



A GUIDE WHEN LOOKING FOR AN ENGLISH SPRINGER PUPPY

This guide is aimed at helping prospective puppy owners to navigate their options in finding a new family member.

REGISTERED BREEDERS

What does this mean? Historically, the terms “registered breeder” is someone who holds a kennel prefix under an ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council) member body (Dogs Queensland, Dogs NSW, Dogs SA etc etc). These breeders are usually long term passionate hobbyists who perhaps show or compete in performance events with their dogs. They are not commercial breeders. They are bound by a Code Of Ethics and rules from their organisation and buyers have recourse through the organisation if a rare breach of these rules or ethics occur.

In the past couple of years, several States have required anyone who sells a puppy to have a BIN number (Breeder Identification Number). This includes backyard breeders and puppy farmers. All now have a BIN number. This does not mean that they are ANKC registered Breeders but will often refer to themselves as “registered”.

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Breeders who are members of the State affiliated breed club are ANKC registered breeders/hobbyists with many years of history in the breed. They share knowledge and breeding strategies and are passionate about protecting the genetic and health status of English Springers. They are bound by a Code Of Ethics and practice.

Your local ESS Association will keep a list of upcoming puppies and be able to recommend breeders with a good reputation. They will always strive to help with re-homing unwanted Springers also – regardless of the origin of these dogs. Members of your local Association offer a lifetime of support and help to all puppy purchasers.

PARENTAGE VERIFICATION

If you want to show or breed from your Springer and register resulting puppies with the ANKC, they need to be registered on the ANKC Main Register. It is mandatory for all QLD ANKC breeders to verify the parentage of all puppies on the Main Register. Sire & Dam, plus all puppies are DNA swabbed and parentage is verified. Your puppy may be on the Limited Register, which is OK, and simply means that you can't show or breed from them and register resulting puppies with the ANKC.

PRICE GUIDE

Puppies from ANKC Breeders range from about \$2,500 - \$4,000, depending on the individual breeder concerned. Purchasers should be aware that paying more for a puppy does not necessarily mean a better quality puppy. ANKC Breeders are not commercial operations and not breeding “for the money” – selling puppies to loving pet homes is usually a result of having more puppies in a litter than they can keep themselves for show or performance purposes. As they breed for these areas of interest, they will strive to breed the healthiest and best quality puppies possible, and pet owners reap the benefit of this dedication.



HEALTH TESTING

Some advertisements will state “vet checked”. This is simply a general overall health check by a GP Vet, and certainly not an assurance of hips or eye health.

HIPS/ELBOWS

Hips/Elbow scores are obtained by xray once the dog is older. ANKC Breeders regularly xray and score their breeding stock, to give the best assurance of healthy hips/elbows for the resulting puppies. It is not possible to xray and score a young puppy.

EYE HEALTH – PRA Cord 1

Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) is a collection of inherited diseases affecting the retina that cause blindness. The test for **PRA Cord 1** is done via a DNA swab test. ANKC Breeders will have eye health checks for their breeding stock, and DNA tests completed. Your new puppy from an ANKC Breeder will often have its DNA health tests already done prior to purchase, or both parents will be Clear of PRA Cord 1 and your puppy’s non-affected status will be established.

PKF – PHOSPHOFRUCTOKINASE

PKF is a metabolic disease associated with the enzymes and metabolic processes of cells. It is included in the DNA full breed profile and ANKC Breeders will have established the status of both parents and often of all puppies from a litter.

FUCOSIDOSIS

Fucosidosis is a metabolic disorder resulting from an inherited lack of the enzyme alpha-L-fucosidase, and is inherited as an autosomal recessive trait. Fucosidosis is rare in registered ESS in Australia, but ANKC Breeders will have established the status of both parents and often of all puppies from a litter.

AUTOSOMAL HEREDITARY RECESSIVE NEPHROPATHY

Autosomal Hereditary Recessive Nephropathy (Familial Nephropathy) is an inherited disorder of the kidneys. Symptoms of chronic kidney disease usually start showing between 6 months and 2 years of age. These include excessive thirst and urination, weight loss, fatigue, vomiting, and loss of appetite. This is rare in registered ESS in Australia, but ANKC Breeders will have established the status of both parents and often of all puppies from a litter.

AMS – ACRAL MUTILATION SYNDROME

This condition is somewhat rare and results in the dog slowly but progressively over-grooming (licking) or biting their pads and paws leading to bleeding and ulceration. This DNA test is relatively new to Australia, but ANKC Breeders will have established knowledge of their bloodlines for generations past and likely have run the new test on their breeding stock and often on all puppies from a litter.



OTHER GENETIC TRAITS

If your ANKC Breeder has run full breed profiles on sire, dam and puppies, you will also gain valuable information into coat colour genetics, shedding etc.

Your ANKC Breeder will most likely have had many years breeding the same family bloodline, and can help you select the temperament of your puppy to most suit your family and lifestyle.

ON-LINE “SCAMS”

Prospective owners should be aware of possible on-line scams. Your local ESS Association will always verify if advertisers are members of the Association or if they are known “scammers”. Most ANKC Breeders never need to advertise on Gumtree or on-line puppy sales sites.

Please don't purchase a puppy without visiting the breeder if location permits, or at least doing an on-line meeting via Zoom or Facetime.

Please do not pay a deposit “sight unseen” for any puppy, and particularly for puppies from a litter not born yet. Most ANKC Breeders don't require an upfront deposit and will not guarantee a puppy until they are past weaning age and their health status is established via DNA testing etc. They will most likely want to meet you and establish that you are the right “fit” for one of their precious babies.

WAIT LISTS

Most ANKC breeders have a waiting list for puppies. As they are not commercial breeders, they don't breed constantly. It is worthwhile to meet the Breeder and go onto their waiting list for a few months. This helps you ensure the best quality, healthiest puppy available when the time comes. You also benefit from a lifetime of experience in the breed and a lifetime of support for you and your new English Springer.

Need more help? We are always here to assist you!

<http://essaq.homestead.com>

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English Springer Spaniel
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