

# What should you know about Spanish Water Dogs?

## TOP 7 reasons NOT to get a SWD

### 1. Forest will now be also in your room

Whenever SWD has already longer coat after shaving - all stuff from forest or fields will be in the coat. Leaves, flowers, sticks, cones - whatever. Sand will get out itself, but the rest - you have to take it out.

And don't forget you have to take care of coat, so it looks nice - not just shave once or twice per year, but check there are no tangles, cords are developing correctly and there is no poop on the back.

### 2. You will have a river at home too

Whenever SWD with already longer coat drinks - get ready to clean a river of water, pouring from the beard of your dog!

### 3. That is a very smart dog. Smarter than you, sometimes...

Yes, they are smart, but don't forget "smart" - doesn't only mean obedience. If you don't teach them correctly - SWD will easily invent the way to make you do what he wants, may bark and brake the house. You have to make rules from the very first days and teach the dog the right way.

### 4. SWD don't trust strangers

Coming back to the times, when SWD just appeared - besides many other functions, they were also guarders. This feature might show up in two ways - if you don't socialize your puppy, if you don't show him the world since the very first days - they might be shy and scared of strangers. If you raise them correctly, socialize and train the puppy - SWD will not be scared, but rarely will enjoy strangers - might be just waiting for them to leave so they can enjoy being with you, or may guard, and guard not just by barking. Weather it will become an advantage or disadvantage - depends on you (and pedigree, of course)

### 5. SWD are not loners

SWD is not the breed which can live on his own - he needs a person. He is ok to wait for you to come back from work, but he will want to be next to you all the rest time. You need to go to toilet or shower? Here is a SWD next to you, wherever you go.

### 6. SWD have really a lot of energy

They can be active for hours, for days, and it is you, who has to control that, give them enough of activities, otherwise they will invent those activities themselves. Not sure if you will like it...

## **7. SWD can talk a lot**

Yes, they can bark a lot. It is your job to control it, but SWD may bark at strangers behind the gate, at people they see through the window or just when they really want something, they will say. Not a rule, but a majority

## **TOP 10 reasons to GET a SWD**

### **1. SWD almost don't shed - specially in short coat**

By getting longer, there might be some fur coming out or the whole cord falling down - but SWD will never shed like a husky or beagle. Another advantage - as SWD do not have undercoat like husky or german shepherd have, they are hypallergenic to most of the people who have allergy. But don't forget to check what is the reason of you allergy - it might be something else, not the undercoat

### **2. SWD are mostly nice with children**

If you introduce them to each other correctly, SWD will be the best friend, teacher, partner in crime and nanny for your child. But first of all you have to educate both of them how to behave and give a possibility for a dog to have his own space, where the child can not interrupt him.

### **3. SWD are smart and multi-functional**

SWD has had many functions since the birth of the breed - they herd, they retrieve, they guard, they hunt. Now it is your choice what to do with your dog - weather it is herding, obedience, flyball, agility, hunting, retrieving, or simple long walks and games - SWD is up to whatever you want, except boredom!

### **4. SWD may guard**

They really can, and may do it in the different ways - some just bark, but some might be more serious - they just have the imaginary line, which strangers are not allowed to cross. And SWD will not let them. How will they do it? Will see :)

### **5. SWD are the most devoted creatures on earth.**

Rarely a SWD will "sell" you for a snack or toy and go with strangers. They are only in love with you - ever and forever. They also love your family members, but there is always the one, who SWD will die for!

### **6. ON/OFF button**

Even though you have to exercise them, do a lot of different activities and "live the life at fullest" with a SWD, they also have "ON/OFF button" and may enjoy sleeping the whole day and watching TV also, but don't forget - if you raise a dog in a correct way.

### **7. SWD really DO speak!**

They can grumble and yammer or express their opinion in any other loud way - it really sounds like they talk!

### **8. They are generally healthy**

Their body structure is very functional and athletic, and the most important is that many breeders do their best at selecting the healthiest dogs and do different health checks, so we have generally a healthy breed. GERNERALLY - doesn't mean any guarantees, but at least everything is done for puppies to be as healthy as possible

### **9. SWD are nice to be free**

Absolute majority of SWD can without leash most of the time - they will never run away from the owner. SWD will just be around you, always having an eye contact and you do not need to be scared to "lose your dog", except the very few exceptions - but that is the mistake of the owner.

### **10. SWD are friendly to other animals**

Most of them are - they are nice to live in a pack with other dogs or together with others animals. However, some of them can chase your cat... Be careful!

For a more serious description, check the BREED STANDARD.

## **PERRO DE AGUA ESPAÑOL (Spanish Water Dog)**

FCI-St. N° 336 / 11.10.2019

**TRANSLATION:** Mrs. Peggy Davis / Revised by the FCI Head Office. Official language (ES).

**ORIGIN:** Spain.

**UTILIZATION:** Used as shepherd dog, hunting dog and assistant to the fisherman.

**FCI-CLASSIFICATION:** Group 8 Retrievers - Flushing Dogs - Water Dogs. Section 3 Water Dogs. Working trial optional.

**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:** The presence of this dog in the Iberian Peninsula is most ancient. His origin is the same like that of the old « Barbet ». His most dense population is in Andalusia where he is used as a shepherd dog, and where he has been known for centuries as the « Turkish dog ». His characteristics, most particularly the quality of his coat, are adapted to the variation of humidity and drought of the marshy regions, which qualifies him as a shepherd dog and as a helper to the hunters of waterfowl and fishermen in those regions.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE:** Rustic dog, well proportioned (medium weight), dolichocephalic, of rather elongated harmonious shape and attractive appearance, of an athletic nature with well developed muscles owing to his regular exercise; the profile is rectilinear; his sight, hearing and scent are well developed.

**IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:**

- Length of body / size (height at withers) = 9 / 8
- Depth of chest / size (height at withers) = 4 / 8
- Length of muzzle / length of skull = 2 / 3

**BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT:** Faithful, obedient, gay, hard working, watchful and well balanced. Learning ability is outstanding owing to his extraordinary mental grasp; he adapts to all situations and conditions. **HEAD:** Strong, carried with elegance.

**CRANIAL REGION:**

**Skull:** Flat with only slightly marked occipital crest. Axes of skull and muzzle parallel.

**Stop:** Facial-cranial depression gentle, only slightly marked.

**FACIAL REGION:** Profile is rectilinear.

**Nose:** Nostrils well defined. Nose is of the same colour or slightly darker than the darkest tone of the coat.

**Lips:** Well fitting; labial corners well defined.

**Teeth:** Well formed, white, with well developed canines.

**EYES:** Slightly oblique position, very expressive; of a hazel to chestnut colour, should harmonize with the colour of the coat. The conjunctiva is not apparent.

**EARS:** Set at medium height, triangular and drooping.

**NECK:** Short, well muscled, without dewlap, well set into the shoulders.

**BODY:** Robust.

Topline: Straight.

Withers: Hardly marked.

Back: Straight and powerful.

Croup: Slightly sloping.

Chest: Broad and well let down - ribs well arched; diameter of thorax ample indicating considerable respiratory capacity.

Underline: Belly slightly tucked up.

**TAIL:** Set at medium height. Docking must be done at the height of the 2nd to the 4th caudal vertebra. Certain subjects show a congenital shortened tail (brachyuria).

**LIMBS FOREQUARTERS:** General appearance: Strong and vertical.

Shoulders: Well muscled and oblique.

Upper arms: Sturdy.

Elbows: Close to the chest and parallel.

Forearms: Straight and sturdy.

Carpus(Pastern joint) and pastern: Straight, rather short.

Front feet: Rounded, toes tight, nails of varied colours; resistant pads.

**HINDQUARTERS:**

General appearance: Perfectly vertical with not too pronounced angulations and muscles capable of transmitting to the body a very energetic impulsion and the spring necessary for easy and elegant jumping.

Upper thighs: Long and well muscled.

Second thighs: Well developed.

Hock joint: Well let down.

Hock: Short, lean and perpendicular to the ground.

Hind feet: As the forefeet.

**GAIT / MOVEMENT:** The preferred gait is the trot.

**SKIN:** Supple, fine and well adhering to the body. Can be pigmented brown or black, or be without pigment according to the colour of the coat. The same applies to the mucous membranes.

## **COAT**

**Hair:** Always curly and of a woolly texture. Curly when short, can form cords when long. Clipped subjects are admitted; the clipping, always complete and even, must never become an « aesthetic » grooming.

The recommended maximum length of the hair for shows is 12 cm (15 cm extending the curl) and the minimum is 3 cm to see the quality of the curl. The puppies always are born with curly hair.

### **Colour:**

- Solid: White, black and chestnut in their different shades.
  - Bicoloured: White and black or white and brown in their different shades.
- Tricoloured subjects, and black and tan as well as hazelnut and tan dogs are not admitted.

## **SIZE AND WEIGHT:**

### **Height at withers:**

males 44 to 50 cm,

females 40 to 46 cm.

2 cm maximum deviation are admitted in both sexes whenever the subject maintains balance according to his height at withers.

### **Weight:**

males 18 - 22 kg,

females 14 - 18 kg.

**FAULTS:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

## **SERIOUS FAULTS:**

- Dorso-lumbar region distinctly saddle-backed.
- Limbs incorrect.
- Belly let down or excessively tucked up.

## **DISQUALIFYING FAULTS:**

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities.
- Inferior or superior prognathism.
- Presence of dewclaws.
- Smooth or wavy coat.
- Albinism.
- Spotty or flecked coat, black and tan or chestnut and tan coat.
- Lack of balance in character.

N.B.:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding.