

American Water Spaniel

Breeding Criteria



SHOULD YOU BREED YOUR AWS?

Every American Water Spaniel is special to his or her owner in its own way, and each is loved as part of its family. It is important, however, to have as high priority the following:

- the retention of its natural hunting ability
- conformance to the breed standard
- being physically and structurally sound
- being free from serious inherited defects

It is important to obtain the appropriate health screenings prior to breeding.

Follow this guide to get started and work with your veterinarian to help you with your decisions.



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Health Screenings should be completed and meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Two years of age or older.
- Hip x-rays certified by OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) indicating free of hip dysplasia.
- Eyes examined by a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist and certified by OFA at one to two years of age and within one year prior to breeding. After the age of 8 years, neither dog nor bitch needs to be examined.
- Heart examined, preferably by a Veterinary Cardiologist or OFA certified veterinarian at age one year or after and be free of heart defects.
- Dogs and bitches should be free from other serious hereditary problems.

At the present time the above mentioned screenings are the only ones recommended by the American Water Spaniel Club. This should not be taken to mean that these are the only health issues which may be found in an AWS.

CANINE HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER

An AWS that has gone through the process of having these health screenings will be assigned a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number. That number is only an indicator that the dog has undergone health screening and does not necessarily mean that the dog was found in good health or free of any abnormalities. Information about any dog's screening results can be found by using the search tools on the OFA website:

<https://www.ofa.org/advanced-search?search=advanced>

Purchasing an AWS

When considering the purchase of an AWS, be sure to talk to the breeder about the health screening he or she has done and ask about any health issues that may have shown up over the years.



Research

The AWS Club supports research to improve our breed and potentially others.

We strongly encourage participation in the Canine Health Foundation's CHIC DNA Repository for ALL American Water Spaniels (through a simple blood draw). DNA banking will contribute to the long term health benefits for our beloved breed. The AWS Club's Health & Genetics Committee has organized blood sampling for DNA banking at our National Club Meeting in the past.

More information

www.caninehealthinfo.org/dnabank.html

Other research and clinics that the AWS Club's Health & Genetics Committee has participated in includes cardiac disease, epilepsy, degenerative myelopathy, and currently alopecia.



Websites of Interest

[American Water Spaniel Club Website](http://americanwaterspanielclub.org/)

- Join the club!
- Find the Breeder's Directory
- Learn more about the breed:

<http://americanwaterspanielclub.org/>

[AKC Canine Health Foundation](http://akc.org/)

Advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of purebred dogs.

<http://akc.org/>

[The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals \(OFA\)](https://www.ofa.org/)

Advise, encourage and establish control programs to lower the incidence of orthopedic and genetic diseases.

<https://www.ofa.org/>

