



Is a Sprocker Spaniel the right dog for you ...

Choosing the right type of dog for you

We would urge prospective owners to think long and hard about the consequences before rushing out to buy a puppy. Owning any type of dog requires a certain amount of work and a lot of commitment. There are a number of questions which prospective owners should ask before an impulsive decision is made, which you may later regret. This is especially important if you are considering a Sprocker Spaniel as your canine companion.

Is somebody at home at least some of the day?

A dog should never be left for more than a few hours at any one time. It should certainly not be left all day while you go out to work. *(Sprocker Note: Sprockers are sociable dogs who thrive with human contact and company, a Sprocker left alone for hours may become stressed and destructive)*

Is somebody available, committed and responsible to exercise the dog everyday?

Rain, snow, freezing cold... it makes no difference to your dog, he will still need sufficient physical and mental stimulation and exercise suitable for the breed - every day, every week, every year... *(Sprocker Note: Sprockers are generally high energy dogs who love the outdoors whatever the weather, usually the wetter and muddier the better, they literally live for the great outdoors adventure and will happily walk and work for hours and miles)*

Are you prepared for the cost of keeping a dog?

Don't forget it's not just the routing cost of food, worming and flea treatment, what about training, toys, equipment, insurance? Also the hidden costs like kennel fees when you go off on holiday...

Have you got enough leisure time to spend with your dog?

All dogs need a lot of care and attention, regular grooming and basic training etc. as well as the walks. *(Sprocker Note: Sprockers are lively, intelligent dogs who love to work as well as play. They thrive when mentally challenged, for example search games, retrieving, agility and obedience are all activities that suit a Sprocker - do you have enough time and commitment to do some of these thing?)*

Have you got the space to keep a dog?

You may not realise it but dogs can take up a lot of space. If you only have a very small house or a flat you need to think carefully on the sort of dog you actually have room for. *(Sprocker Note: Sprockers will happily live in a smaller house or apartment if they have easy and regular access to the great outdoors)*

Why do you want a dog?

The million pound question and one that needs very careful consideration, if you are active and want to get involved with training and agility or fieldwork then perhaps a Sprocker may be the right dog for you. If you are less active and your main desire is for a companion then another type or breed of dog would suit you better.

Don't take the results as gospel but you might want to try the Pet Planet Breed Selector http://www.petplanet.co.uk/select_a_breed.asp, if a Springer Spaniel comes up a a match them a Sprocker might be right for you...

Pure breed or crossbreed?

It is always advisable when committing yourself to any type of dog to try and find out as much as you can with regard to the parentage this is usually easier when obtaining a pure bred dog. With a pure bred dog you know for certain what size the puppy will be when adult. If you obtain a crossbreed it may be more difficult to ascertain this *(Sprocker Note: As the Sprocker is a direct result of breeding Cocker Spaniels with Springer Spaniels it should be possible to find out about the parentage. Ask about their pedigrees, ask about health checks and whenever possible ask to see both parents as this will give you a better guide to the puppy's temperament and health)*



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Long or short haired?

This really depends on the amount of available spare time you have to look after your pet and whether you are prepared to put in all the hard work that it takes to look after a longhaired dog. Dog hair tangles and mats more readily than human hair and smooth coated dogs require only minimal grooming. *(Sprocker Note: Sprockers come with all types of coats depending upon their parentage, but as a rule they will need grooming several times a week and regular trips to the groomers)*

Dog or bitch?

A lot of people will say that a dog is less trouble than a bitch though this is not necessarily so. A dog is far more likely to have a dominant personality than a bitch, which can cause problems, particularly to new owners who are not necessarily used to handling dogs. A bitch is thought by some to be more biddable, however she will come into season two or three times a year, (depending on size) for approximately 21 days, during which time she needs to be kept under close supervision. This can cause problems with some bitches wanting to escape and dogs being attracted to the house. Bitches can be spayed, if you do not wish to breed from them, likewise male dogs can be castrated. *(Sprocker Note: Responsibly bred Sprockers generally have excellent temperaments whether dogs or bitches. However Sprockers are intelligent dogs needing good leadership and can and will be a handful and a challenge for inexperienced owners)*