



His Majesty the King
Buckingham Palace
London
SW1A 1AA

19 August 2026

Sir:

On behalf of PETA and our more than 1.3 million members and supporters in the UK, I am writing to ask Your Majesty to call for the royal name to be dropped from the Cavalier King Charles spaniel – dogs specifically bred for a certain appearance despite being known to suffer from painful, debilitating health problems.

The severe health problems plaguing Cavalier King Charles spaniels are facing growing scrutiny – including in the courts. Norway’s Supreme Court ruled that breeding Cavalier King Charles spaniels violates the country’s Animal Welfare Act because inherited health problems cause so many of these dogs to suffer. And just this month, PETA US filed suit against a pet-store chain on behalf of a woman whose Cavalier King Charles spaniel suffers from a lifelong neurological condition associated with a skull abnormality that is extraordinarily common in the breed and is part of breeding for a particular “look” – a risk she reports never being warned of.

The suffering these poor dogs endure is no accident. Generations of breeding dogs for such traits as large eyes, shortened muzzles, and small, rounded heads have come at a terrible cost. Chiari-like malformation, present in some 95% of these spaniels, occurs when the skull is too small for the brain, causing brain tissue to be pushed through the opening at the back of the skull. In their agony the dogs yelp when touched, frantically scratch at their necks, sometimes struggle to walk, and even develop paralysis. They are also highly susceptible to mitral valve disease, breathing difficulties, vision and hearing impairments, and painful hip and knee problems.

As you can imagine, dogs deliberately bred so as to be inherently unwell can face a lifetime of expensive veterinary treatment that not everyone can afford. During a cost-of-living crisis, they are at even greater risk of physical deterioration, neglect, abandonment, and even death when their guardians cannot afford to keep treating the maladies borne of their mutations.

Your Majesty and Queen Camilla have set a wonderful example by welcoming rescued dogs into the Royal Family. While countless dogs wait in shelters for loving homes that may not always come, breeding those predisposed to a lifetime of suffering only compounds the crisis.

The royal name, like the Royal Warrant, lends prestige to this beleaguered breed and helps make it desirable. That is why we most respectfully ask your Majesty to call for “King Charles” to be removed from the breed’s name and make clear that the monarchy does not wish to seem to endorse the continued breeding of these dogs. Such words from you would send a powerful message that there is nothing

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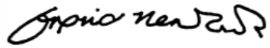
Entities:

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands

noble about breeding dogs for exaggerated features that condemn generations of them to painful, debilitating disease.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

I have the honour to be Your Majesty's loyal and obedient servant.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ingrid E. Newkirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Ingrid E. Newkirk
Founder