



THE GUN DOG



American Cocker Spaniel * American Water Spaniel * Barbet * Boykin Spaniel * Brittany Spaniel * Chesapeake Bay Retriever * Clumber Spaniel * English Cocker Spaniel * English Pointer * English Setter * English Springer Spaniel * Field Spaniel * Flat-Coated Retriever * German Shorthair Pointer * German Wirehair Pointer * Golden Retriever * Gordon Setter * Irish Red and White Spaniel * Irish Setter * Irish Water Spaniel * Labrador Retriever * Lagotto * Romagnolo * Munsterlander * Portuguese Water Dog * Spinone Italiano * Standard Poodle * Sussex Spaniel * Vizsla * Weimaraner * Welsh Springer Spaniel * Wirehaired Pointing Griffon

What we bred them for ...

Gun dogs were perfected in order to hunt hard-to-reach fowl, sometimes in partnership with birds of prey. Hunting birds could be difficult and a dog was needed who could work more closely and more delicately at our side in true partnership, with the ability to locate and expose prey, but not attempt to kill or damage the birds. The gun dogs were probably the first "family dogs" to be brought into the home rather than being housed outside.

You'll fall in love with your gun dog because he is:

ENTHUSIASTIC

He is generally eager and willing to get on board with whatever the day brings.

COOPERATIVE

A team player at heart, he was made to be an attentive, trainable, and responsive partner in life.

OUTGOING

He has an extroverted spirit both with other people and with animals.

You might find a gun dog hard to live with because he is:

ACTIVE

While his ambition for athleticism is admirable, his physical needs can be a little intense at the end of the day.

IMMATURE

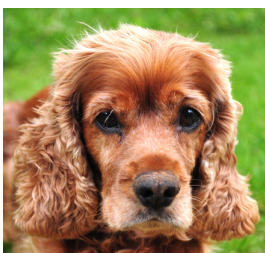
The very same silly puppy nature that makes him so playful can also manifest in annoying traits such as a short attention span, neediness, impulsivity, foolishness or insecurity.

DOTING

Though many of us adore the endless affections of our dogs, you may find him a little heavy on the PDA if you really value your personal space

Interests, Hobbies and Education

Life for a gun dog is an adventure waiting to happen. He is not just interested in going out into nature, he must. While some gun dogs are more demanding than others, all of them require engaging quests for basic sanity. Due to his natural inclination to learn new skills, teaching a gun dog can be a joy.





You might find yourself seeking professional help for:

- Distractibility and impulsivity
- Overwhelming greeting behavior with people, such as jumping and licking
- Destructiveness to home or personal belongings
- Hyperactivity or restlessness
- Sensitivity to loud noises and storms
- Problematic oral fixations, including incessant ball-pushing for yet another round of fetch; sock hunting and consumption; and self-injurious lick granulomas
- "I'll never grow up" Peter Pan complex



Gun Dog Relationship Survival Key:

Provide ongoing and higher education opportunities for him to satisfy his **LEARNING** potential.

Create satisfactory experiences and exercise in the outdoor **ENVIRONMENT** so you can enjoy the indoors with him.

Fulfill his **GENETIC** craving for partnership in adventure through games, sports, and outings.

Recognize your part in creating a harmonious relationship with such an incredibly cooperative and adaptive companion- grab your hiking boots, mountain bike, or running shoes and get out there! (**SELF**).



Ways to enrich your gun dog's life:

Abundant physical exercise in the outdoors

- social and independent time outdoors, hiking, agility, flyball, triebball, retrieving/hunting, dock diving, parkour

Social opportunities

- social play, quality daycare

Challenge his nose and mind

- sniff walks, nosework, scatter feeding, freework, snuffle mat, tracking, man trailing, barn hunt, rally, puzzle games, tricks



To learn more, pick up a copy of *Meet Your Dog* by Kim Brophey
This really is THE game-changing guide to Understanding your dog's behavior



LEARNING - your dog's experiences and education

ENVIRONMENT - the many aspects of your dog's external world



GENETICS - the DNA that designed your dog inside and out

SELF - the unique interior world of your dog - health, age, sex, personality ...