

CAVALIERS OF THE SOUTH

MAY 17, 2025 – GREENSBORO, NC

SCOTT TONEY - AKC JUDGE, MIDWOOD JAPANESE CHIN

Sincere thanks to the club and its members for entrusting me with judging your dogs. It is obvious that this event was a labor of love, and I cannot imagine all of the hard work that went into making everything so perfect. I was honored to be a part of it, and this assignment ranks as one of my judging highlights.

I owned a lovely “Old Club” registered Cavalier in the early nineties and have bred and exhibited Japanese Chin for many years. Many breeder/exhibitors around the world, especially in the UK and America, breed and show both Japanese Chin (formerly known as Japanese Spaniels) and Cavaliers, and find them to be very compatible and easy to manage. Because of this connection, I have always felt a special affinity for your breed.

I was incredibly pleased with the overall quality of the entry. I was able to focus on the paramount qualities of elegance and royal appearance married to type, soundness, and overall balance. I was also impressed with the sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship amongst the exhibitors. What a lovely example you set.

I was not asked to critique the puppies entered in the Pee Wee competition, but I would be remiss if I did not comment that they were brimming with breed type, exhibited wonderful balance, and displayed the fearless Cavalier character. Kudos to their breeders.

The Cavalier is a toy dog of sporting character, possessing one of the most fabulous temperaments of any breed. This temperament should always be on display both on the table and on the move. I’d rather see a Cavalier being naughty in the ring than standing like a statue or dropping its tail on the move. I encourage you to talk to your dogs, let them have fun, and keep them “up” and happy on the move. The judge will have many opportunities to see their structure and movement, so keep it lighthearted for both you and the dog, and the rest will fall into place.

Scott Toney

DOGS

JUNIOR PUPPY DOG (4)

- 1) **BROOKHAVEN SEARCHING FOR A RAINBOW (Gregory)** – This young dog was of perfect size and balance displaying typical Cavalier temperament. I especially appreciated his fluid rear movement showing strong drive which matched his forward reach. Well broken up coat, pleasing head and expression, and he kept a lovely topline on

the move. Chest should broaden and drop with time. **BEST PUPPY DOG & BEST PUPPY IN SHOW**

- 2) **CROWNROSE AS YOU WISH (Rosenberg/Rosenberg)** – Similar in many ways to the class winner, but just a tad longer in loin. Delightful temperament, and it was a joy to see how attentive he was to his owner. Lustrous, dark eyes framed by well set ears.
- 3) **ALMEARA MAKE MY DAY (Whitmire)** – This puppy had his tail in constant motion whether on the move or standing still. I appreciated his ears set high on head, and framing his face beautifully. He was a tad lower stationed, but this could change as he continues to mature. All of this owner's dogs were trained to perfection but were never robotic, always exhibiting great freedom and joy in the ring.
- 4) **CAMERONA TRUTH BE TOLD (Cameron)** – This owner had her puppy in absolute perfect condition. It was a joy to feel his correct silky coat, so soft to the touch. He was a bit larger boy but still maintained proper balance of legs to body. He was a little unsure on the table but gained confidence as he moved around the ring.

SENIOR PUPPY DOG (1)

- 1) **MAGNOLIARUM WINSTON (Guzy)** – A tricolor puppy with ring presence! Although not quite a year old, he enjoyed covering every bit of the ring and absolutely owned the space he was in. So clean coming at me with good reach but would like to have seen a bit more drive and purpose in his rear action. This can come in time with maturity, muscle development, and timing.

GRADUATE PUPPY DOG (1)

- 1) **JAYBA MY GUY, JW (Lander/Lander)** – So much to love about this puppy. He had the richest chestnut color coat in perfect condition. His skull was slightly rounded without hint of dome or peak. An absolute doll on the table, showing me every bit of the typical Cavalier temperament. Rock solid topline on the move. Showed well but could use a tad bit more animation in motion.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR DOG (1)

- 1) **TUDORR BRINGING HOME THE BLUES (Mixon/Mixon)** – I so appreciated the pristine condition this dog was presented in. No staining, no broken coat, and perfect silky texture to the touch. He is of the richest chestnut red with a perfectly marked head. His lustrous, limpid eyes were very appealing, and he was sound and pretty on the move. He moved in tune with his enthusiastic handler, and at times the excitement of the moment caused him to carry his tail just a bit higher than preferred.

JUNIOR AMERICAN BRED DOG (2)

- 1) **FIELDSEGE BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE (Slusher/Slusher/Smith)** – My heart beat a little faster when I first saw this ruby dog. First, he is the perfect size with

correct, moderate bone in proportion to his size. Neither weedy, nor coarse – he was just right. Magnificent head with cushioning in all the right places but without being overdone. In glorious condition and shouted “breed type” to me. His tail carriage was just what the standard asks for, and it was set perfectly so that it was carried level with his back. I gave him an award of merit but he could easily have pushed for higher honors if he showed more purpose and animation on the move. He was happy but seemed to lose a little interest the longer he was in the ring. **BEST RUBY IN SHOW & AWARD OF MERIT #2**

- 2) **ALMEARA BLADE RUNNER (Whitmire)** – This young tri dog was not ready to take a top honor today, but I am interested in watching his development. He still needs more cushioning under the eyes, and he could stand to gain some weight. With that said, he has a body that is a joy to go over and watch on the move. Too many dogs are lacking the desired “fairly long” neck with crest arching gently into the shoulders, but this dog had an exquisite front assembly matched by a correct rear. All the ingredients are there, and if his head and body continue to develop, he could turn into a real contender.

AMERICAN BRED DOG (3)

- 1) **TASSAJARA HIGH LIFE (Seidman/Seidman)** – This dog is a bit larger cast, but the more I examined him and watched him on the move, the more I appreciated his qualities, and what he can offer the breed. I loved his length of rib in proportion to his shortness of loin. He is a “one piece” dog and moved with all body parts in sync and balance. He displayed the much-loved Cavalier temperament, was so attentive to his owner, and enjoyed every second in the ring. If anything, you could ask for a little more length of neck, but this dog was solid as a rock while still maintaining correct type. **AWARD OF MERIT #1**
- 2) **FIELDSEGE BALDUR (Norton)** – This lovely young male looked up at both me and his owner with adoring eyes, exhibiting the characteristic melting expression that is so sought after in the breed. Lovely Blenheim with a well broken up coat. Just a smidge longer in body than the first-place dog, and a bit unlucky to run up against him on the day. He should do very well at future shows.
- 3) **NIGHTINGALE REVOLUTION, AW, MP, (Cameron)** – Lovely head type on this dog, and I took note of his well tapered muzzle, neither snipey nor sharp, and of the perfect length to give toy character without betraying his spaniel heritage. I would have preferred more neck, and the rear of his coat had more than a bit of wave bordering on a curl.

SPECIAL LIMIT BLENHEIM DOG (1)

- 1) **BLUE SKYE’S NAPAL’S HIDDEN GEM – HARLEN (Colacchio)** – I appreciated this dog’s lovely temperament most of all. He was full of himself, and in full flight Cavalier “joy mode” fearlessly enjoying every moment in the ring and

showing off his sporting spaniel roots. His owner has him in perfect condition, and his silky coat was perfectly groomed and gleaming. Excellent bite and pigment. He is of a larger size and still needs to develop his foot timing.

SPECIAL LIMIT TRICOLOR DOG (1)

- 1) **MELKS ABBEY SEVENTH SON AT GRAY STONE (Dralle/Dralle)** – A tricolor in lovely condition. It's apparent the owner has established a lovely bond with this dog, and it was more than evident as he intently looked at her with the Cavalier soft expression set on his face. Slightly longer than tall with no tuck up, and a strong, short loin. He is in good weight. Showed beautifully in his class, but by the winners dog challenge, he had enough and let down a bit in energy.

SPECIAL LIMIT RUBY DOG (1)

- 1) **PINACLEE NOBODY BUT ME AT STOREYLAND (Gallagher/Glisson)** – This dog was a real joy to judge, because he was yet another example of an owner who has established a connection with her dog that makes them great teammates in the ring. This Ruby had the loveliest size and balance. Moderate bone, height and length all in proportion, and good topline on the move. His eyes are a strength; so dark, lustrous and set off by his lovely ruby color. At times he carried his tail a bit high, and I would have liked a touch more length of neck.

OPEN DOG (8)

- 1) **CH BROOKHAVEN CHARCOAL, JW (Gregory)** – Everything came together for this exquisite black and tan today, and he was my definitive winners dog. This dog is the perfect size and balance for the breed. Slightly longer than tall, and the right degree of bone perfectly straddling the line between traditional spaniel and toy. I loved his exquisite head and noted his correct muzzle length with well covered lips; nothing sharp or snipey about it. I was very happy to see he also has the most graceful neck of good length that so smoothly transitions into well laid back shoulders, and right into his dead level topline. Clever on his feet while moving. The frosting on the cake was his correctly set tail carried at exactly the right height and in characteristic motion while on the move. Coat and body in perfect condition.

WINNERS DOG, BEST OPPOSITE SEX & BEST BLACK & TAN IN SHOW

- 2) **CH FALLING SPRINGS BLACK FLAME AT MADRYN, JW, AW, CTKN (Weeks/Weeks/Curley)** – If there were an award just for showmanship, this dog would have won it. He loved every minute in the ring, never let down for one second, and always perfectly managed his enthusiasm so that he never took a misstep. His dark luminous eyes were so appealing, and he had an expression that would melt the hardest heart. Very close to the class winner, but I preferred the croup/tailset of one.

- 3) **CH FALLING SPRINGS JUST YOU WAIT AT CROWNROSE, JW, AW (Rosenberg/Rosenberg)** – This Blenheim was in terrific condition both from a coat, and musculature perspective. His correct construction and front/rear angles were evident by his balanced and free moving action on the move. Tailset was a natural extension of his firm topline. A bit longer in body.
- 4) **CH FORESTCREEK THE SHOWMAN AT TUDOR, JW, AW, MP (Mixon/Mixon/Cline/Marshall)** – Classic Cavalier head type! I could look at his face all day. Lovely expression, just the right amount of cushioning, and perfectly placed ears setting it all off to great advantage. I also loved this dog's balance; the proportion of rib length to loin was just right, and no parts seemed out of place or exaggerated. He could have easily placed higher, but at times he had a mind of his own, and did not always move in sync with his handler.

SENIOR OPEN DOG (1)

- 5) **CH ROYALMARK REMINISCENCE AT CAMERON, AW, VW, (Cameron)** – This almost 11-year-old dog was my surprise of the day. His award was not based on sentimentality because of his age, because as judges we judge on the day and not based on what a dog once was, or how it might develop. Regardless of age, this dog was of a size and structure that would be impressive in any Cavalier. Balanced, rock solid topline on the move, tail always in motion, and one of the most beautiful heads of the day. He enjoyed every moment in the ring, and I had zero doubt in my mind about rewarding him with one of my top placements. My only small critique is his coat was not in quite the finished condition as my best in show and best of opposite winners. [**RESERVE WINNERS DOG**](#)

BITCHES

JUNIOR PUPPY BITCH (3)

- 1) **CHADWICK VIVID VIOLET OF CEILIMOR (McCarty/Eckersley)** – Lovely bitch with classic head. Lovely arched neck extending into correctly laid-back shoulders and level topline that she kept on the move. Clean on the move. A bit longer in body.
- 2) **INGOLD MISS LITTLE UPSTICK (Pickett)** – Dainty, feminine and refined with lovely head type and sweet temperament. Very clean movement, but on the day carried herself just a bit high in the rear.
- 3) **JAYBA SUGAR N SPICE (Lander/Lander)** – This girl has a beautifully broken up deep chestnut coat on a pearly white background. Level topline on the move, but she was a touch overwhelmed by the big stage and couldn't quite get over the hump to enjoy herself.

SENIOR PUPPY BITCH (3)

- 1) **NORTHPOINTE HOT GOSSIP (Mitchum)** – Typey bitch of correct size with a very pleasing head that was plush without being overdone. Gay, friendly demeanor and so happy to be in the ring. Tail was carried a bit high at brief moments, but overall, very pretty in silhouette and in motion. **BEST PUPPY BITCH**
- 2) **NIGHTINGALE ALTHEA AT FOXWYN (Baker-Fox)** – I was pleased to see yet another bitch with lovely breed type and head. Such a sweet temperament, but at times she was hesitant on the move and carried herself a bit low.
- 3) **INTERNATIONAL STAR MAGIC OAK (Hanzie)** – A larger bitch in immaculate condition. Good cushioning under eyes and pristine pearly white background with no staining to be found anywhere. A little high in the rear evidenced while moving.

GRADUATE PUPPY BITCH (2)

- 1) **JAYBA SISTER FROM ANOTHER MISTER (Lander/Lander)** – Another Cavalier from this kennel displaying beautiful breed type. She has the darkest of eyes with a sweet expression. I appreciated her proud head carriage and level topline on the move. Would prefer more drive in her rear action.
- 2) **RIVERLEIGH LOVED BY THE MUSES (Fletcher/Dingman)** – A bitch with a head any breeder would be proud of. Lovely well broken up coat. Carried her head low on the move which in turn lifted her rear.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCH (2)

- 1) **CH ALMEARA LOVE HER MADLY, JW (Whitmire)** – As beautiful as this bitch is standing, she's even better to go over. She's beautifully constructed, and I noted her good length of leg in proportion to her short loined body. Her well-turned stifle coupled with short hocks all contributed to her lovely movement and positive rear action. She has lovely carriage on the move, and carries such a level topline that you could balance a teacup on it. This girl and her owner were a perfectly choreographed team never taking a misstep. Very pleased to recognize her as **RESERVE WINNERS BITCH & RESERVE BEST IN SHOW**
- 2) **ABOSCOBEL IN A TWIST (Norton)** – This bitch was a joy to go over. I absolutely loved her shape, size and head, and I also appreciated the effort her owner takes to keep her in lovely coat and condition. She could drive with more action, and her topline did not always stay true.

JUNIOR AMERICAN BRED BITCH (1)

- 1) **LINRICA VARENNA (Hsiung/Liu)** – I always appreciate a Cavalier that shows true toy type while maintaining the spaniel character. This bitch exemplified that. Beautiful deep chestnut color, and happy to show off for everyone. Moved a little wide in the front which could improve as she matures as she is just now a year old.

AMERICAN BRED BITCH (3)

- 1) **INGOLD IN THE NAVY (Pickett)** – The more I saw of this little bitch the more I liked and appreciated her very correct virtues. She was not in great coat on the day, but it was easy to determine that the texture was correct. This girl was alert, on her toes, and with her straight legs and tight elbows made such a pretty picture coming at you. I loved her correct ear set, and she used her ears beautifully when alert showing off her correct head and skull. Beautiful pigment. A true toy spaniel. **AWARD OF MERIT #1**
- 2) **LIVELYOAK CROWNROSE A LITTLE BIT (Rosenberg/Rosenberg)** – This pretty bitch is proof you can show a Cavalier in lovely coat without trimming or sculpting. She kept a perfect topline on the move and showed off her sound temperament. Lovely muzzle of correct length and cushioning. Tiny bit of white in corner of eyes.
- 3) **FIELDSEGE THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME (Slusher/Slusher)** – I really like this bitch, and her handler has such a gentle hand on her dogs. She has lovely head type with dark, round eyes that draw you in. She was not displaying enthusiasm on the day which affected her movement and outline. When she is on, she will place much higher.

AMERICAN BRED BITCH (3)

- 1) **BROOKHAVEN AZURA'S STAR AT MADRYN (Hasser)** – Such a sweet girl displaying the sought-after Cavalier temperament that must always be preserved in the breed. Great size and shape and in tune with her owner. Unfortunately, showing flesh color on her nose.

OPEN BITCH (8)

- 1) **CH TASSAJARA JALAPENO PEPPER, AW (Seidman/Seidman)** – I was spoiled by having more than one Cavalier worthy of best in show, but this graceful little girl was my clear winner. She is proof that you can have a smaller Cavalier absolutely overflowing with breed type but also built soundly with all parts working in perfect harmony. Excellent topline leading to correct croup and tailset which in turn allowed her to carry her wagging tail at the perfect height on the move. Lovely front, well sprung ribs, and short in loin. Correct rear with moderate bend of stifle, and I admired her well cushioned feet with strong pasterns. Nothing in exaggeration, and she moved in accordance with her balanced structure. Even though I took in the qualities of her head and face at first examination, I purposely re-examined her head twice more just to soak in her lovely Cavalier type. Very privileged to find her at my first Old Club assignment. **WINNERS BITCH, BEST BRED BY**

**EXHIBITOR, BEST AMERICAN BRED, BEST BLENHEIM, &
BEST IN SHOW**

- 2) **CH FALLING SPRINGS CROWNROSE BLACK VELVET, JW, AW (Rosenberg/Rosenberg)** – Yet another lovely black and tan entered at this show. Beautiful head type with the sought after limpid, dark eyes. Beautifully cushioned face, and attractive length of muzzle with just the right amount of taper. She is soundly constructed, and what I appreciated about her and her handler is the longer they were in the ring, the better she got. She started off strong, and the more I moved her the more she stepped out with great style and enthusiasm. A lovely team. **AWARD OF MERIT #2**
- 3) **AUTUMNHILL I LOVE TROUBLE, JW (Parente)** – Very pretty Blenheim girl with a perfectly broken coat. Kudos to her owner for having her in exquisite condition; glamorous but also well-muscled and purposeful on the move. This is the type of bitch you can just as easily envision winning top awards or passing on her lovely attributes in the whelping box. If pressed, I would ask for a shorter, stronger loin.
- 4) **CH FIELDSEDGE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD, JW (Slusher/Slusher/Smith)** – This is a bitch that captures your attention on type alone. Such a sweet expression and she has dark eyes that are not only round and limpid, but also well set apart, giving her an expression that lures you in. Would ask for just a touch more length of leg.

VETERAN BITCH (1)

- 1) **CH MADRYN PORT ROYAL, AW (Hasser/Hasser)** – A lovely ruby lady perfectly sized and in good balance. Her dark eyes were as luminous and clear as young bitch, and I appreciated the virtue of an almost 12-year-old keeping such a strong topline on the move. Loved seeing her slightly arched neck flow smoothly into her well laid back shoulders. **BEST VETERAN IN SHOW**