

Toy

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Toy spaniels can be traced back to at least the 16th Century and, as with many other of the Toy breeds, it is likely that they were bred down from sporting breeds. Queen Elizabeth I had a 'spaniel gentle' as a comforter, a dog popular with noble ladies as playthings and bed warmers. The spaniel of Mary, Queen of Scots was found hidden in her petticoats after she was beheaded. However, it was in the courts of Charles I and his son Charles II that the toy spaniels became well established and their popularity spread, particularly amongst the nobility. The first Duke of Marlborough developed the Blenheim spaniel, a rich red and white dog which retained its sporting instincts and was adept at flushing game. Its name comes from the Duke's residence, Blenheim Palace, and the word is used today to describe the chestnut and white coat colour. The Duke of Norfolk also kept the Blenheim type but developed the black and tan variety. The tricolours were called the Prince Charles. The ruby colour was the last colour to be developed in the breed.

Until the late 19th Century the toy spaniels retained the fairly long muzzle and the flattish skull of the sporting spaniels. However, the fashion for shorter muzzles in the toy breeds, as seen in the Pug and the Pekingese, led to the domed skull and shorter muzzle becoming more popular and more successful in the show ring. A group of breeders were saddened by the apparent decline of the slightly larger type dogs with slightly longer muzzles, flatter skulls, and which retained their sporting instincts. At Crufts in 1926-1930, there were special prizes given for 'Blenheim spaniels of the old type' and the word 'Cavalier' was chosen to distinguish this type from the flatter-faced type which was known as the King Charles. This effectively saw the emergence of the Cavalier King Charles (the old type) as a separate variety from the King Charles. The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club was formed in 1928 but the Kennel Club did not recognise the Cavalier as a separate breed until 1945.

Breed Group	Toy
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Small
How much exercise?	Up to 1 hour per day
Length of coat	Medium
How much grooming?	More than once a week
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Flat, Small or Large House
Minimum garden size	Small/Medium
Lifespan	Over 12 Years

Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders must use the following screening schemes for sires and dams BVA/KC

- Eye testing
- DNA test - EF
- DNA test - CC/DE

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- Breed Club - Heart testing (Mitral Valve Disease)
- BVA/KC CMSM Scheme

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

Breeding Health Advice

Breed clubs are a great way to meet other people and gain information from others who are just as passionate about Cavaliers. In the UK there is a national Cavalier King Charles Club and nine regional clubs. The clubs have information on everything from current research and health clinics to seminars, shows and 'Pet Pages'.

Breed Clubs will also be a useful source of information should you decide to breed from your Cavalier. Breeding can be enormously rewarding, but you must be aware of the responsibility which this entails. You should ensure that your dog meets recommended guidelines for MVD and SM and has a clear eye certificate issued by the British Veterinary Association/Kennel Club scheme.

The above information is intended for guidance only, for your information and use. This guidance is not intended to be a substitute for independent professional veterinary advice. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel clubs cannot be held liable for any loss or damage caused directly or indirectly as a result of the reliance upon any of the the information and guidance

given.

Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or
- 3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or
- 4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or
- 5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or
- 6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

It is genetically proven that two blenheim parents can only produce blenheim puppies. Therefore, with effect from 16 April 2007, the Kennel Club will only accept the registration of blenheim puppies produced from two blenheim parents.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Clubs

Name	Telephone
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club	01844 214049
Eastern Counties Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Society	01462 670774
Humberside Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club	01636 626618
Midland Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club	02476697344
Northern Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Society	01325 256539
Northern Ireland Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club	02890849571
Scottish Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club	01324 553331
South & West Wales Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club	01495 750559
Southern Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club	01737 762620
Three Counties Pekingese & Cavalier Society	01452 530002
West Of England Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club	01934 822758

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Welfare & Rescue Service	01205 872066
Eastern Counties Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Society Rescue	01223 841634
Humberside Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue	01427 788164
Humberside Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue	01723 864285
Midland Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue	01905 371205
Midland Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue	02476 697344
Northern Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Society Rescue	0191 3711523
Scottish Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue	01324 553331
South & West Wales Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue	01633 680315
Southern Cavalier Welfare	01233 712724
Southern Cavalier Welfare	07931 493914
Southern Cavalier Welfare	01798 888452
Southern Cavalier Welfare	01329 832384
Southern Cavalier Welfare	01494 674450
West Of England Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Welfare Scheme	01548 580369