

**Cavaliers of the South**  
**03/18/2017 Reston Va.**  
**Margo Klingler, USA**

When I received a call to judge the “old club show”, I must admit it was an honor, which came with some anxiety. As I read the standard, I realized it paralleled the AKC standard, and the most important thing when I completed the assignment was awarding the best dog or bitch in the entry.

The specialty was held in a lovely location in a beautiful hotel in Reston Virginia. Cherry blossom time was on the calendar, but regrettably it was too cold for the blooms, but beautiful anyway. The hosts were wonderful and most of all had a great sense of humor as they helped me through this procedure.

## **DOGS**

As the puppy dogs entered the ring, I was looking at the profile, heads, carriage, topline and tail carriage. I saw a few with low set tails and bad top lines. Although breeders think this will change drastically as a dog ages, usually this is not the case. The heads on the dogs were generally very nice, some ears were set low which can change the expression of the head and not frame the beautiful face. At this puppy age, the heads were lacking in fill but with my own experience in Cavaliers this can change with age, if all the components are there. Movement was pretty good and would like to see a bit more reach, but they were being puppies and that can be overlooked sometimes. The rear ends were very good, but caution should be given to high hocks, which throws that balance off. The Senior puppy, Orchardhill Enough Said, was lovely with gorgeous expression and body type and color. My graduate puppy, Fieldsedge Avogadros Number, although lovely type, may face some challenges with a tail carried a bit too high.

The Novice dog class, Padamere Overjoyed, I noted topline, which was faulty, but moved well. The classes which followed had nice dogs, but I noted that it appeared that balance was being compromised in some classes with dogs that appeared “low on leg”. If this continues and the balance of this breed is lost, type will be gone also. I saw a few dogs with undershot bites, very upright shoulders and some low ear sets. In the last of the classes, generally nice dogs, but better shoulders seem to be a problem, thus impeding that beautiful flowing movement in the Cavalier breed. My American Bred pick, Brookhaven The Dream Lives On At Finnickyskye, was lovely type, with a good head and topline. This class was nice, but watch those toplines and shoulders.

The Special Limit Blenheim Dog, Foxwyn Cool Water, was very nice and my ultimate winner. He had a lovely type and head also correct plush in face, correct body and balance. He was not overdone in his face and I felt his movement was very adequate.

The Open dog class assessment, (Miletree Carnival at Shirmont, JW class winner), overall was very nice-I saw pretty type, good movement, but noting also on a few that low on leg and out of balance appearance. The expression on this breed is paramount, so watching the eye size and shape is important.

When the winners of all the classes entered again I looked at my choices and my **Winners Dog was clearly everything I like in a Cavalier. I chose CH FOXWYN COOL WATER out of the Special Limit Blenheim Dog Class and Reserve was BROOKHAVEN THE DREAM LIVES ON AT FINNICKYSKYE out of the American Bred Class. Best puppy was ORCHARDHILL ENOUGH SAID, and a dog clearly ready to compete. Congratulations!**

## **BITCHES**

As the Junior Puppy Bitches entered the ring, there were a couple that I noted as being too “weedy”, despite their age. Two or three had lovely expression, but were too fine boned. I noted a few out of balance with longer bodies and low on legs.

The Senior Puppy Bitches were nice but very small and fine boned.

The Graduate Puppy Bitches had nice conformation and head type, but watch the set on of neck. We do not want to lose that moderate angulation in shoulders which helps this breed carry its top class appearance.

Junior American Bred Bitch was nice, but one thing I did note was how the lack of plush changed the look from a soft melting expression. The body was nice, though, and movement was good.

American Bred Bitch was a very nice class with lovely faces, good ear sets and correct type and movement.

Special Limit Blenheim Lovely class with good bodies and lovely outlines. My clear winner, Tudorr La Dolce Angela, JW, was a bitch with a lovely head and correct movement around the ring.

Special Limit Tricolor The coats of some tricolors were not in good condition, but had good body and heads. Watch the top lines rising over the loin and low tail sets.

The Ruby Bitch was nice with a nice expression and in great condition, but a bit too long in body.

The Open Bitch class had a clear winner, Ch Tassajara Forestcreek Cristal, JW, with a lovely type and topline, the correct melting expression and she moved effortlessly.

In the end, my **Winners Bitch was clear out of the Open Bitch class, Ch Tassajara Forestcreek Cristal, JW - A STAND OUT- My Reserve Winners Bitch, Ch Tudorr La Dolce Angela, JW** was lovely out of the Special Limit Blenheim Class. Congrats to all for the lovely entry. I was glad to see a minimum of extreme grooming and hope that trend continues.

In the end I chose dog **CH FOXWYN COOL WATER as my Best in Show and my Reserve Best in Show the bitch CH TASSAJARA FORESTCREEK CRISTAL.**

Thank you all for providing me the opportunity to judge your lovely specialty.

In closing let me say that I felt the quality was in Dogs, and that I would say more attention to the following things would be helpful:

- Better Balance
- Higher ear sets-flatter top skull
- Shorter hocks
- Better tail sets right off the back
- Less foreface, as it changes the soft melting look, more plush
- Shoulders with better angulation
- Work on short upper arms for better movement
- Better conditioning with coats