

THE AMERICAN COCKER SPANIEL CLUB
OF GREAT BRITAIN

THE KENNEL CLUB GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS
WITH BREED SPECIFIC ADDITIONS - APPROVED BY THE KENNEL CLUB

All members of the American Cocker Spaniel Club Of Great Britain undertake to abide by this general Code of Ethics.

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 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.
15. Members will, when breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum standard the principles, requirements & recommendations as embodied in the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder Scheme.
16. Members will submit stock for eye screening using either the KC// BVA Eye Schemes and will make available copies of the relevant documents to purchasers of their stock.
17. No bitch should be required to have more than six litters. Wherever possible, no dog or bitch should be mated before the age of two years. Before a bitch is mated, due regard should be given to her general condition, fitness and in the case of second and subsequent litters, how easily she whelped previously.
18. No dog or bitch should be used for breeding purposes unless IT and BOTH IT'S PARENTS have current clear eye certificates.
19. All breeding should be aimed at the improvement of the breed. Members should do everything in their power to discourage breeding from clearly inferior stock and those members who own a stud dog should refuse stud service to such specimens.
20. No member shall deliberately breed an American Cocker to any other breed (except with prior consent from the officers and committee of the club or Kennel Club) in order to produce cross breeds.
21. No member should breed a litter unless they have the time and facilities to devote proper care and attention to the rearing of the puppies and to the well-being of the dam. No member should provide stud service unless they are fully satisfied that the owner of the bitch has such time and facilities.
22. Officers and Committee members of Clubs are always ready and willing to do their best to help with any query or problem.

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.