

Cedarwood English Springer Spaniels presents . . .

The English Springer Spaniel Puppy Packet



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

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL PUPPY PACKET

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THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

DECIDING TO GET A DOG - MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

(as outlined by the American Kennel Club)

Purchasing a purebred puppy can bring joy and happiness to you and your family for many years. Puppy buying should never be a spur - of - the - moment decision. A lot of thought, consideration and exploration should be undertaken before a new pup is brought into a home. Owning a dog is a lifestyle choice that needs thorough study with an eye towards the care, obligation and responsibility entailed for the life of that pet. A dog is a lifetime commitment and the animal will rely on its guardian for all of its needs. Be prepared to make a commitment to the care and well being of your dog from puppyhood to old age. A dog can bring a lifetime of joy and happiness to any home when care and thought is given to its needs and requirements. The time and money spent will be returned many times over in the form of companionship, devotion and unquestioning love. To help make the decision on whether you should introduce a dog to your life, consider the following points:

- Does your lifestyle offer sufficient time to socialize and train your puppy? This will be a substantial commitment on your part, particularly in the first year. Puppies do not come with an obedience guarantee, nor will they be housebroken. Puppies are like children and need the constant love and attention of their family. Your early commitment will be duly rewarded with the unqualified love and admiration of your dog through its entire life.
- Will your dog be happy in your home? Consider your own accommodation. Is your house, large or small, and is your yard fenced? Where will you exercise your dog? All puppies grow up and the type of accommodation you have must be appropriate for your mature dog. English Springer Spaniels requires space to use up excess energy. Don't fool yourself and don't expect the animal to be happy in a confined space. As much as you may like the look of an English Springer Spaniel, be sure its physical environment is a comfortable setting for the animal.
- Are all members of the family in favor of having a puppy join the household? A 'split decision family' may lead to disagreements and ultimately result in the dog being returned or left with a rescue group or humane society. In order for the dog to become a lifelong member of the family, the original decision to buy the dog must be shared with equal enthusiasm by all members of the family.
- Are there young children in the family? One of the main reasons people purchase a puppy is 'for the kids'. Be sure the match between dog and child is right. While it is ideal for both to socialize at a young age, parents must assume the responsibility of constant watchfulness so neither is harmed. This done, both puppy and child will very likely become close buddies.
- Who will feed, walk, groom and pick up after the dog? Too often a puppy arrives without the decision makers thinking this through. If this is to be a family dog, everyone should be committed to its care. If children are involved, don't expect them to shoulder the responsibility. It's too much, but they should be expected to assume their portion of this responsibility. It often ends up with one family member attending to the dog's needs, so talk it over and come to some agreements in advance. Everyone will be happy - including the dog.
- Have you prepared a budget for the cost of caring for the dog? This will involve nutritious food, municipal licensing, regular yearly visits to your vet, plus bedding, toys, grooming supplies etc. Such things as obedience training, regular grooming or pet insurance should also be considered. It won't be a huge amount but be prepared for the additional expense in your household budget.
- Don't buy the dog as a surprise gift. A puppy can be a marvelous gift if the giver has thoroughly discussed the matter with the recipient in advance. All of the above considerations must be reviewed with the recipient. Under no circumstances is the practice of giving a surprise puppy

appropriate. Too often the animal is unwanted from the beginning and finds itself helplessly abandoned or if kept, ultimately neglected. Please be responsible, your dog will love you for it.

- Whether you purchase a male or a female is a personal decision. It depends on your time, activities and interests, as well as what pup you fall in love with. Sometimes you need to let intuition be your guide.
- Bringing a new puppy home requires a lot of forethought. You need to be sure you have a bedding area, proper water and food, toys and grooming supplies. A breeder can help you in determining what you need and guide you during the pup's first days in its new home.

FINDING A REPUTABLE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL BREEDER

Now that you have decided that the English Springer Spaniel suits you and your lifestyle best, it's time to find a responsible breeder. A responsible breeder is the best source for a well-bred, healthy dog. The breeder will carefully select the parents of each litter to emphasize desirable attributes and minimize faults in their progeny. Some people breed dogs only to produce puppies to sell. These individuals have no regard for the advancement of that breed; they are motivated solely by profit. Responsible breeders will never breed a litter without considering the advancement of the breed. Each litter should improve the quality of breeding stock, resulting in healthy puppies with improved breed soundness - that is, physical and mental health - that are an advancement toward the ideal.

Buying from a breeder means that you are part of an extended family. Most breeders expect a call if the dog has a crisis at any stage in its life, so they can help you understand and cope with the problem. This can be especially comforting for the first-time dog owners who can't even imagine what kinds of questions they'll have in the future.

Visit a number of breeders and compare the dogs. Examine the premises to make sure they are clean and that the dogs appear to be well cared for. Puppies should be clean, well fed, lively and friendly, without any signs of illness such as runny nose or eyes, skin sores, or dirty ears. Make your final purchase from someone you are comfortable with and who you feel you can trust beyond the day of purchase to be as concerned about your puppy's future as you are. Remember that you are not just paying for the puppy but for the knowledge, ethics, and experience of the breeder. Responsible breeders spend many long hours researching pedigrees to ensure that they incorporate sound dogs into their breeding lines.

The Springer parent club, the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, is responsible for the preservation, protection and welfare of the breed. They are also responsible for the Breed Standard of the English Springer Spaniel. The breed standard is a written description, or word picture describing the perfect dog of the breed; how it should look, the manner in which it moves, and temperament. Responsible breeders are always trying to breed dogs closest to this standard with no inherited defects. The AKC/CKC believes that the Parent Clubs are the best contacts for anyone looking for information on the breed. Visit one of the many AKC/CKC sanctioned events held throughout North America each year to experience the breed without any commitment. While there, chat about the breed with the owners or breeders of the dog. People are generally willing to provide information and give you the first-hand experience you may need. One advantage of purebred dogs is that the qualities of each generation (size, coat, temperament etc.) are passed on to the next.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL BREEDER

(as outlined by the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association)

- Strive in each and every breeding to achieve the highest quality possible relative to the breed standard for conformation, excellence in hunting for field, trainability for obedience, tracking and the field, and temperament, in order to maintain our breed's characteristics.
- Use only physically sound, mature dogs of stable temperament for breeding. These characteristics are rarely, if ever, determined before the age of two for either males or females. A minimum breeding age is seriously recommended in order for breeders to determine with greater certainty that the parents are of good health and temperament.
- Continue to educate themselves regarding genetic diseases pertinent to the breed, including, but not limited to hip and elbow dysplasia, eye diseases, seizure disorders, allergies, heart disorders, and PFK, and information available as to their modes of inheritance. Documentation of hip and eye screenings should be available to prospective puppy buyers. Hip screening documentation should consist of an OFA, OVC or Penn Hip report and/or a letter of evaluation from a board certified Veterinary Radiologist or Veterinary Orthopedist; eyes should be evaluated yearly by a board - certified ACVO diplomate.
- Match each puppy's personality as carefully as possible with a compatible buyer/family. Temperament testing of a litter before puppies are offered for sale is encouraged.
- The breeder should be able to provide possible references from others. (Note: Likewise it is very possible that the breeder will want references. Remember a responsible breeder should make sure that his/her puppies obtain the best possible home. They should not be solely focused on the money.)
- Take appropriate steps to have each puppy examined by a veterinarian for general health and examined by a veterinary ophthalmologist for congenital eye disease prior to placement. Each puppy should be vaccinated and wormed by or in consultation with a veterinarian. Proper documentation indicating normal health and eyes for the age of the puppy or specifying any health or eye problems found at time of examination should be furnished to puppy buyers.
- Encourage buyers of pet puppies to spay/neuter. Methods should include written spay/neuter contracts and limited registration.
- Endeavor to gain personal knowledge of the temperament and health of every dog they breed, or to which they breed in order to gather information on which to base future breeding decisions. They share this information fully and honestly with other breeders and with prospective buyers.
- Do not sell, supply, donate or surrender any dog for which they are responsible to a pet shop, catalogue house, wholesale dealer in dogs, Humane Society, or to a laboratory. They should have reasonable assurance that each individual receiving a dog will provide a home with appropriate shelter, restraint, control and responsible care.
- Encourage puppy buyers to go to puppy and obedience classes to help their puppies to become better canine good citizens. The achievement of a Canine Good Citizen certificate should be encouraged.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROSPECTIVE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL BUYER

(as outlined by the American Kennel Club)

- Always visit the kennel before buying the dog. Let your eyes, ears and nose be the judge. Make certain that you are allowed full access to the kennel; that conditions are clean; the dogs have ample kennel space and look healthy and well cared for in every respect. A reputable breeder will not only welcome a visit to their kennels but they will insist upon it. They will also want to know about your family, your lifestyle and where the dog will be living. In doing so they aren't being intrusive, but instead it is a sign they care about the placement and future of their dogs. During the interview process a good breeder should discuss any particular needs or problems associated with the breed. If they do not bring this up, you should ask. Knowing negatives is as important as knowing positives.
- You should also ask if it is possible to see the dam (mother) and sire (father). In most cases this is possible but if it isn't ask to see relatives of the sire and dam. It may be that the sire is owned by another breeder and was used for stud purposes only. In such cases, the sire may not be on the premises at the time. The dogs may also be the product of artificial insemination. Both are acceptable reasons for the sire not being present. A reputable breeder will also have in their possession an official pedigree that describes the lineage of the puppy. The pedigree should include not only the name and registration numbers of the parents but the grandparents and great-grandparents as well.
- Ask to see health certificates and records of visits to the veterinarian. This is a very important component of buying a dog. English Springer Spaniels do have a history of inherited health disorders (e.g. hip dysplasia, eye disorders, seizures) in some lines. Reputable breeders will have established a breeding program that dramatically reduces the possibility of such disorders appearing in their dogs. Therefore, ask to see the formal health clearances for both the dam and the sire. The fact that the sire may not be on the premises is irrelevant. The breeder should have copies of such clearances on file. Good breeders ensure that the parents have health clearances before breeding them. You should also ask to see the veterinary records of the puppy. No credible breeder would sell their puppies without an initial visit to the veterinarian for shots and a general check-up and an eye ophthalmologist for initial eye clearances.
- Insist upon being provided with a signed bill of sale. Your bill of sale is a significant part of your legal protection. It should be dated and signed by the breeder and it should include, at the very least, a verification that the dog is purebred, the breed of the dog, your name and the name of the breeder, the identification number of the dog, a verification that you will be provided with registration papers and the total price of the dog, including all costs of registration. Never pay for a dog without first being provided with a proper bill of sale containing all of the above.
- Insist upon being provided with a written guarantee. The AKC/CKC believes that a purchaser of a purebred dog in United States and Canada should expect to obtain a healthy dog, both physically and mentally. It is the nature of genetics, however, that a dog may be clear of problems for five generations but problems may still crop up in the sixth. A guarantee covers what sort of recompensation would occur in the case of a problem. It is not an assurance that a problem will never occur. Reputable breeders will provide a detailed guarantee for the dogs they sell and reputable breeders will not hesitate to uphold their guarantee. Never buy a dog without a written guarantee and understand the intent behind it. No guarantee, no purchase.
- Confirm AKC/CKC registration of the parents, the litter and the puppy you are about to purchase. This is not a matter of choice - this is the law in United States and Canada. Any breeder selling a dog as purebred must register the dog and the new owner should receive the registration certificate within six months of the date of sale. In order for the puppy to be registered, the dog's parents and the emanating litter must also be registered. A reputable breeder will be more than

willing to provide this information. The breeder will provide you with the necessary applications to register the puppy.

- Ask if the breeder is a member of either the AKC or CKC. Virtually all reputable breeders in Canada are members of The Canadian Kennel Club and breeders in United States are members of the American Kennel Club. All members are obligated to adhere to regulated policies and procedures and a Code of Ethics - non-members are not!

ADVANCED PREPARATION

THE PUPPY KIT

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*.
- *Food* - Medium Chunk lams Eukanuba for Puppies - follow the breeder's feeding instructions. Puppies up to the age of 6 months are usually fed 3 times daily; from 6 - 12 months 2 times daily. Once again follow the breeder's instructions but puppies over 12 months are usually fed Medium Chunk lams Eukanuba for Adults.
- *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. Rawhide bones are not recommended because the puppy can swallow whole pieces which block the stomach passages. The following are just a few suggested items:
 - Nylabones (for hours of safe chewing)
 - Plaque Attacker bones
 - Frisbees made for dogs - these make wonderful toys for retrieving purposes
 - Kongs (hint: try spreading peanut butter inside this - hours of amusement)
 - Various types of balls - springers love to retrieve
 - rope toys
- *MISCELLANEOUS* - 2 stainless steel bowls (1 quart capacity)

CARE OF THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

Our canine companions are an important part of our lives. For many dog lovers, their four-legged pets are considered to be an extension of their family. As with all family members, they need love, attention and care. Care is a general word that covers everything from physical grooming, exercising, and feeding to toys and playtime in the backyard; from travelling with your dog to finding a good boarding kennel; in addition to providing proper veterinarian care.

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. 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.

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.

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 the English Springer Spaniel. The bristles can be made of nylon, natural material or a combination of the two. All-nylon bristles are quite hard. They may break fragile hair or cause static electricity, so they are usually inappropriate. The softest and most preferred type of brush is a natural bristle brush. It is also the most expensive.
- Pin brushes are usually used to groom long-haired breeds such as the English Springer Spaniel. A variety of sizes are available for easy brushing.
- 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.
- 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. Some combs have close-set teeth on one end and wide-spaced teeth on the other end. The length of the teeth should depend on how far the comb needs to penetrate to reach the skin. Some combs have handles; others do not. 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 should only be used by experienced groomers to groom the English Springer Spaniel for the show ring. In the broadest sense, stripping involves the removal of the undercoat using a specialized grooming technique. For a better explanation on using stripping tools, consult your breed experts.

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!

HEALTH AND HEREDITY: ***Things You Should Know About English Springer Spaniels***

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.

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. It is important to remember that physical discipline is never a required or acceptable method of punishment.

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.

CHILDREN AND DOGS

BUILDING A WARM, LOVING COMPANIONSHIP

The benefits of canine friendship can be many. Kids can learn that responsible care - giving is well worth the effort for the love and companionship they receive in return. They can also learn a sense of trust and security that will carry over into their human relationships. There is, however, a lot you need to know to ensure that your child has the same fond memories of growing up with Rover as you did. Building any good relationship takes understanding, communication and realistic expectations. The relationship between a child and a dog can be very special, but it needs guidance to become a rewarding experience with lasting good memories. So teach your child how to get along with dogs and reap the rewards of all those warm wet kisses and big hugs. The following are some tips on how to keep everyone in your family safe and happy:

- What do these two wily creatures need to know about each other? How to: 1) Behave, and 2) Communicate. The first message: Be Gentle and Learn Mutual Respect.
- Do explain to your child that since dogs can't talk like we do, they communicate in different ways, such as facial expressions, body posture, or barking. Your child should learn to be sensitive to the dog's behavior.
- Do demonstrate how to interact with the dog. Show the child how to pet the dog nicely, to give the dog some space if it gets anxious, and how not to pull the dog's tail, or ears, or poke its eye. Carefully explain that a dog is not a toy.
- Do make sure your dog has basic obedience training. The dog needs to know what is expected of it, and you need to establish a form of communication with your pet. Consulting a qualified obedience instructor can be helpful.
- Do be consistent in all teaching endeavors.
- Do supervise all puppy - child interactions. The adult in the household is the responsible party to be sure interactions are fun and mutually respected.
- Do oversee the dog's care and well - being at all times.
- Don't expect any dog to tolerate ear tugging, tail pulling or the like. Intervene if play gets rough or out of hand.
- Don't force responsibility on the child that he or she is not ready for. The dog will suffer the consequences of being neglected, ignored and not properly cared for.

RESOURCE BOOKS

- An Owner's Guide to the English Springer Spaniel by Don and Carol Callahan
- How to be Your Dog's Best Friend by the Monks of New Skete
- 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
- Good Owners, Great Dogs by Brian Kilcommons
- Dog Owners Home Veterinary Handbook by Delbert G. Carlson and James M. Giffin