



**2010 Meet the Breed-
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
Detroit Kennel Club Show- Detroit Cobo Center**

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<http://www.stuarthome.net>

Origin of the breed

- During the 16th century, a small type of spaniel was popular among the nobility in England.
- It was believed that these dogs could keep fleas away, and some even believed that they could prevent forms of stomach illnesses.
- These dogs were sometimes called the "Spaniel Gentle" or "Comforter", as ladies taking a carriage ride would take a spaniel on their laps to keep them warm during the winter.

- The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel of today is the direct descendant of the small Toy Spaniels seen in so many of the pictures of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.



- Toy Spaniels were quite common as pets of the Court ladies in Tudor times but in England, it was under the Stuarts that they were given the Royal title of King Charles Spaniels.

The Cavalier King

- History tells us that King Charles II was seldom seen without two or three or more at his heels.
- It was said of him that "His Majesty was seldom seen without his little dogs".
- There is a myth that he even issued an edict that no spaniels of this type could be denied entry to any public place.



- During the reign of King William III and Queen Mary II, the long nosed style of spaniel went out of fashion. The Pug was the favored dog at the time in the Netherlands, and with William's Dutch origin, they became popular in England too.
- At this time interbreeding may have occurred with the Pug, or other flat nosed breeds, as the King Charles took on some Pug-like characteristics, but in any event the modern English Toy Spaniels (King Charles Spaniels) emerged.



Image Source: [The Dogs Of Great Britain, America And Other Countries.](#)

Divergence from English Toy Spaniel

- In 1926, an American named Eldridge offered a dog show class prize of twenty-five pounds each as a prize for the best male and females of "Blenheim Spaniels of the old type, as shown in pictures of Charles II time, long face, no stop, flat skull, not inclined to be domed, with spot in centre of skull."



- Eldridge would die before seeing his plan come to fruition, but several breeders believed in what he said and in 1928 the first Cavalier club was formed in the UK.

Recognition of the breed

- The first standard was created, based on a dog named "Ann's Son" owned by Mostyn Walker, and "The Kennel Club (UK)" recognized the breed as "King Charles Spaniels, Cavalier type"



- The numbers gradually increased after World War II, and in 1945 The Kennel Club recognized the breed in its own right as the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

- The revival of the breed did not go so far as to return to the small eyes and snippy muzzle opting instead for a softer gentler look.
- Purists would have us believe that long nosed throwbacks from English Toy Spaniels were the only dogs used in the recreation of the breed.
- Breed lore suggests, however, that various Cocker breeds, Papillons and perhaps even the Welsh Springer were used to recapture the desired traits.
- In 1945 the Kennel Club granted separate registration, and the first set of Challenge Certificates followed a year later.
- The first Cavalier Champion was Ch. Daywell Roger.



- Very widely used at stud, Daywell Roger was a major contribution to the development of the breed in the middle of the Century.

American History

- The history of the breed in America is relatively recent.
- After years of being shown in the AKC miscellaneous class and club shows, AKC moved for recognition of the breed.
- In 1994, the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club (ACKCSC) was chartered by a group of dedicated breeders and owners. They wrote the AKC breed standard patterned after the country of origin (UK) and guided the breed into AKC recognition.
- Under these dedicated breeders care and direction the ACKCSC served as the AKC parent club for Cavaliers and the Cavalier would go on to be recognized in 1997.

All About the Cavalier

The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel is an active, graceful, well-balanced toy spaniel, very gay and free in action.

They are fearless and sporting in character, yet at the same time gentle and affectionate.

The Four Colors

- *Blenheim*
- *Tricolor*
- *Ruby*
- *Black and Tan*



Temperament

- It is this typical gay temperament, combined with true elegance and royal appearance which are of paramount importance in the breed.
- Cavaliers are carefree, friendly, non-aggressive.
- Aggressiveness is *not to be tolerated in the breed and are to be so severely penalized as to effectively remove the Cavalier from competition.*

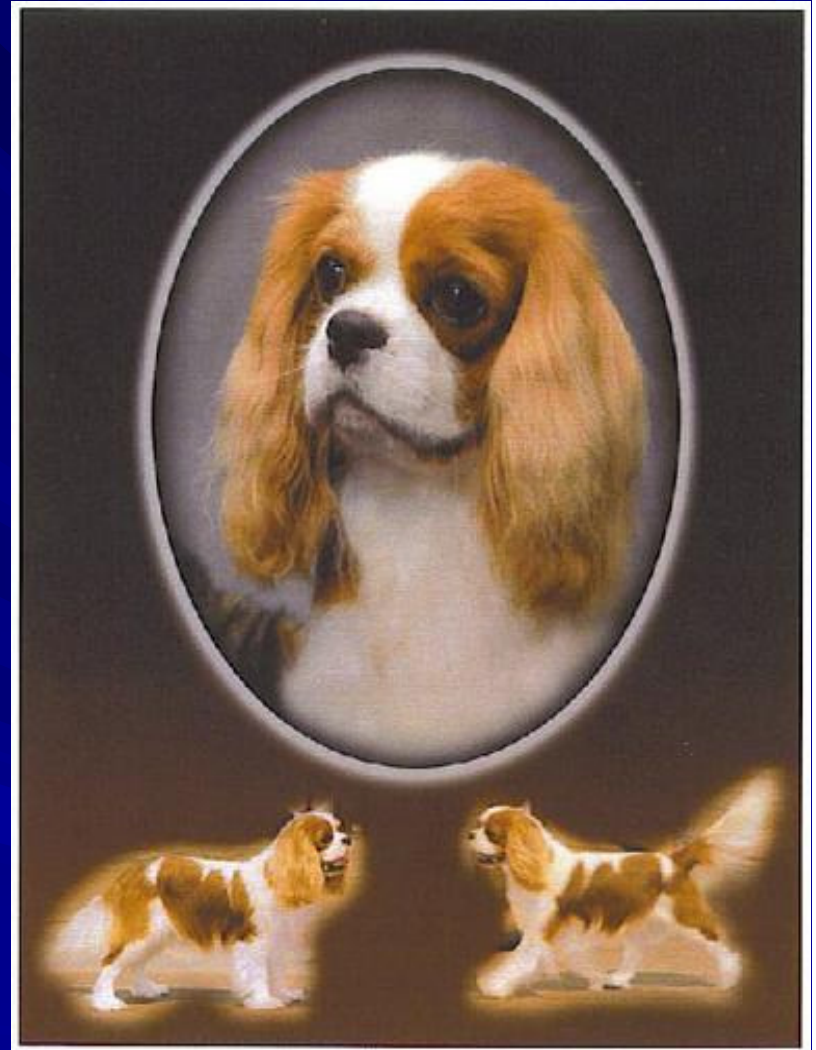


- Size – Height 12 to 13 inches at the withers; weight proportionate to height, between 13 and 18 lbs.
- A small, well balanced dog within these weights is desirable, but these are ideal heights and weights and slight variations are permissible.

Since the first standard was approved, each generation of breeders has pledged to uphold the original intent of that first determined band of fanciers who wrote it:

To produce a naturally presented breed totally free from trimming, sculpting or cosmetic alteration of any kind.

This is part and parcel of breed type.

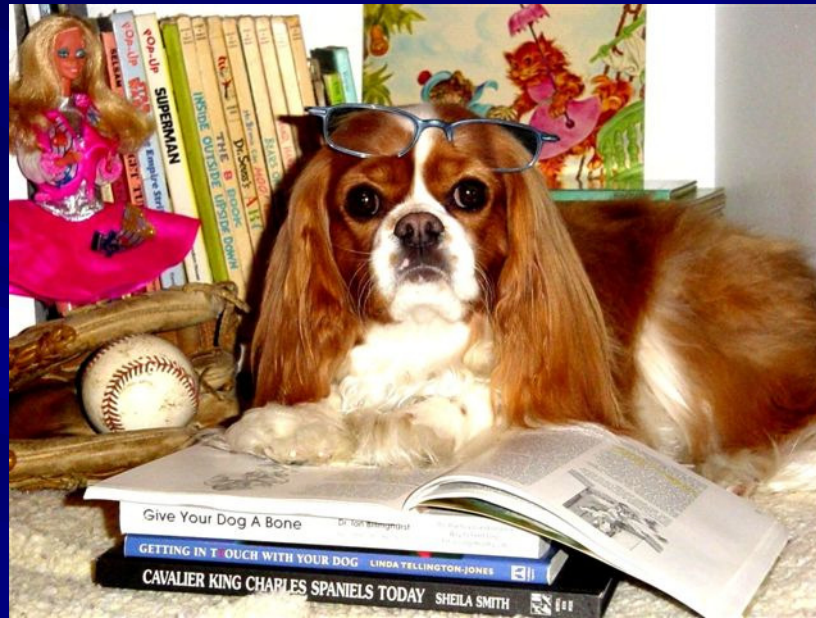


- Cavaliers are housedogs who want to be with their human family members and will follow them from room to room.
- They are fun loving and intelligent little dogs that adore nothing more than to go out for a good walk and then go indoors and curl up on a comfortable lap or armchair.



They love their comforts and will go to great lengths to manipulate you to be allowed to sit on the best furniture!

Whether you choose a male or a female, you will get a sweet natured companion.



We have a saying in Cavaliers, *“the girls love you but the boys are in love with you”*.

This breed loves children who are gentle and well behaved. Children who are loud, boisterous or rough might frighten or injury a Cavalier.



They are an excellent choice for seniors. Their loving and gentle nature, their responsiveness and empathy for their owners make them a perfect match.

Seniors may wish to opt for an adult Cavalier instead of a puppy.

Cavaliers need training by their new owners to become well-adjusted, well-trained members of the family.

Cavaliers are a longhaired breed and need regular grooming to avoid a tangled or matted coat.



They are moderate in shedding and are not hypoallergenic.

Frequent brushing will help to minimize the amount of silky hair you find around the house.

Cavaliers are not “street smart” because of this trait; when outdoors they should be either kept on leashes or monitored in fenced yards.



Breeders recommend a fenced in yard or a breeder-approved containment system for a Cavalier.

The fence and gate must be secure enough at the bottom so the dog cannot slip or dig out from under, as well as tall enough (at least 5’).

Primary Health Concern:

Mitral Valve Disease; Breeding Cavaliers must be screened by board certified cardiologists.

Emerging Health Concern:

Syringomyelia (sear-IN-go-my-EEL-ya); it is a disorder in which a cyst forms within the spinal cord. This concern has been reported as one of the most common spinal cord disorders of toy breed (purebred or mixed breeds) dogs.

- Remember that a dog must fit into your lifestyle. They need to be part of the family and you should not have one if you have not sufficient time to give it.
- A lot of thought must be given to the matter before you go ahead.
- Have you the time? The money? The patience? The lifestyle? Think long and hard, as a dog is a big commitment.
- If you do decide that a Cavalier would fit into your household, you will be rewarded with the most wonderful companion!

- The breed has the highest percent increase over the past decade in terms of popularity — having moved up the AKC's list from 75th in 1996 to 27th in 2006 – a 511% increase.
- Therefore, you must be extra-diligent in locating a reputable breeder as unscrupulous breeders and importers abound.



- ALWAYS start your search for a Cavalier with the AKC designated parent club, the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club (ACKCSC) or the regional club, Michigan Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club through their breeder referral programs, <http://www.ACKCSC.org> and <http://CKCSCMI.org>



Cavalier King Charles Spaniels Club of SW Michigan

To Represent, Protect, and Promote the Cavalier in Greater Michigan



<http://www.stuarthomecavaliers.com>



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