



# Cavalier Health F.A.Q

From Victorian Canine Association Inc  
trading as DOGS Victoria

---

*Information provided courtesy of Trish Fernleigh, Secretary of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Victoria*

**What is the estimated percentage of Cavaliers in Australia affected with syringomyelia?**

*This is difficult to estimate, but I would say probably less than 5%.*

**What is being done in Australia to improve the health of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels?**

*The English CKCS club is leading the world in research into syringomyelia – which was, unfortunately, not mentioned on Pedigree Dogs Exposed – so we are taking our cues from them.*

*In Australia MRI scanning is being carried out in a limited way due to the lack of facilities for this procedure in the veterinary field, and the loss of the person who did the grading of scans.*

*The club encourages and subsidises heart and eye testing of all breeding stock and we hold clinics annually to provide opportunities for members to participate in this screening*

**Does the CKCS Club of Victoria have any official breeding recommendations?**

*It is recommended that dogs and bitches are not used for breeding prior to attaining the age of 2.5 years of age with no symptoms of syringomyelia. Although this is a heritable defect, there is no test yet available. We can only know if an animal has the defect once it shows symptoms, which usually onset prior to the recommended age.*

*They should also have clear heart and eye certification at that age. Parents of breeding stock should have tested clear at 5 years of age.*

**Do you know if the situation has improved over the last few generations?**

*Data is still being collected and an overall trend should be available in the near future.*

**What do you recommend to puppy buyers to try and find a healthy pup?**

*The club recommends that puppy buyers only buy from registered breeders. We have a puppy referral service which can be reached on 1300 850 844.*

*Prospective puppy buyers should ask to view heart and eye certification for both parents. They should also view heart and eye certification for the grand parents, if available.*