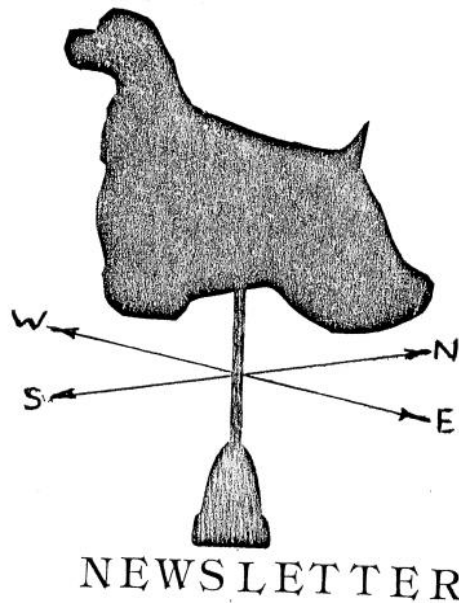


The American Cocker Spaniel Club
of Canada



EDITORS: Lois Proctor and Susan Harrison

JANUARY, 1985

EDITORIAL:

On January 5, 1985 at the C.K.C. Board Meeting in Toronto, a motion was passed which eliminates the Variety separation of American Cockers in the show ring, effective January 1, 1986.

The majority of members of the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada are opposed to this change. We responded to the motion passed at the January, 1984 Board Meeting which requested our recommendations, however, none of our suggestions were even considered. We expressed our belief that too many poor quality dogs of all breeds are attaining championship status, but we feel that this is a result of poor quality judging and not the point system.

Our recommendations follow:

1. Retain the present procedure;
2. Retain the present procedure until a computerized study could be done to prove that American Cockers do indeed have an advantage over other breeds comparable in number. There are only four annual Specialty Shows in Canada and these are usually the only opportunities for five point wins which are commonplace in some other breeds at all-breed shows. To disallow points without accurate information, could create a larger problem;

3. Judge to the Breed level as presently done, however, the Best of Breed and Best Opposite Sex winners only take the highest Variety points, not multiple dog points, i.e.: Black - 1 pt., Ascob - 2 pts., Parti - 1 pt. The Particolour dog wins Best of Breed and takes 2 pts. only;
4. Discontinue judging at the Variety level and send one of each Variety to the Group. Since the U.S. is the Country of Origin of the American Cocker and this is the judging procedure in the U.S.

To our dismay, we were told that changes to the rules need be acceptable only to the Board and not to the Breed directly involved. One director went so far as to state that C.K.C. members should not be permitted to have an opinion on any topic! One has to wonder why comments are solicited in the first place. When one reads the minutes of Board Meetings in "Dogs in Canada" one is left with the impression that Board members are reasonable, intelligent and honorable. This is not always the case. The following Board members voted to eliminate the varieties: R. Nutbeem, Wm. Lamb, Int. B.C., D. Devraumont, Man.; Flora MacKenzie, N.S. & Nfld., Donald Palmer, Ont. N., Ed. Holdman, Ont. E., Sandy Briggs, Ont. Cent., Jacques Belanger, Que.

The following voted to retain variety separation: Ed Dixon, Tom Burke, N.B. & P.E.I., L. Durocher, Ont. W., and John Ross, Sask.

Abstain: S. Bremner, B.C. SW.

Absent: B. Haverstock, Alta.

The Board members displayed a total lack of concern for the welfare of the Breed and had no knowledge of the historical or genetic reasons for variety separation although this information was made available to them in January, 1984.

The fact that the A.K.C. has unanimously rejected changes to the present judging procedure for American Cocker Spaniels was dismissed by the C.K.C. Board simply because it was "American." Some Board members derive some perverse satisfaction in doing something different than the Americans. It would appear that the A.K.C. is much more responsive to breeder/exhibitors than our own C.K.C.

We wish to commend the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Manitoba who donated funds to enable one of their members, Gil Robertson, to attend the C.K.C. Board meeting. The Cocker Spaniel Club of Central Ontario, Inc. generously contributed to this cause also.

We have been disappointed at the lack of input from our members and hope that this does not signify indifference on this topic. We have obtained a legal opinion from the C.K.C. that we can appeal again. We fully intend to do so. In the meantime, every Cocker breeder who feels this ruling will harm the Breed, should write to the C.K.C. and let them know, once again, how you feel. The Board's willingness to sacrifice this Breed to silence some complaints about extra points is contrary to their own mandate and should not go unchallenged.

A letter from Maxine Norris of Norwyn Kennels has just been received with some very good points re the breed standard. Maxine is the Director from British Columbia and has been breeding cockers for many years. The following is an excerpt from her letter:

"I would like to see the height disqualification removed. If necessary it could be replaced with a penalization the same as the minimum size. A disqualification is so "final" and so unnecessary. Why should a 15½" dog be eligible for a championship and one that is 15-5/8" not even be considered? I would not want to see Am. Cockers become miniatures (I can just see the C.K.C. demanding they be removed from the Sporting Group as they are too small and cannot keep up with the rest of the Group!) Sounds ridiculous? There is already rumblings that Cockers have too much coat! I would also not want to see breeders keeping for show, only dogs which are sure to measure in, either because it is the runt or it is low on leg (remember - our standard says a Cocker should never appear long and low). Of course we hope to breed dogs which are the ideal, but there are substantial dogs (I do not mean clunks) which are banned from the show ring, never to be seen by the owner of a tiny bitch in search of Mr. Right. Also measuring can be so variable. I can measure a dog at 14½" and also at 15-3/4", depending on how he is standing. Judges are really on the spot - to measure or not to measure. He or she has a lovely dog in the ring, but it is big. The dilemma - should he/she put it up and hope another judge down the road doesn't measure it out making he/she lose face - or should he/she measure it and hope it goes under and if it doesn't, bear the wrath of the owner who now has a disqualified dog - or should he/she just not give the dog a first place, rather than take a chance on disqualification (and in so doing, dumping a dog that does measure in)?

There is the argument that we must draw the line somewhere on size and therefore, have a height disqualification. I do believe we must have a limit, but not to the extent of a disqualification. I believe that size goes in cycles, in all varieties and in different parts of the country and it all comes out in the wash. I don't believe that breeders will do their darndest to breed a bigger dog if the height disqualification is removed. But I do believe we will no longer look at a gorgeous up-on-leg puppy and have to worry that he may some day be disqualified."

SHOW RESULTS

Credit Valley Kennel & Obedience Club.
American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada Booster Show - December 16, 1984.
Judge - Mr. R. Wills.

Black -

Best of Winners - Cockerlee's Great Escape, Steven MacDonald; Breeder:
B. Halcombe; Am. Can. Ch. Mica's Freedom of Choice ex
Cockerlee's Peanut Butterfly.

Best of Variety - Can. Am. Ch. Gladys's Kountry Stuff. Judy Prouty.
Breeder: Gladys Von Horn, Am. Can. Ch. Butch's Kountry
Boy ex Ch. Cobb's Moon Glo.

- Best Opp. Sex - Ch. Fonfon's Petite Coquine. C. Fontaine & F.L. Nadeau, Breeder: Camille Fontaine: Ch. Hi-Way's Wheeler Dealer ex Ch. Fonfon's Caprice de Reve.
- Best Puppy - Larmaro's Lucinda Lace, Karen & Norman Knorre, Breeders: Larry and Marilyn O'Neill, Ch. Stewart's Sinamon Senation ex Ch. Ken-Way's Larmaro's Katrina.
- Ascob. -
- Best of Winners - Wingborn's Devonshire Cream. Virginia Cunningham. Breeder-owner: Am. Can. Ch. Mica's Freedom of Choice ex Can. Ch. Cockerlee's Autumn Splendore.
- Best of Variety - Bittersweet's Dusty Nuggett, Karen & G.E. Martelle & S. Moos. Breeders: Karen & G.E. Martelle. Ch. Cockerlee's Caramel Corn ex Ch. Cockerlee's Dresden Doll.
- Best Opp. Sex - Satinwood Sapphire. Douglas & Cindy Mills. Breeder: Deborah Truscott. Am. Can. Ch. Artru Attention ex Alorah's Aglow.
- Best Puppy - Satinwood Sapphire.
- Particolour -
- Best of Winners - Jaywick's More Than a Legacy. Mr. & Mrs. Doug Mills & J. Klepp. Breeder: J. Klepp, Am. Ch. Baliwick Barrymore ex Ch. Isleview's Make a Wish C.D.
- Best of Variety - Am. Ch. Kamp's Kharge Kard. Mr. & Mrs. L. Nickle. Breeder: Mrs. Jack Kamps, Am. Ch. Kamp's Kredit Kard ex Am. Ch. Kamp's Syvan Acres Snoflake.
- Best Opp. Sex - Jaywick's Tri My Wish, Judith Klepp. Breeder-owner. Ch. Baliwick Barrymore ex Ch. Isleview's Make a Wish.
- Best Puppy - Wynelle's Going My Way, E. Darling. Breeder-owner. Ch. Wynelle's Academy Award ex Ch. Wynelle's Star for Scarlett.
- Best of Breed - Can. Am. Ch. Gladyan's Kountry Stuff, Judy Prouty, Breeder: Gladys Von Horn. Am. Can. Ch. Butch's Kountry Boy ex Ch. Cobb's Moon Glo.
- Best Opp. Sex - Jaywick's Tri My Wish.
- Best Puppy - Wynelle N. Butterfly's Prelude, Thomas Nesbitt, Breeder: Janice Ellis, Ch. Laurim's Tri Performance ex Ch. Wynelle's Miss Butterfly.

The A.C.S.C.C. thank the following people for donations to our trophy fund for this Booster: Kathy Nickle, Jean Palmer, Lou & Kay Nickle, Joe & Lois Proctor and Donna Rogers who donated "Pines 'N Birches" notecards for each variety.

Credit Valley Kennel Club has refunded our portion of the entry fee and the A.C.S.C.C. is now \$50.00 richer.

SHOW INFORMATION

April 14 - Delta B.C. - British Columbia Cocker Spaniel Club is holding their specialty show for American and English Cockers.

For further information contact:

Mrs. R.W. Nield
705 Wellington Drive
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7K 1K8

(604)988-3812

BRAG AND BITCH

Our Director from the east, Jean Hallett of Shadyhill Kennels had a very successful year at the shows.

Ch. Shadyhill's Classical Issue (black son of Am. Ch. Lurola's Last Issue and Can/Am. Ch. Kobytown's Dream of Honor) has a Best in Show to his credit plus 8 group first won both in the east and west.

Her B. & T. puppy, Shadyhill's Hell on Wheels, finished with a group first at 9½ months. Congratulations Jean!

Our cockers are not only beautiful but bright as well! Vera Pinkous from Dorval, Quebec was fortunate enough to attend the November Bermuda shows. Ch. Herronhaven's Tiny Tanya CDX, AM.BDA.C.D. (Am/Can. Ch. Kobytown's Willing Spirit ex Ch. Wernot's Champagne Bubbles CDX.AM.C.D.) was high in trial - group 1 with a score of 198. She got her C.D. (confirmed by Bermuda Kennel Club) and one leg towards her CDX plus Winners Bitch with a 3 point major. Two days after returning from Bermuda, Tanya came second in open A with a score of 196 in Montreal at the L.D.T.A. trials in conjunction with the United Kennel Club show. Tanya will now train for Utility and Vera has breeding plans for her in February.

Congratulations and good luck to Vera and Tanya.

Am/Can Ch. Kamp's Kharge Kard, R/W dog recently sired a litter of 10 puppies when bred to Am. Ch. Gammon's Geisha Girl. Ron & Shelly Merson of New City, N.Y. report the litter of R/W, B/W & Tri's is doing very well and looking lovely.

Am/Can. Ch. Nickleodeon's Private Stock, B/W dog also recently sired a litter of 8 puppies when bred to Can. Ch. Brandt's Miranda Rose. Perky Grant of Saskatoon is the proud owner of this litter and latest report is all are doing well and look great.

Lou and Kay Nickle of Nickleodeon are the proud owners of both sires.

Congratulations to Hec Norris, B.C., who is now eligible to judge half of group one. It's high time we had a Cocker person judging.

A note to Saskatchewan breeders: Your director, Mr. John Ross impressed us at the Board meeting as being fair and reasonable. You are fortunate to have a person like that to represent you.

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Objectives versus Achievements

The objectives of all dedicated breeders
Should be to thoroughly analyze all situations,
Anticipate all problems prior to their occurrence,
And have answers for these problems.
And move swiftly to solve these problems when called upon.
However ...
When you are up to your ass in alligators, it is
difficult to remember that the initial objective was to
drain the swamp.

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

The C.K.C. has been attempting to eliminate varieties for a long time. The period during 1977 and 1978 was one of those times. The following article was written by Joan Van Doornick and printed in the "Cocker Spaniel Leader" in 1978. We feel it is just as relevant today as it was then. We have, however, lost our Black & Tan variety since then, with the predicted results of fewer being shown. Joan was very active in Cockers during this period; she is now devoting her efforts to youngsters of the human variety.

"The variety system as we know it was originated in the 1930's and 1940's. The American Spaniel Club and the American Kennel Club devised the system because they recognized something inherent in our Breed - that the four basic varieties differ from each other in the respect that physical characteristics are inherited in different ways in accordance with their coat colour.

I do not dispute that all Cocker Spaniels, regardless of colour, should nonetheless exhibit the same desirable physical characteristics. However, the method by which this goal is achieved varies from variety to variety. Many of the notable physical characteristics (both desirable and undesirable) are "linked" to the colour determining genetic pattern.

In the beginning, there were two recognized varieties of American Cockers - solids and particolours. The American Spaniel Club observed that, although the Black Cocker Spaniel was making rapid progress towards stability of type in accordance with the standard, the "red" dog was not. Together with the A.K.C., the Any Solid Colour other than Black (ASCOB) variety was created. The belief was that the new variety would increase interest in the "red" dog and encourage breeders to concentrate on producing "red" dogs of the same genetic stability and quality as the black. At the time, the A.K.C. ruled,

however, that the black and tan should be included in the ASCOB variety. For the "red" dog, history has proven that the creation of the variety was extremely wise. Today, the red or buff dog is equal to the quality exhibited in his black or particolour cousins. An interesting note to consider is that the A.K.C. subsequently refused further applications by the A.S.C. (1948 and 1950) to create a fourth variety, for the black and tans. By the late 1950's, in the U.S., the blacks, particolours and the "reds" were relatively equal in quality. Without the benefit of a separate variety, it took until the late 1960's before the black and tan emerged as a strong contender in conformation classes and until the mid 1970's before consistent winning quality in certain black and tan "family lines" made itself known.

Canada pioneered the creation of a separate black and tan variety. The breeders of that era had a more co-operative Kennel Club, and of course, the B.O.B award Best of Variety winners into the Sporting Group and are unwilling to add a fourth. Thus, we avoided the A.K.C. problem. The objective was to foster the growth of interest in this variety and to concentrate on developing its soundness and quality with special attention to the method of inheritance of the coat pattern and its resultant challenges to creating stable breed type. To create a strong and typical black and tan, certain rules of breeding must be followed which are peculiar to the variety.

To create the "black type" buff, breeders in the U.S. and Canada found that they had to concentrate within the red or buff variety to select the desired characteristics. Buffs or reds bred from predominantly black strains frequently lack in coat, bone and type.

Today, in this country, breeders are still attempting to establish lines which are strongly founded and breed true to type. Our population of breeders is not large, and our understanding of history and our breed must be imported from the United States. Many of our old Cocker breeders are no longer with us, and little continuity has been maintained. Yet, despite our peculiar disadvantages, today's breeders are showing the results of their effort successfully, not only in our breed rings, but we are making progress with our dogs in the show rings in the States.

My deepest concern is that by disturbing our present system, by removing the obvious illustration of less than obvious genetic differences, tomorrow's breeder, lacking the all too rare resources of the background and history of our breed, will not be able to recognize why solids and particolours should not be interbred except with knowledge and aforethought. It will be even more difficult for him to recognize that the interbreeding of the solids must only be undertaken in the same most careful manner.

Perhaps this may not have much impact on those not directly interested in the Breed. There are many outside the breed, and some of the uninformed within our breed, who feel it is an eccentricity on the part of American Cocker breeders. The uninformed do not see the subtle differences between the varieties, as the more practised breeder does. However, the uninformed often cannot distinguish between Scottish Deerhounds and Irish Wolfhounds, or between Standard or Miniature Dachshunds, and even more importantly, do not understand the origins or genetic patterns.

The variety system is the very cornerstone of our breed. By removing it, the C.K.C. is threatening the very being of our breed, and the foundation that was laid by breeders, who spent years of work to develop the dog as we know him today.

The A.K.C. retains the variety system in the country of the breed's evolution. Many of the countries that provide classes for American Cockers also provide some system of judging that takes into consideration the colour distinction. The A.S.C., the parent club of our breed, has absolutely no intention of dispensing with the variety system. To do otherwise would be to threaten the destruction of the work done by the pioneers of the breed.

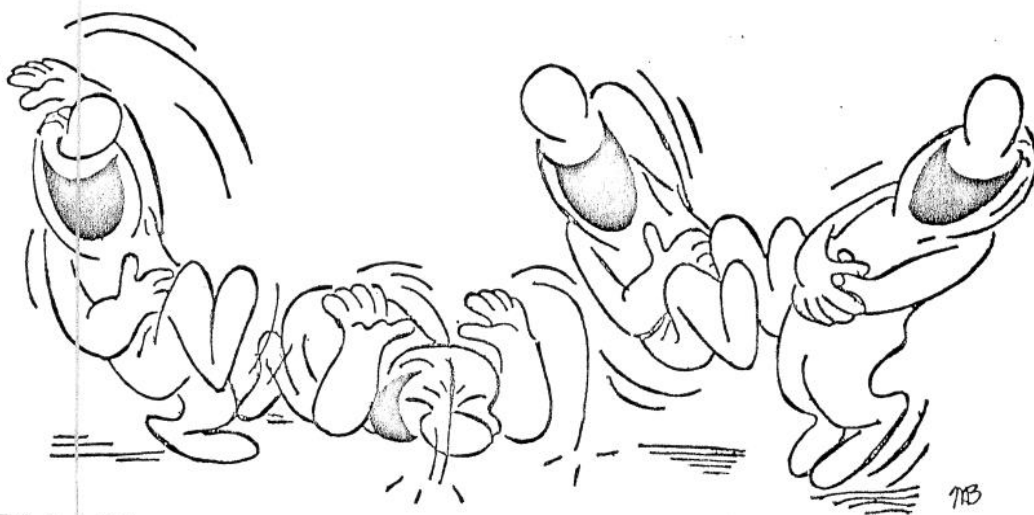
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H E L P

Would you like to contribute to this newsletter? Notes on caring for Cockers, special interest to do with our breed, articles for comment, or bringing our attention to special events will all be appreciated.

Contributions should be in by the 15th of March for the April newsletter.

Send to: Lois Proctor
RR #1
Schomberg, Ontario
LOG 1T0



THE JUDGE PUT UP WHO?

QUESTIONNAIRE: Please return to Editor - Lois Proctor - by March 15.

Re height disqualification in Breed Standard:

1. Leave the standard as is.

Yes _____ No _____

2. Disqualification for: dogs under $14\frac{1}{2}$ " and over $15\frac{1}{2}$ "
bitches under $13\frac{1}{2}$ " and over $14\frac{1}{2}$ "

Yes _____ No _____

3. Penalize: dogs under $14\frac{1}{2}$ " and over $15\frac{1}{2}$ "
bitches under $13\frac{1}{2}$ " and over $14\frac{1}{2}$ "

Yes _____ No _____

С. О. ТОРЪ ВЪОСЛОЖ
СТВА ОЪ СУИВЪ