

Looking after your Cavalier King Charles Spaniel



Congratulations! You are about to or have just received your new Cavalier puppy. Hopefully you will both share many years of fun and happiness. The following guide may help you and your Cavalier settle in better.

EDENRIDGE CAVALIERS
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Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions regarding your Cavalier. I'd really appreciate a call to let me know how your puppy is settling in.

The First Days

A baby puppy is very much like a human baby so they need more attention and time. It may also be that it is the first time away from littermates; therefore it is not unusual for a puppy or even an older dog to take a few days to settle into their new home. Plenty of cuddles and patience is what is required. Don't panic too much if he/she doesn't eat the first day. However, some cooked boneless chicken may tempt him/her.

A change of diet and water or the stress of the move may cause diarrhoea. If you are at all concerned please phone me. If the dog appears to be unwell or the diarrhoea is severe or contains blood contact your vet immediately.

Worming

Your puppy has already begun his worming programme. Worming should continue once every two weeks up until three months of age, then every 4 weeks until six months of age. After that your dog should be wormed every three months. Your Vet or Pet Shop will have a range of suitable worming tablets. I use and recommend Fenpral and Milbemax All Wormer.

Vaccinations

Your dog will have had his vaccinations up to the date of purchase and you will have been given a vaccination certificate, which shows when his next booster is due. The vaccinations protect them from the deadly diseases of Distemper, Parvovirus and Hepatitis and once an adult they require boosters every 3 - 4 years or titre test to check for antibodies to ensure that they remain protected.

Microchipping

Your puppy has been microchipped as per the law regarding council registration of dogs in NSW. You will need to register an account on the NSW Pet Registry in order to claim ownership of your puppy. Type in puppy's microchip number and your mobile phone number, click on 'search'. Puppy's details should come up. Click on 'claim pet'. Please let me know if you have any issues. For interstate people please contact your local council for advice.

CURRENT DIET

Your Cavalier has been having the following diet:

Dry Food

Royal Canin Mini Puppy Dry Food mixed with raw chicken/turkey mince and a little warm water; you can also treat your puppy 3 or 4 times weekly with some of the foods listed below.

RECOMMENDED FOODS

Raw beef, kangaroo, chicken, turkey or lamb mince

EXTRAS – that can be added to meal or fed separately

Raw chicken necks, wings, wingettes
Raw vegetables (grated/processed)
Rice and pasta
Scrambled/cooked eggs, raw egg yolk
Cottage cheese, block cheese
Sardines in oil
Natural yoghurt or Kefir

TREATS

Pork/Beef/Roo chews (dried tail, hoof, ears, tendons) **NOT IMPORTED FROM ASIA**
Raw fruit & veggies e.g. carrots, beans, apple, banana
Meaty rib bones (raw)

FOODS **NEVER** TO FEED YOUR DOG

Processed meats eg ham, salami, devon etc
Milk (Puppy or Goats Milk excepted)
Cooked bones of **ANY** kind
Chocolate
Spicy foods or onion
Grapes
Avocado
Nuts



Diet

The information provided in this booklet is a rough guide only and you must judge for yourself if your dog is getting the right amount of food to maintain an ideal weight. A happy healthy dog should have a shiny coat and a willingness to play. The ribs should be covered however you should still be able to feel them. **An obese dog is an unhealthy dog and it is particularly important that your pup not be allowed to get overweight as it places too much strain on their growing bones and joints and in adult life, their hearts.**

It is advisable to continue with his current diet for the first few days, then new foods can be gradually added to his diet. If he does not eat his meal straight away, remove the food after 20 minutes and offer it at the next meal time. Don't give in and offer other food as he will learn that by refusing to eat he will be given 'other or better stuff' and will become a fussy eater. Thankfully most Cavaliers are very good eaters.

Choose a diet that suits your dog and you.

Puppy (8 weeks - 6 months) Feed morning and evening plus fresh water available all day. Increase the amount you give him according to his growth.

Junior (6 months - 1 year) One main meal a day. A snack bone may be given in the morning.

Adult Same as for 'Junior' but slightly less and change to an adult formula.



Your dog will love the occasional raw bone and they also help clean their teeth, but **definitely no cooked bones of any kind as these can splinter and kill your dog**. Most dogs also love raw hide chew bones or pigs ears (available at pet outlets). They are good for cleaning teeth and don't pose the same dangers as cooked bones.

Toilet Training

Some puppies seem to be naturals and others need more training; however the best word of advice I can give you is **patience**. First thing in the morning, last thing at night, immediately after waking from sleeping, after meals, drinking or playing, take the puppy outside and stay with him until he goes to the toilet and then praise him immediately he goes. With a lot of praise and encouragement he will soon learn that is where you want him to go. Remember if he does (and he will) have an accident inside; he didn't do it on purpose or to annoy you, so no smacking or rubbing his nose in it! Remember that a puppy does not think like a human!

When I am housetraining a new puppy, I make a habit of taking him outside every hour and if I don't and he has an accident, I roll up a newspaper and whack myself on the head with it! **It is my fault, not his!**

Fences

Cavaliers have no road sense! You must therefore have secure fences around your property. All fences should be checked to ensure that your puppy cannot get through or under the fence and as they get older that they can also not jump over it. It is also important to check that your fenced in yard does not have any hazards in it that could harm your puppy e.g. poisonous plants or substances or objects that could fall onto him etc. Until your puppy is older, it is advisable to have a small confined area to put him while you are not at home.

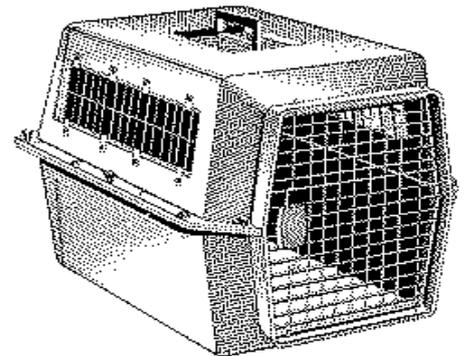
Sleeping – Bedding

When you first get your puppy he may be a little unsettled, especially at night. Remember he is used to sleeping with his littermates. Where he is to sleep at night must be safe, secure, warm and draught free. An excellent idea is a puppy pen, available from most pet outlets. You can then place plenty of newspaper or puppy pads on the floor, which makes accidents easy to clean up. A young puppy cannot go outside to sleep at night, as they do not have the ability to keep warm. Please

remember that your new puppy is like a baby and requires a large amount of sleep. They must be allowed to sleep undisturbed and have an area to go to that is theirs. **If there are young children in the household it is important that they are taught that when the puppy goes to his area that he must be left alone.**



A dog crate is an invaluable acquisition. It can be used as a bed for the dog inside and it is an essential item for transporting dogs in the car, as a loose dog in the car is dangerous. Dogs should be restrained just as children must be. Crates are available from pet outlets.



Desexing

I do strongly recommended that your Cavalier be desexed unless you have a specific agreement with the breeder not to do so. For bitches this means that you do not have to put up with a 'season' every six months with all the associated problems of visiting dogs etc. Protocol is changing with respect to the best age for desexing. It is now considered better for the overall health and development of your puppy to wait until he has finished growing so I advise not to desex until the age of between 9 and 10 months. Naturally, if there is a risk of an unwanted pregnancy, then it would be better to desex your female prior to her coming into season. Some people worry about males 'marking territory'. Generally, if there are no entire females in your home, this should not be a problem.

New research has found it is much healthier for dogs to be desexed at an older age ie for Cavaliers, from 9 months of age, which allows time for growth plates to close. This lessens the chance of joint and developmental issues.

Grooming

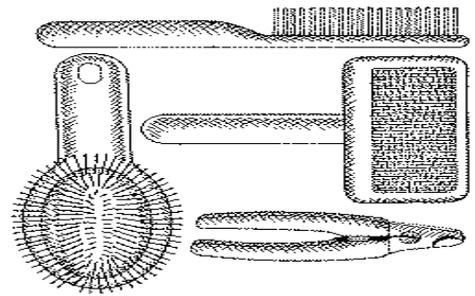
A good brush and comb every few days is usually sufficient to keep his coat healthy and knot free. Concentrate on the ears, especially behind them, under the tail and the tail itself, under front legs and down the inside of back legs, as these are the most likely places for knots to form.

Your dog should not require to be bathed, more than once a fortnight. More frequent bathing can cause dryness of the coat and skin.

Other grooming requirements are that ears need to be kept clean and dry. After a bath dry the ear as much as possible with a towel and then a gentle clean with a cotton bud. **DO NOT** poke the cotton bud too far into the ear as you may damage the ear. Your Vet will have products available that help to keep ears clean. I use 'Epiotic or Kleo drops' to help dry up any moisture. This is available from pet outlets. If at any time you notice a smell coming from the ears then you need to seek medical attention.

Grooming tools I recommend are:

Aloveen Shampoo & Conditioner
Melanie Neuman Shampoo & Conditioner
16 blade Shear Magic Undercoat Rake (looks like Mars Coat King)
Shear Magic Medium Slicker Brush
Slick N Easy Grooming Block



As a groomer, these are the main tools I use to keep my dogs coats in pristine condition. They are all available online or at your local pet outlet.

Training

To teach your puppy to walk on a lead you should get a soft lead or collar and lead. Put this on the puppy and allow him to run around with it a few times this gets him used to the feel of having something around his neck. Make sure he is supervised at these times so he does not get tangled up and hurt himself. With any training, food works as a great bribe/reward.

The next step is to pick up the lead and encourage him to walk beside you by holding a piece of chicken, cheese or his favourite food out in front of him and encourage him to follow it. When he has done what is expected, praise him and give him the treat. At all times give lots of praise with your voice, use his name and tell him that he is a 'good boy'. Training times should not be longer than five or ten minutes for a baby. The secret with any training is patience, repetition and reward. For more advanced training most areas have Obedience Clubs that run classes

As previously stated Cavaliers have absolutely no road sense. It is therefore vital that your dog is always on a lead whenever he is near a road and should only be let off the lead when you are sure he will come back to you and in a place that is far enough away from any hazards.

Sometimes if a Cavalier is pulling on a lead or becomes excited he makes a snorting sound. This is due to an elongated soft palette. This is very common to a lot of small breeds. To stop the snorting you can either gently pinch his nostrils together, thereby making him breathe through his mouth or make him swallow by putting your finger on the back of his tongue. This soft palette may also cause him to snore. Other than putting him in another part of the house I have no cure for snoring.

Umbilical Hernias

This is a swelling that sometimes occurs in the navel. Providing it is small, usually no treatment is necessary but if you are at all concerned, it may be repaired at the time of desexing.

Inguinal Hernias

This is a swelling that sometimes occurs in the groin area. If large, they can be of a concern but most of this type of hernia, if smaller in size, tend to close up by the time the puppy is due to be desexed.

Ear Mites

These are a small mite that is transmitted between dogs and cats. If you notice that your dog is scratching his ears or they smell or look dirty you should seek veterinary attention. Treatment is required for all animals in the household (including any cats).

Eyes

As the Cavalier trademark is their large soulful eyes, they also at times may need attention. I use non scented baby wipes to clean around my dogs eyes. Due to their size they can sometimes weep; this often happens if the weather is particularly dry and windy or if it is the pollen season. If there are any marks on the eye or the irritation continues contact your Vet.

Anal Glands

If your dog has been regularly wormed but is still dragging his bottom along the ground or biting and licking his anus then he may have a blocked anal gland. If neglected these can abscess. Big dogs chew up bones, which as they pass through will express the glands. Smaller dogs cannot always eat the required amount of roughage that will exercise these glands normally. Therefore it is important that you seek Veterinary advice if you suspect that he may have an anal gland problem.

PRECAUTIONS – VERY IMPORTANT

Please **DO NOT** allow your young puppy to run up and down stairs, jump up and down off furniture or run and play on slippery surfaces. Any of these activities during a cavaliers main growing phase (between 8 weeks – 10 months) can place a lot of strain on a puppy's developing joints. Even something as simple (and fun) as throwing a ball or Frisbee can cause damage to a puppy's growing joints. The amount of exercise a puppy should have is 5 minutes for every month of age he is. That is, if your puppy is 3 months old, you can walk him for 15 minutes. **Please ensure your puppy does not become overweight. This also places added strain on puppy's joints and heart.**

Toys

All dogs love toys to play with and chew; as with children it is important that the toys you purchase are safe. Check to make sure that nothing can be chewed off and then swallowed and be careful with toys that have squeakers or bells inside them.

FOOD SUPPLEMENTS

Should not be required if your puppy is being fed a premium diet.

FLEA TREATMENT

I recommend and use Revolution, Frontline Plus, Advantix or Advocate - *available from vets and pet outlets.*

Note that Revolution and Advocate also treats heartworm, lice and mites

TICKS

I recommend Advantix or Frontline Plus.

PLEASE DO NOT USE BRAVECTO, SERESTO, SIMPARICA, NEXGARD, CREDELIO OR ANY OTHER PRODUCTS WHICH USE THE SAME/SIMILAR INGREDIENTS. THESE PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO HAVE EXTREME NEGATIVE REACTIONS IN SOME DOGS INCLUDING VOMITING, WEAKNESS, SEIZURES AND IN WORST CASES, DEATH. Most of the products containing these harmful ingredients are fairly new on the market.

WORMING

Fenpral Allwormer
Milbemax Allwormer

HEARTWORM

Heartguard Monthly treatment - *available only from your vet*
or daily heartworm tablets - *available from pet outlets or your vet*
or an annual heartworm vaccination - *from your vet*

If you choose to use Revolution or Advocate, these products treat heartworm as well as fleas, lice and mites.

EAR CARE

Being a drop eared dog, Cavaliers can be prone to yeast infections due to moisture in the ear. Weekly drops of Epiotic or Kleo ear drops helps alleviate this problem - *available from pet outlets*