

Southern CKCS Welfare Organisation

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Winter 2007

NEWSLETTER

<http://www.cavalier.info/clubs/southern>

Dear Friends



An apology for not having written for a while as life has been a bit hectic recently. This will be my last newsletter as Rescue Coordinator. It has been a roller coaster ride of emotions over the years for me, as anyone who has been involved with rescue will understand, but just take a second and look in the eyes of your own beloved cavalier; you know it makes it all worthwhile.

Those of you who are members of our Southern CKCS Club would have read the story in our 2007 Magazine of Spirit, a 9 month old black and tan puppy who was eventually diagnosed with immune mediated arthritis. Poor Spirit was at Stone Lion referral vets for weeks being tube fed and subsequently on a course of steroids. With his age, a good prognosis and his will for life (he wasn't named Spirit for

nothing), we simply had to give him a chance. This is the largest funding on one case which we have provided during my time as coordinator. The reward for all this was seeing Spirit, happy and enjoying his day out at our Christmas Party this year!! We hope he continues to attend our events for many more years to come.

Another current case involving funded operations is Candy, a blenheim lady of 9 years. Candy was dropped off at Dee Phillips for fostering as her owner was elderly and had to move into a flat. As it all happened at very short notice, no suitable homes were available at the time. Dee took Candy for a check up and unfortunately she had to have a shoulder lump and her mammary gland tumours removed. Thankfully, the tumours were benign when tested. One of her ears was also stitched as it had a tear which had previously not been seen to.



Recuperation took place over a couple of weeks and Dee kindly nursed Candy back to health. At the

same time, Candy went on a diet from an original weight of 14.2kg.

As Candy was about to be rehomed after having her stitches removed, Dee found another lump which appeared unexpectedly on Candy's thigh as Dee brushed her. Devastated, Dee took Candy straight back to her vets to get the lump checked. As Candy had already been through one major operation recently, the vet decided it was best to wait a couple of weeks to see if the lump was aggressive and grow or it was merely a fatty deposit which could have been left. After two weeks, the diagnosis was not good and it was decided that Candy would have to undergo a further operation. Unfortunately, she was then also diagnosed with a low heart murmur. As I write, I await further news and hope Candy bounces back from her second operation. We have a super home waiting to receive Candy, where she will live out her days. Thank you Dee for all you have done to look after Candy.

We've also had our fair share of dogs with skin problems recently, where there are red patches on the skin and ear scratching. Please be aware, along with the growing number of

eczema sufferers in humans, there is an increasing number of allergy related ailments with our dogs. Our advice is to treat it initially with flea treatments as some dogs do suffer badly from flea allergies. The other most common problem is diet, so try to change to natural, hypo-allergenic foods such as Burns or James Wellbeloved. Some skin problems are only treated properly after endless tests at the vets and steroids, which can be very expensive.

I would also like to point out that the controversy regarding yearly vaccination continues and I would certainly be very careful with vaccinating dogs which have a history of epilepsy, episodic falling or immune problems.

The efficiency of our service has improved over time and I would encourage everyone to embrace new technology. Use all that is available to help increase the quality and speed of our service. When available, I encourage volunteers to use digital and mobile phone cameras to send images direct to me which I can forward to prospective new owners. We use emails and text messages to communicate frequently. Our website has now become a useful means of downloading application forms from prospective owners and as well as a very effective advertising medium for our Fun Days and Christmas Parties. I am not suggesting totally replacing the personal touch, but we need to

consider the use of other effective means of communication. Advice using emails has also seen an increase. Thanks to Karen Bacon for replying to some of our emails. Please note that Geraldine Toby-White replaces Madeline Evans as our Surrey contact.

Close to 300 CKCS enthusiasts, their family and friends attended our annual Christmas party held in Liphook this year, despite the rain and a reduced programme. Clever Cavaliers and some members of the West Chiltington Club, who were originally planned to perform for us, were auditioning for CRUFTS 2008 on the same day. It was an opportunity that could not be missed and I am pleased to say some of our friends will be participating at CRUFTS next year!! Nevertheless, the party went well and we hope our judge Rob Dix (Beewye), and our stewards, Eddie Bishop and Sue Oughton enjoyed themselves. We are again grateful to all our volunteers who helped organise and man the stalls. There was a lot of preparation before hand; baking cakes, collecting bottles, books, raffle and hamper prizes to name a few. Thank you to all of you who contributed and helped. I shan't list names, lest I miss someone!!

We were delighted to receive a surprise gift from Jackie Rate. Jackie presented us with an exquisite gold Danbury Mint numbered edition ladies wrist watch with a gold cavalier head on the watch face. The watch was

auctioned and the lucky bidder, Chris Dix, whose highest bid of £80.00 secured it. Thank you to Jackie and Chris for contributing generously to the welfare funds.

Our classes were again popular. Royal Canin donated the prizes in the form of small sample packs and first prize winners also received a box of Pedigree gravy bones with their rosettes. Hugh Harrison was Father Christmas once again!!



The bacon rolls at the food stall were the first to be sold out. The chow mein continues to be popular, as was the delicious, creamy vegetable soup donated every year by Paula Stark. This year, we offered toasted ham and cheese sandwiches for the first time along with our usual sausage rolls, hot dogs and burgers.

Below is one of the many comments we received from those who attended our Christmas Party. Well done everyone involved!!!

Finally, I am sure you will continue to give Ann Blackburn, our treasurer, and our new coordinator (TBA) all your support with SCW as you have provided me throughout my time in service. God Bless our cavaliers and wishing you all a Happy Year ahead.

Dear Katherine, Many thanks to you and all your helpers for another successful Cavalier Christmas party. Ollie (Cav), Bridie the Bull Terrier and their respective families thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I do hope that you raised lots of dosh for Southern CKCS Welfare. Best wishes, Ruth Savage