

GUIDELINES FOR BREEDERS AND OWNERS OF CLUMBER SPANIELS

CSCA has presented these guidelines for all breeders, owners and those interested in Clumber Spaniels. The CSCA suggests that any person beginning the process of obtaining a Clumber Spaniel read these guidelines, as they will empower prospective owners to evaluate the qualifications and suitability of individual breeders.

Owners and Prospective Owners

1. The intention of owning a Clumber Spaniel must be in the best interest of the individual dog and the breed. It is strongly recommended all prospective owners interact with Clumber Spaniels in a home environment prior to the purchase.
2. It is important to stress the Clumber Spaniel thrives as a member of the family and should never be relegated to a living situation having minimal human companionship regardless of other venues in which the dog may participate or compete.
3. Prospective owners shall ensure that their Clumber Spaniel(s) will be properly fed, housed and their veterinary needs will be met promptly. Routine veterinary care should be discussed with prospective breeders and should include annual wellness exams, recommended vaccinations, and any pertinent genetic testing such as eye exams, hip and elbow x-rays, thyroid screening, PDH testing *etc.*
4. The prospective owner should be in contact with the breeder and feel comfortable doing so. The breeder must accept responsibility for the dog throughout its lifetime. In the event the new owner is unable to keep the dog, a “right of refusal” should be in place and a written understanding between the buyer and the breeder established.

Breeders

General Guidelines

1. The seller should provide an adequate written contract that includes proof of sale and any guarantees. Any promises made orally should be memorialized and fully explained.
2. Upon releasing the puppy, the breeder should:
 - a. Supply a pedigree of no fewer than four generations.
 - b. Provide written information on the care of the puppy including food and supplements, feedings, exercise, required vaccinations, *etc.*
 - c. Supply records that detail all dates and types of medical care given to the puppy, including all vaccinations. Any known health problems of the puppy or its parents should be disclosed to the buyer without having to be requested. Any genetic disease, regardless of how minor, for which the puppy is a known or suspected carrier should be disclosed to the buyer.
 - d. Request that buyer take the puppy to a veterinarian upon receipt, and if the puppy is deemed unhealthy or if the buyer is not satisfied that the puppy is as represented by the breeder, allow the buyer an appropriate time to return the puppy (at the buyer’s expense) for a full refund of the purchase price.
 - e. Supply the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Breeders and Owners of Clumber Spaniels to each buyer and explain their provisions.
3. The breeder will screen all prospective buyers to determine their suitability and their motive in acquiring a Clumber Spaniel. A breeder shall never engage in wholesaling to pet shops, catalogue houses or other commercial establishments, or own, work for, endorse, or have any involvement with any persons associated with any commercial breeding enterprise, unless for rescue purposes with consent of CSCA. Clumber Spaniels shall not be donated or given as prizes in contests, raffles, or fund-raising events, regardless of how charitable.

4. Breeders should accept responsibility for all puppies produced. Breeders should be available to buyers for whatever reasonable aid and assistance they may need and be willing to seek assistance from other knowledgeable members if needed. Such assistance shall be given willingly for the betterment of the breed. The breeder shall stress with the new owners that they need to be advised of any problems, health or otherwise, and be available to take the dog back and/or rehome if necessary.
5. If identified as the breeder of a Clumber Spaniel in Rescue and Placement, the breeder will assist the Rescue and Placement Chairperson in the placement of said Clumber Spaniel.
6. Any Clumber Spaniel sold under the designation “pet/companion quality” should be sold either without registration papers and with mandatory spay/neuter provisions, or with a Limited Registration as provided by AKC and mandatory spay/neuter provisions. A breeder can supply registration papers upon proof of sterilization or upon reassessment of the dog as being show quality. If the Clumber Spaniel is neutered when sold, the breeder should transfer the registration papers.
7. It is the ethical obligation of breeders to guarantee that puppies produced and sold by them are as represented. It is recommended that a replacement or refund policy that is in the best interest of both parties be memorialized and signed. It is further recommended that breeders agree to assist buyers in whatever way possible with congenital, genetic or preexisting conditions that the dog may develop.

Guidelines for Bitch Owners:

1. Any breeder of Clumber Spaniels takes on the responsibility for the future of the breed. A breeder should plan each litter with the intention of achieving the highest level of physical and temperamental soundness.
2. It is recommended that x-rays for hips and elbows, examination by certified ophthalmologist, and any other pertinent genetic testing be completed on the dam. The bitch owner should request results of these evaluations for the prospective sire. While dogs do not have to pass these tests to be used for breeding, it is the obligation of the breeder to honestly inform those involved.
3. If the bitch has not previously been bred, has not produced a live litter, or has had breeding problems in the past, such information should be provided to the stud owner before the breeding takes place.
4. Recognizing the extended growth pattern of the breed, it is recommended a bitch should not be bred before her second season and approximately two years of age, nor be bred more frequently than two out of three consecutive seasons (that produce puppies). Before any breeding takes place, a veterinarian should be consulted regarding the health of the bitch. Breeders should limit the number of litters to 3 or 4 per bitch. Number of puppies per litter and number of C-sections and surgical inseminations, and the bitch’s age should be taken into account when deciding how many times to breed a bitch.
5. The breeder should be prepared, financially and otherwise, to provide proper care for both the bitch and her litter, and to retain the puppies for as long as necessary to ensure their placement in suitable homes. It is recommended that the breeder keep all puppies up to the age of twelve weeks. It is recommended that each puppy be microchipped or tattooed and registered with the American Kennel Club (or appropriate foreign registry) before leaving the breeder.
6. Owners of the stud dog and bitch should sign a written agreement clearly stating the conditions and terms of service. This contract should cover such things as return services or refund, how many puppies constitute a litter, kennel name assigned to the resulting litter, *etc.*

Guidelines for Stud Owners

1. No member should offer at stud any dog that is unsound physically or temperamentally, or that does not reasonably conform to the AKC breed standard as endorsed by the Clumber Spaniel Club of America. Hip and elbow x-rays, eye examination by a certified ophthalmologist, and any other pertinent genetic tests should be completed and the results disclosed to the owner of the bitch. Genetic disease may be life-threatening or life-altering (hip dysplasia, PRA, cataracts, cardiomyopathy, epilepsy, *etc.*) or not (overshot or undershot jaw, entropion, cryptorchidism, hypothyroidism, umbilical hernia, *etc.*). Regardless of the degree of severity, any genetic disease for which the stud is a known or suspected carrier should be disclosed to the owner of the bitch.
2. If the dog has not previously been bred, has not produced a live litter, or has had breeding problems in the past, such information should be provided to the bitch owner before breeding takes place.
3. The owner of the stud dog should not accept a bitch for service if the owner of the stud dog is not in a position to maintain the bitch in a safe and healthy manner. Bitches should be bred only to the stud dog specified by her owner unless both parties in writing agree upon an acceptable substitution.
4. The owner of a stud dog shall not agree to provide stud service for any bitch owned, leased or held by any commercial enterprise or by any person who does not agree to support the CSCA Guidelines for Breeders and Owners of Clumber Spaniels.