

CAVALIERS OF THE WEST

01/14/24, OAKLAND, CA

CHARLIE WEIDIG, BLACKFIRE CAVALIERS

I have always appreciated and enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the Cavaliers of the West, and this show was no exception. Despite having to scramble to cover unavoidable judge cancellations, this club put together a well-run event that was fun for all and was the perfect showcase for some splendid Cavaliers. Special thanks go to Kevin Ellingson for his exuberant announcing, Kathie Fowler for always having the next class ready at the gate, and Susan Gonyo for tackling the important but challenging job of Table Steward with an ever-present smile. But highest honors have to be conferred on the true gem of the COTW, Kathy Tegg, who – aside from her responsibilities as Vice President – Served as Show Chair and as my tireless and efficient Ring Steward. Kathy is a national treasure, never to be undervalued by our Club, and she has my eternal gratitude.

Of course, no show can be a success without the dedication of the exhibitors, some of whom had to battle winter storms just to get to beautiful California. There was an impressive depth of quality across the board, and no decision was a given. Although there were just four majors to be awarded, I could easily name at least a dozen entries who were in contention on this day. Excellent Cavalier heads, sound structure and movement, and quintessential Cavalier temperaments were in abundance. Of particular note was the proliferation of sound front assemblies in these exhibits, highlighted by many long, gracefully arched, and well-muscled necks. This was of course accompanied by nicely laid-back shoulders, and evident in strong movement from the front. Kudos to our breeders, who have done so much to improve this vital component of soundness in our breed.

Charlie Weidig

DOGS

SENIOR PUPPY DOG (1)

1. BLUESTARA ALADDIN'S LIGHT (Parris) Lots of promise for this 10-month-old Blenheim, whose attractive head with well-pigmented eyes and nose leads the way for his long, graceful neck, which in turn flows smoothly to a solid topline. With exceptional shoulder layback, he pulls in the ground effectively from his strong front. A nicely broken coat with clean markings completes a nice picture.

GRADUATE PUPPY DOG (3)

1. ORCHARD HILL OVERANALYZED (Venier) At just one year old, this substantial Tricolor seems to have a great show future ahead of him. He free stacks like a pro, showing off his admirable profile, with an already plush head and solid topline. His smooth movement was something to behold, carrying his tail well and driving strongly from the rear, and his legs tracked perfectly in parallel planes. Absolutely deserving of **BEST TRICOLOR IN SHOW.**

2. CHADWICK BUCK'S FIZZ (Stewart/Eckersley) An elegant neck helps this one-year-old Blenheim carry his head proudly on the move, with proper tail carriage to accent his balance. Generously coated with a well-developed body, his prominent prosternum shows promise of continued development as he matures. A bit excited in the ring today, but maturity will undoubtedly bring him future success.

3. LA REINA'S HELLO GORGEOUS (Roberts-Espinoza) At one year old, this Blenheim with gorgeous markings and admirably deep pigment in his coat still has a bit of physical maturing ahead of him. With excellent angulation in his front, he carries his head properly as he moves effortlessly around the ring.

NOVICE DOG (1)

1. LOCKESTAR'S KING OF THE CASTLE (Younger) I was struck by the strength this Blenheim boy has in his well-muscled loin at not yet 2 years old. Showing proper balance, he was energetic in the ring, and his well-broken rich chestnut markings made for a striking image when stacked.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR DOG (2)

1. IVYLINE MICHELANGELO (Giampapa/Ostmann) This 2-year-old Blenheim was so pleasing to the eye, and so hard to forget. His splendid head is accented by well-spaced, dark eyes, and framed so effectively by lavish and perfectly set ears. When stacked, his appealing profile sports admirable proportions, and I was struck by his strength, especially in his well-angulated front. One of the highlights of my morning!

2. BELLAROSE CUCCI GU (Becker) Two-year-old Blenheim rounding out the class with another nice head, and sporting a superb plush coat. I was impressed with the smoothness of his movement, as he drove sturdily from the rear, looking very precise both coming and going.

JUNIOR AMERICAN BRED DOG (1)

1. SORELLA TWO TICKETS TO PARADISE (Green) Paradise indeed! Hard to believe how much this Blenheim has going for him at just 11 months of age. His already masculine head is attractively accented by his properly pigmented eyes, nose, and lips. Putting my hands on his silky coat confirmed substantial bone in his well-constructed front, and lots of strength through the loin, all of which allows him to glide effortlessly around the ring. Thoroughly deserving of being named **RESERVE WINNERS DOG, BEST PUPPY IN SHOW & BEST BRED BY EXHIBITOR IN SHOW.**

AMERICAN BRED DOG (4)

1. CHADWICK EIGHTEEN CARAT GOLD, JW (Mitchell) The attractive head on this Blenheim of almost 2 years led my eyes to a gracefully arched neck, and my gaze couldn't let go as I took in his excellent size, proportions, and richly pigmented well-broken markings that completed the lovely picture. I just loved the way he covered ground with outstanding extension and an enviable tail carriage. Definitely a contender!

2. COVINGTON RHAEGAL (Gonyo and Mohn) Solid drive from the rear helped to propel this balanced Blenheim around the ring, as he approaches his fifth birthday. A plush and silky coat helped make him a standout in his class.

3. COVINGTON FULL METAL ALCHEMIST, C-TKN (Christensen/James) Another Blenheim of nearly five years, this boy was apparently very happy to be here today, showing off

his striking and deeply pigmented markings. With a solid front and ample extension from the rear, he put his energy to good use on the move.

4. ROSEGLLEN GRAND SLAM (Lofholm/Colombo) A one year old Blenheim who completes a class of attractively marked Benheims, this boy has a surprisingly well-developed body, from his deep chest to his strong loin. He moves with sound balance, a solid front pulling him strongly and effectively.

SPECIAL LIMIT BLENHEIM DOG (4)

1. ORCHARDHILL FAN BOY (Venier/Johns) I think what fascinated me about this stellar 2 year old Blenheim was that he seemed as enamored with me as I was with him. Thoroughly aware and engaged from start to finish, he did all the right things to show off his excellent structure, an especially strong front, exceptional extension, quintessential outline, and a captivatingly handsome head with near-hypnotic eyes and the best earset I think I've ever seen.

Presented to perfection, it was an easy choice to name him **WINNERS DOG, BEST IN SHOW, BEST BLENHEIM IN SHOW & BEST AMERICAN BRED IN SHOW.**

2. INTRYNZIK LOLLIEGAG (Goodwin) Very close in quality and presentation to number one in an outstanding class, this energetic 2½ year old Blenheim carried his striking head regally while on the move. A well-broken silky coat only added to an eye-catching profile.

3. MINGCHEN YUKON RIVER AT HIGH FLIGHT (Parris) This 2-year-old Blenheim has the kind of sweet and gentle temperament that would make anyone want to just scoop him up and take him home. He really shone as he moved with alacrity, showing not just a quality topline and tailset, but remarkable extension both front and rear.

4. MAISONDUSOLEIL MARCEL (Schuberth) This 6-year-old Blenheim appears to have aged very well, and I believe he was as thrilled to be a part of this show as I was. Nicely marked with a proper blaze, his strong rear propelled him effectively, as each foot fell in precisely the correct place.

SPECIAL LIMIT TRICOLOR DOG (1)

1. BLUEGARDEN CASINO ROYALE (Matos/DiBonaventura) The appealing head on this year-and-a-half-old Tricolor is perfectly framed by his ample ears. Very nicely put together, his properly angulated front is matched by a first-rate turn of stifle and an enviable hock height. To me, the highlight of his well-developed body is a neck that is sufficiently strong and solid to hold his head for all to see.

SENIOR OPEN DOG (1)

1. REGIS MAISONDUSOLEIL RENE (Schuberth) What a pleasant surprise to examine this 7½-year-old Blenheim and find one of the most solid and generously muscled bodies in the field. His well-constructed front assembly was suitably balanced by rear legs that drove with dazzling extension, and this spry boy had no difficulty carrying his tail correctly.

BITCHES

JUNIOR PUPPY BITCH (3)

1. KIDDLE'S OBSIDIAN (McHenry) At just 5 months old, this rookie Tricolor really stands out from the puppy crowd, displaying an elegant length of neck that leads into her properly laid-

back shoulders, giving her an exceptionally strong front assembly. She used that asset to move with impressive balance in the ring, showing off her silky black markings and lovely profile.

2. GOLD COUNTRY SPICY PARADISE (Neiser) Also a beginner, this 5-month-old Ruby already has a head that drew me in with captivating eyes and a promising earset. She carried that lovely head grandly as she used her strong rear to drive effectively, with her tail properly finishing the image. Lots of reasons to name her **BEST RUBY IN SHOW.**

3. FIELDS EDGE OUR GREATEST EXPECTATIONS V. NIGHTHAWK (Dirks/Mitchell) An abundant and well-broken coat holds lots of promise for this 5-month-old Blenheim with lovely dark, round eyes. She uses her sturdy rear to produce a balanced gait, placing each leg with great precision. With more experience, I believe she will be an impressive mover.

SENIOR PUPPY BITCH (2)

1. HARRINGTON BEJEWELLED (Gonyo) My attention was first gripped by the lavishly graceful neck on this 9-month-old, blanketed Tricolor. This was my first indication that she possesses a particularly strong and well-constructed front, exemplified by her smooth movement with superior reach. Complemented by good drive from the rear, her balanced profile created a lovely picture, finished by a proper tail carriage.

2. TEMPLAR'S LULLABY OF BROADWAY V NIGHTHAWK (Morigi /Mitchell) Lovely dark eyes and another elegant neck were unmistakable attributes of this 10-month-old Blenheim. She moved with a solid topline, carrying her charming head proudly, and placing each foot with precision.

GRADUATE PUPPY BITCH (1)

1. IVYLINE HONOLULU LULU (Giampapa) I loved the exceptionally nice profile presented by this energetic one-year-old Blenheim, both stacked and on the move. Her balanced structure allowed her to move with ease, as she exhibited efficient reach from the front and drive from the rear.

NOVICE BITCH (1)

1. MARILEE A DASH OF BUTTERS (Atkinson and Collins) I was not the least bit surprised to learn that this nearly two-year-old Blenheim with an attractive head and eyes was an accomplished agility Cavalier. She pulled herself vigorously around the ring, using her obvious wealth of energy, and showing an impressive profile with good turn of stifle when she was stacked.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCH (4)

1. BELLAROSE CARTIER'S MAGIC (Becker) I'm not sure whether I was more impressed by the exquisite appearance presented by this year-and-a-half-old Blenheim, underscored by an exceptionally striking head with dark, round, properly set eyes, and an exemplary standing profile, or by her superior structure and movement. Balanced and well-angulated at both ends, she moved with an eye-catching panache that placed her in strong contention for top honors on this day.

2. NIGHTHAWK GOIN BACK TO CALI (Morigi/Mitchell) Also sporting an attractive head, this 4-year-old Blenheim blew me away with how strongly and solidly she was put together. Sporting a copiously muscled loin, she drove with authority and grace, finishing the picture with an elegantly carried tail.

3. DEL SOL GOLD DIGGER, JW (McHenry) The enchanting eyes on this 2-year-old Blenheim locked onto mine and called out to me, leading my gaze to her prototypical size and proportions while stacked. Displaying excellent front and rear angulation, she moved with balance, and looked first-rate both coming and going.

4. ROSEGLLEN DIAMOND IN THE SKY (Colombo) Rich pigment on this year-and-a-half-old Blenheim, with appealingly dark eyes and nose. Well-balanced with good, moderate angles throughout, she moved especially true going straightaway, driving strongly from the rear.

AMERICAN BRED BITCH (4)

1. NIGHTHAWK'S JINX YOU'RE IT! CGC, TK-N (Mitchell) A standout in a class of standouts, this year-and-a-half-old Blenheim first caught my attention with an exemplary outline and a fetching coat with deeply pigmented markings, well-broken on a clean white ground. I was equally enthralled by her plush head, featuring properly dark eyes and ears to suitably frame the visage. Her table examination revealed a well-developed rib cage, and musculature that is coming in nicely for a girl of her age. This was reflected on the move, as she effectively covered the ground with grace and balance.

2. DARANE OTHERWORLDLY, JW, MP (Kates) Another year and a half old Blenheim who makes a nice presentation, this animated girl has remarkable depth of chest, impressive strength in the loin, and her equally strong neck gave way to good moderate angulation in the front. I like the way she uses it all while in motion, and she showed excellent parallel tracking going away.

3. CHIYODA JUST MY CUP OF TEA OF GLENELLEN (Murphy) At three and a half years, this well-broken Blenheim with a lovely head was strikingly developed in the chest and loin. Impressive on the move, she used her strength to push off effectively, and tracked precisely and properly going away.

4. BEARIVER ROCKIN THE PARADISE (Toepfer) Like the others in this class, this not-quite-two-year-old Blenheim is solidly built throughout her body. I simply loved watching her move, especially coming toward me, pulled in by her sturdy front, and led by a plush head with expressive eyes.

SPECIAL LIMIT BLENHEIM BITCH (2)

1. IVYLINE NOTORIOUS AT GYLDEN (Ellingson/Giampapa) I found it difficult to resist taking a second – and even third – look at this lovely girl of almost three years as she floated around the ring with great energy. Her superior front kept my attention as I took in her spectacular neck, exceptional shoulder layback, and near-perfectly angulated front assembly. From her strong but feminine bone to her sweet eyes to the way she properly carries both her head and tail on the move, this is a girl well worth consideration for top honors.

2. MAISONDUSOLEIL NOELLE (Schuberth) At 5 years old, this seasoned entry has a very gentle way of moving her solid body, using a good turn of stifle to her advantage. With well-moderated angulation throughout, she looked particularly good coming toward me, her sweet face and expressive eyes showing her sweet temperament all the way.

SPECIAL LIMIT TRICOLOR BITCH (1)

1. TSAREVICH'S BREEZE IN THE SIERRAS AT GOLD COUNTRY (Neiser) Ample ears and a lovely arch of neck highlight this 2½-year-old with lots of substance and a silky smooth coat. She is very well put together, and on the move, she pushes off well from the rear, with good reach to match. Just a bit apprehensive today about being in the ring.

SPECIAL LIMIT BLACK AND TAN BITCH (1)

1. BROOKHAVEN FIDDLE-DEE-DEE AT BEARIVER (Toepfer) I have to admit that when she entered the ring, I had an all too brief love affair with this beauty who looks spectacular at 6 years old. It wasn't just her plush but feminine head with sultry eyes, or her flawlessly pigmented silky coat, or her well-developed rib cage, or the way her tail was perfectly extended and in constant motion, or even the strength so evident in every muscle in her body that moved me.

With all of that going for her, this lovely lady had perhaps the sweetest Cavalier temperament of all the entries I saw on this day. My sincere thanks to her breeder for bringing her into the world, and to her owner for giving me the privilege of judging her, and happily awarding her

WINNERS BITCH, RESERVE BEST IN SHOW, BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX, BEST BLACK AND TAN IN SHOW & BEST AMERICAN BRED BITCH.

OPEN BITCH (2)

“The Open Class is often one of the finest of the day, and even with just two entries, this one was no exception to the rule. Either of these lovely girls had the capacity to win more than first in the class.”

1. CASTLEVILLE LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO (McCoy) What an incredible neck on this robust Blenheim girl of 2½ years, gracefully giving way to an elegant layback of shoulder. The resulting superior reach she had from the front was rivaled only by a strong drive from the rear, resulting in perfect consistency of movement. Both sweet and communicative, holding my gaze as I studied her, she has a lavish, silky coat and a wonderful tail carriage. I am delighted to have named her **RESERVE WINNERS BITCH & BEST BLENHEIM BITCH.**

2. PROMONTORY HENLEY (Solomon) The consistency of quality in this class was continued with this elegant and smooth-coated 2-year-old Blenheim who presented a delightful profile when I saw her in the lineup. Well-angulated from end to end, she carried both her head and tail attractively as she tracked accurately on the move. A very close contender for first place.

SENIOR OPEN BITCH (2)

1. CH HARRINGTON COVINGTON PEARL OF A GIRL VW (Gonyo) At almost 9 years of age, this Blenheim beauty's eyes still tell an enchanting story. Her silken coat flowed exquisitely as she drove with authority, using her strong rear extension to cover the ground smoothly. I loved the expression from her alluring eyes each time her majestically carried head came into view.

2. DELSOL ADORED (McHenry) A lovely head with proper eyes on this Tricolor of 7½ years, whose jet-black gossamer blanket was something special to behold. A nice cobby look on her solid body presented an attractive outline, and she moved especially true on the approach, as her constantly moving tail brought up the rear.

VETERAN DOG (1)

1. REGIS MAISONDUSOLEIL RENE (Schuberth) Critiqued above in Senior Open Dog.