Central Carolina CKCSC Specialty August 21, 2021 Judging Critique by Carla Mathies

First and foremost, I want to thank the members for having me come out to officiate your Saturday 2021 Specialty, especially when plans for shows & of course our lives have been greatly affected by the ongoing pandemic. I am so glad it all came together eventually with persistence. I also want to extend my personal appreciation & huge thank you to Heather Borton for being such a wonderful show chair & judge’s host. She wore “multiple hats” throughout the weekend, making it all look so seamless!

With multiple judging assignments being cancelled this past year and half, your specialty was technically my third permit assignment with a major entry requiring an AKC rep to watch my judging and procedure and write up a report on me as such. When discussing my assignment prior to the start of judging, she informed me that stopping to take notes or photos in the ring after each class for detailed critique purposes is not allowed. Being that she actually is the head of the Rep Dept., I was in no place to question her authority even though I haven’t been told that before now. I tried to make mental notes of at least my class winners & then major award winners that I discussed with her later in the day. Heather graciously took photos of those she could from ringside. What I can say is that the overall entry was quite evident in quality…most having lovely eyes with double pigment & soft melting expressions which is the hallmark of our beloved breed. I was also impressed with the outlines & properly carried tails on most exhibits, which seemed to be a bit of an issue last time I judged Cavaliers here on the east coast. Kudos to the breeders & my sincere appreciation to the exhibitors for showing to me your lovely Cavaliers, my pleasure indeed!

6-9 month Puppy Dog winner - #57 Brookhaven Number Nine Dream: youngest lad in this class didn’t let that hold him back! Moderate in size & coat, very proper for this aged class. Very sound up & back movement and nice shoulder lay back. Just a tad high in rear, but in my opinion should grow out of it.

9-12 month Puppy Dog winner - #27 Blackdales Magic Mike – singleton entry, flashy marked Blenheim boy with good pigment & nice size for age of class. I liked his length of leg to body depth, just a bit out of balance angle wise front to rear at this stage but still nice proportions body wise.

12-18 month Puppy Dog winner - #35 Milbu Unique Choice – I was impressed with this boy as soon as he came into the ring with his richly marked Blenheim color, glamorous coat & overall royal appearance. Well cushioned under his lovely dark large eyes with lots of bone & body. Well balanced front to rear with plenty of angle, just a tad narrow in the rear on the go away. Awarded him Reserve Winners Dog.

Amateur-Owner-Handler Dog winner - #45 Lucky Slevin Von Schwab An Der Fils - a mature Blenheim boy that’s short coupled, nice lay back of shoulder & nice topline. Classic proper flat skull but would prefer a larger eye & bit more cushioning to soften expression.

Bred by Exhibitor Dog winner - #21 Brookhaven Almost Paradise – very promising young lad – lovely dark pigment & soulful eyes, nice moderate size, beautiful crest of neck, short hocks & lovely coat texture. Just lacking maturity to my winners of the day body wise – looking forward to watching this boy in the future!

American-Bred Dog winner - #41 Flyinhi Forever in Green Jeans – singleton entry, classic head with nice flat skull & large eyes, good length of neck & short coupled. For my preference, lacking in some maturity in depth of body & a bit straight in shoulder layback.

Open Blenheim Dog winner - #7 Flyinhi Thru the Cosmos – classic style head with flat skull, upsized dog with heavier Blenheim markings with straight free flowing coat, nice front extension on the move. I’d prefer a longer neck for his body proportions and not as steep in croup.

Open Ruby Dog winner - #9 Pinnacle’s Chocolate Buttons – singleton entry, another boy that impressed me upon walking into the ring…bright, shiny silky textured coat & free flowing gait evident of his balance front to rear. Lovely shaped head – correct flat skull, beautiful round dark eyes with correct cushioning underneath them & soft expression yet very handsome. Best front assembly of the day with an evident prosternum that I was quite pleased to discover! Quite balanced front to rear…just a tad close in the rear on the go away, but not enough to affect his topline nor side gait in the least. Awarded him Winners Dog.

Open Tri-Color Dog winner - #39 Melks Abbey Seventh Son at Gray Stone – singleton entry, nicely marked, mature tri boy with lots of coat. Soft, sweet expression & balanced front to rear but could use a tad more length of leg for overall proportions & shorter hocks for soundness in rear.

6-9 month Puppy Bitch winner - #54 Ingold New York Minute – winner of a nice baby girl class, this flashy marked Blenheim had the sweetest feminine expression with lovely pigment, correct moderation for age of class. Beautiful length of neck & shoulder layback, loved her proportions & level topline.

9-12 month Puppy Bitch winner - #28 NorthPointe Intoxicating – close winner of a quality class, this exuberant girl with an awesome temperament stole my heart! Rich, chestnut colored Blenheim with smooth shoulder placement & tight knit elbows with great depth of body. Level topline & short loin with balanced angles front to rear.

12-18 month Puppy Bitch winner - #18 Bombay Lindly Loves Me – flashy, open marked Blenheim girl with lots of head for her slower maturing body at this stage. Large & round, well set apart eyes with nice cushioning under them & slightly rounded skull which made for a sweet expression. She’s slightly out of balance with more rear angle than front at the moment & needs more depth of body to finish her outline more which I believe will come with more time.

Bred by Exhibitor Bitch winner - #24 Mimric Thirty Six Twenty Four Thirty Six – as her registered name so implies, she’s got all the right curves in all the right places. Ultra-glamorous in appearance & perfect proportions head to tail in my opinion…as the saying goes, the one I would’ve quite happily taken home! Lustrous eyes & soft expression, visible crest & length of neck into well-laid back shoulders. Measuring by hand her height from withers to elbow to her height from elbow to ground appeared nearly equal & her body proportions being slightly longer than the height at the withers. Short-coupled & level topline both when standing & on the move, along with proper sound down & back. Possessing all these qualities, yet still moderate in coat & size so as to never mistake she’s not a girl! Awarded her Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex and Best Bred by Exhibitor.

Open Blenheim Bitch winner - #16 Almeara Once Smitten Twice Loved – mature, open-marked Blenheim with loads of coat having lovely eyes making a sweet, feminine expression. Well angulated & balanced front to rear with a level topline & nice short hocks gave her excellent reach & drive. I’d prefer a tad less weight on her & a bit more length of leg to balance out her outline.

Open Ruby Bitch winner - #42 Granasil Florentine – large, round darkest of eyes I’ve seen on a ruby that were well set apart & nicely cushioned underneath to make the sweetest, most feminine expression. Richly colored girl having proper textured, silky but moderate amount of coat. Lovely front assembly, well angulated but still balanced front to rear with great depth of body, short loin & short hocks…one of the best down & backs of the day. Awarded her Reserve Winners Bitch.

Veteran 7 years & Over Dog class winner - #11 GCHS Foxwyn Cool Water – 7 years young, such a sound classic styled Cavalier boy! Winner of “Best Pigment of the Day”, his chestnut Blenheim color was so rich too. Classic style head with proper flat skull & loads of cushioning under his eyes. Moderate, well balanced proportions, smooth on the move…one of the best male outlines shown on the day. Awarded him 1st Award of Merit and Best Veteran in Show.

Best of Breed Competition class winner - #33 GCH CH Ellemich The Huntsman - 2 year old male just starting to enter the prime of his show career, this exhibit oozes type with a definite regal appearance. Heavier marked Blenheim with an exquisite head shape, wide set dark round eyes & fully pigmented nose with “moustache” bonus pigment, full ears that frame his plush muzzle that was slightly tapered to make the softest of expressions. Straight silky coat, correct length to height proportions & balanced front to rear angles making his movement very elegant & full in stride…loved his correct tail carriage, wagging but never much above his topline. I would prefer shorter, stronger hocks but that doesn’t take away from his lovely side gait.

Select Dog winner - #53 GCHG CH Roi L Man In the Moon – 4 year old Blenheim male ready to deliver a beautiful, sound side gait exceling in reach & drive with tail carriage straight off the topline. Short coupled with excellent balance front to rear & moderate proper coat…preferred the BOB dog’s head in comparison.

Select Bitch winner - #50 CH Country Gardens Set in Diamonds – very young quality Ruby bitch special with shiny bright correct moderate coat. Very sound structure & beautiful layback of shoulder along with great substance but not too coarse.

#2 Award of Merit winner - #65 CH Northpointe Spennithorne Thyme After Thyme – 3 year old stylish dog with lots of glamorous coat & richly marked chestnut Blenheim markings. Sweet gentle expression, lots of substance & body…definitely a striking dog that catches your eye on the go around.

Best Owner Handled winner - #19 CH Legendcrest Finnickyskye Dream Catcher CGC – nicely open marked Blenheim boy with round dark eyes with full muzzle. Level topline both when standing and on the move…nice moderate dog with great attentive temperament, certainly loves his owner/exhibitor!