

Sporting Dogs

Includes such breeds as Cocker Spaniel, Golden Retriever and Labrador



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Popular Breeds

(These are generalizations only. Please research your chosen breed carefully.)

Brittany – Brittanys are relatively small, highly active dogs that prefer to hunt closely with their owner. Excellent shooting dogs, Brittanys have a strong desire to please, but require much patience in training.

Golden Retriever – Perhaps one of the most popular breeds of all time, Golden Retrievers are loving, family-oriented dogs who love to spend time with their owners in any capacity. Well-bred and well-socialized Golden Retrievers may well be the epitome of the perfect family dog.

Labrador – Labs are often referred to as the clowns of the sporting group, due mainly to their generally cheerful outlook and friendly nature. Eager to please, Labs are well known for serving as guide dogs for the blind and service dogs for the physically challenged.

Irish Setter – Known for its beautiful coppery red coat and graceful carriage, it is sometimes hard to remember that Irish Setters are more than a pretty face. Irish Setters were originally bred to be gun dogs, and to this day continue to demonstrate excellent field manners when properly trained.

Cocker Spaniel – The smallest member of the Sporting Group, the Cocker (or American Cocker, as it is referred to in the rest of the world) is known for its beautiful coat and grooming requirements. Cockers tend to be readily trainable, intelligent, and very affectionate, if well bred and well socialized.

Signs of a Healthy Animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks regularly
- Clean fur
- Walks normally
- Clear eyes and nose
- No bald patches

Common Health Issues

Health Issue (alpha)	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Diarrhea	Loose stools caused by poor diet, stress, unclean housing, or other illness	Consult with a veterinarian to determine cause and treatment. Keep vaccinations current
Mites, fleas, ticks	External parasites; cause itching, loss of hair, certain diseases	Use products especially designed for dogs. Contact a veterinarian for treatment

Red Flags

- Missing fur
- Diarrhea or dirty bottom
- Uneven gait
- Distressed breathing
- Eye or nasal discharge
- Weight loss
- Lethargic
- Excessive thirst

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian.

Sources

How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With by Clarice Rutherford & David H. Neil
Choosing a Dog for Life by Andrew De Prisco, et al
Dog Training in 10 Minutes by Carol Lea Benjamin

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.