

Congratulations on Your New Field Spaniel!

Combination of beauty and utility

Noble carriage

Great affinity for human companionship

Congratulations!

The Field Spaniel Society of America (FSSA) wishes you and your new Field Spaniel many happy years of companionship.

History

The Field Spaniel originated in England in the mid-1800s. Field Spaniels were used to find, flush, and retrieve both fur and feather from land and water. The breed's popularity peaked at the turn of the 20th century and then its numbers dramatically declined. Today's Field Spaniel has been brought back from the brink of extinction and still retains its natural hunting instincts, spaniel characteristics, and even temperament.

Breed Characteristics

Field Spaniels are medium-sized flushing spaniels averaging 18" in height and weighing 40 to 55 pounds. Their coat should be moderately long and silky with feathering on the ears, legs, and chest. Field Spaniel colors are black, liver, or roan with or without tan markings. Field Spaniels are independent, intelligent, and affectionate companions. Field Spaniels are naturally reserved in new situations but should not be shy.

Health

Field Spaniels are generally healthy and long-lived but as in all breeds, health concerns exist. The results of a recent FSSA health survey show that incidences of hip dysplasia, eye disorders, and autoimmune disorders such as hypothyroidism, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, and skin allergies have been reported in the breed. The FSSA in association with the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) recommend that breeding stock be screened for hip dysplasia, hereditary eye disorders, and hypothyroidism. To learn more about the health tests that Field Spaniel breeders conduct on their breeding stock, visit www.caninehealthinfo.org and www.offa.org.



The AKC Canine Health Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation helps ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research, visit www.akcchf.org or call toll-free 1-800-252-7894.

Training

Your efforts to properly raise your Field Spaniel puppy will be rewarded with a well-behaved adult dog. Please take the following into consideration when raising your Field Spaniel:

- Stay in touch with your puppy's breeder as she is one of your best sources of information regarding how to feed, care for, and train your Field Spaniel.
- Crate training your puppy will facilitate house training and make traveling with your pet easier.
- Field Spaniels are intelligent but sensitive. They respond quickly to positive training methods. Harsh training methods are not recommended.
- Enroll in a puppy kindergarten class to teach your puppy basic manners and to continue his socialization.
- Do not allow your puppy to do anything you don't want him to do as an adult.
- Be patient and keep your sense of humor. Take pictures!

Grooming Your Field Spaniel

Regular grooming of your Field Spaniel not only enhances his appearance, it helps keep him clean and can alert you to changes in his skin and coat. It isn't difficult to keep your Field Spaniel's appearance neat and tidy. Since his coat is silky and only moderately long, this is *not* a dog that will be shaved down. A companion Field Spaniel can be kept handsome with combing and simple trimming. Set aside time each week to groom your puppy. If regular grooming sessions are kept short and pleasant, your pet will grow up to enjoy the time spent being groomed.

The minimum equipment you will need to groom your companion Field Spaniel is a comb, straight shears, and nail clippers. Comb the body coat, leg, and ear feathers to remove loose hair, dirt, and debris. Carefully trim the hair under the tail for sanitary reasons. Trim the hair inside the ear around the ear canal to improve air circulation to the ear. Trim the long hair that grows between the toes and footpads to prevent mats from forming between the toes.

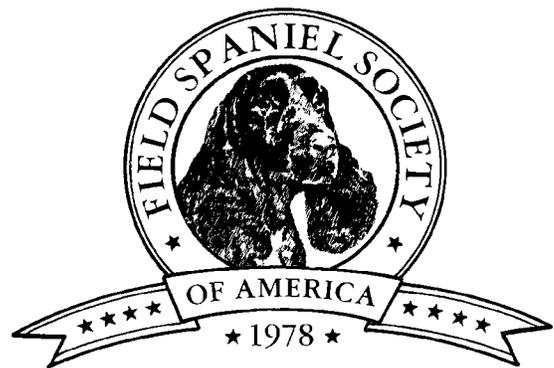
Always comb your dog after he has been in the field in order to remove any burrs or stickers he may have picked up. Bathe your dog whenever he is dirty. For housedogs, this might be once or twice a month. Be sure to use a mild shampoo and conditioner formulated for dogs. Thoroughly comb and dry your dog's coat after a bath.

Grooming the Field Spaniel for the show ring involves more trimming and a certain amount of skill. Please consult with your dog's breeder or fellow exhibitors if you plan to show your dog in conformation events. Whether your Field Spaniel is destined to be a show dog or your best companion, he is sure to turn heads if you keep him cleaned and well groomed.



Activities

Field Spaniels are true sporting companions and are happy to join you in whatever activities you enjoy. Be it hunting, boating, walking, or watching TV, your Field Spaniel will be at your side. Most Field Spaniels can easily be trained to pass the AKC® Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) test. Field Spaniels also make good therapy dogs. Many Field Spaniel owners enjoy training and competing with their dogs in AKC events. Field Spaniels successfully compete in conformation, obedience, agility, hunt tests, and tracking tests. For more information about AKC events and purebred dogs, visit www.akc.org.



Safeguarding Your Pet

- Proper nutrition, exercise, and regular veterinary care will help ensure that your pet lives a long and healthy life. Ask your veterinarian or breeder to show you how to trim your dog's nails, clean his ears, and brush his teeth.
- Spaying a female reduces the risk of mammary tumors and uterine infections. Neutering a male reduces the risk of testicular cancer and prostate problems.
- Permanent identification, such as a microchip or tattoo, aids in reuniting lost pets with their owners. Register your pet's permanent identification with the AKC Companion Animal Recovery program (CAR). Visit www.akccar.org or call 1-800-252-7894 for more information.

The Field Spaniel Community

Field Spaniel owners keep in touch with each other through e-mail lists, dog events, and the Field Spaniel Society of America. Please visit their web site at <http://www.fieldspaniels.org> or contact:

Maxine Reed
FSSA Membership Chair
351 E. Kerley Cors Road
Tivoli, NY 12583