



CODE OF ETHICS
FOR THE
AMERICAN COCKER SPANIEL CLUB OF CANADA

Updated: May 4, 2022 Version by Carol Chalmers
Approved: July 17, 2022 by Membership

The American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada is a national organization representing the purebred American Cocker Spaniel. This Code of Ethics is designed to protect and preserve our breed.

This Code of Ethics is presented for the members of the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada (A.C.S.C.C.) who are breeders, owners or have-owned of American Cocker Spaniels. This embodies two of the foremost aims of the A.C.S.C.C. namely, the welfare and improvement of the breed and the promotion of the interest of the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada.

Club members agree to adhere to the following principles:

- Members must abide by the ACSCC Constitution and By-laws.
- Members will provide their dogs with appropriate housing, nutrition, socialization, and health care.
- Members of ACSCC will endeavor to enhance the role of the purebred American Cocker Spaniel in society as an essential member of its communities
- In order to preserve and enhance the American Cocker Spaniel characteristics, the ACSCC supports and encourages participation in shows, trials and other events. All members, whether they are owners, exhibitors, handlers, judges or assistants will participate in such activities with honesty, fairness and integrity, ever mindful of the practice of “good sportsmanship”. Members shall not engage in any activity that might be considered malicious, threatening or constitute bullying, including but not limited to social media.
- Members of the ACSCC will undertake the task of educating and encouraging newcomers to the world of the purebred American Cocker Spaniel no matter their interest: breeder, pet-owner, exhibitor, or other events.
- At all times, members shall conduct themselves in a manner which reflects credit upon themselves, the Club and the breeder. When confronted by a situation not covered by this Code of Ethics, the actions of the Club members reflect the treatment the Club member would expect under similar circumstances.
- Members should ensure that their dogs are not a nuisance to their neighbours or the community in general and that they are properly controlled, inoculated, and supervised at all times. Members should do all they can to foster good relations between dogs, their owners and the community.

2. **BREEDING RESPONSIBILITIES**

An ethical breeder is constantly aware of the underlying responsibilities to the breed and conducts all related activities as follows:

- be aware of and abide by the Canadian Kennel Club rules concerning record keeping, registration, sales and transfer of ownership of puppies.
- Breeders of purebred American Cocker Spaniels will include in their programs, only Canadian Kennel Club registered (or registerable) stock which will strengthen the genetic pool and thus guarantee further progression toward the ideals of the standard, keeping authentic records of their breeding programs.
- Breeders shall direct their efforts toward producing dogs of exceptional quality, temperament and condition. Members are not to use their stud dogs on pet quality bitches, totally lacking in breed type.
- Before deciding to produce a litter, the breeder considers the possibility of appropriately placing puppies that cannot be kept by the breeder.
- It is also recommended that no breeder breed or co-breed more than 4 litters a year.
- The breeder keeps all breeding stock under sanitary conditions and gives maximum health protection through worming, inoculations, and necessary veterinary examinations.
- Breeders will ensure that all breeding is carried out according to the STANDARD.
- Breeders will use only healthy adult dogs and bitches free from serious congenital and hereditary characteristic. Both sire and dam must be found to be of sound temperament.
- Breeding age of dogs/bitches should be of at least 2 years of age.
- In consideration of the aim of the overall improvement of the breed, the breeder must decline any breeding when the presence of any undesirable or potentially debilitating genetic or behavioral trait is known or suspected in either the sire or the dam.
- All breeding stock must have a current eye examination certificate by a board-certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist, indicating no evidence of inherited eye diseases or functional abnormalities of the eye.

- It is desirable that the hips, patella and elbows be X-rayed for certification by a board-certified veterinarian. Xray results can be registered with the O.F.A. (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) – Note: dog must be at least 2 years old.
- Blood work recommended and clearances received before proceeding with the breeding. (e.g. V.W.D., factor X, thyroid, PRA, PFK)
- It is recommended that bitches not be bred more than four (4) times during a lifetime.
- The breeder registers all breeding stock and off-spring with the Canadian Kennel Club and keeps accurate records of the mating and pedigrees.
- All advertising is factual. It is not so worded as to be misleading or misrepresentative to attract undesirable buyers or to encourage the raising of American Cockers merely as a commercial venture.
- The breeder refrains from selling puppies or adult dogs to pet stores, commercial dealers, for raffles, give-away prizes or other such projects.
- The breeder of American Cocker Spaniels permits stud service and leases studs or bitches only to individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will give them proper care and attention and who are in accordance with this Code of Ethics. All dogs used for breeding or presented for breeding, should be screened closely as to quality, background, (pedigree), inheritable defects, genetic disorders etc.
- The breeder sells American Cocker Spaniels, permits stud service and leases studs or bitches with a minimum written guarantee which outlines the obligations and responsibilities of both seller and purchaser regarding the purchase arrangements, fees, breeding/non breeding conditions of sale, replacement or refund guarantees, health guarantees, including guarantees covering genetic defects which may leave offspring unable to function normally for the purpose originally sold. The written guarantee must clearly state the maximum time limit for all terms of the guarantee.
- The breeder provides buyers with written details of feeding, general care, dates of worming and a certificate of all inoculations given. The breeder should provide buyers with a four (4) generation pedigree and the results of any testing carried out on the sire and dam of the puppy being purchased.
- Breeders should endorse taking return of their dogs/puppies if for some reason they do not work out in their respective homes.

- All puppies leaving the breeder's possession are at least eight (8) weeks old. The cost of all puppies sold includes the cost of registration, transfer of ownership, non-breeding agreement (if applicable), etc.
- All dogs/puppies must be identified via micro-chip or tattoo before leaving the breeder.
- All litters and all dogs in each litter shall be registered with the CKC. Litter registrations shall be forwarded to CKC as soon as is reasonably possible after the birth of the dogs. Upon the sale of each puppy from any litter, breeders shall transfer ownership and register each puppy in the name of the purchaser in accordance with stated requirements.
- All American Cocker Spaniels sold as pet puppies are to be sold on a **NON-BREEDING AGREEMENT** basis using the C.K.C. form #101-05-05 (09-19) to be completed at time of registration on the CKC website.
- It is also recommended that all pet puppies be sold on a spay/neuter contract with the spaying/neutering not being performed until at least by 2 (two) years of age.
- The breeder shall not charge the buyer a fee to cancel the C.K.C. Non-Breeding Agreement, except for reimbursement of the applicable C.K.C. fees.-

EXHIBITOR AND/OR HANDLER RESPONSIBILITIES

Exhibitors/handlers shall:

- Act professionally at all times in caring for and exhibiting any dog in their charge.
- Not engage in any questionable contact with judges prior to exhibiting under them.
- Be familiar with and abide by the CKC Rules and Regulation for conformation shows, obedience trials, field trials and other events.

ENFORCEMENT

- The American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada shall enforce Section 1.8 thru 1.12 of its By-Laws entitled "Discipline/Complaints", should violation of its Code of Ethics be brought before its Board of Executives.

ACCEPTANCE

- Acceptance as a member of the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada requires adherence to the rules and guidelines set forth in this Code of Ethics.