

Brittany



Known at one time as the Brittany Spaniel, this dog is a relative newcomer from France. He is one of the Hunt, Point and Retrieve breeds, and as such has already proved himself in Kennel Club field trials. His square shape gives him an unusual, clipped style of movement, and though he is a fairly light-built dog, he is capable of carrying hare or pheasant. The breed is not dissimilar to the old coaching dogs of Europe, especially some of the all-purpose gundogs to be found in Germany. A busy dog, he is easy to train, has an affectionate, easy-going attitude to life. His dense, fine coat is not difficult to keep clean.

What about Health Issues?

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:

www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

And what health screening is relevant for the Brittany?

Kennel Club Accredited Breeders must use, or are strongly recommended to use, the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams:

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme

This list is not necessarily comprehensive and you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.