

## Sussex Spaniel

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*



"Gwen" AKC CH Castle's Lady Guinivere, CGC

## BREED PROFILE:

### SUSSEX SPANIEL

Photos courtesy of Danita Slatton  
Castle Sussex Spaniels

The Sussex Spaniel was one of the earliest breeds recognized by the AKC, but remains fairly rare to this day in the United States. This spaniel was named for

the English province from which it originates, and has been developed into a highly-skilled field companion with a nose for chasing out game from the undergrowth.

Sussex Spaniels are also known as friendly, low-key, and peaceful dogs with a pleasant charm, which also makes them good family dogs (and watchdogs) for those willing to meet their need for attention and exercise.

#### Interesting Breed Facts:

<b>Popularity:</b>	145th in 2008; with 48 registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 2007.
<b>First recognized as a breed:</b>	The Sussex Spaniel originated from Sussex, England and can be traced back to about 1860. It was one of the first breeds to be entered into the Stud Book when the AKC formed in 1884.
<b>AKC Grouping:</b>	Spaniel.
<b>Size:</b>	Height at the shoulder: Approximately 13"-15" for both sexes.
<b>Weight:</b>	From 35-45 lbs.

**Appearance:**

The Sussex Spaniel is a medium-sized dog, with a longer, square set body. These sturdy dogs carry themselves with dignity, but usually wear a serious or worrisome expression on their faces. Their coat boasts a silky, rich golden liver color and features a weather resistant undercoat. They have long ears that frame the face, eyes that are usually hazel in color, and fairly heavy brows that contribute to their frown-like expression. Their skull is moderately long and their muzzle is square in profile.

**#1  
preventable  
health  
problem:**

These spaniels are prone to ear infections, so proper regular cleaning is crucial for preventing this problem.

**Preferences:**

These dogs like human attention; lack of attention can lead to barking and howling. They can be fussy eaters, so finding the appropriate diet can be challenging. These dogs do not like to be handled roughly and are best suited for families with gentler children. The Sussex Spaniel has moderate energy levels, and will require a fair amount of exercise, preferably with plenty of interactive play toys.

**Best features:**

Their protective nature and tendency to bark to raise an alarm make Sussex Spaniels an effective watchdog. Their friendly, peaceful nature also make them a great companion and family pet, one that is well suited for both experienced and inexperienced dog owners.

**Biggest  
challenge to  
owners:**

Training can be challenging for this breed because of its stubbornness. The Sussex Spaniel needs early socialization to promote a confident, stable temperament. They are also medium shedders, so may not make the best pet for those with allergies.