

Judge's Critiques
CMW July 28, 2023
Rachel Venier, Orchard Hill Cavaliers

Thank you to the Cavaliers of the Midwest for inviting me to judge at the July show in Hebron, Kentucky. This was truly an event to behold. The club went all out for this show, with tea-party-themed ring decoration fit for a National specialty. The dogs matched the venue, with type in abundance. As is usual for CKCSC shows, all dogs were immaculately prepared and presented, and the exhibitors were a model of sportsmanship throughout the day. There's no better day than one spent judging Cavaliers in such a setting.

When I judge Cavaliers, I have an ideal dog in my mind's eye. I'm looking for a balanced dog with all points in harmony. A Cavalier should be an "elegant," "royal"-looking toy dog that is at the same time a small sporting spaniel. For me, the watchword in Cavaliers is "moderation": glamour without exaggeration or sculpting, sporting and athletic without raciness or coarseness. I'm always looking for a dog with both the foundation and the frosting. A dog with the substance, bone, and structure to evoke their working spaniel forebears, and the quintessential gentle, limpid Cavalier expression that lifts your heart every time you look at it.

I was impressed with the quality of today's entry. I had many deserving dogs and bitches to choose from, and felt my top winners and those in my cuts came close to that ideal dog that I am always striving for as a breeder and judge.

Junior Puppy Dog (5 entries)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brookhaven Hot Shot - Owner: Paula Ayers. Seven-month-old well-balanced tri dog with ample bone. Handsome head. Well angulated, hocks well let down, hard topline with tail off his back.2. Tudorr Bringing Home the Blues - Owner: Pat C. Mixon and Juhan Mixon. Seven-month-old blenheim dog. Correct head proportion. Big moving, plenty of bone. Lovely long neck into well set shoulders. Good color and coat.3. Carlen Tiny Tim Tater Tot - Owner: Carla Sue Close. Six-month-old blenheim dog. Pretty expression. A bit less substance than the two in front of him but well balanced and well angulated.4. Brookhaven Charcoal - Owner: Tia Gregory and Paula Ayers. Seven-month-old black and tan boy. Small compact package with the most lovely head. Large, round eyes, frontally placed, with slight cushioning beneath. Cobby shape with sufficient leg under him. Good bone for his size.
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<p>Senior Puppy Dog (1)</p>	<p>1. Falling Springs Black Flame At Madryn - Flynn Weeks and Susan Weeks. Nine-month-old black and tan boy. Beautiful moderate head. Correct balance between skull and muzzle, ears high set so as to make his skull appear flat when alert, slight cushioning beneath his large, round, limpid, frontally placed eyes. Big moving side gait with reach and drive and no wasted motion. Tail carried off his back. Clean coming and going. Silky straight coat texture. BEST PUPPY DOG.</p>
<p>Graduate Puppy Dog (3)</p>	<p>1. Chardomont First Edition of Chadwick, JW - C. Anne Eckersley. Moderate blenheim dog, 14 months old. Classic head proportions, large, dark eyes. Well balanced with correct proportion (slightly longer than tall). Great neck into shoulder transition. Good topline.</p> <p>2. Forestcreek The Showman at Tudorr - Pat C. Mixon, Juhon Mixon, Dr. Kevin Cline and Joshua Marshall. Blenheim dog, 17 months old. Handsome, masculine head, lovely large, dark, round eyes, moderate size and good substance. Straight, silky coat.</p> <p>3. Tassajara Blue - Jamie Seidman McDonnell and Ellen Seidman. Fifteen-month-old blenheim dog. Good bone and front angulation. Still maturing in body. More head than the two in front of him.</p>
<p>Novice Dog (1)</p>	<p>1. Krystle Hamilton - Larry & Cindy Torgersen. Moderate headpiece on this eight-month-old blenheim boy. Balanced with correct proportion (slightly longer than tall). Good neck leading into well-laid shoulders. Driving rear.</p>
<p>Bred By Exhibitor Dog (2)</p>	<p>1. Astarring All The Cats Pajamas - Jennifer Flowers Foster. My notes say, "All the glamour on top with the substance underneath." Mature two-and-a-half-year-old blenheim dog. Stunning headpiece with all curves and no hard angles. Large, dark, round eyes well cushioned beneath. Moderately angulated, good depth of chest and spring of rib, hard topline, good tail set. Balanced and moved smoothly and freely from every angle. Excellent bone for his moderate size. He exuded breed type and held my eye through the challenge, earning RESERVE WINNERS DOG.</p> <p>2. Ch Brookhaven Catching Fire, JW, AW - P. Ayers. Another impressive breed representative in this class. Handsome, moderate head on this ruby dog. Great bone for his size. Lovely outline with correct shape (slightly longer than tall), short coupled. Moderate angulation, level topline, silky straight red coat. Best Ruby in Show.</p>

<p>Junior American Bred Dog (3)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bluegarden Casino Royale - Alison Matos and Aili Di Bonaventura. Well-broken tri dog. Balanced, large round eyes on a full, masculine head. Moderate angulation, balanced dog. Straight, silky coat and well-placed tan, which are important features on tri dogs. 2. Krystle Blue Persuasion At Saintbrides - Pamela N. Burkley and C. Torgersen. Blenheim dog, almost 12 months old. Full, soft headpiece, beautiful eyes, moderate angulation. Good bone and substance, level topline, good side gait, straight silky coat. 3. Tassajara Trumpet At Twickenham - David Allen Frederick. Perfectly presented one-year-old Blenheim dog, sportier in style than the two in front of him. Moderate headpiece with beautiful eyes. Balanced and good proportion, slightly longer than tall and short coupled with sufficient leg under him.
<p>American Bred Dog (2)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tassajara Laws Of Motion - J. Seidman McDonnell/E. Seidman. My notes say, "A classic!" Compact dog with ample bone for medium size. Moderate head with soft expression, round, frontally placed eyes with slight cushioning beneath. Ears set high but not close. Lovely arched neck leading into well-laid shoulders, hard topline, short loin, correct tail set. Appealing, fluid side gait, moving in balance with reach and drive and no wasted motion, tail right off his back. Straight silky coat. Short listed to final four in the challenge. 2. Nightingale Revolution, MP - Lisa Cameron. Very pretty Blenheim dog. Soft headpiece, lovely eyes. Moderate size, pleasing cobby shape.
<p>Special Limit Blenheim Dog (2)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promontory Here Comes Hudson - Christine Solomon and Mary Orns. My notes say, "An 'outline' dog!" I loved him for his shape and overall balance. Soft expression, lovely eyes. Moderate angulation leading into a hard, level topline, good tailset. Pleasing side gait and presented to perfection. Short listed to final four in the challenge. 2. Tudorr Return Of The Velvet Teddy Bear - P. Mixon/J. Mixon Lovely Blenheim dog. Handsome head. Big moving and well angulated.
<p>Special Limit Tri Color Dog (1)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Falling Springs Ramblin Gamblin Man, JW, AW, MP — Barbara Grimm Curley. Moderate, Cobby little tri dog with beautiful head and eyes. Good tri type with rich red, well broken color, silky coat.

<p>Special Limit Black and Tan Dog (2)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sreya Brookhaven Finders Keepers, MP - P. Ayers Small, cobby boy with great bone for size. Classic headpiece with gentle expression. Level topline, well balanced, silky straight coat. 2. Chew Creek Boogie Wonderland - Trisha DePhillip. Well balanced black and tan dog. Big, round eyes. Strong movement.
<p>Open Dog (2)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch Falling Springs Just You Wait At Crownrose, JW, AW - Lacey Rosenberg and Elisa Rosenberg. My notes say, "A little showboat!" Classic Cavalier headpiece, which was all curves and no hard angles. Correct proportion of head, with shallow stop and tapered muzzle. Ears set high but not close, making his skull appear flat when his ears were alert. His eyes were large, dark, and round, giving him a gentle, limpid expression. Slight cushioning beneath his eyes. I could gaze at his face all day. Elegant, somewhat long, arched neck transitioning into well-laid shoulders. Good prosternum and depth of chest. Hard topline, tail set correctly and carried right off his back. Correct amount of leg underneath him, with equal distance shoulder to elbow, elbow to ground. Well-angulated front and rear, which resulted in strong, big movement with ample reach and drive. He held his topline at all times. Every moment was in balance, every big-moving step was the same, every stop was four square. He never let down through the day, exhibiting quintessential gay, fearless Cavalier character, and earned Winners Dog; Best in Show; Best Bred-By Exhibitor, Blenheim, and American Bred in Show. 2. Ch Nightingale Heart Of Gold, AW - F. Weeks/S. Weeks. Four-year-old Blenheim dog. Beautiful head and expression. Very good breed outline, only slightly longer than tall, with correct proportion shoulder to elbow, elbow to ground. A happy showman, well presented.
<p>Senior Open Dog (1)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch Royalmark Reminiscence at Camerona, VW - L. Cameron. Eight-and-a-half year old blenheim dog. Small dog with great bone for his size. Well-cushioned muzzle, good proportion of skull, large, round eyes. Balanced side gait with reach and drive, tail off back. A lovely elder statesman.

<p>Junior Puppy Bitch (6 entries)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brookhaven Night Before Christmas - P. Ayers. A little confection fit for our tea party-themed day! This seven-and-a-half-month-old bitch was a perfect little package. Great bone for her cobby size. Glamorous, plush head. Dark, round, frontally placed eyes. Short hocks, moving along nicely despite being new to the dog show world. 2. Chadwick Wishful Thinking - C.A. Eckersley. Six-month-old Blenheim bitch. Beautiful head. A big-moving puppy with reach and drive. Tail carried off her back. 3. Livelyoak Defying Gravity - Heather Borton. Blenheim girl with moderate, pretty headpiece. Good side gait, topline, and tail set. On this day she had just a bit less body than the two in front of her. 4. Pinnacles I Want to Dance With Somebody at Autumn Hill - Nicole Parente. Pretty black and tan girl with beautiful head, substance, and bone. I liked her cobby shape.
<p>Senior Puppy Bitch (4)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Autumnhill Bewitched - N. Parente. This ruby puppy was a balanced package. Correct proportion of head, with skull appearing flat when ears alert, shallow stop, and tapered muzzle. Large, round, frontally placed eyes. Moderately angulated front, good rear angulation. Great bone and substance. Pleasing sidegait with reach and drive. Clean moving coming and going. Her overall balance, movement, and type carried her to Best Puppy in Show. 2. Falling Springs Crownrose Black Velvet, JW - L. Rosenberg/E. Rosenberg. Very attractive black and tan puppy. Plush head, lovely eyes, well angulated with reach and drive. 3. Chiyoda Simply The Best - Chikuko Lemon and Michael Lemon. Blenheim girl with large dark eyes. Moved with good reach and drive. 4. Chiyoda Stuck On You - C. Lemon/M. Lemon Smaller girl with pretty eyes. The puppies in front of her had more substance today.
<p>Graduate Puppy Bitch (2)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brookhaven Diamonds Are A Girls Best Friend - T. Gregory/P. Ayers. Pretty little package. Blenheim girl with cobby proportion, pleasing head and eye. Well balanced girl. 2. Chardomont Cloud Dancer - Elizabeth Greak and Barbara Comer. Attractive, smaller blenheim girl. Lovely head, eyes, expression.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitch (5)

This was an exceptional class of girls.

1. **Ch Chadwick Trivial Pursuit JW - Margaret Reed and C.A. Eckersley.** This bitch was my picture of breed type: glamour and moderation in one. On first impression across the ring, she was well balanced and short coupled with sufficient leg under her, giving her the proper Cavalier breed outline. On closer view, her head was of correct proportion with the softest expression created by her largest dark eyes, dark pigment, and plush cushioning. It would lift my heart to see this face gazing at me from the couch. She was a very correct bitch on examination. She had a slight arch of neck leading to well-laid shoulders and correct front assembly, good prosternum, depth of chest, and spring of rib. Rear angle matched her front, and her tail was set and carried right off her back. She moved cleanly from all angles, with a balanced, fluid side gait. Lots of bone for a small bitch. In a deep entry, I was pleased to award her **Winners Bitch, Reserve Best in Show, and Best of Opposite Sex.**
2. **Falling Springs Shining Brightly - B. Grimm Curley.** Exceptional headpiece and large dark eyes with dark pigment and slight cushioning beneath. Cobby with lots of bone for her small size. Well-angulated front and rear, moved with reach and drive. She was a fun dog to have in the ring—a real show dog, always on the edge of over exuberance and wagging nonstop.
3. **NorthPointe Intoxicating - Deborah Mitchum** A little bleheim cover girl! Softest head with melting expression. Correct breed outline creating a pretty picture across the ring. Cobby, good substance, balanced, good topline.
4. **Ch Tassajara Some Bunny Loves Me, JW - J. Seidman McDonnell/E. Seidman.** Another gorgeous girl in this class with a stunning headpiece. Her eyes were enormous but still soft, and her dark pigment contributed to her limpid, gentle expression. Balanced with a level topline, tail carried off her back. Happy, fearless temperament, with tail gently wagging the whole time she was in the ring.

<p>Junior American Bred Bitch (4)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Livelyoak Spill The Tea - H. Borton. My notes say, "A glamorous blenheim girl with big movement!" Gorgeous head and eyes on this puppy bitch. Elegant, arched, slightly long neck leading to outstanding front assembly, with well-laid, flat shoulders and good return of upper arm. Good depth of chest and spring of rib. Hard topline. Rear angle matched her front, tail set correctly and carried off her back. This girl positively floated, effortlessly covering ground with an economy of motion. Shortlisted to my final five in the bitch cut. 2. Dreamvale American Dynasty At Crownrose - L. Rosenberg/E. Rosenberg. Another quality Blenheim girl in this class. Good bone and moderate size. Lovely large eyes and well-cushioned muzzle. Pleasing sidegait with reach and drive. 3. Tassajara Sweet Pea At Kingdomrun - Chris Degen and Yolanda Degen. Lovely girl with bone and substance. Pretty head, good shape, moderate angulation. 4. Tibbedon Summer Love - Edith Tibbetts. Smaller girl with a gorgeous headpiece and melting expression. Correct proportion, slightly longer than tall, short coupled, and sufficient leg under her. Great coat quality and color depth and clarity. She was a good sport, but not the happiest show dog today.
<p>American Bred Bitch (6)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarmarian Affairs of the Heart, JW, MP - Linda McFarland and Holly Young-May. A classic girl who balanced glamour and moderation. Gorgeous feminine head, correct in every respect. Large, dark, round eyes. Level topline, tail set correctly and carried off her back. Moderate angulation. Moved smoothly creating a pleasing side gait. Shortlisted to my final five in the bitch cut. 2. Tassajara Jalapeno Pepper - J. Seidman McDonnell/E. Seidman. Feminine, pretty blenheim girl with big, dark eyes. Balanced with correct outline. 3. Sherah Perfectly Wicked - Joyce R. Crommett. Another beautiful girl with lots of bone and substance for her small size. Lovely head, well cushioned with big round eyes. Pleasing side gait with reach and drive. 4. Brookhaven Mango Tango - P. Ayers Lovely blenheim girl. Correct breed outline, slightly longer than tall, short coupled, equal distance shoulder to elbow and elbow to ground. Pleasing headpiece.

<p>Special Limit Blenheim Bitch (4)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Almeara She's So Fine, JW, MP - Linda S. Whitmire. Moderate, balanced, well-angulated girl. Classic head with ears set high but not close, making her skull appear flat when ears were alert. Huge, frontally placed eyes with slight cushioning beneath. Very well-laid shoulders and excellent rear angulation. Good substance, depth of chest, spring of rib. She moved with reach and drive, covering ground with little effort. Impeccably presented in full bloom and ready to win. That, combined with her head type, overall balance, and movement earned her Reserve Winners Bitch in good company. 2. Clarmarian Eclipse of the Heart, MP - H. Young-May and Pamela Gogol. Feminine girl with the prettiest head. Very good proportion with sufficient leg underneath her. Beautifully presented. 3. Tudorr Gigi, JW - P. Mixon and Amanda Madden. Another lovely girl with the largest, dark, round eyes. Lovely fluid sidegait and level topline, with her tail carried off her back. 4. Chiyoda Angels Dream - C. Lemon. Pretty girl with big, round eyes. Correct moderate size and correct Cavalier proportion.
<p>Special Limit Tri Color Bitch (1)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chadwick Baccarat of Ceilimor, JW - Breda McCarty and C.A. Eckersley. Tri girl with dark round eyes. Excellent tan markings. Medium size, good bone, correct overall proportion.
<p>Special Limit Ruby Bitch</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Autumn Hill Under Your Spell, JW - N. Parente. Feminine head with large, dark, round eyes and slight cushioning beneath. Good bone and proportion. Moderate angulation. Rich ruby color.
<p>Special Limit Black and Tan Bitch (3)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Myrnac Tina Turner to Sherah - J.R. Crommett and Susan Grace Reid. Pretty head with large dark eyes. Good proportion, bone, coat, well-placed tan. 2. Tialully Tattoo Tootsie at Carlen - C.S. Close and Gloria Rubino. Bigger, balanced girl with pleasing head. Moved with reach and drive on sidegait. 3. Hytea Puddle Jump Of Chardomont - E. Greak/B. Comer. Pretty eyes and well-cushioned muzzle on this girl. Good topline, cobby shape with hocks well let down.

<p>Open Bitch</p>	<p>1. Ch Pinnacle Baby You're A Firework, JW - T. Gregory/P. Ayers. What a delight to meet this showy black and tan girl at the end of the day. From across the ring she had a beautiful outline, standing four square with level topline. Correct proportions of head. Ears set high but not close, falling forward to frame her pretty face. Lovely dark round eyes with slight cushioning beneath. Good depth of chest and spring of rib, and ample bone for her medium size. Moderate angulation that she used to her advantage, creating a fluid, balanced sidegait with good reach and drive, carrying her tail off her back. She pushed hard in my final cut of five girls and went on to <i>Best Black and Tan in Show.</i></p>
<p>Senior Open Bitch</p>	<p>1. Seraphaven Put A Spell On You - P. Gogol/H. Young-May. Ten-and-a-half and looking fabulous! Beautiful head and eyes. Correct proportion. Moderate angulation and balanced movement. This whole dog has held together—a credit to her breeders and owners.</p>
<p>Veteran Dog</p>	<p>1. Ch Bella Sogni Dolci De Amor, VW - S.Weeks/F.Weeks. Ten-year-old tri dog. Still held together and showing great. Handsome head, big movement, correct, clear tri color with rich, well-placed tan. <i>Best Veteran in Show.</i></p>
<p>Veteran Bitch</p>	<p>1. Ch Pinecrest Moonshine at Markley, JW - Laurie Storey. Pretty twelve-year-old blenheim girl. Moderate and correct proportion, slightly longer than tall with sufficient leg underneath her. Still moving sound with reach and drive.</p>