



Congratulations on Your New Spinone Italiano!

The Spinone Club of America would like to congratulate you on your new Spinone. The SCOA wants to ensure that you enjoy your new family member and that it will be with you for its entire life. You will quickly find out that being Spinone-owned is a unique experience. Their human-like eyes, sweet expression, and sometimes comical antics will win your heart.

But, beware, you can't own just one...

History

The Spinone is a versatile hunting dog of ancient heritage with origins in Northern Italy. As with all very ancient breeds, their origin is uncertain, but Spinoni ancestors date back to 500 BC. They were first called rough-coated hounds, bristled hounds, or “bacco spinoso.”

The versatile Spinone is suited for hunting in all climates and terrain. It is a cautious hunter who follows the scent moving ever so gradually and proceeding with utmost discretion. Its prey stops... it stops, the prey moves again, and the pursuit resumes.

The breed has been characterized as a dog that does not hunt for itself but for his master.

General Appearance

The Spinone is a large, rugged dog of distinctive appearance. The head is distinctive with hanging ears and eyes described as “human-like.” Its body is strong-boned with a square build. Height is 22.5” to 27.5”.

The Spinone has very thick skin and a harsh coat, which protects it from freezing water and temperatures. A Spinone with a correct coat has been characterized as one of the few dogs who can

come from working in the field and with a simple combing be ready for the show ring.

Spinone colors are white, white with orange markings, orange roan, orange roan with orange patches, white with brown, brown roan, or brown roan with brown patches. Colors not permitted are tri-color, tan, or any black.

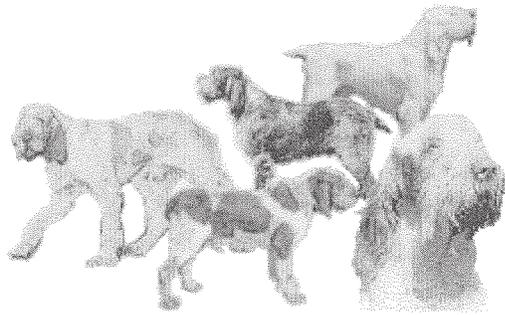
Grooming

Very little grooming is required for the Spinone with a correct coat. An occasional hand stripping (pull out dead hair as opposed to cutting) may be necessary. A weekly brushing, and a bath when needed, is usually sufficient. Spinoni are “wash and wear” so to speak.

The Spinone is to be shown in its “natural state,” meaning no trimming or scissoring. Nails should be trimmed and teeth brushed. Since Spinoni have long ears, they should be cleaned weekly to prevent ear infections.

Daily Care

Spinoni need daily exercise. A large fenced yard will suffice, but a romp in the field will have your Spinone indebted to you for life! A Spinone does not do well housed outside in a kennel or tied



outside. It needs human companionship and can be very demanding of your attention. Its beard is almost always wet and can be messy, especially when it has just gotten a drink of water and leave a trail on the floor. It also seems to enjoy putting its head in your lap after a drink, or shaking its head, leaving water everywhere.

A Spinone is naturally cautious with people and other dogs, so it is very important to socialize it. Take it with you whenever you can (once it has had his last puppy vaccination, usually 14-16 weeks), expose it to people and places, and enroll it in obedience class.

Meanwhile, A crate can be a safe haven for your Spinone and a time of relaxation for you. Also, crate training makes house breaking much easier.

Breeding vs. Spay/Neuter

Spay/Neuter is an option unless you are willing to take on the responsibility for every puppy you breed for as long as it lives. “Due to recent studies funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, it may be prudent for the longterm health of the animal to delay spay/neuter until a dog reaches maturity as determined in conjunction with your veterinarian,” Dr. Jerry Klien, AKC’s Chief Veterinarian Officer recently reported.

If you decide to breed your Spinone, remember to consider the whole dog. Select breeding pairs to preserve the traits of the Spinone—conformation, performance and temperament—and produce the healthiest puppies possible.

SCOA recommends that you test your Spinone for genetic defects before breeding. At a minimum, you should test for malformations of hip and elbow joints, eye problems and cerebellar ataxia; consider

testing for thyroid imbalances or heart defects; and study pedigrees for occurrences of epilepsy, cancers or other diseases that can affect your Spinone.

Training

Basic obedience training is an important part of owning your Spinone. In addition to enhancing socialization, it establishes a bond between you and your dog. If you plan to hunt your Spinone, obedience training is the first important step.

Identification

Protect your Italian Spinone in case it is lost. Identify your Spinone with a collar and tags. A permanent identification with a microchip or tattoo can be registered with AKC’s Reunite (formerly CAR). A 24-hour toll-free hotline helps locate the owners. There is a 100% re-homing rate with enrolled animals. For information, call

800-252-7894

Events and Activities

Many Spinone owners enjoy field trials; hunt tests; conformation, obedience, tracking, agility events; and therapy dog work. The American Kennel Club and The Spinone Club of America will be helpful in giving you direction and guidance in these pursuits.

Visit our website

For more information about the Spinone, titles and awards, our National Speciality, regional clubs, events, and more, visit us at:

www.SpinoneClubOfAmerica.com

