



American Water Spaniels

A complimentary eBook from CheapPetStore.com

The American Water Spaniel Dog

About the American Water Spaniel Dog :

The American Water Spaniel is both an excellent hunting dog and great family pet. This curly haired wonder was first recognized in 1920 by the United Kennel Club. It originated in the United States and is believed to include a bloodline that consists of the Irish Water Spaniel, English Water Spaniel, Curly-Haired Retriever, and Field Spaniel. Prior to recognition, the American Water Spaniel was primarily used as a hunting dog and was known for its ability to work well on land and in water.

General Characteristics

American Water Spaniels are small to medium size dogs ranging in size from 15" to 18" in height and weighing anywhere from 25-45 pounds. The coat is available in three colors: liver, brown, and chocolate. It is constructed of wavy or tightly curled, closely knitted hair fiber that is protected by a thick coat of oil and is weather resistant. Their bodies are lean, muscular and evenly proportioned, allowing them to have superb balance and coordination. These highly active dogs love to stay busy, whether it's hunting, swimming, or just tossing a ball around the yard. They also enjoy down time and like to be petted and attended to. Intelligent and alert are just a few of its personality traits. Snoring and barking are sometimes a problem but they tend to learn quickly and respond best to a calm, persuasive, and consistent trainer. American Water Spaniels are kid friendly and are usually compatible with other pets.

Selecting a Method: Adoption or Breeder

There are several ways of obtaining your perfect canine friend. Adoption is one of them. One of the benefits of adopting is the amount of money you will save. Purchasing a pet from a reputable breeder is often expensive and frequently requires a waiting period. Another benefit is that you will be preserving the welfare of a wonderful creature. The downfall of adopting is you may not find exactly what you're looking for. There are often limited choices when searching for an American Water Spaniel to adopt. Normally they are full-grown and often do not come with background information. Coincidentally, you may not be fully satisfied.

Purchasing an American Water Spaniel from a Breeder is another option. You will likely pay more than if you were to adopt, but you will have access to background information such as health history, bloodline, and characteristics. A health guarantee and registration papers are usually included with purchase price. When you pick up your pet, you will have the opportunity to see the type of environment he or she was raised in. The downfall is that many breeders are selective of who they choose, and you may have to go through a screening process and waiting period.



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EXPERT TIP

Selecting a Crate

A dog should be able to stand and turn around inside a closed crate. If you have a American Water Spaniel Dog puppy, consider the average height and weight of an adult Spaniel and choose a crate based on those specifications. .

[Click here to see our crates.](#)

Regardless of which method you choose, there are several resources to aid in your search. If adopting, try your local humane society or animal rescue shelter. If you decide to go with a breeder, try to find a reputable one by visiting dog shows and talking to exhibitors and judges. You can find both adoption agencies and breeders by searching the Internet, looking at bulletin boards, in newspapers, or by talking to veterinarians or other dog lovers.

Selecting Your American Water Spaniel

Before seeking out your new pet, there are some factors you should consider and questions you want to answer. The first question to ask yourself is whether you want a specific breed. Does sex, age, color, show quality, or health condition matter? What kind of lifestyle do you have? Are you active? What is your schedule? What type of personality do you have? Are there certain characteristics that you would like your pet to have? Based on that information, you will be able to determine if adoption or a breeder is right for you.

When choosing your American Water Spaniel, pay close attention to the appearance of the animal. Does it seem to be in good physical and mental condition? Is the canine clean and well groomed? What type of environment is the animal living in? Has the dog had all of the required vaccinations, screening, and worming sessions that are recommended and does the owner have supporting documentation? Has the canine seen a veterinarian and, if so, who? Is there a return policy or a guarantee health contract? Look at the parents of the canine and note their condition. Quiz the breeder on knowledge of the American Water Spaniel and ask how long they have been breeding or how long they have owned the dog. It also helps to take a list of questions with you.

Your American Spaniel: From Birth to Senior

An important element of raising a well-behaved and healthy Spaniel is tender, loving care. These early years are crucial times and demand a clean, stable, and welcoming environment. Puppies require a lot of attention from birth up to the first year. During the first three weeks of life they are totally cared for by the mother. She will provide them with nourishment and will keep them clean and tidy. The atmosphere should be warm and cozy and the puppy's nails should be kept short to prevent injury and discomfort. It is the pet owners responsibility to make sure that they are adequately cared for by the Dam. Puppies should visit the veterinarian within 5 days of birth.

Within the first 4 weeks, the eyes will open, teeth will erupt, and hearing and smell develop. Puppies will start gaining independence between their 5th and 6th week. During this time, you should start weaning them from breast milk and establish a regular potty schedule. Gradually separate mother from pup during the day and replace the liquid diet with an approved commercial dog food made specifically for puppies. The average pup needs to be feed between 3-5 times per day. A puppy is ready to be introduced to a new home between his 8th and 12th week of life.

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The first year requires frequent trips to the veterinarian. During the first 16 weeks they will need a series of vaccinations. Be sure that your pet is parasite free, has been checked for worms, and that his body temperature is within normal levels. Check with your veterinarian for a complete and accurate schedule that fits the requirements of your state and your dog.

Around 6 months your dog will begin puberty. He may behave differently and forget concepts that he has already learned. This can last up to 6 weeks. During this time, be patient and reinforce what you have already taught him. By one year of age, your dog should have reached puberty and is now considered an adult. For the first few years, your canine will go through many different stages and will develop his unique personality. He will go through periods of chewing, challenging and dominant behavior, and sexual behavior if not spayed or neutered.

You may notice physical, mental, and emotional changes in your pet as it ages. These changes may be attributed to medical reasons, age, and stresses from health and environment.

- Behavioral – your pet may become more temperamental with age and less tolerant of children. They may exhibit anxiety or a sudden fear of something.
- Elimination Pattern – urination frequently increases and incontinence may occur.
- Sleeping Pattern – may become restless or lethargic.
- Skin, Hair, and Nails– skin may become thin, dry, take longer to heal, and less resilient. The hair may thin, turn gray or white, and become dull. Nails may become thin and brittle and crack or chip.
- Decreased Organ Function – the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys start to dysfunction.
- Endocrine Changes – glandular functions increase and decrease hormone levels.
- Muscular System Changes – muscle mass deteriorates over time.
- Dental Problems – become more prone to oral diseases and tooth decay.
- Impaired or Loss of Vision and Hearing
- Metabolism Slows
- Weakened Immune System
- Decreased Activity Level

An older Spaniel is more prone to health problems due to the many changes in body function. Arthritis, Cardiac Disorders, Hip Dysplasia, Hypothyroidism, Epilepsy, tooth decay, bad breath, skin conditions, and dehydration are a few. Be conscious to illness related symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, incontinence, runny nose and eyes, altered sleep patterns, loss or increase of appetite, rapid weight loss or gain, sores, unusual stool, blood in urine, cloudy eyes, skin discoloration, wounds that won't heal, loss of balance, persistent scratching, unusual discharge, coughing or sneezing, and behavioral changes. It is vital that you seek immediate medical attention if your dog experiences any of these symptoms. Do not attempt to self-treat



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It is important to always be observant and attentive to the changing needs of your pet. In order to optimize your dog's health, keep it active and provide it with a well balanced diet consisting of water, approved commercial dog food, healthy treats, and supplements for deficiencies. Take your canine in for routine checkups and maintain good grooming habits. Keep the environment safe and clean and provide your dog with stimulating toys, teething bones, exercise, and furniture for comfort.

Caring For a American Water Spaniel

The coat of an American Water Spaniel consists of two layers. Together, the layers provide a protective barrier from harsh weather conditions. A thick coat of oil is usually apparent and may present a strong odor. Because of the essential oils, the American Water Spaniel should only be bathed as needed. A thorough brushing twice a week is normally sufficient to maintain a clean, healthy coat. Extend the brush to the skin, using the bristles to circulate blood and remove dead skin.

Nails should be kept short by trimming regularly. Clean your dog's ears at least once a month or more if prone to ear infections. Keep eyes healthy by removing mucous and debris immediately. Maintain oral hygiene by brushing teeth and gums regularly with dog approved toothpaste and special teething biscuits made to remove plaque and tarter.

Keep your Spaniel safe by providing a dog friendly environment. Keep loose wires hidden and hazardous items out of reach. Be sure to sterilize toys at least weekly and keep the house clean and free of clutter. Toxic plants and materials need to be placed in an unreachable location. Provide your canine with supervision if you are gone for long hours. Protect you pet from other animals and humans by being aware of his location.

Now That You Are A Pet Owner

Being a pet owner is a rewarding experience. Over the years, you will build a strong relationship with your dog and he or she will become part of your family. If you treat your American Water Spaniel with love and respect you will build a trusting and devoted friendship that will bring you laughter and joy. The memories you and your American Water Spaniel share will touch your heart and last a lifetime. Remember to always look out for the best interest of your new companion and to be a responsible pet owner.

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