

The Spinone Italiano

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Background

The Spinone Italiano is one of the oldest pointing breeds. Evidence of his ancestry exists as far back as 500 B.C. In the 15th and 16th century pieces of Italian art portray dogs that closely resemble the Spinone Italiano.

Since "Griffons" was the designated term for all hunting dogs of Europe, Italianos are often called Griffons. They've long been considered an all purpose hunting dog.

The Spinone Italiano was recognized by the [American Kennel Club](#) in 2000.

Sizing up

- Weight: 61 to 85 lbs.
- Height: 22 1/2 to 27 1/2 inches
- Coat: Weather-resistant, dense, and wiry
- Color: White, orange roan, white and orange (with or without orange markings), chestnut, or white with chestnut markings
- Life expectancy: 10 to 12 years

What's the Spinone Italiano like?

The Spinone Italiano is energetic, gentle, and happy. He needs a good deal of [exercise](#) so he'll fit in best with a family who has motivation and a love for the outdoors. He is devoted to his family and does not like to be left alone. He is great with kids and other animals.

The Spinone Italiano has a curious nature about him and might wonder away so [training](#) should begin early. [Socializing](#) exercises are also important; though he is naturally a pretty social dog. He aims to please so be firm and consistent during training sessions and use positive reinforcement when he's done something correctly.

[Grooming](#) your Italiano takes very little time. A weekly

brushing will make him happy and bathe him as needed. One thing you should occasionally do is hand-strip (pulling out dead hairs to keep his coat in great condition).

Health

The Spinone Italiano is generally a healthy breed. Potential concerns include the following:

[Hip dysplasia](#)

- One of the most common diseases in dogs, with larger breeds being the most affected. It is ultimately a malfunction of the hip joints.

[Elbow dysplasia](#)

- The development of arthritis in the elbow joint

[Hypothyroidism](#)

- A disease caused by an increase in metabolism

[Entropion](#)

- When an eyelid is inverted causing an eyelash to irritate the eye

Takeaway points

- The Spinone Italiano is very quick and easy to groom.
- The Spinone Italiano has a very curious nature so a secured fence is recommended when off his leash.
- The Spinone Italiano would not be an ideal breed if you work long hours or spend a lot of time away from home.
- The Spinone Italiano is great with children.

If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian -- they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.