

# Congratulations on your new *English Setter!*

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the wonderful world of English Setters! The **English Setter Association of America (ESAA)** is a not-for-profit organization formed in 1931. The first object of the Association is “to encourage & promote quality in the breeding of pure-bred English Setters and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.” ESAA has many regional clubs that create a network of support to ES owners.

## **History**

The English Setter is one of the oldest gundog breeds with a history that traces back to the 14th century. It was developed from spaniel stock and was originally called a Setting Spaniel. Before the use of firearms, game birds were captured by netting. The Setting Spaniel would find and point the birds then crouch down on its front legs or “set” to allow casting of the net. As guns became available an upright, pointing stance was bred into the Setter so he could be more easily seen.

The modern English Setter owes its appearance to Mr. Edward Laverack (1800-1877) who developed his own strain of the breed by careful inbreeding during the 19th century in England. Another Englishman, Mr. R. Purcell Llewellyn (1840-1925), began a second strain based upon Laverack’s that developed into the working Setter. Today, you still hear the term Llewellyn Setter, but this is not a separate breed. Instead, it is often used as an alternative name for a field-bred English Setter.

## **Care and Housing**

Regular veterinary care and proper feeding are important to your dog’s health. It is important that you **DO NOT OVERFEED** your English Setter. This athletic breed should be hard muscled and lean. Given proper care, nutrition, and exercise, English Setters normally live about 12 years. Regular brushing will keep the beautiful Setter coat free of mats and reduce shedding. Although English Setters are bred to be hunting dogs, they do not make good kennel dogs. As a breed, they love to be with people and are happiest in the company of their family. They **DO** need a considerable amount of daily exercise to keep both their body and mind in shape. The natural exuberance of a young Setter can make him difficult to live with if he is confined without enough exercise. The use of outdoor fencing (either visible or invisible) is **VERY** strongly encouraged as most English Setters cannot be trusted to stay in a yard without tangible boundaries.

## **Identification**

For further protection, identify your English Setter with collar tags in case it is lost. AKC Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) offers a free dog tag with recovery information and a 24-hour toll-free hotline to help locate owners 7 days a week.



For further protection, register your dog’s permanent tattoo or microchip with AKC CAR. Call 800-252-7894 or go to [www.akccar.org](http://www.akccar.org) for more information.

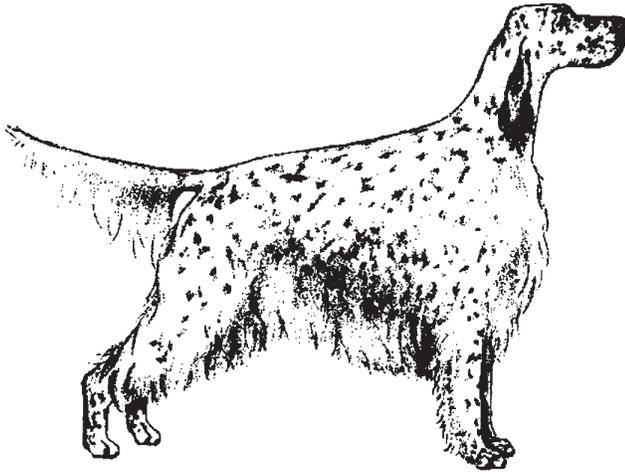
## **Training**

Basic obedience training is an essential part of responsible dog ownership. It establishes a bond between you and your English Setter and makes him a joy in your home and community. Consistency and repetition are the keys to success in training. Crate training is very useful for dogs left in the house while owners are gone during the day and for bedtime.

## **Breeding**

Before you consider breeding your English Setter you should review the responsibilities that go with that decision. Any breeder of AKC-registered dogs has a responsibility to keep full and accurate records of all litters. They have the responsibility to find good homes for all the puppies and to follow those dogs for health or genetic problems throughout their lives. English Setters can have hip or elbow dysplasia, hypothyroidism, and congenital deafness in one or both ears. A responsible breeder strives to improve the breed. It is important to recognize that not all dogs should be bred. English Setters of poor temperament should not be bred regardless of other characteristics. Spayed and neutered dogs are still eligible to participate in AKC hunt tests, field trials, agility, tracking and obedience events.





## Events

There are many different events you may participate in with your English Setter. Conformation, Obedience, Agility, Rally, Hunt Tests, Field Trials, and Junior Showmanship are among the sanctioned activities available. Canine Good Citizen testing and Therapy dog services are activities enjoyed by dogs and owners alike. The ESAA publishes a monthly newsletter covering events and educational programs as well as many other aspects of English Setter ownership. ESAA actively supports canine health and genetic research.

## Canine Health Foundation

Many ESAA members support health research through the English Setter Donor-Advised Fund at the AKC Canine Health Foundation. This is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation will help ensure a healthy future for all dogs. Your donation is tax-deductible. For more information about ongoing health research to help English Setters, see [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org) or call toll free 888-682-9696.

## The AKC Standard

The standard is a written guide describing the ideal English Setter in appearance and behavior. In part, the English Setter standard calls for:

**General Appearance:** An elegant, substantial and symmetrical gun dog suggesting the ideal blend of strength, stamina, grace, and style. Flat-coated with feathering of good length. Gaitting freely and smoothly with long forward reach, strong rear drive and firm top line.

**Markings and Color:** White ground color with intermingling of darker hairs resulting in belton markings varying in degree from clear distinct flecking to roan shading. Head and ear patches acceptable, heavy patches of color on the body undesirable.

**Size:** Dogs about 25 inches; bitches about 24 inches.

**Temperament:** Gentle, affectionate, friendly, without shyness, fear, or viciousness.

## Other Sources of Information

### The English Setter Association Of America

The English Setter Association of America (ESAA) is dedicated to the welfare of the breed and sponsors a number of national events designed to promote excellence in all qualities of the breed. Events include a National Field Championship, National Hunt Test, National Specialty Show, and National Show Futurity and Maturity. Membership in the ESAA includes a monthly newsletter. The ESAA maintains a website containing additional information about the breed and parent club. You can find a membership application at this site as well as locate the regional clubs and events. Point your browser to: <http://www.esaa.com>

or contact the Membership Chairman:

Ms. Coleen Raber  
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Hershey, PA 17033  
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## Additional Reading

*The New Complete English Setter*, by Davis Tuck, revised by Elsworth Howell and Judy Graef, published by Howell Book House. This is the updated fourth edition of the classic text covering breed history, care, grooming, training for bench and field, breeding, and the development of the English Setter Association of America. It also chronicles the greatest winners and producers of the 1930s through the 1970s.

*The Essence of Setters*, by Marsha Hall Brown, published by Doral Publishing, Inc. This book presents a comprehensive examination of the origins, history, development and breed characteristics of the four Setters: English, Irish, Gordon and Red & White.

*The History of English Setter Show Dogs in America*, by Craig S. Sparkes, published by Doral Publishing, Inc. This book chronicles the greatest English Setter show dogs from the early 1900s through 2002.

*The Visualization of the English Setter*, published by the English Setter Association of America. This booklet is a pictorial explanation of the breed standard and is available for \$12 (payable to ESAA) from:

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