

= King Charles Spaniel =

The King Charles Spaniel (also known as the English Toy Spaniel) is a small dog breed of the spaniel type . In 1903 , the Kennel Club combined four separate toy spaniel breeds under this single title . The other varieties merged into this breed were the Blenheim , Ruby and Prince Charles Spaniels , each of which contributed one of the four colours available in the breed .

Thought to have originated in the Far East , toy spaniels were first seen in Europe during the 16th century . They were made famous by their association with King Charles II of England (1630 ? 1685) and have been linked with English royalty since the time of Queen Mary I (1516 ? 1558) . Members of the breed have been owned by Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia , Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II .

The King Charles Spaniel and the other types of toy spaniels were crossbred with the Pug in the early 19th century to reduce the size of the nose , as was the style of the day . The 20th century saw attempts to restore lines of King Charles Spaniels to the breed of Charles II 's time . These included the unsuccessful Toy Trawler Spaniel and the now popular Cavalier King Charles Spaniel . The Cavalier is slightly larger , with a flat head and a longer nose , while the King Charles is smaller , with a domed head and a flat face .

Historically the breeds that were merged into the King Charles Spaniel were used for hunting ; due to their stature they were not well suited . They have kept their hunting instincts , but do not exhibit high energy and are better suited to being lapdogs . The modern breed is prone to several health problems , including cardiac conditions and a range of eye issues .

= = History = =

It is thought that the toy spaniels that eventually became the King Charles Spaniel originated in the Far East , primarily Japan . They may share a common ancestry with the Pekingese and Japanese Chin . Toy spaniels were given as gifts to European royalty .

The red and white variety of toy spaniel was first seen in paintings by Titian , including the Venus of Urbino (1538) , where a small dog is used as a symbol of female seductiveness . Further paintings featuring these toy spaniels were created by Palma Vecchio and Paolo Veronese during the 16th century . These dogs already had high domed heads with short noses , although the muzzles were more pointed than they are today . These Italian toy spaniels may have been crossed with local small dogs such as the Maltese and also with imported Chinese dogs . The Papillon is the continental descendant of similar toy @-@ sized spaniels .

The earliest recorded appearance of a toy spaniel in England was in a painting of Queen Mary I and King Philip . Mary , Queen of Scots (1542 ? 1587) , was also fond of small toy dogs , including spaniels , showing the fondness of the British royalty for these types of dogs before Charles II .

King Henry III of France (1551 ? 1589) owned a number of small spaniels , which were called Damarets . Although one of the translations of John Caius ' 1570 Latin work De Canibus Britannicis talks of " a new type of Spaniel brought out of France , rare , strange , and hard to get " , this was an addition in a later translation , and was not in the original text . Caius did discuss the " Spainel @-@ gentle , or Comforter " though , which he classified as a delicate thoroughbred . This spaniel was thought to originate from Malta and was sought out only as a lapdog for " daintie dames " .

Captain John Saris may have brought back examples of toy spaniels from his voyage to Japan in 1613 , a theory proposed by Commodore Matthew C. Perry during his expeditions to Japan on behalf of the United States in the mid ? 19th century . He noted that dogs were a common gift and thought that the earlier voyage of Captain Saris introduced a Japanese type of spaniel into England .

= = = 17th century and Charles II = = =

In the 17th century , toy spaniels began to feature in paintings by Dutch artists such as Caspar Netscher and Peter Paul Rubens . Spanish artists , including Juan de Valdés Leal and Diego

Velázquez , also depicted them ; in the Spanish works , the dogs were tricolour , black and white or entirely white . French naturalist Georges @-@ Louis Leclerc , Comte de Buffon would later describe these types of dogs as crosses between spaniels and Pugs .

Charles II of England was very fond of the toy spaniel , which is why the dogs now carry his name , although there is no evidence that the modern breeds are descended from his particular dogs . He is credited with causing an increase in popularity of the breed during this period . Samuel Pepys ' diary describes how the spaniels were allowed to roam anywhere in Whitehall Palace , including during state occasions . In an entry dated 1 September 1666 , describing a council meeting , Pepys wrote , " All I observed there was the silliness of the King , playing with his dog all the while and not minding the business . " Charles ' sister Princess Henrietta was painted by Pierre Mignard holding a small red and white toy @-@ sized spaniel . Judith Blunt @-@ Lytton , 16th Baroness Wentworth , writing in her 1911 work *Toy Dogs and Their Ancestors* , theorised that after Henrietta 's death at the age of 26 in 1670 , Charles took her dogs for himself .

= = = After Charles II = = =

Toy spaniels continued to be popular in the British court during the reign of King James II , through that of Queen Anne . Popular types included those of the white and red variety . Following the Glorious Revolution in 1688 and the reign of King William III and Queen Mary II , the Pug was introduced into Britain which would eventually lead to drastic physical changes to the King Charles Spaniel . Comparisons between needlework pictures of English toy spaniels and the continental variety show that changes had already begun to take place in the English types by 1736 , with a shorter nose being featured and the breed overall moving away from the one seen in earlier works by Anthony van Dyck during the 17th century .

English toy spaniels remained popular enough during the 18th century to be featured frequently in literature and in art . On *Rover , a Lady 's Spaniel* , Jonathan Swift 's satire of Ambrose Philips 's poem to the daughter of the Lord Lieutenant , describes the features of an English toy , specifying a " forehead large and high " among other physical characteristics of the breeds . Toy spaniels and Pugs were featured in both group portraits and satirical works by William Hogarth . Toy spaniels were still popular with the upper classes as ladies ' dogs , despite the introduction of the Pug ; both Thomas Gainsborough 's portrait of Queen Charlotte from 1781 and George Romney 's 1782 *Lady Hamilton as Nature* feature toy spaniels with their mistresses . The toy spaniels of this century weighed as little as 5 pounds (2 @.@ 3 kg) , although they were thought to be the dog breed most prone to becoming overweight , or " fattened " .

= = = 19th century and the Blenheim Spaniel = = =

The varieties of toy spaniel were occasionally used in hunting , as the *Sportsman 's Repository* reported in 1830 of the Blenheim Spaniel : " Twenty years ago , His Grace the Duke of Marlborough was reputed to possess the smallest and best breed of cockers in Britain ; they were invariably red ? and ? white , with very long ears , short noses , and black eyes . " During this period , the term " cocker " was not used to describe a Cocker Spaniel , but rather a type of small spaniel used to hunt woodcock . The Duke 's residence , Blenheim Palace , gave its name to the Blenheim Spaniel . The *Sportsman 's Repository* explains that toy spaniels are able to hunt , albeit not for a full day or in difficult terrain : " The very delicate and small , or ' carpet spaniels , ' have exquisite nose , and will hunt truly and pleasantly , but are neither fit for a long day or thorny covert . " This idea was supported by Vero Shaw in his 1881 work *The Illustrated Book of the Dog* , and by Thomas Brown in 1829 who wrote , " He is seldom used for field ? sports , from his diminutive size , being easily tired , and is too short in the legs to get through swampy ground . " During the 19th century , the Maltese was still considered to be a type of spaniel , and thought to be the parent breed of toy spaniels , including both the King Charles and Blenheim varieties .

The breeds of toy spaniel often rivalled the Pug in popularity as lapdogs for ladies . The disadvantage of the breeds of toy spaniel was that their long coats required constant grooming . By

1830 , the toy spaniel had changed somewhat from the dogs of Charles II 's day . William Youatt in his 1845 study , *The Dog* , was not enamoured of the changes : " The King Charles 's breed of the present day is materially altered for the worse . The muzzle is almost as short , and the forehead as ugly and prominent as the veriest bull @-@ dog . The eye is increased to double its former size , and has an expression of stupidity with which the character of the dog too accurately corresponds . " Youatt did concede that the breed 's long ears , coat and colouring were attractive . Due to the fashion of the period , the toy spaniels were crossed with Pugs to reduce the size of their noses and then selectively bred to reduce it further . By doing this , the dog 's sense of smell was impaired , and according to 19th century writers , this caused the varieties of toy spaniel to be removed from participation in field sports . Blunt @-@ Lytton proposed that the red and white Blenheim Spaniels always had the shorter nose now seen in the modern King Charles .

From the 16th century , it was the fashion for ladies to carry small toy @-@ sized spaniels as they travelled around town . These dogs were called " Comforters " and given the species biological classification of *Canis consolator* by 19th @-@ century dog writers . By the 1830s , this practice was no longer in vogue , and these types of spaniels were becoming rarer . " Comforter " was given as a generic term to lapdogs , including the Maltese , the English Toy and Continental Toy Spaniels , the latter of which was similar to the modern Phalène . It was once believed that the dogs possessed some power of healing : in 1607 Edward Topsell repeated Caius ' observation that " these little dogs are good to assuage the sickness of stomach , being oftentimes thereunto applied as a plaister preservative , or bourn in the bosom of the diseased and weak person , which effect is performed by their moderate heat . " By the 1840s , " Comforter " had dropped out of use , and the breed had returned to being called Toy Spaniels . The first written occurrence of a ruby coloured toy spaniel was a dog named Dandy , owned by a Mr Garwood in 1875 .

The dogs continued to be popular with royalty . Queen Victoria 's first dog was a King Charles Spaniel named Dash . In 1896 , Otto von Bismarck purchased a King Charles Spaniel from an American kennel for \$ 1 @,@ 000 . The dog weighed less than 2 pounds (0 @.@ 9 kg) , and had been disqualified from the Westminster Kennel Club the previous year on account of its weight . The average price was lower than that paid by Bismarck . In 1899 , the price ranged between \$ 50 and \$ 200 for a King Charles or Blenheim , with the Ruby and Prince Charles Spaniel ranging between \$ 50 and \$ 150 .

Anne Brontë 's " Flossy , " given to her by the Robinson children when she left her governorship of them , was a King Charles Spaniel .

= = = Conformation showing and the 20th century = = =

In 1903 , the Kennel Club attempted to amalgamate the King James (black and tan) , Prince Charles (tricolour) , Blenheim and Ruby spaniels into a single breed called the Toy Spaniel . The Toy Spaniel Club , which oversaw those separate breeds , strongly objected , and the argument was only resolved following the intervention of King Edward VII , who made it clear that he preferred the name " King Charles Spaniel " . In 1904 , the American Kennel Club followed suit , combining the four breeds into a single breed known as the English Toy Spaniel . The Japanese Spaniel was also considered a type of toy spaniel , but was not merged into the new breed and was recognised as a breed in its own right .

Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia owned a King Charles Spaniel at the time of the shooting of the Romanov family on 17 July 1918 . Eight days later , Nicholas Sokolov of the White Forces found a clearing where he believed the bodies of the Romanov family had been burnt , and discovered the corpse of a King Charles Spaniel at the site . In 1920s , the Duchess of Marlborough bred so many King Charles Spaniels at Blenheim Palace that her husband moved out and later evicted the Duchess herself .

Blunt @-@ Lytton documented her attempts in the early 20th century to re @-@ breed the 18th @-@ century type of King Charles Spaniel as seen in the portraits of King Charles II . She used the Toy Trawler Spaniel , a curly haired , mostly black , small to medium @-@ sized spaniel , and cross @-@ bred these dogs with a variety of other breeds , including Blenheim Spaniels and Cocker

Spaniels , in unsuccessful attempts to reproduce the earlier style .

The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel originated from a competition held by American Roswell Eldridge in 1926 . He offered a prize fund for the best male and female dogs of " Blenheim Spaniels of the old type , as shown in pictures of Charles II of England 's time , long face , no stop , flat skull , not inclined to be domed , with spot in centre of skull . " Breeders entered what they considered to be sub ? par King Charles Spaniels . Although Eldridge did not live to see the new breed created , several breeders banded together and created the first breed club for the new Cavalier King Charles Spaniel in 1928 , with the Kennel Club initially listing the new breed as " King Charles Spaniels , Cavalier type " . In 1945 , the Kennel Club recognised the new breed in its own right . The American Kennel Club did not recognise the Cavalier until 1997 .

Princess Margaret , Countess of Snowdon , continued the connection between royalty and the King Charles Spaniel , attending Princess Anne 's tenth birthday party with her dog Rolly in 1960 . Elizabeth II has also owned King Charles Spaniels in addition to the dogs most frequently associated with her , the Pembroke Welsh Corgi .

In 2008 , the BBC documentary Pedigree Dogs Exposed was critical of the breeding of a variety of pedigree breeds including the King Charles Spaniel . The show highlighted issues involving syringomyelia in both the King Charles and Cavalier breeds . Mark Evans , the chief veterinary advisor for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) , said , " Dog shows using current breed standards as the main judging criteria actively encourage both the intentional breeding of deformed and disabled dogs and the inbreeding of closely related animals " ; this opinion was seconded by the Scottish SPCA . Following the programme , the RSPCA ended its sponsorship of the annual Crufts dog show , and the BBC declined to broadcast the event .

The King Charles Spaniel is less popular than the Cavalier in both the UK and the US . In 2010 , the Cavalier was the 23rd most popular breed , according to registration figures collected by the American Kennel Club , while the English Toy Spaniel was the 126th . In the UK , according to the Kennel Club , the Cavalier is the most popular breed in the Toy Group , with 8 @, @ 154 puppies registered in 2010 , compared to 199 registrations for King Charles Spaniels . Due to the low number of registrations , the King Charles was identified as a Vulnerable Native Breed by the Kennel Club in 2003 in an effort to help promote the breed .

= = Description = =

The King Charles has large dark eyes , a short nose , a high domed head and a line of black skin around the mouth . On average , it stands 9 to 11 inches (23 to 28 cm) at the withers , with a small but compact body . The breed has a traditionally docked tail . It has the long pendulous ears typical of a spaniel and its coat comes in four varieties , trait it shares with its offshoot , the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel .

The four sets of markings reflect the four former breeds from which the modern breed was derived . Black and tan markings are known as " King Charles " , while " Prince Charles " is tricoloured , " Blenheim " is red and white , and " Ruby " is a single @-@ coloured solid rich red . The " King Charles " black and tan markings typically consist of a black coat with mahogany / tan markings on the face , legs and chest and under the tail . The tricoloured " Prince Charles " is mostly white with black patches and mahogany / tan markings in similar locations to the " King Charles " . The " Blenheim " has a white coat with red patches , and should have a distinctive red spot in the center of the skull .

King Charles Spaniels are often mistaken for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels . There are several significant differences between the two breeds , the principal being the size . While the Cavalier weighs on average between 13 to 18 pounds (5 @. @ 9 to 8 @. @ 2 kg) , the King Charles is smaller at 8 to 14 pounds (3 @. @ 6 to 6 @. @ 4 kg) . In addition , their facial features , while similar , are distinguishable : the Cavalier 's ears are set higher and its skull is flat , while the King Charles ' is domed . Finally , the muzzle length of the King Charles tends to be shorter than the typical muzzle on a Cavalier .

The American Kennel Club has two classes , English Toy Spaniel (B / PC) (Blenheim and Prince

Charles) and English Toy Spaniel (R / KC) , while in the UK , the Kennel Club places the breed in a single class . Under the Fédération Cynologique Internationale groups , the King Charles is placed in the English Toy Spaniel section within the Companion and Toy Dog Group , along with the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel .

= = Temperament = =

The King Charles is a friendly breed , to the extent that it is not typically as suitable as a watchdog as some breeds , though it may still bark to warn its owners of an approaching visitor . It is not a high energy breed , and enjoys the company of family members , being primarily a lapdog . Although able to bond well with children and tolerant of them , it will not accept rough handling . It prefers not to be left alone for long periods . Known as one of the quietest toy breeds , it is suitable for apartment living .

The breed can tolerate other pets well , although the King Charles still has the hunting instincts of its ancestors and may not always be friendly towards smaller animals . It is intelligent enough to be used for obedience work and , due to its stable temperament , it can be a successful therapy dog for hospitals and nursing homes .

= = Health = =

A natural bobtail can be found in some members of the breed , which is not a mutation of the T @-@ box gene , and so is allowed under conformation show rules . Health @-@ related research on the breed has been limited , with no major studies conducted in Britain . However , it has been included in studies outside the UK , including by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) in the United States . The King Charles Spaniel has a number of eye and respiratory system disorders common to brachycephalic dogs , and endocrine and metabolic diseases common to small breeds , as well as specific breed @-@ associated health conditions . The average lifespan is 10 to 12 years , and the breed should be able to reproduce naturally .

= = = Eye and heart conditions = = =

The eye problems associated with the King Charles Spaniel include cataracts , corneal dystrophy , distichia , entropion , microphthalmia , optic disc drusen , and keratitis . Compared to other breeds , the King Charles Spaniel has an increased risk of distichia (where extra eyelashes or hairs cause irritation to the eye) . Inheritance is suspected in the other conditions , with ages of onset ranging from six months for cataracts to two to five years for corneal dystrophy .

Heart conditions related to the King Charles Spaniel include mitral valve disease , in which the mitral valve degrades , causing blood to flow backwards through the chambers of the heart and eventually leading to congestive heart failure . Patent ductus arteriosus , where blood is channelled back from the heart into the lungs , is also seen and can lead to heart failure . Both of these conditions present with similar symptoms and are inheritable . The OFA conducted a survey on cardiac disease , where of 105 breeds , the King Charles Spaniel was found to be 7th worst , with 2 @.@ 1 % of 189 dogs affected .

= = = Other common issues = = =

Being a brachycephalic breed , King Charles Spaniels can be sensitive to anesthesia . This is because in brachycephalic dogs , there is additional tissue in the throat directly behind the mouth and nasal cavity , known as the pharynx , and anesthesia acts as a muscle relaxant causing this tissue to obstruct the dogs ' narrow airways . These narrow airways can decrease the dogs ' ability to exercise properly and increase their susceptibility to heat stroke . Other congenital and hereditary disorders found in the King Charles Spaniel are hanging tongue , where a neurological defect prevents the tongue from retracting into the mouth ; diabetes mellitus , which may be associated

with cataracts ; cleft palate and umbilical hernia . The English Toy Spaniel Club of America recommends that umbilical hernias be corrected only if other surgery is required , due to the risk of surgery in brachycephalic breeds . In another study conducted by the OFA , the King Charles Spaniel was the 38th worst of 99 breeds for patella luxation ; of 75 animals tested , 4 % were found to have the ailment . However , surveys conducted by the Finnish breed club between 1988 and 2007 found that the occurrences were higher in some years , ranging from 5 @.@ 3 % to 50 % .

There are several breed traits which may cause concern as health issues . They include skull issues such as an open fontanelle , where in young dogs there is a soft spot in the skull ; it is common in dogs under a year old . A complication from that condition is hydrocephalus , also known as water on the brain . This condition may cause neurological symptoms that require the dog to be euthanised . Fused toes , where two or more of the dog 's toes are fused together , may seem to be a health issue but this breed trait is not a cause for concern .

= = Urban myth = =

An urban legend claims that Charles II issued a special decree granting King Charles Spaniels permission to enter any establishment in the UK , overriding " no dog except guide dogs " rules . A variant of this myth relates specifically to the Houses of Parliament . This myth is sometimes instead applied to the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel .

The UK Parliament website states : " Contrary to popular rumour , there is no Act of Parliament referring to King Charles spaniels being allowed anywhere in the Palace of Westminster . We are often asked this question and have thoroughly researched it . " Similarly , there is no proof of any such law covering the wider UK . A spokesman for the Kennel Club said : " This law has been quoted from time to time . It is alleged in books that King Charles made this decree but our research hasn 't tracked it down . "