, preventing it from lying flat against the head. This is considered a fault. In the photographs below: The two dogs on the



Poor ear set, carriage and/or color

left do not carry the ears close to the cheeks. The auricle is well developed and the ear accentuates it. The first dog's ears are also set too high. The dog on the top right has ears that are too low set and a skull that is a bit too round making one think of a Cavalier. The dog on the lower right does not have any ear feathers. This is acceptable in very young dogs.

Ear length

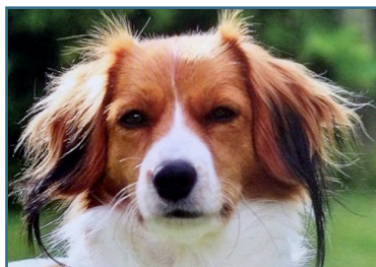


Measuring ear length

- 16 The ear should be medium in size and easily reach the inner corner of the eye.

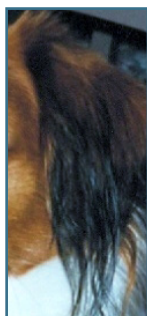
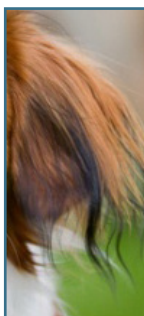
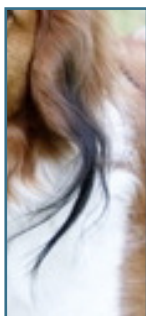
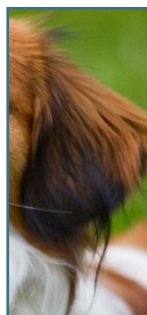
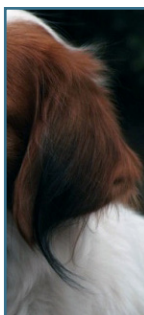
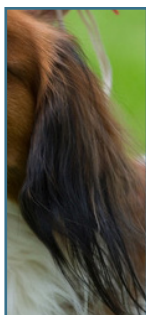
Ear feathering, black hair tips, “Earrings”

*Bearings
and wispy
tufts above
the ears*



A treasured characteristic of the Kooikerhondje is the black hair tips on the ears known as “earrings.”

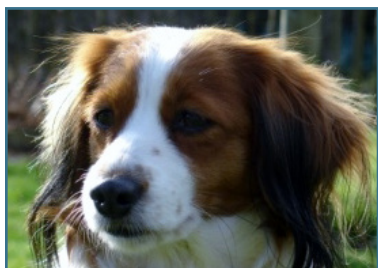
Earrings can be plentiful or sparse, long or the same length as the other feathering of the ears. All of these are acceptable. The wispy tufts above the ears are another characteristic and should also never be trimmed away.



Skull Sufficiently broad, moderately rounded.

Dogs have a slightly broader and heavier head than bitches, but not too heavy!

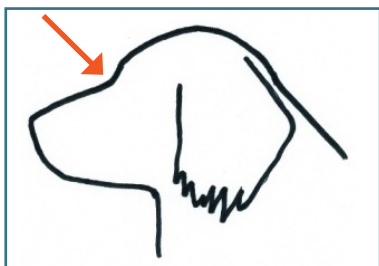
This dog and bitch have correct skull shapes.



*Correct
shape of
skull*

Stop Seen in profile clearly visible but not too deep.

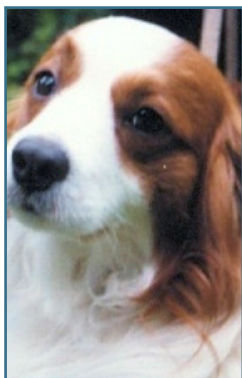
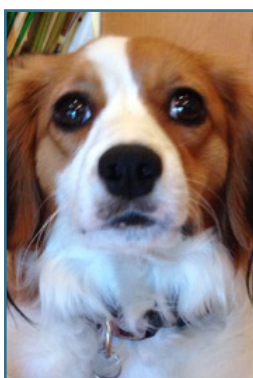
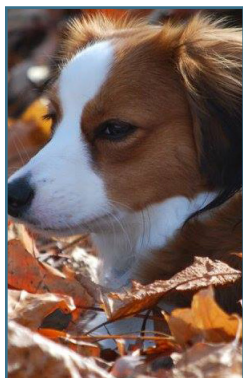
The stop is where the muzzle ends and the skull begins. The slope of the stop must be moderate.



*L: Correct
moderate
slope and
slightly
divergent
planes*

*R: Nice
stop*

Dogs with deep stops, domed foreheads or heads, round eyes and small muzzles are very cute, but this is **not** the correct look for a Kooikerhondje. They are not a toy dog!



*L: Stop too
deep/fore-
head too
promomi-
nent*

*C: Eyes
too round*

*R: Skull
too round*

*These
are **NOT**
CORECT*

Sometimes Kooikerhondjes have too much depth under the eye. When the cheeks are too deep, it changes the shape of the head and spoils the outline

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.

Nose

Black and well developed.

Make sure the chin is broad and well developed.

Good wedge shaped and powerful muzzles



Both the dog on the left and the bitch on the right have powerful muzzles with good underjaws. They also show good fill under the eye, creating the blunt wedge desirable in the breed.

L: Too tapered in muzzle



R: A bit too tapered; not enough fullness under eyes



The nose should be black and well developed with open nostrils and good pigmentation. Winter nose is acceptable but never a red or “Dudley” nose.

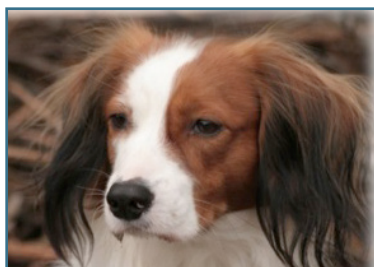
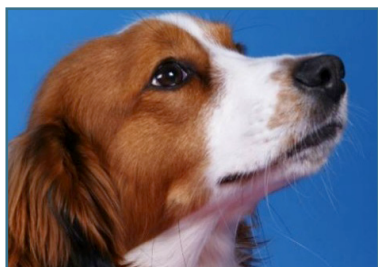


L: Good pigment on the nose

R: Winter or Snow nose

Lips Preferably well-pigmented, close-fitting and not overhanging.

The lips should be close fitting with good pigment. They

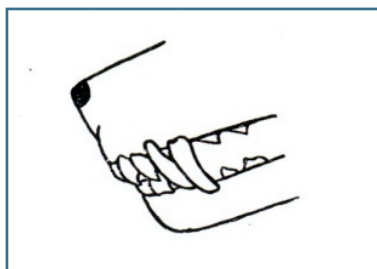
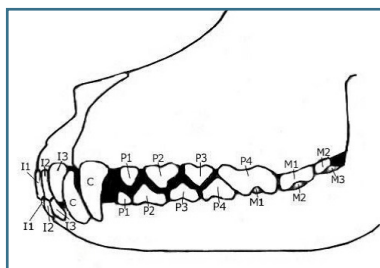


L: Well-formed lips

R: Incorrectly hanging lips!

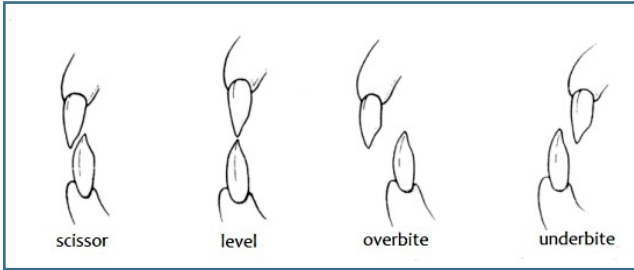
should never be drooping or hanging.

Bite Scissor bite, complete dentition is desirable. Pincer bite is accepted but less desirable.



A scissor bite occurs when the upper incisors are placed just over the lower ones in a scissor-like movement.

When there is too much space between the teeth, we call it an overbite.

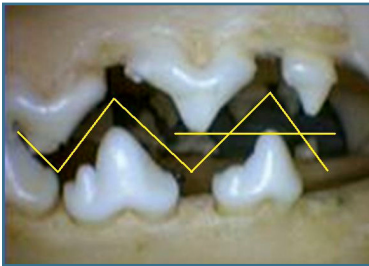


For correct dentition, do not only check the incisors, but also the molars. The correlation of the upper and lower jaws must be considered.

Sometimes the upper and lower molars are situated on top of one other, instead of being spaced like the teeth of a

L: Correct

R: Incorrect



saw, with the premolars continuing that saw-tooth pattern between the molars and incisors. When the upper and lower molars or premolars align with the points of the teeth meeting, one of the jaws is too short. It can look like a scissor bite at first, from just the incisors, but is incorrect.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

Neck Medium length to balance the body, clean cut and strongly muscled

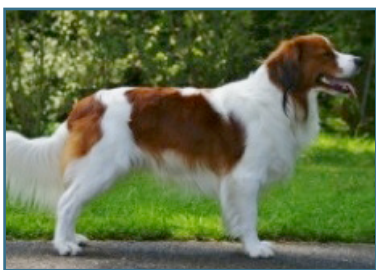
A strong well-muscled neck is often a good indication the rest of the spine will also be strong.



A short neck can be an indication the forequarters of the dog are too straight or placed too much to the front.

Topline Smooth level line from the withers to hip bones with a slightly rounded croup

The topline is the line from the head to the tail. It must be flowing without strong curves; except that “flowing” is not saying enough. The line can be flowing but also high in the rear or with a sag in the topline, which are incorrect.



*Good
toplines*

The Kooikerhondje should also have an obvious little round spaniel “butt.”



*L: Correct
croup and
rounded
butt*

*R: In-
correct
downward
sloping
croup*

*L: Sagging
topline*



*R: High in
Rear*



Dogs that are high in the rear have withers which are lower than the croup. This trait is often seen in younger dogs and can disappear as they grow to maturity. However, if it is a conformation flaw, then it will not disappear over time.

Elderly dogs (especially older brood bitches) can develop a sagging topline.

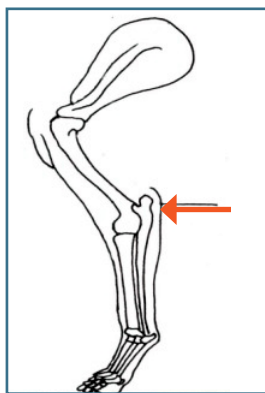
Chest Reaching to the elbows with a moderate spring of ribs

Chest: Depth

The depth of the chest should reach the elbow.

Chest: Rib Spring

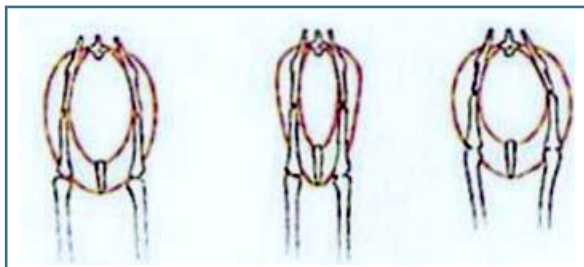
The ribs should taper gradually and not be too round or too flat. When these requirements are satisfactory, the heart and the lungs will have the room to develop properly, which is important for endurance.



*L: Cor-
rect ribs*

*C: Too
flat*

*R: Too
round*

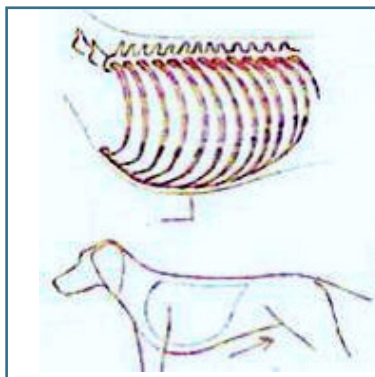


When the ribs are too round, they interfere with movement of the front legs, causing the dog to appear out at the

Underline Slight tuck-up towards the loin.

The underline should have a slight tuck-up. The sternum should extend far enough to reach beyond a line drawn straight down from the withers. The sternum should not have too much slope.

Always feel the sternum. In younger dogs, the underline can be a bit too tucked up, but the upward line should start after a sternum with enough length.



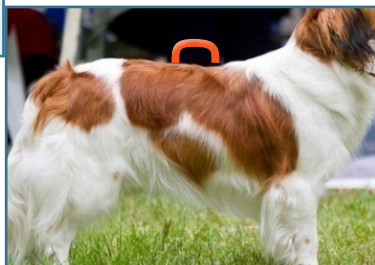
Good underlines



*L: Sloping underline
R: Flat underline*

Back Strong and straight, rather short.

Long backs are less sturdy and tend to be weak. Solid short backs are preferred.



Loin Short and Broad, Strongly muscled.

Tail Set on so as to follow the topline of the body. Well-feathered with a white plume. The last vertebra should reach the hock joint. When gaitting, carried level with the topline, with an upward curve, or almost straight up. Not curling with a ring or circling over the back. When standing, the tail may be held downward.

The loins should be strong and well muscled.



Measuring the tail

A lot of attention—more than most breeds—is paid to the tail because it is part the Kooikerhondje's working equipment.

The tail consists of 20-23 vertebrae free of kinks or other anomalies.

The tip of the tail of the Kooikerhondje should reach the hock joint.

Do not measure the feathers, just the tail itself.

When the dog stands, the tail remains in a lowered position, except for the last third, which should curve gently upwards. 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



L: Good tailset in action

R: Good tailset in rest

with the white plume, makes the ducks curious and encourages them to follow the dog into the pipe or gate or trap.

The tail is covered with long feathered hair without curls or waves.

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It is often said that a dog may have a “happy” or gay tail. This has nothing to do with his state of mind, instead it means the tail is carried straight up. An almost gay tail is acceptable, a ring tail is not preferred.

Tail carried almost too high



A tail carried level with the topline with an upward curve is acceptable, so long as it does not circle over the back.



L: Tail set too high

R: Incorrect Ringtail

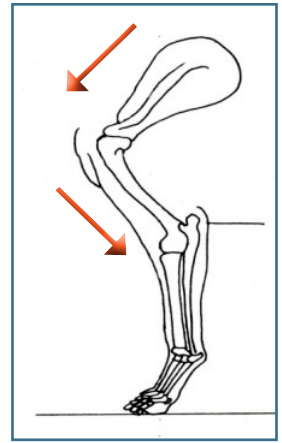
FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders Moderately angled to create a flowing line from neck to back.

Upper Arm Moderately angled to match layback of shoulder blade, which is of equal length

These two bones, the scapula and the humerus, should be almost the same length and the angle formed at the shoulder should be moderate.

Using our hands, it is easy to feel the different position of the bones, but even without x-ray eyes, poor angulation and good angulation are obvious.



*L: Good
angulation
front and
rear*



*R: Steep
angulation
front and
rear*



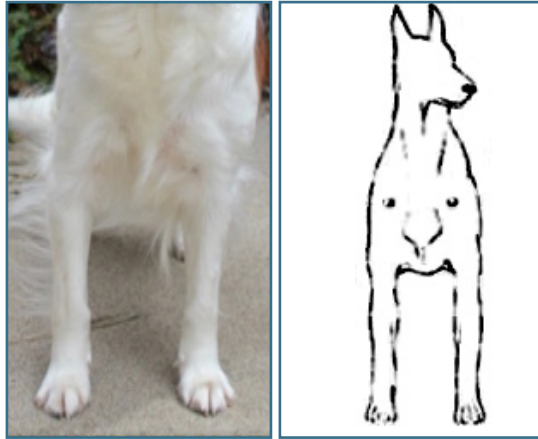
Forechest/Prosternum Point of forechest should be slightly protruding beyond the point of the shoulder

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



Elbows Close to the body

Elbows should be close to the body, while standing and in action. The bottom of the chest should reach the elbow.



Legs Straight and paralel, strong bone of sufficient density and length

Pasterns Strong and slightly oblique.

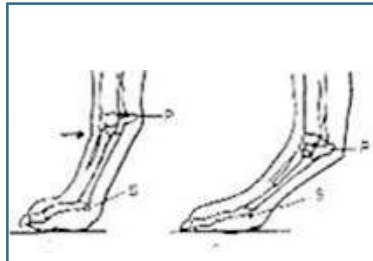
Forefeet Small, slightly oval, compact, toes pointing forward.

Legs

Forelegs should be straight and parallel. The front legs should be placed directly under the body.

Pasterns

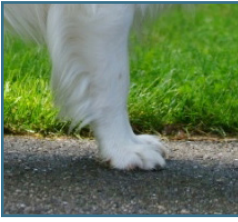
The pasterns should slope slightly when viewed from the side, to have good balance. A pastern that is too steep gives too little resilience and a weak pastern will not have shock absorbing power.



*L: Good
pasterns*

*C: Steep
pasterns*

*R: Weak
pasterns*



Forefeet

The foot must be sturdy, meaning the toes are tight. The foot shape should be oval. Toes must point forward.



Sometimes the feet turn outwards in a “French” or “Eastie/ Westie” position. This is incorrect!



*Incorrect
forefeet*

Angulation Moderately angulated, to match forequarters.
Seen from the rear, straight and parallel.

Legs Strong bone.

Upper Thigh Well muscled.

Lower Thigh Length Equal to upper thigh

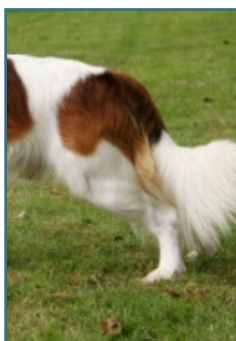
Hock Joint Well let down.

HindFeet Small. oval, compact, toes pointing forward.

Strong, well-muscled,
and STRAIGHT!



*A
good
rear*



*L: Good
angulation*

*C: Poor
angulation*

*R: Too
much angu-
lation*

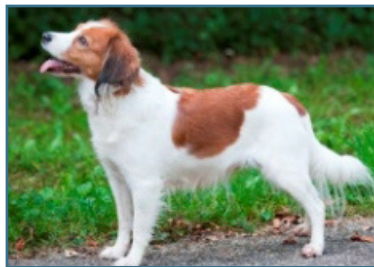
Hair Of medium length, close lying. May be slightly wavy or straight, but never curly or open. Soft, but with enough texture to be weather resistant. Functional undercoat. Front legs should have moderate feathering reaching to the pastern joints. Hind legs should have fairly long feathered breeches. No feathering below the hock joints. The coat on the head, front part of the legs, and the feet should be short. Sufficient feathering on the underside of the tail. Longer hair on the throat and forechest. Earrings (long feathered black hair tips) are highly desirable.

The Kooikerhondje has two different types of hair; the longer harsher guard hairs and the wooly undercoat. In winter, the undercoat is more developed.

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

L: Typical coat for dogs

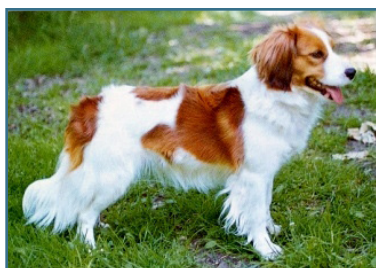
R: Typical coat for bitches.



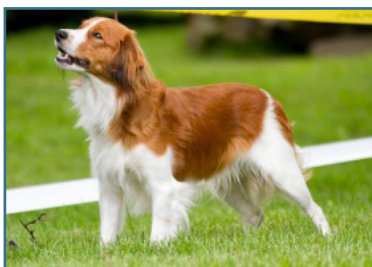
There are differences between the coats of males and females. The male's coat is often a bit longer with longer feathering and a more pronounced ruff.

Color Distinct patches of clear orange-red on pure white are ideal. A few small spots on the legs or muzzle are acceptable. Chest, belly, and the majority of the legs and tail should be white. Orange red color should predominate on the head and torso and may be present as a mantle or blanket, but is less desirable than distinct patches. Some black hair intermingling with the orange -red color and a slight form of ticking are acceptable but less desirable. A black tail ring where the color changes from orange-red to white on the tail is permitted.

The Kooikerhondje is a parti-colored dog. A good division of color is preferred - a white dog with orange patches with a just a little more more orange than white on the torso.



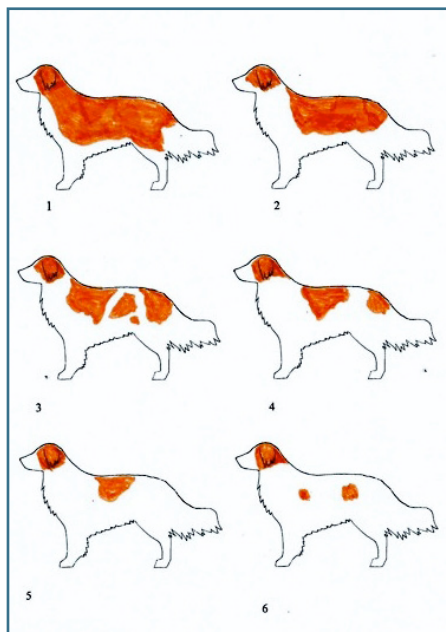
Nice markings



*L: Too much white
R: Mantle, too much orange*

Parti-colored dogs have many variations in markings. Color should be a consideration only if two dogs are entirely equal in all other respects. It should never be the first, or even second, factor considered.

All of these dogs have acceptable markings, but Number 3 with its distinct patches, good division of color and the predominant orange color on the torso is preferred. How would you rank the remaining dogs? Remember that **distinct patches of orange -red color on pure white** is the first criterion.



The orange color should be a warm orange-red. Sometimes the color is more orange-yellow or has too many black hairs in the orange patches. These are less desirable.

L: A bit too yellow

R: Too much black hair in the orange



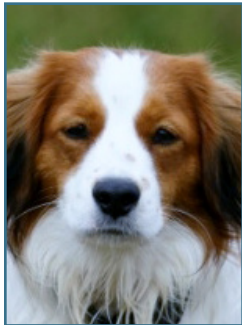
Ticking, sometimes seen on the legs, muzzle and body, is not preferred; however do not be too hard on a few small spots.



Ticking is acceptable, but not preferred

Coloring on the Head A clearly visible blaze running down to the nose. There should be coloring on the cheeks, ideally ending at the corners of the mouth, and around the eyes. A blaze that is too narrow or too wide or only partly colored cheeks is less desirable. **Color should be a consideration only when all else between two dog sis equal.**

The breed standard is quite clear about color on the face. We can write a lot about it, but pictures show it better than words.



These three Kooiker-hondjes have nice markings on the head

*L: Broad
blaze*

*R: Narrow
blaze*



Orange-red color that ends at or before the corner of the mouth and is symmetrical is preferred.

Dogs that have too much white on the head show **SEVERE FAULTS**.

*Top L: Both
eyes in the
white area;
right ear
partially
white*



*Top R: One
eye in white
area; also
called a
“pirate”*

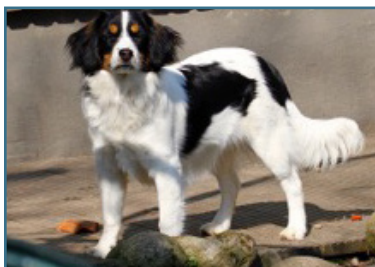


*L: Colored
ears, but
no color
around the
eyes*



A “severe fault” is defined as a fault of sufficient significance as to preclude placement. Breeding dogs with severe faults is prohibited by the regulations of the Dutch Kooikerhondje Parent Club, the Vereniging Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje.

Disqualification Color that is black and white or tri-color.



Disqualification for color - TRI-COLOR

Some dogs look like black dogs, but when you take a closer look, only the hair tips are black. **This is not a tri-color as mentioned in the Standard.**



Top: Black hair tips

Sometimes the Kooikerhondje has a black tail ring. **This is definitely not a flaw and not a kind of tri-color.**



Bottom: Black tail ring

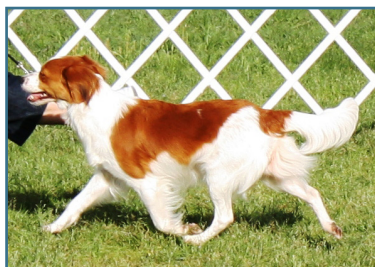
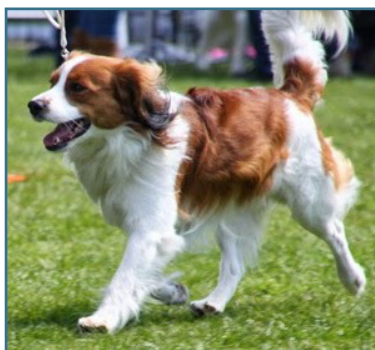
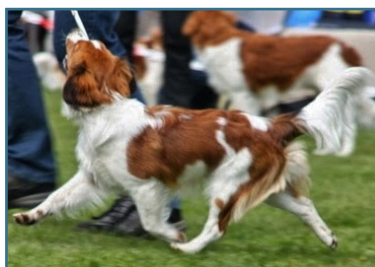
NOT DISQUALIFICATIONS~

In fact the same genes that determine the black earrings also cause the black tail ring. The dogs with a tail ring tend to have more profuse earrings.

The black earrings, black hair tips and a black tail ring are **definitely not** a kind of tri-color.

Gait Flowing and light-footed, with moderate reach and drive. Limbs parallel.

The Kooikerhondje's movement should be light-footed and flowing, with front and rear limbs moving parallel to one another.



He must have a good stride, meaning he has good power in the rear (drive) and reach in the front.

When the dog is well balanced, he shows his talents best at the trot. Likewise, when the dog has some flaws in conformation, he will show them most clearly at the trot.

From the Back

The limbs should be parallel - not too close, too broad, bow-legged or cow-hocked. Check to see that the front and rear move in one line, not sidewinding or straddling. Is there power in the rear? Does the dog correctly show the whole rear paw pads while moving away?

Does the dog have enough power and what does he do with his tail? Does he keep his topline straight and level? A well balanced dog places his hind foot in the spot vacated by the front paw. As mentioned in the general appearance, the Kooikerhondje carries his head above the line of his back when moving. An imaginary line drawn along his back shows the head a bit above that line.



From the Front

The front legs are parallel - not too close, too broad, bow-legged, or out at the elbows. If the wrists flex too much as the dog is moving, energy is wasted and diminishes endurance. Dogs that move by flexing the front leg at the elbow rather than extending the upper arm look flashy but this hackney or high-stepping movement is a fault.



(Those who are interested in learning more about movement should read “The New Dog Steps” by Rachel Page Elliot.)

Temperament Lively and agile, self-confident and with sufficient perseverance and stamina. Good natured and alert, however not noisy. The breed is faithful, easygoing and friendly to his owners and can be a bit reserved with strangers. When not luring ducks into elaborate man-made traps, the dog is expected to find and kill vermin, and to alert his family to strangers on the property. Hence he needs to be keen, swift and tough. He is a true sporting dog, being attentive and energetic and having a zest for working and a cheerful character.

By “keen, swift, and tough” we mean the dog is spirited, enthusiastic and active. the word “keen” has more than one meaning and can indicate aggressive behavior, which is definitely not the intended meaning.

Lively and agile are important qualities for the Kooikerhondje. Does the dog stand without any spiri, without interest in his environment or handler? This is not correct behavior.

Character

The Kooikerhondje has an attractive and friendly appearance. There is also a lot to the temperament of the breed.

Calm and self-assured behavior is very important for the work in the Duck Decoy (Eendenkooi). The work requires perseverance and endurance.

The Kooikerhondje should show good cooperation with the duck trapper with an attentive attitude and a willingness to please. He can sometimes act a bit reserved towards strangers due to the close connection with his owner.

Ferocity, speed and toughness are properties useful to eradicate harmful vermin and chase away larger predators.

Modern Kooikerhondjes should still possess these characteristics. They must be free and fearless with enough confidence to go into the ring and be easily handled by the judge. Fearful and anxious behavior is highly undesirable.

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Kooikerhondjes should be well socialized as young dogs, in order to be child and family friendly.



Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and the functional health and welfare of the dog and on its ability to perform its traditional work.

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

Faults are just that. But **Severe Faults** are different. Dogs with faults in this category, in general, are sufficiently serious as to preclude placement. Breeding dogs with severe faults are prohibited in the regulations of the Dutch Kooikerhondje Parent Club, the Vereniging Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje.

SEVERE FAULTS

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

- 1 1/2 under the ideal height after 1 year of age or 1 1/2 inches over the ideal height at any age
- Coat color that is black and white or tri-color

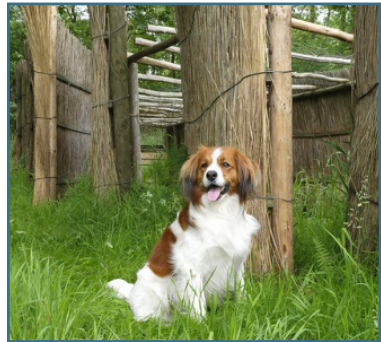
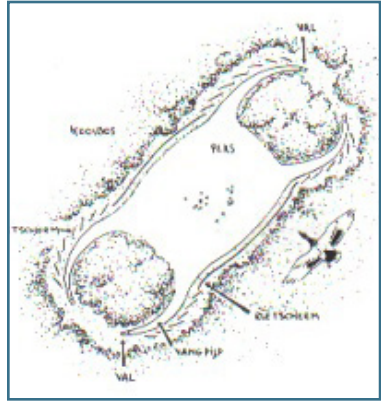
Working in the Duck Decoy

This was the original task of the Kooikerhondje. The Kooiker (duck trapper) chooses which arm of the trap to use based on wind direction. This is important because ducks always take off into the wind.

One of two methods was then used: “dogging” or a combination method “dogging and feeding.”

“Dogging”: The Kooikerhondje goes into action. He trots along in front of the screen that lines the canals around to the back side, returning to the trapper over and over again.

Ducks see the white-feathered tail alternately appear and disappear. The ducks get curious and follow the feathered tail deeper into the arm of the Decoy. The warm orange-red color also seems to attract ducks. After many repetitions, the dog moves to the next screen, closer to the trap.



When the ducks are far enough into the arm, the trapper steps from behind the screen showing himself to the ducks.

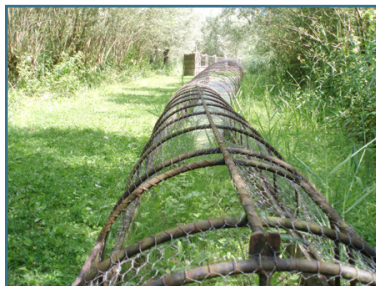
“Feeding and Dogging”: The duck trapper throws food in the chosen arm. Tame ducks, which live in the Decoy, rush to food and lure the wild ducks with them. Then the Kooikerhondje works as before.

The tame decoy ducks know the game and go back to the pond. The wild ducks cannot see the pond because of the curve of the catching arm.

The vegetation is kept short at the end of the trap so the wild ducks fly toward what they see as open sky. They fly into the narrow trap and hit the netting. The trapper shows himself and the ducks move into the small trap where the trapper closes the door. Some tame ducks do not go back to the pond, but go into the trap too. The duck trapper recognizes and releases the ducks that live in the Duck Decoy by the leg bands and releases them to lure more wild ducks into the trap.

The Kooikerhondje watches the hand signals of the trapper, working in silent partnership. The dog must work independently, while keeping an eye on the trapper. Obviously, he cannot bark while working.

The Kooikerhondje traditionally slept in the Decoy shed, keeping it free of vermin. this was very important, especially during the duck nesting season.



Recommended Literature

In English and Dutch*

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