

SUSSEX SPANIEL ASSOCIATION GUIDE TO IMPORTING A PUPPY

We all know how frustrating it can be waiting for a Sussex Spaniel puppy to become available in the UK and waiting for 2 or more years is common. The internet and social media have made awareness of puppies available in other countries much more accessible and these puppies can be very tempting when you are desperate for a Sussex Spaniel to join your family. There are some great breeders of Sussex Spaniels in other countries but as with all things there are some people waiting to take advantage of you. This guide aims to help you to think carefully and properly plan before buying a puppy from abroad and hopefully help you avoid potential pitfalls.

Things to consider:

- Don't buy the first cute puppy you see advertised on social media.

Sussex Spaniels really are the most gorgeous puppies and even the most experienced owner can be tempted by that cute face looking at you from your computer, but they don't stay cute puppies for long. Remember importing means you will be getting an older puppy.

- Do your research and get to know the breeder and their dogs
- Is the breeder a member of the UK Sussex Spaniel Association?
- Have breeders in the UK bought puppies from this breeder or sold puppies for breeding to this breeder.
- Are there any puppies from this breeder already in the UK that you can visit?
- Visit the puppy if you can. Nothing beats seeing your puppy in the flesh with its litter and mother. If cannot visit before collection, will the breeder show you the puppies in their home on a video call so you can see them, the conditions they live in and how they interact with their mother.
- Do they own the stud dog? If not talk to the stud dog owner about the breeder and the bitch. If the stud is in the UK see if you can visit so you can see temperament etc. Are there any other puppies from this boy if yes talk to their breeders and owners about health and temperament?
- Has the breeder exported to the UK before and so understands the requirements to import into the UK and to register the puppy with the UK Kennel Club?
- Does the body they register their dogs with produce any reports about breeders, dogs, and their progeny.
- Are you able to communicate effectively with the breeder? Do they speak good English so that you can understand each other and ask questions?

Health and wellbeing

- It is important that you obtain details of the puppy's weight and establish if this is correct for age. Underweight puppies can be seized when entering the UK and you will be liable for any costs associated with this.
- Has it been fully vaccinated including Rabies and microchipped by a vet? Puppies from Russia will also need to be tattooed.
- Has it been wormed regularly?
- Has the puppy been heart checked and this recorded by a vet?
- Has the puppy been checked by a vet for any malformations, such as, hernia, deformed rib cage, luxating patella, protruding tear duct etc?
- Have you seen the puppy up and moving around soundly?

- Have the parents had any health checks i.e., Hip Scored?
- Has the puppy been well socialised?
- Have you been able to see the environment that the puppy is being raised in?
- Have you seen the bitch?

What is the pedigree of the puppy?

Getting an official copy of the pedigree from the registering body in the country the puppy is coming from is important as this will confirm that your puppy is a Sussex Spaniel. The litter are registered with FCI you will need and FCI export pedigree. If importing from America, you will need an AKC Export pedigree which must be purchased by the registered owner. Make sure you see the pedigree before the puppy comes to you.

Are the parents and Grandparents UK bred? If they are from American lines be aware that the standard is different so the puppies may be smaller than UK Sussex Spaniels and thus may not meet the standard for showing in the UK.

Do you know what paperwork you need?

- Carefully check the Government website for the latest rules regarding importing a puppy into the UK. These can differ between different countries. In some countries puppies trying to leave without the correct paperwork will be seized and destroyed so it is essential you get this right. Do not rely on the breeder to inform you of what you need.
<https://www.gov.uk/bringing-animals-into-great-britain>
- Currently you are unable to import a puppy from Russia or Belarus due to the ongoing situation in the Ukraine.
- To import a puppy to the UK (GB), you will need a pet health certificate issued within 10 days of entering GB.
- Your puppy will need to have a rabies vaccination. They must be at least 12 weeks old before having this and must be microchipped at the time of having the vaccination. You need to check the government website for rules regarding how long you must then wait before your puppy can enter the UK (currently for most countries it is 21 days) and any further tests etc that are required as these change for different countries.
- Puppies must be microchipped to enter the UK and the number recorded on their Health certificate. This must be done by a vet and the microchip must meet ISO standards.
- Ask for photographic evidence of microchip documents on the day they are chipped, and video of the microchip being read as if it cannot be read, the puppy will be seized and put in quarantine.
- Check that the vet has filled in the following sections in the pet passport:
 - details of ownership (you must sign this section if your pet passport was issued on or after 29 December 2014)
 - description of animal
 - marking or identification of animal
 - vaccination against rabies
 - rabies blood test (if needed)
 - details of the vet issuing the passport (for passports issued from 29 December 2014)
 - your dog's tapeworm treatment (if needed)

Registering with the Kennel Club

- If you want to show or breed from your puppy in the UK, you will need to register it with the Kennel Club. Information about how to do this can be found on the Kennel Club website.
- You will need to check that the country that you are importing your puppy from has a reciprocal agreement with the kennel club and is a member of the FCI.
- You will need an export pedigree or a 3-generation certificate for your puppy that shows you as the current owner.
- If importing a boy, to register it as entire you will need confirmation from a vet that both testicles have descended.
- The more copies of documents you can get before you import the better so you can be confident that you will be able to get everything you need.

How much should it cost me to import a Sussex Spaniel Puppy?

The price of a puppy can vary from country-to-country stud fees and registration fees can be significantly higher in some countries. There are also other costs associated with importing so it is important that you ask for all costs to be itemised before you agree to purchase the puppy so you know how much this will cost and what you are paying for.

If you are unable to collect your puppy you will need a courier.

- Again, do your research as getting a reliable courier is very important.
- Who have other people who have imported from the same country used and would they recommend them?
- What are the vans they use like are they insulated, heated, air-conditioning, water available etc.

Important health considerations – Brucella canis

Brucellosis is a contagious bacterial infection that affects dogs and humans. It's not common in the UK but can be found in imported dogs from countries where the disease is more widespread. To find out more and how it might affect imported dogs please go to

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health-and-dog-care/health/health-and-care/a-z-of-health-and-care-issues/brucella-canis-in-dogs/> or follow the link on the SSA website under Advice and Guidance.