

THE KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB RESCUE AND WELFARE

Constitution of the King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue and Welfare

The King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue and Welfare is a sub-committee of the King Charles Spaniel Club Committee and is accountable to the Club Committee. A report on activities and the finances of The King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue and Welfare, hereinafter called "The Rescue" is to be presented at each KCSC Committee meeting and annually at The KCSC Annual General Meeting.

It is the duty of each member of the King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue and Welfare to exercise his or her powers of the King Charles Spaniel Club Rescue and Welfare in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the said Rescue.

Objects:

The money in the Rescue is intended to:

(A)

- Assist individual King Charles Spaniels (whether or not Kennel Club registered) in need, sickness or distress and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, to assist in the re-homing of them.
- A King Charles Spaniel is to be considered as being in need of rescue in the event of the death of the owner or the owner's inability to provide food, essential medical care or shelter in the event of incapacity, illness or unexpected financial difficulties. The owner and the owner's immediate family may request The Rescue for support for the welfare of the King Charles Spaniel. Any financial support is not intended to be a long-term arrangement but for extreme, unexpected situations, which will be considered by The Rescue.
- The Rescue is primarily intended to assist King Charles Spaniels in the United Kingdom. However, in exceptional circumstances the trustees may discuss and grant funds to assist King Charles Spaniels in distress overseas.

(B)

- Ensure the future of the King Charles Spaniel as breed, with particular attention to health, temperament and that the breed standard is fit for purpose, and act accordingly.

Activities The Rescue will be permitted to support can include:

- (i) Preparing and publishing educational materials to raise awareness of the characteristics and needs of the King Charles Spaniel breed and the aims of The Rescue.
- (ii) Maintaining a website to raise awareness of the characteristics and needs of the King Charles Spaniel breed and the aims of The Rescue.
- (iii) Being active on social media to raise awareness of the characteristics and needs of the King Charles Spaniel breed and the aims of The Rescue.

- (iv) Producing any publicity or funding legal action deemed necessary to raise awareness and protect against external threats to the continuation of the breed.
- (v) Contributing to funding medical research into health issues or future health issues that threaten the well-being of the King Charles Spaniel as a breed.

Powers:

In furtherance of the above said objects the Rescue, but not otherwise, may:

- (i) Employ and pay any person or persons not being members of The Rescue Committee to supervise, organise and carry out the work of The Rescue.
- (ii) Bring together in conference representatives of voluntary organisations, government departments, statutory authorities or individuals.
- (iii) Promote, carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and publish the useful results thereof.
- (iv) Collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the said objects and exchange such information with other bodies having similar objects whether in this country or overseas.
- (v) Cause to be written, published or otherwise reproduced and circulated, gratuitously or otherwise such books, periodicals, pamphlets or other documents and media as will further the said objects.
- (vi) Purchase, take on loan or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and any rights and privileges necessary for the promotion of the said objects for the work of The Rescue.
- (vii) Make regulations for any property which may be so acquired.
- (viii) Subject to The King Charles Spaniel Club Committee and such consents as may be required by law, sell, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of The Rescue.
- (ix) Invest the monies of The Rescue not immediately required for the said objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject to nevertheless conditions (if any) as may for the time being, be imposed or required by law.
- (x) Do all other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

Administration of The Rescue:

The Rescue is administered by a sub-committee consisting of a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer (hereinafter called "The Officers"), plus two club members nominated by club members and endorsed by the Club Committee.

- (i) The Officers are to be selected by The King Charles Spaniel Club Committee.
- (ii) The Officers need not be currently serving members of the King Charles Spaniel Club Committee but a minimum of two must be in order to report to the KCSC Committee.
- (iii) The Officers must be current members of The King Charles Spaniel Club with a minimum of 2 years current membership and must continue to be members while they are in post.
- (iv) The Officers will continue to hold their posts for a five-year period with the option of re-instatement unless they offer their resignations or there is a decision of the majority of

The King Charles Spaniel Club Committee to remove them from post, should such action be deemed necessary for breaching the Club Code of Ethics.

The Rescue will also nominate Regional Coordinators from the King Charles Spaniel Club membership who can respond to incidents and liaise with The Officers.

Code of conduct:

Rescue and Welfare issues are likely to be sensitive and confidential matters. When dealing with individuals with dogs in need of help, committee members and club members involved in assisting are expected to be courteous and non-judgemental at all times. Any mention of King Charles Spaniel Club disciplinary measures related to rescue and welfare will not be discussed with the individual until the RSPCA, the police or local authorities have given a decision, should these bodies be involved.

It is assumed that any Rescue Officer, King Charles Spaniel Club Committee member or Club member will assist in rescue and welfare should they be in a position to do so because of geographical location or knowledge and expertise.

Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty:

- 1) An Officer, Regional Co-ordinator and representatives must:
 - (i) Declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with The Rescue or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by The Rescue which has not previously been disclosed.
 - (ii) Absent himself or herself of any discussions of The Rescue in which it is possible that a conflict of interest between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of The Rescue and his or her personal interest (including but not limited to financial interests).
- 2) No Officer, Regional Co-ordinator or representative must take any King Charles Spaniel into their ownership that has been taken into rescue unless they are the breeder of that dog.
- 3) Any person absenting himself or herself from any discussions regarding a rescue must not be involved in decision-making on the matter.

Applications for financial assistance:

Rescue or welfare of dogs and record-keeping:

- It is assumed that that any Rescue Officer, King Charles Spaniel Club Committee member or Club member will assist in rescue and welfare should they be in a position to do, whether by actual assistance or by notifying Rescue Officers.
- Requests for money from The Rescue are to be made in writing (letter or e-mail) to the Rescue Secretary, Chairperson or Treasurer. Receipts/invoices are required for kennelling, veterinary treatment, medication etc.
- Decisions regarding release of money will be made by a minimum of three individuals. These being Rescue Officers and members of the Rescue sub-committee. Expert advice will be sought when decision-making on the need for and cost of veterinary treatment etc.
- It is essential when dealing with requests for financial assistance that the Officers and owner(s) of the dog(s) are clear whether the case is permanent rescue or temporary foster.
- All monies for rescue and welfare will be kept in dedicated accounts and payments are to be authorised in a way that will enable simple accounts to be drawn up.

Welfare of the breed:

- Welfare activities to promote or ensure the future of the breed will be posted on relevant websites and social media to inform the Club membership.
- All monies for breed welfare will be kept in dedicated accounts and payments are to be authorised in a way that will enable simple accounts to be drawn up.

Rescue and welfare guidelines based on Kennel Club recommendations:

The Rescue Officers and Regional Coordinators will endeavour to ensure that in the case of rescue:

- Dogs will be provided with adequate and appropriate care at all times.
- The Rescue will endeavour to seek, suitable long-term homes for dogs
- The Rescue will maintain contact with new keepers and assist as appropriate
- When necessary, new arrivals will be kept isolated until they have been assessed
- Vaccination records will be sought if possible or dogs vaccinated as appropriate.
- As much information as possible will be sought from the source of the dog as to its health, ownership, temperament and reason for re-homing. Where appropriate, dogs will be scanned for identity and steps taken to reunite dogs with owners or breeders. It is the decision of The Rescue if a dog should be returned to the breeder once in the care of rescue.
- Dogs will be assessed by a veterinarian at the earliest possible opportunity in order to determine whether the dog requires veterinary intervention, to advise if they are suitable for re-homing and decide on the best way forward for the dog.
- Neutering of dogs and bitches will be considered unless there are good reasons for not doing this. This can be made as a condition of adoption.
- In cases where dogs are considered unadoptable for reasons of health or temperament, careful consideration should be given to the best future options. If there are health issues which cannot be resolved and which impair the dog's quality of life to such an extent that it is suffering then humane euthanasia should be considered.
- All dogs must be microchipped from 6 April 2016. When a dog is re-homed to a keeper the dog must be registered in that person's name with the proviso that the dog must be microchipped if not already done so. The Rescue's contact details may be added as an alternative contact point should the dog become lost. There remains the legal requirement for a dog to wear a collar and tag when in a public place.
- All prospective owners are to be adequately assessed. The Rescue will be satisfied as far as possible that individuals are physically, socially and financially able to care for the dog. The Fund must ensure that all adopters are at least 18 years of age.
- Prospective owners living in rented accommodation must show written permission to keep a dog on the premises.
- Home visits may not be required in every case but if the dog has specific needs, a home visit may be deemed necessary.
- All potential adopters should be made aware of the responsibilities of dog ownership and breed specific issues.
- The Rescue will never knowingly provide dogs for adoption to any commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly to be given as prize or donation in a competition of any kind.

- The Rescue has a form of contract with former and new owners as appropriate. These include a form releasing the dog from the owners to the care of The Rescue, clearly indicating whether it is a rescue situation, and therefore a potentially permanent transfer to a new owner, or a temporary foster situation. There is to be a similar agreement form for the new permanent or temporary keeper of the rescue dog.
- Full and appropriate documentation must be completed for all dogs being re-homed.
- Kennel Club registration papers may be passed on to the new owner, if available, at the discretion of The Rescue. However, the papers will not be passed on until after a settling in period of at least 3 months when the terms and conditions of the re-homing contract been met.
- Ongoing contact should be maintained to ensure that rehoming has been successful, and in the event that they are not, The Rescue must be prepared to take the dogs back.
- Financial contributions can be accepted from new owners, but the dog should not miss out on a good home for the sake of a contribution. In some situations where the new owner is not in a position to donate, a 'permanent foster' may be deemed the most suitable arrangement in order for The Rescue to support with veterinary expenses.
- The Rescue may provide appropriate information to new owners about canine care and welfare as well as suitable sources and contacts, including breed clubs.
- The Rescue will endeavour to keep abreast of any developments in animal welfare.

[Accepted at the SGM held on 14th November 2001]