

## Judge's Critiques

**Cavaliers of the South, May 14, 2022**

**Rachel Venier, Orchard Hill Cavaliers**

Thank you to the Cavaliers of the South for inviting me to judge on the club's AGM weekend and for taking care of me throughout the show, which happened to fall the day after my birthday. I will certainly never forget hearing the entire room sing "Happy Birthday" to me as club members carried a giant table with two cakes into the ring right before Best in Show.

I couldn't have had any better birthday gift than the opportunity to judge the beautiful entry I had this day. I was spoiled for choice with depth of quality through the classes. As a preservation breeder, it was heartening to see.

When I judge, I have an ideal dog in my mind's eye. 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 fortunate to have many typey dogs approaching that ideal in the ring. Thank you to the exhibitors for bringing me a quality-packed entry, all so well prepared and presented, and for displaying sportsmanship throughout the day.

### **Junior Puppy Dog (7 entries)**

1. **Jayba Mr. Mister.** I admired this young Blenheim dog for his overall impression standing and on the move. Moderate but still glamorous head with large, round, limpid eyes, well cushioned beneath. Ample bone and substance without any coarseness. Well-angulated front, well-sprung ribs, level topline, correct tail set, hocks well let down. Created a lovely picture on the move with particularly good reach and tail carried off his back. Clean coming and going. I was pleased to meet him today and happy to award him **Best Puppy Dog and Best Puppy in Show** in an outstanding puppy entry.
2. **Loranka's Limited Edition.** Black and tan puppy boy with a beautiful headpiece and cobby build. A neat package with good bone and spring of rib.
3. **Riverview Orange Crush.** Ruby boy with beautiful head, compact build, ample bone, and ideal, silky straight coat texture. Balanced on the move.
4. **Pammar Veni Vidi Vici.** Blenheim boy with pretty headpiece, large round dark eyes. Good bone, silky straight coat. He looked like he was in a bit of an uneven growth stage today.

### **Senior Puppy Dog (1 entry)**

1. **Ingold Livelyoak Our Man Jack.** Alone in his class but a stand out in any company. Classic headpiece that was all curves and no hard angles with correct proportion of skull, soft expression with large, dark, round frontally placed eyes. Balanced overall with correct proportion, slightly longer than tall, equidistant withers to elbow and elbow to ground. Moderate angulation which he used to his full advantage creating a fluid side gait. Tail carried off back. Frosted with beautiful coat quality and pigment.

### **Graduate Puppy Dog (3 entries)**

1. **Sera Brookhaven Finders Keepers.** Very pretty black and tan young man. Cobby dog with good bone and overall balance. Correct amount of leg under him. Pretty head with large eyes, well cushioned beneath. Balanced movement. Silky straight coat. **Best Black and Tan Dog, Best Black and Tan in Show.**
2. **Tudorr Return of the Velvet Teddy Bear.** Blenheim boy slightly stronger in head than the dog in front of him. Ample bone and substance. Very well angulated and moved with excellent reach and drive.
3. **Granasil Strudel of Sumara.** Another handsome black and tan boy. Very pretty dark round eye and soft expression. I liked his overall shape, approaching squareness with sufficient leg underneath him. He was just a bit less mature than the dogs in front of him, but the "ingredients" are there.

### **Bred By Exhibitor Dog (1)**

1. **Ch. Nightingale Wipeout, JW.** Moderate Blenheim boy that I admired for his overall impression, balance, and side gait. Attractive headpiece with correct proportion of skull, dark, round, frontally placed eyes. He was a really pleasing dog under your hand, with a fairly long neck, slightly arched at the crest, leading to very well-laid-back shoulders, moderate depth of chest, elbows tight to his body, straight front legs, hard, level topline, well-angulated rear, correct tail set. He was moderate in size but big moving. Silky straight coat texture. He never let down and earned **Reserve Winners Dog, Best American Bred Dog, Best Bred By Exhibitor Dog.**

### **Junior American Bred Dog (2).** Only two in this class but both quality dogs.

1. **Falling Springs Just You Wait at Crownrose.** Very handsome Blenheim boy with a classic headpiece, large round frontally placed eyes, slightly cushioned beneath. Level topline, well angulated front and rear. He had big side gait, moving with reach and drive.

2. **Tassajara Laws of Motion.** Another quality dog in this class. Pretty, soft headpiece. Cobby shape, balanced front and rear. Held his shape standing and moving. Excellent coat texture and condition.

### **American Bred Dog (8)**

1. **Almeara ForestCreek Patrick.** My notes say this Blenheim boy was an “adorable neat little package.” Cobby dog with excellent bone for his smaller size. Pretty head with soft expression. Clean moving. Prepared and presented beautifully.

2. **Woodsong Riverdance.** Well-balanced Blenheim dog with the correct amount of leg under him, equidistant withers to elbow, elbow to ground. Classic, moderate headpiece and big, dark, round eyes. Pleasing side gait with reach and drive, tail carried off his back.

3. **Nightingale Heart of Gold.** I loved this dog’s glamorous headpiece and overall proportion. Large, dark, round frontally placed, slightly cushioned beneath creating a soft expression. Overall he was approaching squareness with the correct proportion withers to elbow, elbow to ground. Nice arch of neck, good bone without any coarseness. Well prepared and presented, exhibiting Cavalier gaiety at all times.

4. **Darane Happy Song at Kymerite.** Moderate black and tan dog. Large eyes on a moderate headpiece. Held his topline level standing and moving.

### **Special Limit Blenheim Dog (4)**

1. **Ellemich The Huntsman.** Glamorous Blenheim dog. Beautiful, masculine head with correct proportion of skull and large, limpid frontally placed eyes. Well-cushioned muzzle. Ample bone and substance without being overdone. Good prosternum, depth of chest, and spring of rib. Level topline, moderate angulation, balanced movement with tail carried off his back. Excellent silky straight coat texture. **Award of Merit** in good company.

2. **Nightingale Let it Be.** Another beautiful Blenheim dog, slightly less mature than the dog in front of him. Pretty headpiece and expression with large, dark, round eyes. Slightly longer than tall with sufficient leg under him. I liked his neck to shoulder transition, level topline, and driving rear.

3. **ForestCreek I’m the Man.** Blenheim dog with the most glamorous headpiece. Pleasing side gait. Ample coat. He was just a bit trepidatious in the ring today.

4. **Wellsworth Heaven’s Gate.** Larger Blenheim dog with masculine headpiece. Correct shape and outline. Presented well in full, silky coat.

### **Special Limit Tri Color Dog (2)**

1. **Melks Abbey Seventh Son at Gray Stone.** Tri color dog with handsome head and correct tri markings. Ample bone. Slightly arched neck leading to well-laid shoulders. Pleasing side gait with tail carried off his back. **Best Tri Color Dog in Show.**

2. **Falling Springs Ramblin Gamblin Man, JW.** Very pretty little tru dog, just a bit less mature than the dog in front of him. Pretty headpiece with large round eyes. Short coupled with sufficient leg under him. I particularly liked his silky straight coat and open tri markings, qualities that are hard to find in tri-color dogs today.

### Special Limit Ruby Dog (3)

1. **Brookhaven Catching Fire, JW.** Cobby, moderate ruby dog. I particularly admired his overall shape and balance, with ample bone on a moderate dog, short coupling, and correct proportion withers to elbow, elbow to ground. Handsome headpiece and silky straight coat. Balanced and clean on the move. **Best Ruby Dog in Show.**
2. **Riverview Cool Shade of Red.** Compact ruby boy with rich red color. Pleasing head with round eyes and ample cushioning. Plenty of bone for his moderate size and short coupling. Level topline and tail carried off his back.
3. **Tanglewood Simply Copper.** Larger ruby dog slightly rangier in type with moderate headpiece. Large eyes, slight arch of neck and well laid shoulders.

### Open Dog (5). It was a pleasure to judge all the dogs in this class, all worthy of their champion titles.

1. **Ch. & Eng. Ch. Pascavale Haiden, AW.** A classic Cavalier that immediately took my eye for his shape, balance, and sheer ring presence. My first impression was of his quintessential Cavalier silhouette across the ring: slightly longer than tall, equidistant withers to elbow, elbow to ground. A one-piece dog. That initial impression bore out through examination and gaiting. He had a handsome headpiece of correct proportion, with ears set high but not close, shallow stop, and slight fill beneath his dark, round, frontally placed eyes. Elegant arch of neck leading to good front assembly, with moderate layback, flat shoulders, and straight front legs. Moderately deep chest, well-sprung ribs, short coupled, rear angle that matched his front and well-developed rear musculature. He was balanced and free in action, using himself to his full advantage on the move, tail carried level with his back. He owned the ground under him every moment and every step in the ring. I was pleased to award him **Winners Dog** and later **Best in Show, Best Blenheim in Show.**
2. **Ch. Foxwyn Revolutionary, JW.** Slightly more masculine Blenheim dog showing quality without exaggeration. Handsome headpiece, well-laid shoulders, moderately deep chest and well-sprung ribs, level topline which he held on the move. Free side gait with particularly good reach. Correct silky straight coat texture. **Award of Merit.**
3. **Ch. Chocolat Du Chateau Noblesse.** Ruby dog who excelled in angulation and movement. Masculine headpiece, slight arch of neck leading to well-laid shoulders, tight elbows, moderately deep chest and well-sprung ribs. Hard, level topline which he held both standing and moving. Moved with excellent reach and drive, tail carried off his back. Clean coming and going. Silky straight coat texture.
4. **Ch. Forestcreek Major Tom, JW.** Glamorous Blenheim boy with the most beautiful headpiece and expression. Large dark round eyes, frontally placed. Good bone and moderate size. Good front angulation and a pleasing side gait with tail carried off his back. Full coat.

### Senior Open Dog (2)

1. **Ch. Royalmark Reminiscence.** Seven-year-old Blenheim dog still holding his shape and still happy to show. Lovely head with large dark round frontally placed eyes. Good bone and substance on a moderate size dog. Moderately angulated, creating a pleasing side gait with tail carried off his back.
2. **Tudorr Renegade.** Another happy elder statesman. Moderate head, large dark eyes. Slight arch at crest of neck leading to well-laid shoulders. Still holding his top line.

### Junior Puppy Bitch (6)

1. **Forestcreek Buckle Bunny at Mimric.** Scrumptious little Blenheim puppy. Glamorous headpiece with melting expression. Very good bone and substance. Moderate angulation. Fluid side gait, holding her topline with tail carried off her back.
2. **Nightingale Makin Trouble.** I liked this puppy's shape, approaching squareness with short coupling and sufficient leg under her. Pleasing headpiece. Level topline, driving rear, tail carried off her back.
3. **Harana Harvest Moon.** Another very nice Blenheim girl. Pretty head with large dark eyes. Level topline, stood four square.
4. **Wymns Beatrice.** Blenheim girl not quite as pretty in the head as the class winner today. Good proportion. Moved with reach and drive.

### Senior Puppy Bitch (5)

1. **Tassajara Some Bunny Loves Me.** Another little glamour girl. Beautiful, typey headpiece with the largest, dark, limpid eyes creating the quintessential gentle Cavalier expression. Moderate angulation which she used to her advantage, creating a fluid side gait, topline held level and tail carried off her back. **Best Puppy Bitch** in good company.
2. **Autumnhill Under Your Spell.** Ruby girl with beautiful headpiece, big eyes, and soft expression. Excellent substance on a moderate dog. Well angulated front and rear. Straight silky coat and rich ruby color.
3. **Marjorelle Aviatrix at Truelegance.** Another pretty Blenheim girl with large eyes and pretty head. Moved well.
4. **Masterpiece St Jon Strike a Nirv at Crown.** Feminine black and tan girl with pretty, large, dark, round eyes. Well balanced. Good coat and condition. **Best Black and Tan Bitch in Show.**

### Graduate Puppy Bitch (7)

1. **Brookhaven Smarty Pants.** A classic beauty. Feminine headpiece but with sufficient cushioning and large dark, round eyes. Good bone and substance on a small dog. Good angulation, fluid movement, carrying her tail off her back. Straight silky coat texture.
2. **Ingold New York Minute.** Charming moderate girl. Pleasing headpiece. I particularly liked her proportion and overall balance, slightly longer than tall, equidistance wither to elbow and elbow to ground.
3. **Kendall Kastle Keep the Faith.** Tri bitch with classic, beautiful headpiece, glamor without exaggeration. Good proportion with sufficient leg under her. Driving rear. Silky straight coat and rich, well-placed tan markings, which are important but often lacking qualities in a tri dog.
4. **Manorhouse Like a Lady.** Beautiful moving Blenheim bitch with very good reach and drive. She didn't quite have the gentle Cavalier expression of the girls in front of her today, although it could come in time.

### Novice Bitch (2)

1. **Royalmark Golden Girl at Nightingale.** Adorable five-month-old Blenheim girl. Fluid movement. Hocks well let down.
2. **Autumnhill Lil Bit.** Ruby girl a bit racier in type than the first bitch. Good color and coat texture.

### Bred By Exhibitor Bitch (2)

1. **Ch. Mimric Thirty-six Twenty-four Thirty-six.** This girl exemplified the balance of glamour and moderation that I look for in a Cavalier. Classic headpiece that was all curves and no hard angles, with correct proportion of skull, ears set high but not close, making her topskull appear flat and framing her pretty face. Slight stop and slight cushioning under eyes. Her eyes were large, dark, and round, giving her the classic limpid Cavalier expression. Beautiful silhouette with correct proportion, slightly longer than tall, equidistant withers to elbow, elbow to ground, and short coupled. She was fluid on the move, holding her shape and carrying her tail at the level of her back. Her foundational qualities were frosted with the darkest pigment, rich red markings on a pearly white background, and silk straight coat. I was happy to award her **Reserve Winners Bitch** in strong company.
2. **Ch. Brookhaven Mary Jane, JW.** Another typey Blenheim bitch. Beautiful head of correct proportion and pleasing expression. Compact and short-coupled with very good bone and substance for her size. Neck fairly long and well-arched, flat shoulders, moderately deep chest, well-sprung ribs, hocks well let down.

### Junior American Bred Bitch (2)

1. **Hudsonview First Kiss.** Moderate young Blenheim girl. Attractive head with large dark round eyes. Correct proportion, pleasing side gait with reach. Straight, silky coat texture. She clearly enjoyed playing show dog today, which is always fun to have in the ring!
2. **Parkmor Talk of the Town.** Moderate Blenheim girl with large eyes. Free in action.

### **American Bred Bitch (3)**

1. **Tudorr Gigi, JW.** Attractive headpiece with large eyes. Slight arch at crest of neck leading to well-laid shoulders. Level topline. Moved with reach and drive, tail carried off her back.
2. **Promontory Whistleblower.** Blenheim girl with pleasing, moderate headpiece. Well-laid shoulders and good bone and substance.
3. **Almeara Funlightenment.** Tri girl of somewhat lighter type. Big beautiful eyes, excellent coat texture on tri dog.

### **Special Limit Blenheim Bitch (5)**

1. **Crownheir Hallelujah.** A picture of balance and moderation. Blenheim bitch with correct overall proportion—slightly longer than tall, equidistant withers to elbow, elbow to ground. Pretty head with correct proportions of skull. Large, round, frontally placed eyes with slight cushioning beneath. Slight arch at crest of neck leading to well-laid, flat shoulders. Tight elbows, straight front legs, moderately deep chest, well-sprung ribs, short coupled with a hard level topline that she held at all times. Tail set correctly and carried right off her back. Balanced movement with reach and drive, holding her topline level. She was clean moving from every angle and stood four square at all times. She looked like a true volunteer show dog, displaying gay, fearless Cavalier character every moment in the ring. She was foot-perfect through the day, with all of her qualities on display, and earned **Winners Bitch, Best Blenheim Bitch, Reserve Best in Show, Best Bred-By Exhibitor in Show, Best American Bred in Show.**
2. **Sorella Brookhaven Trinity, JW.** Another quality Blenheim bitch. I particularly liked her proportion, angulation, and moderation of type. Pretty head with correct proportions, in no way overdone. Large, dark eyes. Ample bone and substance. She moved with reach and drive. A silky straight coat completed the picture. **Award of Merit** in a quality-packed bitch entry.
3. **Pammar Set Fire to the Reign.** Cobby girl with ample bone. Attractive head with large eyes, slightly heavier in type to the girls in front of her today. Pleasing side gait.
4. **Granlaurel Midnight Run.** Smaller girl with glamorous headpiece. Good bone for her small size. She moved with reach and drive. She just needs a bit more “finish” on her.

### **Special Limit Tri Color Bitch (1)**

1. **Lynsfair Love of My Life.** Well-broken tri girl with large round eyes. Showed well.

### **Special Limit Ruby Bitch (2)**

1. **Granasil Florentine of Sumara, JW, MP.** Ruby girl with lots of eye appeal. Head attractive, large eyes, well-cushioned muzzle. Good bone and substance on a moderate-size dog, well-angulated and moved with reach and drive, tail carried off her back. **Best Ruby Bitch, Best Ruby in Show.**
2. **Huntland Ginger.** Slightly rangier ruby girl, well-angulated front and straight, rich ruby coat. She stood four square and showed well for her handler.

### **Open Bitch (4)** Four lovely girls all deserving of their crowns.

1. **Ch. Forestcreek Vivian, JW, MP.** This girl exemplified glamour without exaggeration. Classic headpiece with beautiful large eyes and soft Cavalier expression. I particularly liked her proportion and shape, slightly longer than tall, equidistant withers to elbow, elbow to ground. Elegant arch of neck transitioning to well-laid shoulders, level topline, good spring of rib. Fluid movement with tail carried off her back. **Award of Merit.**
2. **Ch. Sorella Here Comes Chloe, JW.** Small, feminine, elegant girl. Pretty face with the largest, dark, round eyes, frontally placed. Well balanced with matching front and rear angles. She held her topline level standing and on the move. Her silky straight coat texture completed a pretty picture.
3. **Ch. Trueelegance Moonlight Rhapsody.** Tri bitch with fuller head. Well-angulated with level topline and tail off her back. She was particularly pleasing on the move, always in balance with reach and drive. **Best Tricolor Bitch, Best Tricolor in Show.**
4. **Ch. Krystle It's All About Amy.** Moderate Blenheim girl. Big, dark eyes and pretty expression. She was well-angulated front and rear, and moved with reach and drive, tail carried right off her back. Ample bone and substance without any coarseness.

### Senior Open Bitch (2)

1. **Krystle Star Quality.** Very pretty elder girl with correct breed outline. Big dark eyes, still holding her topline and moving with reach and drive at eight years old.
2. **Ch. Madryn Port Royal, AW.** Ruby with the biggest dark round eyes. Beautiful coat texture and rich red color. Moved with reach.

### Veteran Dog (2)

1. **Ch. Bella Sogni Dolci De Amor, VW.** Handsome tri dog that owned the ring. Masculine but attractive headpiece with big, dark eyes. Ample bone and substance, depth of chest, spring of rib. Well angulated, strong-moving dog. Rich, well-placed tan markings, well-broken tri color and silky coat, all important qualities of type in a tri dog. **Best Veteran in Show**
2. **Almeara Visionnaire.** Another quality veteran dog with breed type. Slightly larger dog who moved well from all angles.

### Veteran Bitch (2)

1. **Ch. Madryn Port Royal, AW.** Ruby girl, moderate in shape and proportion. Large, round, dark eyes. Moved with reach.
2. **Truluv Giselle of Foxwyn.** Blenheim girl almost twelve-years-old and still maintaining strong movement. Large, dark eyes. I particularly liked her shape and proportion.