

HEART DISEASE (MITRAL VALVE DISEASE) BREEDING PROTOCOL

The aim of these guidelines is to reduce the incidence of early onset heart disease.

The brood bitch

Should be at least two and a half years old with a clear heart, and parents with clear heart certificates issued at five years or older.

The stud dog

Should be at least two and a half years old with a clear heart, and with parents with clear heart certificates issued at five years or older.

These are minimum recommendations.

To use an older stud dog with a clear heart certificate issued as late in life as possible is highly desirable.

It is strongly advised that breeding stock under five years of age is limited to those with clear heart certificates. However, an older dog with a slight heart murmur should not be ignored.

Dogs do not have to have a clear heart to be used at stud. It is the dogs with **early onset** murmurs (under five years of age) that breeders are strongly advised not to use.

Breeders should aim at raising the age of onset of MVD by selecting breeding stock with a good heart record.

Dogs should be tested and certificated annually either by a GP vet or Cardiologist.

Dogs should be thoroughly examined by a Cardiologist at five years of age. This can be either by auscultation or echocardiography.

A list of Cavaliers over five years and with a clear heart can be found here:

<http://www.thecavalierclub.co.uk/start.html>