

57 Jennings St.,
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To The Members of the "National"

Dear Members,

First of all, my apologies for being unable to be present on August 8th.

I believe this to be a very important stage in the development of the "National" until the present, Victoria and N. S. W. have done the spadework; carried the heavy burden of getting things started. We owe a great debt of gratitude to those people who have worked untiringly to promote this organisation which is so important to the future of our breed. We in Victoria are greatly indebted to Mr. Ern Boschall for his dedication to the promotion of our breed, and the "National". In the latter he has had the assistance of our very capable Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Brodie. I have no doubt that there are in N.S.W. people who have given the same type of service for example Mr. Tom Bennett and Mr. Gordon Lowe.

It is my pleasant duty to welcome to our organisation the Bocker Spaniel Club of South Australia. We hope that the association will be a happy one for them. In the future we anticipate welcoming Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania. We are divided by great distances but our interest in the welfare of the Bocker Spaniel should unite us.

In 1987 the ^{Cocker Spaniel} breed is beset with problems, problems which will, if not resolved in a satisfactory way, destroy the breed forever. In every state type is diverse, depth of quality poor, judging of the breed is generally unsatisfactory, and we are threatened with ^{a grave} genetic problems.

The new standard produced in the U.K. has, I believe, been a step in the right direction. I was sufficiently fortunate to be in England at the time when the standard was being drawn up (1983, 1985) and I was able to attend meetings of the Breed Council when it was being discussed. There is no doubt in my mind that they have succeeded in "tidying up" some doubtful areas. It was gratifying to see that suggestions sent in by the Cocker Spaniel Club of Victoria concerning topline, were adopted (For that achievement we have to thank Mr. George Laddy of Onairé Kennels who put forward very convincing arguments in favour of this change.)

Our isolation from the mainstream of the breed is a very important factor in the deterioration of type and of standards of judging. Our breeders and judges do not see enough good dogs ^{in this country} to form valid opinions. The "National" has already taken steps to remedy this situation by bringing out well-known English judges. Who knows, perhaps in the future it could

set up a fund to send young judges to the U.K. to study the breed in its homeland.

The emergence of the deadly genes of the Familial Nephropathy (kidney disease) in this country calls for a far-reaching educational programme if we are to minimize its spread.

I hope to visit England again, early in 1988, and I intend to use my time there to study the breed, and to further its interests in Australia; and I trust that I may be of service to the "National".

Wishing you a very successful meeting on August 8th.

Yours sincerely,

Kinny Jenkins