

# CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB OF GREATER CHICAGO

## CODE OF ETHICS

The Purpose of this Code of Ethics is to improve and protect the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and to promote good breeding practices among the members. The overall well being of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel as a breed is paramount to this club. All members of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Greater Chicago shall abide by the club's Code of Ethics. It is understood that all club members will be in good standing with The American Kennel Club.

The utmost care and planning should be taken prior to undertaking any breeding so that the resultant progeny are as mentally and physically sound as possible. All breeding stock should be sufficiently mature as to ascertain both their physical and mental health.

### **I. GUIDELINES FOR BREEDING A BITCH**

- A. Members will study the AKC Breed Standard and breed only those specimens that meet the standard.
- B. Bitches will not be bred before fourteen months of age.
- C. Bitches will not be bred after reaching their eighth birthday, nor will any bitch whelp more than 6 litters during her lifetime.
- D. Members will not breed any bitch unless they are prepared to keep all puppies for which suitable homes cannot be found.
- E. Bitches who have been determined as unsuitable for breeding will be spayed. Any bitch placed in a pet home will be placed with restricted papers and a spay agreement.
- F. Before any bitch is bred, she will be tested clear by a board certified cardiologist for mitral valve disease, a board certified ophthalmologist for inherited eye disorders and a licensed veterinarian for patellar luxation within 12 months of the breeding date. It is strongly recommended that she also be tested for hip dysplasia prior to breeding. Any member who wishes to breed a bitch who has tested positive for any of the above will consult with the appropriate veterinary specialist prior to breeding.

### **II. GUIDELINES FOR BREEDING STUD DOGS**

- A. Members will study the AKC Breed Standard and breed only those specimens that meet the standard.
- B. Dogs will not be bred before fourteen months of age.
- C. Dogs who have been determined as unsuitable for breeding will be neutered. Any dog placed in a pet home will be placed with restricted papers and a neuter agreement.
- D. Stud service will not be offered to individuals who do not take sincere ethical measures to protect/improve the breed, or to any persons who would place puppies without spay/neuter contracts.
- E. Before any dog is bred, he will be tested clear by a board certified cardiologist for mitral valve disease, a board certified ophthalmologist for inherited eye disorders and a licensed veterinarian for patellar luxation within 12 months of the breeding date. It is strongly recommended that he also be tested for hip dysplasia prior to breeding. Any member who wishes to breed a dog who has tested positive for any of the above will consult with the appropriate veterinary specialist prior to breeding.

**III. GUIDELINES FOR PLACEMENT OF PUPPIES/DOGS:**

- A. Members will be discriminating in the placement of all Cavalier King Charles Spaniel puppies and dogs that they breed.
- B. Puppies/dogs will not be placed in pet shops, with animal brokers, or persons who sell/buy in litter lots.
- C. Members will not donate puppies/dogs for raffles or contests.
- D. Puppies will not be released to new homes before eight weeks of age and all will have immunizations and wormings appropriate for their age.
- E. New owners will be provided with full instructions on the care and feeding of their puppy/dog. It is strongly advised that puppies be checked by a veterinarian prior to leaving for their new homes and that the veterinary health certificate be provided to the new owners(s).
- F. All pet quality puppies will be placed with restricted papers and a spay/neuter agreement.
- G. In the even that a puppy/dog cannot be kept by the buyers, the sales contract will state that the puppy/dog will be returned to the breeder or that the breeder will assist in finding a suitable home for the puppy/dog.

**IV. BUSINESS INTEGRITY**

- A. Puppies/dogs will be represented honestly. Any known health issues will be fully disclosed to puppy/dog buyer(s) prior to sale.
- B. Misleading or deceptive advertising will not be used.
- C. Members will discourage the breeding of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels for fun and profit.

**V. BROKERING**

Puppies/dogs will never be brokered nor will a member act as a middleman in a sale, thereby allowing the sale of a puppy or dog without the breeder of the animal having direct contact with the ultimate owner. No member will purchase a dog for resale. No member will receive a commission from the sale of a dog.

**VI. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club and the Constitution/By-Laws and Code of Ethics of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Greater Chicago, Inc. will be abided by and upheld by all members. Members understand that they will be held accountable for their actions.

**VII. EDUCATION**

Members will assist other members in any way possible. Members will, at all times, education and offer guidance to anyone sincerely interested in the breed and/or refer them to the appropriate club resource.

**VIII. EXHIBITING**

All American Kennel Club guidelines are to be followed as to exhibiting any Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and that the practice of good sportsmanship should be followed by all club members at all times.

**IX. ENFORCEMENT AND APPEALS**

It is understood that failure to comply with the Code of Ethics of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Greater Chicago, Inc. may result in suspension or expulsion of club members as provided for in the club Bylaws. Neither officers, nor board members will adjudicate decisions that personally affect them.