



## Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match .....

Matching a Cocker Spaniel to a family is an art we here at Cocker Spaniel Rescue like to think we have refined.

The application process tells us a great deal about a potential adopter and helps us determine if the dog you want is a good match.

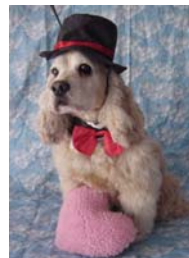
Because most of the dogs are fostered in homes, we have the opportunity to get to know the “quirks” of each dog and have some idea of what they will and won’t tolerate.

We learn who lives in a household and the ages of those residents. Some cocker spaniels don’t do well with children, particularly toddlers. A home with an elderly person doesn’t need a dog who will get underfoot and trip the person.

By knowing if an applicant lives in an apartment, rents, owns or has a fenced yard we

can rule dogs in or out as possible candidates. If we have a known barker, chances are he won’t work in an apartment—too noisy. Similarly, it is difficult for a single mom with young children living in an apartment to walk a dog.

Learning what pets an applicant has owned gives us insight into what dog personalities may be the best fit. If the applicant has never owned a cocker we know they need more education about the breed and one of our more mellow dogs may be a better match. Appli-



*Dude found his perfect match!*

cants with cocker experience often have definitive ideas about the personality characteristics they like.

But, as every artist will tell you, there are failures. Sometimes we misjudge the applicant or we may not know enough about the dog to make the best placement. The behavior and personality of the dog often reflects the environment in which it lives. Occasionally we have a laidback dog in rescue who turns out to be firecracker in her new home and vice versa.

Most applicants appreciate our matchmaking abilities and rely on our advice. If you are looking for a new “love” interest, ask our “matchmakers” to give you the names of several likely candidates.

*Kismet is fate, fortune, luck or destiny.*

## ... and make me the perfect match

Why do we put so many restrictions on potential adopters?

Simply because we want dogs to have the best shot at getting a loving home which provides appropriate health care and treats the dog as a family member.

Our adoption criteria are not written in stone. We take extenuating circumstances into consideration.

The basic requirements are:

- The dog lives inside, day and night.
- The dog either has access to a doggy door

leading to a fenced yard or is leashed walked multiple times a day. (Apartment dwellers are eligible.)

- If any children under seven years of age live in the home, we want to verify their behavior around dogs.
- The adopter has the financial means to care for a cocker spaniel including regular professional grooming, monthly heartworm preventative, flea/tick protection and high quality food.

- That the adopter have a willingness to address any health issues which arise. There may be eye, ear, or skin problems not to mention other minor illnesses common to all dogs.
- If a prospective adopter has not demonstrated a history of responsible pet ownership, he/she will be declined.

If you think you are a “perfect match” for a cocker spaniel, great. If you have any questions, let one of our “matchmakers” help you. E-mails may be directed to [cockerinfo@swbell.net](mailto:cockerinfo@swbell.net).

