

**THE CAVALIER KING CHARLES
SPANIEL CLUB**



PUPPY PACK



**THIS PACK IS INTENDED TO HELP NEW OWNERS AND THOSE
THINKING OF BUYING A CAVALIER.**

ALWAYS BUY FROM A REPUTABLE BREEDER.

ASK TO SEE THE MOTHER



**AND ALSO ASK TO SEE
HER HEART AND EYE CERTIFICATES.**

**ALL REPUTABLE BREEDERS WILL BE ABLE TO PRODUCE THESE
CERTIFICATES , AND WILL BE ONLY TOO PLEASED TO SHOW YOU.**

**THERE IS LOTS MORE INFORMATION ON THE CLUB WEBSITE:
www.thecavalierclub.co.uk**

**Look on the 'Home' page for the 'Cavaliers as Pets' heading, look at
the current pages and then visit 'Previous Issues'
THE CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB
HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND THE INFORMATION IN THIS
PUPPY PACK HELPFUL, BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.**

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Now that a Cavalier has entered your life, you are committing yourself to twelve or more years of responsibility to the little chap.

Dog owning is full of ups and downs, but full of pleasure if you spend a while really socialising the new puppy so that it grows up to be a well balanced dog.

There are many reasons for choosing a Cavalier as your pet. They are beautiful, intelligent, outgoing and ever eager to please. They are also quite tough little dogs, although the, 'lap dog' will appear whenever a lap becomes vacant.

A word of warning: Cavaliers think they have a divine right to sit on the best furniture, and sleep on the most comfortable bed, (yours!)...telling them otherwise can be very difficult!

If you have a family, do make sure that the children learn to respect the puppy. It too, needs to sleep without interference, and must, at all times, be handled gently.

Ask your breeder to show you the current Heart and Eye Certificates of the mother of the puppies before you purchase the puppy. All responsible breeders will have had their breeding stock tested.

The breeder will have supplied you with:

- Kennel Club Registration papers.
- The Pup's Pedigree.
- A diet sheet with feeding advice.
- A vaccination card if he's been vaccinated, or details of when to get them done.
- The date of worming, and when the next treatment is due.
- Finally, the offer of help whenever required in supplying help and information on any problems you may encounter.

Veterinary and third party insurance is essential these days. Visits to the Vet can be very costly, and although insurance cover isn't cheap, it is well worth having. Your Vet will have leaflets on this subject.



WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR PUPPY.



This is a list of useful things to have when you have a new puppy.

Bedding. 'Vet Bed', a simulated sheep fleece is excellent, it's warm, comfortable and very easy to wash.

A food bowl and a water bowl.

A couple of suitable puppy toys.

A plastic bed or, better still, a cage to sleep in.

You might think about a 'baby gate' to restrict access to areas such as stairs.

A dog cage to use when travelling in the car, or a travel harness that is anchored within the car. A cage is also invaluable for sleeping quarters in the house.

A small collar. The very best one for starters is a 'Cat Collar', as they are soft and slightly expandable for wearing in the home to get used to wearing a collar. Plus a proper collar and lead for when he's ready to go out into the big wide world.

An engraved tag with your address and 'phone number clearly marked. This is required by Law.

Grooming Tools: A good brush with soft bristles. A wide toothed comb for untangling knots when the puppy is older.

A suitable dog shampoo.

Old Towels.

A fine toothed 'flea' comb.

A roll of 'sandwich bags' from any supermarket, they make ideal, 'Poop Scoops'.

DON'T BUY:

A dog harness for walking the dog. A collar and lead are best.

A choke chain, these can cause great harm to a small dog.

A 'dog coat'. Cavaliers are tough little souls and, unless sick or elderly do not need a coat.

THE FIRST FEW DAYS

These are important times, both for the new puppy and the new owner.

A few simple hints will make all the difference.

He will be feeling bewildered and lonely, particularly when left alone at night for the first time in his life.

The best place for him to sleep is in a proper dog cage; he will be safe, and when you later take him in the car, he will travel safely in the cage. Buy a cage that he will grow into.

Cover the floor of the cage with sheets of newspaper; place his bedding so that it takes up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the floor space; this will allow him to pee in the night without having to wet his bed; dogs hate to foul their bedding.

Your first test as a new owner! Bedtime, the first night! Leave him with a cuddly toy, and with a reassuring voice, tell him to “Stay!” Leave a ticking clock, or the radio on very quietly to comfort him, and a well wrapped hot water bottle for him to snuggle against in lieu of ‘Mum’, and then, (and you will *hate* yourself!), shut the door and ignore all cries for the duration of the night! The first couple of nights may well be noisy, ignore him! This will teach him that being noisy won’t bring you running every five minutes.



If you give in, you will have lost a most important battle and will be, ‘Under his thumb’ for evermore!

Be sure to wash his bedding regularly, and remove any soiled papers as soon as possible.

Give your puppy lots of praise and cuddles, and encourage him to play with his toys. When he’s had enough and wants to sleep...let him.

He should learn the word, “NO!” from day 1.

If he starts to chew the best armchair, say the word, “NO!” in a firm, deep voice that shows your disapproval, As soon as he lets go, tell him he’s a “Good Boy”. If he goes back to it, repeat the exercise, he will quickly learn right from wrong. Never smack him, use your voice, and as soon as he has done what you have told him to do, praise him.



FEEDING

It's always a good idea to follow the breeder's guidelines for a while so as not to upset the pup's tummy.

Cavalier puppies have tiny tummies and should be fed accordingly. Small meals, probably four daily to begin with, changing to three times a day by the time the pup is 10 - 12 weeks old. As an adult he will need one feed per day.

The Golden Rule with feeding young puppies is to ask yourself:

“Is he looking well?”.

“Is he growing?”

“Is he full of fun?”

If the answer is “Yes”, then you are doing just fine.

Always wash the food bowl as soon as he's eaten. Always make sure he has access to fresh water.

Never feed bones, and be careful if you give rawhide chews as these swell and unravel once eaten, a greedy puppy will often chew and swallow the entire chew and choke, this can cause major problem. Chews are very popular, just be careful.

Here comes **your second test as a new owner!**

Most Cavaliers are what is known as, ‘Good Trenchermen’ and will eat up every morsel, but occasionally one will be fussy.

Once he gets to 11 - 12 weeks, he may ‘go on strike’ and refuse to eat. You can give in to his whims and start feeding him what he fancies, OR, (and this is strongly recommended), you can continue feeding him the dog food *you* prefer him to eat. This will be difficult, but persevere. Don't change the food.



Put down the food, if he eats it, all well and good. If he doesn't, take the food away and wash the bowl.

Wait until the next feed time is due. Don't worry, he will be fine! The really stubborn puppy may well do this for three or four days running, but suddenly the penny will drop! He will realise that what is put down for him, is there to be eaten.

Give no titbits either.

If you do give in you will have made a rod for your own back, and the puppy will be a problem feeder, and will lead you a merry game of worrying, changing his food, and this can be a real nuisance.

If he gets a runny tummy, just cut down the meat content and it should right itself; if the problem persists for longer than a couple of days, see the Vet.

TRAINING AND SOCIALISATION

This is the most important part of a young puppy's life.

Cavaliers are very eager to please, and because of this, quite easy to train in basic obedience.

Lead training can begin very early on; put the cat collar onto the puppy as soon as you have him home, let him get used to wearing it, at the same time use his name to call him, and also when you speak to him. After a couple of weeks, put his proper collar on and let him get used to it for a day before you attach the lead. Call his name and he will soon follow.

As soon as his inoculations are done and the Vet gives the all clear, it's time for the puppy to discover the great wide world. Don't forget the tag on the collar.

Short walks 'around the block' to begin with, using your voice to encourage the puppy to stay close. On no account must you let the puppy off the lead at this stage. Before that happens, you must be 110% sure that he will return to you as soon as he's called...Cavaliers are such fun seekers, they will go to anyone, and also go off on a 'fun run', so do be careful.

The best way to train is to find a local club. Ask the nurse at the Vet's surgery if she knows of any, the chances are that she actually runs one! Look at notice boards in pet shops or libraries, and ask other dog owners. The classes are great fun and you will end up with a well-trained dog.

IMPORTANT!

Learn to shut your gate firmly!

Make sure the property is well fenced; if a dog can get his head through a hole, he can get the rest of his body through too!

Don't use slug pellets, they are very dangerous to dogs.

Make sure he is shut in when mowing or using a strimmer.

Keep the puppy away from pesticides and fungicides.

GROOMING.

This should be done daily from day one. To begin with, just gently run the brush over the puppy's coat, that will just be enough for him to get used to the process.

Daily grooming is essential, the dog will come to love it, and it's very relaxing for you too!

A good brushing will clean the coat, then a good, but gentle comb through the finer hair where little tangles form, (and quickly turn into huge knots!) Use a wide toothed comb for this, if you find a tangle, just tease it out gently, holding the skin so as not to hurt the puppy.

Check the eyes and ears for cleanliness daily. A little moistened tissue will be fine for the eyes. Never poke down into the ears! If they have a brownish substance and they smell, see the vet who will prescribe an effective treatment.

Toenails grow very quickly: don't attempt to cut them yourself as it is so easy to cut the 'quick', especially if the pup has black toenails. Any grooming parlour will do this for you, as will the Vet's nurse.

BATHING.

It is perfectly alright to bath your puppy if he gets very messy, but never more than once a week.

Make sure the water is warm, not hot: use a good 'Dog' shampoo (from pet shops).

Put sufficient water in a large bowl to come just up to his brisket, (chest).

Hold him at all times.

Make sure you have thoroughly rinsed all shampoo from the coat.

Dry the puppy really well and keep him indoors until he's totally dry.

If you use a hairdryer, put it on the warm setting, (not hot!) and hold it well away from the puppy, taking care not to blow into the eyes.



HEALTH PROBLEMS.

Generally speaking, Cavaliers are tough and hardy little dogs, but the breed does have some hereditary problems that you should be aware of.

HEARTS.

Many breeds of Pedigree dogs have heart problems. The Cavalier has a problem known as 'Mitral Valve Disease', (MVD). Caused by a faulty valve in the heart. It must be stressed that not all Cavaliers are affected. Great strides are being made by the Cavalier Club and the regional clubs in the British Isles and Worldwide to find a cure and to advance treatments.

All Club members are asked to have their dogs routinely checked by veterinary cardiologists. Whilst this isn't a guarantee that the puppy will be clear of the problem, it will go a long way to help the breeder's endeavour to breed healthy puppies. Ask your vet to check your dog's heart annually when you take him for boosters.

EYES.

Eye problems can affect many breeds. The Cavalier can be examined by a veterinary ophthalmologist for the conditions: 'Hereditary Cataract' and 'Multi-Focal Retinal Dysplasia'. Some years ago, Juvenile Cataract was a problem, but thanks to the co-operation of breeders, this is now rare.

Do be sure to ask to see the certificates when you go to purchase a puppy.

SYRINGOMYELIA.

This condition has been around for many years, but only recently has it been possible to diagnose correctly. Much work is needed to come up with a full understanding, and hopefully a cure. It affects other breeds as well.

The condition is caused by an abnormality of the Occipital bone at the base of the skull. The movement of Cerebral Spinal Fluid is restricted and spaces called, 'Syrinxes' form in the spinal cord.

A dog owner's best friend is his Vet. Cavaliers are super little dogs, and if fed and exercised correctly will give you years of companionship and lots more fun than you ever imagined!

Do look on the 'Pet section' of the Club website. There are articles there on almost every subject that a Cavalier owner is ever likely to encounter. Read the 'Previous Issues' to find these. The current months' Pet Pages are also there, full of information, and you can contact the writers if you have any questions.

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