

## **Stirling English Cockers**

### **Questionnaire for Prospective Owners**

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Thank you for inquiring about our English Cocker Spaniels. We are dedicated breeders who participate in various dog-related events. We breed occasionally to produce what we believe to be quality English Cockers that conform to the breed standard, and are intelligent, healthy, well-adjusted examples of the breed.

Through membership in both the local and national English Cocker Clubs and various forms of competition, we are exposed to other points of view, educational programs, updated rules and regulations, but more importantly, have an opportunity to share concerns, information and ideas with other concerned and knowledgeable dog people.

When we have litters, we make sure our puppies go into loving, committed homes. We do our best to screen the owners to ensure a good match between the puppy and the buyer. Before the puppy leaves our home, it has been well cared for, socialized, and loved. The puppy does not go to its new owner as a trained, well-mannered finished product. It is up to you to complete the job we have started. You are responsible for the further development of the puppy's personality, through structured discipline, training, guidance, and love. To help ensure that our puppies are going to receive the love and care they require and deserve, we ask all potential buyers to complete this questionnaire. Some questions may seem invasive and the form rather long, but the intent is to understand the home you will provide, your expectations with respect to pet care, etc., Our only concern is puppy welfare. You will be put on our waiting list once we receive and review completed questionnaire.

Pet puppies are sold on a Limited Registration with the AKC, which means that if the dog is bred, the resulting offspring will not be recognized or registered with the AKC. Dogs with limited registrations will, however, allow you to compete in AKC events such as agility and obedience – activities we encourage as fun ways to spend time with your companion. Pet puppies are required to be spayed/neutered - no exceptions. We require a spay/neuter deposit of \$50.00 at the time of sale, which is refunded within 10 business days of receiving proof of altering from your veterinarian. This is usually performed at about 12 months of age, preferably after the first season for females, to allow dogs to benefit from natural hormones while they mature. This is a breed that has been very well protected due to caring, responsible breeders who are dedicated to maintaining the quality of the breed. We do NOT want to see English Cockers being over-bred like, so this policy is strictly enforced.

On an exception basis, we will place show quality puppies in homes who agree to let us show their dog in AKC conformation shows. The owner will generally be responsible for entry fees, but we do not charge for handling, show grooming or our travel expenses. We just ask that you keep the dog's nails, coat in good condition, and allow your dog to stay with us during show weekends.

Because we observe our puppies during their development, and obviously know them better than potential owners, we make the decisions regarding which puppy goes to which home based on these observations and the information you have provided to us, including your preferences. Therefore, it is unlikely that you would be able to "pick" your own puppy, unless we believe there is more than one that fits your individual needs. Contrary to popular belief, there is much more to picking a puppy than choosing the first one that comes to you.

Prior to taking the puppy home, you will be given information on training and care of your puppy, a puppy training book, a list of the proper equipment and supplies to obtain prior to bringing your puppy home, and a sample copy of our contract. On pickup day, you will be given a completed contract (which you must sign), your puppy's blue slip (AKC registration application), a copy of the pedigree, health records, a bag of puppy food, feeding instructions, baby pictures of the litter at various ages, pictures of Mom & Dad, and information on permanent identification for your puppy. These items are by no means everything the puppy needs, but we include these to help make the transition as smooth as possible for you and the puppy.

Dog ownership is a major responsibility and should not be taken lightly. We only want the best for our puppies and want them in homes where they are considered important members of the family, not "just a dog". A puppy depends totally on you for all his needs and is not much different than bringing home a baby. They need lots of love, attention, and structured discipline. Dogs in general, and English Cockers especially, are very people oriented, and look to you for leadership and companionship. If you feel you are not up to this lifelong commitment, please consider waiting to buy a dog until your lifestyle is better suited to puppy ownership.

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Please take into consideration all costs of dog ownership and be sure it fits into your budget. You will need to allow for the cost of adequate fencing, quality food and veterinary expenses. Also be aware that this breed requires frequent brushing and needs to be professionally groomed every 4-6 weeks. We will be happy to groom your puppy at our home, free of charge, and coach you on grooming, should you be interested in learning to do this yourself.

The following questionnaire serves the purpose of helping us become better acquainted with the people inquiring about our puppies. It presents a more complete picture of what you are looking for in a dog and to help us match you as a potential owner with a dog that will, ultimately, turn out to be what you are looking for.

This questionnaire in no way constitutes a contract or guarantee on our part that there will be a puppy available for you, nor do your responses serve as the sole determinant of whether a puppy will be offered. Filling out and returning this questionnaire does not lock you into one of our puppies. Once the puppies are born, and we've decided together that one of our puppies is right for you, a non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 will be required. This means that, given any unforeseen circumstances, you will receive a puppy from litter between 12-14 weeks of age, depending on the maturity of the individual puppy.

The cover pages and the "Frequently Asked Questions" are yours to keep. Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Curt Neely  
Stirling English Cocker  
26354 Sand Canyon Road  
Canyon Country, California 91387

Thank you once again for considering a puppy from us!

Sincerely,  
Nina Skorus-Neely & Curt Neely  
Stirling English Cocker

# Stirling English Cockers

## Questionnaire for Prospective Owners

### General Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members \_\_\_\_\_  
 (include ages of minors) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

References 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 (name & address) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Vet \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Questionnaire

Why do you want a puppy (mark all that apply)?

- Companion     Show     Security     Gift  
 Performance     Hunting     Breeding     Other

Do you have any dogs now?

Yes     No    \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list their breeds, ages & personality:

Breed	Age	Personality
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

List any other pets you currently own:

Type	Age	Personality
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Have you ever owned an English Cocker before?

Yes     No    \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, from whom did you purchase them, and how long did you have them?

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If no, what are your reasons for choosing one now?

Are you looking for a puppy now, or in the future (please explain)?

What traits are you looking for in a dog?

Do you prefer a male or a female?

Male     Female     Either

Would you consider either sex, if your preference was not available?

Yes     No     Possibly

What colors do you prefer, if any (mark all that apply)?

No Preference     Blue Roan     Black & White     Blue Roan & Tan     Orange     Tri-color

Would you consider another color, if your preference is not available?

Yes     No     Possibly

Would you consider an older puppy or an adult dog?

Yes     No     Possibly

If yes or possibly, what is the maximum age you would consider?

1-2 years     2-4 years     4-6 years     6-8 - years    |

What type of home do you provide?

Apartment     Condo     House

What type of facilities do you provide at home (mark all that apply)?

Unfenced Yard     Fenced Yard     Kennel     Local Park    |

If your yard is not fenced, how do you intend on controlling the puppy?

The dog will primarily live:

Outdoors     Indoors     Both

How many hours per day will this dog be left alone?

1-3     3-6     6-8     more than 8    |

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Will someone be able to "potty" the puppy at lunch, or will you hire a dog walker, if it is left more than 6 hours per day?

Dog Walker     Yourself     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Where will the dog be when no one is home?

Loose     Crate     Confined to kitchen  
 Yard     Basement/garage     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Where will the dog sleep at night?

Loose     Crate     Confined to kitchen  
 Yard     Basement/garage     Other \_\_\_\_\_

What would you do with the dog if you suddenly found yourself unable to keep it, for example moving to an apartment that does not allow dogs (things do happen!)?

What problems (health, training, behavior, etc) if any did you have with previous dogs (be specific)?

What type of exercise do you expect to give your dog and how often?

How long do you expect housebreaking to take?

How will you typically transport your dog in your vehicle?

Loose     Crate     Harness/Seatbelt     Other \_\_\_\_\_

What type of training to you believe is important to provide your dog?

Puppy Socialization     Agility     Tracking  
 Obedience     Hunting     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever taken a dog to obedience or other classes?

Yes     No    \_\_\_\_\_

What is your intent with respect to exhibition of your dog?

Conformation     Obedience     Agility     Field Work     Other \_\_\_\_\_

What other activities do you plan to participate in?

Therapy Dog     Canine Good Citizen     General Sports     Other \_\_\_\_\_

The above information is true, to the best of my knowledge:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return the completed questionnaire to:

Curt Neely  
Stirling English Cockers  
26354 Sand Canyon Road  
Canyon Country, California 91351