

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Greater Houston Specialty Judge's Critique

Friday, August 21, 2015

Judge: Meredith Johnson-Snyder

Thank you for asking me to judge your specialty and for all the hospitality shown to me. I found most of the dogs I judged to be of really good type showing the good job you are doing as breeders. There were a few dogs I liked but could not really reward due to temperament and unwillingness to show themselves off. Temperament is a key characteristic of the Cavalier and dogs exhibiting a shy, worried expression and/or unwillingness to gait do themselves a disservice. I can understand puppies, but even they must gait to be properly evaluated. Sometimes a dog happy outside of the ring becomes unwilling once inside the ring so don't force them into showing until they are confident.

Head and Expression are vital characteristics of Cavalier type. I prefer no white in the corners or around the eye as it mars expression. A Cavalier should have a well balanced and well structured body with good shoulders and return of upper arm which is hard to find in any breed today. A Cavalier should exhibit balanced reach and drive carrying a level topline and correct tailset and carriage. Watch croups unless they become too short or low.

Judging is a compromise while trying to balance virtues with faults of an individual dog and comparing that dog to others according to our breed standard. I found some lovely dogs and rewarded those that I felt deserved it when I judged. Thank you for showing to me; I always enjoy going to Houston and seeing so many familiar faces.

6-9 Puppy Dogs: Cruisin Walt Disney B/O Cindi Rackler

Lovely ruby boy. Impressed by overall type, shoulder and return of upper arm which is becoming increasingly hard to find. Good topline and tailset. Has large eyes but hard to see nice expression part of the time as he was unsure of himself today and looked a bit worried.

9-12 Puppy Dog: Canyoncrest Take a Gamble B/O Judy DuRoss

Very attractive tricolor with correct head properties, beautiful eyes and expression. Moved well with good reach and drive and correct tail carriage. Lovely silky coat. Should do very well.

12-18 Puppy Dogs:

1. You're My Sunshine von Kaninchengarten Breeder: Anika and Stephen Stahl Owner: C. Cornelia Hansen

Luscious Blenheim with excellent type, outline, and movement. Ideal head and expression, beautiful dark eyes, well cushioned muzzle, correct earset, black pigment. Moved with excellent topline, correct proportions of body, good reach and drive and tail carriage. Really beautiful boy that I considered for BOB. Would take this one home! Winners Dog

2. Epernay Krazy for You B/O: Dana Moore

Generous head with beautiful eyes and expression in this lovely tricolor; unfortunate to meet first dog today. Topline not as firm today, but overall lovely dog that will do very well indeed.

Bred by Exhibitor

1. Cruisin Mickey Mouse B/O Cindi Rackler

Good type, longer cast attractive black and tan with lovely, generous, plush head, beautiful eyes and expression. Good mover, but topline a bit lacking today, croup a little short but correct tail carriage.

Open Black and Tan

1. Albion Thomas Sullivan Magnum Breeder: Erin Elizabeth and Patricia Franklin Owner: Kelly Lannin

Nice head and expression but at this point lacked cushioning under the eyes. Nice type, well made, good proportions, good mover, had tendency to carry tail a bit high today. Silky coat.

Open Blenheim

1. Acadiana Marshall Breeder: P. Casey and K. Cline Owner: D. Martensen and P. Casey

Excellent type Blenheim with lovely balanced body, outline, topline and movement. Well cushioned very typey head with lovely eyes. Really liked this dog's head but would not use ears resulting in more rounded appearance of skull at times. Reserve Winners

2. Baffi Dobry Rok Breeder: Wioletta Matusiak Owner: Kara Kaufman

Very pleasant Blenheim with a pretty head. Eyes could be a bit bigger but could be disguised as this dog would not show much expression today. Overall dog very nice, good type.

Open Ruby

1. Meadowlake Blaze of Glory. B/O Dorothy Swanson

Lovely type ruby with very pretty head. Deep color and very correct head shape and large eyes. Moved well with good topline.

Veteran Dog

1. GCH CH Orchard Hill Shirmont Back Talk Breeder: Erica Venier Owners: Dr. Bruce and Shirley Henry, Brenda Jones and Andi Scott

If this dog had been in breed competition as he should have been, he would have been a real contender. He oozed type Gorgeous generous head; lovely cushioning and correct proportions muzzle to backskull. This nine year old dog moved beautifully with perfect topline and tail carriage. Structured with good front and rear, beautiful coat. An ideal picture of a Cavalier.

Bitches

6-9

1. Epernay All Gussied Up Breeder/Owner: Dana Moore

Very attractive typey Blenheim girl. Pretty head. A bit high in rear today as per her age, but moved well.

2. Meadowlake Poet in My Heart Breeder/Owner: Dorothy Swanson

Lovely well made ruby. Good front and rear and topline when she gaited a few steps, but just would not gait or she probably would have won this class.

9-12

1. Cloudbase Devilicious Breeder/Owner: Cynthia Scanlan

Nice moving tri with silky coat. Just very immature. Head needs more time to fill in.

12-18

1. Northshore California Dreamin' Breeder: Linda Ogilvie Owner: Clint and Linda Ogilvie

Sweet, pretty little Blenheim. Very nice head, expression, topline and movement. Just needs to grow up. Will be very nice.

Bred by Exhibitor

1. Kingly's The Glass Slipper Fits B/O: Jan Herrington

Lovely, typey well made Blenheim girl. Standout in this class. Lovely head and expression, feminine and sweet and so pretty. Lots to like. Carried her tail a little high but forgave because of overall type, balance, outline and movement. Winners Bitch

2. Meadowlake Stella B/O: Dorothy Swanson

Another pretty typey Blenheim. Nice outline and good movement. All the necessities but did not show as well as the first bitch today.

American Bred

1. Sonesta Lasting Impression B/O: Rebecca Pennington

Larger cast bitch, grooming could be better. Full head and nice expression marred a little by white in one eye. Overall, sound, typey girl.

2. Meadowlake Victoria B/O: Dorothy Swanson

This bitch would have won the class had I been able to see any expression at all. Very pretty, but just not showing today even on the move. Very nice type.

Open Blenheim

1. Bekenhall This is the Life Breeder: Frankie Hall Owner: Margaret Clayton

Very typey girl, pretty head and expression. Carried herself very well and moved with good outline. Reserve Bitch

Open Tricolor

1. Epernay All That Glitters B/O: Dana Moore

Very pretty, typey, well broken tri girl with feminine head and pretty expression. Moved well presenting nice outline. Lots to like. Considered for reserve.

2. Royal Caper Applause B/O: Margaret Clayton

Larger cast bitch, very ticked but attractive head and expression. Moved soundly.

Veteran Bitches: for some reason I cannot find my notes on the veteran bitches, but from memory, they were both of good quality and good type. I apologize for not finding my notes on this class.

1. Epernay Psychodelic Rock B/O: Dana Moore

2. Ch. Epernay Christmas Angel B: Dana Moore Owners: Tommie and John Newton and Dana Moore

Best of Breed

GCH Mayfield Charming Chester B/O: Marilyn Mayfield

Striking Blenheim of excellent type and structure. Up to size, looking very mature for his age. Excellent generous lovely head and expression. Beautiful very appealing large eyes. Really good, balanced mover with extremely well made front and rear. Hard to find shoulders and return of upper arm this good. Rear matched the front in correctness. Very sound. Beautiful mover with dead on topline and tail carriage. Has a lot to offer the breed. I understand he went Best in Show at an all breed show the next day.

Best of Winners

You're My Sunshine von Kaninchengarten

Best Opposite Sex

Stepamgar Glowing Ember Breeder :Linda and James Shreffler Owner: Tresa Bellmon

This girl was a move up and deservedly so. Lovely black and tan with very pretty head and expression. Carried herself very well with good movement and outline of body. Nice to award a really nice black and tan.

Select Dog

Ch. Amantra Paisley Breeder: D. Fry and T. M. Jackson Owner: Jan Gallagher and T.M. Jackson

Another really typey black and tan, with masculine head with good expression. Moved very well

Select Bitch

Ch. Cloudbase Porcelain Moon B/O: Cynthia Scanlan

Pretty typey Blenheim with well proportioned head and sweet expression. Good mover carrying correct outline of body

Award of Merit:

Ch. Canyoncrest Pleasingly Pumpkin Breeder: Judy DuRoss Owners: Judy DuRoss and Natasha Nechiporenko

Liked this Blenheim dog in tough competition . Good type, nicely coated, presented very nice outline of body.

GCH CH Clint's Li'l Heart Lady Camille at Northshore Breeder: Lorna Lynn Costa Owner: Clint and Linda Ogilvie

Pretty well marked tri with nice expression and outline of body