



Things anyone can do to help!

Provide foster care. This is always a pressing need - a place for the dog to be evaluated and to be safe while we look for a permanent home. Submit a Foster Home Application.

Transport dogs to or from foster or adoptive homes, or coordinate transportation in your area. Submit a Volunteer Application.

Make a TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation. Help us care for Cavaliers in foster homes, board dogs when we have no foster space, provide crucial medical care, and get the word out with educational and other materials. We are a 100% volunteer-run, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Put up GCCR flyers in your local pet stores, feed stores, vet offices, shelters. Tell shelter administrators that GCCR is ready to help in evaluating Cavaliers' unique medical needs, and to find understanding, caring homes. Invite Cavalier owners to share their concerns and join in the work. Help spread the news!

Help with administration. There are lots of ways to lend your special skills: e.g., coordinate transportation, update our website, or help with publicity and fundraising.

Cavalier Owners and Breeders

For those who are experienced with Cavaliers, please consider offering your expertise to:

Evaluate dogs at shelters to be sure they are purebred Cavaliers. Shelter volunteers call us about dogs who are actually Cockers, Springers, Cavalier mixes ("designer dogs"), or other breeds. Submit a Volunteer Application.

Help with home visits. This may include giving advice to an owner who is having trouble with a Cavalier or evaluating a potential adoptive home. This is a great way for breeders and trainers who can't take on any more dogs to share their experience and expertise. Submit a Volunteer Application.

Be a mentor for people in your area who are considering bringing a Cavalier into their lives. Show off your dogs' talents and personalities, and give tips on finding a healthy Cavalier. You can help reduce the number of people who get Cavaliers without understanding this wonderful breed!

For more about GCCR see
www.gccavalierrescue.org

E-mail info@gccavalierrescue.org

Make Checks Payable to:
Greater Chicago Cavalier Rescue
PO Box 958451
Hoffman Estates IL 60195

**"Heaven help
the little Cavaliers
who call for help,
and no one comes."**



Pics by Cindy www.PicsByCindy.com

Greater Chicago Cavalier Rescue

**is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
dedicated to the care and protection
of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.**

A Cavalier King Charles Spaniel can enrich your life!

Cavaliers are deemed by many as the ultimate lap dogs and they can enrich your life beyond measure! Cavaliers are delightfully affectionate, playful and intelligent companions, entirely devoted to their owners. Cavaliers are not kennel or outdoor dogs. They get along well with other dogs, cats, and children. Their wonderful temperament is that of a happy, devoted toy Spaniel -- tail wagging and eager to please.

Before taking a Cavalier home, please consider this...

A Cavalier is a very sociable dog that needs companionship and is miserable when left alone. If you work all day, travel frequently or are otherwise engaged in pursuits that often keep you away from home, this may not be the best breed for you. A lonely dog sometimes indulges in destructive behavior, if only to attract attention.

This breed also has a history of medical problems. While good breeders are making great efforts to screen and select before breeding, there is a strong likelihood that your Cavalier will need medical attention as he grows older. Some conditions might even result in an early death.

While Cavaliers are excellent with children, the ages of the children in the household are an important consideration when choosing a puppy. Of course, all children require supervision to ensure the safety of both the dog and the child. Reputable breeders will thoroughly screen potential owners before placing a dog in a home.



Greater Chicago Cavalier Rescue

In 2005 experienced Cavalier rescuers formed this not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Illinois corporation, for the inherent legal protections and to maximize benefits for those who support the rescue effort.

GCCR has two purposes:

- To **add resources to Cavalier rescue** efforts in the Greater Chicago area, and
- To **help educate current and prospective Cavalier owners** about the health and care of these wonderful animals.

The growing popularity of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels has prompted increased breeding by unscrupulous breeders and puppy mills.. This development suggests that owners' concerns about health as well as the number of Cavaliers in need will only grow. Placement of Cavaliers in new homes without appropriate, knowledgeable testing may result in unforeseen, serious heartaches for new owners. The GCCR and other dedicated Cavalier rescuers and owners are here to help.

It's all about the dogs!

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels Health Concerns

Cavaliers are basically healthy, sturdy small dogs with few but important health concerns.

- **Mitral Valve Disease (MVD).** The left or mitral valve of the heart thickens and degenerates leading to congestive heart failure and eventually death. Although MVD is common in most toy breeds, it is of particular concern in Cavaliers because it may have an unusually early onset with a more rapid progression of symptoms compared to other breeds.

- **Luxating patellas (slipping kneecaps).** A condition when the knee is not stable and can cause lameness. Generally not a concern for Cavaliers with good bone and healthy parents.

- **Syringomyelia (SM).** Of increasing concern, some Cavaliers are 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 head when the dog is excited or walking on a lead.

- **Episodic falling syndrome.** Generally evident at a young age. If very mildly affected, the Cavalier will freeze in mid-run and just stand there with back legs looking slightly stiff for some seconds, then carry on. If very severely affected, the Cavalier will fall over frequently when excited, not just when running at high speed, and might also be a fly catcher.

- **Fly catching.** A neurological disorder where the dog jumps in the air as if he were catching flies where none exist.

GCCR will help by referring Cavalier owners to veterinary specialists for diagnosis and care.