

## Welsh Springer Spaniel Breed Profile

Do you remember that girl from high school who always seemed to excel? You know the one - the valedictorian who won the state track meet and was voted Prom Queen? Yeah, it's hard to forget someone like that. Universally adored for her brains, beauty and athleticism, half the school wanted to date her while the other half wanted to BE her. That's the essence of the Welsh Springer Spaniel: sporty, smart, and graceful in looks and movement with a gorgeous red and white coat. They're the total package!

**Life Expectancy:** 12 to 15 years

**Size:** Medium

**Maintenance Level:** Medium

**Shed Level:** Medium

**Temperament:** Intelligent, Athletic, Graceful

**Coat Color:** Red and White



### Who's a Good Match for the Welsh Springer Spaniel?

- Welsh Springer Spaniels require vigorous exercise every day, so they're best suited to a home with a large yard where they can run around and play.
- An active household would be ideal – they'd love to go jogging, hiking or swimming with you.
- Training is a must, so experienced pet parents – especially those already familiar with hunting dogs – are likely to be a better match.

- They're loving, loyal, and affectionate, which makes them great with kids.
- If socialized at an early age, they do very well in multi-pet homes.

## What Does a Welsh Springer Spaniel Look Like?

Gorgeous and graceful, the Welsh Springer Spaniel will catch your eye before capturing your heart. They've got a soft red and white coat covering a compact, agile body. Their ears are delightfully floppy and lightly feathered and they often have flecks on their muzzles, which look a lot like freckles.

**Ears:** Welsh Springer Spaniel ears are floppy, medium-sized, and lightly feathered.

**Eyes:** Welsh Springer Spaniel eyes are medium to dark brown and oval in shape with a soft expression.

**Nose:** Welsh Springer noses are typically black or brown.

**Height:** Male: 18-19 inches, Female: 17-18 inches

**Coat Length:** Their coat is soft and straight with moderate feathering on the hind legs, chest, and underside.

**Coat Color:** Welsh Springer Spaniels have a red and white coat. Some of the white areas may be flecked with red ticking.

**Tail:** The tail of a Welsh Springer Spaniel is typically docked, though some breeders are moving away from the practice.

**Weight:** Male: 40-55 pounds, Female: 35-50 pounds

## What's the Temperament of a Welsh Springer Spaniel?

The Welsh Springer Spaniel is a beautiful, athletic dog who's easy to train and easier to love. They're the perfect blend of grit and grace. Like the girl who runs a mile without breaking a sweat, Welsh Springers will tear around the park and look gorgeous while doing it.

They've got an irresistibly sweet temperament and a sharp mind, too. They'd make a wonderful addition to any family and will love your kids almost as much as you do. But don't expect them to lavish kisses all over your visiting friends and relatives; Welsh Springer Spaniels tend to be reserved when meeting strangers, so it may take a little time for them to warm up to new people.

Thankfully, that reserved nature doesn't translate into unwanted behavior; though they may be a bit aloof around newcomers, they're rarely aggressive and not prone to biting.

They can even live happily with cats and other dogs in the household, if given the proper training and socialization.

Training sessions should become a regular part of you and your dog's daily routine. Your Welsh Springer will need at least two 10-minute sessions every day to promote good behavior. Recall training is especially important for the Welsh Springer breed. With their insatiable love of running and strong prey drive, they're sure to give chase if a furry little critter crosses their path; train them in advance to come when called and you won't have to join the pursuit.

If you'd like to provide them with a more structured outlet for their athletic prowess, you might consider enrolling them in agility classes, tracking events, or other dog sports. They're not necessary, but your dog's sure to have a blast burning off some energy. Then afterwards, they'll be happy to come home and settle in for a cuddle on the couch.

Let's face it: Welsh Springer Spaniels are the total package. They've got intelligence, grace, and exceptional athletic ability all wrapped up in one adorable package. If you'd like to learn more about this admirable breed, check out the [Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America](#).

## How Do You Care for a Welsh Springer Spaniel?

Welsh Springer Spaniels are your typical sporting dog: smart, lively, and athletic. With qualities like these, they need mental and physical stimulation through daily exercise and training. Thanks to their weatherproof coat, grooming is a breeze – a weekly brushing and nail trim plus a bath whenever they get dirty is all that's necessary.

### Grooming

You might expect that a dog as stunning as the Welsh Springer Spaniel would require a lot of grooming, but that simply isn't the case. Compared to other dogs with medium-length hair, the Welsh Springer is easy to maintain.

The ease of grooming is mostly due to the versatility of their coat. Due to hundreds of years of selective breeding, Welsh Springer Spaniels have the ideal coat for hunting – one that repels water and won't snag on branches or become tangled.

That means you won't be smelling a lot of funky dog odors or spending hours combing mats out of their fur. All you need to do is brush them out once a week and they're good to go. Bathing is only necessary when they get dirty and you can skip trips to the groomer - unlike other spaniels, Welsh Springer coats should not be shaved or trimmed. They do shed a moderate amount, however, so you may need to invest in a [ZoomGroom brush](#) to help eliminate dead undercoat during their seasonal shed.

Additional grooming needs for the Welsh Springer Spaniel include trimming their nails every week or two if they get too long and brushing their teeth at least three times per

week (though daily would be ideal.) If you're not sure how to properly brush your dog's teeth, just ask your vet – they'd be happy to show you how!

## **Training**

The Welsh Springer breed responds exceptionally well to training. Thanks to their origin as a hunting dog, they're naturally active and attentive, which means they're likely to stay focused during training sessions.

Of course, offering them something yummy as a reward helps keep their attention, too. But any sort of harsh training methods should be discouraged; it takes trust to build a strong bond between you and your dog and undeserved punishment could prevent that from developing. To provide them with consistent training, try to incorporate at least two 10-minute sessions into your daily routine.

One of the key things your Welsh Springer should be trained to do is come when called. Running off leash is one of their favorite activities; it gives them a chance to stretch their legs, sniff around, and burn some energy. But the danger is they may become distracted and take off. Without proper recall training, you have only one option left: get your running shoes on and chase after them!

Welsh Springer Spaniels also tend to be shy around strangers. If you want them to respond well when visitors come over, it's important to socialize them at a young age. If you're not sure how to get started with dog training and socialization, contact a local certified trainer who's had experience with the breed – they can set you and your dog on the right track.

## **Diet & Nutrition**

Welsh Springers do very well on commercial dog food, provided it's complete, balanced and made of high-quality ingredients. When choosing a dog food, find one with an Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) statement on the label – that's who sets the nutritional standards for dog food in the US. With their seal of approval, you know your dog is being fed nutritious food.

Dog food should also be selected based on your pet's age, weight, and activity level. For athletic dogs like the Welsh Springer, they're likely to need more protein to fuel all that activity. Younger dogs also tend to need more protein and fat to strengthen their growing bodies. If you're not sure how to choose the right food for your pup, let your veterinarian know; they can help you pick a food that will meet your pet's nutritional needs.

## **Exercise**

Exercise isn't just something that Welsh Springer Spaniels do, it's part of who they are. This beautiful breed was made to move – and fast! They love to run, especially off

leash, so you'd better have a large backyard or park nearby where they can stretch their legs and show off their speed.

If you're the active type, you've found the ideal companion. Whether you like jogging, hiking, hunting, or swimming, they'd love to go along with you. Just be careful when introducing your new pup to water – they may not take to it immediately. Go slowly at first and they'll eventually learn to love it!

But you don't have to be an Olympian to enjoy the Welsh Springer breed. Their energy needs an outlet, but that can be provided through daily walks, games of fetch, agility classes, or other dog sports. As long as they get at least an hour of moderate to vigorous exercise twice per day, your Springer will be a happy pup.

## **Ideal Environment**

Welsh Springer Spaniels may love being outside, but that doesn't mean you can keep them there – they're definitely inside dogs! With their tender, devoted nature, they need to be with family. Otherwise, you'll end up with a bored and sullen pupper who feels like an unwanted outsider.

That gentle loving temperament is what makes them such great family dogs; they're an awesome choice if you've got kids in the household. They also adapt well to other pets, especially if they're introduced while your Welsh Springer Spaniel puppy is still young.

The Welsh Springer loves to run, so a single-family home with a large yard would be ideal. They can adapt to apartment living, but only if you're 100% committed to taking them to the park and letting them run – they need at least an hour or two of exercise every day.

If you have a lot of guests in your home or want to travel with your pet, this may not be the dog for you. The Welsh Springer Spaniel breed tends to be cautious (but never vicious!) around people they don't know. This tendency can be overcome, however; with proper training and socialization, they can learn to be more comfortable in the company of strangers.

## **Welsh Springer Spaniel Health**

The Welsh Springer Spaniel has a life expectancy of 12 to 15 years, but they are susceptible to a few serious health problems. Thanks to the efforts of responsible breeders, these conditions are becoming less common. Hopefully you won't experience any of these issues with your own Welsh Springer, but it's best to learn about them just in case.

**Hip dysplasia:** Hip dysplasia is a hereditary condition that occurs when the ball and socket in the hip joint don't fit together properly. In Welsh Springer Spaniels, the likelihood of this occurring can increase when dogs are spayed and neutered before

their second birthday. Treatment options can include medication, physical therapy, or surgery, depending on the severity of the case.

**Elbow dysplasia:** Like hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia is another hereditary disorder of the joint that can be treated through surgical and non-surgical methods. Because it's genetic, reputable breeders test their stock to make sure they don't pass the condition on to their puppies.

**Glaucoma:** Glaucoma is caused by fluid buildup in the eye. The pressure created by this buildup can eventually cause blindness if left untreated. Treatment may include eye drops, medication, or surgery. Another hereditary condition, breeders are taking measures to reduce its occurrence.

**Autoimmune thyroiditis:** The Welsh Springer Spaniel is genetically predisposed to autoimmune thyroiditis. This condition causes the immune system to attack the thyroid gland, diminishing its effectiveness. Though it can be treated through daily medication and routine blood work, it's best to purchase your pet from a responsible breeder who screens their stock for this condition.

**Ear Infections:** With their adorably floppy ears and fondness for the outdoors, Welsh Springers have a tendency to develop ear infections. Symptoms may include head shaking, redness of the ear canal, scratching, brown or yellow buildup, and a yeasty odor. Topical ear drops and antibiotics are common treatments for this condition. Weekly ear cleanings can help keep the infection from returning.

## Welsh Springer Spaniel History

The Welsh Springer Spaniel can trace its origin back to Wales – no surprise there! But what you may not know is that they've been around for hundreds of years. Originally developed to flush out game in the days before guns, this astute hunting dog would spring from its hiding place and drive game straight into the hunter's net. This spring-like action is how the breed earned its name.

Even after the advent of guns, Welsh Springers proved to be useful in the field; after flushing out prey, they would retrieve it and bring it to their masters. Hunters prized the Welsh Springer Spaniel dog for being the perfect blend of helper and companion. With their temperate, affectionate demeanor, they made excellent additions to the family.

Many people assume that Welsh Springer Spaniels and English Springer Spaniels are closely related. After all, they do look alike, act alike, and come from the same island. But despite their similarities in looks and abilities, these two breeds developed separately. And there are some slight differences between them: Welsh Springer Spaniels are a bit more reserved than English Springers and they only come in one glorious color combination – red and white.

Welsh Springers also never enjoyed the same wide-spread popularity as English Springers. Though they were officially recognized by the [American Kennel Club](#) in 1914, their numbers dropped off so drastically after World War II that few, if any, remained in the United States.

Thanks to Welsh Springer Spaniel enthusiasts, the breed was reintroduced and revived in the US. Current breeders – who are also devoted fans of the breed – do all they can to keep their lineage going. If you're thinking of adding a Welsh Springer Spaniel puppy to your family, be prepared to pay around \$1800-2000. The best way to find a reputable breeder is through [the American Kennel Club website](#).

## **FAQs**

### **Do Welsh Springer Spaniels shed?**

Welsh Springer Spaniels shed a moderate amount throughout the year compared to other breeds. They also experience seasonal shedding, so be prepared to vacuum a bit more when that occurs. Gently brushing or combing them will help remove excess fur and reduce the amount they shed.

### **Are Welsh Springer Spaniels good family dogs?**

Absolutely! Welsh Springer Spaniels are wonderful family pets – they're affectionate, loyal, and great with kids. They're especially well-suited to families who enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, swimming and running.

### **Are Welsh Springer Spaniels aggressive?**

No, Welsh Springer Spaniels are not considered to be aggressive breed. They do tend to be a bit wary of strangers, however, so it's a good idea to train and socialize them at an early age to help them overcome their shyness.

### **How long do Welsh Springer Spaniels live?**

When well cared for, the Welsh Springer Spaniel lifespan can reach up to 12-15 years.

### **Are Welsh Springer Spaniels good with cats?**

Welsh Springers may be hesitant when meeting a cat for the first time, though they're unlikely to become aggressive. Care should be taken when introducing new pets; a veterinarian or dog trainer can help you through the process. Through proper training and socialization, Welsh Springer Spaniels can learn to live quite happily in a multi-pet home.

### **Is a Welsh Springer Spaniel right for me?**

If you're looking for a dog who is:

- Affectionate and doting family member
- Needs daily exercise
- Beautiful and graceful
- Smart and easy to train
- Loves to run off leash
- Reserved with strangers

then you might be a good match for a Welsh Springer Spaniel!