



EASTERN COUNTIES CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL SOCIETY

Breeding Guidelines

1. All members must be familiar with the Breed Standard and make no attempt to alter their dogs except as allowed in the standard.
2. All members must keep accurate breeding records, registration papers and pedigrees.
3. All members must use only dogs properly registered with the Kennel Club, or affiliated to the Kennel Club, for breeding.
4. No member should take on more dogs than they can care for and keep in a healthy environment. All members must maintain best possible standards of canine health including protection from known disease where this is available. Proper veterinary care must be provided as and when required.
5. All members must furnish a record in respect of each puppy sold giving details of all inoculations and worming, a pedigree and Kennel Club registration or transfer documents, unless written agreement is made at the time of sale that papers are withheld, and/or conditions imposed.
6. All members must conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as to reflect credit on the ownership of Cavaliers. In particular, not to use any media be it written, voice, electronic or cyber in a way that could be considered defamatory, insulting or detrimental to the well being of any other member or to the running of any cavalier Society or Club, or to the breed in general.
7. All surviving puppies to be registered with the Kennel Club by the time they are twelve months of age.
8. No puppies are to be passed to the new owner, under eight weeks of age.
9. No claims should be made about future prospects of puppies when advertising or selling (such as "Show quality"), without a clear definition of what is meant by the terms used.
10. All stock must be healthy at the time of sale. They should have been checked for known hereditary and other health problems with the prospective purchaser being given full access to the results.
11. Restricted registration certificates should be used to discourage unsuitable stock being bred from.
12. Breeding terms should only be taken on carefully, with all parties fully understanding what is entailed. This would normally be done on a Kennel Club "Loan of Bitch Agreement", but could be another form of written contract, properly signed with all parties having a signed copy.
13. **Current health testing recommendations** for MVD see Appendix A, current recommendations for Eye Testing re KC/BVA scheme see Appendix B, current recommendations for Syringomyelia see Appendix C. These tests are subject to change and a link to the most up-to-date version may be found on the Eastern Counties Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Society website at www.cavaliers.co.uk/eastern.htm
14. **DOGS TO BE USED AT STUD**
 - No dog, which has a known physical defect that, could be detrimental to the health and well being of the

puppy or the breed in general to 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 guidelines apply to MVD (see appendix B). More specific recommendations apply to SM (see Appendix C).

- 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 a bitch should have a full health check before mating and stud dog owners should assure themselves that this has taken place and was satisfactory.
- Any dog which is to be used at stud must be annually checked for good health, and be free from infection, and be in good condition at the time of the mating.
- Stud dog owners must be aware of the risk of cross infection and allow sufficient time between mating different bitches, to minimise the risk. If less than 48 hours, the owner of the bitch should be informed of the previous mating.

15. BITCHES TO BE USED FOR BREEDING

- No bitch which has a known physical defect that could be detrimental to the health and well being of the bitch, her offspring or the breed in general to be used for breeding. By way of guidance bitches used for breeding should hold current clear Heart Certificate. A current clear Eye Certificate is strongly recommended (see Appendix B). These certificates should be available to the owner of the dog at the time of mating. More specific guidelines apply to MVD (see Appendix A). More specific recommendations apply to SM (see Appendix C).
- 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.
- No bitches to be mated so as to rear a litter after her eighth birthday.
- 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.
- No bitch to be allowed more than six litters in her lifetime.
- No bitch to be mated after two caesarean sections as this would indicate possible whelping difficulties.
- Any bitch which is to be used for breeding must be protected from known diseases when available, be annually checked for good health, be free from infection, and be in good condition at the time of the mating.
- Bitches received from overseas for mating should be returned as soon as possible. This should be within 4 weeks from the date of mating.
- No bitch more than 4 weeks in whelp should be exported or imported.

16. OWNERS

- Owners of stud dogs must only allow their dogs to be used if they are confident that their stud dog meets the criteria stated and that the bitch to be mated meets the criteria specified for bitches.
- Owners of bitches must only mate them if they are confident that their bitch and the prospective stud dog meet the criteria stated above.
- Once a mating has taken place, the owners of the bitch have a responsibility for the good welfare of the progeny throughout their lifetime and as such have an obligation to help new owners if requested to do so. Stud dog owners also have a moral obligation for the welfare of the puppies.

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APPENDIX A

The guidance given to breeders 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 (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.

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

APPENDIX B

Eye testing – should be done under the KC/BVA/ISDS Eye Scheme or the KC/AHT Scheme or the ECVO Scheme. (Eye Examinations) should be repeated annually and should be within 12 months of the date of registration.

APPENDIX C

CKCS MRI screening and breeding recommendations January 2007

The diagnosis of Syringomyelia is easily confirmed by MRI but neurologists have yet to define what is meant by the term 'clear' given that most cavaliers have a degree of skull malformation. The late onset of clinical signs and the number of asymptomatic dogs adds to the complexity of the condition. Not enough is known about long term progression to ascertain the optimum age young dogs should be screened for the disease. The research is an evolving process and hopefully a proven accurate and UNIVERSAL scheme will be developed eventually. Recent studies suggests that in the vast majority of cases the syrinx starts in the upper cervical spinal cord so if this is included then scanning of the entire cord (more expensive) may not ultimately be necessary. Any 'normal' dog without the occipital malformation which makes the skull small has a genetic advantage and should be used for breeding.

The following breeding recommendations were derived at the International Conference held in November 2006 and are made using current information and in response to breeder requests for guidelines. It has yet to be proven if this guide is appropriate. The aim of these recommendations is to reduce the incidence of symptomatic Syringomyelia in the breed not to create litters of puppies guaranteed not to have SM as the chance of producing an affected dog cannot be predicted without knowing the inheritance. It is recommended that the offspring of any mating is also MRI screened before breeding. As the incidence of Syringomyelia is so high in the breed there will be severe depletion of the gene pool if only clear dogs are used (i.e. other problems will develop). Therefore until the genetic defect is determined it is recommended that dogs with Syringomyelia be used if they are valuable in another genetic sense e.g. good heart. The general principle of these guidelines is that dogs with code A are more desirable to use than B, etc but that dogs with a higher letter code may still be used in some limited circumstances.

International Syringomyelia Conference Nov 2006

Revised CKCS MRI screening and breeding recommendations arising from the International Conference

These breeding recommendations are made using current information and in response to CKCS breeder request for guidelines. It has yet to be proven if this guide is appropriate. The aim of these recommendations is to reduce the incidence of symptomatic Syringomyelia (SM) in the breed not to create litters of puppies guaranteed not to have SM as the chance of producing an affected dog cannot be predicted without knowing the inheritance.

Note- The age cut off at 2.5 years has been decided so as to tie in with MVD recommendations and because most dogs with symptomatic SM will show signs before 3 years of age.

The following categories from the previous guidelines have been removed because of difficulty in accurately interpreting

Previously A * - now A

Previously B - now C

It is recommended

1. That both the sire and the dam of a proposed mating are screened (any unscreened dog should be assumed to be "D")
2. Offspring of any mating should also be MRI screened before breeding.
3. Any dog screened before 2.5 years old has a second screen when older,
4. That dogs are screened from 6 months of age
5. That if a limited ("mini") MRI screen is performed that
 - a) the minimum area covered is from approximately the level of the thalamus / corpus callosum to cervical vertebrae 5 (C5)

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b) Both TW1 and TW2 = sagittal images are obtained in addition to TW1 and /or TW2 transverse images through the upper cervical spinal cord.

c) An assessment is also made for presence/absence of ear disease and ventricular enlargement.

6. That interpretation of images is made by Diplomat level radiologists, neurologists and, in special circumstances, by orthopaedic surgeons with recognised expertise in this area.

Colour code: red = under 2.5 years blue = over 2.5 years, purple = any age

CODE	AGE (yrs)	Syringomyelia	Breed to
A	Over 2.5	Absent or less than 2mm central canal dilatation in the C2-C4 region only	A, C, D
C	Under 2.5	Absent	A Rescan after 2.5 years.
D	Over 2.5	Present but asymptomatic	A
E	Under 2.5	Present but asymptomatic	SHOULD NOT BE BRED FROM
F	Any	Present and symptomatic	SHOULD NOT BE BRED FROM