

# Buying an English Springer Spaniel Puppy

## What to expect from a Breeder who puts Health, Welfare and Temperament First



### ✓ Essential Documents

- Signed AWF Puppy Contract
  - KC Registration Certificate (if applicable)
  - Microchip Registration Certificate
  - Temporary Pet Health Insurance
  - Vaccination Certificate
  - Copies of Health Certificates
- A good breeder will*
- have socialised and habituated the puppy
  - provide a supply of food
  - provide a blanket smelling of Mum
  - follow the Code of Practice for Dog Breeding

### ✓ Health Certificates (both parents)

#### Official Health Schemes

- BVA/KC scheme for hip dysplasia (HD)
- BVA/KC scheme for elbow dysplasia (ED)
- BVA/KC screening for eye disease: full ophthalmological testing before breeding, to include gonioscopy (includes checks for multiple inherited eye diseases)

#### DNA tests relevant to breed

- AMS - Acral mutilation syndrome
- Fucosidosis
- PFK - Phosphofructokinase deficiency
- PRA - Progressive retinal atrophy

**Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP)**  
[www.englishspringerhealth.org.uk/bhcp](http://www.englishspringerhealth.org.uk/bhcp)  
[www.englishspringerhealth.org.uk](http://www.englishspringerhealth.org.uk)  
[www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html](http://www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html)



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Brief explanations and other diseases that may be more common in the breed - if in doubt ask your vet for guidance



## Official Health Schemes

**Hip dysplasia** - abnormal formation of the hip joint - pain & lameness

**Elbow dysplasia** - abnormal formation of the elbow joint - pain & lameness

**Gonioscopy tests for primary glaucoma/PLA (pectinate ligament abnormality)**  
painful progressive eye disease leading to blindness

## DNA tests relevant to breed

**AMS - Acral mutilation syndrome** - loss of sensation in feet, leading to chewing and self-mutilation, usually fatal

**Fucosidosis** - progressive and fatal disease of the nervous system

**PFK - Phosphofructokinase deficiency** - muscle disease causing weakness, exercise intolerance

**PRA** - Progressive retinal atrophy - eye disease leading to blindness

## Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

**Auto immune disease such as IMHA - immune mediated haemolytic anaemia** - body attacks its own red blood cells, malaise and weakness; can be fatal

**HIF/IOHC - Humeral Intracondylar Fissure/Incomplete Ossification of the Humeral Condyle** - weakness in elbow joint causing lameness and possible fractures

**Ear Infections** - more likely in dogs with long, hairy ears; can be allergy related

**Cancer, particularly mammary tumours**

**Epilepsy**

[www.dbrg.uk/breed-health-information.html](http://www.dbrg.uk/breed-health-information.html)

