

## **PART A - a guide to breeding Cavalier King Charles Spaniels**

Before breeding a litter, serious and equal consideration should be given to type, construction, temperament, health and soundness. In the choice of breeding stock it is important that the whole dog is considered.

A Cavalier's gay, friendly temperament is its greatest asset.

1. All breeding should be aimed at the improvement of the breed. Members should do all in their power to discourage breeding from clearly unsound or inferior stock. Stud service should be refused for bitches from such stock.
2. As with most breeds, problems occur from time to time. HOWEVER, it must be made clear to puppy buyers that there are no guarantees when you buy a puppy. Conscientious breeders should try to reduce the chances of inherited problems in the puppies they breed by using the health schemes available at the time. Several have been set up by the British Veterinary Association and the Kennel Club (BVA/KC). These can be used to help with the breeding of sound Cavaliers
3. Members are expected to co-operate in measures aimed at research into the eradicating of any hereditary diseases. These may include having breeding stock tested as part of that research or as a contribution to a KC/BVA health scheme. If dogs are tested then they should make copies available of relevant documents to purchasers of their stock at the time of sale. Members should also work towards the introduction of the Animal Health Trust (AHT) programme of EBV's (Estimated Breeding Values) or the European EBV'S and any future DNA Breed schemes.

As part of the KC's Assured Breeders Scheme some health tests may be mandatory but participation in all schemes is voluntary. Where DNA tests are available we would urge members to take full advantage of such tests. Other recommended health schemes are available (for details see Part B). Breeders will be free to make their own decisions, but all breeders must be seen to take responsibility for their own actions.

4. All members must be familiar with the Breed Standard and make no attempt to alter their dogs except as allowed in the standard.
5. All members must keep accurate breeding records, registration papers and pedigrees.
6. All members must use only dogs properly registered with the Kennel Club, or Clubs affiliated to the Kennel Club, for breeding.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. All surviving puppies to be registered with the Kennel Club by the time they are twelve months of age.
10. No puppies are to be passed to the new owner, under eight weeks of age.
11. 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.
12. All stock must be healthy at the time of sale. If the parents and/or puppy have been health tested then the prospective purchaser should be given full access to the results.
13. Restricted registration certificates should be used to discourage unsuitable stock being bred from.

#### 14. DOGS TO BE USED AT STUD

- 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

- 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.
- No bitch to be mated so as to whelp before she is 16 months old or earlier if a KC regulation applies 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 subject to any KC regulation on maximum age.
- All bitches should comply with any KC regulation regarding frequency of litters and should not normally rear a litter on consecutive seasons. There may be additional requirements for licensed breeders.
- No bitch to be allowed more than the number of KC recommended litters in her lifetime. (From 2012 this will be 4).
- No bitch to be mated after two caesarean sections as this would indicate possible whelping difficulties, KC regulations also apply.
- Bitches received from overseas for mating should be returned as soon as

possible. This should be within 4 weeks from the date of mating.

- o No bitch more than 4 weeks in whelp should be exported or imported

16. 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.
17. 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.
18. Health testing recommendations appear from time to time often as a result of research by experts in their field and members should keep themselves up to date as to the latest information which is available on the various web sites such as The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, The Kennel Club, AHT and Cavalierhealth.co.uk. These recommendations are voluntary and not compulsory but can be used to help in the breeding of sound cavaliers.