

CHOOSING A COCKER SPANIEL

COCKER SPANIELS BELONG TO THE GUNDOG GROUP AND ARE THE SECOND MOST POPULAR BREED IN THE COUNTRY. 23,000 WERE BRED IN 2010.



COCKERS ARE CHARACTERFUL, LIVELY AND INTELLIGENT. Cockers bred from working lines need to be kept occupied.

COCKERS ARE MEDIUM SIZED AND VERY ADAPTABLE. They are happy with a half hour walk each day or more if you feel like it.

COCKERS ARE A HEALTHY BREED. Most live into their teens with few ailments. Genetic tests are helping to reduce the few inherited conditions.



COCKERS ENJOY THEIR FOOD without being greedy.



COCKERS ARE LOYAL AND LOVING. They need companionship and shouldn't be left more than four hours at a time in the day.

COCKERS HAVE BEAUTIFUL COATS AND COME IN A WIDE RANGE OF COLOURS. The solid colours only have a little white on their chests. Red, golden, black and liver/chocolate, black and tan and liver/chocolate and tan.

The parti-colours have patches of colour on white and many have roaning (i.e. the white is flecked with colour). Black and white, orange and white, liver/chocolate and white. Blue roan, orange roan, lemon roan, liver/chocolate roan. Some parti-colours also have tan markings on muzzle, feet etc.

COCKERS DO SHED THEIR COAT BUT IT IS VERY SOFT AND SILKY. They need regular grooming and trimming to keep them smart. Clipping is advised if they are neutered.



COCKERS HAVE LONG EARS. The ears are a feature of the breed but need a little more care than pricked ears. The fur needs to be kept short around the ear canal to allow the air to circulate. They need to be checked regularly for canker.

COCKERS GET ON WELL WITH OTHER DOGS AND CATS. It is not a good idea to have two from the same litter as it can lead to rivalry but a year or so apart is usually fine.

COCKERS NEED TO KNOW THEIR PLACE IN THE HOUSEHOLD. They need firm, kind handling.



COCKERS ARE STRONG DOGS AND WEIGH AT LEAST 10- 12kg so are too heavy to carry around. Children should never pick up a puppy.

COCKER SPANIELS ARE A GOOD CHOICE IF YOU WANT A MEDIUM SIZED, COMPANIONABLE DOG.