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# **E-Setter E-College**

*“English Setters – Gentlemen and Ladies by Nature”*

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## **English Setters 101**

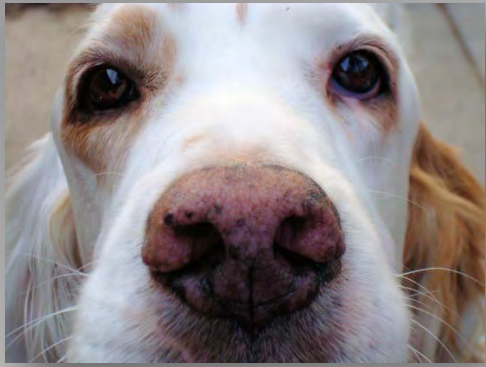
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### *An English Setter Owner's Guide*

**ES 101 is recommended by the  
English Setter Association of America.**

ESAA does not endorse any specific kennel associated with this product.

By Jill Warren and Ray-Lynn Snowden



# What is English Setters 101: *English Setter Owner's Guide?*

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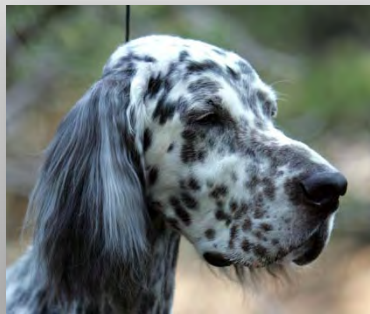
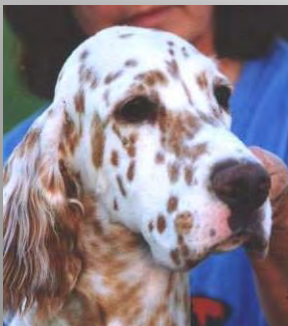
If you are in possession of this publication, chances are you have either just purchased an English Setter (ES) or you are contemplating doing so. Perhaps you had an English Setter when you were a kid or have had them as an integral part of your life for many years. In any case, we hope the *English Setters 101 – Owners Guide* --will prove valuable in answering the many questions people have about this fascinating and unique breed.

From the moment you lay eyes on your new English Setter “baby”, be it a 9-week-old puppy or an 8-year-old rescue English Setter or retired show dog, don’t be surprised if you constantly find yourself smiling in delight at his or her loving nature and beguiling personality. Welcome! You’ve joined the legion of those whose lives will be forever enriched by the unconditional love and devotion selflessly shared by their English Setter(s). Having an English Setter means never having to say you’re lonely.

Now is the time to begin giving your new English Setter the best possible life in your home. We hope that *English Setters 101* will give you the assistance you need and introduce you to other resources that will enrich your lives together.

This course and owner’s manual were inspired by the Basset Hound University course sponsored by the Basset Hound Club of America and created by Claudia Orlandi, Topsfield Bassets.

***English Setters come in three basic colors: orange, blue, and tri color, with liver and lemon also possible but rare.***



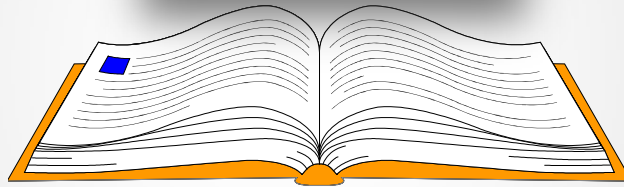
# E-Setter E-College

## Course #101:

# *English Setter*

# *Owner's Guide*

## Workbook Program



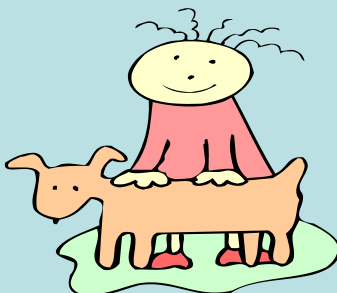
English Setter owners are encouraged to complete the workbook exercises found at the end of the ***English Setters 101***. Answering the questions will help you and your family remember key information about the proper care of your English Setter. In an effort to support pet owner education, E-Setter E-College will send each owner who sends in their completed written exercises beginning on page 107 a ***Certificate of Completion***. If you read this Guide cover to cover, you will learn about the many ways to enjoy your English Setter as well as how to provide the best possible care to ensure a long and happy life for your English Setter.

# E-Setter E-College

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## Course #101: English Setter Owner's Guide Workbook Program

This course is recommended for all  
owners, breeders and handlers  
of English Setters.



To receive your ***Certificate  
of Completion*** and for  
information on where to  
send your completed  
workbook exercises,  
see page 106.

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# Chapter 1

## *Origin and History of the English Setter*

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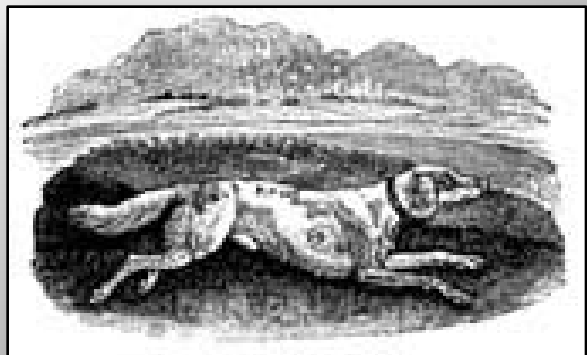
*Knowing the origin and history of the English Setter will help you understand your dog's instincts, needs, personality and unique structure and will enable you to better care for your best friend. The fact that the English Setter was developed to locate and point upland game birds (pheasant, quail, grouse, and the like) governs every aspect of his being.*

### **What is an English Setter?**

To our mind, no description of the English Setter could be better than the first sentence of the breed standard: “An elegant, substantial, and symmetrical gun dog suggesting the ideal blend of strength, stamina, grace, and style.” The English Setter is an intensely friendly and good-natured breed of dog whose sweet temperament makes him an excellent family member. English Setters are medium size with long, silky white coat flecked either with tan (called orange belton) or black (blue belton) or white with black flecks and tan points on the muzzle, forelegs and hind legs (tri color). Liver and lemon flecking are also possible, but rare.

### **Origin and History**

English Setters are an old but not an ancient breed. Written references to English Setters date from between 400 and 500 years ago. One of the early names for the Setter was *Setting Spaniel*, but remember, in those days, the term spaniel often meant simply “dog from Spain,” so the relationship to dogs we know as flushing spaniels today may not be as strong as this name suggests.



# English Setter Colors



Blue belton



Orange belton



Liver belton



Tri color

Lemon belton  
(This particular dog has very little ticking.)





Early authorities seem explicit that the Setting Spaniel preceded the Pointer in development. There is some evidence in the earliest writings of sportsmen that the *English* Setter was originally produced from crosses of the Spanish pointer (for nose or scenting ability), the large water spaniel, and the springer spaniel.

The Setter gets its name from an early style of hunting before the use of firearms was widespread. Game birds were a major source of food then, and there was a need to harvest birds in large numbers. Early Setters indicated the location of game birds by lying down or crouching. Hunters threw large nets over the area indicated, sometimes including over the dog. The hunter then flushed the birds, which were ensnared by the net and easily harvested. A dog standing upright to point was more likely to be tangled in the net than a crouching dog, so the Setter's method of indicating birds was very useful to the net hunter. Any dog that would "set" in this manner was generically called a Setter, even if it were a Greyhound or something else. However, the Setting Spaniel, the forerunner of the Setter, with its keen nose, had superior bird-finding ability, and over the years, selective breeding was employed to develop this dog into the Setter as the breed best suited for this use.



***Above: old style English Setters on point (painting); below, contemporary English Setter on point (photograph)***



During the 18th century, the use of firearms became more prevalent, replacing nets for harvesting game birds. With the transition from nets to guns, a dog that stood upright to point birds could be more easily seen from longer distances by a hunter with a gun. Further selective breeding was employed to develop an upright point in Setters. In the classic upright point, dogs plant themselves and lean their weight forward intently with their noses pointing toward the scent of the game. Often a Setter will pick up and bend a front foot when pointing. As whiffs of scent reach the nose and brain of the dogs, they wear a trance-like expression on their faces. When you see a dog point like this, it gives new meaning to the word "intensity." They can still be seen to "set" in engravings at the beginning of the 19th century, and you can still see Setters setting at times, even today.

During the 19th century, different breeds of Setters (English, Gordon, Irish, and Irish Red and White) evolved due to their location and type of terrain in which they hunted. First written mention of the black and tan (eventually Gordon) setter is 1655; the liver-hued setting dog is referred to by Gervaise Markham in *Hunger's Prevention* in 1621, but a Setter peculiar to Ireland is not mentioned in print until 1803 in the *Sportsman's Cabinet* by Taplan.



# Breed Pioneers: Laverack and Llewellyn

Major credit for development of the modern English Setter goes to the Englishman Edward Laverack. In 1825, Laverack acquired from a Reverend Harrison a pair of white spotted Setters named Ponto and Old Moll. Rev. Harrison claimed to have kept his strain pure for the preceding 35 years. Laverack took his original pair and claims to have practiced stringent inbreeding (often brother to sister) for the next 40 years to firmly establish consistency of breed characteristics. Laverack's name is associated with the development of the "bench or show" English Setter, though much of his work preceded dog shows, and he shot over dogs in the field.

Another major figure in the development of the modern English Setter is the Welshman R. LL. Purcell Llewellyn, who purchased his original dogs from Laverack. Llewellyn indulged in some adventurous outcrosses with dogs from the north of England and, some say, with Irish and Gordon Setters. Llewellyn's dogs excelled in the field. Llewellyn Setters are not a separate breed of Setter. The name Llewellyn is often applied to a strain of field-bred English Setters, some of which can be traced back to Setters bred by Llewellyn himself. Llewellyn was most interested in field performance, and the appearance of the dogs was secondary to him.



Edward Laverack



R . LL. Purcell Llewellyn

English Setters were exported to the United States from some of the major English kennels in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The very first dog to be recorded in the American Kennel Club (AKC) stud book (1878) was an English Setter named Adonis.

C. N. Myers, whose Blue Bar Kennels operated in Hanover, Pennsylvania from 1934 – 1957, played a pivotal role in the development of the modern English Setter in America. Blue Bar was the largest operation in the large kennel era, sometimes housing over 400 dogs. Many other kennels have contributed to the fine qualities of the modern American English Setter. The recommended reference is *The New Complete English Setter* 4<sup>th</sup> edition by Tuck, Howell, and Graef, Howell Book House, 1982.

A dog acknowledged by many as the best English Setter of all time was Ch. Rock Falls Colonel, bred and owned by William Holt, who showed his dog to 101 Bests in Show during the 1950s. The Colonel's record is astonishing for the time, coming as it did before the advent of air travel and large numbers of dog shows. Alas, two great prizes eluded the Colonel--the English Setter Association of America's National Specialty and Best in Show at Westminster Kennel Club, though he did win a Westminster Sporting Group at the famed Madison Square Garden. These are the words of Mr. Holt describing the Colonel during his Best in Show competition at the Garden: "He never faltered, even though the floor was slick and the night was hot. It was the heart of the Great, driving on, giving his all to the bitter end." Truly fortunate is the pedigree with many crosses back to the Colonel.

One famous English Setter did win Best In Show at the Garden at a young age: Ch Daro of Maridor in 1938. Daro also won two national specialties in 1940 and 1941.



***Top left: C.N. Myers and Ch Rip of Blue Bar; Top right, Ch Daro of Maridor after winning Best of Breed at Westminster in 1942; bottom right, Ch Rock Falls Colonel and William Holt.***

# FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION IN THE ENGLISH SETTER

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English Setters have a long muzzle to channel bird scent from the nostrils to the brain.

The English Setter has a long neck to allow him to look over the top of high cover for the movement of running upland game birds.

This Setter is on point, showing the intensity and powerful stare to keep the bird pinned until the hunter arrives. From the days when Setters would “set” rather than point, until today, they need good front and rear angulation to allow them to lower their bodies using the shoulders and elbows to drop the front legs closer to the ground.

Balanced angulation front and rear allows an English Setter’s running gear to absorb the shock of stop-and-go running all day



AKC English Setters carry their tails about level with the back so that the tail forms a nearly continuous straight line with the topline, though many Setters bred strictly for hunting evidence a high tail set and carriage.

To assist the ES in shedding burrs and debris collected while running in the field, a correct ES coat is straight, silky, and fine, not woolly or curly.

The English Setter is moderate in bone and size relative to the other Setters.

A prominent forechest allows strong muscle attachment in the front. A well-sprung ribcage houses a strong heart and lungs for endurance in the field.

A deep body with the chest reaching at least to the elbows allows room in the chest cavity for the heart and lungs.

Tight paws provide sound running gear for this active breed.

The English Setter’s strong hindquarters and wide thigh muscles allow him to cover ground with strength and endurance. The English Setter has good front reach and rear drive to help him cover a lot of ground with each stride.





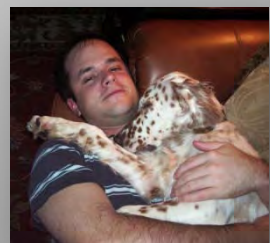
## Chapter 2

# *Understanding the English Setter*

The English Setter's function as a partner to the human hunter caused the ES to develop a particular type of personality and temperament. Because he works so far away from the hunter, an English Setter makes independent decisions in the field. The hunter casts them out, and the ES range the countryside working manageable territory and investigating the most likely places where birds might be found, following hand and whistle directions from the hunter. ES scent the birds, they figure out what kind of bird they have scented, how close they can get (right on top of the wily pheasant, farther away from more timid birds such as quail and grouse), they strike and hold a point with such boldness and confidence as to pin the bird(s) in place with their power, and wait as long as it takes for the guns to be within range. Some hunters think the term Setter comes from the ability to pin the birds or "set" and hold them in place, but breed history buffs know that it is an historical term for the way ES indicated the birds' location in earlier times.

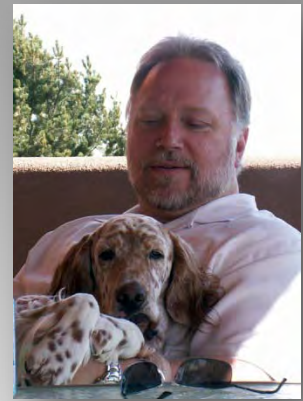


A great bird dog needs ample intuition and ability to read a situation. This intuition makes English Setters sensible and sensitive companions. ES are able to read human moods and respond with the appropriate emotion of their own.





# Personality and Physical Traits



Personality Traits	What This Means For You
<p><b>Good natured, trainable, loving disposition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Get along well with people and other dogs and pets.</li> <li>❖ Good with children.</li> <li>❖ Love your company and want to be with you</li> <li>❖ As a guard dog, will sound the alarm if someone intrudes; medium size of the dog will usually intimidate and deter most burglars</li> </ul>
<p><b>Intuitive and sensitive nature</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Take punishment or reprimand to heart; positive reinforcement works best</li> <li>❖ Sensible; will respond to love</li> <li>❖ Consistency in training methods usually yields best results.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Active bird dog</b></p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Their keen nose and desire to find prey keep them active and alert.</li> <li>❖ Their prey drive can lead them into dangerous situations such as the path of a speeding car.</li> <li>❖ They are safest in an enclosed area; a fence, at least 5 feet tall, is a must.</li> <li>❖ They may process scent messages and body language before visual or auditory messages because that's how they work in the field.</li> <li>❖ During training for other activities such as rally, obedience, or agility, they may be distracted by prey, particularly birds.</li> </ul>

## Personality Traits

## What This Means For You

### Pack mentality

- ❖ A single English Setter may not do well left alone for long periods.
- ❖ For working owners, regular time spent with their ES is a must. The company of another dog may be the next best thing to having you there.



### Need regular vigorous exercise

- ❖ Healthy, trim English Setters have good energy levels.
- ❖ ES are bred to run in the field, so for maximum health and happiness, they need to take a long walk on a flexi lead, chase a toy, or engage in other vigorous exercise several times a week.
- ❖ ES are not natural retrievers but can be encouraged to chase balls and toys and, with training, to retrieve game birds.
- ❖ If ES get the proper attention and exercise, they are companionable and pleasantly manageable in the house.



## Personality Traits

### Very enthusiastic eaters



## What This Means For You

- ❖ An English Setter might chew or eat anything, even items not normally considered edible. Don't leave shoes, plastic or other items lying around to tempt your Setter.
- ❖ Your English Setter may be a "counter surfer," when you leave any food or other tempting items within reach on the counter. You need to train your dog not to counter surf. Remember, their nose will lead Setters to food they cannot see.
- ❖ Your puppy or dog may try to actually get into the dish washer to lick the tasty morsels off the plates. If you object to this, you will need to train your dog not to do it.
- ❖ Your ES can easily overeat and become obese. You will need to carefully monitor his caloric intake his entire life.



### Naturally curious



- ❖ ES are into everything, especially as puppies.
- ❖ You will want to keep anything out of reach that you don't want to fall victim to a marauding puppy.
- ❖ Keep closet doors closed to prevent unauthorized puppy raids.
- ❖ This puppy behavior may motivate your kids to keep their rooms picked up because any treasured item left on the floor will be regarded as fair game for chewing or dragging out into the yard by the puppy.
- ❖ Do not give your puppy or dog an old shoe as a toy. You can't expect him to distinguish between "his" shoe and your shoes when he feels like a good chew.



## Personality Traits

## What This Means For You

Want to be included in everything you do



- ❖ An English Setter should be fully integrated into its family, living in the house (not a kennel) and being included in all appropriate family activities.
- ❖ They want to go with you wherever it is safe for them to go. Auto travel with an ES can be safe with a seat harness or crate. **Never travel with an ES unattended in the back of a pick-up truck!**
- ❖ Leaving an English Setter alone in the yard most of the time would be regarded as abandonment by the dog.



The best description of the breed's personality is by Col. Will Judy:  
"Gentlemen [and ladies] by nature"

- ❖ Pure joy





# Physical Traits of the English Setter



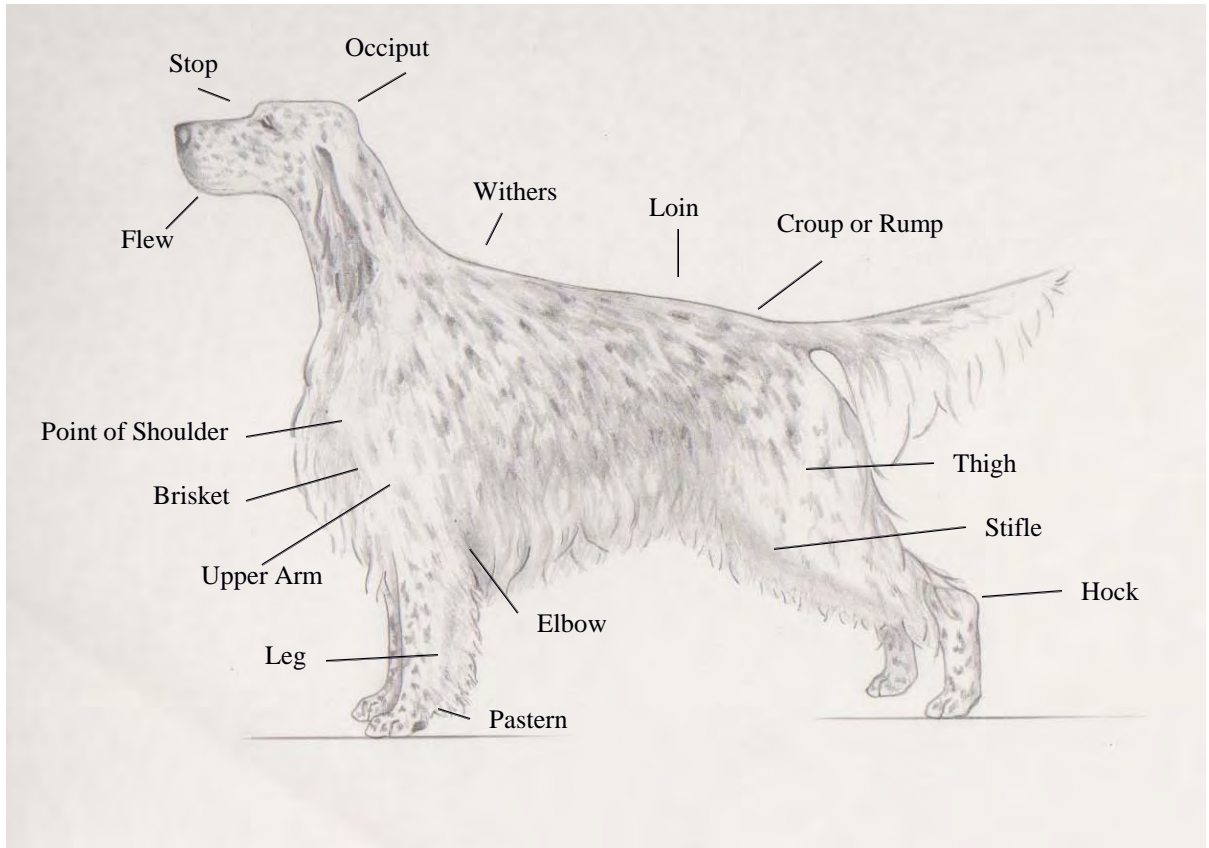
Traits	Comments
<p><b>A medium size dog</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ AKC-type English Setter males are about 25 inches tall at the withers (shoulder tops) and weigh about 60 to 70 pounds fully grown. Field-bred dogs may be smaller in size.</li> <li>❖ AKC-type English Setter females are about 24 inches tall at the withers and weigh about 45-55 pounds fully grown. Field-bred bitches may be smaller in size.</li> <li>❖ Though they are a good size, English Setters still think they can fit on your lap and firmly believe that's where they belong.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A long-coated dog</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ English Setters need regular grooming. They need regular, at least weekly, brushing with a soft bristle brush and regular bathing (at least once a month for pets and much more frequently for show dogs). Regular trimming keeps them looking neat and not scruffy. It is very important to brush your English Setter because tangles and mats left unattended for long periods of time can cause big problems. Also, your house will benefit from a well brushed dog because there will be less dog hair on your floors and furniture.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Growing puppies have special needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ If possible, English Setter puppies should be fed in small amounts three times a day.</li> <li>❖ English Setter puppies need regular activity and exercise but at moderate levels until their growth plates are closed at around 9 to 12 months of age. If you want to check the status of your puppy's growth plates, you can ask your vet to take an x-ray of them.</li> </ul>



# Physical Traits of the English Setter

Traits	Comments
<p><b>English Setters are coordinated and athletic.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ English Setters enjoy participating in dog sports like agility, frisbee, chasing activities, and of course, hunting.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p><b>Drop ears need cleaning. Nails need regular trimming.</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The drop ears of an English Setter do not always allow good air circulation and could become infected unless they are cleaned about twice a month.</li> <li>❖ Nails should be trimmed once or twice monthly.</li> <li>❖ Teeth should be brushed with a <u>dog</u> tooth paste and toothbrush about once a week.</li> <li>❖ Dew claws should be removed from puppies when the puppies are two to three days old. A reputable breeder will see to it that this is done. Dew claws allowed to remain on the dog can become caught on bushes and other objects and cause nasty wounds. Removing dew claws on puppies is a minor procedure causing minimal pain but would be major surgery requiring anesthesia on an adult dog.</li> </ul>

# English Setter Anatomy



“NECK – long and graceful, muscular and lean. Arched at the crest and clean-cut where it joins the head at the base of the skull. Larger and more muscular toward the shoulders with the base of the neck flowing smoothly into the shoulders. Not too throaty. TOPLINE – in motion or standing appears level or sloping slightly downward without sway or drop from withers to tail forming a graceful outline of medium length. FORECHEST – well developed, point of sternum projecting slightly in front of point of shoulder/upper arm joint. CHEST – deep, but not so wide or round as to interfere with the action of the forelegs. Brisket deep enough to reach the level of the elbow. RIBS – long, springing gradually to the middle of the body, then tapering as they approach the end of the chest cavity. BACK – straight and strong at his junction with loin. LOIN – strong, moderate in length, slightly arched. Tuck up moderate. HIPS – croup nearly flat. Hip bones wide apart, hips rounded and blending smoothly into hind legs. TAIL – a smooth continuation of the topline. Tapering to a fine point with only sufficient length to reach the hock joint or slightly less. Carried straight and level with the back. Feathering straight and silky, hanging loosely in a fringe. Preceding description from the official English Setter Standard.

Drawing is from *The Visualization of the English Setter*, published by the English Setter Association of America; for a more detailed discussion of correct English Setter anatomy, please refer to the Visualization. Document.

## Chapter 3

# *Is An English Setter Right for You?*



*Before making the decision to bring an English Setter into your family, ask yourself the following questions.*

1. Will you enjoy the brushing, grooming, and trimming required to keep your English Setter clean, tidy, and happy? Even if at first you think you might not want a dog that needs to be groomed, many English Setter fanciers find that grooming is great bonding time with their dog. Trust is built between you and your ES during grooming sessions. Owners actually enjoy how beautiful the dog looks after it is clean and groomed.
2. Do you enjoy walking, hiking, and other activities with your dog? An English Setter requires exercise at least several times a week. Will you commit to that? Most who do find they (the people) are healthier as a result.
3. Because ES possess a hunting instinct, English Setters, unaccompanied by their humans, tend to roam and should be kept in an enclosed area. Are you able to provide this type of contained outside environment for your English Setter?
4. English Setters do not do well when left alone for long periods. Will you make the time to give your English Setter a great deal of attention and affection? If you do, it will be returned to you many times over.
5. Do you want a dog that wants to be integrated totally into your family and be with you at all times?
6. The decision to bring a new English Setter into your home should be one that is agreed to by all members of the family. Most English Setters live from 12-14 years. Any pet brought into your home requires a commitment by all members of the family to love and take care of this dog for many years.

*If you have answered yes to the above questions, then an English Setter may be the right dog for you!*





## Chapter 4

# *How To Find an English Setter*

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*Once you have decided that the English Setter is the type of dog that will fit your needs, a number of topics must be addressed to select the right dog.*



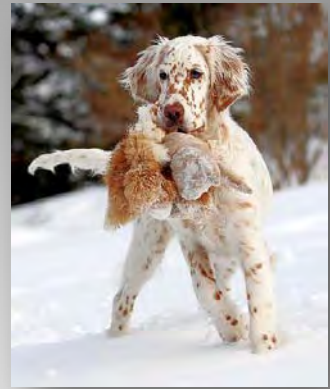
The best source to obtain a well-bred English Setter is from a ***reputable breeder***. The key here is “reputable”. If you would like to adopt an older English Setter, you may want to work with one of the many experienced rescue groups located across the country. ***Avoid backyard breeders, pet stores and puppy mills***. These options frequently offer poor quality bloodlines, which may be genetically prone to a host of health problems. Backyard breeders and puppy mills are only interested in taking your money and making a quick buck. They resort to advertising in the classifieds of local newspapers or selling entire litters to pet stores for resale. Acquiring a quality English Setter requires an investment of time and energy that will reward you with the joy of unconditional love and companionship. English Setters are not one of the most prevalent breeds, so if you want to join the select circle of ES owners, you may have to be patient and wait until a reputable breeder of your choice has a puppy or dog for you.

### **Never Buy an English Setter From A Pet Store!**

1. Pet store English Setters come from backyard breeders and puppy mills. You may not know who bred your dog or have anyone to contact if you have questions or concerns about your dog’s parentage characteristics.
2. The health of pet store English Setters is always at risk because they are not bred by knowledgeable breeders devoted to improving the health and appearance of the English Setter. Pet store puppies are frequently separated from their mothers at too early an age and usually do not have the chance to develop healthy bodies and temperaments. In fact, pet store English Setters often become seriously ill, costing their owners hundreds or thousands of dollars in veterinary expenses. Once you buy the dog, pet stores usually do not guarantee the health of your puppy.
3. Pet stores usually charge more than or as much as reputable breeders with no after-sale support or health guarantees. Pet store personnel don’t have the experiential knowledge that the reputable breeder has to assist with after-sale inquiries.

## This chapter discusses the following topics:

- How to find reputable breeders and distinguish them from backyard breeders
- Questions to ask a breeder and questions that a breeder may ask you
- Should you consider an adult or a puppy; a male or female?
- Companion pets versus show quality prospects
- How to adopt a pet from an English Setter rescue group



## Reputable Breeders versus Backyard Breeders

### *Reputable Breeders Do the Following:*

1. Are usually members of The English Setter Association of America, [www.esaa.com](http://www.esaa.com), or a regional English Setter club (list can be found on the ESAA web site) and believe in working toward improving the conformation, health, and performance of the English Setter. ESAA members are guided by a Code of Ethics (see p. 96).
2. Ask many questions of prospective owners in order to ensure their puppy is going to a responsible home.
3. Unless other arrangements are made, almost always require a spay/neuter agreement for pets. Pets are animals not considered “show prospects” and are not to be used for breeding.
4. Provide a clear statement of rights and expectations in a written contract.
5. Often participate with their English Setters in conformation, canine good citizen classes and tests, rally, obedience, agility, field trialing, hunt tests, and tracking.
6. Provide at a minimum a three-generation pedigree of the puppy to the new owner at the time of sale.
7. Always guarantee the health of their stock and if a puppy is found to be defective will offer to replace it with another puppy or refund a portion or all of the purchase price.
8. Expect to be advised if for any reason a puppy they bred must be placed in a different home.
9. Are happy to help you if you have any questions regarding the health or training of your puppy.
10. Will recommend that a puppy go to his new home at around 9 weeks of age. The first combination vaccination (DHPP) should given at about 8 weeks (as recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association) with boosters at 12 and 16 weeks of age (see pp. 77 and 78 for a list and description of several types of vaccines). A puppy should not go to a new home without having received his first vaccination. Puppies benefit from the socialization of being with their litter mates until about 9 weeks of age, and this interaction with littermates may help develop bite inhibition (reduces puppy nipping when their littermates tell them off when they are biting too hard).

11. Dedicate their lives to studying the English Setter breed and to improving its genetic, physical, mental, and emotional health.
12. Register puppies with the American Kennel Club, the gold standard of registries.
13. Raise their puppies with lots of socialization and begin the process of housetraining and teaching other skills before puppies leave their home.
14. Screen all their breeding males and females for the most common genetic problems in the breed, which are hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, deafness, and hypothyroidism.

Screening for hip and elbow dysplasia is done by x-rays taken after the age of two when the skeleton is fully developed. Most reputable breeders send their hip and elbow x-rays to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) for evaluation by a panel of expert veterinarians, who rate the hips as Excellent, Good, Fair, or various grades of hip dysplasia (i.e., flawed hip development due to genetic predisposition rather than injury). Elbows are rated as normal or dysplastic.

Screening for genetic deafness is done by the Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) test, which can be done any time after six weeks of age. A reputable breeder screens all puppies for deafness before they leave the breeder's home and will share the results of the BAER test with prospective new owners.

Screening for thyroid disease is done by a veterinarian drawing blood for analysis by a laboratory.



*Top left a puppy wired up for a BAER test for hearing; top right, an elbow x-ray; bottom right, a hip x-ray. For more information on canine genetic diseases., go to [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org).*



## ***Backyard Breeders do the following:***

1. Often advertise in the newspaper.
2. Sell puppies for less money than reputable breeders.
3. Rarely ask the buyer questions about how the puppy will be cared for.
4. Almost never require spay/neuter agreements.
5. Will sometimes sell entire litters to pet shops.
6. Rarely guarantee the health of the puppy, or if they do, not much beyond ten days.
7. Don't wish to be contacted if you must give the puppy up.
8. Don't wish to be contacted if you have a health problem with your puppy.
9. Don't wish to be contacted if you have questions regarding the training of your puppy.
10. Avoid spending money on a litter that cuts into profits; for example, feed poor quality dog food so puppies are malnourished; don't get adequate veterinary care; don't do health screening; don't pay stud fees or ship their bitches to quality stud dogs or use fresh chilled or frozen semen to try for the best possible match for their female but use whatever stud is nearby and free, regardless of quality.
11. Will often sell their puppies as early as six weeks of age.
12. If they register their puppies, sometimes use registries other than the AKC.

## **How Can You Find a Reputable Breeder?**

1. Contact the *English Setter Association of America*, the *American Kennel Club* or a local English Setter breed club, and request names of reputable breeders in your area. The ESAA's website at [www.esaa.com](http://www.esaa.com) has a list of regional English Setter Breed Clubs and a list of breeders (all of whom have signed a Code of Ethics, see p. 96) by state.
2. Attend dog shows and talk to breeders, handlers and other owners who may be able to give you referrals on obtaining a puppy. Information on dog shows in your area is available by contacting the AKC or visiting their website ([www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)) in the dog events section.
3. Contact the national breed club secretary, or consult breed publications like the *ESAA Newsletter*, which is the official newsletter of the *English Setter Association of America*. Ask your vet or local kennel club if there is a reputable English Setter breeder nearby.





# Questions to ask a Breeder

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*It is up to **you** to do your homework to assure yourself that the breeder is in fact ethical and conscientious. **Don't be afraid to ask the following questions.***



1. ***How long have you been breeding AKC English Setters?*** Good breeders have usually been breeding for a minimum of 3 or 4 years. If you are buying a puppy from a breeder's first or second litter, they should be able to tell you about their own experience, mentors, and advisors.
2. ***Do you belong to the English Setter Association of America and/or a regional English Setter Club?*** Membership in these clubs involves working within a code of ethics that gives greater credibility to a breeder and exchanging current information about the breed.
3. ***In what type of activities do your dogs participate?*** Many reputable breeders are involved in conformation competition and/or in various performance events.
4. ***Do you have any puppies available, and if not, when do you plan to have another litter?*** If they will have puppies available in the near future, the majority of breeders will put your name on a waiting list. Breeders whose lists are full are usually more than willing to refer you to other reputable breeders. In some parts of the country, there is frequently a shortage of English Setter puppies. **A good quality puppy from a reputable breeder is worth waiting for. Don't be in a hurry.**
5. ***What kind of warranty do you offer on your puppies?*** Most breeders will guarantee the health of a puppy for a specific period of time and if something does go wrong will either offer to replace the puppy with another one or give a partial or full refund of the purchase price.
6. ***What genetic screening do you do?*** What steps are you taking to try to eliminate the main genetic problems in English Setters (hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, deafness, and hypothyroidism.).What is the verifiable health status of this puppy's parents?

7. ***What is the price of the puppy? How is payment to be made? When do I get the registration papers?*** If you ask the price of the puppy as your first question, that can turn off some breeders. You can economize on lots of things like gasoline and clothing, but economizing on your puppy is being penny-wise and pound-foolish. A puppy with a bargain price may have temperament and/or health issues that will cost you many thousands of dollars -- and quite possibly much heartache -- over the life of the dog.
8. ***At what age do you place your puppies?***  
In contrast to puppy mills or backyard breeders, which will place puppies at 6 weeks, reputable breeders usually don't place puppies before about 9 weeks of age to ensure healthy social development.
9. ***What type of paper work do you provide with your puppies?*** Reputable breeders should provide a Bill of Sale, a contract detailing the conditions of sale, a copy of the puppy's health (including worming) and vaccination record, information about genetic screening, including results of the BAER test for deafness, a pedigree, and AKC registration papers. In some cases, breeders may withhold AKC registration papers until a successful trial period has been completed.
10. ***Do you have recommendations that I should follow when I bring my puppy home?***  
Most breeders will provide some form of puppy packet that includes their own recommendations on care, diet and training of the puppy.
11. ***Are your puppies raised in your house or in a kennel? Are they well socialized with adults and kids?*** Wherever the puppies are raised, the breeder should be spending a lot of quality time with each puppy on a daily basis.
12. ***Why are you picking my puppy for me?*** It is not unusual for reputable breeders to match puppies with new homes based on the owners' goals, lifestyle, interests, and family situation. The breeder spends 24/7 with the puppies and knows far better than anyone else what they are like. You can trust the breeder's experience to match you with the right puppy for you. Often this decision cannot be made until the puppies are at least seven weeks old because BAER test results, tooth alignment, presence of male parts, show potential, performance potential, and personality traits, all factors that enter into the decision of which puppy goes where, are not fully known until at least 7 weeks of age.



# Questions a Breeder May Ask You

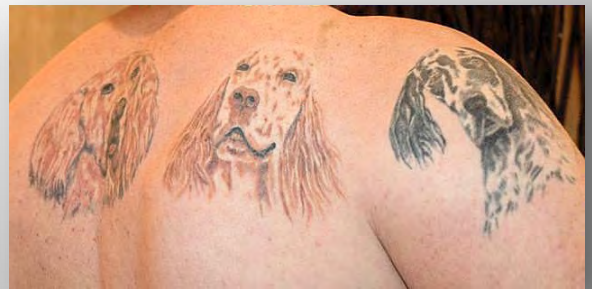
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*Breeders will also have questions for you, which will help them assess whether they want to place one of their puppies in your home and which puppy will be the best fit with your family.*

- 1. Have you ever owned dogs before and specifically, an English Setter?**  
Familiarity with owning dogs ensures a higher success rate in placing a puppy in a new home. It is a particular “plus” if a prospective buyer has had the experience of owning a unique breed like the English Setter.
- 2. Why do you want an English Setter?**  
It is important to determine if the active, sweet English Setter will be the right choice for a new buyer. Though quiet in the house (after reaching adulthood), English Setters do require regular exercise, preferably with their owners. Does the new owner have the time and inclination for this commitment?
- 3. Do you have an enclosed or fenced-in backyard?** As bird dogs, English Setters tend to roam and may become injured or lost if not contained by a fenced yard. Chaining an English Setter (or any breed) to an outdoor doghouse or tree is both dangerous and inhumane.
- 4. Where will your new puppy live?**  
The friendly, affectionate nature of the English Setter craves the companionship of people and other animals. ES are happiest in the house where they can be cared for by loving family members.



*English Setters can and do make friends with cats.*



*Some ES owners will do almost anything to demonstrate their love for their dogs, including getting tattoos of them.*





**5. How long will the puppy be alone during the day?**

Breeders are reluctant to place an English Setter puppy in a home where it will be alone for excessively long periods. The companionship of another dog or cat will go a long way in providing companionship for a unique breed like the English Setter if you can't be there.

**6. Are you willing to spay or neuter your pet English Setter?**

Spaying or neutering is usually required by breeders who wish to protect their valuable bloodlines. Spaying or neutering can make living with the ES or any breed a positive experience as there may be less territoriality in males and no heat cycles in females.

**7. Can you afford not only the purchase price of this pet but also its care and maintenance throughout its life?**

New owners need to be aware of how much it costs to keep their family pet healthy and well taken care of. A quality dog food and treats and regular veterinary care are essentials in the well maintained ES life.

**8. Do you have children or grandchildren, and if so, what are their ages?**



Many families want a puppy to “grow up with” their children. For some families with small children, the breeder may recommend an adult dog whose behavior is more settled and reliable around a child's exuberant nature.

**9. Is the decision to purchase an English Setter a unanimous one in your family?**

English Setters that go into a family situation where not everyone wanted this unique breed may start out with a couple of strikes against them. If you don't have complete agreement within the family, do not purchase a new pet.

**10. Would you like to become a member of the English Setter Association of America?**

Benefits of ESAA membership include access to the monthly ESAA Newsletter, introductions to other English Setter fanciers, voting privileges in ESAA elections, announcements of activities and issues affecting the breed, as well as invitations to lots of darn fun activities with great folks who also love this wonderful breed.



# Should I Get an Adult or a Puppy?

*An English Setter, whether puppy or adult, will bond with a new family. If you have babies or toddlers, or don't want a young puppy, it may be wise to consider bringing an adult English Setter into your home.*



*This mature English Setter is enjoying time with his owner.*

Reputable breeders occasionally have adult English Setters available who have been retired from the show ring or from their breeding program. In some cases, breeders will place in pet homes males that are still being used in their breeding program with the understanding that the male will remain in the breeder's name, cannot be neutered and will need to go to the breeder's facility from time to time to be bred.

Former brood bitches that are spayed may also be placed permanently in pet homes. In both cases, this type of arrangement can work well for the person looking for a well behaved pet English Setter.

## Should I Choose A Male or A Female?

(The answer is 'yes.' 😊)



*A Male*

Both males and females make excellent companion pets. There is relatively little difference in temperament, activity level, or trainability between a male and female English Setter. Male English Setters are normally sweet and gentle and not as dog aggressive as males in many other breeds.



*Male or female? The lovin' is the same.*



*A Female*

Females (bitches) that are not spayed go into season (estrus or heat) approximately every 6 or 7 months. Bitches also tend to weigh on average about 10 pounds less than males and are one or two inches shorter in height than males. Females in season may not compete in performance events, though they may compete in conformation.

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## A puppy is a gift for a lifetime, not just for Christmas

Puppies are a much requested gift, particularly during the holiday season. However, the holidays are not the best time to bring a puppy or a more mature dog into the home because there is too much going on for new owners to be able to devote the time necessary for integrating their new dog into the household. Many puppies purchased during the holidays end up being returned, resold or abandoned in shelters. A new puppy (or older adopted dog) needs attention and training as well as companion time throughout its lifetime, not just during the holidays.

## Purchasing a Companion English Setter

After you have decided that the English Setter is the breed for you, it will be necessary to decide if you want a pet or show quality English Setter. The majority of prospective new owners want a companion English Setter. Breeders usually sell as pets those English Setters that do not come as close to the official breed Standard as other puppies in the litter, but the differences between pet and show prospects can be very subtle and often are not detectable unless you are a breed expert.



*It is important to understand that pet quality does not necessarily mean that a dog is less healthy than a show prospect. An example of a trait that could cause a dog to be designated as a pet instead of a show prospect is misalignment of the dog's teeth.*

## Purchasing A Show Prospect

Good English Setter breeders strive to produce dogs that meet the description of the English Setter in the AKC-approved official ES breed Standard (see Appendix A). When “show quality” English Setters compete against other English Setters at a dog show, a judge compares each English Setter against what the Standard describes as the ideal English Setter. The English Setter that comes closest to this ideal is the one that is supposed to win.

Some breeders will sell a show prospect outright with no strings attached. Other breeders may sell one for less money but with certain requirements, such as a co ownership or a guarantee that the new owner will show the ES to an AKC championship within a reasonable amount of time.





It is not uncommon for a breeder to want lifetime free breeding rights to a particularly outstanding male or to want a puppy produced by a good quality bitch, in addition to choosing a suitable quality sire for her first breeding. If the new owners are novices, the breeder may wish to co-own the show prospect so that he or she has “control” over which bitches a male is bred to or which sire a bitch is bred to. It is not uncommon for a breeder who sells a show prospect to require that the dog be shown to its championship.

All details relative to the purchase of a show prospect *should be clearly spelled out and written down in contract form in order to avoid any confusion which might arise down the line.*

Responsible breeders will provide a contract to define the rights and responsibilities of the contract parties. It is also very important to specify expenses that the new owners will assume and those that the breeder will assume. Other issues to put in writing may include how puppies will be chosen in a future litter; who will cover whelping costs, veterinary fees, and show expenses; access to males for breeding; and a time line for showing and breeding. Also, it is not unusual for the breeder to limit the right of the new owners to re-sell the English Setter.



## Looking For A Show Prospect

The English Setter is a particularly changeable breed in its physical development from puppy to adult. If you are looking for a show prospect, it is safer to purchase an animal that is older (around 6-12 months) or has already been started to be shown and has a number of solid wins and points under its belt.

A positive relationship based on mutual respect between you and your puppy’s breeders is essential. They will be your mentors as you learn about showing and breeding. You should be comfortable and confident with these key individuals!



*The availability of quality English Setter show puppies is usually low, averaging two or three really good puppies in a litter.*





# Life with English Setters



# Adopting A Rescue English Setter



English Setter rescue groups are devoted to finding homes for English Setters that have been abandoned or given up and sometimes abused or neglected by their owners. Many of these English Setters end up in local shelters and unless suitable homes are found for them, they are destroyed. Rescue groups are to be commended and supported as they do a great service for the breed. English Setter rescue groups have been formed in almost every state in the country. Some are supported by or affiliated with national or regional English Setter clubs. Others are made up of volunteers who work exclusively with rescued English Setters.

English Setter rescue groups typically assess the dog's temperament and health while the dog is awaiting adoption, and may be prepared to offer ongoing advice and support as your rescued English Setter makes the transition into your home. ***Through rescue, it is possible to find a wonderful pet who deserves and is grateful for a loving family. Puppies are seldom available through rescue. Most rescued English Setters are of the field type, not the bench type.***

## Advantages of Adopting a Rescue English Setter

- You may find joy and pleasure in giving a “new home” to a dog in need.
- Rescue dogs may be a more initially affordable option for a family who wants an English Setter.
- Most rescue English Setters are adults; some are already house trained as well as spayed or neutered.

Reputable rescue groups don't usually place a dog in a new home without having first placed it in one of their experienced foster homes. While in the foster home, the dog is evaluated in a number of different situations to determine the type of home for which it is best suited. As you work with a reputable rescue group, they will assess your experience with dogs and will match you with an English Setter that seems to fit your family situation and needs.



*A field type English Setter, the type documented to be most often found in rescue*

***Rescued dogs have access to the Purebred Alternative Listing /Indefinite Listing Privilege (PAL/ILP) program. Information on obtaining a PAL or ILP number may be found at <http://www.akc.org/reg/ilpex.cfm> . Even if you have rescued your ES and do not have registration papers, you can participate in all AKC performance activities under a PAL or ILP.***



# Special Rescue Challenges

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In some cases, rescue English Setters have been neglected by their former owners or may require medical care. The adoptive family may need to spend more time helping their new friend fit into its home. Some rescue English Setters may be timid or shy until they have had a chance to learn to trust their new family and adapt to their new surroundings. Most of these dogs with special needs blossom into endearing pets and loving companions.

The rescue group you choose to work with should be as straightforward as they can about the dog's history to enable you to better know how to work with your new English Setter. Even with these safeguards, it is possible for adoptions to fail as some behaviors of the dog or unanticipated circumstance in the family may occur. In these cases, rescue groups will almost always take the dog back. Virtually all rescue groups require that you return the English Setter to them, rather than attempting to place it in a new home yourself or dropping the dog off at a shelter.

An organization that can help you in your quest for an English Setter rescue is the English Setter Association of America, [www.esaa.com/Rescue/RescueContacts.html](http://www.esaa.com/Rescue/RescueContacts.html)





# Regional Breed Clubs and Rescue Activities

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## Regional English Setter Clubs

There are many regional English Setter clubs you might consider joining. Most clubs offer many activities for English Setter owners and enthusiasts. Speakers often come to meetings to present a host of topics. Picnics, English Setter Olympics, Fun Matches, potlucks, and fun field days provide a number of opportunities to socialize with fellow English Setter enthusiasts.



*This award-winning Meet the Breeds booth was designed and built as an activity of the California English Setter Club for the AKC Invitational Show in Long Beach CA.*



*A rescued dog enjoys his owner's lap.*

## Rescue Volunteers

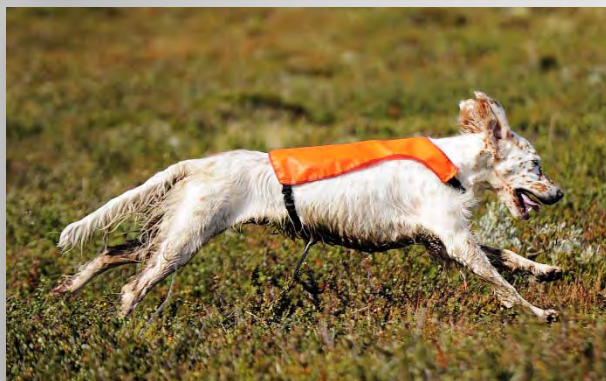
For those who love the English Setter breed and can spare some time, rescue groups are located in almost every state and all would welcome your volunteer assistance in the areas of in-home foster care, transporting rescue dogs, assisting with websites and attending fund-raising events. Contact your local rescue group for information.

## Chapter 5

# Activities for You and Your English Setter



Today there are many rewarding, fun and challenging activities in which owners can participate with their English Setters. This chapter will discuss the English Setter in: Conformation; for the youngsters, Junior Showmanship, 4-H, and Future Farmers of America (FFA); Field Trialing/Hunt Tests; Canine Good Citizen; Rally Obedience; Obedience, Therapy Dogs, and Agility. Tracking is another activity you can do with your English Setter.





# The American Kennel Club (AKC) and other registries



The American Kennel Club, founded in 1884, is a not-for-profit organization which maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world and oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its nearly 5,000 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. More than 20,000 competitions for AKC-registered purebred dogs are held under AKC rules and regulations each year including conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, lure coursing, coonhound events, hunt tests, field and earthdog tests. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) . (the preceding is from an email distributed by *The American Kennel Club*)

AKC has rules for breeders and exhibitors that, if violated, can lead to loss of AKC privileges, including the right to register dogs and puppies. Some new registries have been formed in order to circumvent AKC rules for breeders, so carefully check out registries whose names are not familiar.

One organization that is credible is the United Kennel Club (UKC), which sponsors dog shows and performance events and maintains a registry. To find more about UKC and its events, go to [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com).

Sometimes you will see dogs imported from other countries in US pedigrees. Most frequently seen are Canadian (CKC) and British (The Kennel Club) registered dogs. The organization that governs dog activities in other parts of the world and sponsors the World Dog Show is the Fédération Cynologique International (FCI).

*This adorable youngster and her beautiful dog are developing their show skills at a Fun Match , and they may decide to participate in future organized events. ES enjoy working with kids and have the patience to do so. Training and caring for dogs is a fun way for youngsters to learn responsibility and empathy for others.*





# AKC Titles You Can Earn with Your English Setter

See the rest of this chapter for a description of some of these activities. See also <http://www.akc.org/events/titles.cfm?page=2>

*If you have a show dog, your dog's show career may last only a few months or years. Then you have the rest of your dog's life to do other fun stuff with him or her. If you have a companion dog, all these performance activities are available for you to have fun with your canine partner.*

## **Conformation:**

Champion (CH)  
Grand Champion

## **Performance:**

### **Obedience**

Companion Dog (CD)  
Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)  
Utility Dog (UD)  
Utility Dog Excellent (UDX)  
Obedience Trial Champion (OTCh)

### **Hunting**

Junior Hunter (JH)  
Senior Hunter (SH)  
Master Hunter (MH)  
Hunting Dog (ESAA HD)  
Field Champion (FCh)  
Amateur Field Champion (AFCh)

### **Rally Obedience**

Rally Novice (RN)  
Rally Advanced (RA)  
Rally Excellent (RE)  
Rally Advanced Excellent (RAE)

### **Tracking**

Tracking Dog (TD)  
Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX)  
Variable Tracking Surface (VST)

### **Agility**

Novice Standard (NA)  
Novice Jumpers With Weaves (NJW)  
Novice Fast (NF)  
Open Standard (OA)  
Open Jumpers With Weaves (OAJ)  
Open Fast (OF)  
Excellent A Standard (AX)  
Excellent A Jumpers With Weaves (AXJ)  
Excellent B Standard (MX)  
Excellent B Jumpers With Weaves (MXJ)  
Excellent Fast (MF)  
FAST Century (FTC)  
Agility Champion (MACH)  
All the above titles can be earned in the Preferred category (lower jump height and 5 seconds more time). Just add a P to the acronyms.  
Preferred Agility Excellent (PAX)

### **Combination Activities**

Versatile Companion Dog (VCD1, VCD2, VCD3, and VCD4)

Versatility (VER)

### **Canine Good Citizen (CGC)**

# English Setters in Conformation



*An English Setter Association  
of America National Specialty  
Best of Breed Winner*

The sport of showing dogs as we know it originated in England in the mid 1800s as a way to evaluate breeding stock. At a dog show, your dog will be judged on its type, structure, movement, and condition. You should become familiar with the Official Standard of the English Setter (see Appendix A); this standard is the benchmark by which all conformation English Setters are judged. There is no perfect dog.

A CH in front of a dog's name indicates it has earned an American championship title, which is granted by the AKC for fulfilling certain requirements. Winning dogs may also earn a Best of Breed, Group Placements, and even the ultimate -- a Best in Specialty Show or Best in Show. In addition to AKC, other registries, such as the United Kennel Club, offer their own championships. Other countries offer titles, such as a Canadian, Bermudian, Puerto Rican, or Mexican championship, and there are International Championships, which can be earned if you enjoy traveling. Or, you can earn one type of international championship right in the US through the International All Breed Canine Association, [www.iabca.com](http://www.iabca.com).

If you've purchased a "show prospect," consult with your breeder fairly regularly regarding the development and training of your English Setter as he matures and to verify that he still has the merits of a show dog. English Setter structure can change quite dramatically (and not always for the better) as they get older. For your first show dog, it is usually best to buy one that is at least several months old, as its development will be more predictable.

A show dog should be well socialized, well-trained, well-groomed and well-presented. If you've not shown a dog, it may be easier to start with one that is trained. Learn the proper way to present your dog in the ring by attending conformation classes offered by local kennel clubs and by working with your breeder or other fanciers in your area. You will need to learn to "stack" your dog correctly and to gait him as well for the show ring.



*More National Specialty winners, two bitches and a male; the photo at top is also a male.*

Attend dog shows in your area and watch not only the English Setters show but other breeds as well. It will be much less intimidating to walk into the ring the first time if you are familiar with the procedures. Join the English Setter Association of America and a regional English Setter club in your area. There are a number of educational opportunities at their events which may be of assistance as you pursue your goal. Prior to entering an AKC Show, you might wish to try a few fun or sanctioned matches to gain a little experience.



Conformation is a competitive sport. As you participate and become involved, you will find opportunities for friendship with other competitors, as well as for learning a great deal about the English Setter. Rules regarding the showing of dogs are available on the AKC Website at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) or on the web site of the other registries. A schedule of ESAA Events is available on the ESAA Website at [www.esaa.com](http://www.esaa.com).

Most kennel clubs have conformation show classes for you to practice showing your dog.



*Above: Show prospects in training*

*Below: Experienced Show Dogs*





# English Setters and Junior Showmanship



*A junior handler displaying good handling skills*

Through the diligent efforts of Leonard Brumby, Sr., a well known professional handler, the first Children's Handling class was held at the Westbury Kennel Club Dog Show in 1932. Mr. Brumby and many other dog fanciers felt that a "handling competition" for children would be both educational and interesting for youngsters. Junior Showmanship has evolved over time to a thriving competitive event today. Juniors are judged on their ability to exhibit their dog. Although the dog itself is not judged, it must be eligible to compete in AKC events. For Juniors competition, a dog may be neutered.

Juniors compete in either open or novice classes, which are divided by age, 9 to 12 years of age, 12 to 15, and 15 to 18 years of age. Juniors are very important to the future of the sport of dogs. Through Junior Showmanship competition, children will learn the correct way to exhibit the breed they own, learn the importance of good sportsmanship, and learn about responsible pet ownership. They also learn to relate to and care for their breed. The National Juniors Organization was begun in 1997 by the American Kennel Club to encourage the participation of Juniors in AKC events. Additionally, a scholarship program is offered.

Local 4-H clubs and Future Farmers of America Clubs also have lots of educational activities for kids and their dogs.



*If you are interested in Junior Showmanship visit the AKC Website at [http://www.akc.org/kids\\_juniors/jr\\_getting\\_started.cfm](http://www.akc.org/kids_juniors/jr_getting_started.cfm)*

# AKC Hunt Tests/Field Trials With The English Setter

*An AKC Hunt Test or Field Trial is a competitive event in which your English Setter is judged on his ability to locate and point birds.*



*One of the greatest gifts you can give your English Setter is the opportunity to work birds in the field. Below: someone forgot to clue this dog in that show dogs don't hunt. That's balderdash. Most ES show dogs have retained their hunting instincts in abundance.*



Hunt tests and field trials are a sport for those who enjoy getting their dogs out to showcase what ES were originally bred to do. These outdoor events provide exercise and social activity for dog and handler. Training for the field requires access to birds and to open fields where the dogs can run and learn to locate and point birds. A mentor or experienced teacher is very helpful in getting started and developing an ES field prospect.

Some of the desirable qualities a field trial English Setter should possess are bird drive, big run, keen nose, willingness to respond to a handler's direction, and intelligence to work a field and figure out where the birds are likely to be. Field Trials are for very serious hunting enthusiasts, but hunt tests are for those who want to enjoy a sport their dog loves and who want to prove the dog's hunting ability is still present, in spite of the march of civilization.

In addition to the AKC Hunt Tests and Field Trials, ESAA occasionally offers the Hunting Dog (HD) test for English Setter competition only.

Hunting events are also sponsored by the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA), [www.navdha.com](http://www.navdha.com).

*If you are interested in field training, contact your local English Setter breed club or the English Setter Association of America for contacts in your area. You might wish to attend a hunt test or field trial to learn more about this sport. You can find the date and location of hunt tests and field trials near you on the AKC web site [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org), under events/event search. There are many enthusiasts who will be happy to share their knowledge with you.*

# English Setters as Canine Good Citizens

*The Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program was developed by the American Kennel Club to promote both responsible pet ownership and well-mannered dogs.*



Participation in the CGC program helps assure that your dog will be a welcome addition to your community. This is a wonderful way to focus on training your English Setter. It is also a pre-requisite for entering many therapy dog programs.

Many dog clubs offer a Canine Good Citizen Class which prepares you and your dog for the CGC Test.

In CGC class you and your dog will practice the 10 steps your dog must complete with confidence and control to pass the test.

*This English Setter is sitting politely on command for petting by a stranger.*

## **To pass the CGC test, your dog must**

1. greet a friendly stranger
2. sit politely for petting
3. walk on a leash
4. walk through a crowd
5. obey the sit, down and stay commands
6. come when called
7. behave politely with other dogs
8. react calmly to distractions such as a jogger running by
9. stay with someone you trust when asked



An AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB Program

*Upon passing the CGC test, you will receive a Canine Good Citizen certificate from the AKC. Further information about the CGC program is available on the AKC website at <http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/index.cfm>*



# English Setters in Rally Obedience

**START**

Rally, a fairly recent addition to AKC events, provides a wonderful bridge for individuals moving from the Canine Good Citizen program to the more exacting world of Obedience and maybe even on to the more energetic and physically demanding world of Agility.

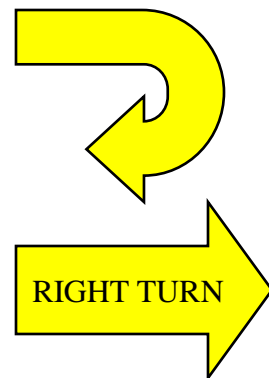
Rally is a fun, relatively relaxed sport, promoting teamwork between the dog and handler. It is a great event for the average pet owner, as well as the more experienced competitor.

Dogs must be six months or older to compete in Rally and Obedience.

A typical rally course follows a predetermined route through 10 to 20 “stations”. Located at each station is a sign that gives the competitor instructions on which skill is to be completed.

Unlike regular obedience events, the handler may encourage the dog while competing and repeat commands or signals as necessary. The handler and the dog move at their own pace, though the event is timed, and ties are broken for class placements by who completed the course with the faster time. There are no group exercises (group sits and downs) in Rally.

Rally is meant to be fun, to encourage handlers to train their dogs to be good citizens in their communities, and to be well behaved in both public areas and at home. Rally also gives valuable experience to those considering future obedience work as well as being a rewarding activity in and of itself for both dog and handler.

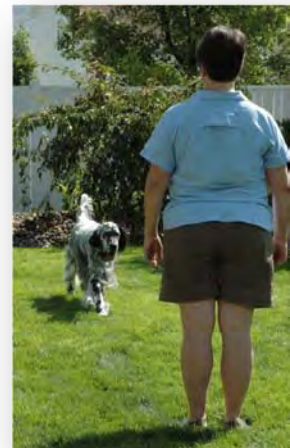


**FINISH**

*Information on rally can be found  
on the AKC Website at  
[http://www.akc.org/events/rally/getting\\_started.cfm](http://www.akc.org/events/rally/getting_started.cfm)*

# English Setters in Obedience

*Pictured: broad jump, scent discrimination, retrieve over high jump, heel on leash, recall, group down/stay*





# English Setters as Therapy Dogs

*If you are interested in volunteer service for your community, participating with your English Setter in a therapy program may be for you. English Setters are terrific therapy dogs.*



Therapy dogs provide a welcome respite for nursing and group home residents and hospital patients who may be depressed or lonely. English Setters are well suited for this type of work. Some ES are intuitively gentle with the fragile, the sick, the very young, and the elderly. English Setters will sit comfortably next to a wheel chair, making themselves just the right level for petting.

Therapy Dogs International, Inc. and the Delta Society are just two of the organizations involved in training and certifying dogs to become “Therapy Dogs”. Dogs should be well mannered, and many groups, like TDI, Inc., require that they pass tests including the Canine Good Citizen Test (CGC) as well as exercises which demonstrate the dog’s confidence and good manners when exposed to medical equipment and other distractions.

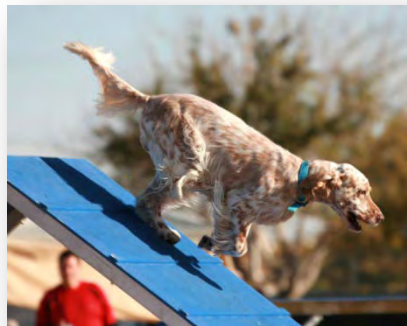


*Therapy dogs also participate in many children’s and educational programs.*



# English Setters in Agility

*Many English Setters have begun to participate in agility competitions. Agility is recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC), the North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) and the United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA), among others.*

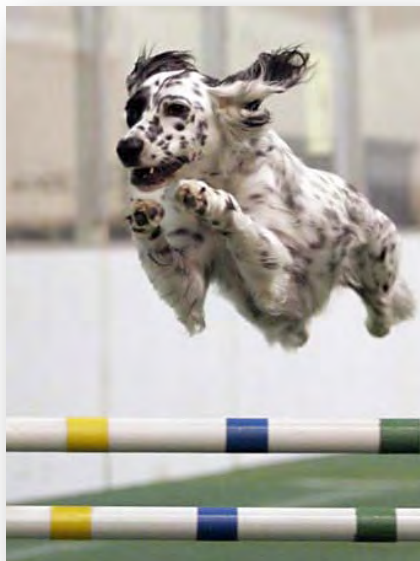


Agility is a fast paced, very energetic sport where dogs, at the direction of their handlers, run through an obstacle course off lead. Events are timed, with jump heights based on the height of the dog at the withers. There is a maximum time allowed and deduction of points for errors or faults. There are a variety of jump types and other obstacles, like a Dog Walk, A-Frame, Tunnels, Pause Table, and Weave Poles.

Though not all English Setters may be suited for agility, many enjoy this vigorous sport. Dogs should be healthy, have especially sound structure and be at their correct weight. Puppies under 12 months of age should refrain from jump training. Both you and your dog will be encouraged to stay physically fit for this sport. An added benefit to agility training will be to provide your dog with good basic manners and exercise. Dogs must be at least 15 months old to enter an AKC Agility Trial.

If you don't wish to compete in trials or seek agility titles, you may just wish to enjoy the training process. If you do wish to compete, you will need to be familiar with the requirements for entry in trials sponsored by the various agility organizations.

*Contact your local breed club, or search the AKC, NADAC or USDAA Web sites for contact information to find a club with an interest in Agility .*



## Chapter 6

# *Making Your Home Safe For Your English Setter*

*Before bringing your new English Setter home, it's important to make your home, yard and car safe for your new friend. In addition, you will need to purchase basic supplies for your dog.*



## Dog Proofing Your Home

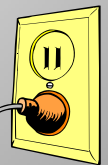
Both English Setter puppies and adults are curious by nature and will get into anything and everything! Safeguard your new English Setter as you would a toddler. Go through each room, your yard, garage, and any storage or outdoor buildings to identify and remove hazards. Dog-proof motor homes and camper trailers for canine travel safety.

*Many items typically found in any home, yard or garage can be harmful to your pet. For a fairly complete list of these items, visit the ASPCA Website Animal Poison Control Center ([www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)).*

## In Your House

Block off access to all balconies and decks from which a puppy could fall. If he is younger than four months, don't let your English Setter puppy jump off sofas, beds, etc. Help him down. His joints are still forming and may become injured.

Keep anything toxic such as household cleaners, detergents, pesticides, rat poison, antifreeze, some types of decorative mulch, and other chemicals out of your puppy's reach. Keep phone cords, electrical cords and outlets away from your puppy and block access to spaces behind things like TV's and refrigerators. You may also want to block access to your computer tower and wires if it's on the floor. A baby gate works well for this.



Fireplaces can be hazardous to your English Setter. Keep the screen closed.



Holidays provide a variety of hazards for all dogs. Tinsel, glass ornaments, Christmas tree water with fertilizer, ribbons, batteries, and packages containing food can harm your pet if swallowed.

Never leave small objects or children's toys, which a puppy could swallow, lying on the floor. A puppy will pick up almost anything in its mouth. Even a coin which falls to the floor can be potentially harmful if your puppy swallows it. *Pennies cause zinc toxicity if caught in the stomach.*



Don't allow access to poisonous plants such as azaleas, poison ivy, mistletoe, holly, poinsettia, and philodendron, among others.

Be sure all doors in your house and gates to your fenced yard close securely and that visitors are aware of the importance of closing doors and gates. *Many a puppy has been killed by a car when someone forgot to close a door or gate securely.* Teach your dog not to go through an open door or gate without permission (the "wait" and then "OK" command) to do so.



Be aware of open windows, particularly lower ones where your dog might push through the screen to get outside. Consider using safety gates, as you would with a toddler in the house.

## ***English Setters may pick up any item and chew or swallow it***

***English Setters love to pick up anything with your scent on it. Remote controls (a favorite!), needlework, eyeglasses, prescription and non-prescription medicines, chocolates, glasses and pens, watches and other jewelry, laundry items, hardware items such as screws, nuts and bolts can be very harmful if pieces are swallowed. Put them out of reach.***





# Your yard, garage and outdoor structures

- ❖ Make sure all garden fertilizers and pesticides are out of reach. Read the manufacturers' warnings carefully when you use them in your English Setter's exercise yard and keep him away from treated areas for the recommended amount of time. Most of these products are harmful to your pet. Cocoa mulch is also a hazard.
- ❖ Your English Setter may become strangled if he gets his head caught in any type of tight spot like railings, trellises, fences and balconies.
- ❖ Lawnmowers, weed eaters, and leaf and snow blowers can pose a threat to your English Setter. Your dog should be inside to protect him from flying debris when you use these items. While it's tempting to want to share a nice day outside with your ES, flying debris can cause severe eye injuries.
- ❖ Swimming pools should be fenced if you have a puppy. Once you establish that your older dog can swim, then supervised access to the pool can be granted. Pool chemicals can be toxic if ingested.
- ❖ Antifreeze and mouse or rat bait are especially hazardous to your pet.



***Don't Forget!***  
***Puppy proof your garage, workshop, and motor home as well as your home.***

## Hazards you might not think of as dangerous!

Gates to your dog's exercise area should be locked. Your *meter reader or other visitors may accidentally let your English Setter loose* as may children in a hurry to go play.



Many dogs are afraid of *thunder* or holiday *fireworks*. Make sure your English Setter is in a secure location to avoid injury during thunderstorms or fireworks displays

Each season will bring several new hazards for your English Setter. In the winter, *ice melting products* can cause irritation to your dog's mouth, feet and skin. In the summer, *fly bait or citronella candles* can be toxic. Corrosives and flammables are other dangers.





**Rock eating:** English Setters sometimes eat rocks. This behavior can sometimes run in some Setter bloodlines. Small pebbles may pass through your dog's system, but larger stones will not, and will require surgery to remove them. If your dog becomes less interested in food, drools excessively or has a painful, swollen abdomen, becomes restless, and/or develops projectile vomiting, take your dog to your vet immediately as the dog may have an abdominal obstruction. ***Swallowing a rock or any other foreign object can be fatal if not treated in a timely fashion.***

## Your Fenced Yard

Keeping your English Setter in a secure fenced yard is one of the most important things you can do for the well-being of your Setter. English Setters are bird dogs, and they are hard-wired instinctually to follow interesting scents. This makes them particularly vulnerable to traffic accidents and wandering away if they run loose.

Make sure that your fence is at least 5 feet high, goes to the ground and, if possible, is buried below the surface, bent to the inside 6" to 12". Check your fence line regularly for spots which might wash away or are being dug out by your dog. Wood or vinyl fencing is fine. Post and rail with welded wire can work well, as does chain link. Gates should be kept securely locked and marked to make visitors aware that a dog is inside.



The use of "invisible fencing" requires a high degree of training for your Setter. Unfortunately, his nose can override his brain, and he may follow a scent, even though he is feeling a shock. Remember too, it may keep your dog in, but won't keep others out, leaving your dog defenseless against predators and dog thieves. Generally, invisible fencing is not a good fence for an English Setter.

***Dog trolleys and tie-out chains are not safe for English Setters. Dogs can hang or strangle themselves. Invisible fences, trolleys, and tie-outs, offer no protection from other animals or dog thieves that may invade your yard.***

*Once you've English Setter-proofed your home and yard, it's time to purchase some basic supplies for your new family member!*

## Your English Setter Shopping List

### A Crate: an English Setter's Very Own Private Room!



A crate about 36" x 25" x 27" (a #400 or Large) is a good size for a smaller adult English Setter, and 40" x 27" x 30" (a #500 or Extra Large) is a good size for a larger adult. A blanket or soft towel is ideal bedding for puppies, because it can be easily laundered if there's an accident.



### Food, water and treats

Your English Setter will need a stainless steel (not plastic) bowl for food, and a heavy ceramic bowl for water to prevent tipping or a 2-quart stainless steel water bucket. Choose training treats that are small and soft, hot dogs cut into little pieces or small pieces of cheese. For non-training occasions, hard treats help keep teeth clean. Check country of origin before buying treats. Ask your breeder which countries are safe as the manufacturer of your dog's food and treats. Your breeder or rescue group may recommend a particular brand of food that the dog is currently eating.



### Leads and Collars

A 6-foot web or leather leash will give you good control over your English Setter on walks and keep him from darting into traffic. Chain leads are not easy to handle and are not recommended. Use an adjustable 18"-22" buckle collar for an adult English Setter, depending on his neck size. You'll need to start with smaller collars for puppies.



Adjust the collar correctly so that your Setter cannot slip it over his head when pulling back on the lead. Do not use a choke collar on a very young puppy since it can injure the throat if used incorrectly. On older puppies or adults, choke collars should only be used during training or on walks and only by someone trained in their proper use.

***Choke collars can lead to accidental strangulation if left on an unsupervised dog.***



# Grooming Checklist For Your English Setter

(They enjoy stylin' and lookin' good.)

- ✓ Nail clippers or a nail grinder; Dremel with sanding attachment does well.
- ✓ Kwik Stop styptic powder (for stopping bleeding if you accidentally nick the quick of your English Setter's nails)
- ✓ Ear cleaning fluid
- ✓ Gauze or swabs for cleaning your puppy's or dog's ears.
- ✓ Dog shampoo and conditioner (Pantene products work well in a pinch.)
- ✓ Soft bristle brush for back coat and pin brush for furnishings
- ✓ Scissors to split a mat or slicker brush to work out mats gently

## Safe Toys

Choose toys that are safe for puppies. Beware of soft toys with squeakers or small batteries, as your puppy may chew them open and then swallow the harmful contents. Monitor dog toys stuffed with batting so rips do not let stuffing spill out or be pulled out and swallowed.

Rawhide flip chips should be avoided for puppies, since when they become slippery with saliva, they can be easily swallowed whole. Larger knotted rawhide bones are better, but once they become small, they too can be swallowed, and can cause intestinal problems; watch carefully, and when the rawhide bone becomes small enough to swallow, throw it away. Breeders will recommend chew items that they feel are the safest. Many toys require close supervision. Items ingested such as rawhide, squeakers, plastic and batteries may upset your dog's stomach or cause a blockage.

Some good toys include:

- Good quality rope toys.
- Kong toys that can be filled with treats such as peanut butter to occupy your dog for hours
- Nylabone toys

***Caution: Be wary of rawhide flip chips that are easily swallowed whole and toys where the stuffing, squeakers, and batteries can be pulled out and swallowed.***

### SAFE TOYS!



### CAUTION!



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# **E-Setter E-College**

*“English Setters – Gentlemen and Ladies by Nature”*

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## **English Setters 101**

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### *An English Setter Owner's Guide*

**ES 101 is recommended by the  
English Setter Association of America.**

ESAA does not endorse any specific kennel associated with this product.

By Jill Warren and Ray-Lynn Snowden





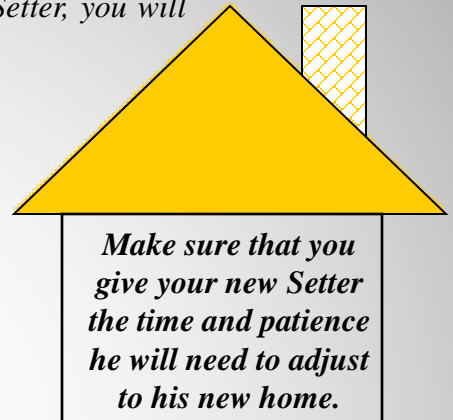
## Chapter 7

# *Your New English Setter Comes Home*

## Things to take when you pick up your new English Setter

*When the big day arrives for you to pick up your English Setter, you will need to take the following items with you :*

- ✓ A collar and lead
- ✓ A crate with a towel or blanket inside
- ✓ Extra towels
- ✓ A container of water and a bowl
- ✓ Paper towels
- ✓ A spray cleaner
- ✓ Several large plastic bags in case towels get soiled
- ✓ A toy
- ✓ Poop pick-up bags



You should know what kind of food your English Setter has been eating, the amount fed and his current feeding schedule. This will make his transition to his new home easier. If the food that your English Setter is used to eating is not available in your area, ask the breeder for a small amount that you may mix with his new food to make the adjustment gradual.

*Below are tips to help your English Setter adjust to his new home. No matter how wonderful a home you have for your dog, it is a traumatic experience for him/her to leave familiar surroundings and littermates.*

## Settling Your English Setter in a New Home

▪*Don't have unrealistic expectations.*

Your English Setter will be lonely the first few days and nights that he is separated from his littermates and familiar routine. Please have compassion and help him with this transition with lots of affection, attention, trust building. Don't expect your puppy or dog to "know" what to do once you get him home. Like children, puppies need to be taught what is expected of them. Even adult English Setters will have to adjust and learn the particular rules and routines of your home. Don't expect your new ES to understand your verbal commands. Their meaning must be taught over time with patience and positive reinforcement.

- ***One of the biggest mistakes that people make with a new English Setter is to spoil him, allowing behaviors (just for today) and granting too much freedom too soon.***

When you correct your Setter for an improper behavior, don't apologize when he gives you one of those true English Setter looks which says, "I didn't mean to, I'm sorry, don't you love me?" Don't dwell on the error. Be firm, consistent, and brief in any correction. Your dog will appreciate clear boundaries and knowing how to please you. Lavishly praise good behavior.

- ***Decide ahead of time who will be responsible for caring for your English Setter.***

If you have children, it is best to divide the duties among them. Don't assume that the children are doing their assigned chores. It is an adult's responsibility to make sure that proper care, including food, water, exercise, clean bedding and a clean exercise area, have been provided.

- ***Crate training should begin as soon as you bring your new English Setter home.***

It is important to understand that crating an English Setter is not cruel. Dogs have a nesting instinct and the desire to find a protected spot of their own. The crate becomes your puppy's special "room" where he can feel protected and sleep or relax.



Crating will help your dog adjust to his new home, keep him safe when you are away for short periods and help in the housetraining process, since dogs, by nature, do not like to eliminate in their dens. You should feed your new English Setter in his crate, as well as provide comfortable bedding and something safe to chew. This will help him adjust. Teach your puppy to sleep in his crate the first night you bring him home. Make sure he is tired and ready to rest before putting him into his crate for the night. The best place for the crate is in your bedroom so he can be near you, and you can hear him cry if he has to go out during the night.

It is not unusual for a puppy, or even an adult to cry or whimper during the night when he gets lonely. Think of your new dog as a baby learning to sleep on its own. A day or two of steeling yourself against the whimpering will pay off handsomely in the form of a secure and well-adjusted dog. Don't give in and take your puppy to bed with you unless you are willing to sleep with your dog in the bed for the next 14 years (some of us feel that's not so bad).



- ***The first few days and nights will have a big impact on your English Setter's adjustment to his new home.***

Inconsistency and carelessness on your part may result in an undependable, confused pet. Be diligent and consistent, and you will have a happy, well adjusted, well trained English Setter.

- ***Set up a "dog area"***

Young puppies and adult dogs need their own space where they can get away from children and the hubbub of a busy family. In addition to crate training your dog, you may also designate an area such as a laundry room or other room preferably with a tiled, easily mopped floor which can be sectioned off with a baby gate. Portable exercise pens with limited space can be used as a dog area.



- ***If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact your breeder or rescue group.***

Many a puppy has gotten the upper paw as soon as it walked into its new home. Be consistent with your training and you will be rewarded with many happy years with your faithful new companion.

- ***Don't allow your puppy to be out of your sight until he is fully housetrained.***

If you aren't available to watch your puppy with your full attention, let him rest in his crate until you are able to devote your time to the puppy. It may take time for your puppy to learn to let you know when he needs to go out to potty. After taking him from his crate immediately let your ES go outside to exercise himself. *If your puppy has an accident because you were not watching him, it does no good to punish him "after the fact." He won't be able to make the connection that he did something wrong.* If, despite the fact that you are watching closely, your puppy starts to go potty, immediately take the puppy to his potty area. Wait until he goes, and then reward him with praise.



***This puppy seems to have inherited the dreaded "toilet paper gene," which compels the puppy to pull the toilet paper off the roll and shred it. In extreme cases, the puppy will run through the house, unfurling toilet paper as he goes. Alas, there is no cure. Owners must resign themselves to closing the bathroom door or putting the toilet paper out of reach. Puppies often outgrow this childhood "disorder."***



▪ ***Introduce your English Setter to the other animals in your household.***

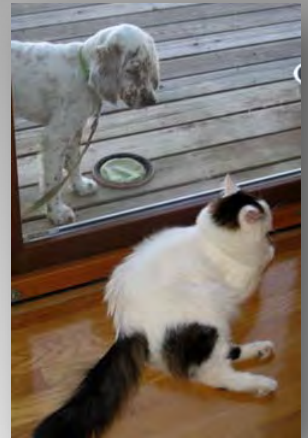
If you have other dogs in your home, introduce your new English Setter in neutral territory, like in the yard. Keep all the dogs on a leash, and fully supervise them at the beginning. Before introducing a new dog to the pack, hug that dog so your scent will be all over him and make him more familiar to the other dogs.

Your small puppy can be accidentally injured by a large dog, even during play. Always supervise when puppies and adults are together.

Make sure you feed your pets separately. Your English Setter should always eat at a regular time undisturbed in his crate.

Make introductions to cats slowly, keeping your dog on a leash, and allowing the cat to warm up to the dog. Let the cat wander near your dog while he is in his crate. They will usually learn to get along.

Your dog's diet should not include your cat's food or droppings from your cat's litter box. Keep cat food and the litter box away from your English Setter.



## **Lifting Your English Setter**

It is very important to pick up an English Setter (puppy or adult) carefully. ***Small children should never pick up an English Setter.*** ES are too big to be handled correctly by a small child. Lifting an English Setter by his front legs or shoulders can cause injury. You should use both hands to pick up an English Setter -- one hand to support the hindquarters and one the front legs. They should never be picked up in the middle.

***Left: this is the correct way to support an English Setter puppy in your arms (they can be quite hefty).***

## **The Aggressive English Setter**

While it is very unusual to have an English Setter that exhibits aggressive behavior toward people or other animals, it can happen. Should you see any sign of aggression, contact your breeder or rescue group immediately for advice.

Puppies will sometimes get carried away and play a little too roughly with their companions. Any nipping, possessive, or overly aggressive behavior should be corrected.

# HOUSETRAINING

## *Consistency is the key!*

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- ❑ The minute you arrive home with your puppy take him outside to a spot so he can eliminate (use the same location each time). Do this before bringing him into the house.
- ❑ Literally keep on eye on your puppy at all times indoors and outdoors when you first bring him home. You may have to do this for a couple of weeks or months until he is housetrained.
- ❑ When you are not able to watch your ES puppy, confine him in his crate. Until your puppy is housetrained, confine him to his crate at night. At the end of your day, take him out one last time as late as you can and wake up as early as possible to let him out first thing in the morning. Until he is housetrained, be sure his crate is not too big or he may be tempted to eliminate in a corner of the crate. Always clean and disinfect any crate mistakes before returning the puppy to his crate. And wash and towel dry the puppy.
- ❑ Take a 2 or 3 month old puppy outside to eliminate at least every 3 or 4 hours. The more consistently you follow a schedule, the better.
- ❑ Key times to take him out are (1) first thing in the morning, (2) after waking up from any nap, (3) 15 to 20 minutes after eating and (4) after playtime. Do **not** play with your puppy before he has eliminated.
- ❑ Watch for your puppy's signals that he needs to eliminate; the most common signs are sniffing, whimpering, circling or going to the door.
- ❑ Allow plenty of time for elimination. Use a key phrase to signal elimination such as "Go potty!" Some puppies need 20 minutes or more.
- ❑ Walking or trotting your puppy on a lead can help stimulate a bowel movement.
- ❑ When your puppy eliminates, reward him immediately with a treat, verbal praise, affection, and/or playtime.
- ❑ Reprimand your puppy only if you catch him in the act of soiling in the house. Thoroughly clean the soiled area to remove any odor.



**Good potty!**

*Eight to twelve week old puppies do not have the bowel or bladder control to go more than 3 or 4 hours without eliminating. If you work, you can try one of several alternatives.*

## Housetraining When Owners Work



Potty Park



- ❑ Install a doggy door which goes out to a secure fenced area or arrange for someone to let your puppy out every 4 hours.
  - ❑ If the above arrangement is not possible, set up an elimination area in a confined area or room in your home. A plastic tarp or thick pads of newspaper may be used for this purpose. Or, you can try recycled newspaper pellets (Yesterday's News) in a litter box. Or, you can try a device called a Potty Park, which is a plastic box with a grate on top and then a piece of artificial turf. When you come home, you remove any solid waste, empty the liquid and hose off the turf, and you're good to go again.
  - ❑ At the age of 6 or 9 months, a puppy has more bladder and bowel control and at this time the indoor elimination area can be progressively made smaller until it is not necessary.
- 
- ❑ When you are using the inside elimination area as part of training, remove this area when you are at home and can supervise the puppy. You should encourage elimination outside.
  - ❑ As your puppy progresses, teach him to eliminate while on a leash and on different types of surfaces. This will help avoid problems if you are traveling or if and your dog are in unfamiliar surroundings or at another house.

## Exercising Your English Setter

Exercise can be a walk around the block on a leash, a walk in the park, or a play date with another puppy. Or, you can throw a toy or play tag in your fenced yard. Don't over-exercise a young English Setter while their muscles and bones are still forming. If your puppy says he is tired, stop and let him plop down for a few minutes. It is important that puppies be allowed to sleep after their play period.



# Providing For Your English Setter in the Event of a Caregiver's Death

Just as you might for your family in the event of your death, you should make arrangements for the care of your pet. Although difficult to think about, making these arrangements eases the burden for your family and can guarantee continued quality of life for your beloved companion.



## Identification and ES



In addition to a collar with tags or embroidered name and phone number on a collar, there are several other methods you may wish to use to identify your dog. One is a unique tattoo. Microchipping is the best method. **It is so important to register your microchip with one of the national registries.** If you do, many humane shelters, veterinarians, and other agencies have scanners to read microchips and will be able to contact you in the unfortunate event that you and your dog become separated, and he is found by someone who doesn't know who he is. Dog thieves can remove a collar with tags, but they can't remove a microchip.

***Although you take preventative measures, dogs do occasionally escape from their fenced yard or slip through an open door.***

In the event that your dog becomes lost:

- ❖ Contact neighbors.
- ❖ Alert local law enforcement and animal control.
- ❖ Alert your mail carrier; they often spot lost dogs as they cover the neighborhood.
- ❖ Post ID flyers with photos and contact information at stores, schools and other public places, including on telephone poles
- ❖ Contact local shelters **daily**.
- ❖ Contact your breeder or rescue group.
- ❖ Contact all veterinarians and dog clubs in your area.
- ❖ Advertise in the newspaper and on local radio.
- ❖ Use internet resources to spread the word and try to locate your dog.

***You might be interested in participating in a program offered by the American Kennel Club involving microchips and called CAR, Canine Animal Recovery. Information about CAR is available on the AKC website at <http://www.akccar.org/>***

## Chapter 8

# *Feeding Your English Setter*

A nutritious balanced diet is essential for your dog's well-being. Ask your English Setter's breeder to recommend the brand, amount, and type of food (dry/semi-dry/canned, or raw), the reasons for feeding that food, as well as a feeding schedule. Puppies are usually on a different food and different feeding schedule than adults.

If you are unable to purchase the recommended food in your area, ask for suggestions regarding a change of diet. When you bring your new dog home, make sure you have several days' supply of the food he is used to eating. Make the change to a new diet gradually, if necessary.

- 1. Don't overfeed your dog. When looking down on your pet, there should be a definite waist line just past the end of the rib cage. Obesity reduces the lifespan of your dog.***
- 2. Don't add human supplements except at your vet 's or breeder's suggestion.***
- 3. Ask your breeder, rescue group or veterinarian for suggestions about a healthy, appropriate diet and supplements for your dog.***



***Most English Setters love to eat. If your Setter skips more than one meal, something might be wrong, and you might want to have him checked by a vet.***

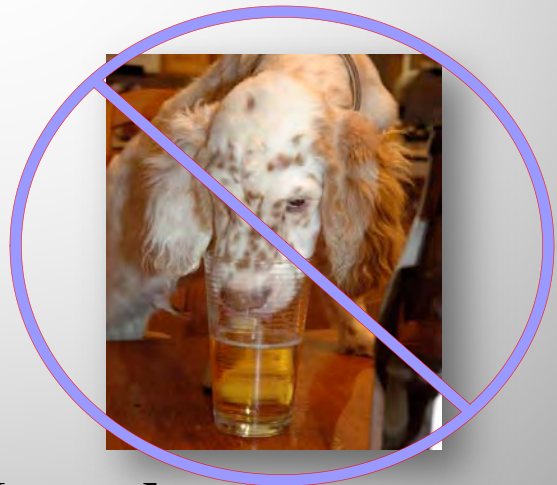
***Food, glorious food!***

# Feeding Tips

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*Below are some tips on feeding your English Setter for a long, healthy life.*

- ❖ Don't feed table scraps. This turns a dog into a finicky eater and can lead to obesity. Changes in food can cause diarrhea. The quantity of food your pet needs will change over time. Be sure to measure his food at each meal and make appropriate adjustments if he becomes too fat or too thin.
- ❖ Stick to a feeding schedule and feed your English Setter in his crate or separate area. Feeding at a regular time helps the houstraining process. Your dog should be allowed to eat undisturbed. Dogs thrive on consistency.
- ❖ Moving to a new home can sometimes affect your English Setter's appetite for the first couple of days. Call your breeder or rescue group if the problem persists.
- ❖ Don't feed your English Setter meat with cooked or uncooked bones. These can splinter or lodge in the throat and puncture the stomach and intestines. Large raw meaty bones, such as beef knuckle bones can be a great treat for your dog and help clean his teeth.
- ❖ Don't over-feed. Obesity is a serious problem that can stress the heart and joints and reduce your dog's lifespan. Your English Setter loves to eat, and it's a pleasure to see his enjoyment while eating, but you are doing him great harm if you over-feed him.



## Food Hazards

*The ASPCA Poison Control lists the following as causing stomach upset and in some cases, severe toxic reactions: avocado, chocolate, coffee, fatty foods, macadamia nuts, spoiled foods, onions and onion powder, raisins, grapes, salt, and yeast dough. Never allow your dog to consume alcoholic beverages.*



## Chapter 9

# *Bathing and Grooming Your English Setter*

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At first, you can bathe and brush your puppy about every week or every two weeks, depending on how dirty he gets. When your puppy grows up and has furnishings, called “feathers,” he may require more frequent grooming to guard against tangles and mats and to help with hygiene.

As the furnishings grow, you will figure out where the mats are found most frequently on your dog and banish them with your brush. Usually, a dog will mat under the ears, under the chest near the elbows, under the elbows, on the back of the back legs, around the male parts (brush this area very gently!) -- wherever there is friction between body parts. Also, you might get a friction mat from a grooming coat or towel at the site of the pin.

You will need to brush your dog out after he has romped in dirt or snow and when he comes in from a rain if he’s gotten very wet, or you will get big mats. After your dog runs in a field, if there are twigs or seeds in his coat, brush those out, or a mat will surely form around them. It’s much easier to take care of potential mats before they form than it is to untangle a big mat. Don’t ever cut out a mat if you have a show dog. If you can’t get it to untangle, take the dog to a professional groomer and ask them to show you how to work it out. Cowboy Magic Detangler, The Stuff, Ice On Ice, and Pantene Detangler are just some commercial products you can spray on a mat to help loosen it.

Show dogs must be bathed at least once a week, and show males must have their furnishings bathed and brushed at least every other day to prevent urine stains. This might be motivation to finish your male’s championship early so you don’t have to care for the coat as much, but if you want to “special” your male (try for Best of Breed wins and Group Placements after he has completed his championship), you will need to tend to the coat carefully throughout his entire show career. The sight of an English Setter in full coat is so glorious that many owners get a great deal of satisfaction out of coat care. Tending coat can build a bond of friendship and trust between groomer and dog.



*An English Setter in full well-cared-for coat, truly a glorious sight.*

- *The grooming chapter in **The New Complete English Setter, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition**, is an excellent guide to grooming your English Setter.*
- *Kettle Moraine English Setter Club has produced a DVD on grooming entitled **Groom Your English Setter**; for information, go to [www.KMESC.org](http://www.KMESC.org)*

# *Grooming Materials You Will Need*



Above: Top left, pin brush (the mainstay); left center, soft slicker brush; top center, soft bristle brush, middle center, regular comb, wide tooth comb (helpful for mats), detangler comb with rotating pins (optional). If you get serious about trimming your Setter yourself, you will want to invest in electric clippers and a #10 blade. You will need a coarse and/or fine tooth stripping knife (upper right). You will need thinning shears which have teeth on only one blade and a pair of straight shears, about 8 ½ inches long. Get the best scissors you can possibly afford. Scissors and clipper blades will need to be sharpened from time to time by a professional.

# Trimming Notes For Pet Owners

(Hint: Though breeders love to receive pictures of dogs they have bred, don't send a picture of your ungroomed dog to his breeder; the breeder will not think this is cute). After one of your regular grooming sessions is the best time to get out your camera and snap away.

Use thinning shears to trim hair on top of the head to avoid the "punk" look.

Use thinning shears or 7F blade on your clippers to take excess hair off the body.

Use thinning shears to remove curls from base and top of the tail. Trim around the vent to leave a 1" gap between the tail and the body

Use clippers (10 blade) to shave the front of the throat and take the hair down on about the top third of the ear leather.

Trim feet by brushing the long hair up and cutting it even with the top of the foot. Trim between the pads. Trim around the edge of each foot for a neat finish.

Use straight shears to trim feathering to an even shape.

Use straight shears to trim long hair off the back of the hock to about a half-inch in length.

Use straight shears to trim tail feathering into a pennant or scimitar shape. Trim end of tail so it just reaches the hock when held down. About a half-inch of hair should be left at the tip of the tail to protect the tail against injury.

***These notes are intended as a guide to keep the dog in a reasonably neat state. They are by no means intended as show trimming instructions.***

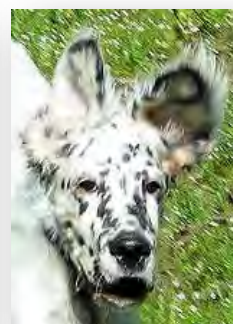
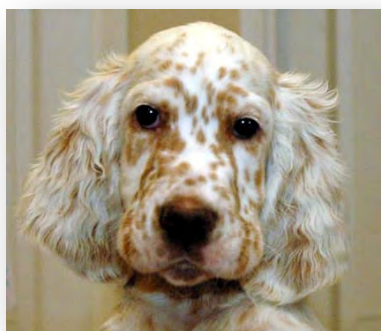


# Cleaning Your English Setter's Ears

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The English Setter's drop ears may not allow good circulation of air and are therefore prone to debris, which, if built up over time, can lead to infection and other medical ear problems. Owners should clean the inside of their English Setter's ears at least twice a month with one of the many liquid ear cleaners available from your local pet store or veterinarian. *Start cleaning a puppy's ears as soon as you bring him home and be diligent about frequently checking the inside of the ear for parasites such as mites, ticks and fleas. If you see a problem with the ears, seek veterinarian assistance, and if an infection is found, request a culture be done to determine the cause so treatment can begin immediately.*

Soak a cotton ball with cleaning solution and swab out the inside of the ear. Take care not to probe too deep and possibly injure the ear canal. If the hair on the outside of or bottom of the ears is dirty, wipe clean with a damp cloth or spray with a spray bottle and gently brush out any debris lodged in the hair.



## Cleaning the Anal Glands

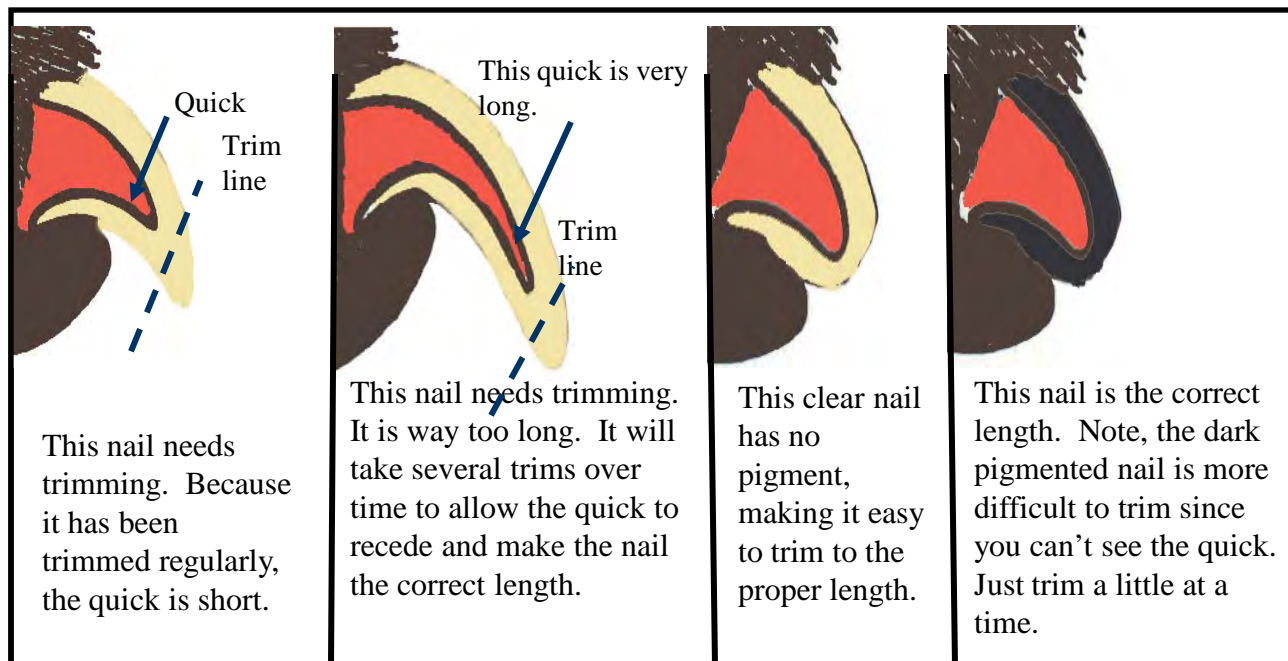
Anal glands, which are located on either side of the anus, should to be checked and emptied regularly to avoid impaction and infection. English Setters with impacted anal glands often scoot their rear ends on the ground. Anal glands are cleaned by holding the dog's tail up and gently squeezing each gland one side at a time. (When viewing the rectum, the anal glands are at 5 and 7 o'clock.) The smelly contents of the glands will then squirt out. Ask your veterinarian to show you how to express the glands. At home, this is best done in the bath tub, just before you bathe your dog.

# Trimming Your English Setter's Toenails

An English Setter's nails need to be kept short to prevent soreness and stress on the feet. Long nails may break or get caught in the gaps between outdoor deck boards causing considerable pain and bleeding.

If your English Setter still has dew claws (the extra nail located about two inches from the bottom of the foot on the inside of the front legs), make sure to trim them as well. Forgotten dew claws can turn inward, growing painfully into the skin.

Nails should be trimmed at least every 10 to 14 days. The pliers type of nail clipper works better than the guillotine type for the fairly large nails on an English Setter, or you can get a grinder or cordless Dremel with sandpaper attachment. Your breeder, rescue group or veterinarian will be happy to teach you how to trim your English Setter's nails. Some puppies may resist nail trimming but with patience and a gentle approach by their owners, they soon learn not to resist. *If you are too squeamish to trim your dog's nails, make sure you have them done regularly by a competent groomer or your veterinarian.*



***If you cut the quick, the nail will bleed. You will need to use a product like Kwik Stop styptic powder to stop the bleeding. Over a period of time, if you consistently trim your dog's nails, the quick will recede as the nails become shorter.***

# Bathing Your English Setter

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It's a good idea to get your English Setter used to bathing when he or she is a baby. You don't want to have to struggle with a 60- or 70-pound adult.

It's easiest to bathe in the bathtub with a hand sprayer you can attach to the shower head. These are easily purchased at a hardware store.

Be sure to keep your ES white, especially if you plan to show your dog. A very good whitening shampoo is EZ-Groom Crystal White, which whitens with an enzymatic whitener that is activated by heat (avoid products that whiten by using bleach as they can damage the coat). You can obtain this shampoo from [www.ez-groom.com](http://www.ez-groom.com). You can put a little of the shampoo into a squirt bottle, fill with hot water, and shake to mix. You can also heat in the microwave to activate the whitening ingredient, but don't heat so long that you melt the plastic container (about 20 to 25 seconds should work). A small dish washing detergent bottle with a squirt top makes an ideal container for mixing shampoo and conditioner to dilute in water.

Take a look at your bath towels. If they've seen better days, treat yourself to new towels and recycle your old ones as dog towels. If your towels are still in good shape, then you can buy some inexpensive towels for your dog at a discount store. A normal bath towel is good for a female, but you will probably need an oversize bath towel for a fully grown male.

After the ES has had a bath and is partially dry, you will pin a large towel tightly around your dog in order to train the back hair to lie smoothly. You can get horse blanket pins at a tack shop or kilt pins in the notions department of a good fabric store. You need three pins per bath, and it's good to have two or more sets of three. Monitor your toweled ES to make sure the pins are not chewed or come open.

The first step of a good bath is to mix the shampoo with warm water in your squirt bottle. Fill the squirt bottle about one-third with shampoo then add warm water and shake to mix. You only need to use the whitening shampoo once in a while; the rest of the time you can use regular dog shampoo. Before you start, also mix your conditioner, about an inch of conditioner, in your squirt bottle and add warm water to make about a 1:3 dilution. If you buy a gallon of conditioner (which will last a very long time), you can get a pump at Sally Beauty Supply that makes getting the conditioner out of the container easier. If you run out of dog shampoo and conditioner, Pantene shampoo and conditioner work pretty well in a pinch and give your ES a great smell at hugging and kissing time.



***An ES puppy with show potential must get used to frequent baths from an early age.***



Wet the dog down thoroughly, squirt the diluted shampoo all over the dog, lathering, massage to loosen dirt, and rinse thoroughly. Squeeze out excess water from the dog. Then pour the conditioner over the dog, especially working into the feathers, wait a minute or so, and then rinse it out. For maintenance baths, leave a little conditioner in to moisturize the coat. For show baths, you will rinse all the conditioner out to make sure you don't end up with a greasy look. Use the direction of the hose spray to make the back coat smooth. You may want to comb to separate feathers and blow dry the long hair on your ES. Or take a dog towel and blot the excess moisture out of the dog and then take a dry towel and pin it tightly around the dog's body. Don't let the dog shake because you want the coat to stay nice and smooth. If he does shake, have a pin brush handy and brush the hair down smooth, following the contours of the body straight down the back and then down the sides. Lay a towel on the dog's back with about an inch of the towel extending past the end of the body near the tail. There will be excess towel over the head. Pin one pin tightly under the throat and then fold the excess towel back and pin a second pin again at the very base of the ears high on the neck. You don't want the towel to be at the bottom of the neck because it will make a ridge over the shoulders. For the third pin, pull the feathers against the body out of the way of the pin and then pin tightly under the belly just in front of the loin. Toweling isn't hard, but it's much easier if a Setter person shows you how to do it. There's a demonstration of how to pin a towel on a Setter in the Kettle Moraine English Setter Club's DVD *Groom Your English Setter* and the Irish Setter Club of America's Grooming DVD (see Appendix B). For maintenance baths, you can just towel for an hour or two and then brush the dog out. For show baths, you will bathe the night before, and the dog will sleep all night in the towel for the smoothest possible look for the back coat. You can blow the dog dry with a human hair dryer. Be sure to keep your wet dog in a warm place in the winter.

*The dog on the left has a towel pinned on in the traditional way. Some owners prefer the convenience of a ready-made dog coat that can just be pinned under the loin (right). Such garments are available at [www.groomingcoat.com](http://www.groomingcoat.com) or [www.dogrobe.com](http://www.dogrobe.com) .*



# A Few More Bathing/Grooming Tips

A raised bathtub is really handy for bathing your English Setter. You may be able to find a used bathtub (for example, at Habitat for Humanity or a thrift shop) and build a sturdy platform to put it on if you also have a good drain, for example in a laundry sink. The drain must be lower than the tub, of course. Or, you can purchase a raised groomer's bathtub from most of the online dog supply companies, but these are expensive. If the tub is raised, it saves wear and tear on your back and knees.

However, your own human bathtub is perfectly fine for bathing your English Setter. You can get a hose and spray attachment for your shower head at any hardware store for wetting your dog in your tub.



Always bathe your ES indoors with warm water (exception, hot summer days when cool water from the hose feels good). Not only is a cold bath extremely unpleasant for the dog, but it could also bring on "cold tail," a condition where the tail lies limp and seems numb. A dog with cold tail is in pain and cannot lift its tail level with the back, a sure sign of distress.



A grooming table makes the grooming process much easier. If you don't have one, you can make something that works pretty well. Get a one-inch-thick piece of plywood, 24" x 42," glue a piece of carpet or rubber matting to the entire top, bungee it securely to the top of your dog crate or sturdy table about 30" high, attach a grooming arm with a clamp, and add a loop (a.k.a. grooming noose) that goes around the dog's neck. The arm, clamp, and loop are available from most on-line dog equipment suppliers.

# CHAPTER 10

## *The Health of Your English Setter*

*A variety of factors affect the health of your dog. In addition to regular preventative veterinary care, a balanced diet, clean dry bedding in a draft free area, daily exercise, love, and companionship will go a long way to keeping your pet mentally and physically healthy.*

*This chapter is not intended as a substitute for veterinary care.*

### **IMPORTANT!**

**Seek immediate veterinary treatment for your English Setter when you first notice your dog is “not quite right”. Timely veterinary care can help prevent health problems.**

## **Finding a veterinarian**



As an English Setter's caretaker, it is your responsibility to provide proper veterinary care. Choosing the correct veterinarian for your English Setter is an important decision. Ask for recommendations from your breeder, local dog club or rescue group.

It is important to have confidence in your veterinarian. ***Find out if your vet is available for after-hours emergencies, and if not, who will be available.*** The time to establish a working relationship with a good veterinarian is ***before*** you need it, not when you have an emergency.

## **Pet Insurance**

As the costs of maintaining a pet rise, it may be advisable to consider pet insurance. There are many different programs available. You can find information on pet insurance on the American Kennel Club Website. You should also consult your veterinarian regarding an appropriate policy for your English Setter.



# Preventive Health Measures that Owners Can Take

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- ✓ Buy an English Setter from a reputable breeder who will stand behind the health of the prospective dog. If you adopt from a rescue group, discuss the health issues which may or may not affect your new dog. Pet store and puppy mill English Setters are more susceptible to numerous health problems and genetic defects.
- ✓ Don't overfeed your English Setter. Obesity is harmful to your English Setter's heart and joints.
- ✓ Religiously clean your English Setter's ears twice a month.
- ✓ Trim toenails at least once every ten days to two weeks.
- ✓ Check for impacted anal glands.
- ✓ Brush teeth regularly.
- ✓ Depending on the part of the country you call home, or where you and your pet travel, give your English Setter regular heartworm medication and check for fleas and ticks. Some medications treat Heartworm and fleas/ticks in one monthly tablet.
- ✓ Immunize your English Setter for preventable diseases. Follow your breeder's recommendations for your dog.
- ✓ An English Setter is safest in a secure, fenced area.
- ✓ Make sure you continually "puppy proof" your home to keep your pet safe from toxic substances.
- ✓ If there is any sign of a medical problem, contact your veterinarian immediately.

***Special health alert -- insect bites: Some English Setters are very sensitive to bee stings, spider bites, and insect bites. Signs that your ES might be having a bad reaction to an insect bite are a great deal of swelling of the flews, eye area, and face. The throat may swell so that the dog has a hard time breathing and swallowing. In extreme cases, the dog can go into shock (symptoms are collapse, involuntary urination and defecation, extreme drooling, and pale gums.) Liquid Benadryl may alleviate mild symptoms (if the throat is swollen, it's hard to get a pill into your dog). Talk to your veterinarian about keeping a dose of epinephrine on hand in case of shock. If your dog goes into shock, rush him to your vet.***



# An Owner's Checklist

*Going over your dog regularly can help alert you to any potential health problems.*

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Check your dog's body and legs for any unusual lumps and bumps.

Check your dog's coat. It should be clean and shiny. Look for any bald spots or evidence of fleas or ticks. Poor quality hair coat could indicate hypothyroidism.

Check your dog's eyes. They should be clear and free of discharge.

Your dog's nose should be free of discharge.



Brush and clean your dog's teeth regularly with dog toothpaste and a brush or gauze wrapped around your finger.

Check and clean your dog's ears at least twice a month.

Check your dog's anal glands and rectal area. It should be clean and not irritated. Ask your vet or breeder to show you how to manually empty the anal glands.

Make sure you can feel your dog's ribs under the skin. If you can't feel them easily, he is probably too fat. If ribs, backbone, or hip bones are clearly visible to the eye, he may be too thin.

Cut your dog's toenails at least twice a month. Don't forget to trim the dewclaws if they are present.

# BEWARE of Unprofessional Advice

Your veterinarian should be consulted when your English Setter becomes ill. NEVER medicate your dog without the advice of a veterinarian. Don't try home remedies, remedies from the neighbor, internet chat rooms, etc. Don't use human prescription or nonprescription medicines without the advice of a veterinarian. Even over-the-counter medicines can be deadly. For example, acetaminophen can cause liver failure in dogs.

## Recognizing when your English Setter is “not quite right.”

It is your responsibility to monitor your dog's general condition and learn the importance of recognizing when he is feeling a bit off. While you don't want to assume a loss of appetite or constant lethargy is an emergency, in some cases they may be. Because your English Setter can't “tell” you when he is ill, watch for any changes in behavior such as loss or increase of appetite, restlessness, an unwillingness to move or exercise as usual and withdrawal or depression.

Delays in obtaining necessary treatment can have tragic results for your English Setter. Since your dog cannot speak, it is important that you be able to describe his symptoms as accurately as possible to a veterinarian or other healthcare professional.

If you believe that your dog is not well, check his vital signs, especially his temperature.

### VITAL SIGNS FOR YOUR ADULT ENGLISH SETTER

*These values are considered the norm for a healthy adult dog at rest. You should know what is normal for your dog. Your veterinarian will be happy to show you how to monitor these signs. Rates and temperatures vary in puppies.*

Temperature	101-102.2 Fahrenheit	Use a rectal or digital thermometer with a dab of Vaseline on the tip. Insert it carefully into the rectum. Read after 2 minutes.
Pulse	70-130 beats/minute	Place your fingers just inside the elbow and gently press to count the pulse.
Respiration	10-30 breaths/minute	Watch for movement of the chest.



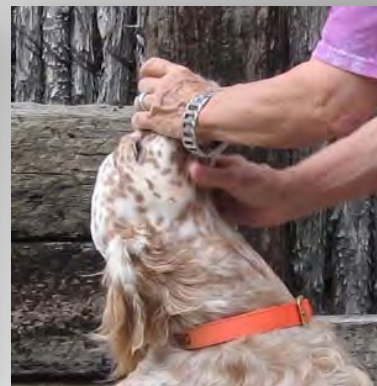
# Administering Medications

## Giving A Prescribed Pill

*There are several ways to give your dog a prescribed pill.*

Hide the pill in a small piece of meat or cheese.

If your English Setter refuses this treat, open his mouth, place the pill at the back of the throat and close the mouth. Stroke the throat and watch for him to swallow while keeping the mouth closed, making sure the pill has been ingested.



*When giving prescribed medication, follow the directions carefully. Don't stop the medication unless directed by your veterinarian.*

## Administering Eye Drops or Ointment

1. With one hand, hold your dog's eye open. Brace the dog's head against your leg to hold it still. With the other hand, gently administer the drops.
2. Make sure you use the correct number of drops or amount of ointment.



***Keep your veterinarian's telephone number next to the phone or on speed dial.  
Ask your vet to help you put together a first aid kit for your dog.***

# Health Care Schedule

*Regularly scheduled checkups are a necessary way to monitor your English Setter's health. Ask your veterinarian what he/she recommends.*

Recommended Veterinary Health Care Check Up Schedule	
<b>Dental</b>	Your veterinarian should examine your dog's teeth yearly, and if necessary, clean the teeth.
<b>Heart-worm and/or Lyme check</b>	Yearly blood tests to check for heartworm and Lyme disease (if prevalent in your area) are recommended.
<b>Physical</b>	A general physical should be performed annually.
<b>Vaccination Boosters</b>	Many infectious diseases may be prevented by maintaining a proper vaccination schedule.
<b>Stool check</b>	The presence of intestinal parasites can cause your pet to lose condition. A twice-a-year general check-up with stool sample worm checks can prevent problems.

***Health note related to weather:*** Most English Setters like cool weather better than heat. They tend to be much more active in cool weather. If you live in a hot climate, plan your vigorous activities for the cool of early morning or evening. Be sure to provide a way for your ES to cool off during the heat of the day. When attending outdoor dog events in hot weather, bring fans, shade cloths, ice, and even a shade canopy to keep your ES from becoming over-heated. The following are signs of heat stroke: rapid panting, bright red tongue, red or pale gums, thick, sticky saliva, weakness, dizziness. If you think your ES may have heat stroke, remove the dog from the hot area immediately. Prior to taking him to your veterinarian, lower his temperature by wetting him thoroughly with cool (not ice cold) water, and increase air movement around him with a fan. Then high-tail it to the vet!



# Preventing Diseases through Vaccination

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*Before you bring your new dog home, check with your vet to be sure that your new English Setter has been adequately inoculated by the breeder.*

*The information below is from [www.peteducation.com](http://www.peteducation.com), a service of Drs. Foster and Smith.*

- As we gain more knowledge regarding the length of immunity produced by vaccinations, vaccines improve to provide a longer *duration of immunity*, and better methods to test immunity are developed, we are seeing changes in the recommended vaccine schedules for dogs and cats. Vaccine schedules are becoming more individually tailored to the animal. In the future, most vaccines will not be given annually, and vaccine rotation will be more common e.g., vaccinate against disease "A" one year, against disease "B" the next year, disease "C" the third year, and then repeat the rotation.
- The American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Biologics and Therapeutics Agents has recently released a report that includes recommendations on the vaccination of dogs and cats. Some of the main points made in the report are:
  - ✓ Vaccinations are an important part of preventive medicine.
  - ✓ Vaccination is associated with benefits and risks for animals. Knowledge of immunology and vaccines, including associated benefits and risks of vaccine use and the patho-biology of infectious diseases, is necessary to implement an effective individualized vaccination program.
  - ✓ Individual animals will require different vaccines and vaccination programs. The probability of exposure to the organism, susceptibility, severity of the disease, efficacy and safety of the vaccine, potential public health concerns, and owner's preferences should be taken into consideration.
  - ✓ Re-vaccination recommendations should be designed to create and maintain immunity to disease while minimizing the risk of adverse effects. The practice of re-vaccinating animals annually is largely based on historic precedent supported by minimal scientific data. There is increasing evidence that some vaccines provide immunity beyond 1 year. Unnecessary stimulation of the immune system does not result in increased resistance to disease and may expose animals to unnecessary risks.
  - ✓ Vaccines should be divided into two classes: core and noncore. **Core vaccines** are defined as those that are appropriate to provide protection in most animals against diseases that pose a risk of severe disease because the pathogens are virulent, highly infectious, and widely distributed in the region. Core vaccines are considered to be highly efficacious, to have benefit-risk ratios high enough to warrant their general use, to be of substantial public health importance, or are required by law. **Noncore vaccines** meet one or more of the following conditions: they target diseases that are of limited risk in the geographic region or in the lifestyle of the pet, they help protect against diseases that represent less severe threats to infected animals, their benefit-risk ratios are too low to warrant product use in all circumstances, or inadequate scientific information is available to evaluate them. Veterinarians and owners/clients need to carefully consider the benefits and risks of using noncore vaccine products on an individual basis.



Component	Class	Efficacy	Length of Immunity	Risk/Severity of Adverse Effects	Comments
Canine Distemper	Core	High	> 1 year for modified live virus (MLV) vaccines	Low	
Measles	Noncore	High in preventing disease, but not in preventing infection	Long	Infrequent	Use in high risk environments for canine distemper in puppies 4-10 weeks of age
Parvovirus	Core	High	> 1 year	Low	
Hepatitis (aka Adenovirus)	Core	High	> 1 year	Low	Only use canine adenovirus-2 (CAV-2) vaccines
Rabies	Core	High	Dependent upon type of vaccine	Low to moderate	Required by law
Respiratory disease from canine adenovirus-2 (CAV-2)	Noncore	Not adequately studied	Short	Minimal	If vaccination warranted, boost annually or more frequently
Parainfluenza	Noncore	Intranasal MLV - Moderate Injectable MLV - Low	Moderate	Low	Only recommended for dogs in kennels, shelters, shows, or large colonies; If vaccination warranted, boost annually or more frequently
Bordetella	Noncore	Intranasal MLV - Moderate Injectable MLV - Low	Short	Low	For the most benefit, use intranasal vaccine 2 weeks prior to exposure
Leptospirosis	Noncore	Variable	Short	High	Up to 30% of dogs may not respond to vaccine
Coronavirus	Noncore	Low	Short	Low	Risk of exposure high in kennels, shelters, shows, breeding facilities
Lyme	Noncore	Appears to be limited to previously unexposed dogs; variable	Revaccinate annually	Moderate	

# The English Setter Senior Citizen

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*As your English Setter matures into his “golden” years, there are several things you can do to assure his health and well-being.*

*A senior ES takes a break from the heat.*

Much the same as humans, as an English Setter grows older, he may be affected by arthritis, loss of vision and hearing, lessened bladder and bowel control, and slowing metabolism that leads to weight gain. Your English Setter’s yearly veterinary check up becomes more important as he approaches 10 or 11 years of age.

As he gets older, your English Setter’s muzzle may grey and he may become less interested in playing if he is particularly achy or tired. Potty habits of your English Setter may change with age. He may need to go more frequently. Pay close attention to these habits as they can alert you to a potential problem. If his hearing diminishes, make sure that your dog is not startled when sleeping. Some senior dogs develop cataracts which can cause some vision impairment.

Arthritis can lead to stiffness, lameness or some discomfort for an older English Setter. Climbing stairs and getting in and out of cars may become increasingly difficult. Be ready to help your dog. Your veterinarian may be able to make him more comfortable with medications.

Regular tooth brushing, grooming and nail trimming should continue. Not only will it alert you to the existence of a lump or infection, it will help maintain his coat and skin. Proper diet, exercise and good preventative care can help provide your senior English Setter a long, happy life.

With good care and a little luck, English Setters can live to 13 or 14 years of age.

## CHAPTER 11

# *Should I Breed My English Setter?*

Unless you have purchased a “show quality” English Setter and have a pre-arranged future breeding agreement with a reputable breeder, it is not advisable to breed your pet. English Setters that are purchased from pet stores or backyard breeders *should not be bred* because their puppies will not improve the breed as a whole, which is the goal of a responsible breeder.

### Do not breed your English Setter for any of the following reasons:

- ❑ You love your pet’s personality and want to have puppies like him or her.
- ❑ You think it would be a good experience for your children to see the “miracle of birth.” *Whelping a litter of English Setter puppies is very difficult and expensive, and maintaining a litter is very time consuming. Many problems can arise that put both mother and pups at serious risk.*
- ❑ You plan to make money on the litter. *Most breeders lose money raising litters. Their goal is to improve the breed and they accept monetary loss as part of the endeavor. The fact is that breeding a bitch, whelping, and raising a litter to an appropriate placement age is extremely expensive.*
- ❑ It will provide a nurturing or sexual experience for your pet.

**THE ABOVE ARE ALL THE WRONG REASONS TO BREED YOUR PET ENGLISH SETTER!**





*A litter should be bred only after much thought, study, and research and with the help of an experienced breeder who is also a mentor.*

**IF YOU DECIDE TO BREED YOUR ENGLISH SETTER,  
MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED TO DO THE  
FOLLOWING:**

- ✓ Have flexible working hours.
- ✓ Be able to function on little or almost no sleep. It may be necessary to supplement feed puppies if the mother is unable to or doesn't produce enough milk.
- ✓ Have a least one person to stay with the puppies at all times for a minimum of two and a half to three weeks.
- ✓ Be prepared to deal with illness or death of any puppies you place or decide to keep.
- ✓ Be prepared to deal with the death or illness of your English Setter bitch.
- ✓ Be prepared to keep puppies you can't place. If a great home is not available for each puppy, you should keep that puppy yourself.
- ✓ Be aware that puppies are extremely noisy and require hours of cleaning up after and socializing.
- ✓ Be aware that you are responsible if you place puppies that are not healthy. You need to be prepared to pay for any health issues which arise due to genetic defects.
- ✓ Be aware that you will need to take puppies back if they do not work out in the homes you have placed them in.
- ✓ Be prepared to pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars in vet bills if something "goes wrong" with the litter.
- ✓ Double check the contract for the pet you bought and make sure there are no restrictions on breeding your English Setter.

## CHAPTER 12

# *Training Your English Setter*

Providing some basic training for your English Setter will make him a safer and happier pet and a more welcome member of your family. Participating in a local training class can be a rewarding experience for both you and your new puppy or adult companion. Local dog clubs, veterinarians, pet supply stores, online resources, and local newspapers may have information about classes available in your area. Whether you choose to go to a class, or proceed on your own at home, a few basic skills will help your pet become a socially acceptable member of your family. English Setters do not respond well to harsh corrections. They need an encouraging and rewarding atmosphere and positive reinforcement (treats and praise). The more training you do with your ES, the more his brain will develop, and the more he will be able to do.



Rather than allowing your English Setter to develop bad habits, basic training should begin as soon as possible after you bring your pet home. Both young puppies and more mature adults can begin to learn the basics.

Patience, persistence and practical knowledge will aid you in training your English Setter. Training times should be short - no more than five or ten minutes per session several times a week. It is important that you and your dog enjoy the experience. Your dog will love and thrive on the one-on-one attention he gets in your training sessions, and this will strengthen the bond between you. The family member who gets to train the dog is the lucky one.

### *Starting leash training*



### *A treat for a job well done*

## **Rewards and Praise**

Enthusiastic praise for a correct behavior is a big key to successfully training your dog. Food rewards are helpful but remember that your English Setter has a keen nose and will know when you have a treat available and when you don't! If the only purpose of doing an exercise correctly is to receive a treat, when a treat isn't available, your English Setter may choose to hold out, but he can always have access to your approving smile and a big "atta boy (or girl)". Use both praise and food rewards.

# No!

For your puppy's safety, "No" should be the first word you teach. "No" is your puppy's signal to stop whatever he is doing immediately.

## Leash training

A lightweight buckle or clip-on collar is the best choice to start your puppy's early leash training. Let your puppy get used to the feel of the collar and when he is accustomed to it, clip a leash on and encourage him to follow you. Try a few steps at a time, then gradually lengthen the distance. Praise your puppy when he follows, and give him encouragement. The earlier you start, the earlier he will learn this lesson.

## Leather or Nylon Buckle or Clip Collars

For puppies and most adults, a leather or nylon buckle or clip-on collar works well. It is important to adjust the collar correctly so the puppy cannot back out of the collar and pull away from you and get loose.

## Choke collars

Choke collars must ALWAYS be removed after training sessions. There is a danger of strangling should the collar get caught on an object. It is best not to use a choke collar on young puppies. A sharp correction can injure their throats. The leash should attach to the live ring. When you give a soft pull on the leash, the live ring will move up toward you, and the dead ring will tighten. When you lower the lead, the (dead) ring will release. If the collar is on backwards, the dead ring will not release. Be sure to have an experienced person demonstrate how to use a choke collar before using it on your ES. Many ES trainers rely on a buckle collar, never using a choke collar at all.



*Above: A choke collar – use with caution, or it may live up to its name.*



*A rolled leather buckle collar is a safe choice and a good match for the soft temperament of the English Setter. Or, choose a martingale collar (below); the dog can't back out of this collar.*





# Haltis and Prong Collars



There are several head collars on the market today and various disagreements regarding their usage. They operate on the premise that where the head goes, the body must follow. If you choose to use one, make sure it is of the type that buckles around the neck and acts as a collar should the dog remove his nose from the 'muzzle' portion.

If you are having a lot of trouble controlling your dog on lead, you might consider the use of a prong collar. You definitely need the help of an experienced person before using one of these. It should never be left on the dog between training sessions, and its use should be phased out as soon as you have consistent control of your dog.



## Puppy Kindergarten

Puppy Kindergarten is a class which is designed to give basic training for young puppies. Kindergarten will provide a great venue to socialize your puppy and assist you in teaching your puppy basic commands like come, sit, stay, and down. Your trainers at Kindergarten will be able to help solve any problems you may be having at home. If you don't have a training class available in your area, you can train your puppy at home, but you should be certain to take your young puppy to many different places, such as pet supply stores, hardware stores, the mall, and outdoor athletic events, for social development.



*This puppy responds well to praise and love.*

## Novice or Beginning Obedience Class

Classes are designed for adult dogs and puppies over 6 months of age. Beginning obedience commands include heel, stand, sit, down, stay and come. This class provides your dog with the opportunity to learn skills which will help him to behave well in public, as well as at home. If you have an interest in participating in organized obedience trials, these classes provide a good beginning. Should you then decide to move to more formal obedience training to ready yourselves for obedience competition, you and your dog will be well prepared.

## Sit!

*As in all training, there are several ways to do particular exercises. We've included two ways here for you to consider.*

Hold a small treat above your puppy's nose. Lift the treat up and back. Puppies will often sit to reach for the treat. After he sits, give him the treat. This method is illustrated below.

Another way is to have your puppy on lead, and give him the sit command. Press lightly down on the hindquarters. You may need to bring his head gently back and nose up while pressing on his hindquarters. When he sits, praise him enthusiastically.

A second or two of good behavior is a good start. Gradually increase the time. If your English Setter breaks from the sit, place him back to the sit position and repeat the sit command.

When the exercise is finished, your English Setter may leave the sit position. If you plan to do any formal obedience, use a release command to tell him it's okay to move from the sit. "Okay" is one example.



Begin with your dog standing in front of you on lead. (Later move him to your left side with both of you facing the same direction.)



Lift your treat over the dog's head and backward.



When the dog sits, give the treat, stand up straight and praise.

# Stay!

*After your English Setter has a dependable understanding of the “Sit” command, you can begin to teach your dog to “Stay.”*

Start with your dog on leash, give the “sit” command and follow that closely with “Stay”. While you give the “Stay” command, place your palm toward the nose of the dog. Step directly in front and facing your dog, standing toe to toe. If your English Setter tries to leave his position, correct the behavior by quickly returning him to his sit position, and again give the “Stay” command. When he has stayed in place, step back beside your dog and give him his release command. Reward him with praise for a job well done!

Begin with just a few seconds and gradually lengthen the time your dog stays, as well as your distance from him. Over time, your dog will learn to stay, even when you are many steps away. Don't try too much too soon.



Follow the sit command closely with ‘Stay’, flat palm toward the dog’s nose.



Step in front, facing your dog toe to toe.



Over time, gradually increase the time and then the distance during the sit stay.



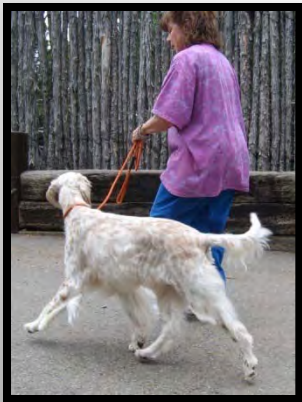


# Come!

*Before you teach your puppy to ‘Come!’, he first needs to learn his name. This is one of the most important commands you can teach your puppy. If your puppy sneaks out the door without his leash, you may save his life if he knows the ‘Come’ command.*

All training exercises should be taught with your puppy on a leash and collar. When teaching your puppy to come, call his name, followed by Come! The tone of your voice should be both pleasant and loud enough to hear, not threatening. Do this in a small area where you have your puppy’s undivided attention. Start walking forward, stop, call the dog’s name and “come” then trot backwards, encouraging the dog to come to you with a gentle tug on the leash. Run just a few steps, stop, and reward him with lavish praise and enthusiasm. Over time, gradually increase the distance your puppy comes to you. Keep your puppy on lead while you do this so you can encourage his progress toward you if need be.

Don’t use the “Come” command to call your English Setter to discipline a mistake in behavior, such as a housetraining or chewing incident, or for anything your dog finds unpleasant, like a bath. If he comes to you and gets in trouble for it, he won’t want to come to you at all.



Start out walking forward. Then stop and trot backward.



Call his name, say ‘come!’, run backwards, encourage him to come to you, praise and treat when he does.

# Down!

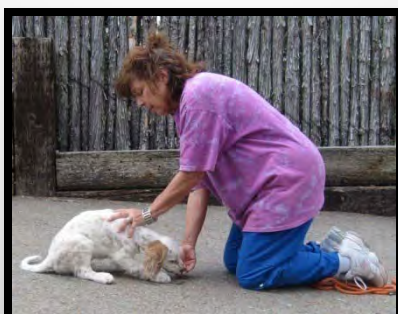
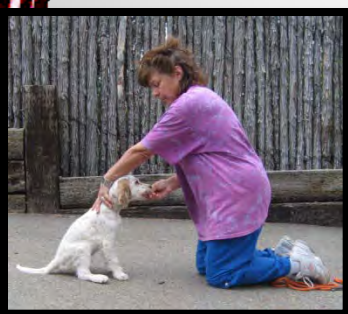
*The ability to lie down on command is a behavior that will serve your English Setter well, especially when you have guests in your home.*

One method to down your English Setter is from a standing position so the dog folds backward like a concertina.



Begin with dog standing in front of you. With a treat in one hand, put the treat hand in front of the dog's mouth, push back gently with the treat while a hand on his shoulders also pushes back gently.

Another method is to slide a treat down and forward while your dog is sitting, and as he follows the treat with his nose, he will gradually lie down. To encourage him, press very gently downward on his shoulders.



# Down/Stay!

The down stay is taught the same as the sit/stay.





## Walk!

*Your English Setter should walk properly on a lead. Your walks will be much more enjoyable when you go for a walk, rather than for a “gag and drag” or a pull fest. When you are in a congested area, near doors or stairs, it is much safer for both you and your dog if he walks properly on lead.*

With a puppy, use a clip-on or buckle collar. Begin with your dog in the sit position. Call your dog’s name followed by ‘Let’s Go.’ (Heeling is a precise activity reserved for formal obedience training.) Your dog should walk on your left side, with the leash in your left hand, and the excess leash folded up. A quick short tug (or pop) on the lead will help keep your dog in the correct position. You must not maintain a steady pull. To do so will choke your dog. Discourage your dog from sniffing the ground with a slight pop and the words, “no sniff” or “leave it” . Use your voice to encourage your dog. The goal is for your dog to stay in place near your side on a loose leash.



Begin the exercise with your dog in the sit position on your left.

Call your dog’s name, followed by ‘let’s go’ and step forward.



*If your dog pulls you hard while walking on leash, you need to find a training class to help you with this issue.*



## CHAPTER 13

# Traveling With Your English Setter

## Traveling by Car

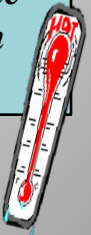
*Your English Setter should be comfortable traveling by car. If your dog gets carsick, take him on short neighborhood trips to allow him to become used to the car. You may want to tie a bib or towel around his neck to keep his coat cleaner. Consult your veterinarian for medication to help relieve symptoms of car sickness.*



- Traveling in a crate is the safest method of travel for your English Setter.
- Your dog's chances of surviving an accident are much greater in a crate. A dog riding quietly in a crate is much less distracting than one loose in the car. Leave a leash and collar clipped to the crate. In the event of an accident, you want yourself or your rescuers to be able to take your dog to safety immediately.
- A safety harness is the next best thing to crating your pet.
- Never allow your dog to ride in the back of a pick-up truck. This is both dangerous, and in some places, illegal.
- Don't feed your dog less than an hour before you travel.



***Don't leave your dog alone in a parked car. Temperatures can rise to deadly levels (120 degrees inside the car) within five minutes on a warm day.***

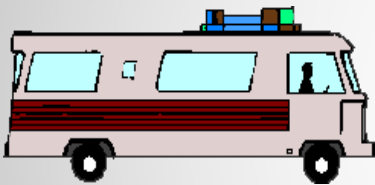


## Vacations: Traveling Responsibly

Although you love your dog, not everyone shares that same feeling. As a responsible dog owner you should never allow your dog to disturb others. Your English Setter should be kept on a leash at all times when not crated. You should always pick up your English Setter's poop.

- Whether you are staying overnight or visiting just for the day, make sure that you know the pet policy at your destination.
- Clean up after your dog exercises.*
- Motels don't appreciate dog hair or damage in their rooms. Keep your dog crated while you are in the room and don't leave your dog in the room unattended. Dogs left unattended can be destructive and noisy. ***Help the motels that are pet friendly stay that way by being responsible.***
- Don't allow your English Setter to run loose.
- Many theme parks and other vacation destinations don't allow pets but do provide boarding facilities to use while you are visiting. Make sure you take a copy of your English Setter's vaccination records with you when you travel.

## Recreational Vehicle Travel



Don't leave your pet unattended in your RV. Should your air conditioner or generator fail, or if you have a fire, your English Setter will be defenseless. Keep a leash and collar ready at all times to evacuate your dog.

## Air Travel

You will need the following:

- Health Certificate issued within 10 days of the day you travel
- Rabies certificate and at times, a certificate of acclimation (in case of extreme temperatures)
- Crate rated for air travel
- Airline requirements vary; make sure you check for current requirements. Travel outside the United States or to Hawaii usually requires additional paperwork.



Plastic bowls for food and water should be attached to the inside of the crate and a small bag of food and bottle of water taped to the top of your dog's crate. PetSmart sells a travel kit with bowls, signs, and other handy items. You should attach your travel itinerary, including phone numbers in case your dog is misrouted or doesn't arrive at his destination. Your crate should be well labeled with name, address and phone numbers.

# General Travel Tips

- ✓ Exercise your dog before you travel and give regular potty breaks during travel.
- ✓ Always clean up after your English Setter.
- ✓ Make sure your English Setter is comfortable traveling in your vehicle. A few short trips around your neighborhood are good practice for your pet.
- ✓ Bring water, food and any medication your English Setter needs along with an extra amount in case your return home is delayed.
- ✓ Carry a photograph of your dog in case he gets separated from you.
- ✓ Make sure you have a leash, collar and your English Setter's ID tags.
- ✓ It is a good idea to have your dog identified by microchip.
- ✓ Keep his vaccination record with you in case you need to unexpectedly board him at a kennel.

## Flight Tips

- ✓ If possible, schedule nonstop or direct flights.
- ✓ If a direct flight is not possible, make sure the connection time is at least one to two hours long so that baggage handlers have time to move your pet from one plane to another.
- ✓ When you check in for your flight, and at each connecting flight when you board, notify the airline attendants that you are traveling with your pet and ask them to inform you when your dog is loaded.
- ✓ Make sure you carry a leash and collar with you. When you arrive you will be able to exercise your dog.
- ✓ Don't feed your dog within two hours of shipping.
- ✓ If your trip is longer than ten days, make sure your paperwork is in order for the return trip.



# Boarding Your English Setter or Using a Pet Sitter

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Should you be unable to travel *with* your pet, your veterinarian or dog friends may be able to recommend a good boarding kennel. Prior to your vacation, tour the facility. Make sure the temperature is comfortable, and ask to see both the outdoor and indoor areas. Both areas should be very secure, clean and odor free. Ask for references. Expect boarding facilities to require a copy of an up-to-date vaccination record for your dog.

If you don't wish to board your pet, consider a pet sitter for your home. Your veterinarian may be able to recommend one. Ask for references. Make sure your pet sitter can drive in the event of an emergency.

- ✓ Notify the kennel or pet sitter of your English Setter's special needs and provide his health history. *For a boarding kennel, you'll need proof of vaccinations.*
- ✓ Provide the food and medication your pet requires during your absence. *Supply extra food and medication in case your return home is delayed.*
- ✓ Leave a detailed itinerary, including phone numbers where you may be reached in case of emergency.
- ✓ Leave your veterinarian's name and phone number. *Depending on your vet's office policy, consider authorizing treatment charges for your veterinarian for emergency care.*

## Everyday Emergencies

A variety of unexpected events can prevent your return home to care for your pet. It's a good idea to have a trusted friend or neighbor on call to fill in for you. They should have a key for access to your home, be familiar with your pet and its habits, and have access to your pet's disaster supply kit (*see next page*).

## Evacuating with your English Setter

Depending on where you live, you, your family *and* your dog may need to evacuate your home quickly. Fire, tornadoes, hurricanes and floods can all require immediate evacuation. While there may be times when you have a few hours notice, most times you will have little or no warning.

Being prepared and knowing proper emergency procedures in your area can make a life-saving difference for you and your English Setter.

Disaster preparedness information can usually be found by contacting your local government officials or dog club. The American Red Cross has information available on its website <http://www.redcross-cmd.org/Chapter/Services/animal.html> . With the exception of service dogs, most emergency shelters, including those set up by the Red Cross, do not allow pets.

## Disaster Preparedness

### *Plan ahead to protect your family and your English Setter*

<b>Where to go?</b>	Family or friends may be able provide safe haven during a disaster. If not, locate several hotels in nearby states that accept pets. Make sure you have those phone numbers and driving directions. Keep them in your pet's disaster supply kit. <b><u>If disaster strikes and you need to evacuate, don't, don't, don't leave your dog(s) or any other pets behind.</u></b>
<b>Identify your dog.</b>	Your dog should travel with his ID tags and be microchipped in the event that you are separated from him.
<b>Your Pet's Disaster Supply Kit.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Leash, collar, ID tags (In the event you are separated from your dog during a disaster, you should include information on your prearranged location on adhesive tape on the back of his tag.)</li> <li>✓ Medications with instructions, vaccination records and medical history</li> <li>✓ Several days food and bottled water for your English Setter (include can opener, spoon, and food bowls)</li> <li>✓ Crate with bedding and a few dog "toys or chews"</li> <li>✓ Photocopy of AKC papers, tattoo or microchip information and photo of your dog</li> <li>✓ Paper towels, plastic "pick up" bags to keep things tidy, and towels</li> </ul>

*This kit should be assembled and reviewed regularly to make sure information is still current and food and medication still fresh.*

**Additional information on Disaster Preparedness may be found on the website of the American Red Cross . <http://www.redcross-cmd.org/Chapter/Services/animal.html>**

## APPENDIX A



### *English Setter Association of America Description, Code of Ethics, and Official Breed Standard*

The English Setter Association of America is the national club for the English Setter in the United States of America. ESAA is the guardian of the breed and determines the official breed conformation standard. Its members are dedicated to the responsible breeding and ownership of the English Setter. ESAA advances and protects the interest of the breed through events, education, research, and rescue.

ESAA is dedicated to providing information for persons wishing to adopt or purchase an English Setter. Prospective English Setter owners can locate regional English Setter clubs, ES breeders who are ESAA members and have signed the club's code of ethics, or find English Setters to adopt through recognized rescue organizations.

*There are 23 ESAA Member Clubs spread throughout United States. The English Setter Association of America has booklets available on the breed. In addition, the club's website has a great deal of information about the English Setter, including a number of health-oriented links. Schedules of events as well as breeder, membership and rescue information are also included. The ESAA website is located at [www.esaa.com](http://www.esaa.com).*



# ESAA Code of Ethics

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I understand that membership in the English Setter Association of America is a pledge of sportsmanship, ethics, and responsibility and that as a member:

- I am the caretaker not only of the individual dog but of the reputation and welfare of the breed as a whole.
- It is my responsibility to educate the public and to explain, define, and protect the breed.
- It is incumbent upon me to set the example of each dog being individually cherished but only the physically and temperamentally sound being bred.
- I accept the premise that if I breed a litter those dogs are my responsibility throughout their lifetime.
- My conduct and actions in the sport should reflect positively upon the Association and other fanciers of the breed.
- I will volunteer my time and talents in Association works and endeavors.
- I will encourage the novice, guide the beginner, and school the student while myself seeking to exhibit the friendly sportsmanship that befits this gentlemen's breed.

# Official Standard of the English Setter

*Recognized by the American Kennel Club*

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## General Appearance

An elegant, substantial, and symmetrical gun dog suggesting the ideal blend of strength, stamina, grace, and style. Flat-coated with feathering of good length. Gaiting freely and smoothly with long forward reach, strong rear drive, and firm topline. Males decidedly masculine without coarseness. Females decidedly feminine without over-refinement. Overall appearance, balance, gait, and purpose to be given more emphasis than any component part. Above all, extremes of anything distort type and must be faulted.

## Head

Size and proportion in harmony with body. Long and lean with a well-defined stop. When viewed from the side, head planes (top of muzzle, top of skull, and bottom of lower jaw) are parallel. *Skull*--oval when viewed from above, of medium width, without coarseness, and only slightly wider at the earset than at the brow. Moderately defined occipital protuberance. Length of skull from occiput to stop equal to length of muzzle. *Muzzle*--long and square when viewed from the side, of good depth with flews squared and fairly pendant. Width in harmony with width of skull and equal at nose and stop. Level from eyes to tip of nose. *Nose*--black or dark brown, fully pigmented. Nostrils wide apart and large. *Foreface*--skeletal structure under the eyes well chiseled with no suggestion of fullness. Cheeks present a smooth and clean-cut appearance. *Teeth*--close scissors bite preferred. Even bite acceptable. *Eyes*--dark brown, the darker the better. Bright and spaced to give a mild and intelligent expression. Nearly round, fairly large, neither deepset nor protruding. Eyelid rims dark and fully pigmented. Lids fit tightly so that no haw is exposed. *Ears*--set well back and low, even with or below eye level. When relaxed carried close to the head. Of moderate length, slightly rounded at the ends, moderately thin ear leather, and covered with silky hair.

## Neck and Body

*Neck*--long and graceful, muscular and lean. Arched at the crest and clean-cut where it joins the head at the base of the skull. Larger and more muscular toward the shoulders with the base of the neck flowing smoothly into the shoulders. Not too throaty. *Topline*--in motion or standing appears level or slightly sloping downward without sway or drop from withers to tail forming a graceful outline of medium length. *Forechest*--well developed, point of sternum projecting slightly in front of point of shoulder/upper arm joint. *Chest*--deep, but not so wide or round as to interfere with the action of the forelegs. Brisket deep enough to reach the level of the elbow. *Ribs*--long, springing gradually to the middle of the body, then tapering as they approach the end of the chest cavity. *Back*--straight and strong at its junction with loin. *Loin*--strong, moderate in length, slightly arched. *Tuck-up*--moderate. *Hips*--croup nearly flat. Hip bones wide apart, hips rounded and blending smoothly into hind legs. *Tail*--a smooth continuation of the topline. Tapering to a fine point with only sufficient length to reach the hock joint or slightly less. Carried straight and level with the back. Feathering straight and silky, hanging loosely in a fringe.

## Forequarters

*Shoulder*--shoulder blade well laid back. Upper arm equal in length to and forming a nearly right angle with the shoulder blade. Shoulders fairly close together at the tips. Shoulder blades lie flat and meld smoothly with contour of body. *Forelegs*--from front or side, forelegs straight and parallel. Elbows have no tendency to turn in or out when standing or gaiting. Arm flat and muscular. Bone substantial but not coarse and muscles hard and devoid of flabbiness. *Pasterns*--short, strong, and nearly round with the slope deviating very slightly forward from the perpendicular. *Feet*--face directly forward. Toes closely set, strong and well arched. Pads well developed and tough. Dewclaws may be removed.



## Hindquarters

Wide, muscular thighs and well-developed lower thighs. Pelvis equal in length to and forming a nearly right angle with upper thigh. In balance with forequarter assembly. Stifle well bent and strong. Lower thigh only slightly longer than upper thigh. Hock joint well bent and strong. Rear pastern short, strong, nearly round, and perpendicular to the ground. Hind legs, when seen from the rear, straight and parallel to each other. Hock joints have no tendency to turn in or out when standing or gaiting.

## Coat

Flat without curl or wooliness. Feathering on ears, chest, abdomen, underside of thighs, back of all legs, and on the tail of good length but not so excessive as to hide true lines and movement or to affect the dog's appearance or function as a sporting dog.

## Markings and Color

*Markings*--white ground color with intermingling of darker hairs resulting in belton markings varying in degree from clear distinct flecking to roan shading but flecked all over preferred. Head and ear patches acceptable. Heavy patches of color on the body undesirable. *Color*--orange belton, blue belton (white with black markings) tricolor (blue belton with tan on muzzle, over the eyes, and on the legs), lemon belton, liver belton.

## Movement and Carriage

An effortless, graceful movement demonstrating endurance while covering ground efficiently. Long forward reach and strong rear drive with a lively tail and a proud head carriage. Head may be carried slightly lower when moving to allow for greater reach of forelegs. The back strong, firm, and free of roll. When moving at a trot, as speed increases, the legs tend to converge toward a line representing the center of gravity.

## Size

Dogs about 25 inches; bitches, about 24 inches.

## Temperament

Gentle, affectionate, friendly without shyness, fear, or viciousness.



Standard approved November 11, 1986.

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## APPENDIX B

# USEFUL BOOKS AND RESOURCES

### About the English Setter

- *English Setter Visualization of the Standard*. Published by the English Setter Association of America, Inc. Available from Judges' Education Coordinator; consult the ESAA Secretary for the name and address of the current Judges' Education Coordinator.
- ESAA Annuals. Produced since the 1960s, these are a treasure trove of living modern breed history. If old Annuals become available (e-bay, owner selling them) it's wise to snap them up. A new Annual is produced every year, and you can find information about the current year's Annual in the ESAA Newsletter.
- Tuck, Davis, Elsworth Howell and Judy Graef, *The New Complete English Setter*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Howell Book House, 1982. This is the standard reference, but it is out of print. You can sometimes find it on eBay or Amazon.com. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition is the most recent, but editions 1 through 3 are also valuable guides and have photos of dogs from the past that are not in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition.
- Brown, Marsha Hall, *The Essence of Setters: An In-Depth Study of the Four Setters*, Doral Publishing, 2002.
- Sparkes, Craig S., *The History of English Setter Show Dogs: The Story of the Greatest English Setter Show Dogs in AKC History*, Doral Publishing, 2003.
- Snowden, Ray-Lynn, compiler, *English, Irish, and Gordon Setter Roots*, available from [www.showdogsuccess.com](http://www.showdogsuccess.com).
- Laverack, Edward, *The Setter*, 1872.

### Health Care

- Carlson, D.G. & Giffin, J.M. 1992. *Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook*. New York: Howell.
- *Merck Veterinary Manual* online at [www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp](http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp)

### Web Site Resources

- English Setter Association of America [www.esaa.com](http://www.esaa.com)
- The American Kennel Club [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)
- ASPCA Poison Control Center [www.aspcapoisoncontrol.org](http://www.aspcapoisoncontrol.org)
- Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)
- English Setter Rescue complete list of contacts, [www.esaa.com/Rescue/RescueContacts](http://www.esaa.com/Rescue/RescueContacts)
- English Setter Club of Canada, [www.englishsetterclubofcanada.com](http://www.englishsetterclubofcanada.com)





## DVDs

- Kettle Moraine English Setter Club, *Groom Your English Setter*, [www.kmesc.org](http://www.kmesc.org)
- Irish Setter Club of America, *Grooming Your Irish Setter*, (techniques are similar to grooming English Setters), [www.irishsetterclub.org/isca\\_foundation.html#DVD](http://www.irishsetterclub.org/isca_foundation.html#DVD)

***For information on how you can become a member of the English Setter Association of America (ESAA) refer to the Membership Application on the next two pages, or download an application from the ESAA web site, [www.esaa.com](http://www.esaa.com)***

Renewal: What Years? \_\_\_\_\_ New

Date Postmarked \_\_\_\_\_ Recd \_\_\_\_\_ Ack \_\_\_\_\_



# 2009 ESAA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

## ESAA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

I hereby make application for membership in the English Setter Association of America, Inc. and enclose dues in accordance with the ESAA Constitution and By-Laws and the ESAA Code of Ethics (see reverse side). I also agree to abide by the ESAA Constitution and By-Laws, ESAA Code of Ethics, and the Rules of the American Kennel Club.

### PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.

Mrs.

Mr. & Mrs.

Miss/Ms.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(If family, include all adults' names)

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have read the ESAA Code of Ethics shown on the back side of this application and agree with its contents. If signature is not included, application cannot be accepted and will be returned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Member/s Name/s - PRINT PLAINLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Member/s Signature)

Endorsed by Two ESAA Members (over 18 years of age - not of same household)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sponsor's Name - PRINT PLAINLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sponsor's Name - PRINT PLAINLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sponsor's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sponsor's Signature)

_____ CLUBS _____	\$50.00	
_____ FAMILY _____	\$50.00	<u>(2 Adults/Children under 18 years or 1 Adult/Children under 18)</u>
_____ SINGLE _____	\$40.00	
_____ JUNIOR _____	\$ 5.00	Date of Birth <u> / /</u>

\_\_\_\_\_ Surcharge for Members residing in Canada or Mexico (Non-U.S. North American Continent)...\$15.00\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Surcharge for At Large Members (non-North American Continent)...\$30.00\*

(\*Applicants who do not reside in the Continental U.S., Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico **MUST PAY A SURCHARGE if they wish to receive a paper copy of the ESAA Newsletter**. Any non-Continental U.S., Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico member who opts to receive their newsletter electronically will not be charged a surcharge)

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you do not want to receive a paper copy of the ESAA newsletter and wish to receive your ESAA newsletter electronically (a check in this column will negate the need for a surcharge)

RESCUE FUND DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All funds **MUST BE** in U.S. Currency.

HEALTH/GENETIC DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ESAA dues are **NOT** tax deductible.

*Make checks payable to ESAA and mail to the ESAA Membership Chairman:*

**Sandy Miller • 127 Glenwood Road • Rossford OH 43460**

**WHEN SENDING FED-EX—UPS—PRIORITY OR EXPRESS MAIL—WAIVE SIGNATURE**

**MUST INCLUDE BOTH PAGES WHEN SUBMITTING YOUR RENEWAL FORM.**

## **BY-LAWS—Article I—Membership**

SECTION 1. Eligibility. There shall be one type of voting membership, open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Association. Additionally, non-voting memberships shall be available to Juniors (under the age of eighteen) and to local English Setter Clubs recognized by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Dues. Membership dues in an amount established prior to the month of November by the Board of Directors are payable on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January each year. The Board may establish a special family-dues rate for two adults and children under the age of eighteen and/or one adult and children under the age of eighteen. Any member whose dues are not paid for the current year shall be considered not in good standing and shall not be entitled to nominate candidates for office, be a candidate for office, hold office, vote or receive any privileges of Association membership. A statement of his dues for ensuing year shall be sent to each member no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.

SECTION 3. Election to Membership. Each Applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these Constitution and By-Laws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name and address of the applicant and shall carry the endorsement of two members, not of the same household. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

Upon receipt of the application, the applicant's name and address shall be printed in the Association Newsletter. Unless an objection in writing is received by the Secretary within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of the Newsletter, the applicant shall become a member of the Association. If such objection is received, no later than sixty (60) days following receipt of such objection, the Board of Directors by written mail vote shall pass on the applicant. Affirmative votes by 2/3 of the Board members voting shall be required to elect such applicant.

An application which as failed acceptance by the Board may be presented by one of the applicant's endorsers at the next meeting of the Association and the Association may elect such applicant by favorable vote of 75% of the members present.

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership. Membership may be terminated:

- (a.) By Resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Association upon written notice to the Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the Association. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Association and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- (b.) By Lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid thirty (30) days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional thirty (30) days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases.
- (c.) By expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these By-laws.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

I understand that membership in the English Setter Association of America is a pledge of sportsmanship, ethics, and responsibility and that as a member:

- I am the caretaker not only of the individual dog but of the reputation and welfare of the breed as a whole.
- It is my responsibility to educate the public and to explain, define, and protect the breed.
- It is incumbent upon me to set the example of each dog being individually cherished but only the physically and temperamentally sound being bred.
- I accept the premise that if I breed a litter those dogs are my responsibility throughout their lifetime.
- My conduct and actions in the sport should reflect positively upon the Association and other fanciers of the breed.
- I will volunteer my time and talents in Association works and endeavors.
- I will encourage the novice, guide the beginner, and school the student while myself seeking to exhibit the friendly sportsmanship that befits this gentlemen's breed.



**ESAA 2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM ~ PAGE 2**



# Workbook Exercises

The written exercises that follow are based on the *English Setter Owner's Guide*. They are comprised of easy-to-answer formats such as True and False, Multiple Choice and Fill-In-The-Blanks. To answer the questions refer back to your *Owner's Guide*.

## *The E-Setter E-College*

# English Setter Owner's Certificate of Completion

E-Setter E-College will send each English Setter owner who completes the written exercises a *Certificate of Completion*. Doing your Workbook exercises will help you and your family learn the key information that owners should know about caring for their English Setter.

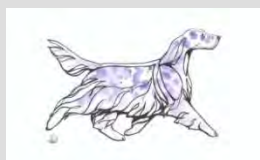
<b>E-Setter E-College Certificate of Completion</b>	
<i>is hereby granted to:</i>	
<i>Name</i>	
<i>for successfully completing English Setter 101 Owners Guide</i>	
<i>Awarded: Date</i>	
	<hr/> <i>Presenter Name and Title</i>

To receive your ***Certificate of Completion*** for ***Course #101 English Setter Owner's Guide***, send this page along with your completed exercises and a check for \$5.00 made payable to

Jill Warren  
1066 Encantado Dr.  
Santa Fe NM 87501

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A ***Certificate of Completion*** will be sent to those who send in the Workbook Exercises and answer 80% of the questions correctly. To apply for your certificate of completion, send your workbook test with answers and the following completed form to the address above.



***E-Setter E-College***  
**Course #101 English Setter Owner's Guide**  
**request for *Certificate of Completion***

***Please Print***

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**My check for \$5.00 is enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

# English Setter OWNER'S MANUAL

## True and False Questions

*Place a T or F in each blank. Base your answers on the text in the English Setter Owner's Guide.*

- \_\_\_ 1. Knowing the English Setter's history and origin are of no use to a pet owner.
- \_\_\_ 2. The English Setter is a scent dog, with origins in France.
- \_\_\_ 3. The English Setter's original purpose was to attack and kill prey.
- \_\_\_ 4. English Setters can be allowed to run loose since they are homebodies and won't wander far.
- \_\_\_ 5. English Setters prefer to be the only dog in the household.
- \_\_\_ 6. The English Setter is considered a small dog.
- \_\_\_ 7. Stress on the joints of an English Setter puppy can cause permanent injury.
- \_\_\_ 8. An English Setter is the first dog recorded in the AKC Stud Book.
- \_\_\_ 9. English Setters are content to live outdoors in a doghouse or tied to a stake.
- \_\_\_ 10. English Setters are well suited to accompany joggers, hikers, and cyclists.
- \_\_\_ 11. The best place to obtain an English Setter is from a reputable breeder.
- \_\_\_ 12. AKC registration is a guarantee of the puppy's quality.
- \_\_\_ 13. It's better to buy a puppy from a pet store than from a reputable breeder.
- \_\_\_ 14. Rescue groups are a viable option when looking for a pet.
- \_\_\_ 15. An adult English Setter won't bond with a new family.
- \_\_\_ 16. The age at which a puppy should go to a new home is 9 weeks or older.
- \_\_\_ 17. There is relatively little difference in temperament between male and female English Setters.
- \_\_\_ 18. Because the English Setter is a purebred dog, it never should be spayed or neutered.
- \_\_\_ 19. The normal temperature of a healthy English Setter is 98.6 degrees F.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. The English Setter never does well in obedience competition.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. English Setters and toddlers are similar in their curiosity, necessitating English Setter-proofing your home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Invisible fencing works well for English Setters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. Gates should always be locked to protect your pet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. New puppies should be given free run of the house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. Crating a puppy/dog is cruel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Multiple pets in the same household should be fed separately.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. Tattooing and microchipping are good methods of dog identification.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. English Setters usually like cool weather better than hot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. It is fine for English Setters under 4 months of age to jump on and off elevated objects like beds and sofas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. English Setters are finicky eaters.

## **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS**

Circle the correct answer based on the  
*English Setter Owner's Guide*

1. The English Setter's original function was to  
a. Lie on the couch    b. Locate upland game birds    c. Guard the home  
d. Kill its prey
2. English Setters like  
a. Solitude    b. Hyperactivity    c. The company of people and other dogs  
d. Baths
3. Special attention must be given to an English Setter's  
a. Ears    b. Anal glands    c. Coat    d. Toenails    e. All of the above
4. A well-bred adult English Setter male's average weight is  
a. 30-35 pounds    b. 40-45 pounds    c. 60-70 pounds    d. 75-85 pounds.

6. The best place to obtain an English Setter is from
  - a. A pet shop
  - b. A backyard breeder
  - c. A reputable breeder
  - d. A puppy mill
  
7. Reputable breeders usually keep their puppies until at least
  - a. 12 weeks of age
  - b. 6 weeks of age
  - c. 9 weeks of age
  - d. One year
  
8. English Setters should live
  - a. In an outside dog house
  - b. Tied to a tree
  - c. In the house as a family companion
  - d. In the yard
  
9. A rescue English Setter
  - a. Never makes a good companion
  - b. Usually is aggressive
  - c. Is not housebroken
  - d. Is an excellent choice for a family wanting an adult dog.
  
10. The safest outdoor environment for an English Setter is
  - a. Invisible fencing
  - b. A dog trolley/tie out
  - c. Running loose
  - d. A securely fenced yard with locked gate

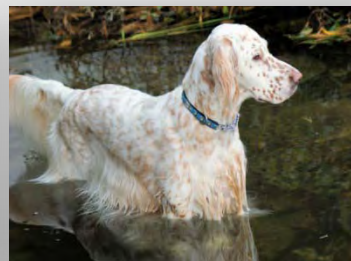
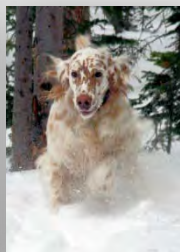


## Fill-In-The-Blanks

Use words from the word bank below.

*quality coat Laverack body leash  
reputable breeder companionship crate compete Llewellyn medium bird*

1. An English Setter is a \_\_\_\_\_ dog, bred to hunt over and through difficult terrain.
2. English Setter puppies or adults should be obtained from a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a recommended training tool for a puppy.
5. English Setters can \_\_\_\_\_ in a variety of AKC events.
6. Although the American Kennel Club is the most highly regarded registry in the United States, AKC registration is no guarantee of a puppy's \_\_\_\_\_, so you must do some research on any prospective English Setter for your home.
7. An English Setter's \_\_\_\_\_ requires special attention.
8. The English Setter is considered a \_\_\_\_\_-sized dog.
9. English Setters enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_ of other people and dogs.
10. A fenced yard or walking your dog on a \_\_\_\_\_ is essential to keeping your English Setter safe.
11. The pioneers of the development of the English Setter breed are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.



**English Setter – a dog for all seasons**

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Wouldn't you like to be in this scene with your ES?



