

Hereditary Disorders

The Cocker Spaniel, just as any other breed of dogs, may suffer from hereditary defects that could range from minor to debilitating and life altering for the dog and guardians or even life threatening and ultimately fatal.

If you would like to learn about Cocker Spaniel health issues, find out what's being done by the Spaniel Clubs and responsible breeders about them, and participate in health studies to help our breed, visit The American Spaniel Club, Inc.'s website at <http://www.asc-cockerspaniel.org/>.



The following is a list of the more common hereditary defects Cockers suffer from as outlined in the article "*Health News, Guidelines for Breeding and Purchasing Cocker Spaniels*," revised October 1996 – Revised from April, 1989, a release from the A.S.C. Healthy Registry Committee. The full article is located at <http://www.asc-cockerspaniel.org/>.

- Eye defects
 - Cataract
 - Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)
 - Retinal Dysplasia (Folds)
 - Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (Dry Eye, KCS)
 - Glaucoma
 - Prolapsed Gland of the Third Eyelid (cherry eye)
 - Distichiasis (misplaced eyelid hairs that irritate the cornea)
 - Ectropion (droopiness of the eyelids)
 - Entropion (inversion of the eyelids)
 - Imperforate lacrimal punctum (unopened lacrimal duct)
 - Episcleritis
 - Optic Nerve Colompa
 - Persistent Pupillary Membrane
 - Corneal Dystrophy
- Blood disorders
 - von Willebrand's Disease
 - Factor X Deficiency
 - Immune-Mediated Blood Disease
- Endocrine Disorders
 - Hypothyroidism
- Skeletal Defects
 - Hip dysplasia
 - Patellar luxation
 - Intervertebral disc disease
- Metabolic disorders
 - Liver disease
 - Copper poisoning
- Heart
 - Dilative cardiomyopathy
 - Sick sinus syndrome
- Skin disorders
 - Seborrhea
 - Allergies
- Neuromuscular
 - Epilepsy (seizures of unknown cause)