



# Spanish Water Dog Club of America

[www.SWDClub.org](http://www.SWDClub.org)

## Highlights of Breed Standard

The Spanish Water Dog (SWD) is a versatile herding dog that has also served as an assistant to fishermen, has, at times, been used for hunting and enjoys water sports. The SWD has a distinctively single, curly coat that may be solid shades of black, brown, beige or white as well as bi-color with one of the colors being white. Its coat has a woolly texture that is never brushed or sculpted and may form cords when long. Dogs may be clipped the same length all over, depending on the owner's preference as to the length of coat. Traditionally the SWD has a docked tail, but some are born with a naturally short tail that can vary in length. In many parts of Europe, the dog is left with a long tail.



The SWD is a medium-sized dog and females are usually smaller than males. Females range in size from about 16-18 inches and males can be 17-20 inches. Females are usually between 30 and 40 pounds, while males are between 40 and 50 pounds.

## About the Spanish Water Dog

### *History, Personality, Activities*

#### *History*

The SWD's origins are not clearly known and continue to be debated by many experts. What is known is that this rustic multi-purpose breed was developed in Spain many centuries ago to fulfill a variety of purposes, including herding, hunting, water work and companionship. Starting in 1975, the breed was brought out from obscurity and, in 1985, was recognized by the Real Sociedad Canina de España. Today's *Perro de Agua* was developed in Spain as a herding dog.

#### *Personality Traits*

The SWD is faithful, obedient, lively, hardworking, watchful and is highly intelligent with an outstanding learning ability. Their loyalty and protective instincts make them a self-appointed guardian to their owner, family and property. They are not timid or shy, but are naturally suspicious of strangers. Properly introduced, and given time, the SWD will accept strangers, as they are very affectionate with their own people.

The SWD is a great family companion if properly socialized. As with any dog, they should not be left unattended with small children. SWDs may try to herd anything that moves, including active kids!

#### *Events and Activities*

The SWD requires both physical and mental stimulation. As herding dogs, they were bred to do a "job." They do need to be active and will require daily exercise. They are especially well-suited to companion activities such as agility, rally and obedience. The rustic and robust SWD will typically enjoy hiking, swimming, boating and more. If properly exercised, they are also quite content to sit by your side as you relax.



## Healthcare Needs

When a SWD puppy is mature, running, playing with other dogs, fetching a ball or Frisbee, swimming or participating in dog sports are some ways they can get the exercise they need in order to stay healthy. A high quality, balanced diet will help keep the SWD healthy. Clean, fresh water should be available at all times. Working with a responsible breeder, those wishing to own a SWD can gain the education they need to know about specific health concerns within the breed. Good breeders utilize various methods to health test their breeding stock, including genetic testing in order to reduce the likelihood of disease in their puppies.

## Training

The SWD is very biddable and eager to please. They respond best to positive training methods (for example, clicker training). Your breeder should be able to guide you with appropriate training methods for your SWD.

## Permanent ID

SWD Parent Club recommends permanent identification of your dog. There are many advantages, including a lifetime Lost and Found option available with any American Kennel Club (AKC) Registration package, through the AKC Reunite program. This offer includes a free dog tag with recovery information and the AKC Reunite 24/7 phone number. Further protection can be added by microchipping the dog and registering the microchip with AKC Reunite. For more information, see [www.akcreunite.org](http://www.akcreunite.org) or call 1-800-252-7894.

## SWD Parent Club

The Spanish Water Dog Club of America is the AKC Parent Club for the Spanish Water Dog. The SWD is part of the Herding Group as of January 1, 2015.

The SWDCA extends a membership invitation to all SWD fanciers with the goals of forming a strong national breed club and continuing its efforts toward improving the well-being and status of the breed.

We welcome you to obtain more information about the breed and the Club at [www.swdclub.org](http://www.swdclub.org).

You may solicit other information from the Club not included on the website by going to the 'Contact Us' section on the website (<http://www.swdclub.org/index.php?page=contact-us>) and filling out the form.