

Statement from the Home Counties American Cocker Club

2021 Championship Show

The HCACC recognizes the current challenges with the COVID19 situation and likely impact that may have on shows in the first quarter of 2021 as the UK and European government vaccination scheme rolls out across the UK.

With that in mind the HCACC has approached the kennel club for approval to **move our 2021 championship show for one year only to the Sunday 11th July 2021**. This will retain our usual spot the week before Crufts, and with hope that the UK is in a slightly more stable position with the COVID rates as is anticipated by UK government by the Spring/Summer of 2021.

Our championship show date will then return to the first weekend in March in 2022 with USA judge Ms Patty Darke (Darkehaven, USA) and Mr Cameron Cavallo (Sandicam, Australia) judging our championship and open shows respectively.

At the same time as recognizing the need to move our date we have also reviewed costs associated with our show costs and the benefits and value they give to the club and the members/exhibitors who remain loyal to HCACC. Our time at the Kennel Club Building in Stoneleigh has provided us some great venues and opportunities, however the cost of hiring the venue is starting to far outweigh the money we make from the entry the breed attracts today. With that in mind we have taken the decision to move from the KC Building from 2021 to a new centrally based venue.

In deciding our new venue, we mapped three years of exhibitors addresses and postcodes for our championship show, and identified that there remains a strong case for our championship show to remain centrally based with most of our exhibitors coming from the Midlands and Northern part of the country. The HCACC wanted to look at ideally moving our championship show back into the home counties area of England, however costs, availability & location of suitable venues was problematic for the HCACC. After consideration and review of around 30 venues we narrowed it down to two suitable venues. The successful venue chosen was the purpose built and centrally located **Tomlinson's Boarding Kennels and Canine Centre, Upper Grange Farm, Markfield, Leicestershire, LE67 9RJ**. It is ideally located just off j21a/22 of the M1 motorway within 5mins from the junction. There are catering facilities provided on site, and there is outdoor facilities alongside the venue which will facilitate outdoor rings if suitable to support compliance with COVID secure requirements, but there is also sufficient space inside to support COVID secure social distancing. You can find more detail and see photos of the location at www.tomlinsonskennels.co.uk.

The HCACC hope exhibitors and members recognize that identifying a new venue that suits all is never an easy option, and one that HCACC never takes lightly having been stable at the KC Building for so many years. To ensure the club can continue to provide first class events and overseas judges every other year as has become the custom in recent years and

forthcoming years (2022 & 2024) we must ensure that we protect and build our financial position so that we can enjoy those events and also the calendar of educational events we have planned for 2021-2022.

The schedule for the HCACC 2021 championship show and back-to-back open show will be available online in early 2021. Please follow our website or social media facebook page for more detail.