



# Frequently Asked Questions



The following are the most commonly questions we receive about ourselves and our dogs at Stirling English Cocker. We hope you find our answers helpful and informative.

Thank you for your inquiry!  
Nina Skorus-Neely & Cut Neely  
Stirling English Cocker

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| <p><b>Question 1. Exhibition</b><br/>Do you show and work your puppies/dogs at Stirling English Cocker?</p>  | <p>We show our dogs in AKC Breed Conformation. We have previously shown dogs in obedience and agility, although we do basic obedience training in preparation for other events. We encourage, at minimum, a basic obedience &amp; socialization course, as this makes living with a dog easier on everyone!</p>  |
| <p><b>Question 2. Health</b><br/>What health problems are known in this breed and do you seek clearances for these things? What specific problems have you seen in your litters and the litters of the sire/dam?</p> | <p>As is the case of humans, there are almost no guarantees with respect to the appearance of genetic diseases. We do our best to manage these through testing, pedigree research &amp; health record inspection when selecting breeding stock. Potential health problems in this breed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hip Dysplasia/Patella Luxation.</b> Our dogs are x-rayed after the age of two for orthopedic issues. All results are sent to the OFA for certification. We will only breed those with Good or Excellent ratings on hips and without patella issues.</li> <li>• <b>PRDC (eyes).</b> Our dogs are genetically tested before breeding. Test results will be used to determine suitable breeding and to avoid breeding puppies affected with PRDC. We typically perform annual CERF exams when possible (Note: not available during COVID lockdowns)</li> <li>• <b>Hearing.</b> Our dogs are BAER tested. We breed only those with bilaterally Normal test results.</li> <li>• <b>Familial Nephropathy (FN).</b> We are fortunate that our lines are currently not carriers for fatal kidney disease. We will consider breeding carrier to non-carrier, if other breed characteristics benefit the breeding, but since this is a simple recessive disease, this will not produce carriers</li> <li>• <b>Thyroid.</b> Tests for thyroid issues are included in standard genetic tests performed.</li> </ul> <p>Other problems which may occasionally appear in this breed (although they are more common in other breeds) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epilepsy</li> <li>• Autoimmune problems</li> <li>• Exercised Induced Collapse,</li> <li>• Adult Onset Neuropath (solids)</li> </ul> <p>Test results for the sire and dam of your potential litter are available in the litter information packet. Depending on the litter pedigree, some genetic characteristics of the litter can be presumed, so not all litters will be fully genetically tested. At minimum, puppies will receive the following prior to release:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shots, as specified in their puppy pack information.</li> <li>• BAER Hearing Test to eliminate possibility of deafness</li> <li>• Blood draw for genetic tests, as warranted based on sire &amp; dam</li> </ul> |

Note: This document is provided for informational purposes only and is subject to change at any time. This does not constitute a guarantee of any kind, particularly as related to availability, quality or other attributes associated with any dog provided by Stirling English Cocker or by others. Please be a responsible pet owner.



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|  | <p>We have spent significant time researching pedigrees for our upcoming litter. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about the specific pedigrees involved.</p>  |
| <p><b>Question 3. Credentials</b><br/>How long have you been involved in English Cocker Spaniels? What is your involvement in the breed?</p> | <p>Stirling English Cocker's has owned English cockers since 1992. We are active members and officers for the English Cocker Spaniel Club of Southern California. We are members in good standing of English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (ECSCA) and the American Kennel Club. We have signed the Code of Ethics of the ECSCA. Nina is a recognized AKC Breeder of Merit</p> <p>California is fortunate to be home to some of the top breeders in the country. Many of these breeders are our mentors and their dogs appear in our pedigrees. References are available upon request.</p>   |
| <p><b>Question 4. Availability</b><br/>Is there a waiting list? Will we get a puppy?</p>   | <p>We currently have a moderate list of persons interested in our litter. Once our litter is born and you have had an opportunity to learn more about it, we may mutually decide that one of these dogs are suited to you. At that time, we may ask for a non-refundable deposit for a puppy.</p> <p>We also encourage you to consider rescue first. Raising a puppy can be a bit of work and there are wonderful dogs throughout the country (English Cocker's and others) who desperately need homes. We work actively with the rescue program of the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America. If this is of interest, we would be happy to help you become an ECSCA Rescue Angel!</p> |
| <p><b>Question 5. Shipping</b><br/>What shipping or pick up arrangements have to be made?</p>  | <p>Pick-up in person is required. We suggest visiting the litter at 6 weeks, to get a sense for the personality of the puppies and to help us finalize the match to a puppy.</p> <p>We do not ship puppies. We want to be available to our puppy owners as a support and information resource, so we place our dogs in local homes or near other English Cocker breeders who can mentor you as you raise your puppy.</p>  |
| <p><b>Question 6. Litters</b><br/>How many litters do you produce in a year? Are you keeping any puppies? Why or not?</p>                    | <p>We plan to produce no more than 1 litter every 3-4 years. Our intent is to keep the pick(s) of the litter for exhibition purposes and to build our breeding program, not for profit. This may vary, depending on the quality of a specific litter.</p>   |
| <p><b>Question 7. Terms</b><br/>What are your terms of sale?<br/>What will you provide?</p>  | <p>Stirling English Cocker's is committed to the sport of purebred dogs. AKC registration forms will be completed prior to release of the puppy to the purchaser &amp; all dogs will be co-owned by Stirling English Cocker's until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An AKC Conformation Championship is completed or</li> <li>• Written proof of spay/neuter is provided.</li> </ul> <p>Companion dogs (pets) will be sold on AKC limited registrations. AKC registered names will be approved by Stirling and will include no kennel</p>   |



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| <p><b>Question 8. Returns</b><br/>What is your return policy? In the event that we are someday not able to keep dog, what are your terms?</p> | <p>names other than Stirling unless agreed in writing in advance. Stirling reserves the right to re-possess the dog, if the purchaser fails to comply with these or other terms of the contract. See contract for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Within 48 Hours of Purchase.</b> You are required to obtain a well-puppy exam, performed by a qualified veterinarian, within 48 hours of receiving your puppy. Should this exam determine that the puppy is not healthy, Stirling will pay medical expenses (not to exceed the purchase price of the puppy), accept the return of the puppy for refund or replace the puppy from the next available litter, at their sole discretion.</li><li>• <b>Within One Year of Purchase.</b> Cost of appropriate upkeep, including food, grooming and medical, are the responsibility of the purchaser. Please see your contract for returns or refunds related to health issues.</li><li>• <b>Lifetime of Dog.</b> If at any time you are unable to keep the dog, you must notify Stirling ECS immediately. Ownership of the dog will revert solely to Stirling ECS, until such time as a suitable replacement home can be found. Placement is upon approval and at the discretion of Stirling English Cocker's. Costs to return the dog to Stirling, including medical and shipping, are generally the responsibility of the purchaser.</li></ul> |
| <p><b>Question 9. Price</b><br/>What is the price for puppies? Does it differ for show? Companion? Working? Male? Female?</p>                 | <p>The price of puppies is based on the actual costs to breed and whelp the litter. Prices are subject to change. Price includes testing mentioned above, puppy pack (selected starter supplies) and free grooming (if you bring the dog to our home) for the first year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Puppies are approximately \$2,000 (excludes sales tax)</li><li>• A \$25 credit will apply for completion of a puppy or adult obedience class with copy of certification or equivalent</li><li>• A \$50 credit will apply for proof of sterilization from a qualified veterinarian with copy of certification</li></ul> <p>Our objective is not to make a profit (we lose money every year on our showing expenses alone!). Our objective is to breed sound, quality puppies with lovely temperaments, that represent the breed standard and that make fantastic family companions and that will join wonderful families – hopefully yours!</p>   |
| <p><b>Question 10. Where do I go for more information?</b></p>  | <p>Please visit our web site at: <a href="http://www.stirling-ecs.org">http://www.stirling-ecs.org</a> to learn more about us and our dogs. You can also contact us directly:</p> <p>Nina Skorus-Neely &amp; Curt Neely<br/>Stirling English Cocker's<br/><a href="mailto:Curt.neely@stirling-ecs.org">Curt.neely@stirling-ecs.org</a> or <a href="mailto:nina@stirling-ecs.org">nina@stirling-ecs.org</a><br/>310-704-4342 or 661-252-9400</p>  |