

HOME COUNTIES AMERICAN COCKER CLUB

www.hcacc.co.uk

CODE OF ETHICS

All members of the Home Counties American Cocker Club undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

Club Members:

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operations to the Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.

12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (not accompanying a dog).
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
15. Will regularly submit stock for eye screening tests using the KC/BVA/ISDS Scheme. They will also consider submitting all litters for litter screening under the KC/BVA/ISDS scheme between the age of 6-12 weeks.
16. Will not use any dog or bitch for breeding purposes unless it and both its parents have current clear eye certificates, and will make such certificates available to purchasers of their stock.
17. Will only use a dog or bitch that are considered clinically mature by a veterinary surgeon for breeding, and has been submitted for and been cleared for all recommended health testing schemes for which the breed is vulnerable to.
18. Will, when breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum standard the principles, requirements and recommendations as embodied in the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder Scheme. It is strongly recommended that members who breed should apply to join the Scheme.
19. Will submit all imported dogs for health screening for which the breed is vulnerable within four weeks of arriving in the UK and submit the paperwork to the KC and the breed health coordinator. Health screening to occur prior to any use at stud.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from Club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action as appropriate.