

Built for Performance, Bred with Compassion

Prioritizing the lifelong health, functional integrity, and athletic capability of the working gundog.

At Hunters Moon Kennels, we don't just breed for the weekend hunt; we breed for the lifelong health, comfort, and performance of the canine athlete. Our "Prairie Proven" program is dedicated to producing high-performance gundog athletes that are as capable in the field as they are as active companions in the home.

To achieve this, we prioritize Functional Integrity. We carefully align physical structure and traditional field standards with the practical needs, safety, and working demands of each gundog.

1. TAIL & STRUCTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Field & Cover Safety

For high-drive English Springer Spaniels working in dense cover and demanding terrain, physical tail dynamics require thoughtful consideration. Tail length and management for working litters are evaluated with field performance and safety in mind, helping reduce the risk of painful tail and skin injuries when navigating thick cover, brush, and rough terrain at full speed.

Balance & Communication

Whether retained naturally or evaluated for traditional field standards, a dog's tail serves as a valuable biological tool for balance in tight turns and clear communication with handlers in the field and at home.

Individual Litter Standards

Physical care and profile decisions are made on a per-litter basis, balancing long-term working environment, welfare, and applicable regional standards.

2. FRONT DEW CLAWS: TACTICAL STABILIZERS FOR JOINT HEALTH

While traditionally removed to prevent snags, modern sports medicine confirms that dew claws are critical for the orthopedic longevity of an active dog.

Protecting the "Wrist"

When a dog gallops or turns, the front leg twists. The dew claw is the only structure that touches the ground to stabilize the carpus (wrist). Retaining it prevents the joint from over-rotation.

Lifelong Mobility

By stabilizing the leg during high-speed play or work, dew claws help prevent carpal arthritis and ligament strains. This is essential for a dog intended to stay active and mobile for 12+ years.

Natural Traction

Whether climbing a riverbank or navigating a snowy trail, the dew claw acts like a "thumb," providing the extra grip needed for safety.

3. ELITE GENETICS & COMPASSIONATE STANDARDS

Our breeding decisions are guided by a commitment to excellence in both performance and health.

Proven Athleticism

We select for concentrated field-trial genetics that are world-renowned for intelligence, trainability, and a natural "off-switch" at home.

OFA Standards for Orthopedic Health

Every breeding in our program is anchored in parents who have undergone rigorous health screening. This ensures that the puppies' genetic drive is supported by a structurally sound and healthy frame.

Total Transparency

We prioritize the complete physical and mental profile of our dogs, ensuring that your Hunters Moon companion is structurally sound, genetically elite, and ethically raised.

At Hunters Moon, we prioritize the whole dog. We build the performance—and the partners—of the future.