

# ASC CODE OF ETHICS

## **PREAMBLE**

Membership in the American Spaniel Club is granted because of the individual's commitment to the protection, preservation, and promotion of the Cocker Spaniel. Implicit in being a member of the American Spaniel Club is the acceptance and understanding of the Code of Ethics, which is established and designed as a guide to protect the interest of the Club and Cocker Spaniels. The American Spaniel Club expects adherence to this Code. Its tenets should not be violated.

## **II. RESPONSIBILITIES AS A BREEDER**

Breeders shall:

- A. Be familiar with their breeds and standards, and breed only those specimens which conform to it.
- B. Be familiar with A.K.C. rules concerning record keeping, registration, sale and transfer of dogs, and abide by these rules.
- C. Use for breeding only those dogs that are healthy and free from serious congenital and hereditary defects characteristic of their breed or breeds.
- D. Produce puppies only when the breeder has the time and facilities to provide adequate attention to physical and emotional development and retain or house only the number of dogs for which they have adequate facilities.
- E. Refrain from further use of a bitch or stud that has become affected with or has produced any serious inherited defects detrimental to the animal's well-being, such as blindness, deafness, lameness, or impairment of the vital functions, and who consistently produces like results with different mating partners.
- F. Maintain the best possible standards of health for their animals and care of their kennels.
- G. Breeders shall not breed bitches every season. (It is recommended a bitch not be bred more than four times during a lifetime).
- H. Refrain from selling puppies to pet shops either outright or on consignment; refrain from supplying puppies for auctions, raffles, or other such enterprises; refrain from selling to persons whose intention to resell is known or suspected; refrain from breeding litters primarily for the pet market.
- I. Refrain from selling puppies in litter lots and shall sell only quality dogs to foreign countries (not their cast-offs that they don't want to be seen in the U.S.A.)

## **III. RESPONSIBILITIES AS A JUDGE**

ASC Member Judges:

- A. Shall be familiar with and abide by the A.K.C.'s published "Guidelines for Dog Show Judges", the A.S.C.'s By-Laws and Code of Ethics.
- B. The A.K.C.'s published "Guidelines for Dog Show Judges" covers a wealth of material, but the three keys to excellence in judging are of vital importance. These are:

1. Breed Knowledge
2. Impartiality
3. Procedure

C. Judges must avoid any appearance of wrong doing and not merely wrong doing itself. They should be highly circumspect in their conduct outside, as well as inside the show ring. A perfectly innocent action or discussion can be misconstrued even by experienced exhibitors.

D. Judges should approach all assignments with a positive attitude and be courteous and polite to the exhibitors.

#### **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN EXHIBITOR AND/OR HANDLER**

Exhibitors/Handlers shall:

A. Act professionally at all times in caring for and exhibiting any dog in their charge.

B. Not engage in any questionable contact with judges prior to exhibiting under them.

C. Be familiar with and abide by the A.K.C.'s Rules and Regulations for Dog Shows, Obedience Trials, Field Trials, other events and The Guidelines for Dog Show Judges.

D. Exhibit/handle only those dogs that conform as closely as possible to their respective breed standards.

#### **V. ENFORCEMENT**

A. The American Spaniel Club shall enforce Article VI of its By-Laws entitled "Discipline", should violations of its Code of Ethics be brought before its Board or Committee.

B. Article VI entitled "Discipline" addresses the areas of Suspension, Charges, Board Hearings and Expulsion. Each member is expected to be familiar with this very important By-law.

#### **VI. ACCEPTANCE**

Upon acceptance as a member of the American Spaniel Club I will adhere to the best of my ability to the rules and guidelines set forth in the American Spaniel Club Code of Ethics.