

## THE COCKER SPANIEL CLUB REHOMING & RESCUE SCHEME

### ADVICE FOR RELINQUISHING OWNERS

Deciding for whatever reason to find a new home for your Cocker Spaniel can be very difficult and upsetting to come to terms with. Whether it be a change in working hours, allergies, an illness/bereavement, separation and/or divorce issue, becoming homeless or financial reasons, we are here to help and talk you through the procedure on how we rehome your Cocker Spaniel (*hereon referred to as 'dog'*) via our Rehoming & Rescue Scheme.

Before you proceed to rehome your dog, please consider the following options:

- If you had the dog from puppy, then contact the breeder – a responsible breeder would offer a contract at the time of collecting the puppy and be willing to take the puppy/dog back at any stage in the dog's life or at least advise you on how to help.
- If your dog has medical issues and financial outlay is a problem, discuss this with your vet on a cheaper course of medication and if there is a payment scheme available.
- If your dog has a behavioural issue, depending on what is happening,
  - Step one is to get your dog checked by your vet for any medical reason that's causing your dog to behave differently.
  - Step two is to consult with a good Dog Behaviourist if no medical reason is obvious – your vet should be able to recommend one to you.
- If you have had a change in working hours, have you enquired about a dog walker or doggy day care or ask a neighbour if they can help.
- Have you discussed with relatives or trusted friends if they would like to take up ownership of your dog? Sometimes it's a matter of asking those close to you and if they know your dog, they may be willing to help.

Having considered the above and you still must rehome your dog, please don't feel that you have failed your dog, you are taking the right steps to benefit your dog by contacting us.

Your next step is to complete the relinquishing form. We need to know as much information about your circumstances and the dog for rehoming – please be honest with all details for us to find the most suitable home. We are willing to rehome dogs with medical issues and would need to know in advance on what we are dealing with for us to find the most suitable home. A report from your vet and outline of medication cost would be required.

Our Club's policy is if a dog has bitten, we are unable to rehome. This will be disappointing to know and most other dog rehoming centres will not accept a dog with bad temperament or guarding/biting issues. Please be honest with yourself, if the dog has bitten, is it fair to pass it on to someone else if you are not managing the situation - this could have bigger implications on the new owner and/or dog which could end in an abusive situation. You should seek advice from your vet if your dog has bitten whether it be a person/child/another dog.

Whatever course of action you decide to make, you owe it to your dog to offer the best outcome now rather than later. We are here to help and provide you with suitable advice, please do contact us.

We hope you take our advice responsibly and that you:

- Do not abandon your dog.
- Do not advertise your dog online – offering a dog '*free to good home*' may seem like a good idea but undesirable people take advantage of obtaining dogs this way.
- Go to The Cocker Spaniel Club's website which provides the following:

An information guide leaflet on the full procedure of our rehoming & rescue scheme

[https://www.thecockerspanielclub.co.uk/rescue\\_information.pdf](https://www.thecockerspanielclub.co.uk/rescue_information.pdf)

A list of area representatives who volunteer their time to rehome dogs through our rehoming & rescue scheme [https://www.thecockerspanielclub.co.uk/rescue\\_reps.htm](https://www.thecockerspanielclub.co.uk/rescue_reps.htm)