

Cavaliers of the South
07/23/2017 Lexington, Kentucky
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My sincere appreciation to the members of the Cavaliers of the South, for inviting me to judge their 2017 July show in Louisville, Kentucky. The venue was lovely and the exhibitors gracious to each other and to their judges.

Thank you, to the intrepid members of the various show committees who organized this lovely event; it's not an easy task. Sunday morning, a constant downpour made it difficult for exhibitors to hear my instructions, but I was able to borrow a microphone in order to be heard over the occasional thunder and pouring rain. No one missed a beat.

The previous evening, I participated in a panel discussion during which a few people expressed an interest in hearing judges share their thoughts on judging. I'll give it a try.

Having been a breeder and an exhibitor for well over forty years, I understand fully the time and effort involved in preparing a dog for the ring. I am appreciative of the exhibitors who are honoring me with their entries, and endeavor to repay their confidence in me by giving each entry a full measure of my attention.

Overall the quality of the entry in Louisville was high. I was especially pleased to find so many dogs of correct shape and balance. My top winners were all dogs which shared several key virtues: all were balanced front and rear with solid top lines and correct tail carriage. All had an arch of neck leading nicely into their shoulders; all were short in loin, which helped create a lovely outline when viewed from a slight distance. My top winners all moved smoothly with reach and drive. Each had a beautiful head with ample cushioning beneath dark round eyes, creating soft, melting expressions. And of course, each one fit my interpretation of Cavalier Breed Type.

It bears repeating that all parts of any dog are connected, and each part depends upon the other to create the desired overall picture of beauty and balance. I try to look at each animal in its entirety, as a complete package. I concentrate on which dogs *in their entirety* come as close as possible to my interpretation of the Breed Standard.

Finally, I cannot overstate how important it is for us as breeders to maintain *moderation* in all aspects of our Cavaliers. Exaggeration of any one aspect of our breed mars the overall balance of the animal, and is therefore incorrect. Breeding is not for the faint of heart; none of us is without our disappointments and adversities. I congratulate the breeders and caretakers behind these exhibits who have obviously worked hard to maintain a standard of excellence difficult to achieve. E.V.

JUNIOR PUPPY DOG (3) My notes read: "Very nice class."

1. **Brookhaven I'm A Believer** (Martz/Ayers)

Compact, balanced, well-broken blenheim boy. Moderate in every aspect. Large dark round eyes and sweet expression. Mouth correct. Moved well holding a level top line. Tail carriage correct. Promising baby.

2. **Anara Konstantine** (Neumeier)
Another well-made, balanced exhibit with large dark round eyes. Moved smoothly with correct tail carriage.
3. **RanLyn's Diamonds Are Forever** (Bragg)
Larger scaled dog; well-broken blenheim which moved well and was well-presented. Eyes dark and round and surrounded by excellent pigment. Pretty boy.

SENIOR PUPPY DOG (3)

1. **Huntcrest My Guy** (Weiner-Pope)
Compact, well-broken blenheim dog; pretty face with large dark round eyes correctly placed on the front of his skull. Ample fill under the eyes, which contributed to his soft expression. Pigment dark. I was especially attracted to his tidy, compact size and shape. A true toy spaniel. **BEST PUPPY DOG, BEST PUPPY IN SHOW**
2. **Almeara I Believe** (Parente)
Typey, well-broken blenheim boy on a larger scale than the dog above; large dark eyes with fill beneath. Top skull appearing flat, ears correctly placed and used well. Well-arched neck leading into good shoulders. Top line remained solid on the move.
3. **Darane Happy Song** (Markijohn/Kates)
Black-and-tan boy with a straight, silky coat and the rich rust markings, so attractive in a black-and-tan. Dark eyes and dark pigment, other absolute necessities in a whole color.

Graduate Puppy Dog (2)

1. **Svena Fortune Teller** (Shidler)
Black-and-tan boy with a silky coat texture and rich rust markings. Dark eyes and pigment. Albeit a tad long in the loin, this boy was well-made with a lovely arch of neck leading into well-laid shoulders. Moved smoothly, maintaining a level top line and carrying his tail correctly off his back.
2. **Chadwick Code Black** (McCarty/Eckersley)
Attractive, typey tricolor with a pretty face. Lovely head; large dark eyes with ample cushioning beneath them to help create his soft expression. Preferred the outline, croup and resulting tail carriage of the first placed dog.

NOVICE DOG (1)

1. **Chewcreek The Trickster** (Desrosiers)
Black-and-tan with a straight coat and rich markings. Mouth perfect. Tail carriage absolutely correct. Well-presented.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR DOG (4) My notes read: "This is a great class; solid depth of quality on every exhibit." Congratulations to their respective breeders.

1. **Ch Almeara Extra Extraordinary, JW** (Whitmire)
Attractive blenheim dog with a striking appearance. Beautiful, masculine head with large dark eyes and soft expression. Excellent pigment. Well-balanced; moving well with reach and drive, holding his top line on the move and when standing four square.

Beautifully presented. In my final cut of four in excellent company.

2. **Veribas Eye of The Tiger** (Cusick)
Compact, smaller blenheim boy with ample bone and substance for his size. Sweet expression with large dark eyes and good pigment. Well-filled beneath the eyes creating the soft expression I love to see. Good reach of neck. Moved well. Well-presented.
3. **Ch Clarmarian Classic By Design** (Young-May)
Well-broken blenheim dog with attractive, masculine head. Large dark eyes with ample padding beneath. Dark pigment. Moved well; showed like a trooper.
4. **Ch Avia Make It Work** (Poti/Poti)
Compact ruby boy of a nice size and shape. Dark pigment. Eyes large and correctly placed. Moved well, holding his top line on the move and standing. Mouth perfect.

JUNIOR AMERICAN BRED DOG (2)

1. **Clamarian Heir Apparent** (Young-May) My notes say: "Moments of brilliance."
Sharp little blenheim boy with large dark eyes, well-cushioned beneath. Pigment around the eyes and on the nose dark. Sweet expression. Ears set well, top skull appearing flat. Nice neck and shoulders. Moved well. Exuberant, happy boy, which is exactly what we want in a youngster.
2. **Almeara Don't Stop Believing** (Longobardi)
Another very pretty teenager with large, dark, round eyes. Ample cushioning beneath his eyes and a soft expression. Well-arched neck leading into good shoulders. Moves well.

AMERICAN BRED DOG (6)

1. **Brookhaven The Dream Lives On at Finnickyskye** (Utych/Utych)
Typey, compact little boy with the make and shape I always hope to find. Well-broken Blenheim in full coat and excellent condition. Lovely head and eye and the sweetest expression; ears placed correctly on his head creating the appearance of a flat top skull. Lovely arch of neck leading into well-laid shoulders. Ribs well sprung. Hard back, short loin, slight, but definite slope of croup enabling him to carry his tail correctly as he moved. In beautiful condition; showed well which completed the package. A true Toy Spaniel. Happy to give him **RESERVE WINNERS DOG** in an entry deep in quality.
2. **Woodsong Delta Blues** (Crancer)
Eye-catching Blenheim dog who showed off his attributes to perfection. Pretty face, large, dark, round frontally placed eyes and darkest pigment; ears set well on his head and in beautiful condition, framing his face. Soft expression. Moved well, holding his top line at all times, both standing and on the move.
3. **Bentwood Forestcreek Rob Red** (Borton/Harrison/Cline)
Gorgeous head and expression on this exhibit. Blenheim dog with dark pigment and large, dark eyes with ample fill beneath them. Ears set correctly on his head and framing his face perfectly. Turned out in the most marvelous coat and beautifully groomed and presented.
4. **Chadwick Shooting Upwards** (McCarty/Eckersley)

Blenheim boy with dark round eyes and good pigment. Mouth perfect. Preferred the expression on the above dogs. A good little showman; beautifully presented.

SPECIAL LIMIT BLENHEIM DOG (3)

1. **Aranel Avenger of Jaymar** (Talley/Talley/Smith)
Well-broken blenheim boy with an attractive masculine head. Beautifully presented in immaculate condition. Lovely arch of neck and superb presentation helped create an eye-catching exhibit. Moved smoothly with reach and drive, tail carriage correct. Showed well. In my final cut of four in serious competition.
2. **Bonitos Campaneros Reingold** (Lemon/Lemon)
Pretty, well-broken Blenheim boy; large dark eyes, ample fill and a soft, sweet expression. Typey. Showed well.
3. **Tudorr Charlie Bit My Finger** (Mixon)
Well-broken blenheim boy with huge dark eyes and a sweet expression. An extremely happy boy who showed with enthusiasm.

SPECIAL LIMIT TRICOLOR DOG (1)

1. **Boatswain Cirill** (True)
Tricolor with a straight, silky coat and rich tan markings. Large, dark, fully pigmented eyes. Shown in excellent condition.

SPECIAL LIMIT RUBY DOG (1)

1. **Darane I Drove All Night** (Longobardi)
Adolescent ruby dog with a rich red silky coat shown in immaculate condition. Large, dark, frontally placed eyes. Shoulder well laid back, top line level on the move and standing. Tail carriage correct. Not quite eighteen months old, this young dog is still developing.

OPEN DOG (7) "A lovely class."

1. **Ch Forestcreek Heart of Rock N' Roll, JW** (Gregory/Cline)
Compact, tidy little blenheim dog with a pleasing outline and shape: slightly longer than tall with enough leg under him to identify him immediately as a Cavalier. A judge's first impression of any dog is always on the ground and from a slight distance away. This dog did not disappoint, having a lovely arch of neck, short hard back, short loin, correct tail placement and the aforementioned amount of leg desired. On the table he fulfilled his early promise with a sweet expression created by large, dark, frontally placed eyes, dark pigment and cushioning under the eyes. Ear placement high but not close, completing the picture. Good spring of rib and well-muscled hindquarter. Ribs well-sprung. Moved with reach and drive maintaining his top line; tail carried off his back or at most ever so slightly raised. Coat a silky texture and in good condition. A typey boy which to this breeder's eye seemed the personification of a Cavalier. Pleased to award him **WINNERS DOG and BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX** in strong competition.
2. **Ch Bonitos Companeros Vahir** (Lemon/Lemon)
Another lovely, well-broken blenheim boy with a soft, sweet expression and kind face.

Huge, dark, round eyes with ample fill beneath; dark pigment. Although I preferred the shorter loin on the first placed dog, this lovely boy simply exuded breed type as well.

3. **Ch Mimric American Heartthrob** (Bolster/Hodges)
Blenheim boy with ample fill beneath his large dark eyes. Sweet expression. Wellmade; maintained a solid top line on the move and standing. Shorter in loin than the dog behind him, which helped keep his back and top line strong. Showed well and was presented in beautiful condition.
4. **Ch Tudorr Rhythm & Blues, JW** (Mixon)
Yet another blenheim boy with a lovely outline immediately noticeable as he trotted into the ring: moving smoothly with reach and drive, slight arch of neck indicating well-laid shoulders; top line level and tail carried off his back. Beautiful head with large dark eyes, fill beneath and high ear set to create a soft, sweet expression. Loin slightly longer than the above dogs, nevertheless a quality animal.

JUNIOR PUPPY BITCH (6)

1. **RanLyn's Tiffany Diamond** (Bragg)
Typey, well-broken Blenheim girl with a sweet face; large dark eyes and ample fill. Mouth correct. Shoulders well-laid back, lovely neck/shoulder transition. Moved well.
BEST PUPPY BITCH
2. **Brookhaven Spend A Penny** (Ayers & Martz)
Another pretty little doll face girl; large dark round eyes with a sweet expression. Well-broken.
3. **Lewiswood Because I'm Happy at Hollytree** (Seymour)
Tricolor with a pretty face. Large eyes, fill. Silky, straight coat so desirable in a tricolor; bright rust markings. Showed well.
4. **Closeburn Bonny St Margaret** (Fairchild)
Cute little girl. Well-broken tricolor with a doll-baby face. Unfortunately I could not see her move. Perhaps another time.

SENIOR PUPPY BITCH (2)

1. **Foxwyn Charmed I'm Sure** (Fox/Fox)
Well-broken blenheim girl with large dark eyes and a sweet expression. Top line held steady, tail carriage correct.
2. **Brookhaven Spend A Penny** (Ayers/Martz)
Gorgeous, well-broken blenheim girl with large dark eyes and a soft expression. Typey. Out-moved on this day by the first placed bitch.

GRADUATE PUPPY BITCH (2)

1. **Huntcrest Early Edition** (Weiner-Pope)
Typey little Blenheim girl with large dark eyes and a very pretty expression. Well broken.

2. **RanLyn's Cristalle de Chanel** (Bragg)
Well-broken blenheim girl with lovely dark eyes and a sweet expression. Moved well.

Novice Bitch (2)

1. **Darane White Wedding** (Kates)
Well-broken blenheim. Smaller, compact girl with ample bone and substance. Large dark round eyes and soft expression. Well-arched neck leading into a hard back, shorter loin and good tail carriage. Moves well, maintaining her top line.
2. **Chadwick Hypnotiq Blu** (Taub)
Larger, well-broken blenheim girl with large, dark, round eyes. Soft expression and kind attitude.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCH (2)

1. **Closeburn Bonnie Wee Kilt** (Fairchild)
Smaller tricolor with ample bone and substance for her small size. Well-broken with straight silky coat so desirable in a tricolor. Large dark eyes with dark pigment surrounding her eyes and nose. Expression soft. Top line level, tail carried right off the back; a true Toy Spaniel.
BEST TRICOLOR IN SHOW

JUNIOR AMERICAN BRED BITCH (1)

1. **Hollytree Lollipop** (Seymour)
Well-broken blenheim bitch with the prerequisite large, dark, round eyes.

AMERICAN BRED BITCH (3)

1. **Mimric Fiddle Dee Dee, JW** (Hodges/Perkins)
Blenheim girl with a pretty head, large dark eyes and ample fill giving her a sweet expression. Moved well with a strong hard back and good tail carriage to complete the picture.
2. **Brookhaven Susie Q** (Ayers/Martz)
Beautiful head and wonderful, large eyes on this typey blenheim bitch. Soft, sweet expression; mouth correct. Shown in impeccable coat and condition. Top line just behind the shoulders slightly soft today, but a lovely girl nevertheless.
3. **Closeburn Bonnie Baronet** (Fairchild)
Well broken blenheim girl with a happy attitude. Large, dark eyes and a soft expression. Moved and showed well.

SPECIAL LIMIT BLENHEIM BITCH (2)

1. **Forestcreek Honey Ryder, JW** (Cline/Cline)
This three-year-old bitch is moderate in all aspects, exuding Breed type without a trace of exaggeration. Lovely, well-broken blenheim with the overall shape and balance I always hope to find: slightly longer than tall with a short loin and strong, hard back. Correct

amount of leg under her in balance with her length. Beautiful head and soft expression with large, dark, round eyes correctly placed on the front of her face. Pigment around the eyes and nose dark. Ample fill beneath the eyes helped create her sweet expression, yet in no way was she “overdone.” Ears correctly set: high but not close. Lovely, well-arched neck leading into well-laid shoulders.

Balanced front and rear and moving smoothly. Teamwork between the exhibit to her handler was easily apparent. Happy to award her **WINNERS BITCH, BEST AMERICAN BRED IN SHOW, BEST AMERICAN BRED BITCH, BEST BLENHEIM IN SHOW, BEST BLENHEIM BITCH.**

2. **Jayba In A Nutshell** (Lander/Lander.)

Darling little blenheim bitch who simply exuded breed type. Compact bitch with plenty of substance and bone to fit her small size. Moderate in every detail. Lovely head and expression with large, dark round eyes and a pleasing amount of fill. Ears set correctly on her head: high but not close. (This is an aspect of breed type I like to make note of because lower set ears are often accompanied by a slightly domed head. Either feature, while sometimes adorable, is absolutely incorrect.) This little girl moved right out with reach and drive, tail carried correctly off her back and in gentle motion as she moved. She showed beautifully, seeming to have a definite agenda: she had places to go and seemed determined to get there with as little wasted motion as possible. Smooth, ground-covering movement is a joy to see and I loved watching this one trot out. Outline and “way of going” are essential elements of breed type. Pleased to award her **RESERVE WINNERS BITCH, BEST BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCH IN SHOW, BEST BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCH**

SPECIAL LIMIT RUBY BITCH (1)

1. **Azalearun Red Hot Valentine** (Taylor)

Larger girl with a lovely straight coat in excellent condition. Dark, round eyes correctly placed. Pigment dark. Good shoulder lay back, nice arch of neck and level top line which she held on the move.

OPEN BITCH (4)

1. **Brookhaven Believe In Me** (Ayers/Martz)

Compact, moderate, typey little blenheim bitch with a balanced outline viewed from afar. Beautiful head with large, dark eyes, well-filled below and correct ear placement with abundant feathering. Good shoulder and accompanying short loin helped produce a pleasing outline. Moved smoothly, maintaining her top line.

2. **Ch Tassajara Forestcreek Cristal** (Cline)

Gorgeous bitch with all the aspects of a Cavalier head one could possibly hope for: large dark round eyes, ample fill, top skull appearing flat, ears set high but not close. Coat and furnishings in excellent condition. The total picture created by these features was quite gorgeous. Preferred the balance and top line of the first placed bitch.

3. **Ch Iloo Dite Ilan Du Jardin De Claire of Sumara, JW** (Gentil)

Darling little black-and-tan girl with large, dark round eyes and a sweet expression. Rich tan on silky jet black with no trace of curl or coarseness. Balanced and moved well. **BEST BLACK-and-TAN IN SHOW, BEST BLACK-and-TAN BITCH**

4. **Brookhaven Lucky Penny** (Taylor/Ayers)
Bright red ruby of slightly longer proportions. Pretty eyes, top line level, tail carried
5. correctly off her back.

SENIOR OPEN BITCH (3) “A lovely class.”

1. **Ch Denham Dreamed About, J W** (Maddox)
Well-made ruby with a sweet face and expression. Large, dark eyes; plenty of fill, but in no way overdone. Balanced front and rear; shoulder well laid back, loin short, rear well angulated. Moved well holding her top line, tail carriage correct. A worthy champion keeping herself fit. **BEST RUBY IN SHOW, BEST RUBY BITCH**
2. **Ch Chesham A Minute Of Your Time, JW** (Eckersley/Taub)
Pretty little Blenheim girl with a darling expression, eyes large and dark. Moved well. Fully engaged in her job and showing beautifully.
3. **Nightingale Kismet at Kyneslane, JW** (Paplauckas)
Happy blenheim girl with large dark eyes and a sweet expression. Showing well.

VETERAN DOG (2)

1. **Ch Nightingale Heatwave, JW** (Mulligan)
Bobby! It seems like only yesterday this little guy was winning “Best Puppy” awards at every show. Compact, moderate dog with the shape and balance I love to see. Head and expression still lovely. Although he’s ten years old, he still moves and shows like a youngster. Well done, breeder & caretaker Mandy Mulligan.
BEST VETERAN IN SHOW
2. **Karvale Brookhaven Finn** (Utych)
Another sound, happy boy, moving soundly and showing well. More congratulations to his breeder and owner.

VETERAN BITCH (1)

1. **Nightingale Kismet at Kyneslane** (Paplauckas)
Pretty girl with lovely eyes and expression. Moving soundly.

BROOD BITCH (1)

1. **Huntland Coco Chanel** (Land/Land/Bragg)
The purpose of the Brood Bitch Class is to compare several offspring of a given animal and see if you can determine similarities and qualities which they share in common, thus reflecting well on their dam as a producer. Although there was only one entry in this class it was nice to see that the dam’s offspring were all indeed beautiful, typey animals and did share qualities in common. Although when judging I was not aware of who the sires were, if the get were all from different sires and looked similar that would also reflect very well on the dam. Well done.