

**Cedarwood English Springer Spaniels presents . . .**

# **The English Springer Spaniel Information Booklet**



**Researched and Compiled by Springhunt English Springer Spaniels  
for Cedarwood English Springer Spaniels**

# INFORMATION BOOKLET OF THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following resources assisted in the research and compilation of this booklet::

The New Complete English Springer Spaniel by Julia Gasow and Edd Roggenkamp

The Book of the English Springer Spaniel by Anna Katherine Nicholas

What Good Dogs Should Know by Jack Volhard and Melissa Bartlett

American Kennel Club - [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

Canadian Kennel Club - [www.ckc.ca](http://www.ckc.ca)

The English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association - [www.essfta.org](http://www.essfta.org)

Ariel English Springer Spaniels - [www.ariel-ess.com](http://www.ariel-ess.com)

## THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL



## **BREED HISTORY**

Spaniels came from Spain to England, probably with the Romans, and there diverged into two types — land and water spaniels — and several different breeds. Pups in a litter of land spaniels were often divided by size; the small ones became the cockers or woodcock dogs and the medium-sized ones became the springers, which hunted by flushing or “springing” birds for the hunters, and the larger ones eventually became the setters. Before the development of the flintlock rifle, the springer flushed birds for hunting hawks and hounds to pursue. When the gun extended the hunter’s reach, the dogs learned to work in gun range, quartering back and forth in the field and flushing birds. From the earliest Springer other spaniels have developed until now there are at least ten varieties of Sporting Spaniels. By the late 1500’s the spaniels were divided into two groups - these two groups being land and water spaniels. The land spaniel group was further subdivided into two groups - those that flushed game (forefathers of the present day spaniels) and those that set or pointed its game (forefathers of the present day setters). As the different types of spaniels began to develop the Springer seemed to dominate. A medium sized dog, well balanced, strong and sturdy, free from exaggeration, it was a fast and good worker. This dog takes its name from the action of ‘springing’ for the bird, originally from nets and later from the gun. It was in the 17th century that, very gradually, size difference started having an impact on the persons using the spaniels for hunting. The larger ones were employed solely for springing for fowl while the smaller ones were used to hunt woodcock. In the 1800’s small spaniels were bred to small spaniels and large spaniels were bred to large spaniels. The size of the puppies from early litters varied widely. If a dog weighed under 25 pounds it was labeled a cocker and if it weighed over 25 pounds it was named a Springer. In 1892 the two breeds were officially identified - the English Springer Spaniel and the English Cocker Spaniel. Still, at this time, size alone was the determining factor as both breeds were actually born in the same litter.

The earliest Springer kennel in England was Aqualate dating as far back as 1812. The earliest stud book for the Springer Spaniel was in 1812; the first breed club in England was founded in the 1880s. Other prominent breeders developed through the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. First exhibited in the 1850s as the Norfolk Spaniel, the breed was given its present name after the formation of the Sporting Spaniel Club which was founded in 1885. The first field trial for spaniels, sponsored by this club, was held in 1899, and by 1902 there was sufficient interest in the English Springer to warrant its official recognition as a separate breed by The Kennel Club (England). The following year the breed was shown for the first time at an English championship event.

Although spaniel gun dogs are mentioned in US journals and literature from the time of the Pilgrims through the end of the 19th Century, the breed came to this continent in 1907 and was first registered in Canada in the years 1913 - 1914. It was not until 1910 that the American Kennel Club registered the first dog of the breed. In 1922 the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association was formed and eventually drew up the original standard which was amended in 1932 and then approved by the American Kennel Club. Once the breed club began judging the dogs by their appearance as well as their field skills, the Springer began to diverge in type. Dogs bred for the show ring became heavier, stockier, and developed longer, more profuse coats. This was the beginning of the division of the Springer type. Over the past decades the two types of springers have developed and separated greatly in type, appearance and size. Today, the two types are rarely interbred, and few Springers work in both field and show events. The last dual champion in the breed was Green Valley Punch, who achieved the distinction in 1938. Early notables of the bench Springer are E. de K. Leffingwell, Betty Buchanan, Robert Elliot, Paul Quay, Norman Morrow, Charles Toy, R.E. Allen, George Higgs and of course, Julia Gasow of Salilyn Kennel fame. The English Springer has earned a reputation as an outstanding all-purpose sporting dog and has accounted for some spectacular winning in the show ring.



## **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

The English Springer Spaniel is a medium sized dog with a compact body and a docked tail. Its coat is moderately long with feathering on the legs, chest, ears and belly. The long ears, gentle expression and wagging tail proclaim to all that it is a member of the spaniel family. Its carriage is proud, body is sturdy and its legs are long and muscular. The Springer is a moderate dog gifted with a presence that suggests power, endurance, agility, style, symmetry, balance and enthusiasm. It is a distinct spaniel character combining beauty and utility.

The English Springer Spaniel stands 19-20 inches tall at the shoulders and weighs 49-55 pounds with bitches slightly smaller than dogs and field-bred dogs a bit lighter than those bred for the show ring. His head is about the same length as his neck, with a moderate stop; fairly broad, flat skull; flat cheeks; and jaws long enough to carry a bird — even if he'll never know the joy of the hunt. His neck is moderately long for his body, and he works with his head carried high. His topline slopes gradually from withers to tail head, with the steepest incline from the withers to the back. His chest is moderately deep and ribs are neither flat nor overly rounded. His tail is docked and fringed and wags constantly. The show Springer is generally black and white or liver and white, with the either the white or the color predominating, but dogs of either color can have tan markings on eyebrows, cheeks, inside ears and under tail or show a blue roan or liver roan effect caused by white hairs in the colored portions of the coat. The Springer standard emphasizes the strong working gait that helps the breed excel in the field, in the breed ring, and in obedience and agility competitions. The gait should reflect a balanced conformation characterized by strong front and rear assemblies. The dog should have good reach (the front end) matched by strong drive (the rear end).



### CHARACTERISTICS AND TEMPERAMENT

The English Springer Spaniel is a dog characterized by long pendulous ears, a medium to long coat, a wagging docked tail whose enthusiasm, happy disposition, adaptability and willingness to please make it an excellent choice for a companion dog. Springers are cheerful dogs with a sense of humor. They are affectionate, good with children and noisy with intruders. They are 'reactors', but most don't bark without a reason. Springers are comfortable at home in front of the fire, in the livingroom of an apartment or out romping through the park after the ever illusive squirrel, bird or ball. While thriving on the love and companionship of people it must be remembered that they require moderate exercise. Their loyal, patient, understanding and sweet disposition make the Springer an excellent friend for children and adults alike. They are actively represented in conformation, hunting, obedience, agility, fly-ball, tracking and therapy.

The breed character is merry, alert, and eager to please; the dog should be relatively easy to train for any purpose. Field-bred dogs have a higher energy level and need more exercise, but dogs of both types are good family companions. They are not overly suspicious of strangers and seem to get along well with other animals.



### HEREDITARY HEALTH CONCERNS IN SPRINGERS

The health and well being of your dog will be among your major concerns as a new or prospective owner of an English Springer Spaniel. Taking the time to learn all you can about the health of your Springer is an important step toward a long, rewarding and healthy relationship. Reputable breeders are genuinely concerned about the well being of the puppies and dogs they produce. They are an excellent source of information on the care and upbringing of your dog.

You should also have a basic understanding of the hereditary and breed - predisposed diseases of English Springer Spaniels. All living things can carry defective genes, and all breeds of dogs have diseases and genetic conditions that can be inherited. While most English Springer Spaniels lead healthy, happy lives and retain their vigor into old age, genetic-based disorders are not uncommon. Most hereditary disorders are not life-threatening and can be managed. However, some can cause pain and suffering to the dog, and expense and emotional distress to the owner. Even the best breeding program and the soundest of breeding stock can produce dogs with hereditary disorders. If you purchase your puppy from a responsible breeder and are knowledgeable about hereditary and breed-predisposed diseases, you will minimize the risk of health and genetic challenges.

What follows is a summary of the major hereditary disorders that can affect English Springer Spaniels:

- **Canine Hip Dysplasia**: Hip dysplasia is a developmental abnormality of the hip joints caused by laxity within the joint. Changes in bone size, shape and structure occur as the hips attempt to compensate for abnormal stresses on the joints. Dogs with hip dysplasia may exhibit lameness at some time in their lives. By the time affected dogs are two years of age, hip dysplasia is detectable by x-raying the hips. Young dogs (3 to 12 months of age) with hip dysplasia may be afflicted with acute inflammatory joint pain. Spontaneous temporary improvement usually occurs between 6 and 12 months. Older dogs (1.5 to 10 years of age) with hip dysplasia may have a slow onset of painful arthritis. Treatment for young dogs is often unnecessary. For the older dog, medications can be used to reduce the arthritic pain. Surgical procedures are also available to limit pain and reconstruct the hip joint. Your puppy's chances of developing hip dysplasia are minimized if both parents have normal hips. Ask for documentation to affirm that the sire and dam have had hip x-rays that have been appropriately evaluated. Accepted methods of evaluation are certification of normal hips by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), which is indicated on your dog's official American Kennel Club pedigree after the registered names of his/her predecessors. Hip evaluations by board-certified veterinary radiologists also provide acceptable evidence of conscientious efforts by the breeder.
- **Hereditary Eye Disorders**: The eyes of English Springer Spaniels are susceptible to a number of genetic-based disorders, some of which are present at birth and others that may develop at various times throughout life.
- **Retinal Dysplasia** is a developmental malformation of the retina. Affected puppies are born with the disorder. Most cases are mild; small folds and areas of retinal degeneration occur on the surface of the retina with no detectable loss in vision. These abnormalities are diagnosed by certified veterinary ophthalmologists when puppies are 7 to 12 weeks old. Retinal dysplasia should not affect a dog's ability to function as a pet; however, affected Springers should not be bred.
- Eyelid defects occasionally occur. **Entropion** is an inward folding of the lower eyelid that results in chronic irritation of the surface of the eye. It is usually observed within the first year of life. Entropion is treated through surgery.
- **Progressive Retinal Atrophy** (or P.R.A.) is a degeneration of the layers of the retina that are responsible for vision. The disease is progressive, eventually resulting in blindness. The onset in Springers is variable, but usually occurs between 2 and 6 years of age. The disorder is still considered rare; however, its incidence has increased in recent years. There is no pain or

discomfort for the dog but, unfortunately, there is no treatment. Responsible breeders pay close attention to the eyes of their breeding stock throughout the dogs' lives, monitoring puppies and adults for the development of hereditary eye disorders. Eyes that are normal -- free from hereditary disorders -- may be certified annually by the Canine Eye Registry Foundation (C.E.R.F.). If the puppy's parents are normal, the puppy's chances of developing eye disorders are significantly reduced.

- **Aggressive or Timid Temperament**: Temperament and behavior problems happen in all breeds of dogs. Behavior is influenced by many factors, not only genetics but also training, family interactions, and general health. A puppy should be curious and playful, without resisting being held. He should not be aggressive or overly timid. Make every effort to ensure that your puppy comes from breeding stock with good, solid temperaments. Meet both parents and related dogs, if possible, and spend enough time with them to be comfortable with their personalities. Ask your breeder if he/she is aware of any temperament problems in your puppy's pedigree. As your puppy grows, nurture him with proper training. Neuter your puppy to minimize the effect that sex hormones have on undesirable behavior. If your puppy or dog exhibits signs of behavioral problems, notify the breeder immediately and seek the help of a qualified professional.
- **Seizure Disorders**: Hereditary seizures are relatively rare in English Springer Spaniels. A familial pattern to the disorder exists in many pedigree lines, and some cases of seizures in English Springers are not controlled with treatment. Seizures usually begin before the age of five years. In many cases, seizures can be controlled with medication. You should ask your puppy's breeder for full and complete disclosure of any seizure disorders within your puppy's pedigree.
- **Skin Disorders**: Typical signs of skin disease include scaliness, greasiness, itching, pyoderma (infection), and occasional hair loss. There are genetic as well as other factors involved in the development of skin diseases.
- **Seborrhea** may be local, or may occur over large parts of the body. It usually results in scaly, thickened, itchy skin with a greasy feel and an associated odor. Secondary skin infections are not unusual. Treatment may include medicated baths, topical medications, and antibiotics.
- **Allergies** occur in all breeds of dogs. Canine allergies usually cause symptoms in the skin. The primary symptom is itching, but seborrhea, skin infections and hair loss are also common. Inhaled pollens or house dust, certain types of food, flea bites and other materials can trigger allergic reactions in the skin. Symptoms may be seasonal. While there is no cure for allergies, treatment may involve eliminating contact with the offending allergen (a diet change, for example, if the allergy is to a food substance), treating to relieve itching and other symptoms, and allergy testing and injections.
- **Ear Infections** are common in English Springer Spaniels due to their pendulous ear flap, which decreases air circulation within the ear canal. The resulting environment contributes to bacterial and yeast infections. Most can be prevented with an ear care program that keeps the ears clean and dry. There are several very good ear care products available from your veterinarian. All Springers should get regular ear care. Acute and chronic infections should be treated by your veterinarian.
- **Phosphofructokinase (PFK) Deficiency**: PFK is an enzyme vital to the ability of tissues to use sugar for energy. Some Springers have been recognized to have an inherited deficiency of this enzyme. Some dogs exhibit mild clinical signs that go unrecognized for years, while others can exhibit episodes of severe illness, including hyperventilation, muscle wasting, and fever. Testing is done by measuring the PFK enzyme through a blood sample.
- **Bloat** (*Gastric dilation or gastric torsion*): Bloat results from a build-up of gas or fluid in the stomach. This condition can be life-threatening, so if you suspect your dog is suffering from bloat you should consult a veterinarian immediately. Some breeds of dog, particularly larger, deep-chested breeds, are suspected of having genetic susceptibility to bloat. At this time, no evidence suggests that this is the case in the E.S.S.



**HEALTH**

Springers generally enjoy good health and live well past 10 years of age. Keeping the dog fit and trim will optimize good health. A puppy generally receives at least 3 sets of inoculations and a rabies vaccination prior to the age of four months. A mature dog needs to make yearly visits to the veterinarian for a health checkup, heartworm check and worm check as well as its yearly vaccination shots. Before the arrival of the puppy you should select a veterinarian who is recommended and conveniently located. Notify him/her that you are purchasing a puppy and make an appointment for its first visit. This initial visit should be within four to five days of the date of purchase. At this time take all medical records provided with the puppy for the vet to see. S/he will give the puppy a physical checkup to make sure it is healthy and at this time s/he may set up a schedule for the remainder of the puppy's vaccinations.



## **CHOOSING A VETERINARIAN**

Veterinary care begins as soon as you acquire your English Springer Spaniel. In fact, your breeder will recommend that you take your new puppy or dog to your veterinarian for a general health check within 48 hours of purchase. With your veterinarian's guidance, you will design a life-long health care program for your dog. Vaccinations will protect from infectious diseases. Internal and external parasites will be prevented and controlled. Neutering at an early age will prevent unwanted pregnancies and protect both genders against tumors and diseases of the reproductive tract. Proper nutrition will ensure healthy development and continued good health throughout your pet's life. Timely examinations will detect medical problems early, so that they may be efficiently treated. Next to you and your family, a veterinarian is the most important person involved in your puppy's well-being. You will rely on the vet to establish a regimen of vaccinations and regular checkups and you will certainly expect her/him to be available when unexpected or emergency situations occur. Choosing the right vet is a serious process.

Here are steps you should take in reaching your decision.

- Ask your breeder, friends, neighbors, coworkers and nearby relatives who own dogs to tell you who their vet is and why they chose that person.
- Ask your local kennel club for a list of vets who regularly work with purebred dogs. Another option is to contact your local or state veterinary association.
- Once you have compiled a list of the possible candidates, call their offices and ask for basic information regarding office hours and fees for routine procedures such as an annual checkup or vaccinations. Do they accept credit cards or must payments be made in cash? What is the procedure if there is an after-hours emergency? Does the vet have 24-hour coverage on site, and if not, how often are overnight patients checked?
- Approximately what percentage of clients have dogs? How many of them are of your breed? Does the doctor specialize in any areas (e.g. surgery, dental care, eye care, orthopedics, allergies)? Does the doctor make house calls? What are the provisions in place for veterinary care when your doctor is not available?
- Pay attention to how the receptionists (or doctors) listen to and answer your questions. Are they pleasant and helpful, or bored and rushed? How you are treated on the phone might be a good indication of how you and your dog will be treated in person.
- Narrow down your list to conveniently located vets with office hours, payment policies, and emergency procedures that meet your needs.
- Plan to visit each office, and check to see that it is clean, well-lit, and free of strong odors. Ask to see where overnight patients are housed and how they are supervised "after hours". It is common to ask about a vet's schooling and other advanced and continuing education.

- Ask each vet how he or she would treat a specific condition that may affect your breed (e.g. hip dysplasia, deafness, skin disorders, or kidney disease). Listen carefully to the answer, paying attention not only to what is said but how it is said. Remember, the vet you choose will be responsible for the well-being of your beloved dog, so it is important to find a vet who keeps current with the latest advances in veterinary medicine and who can communicate with you in a helpful, clear manner. In other words, you should choose a vet as carefully as you would choose your own doctor or your child's pediatrician.
- If you don't like a vet's answer or the way you are treated by the vet or any staff member, it is probably best to remove that vet from your list.
- After you've narrowed down your choices, schedule a routine visit for your dog with the vet at the top of the list. It is better to learn about a vet before there is an emergency. This time, take note of how the staff and vet relate to your dog.

If they seem friendly, helpful, and caring, you've found the right vet. It is now up to you and your vet to work as a team to provide the best possible care for your dog. If things don't go as well as you expect, consider the next vet on your list, and so on, until you are comfortable with your choice!

### FOOD

All dogs need a balanced food made from quality ingredients that are easily digested. The food must be complete with vitamins, minerals, proteins, fats and other nutrients that will promote good health and encourage proper growth and development. It is essential that the young puppy receive a quality, nutrient dense dog food. Proper nutrition has a significant impact on how well a puppy grows and develops. Without a good quality food the puppy cannot live up to its genetic potential. Dogs require protein, carbohydrates, fats and vitamins and minerals. Good sources of protein include eggs, liver, fish, fish meal, milk, meats and meat meals. Good sources of carbohydrates are corn, rice, oatmeal, oat flour and wheat. Good sources of fat are chicken and turkey fat. There are a variety of dog foods on the market varying greatly in quality and cost. It should be remembered that a dog food that costs less is not always more economical as you will probably be required to feed a lot more of it. It will also be nutritionally inferior. Cedarwood English Springer Spaniels recommends feeding Iams Eukanuba Medium Chunk Puppy to puppies until the age of 12 months and then Iams Eukanuba Adult food to dogs over 12 months. Scheduled meals at specific times of the day help the house training efforts because the dog's body will naturally need to relieve itself at set times following the meals. Young puppies (2 - 6 months) usually need to be fed three times a day, older puppies and adults should be fed two times a day. The puppy should be fed undisturbed in a quiet place - a crate is the ideal place. The labels on the dog food packages will provide a guide for the amount to feed. Remember that the amount suggested is the daily intake so you need to divide it by the number of feedings. Your breeder will also provide guidance as to the amount of food to feed each day and what supplements to add. Let the dog's development be the final guide as to how much to feed - a healthy but thin dog should be fed more whereas a chubby dog would get less

### EXERCISE

Most English Springer Spaniels can be at home on a standard, fenced 50 X 100 foot city lot's backyard, as long as they have the opportunity for some daily exercise. After a puppy matures, brisk walks, bicycling or ball-chasing can maintain your dog's fitness. The amount of exercise a Springer requires varies widely for individual dogs.

### GROOMING



Springers do take some care as they have moderate to long hair. While leaving the feathering long on the ears, chest, backs of front legs, sides, belly and backend, the coat on the head, throat, neck, back and tail is much shorter giving an overall tailored appearance. There are two different methods of trimming the Springer. The first method, the pet trim, uses clippers on the heads, necks and backs of dogs making grooming easier and faster. Please note that while this method is quicker, if the dog's coat is clipped it will not grow back the way it was prior to clipping. It will grow back fuzzy and future grooming will require clipping. The second method, the show trim, takes a considerably longer time and will cost more money. In this method the clippers are only used on the head, throat and tops of ears. Stripping knives or thinning scissors are used extensively on the body coat. Both methods leave the feathering long. Hair needs to be trimmed around the bottom edge of the feet and between the pads of the feet. DO NOT expect a commercial groomer to know how to trim a show dog. A commercial groomer will use the first method discussed. If you want a show trim get help from your breeder or a handler who is currently competing in the show ring.

Nails should be trimmed often to prevent feet from splaying and sore pads and toes. Teeth should also be brushed two to three times a week with a soft brush and 'doggy toothpaste' to prevent tooth decay and gum disease.

The coat on most Springers consists of longer guard-hairs on top with a soft, dense undercoat underneath. All dogs lose coat at some point during the year, and the hair they do lose is long enough to be easily swept or vacuumed. Extreme stress or health problems can lead to excessive shedding. Daily brushing with a medium-toothed comb and a pin brush will help keep things under control.



## **BASIC GROOMING TOOLS**

When used correctly grooming tools contribute significantly to the health of the skin and hair and enhance a dog's general appearance.

**Brushes** come in a wide variety of sizes and styles. The **bristle brush** is an all-purpose brush that may be used on all breeds. The bristles can be made of nylon, natural material or a combination of the two. The last is the most popular variety. It combines reasonable price with flexibility, as it can be used on many different coat types. The softest type of brush is a natural bristle brush. It is also the most expensive but it is most effective for polishing the topcoat and separating the feathering.

**Pin brushes** are usually used to groom long-haired breeds such as English Springer Spaniels. A variety of sizes are available for easy brushing of small, medium and large breeds.

A common type of brush is the **slicker brush**. The bent-wire teeth of the slicker brush are set close together to help remove mats and dead hair. Most come in three sizes: small, medium, and large. Slicker brushes will take out large amounts of coat, which is good if you want to reduce the around-the-house accumulation from shedding. A slicker may not be the correct choice if you're trying to keep the maximum amount of coat on your dog for the show ring.

All-rubber brushes have flexible, short, soft bristles with rounded ends. They are fine for polishing the coat of smoothcoated breeds or for removing dead hair without scratching the skin. Helping you find the right grooming tools and supplies for your dog and showing you how to use them is the business of your puppy's breeder.

**Combs** come in a wide variety of sizes and styles, with different tooth lengths and spacing. In general, fine-tooth combs are best used on soft, silky or sparse hair. Medium-tooth combs are used for average coat textures and coarse-tooth combs are good for dense or heavy coats. The length of the teeth should depend on how far the comb needs to penetrate to reach the skin. The best combs

are made of stainless steel or chrome-plated solid brass and have spring-tempered teeth with rounded tips to prevent skin irritation.

**Stripping implements** are used when putting a show trim on the springer. In the broadest sense, stripping involves the removal of some of the undercoat hair using a specialized grooming technique. The coarse stripping knife is used like a comb and dragged through the coat to remove undercoat but if used improperly it will cut the top coat. The medium knife is used around the neck and shoulder areas while the fine knife is used to give the top of the head a natural look. Proper coat stripping is done over a period of weeks, depending on the coat texture, growth pattern, climate and humidity, among other things. For a better explanation on using stripping tools, consult your breed experts.



## **ROUTINES AND TRAINING**

Remember that the puppy's move from the security of mother and littermates to a new home can be very stressful. Make this move as relaxed, uncluttered and smooth as possible. Have everything prepared in advance and when the puppy arrives home allow it to discover its new surroundings under your watchful, encouraging eye. Initiate your routines for feeding, exercise, play and sleep immediately. These routines should be discussed with the family prior to the puppy's arrival. Once these regular routines are familiar to the puppy housetraining will proceed more quickly and easily. It is important that once these routines are established they should be maintained as a dog is a creature of habit.

During the housebreaking period you will need to take the puppy out FREQUENTLY and at regular intervals to the area which you have designated as the elimination area. Try to choose the same spot each time so that a pattern is established. Give the puppy a command that you have chosen to indicate that elimination is desired. Repeat the command occasionally and when the puppy finally responds reward it with a treat and praise. Remember that the puppy will probably urinate rather quickly but do not be fooled. Remain outside with it until the puppy defecates (this usually occurs after eating). For quick and successful housebreaking it is important to be diligent. Take the young puppy out whenever it wakes up, before and after eating and after playing for short periods. **CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL HOUSTRAINING.** If you catch the puppy having an accident inside yell 'NO' loudly enough to startle and stop it. Then immediately take it outside and encourage elimination. If you find an accident in the house but have not seen the puppy doing it there is little to be done except clean it up. The puppy will have forgotten doing it and will not understand why it is being punished.

As soon as you get home it is time to introduce the puppy to its crate. As you place the puppy in the crate use a command such as 'kennel', 'crate', 'house' etc. Use this command each time. Place the puppy in the crate with a treat and a toy. Leave the puppy. It may make a fuss for a while but it will eventually settle down and sleep. Do not make the mistake of going to the puppy each time it cries. The puppy will soon learn that all it needs to do to get out is bark. After the dog has remained quiet for a short period of time go to it and let it out praising it all the time. Remember to go outside at this time. Springers respond very well to praise and there is no need for physical punishment.

Always address the puppy by its new name and you will be amazed by how quickly the puppy will respond. Avoid long elaborate names. A short catchy name is easiest to teach as it catches their attention. Knee down so that you are on the same level as the puppy. It will make you less awesome and threatening. Call the puppy over to you using the selected name. When the puppy comes reward it with a treat and praise it highly. The puppy will soon associate the sound of its name with pleasure and affection.

When training the dog use lots of treats and play to keep their attention. It is important that all members of the family train with the dog so that it responds to each person. When teaching a new skill it is important to show the dog what you want it to do by physically assisting the dog to do the skill. Remember to reward the puppy immediately and often. Puppy obedience classes are available in most areas and it is important that all puppies attend these. There is nothing more rewarding than beginning a class with a young dog that is untrained and finishing the class with a dog that is well mannered and obedient. A TRAINED DOG IS A BETTER CITIZEN. Look in the local newspaper or ask your veterinarian for these classes.

## ESSENTIAL DOG SUPPLIES

The following are some essentials that will be necessary to obtain before those canine paws bound through your home. Be prepared - buy them before the dog arrives.

- The first essential is a **CRATE**. This will provide the dog with a safe haven and you with an excellent tool for housetraining. Buy a crate that will be suitable for your dog when it reaches adulthood. There are two types of crates - the wire and the plastic or fiberglass. The proper sized wire crate for an adult is approximately 21"(W) x 30"(L) x 24"(H). For the fiberglass/plastic crate look for the Vari-Kennel 300 or 400, the Pet Porter medium and the Furrarri 350 or 450.
- When the puppy is out of the crate it will still need to be confined to one area until housetraining has been accomplished. Since the kitchen usually has washable floors it makes an excellent choice. If there is no door a **BABY GATE** is indispensable in preventing the young dog from bounding through the house and soiling the carpets. An alternative to the baby gate is an **EXERCISE PEN**.
- **COLLAR and LEASH** - rolled nylon collar fit to the circumference of the dog's neck, a six foot leash and a retractable leash which provides the dog availability to run up to 26 feet and you the ease of an easy grip handle. The line will automatically extend and retract and there is a thumb-operated brake for you to use to stop the extension at any time.
- **GROOMING SUPPLIES** - medium toothed metal comb, pin brush, slicker brush, nail clippers, septic powder (clotting powder used on nails that have been cut too short), toothbrush, 'doggy' toothpaste
- **TOY CHEST** - Puppies need a variety of toys to keep them busy and to allow for chewing. Avoid any toys made of soft plastic because they are easily and quickly eaten. The small squeaker or a large piece of plastic, once swallowed, can block the small intestine causing severe illness. The following are just a few suggested items:
  - § Nylabones (for hours of safe chewing)
  - § Plaque Attacker bones
  - § Kongs (hint: try spreading peanut butter inside this - hours of amusement)
  - § hard balls (for retrieving - don't forget Springers are natural retrievers)
  - § rope toys
- **MISCELLANEOUS** - 2 stainless steel bowls (1 quart capacity)

## RESOURCES



### BOOKS

The New Complete English Springer Spaniel by Julia Gasow and Edd Roggenkamp

How to Housetrain Your Dog in 7 Days by Shirlee Kalstone

Training Your Dog - The Step by Step Manual by Joachim Volhard and Gail Tamases Fisher

English Springer Spaniels edited by Diane McCarty

The English Springer Spaniel in North America by Beatrice Smith Brown

The Book of the English Springer Spaniel by Anna Katherine Nicholas

Art of Raising a Puppy by the Monks of New Skete

What Good Dogs Should Know by Jack Volhard and Melissa Bartlett

How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With by Claice Rutherford and David Neil

Mother Knows Best by Carol Lea Benjamin

The Culture Clash - A Revolutionary Way of Understanding The Relationship Between Humans and Dogs by Jean Donaldson

Good Owners, Great Dogs by Brian Kilcommons

Dog Owners Home Veterinary Handbook by Delbert G. Carlson and James M. Giffin



### INTERNET WEB SITES

American Kennel Club - [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

Canadian Kennel Club - [www.ckc.ca](http://www.ckc.ca)

The English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association - [www.essfta.org](http://www.essfta.org)

Ariel English Springer Spaniels - [www.ariel-ess.com](http://www.ariel-ess.com)