



Immediate Attention to all Event Committees

As per the AKC rules governing Spaniel Events:



Please be advised there is a nationwide occurrence of the Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (CIRD)

A recent outbreak of Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (CIRD) was reported at the Fox Valley English Cocker Club **Springer** Fall trial on September 28th and September 29th, 2023 and October 1st, 2023 and the Fox Valley English Cocker Club **Cocker** Fall trial on September 30th, 2023 and October 1st, 2023. The AKC is aware of the reports of Canine Respiratory Infectious Disease that caused some dogs at recent events to fall ill. While the cause is yet to be identified, some public information has indicated that the infection is viral in nature. Symptoms include coughing, sneezing, nasal and/or eye discharge, and lethargy.

In October 2022 the Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease (CIRD) caused major impacts on the spaniel field trial community for the Fall season. Dogs became ill, field trials were cancelled and social media was active with informed and uniformed information and speculation about the cause, nature and impacts of the outbreak. The AKC disciplined Clubs and Individuals. The 'after action' assessment recommends: 1) The dogs exposed need to self-monitor and remain out of current events for 30 days or cleared by their Veterinarian. 2) Follow the AKC CIRD awareness published by the AKC that notes the actions which are effective in slowing down the outbreak and its spread. 3) Event Committees ask exposed dogs to not attend their Event.

The health and safety of dogs at AKC events is the responsibility of all. The Event Committee must protect the safety at the event. Dog owners and handlers are responsible for monitoring the health of their dogs and should be mindful to keep any dog that has been exposed to sick dogs or that is exhibiting symptoms of illness at home.

The Spaniel Field Trial Rules:

The Field Trial Committee is responsible to uphold the AKC rules at the Event. The Field Trial Secretary is provide with the current AKC Rule book for the Committees use and additional information if you have questions at a Field Trial Event.

Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels Rule Book (Amended to 2017 Published by the AKC) Information:

CHAPTER 8 ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS FOR ENTRY, FULL COMPLETION OF ENTRY FORMS

SECTION 8. No dog shall be eligible to compete at any field trial, no dog shall be brought into the grounds or premises of any field trial, and any dog which may have been brought into the grounds or premises of a field trial shall immediately be removed, if it:

- a. shows clinical symptoms of distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease, or
- b. is known to have been in contact with distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease within thirty days prior to the opening of the trial, or**
- c. has been kenneled within thirty days prior to the opening of the trial on premises on which there existed distemper, infectious hepatitis, leptospirosis or other communicable disease.