CAVALIERS OF THE WEST SEPTEMBER 4, 2022, OAKLAND, CA ERICA VENIER, ORCHARD HILL CAVALIERS

Thank you to The Cavaliers of the West for your invitation to judge on Saturday, September 4, 2022. My sincere thanks, also, to the exhibitors for your entries and for your gracious acceptance of my choices on the day.

Judging is an honor I do not take lightly. As a lifetime student of dogs I judge my entries with no less diligence than I apply to my own dogs. Long term fanciers know that a serious breeder is first and foremost a judge of breeding stock. An outstanding Cavalier is difficult to produce; I honor the efforts of those serious breeders who continue to raise the bar, seeking perfection and being humbled daily for your efforts.

As a breeder and judge I am always looking for a moderate Cavalier with the overall shape and outline described in the Standard. To the educated eye, correct outline of any breed is apparent from a distance, in any color and regardless of markings. Balance is an integral part of outline. A balanced dog with well-laid shoulders and matching well-angulated hind quarters will appear to float as it moves, its superior structure propelling the dog forward with a minimum of effort and no wasted motion. Although Cavaliers have been called "a head breed" I also maintain a deep appreciation of any dog who glides around the ring with no wasted motion. Such a dog is a joy to behold regardless of breed. To my great delight I was able to find several typey Cavaliers whose correct construction was evident both on the table and on the move.

Although most eyes were large and dark, I was disappointed to find smaller eyes on more than a few exhibits. Light eyes were also evident, although less frequently. As a judges. we are considering breeding stock. Distracting light eyes inherit readily and therefore were penalized. As breeders we need to keep ourselves aware of coming trends. Large, dark, round, frontally placed eyes are a hallmark of the breed. I rewarded them.

Solid color is widely evident in the breed right now and doesn't seem to be a disadvantage in the ring. Yet as breeders we would all be advised to continue to work towards an awareness of maintaining broken color in our dogs. Color isn't everything. But it's worth considering when planning breedings.

In both Dogs and Bitches my final cuts were an absolute joy. My most sincere hope as a breeder is to produce dogs which will benefit the Breed in years to come. My top winners all shared qualities which, if carefully monitored, should be an asset to our Breed. To me that consideration is the most significant part of any judge's assignment.

The welfare of the Breed is in our hands.

Erica Venier

DOGS

JUNIOR PUPPY DOG (1)

1) **MINGCHIN YUKON RIVER AT HIGH FLIGHT** (Parris/Parris) Delightful youngster with dark round eyes and a soft expression. Straight, silky coat of a rich Blenheim color. Topline level, tail carriage correct on the move.

SENIOR PUPPY DOG (2)

- BELLA ROSE GUCCI GU (Becker) Attractive young male with large, frontally-placed eyes, ample fill and a soft expression. Lovely shape; balanced front and rear and standing well under himself. Excellent proportion. Correct coat texture: straight and silky. Good spring of rib, shoulders well laid back and matched perfectly in the rear. Not surprisingly his construction allowed him to move out smoothly, maintaining a level topline and correct tail carriage on the move. Just a baby but the promise is there. <u>BEST PUPPY</u> <u>DOG & BEST PUPPY IN SHOW</u>
- 2) **KENDALL KASTLE LOVE IS IN THE HEIR** (Ogle) Another attractive young Blenheim dog with large, dark eyes and good coat texture, so important to maintain in a breeding program. Moved smoothly.

GRADUATE PUPPY DOG (3)

- FALLING SPRINGS JUST YOU WAIT AT CROWNROSE (Rosenberg/Rosenberg) Well broken young Blenheim dog. Typey head and expression with large dark eyes accented by ample fill beneath. Ears well placed. Excellent neck/shoulder transition. Good spring of rib and chest well let down. Well balanced with good angles front and rear. Moved smoothly maintaining a level topline and correct tail carriage. Another young hopeful.
- 2) **TUDORR RETURN OF THE VELVET TEDDY BEAR** (Mixon/Mixon) Well broken Blenheim with a pretty head, dark eyes round eyes and deep pigment. Soft expression created by the combination of his large eyes, ample cushioning and well placed ears. Showed well.
- 3) **INTRYNZIC LOLLIEGAG** (Goodwin/Goodwin) Attractive head, sweet face with definite dark round eyes. Dark pigment around the eyes and on the nose. Moved close behind, effecting any potential drive. Great attitude.

BRED-BY EXHIBITOR DOG (3)

- 1) **aSTARRING ALL THE CAT'S PAJAMAS** (Flowers Foster) Eye-catching Blenheim dog with large, dark frontally placed eyes so necessary for correct breed type. Muzzle well cushioned and ears used to his advantage, creating the soft expression we always hope to find. Straight coat texture, which is always an advantage. Well-balanced front and rear, but moved with his head down, effecting his outline. Tail carriage correct. Well-conditioned and presented.
- 2) **CH. HARRINGTON THE BEAR NECESSITIES** (Tompkins/Gonyo/Gonyo) Another lovely, well-broken Blenheim dog; dark, round eyes and a soft expression. Moved smoothly, using his correct construction to move out efficiently. Tail carriage correct.
- 3) CH. IVYLINE RHINESTONE COWBOY (Giampapa) Gorgeous head on this entry with generous fill beneath large dark eyes. Correct coat, well-turned out. Showed well.

JUNIOR AMERICAN BRED DOG (2)

- 1) **BELLAROSE PICCOLO** (Becker) Well-broken young Blenheim dog with a straight silky coat. Large, dark round eyes facing forward as they should. Dark surrounding pigment accentuated his dark eyes. Soft expression; well anglulated; tail carriage correct.
- 2) NIGHTHAWK HE'LL OUTSHINE THE STARS (Dolan/Dolan/Mitchell) Attractive head with good cushioning beneath large, dark, round eyes. Nose and eye pigment dark. Soft expression.

AMERICAN BRED DOG (5)

- DELSOL MAGIC CARPET (Macrae/McHenry) An impressive dog with all the bells and whistles required to create breed type. Well-broken Blenheim with rich rufous color on a pearly white background unmarred by ticking or freckles. Eyes dark and round and accentuated by deep pigment around the eyes, mouth and on the nose. Lovely head with the desired softness and cushioning we all want to see, yet without any exaggeration. Well-arched neck leading into well-laid shoulders and pleasing shoulder/neck transition. Matching well-angulated rear. Well sprung ribs, chest deep, loin short. Moved out effortlessly with no wasted motion. Here is the proverbial "one piece dog" which to me means the animal is well-made and balanced, all of its parts working together in harmony. At one with his handler who showed him quietly, allowing the dog's virtues to do all the talking. Pleased to award him <u>RESERVE WINNERS DOG & BEST</u> <u>AMERICAN BRED DOG</u> in excellent competition.
- 2) **FORESTCREEK I'M THE MAN, MP** (Cline/Cline/Cline) Sweet-faced Blenheim boy with a pleasing head and the large dark, round, frontally placed eyes so necessary for Cavalier breed type. Correct coat texture; beautifully turned out and showing well. A balanced dog; moving smoothly albeit slightly restricted.
- 3) **COVINGTON FULL METAL ALCHEMIST** (Christenen/James) Well broken Blenheim with large, dark, round eyes correctly placed looking forward. Balanced movement, holding his top line on the move. At one with his handler.
- 4) **NIGHTHAWK GAME CHANGER** (Crail/Mitchell) Well-broken Blenheim boy with an attractive head shape. Ears well set, top skull appearing almost flat. Ample cushioning beneath correctly placed, large round eyes. Chest deep, ribs well-sprung. Showed well.

HEALTH AND CONFORMATION (1)

 CAN CH. DEL SOL ONE MORE LOOK AT QUAIL RUN (Kornhi) Well made seven and a half-year-old Blenheim dog. Well laid shoulders and matching well angulated rear. Hard back, short loin. Moving well down and back and around the ring. Proof positive that well-made dogs hold up over time. <u>BEST HEALTH &</u> <u>CONFORMATION IN SHOW</u>

SPECIAL LIMIT BLENHEIM DOG (3)

- 1) **FORESTCREEK JAZZFEST** (Goodwin/Cline) Eye catching Blenheim dog with a gorgeous head and expression. The proverbial large, dark round eyes with ample fill beneath them helped create his soft expression. Good proportions. Moved smoothly, maintaining his top line. Tail carried off his back. Showed well.
- 2) **COVINGTON RHAEGAL** (Gonyo/Mohn) Another lovely, well broken Blenheim boy with a beautiful head and large dark eyes. Ample cushioning beneath his eyes contributed to his soft expression. Moved smoothly, showed well.

3) **NIGHTHAWK'S GREAT EXPECTATIONS** (Dirks/Mitchell) Attractive Blenheim boy with a straight silky coat turned out to perfection. Large, round eyes of the darkest shade of brown imaginable. Moved well, holding his topline.

SPECIAL LIMIT RUBY DOG (1)

1) COBRNIK INTRYNZIK COUNT ROWAN (Hudspeth/Cook) Attractive ruby with a straight silky coat of correct texture. Lovely head with a practically flat top skull and well placed ears. His soft expression was complimented by large, dark frontally placed eyes with ample cushioning beneath them. <u>BEST RUBY IN SHOW</u>

OPEN DOG (2)

1) CH & ENG CH. PASCAVALE HAIDAN AW (Cline)

- A well-broken, moderate Blenheim dog who is not extreme in any way. He creates a picture of breed type as he floats confidently around the ring. Here is a smooth moving, one-piece animal who maintains his topline standing and on the move. Neck/shoulder transition create a smooth line from his top skull gracefully down to his shoulders and continuing to his croup and correct tail carriage. Handsome head with dark, round, frontally placed eyes. Dark pigment, ample cushioning. Any slight discrepancies I may have noticed were easily forgiven by point of his many outstanding virtues. My sincere compliments to his breeders. *WINNERS DOG, BEST BLENHEIM IN SHOW, BEST IN SHOW*
- 2) **CROSSBOW BALOO FROM THE JUNGLE AT BLUESTARA** (Brezine/Alverez) Attractive Blenheim boy with beautiful dark eyes and a soft expression. Moved with reach and drive both coming and going and around the ring. Although I preferred the construction of the first placed dog this dog was typey, well turned out and showing beautifully.

BITCHES

JUNIOR PUPPY BITCH (3)

- DREAMVALE AMERICAN DYNASTY AT CROWNROSE (Rosenberg/Rosenberg) Sweet-faced baby with dark round eyes correctly placed. Well-broken straight coat. Balanced; moves smoothly, tail off her back. <u>BEST PUPPY BITCH</u>
- 2) **IVYLINE IMA DOLL** (Giampapa) Beautiful little rascal with large dark round eyes and a soft expression. Balanced movement. Flat croup causing her high tail carriage.
- 3) LA RIENA BEATRIX (Roberts-Espinosa) Well-broken Blenheim baby with dark round eyes. Unsettled movement on this day.

SENIOR PUPPY BITCH (3)

- 1) **ONTHEMARK FLOWER POWER** (Chan/Mitchell) Smaller, heavily marked tricolor with rich rufous markings. Beautiful head and expression. Nicely tapered muzzle with generous cushioning under her large dark eyes. Excellent pigment. Gorgeous little girl who looks the part standing still but her topline lets her down on the move.
- 2) QUAIL RUN MILAN (Kornhi) Well broken Blenheim with a pretty head, large dark round eyes and excellent pigment to compliment her expression. Well balanced. Moved smoothly maintaining her topline, tail carriage correct.

3) **WYMS DOROTHY** (Milosevic) Sweet little bitch, well broken Blenheim with rich coloring on pearly while. Large dark round eyes and excellent pigment. Just a baby, as she should be at this age.

<u>GRADUATE PUPPY BITCH</u> (5) "*This was an exceptionally nice class. Well done, breeders.*"

- 1) **DEL SOL GOLD DIGGER** (McHenry) Lovely exhibit. Well-broken Blenheim who is the essence of breed type with a soft expression created by dark round eyes with good cushioning beneath. Complimentary dark pigment. Balanced front and rear angles: well laid shoulders, lovely neck shoulder transition, hard back, short loin and correct croup. Her well angulated front was matched by an equally well angulated rear which she used correctly to propel herself forward. Croup correct leading to proper tail carriage. Breed type personified on a very promising youngster. In my final cut and pushed hard for a major in tough competition.
- 2) BELLAROSE BELLISSIMA (Becker) Another exhibit of exceptional quality. Blenheim bitch with the quintessential Cavalier head I always hope to find: dark round, forward-facing eyes complimented by dark pigment; generous fill and soft expression. Well angulated front and rear and as a result moved smoothly, covering ground with little wasted effort. Topline level, tail carriage correct, creating a lovely picture on the move.
- 3) **SHEEBA PACIFIC ROSE AT APPLEBRANCH** (Bennett) Typey little Blenheim girl with a soft sweet expression. Large, dark, round eyes cushioned beneath and emphasized by dark pigment around the eyes and on the nose. Ears placed high but not too close. All of these features resulted in a soft, sweet expression.
- 4) **QUAIL RUN TOUCH OF PINK** (Kornhi) Well broken Blenheim bitch with the proverbial large, dark, round eyes we always hope to produce. Excellent lay back of shoulder and matching well-made rear, resulting in a hard back and level topline which she held on the move.

BRED-BY EXHIBITOR BITCH (3)

- CH. CROWNHEIR HALLELUJAH, AW (Fadel) An outstanding exhibit which ticks all the boxes for breed-type and outstanding construction. Well-made Blenheim bitch: not overdone in an any way, rather, a moderate Cavalier with no hard edges. Lovely head and expression accentuated by well-placed ears, high but not too high and used to her advantage. Soft expression produced by large dark round eyes properly positioned, looking forward. Cushioning beneath the eyes completes the picture. Lovely neck/shoulder transition. Well laid shoulders supporting a short, hard back and transitioning into a matching well angulated rear assembly. Good depth of chest, ribs well sprung. Loin short, croup correct. Topline level and tail carried correctly as an extension of the back. All parts working together to produce a one-piece dog who moves with the desired reach and drive so difficult to produce in a toy dog. In fit condition and beautifully presented. Pleased to award her <u>WINNERS BITCH, BEST OF</u> <u>OPPOSITE SEX, BEST BRED-BY EXHIBITOR IN SHOW, BEST</u> <u>AMERICAN BRED IN SHOW, BEST BLENHEIM BITCH, RESERVE</u> <u>BEST IN SHOW</u>.
- 2) **CEDAR CREEK ALL ABOUT PRETTY** (Owens) Adorable, well broken Blenheim bitch who exuded breed type with her large dark, frontally placed eyes and soft

expression. Ample fill and correct ear placement completed the picture. Balanced movement coming and going and around the ring. Another promising contender.

3) BEARIVER CHANEL (Topfer) Another well-made bitch with an attractive head. Ample fill beneath her eyes, muzzle well tapered. Ears well placed, high but not touching so as to help create a sweet expression. Eyes large and round but lacking the depth of color needed to complete the picture. Well made, moved well.

JUNIOR AMERICAN BRED BITCH (2)

- IVYLINE NOTORIOUS AT GLYDEN (Ellingston/Ellingston/Giampapa) Smooth moving, well-broken Blenheim bitch with dark, round eyes and a pleasing expression. Well balanced. Good lay of shoulder, good depth of chest, topline level both standing and on the move. Silky coat texture.
- 2) QUAILRUN SYDNEY (Kornhi) Well broken Blenheim bitch with large, dark round eyes and a soft expression. Coat of correct texture. Well presented.

AMERICAN BRED BITCH (3)

- NIGHTHAWK GOIN BACK TO CALI (Morigi/Mitchell) Dogs which move with fluidity always catch my eye as they enter the ring. This well-balanced Blenheim was one of those exceptional Cavaliers with the basic structural armature to allow her to move smoothly with no wasted motion. Well laid shoulders and matching rear angles. Graceful neck / shoulder transition; good depth of chest, well sprung ribs; hard back and short loin, all of which contributed to her smooth way of going. Soft expression created by dark, round forward-facing eyes with ample fill beneath. Correctly placed ears, which she used to her advantage. Well presented. Pleased to award her <u>RESERVE WINNERS</u> <u>BITCH</u> in an entry deep in quality.
- 2) CHIYODA JUST MY CUP OF TEA OF GLENELLEN (Murphy) Well broken Blenheim with dark round eyes and a pretty expression. Her topline let her down on this day
- 3) SHADOWBROOK WISH UPON A STAR, C-RN, C-TDI, C-TDN, CTKA (Moody) A sweet-faced Blenheim girl with dark round eyes and ample fill.

SPECIAL LIMIT BLENHEIM BITCH (3)

- 1) **ONTHEMARK WHOOPSIE DAISY** (Chan/Mitchell) Well-broken Blenheim with large dark eyes and a sweet expression.
- 2) **COVINGTON ZINNEA BEAUTY** (Alvarez/Brezine) Another well-broken Blenheim bitch with large dark round eyes which faced forward, helping contribute to her soft expression. Straight coat with correct silky texture. Well turned out and presented.
- 3) LA REINA YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME (Espinosa) Richly colored Blenheim with the dark round eyes and deep black pigment we hope to find. Silky coat of correct texture.

SPECIAL LIMIT TRICOLOR BITCH (4)

1) **COVINGTON FLOWER POWER** (Gonyo/Mohn) Lovely tricolor with large dark eyes accentuated by ample fill. Deep rufus markings added to her expression. Well laid

shoulders, good depth of chest, well sprung ribs, hard back and well angulated rear. Moved with reach and drive, holding her topline; tail carriage correct. <u>**BEST**</u>

TRICOLOR IN SHOW

- 2) **SHEEBA FIREWORKS OF WINDSEA** (Sutton/Sutton) Well-broken, typey tricolor with a soft, sweet expression. Nicely shaped head with dark, frontally placed eyes made to appear even large by dark surrounding pigment. Rich rust markings. Generous fill. Moved well holding her topline.
- 3) **MAYFIELD JUST JULIA** (Murphy/Mayfield) Heavily marked tricolor with rich rust markings. Dark round eyes well filled beneath. Showed well.
- 4) **COBRNIK COAT OF MANY COLORS** (Hudspeth/Cook) Sweet-faced tricolor with large, round eyes, facing forward. Fill beneath her eyes and well placed ears helped create her soft expression. Showed well.

SPECIAL LIMIT BLACK AND TAN BITCH (2)

- BROOKHAVEN FIDDLE-DEE-DEE AT BEARIVER (Toepfer/Ayers/Martz) Lovely head shape with a sweet face; soft expression, large dark eyes complemented by rich rust markings. Well balanced; moved smoothly, showed well. <u>BEST BLACK AND TAN</u> <u>IN SHOW</u>
- 2) **GOLD COUNTRY'S BONNIE BLACK BETTY** (Neiser/Neise Ellingson/Ellingson) Large dark round eyes. Chest deep, ribs well sprung. Moved smoothly, well balanced but slightly up on leg. Coat silky and well turned out. Showed well.

OPEN BITCH (2)

- 1) **CH. SORELLA HERE COMES CHLOE, JW, AW** (Green) Small, typey Blenheim bitch. Sweet expression with lovely dark round eyes complemented by ample fill beneath. Silky coat of correct texture. Turned out to perfection. Balanced movement, topline level, tail carried off the back. In my final cut.
- 2) **CROSSBOW THE RELUCTANT DEBUTANTE DEBUTANTE** (Schiffman) Very pretty well-broken Blenheim bitch with dark, round, forward facing eyes accented by lovely dark pigment. Overall a very typey little girl.

VETERAN DOG (2) "Both dogs entered in this class demonstrated the importance of breeding for structure as well as head qualities. At eight years of age each of these animals moved soundly with reach and drive, holding their top lines on the move, a virtue not always present on much younger dogs. Well laid shoulders and matching well angulated rears are part of the armature needed to maintain a sound animal into old age. Well done, breeders."

- CAN CH. DEL SOL ONE MORE LOOK AT QUAIL RUN (Kornhi) Pleased to judge this well made seven and a half-year-old Blenheim dog. Well laid shoulders and matching well angulated rear. Hard back, short loin. Moved well with reach and drive. <u>BEST VETERAN IN SHOW</u>
- 2) HARRINGTON HAUTE STUFF (Marina-Tompkins/Gonyo/Gonyo). Eight-year-old Blenheim dog moving well and showing no signs of age. Large, dark eyes, ample fill and

soft expression. Well-laid shoulders, good depth of chest, ribs well sprung. Well angulated front and rear, again demonstrating the importance of breeding for correct structure in addition to head qualities.

VETERAN BITCH (1)

1) **SHADOWBROOK DELTA DARLIN, CRN, CGC, CGCA**. (Moody) Sweet-faced eight-year-old tricolor girl who moved around the ring with reach and drive and a very happy attitude. It was touching to witness how much she enjoyed herself. Well done, breeder/owner.