

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Canada. National Speciality.

Cobourg. Saturday August 31st 2024

It was a great honour for me to come from Ireland to judge the 2024 National Speciality for the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Canada.

The show was held at Best Western Plus Cobourg Inn and Convention Centre approx 2 hours from Toronto. Perfect venue as accommodation and show held in the same place. The ring was very nicely set up by the committee.

There was a lovely atmosphere I would like to thank the Exhibitors for showing under me and for accepting my decisions in a very sporting way with clapping and cheers for the winners. I loved every second of the appointment and I enjoy very much what I do, so it's very important to be kind to the dogs and exhibitors and make everyone feel that they have exactly the same chance. Even if I have made up my mind in the first minute if I like the dog or not for each dog we will still go through exactly the same routine as the exhibitor has paid for my opinion and spent a lot of time getting the dog into show condition. So every exhibitor is looked at with exactly the same eye. At the end of the day I can only make one person totally happy as I have only one Best of Breed to award but we can all have fun and be professional getting there. It was enjoyable and interesting cutting down the number until I was left with only my beautiful winners. In my opinion they were the best on the day.

We all interpret the standard in our own way. For me when I judge I look for balance and shape and a beautiful soft gentle expression so important in the breed. The bone must be good and when they first enter the ring you need to be able to see the difference between the sexes. Males should look like males and females like females. This is why when the class comes into the ring I step right back and look at each dog from a distance. Then moving to the head, It needs to be balanced and have the right proportions for the expression to be correct. Also so important is the correct ear set and the beautiful eyes of correct shape and colour to give that expression that melts your heart. My job on the day is for me to find the Cavalier that fits the standard best.

On the negative side some of the females were very small and lacked breed type.

Unfortunate COVID struck and hopefully nobody was too sick.

Thank you to my wonderful stewards who helped make the day very enjoyable.

Thank you everyone.

Michael Leonard

Junior Puppy Dog. (3 + 1 absent)

1. Windance Fairisle Starry Might. Owner. Y. Jane Davies Lane.

Tricolour male. Need time to mature and developed grow into his body. At the moment looks a little high on leg and long on back. But I like the size and shape of his head. Movement did not flow but moved well enough for his age. He will be nice when he matures.

2. Carver's The Secret Cord. Owner. Chris & Shelly Hodgkinson.

Very nice black and tan with nice quality and good breed type. I like his size and the body is well balanced. The expression is soft and gentle and ears well placed. Moved well. Slightly feminine in type at the moment and the topline needs to settle.

3. JewelCroft's Dressed to Kilt. Owner. Christine Sheppard.

Another black and tan. Had a lovely temperament. Cute expression and happy to be here. Unfortunately the tail carriage was too high and the topline could be much stronger. On the move needs to settle in the ring.

Senior Puppy Dog. (1 + 1 absent)

1. Sweet Spring Having a blast at Embee. Owner Tobis and Squirrel.

10 month old but very much a teenager and needs to mature in all areas. Currently high on leg and long in back. The head needs time and muzzle has too much length. Very straight shoulders which effects the front movement. Correct coat and well presented. Nice temperament.

12-15 Month Dog. (1)

1. Lavenderhills Hope for the Future. Owner. Gloria Paul. I was told by the lady handling that the owner had an injury and could not show her dog and this was her first time they meet each other. Unfortunately he was not happy in the ring and it was totally impossible to judge the movement. Disappointing as overall he is a very nice dog with correct breed type. I liked the shape and the size. Very nicely marked. Strong masculine head with a nice expression. Neck could be slightly stronger.

15-18 Month Dog. (1)

1. Bluastra Aladdin's Light at High Flight. Owner. Parris and Page.

This is a very nice young male still in the teenager stage and not yet fully developed. Excellent breed type. Slightly high on leg and a little long but when the chest deepens the balance will be better. Moved nicely in front but need a lot more drive in the hind action. Give him time. Has plenty of promise.

Open Black & Tan Dog. (1)

1. Falling Springs Black Flame at Madryn. Owner. Weeks & Curley. Reserve Winners Dog. Very impressed with this male and strongly considered him when I was deciding on my Winners male. A very nice looking dog. My only criticism is maybe slightly high on leg but that's been picky. Strong head. Excellent expression. Correct bone. Good length of back. Holds his topline very well on the move. Beautifully presented. Correct coat and moved well front and hind action.

Open Blenheim Dog. (2)

2 very nice dogs in this class but quite different in type.

1. Redbud Shipment Blue Chip. Owner. Whitney, Henry & Craig.

I liked his shape. The body was very nicely balanced. Strong masculine head with gentle soft expression. Out of coat today but lacked personality on the move and the movement did not flow. He won the class because of his breed type.

2. Mardigras Tell me the Tales. Owner Hallie & David Bilyk.

It top condition. Very well presented with the correct coat. Really stunning expression and correct shape head. But he is still very much a teenager and has a lot of maturing to do. When he grows into his body he will be very nice. Hind action could also be stronger.

Open Tri Coloured Dog. (1)

1. L Lovizna Lanes Willy. Owner Dyann Washer.

Nicely marked tri colour male. Correct type of coat and well presented. Good height of leg. Back for balance could be slightly shorter. Correct shape head. Good expression. Nice bone and very nice temperament. Elbows could be tighter and would like more drive in hind action. An honest dog.

Open Ruby Dog. (2).

1. Havadream Finest Red. Owner. Beliveau & Matte-Paquet.
Winners Dog.

Overall I would prefer him slightly smaller in size and a shorter leg but today I could not pass this beautiful male. He is in top condition. Stunning coat of correct texture and a really rich chestnut red. Strong masculine head and such a nice expression. Possible one of the best topline's I have seen in a long time. Nice free elegant movement with correct reach. I remember at a seminar many years ago been told that in most breeds if the topline is correct the tail set and the movement will be excellent. This certainly was the case here.

2. Barrington's Heat of the Night. Owner. Jennifer Daly.

Another nice ruby with a nicely balanced body and good shape. Strong head and good expression. Lighter colour of the chestnut. For me he was just a bit feminine in type. Lacked drive in the hind action. Moved well in front and excellent shoulders.

7 to 9 Years Veteran Dog. (3 + 1 Absent)

1.GCH Kbpride Dawn of Field Farm Denton. Owner Lorraine Feaver. 7 Years old.

What a beautiful Cavalier. In top condition for his age . A total credit to the owner. You could also see how much he is still enjoying his time in the ring. Excellent breed type. Strong and

masculine but at the same time correct shape and size. Correct head. Almost flat between the ears and sweet soft expression. Correct bone and moved very nicely. Worthy winner of Best Veteran in Show.

2. Ch Karlee Gray Stone Stuart at Campa. Owner Creary & Rose. 7.5 years old.

More heavy in marking but a lot of excellent qualities. Correct size and very balanced body. Strong head of correct proportion and lovely expression. A lot of coat at this stage of his life and showed too much of his tongue. But wow what a mover. Absolutely super. A pleasure to watch him glide around the ring.

3. GCHB Burbrook What Dreams May Come. Owner E & B Becker. 8 years old.

A nice solid cavalier with a nice temperament, who is beginning to show his age but you can see he is much loved and well looked after. Very nicely presented and lovely rich colour.

9 Years and Over Veteran Dog. (2)

1. GCH Jewelcroft's Going Concern. Owner. Sands & Gray. 11.5 years old.

Winner of Award of Merit.

Ruby male in the most incredible condition for his age. A total credit to his owner and breeders. Even his teeth for this age was

fantastic. Overall for me he was a little bit big but the body is balanced and excellent breed type. Has a beautiful head, wonderful body. excellent coat and you could see from the way he moved that even at this age he was still having fun. He totally deserved today the award of merit.

2. Ck Karlees Behold the Penalty Box. Owner. Elin Becker. 13 and a bit years.

The old-timer of the day and a total credit to this lady to keep him in this condition. What a gorgeous happy dog. I do not need to say any more but thank you for showing him to me.

Junior Puppy Bitch. (5 + 2 absent.)

1. Windancer Sunshine Daddy's Little Girl. Owner. Susan Ling.

Very impressive tricolour female. nearly 7 months old. Very nicely marked and stood out in this class. Very feminine and exactly right shape and size for her age. Nice shape head. Correct muzzle. Nice eyes. Correct ear set. Good bone. Body balanced and moved with confidence for her age. I predict a very good future for this this girl. Honoured to award her Best Puppy in Show & Best Tri Colour.

2. Windancer There was a little Girl. Owner. Penelope Murton.

I see from the catalogue this is the litter sister to my winner and also to the junior puppy dog winner. What an exciting litter and I like the type. This girl needs time to mature and develop and grow into her body. Could be slightly shorter in back and did not move as well as her sister but has plenty of promise.

3. Kofa's after all this time. Owner. Sara Barr.

I liked the outline and has good bone. Body well developed for her age. Nicely marked. Unfortunate the head at this stage looks a little small for the body and is a bit narrow. The muzzle needs more width. Hopefully will develop in time.

4. Velaris Lavender Haze. Owner Shannon Miller.

Nice puppy with a lovely temperament. Pretty expression. A little early yet to tell how she will develop. I would like her larger in size with stronger bones.

Senior Puppy Bitch. (5)

1. Embee Karlee Gray Stone Reminiscing. Owner. Mary E. Squirrell.

This is a very nice ruby female with plenty of promise and stood out in this class. Exactly the right shape and size for her age and will do well when she has matured. Body very nicely balanced with correct length of back and a very pretty expression. Top line falls away a bit at the back end which hopefully will correct itself when she bodies up.

2. Embee Karlee Gray Stone Roses are Red. Owner. Squirrell & Roemer.

Litter sister to the winner. Another pretty female showing promise.

Body not as balanced as her sister and did not move as well. Topline could be stronger but overall some nice qualities.

3. Chilton's Sally Stitches. Owner Dallas Kyle.

Pretty female. Nicely presented. Lovely temperament. For me she was too small. I would like a larger head and stronger bones.

4. Havadream Pennies From Heaven. Owner. Beliveau & Matte-Paquet.

Beautiful rich colour but for me too small and carried the tail too high.

12-15 Month Bitch. (1)

1. Havadream Dancing through the storm. Owner. Beliveau & Matte-Paquet.

Unfortunate for me she lacks breed type. She is very small with light bones, small head and very short back. Lovely coat, Well presented and excellent temperament. Will give someone plenty of love.

15-18 Month Bitch. (6 + 1 Absent).

1. Cempa My heart will go on. Owner. Marianne Creary.

Again I had a stand out female in this class. Caught my eye immediately she entered the ring. Still not fully matured but fits the breed standard very well. Balanced body. Correct height of leg and length of back. Good size head and gentle expression. Full of confidence and sound in movement in both front and hind action. She will have a very successful future. Happy to award her Winners Bitch and Best of Winners.

2. Sigma Chis Epic Style at Mardigrays. Owner Lynne Oslach.

Very pretty nicely marked tri colour female. Very feminine. Still very much a teenager and not yet fully developed. Will be nice when she is finished. Will grow into her body. Good reach of neck. Moved nicely.

3. Kbpride Despacito's Simply Perfect. Owner. Debra Mattice. This was a very nice blenheim female in lovely condition. Excellent body and very well presented with a beautiful coat. What I really liked was her nice eyes and lovely soft expression. For balance the back could have been shorter and front movement could be stronger.

4. Syrenia's Feminine Wiles. Owner. A & B Kaziniec.

An honest cavalier with a very nice temperament and very happy to be here. Nicely marked blenheim with a pretty head and carrying maybe just a little too much weight. The owner explained she knew how to open the cupboard doors.

Canadian Bred Bitch. (1)

1. Syrenia's Femme Fatale. Owner. A & B Kaziniec.

Nicely marked tri-colour female and like her sister in the previous class also knew how to open the cupboard dog as carrying too much weight. Nice personality. For me the back needed more length for a more balanced outline and elbows could be tighter.

Bred by Exhibitor Bitch. (1+ 1 absent)

1. Cempa Hold on she's coming. Owner. Marianne Creary.

A ruby female in top condition. Excellent coat and body. Nice rich chestnut red. Correct size and shape. Body nicely balance. For me the topline on the move could be better and reach of neck stronger. Sound in movement with good drive from the rear.

Open Black & Tan Bitch. (3)

1. Jewelcraft Embee Starlight Luau. Owner Bonnie Sands.

I liked the shape and size of the winner. Very feminine with excellent proportions. Nice eyes and head of correct shape with a nice expression. Beautiful coat of correct texture and well presented. On the move she was a little bit close behind and elbows could be tighter.

2. Velaris Court of Dreams at Chilton. Owner Dallas Kyle.

Very feminine with a nice body and correct size head. The expression was soft but I did not like the eyes. Good coat and well presented. Moved well in both front and hind action. Tan could be darker.

3. Halfmoon Careless Whisper. Owner. Beliveau & Matte-Paquet.

For me lacked breed type. I would like her larger in size with a bigger head and more width of muzzle. The length of back was also too short. Nice coat. Well presented.

Open Blenheim Bitch. (2)

1. AKC CH & CKCSC USA Ch Falling Springs Shining Brightly.
Owner. Barbara Grimm Curley.

Very pretty female with excellent breed type. The body is very nicely balanced and she has an excellent outline. Correct shape head and lovely soft expression. Neck could be slightly stronger and at time tail carriage slightly high. Moved well. Well deserved Reserve Winners Female. Was a close contest. She has many nice qualities.

2. Sigma Chi's Hello Dolly at L Lovizna Lane. Owner Washer & Whitney.

One and half year old and still not fully developed. Has the correct shape and size but needs to body up. Ear set could be a bit higher. Topline on the move could be stronger. Nicely marked and correct coat.

9 Year's and over Veteran Bitch. (2)

1. GCHG Alderglen Siren Song. Owner Susan Thompson.

10 years old. In wonderful condition for her age. A total credit to the owner. The feathering on the ears must have taken hours. A beautiful Cavalier with excellent breed type. Strong head and lovely eyes. Very happy in the ring. Moved very well for her age. My Veteran female winner. So much coat.

2. Ch Lavenderhills Lil Britt. Owner. C Aloe.

11 and half years old this young lady and in beautiful condition. Loved the grey ears. Very distinguished. Smaller type of Cavalier but very pretty and feminine. Lovely soft expression. Moved well. Did not look her age.

Best Of Breed.

Ch Mingchen Gentle River Breeze. Owner Louise Pearce. Also Best Blenheim. This beautiful female caught my eye as I walked around the ring. In my opinion she fits the standard so well. Excellent breed type and so feminine. Very well balanced body in top condition. Very gentle soft expression dark eyes. Moved well in both front and hind action with the correct topline. Good reach of neck. If the head was slightly larger in size she would be perfect. Worthy winner.

Best of Opposite Sex.

GCH Fields Edge Casey Jones. Owners Whitney & Slusher. This is a young dog not yet 2 years of age and still has some maturing to do. I

can see he has done a lot of winning but when he matures fully will be hard to beat. I love his shape. He has a beautiful outline and the body has excellent proportions. The head is strong and masculine but at the same time the expression is soft and gentle. I have to give special mention to his coat. Beautiful colour so silky and totally free from curl. His movement was fine but I would have liked it to flow better with more drive from the rear.

Best Of Winners.

Cempa My heart will go on. Owner. Marianne Creary.

Caught my eye immediately she entered the ring. Still not fully matured but fits the breed standard very well. Balanced body. Correct height of leg and length of back. Good size head and gentle expression. Full of confidence and sound in movement in both front and hind action. She will have a very successful future. Happy to award her Winners Bitch and Best of Winners.

Best Puppy & Best Trip Colour in Show.

Windancer Sunshine Daddy's Little Girl. Owner. Susan Ling.

Very impressive tricolour female. & months old. Very nicely marked and stood out in this class. Very feminine and exactly right shape and size for her age. Nice shape head. Correct muzzle. Nice eyes. Correct ear set. Good bone. Body balanced and moved with confidence for her age. I predict a very good future for this this girl. Honoured to award her Best Puppy in Show.

Select Dog.

GCHB Karidana The one and only Louis. Owner. Alexandra Wood

This is a very nice Cavalier who is very strong and masculine, in top condition, beautiful coat, deep chest, ribs well sprung and a nice level back. Correct shape and size of head. Lovely eyes and a very nice expression. Sound in movement in both front and hind action. For balance of outline the back could be slightly shorter and at time's the tail carriage could have been better.

Select Bitch.

CCH Stelwen Saltwater Joys. Owner Wendy Hindy & Tia Button. Best Ruby in Show. Very feminine ruby female. I love her shape and size. The body is perfectly balanced with correct height of leg and length of back. Nothing is overdone on this female. Correct shape head. Soft lovely expression. Excellent body. Correct bone. Rich ruby colour and correct silky coat. Moved well both front and hind action. One of the nicest ruby's I have seen in a long time.

Award of Merit.

GCH Gentle Star Neverending Story. Owner. Sara Barr.

This was another female that I seriously considered for the top spot.

On doing this critique I see the kennel name and you see the lines which she came from. Excellent breed type. Very nice outline and shape. She has good balance. Excellent body and in very nice condition. Pretty head and ears well placed. Nice female. I would have liked today a little more drive in the hind action.

Award of Merit.

GCH Jewelcraft's Going Concern. Owner. Sands & Gray. 11.5 years old.

Ruby male in the most incredible condition for his age. A total credit to his owner and breeders. Even his teeth for this age was fantastic. Overall for me he was a little bit big but the body is balanced and excellent breed type. Has a beautiful head, wonderful body. excellent coat and you could see from the way he moved that even at this age he was still having fun. He totally deserved today the award of merit.

Award of Merit.

GCH Jewelcroft's return on Investment. Owner. Sands & Gray.

Came from Specials class and another whole colour from this kennels with excellent breed type. Unfortunate I have no other notes. Well deserved AOM. Very like his father.

Best Veteran.

GCH Kbpride Dawn of Field Farm Denton. Owner Lorraine Feaver.

What a beautiful Cavalier. In top condition for his age . A total credit to the owner. You could also see how much he is still enjoying his time in the ring. Excellent breed type. Strong and masculine but at the same time correct shape and size. Correct head. Almost flat between the ears and sweet soft expression. Correct bone and moved very nicely. Worthy winner of Best Veteran in Show.

Best Blenheim And Best of Breed.

Ch Mingchen Gentle River Breeze. Owner Louise Pearce.

This beautiful female caught my eye as I walked around the ring. In my opinion she fits the standard so well. Excellent breed type and so feminine. Very well balanced body in top condition. Very gentle soft expression dark eyes. Moved well in both front and hind action with the correct topline. Good reach of neck. If the head was slightly larger in size she would be perfect. Worthy winner.

Best Ruby and Select Female.

CCH Stelwen Saltwater Joys. Owner Wendy Hindy & Tia Button.
Best Ruby in Show. Very feminine ruby female. I love her shape and size. The body is perfectly balanced with correct height of leg and length of back. Nothing is overdone on this female. Correct shape head. Soft lovely expression. Excellent body. Correct bone. Rich ruby colour and correct silky coat. Moved well both front and hind action. One of the nicest ruby's I have seen in a long time.

Best Tri Colour & Best Puppy.

Windancer Sunshine Daddy's Little Girl. Owner. Susan Ling.

Very impressive tricolour female. & months old. Very nicely marked and stood out in this class. Very feminine and exactly right shape and size for her age. Nice shape head. Correct muzzle. Nice eyes. Correct ear set. Good bone. Body balanced and moved with

confidence for her age. I predict a very good future for this this girl.

Best Black and Tan.

Ch Jewelcroft's Little Black Dress. Owner Bonnie Sands.

She came from the Specials Class and unfortunately I did not take any notes. Totally from Memory. Excellent breed type with the correct shape and size. Beautiful head and a lovely expression. Excellent coat and well presented. Not overdone in any way.

Best Baby Puppy. (2)

Will not critique this class as too young and immature. Both very cute but the winner had the edge and showed more promise at this stage.

1. Whimsy Sigma Chi Francesca at Londoncor. Owner Susan Smith.
2. Havadream Miracle in me. Owner. Beliveau & Matte-Paquet.

