



American Spaniel Club Foundation

Policy Governing Cocker Spaniel Rescue

NOTE: "Member" as used in this document refers to rescue volunteers who are affiliates of the ASCF rescue network and are not necessarily members of the American Spaniel Club.

The affiliates of the American Spaniel Club Foundation Rescue agree with the following policy:

GENERAL

1. All members understand that the ASCF and its committee members are neither affiliated with nor responsible for private adoptions.
2. All members must provide the following references: veterinarian, 2 adopters, and one foster home or rescue group affiliate. Exceptions will be made for a new rescue volunteer.
3. No member shall have been charged with violating the animal cruelty statutes of any local or state government, or have had their AKC privileges revoked.
4. Members must comply with local ordinances and state laws regarding the housing and care requirements of the foster dogs.
5. Members may contract with local animal control authorities to release a dog into their care. Such contracts are the personal responsibility of the member.
6. Dogs coming into rescue from 'good samaritans' will be treated as a lost dog. Members will make an earnest attempt for a reasonable period of time to locate the dog's owners prior to sterilization and rehoming, acting in accordance with their local statutes.
7. Prior to placement in a new home all dogs shall be subject to no less than a one-week period of temperament assessment and evaluation. No member will place a dog that they feel is physically unsafe to humans in temperament or behavior. This includes dogs with diagnosed psychosis or that are known to be habitual fear biters.
8. Under no circumstances will a dog be placed in an adoptive home that has a known history of biting.
9. Under no circumstances, will the ASCF support or endorse the purchase of cocker spaniels from any auction, raffle or lottery.
10. The ASCF Rescue Committee will not endorse the "long distance" rescue or placement of a dog without the active involvement of the closest rescue affiliate or an ASC member.
11. Outreach, or referral placements are at the discretion of the rescue member.

HEALTH CARE

12. Each dog taken into an affiliate rescue program must receive necessary medical care within a reasonable time period
13. In the event of serious illness or injury, any dog brought into rescue will be given prompt emergency veterinary care. Treatment of expensive illnesses, catastrophic injuries or humane euthanasia is determined at the discretion of the member.
14. Without fail, members will provide any available medical history belonging to the dog, including full disclosure of any known health or medical problems.
15. Members understand and agree that not every dog can be rehabilitated, or will be deemed adoptable due to health or temperament reasons.
16. Quality of life will always be of utmost importance. If a dog is suffering from an ongoing or terminal illness that prevents responsible placement, the foster may make the decision to euthanize a dog in their care. Members further agree that in cases of incurable cancer or injuries so severe or pain so intense that the dog cannot enjoy a good quality of life, euthanasia may be the most humane service we can provide.

STERILIZATION

17. If a dog is not already sterilized before coming into rescue, it will be spayed or neutered within a "reasonable time", and without exception, prior to adoption. While sterilization may be delayed due to other health considerations as determined by a veterinarian, he or she will be sterilized after the recuperation period.
18. No dog brought into rescue will be bred or allowed to breed for any reason prior to being sterilized.
19. A pregnant bitch brought into rescue will be spayed immediately unless a veterinarian determines the pregnancy advanced and/or surgery would prove life threatening to the bitch, in which case she will be spayed after the weaning of the puppies.

PLACEMENT:

20. Placing mixed-breed cocker spaniels is at the discretion of the rescue member.
21. Members will not place dogs in homes that are believed to be unsuitable or incompatible to that particular rescue dog.
22. All dogs coming into rescue will be placed as family members and companion dogs.
23. All members will use an adoption application that requires veterinary and personal references. Whenever possible, members will perform or arrange a home visit with the applicants by an experienced rescue volunteer prior to adoption.
24. No member will place a dog without the execution of an adoption contract stating care requirements for the dog, instructions for the dog's safe transport and a mandatory return to rescue clause if the adopter cannot keep the dog for any reason.
25. Members will not place a dog or cause a dog to be adopted as an outside or kennel dog.
26. No member will give, sell or transfer ownership of any dog to a laboratory, breeding operation, or corporation of any type.

RECORDKEEPING:

27. Every member, or group must be able to furnish the basic paperwork used in the daily operation of their rescue including, but not limited to Owner Surrender form, Adoption Application and Adoption Contract.
28. Adoption contracts will be kept on file.
29. In the event that a dog comes into rescue with an AKC registration or registration application, the foster caregiver will not allow papers to go with the dog.
30. Members will maintain full rescue records on each dog including veterinary and final disposition (adoption, transfer, euthanasia).
31. Members should be willing to furnish an annual report to the network providing the following information: Number of dogs taken into rescue; Number of dogs that arrived in rescue intact and number of dogs that arrived in rescue sterilized; Number of dogs currently available for adoption.

FINANCIAL AID:

32. Monies may be requested from the ASCF general fund to assist with medical expenses, but it is understood that requests for funding may not always be granted.
33. The Rescue Chair is authorized to approve funding requests up to \$300.00. The ASCF executive committee or board of directors must approve requests for funding exceeding this amount.
34. All requests for funding must be submitted with documentation supporting the financial need including, but not limited to, veterinary receipts or estimates, emergency travel or care receipts (in cases of a multi-dog initiative).
35. All donations received with the specific dispensation of rescue will be utilized by the general fund on behalf of rescue activities.