

I want to thank the club members for their invite to officiate their 16th Annual Specialty show and their wonderful southern hospitality! My favorite events to judge are specialties...having the opportunity to do my beloved Cavalier breed is such a privilege. I also want to thank the exhibitors for supporting the CKCSC of Greater Atlanta Club by making their entries & participating in the day's events. Specialties are "special" as they afford the opportunity for us to enjoy the company of our fellow exhibitors along with our dogs, what I and many other long timers consider the true "sport" in dog showing. I do hope you took the time to appreciate your fellow exhibitor, whether you won on the day or not!

This year's entry was evident in quality. Breed characteristics were presented such as gentle happy temperaments, proper melting expressions, outlines of slightly longer than tall bodies being short coupled, with just a few tails carried above the "2 o'clock" acceptable range. Some exhibits had not quite level toplines and some lacked the proper side gait made by reach in front & a sound, driving rear. Overall though an extremely good entry from which to choose the following major award winners:

Winners Dog - #45 Mimric American Heartthrob: Definitely my "cup of tea" as far as style, outline & movement – caught my eye as soon as he walked into the ring. Still maturing but so handsome & royal in appearance. Lovely melting expression with large dark eyes & shape of head. Excellent pigment & chestnut Blenheim color. Just loved his angles front & rear, with well laid back shoulders and level topline. Excellent silky, single coat texture, which some of the other male exhibits lacked on the day. Had proper happy temperament, tail in motion while moving, indicating he's having fun too! Also awarded him Best of Winners and Best Bred by Exhibitor in show.

Reserve Winners Dog - #35 KBPride Rattlebridge Fergus: Well marked Blenheim, I loved the shape to his head but white showing in one eye took away from expression in comparison to WD. Younger exhibit that has an excellent lay back of shoulder, nice level topline, proper tail-set, and turn to stifle which contributes to his exceptional side gait.

Winners Bitch - #42 Brookhaven Believe in Me: My WB came out of the BBE class, which was my strongest class of the day other than Best of Breed. She was feminine in expression with soft, melting eyes. She had such a lovely outline due to proper proportions – short coupled and shoulders well laid back. Ideal size to me, as I noted there were some entries on larger side. WB appeared square but was of proper length, slightly longer than tall. She also had moderate, straight silky coat, free movement on a looser lead, with straight and true "down & back" gait.

Reserve Winners Bitch - #30 KBPride Rattleridge Etiquette at Tea – From the 12-18 month class, clear winner of "Best Eyes of the Day" category, she had gorgeous, large round DARK brown eyes. She also had excellent pigment & rich chestnut Blenheim markings. Body proportions a tad longer and looser at the elbow than my WB. Loved this RWB's elegant length & crest of neck, straight level topline and her excellent reach & drive in side gait. As she matures, she'll be hard to beat!

Best of Breed - #39 GCH Stepamgar Skyfall – This fully mature Blenheim boy stood out to me as I walked down the lineup possessing everything in moderation and such a beautiful head! He had a soft, gentle expression due to his large, round dark eyes and lovely cushioning underneath them with an ear set that frames his proportionate headpiece. Well broken color with pearly white silky coat. Balanced

front to rear with sound construction, short coupled and parallel hindquarters with nice straight hocks. Moved freely with a level topline and had a friendly temperament with tail wagging indicating his “happy-go-lucky” attitude. Rounding everything off, he was shown with a proper natural appearance, presented by his handler impeccably.

Best of Opposite Sex - #22 CH Bonitos Companeros Uhura – Can you say “toy spaniel” – such a feminine, well-marked Blenheim girl of lovely shape & outline. Had a pleasing head, though I’d prefer a bit more length of muzzle & underjaw. Nonetheless, she excelled in other confirmation traits such as topline, tail carriage one of the best of the day & excellent side gait.

Select Dog - #37 GCH Jolainey Touch of Evan – A lot to like about this richly marked Blenheim boy – “Best Pigment” of the day with lovely eyes and expression, great length of neck blending into well laid back shoulders, though I’d prefer tighter elbows. Excellent topline and tail set – a tad long in outline however one of the best side gaits of the day, loves to show!

Select Bitch - #28 CH KBPride La Perle – Younger Blenheim of quality type with beautiful eyes and expression, rich chestnut markings & excellent pigment. Quite a nice shape with level topline – could use a bit more lay back of shoulder but does move quite nicely.

AOM 1 - #31 CH Almeara Extra Extraordinary – Richly marked Blenheim dog with such a classic shaped head, pleasing expression with a moderate stop and proper ear set framing his face. Needs a bit more maturity in body, but lovely constructed boy with pleasing outline and correct silky coat texture.

AOM 2 - #33 GCHS Aranel Avenger – Another quality dog, beautiful shaped head with dark eyes though white showing in one which made me prefer the higher placed exhibits. Well bodied with great angles both in front & rear with excellent reach and drive in addition to a well set-on tail.

Best Puppy in Show - #8 RanLyn’s Cristalle De Chanel – From 9-12 month bitch class, a lovely sized and balanced youngster, with such a sweet expression! Super mover with gorgeous reach and drive, beautifully presented.

Best Veteran in Show - #15 Karavale Brookhaven Finn THDA CGCA – At almost 9 years young, this Blenheim boy was still in super condition – nice mover, great topline, balanced front to rear. Tons of straight coat to add flash to a boy who loves to show!