



# Greater Chicago Cavalier Rescue

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### PURPOSE

To help ensure the health and security of abused, abandoned, and otherwise endangered Cavalier King Charles Spaniels by rehabilitating and placing Cavaliers from shelters and similar situations, by assisting breeders and owners in finding new homes for their Cavaliers, and by providing assistance to Cavalier owners who can no longer care for their Cavaliers.

### DEFINITIONS

#### ***“Cavalier”***

A Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. The Rescue Coordinator shall have final authority to decide if a dog is a Cavalier.

#### ***“Rescue Cavalier”***

A dog in danger or being abused. This dog may be in poor physical and/or mental condition. The Rescue Cavalier would probably require veterinary attention and an evaluation of the soundness of its physical and mental condition. The rescue dog may require extensive fostering in order to allow for proper health care, rehabilitation, and training prior to being placed in a new home.

#### ***“Rehomed Cavalier”***

A dog whose owners, for whatever reason, can no longer care for or keep the dog. The rehoming dog has usually been kept reasonably healthy, have experienced socialization, some degree of training, and can be expected to be generally mentally stable. They may have conditions such as MVD, deafness, or other conditions related to the aging process. They may require continuing medical care and treatment. Medical records are likely available. The rehoming dog may not require lengthy foster care and should be more easily and quickly placed in a new home.

## STANDARD RESCUE PROCEDURES

### 1. Rescue Cavaliers

#### *a. Shelter Cavaliers*

The care and placement of a Shelter Cavalier is solely the responsibility of the shelter management. The GCCR will not provide information to any party desiring to obtain a rescue about the location or existence of a Cavalier at a shelter.

When the GCCR becomes aware that a Cavalier is in a shelter within the Greater Chicago area, the Rescue Coordinator may arrange for a GCCR volunteer or other knowledgeable person to visit the shelter and confirm whether or not the dog is actually a Cavalier; if the dog is a Cavalier, information about Cavaliers will be left with shelter personnel in the event that the dog is claimed by its owner or adopted by another party.

If the shelter will release the Cavalier to the GCCR, a volunteer will obtain all the information necessary to take possession of the dog. The Rescue Coordinator may reimburse the shelter for reasonable veterinary and boarding costs.

After appropriate investigation, the Rescue Coordinator may decline to take possession of a Shelter Cavalier; the Rescue Coordinator's decision to decline possession of a rescue Cavalier may be overruled by a majority vote of the GCCR Board.

If the GCCR takes the dog, a volunteer or other knowledgeable person will complete the Rescue Intake Form (see attached) and the dog will be taken to a veterinarian right away. The dog's general health and age will be assessed, and the dog will receive all required worming, a heart worm test, and any necessary treatment and medications (see Recommended Veterinary Care attached). The dog will be bathed, dipped, and groomed as soon as possible. The dog will be micro chipped for permanent identification purposes prior to placement. Every effort will be made to identify and locate the breeder and/or owner. If the breeder or owner can be positively identified, he/she will be asked to pay for the cost of the rescue. If the breeder is a member of the CKCSC-GC, it is assumed that he/she will accept possession of the dog until a suitable home can be found. If the breeder of the dog has been identified, the dog will not be released for adoption until the breeder has signed the necessary form to release the dog to rescue. If the breeder cannot be identified after a period of seven days, the dog will be spayed or neutered prior to placement through the GCCR.

#### *b. Stray Cavaliers*

If the GCCR is contacted about a suspected Cavalier that is running loose, at least one person familiar with Cavaliers will be dispatched to the area as quickly as possible to try to capture the animal. If somebody has already confined the dog, arrangements will be made to pick up the dog at the earliest time that is convenient for the person who has the dog. Every effort will be made to locate the animal's owner, including checking local newspapers, placing an ad, checking with nearby shelters and veterinarians, and notifying breeders. The dog will be checked by a veterinarian and groomed right away as for a Shelter Cavalier; however, spaying/neutering and placement may be delayed for 10 days in order to give the owner a reasonable period of time to claim the dog.

#### *c. Cavaliers Abandoned at Veterinarians or Boarding Kennels*

The Rescue Coordinator will try to contact the owners of the dog to find out why the dog was abandoned, to ask that they contribute to the costs incurred during the dog's stay, and to request that they turn over registration papers and health records to the GCCR. The dog's breeder, if known, will also be contacted. It is recommended that a GCCR volunteer obtains the owner's (or his agent's) signature on a release form. If this is not possible, the dog should be

held for 10 days from the date it was originally abandoned or turned over before it is placed. Once the GCCR has taken possession of the dog, treatment is similar to that of a Shelter Cavalier.

*d. Cavaliers Whose Owners Are Dead or Disabled*

The Rescue Coordinator will obtain registration papers and health records, if available, from the owner or next of kin and contact the breeder. All other procedures are similar to those for Shelter Cavaliers.

*e. Puppy Mill Rescues*

The GCCR will not buy a Cavalier from a puppy mill operator; the work of rescuing these unfortunate animals who be left to other organizations with that mission. The GCCR may assist in the placement of puppy mill rescues by providing information about potential adopters to the organizations, assisting in home visits and transport, or providing other services.

**2. Rehomed Cavaliers**

*a. Owner Cavaliers*

If an owner contacts the GCCR for assistance in placing a Cavalier, the Rescue Coordinator will find out the name of the dog's breeder and make sure the breeder is aware of the situation. The owner will also be informed about the services provided by the GCCR and if the owner wishes to release the dog, the Rescue Coordinator will get a signature on an Owner Release Agreement, and obtain registration papers and health records, if available. All other procedures are similar to those for Shelter Cavaliers.

*b. Breeder Cavaliers*

If a breeder contacts the GCCR for assistance in placing a dog that has been returned by the owner, the Rescue Coordinator will take possession after obtaining the breeder's signature on an Owner Release Agreement. All other procedures are similar to those for Shelter Cavaliers.

*c. Backyard Breeder Cavaliers*

The GCCR understands a backyard breeder to be someone that keeps a number of dogs and either breeds them deliberately or just lets them breed, with little or no understanding of or concern about the breed genetics, socializing the dogs, and maintaining their health, does not screen potential buyers, and/or maintains the dogs under unsanitary conditions. If the GCCR becomes aware of Cavaliers being sold by a backyard breeder, the Rescue Coordinator may negotiate purchase from the breeder at less than the breeder's advertised prices but no more than the adoption fee for that dog. The Rescue Coordinator will take possession after obtaining the breeder's signature on an Owner Release Agreement or bill of sale. All other procedures are similar to those for Shelter Cavaliers.

## **SCREENING AND PLACEMENT PROCEDURES**

In order to ensure that all dogs handled by the GCCR end up in loving, responsible, permanent homes, and to protect the GCCR from any liability in the event a dog with health or temperament problems is placed, a formal screening and adoption process must be followed.

### **1. Foster/Adoption Application**

All parties expressing interest in fostering or adopting a Cavalier through the GCCR need to complete a Foster/Adoption Application. References will be checked by the Rescue Coordinator before the party will be considered. The Rescue Coordinator can fill out the application over the phone, or it can be sent to the interested party with information about Cavaliers (if they have never owned Cavaliers).

Each Cavalier will be kept in a foster home for a minimum of two weeks, unless waived by the Rescue Coordinator. Any person fostering a rescue Cavalier will do their best to assess the dog's temperament and personality and determine what kind of a situation that particular dog would do best in. Possible placements can then be contacted.

While some preference can be given to people who have been on the placement waiting list longer than others, or to people who expressed extreme interest in a particular dog, the dog's best interests must always come first. The Rescue Coordinator will make the final decision on who gets a rescue dog.

### **2. Adoption Contract**

For each Cavalier placed, the new owners must fill out and sign an Adoption Contract before they take possession of the dog. A GCCR volunteer will review the contract with the dog's Adopters, emphasizing that the dog must be returned to GCCR in the event they no longer wish to keep it. Any known health or behavior problems that the dog might have will be listed on the Rescue Intake Form, and a copy of the Form is to be given to the Adopters before they sign the Adoption Contract. An adoption fee is normally required, although a Rescue Coordinator may allow an exception in certain cases. Adopters will receive a summary of all current and past health records on the dog and the current supply of medications that the GCCR has purchased for the dog.

### **3. Euthanasia Policy**

While certainly a loathsome option, euthanasia may be required in certain cases where, due to health or temperament problems, a dog is unadoptable. Generally, the only cases where euthanasia will be considered are when the dog has a history of biting, exhibits aggressive behavior indicating that it will bite, or has health problems that make it unadoptable or that profoundly affect its quality of life. Advanced age alone is not a justifiable reason to euthanise a dog. If a dog is considered a candidate for euthanasia, the option will be discussed between the foster family and the Rescue Coordinator. When possible, the Rescue Coordinator will consult

at least one outside person who can contribute some insight into the problem, such as a veterinarian or a dog trainer. A consensus between the foster family and the Rescue Coordinator must be reached before the dog can be euthanised. If a consensus cannot be reached, the issue will be brought up for a vote by the GCCR Board.

## **ADOPTION ELIBIGILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible to adopt a Cavalier from the GCCR, applicants must:

1. Demonstrate the ability and commitment to provide proper care and exercise for the lifetime of a Cavalier.
2. Abide by the terms of the Adoption Contract and the following additional rules to protect the dog from danger:
  - Adopted Dogs may not be left outdoors when no one is at home
  - All dog doors must be locked when the owner is absent

The GCCR will not place a Cavalier in the following circumstances:

1. A home that provides day care, human or canine.
2. A residential facility (nursing home, halfway house, etc.)
3. Households with children ages 5 and under.

An experienced dog owner may request an exemption to any of the above requirements. A letter of recommendation from a veterinarian regarding care and well being of previously owned dogs must accompany the request for an exemption.

## **ADOPTION FEES**

- \$450 for dogs ranging in age from puppy hood to age 2
- \$400 for dogs older than 2 and less than 5
- \$350 for dogs older than 5 and less than 8
- \$200 for seniors, age 8 and older

If a rabies vaccination is required and not given prior to placement, an adjustment may be made to cover costs of the vaccination, but not the office visit. Adjustments may also be made if at the time of placement the dog has identified medical conditions that will require continuing professional care. These fees will be used to help meet boarding and veterinary expenses incurred by the GCCR.