

= Russian Spaniel =

The Russian Spaniel is a type of spaniel first standardised in 1951 in the Soviet Union after World War II by cross breeding English Cocker Spaniels , English Springer Spaniels and other spaniel breeds . Physically it is similar to a Cocker Spaniel , but has a shorter , tighter coat and a longer body . Developed and used as hunting dogs , this breed does not suffer from any major health complaints other than those normally associated with spaniels . Popular in its native Russia , the breed was only introduced overseas in the 1990s , and is not yet recognised by any major kennel clubs .

= = Description = =

The Russian Spaniel is a small , sturdy dog with a short , tight , silky coat with feathering on the ears and legs . Colors can vary greatly , and can include solid colors without white markings , piebald , speckled , black and tan , and combinations . The head and ears are also usually dark .

The Russian Spaniel resembles the English Cocker Spaniel , with a body similar to the field lines of that breed though with the longer ears of the show line . The body of the Russian Spaniel tends to be longer than that of the English Cocker however , and the breed has only one line rather than being split into separate specific show and field lines of the same breed .

Both the male and females of the breed weigh on average 28 ? 40 lb (13 ? 18 kg) and are around 15 ? 17 inches (38 ? 43 cm) at the withers . This makes them similar in size or a little larger than the English Cocker Spaniel which weighs approximately 13 ? 14 @. @ 5 kg (29 ? 32 lb) and is on average between 15 @. @ 5 and 16 inches (39 and 41 cm) with the females being a little smaller at 15 ? 15 @. @ 5 inches (38 ? 39 cm) .

Bred primarily as hunting dogs , their goal is to find the bird , send it into the air and then to retrieve it on command after the hunter has shot the quarry . The Russian Spaniel is suited for hunting in marshland , fields , woodland , for birds as well as rabbits and other small game . The breed is also popular in their native Russia as their small size makes them suitable to be kept in busy cities , and easily transported to hunting sites .

= = Health = =

As with all long @-@ eared spaniels , Russian Spaniels require checks to prevent ear infections . The breed does have an inclination to gain weight easily , which can be prevented by controlling food intake . The Russian Spaniel can be prone to food allergies , which are usually identified at between 1 and 5 months of age with the most common allergens being chicken and carrots . There are no other breed @-@ specific health issues currently known .

= = Temperament = =

It is an energetic , free @-@ spirited breed . Even though it is a gundog , it is also kept as a companion dog because of its easy @-@ going nature and devotion to the cause . It is a cheerful , active dog and is always ready to play , responding to any form of attention with a happily wagging tail . Russian Spaniels are trainable , can make a good watchdog , and are amiable with children .

= = History = =

The Russian Spaniel is the youngest of the Russian gundogs . It originated mostly from English Cocker Spaniels and English Springer Spaniels . Breeds known as Russian Spaniels have been mentioned as early as 1891 in New Zealand .

The first recorded spaniel in Russia was a black Cocker Spaniel owned by hunting enthusiast Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevich towards the end of the 19th century . Because of its noble connections , spaniels of various breeds were imported to St. Petersburg and Moscow . Some were

used for hunting , but the smaller spaniels were not of much use in Russian bird hunting due to the weather and terrain conditions . It was at the beginning of the 20th century that selective breeding began for longer legged spaniels ; specifically importing Springer Spaniels to create a rather mixed Russian Spaniel .

By the late 1930s there were a variety of spaniels in Moscow , Leningrad and Sverdlovsk that did not fit any specific spaniel breed standard , but were not yet standardised into the modern Russian Spaniel . Purposeful breeding after World War II led to the original Russian Spaniel standard in 1951 . Further revised standards were issued in 1966 and 2000 .

The popularity of the breed in Russia increased after the early 1990s , with Moscow dog shows since that time annually including between 120 and 131 Russian Spaniels , which qualifies the breed as one of the most popular , along with the Irish Setter . In 2002 , the Russian Spaniel Club was set up in the United States to increase the knowledge of the breed outside Russia and to enable owners to register their dogs .

= = International recognition = =

Although not recognised by any major kennel clubs , the Russian Spaniel is recognised by the Continental Kennel Club , Federation of International Canines , North American Kennel Club , and Universal Kennel Club International . For recognition by The Kennel Club a breed is required to apply with names and addresses of UK owners / importers , number of dogs bred in the UK , copies of the pedigrees of UK dogs - at least three generations , it must be recognised in its country of origin and statistics on registration figures in that country , statistics on entries in shows in that country and at international level , any inherited health conditions , when the breed registry was closed , the standard from the country of origin and a brief history and details of any working activities .

In order to become recognised fully by the American Kennel Club , they must first compete in a Miscellaneous Class . The requirements to compete in that class are to demonstrate a following by having a minimum of 100 active members in a national breed club , a population of 300 to 400 dogs , with third generation pedigrees and for all dogs in those pedigrees to be of the same breed , a distribution across twenty or more states , and the breed standard must be reviewed and approved by the AKC . Currently there are five dogs in the AKC 's Miscellaneous Class which are Dogue de Bordeaux , Redbone Coonhound , Irish Red and White Setter , Norwegian Buhund and Pyrenean Shepherd . Typical stays in that class are between one and three years , and the national club of the breed must have held seminars , shows and judges workshops prior to being fully recognised .