

BAY AREA CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB, INC.
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
SUNDAY, August 13, 2017
Tri-Valley SPCA--Dublin, CA

The next BACKCSC General Membership meeting will be on **Sunday, August 13th**, at 1:00 pm at the Tri-Valley SPCA located at 4561 Gleason Road, Dublin, CA 94568. The General Meeting will be at 1:00 pm followed by "Genetics—Just the Facts" – a slide show created by Dr. Leslie Slusher and presented by Molly Hughes at 2:00 pm.

"Genetics—Just the Facts"

I got my first Cavalier in 1997—a black and tan. I had read about the breed temperament, and I liked the color combination. I drove miles just to get books with pictures of Cavaliers, and tried to find pictures of the dogs in the pedigrees I was considering. By the time I got my second Cavalier I was more aware of the health issues. I asked more about health testing this time around. I was starting to realize that breeders had some tough decisions to make with a breed that comes from a small gene pool. This was really made clear to me when it was discovered that the sire of my fourth Cavalier had produced a puppy that showed signs of syringomyelia at a very young age. The breeder immediately decided to pull the dog from her breeding program, and she received as much criticism for doing that as praise. The criticism was based on reducing the size of an already small gene pool.

Dr. Leslie Slusher, a Cavalier breeder and Professor of Biology, is the author of this slide show. She originally presented it at the Oklahoma Specialty in 2016. At the National this year, I asked Dr. Slusher if she would be willing to share this presentation with our club, and she graciously agreed. Although I don't have her degrees or wealth of knowledge about genetics, this presentation provides an understandable overview of genes and chromosomes and their little parts—and what can go astray during reproduction. I think it provides a valuable foundation for understanding genetics and genetic variation in Cavaliers. It touches briefly on the types of inbreeding and the resulting consequences (both good and bad).

This presentation isn't intended to give any advice or make any recommendations for breeding. (However, the final two slides do give some recommendations by Dr. Slusher.) My hope is that it will help pet owners as well as exhibitors understand the many issues faced by breeders, I hope breeders will share with us their thoughts about their breeding and their goals. We will also do a little exercise at the end to demonstrate genetic drift.

1:00 pm: BACKCSC General Meeting
2:00 pm: Genetics—Just the Facts

WELL-BEHAVED AND HEALTHY* CAVALIERS ARE WELCOME!
(*up-to date vaccinations are required)