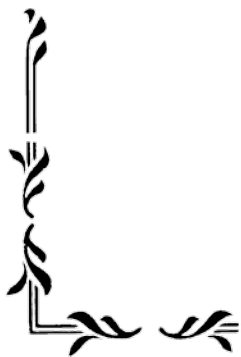




THE
SOUTHERN
CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB

Constitution And Rules
Breed Standard
Code of Ethics
Code of Best Practice

Revised and Re-issued August 2009



The information contained in this booklet is valid at the time of going to print.

This booklet contains the following Club information:

Constitution And Rules
Breed Standard
Code of Ethics
Code of Best Practice

It should be noted that these are 4 stand alone documents which have been incorporated into a single booklet for practical purposes only.

The **Constitution and Rules** may only be amended by vote at an Annual General Meeting.

The **Breed Standard** is © The Kennel Club, and is the property of The Kennel Club. It may only be amended by The Kennel Club.

The **Code of Ethics** is Kennel Club mandatory, it may be amended or changed by the Kennel Club at any time such changes being effective from a date specified by the Kennel Club.

The **Code of Best Practice** is specific to the Southern Cavalier Club; the guidelines for MVD and SM referred to in Para 1 of Parts 3 and 4 are set by veterinary specialists and may be revised at any time.

Whilst this booklet is valid for 2009 beyond that date checks for changes and updates should be made via the web or by contacting the Secretary:

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SOUTHERN CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB

Founded 1979

CONSTITUTION and RULES

1. NAME

The Club shall be called The Southern Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a) To promote general interest and the breeding and exhibiting of SOUND Cavaliers.
- (b) Provide 3 (three) Shows a year in the South of England.
- (c) Providing other activities, i.e. Teach Ins, Ringcraft, and Social Events which may be found desirable or necessary.

3. MANAGEMENT

(a) OFFICERS

The Officers of the Club shall be:-

The President

Hon. Secretary) ex-officio

Hon. Treasurer) ex-officio

(b) COMMITTEE

The Committee shall consist of the Officers and eight Members. Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be voted for by the Committee Members.

- (i) All Officers and Committee to have voting rights, the Chairman has the casting vote
- (ii) The Quorum shall be five.
- (iii) The Management of the Club shall be vested in the Committee who will be responsible for the arranging of Breed Shows, social functions and all matters relating to the Club.
- (iv) No two members of the same family or of a partnership shall serve simultaneously either as Officers or Committee members.
- (v) The Committee's year of office shall commence immediately after the Annual General Meeting.
- (vi) The Committee shall meet not less than six times each year.
- (vii) The Chair at all Meetings of the Committee shall be taken by the Chairman or an Officer.
- (viii) The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Cup Secretary and such other officials as they deem necessary and to fix the duties, remuneration (if any) and other conditions of engagement and discharge of such officials or any of them
- (ix) Every Officer and Member of the Committee, and every official appointed by the Committee shall be indemnified by the Club against all claims, costs and expenses which such persons may incur or become liable to incur by reason of any act or things done or omitted to be done by him authorised by the Committee and/or in the discharge of his duties

- (x) Officers and Committee shall be entitled to an annual allowance towards the expense of attending Committee Meetings; the amount of such allowances will be determined by the Committee
 - (xi) Any Officer or Member of the Committee who shall during his/her term of office be elected an Officer or Committee Member of any other Cavalier Breed Club in the U.K. shall there upon resign from his/her Office or Committee Membership in this Club
 - (xii) No individual who has been a member of the Club for less than five years may be elected on to the Committee. Time as an Associate Member counts toward the five years, but members must have been full members for at least two years.
 - (xiii) No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society
- (c) PATRON
- If the Club is without a Patron and the Committee or membership feel it is appropriate to identify one, the Committee will make the appointment and inform the membership at the next Annual General Meeting.

4. ELECTIONS

(a) MEMBERS

- (i) All new candidates for membership of the Club shall apply for Associate Membership. No proposer is required but candidates must complete an application form. Associate Members may not attend AGMs/SGMs, propose candidates for the Committee nor have voting rights, but will otherwise share all the benefits of membership with existing members. After three years, and on completion of a further application form, which must be supported by a proposer and seconder (both full members of at least two years standing), a request for full membership will be considered by the Committee. The Committee will vote on all applications - three negatives shall exclude. Lapsed members wishing to rejoin will, subject to the Committee's approval, be assigned the category of membership they previously held.
- (ii) The Committee shall be empowered to nominate for Honorary Life Membership any person who has rendered outstanding service to the Southern Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club. The election to this distinction shall take place at the Annual General Meeting. The number of Hon. Life Members shall be a maximum of ten at any one time; an Hon. Life Member shall have the right to vote as any fully paid up member; but no right to attend Committee Meetings.
 - (iii) The Club must send a list of members and their addresses, and those of branch members where appropriate, to the Kennel Club with their Annual Returns, and, if so requested, make an up to date list of members available for inspection by the Kennel Club and members of the Club.

(b) OFFICERS

- (i) President - A President shall hold office for a term of five years. When a new President is required, the Committee will choose their candidate and inform the membership. If any member wishes to propose another candidate, and provided they have a seconder and the agreement of the candidate, they must inform the Secretary in writing at least 28 days before the next AGM and a ballot will be held at the AGM.
- (ii) The Hon. Secretary shall remain in office until resignation is offered by the Officer or until asked to resign by the Committee. The Secretary to receive an honorarium to be determined at the Club's AGM. When a new Secretary is required, the Committee will select their candidate and the membership will be invited to endorse the selection at the next AGM.
- (iii) The Hon. Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer to receive an honorarium to be determined at the Club's AGM.
- (iv) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be chosen by the Committee elected for that year and will be announced at the AGM at the start of that year.
- (v) The number of Hon. Life Vice-Presidents shall be a maximum of three at any one time; an Hon. Life Vice-President shall have the right to vote as any fully paid up member; but, in addition shall have the right to attend Committee Meetings; but shall have no power to vote at same.

(c) COMMITTEE

- (i) All Committee Members will offer themselves for re-election each year.
- (ii) A list of those nominated for election to the Committee (together with the names and signatures of the proposer and seconder in each case) and the names of the retiring members of the Committee who are eligible and willing to stand for re-election accompanied by a record of attendance at Committee Meetings during the preceding year, together with a Ballot paper, shall be sent to every paid-up member of the Club not later than 31st December. A member of the Committee not attending three committee meetings without a reasonable excuse in writing, will not be eligible for re-election the following year.
- (iii) Completed Ballot papers shall be returned, by post, to scrutiners appointed by the Committee not later than 31st January. Any Ballot paper containing votes for more than the required number of candidates shall be considered spoiled and shall be invalid.
- (iv) The result of the Ballot shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

5. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- (a) Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42.j.(5) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club A42.j.(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Club for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification. If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Club, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee of the Club may, at a Meeting, the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her. Notice of the Special

General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the Meeting a resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members, and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of the Club, except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such Meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club impose.

- (b) If the Club expels any members for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows, Trials or Competitions, the Club must report the matter in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

6. FINANCE

(a) Subscriptions

- (i) The Annual Subscription will be determined by the Committee and put to the Annual General Meeting for approval. This sum will be payable on 1st January each year. Any member failing to pay their subscription by the 30th June shall automatically cease to be a member. Each adult member shall be eligible to cast one vote.
- (ii) Subscriptions shall be payable within one month of election.
- (iii) No member joining the Club after the 1st October in any year shall be required to pay a further subscription until the end of the following year.

(b) Bank Account

- (i) A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Club into which all revenue of the Club shall be paid and from which withdrawals shall only be made on the signatures of two or more Officers.

(c) The financial year of the Club shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

(d) If the Club is wound up or ceases to be a Registered Club under Kennel Club Regulations, a final statement of audited accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Club shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Club on the last return furnished to The Kennel Club will be held responsible by The Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Club.

(e) Members of ten years standing on reaching their 75th birthday will have the option of remaining a member without paying further membership fees.

7. MEETINGS

(a) Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held by 31st March each year to:

- (i) Elect the President - when required
- (ii) Elect the Treasurer
- (iii) Elect the Secretary - when required
- (iv) Receive the result of the Ballot for elections to the Committee
- (v) Nominate the Auditors and fix their remuneration
- (vi) Receive the Chairman's Report of the Club Activities and Committee Business
- (vii) Receive, and, if agreed, pass the annual certified accounts

- (viii) Transact business, notice of which appears on the agenda. No other business shall be transacted with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting are urgent.

The Chair shall be taken by the President or, in his/her absence, by the Chairman. Notice of the Annual General Meeting, together with the Agenda, shall be published in the Canine Press, namely Dog World & Our Dogs, or by a mailing to the whole membership, not less than fourteen clear days before the date of the meeting.

A quorum shall be twenty adult members.

(b) Special or Extraordinary General Meeting

- (i) A Special or Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called on the request of the President, the Committee or on the written requisition of six members who must state their reasons for requiring such a Meeting.
- (ii) The Notice convening such a Meeting shall specify the nature of the business to be transacted (and no business other than that named in the Notice shall be brought before the Meeting) and shall be circulated to all members at least twenty one days prior to the date of the Meeting.

8 CLUB ASSETS

The assets of the Club shall be vested in the Committee and if the Club shall be wound up or shall merge with any other Society, or shall fail to hold a show for twelve months, all cups and trophies shall, if possible, be returned to the donors or their representatives and a General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of any other assets.

9 KENNEL CLUB

The Kennel Club shall be the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Club and in all cases relative to Canine or Club matters.

10 FEDERATIONS

The Club shall not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.

11 ALTERATION OF RULES

The rules of the Club shall not be altered except at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting, notice of which includes details of the proposal to alter the Rules. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and has given its approval of the alterations.

New Rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately and be included in the Club's Constitution with effect from the Club's annual meeting.

12 ANNUAL RETURNS TO THE KENNEL CLUB

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club whether by the Secretary or by Direct Debit, for continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in the Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities be forwarded to the Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the Club which may occur during the course of the year.

13 WELFARE ORGANISATION

Structure:

SCKCSC Committee

Liaison Officer

Co-ordinator Treasurer Fund Raiser Secretary Helpers

Responsibilities:

LIAISON OFFICER:

The Liaison Officer is responsible to the SCKCSC for the operation of the Welfare Organisation. The Liaison Officer is to advise Officers of the Welfare Organisation on procedures and is to report progress and problems and disputes to the SCKCSC Committee.

CO-ORDINATOR;

The Co-ordinator is responsible to the SCKCSC through the Liaison Officer for all aspects of the Welfare Organisation within the prescribed area, except Fund-raising.

- 1 To compile and maintain a list of helpers (name, address, telephone) with the extent of assistance offered.
- 2 To maintain a list of vetted homes for re-homing.
- 3 To maintain a diary of activities. (Advice given, re-homing etc)
- 4 To ensure that the Welfare Organisation incurs no legal liability. (By obtaining signed permission before transferring dogs)
- 5 To advise and assist on welfare matters as required.
- 6 To re-home cavaliers if necessary.
- 7 To seek veterinary advice where necessary.
- 8 To liase with the Treasurer regarding available funds.
- 9 To authorise Bills for payment.
- 10 To advise breeders (when known) that their stock is subject to welfare action. (This should be done as soon as a problem occurs so that the breeder has the opportunity to handle the problem, saving expenditure by the Welfare Organisation.)

SECRETARY:

The secretary is responsible to the Co-ordinator handling incoming and outgoing mail as directed, the compilation of reports and secretarial matters in general.

TREASURER;

The Treasurer is responsible to the SCKCSC through the Liaison Officer for the day to day financial matters of the Welfare Organisation and preparation of the Welfare Annual Accounts. The Treasurer is to liase with the Co-ordinator regarding available funds.

FUND-RAISERS;

To act independently, other than where welfare organisation funds expenditure is required, when co-ordinator and treasurer authority is necessary.

OBJECTIVES;

To ensure the on going well being of any Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, placed in its care. To offer advice/help which may obviate the need to re-home.

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 (11/2 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 cowhocks 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/Movement: Free-moving and elegant in action, plenty of drive from behind. Forelegs and hindlegs 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.

Colour: Colour 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.

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.

THE SOUTHERN CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB

CODE OF ETHICS

SOUTHERN CKCS Club Members:

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 standalone 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. (KC General Code of Ethics)

THE SOUTHERN CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB

CODE OF BEST PRACTICE

PART 1: - 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 2: BREEDING AND EXHIBITING

1. All members should familiarise themselves with the Kennel Club Breed Standard 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. All members must keep accurate breeding records, registration documents and pedigrees.
3. All members must breed only from or with dogs registered with the Kennel Club or Clubs affiliated to the Kennel Club.
4. All surviving puppies should be registered with the Kennel Club by the time they reach the age of twelve months.
5. Restricted Registration certificates should be used to discourage unsuitable stock being bred from.
6. No puppies are to be passed to their new owners under eight weeks of age.
7. Members 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.
8. Members should 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.
9. 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.
10. Breeding terms should only be taken on 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.

11. Specific health recommendations for MVD are shown in Appendix A and for Syringomyelia in Appendix B. Note that these recommendations are subject to change and a link to the most up-to-date versions can be found on the Southern Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club website at www.cavalier.info/clubs/southern.

PART 3:- 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 guidelines apply to MVD and Syringomyelia
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 the risk. The owner of the bitch should be informed of the previous mating if less than 48 hours has elapsed.

PART 4:- 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 and Syringomyelia
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.

PART 5:- RESPONSIBILITY.

1. 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.

Appendix A: MVD BREEDING GUIDELINES

The guidance given to breeders wishing to reduce the incidence of MVD in Cavaliers, remains the same, and 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.

Appendix B: 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)
 - 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 Diplomate level radiologists, neurologists and, in special circumstances, by orthopaedic surgeons with recognised expertise in this area.

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

