

## President's Message



Welcome to the first Quarterly Publication of your Club's Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading through this informative issue with information from our Club as well as the latest information from the Parent Club, the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club. I have included some of the latest developments and information on health from the Parent Club, but I urge you to visit their website periodically in order to stay current on the status of our beloved breed.

[www.ACKCSC.org](http://www.ACKCSC.org)

The Board of our Club has decided to make our fiscal year from January through December. Since our Club went through founding membership development in the last half of 2003, we have extended everyone's dues as paid through the entire year of 2004. This decision came due to the fact that we have not had a regular newsletter to keep you informed of what we are doing with your dues. At the same time, we have a very limited treasury and we are going to need everyone's help with fundraising during 2004 in order to fund our development, activities, rescue fund and health fund contributions. So for now, sit back and read up to see what is going on in our Central Ohio Cavalier world, and get ready for some fun, Cavalier comradery and unique fund raising activities during the year of 2004!



Above is the FIRST picture submitted for our website. The picture of Madison and Morgan, owned by Dr Bob & Phoebe McKay.

## Your Cavalier On The Web

That's right - every Club member can send one picture of their Cavalier or Cavaliers to our Webmaster. We are adding a Club Members' Cavalier photo page to the Club website as a free benefit of membership for everyone.

Look for more information to come in the 2004 Bi-Monthly Newsletters that will begin in January.

But for now - gather your photo and e-mail it or send the original for scanning along with the Cavalier's name and your name to:

Steve McElheny  
5248 Redmond Ct  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
[steve@mcelheny.net](mailto:steve@mcelheny.net)

# CKCSCCO BOARD

## Officers

## Board of Directors

**President:** Vacant - to be discussed at February Meeting

**Vice-President:** Charlie Fippin  
12060 State Route 521  
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**Webmaster:** Steve McElheny  
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## **We Need an Editor!**

Do you have experience or an interest in newsletters such as this? We are looking for a permanent Editor to take over this publication. You will be supplied with content, and we will help you until you are comfortable on your own. If you are interested, please contact one of the officers above.

## ***In this issue:***

<b><i>February Event</i></b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Board Minutes</i></b> . . . . .	<b>4-6</b>
<b><i>Regional Clubs</i></b> . . . . .	<b>7</b>
<b><i>2004 National</i></b> . . . . .	<b>8-9</b>
<b><i>Canine Good Citizen</i></b> . . . . .	<b>10</b>
<b><i>ACKCSC Health Committee</i></b> . . . . .	<b>11</b>
<b><i>Nutrition Study</i></b> . . . . .	<b>11</b>
<b><i>Epilepsy/Deafness Research</i></b> . . . . .	<b>12</b>
<b><i>Syringo</i></b> . . . . .	<b>13-14</b>

**February Event**  
**Saturday, February 21st, 2pm - 4pm**

**Pizza Party**  
**Microchip Demonstration &**  
**Breeders' Question and Answer Session**

**No need to RSVP**

**We'll order the pizza - Bring a dessert if you want**

**Sorry - no dogs during our winter meetings**

**Hosted by Susan Crawford,**  
**1060 White Road, Grove City, OH 43123**  
**614-871-1635**

**From the North:** Take I-71 South to the Stringtown Road exit, exit #100, toward Grove City. Turn left at exit ramp and go 1.3 miles to Jackson Pike Road. Turn right onto Jackson Pike and go 1/2 mile. Turn right onto White Road and go to 1060 White Road.

**From the South:** Take I-71 North to the Stringtown Road exit, exit #100 and follow directions above.

**From East & West:** Take I-70 into Columbus, and then take I-71 South in Columbus. Follow directions above "From the North."

**Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Central Ohio**  
**Board Meeting**  
**September 17, 2003**

Meeting was held at the home of Susan Crawford. Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Shirley Fippin at 8:15 p.m.

Present in addition to herself were: Karen Bolton, Steven McElheny, Pat Grice, Ellen Poti and Michael Hampton. Absent: Lamont Yoder

Secretary's report: Minutes from July Board meeting read. Motion to approve as read by Susan Crawford and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Grice. Board minutes approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Hampton reported \$1180 in checking with outstanding debts to Pat Grice to compensate for materials at August event. Motion to approve as read by Karen Bolton and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Grice. Report approved as read.

**Old Business:**

1. Clarification of dates for future meetings: October general membership meeting will support the cavaliers entered in the puppy match at the Delaware Ohio Kennel Club (DOKC) Sanctioned Match on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

2. Supported Entry at the DOKC Match Assignments:

- a. Pat and Steve will bake dog cookies
- b. Ellen to donate greenies and contact Phoebe McKay to put together greenies and cookies in a dog bowl or appropriate container to give out to 8 class and 2 breed winners.
- c. Shirley Fippin will work to place cavaliers near the end of the match to allow our traveling board members time to arrive.
- d. A general membership meeting will be held after the match.
- e. Susan Crawford will set up a table for hospitality and prizes for the club.

Motion to allow \$25 to Phoebe for materials, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen and passed without objection. Discussion regarding ribbons did not result in a motion.

**New Business:**

1. November Board meeting: November 16 following judging at the Central Ohio Kennel Club All Breed dog show.
2. Susan Crawford volunteered to have the Christmas party and meeting at her home. People will not bring dogs or alcohol. Optional will be a dog gift under \$10. to exchange. Susan will donate a honey baked ham, and the rest will be potluck. Ellen will provide plastic ware left over from the picnic in June, fabric squares for a quilted wall hanging for attendees to stamp/paint, and plastic sheets for tables. Pat will bring stamps and materials from September event.
3. Dates for 2004 and meeting places were discussed.
4. Club website:
  - a. We have two names registered, both pointing to same website until we decide what we want permanently: [www.CKCSOCO.org](http://www.CKCSOCO.org) and [www.CentralOhioCavaliers.com](http://www.CentralOhioCavaliers.com).
  - b. Steve requested suggestions for the newly updated site. Website Committee was formed to come up with suggestions and ideas to present to the Board: Michael, Lamont and Steve to be on the Committee.
  - c. Ellen requested that links for AKC and ACKCSC be added.
  - d. The board would like the bylaws for the club to be posted on the website when they are established.
5. Club Logo:

Michael Hampton volunteered to do investigation via his advertising agency. Board to send outlines/ideas/ photos you like to Michael. Michael will bring sample of designs to board meeting for approval. Discussion ensued regarding classic versus cartoon style logo and everyone agreed on classic logo with

**Board Meeting  
September 17, 2003 (Continued)**

name included. Ellen suggested the club purchase a reusable vinyl banner with logo and name for all events, after logo was decided upon.

6. Puppy Packets:  
Discussion about developing puppy packets with membership information to CKCSCCO members.
7. Breeders list:  
Discussion regarding guidelines and rules for a breeders list on the website was tabled for further discussion.
8. Heart clinic:  
Board members would like Lamont Yoder to contact Dr. Linda Lehmkuhl, Board Certified Cardiologist for possible dates that she could perform a heart clinic in 2004.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Poti, Secretary

**Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Central Ohio  
Teleconference Board Meeting  
December 3, 2003**

November Board meeting canceled due to schedule conflict with Board, was rescheduled for December 3, 2003 via conference call. Notification of schedule change was made by e-mail and regular postal mail by Secretary, Ellen Poti.

Meeting called to order by President at 7:03 p.m. via conference call.

Present in addition to himself were Ellen Poti, Pat Grice, Shirley Fippin, Karen Bolton, Susan Crawford, Michael Hampton

Secretary's Report: Minutes from September Board meeting read, motion to approve as ready by Pat Grice and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Susan Crawford. Minutes approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Michael Hampton reported \$1483.00 is the current account balance. Two new memberships since last meeting. Motion to approve

as read by Pat and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Susan. Approved as read without objection.

Old Business:

1. Christmas meeting party: Flyer approved by everyone with the suggestion to add RSVP to Susan Crawford. Susan will provide ham, bread, drinks and paper products. Discussion of email/snail mail for flyer. Susan will print flyer and labels, then mail to entire membership within the next 2 days. Pat Grice will send out mass email. We have officially 56 members and 100 people on the mailing list. Printed newsletter to be sent out to members only. January newsletter will go out to all by e-mail including non-members, but in print only to members. Lamont to make changes on flyer and email to Susan and Pat for distribution. Identification and microchipping will be educational topic for December meeting. Board members to bring scanners to present. Susan will have puppy present to be chipped, and sign up sheet for future microchip clinic will be started at the meeting.
2. Club Website :
  - a. Lamont reported that bylaws will be added on in the future.
  - b. Pat Grice offered to research and write up information for the web site on MVD. Links to ACKCSC and AKC have been added to the website. Pat to add in future teeth, eyes, mouth.
  - c. Shirley to write up and add ears.
  - d. Anal gland information discussed, Board agreed to add it to website – Pat Grice will write it as part of general care.
  - e. Breeder referral (with disclaimer): will be option to Club members only with fee required. Yearly fee discussed: \$25. to be listed on website for one year, payment due January for that calendar year. Information will go out in January newsletter. Michael will write a section on finding a breeder.
  - f. Rescue information also to be added.

- g. Discussion about eventually submitting website to search engines. After articles added, we will add that the website will be on search engines.
  - h. Other suggestions: Susan recommended photos be added of the events to the website. Charlie suggested members' page with photos, and Karen agreed to collect photos and send to Steve.
3. Logo discussion: Michael discussed possible designs with co-worker at agency, and options should be emailed to the board members in the near future.
  4. Banner for club events: Susan did a preliminary banner and donated it until logo decided upon. Once logo is created a new banner will be made.
  5. Puppy packet discussed, and Board decided to defer to breeder referral and information on website. Parent Club is currently working on puppy packets. Decided to work on pamphlet about the club, but put on hold for the time being.
  6. Heart clinic: Linda Lehmkuhl not yet contacted, but Mark Harris volunteered the vet hospital on any Sunday for Clinics at no cost to the Club.

New Business:

1. Filing with AKC: Lamont and Ellen to present to membership at December meeting.
  2. 2004 dues: Discussion about dues since founding membership just occurred. Taxes will eventually be due on April of every year, so will have Club's fiscal year from January through December. Current founding members' dues are current through the end of 2003. Motion to make one time extension of dues paid so far by all members as current through December of 2004 by Pat Grice and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen. Motion passed unanimously.
  3. Fund raising: Need logo to make sweatshirts, canvas bags, scarves. Michael may know printer to do shirts, etc. after logo available.
4. Health clinic: Heart, eyes, chipping . Discussion of Ophthalmologist. Ellen to contact Ophthalmologist for dates and charges and inform Lamont. Lamont to then contact Cardiologist to confirm dates.
  5. Raffle ideas: Board members are to bring to December meeting at least two items each to donate for an auction in the future.
  6. 2004 dates:  
January – Board meeting 7PM conference call January 21.  
February – Saturday Feb 21 – membership education/auction/ raffle/bingo  
March – Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – 7 PM conference board call  
April – Membership dog walk – April 17<sup>th</sup> (Rain date – April 24<sup>th</sup>). Trivia stations with prizes  
May – Board Conference call at 7PM on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>.
  7. Lamont to bring draft to December meeting of newsletter. Discussion of soliciting membership to assist with events and newsletter and website.
  8. Shirley presented idea to get national recognition for the club by having every breeder pledge \$5 per puppy sold to health initiative for Syringohydrumyelia or MVD.
  9. Board members to contact members that they sold puppies to and solicit photographs  
  
Of dogs be sent to Karen or Steve to add to website.
- Motion to adjourn by Pat Grice, seconded by Shirley Fippin.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen W. Poti, Secretary

## **REGIONAL CAVALIER CLUBS IN AMERICA**

\*CKCSC OF GREATER ATLANTA

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[www.ckscatlanta.org](http://www.ckscatlanta.org)

\*BAY AREA CKCSC

Dale Martin, [dale.martin3@comcast.net](mailto:dale.martin3@comcast.net)  
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\*MEADOWLANDS CKCSC

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\*CKCSC OF PUGET SOUND

Chris Quinn, [cquinnk9@aol.com](mailto:cquinnk9@aol.com)  
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BLUE RIDGE CKCSC

Carol Bond, [cbbond@aol.com](mailto:cbbond@aol.com)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CKCSC

Patty Kanan, [Torlundy@verizon.net](mailto:Torlundy@verizon.net)

CENTRAL CAROLINA CKCSC

Joyce Board, [zinniebop@aol.com](mailto:zinniebop@aol.com)  
[www.carolinacavaliers.com](http://www.carolinacavaliers.com)

GREATER CHICAGO CKCSC

Susan Shidler, [sevenwoodsckcs@aol.com](mailto:sevenwoodsckcs@aol.com)  
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CKCSC OF GREATER HOUSTON

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MID-FLORIDA CKCSC

Jeanie Sardo, [jsardo1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jsardo1@tampabay.rr.com)

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CKCSC OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

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CKCSC OF CENTRAL OHIO

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CKCSC OF GREATER SAINT LOUIS

Chris Curtis, [cfc Curtis@charter.net](mailto:cfc Curtis@charter.net)

CKCSC OF SAN DIEGO

Jean Yokley, [jjokley@cts.com](mailto:jjokley@cts.com)

\* Denotes AKC Licensed Club

### PARENT CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS ; [www.ACKCSC.org](http://www.ACKCSC.org)

#### Officers

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#### 2005 Board of Directors

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## HAVE YOU HEARD?

### ACKCSC National Show and Trial will be held in conjunction with Cavaliers of Puget Sound Regional Specialty MAY 27-30 in Seattle!

Allow us to begin by thanking National '03 Show Chair Elaine Lessig and the chairs and committee members for their hard work in making this year's National a successful and enjoyable event.

Congratulations to the Bay Area Cavalier Club, who will be holding their first AKC specialty show and trial October 18<sup>th</sup> in Pleasanton, CA. Check it out at their website [www.backcsc.com](http://www.backcsc.com). Congratulations also to the Meadowlands Club who will also hold their first show and trial Westminster weekend 04, at the Hotel Penn. in New York. For information email Karen Mills-Heron at [kmills\\_heron@yahoo.com](mailto:kmills_heron@yahoo.com).

Greater Atlanta Club is looking forward to their third annual show and trial in April 04: [www.ckcscatlanta.org](http://www.ckcscatlanta.org). Cavaliers of Puget Sound is holding their 4<sup>th</sup> annual specialty September 19<sup>th</sup> in Olympia, WA: [www.cavaliersofpugetsound.com](http://www.cavaliersofpugetsound.com).

As most of you know, the ACKCSC National '04 will be held in Seattle at the Sea-Tac Marriott, Memorial weekend May 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> with the Cavaliers of Puget Sound specialty held in conjunction Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup>. Updates will soon be on the website [www.ackcsc.org](http://www.ackcsc.org).

The '04 National is special in many ways: it is the first time the National will have a regional Cavalier Club hosting and holding its specialty in conjunction with the National.

In honor of this historic event and to honor the strength the regional Cavalier Clubs are showing, we are proud to mark 2004 ACKCSC National "The Year of the Regional."

Helen Jesse and Lu Dunham of the Greater Atlanta Club will head the Regional Club National 04 committee. Lu and Helen have asked all 17 of the regionals to have a representative to share input on how best to represent each regional club at National 04. We thank Helen and Lu for their commitment and to the future club representatives for their input and sharing ideas. Lu and Helen's email is [lkdunham@mindspring.com](mailto:lkdunham@mindspring.com).

Our National '04 judging panel will be:

**Dogs and Intersex: Molly Coaker**

**Bitches: Norman Patton**

**Puppy and Veteran Sweeps: Cindy Lazzeroni**

**Obedience: Mrs. Susan Cox**

**Junior Showmanship: Norman Patton**

We will be offering A Canine Good Citizen Test. Chris Curtis from the Cavalier Club of Greater St. Louis will be coordinating for us.

**COPS judges are:**

**Confirmation: Shealagh Waters**

**Puppy and Veteran Sweeps: Patty Kanan**

**Obedience: John Cox**

**Junior Showmanship: Kim Langland**

National entries have been increasing. In '03 we had an entry of over 350, the highest number for a Cavalier National in the country in any arena.

So with the high entries, as well as, the high volume of committee members wanting to hold annual meetings during National, we have added an extra day. We will have many meetings throughout the day Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, as well as puppy sweeps in the early evening Thursday.

We will also be throwing a welcome party Thursday. The Marriott has generously donated a ballroom for the evening for us to use. It's a great room and has a separate stage area for a d.j., video screens, and plenty of space to congregate. Patrick Savant, of COPS has agreed to chair the welcome party: [Cavlover1@msn.com](mailto:Cavlover1@msn.com)

Patty Kanan of the Southern California Cavalier Club is our Sponsorship Chair. One of Patty's first acquisitions was to lock in dog food company, TRIPETT as a sponsor of the National '04. They will be donating hundreds of cans of their food as well as the exhibitor totes. We thank Patty Kanan for her hard work and TRIPETT for their generosity and good will. Patty's email address is [torlundy@verizon.net](mailto:torlundy@verizon.net).

Myra Savant of COPS will chair the National Promotional Gift Exhibitor committee. This is something that we tried last year at our COPS specialty and we found it warmly received. COPS purchased canvas totes, enough to have one for every exhibitor. On one side we had printed the club logo in color. On the other side of the tote we sold ad space for 75 dollars. The cost of the totes was approx. one thousand dollars. The ad space sold was a thousand dollars by design as we wanted to break even. Many of the regional clubs were gracious enough to purchase an ad space. Club members then stuffed the totes with dozens of donated items from both sponsors and club members.

For National '04 we will do a different exhibitor gift to be decided by that committee as well as ad space. If this sounds like something you would be interested in Myra's email address is [myrasavant@hotmail.com](mailto:myrasavant@hotmail.com).

Nancy Rice-Waggoner will chair the health fair. The health fair will be complete with affordable health clinics offered, plus free health seminars and free health related items. If the health fair interests you, email Nancy at [Clobearcavaliers@aol.com](mailto:Clobearcavaliers@aol.com).

At '03 National there was a bit of confusion and we ended up having two junior handler winners instead of one. In light of this, we would like to make sure all runs smoothly, so we have added a Junior Showmanship committee chaired by Verlynn Johns: Email address [dave@for-d.com](mailto:dave@for-d.com).

Kathy and Scott Hamilton, COPS members have had years of obedience experience including chairing obedience trials at large shows and numerous nationals. Kathy has agreed to chair obedience and Scott has agreed to steward in the obedience ring.

This year we will have an exhibitor/spectator hospitality committee. Part of that hospitality will be offering free coffee, juice and donuts each morning to exhibitors and spectators.

Wendy Stang will chair the Saturday banquet. If you wish to be involved in the banquet Wendy's email address is [wendy@bctonline.com](mailto:wendy@bctonline.com).

Patty Church will chair the live auction. All proceeds go to the ACKCSC Charitable Trust for Cavalier health research. Donations are tax deductible and will be acknowledged on the club website. David Frei has agreed to serve as auctioneer. Patty's email address is [Sarah34856@msn.com](mailto:Sarah34856@msn.com).

Marcia Whitcomb will chair vendors. We have had a lot of interest in vendor space. Table size looks to be ten by ten for 100 dollars. Marcia's email address is [cayenneK@olypen.com](mailto:cayenneK@olypen.com).

Debbie McNeice-Schuyler and George Schuyler will be handling the COPS National show section of the website and will be coordinating National's Audio Visual needs. We promise to have a lot of technical innovations. For example the action in the ring will be broadcast into the adjacent grooming area as well as into the rooms in the hotel. If this sort of stuff sounds interesting to you contact George and Debbie at [gschuyler@pobox.com](mailto:gschuyler@pobox.com).

Carla Mathies will handle floral arrangements. Carla was raised in a show home and continues to be a wealth of knowledge for us.

Our seminar this year will be chaired by Jann Grant. Our speaker will be Dr. Carmen Battaglia. Dr. Battaglia is an amazing and knowledgeable author, researcher and lecturer. His latest book "Breeding Better Dogs" is touted as one of the best books ever written on breeding and is in its fifth printing. He is a wonderful, enthusiastic speaker.

Verlynn Johns will be handling ribbons. We will have rosettes for all classes.

We have asked for and received two bids from superintendents MBF and Onofrio. The National board has selected Onofrio Show Services to act as National Superintendent: [www.onofrio.com](http://www.onofrio.com).

We have had several requests from exhibitors to have an onsite vendor with available rental equipment such as dollies, grooming tables etc. We will contact local vendor "3c's" and see what they can do. As we fill more committees and have more contacts we will make that information available to you. Remember we are a global community of Cavalier owners and if you do not live in the Northwest you can still participate. Email is a wonderful tool.

When Pat and I were in college, eons ago, we had a tattered poster over our desk: A picture of beschmudged Albert Einstein with the quotation, "Imagination Is More Important then Knowledge." Please, if you have an idea of something you think has worked at a show, not worked at a show that you didn't like or something you would like to see tried for National '04 email us at [fullofmalarkey@aol.com](mailto:fullofmalarkey@aol.com)

All Our Best, Tammy and Pat Kelly

## **Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Puget Sound Raffle**

### **TRIP FOR 2 TO CRUFTS 2005**

Drawing May 30, 2004 *during the National show weekend*  
Round Trip for two from NY, Boston, Seattle or San Francisco.

Includes 2 nights hotel in London, 4 nights hotel in Birmingham  
1 day admission to Crufts and Best In Show, reception banquet.

Package and all transfers provided by Fresh Pond Travel.

*Package does not include transportation or entry of dog.*

\$10.00 per ticket – need not be present to win

Contact: Margot Johnson

16606 35<sup>th</sup> Ave SE 6A

Bothell, WA 98012

## ***Shouldn't Your Cavalier be a "Canine Good Citizen?"***

By the very nature of our Cavalier King Charles Spaniel breed standard, one would think that ALL Cavaliers should be "Canine Good Citizens." Our standard indicates that the temperament of a Cavalier should be "Gay, friendly, non-aggressive with no tendency toward nervousness or shyness."

The American Kennel Club created the Canine Good Citizen Program (C.G.C.) with a two-part purpose in mind. " #1: to teach responsible dog ownership to owners and, #2: to certify dogs that have the training and behaviors needed to be reliable, well-behaved members of their families and communities."

The out-going, people loving disposition of our Cavaliers lends them to be natural candidates for the Canine Good Citizen Award. However, we must remember that the program is designed to highlight dogs that have "training and good behaviors". There is, indeed, work and effort that must be put forth by all canine owners who wish to present their dog for the required testing for the C.G.C. Award.

To receive this A.K.C. Award a dog must pass all ten items of the testing process. These ten aspects of the C.G.C. testing are as follows:

- Item 1: Accepting a Friendly Stranger
- Item 2: Sitting Politely for Petting
- Item 3: Appearance and Grooming
- Item 4: Out for Walk (Walking on a Loose Leash)
- Item 5: Walking Through a Crowd
- Item 6. Sit and Down on Command/ Staying in Place
- Item 7: Coming When Called
- Item 8. Reaction to Another Dog

Have you received a C.G.C. award on a Cavalier or you are active in pet therapy?  
Please Let the CGC Coordinator know:  
Christine Curtis  
(636) 282-1112  
[curreycavs@hotmail.com](mailto:curreycavs@hotmail.com)

Item 9: Reaction to Distractions

Item 10: Supervised Separation

Formal obedience training is not really a requirement to successfully complete all of the above ten C.G.C. items, but basic training and good manners are certainly a must.

The AKC approved evaluator will be considering three major questions when observing each dog's behavior through the ten testing items. First, is this a dog that "you would like to own?"

Second, do you feel that this dog "is safe with children?" and Third, does this dog appear to be "one that makes its owner happy while not making someone else unhappy?"

Most dog owners come to the Canine Good Citizen Program by way of their first obedience training class. Once a dog has mastered some basic skills it may be ready to attempt the C.G.C. testing process long before it would be a candidate for the Novice Obedience Ring. There are a significant number of factors that separate the C.G.C. testing process from the judging of Formal Obedience competition. These distinct differences will be discussed in our next Cavalier newsletter.

In the meantime, if you want to get started on your C.G.C. training, you can access additional information (from the AKC) at <http://www.akc.org/love/cgc/testprocedures.cfm>

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Curtis  
ACKCSC C.G.C. Coordinator



"Chips" the Cavalier who has his CGC and TDI titles at the St. Louis Childrens Hospital's Swachman Syndrome National Conference.

## *From the Parent Club's Health Committee:*

Key items the ACKCSC's health committee will help define:

- \* *What tests are currently being used by Cavalier breeders?*
- \* *What diagnostic tests are available for significant breed health problems?*
- \* *At what age are these tests appropriate and reliable?*
- \* *At what age are CERF testing needed to prevent the spread of eye disease?*

The ACKCSC will provide specific recommendations to CHIC for testing in our breed. These recommendations will include the minimum age at which the test is appropriate. Also, in the case of some tests, what test interval is appropriate.

In general the CHIC's database operates on the principle of owner choice in terms of the release of information about an individual Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. The ACKCSC may request an open database but owners must still sign a release for information about their Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

Another exciting program is also being developed. The ACKCSC's Health Committee has started preliminary work with the Canine Genetic Diseases Network, <http://www.caninegeneticdiseases.net> to set up a general DNA Bank for our breed. As specific health problems are identified and research initiated, DNA samples would be already available from the greater breed population. Liz Hansen of the Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory, University of Missouri wrote, "Generally, the most time consuming part of the research we do is getting samples in." She continues to comment, "Sometimes the dogs we really need are already gone, and that can hamper progress." More information will be available soon on this new program.

In summary, these are the key programs for the ACKCSC's expansion into preventative programs for our beloved Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

Respectfully submitted,

Your ACKCSC's Health Committee

Joanne Nash, Chair - [jnash@telis.org](mailto:jnash@telis.org) ; Patti Conroy - [pconroy@nycap.rr.com](mailto:pconroy@nycap.rr.com)  
Hilarie Gibbs - [hgibbs@planet.com](mailto:hgibbs@planet.com) ; Karen Mills-Heron - [kmills\\_heron@yahoo.com](mailto:kmills_heron@yahoo.com)  
Tina Sterling - [sterlingtoys@aol.com](mailto:sterlingtoys@aol.com) ; Kathy Yonkers - [stuarthome@earthlink.net](mailto:stuarthome@earthlink.net)

### **Nutritional Management Study - For Cavaliers with MVD**

If you know of anyone with a dog with mitral valve disease who would be interested in participating in a study involving nutritional management, please have them contact Lisa Freeman, DVM, PhD Associate Professor, Nutrition - Tufts Veterinary School, Grafton, MA).

The study will investigate the benefits of a special diet (reduced salt) designed specifically for dogs with early heart disease. The trial covers the costs of 3 hospital visits, non-invasive diagnostic tests (including echocardiograms, blood tests, blood pressure, and EKG), diet for the duration of the study, and evaluation by a cardiologist.

Additionally, in order to alert dog owners to this study, the folks at Tufts are willing to give a general presentation on canine heart disease and its nutritional management to your group free of charge. All that they'd require would be the use of a room, slide projector and screen.

Please contact Dr. Freeman with any questions about the study: 508-839-5395 x84696).

## Canine Epilepsy Research

Canine epilepsy is one of the most emotionally devastating problems facing dog owners and breeders today. A consortium of researchers from the University of Missouri, University of Minnesota, Ohio State University, and the Animal Trust (England) are currently doing DNA research to try to locate the mutation(s) responsible for causing epilepsy in dogs. The genes controlling seizure problems in dogs are not well understood, but this project is attempting to find the marker(s) or mutation(s) responsible. When these can be identified, a blood test will tell if an individual dog is a carrier, clear, or likely to become an affected (even before symptoms begin). Using this information, breeders can choose breeding partners who will not produce additional affected puppies.

Researchers working on this project need information from affected dogs and their families. Specifically, they need a 3- to 5-generation pedigree of the litter where an affected dog (or dogs) appeared and blood samples from the affected dog(s), full siblings, parents, and when possible, the grandparents. If an affected dog has been used for breeding, the offspring and mates should also be sampled. Distant relatives are potentially useful, but the most important samples are from the affected dogs and immediate relatives. Family groups are important so that the genotype of the affected dogs can be compared to that of close relatives who are not affected, and allow researchers to decipher how these genes are inherited from one generation to the next. An affected dog with little or no family available may also be of some use. Participation in the project is confidential - the names of dogs and owners who participate in the research will not be revealed. When markers are identified, individual owners will be able to request test results on their participating dogs. Results of research are published in such a way that the identity of individual dogs is anonymous.

There is a packet of information sheets and forms for submitting samples. You may make copies and distribute them to other interested breeders and owners. The packet can be downloaded at the Canine Epilepsy Network website, [www.canine-epilepsy.net](http://www.canine-epilepsy.net) or, upon request, may be faxed or mailed to you. Grants from the AKC Canine Health Foundation allow participation in this research to be opened to ALL breeds of dogs. As of January 25, 2002, samples have been received from nearly 3400 dogs representing 71 different breeds. Samples are still needed from families where epilepsy has appeared, from any breed. In addition to helping your own breed, it is hoped that information discovered in one breed may help locate mutations in other breeds as well. Please spread the word of this research to anyone who has an affected dog or a relative of an affected dog, and to veterinarians or others who may come in contact with dogs and owners who should be included. There is no cost to participate, other than a vet fee for drawing a blood sample (many vets are doing this at a reduced cost to support the research) and overnight shipping charges to the lab (\$15-\$35 from most places in the country via FedEx, UPS, or US Mail). If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact project coordinator Liz Hansen via one of the methods listed below. Thank you for your interest and participation!

Liz Hansen  
Coordinator of Veterinary Information  
Animal Molecular Genetics Lab - Dept. of Vet. Path.  
321 Connaway Hall  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65211  
573-884-3712 (office phone)  
573-884-5414 (department fax)  
[HansenL@missouri.edu](mailto:HansenL@missouri.edu) (email)

The above article was taken from:

[http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/newsletter\\_info.html](http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/newsletter_info.html)

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/cerc.html>

And a Call for Affected Subjects can be found at:

<http://www.msu.edu/~k9genome/micro.htm>

### Canine Deafness Research:

“Hereditary Canine Deafness”

<http://www.msu.edu/~k9genome/deaf.htm>

The instruction and contact for submitting DNA and background information for both the deafness and Microphthalmia studies can be found on: <http://www.msu.edu/~k9genome/contactc.htm>

# SYRINGOHYDROMYELIA

## Important - Please Read!

*The CKCS Club (UK) is distributing an abstract of an article on Syringomyelia (also known as Syringohydromyelia) and would like to have the information shared as widely as possible. We are including it below, and it is also available on the ACKCSC website at [www.ackcsc.org/health.html](http://www.ackcsc.org/health.html). A longer, more detailed article is available online at <http://www.thecavalierclub.co.uk/health/syringo.html>. A link to this article is also posted on the ACKCSC website. **ACKCSC Health Committee.***

There is a rapidly emerging awareness of an inherited condition in our Cavaliers.

Veterinary neurologist, Clare Rusbridge, and her team are conducting research into this condition and have found that 13 out of the 24 top stud dogs since 1998 have sired affected progeny. It is found in all colours, in all lines, and affects both sexes. While it remains unacknowledged it will continue to spread. This condition is called syringomyelia. This occurs when a Cavalier is born with not enough room in the space in the skull that contains the back of the brain. Damage is caused when fluid surrounding the brain is forced into the spinal cord.

The most common symptom is scratching on, or in the air near the shoulder when the dog is excited or walking on a lead. However this is not the only symptom and it is not always present. Affected dogs and bitches can be sensitive around the head, neck and front legs and often cry, yelp or scream for no apparent reason. They can develop a permanently twisted neck or have a wobbling gait in the hind legs and/or weakness in their front legs.

In severely affected cases the dog can suffer so badly that euthanasia becomes the only option.

Signs are usually noticed in dogs between 6 months and 3 years but it has been diagnosed in Cavaliers up to 10 years old.

At present the condition can only be identified by MRI scan or by clinical signs. There is not a test to identify carriers.

Studies of pedigrees suggest that Syringomyelia is caused by two genes that have to be carried by both parents for an affected dog to be born. Although dogs displaying signs of the problem were seen in the past, it is thought that the two genes came together in a significant way when descendants of two bitches, born in the 1950s, were mated together in the late 1970s.

Continual line breeding to the popular stud dogs of this era has increased the number of Cavaliers carrying both genes throughout the breed, and this includes many of the top stud dogs and brood bitches. It is these dogs whose genes dominate the pedigrees of the Cavaliers in our kennels, our homes and on our laps. No one is to blame because no one had the knowledge to identify the isolated cases as an inherited condition.

Information about individual dogs and bitches given to the Veterinary research team is confidential. Names have not and will not be

passed on to anybody in the Cavalier Club or elsewhere

The problem is now widespread. There will be clear and carrier dogs and bitches in every line. Some breeders and stud dog owners may believe it is not their problem. In some cases they may not be aware that their dog or bitch has produced an affected Cavalier, and this is dangerous for the good of the breed. Owners are now being encouraged to inform the breeder if their Cavalier has a positive diagnosis. This problem, like MVD, is affecting us all.

It is what we do now that is so important. The researchers believe that it may be possible to develop a DNA test which will identify which Cavaliers are carriers of syringomyelia & which are clear.

DNA from extended families of dogs can be collected by blood sampling or, in some cases, cheek swab. Blood samples will be required from both clear and affected dogs and bitches. All donor dogs will be identified only by a code. It is hoped that it may also be possible to eventually produce a DNA for MVD from the same blood samples

The Cavalier Club hopes that any breeder asked to provide blood samples will co-operate with this vital research.

The search for a DNA test will take some time. The veterinary research team has provided what breeding advice they can (see below) At the moment we have no way of knowing whether our Cavaliers are clear or carriers unless they have already produced affected offspring.

This problem could continue to spread until there are very few clear dogs and bitches from which to breed. To act now to develop a DNA test will not only prevent pain & suffering, but will also make good commercial sense.

All dogs enjoy a good scratch. This may be because of a flea bite, ear mites or a skin condition. We must all resist the temptation of making ringside diagnosis.

Honest and frank discussion is what is needed if breeders and owners are to pull together to find a solution to this problem.

It is serious and it threatens all our Cavaliers.

### **Current Breeding Advice**

Until we have a way of testing for the culprit recessive genes, this is what we recommend.

### **Affected Case**

Identified by MRI (confirmed) or suspected on basis of clinical signs (scratching at shoulder area when walking on leash or when excited) ***Not to be used for breeding, stop breeding from affected cases now.***

**Unaffected known carrier (sire/dam and all offspring of an affected case) will have both genes.** If mated with same will produce affected offspring. ***Use very sparingly. Mate only to unrelated dogs who have had no extended family history of syringomyelia.*** Keep other Breeders informed.

**Unaffected dog** (it is possible that all Cavaliers will be carriers of one or more recessive genes) ***Do not mate with closely related dogs. Keep track of all offspring The time of onset of symptoms varies greatly, from weeks to many years. If you breed an affected dog tell any other breeder involved.***

**For more detail please see the articles by Clare Rusbridge and Penny Knowler on the Club website: [www.thecavalierclub.co.uk](http://www.thecavalierclub.co.uk) , the Club Magazine or send SAE to: Mrs M Carter, 47, The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts. AL9 5DQ.**

Information about dogs displaying symptoms of syringomyelia, especially those born prior to 1990, is still needed by the research team.

Please contact:

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Stone Lion Veterinary Centre  
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