



BAARK



**“When You Know Better, You Do Better.” Maya Angelo**

### General Cocker Care

The physical characteristics that attract many people to Cocker Spaniels – those gorgeous long ears, thick, silky coat, fluffy paws, and ever-wagging tail – make Cocker Spaniels high maintenance dogs. Every dog must get regular, preventative vet care to keep him the healthy, happy pet that you want to share your home for as many years as possible. Additionally, cockers must be groomed regularly.

#### Grooming

Grooming a cocker involves several processes. The first is daily **brushing**, with a slicker brush. Cockers are double-coated dogs. It is important to brush not just the top coat, but the undercoat as well. This helps keep the coat beautiful and the skin healthy. Most of the dogs love it.

All dogs need to be **bathed** occasionally. If your dog is brushed and free of matts, you can bathe him yourself, if you can also get him thoroughly dry. But this might be a task you’d rather leave to a professional groomer.

Cockers grow hair length continually. Therefore, it needs to be **cut** regularly. Length and style are personal preference, usually based on your dog’s activities. You can get a groomer recommendation from your vet or from other cocker owners.

Healthy cockers seem to grow nails as fast as their coat. **Nails** should be trimmed regularly. This can be done by the groomer or your vet. Or you can learn to do it yourself.

Learn more about do-it-yourself grooming at the following website:

<http://www.geocities.com/Petsburgh/3223/grooming.html>

## **Ear Care**

Any dog with long, floppy ears can have a tendency toward ear infections. Cockers are no exception. Your vet can show you how to clean the dog's ears, recommend a cleaning schedule, and recommend products to use. If your dog does develop an infection, take your dog to the vet just as soon as possible. Ear infections are very painful.

## **Teeth Cleaning**

Talk with your vet about teeth cleaning. S/he will recommend a schedule and demonstrate proper procedures.

## **Heartworm and Flea/Tick Preventatives**

Cockers should be given a heartworm and flea/tick preventative. Please speak with your vet about these, and follow the advice carefully.

One pet meds website is <http://www.medi-vet.com> .All you need is a prescription from your vet.

## **Dog Food**

A good diet is essential for good health. Again, consult your vet. Be aware that many dogs are allergic to foods – and treats - that contain one, or more, of the following ingredients: wheat, corn, yeast, soy, BHA, BHT, artificial coloring, and chemical preservatives. Because of this, most of our foster dogs are fed Nutro Natural Lamb & Rice (the green bag).

## **Houstraining**

You will need to be clear with your cocker about where you want him to potty. We do our best to houstrain the rescued dogs, but it is up to you to follow through with that training.

Below is a link for advice about houstraining an adult dog.

<http://www.veterinarypartner.com/Content.plx?P=A&S=0&C=0&A=1118>

## **Other Fun Stuff**

[www.jefferspets.com](http://www.jefferspets.com)

\*\* BAARK offers all websites as additional resources only. We have no specific endorsement or sponsorship of them.