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Gundog

Spaniel (Cocker)

The breed's name comes from its original function, as he was used to hunt woodcock. The breed was not recognised as a separate variety until 1893 and until that time all the spaniels, collectively known as Land Spaniels, were bred together and later classified depending on size and colour. They were selectively bred for suitability for their work and for the terrain. It was a requirement that a Cocker Spaniel should be simply be under 25lbs in weight. Whilst blacks dominated the rings in the early shows, Welsh Springer outcross was used to establish parti-coloured lines.

The Cocker Spaniel earns the epithet 'the merry cocker' for his ever wagging tail denoting his happy temperament. In the early 20th century the breed was at its height of popularity and it remains hugely popular as a family pet.

Breed Group	Gundog
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Small
How much exercise?	Up to 1 hour per day
Length of coat	Medium
How much grooming?	Every day
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Small or Large House
Minimum garden size	Small/Medium
Lifespan	Over 10 Years

Varieties

- Bobtail

Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the Spaniel (Cocker)?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders must use the following screening schemes for sires and dams BVA/KC

- Eye testing
- DNA test - prcd-PRA
- DNA test - FN

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC/ISDS Gonioscopy
- DNA test - AON
- DNA test - AMS

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in

the proposed whelping), or

3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or

4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or

5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or

6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

Spaniel (Cocker) Clubs

Name	Telephone
Cheshire Cocker Spaniel Club	
Cocker Spaniel Club	01268 554619
Cocker Spaniel Club Of Lancashire	01744 819045
Cocker Spaniel Club Of Scotland	01356 624838
Coventry Cocker Spaniel Club	01832 293432
Devon & Cornwall Cocker Spaniel Club	01460 62871
East Anglian Cocker Spaniel Society	01394 384554
East Of Scotland Cocker Spaniel Club	07854 127579
Hampshire & Sussex Cocker Spaniel Club	
Home Counties Cocker Spaniel Club	01664 567640
London Cocker Spaniel Society	01293 852907
Midland Cocker Spaniel Club	
North Midlands & Eastern Counties Cocker Spaniel Club	01977 658568
North Of England Cocker Spaniel Association	07986 550006
North Of Ireland Cocker Spaniel Club	02894 452589
North Wales Cocker Spaniel Club	01745 353715
Northern Ireland Working Cocker Club	07730 066060
Parti-Coloured Cocker Spaniel Club	02476 403453
Rotherham & District Cocker Spaniel Club	01709 524629
Solid Colours Cocker Spaniel Association	01844761236
South Wales & Monmouthshire Cocker Spaniel Club	01633 893230
Ulster Cocker Spaniel Club	02897 562546
West Of England Cocker Spaniel Club	01594 542286
Yorkshire Cocker Spaniel Club	01439 770793

Spaniel (Cocker) Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
Cocker & English Springer Spaniel Rescue	01782 410399
Cocker & English Springer Spaniel Rescue	01829 781438
Cocker & English Springer Spaniel Rescue	07747 771904
Cocker & English Springer Spaniel Rescue	07740 675854
Cocker & English Springer Spaniel Rescue	
Cocker & English Springer Spaniel Rescue	01565 733718
Cocker & English Springer Spaniel Rescue	01925 767708
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	01944 758743
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	07952 643425
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	07980 893925
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	01527 831552
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	01257 424436
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	0116 2866602
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	01254 581652
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	01489 894331
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	01555 870373
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	01744 819045
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	0151 2850005
Cocker Spaniel Club Rescue	02476 403453