



From TCVESSA's President: Francie Nelson

Happy New Year to all TCVESSA members and friends!

Things have been quiet since our general membership meeting and the most recent board meeting. We've all had a good break, and we're ready to move into this New Year with enthusiasm for TCVESSA.

Thanks to the October Agility Trials, our treasury status has improved and we look forward to more improvement in 2013.

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to order a TCVESSA sweatshirt (information was in the last issue of the Vox). Maybe we should all wear them to the annual awards banquet!

Speaking of the banquet, there's important information in this issue so you can save the date – Saturday evening, March 9 – and make plans to be at the club's annual dinner and awards presentation. There will be a separate mailing with banquet information, and awards forms will be on line this year as well.

Last year, we had lighter attendance than usual due to member travel and other conflicts – so I hope you'll mark your calendars **now** and join us for this fun and relaxed evening of good food and drink, silent auctions, and of course the awards.

As I write this, I know that we're moving along with our plans to achieve AKC approval for Agility Trials. Watch for details of an upcoming Agility match and, if Agility is your "thing," plan to support the match and help us move ever closer to AKC approval. If you can help out as a volunteer at the match, just get in touch with Kathy Patregnani. There's lots to do and many ways to help.

Thanks to all members for your support of the club and your participation in our events and programs throughout 2012. I hope to see many of you at the banquet in March, or even sooner!

Felon and I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous year ahead!

Francie Nelson
President, TCVESSA





Save the Date



2012 Annual Awards Banquet

" Spring~ it on!!! "

Saturday, March 9, 2013
6:00-10:00pm

Medina Entertainment Center
500 Highway 55
Hamel, MN 55340

Info Packet to be Mailed in January



A Short History of TCVESSA

Twin Cities Voyager English Springer Spaniel Association was incorporated in 1977. The club began as an idea among Springer colleagues, and it quickly grew. In fact, its first fun match was held within short weeks of its incorporation and had strong support from Minnesota Springer folks. A contest was held to name its newsletter, and “Vox Voyager,” the Voice of the Voyager, was chosen.

As the club grew, it maintained an active interest in all aspects of Springer activity, holding Parent Club Working Dog certification tests every year – in addition to a regular schedule of fun matches offering both conformation and obedience competitions.

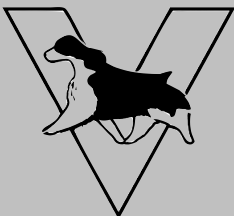
TCVESSA always had a goal of AKC approval to hold specialty shows/obedience trials. As its board pursued this goal, we discovered that the old field trial club, the Minnesota English Springer Spaniel Club, held the AKC approval for conformation, even though they had no interest in holding specialty shows. Thanks to their cooperation and help, their specialty-holding status was revoked with their approval and consent and TCVESSA was then able to proceed with its application process.

After meeting all appropriate requirements, TCVESSA began in the 1980’s, holding its specialty show and obedience trial each May and its Working Dog certification test each fall.

When the American Kennel Club and the Parent Club added hunting tests, TCVESSA was one of the first clubs in the nation to begin a hunting dog training program and a hunting test. As more spaniel hunting organizations became active in and around Minnesota, TCVESSA ceased its training/hunting test program.

Club membership is open to all Springer enthusiasts in Minnesota and surrounding states. TCVESSA now hosts two “back to back” specialty shows/obedience trials each May and also offers a variety of educational programs and an annual awards banquet in March each year during which titles and accomplishments of members’ Springers are celebrated.

With a membership that continues to range from 50 – 70, and active board members and volunteers, TCVESSA is particularly well known for the hospitality of its annual specialty shows and the supportive camaraderie of its members. The club offered a weekend of agility trials in October of 2012 with the help of the parent club, and is pursuing AKC approval for agility.



AKC Agility A-Match

Friday, January 25
3:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**On the Run Dog Training Center
Ham Lake**

Building opens at 1:30
Closing date for entries Jan 11

We are looking for more volunteers.

If you can help, please contact

Kathy Patregnani at Vinewoodess@hotmail.com
to let her know what time you would be available.



*It was an honor to be asked to write the English Springer Spaniel section for the upcoming revision of the AKC's COMPLETE DOG BOOK. I thought that TCVESSA members might enjoy a preview, so here goes.
-- Francie*

THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

HISTORY OF THE BREED

Breed scholars and historians have speculated that dogs of spaniel type may have originated in Spain. It is more likely, though, that spaniels, along with other domestic dog types, originated in Asia and migrated west, across northern Europe and beyond. An Old German noun, “span,” may provide a clue about spaniel origin. “Span” has several meanings, among them “a brace of two animals working together.” Could this be the first description of English Springers finding and fetching game for the table? Artwork and writings from central Europe, most notably The Netherlands and France, are sources for early description of dogs of spaniel type. Though their true origin is unknown, spaniels are undoubtedly ancient.

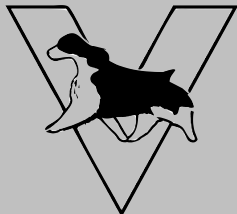
English Springers were developed and refined in England, as the breed’s name suggests. Travel – whether over land or over water – was difficult and time consuming. Therefore, varieties within breeds developed regionally. The land spaniel on *one* English estate could look quite different from the land spaniel on *another* English estate. For example, spaniels developed on the estate of the Duke of Norfolk were known as “Norfolk Spaniels.” Spaniels from Sussex were known as “Sussex Spaniels.” Spaniels from the estate of the Earl of Clumber were known as Clumber Spaniels. “Springer” and “Cocker” were terms that described the hunting functions of each. “Field spaniel” was a generic term that described them all. This is why we still have such a variety of spaniel breeds.

BREED FORM AND FUNCTION

Until Victorian times, dogs were not maintained as pets; they worked. The English Springer Spaniel was developed as a mid-sized, compact, sturdy hunter with outstanding ability to find, flush, and fetch birds (and rabbits) in heavy cover. At some point, the English Springer’s innate kind, trusting, and tractable nature brought him from the field to the hearth and he has been there ever since.

The standards of both the UK and the US maintain the English Springer’s origins: a moderate, compact, medium sized dog (19-20 inches at the shoulder and approximately 40-50 pounds) with sturdy bone and rib spring; pendulous ears; liver and white or black and white markings (with or without ticking, and with or without tan points); unique “alert, kindly, trusting” expression and temperament; easy, flowing movement; and the heart, ability, and endurance to do a day’s work in the field or to keep up with a busy, active human family.

The first known standard for English Springer Spaniels was crafted in the country of the breed’s origin, England, and the breed was officially recognized there in 1902. The first US breed standard was drafted in 1927 (the same year as the formation of the breed’s national parent club, the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association), then revised in 1932 and again in the 1950’s, 1970’s, and 1990’s. On both sides of the Atlantic, breeders work to ensure that English Springer Spaniels maintain those type-specific characteristics that make them excellent hunting companions and family pets.



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THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

SELECTING A PUPPY, AND THE IDEAL OWNER

The English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association's web site, www.essfta.org, includes its national breeder referral service. The best – indeed, the only – way to purchase an English Springer Spaniel is from a private, small-scale hobby breeder – someone who has invested years to acquire breed expertise and who is motivated only by a love for the breed and a deep commitment to its healthy future. Take the time to study the breed, meet its people at competitive events, discuss the breed and its health concerns, then establish a relationship with a breeder; a relationship that should be active, caring, and engaged throughout the life span of your English Springer Spaniel.

Ideal English Springer owners are committed to the breed's long lifespan (12-plus years), actively engaged in building a lifetime of enjoyment with their dog(s). English Springers are eager to share all the activities that you enjoy, whether at home or outdoors. Puppies need proper socialization and training to become great dog citizens and ideal owners will provide that – along with health care, grooming, and the personal attention that English Springers crave. Flexibility, patience, time, training, and affection are the hallmarks of building the ideal relationship. English Springers love to perform, whether in competitive obedience/rally/agility or out hunting. The best owners know this and keep their dogs busy and well exercised.

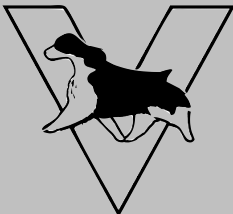
OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS/SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE BREED

An English Springer can live in a small home or apartment if it receives the exercise necessary for an active hunting breed. A large fenced yard is ideal. English Springers need regular grooming to remove dead undercoat, to prevent mats, and to keep the coat healthy and shining. Ears, because they are pendulous, are targets for irritation or infection and must be kept clean. Early puppy socialization is very important, in order to ensure that your English Springer assumes the appropriate role as a member of your household "pack."

English Springers are quick and highly intelligent; early and continued training and gentle guidance is very important. English Springers are bred for keen scenting abilities and they will "follow their noses" to the point of distraction if untrained. Be sure that you, the leader of your English Springer's pack, are in control at all times. The English Springer Spaniel is an active and forward explorer of his environment.

ENGLISH SPRINGER HEALTH/GENETIC SCREENING

Your breeder will offer information about the health/genetic background of your English Springer puppy. Ask appropriate questions and be prepared to locate another breeder if answers are not readily and quickly provided. Inherited disorders – for which breeders test – include Hip Dysplasia, Retinal Dysplasia, Phosphofructokinase Deficiency, and Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA). Breeders certify the status of their dogs' hips through OFA and other certifying agencies such as PennHIP; all well bred English Springers are eye tested every year until they reach advanced old age.



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THE ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL

There are seizure disorders that affect English Springers; to date, no genetic cause has been isolated. The breed's health, education, and genetic interests are served by the English Springer Foundation, www.englishspringerfoundation.org, a tax exempt charity that raises and re-grants funds dedicated to breed health, health research, and education.

AKC EVENTS IN WHICH ENGLISH SPRINGERS PARTICIPATE

AKC competitive events for English Springers abound.

Conformation competition measures adherence to the written breed standard.

Obedience, Rally, and Agility trials are performance events, from beginning to advanced levels.

AKC Spaniel Hunting Tests evaluate hunting ability on land and in water at junior, senior, and master levels.

AKC Field Trials test the highest level of field performance, demonstrating extreme hunting style and speed.

The parent club (ESSFTA) hosts annual competitive events – its National Specialty Show and its Field Trial – annually. These events, and others, are publicized at www.essfta.org.

FANFARE

english springer spaniels



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WINS & BRAGS**CH Tagalong & Owen's Sweet Magic
"Maggie"****Owned by Rick & Sue Owens & Sarah
Kraft****Handled by Melissa Thorson & Sarah
Kraft**Indianhead Kennel Club

May 14, 2011 BOB

TCVESSA Specialty

May 21, 2011 Best in Class (Am Bred)

May 22, 2011 Best in Class (Am Bred)

Duluth Kennel Club

July 15, 2011 Third in Class (Open Bitches)

July 17, 2011 Third in Class (Open Bitches)

Land O'Lakes Kennel Club

Jan 8, 2012 Fourth in Class (Open Bitches)

Anoka Co MN Kennel ClubJune 23, 2012 Second in Class
(Bred by Exhibitor—Bitches)June 24, 2012 Winners, Best of Winners,
Best of Opposite Sex—3 pt Major**Championship Completed**Norwegian Elkhound AssnMarch 17, 2012 NAP—first leg
NJP—first leg

March 18, 2012 NJP—second leg

TCVESSA Agility

Oct 12, 2012 NAP—2nd leg

**UKC Ch Pine Bend Tuula Sunshine RA
"Tuula"****Owned by Karen Anderson & Erik Scheurle**MKC

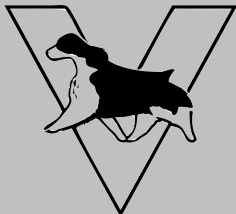
Feb 25 Beg Novice—1st leg, 1st Place

TCVESSA

May 20 Beg Novice—2nd leg, 3rd Place

BOTC

Nov 4 Beg Novice—3rd leg, 1st Place

Beginner Novice Title**Fox Hollow Blue Skies RE, BN, NA, NAJ
"Skye"****Owned by Diane Slais**ESSFTA Agility TrialOct 14 Novice Agility Title NA
Novice Agility Jumpers Title NAJ

WINS & BRAGS**Am/Can/Intl CH Wil-Orion's Spellbound RN, TD, NAP, NJP
"Charm"****Owned by Courtney Blommer-Hansen**TCVESSA Agility

Oct 12— Novice Pref Standard 1st place
Novice JWW 1st place

Oct 13—Novice Pref Standard 1st place
Novice JWW 1st place

Oct 14—Novice Pref Standard 1st place
Novice JWW 1st place

Dec 16—Novice Pref Standard
Novice JWW

NAP & NJP Titles Completed**CH Spellbound's First to Fly BN, RN
"Amelia"****Owned by Courtney Blommer-Hansen**Des Moines Specialty

Sept 9—Beginner Novice 1st Place

St. Cloud

Dec 9—WB/BOW/BOS 3pt Major

CH Title Finished

Oct 6—Bred by—Group 1

ESSFTA National**RN & BN Titles Completed****CH Spellbound's First Half Stache
"Stache"****Owned by Pat & Jim McGowen &
Courtney Blommer-Hansen**Rochester Specialty

Sept 15—WD/BW 3pt major / Group 1

CH Title Finished

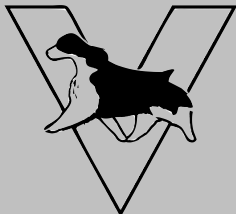
Sept 16—Select Dog

**Am/Can/Int CH Spellbound's First
Edition BN, RN
"Booker"****Owned by Courtney Blommer-Hansen**Des Moines Specialty

Sept 7—WD/BW 4pt major

CH Title Finished

Sept 9—Beginner Novice 3rd place

ESSFTA National**RN & BN Titles Completed**

MESSAGES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITTERBOX ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCE YOUR NEW FAMILY MEMBERS - NOT JUST LITTERS
PHOTOS WELCOME

RAINBOW BRIDGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECAP YOU SPECIAL ONES LIVES
PHOTOS WELCOME

NEXT VOX DEADLINE

February 21, 2013

please send all wins & brags, litterbox announcements, upcoming events
and articles.

submit to: Carmen913@msn.com

