



THE AMERICAN SPANIEL CLUB, INC.

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American Spaniel Club Breed Health Statement

The American Spaniel Club (ASC) recommends selecting a breeder who conducts regular health testing and screening for the clinical and genetic diseases identified in this breed. While Cocker Spaniels are generally healthy and long-lived, health issues may arise.

The ASC strongly recommends that breeders test all dogs considered for breeding. The recommended health tests are used to maintain and preserve the breed's health and positive characteristics. Breeders should conduct screening tests for inherited conditions associated with eye health and orthopedic disorders.

EYE HEALTH: At minimum, an eye specialist (a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (DACVO)) should conduct an ophthalmology examination within twelve months prior to breeding. Both parents of puppies should be examined annually by a DACVO. ASC recommends that you be given a copy of these exams or they should be on file with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (offa.org)

HIPS: Hips should be x-rayed by a veterinarian before breeding and sent to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) at 24 months of age or older. The OFA will interpret the x-ray and issue a report. As with the eye papers, ASC recommends that you be given a copy or be able to access it on the OFA site (offa.org)

Some breeders may evaluate hips using a technique called PennHip. If that is the case, you should ask for a copy of that rating and evaluation.

Approved: American Spaniel Club Board of Directors on February 2019