

# 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

The following minimum health clearances are recommended by the AWSC prior to breeding. AWS breeders may choose to use additional screening tools or to screen more frequently. Owners of non-breeding AWS are also encouraged to screen their dogs to help the AWSC better understand the prevalence of these conditions in the breed. Dogs and bitches should have satisfactory results on these exams and be free from other serious hereditary problems if they are to be bred.

### **Hip Dysplasia:**

OFA screening and classification as “Normal” at two years of age or older.

### **Eyes:**

OFA Eye Certification within one year prior to breeding and up to eight (8) years of age.

### **Heart:**

OFA Basic Cardiac Exam: Within one year prior to breeding, preferably by a veterinary cardiologist.

### **OR**

Advanced Cardiac Exam: At least once, at one year of age or older.

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](http://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/>

