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Gundog

Spaniel (Irish Water)

The Irish breed club was founded in 1890 although liver coloured water dogs with curly coats, top knots and rat tails had been known for centuries before that date. One of the most influential dogs in Ireland, Boatswain, was born in 1834 and his bloodline can be found throughout the world. His breeder Mr Justin McCarthy was a pillar of the breed.

Although the breed is classified as a 'spaniel' he works as a retriever, particularly in retrieving from water. In the UK he runs in retriever trials.

Theories on the ancestry of the breed include the French Barbet, the English Water Spaniel (now extinct) and the Poodle, which was originally used as a water retrieving breed.

Breed Group	Gundog
Vulnerable Breed	Yes
Size	Medium
How much exercise?	More than 2 hours per day
Length of coat	Medium
How much grooming?	More than once a week
Supposedly sheds?	No
Town or Country	Country
Type of home	Large House
Minimum garden size	Large
Lifespan	Over 10 Years

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 (Irish Water)?

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

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme

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.

Spaniel (Irish Water) Clubs

Name	Telephone
Irish Water Spaniel Association	01202 871699
Sporting Irish Water Spaniel Club	01142 471989

Spaniel (Irish Water) Rescue Organisations






Name	Telephone
Irish Water Spaniel Association Rescue	01704 541051



ACCREDITED BREEDER SCHEME

Assured Breeders

Name	Member since	Phone	Accolades
Mr I & Mrs J Hill Keith, Banffshire	28/11/2017	07545 218512	
Mrs J L Carruthers Carlisle, Cumbria	28/02/2010	01697 343480	

Name	Member since	Phone	Accolades
Mrs M & Mr J McGurk Lanark, Lanarkshire	31/07/2010	01555 892498	
Mrs H J Denbigh Preston, Lancashire	31/01/2011	07809 400391	  
Miss L A Dugdale Birmingham, West Midlands	15/11/2016	07790 008767	



Accolade of Excellence

Denotes a significant contribution to a breed.



Studbook Achievement

Bred at least 3 dogs listed in the Studbook.



Breed Club Membership

Current member of one or more breed clubs



Breeder Experience

5 or more litters registered with the Kennel Club