



# Young Cocker Spaniel

*Cocker Spaniels are a merry, well-balanced and active breed. You should also know they can be predisposed to the following ailments. Examinations twice a year and routine diagnostics to catch problems early, when they are easiest to treat, are recommended for the life of your dog.*

Photo courtesy of Jean-Michel Labat

## Otitis

### Description

Otitis is the medical term for ear infections. Ear infections can be caused by allergies or lifestyle (ex. swimming). Cocker Spaniels are more likely to get recurring ear infections because the large exterior part of the ear (the pinna) blocks circulation of air, and can trap moisture in the ear canal.

### Early Detection

**Recommended:** otoscopic exams twice a year.

### Why Needed

Otitis can contribute to:

- Pain
- Itchy, smelly ears
- Hearing loss
- Bleeding ears
- The need for surgery

## Dilated Cardiomyopathy

### Description

Dilated cardiomyopathy is a disease where the heart becomes enlarged, weaker and thinner. It eventually cannot effectively pump blood and can lead to heart failure. Some Cocker Spaniels also develop heart arrhythmias (disturbances in the rate and rhythm of the heart beat).

### Early Detection

**Recommended:** an annual blood pressure check, an electrocardiogram, and possibly an ultrasound of the heart (echocardiogram) if signs are present.

### Why Needed

Dilated cardiomyopathy can contribute to:

- Weakness
- Fainting
- Labored breathing or coughing
- Gradual heart failure
- Sudden death

## Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (KCS)

### Description

KCS is an inflammatory disease of the eye where the tear glands no longer produce enough tears to keep the eyes moist. This can progress to excessive discharge, dry eyes, and recurrent eye infections.

### Early Detection

**Recommended:** starting at age 2, an annual Schirmer Tear Test to determine tear production.

### Why Needed

KCS can contribute to:

- Pain
- Eye infection
- Eye ulcers
- Vision loss

## Optimum Wellness Plans® and Cocker Spaniels

### Included in the Special Care Plan

- Otitoscopic examinations twice a year\*
- Annual electrocardiogram (the recommended wellness plan includes two a year)
- Chest x-rays (3 views)
- Ophthalmic examinations twice a year\*

\*Part of the comprehensive examination

Plus the preventive care in each plan and 20% off on nearly all products and services

Consult your Banfield medical team for the best plan level for your individual pet.



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