



# CockerKid Kismet

## Career Opportunity Applying for the Job of Dog Ownership

An applicant recently noted she felt like she was applying for and interviewing for a job. She was absolutely correct. Owning a dog deserves even more of a commitment because a dog is a living, breathing creature.

To emphasize the commitment, our adoption contact contains several terms and conditions we believe are essential to maintaining the health and welfare of a Cocker Spaniel.

First is to protect your dog from heartworms by using heartworm prevention EVERY month. We've seen dogs die early because of heartworms and suffer through heartworm treatment. \$3 to \$6 a month is a small investment to protect your dog.

We want your promise to make this Cocker Spaniel a house dog. Cockers want the human companionship.

This requirement is to minimize the opportunity of developing ear infections although inside dogs sometimes get ear infections too.

Good quality dog food and fresh water daily is an easy requirement to meet. Although cockers have tremendous appetites, they really don't need to eat as much as they would like. A cocker can be feed adequately for \$10-\$12 a month.

Annual vet visits for routine immunizations and bloodwork are needed. There will also be "urgent" visits when your dog develops an ear or eye infection. Dogs suffer

from urinary tract infections too. Just as with the human body, many things go wrong. A dog owner needs to be financially prepared for illness.

A cocker needs regular grooming because her hair grows just like yours. Some need grooming every three weeks but many can go six weeks. Of course, they may need baths in between grooming visits. Matted hair makes your dog smell but it can also cause skin lesions.

Our last condition is sometimes difficult to fulfill but shows your mettle as a human—to give unconditional love through sickness and health, especially in old age.

Do you have the qualifications to become a dog owner? Fill out an application to find out. Visit [www.cockerkids.org](http://www.cockerkids.org). Click on Adoption Info for a link to the adoption application.



Liam

## Why people don't get the job (dog)

One of the first rules of being a successful job applicant is to completely fill out the application, answering every question. Each question gives us one more data point on which to base our decision. Failure to provide all information slows down our investigation.

The top problems with applications include:

- 1) Occasionally an applicant fails to enter a last name. Was this oversight or intentional? We must know who a dog is going to.
- 2) Failure to include phone numbers. We like to have home, cell and work numbers so we can contact you.

3) E-mail addresses that bounce back make us suspicious.

4) Failure to provide the name and phone number of any veterinarian(s) visited with your last dog. Yes, we contact your vet to make sure your dog is up-to-date on immunizations and heartworm preventative. If you have not been doing this through a vet, the application needs to explain and you need produce documentation.

5) Providing an incomplete history of pets and what happened to them. Remember, we contact the applicant's vet.

6) If you rent or live in an apartment, don't claim to own a home. We check public records to verify this.

7) Failing to list everyone (and their ages) residing in the home.

8) Inconsistencies between the application and information obtained in the personal interview or from the vet.

With 16 years of experience placing Cocker Spaniels we have an excellent idea of the characteristics of a successful applicant and which homes will do better with a different breed.