

# Cold Case Cockers

## Brogan, Case #2008-04

Our Brogan is a gorgeous three to four year old sable boy who originally came to us from Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP).

He is a real cuddle bug who likes to sleep close to his people at night. He loves to play ball, chasing it as often as it is thrown, and is especially fond of the noisy flashing ball. But he is content to play on his own or veg on the couch in a comfy lap. Brogan is also house-trained and well behaved.

So why is this beautiful young Cocker Spaniel

being featured in Cold Case this month? Brogan has cataracts in both eyes and is blind in one eye. Cataract surgery is not necessary, since he can see some and is functional with only minor issues related to his sight.

But what really has the cards stacked against him is that he's very bossy with other dogs, occasionally scrapping with his foster siblings. For this reason, Brogan (much like our first Cold Case Cocker, Cosmo) gets little exposure outside of the website and therefore has been harder to place than

normal. But Cosmo found happiness in a forever home as an only dog and we are confident that Brogan will too!



## Cataracts

Cataracts are one of the most common problems affecting the eyes of dogs. A cataract, often having a white or crushed ice appearance, is the disruption of the normal arrangement of the lens fibers or its capsule. This disruption results in a loss of transparency and blindness occurs if the cataract involves too much of the lens. There are many different forms and causes of cataracts; however in young Cocker Spaniels it is usually inherited, with an onset as young as six months. It is common in Cocker Spaniels due to the massive number of irresponsible breeders and puppy mills continuing to breed dogs with genetic defects.

Treatment of canine cataracts consists of surgical removal of the lens. A prosthetic lens may or may not be inserted after the defective lens is removed. Performed by a veterinary ophthalmologist, surgery is an invasive and expensive solution and only recommended if it can restore sight. A complete examination of the eye is done to determine if the dog could benefit from surgery. With correct patient selection the outcome is generally good. The dog must be in good health and have a temperament conducive to administering eye drops at home. Surgery is generally not needed if the dog still has sight in one eye, as dogs

rely less on sight and more on their sense of smell to function.

Nuclear sclerosis, often mistaken for cataracts by the dog owner, is a normal change that occurs in the lens of older dogs. It appears as a slight graying of the lens and occurs in both eyes at the same time in most dogs over six years of age. The condition does not significantly affect the vision and treatment is not recommended.

If you think your dog has cataracts affecting her vision, consult your veterinarian, who will be able to help make that determination and refer you to a veterinary ophthalmologist.

## Cold Case Cockers

- > Dogs who have been with us six months or longer and have not found homes
- > Older dogs
- > Minor health issues such as special food, daily eye medications, past ear surgery or suffering from allergies.
- > Behavior issues such as not liking other dogs or cats, separation anxiety, fear of strangers or just being "quirky."

We never give up solving our cold case files.

## SOLVED

Case #2008-01  
Case #2008-02

Dogs featured as Cold Case Cockers are available for adoption. Please e-mail [cockerinfo@swbell.net](mailto:cockerinfo@swbell.net) for information on adoption.