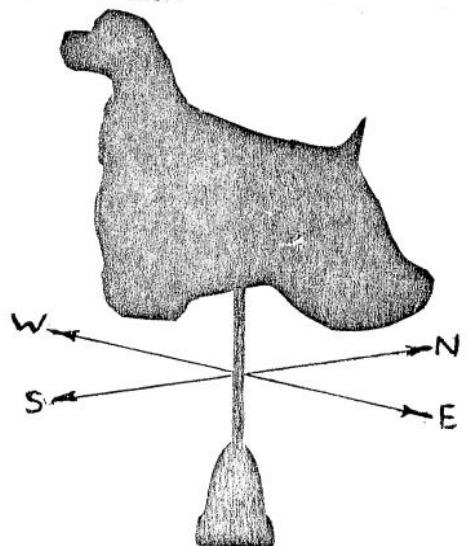


The American Cocker Spaniel Club
of Canada



NEWSLETTER

May, 1985

Editors: Lois Proctor and Susan Harrison

This space in the newsletter was to be allocated to an appeal for donations from A.C.S.C.C. members to defray the cost of a full page ad which was to appear in the June issue of "Dogs in Canada". The ad was to inform all CKC members that the Board has now set a precedent and no breed is safe from interference. Each breed is a minority when considered individually and by the Board's standards that is reason enough to disregard opinions from people directly involved with an individual breed.

Richard Meen has expressed his philosophy about the manner in which the CKC should conduct our business. However, some Board members apparently do not share his views about member participation, fairness and democracy, not to mention concern about purebred dogs.

When our ad copy was presented to the staff at "Dogs in Canada", we were told that CKC approval would be necessary before it could be printed. It was not approved! All is not lost, however; with slight modifications, it will be printed as a "letter to the editor". The staff at "Dogs in Canada" suggested this alternative, as that is the one section of the magazine which does not require CKC approval. Better yet! It is free!

Update on Variety Separation:

The National Club is requesting a review of the variety separation issue between the American Cocker breeders and the CKC. This request will be on the agenda of the May 4 CKC board meeting. This review will cover all events that have occurred since May, 1984 to present time. We feel that the present Directors of the CKC do not have a factual understanding of the problems involved because there has been an election within that time frame. There also seems to be quite a lack of communication between Directors and their constituents. Therefore, it is extremely important to let your director know your feelings on this matter. The address of your director appears on the first page of the CKC portion of "Dogs in Canada".

If you wish to write your concerns directly to the CKC, mail all correspondence to: Mr. John Gough, 2150 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ontario M6S 4B7.

On behalf of all members of the club, we wish to thank those who have taken the time and shown concern enough to write to the CKC. It helps our cause if the CKC hears from across Canada rather than the local Ontario members. It seems that the CKC feels that it is convenient for them to think that it is always the Ontario breeders complaining. However, now they know this is a national problem and concerns everyone. Keep those letters coming!

* * *

Intervertebral Disc Disease:

Jean Hallett, Shadyhill Reg'd, has reported to us that she has had some of her dogs diagnosed as having spinal disk degeneration, (Canine Intervertebral Disc Disease).

Jean is an experienced and dedicated breeder and is to be commended for her frankness about this problem. We are certain that this condition is not isolated to a few kennels or even a few bloodlines. American Cockers in the United States are experiencing the same defect and most of our Canadian Cockers are related to these dogs. The insidious aspect of this defect is that the dog may not show any symptoms. In Jean's case, one dog had some wasting of the rear quarter muscles, so she had him X-rayed. He was found to be severely affected with spinal disc degeneration. Since her veterinarian feels that this is an inherited defect, Jean had all of her dogs X-rayed as well as others in pet homes. None of these dogs exhibited any symptoms, ie: lameness, pain. The youngest to show evidence on X-ray of disc disease was seven months old and varying degrees of calcification from mild to severe were found in all ages.

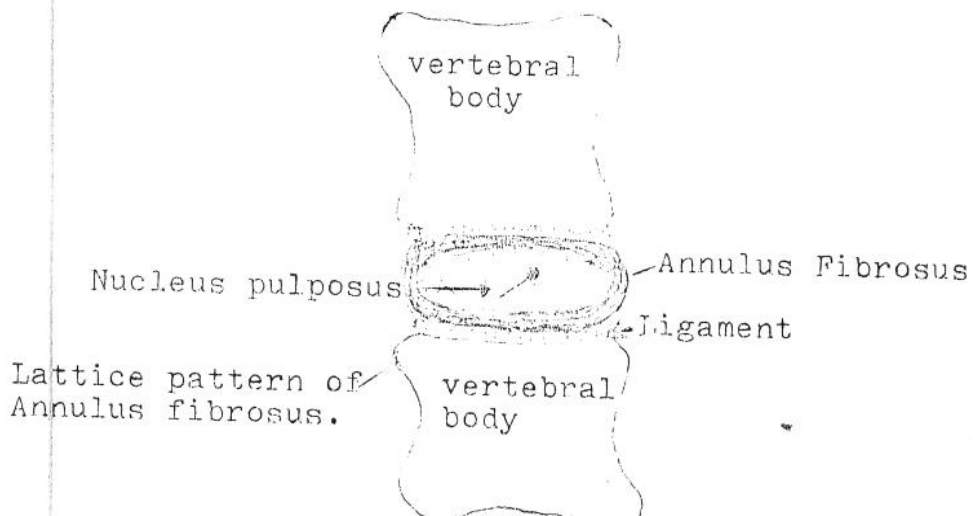
This condition is probably most well known in the Dachshund. Dachie breeders consider it to be congenital and inherited, however, they have developed clear lines by selective breeding. In American Cockers, we are waiting for more information on the mode of inheritance.

Jean's veterinarian suspects a multiple gene recessive, due to the variation in amount of damage and calcification at varying ages.

Another opinion is given in the following excerpt from a letter from Professor Roy Crawford, Geneticist, University of Saskatchewan: "give some thought to whether breeders of American Cocker Spaniels are actually creating the problem unintentionally as a side-effect to their selection for extremes of conformation that might be favoured in the show ring. I have wondered many times about what has happened to the bodies of American Cockers as they are selected for ability to assume the extreme extension of hind legs in a show "stack" pose: is it possible that skeletal changes which permit this extreme extension might also weaken or disrupt or destroy something else in the skeleton? That is, I wonder if "slipped discs" might be a side-effect of breeding for show stance. It seems curious that English Cocker Spaniels which cannot hold this pose and which are not expected to hold it are not known to have a disc problem, but they seem to have nearly all the other defects shared by American Cockers. There are examples which could be cited; selection for prolonged snouts in airedale type Terrier breeds and the recent problems with faulty dentition; desired skinfolds in Chows and the high incidence of eyelid defects; straight shoulders in Wolfhounds and Deerhounds and all their lameness troubles; straight hocks in Chows and lameness, etc. etc.."

"If I am right, then the indications are that breeders have pushed their dogs past normal limits and will have to back up." Professor Crawford also has suggestions about eliminating this defect. "I suggest that you continue breeding and selecting your present line of dogs. As opportunity arises, select against those animals affected with disc defect. Treat the defect as if it were polygenic and of low heritability. Use "index selection" where good qualities are credited against poor, and remember that it is not possible to correct everything at once."

Intervertebral Discs:



Intervertebral Discs Cont'd...

Each vertebra, although it articulates with a vertebra on either end, is separated by an intervertebral disc shown on previous page. This is essentially a flattened sphere consisting of a tough fibrous outer layer (annulus fibrosis), much like tendon in consistency, with a soft jelly-like interior (nucleus pulposus). The disc is attached by ligaments to the vertebral bodies adjacent to it. The tough outer layer of the disc has fibers running in an interlocking spiral manner which allows functionally for both a compressive, expansive and rotary motion. As you might expect, this type of structure allows a rocking type of movement between the vertebral bodies and in addition has a hydraulic effect, ie: it acts as a shock absorber. The outer layer (annulus fibrosis) can degenerate allowing the jelly-like nucleus pulposus to extrude through the opening and press against the nerves leaving the spinal cord. This in turn will cause pain and in extreme cases paralysis. A chronic or deteriorating condition like this will eventually lead to calcification or the formation of bone-like tissue in these discs which can be shown on X-ray. Once calcification takes place, that particular disc is no longer a danger to the dog. However, usually more than one disc is involved, generally in the lumbar and cervical areas of the spine.

According to "current Veterinary Therapy VI Kirk", the Cocker Spaniel is listed along with Dachshunds, Pekingese, Beagles, Poodles, German Shepherds and Labradors as breeds most commonly affected. This is a very serious defect and if it is allowed to become endemic in our breed, irreparable harm will be done. Even if we ultimately are unable to retain Variety separation in the ring, people will still breed American Cockers because of their love for the breed. But, if we are unable to overcome this new obstacle, many breeders will give up in despair and American Cockers will gain the reputation of being a breed with too many problems. Anyone who has ever had a "back problem" and experienced that kind of debilitating pain can imagine how the dog with this defect must feel. We also have a responsibility to the people who buy our pups. These people are entitled to the assurance that their puppy will grow up to be a healthy family member and live a long life without inbred problems.

Many of us have had to make sad decisions when we came up against a serious problem in our Cockers. These decisions never get any easier. Jean Hallett's concern for the future American Cockers should serve as an example to all breeders.

The National's first step is to try to ascertain how widespread this defect is; we are hoping that members will complete the questionnaire and send them to the editor. If you wish to remain anonymous, mail your reply in a non-identifying envelope. If you wish to share your information with Jean Hallett, indicate that desire on the questionnaire. We will copy your information and send it on to her. If the members of the A.C.S.C.C. feel that a Health Registry similar to the A.S.C. registry is something that the National should consider, then this is the first step. We must know what we are dealing with and just how extensive this defect is within our breed.

1. We recommend that you have your dogs X-rayed. Remember, they usually do not exhibit symptoms, but we must assume that affected

INTERVERTEBRAL DISC DISEASE. QUESTIONNAIRE.

Have you ever had an American Cocker with a disc (back) problem?

Yes..... No.....

Comments.....
.....
.....

Age..... Sex..... Variety.....

Degree. Mild..... Moderate..... Severe.....

Mild... Probably not noticed until xray taken for unrelated reason.

Moderate.. Muscle wasting, limping, dog appears to recover in two --three months.(calcification has occurred.)

Severe... Dog in severe pain,possibly paralysis, several affected discs on xray.

Do you now have you dogs x-rayed for hip dysplasia and/or disc disease before using them for breeding?

Yes..... No.....

Complete this questionnaire and mail to either editor.

Susan Harrison
Box 597,
Bolton, Ont. LOP 1A0.

Lois Proctor
R.R. 1,
Schomberg, Ont. L0G 1T0

Would you like the A.C.S.C.C. to investigate the feasibility of setting up a Health Registry similar to the one which is available to members of the American Spaniel Club in the U.S.?

Yes..... No.....

Note: If you have had more than one dog affected, please send the information on another sheet of paper.

dogs will pass this defect on to their offspring.

2. Send the questionnaire to us so that we may begin to compile information which could assist all American Cocker breeders.

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

or

Susan Harrison
Box 597
Bolton, Ontario
LOP 1A0

We will keep you informed about any more information on this subject as it comes to us.

* * *

Current Affairs:

The new director for Alberta by acclamation is:

Harry Pitstra
Shownell Kennels
39 Bracebridge Cres. S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2W 0Y6
252-7924

Ballot forms are enclosed for the Quebec membership to vote for their director.

We have not had any response from Saskatchewan. Perhaps the mail is a problem. An updated membership list and nomination forms are enclosed for the Saskatchewan members. Please respond as quickly as possible.

Results of Breed Standard Questionnaire:

To date, we have received 24 responses all in favour of penalizing both over and under size. Those who have not responded, please do so. We want to hear from everyone!

Note: Club now has 64 members!

Manitoba Eye Clinic
Date- Oct 1,2,3
Manitoba Association Dog Club Building
Dr. Melanie Williams
Contact: Gil Robertson
645 Hilton St.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3R 0Z1

Show Information:

American Cocker Spaniel Club of Manitoba is holding their first specialty in conjunction with Manitoba Canine Association All Breed Show--Winnipeg Manitoba, August 4, 1985.

Judge--Edna Anselmi
Sweeps--Sue Rempel
Show Secretary--Gloria Cooper
Box 188, 763 Forbes Road
St. Germain, Manitoba
R0G 2A0
(204) 225-0260

We have had questions from the membership regarding the position of the CKC re sable colour and also requests for more information regarding cataracts. We are in the process of compiling information on the above two subjects and hope to have information for the next newsletter.

We have also had requests for an updated membership list--this will be in the next issue.

The Poodle Advancement Association held an eye clinic in March. Dr. L. Rubin was the ophthalmologist. Most area Cocker breeders attended which was very encouraging. We cannot stress enough the importance of having regular eye examinations.

Brag and Bitch:

Am. and Can. Ch. Homestead's Diamond Jim is establishing a very impressive record. Disco now has 14 Best of Breed awards, 14 Group 1sts, 2 Groups 2nds, 2 Group 3rds and 1 Group 4th. He went Best in Show at two all Breed Shows and Best in Show at the Golden Triangle Cocker Spaniel Club Specialty in March. Congratulations to Colleen Davies, who now resides in Toronto. This part colour dog is handled by Mark Dakin and has a bright future.

We have received a letter from Pat Warmington of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and Pat reports the following: "Our Buffer"- Ch. Ganymede's Buffers, Gingberboy CDX.T.T. (Ch. Senrabs Sterling Silver ex. Ch. Keljeagers Double Delight) is the first Temperament Tested Cocker that we know of. Another of our girls Ch. Mistyhill Tissacs Reaction (Am. Ch. Buckingham Natural Reaction ex Starlyn Stars Buckinghamhill) at the Met Booster went WB, BW, BOS and BP."

Congratulations to Pat!

Speaking of Temperament Testing brings to mind an article printed in Animals Voice, Spring '85 Edition dealing with breeders' responsibility in overpopulation of dogs written by T. I. Hughes--executive vice president--Ontario Humane Society: "In Brantford--first six months of this year, eight American Cockers were surrendered for euthanasia; all had bitten someone.

The City of Mississauga animal shelter--12.5% of dogs surrendered were purebred." Those brought in for euthanasia included 17 Cocker Spaniels, 30 Poodles, 11 German Shepherds and 8 Dobermans. Over 50% were surrendered because of temperament or behaviour problems. Approximately 50% had been imported from the United States, purchased through department stores and the balance had been purchased from Canadian Breeders."

Editors note from the Cocker Spaniel Leader from Feb./85 issue:
"Nov/84--6,993 individual cockers registered
-2,843 litters registered, about 95 litters a day!

What are we doing to our poor little Cockers!

The following is a copy of the American Spaniel Club- Working Certificate Tests. If enough people are interested, we will approach the CKC on this matter.

* * *

AMERICAN SPANIEL CLUB, INC.

Founded 1881

WORKING CERTIFICATE TESTS-REVISED/APPROVED JANUARY 6, 1984

PHILOSOPHY:

The ASC Working Certificate Test Program is designed:

1. To encourage cockers and other flushing spaniels to achieve a high level of hunting skills;
2. To encourage a broad base of support for field work with many owners training their spaniels to a companion hunting level, measured by attaining working dog or working dog excellent titles;
3. To encourage the breeding of versatile as well as beautiful spaniels that are as at home in the field as they are in the conformation or obedience rings or as home companions;
4. To encourage the rare breeds of spaniels to take their places as capable hunters for their owners as well as in competition with other flushing spaniels;
5. To strive to reach member field trial status by 1990, thus re-establishing the field trial championship for cockers and other flushing spaniels under ASC jurisdiction.

PROCEDURES:

OFFERING WORKING TESTS

A working test may be offered by a flushing spaniel club or by a group of flushing spaniel owners. Permission to hold a test must be obtained from the chairman of the Field Trial/Test Committee and

notification must be sent to the appropriate parent breed club secretary if breeds not under ASC jurisdiction will be participating in the test. The test chairman must state the date and site of the test and name(s) of proposed judge(s). The judge(s) must be thoroughly familiar with the work of spaniels in the field. First preference should be given to persons who have been approved to judge a spaniel field trial. The judges' qualifications should be briefly listed on the test application.

Breeds for which notification must be sent to the parent breed club secretaries include English Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels.

Dogs under ASC jurisdiction may participate in working tests offered by any of the above specialty or parent breed clubs and may receive working titles if the judging score sheets are sent to the ASC Field Trial/Test Chairman. Exhibitors should notify the ASC field chairman of the test date, site and judges before the test if at all possible. ASC test forms should be used if possible.

If a test is given by a group not directly associated with a parent breed club, the field chairman may grant working titles after determining the quality of the judging and test procedure.

ENTRY FORMS, JUDGING FORMS, CERTIFICATES, (I.E., PAPERWORK):

Information on dogs to be tested should be entered on special working test entry/judging forms supplied upon request by the national field trial chairman.

On any entry/judging form used, all information requested on the dog, owner, handler and test chairman must be completed or titles will not be conferred.

The top of copies of the ASC entry/judging form should be sent to the national field trial chairman immediately after the test. The original will be forwarded to the ASC secretary, the first copy (yellow) will be kept on file by the national field chairman. The exhibitor shall keep the second (pink) copy of the form; the judge or test chairman may keep the last (golden) copy or may give it to the exhibitor also. The test chairman is responsible for sending the correct copies of the form to the ASC secretary and field chairman. For breeds other than those currently under ASC jurisdiction, the test chairman shall send the top two copies to the appropriate parent breed club secretary or to the ASC field chairman. The exhibitors should keep the last two copies.

The ASC secretary and field chairman shall keep permanent records of every dog that qualifies for a Working Dog (WD) or Working Dog Excellent (WDX) title. Records must be given to the next chairman or secretary holding office. The ASC secretary shall complete and mail WD or WDX certificates to the owners of dogs that pass working tests. Only one WD and one WDX certificate is allowed for each dog.

HOW TITLES ARE EARNED:

Working tests are NOT competitive events. There should be no ranking or placing of dogs. THREE flushing spaniels must run to constitute a valid test. A dog must receive satisfactory ratings in all categories to receive a working dog certificate. A dog must receive excellent ratings in all categories to receive a working dog excellent certificate. The judge or judges shall determine what title a dog receives provided the decision follows ASC guidelines. A dog that damages a bird shall not receive either certificate. A hard-mouthed spaniel is an unacceptable hunting companion or field event competitor.

SITE SPECIFICATIONS:

There should be suitable cover, such as stubble, brush, grass, etc., high enough to hide the birds used in the test. The area must be far enough away from houses, businesses, etc., so that the birds can be shot.

BIRDS:

Each dog should work at least two or three live birds. More may be used if circumstances require it to give the judges information on the dog's capabilities. Pigeons or other game birds may be used and should be planted a minimum of 60 to 80 feet ahead of the dog or starting line, and apart from each other.

GUN SAFETY: WHEN BIRDS ARE NOT TO BE SHOT: SET UP RETRIEVES:

The established safe gunning rules must be followed. If a bird flies over the gallery or where any person might be in the line of flight, it should not be shot. Another bird should be put down for the dog. As many birds as are necessary may be put down to give the dog a chance to flush a bird and complete a retrieve. If a dog has demonstrated sufficiently that it can find and flush birds, but the birds can't be shot, a bird may be released by hand and shot to allow the dog to make a retrieve.

STEWARDS:

At least one steward should be appointed to keep spectators, other handlers and dogs in a close group behind the judges or in an assigned place. This is to prevent interference with the work of the dog being tested, to give the gunners a chance to shoot, and to ensure safety of everyone.

STATE HUNTING REQUIREMENTS: INSURANCE

Permission to hold a working test that involves shooting birds, especially game birds, should be obtained from the state hunting department if required. A working test could fall in the same category as a field trial under state hunting laws. Contact the appropriate state authority or the ASC field chairman or insurance chairman.

WATER TEST PROCEDURE:

For the water test, a dog is thrown into the water from shore or from a boat, at a distance great enough to cause a dog to swim to make the retrieve. As the bird is thrown, a shot is fired. The distance of the retrieve isn't as important as making sure the dog has to prove it can swim and retrieve in water.

LAND TEST REQUIREMENTS:

In the land test a flushing spaniel should:

1. Sit or stay behind or beside the handler at the starting line, unleashed, until the judge instructs the handler to proceed. The handler then sends the dog and walks behind it, directing the dog on the course. Dogs are run singly, not braced.
2. Show fairly reasonable, not necessarily immediate, response to whistle and/or command, and reasonable quartering of ground. The dog should not be completely out of control, although leniency and time should be given the handler to collect the dog.
3. Should NOT be required to be steady or sit on flush or shot.
4. Should demonstrate sufficient hunting ability to find and put up game in a workmanlike manner, without undue urging, and should show no evidence of pottering.
5. Should retrieve birds to hand or within a reasonable distance so that the handler can take or pick up the bird without chasing the dog. Handler may direct the dog to the fall if the dog has not marked it. HOWEVER, a dog should be expected to mark an open, direct fall and deliver on hand to earn a WDX.
6. NOT deliver a damaged bird--one that is chewed or crushed, as the reason for using dogs in hunting is to have game "suitable for the table." Damage caused by a gun shot does not apply.

WATER TEST REQUIREMENTS:

A dog must pass a water test to earn a WD or WDX. In the water test the dog:

1. Should NOT be required to sit or stay on line unleashed. The dog may be held on leash until the handler is directed by the judge to send the dog.
2. Should retrieve to hand or within reasonable distance so the handler can take or pick up the bird without wading into the water or chasing the dog on land.
3. Should willingly enter the water on its own.
4. Should prove its ability to swim.

ADDITIONAL RECOGNITION:

Members of the American Spaniel Club may earn a merit plaque or plate for one WD and WDX per dog by sending a copy of the dog's AKC registration

papers and a copy of the working certificate to the current merit plaque chairman, providing the owner meets all other merit award criteria.

* * *

Report from Crufts:

Vera Pinkous of Herronhaven Reg, Dorval, Quebec was fortunate enough to attend this prestigious show in London, February 8-10. There were 31 rings on two levels at Earls Court. Friday, two groups were being judged, toys and gun dogs; Saturday, groups 3 and 4; Sunday, hounds and utility (our group 6). There were 79 American Cockers entered and Black and Tans dominated the entry. Blacks and Partis, especially the latter, were well represented. There were remarkably few ascobs present. The quality overall was very good; the grooming by our standards looked "too natural". Clippers and scissors are rarely seen; plucking is the "thing to do". Very noticeable except for a little brushing, is the lack of grooming of any breed at the show. For moving and stacking, the same easy-going way prevails. Very few people kneel when they stack their dogs--often the ladies hair covers part of the dog. I had to laugh when the judge has to tap the winner on the shoulder as everyone watches their dog rather than the judge. I was amazed at how little time is spent gaiting the dog, but one thing is certain, the judges know their breeds. I was pleasantly surprised to see so many good quality Cockers. It is obvious the breeders are very serious about their breeding program. The major faults that I could see were amongst the blacks and black/tans--high in the rear and dips in their backs; a few in all varieties were long in body. Heads seemed on the whole very good with low ear sets, high stops, nice eyes and good muzzles.

Post-graduate dog: Ardquin Biggles Esquire--
took the breed and won a C.C.

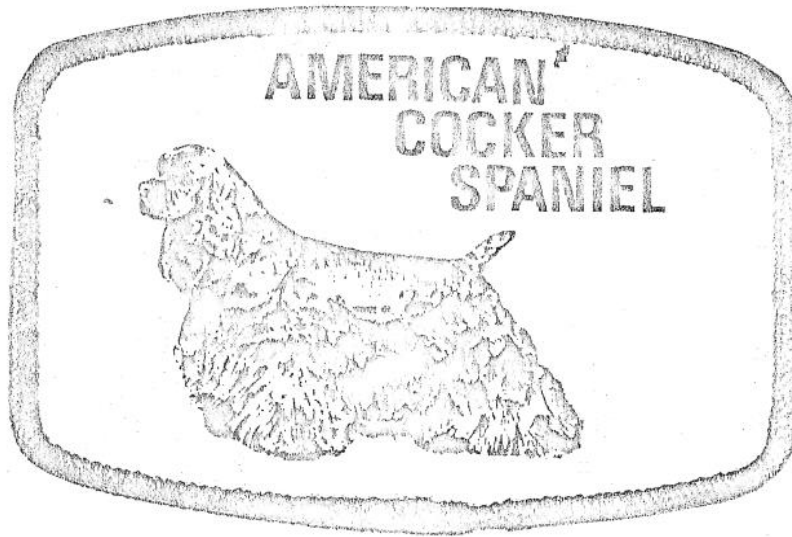
Open Bitch- SH.CH. thanks Bebe from Sundust--
Bob and C.C. (SH.CH. Sundust thanks
Durbet- Mittina Pride of Place at Binkidine)

Open Dog- AM.CH Typams; I'm just a Country Boy from Kelsmere
(CH. Carbert's Country Gentlemen--Buckinghamhill
Royal Tea) Resc. C.C.

2nd Open Bitch- Adveni Brunswick Lady at Pioneer Dream,
Res. C.C.

2nd Open Dog- SH.CH. & Am.CH. Kaplars Kwikstep to Sundust
Am.CH. Kamps Silversmith- Am.CH. Kaplars
Quick Silver)

Thank you Vera for this very interesting report. Sorry we did not have room to print everything.



Also comes in Buff cocker on light blue background.

Vera has a supply of the above sew-on crests available:
They are from the U.K. and are \$3.50 each. Contact:

Vera Pinkous
Herronhaven Reg.
2010 Herron Rd.
Dorval, Quebec
H9S 1C1

AMERICAN COCKER SPANIEL CLUB OF CANADA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. 1985.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ C.K.C. No. _____

MEMBERSHIP FEE IS \$10.00 PER PERSON ANNUALLY. MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY.

Mail to: Miss Kathy Nickle
715 Don Mills Road,
Apt. 2204,
Don Mills, Ontario.
M3C 1S5.

There will be a meeting of the A.C.S.C.C. on Saturday, June 1st,
If you are going to be in the area and may be able to attend,
contact the Secretary, Lois Proctor. 416-939-7713 for time and
location.

* * *

Diane Fair (Kaydana's) wrote to tell us about her Kitt who is
up to 12 points towards his American title and looking for his
second major. Ch; Kaydana's Knight Rider (black) picked up his
first major at the Upstate N.Y. Specialty under Edna Anselmi who
awarded him B.O.W. Kitt was the lovely Best in Show winner at
the Cocker Spaniel Club of Central Ontario's Specialty. He is
now moving on to another phase of his career and has been bred
to Bees Snow Princess (silver) and to Leelon Shining Moment (red)
These pups are Kitt's first litters and should be very promising.

Gremlins misplaced Diane's letter until now; this is why it was
not in the "Brag & Bitch" section. Sorry..Diane.Thanks for the news.

* * *

MUTUAL ADMIRATION

The reason people think dogs are wonderful,
No doubt the main reason by far,
Is that all dogs seem to think
That's what people are.

* * *

