

= Cocker Spaniel =

Cocker Spaniels are dogs belonging to two breeds of the spaniel dog type : the American Cocker Spaniel and the English Cocker Spaniel , both of which are commonly called simply Cocker Spaniel in their countries of origin . In the early 20th century , Cocker Spaniels also included small hunting Spaniels .

Cocker Spaniels were originally bred as hunting dogs in the United Kingdom , with the term cocker deriving from their use to hunt the Eurasian woodcock . When the breed was brought to the United States , it was bred to a different standard , which enabled it to specialize in hunting the American woodcock . Further physical changes were bred into the cocker in the United States during the early part of the 20th century .

Spaniels were first mentioned in the 14th century by Gaston III of Foix @-@ Béarn in his work the Livre de Chasse . The " cocking " or " cocker spaniel " was a type of field or land spaniel in the 19th century . Prior to 1901 , Cocker Spaniels were only separated from Field Spaniels and Springer Spaniels by weight . Two dogs are considered to be the foundation sires of both modern breeds , the English variety are descended from Ch . Obo , while the American breed descends from Obo 's son , Ch . Obo II . In the United States , the English Cocker was recognized as separate from the native breed in 1946 ; in the UK , the American type was recognized as a separate breed in 1970 . In addition , there is a second strain of English Cocker Spaniel , a working strain which is not bred to a standard but to working ability . Both breeds share similar coat colors and health issues with a few exceptions .

= = History = =

While their origins are unknown , " spaynels " are mentioned in 14th century writings . It is commonly assumed that they originated in Spain , and Edward of Norwich , 2nd Duke of York in his 15th century work The Master of Game introduces them as " Another kind of hound there is that be called hounds for the hawk and spaniels , for their kind cometh from Spain , notwithstanding that there are many in other countries . " The Master of Game was mostly an English translation of an earlier 14th century Old French work by Gaston III of Foix @-@ Béarn entitled Livre de Chasse .

In 1801 , Sydenham Edwards wrote in Cynographia Britannica that the " Land Spaniel " is divided into two types : the hawking , springing / springer and the cocking / cocker spaniel . The term cocker came from the dog 's use in hunting woodcocks . During the 19th century a " cocker spaniel " was a type of small Field Spaniel ; at the time , this term referred to a number of different spaniel hunting breeds , including the Norfolk Spaniel , Sussex Spaniel , and Clumber Spaniel . While there were no Sussex Cockers or Clumber Cockers , there were dogs known as Welsh Cockers and Devonshire Cockers . The Welsh or Devonshire were considered cockers until 1903 when they were recognized by The Kennel Club as the Welsh Springer Spaniel .

Prior to the 1870s , the only requirement for a dog to be classed as a Cocker Spaniel was that it needed to weigh less than 25 pounds (11 kg) , although breeders separated the cocker from the King Charles Spaniel which remains a smaller breed of spaniel . This maximum weight limit remained on the Cocker Spaniel until 1900 , with larger dogs being classed as Springer Spaniels . The colors of the Devonshire and Welsh Cockers were described by John Henry Walsh under the pseudonym Stonehenge in his book The Dog in Health and Disease as being a deeper shade of liver than that of the Sussex Spaniel . Following the formation of The Kennel Club in the UK in 1873 , efforts were made by breeders to record the pedigrees of cockers and springers . In 1892 , English Cocker Spaniels and English Springer Spaniels were recognized as separate breeds by The Kennel Club .

There are two dogs which are thought to be the foundation sires of both modern breeds of cocker spaniels . Ch . Obo is considered by breed enthusiasts to be the father of the modern English Cocker Spaniel , while his son , Ch . Obo II , is considered to be the progenitor of the American Cocker Spaniel . Obo was born in 1879 , at which point registration as a cocker was still only by size and not by ancestry . He was the son of a Sussex Spaniel and a Field Spaniel . Although Obo was

an English dog , Obo II was born on American shores ? his mother was shipped to the United States while pregnant . During his lifetime , it was claimed in advertisements that Obo II was the sire or grandsire of nearly every prize winning cocker in America .

= = Modern breeds = =

There are two modern breeds of cocker spaniel , the English Cocker Spaniel and the American Cocker Spaniel . They were bred as gun dogs ; to use their sense of smell to cover low areas near the handler in order to flush birds into the air to be shot , and to use their eyes and nose to locate the bird once downed , and then to retrieve the bird with a soft mouth . The major differences between the English and American varieties is that the American is smaller with a shorter back , a domed head and a shorter muzzle , while the English variety is taller with a narrower head and chest .

Cocker spaniel coats come in a variety of colors including black , liver , red and golden in solids . There are also black and tan , and sometimes liver and tan , as well as a variety of color mixtures of those solid colors including roans , roan and tans , tricolors and those solid colors with additional white markings .

Rare colours can appear unexpectedly in certain lines , for instance while an all @-@ white cocker is usually bred by selective breeding of very light golden strains , they can still appear very uncommonly to parents who are dark colored . A noted occurrence of this happened in 1943 , when a grandson of My Own Brucie , Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 1940 and 1941 , was born all @-@ white .

In its native United States , the American Cocker Spaniel was ranked the 23rd most popular breed according to registration statistics of the AKC in 2009 , a decrease in popularity since 1999 when it was ranked 13th . For twenty five years the American Cocker Spaniel was the most popular dog in America . It was ranked number one first in 1936 prior to the English Cocker Spaniel being recognized as a separate breed , and held onto the spot until 1952 when Beagles became the most popular dog . It regained the spot in 1983 and held on at number one until 1990 . In the UK , the American Cocker Spaniel is far less popular than its English cousin with 322 registrations compared to the English Cocker 's 22 @,@ 211 in 2009 .

= = = English Cocker Spaniel = = =

Called simply Cocker Spaniel in the UK , this is the breed that was originally recognized by The Kennel Club (KC) in 1892 . The American Kennel Club (AKC) recognized the English Cocker Spaniel as a separate breed in 1946 .

The size of the English Cocker Spaniel according to the KC is 15 @.@ 5 ? 16 inches (39 ? 41 cm) at the withers for males , and 15 ? 15 @.@ 5 inches (38 ? 39 cm) for females . The weight of a show dog should be 28 ? 32 pounds (13 ? 15 kg) .

The English Cocker Spaniel is the most successful breed at the most popular dog show in the UK , Crufts , with seven best @-@ in @-@ show wins since the prize was first awarded in 1928 . This was mostly due to the success of dog breeder H.S. Lloyd 's Ware Kennel , dogs of which won best @-@ in @-@ show on six occasions between 1930 ? 1950 . They are the second most popular dog breed in the UK according to statistics released by the KC with 22 @,@ 211 registrations in 2009 , beaten only by the Labrador Retriever with 40 @,@ 943 . In third place was the English Springer Spaniel with 12 @,@ 700 . The English Cocker 's popularity has increased steadily since 1999 in the United States when they were ranked 76th in registrations by the AKC , to 2009 when they were ranked 66th .

There are physical differences between the show strains and working strains in the UK . While the show strain is bred to the conformation standard , the working strain is bred for working ability and as such several physical differences have appeared . Working type dogs tend to be larger with flatter heads and shorter ears . The coat also tends to be shorter and finer than the show variety and have less feathering . The working strain seems to be more energetic than the show strain .

== American Cocker Spaniel ==

Cocker Spaniels were recognized by the AKC in 1878 . Generally smaller than its English cousin , separate classes were created for the two types in America in 1935 and the Cocker Spaniel Club of America discouraged breeding between the two types in 1938 . The American Cocker Spaniel was recognized as a separate breed by the KC in the UK in 1970 . The American Cocker Spaniel is referred to as the Cocker Spaniel within the United States .

The American Cocker Spaniel was bred smaller as American woodcocks are smaller than their European cousins , and the breeds appearance changed slightly during the first part of the 20th century as the preference by American breeders was for a more stylized appearance . The standard size according to the AKC is between 14 @. @ 5 ? 15 @. @ 5 inches (37 ? 39 cm) at the withers for males and 13 @. @ 5 ? 14 @. @ 5 inches (34 ? 37 cm) for females . The weight of the breed is on average between 24 ? 30 pounds (11 ? 14 kg) .

At the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show , the most prestigious dog show in the United States , the American Cocker Spaniel has won Best in Show on four occasions since its first award in 1907 . The most successful breed is the Wire Fox Terrier with thirteen wins . The American Cocker Spaniel is judged in three separate breed classes under AKC rules ; " black " , " parti @-@ color " , and " any solid color other than black ... " (ASCOB) . Sophia and Olivia won the gold medal of dog showing in 2012 .

== Common health issues ==

In a survey conducted by the Kennel Club (UK) , the American Cocker Spaniels had a median age of death of ten years and four months , while the English Cocker Spaniel had a median age of eleven years and two months . According to the survey , the most common cause of death for both breeds was cancer , while old age was the second most common cause . The two modern breeds are susceptible to several health problems . Issues common to the two breeds include ear infections , and a variety of eye problems . A large number of breeds are susceptible to hip dysplasia . In a survey conducted by Orthopedic Foundation for Animals , the American Cocker Spaniel was ranked 115th out of 157 different breeds , with 1 being the highest percentage dysplastic and 157 being the lowest percentage dysplastic . The English Cocker was ranked 129th .

== Otitis externa ==

Cocker spaniels and other dogs that have long , pendulous ears are more predisposed to ear problems than some other breeds . The fold of the ear can prevent air from entering , and it also creates a warm , moist environment where organisms can grow . Otitis externa is an inflammation of the ear canal which can be caused by a variety of factors including parasites , microorganisms , foreign bodies , tumors , and underlying dermatological disease . Ear mites can cause otitis externa ; ticks and fleas can also live in dogs ' ear canals .

The most common types of canine ear infections are caused by microorganisms , including yeast and bacterial infections . The most common variety of this is *Malassezia pachydermatitis* . Symptoms can include the dog shaking its head or scratching at its ears more frequently . The ear canal will appear inflamed , a pus @-@ like substance will be discharged in some cases , and the ear will smell quite pungent in most cases . Treatment for the more common causes of otitis externa in dogs often includes oral antibiotics and flushing the ears with an antibacterial solution . In some cases , anti @-@ inflammatory medication is prescribed . Some conditions can increase the chance of ear infections , including living in a humid environment and frequent swimming or bathing without adequate drying of the ear afterwards . Keeping the hair on the ears short can be used as a preventative method to ear problems .

== Eye conditions ==

Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) is a group of diseases that affect a dog 's eyesight and can lead to blindness . It has been documented in a large number of different dog breeds including both the American and English Cocker Spaniels . The two types of Cockers are susceptible to a specific type of PRA called Progressive rod @-@ cone degeneration (PRCD) , symptoms include night blindness leading to total blindness between the ages of three and five . PRCD is the most widespread hereditary retinal disease which may lead to blindness in dogs .

Another leading cause of blindness is Canine glaucoma . This is an increase in the pressure of the fluid in the eye which , if left untreated , can cause visual impairment and eventual loss of sight . The condition can be inherited (Primary glaucoma) or a secondary condition to a variety of other eye issues including tumors or lens luxation . Both breeds are affected by juvenile cataracts which can occur at up to four years of age . Symptoms can include discoloring of the pupil , and treatment may include surgery to remove the cataract .

= = In popular culture = =

The Cocker Spaniel is featured in the 1955 Disney film Lady and the Tramp who is Lady .