

2005 NATIONAL CRITIQUE

BY MEREDITH JOHNSON-SNYDER, RATTLEBRIDGE CAVALIERS

Judging the tenth anniversary ACKCSC National was one of the high points in my life with Cavaliers. Thank you to Charlene Yoder and her hard working committee for putting on such a well run show. I was honored by the large entry. In judging I feel one has the obligation to make a statement about the importance of adhering to the breed standard by putting up those dogs that excel in breed type and adhere to the standard. I was very pleased to see a number of really first rate Cavaliers in the bitch classes and in the specials ring. Quality bitches should be rewarded as they are the backbone of the breed. All those who know me, know how much I appreciate and cherish good wholecolors, so it was a real pleasure for me to judge so many good ones.

A Cavalier should be an elegant toy spaniel with moderation in all parts; balance is the key. Head properties, eyes and expression are of utmost importance as is temperament for our Cavaliers should be just as the standard says: "It is this typical gay temperament, combined with true elegance and royal appearance which are of paramount importance in the breed." I was disappointed that I could not reward a couple of really fine bitches or dogs who were not having a good day by being the tail wagging, happy little spaniels one could expect. I was also careful when looking at coat, coat texture, and flow of coat as the standard says: "Natural appearance with no trimming, sculpting or artificial alteration is essential to breed type."

Follow the breed standard in all things. I feel that a few points that

breeders and/or exhibitors need to monitor are croups and tailsets, tail carriage which should be straight off the back and not carried off to the side, straight up or, heaven forbid, over the back. Fronts should be sound, without elbows sticking out, and with good shoulder layback and upper arm return. The Cavalier should drive off a correctly angulated rear. I love to see a rear with correct angulation and properly let down hocks.

Size is important as are the

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proportions of the body. The standard says that the Cavalier is slightly longer than tall, approaching squareness. Cavaliers should not be so upright as to appear leggy, nor should they be long and low. The "make and shape" or silhouette is so important; the Cavalier should present a beautiful outline of body both moving and standing—all soft curves. The topline should be level both moving and standing. I was pleased to note that almost all the entries were of correct size with good bone. I feel that we need to pay attention to coat texture. The coat should be silky, soft to the touch, and of moderate length, fitting the body. Structure, conformation, and sound movement are really important, but to be a Cavalier, the head must be correct. I thought a number of Cavaliers had typical heads, all softness and plushness, with large lovely dark brown, appealing eyes correctly placed in the skull. I penalized light eyes, small

eyes, and almond shaped eyes. I saw too many Cavaliers with white around the entire eye, not just in the corners which is allowable as long as expression is not hindered. Incorrect eyes do not represent correct type. I found few undershot mouths. I found several longer nosed snipy Cavaliers who did not represent correct breed head type.

I know how much effort goes into breeding top drawer Cavaliers; I applaud the following top winners for their breed type. As I said to the audience, twenty awards of merit could have been given, but limited to only six, I had to dismiss several dogs that were most worthy. Thank you all for bringing your wonderful Cavaliers to the national. Hopefully next year both of my new knees will be working and I can join the exhibitor ranks at the National as the bionic woman!

BOB Ch. Miletree Nolana, bred by Peter and Ruta Towse, owned by Dr. and Mrs. Henry and Betsy George. From the minute she walked in the ring, I knew she was the one! I loved her make and shape. Beautifully made, very feminine, with the most lovely head and expression, she glided around the ring without flaw. Sound coming and going, flowing outline of body with correct tail carriage, she presented the picture of exquisite breed type and never let down. Lovely silky well marked blenheim coat, lots of attitude, and well proportioned head with a cushy muzzle and large, liquid eyes, she was undeniable on the day!

BOW Grantilly Galliano, bred by

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Rita Bidgood, owned by Lori Isehath and Frank Holding. Young dog of lovely type very typical of his breeding. Just floated around the ring with lots of style, keeping his outline and looking the picture of a Cavalier. Lovely size and make and shape. Excellent breed type. Should do very well in the future.

Best Opposite Sex, Mayfield Victor Mature, bred by Marilyn Mayfield and owned by Gilbert Kahn, this young ruby has a bright future. Named after one of my favorite matinee idols who will probably not be remembered by the younger generation, he is a most handsome young dog. Excellent outline of body with really good reach and drive, sound coming and going, he is a classy act. Just coming into his own, his head is well proportioned with lovely dark, round eyes and very correct earset. He presents good reach of neck, shoulders and sound driving rear with correct tail carriage.

THE AWARDS OF MERIT

Given in no particular order; all of them oozed quality and breed type. I found it interesting that I awarded several awards of merit to progeny or grand progeny of Ch. Sheeba Special Edition—a tribute to his breeder.

Ch. Sheeba Special Inspiration, bred by Karin Ostmann, owned by Erica Venier, is a beautifully marked and coated tricolor with a well proportioned, very cushioned head very typical of this breeding. Beautiful eyes and expression, he moved well and soundly. I judged him as a young dog and was happy to see he has grown up to my expectations at the time.

Ch. HMS Evangeline, bred and owned by Dale Martin and Kim Murphy, and Ch. Pinecrest Nite Lite,

bred and owned by Ted and MaryGrace Eubank, are lovely tri girls very similar in type. Both of them Special Edition granddaughters through their sire, Ch. Sheryann Rutherford Jamieson, they have the very beautiful heads and eyes so typical of their breeding. Each moved soundly, carrying excellent outlines of body, with lovely coats. Exhibiting typical Cavalier temperament, they are first rate examples of the breed so nice to find in tricolor clothes.

Ch. Hurleaze Bristol Blue, bred by Dawn Hurley, and owned by Dr. and Mrs. Henry and Betsy George, is a neat little well marked blenheim package who sails around the ring, sometimes a bit too quickly, but when slowed down presents a excellent outline and really good movement. He has really good breed type, correct proportions of head, correct coat, and wonderful temperament. He is a lovely size and was quite a showman on the day!

Ch. Torlundy Does the Tango, bred by Patricia Kanan, owned by Melody and Genessa Groos. Well made blenheim dog of excellent breed type, who showed so well for his young owner. Moved effortlessly with excellent outline of body, tailset and tail carriage, he is very eye catching. His excellent head proportions, with large, appealing eyes, speak to his breeding.

Ch. Sheeba Oh My Darling, is another good one from this well known kennel. Bred and owned by Karin Ostmann, this beautifully made, lightly marked blenheim girl, is a real stunner who is just changing coats. Moved with excellent outline, tail carriage, with really good reach and drive, she exhibited a lovely head, large dark expressive eyes, and great temperament.

OPEN RUBY

1st and Winners Bitch Wylstar Angels All Around bred by and owned by Virginia Collins and Pam Curry—It was my pleasure to award winners to this

lovely, happy, well made ruby who caught my eye the minute she walked into the ring. Very well made, she moved ever so well and just kept the strongest topline and the smoothest outline of body with correct croup and tail set and carriage. Her head was the correct shape, with lovely dark eyes and pigment, and that very appealing expression. I have bred enough good wholecolors to know how hard it is to come up with one that represents the breed as well as this girl does. She was beautifully handled and presented.

2nd Ruby Kimark Mi Amigo of Sorato, bred by Kim and Mark Baillie, owned by Joan Pagan—Small, well made girl of lovely type who was not showing herself to advantage today. Nicely shaped head, and pretty eyes, but could not see expression today.

OPEN BLENHEIM

1st and Reserve Winners Bitch Dramatique Farewell Kiss, bred by Ann L. Moore, owner Rynn Dolson-Critchley—This little lady needed a bit more coat, but had lovely type, well constructed body, with good angles and short little hocks. Extremely beautiful head type and eyes. Scrumptious expression. Carried herself well, let down a bit in winners, but took reserve on overall type and construction.

2nd Charterwood Courtesy, bred by Jill Philpott, owned by Julie Howard—Close decision between one and two; this girl is very lovely, with very lovely type, beautiful head, eyes and expression. Preferred overall construction of first bitch. Preferred 1st bitch on the go around.

OPEN TRICOLORS

1st Carver at Hartscontent, bred by Chris and Shelley Hodkinson, owned by Glen McKinnon and Linda Mckinnon

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This beautiful headed tri had the right make and shape and correct movement, she had correct proportions of body and good bone and substance. She did not show herself off to the greatest advantage in this class, but won on overall type head and expression,

2nd Sheeba Mustang Sally, bred and owned by Karin Ostmann—Very cute and typy head, Pretty expression. Preferred body proportions and outline of body and movement of 1st bitch. Mouth needs to settle.

OPEN BLACK AND TAN

1st Mayfield Ebony Star bred by Marilyn Mayfield and owned by Marguerita and Terry Rudkin —Nicely put together girl with good movement and outline. Would like to see more cushioning in the head and a little darker eye.

2nd Downsbank Black Silk, bred by Ruth Mochrie, owned by Diane Zdrodowski—Lovely type girl, with pretty head and expression, mouth needs to settle, preferred soundness of number 1

AMERICAN BRED

1st Flying Colors Cadillac, bred by Cathy Gish and owned by Julie Bennet and Cathy Gish—Very well made nicely marked blenheim. Smooth outline of body; good movement, would have preferred different style head with shorter, more filled muzzle. Yet very eye catching.

2nd Stillmeadow Vintage Tia Merlot, bred by Yarrow Morgan and owned by Debbie Motley.—Small, well broken tri color, lovely topline and nice outline, preferred the substance and full bloom of number 1.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR CLASS

On the whole, very disappointing class of bitches in a class that should be teeming with quality.

1st Karlees Into the Mystic, bred by Darlene Petralia and Carol Rose, owned by Carol and Katie Rose and Darlene Petralia—Small type well marked blenheim girl of good proportions, good coupling and outline; moved well and soundly, could have used more coat. Pretty head with nice eyes.

2nd Imagine Gone With the Wind, bred by Lynn Lake and Jane Anne Thader, owned by Lynn Lake.—Good moving, lightly marked blenheim girl with nice outline of body. Close decision between one and two, preferred head type of 1st.

NOVICE

1st Rytonian Precious Pearl, bred by Bill Moffatt, owned by Patty Kanan and Cindy Huggins—Small, well marked blenheim girl of sweet expression. Presented excellent outline and tail carriage. Would prefer a little more bone, but very nice type

2nd Castlekeep High Hopes, bred and owned by Marlene Anderson—Rather large girl of good type, movement hindered by extra weight

12 TO 18

This was a very strong class of many really lovely girls.

1st Dramatique Simply Scrumptious, bred and owned by Rynn Dolson-Critchley. —And scrumptious she was! This is a first class girl of lovely size, beautiful head and expression, prettiest of eyes, with flowing sound movement. Lovely profile with proper tail carriage. I really thought this girl could go all the way, but her class handler did not take her into winners and this girl would never settle down in winners and show

herself to any advantage. She should have a bright future.

2nd Derbyrun Prelude to a Kiss bred by Vickie Jo Bailey, owned by Cindy Huggins and Patty Kanan. —Beautiful bitch of lovely eyes, did not bring her clothes with her, and, although of proper temperament, did not want to cooperate with her handler and therefore did not show herself off to advantage. Well made, with full body of excellent proportions, with gorgeous head and expression.

9-12 PUPPY

1st Sandi Wins at Charing Cross, bred by Sandra Harrison, owned by Gilbert Kahn—Well made very typy blenheim of lovely well cushioned head and large round very appealing eyes. Good moving girl who like her age group kept her outline most of the time. Excellent bone and body proportions. Liked her a lot.

2nd Charterwood Damask, bred by Jill Philpott, owned by M. Anderson and D. Campbell—Small, blenheim girl of lovely type, moved well carrying good topline and tail carriage. Really pretty and well proportioned head. Front movement needs to settle

6-9 PUPPY

1st and Best Puppy Leogem Rhumba, bred by Mr. and Mrs Holmes, owned by Lauren Nikaci—Stunning blenheim girl with flowing outline of outline and beautiful type. Excellent coat, typy head with lovely eyes, moved well and soundly. So happy and full of life, she was a joy to watch as she gaited around the ring. First Class.

2nd Kellene Pretty Penny, bred by Kelli Marshall and Steven Shapiro, owned by Debra Silverman— Really cute and animated black and tan girl with neat little body, excellent outline and topline, correct tail carriage; well proportioned head with cushy muzzle and very expressive eyes.