

**THE KENNEL CLUB GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS (MANDATORY)  
AND  
CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB CODE OF BEST PRACTICE**

**KENNEL CLUB - GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS**

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, may report such operation to the Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (not accompanying a dog).
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.

## **PART A: CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB CODE OF BEST PRACTICE - GENERAL**

1. No member should take on more dogs than he or she can care for and keep in a healthy environment.
2. Members should conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is a credit to the Club and ownership of Cavaliers. Members should not use any method of communication whatsoever in a way that could be considered defamatory, insulting or detrimental to another member, or the Club, or to the breed in general nor furnish information including pedigrees and photographs of dogs not owned by them without prior written consent of the owner.
3. Members should adopt properly prepared legal contracts in the sale of puppies or their use of stud dogs, and should be aware of the consequences of any default on their part, whether intentional or not.

## **PART B: CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB CODE OF BEST PRACTICE - BREEDING AND EXHIBITING**

Members who breed or exhibit should:

1. Familiarise themselves with the Kennel Club Breed Standard (see Appendix A) and aim to breed or exhibit dogs that conform to that standard and which have not been changed in appearance by artificial or surgical means except as the breed standard or Kennel Club may allow.
2. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed. *(Refer to KC Code, item 6)*
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes. *(Refer to KC Code, item 3)*
4. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally. *(Refer to KC Code, item 5)*
5. Maintain accurate breeding records, registration documents and pedigrees.
6. Breed only from or with dogs registered with the Kennel Club or Clubs affiliated to the Kennel Club.
7. Register with the Kennel Club all surviving puppies by the time they reach the age of twelve months.
8. Endeavour to obtain a Restricted Registration certificate to prevent breeding from any puppy exhibiting such faults that are or may be of a hereditary nature, so that to breed from such a dog may be detrimental to the dog itself or to the breed in general.
9. Not part with a puppy under the age of eight weeks to a new owner.
10. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available unless a written agreement is made at time of sale that papers are to be withheld and/or conditions imposed. *(Refer to KC Code, item 12)*
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements, a record of all inoculations and worming carried out and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home. *(Refer to KC Code, item 11)*
12. Should not, under any circumstances, make false or exaggerated claims that cannot be substantiated, for example, about future prospects of puppies, quality of breeding stock, or record of show wins.
13. Use best endeavours to ensure that all stock is healthy at time of sale, unless agreed otherwise and put in writing and acknowledged by the purchaser, such stock having been checked for known hereditary and other health problems and the purchaser being given full access to the results.
14. Use best endeavours to ascertain that every prospective owner is suitable, and to resume responsibility for their stock, where practicable, if it proves unsuitable for its new home for whatever reason.  
  
This provision also applies when stock is to be exported, with the additional responsibility of the Exporter to use best endeavours to ensure the dog's welfare in transit. Members are reminded that not all countries have protective animal welfare laws, nor Breed Clubs that cater for the welfare of the breed. It is the sole responsibility of the exporter to ensure that adequate welfare provisions exist.
15. Not sell stock to a third party or a pet shop or puppy dealer nor operate as such. *(Refer to KC Code, item 13)*
16. Enter into breeding terms with care. All parties should understand fully the terms, these being agreed in writing. Kennel Club 'Loan of Bitch Agreement' or other form of written contract should be used, preferably witnessed and properly signed with all parties retaining a signed copy.

**PART C: CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB CODE OF BEST PRACTICE - DOGS TO BE USED AT STUD.**

1. No dog which has a known physical defect that could be detrimental to the health and well being of the offspring or the breed in general should be used at stud. By way of guidance, dogs under five years of age should hold a current clear heart certificate. A current clear eye certificate is strongly recommended. More specific guideline's apply to MVD (see Appendix B).
2. Stud dog owners are advised to see the bitch's pedigree and registration certificate to establish ownership, age and endorsements. The number of litters, number of puppies and when she last had a litter, should also be ascertained. It is advisable that the bitch should have a full health check before mating and stud dog owners should assure themselves that this has taken place and was satisfactory.
3. Any dog that is to be used at stud should be annually checked for good health, and be free from infection, and be in good condition at the time of mating.
4. Stud dog owners should be aware of the risk of cross infection and allow sufficient time between mating different bitches, to minimise risk. The owner of the bitch should be informed of the previous mating if less than 48 hours has elapsed.

**PART D: CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB CODE OF BEST PRACTICE - BITCHES TO BE USED FOR BREEDING.**

1. No bitch with a known physical defect that could be detrimental to the health and well being of the bitch, her offspring or the breed in general should be used for breeding. By way of guidance, any bitch used for breeding should hold a current clear heart certificate. A current clear eye certificate is strongly recommended. These certificates should be available to the owner of the dog at the time of mating. More specific guidelines apply to MVD. (See Appendix B).
2. No bitch to be mated so as to whelp before she is 16 months old, and then only if she is considered mature enough to raise a litter of puppies.
3. No bitch to be mated so as to rear a litter after her eighth birthday.
4. No bitch should normally rear a litter on consecutive seasons, and in any case, must have no more than one litter in any 12 month period.
5. No bitch to be allowed more than six litters in her lifetime.
6. No bitch to be mated who has had two caesarean sections, as this would indicate possible whelping difficulties.
7. Any bitch used for breeding should be protected from known diseases when available, be annually checked for good health, be free from any infection, and be in good condition at the time of mating.
8. Bitches received from overseas for mating should be returned as soon as possible. This should be within 4 weeks from the date of mating.
9. No bitch more than 4 weeks in whelp should be exported or imported.

Notes:

Appendix (A) Breed Standard reproduced by kind permission of the Kennel Club

Appendix (B) Breeding Guidelines regarding MVD

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ WITNESS \_\_\_\_\_

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## APPENDIX A - CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL BREED STANDARD

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Kennel Club website for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.

**General Appearance:** Active, graceful and well balanced, with gentle expression.

**Characteristics:** Sporting, affectionate, absolutely fearless.

**Temperament:** Gay, friendly, non-aggressive; no tendency to nervousness.

**Head and Skull:** Skull almost flat between ears. Stop shallow. Length from base of stop to tip of nose about 3.8 cms (1½ ins). Nostrils black and well developed without flesh marks, muzzle well tapered. Lips well developed but not pendulous. Face well filled below eyes. Any tendency to snipiness undesirable.

**Eyes:** Large, dark, round but not prominent; spaced well apart.

**Ears:** Long, set high, with plenty of feather.

**Mouth:** Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

**Neck:** Moderate length, slightly arched.

**Forequarters:** Chest moderate, shoulders well laid back; straight legs moderately boned.

**Body:** Short-coupled with good spring of rib. Level back.

**Hindquarters:** Legs with moderate bone; well turned stifle – no tendency to cow-hocks or sickle-hocks.

**Feet:** Compact, cushioned and well feathered.

**Tail:** Length of tail in balance with body, well set on, carried happily but never much above the level of the back. Docking previously optional when no more than one-third was to be removed.

**Gait:** Free-moving and elegant in action, plenty of drive from behind. Forelegs and hind legs move parallel when viewed from in front and behind.

**Coat:** Long, silky, free from curl. Slight wave permissible. Plenty of feathering. Totally free from trimming.

**Colours:** Recognised colours are:-

- **Black and Tan:** Raven black with tan markings above the eyes, on cheeks, inside ears, on chest and legs and underside of tail. Tan should be bright. White marks undesirable.
- **Ruby:** Whole coloured rich red. White markings undesirable.
- **Blenheim:** Rich chestnut markings well broken up, on pearly white ground. Markings evenly divided on head, leaving room between ears for much valued lozenge mark or spot (a unique characteristic of the breed).
- **Tricolour:** Black and white well spaced, broken up, with tan markings over eyes, cheeks, inside ears, inside legs, and on underside of tail.

*Any other colour or combination of colours highly undesirable.*

**Weight and Size:** Weight - 5.4 - 8.2 kgs (12 - 18 lbs). A small, well balanced dog well within these weights desirable.

**Faults:** Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

**Note:** Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

*Last Updated - January 2009*

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## **APPENDIX B - CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB - BREEDING GUIDELINES REGARDING MVD**

The guidance given to breeders wishing to reduce the incidence of MVD in Cavaliers is as follows:

### **THE BROOD BITCH**

Should be a minimum of 2½ (two and a half) years old with a clear heart, and parents with clear heart certificates, issued at 5 (five) years or older.

### **THE STUD DOG.**

Should preferably be at least 2½ (two and a half) years old with a clear heart, and with parents with clear heart certificates issued at 5 (five) years of age or older.

### **THESE ARE MINIMUM RECOMMENDATIONS.**

To use an older stud dog with a clear certificate issued as late in life as possible is highly desirable

**IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT BREEDING STOCK UNDER 5 (FIVE) YEARS OF AGE IS LIMITED TO THOSE WITH CLEAR HEART CERTIFICATES. HOWEVER, AN OLDER DOG WITH A SLIGHT HEART MURMUR SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED.**

Please remember, dogs do not have to have a clear heart to be used at stud. It is the dogs with **EARLY ONSET** murmurs (under five years of age) that we are so strongly advised to avoid using for breeding.

Breeders should aim at raising the age of onset of MVD by selecting breeding stock with a good heart record.

Club guide-lines are based on current recommendations of Geneticists and Cardiologists, and may be updated and reissued as further research information becomes available.

*Last Updated - 2005*