

THE CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL CLUB, USA INC
BULLETIN



FALL-WINTER, 2012-13

“MEET THE BREEDERS”

MARKUS KIRSCHBAUM & KLAUS VORDERSTRASSE

BONITOS COMPANEROS, GERMANY

It is not an exaggeration to say that Markus Kirschbaum and Klaus Vorderstrasse have one of the most influential Cavalier kennels in Europe. Their successes in the show ring are becoming the stuff of legend and this year alone have included -- thanks to breeders Ruta and Peter Towse -- the following wins for Miletree Constellation, whom Klaus has been campaigning: 12 Toy Groups, 3 All-Breed Best in Shows (with entries of over 2000 dogs), BOB at the World Dog Show, BOB at Crufts, BOB at the European Winner's Show, and the current standing of #1 Dog All Breed in Germany.

But their success is not limited to Constellation. Bonitos Companeros dogs consistently do well in the ring with the most exciting day this year, according to Klaus and Markus, being the World Dog Show in Salzburg, Austria with World Junior Winner going to B.C. High Energie; World Winners Bitch to B.C. Zoom Zoom, and Best Baby Puppy to B.C. Marzipan. Further, both Charlie titles at the show went

to two English imports owned by Klaus and Markus, Maibee Debonair and Downsbank Cherry Companera.

In addition, this year Craigowl Santana, bred by Gordon and Norma Inglis, is being campaigned by Klaus, and gained his title in England at the Windsor show.

Closer to home, International, Danish, Swedish, Nordic, and Luxembourg Champion B.C. Halli Galli came to the United States to be campaigned by Ted and Mary Grace Eubank and is currently a champion in CKCSC,USA and a Grand Champion in AKC.

It is also worth noting that Markus has been approved for the international judging list and will be judging the New Orleans CKCSC,USA show the week of December 7-9, 2012, and Klaus will judge sweeps.

We are delighted that these two personable young men consented to be interviewed for the Bulletin.

1. Where do you live?

Markus: About 18 months ago we bought some property between Cologne and Olpe on 3000 sq meters that includes a small forest. It is a hilly area and we live on the top of a little hill. We have made our home here and take care of 15 adult Cavaliers and 5 Charlies, and assorted litters of puppies.

2. Describe your early years.

Klaus: I got my first dog, a mixed breed, when I was 9. After that I became a Cocker Spaniel owner. I got my first Cavalier when I was 23, Immenhof Classica, which became one of the most successful Cavaliers in Germany, ever. I worked for Dieter Heymann of Immenhof for about a year and a half where I was involved in showing, grooming, and learning everything I could about Cavaliers.

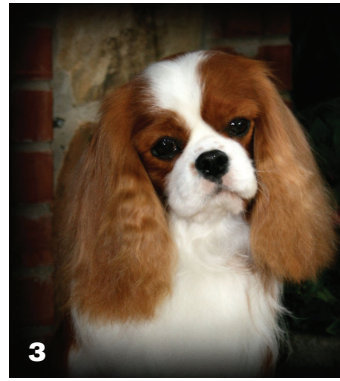
Markus: When I was around 5 or 6 years old, in the early 70's, my uncle imported his first Cavalier from England. The dog was a pet named King, but he influenced me to have my own Cavaliers. My uncle subsequently imported 2 more dogs, so I grew up with Cavaliers. I had my own kennel before I met Klaus under the Bonitos Companeros affix, and I started out with my foundation bitch, Lily, who presented me with my first litter, a singleton puppy I named Armageddon. It was after that that Klaus and I met in 2002 at another German breeder's.

3. Describe the early influences on your breeding program.

Klaus: In my early 20's I was mentored by Norma and Gordon Inglis after I had met them at Dieter's. They both helped me tremendously with my English. During this time -- about 10 years ago -- Markus and I went to England and visited 5 kennels. We were very impressed with Ruta and Peter Towse's Miletree kennel because all the dogs were the same size, had very good pigment, and were extremely typey. We then went to Pascavale and it was my first experience seeing that all the dogs had a similar look. That was when I knew I wanted my own look.



Bonitos Companeros Unbelievable (Blake) at 4 mos. & 17 mos.
(UK Ch. Maibee Make Believe x Int'l, Ger. & Austrian Ch. Aranel Energie)



Markus: Yes, we were impressed with the Miletree Kennel. We also liked the typey dogs from Pascavale and the heads from Aranel. These were the looks we loved and wanted. Because Klaus likes style and movement, and I like typey dogs with the temperament of a toy spaniel, we make a very good team. We discuss every dog in the house which makes it not always easy to live together because of divided opinions! But we talk everything out and think very hard before putting two dogs together.

4. What dogs have you imported from the UK and how did they contribute to your breeding program?

Klaus: First was UK Ch Miletree Miesque. Miesque produced in every litter a golden bitch. Every success we have today is out of Miesque's children and grandchildren. She never had big litters but every daughter she had produced well, along with her son Red Rum. She was a star. We lost her last winter at

11 years old from cancer. Aranel Energie and UK Ch. Craigowl Santana have also been instrumental in our breeding program.

Markus: Rosscrea Diplomatic is the reason we have a good type and glamour because we are now in the second generation and can double up on strong, short dogs

We do moderate line breeding. With total outcrosses the problem is you can't double up on the good traits. When you outcross, the more you bring in, the more problems you bring in as well.

which is the main thing we like because we feel many dogs in the UK are getting too long.

Aranel Energie produced B.C. Unbelievable out of CH Maibee Make Believe, and he is our golden goose in that in every litter you can see who the puppies are by. Mate him to a plain bitch, get a pretty head. He is dominant in producing type. He also produces small. It is amazing to look in the litter box and see that all the puppies are potential shining stars! He is

like a copy machine in stamping his type on the litters: we get good coat, dark pigment, big round eyes, lovely temperament -- very much a toy spaniel.

6. Who is the most important sire in your breeding program?

Klaus: Aranel Cosmic, who

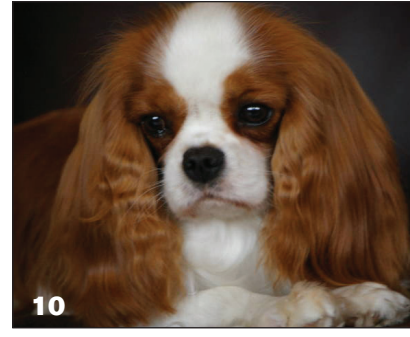
was out of Miletree Nijinski. Cosmic sired our English Champion B.C. Xtreme. Xtreme was the first English Champion bred and owned outside of England.

7. Today how many Champions have you bred to their championships?

Klaus: I don't have the exact number. Last year we finished 7 international champions in one year. We have champions in over 20 countries. We have some dogs in America who are

doing very well in the show ring, especially Halli Galli, being shown by Ted Eubank. Halli Galli was co-owned with Nicola Morrison whom Ted Eubank approached and asked if she would consider letting him come to the states to be campaigned. Niccola agreed. It certainly turned out to be a successful pairing as Halli Galli became a CKCSC, USA champion in his first two show weekends, then earned his AKC champion title in three show weekends. He became an AKC Grand Champion in less than two months from his arrival in the USA and is currently in the top 10 on the breed list per the Canine Chronicle.

We are also very proud of our relationship with Lana Adair. She has four of our dogs: B.C. Executor, son of International Champion B.C. Imperator; also B.C. Zsa Zsa who is full sister to World Winner Bitch B.C. Zoom Zoom (who has 2 reserve CC's in UK). Lana also has B.C. Je t'aime along with one of my very favorite bitches, B.C.



Gianna Nannini.

8. Can you talk about health problems in the breed?

Markus: We look at what we have in our kennel and see all our old dogs – they are all long lived but no one can guarantee perfect health. In the last few years we saw some crazy results from newcomers. But the good breeders keep cool and do their best and continue to work for the best of the breed. We scan, we check hearts, eyes, patellas, DNA, episodic falling, etc. But we can only do our best, and there are never any guarantees.

We do moderate line breeding. With total outcrosses the problem is you can't double up on the good traits. When you outcross, the more you bring in, the more problems you bring in as well. I'm a gardener and have chickens and geese and breeding is my passion. And it's all the same: you have to develop a good eye and put the right combinations together and hope that everything will work. But again, there are no guarantees.

I would like to emphasize that we're breeding for us, not

for the market. In all our breedings we hope we have the next star and keep something from each litter. We look for what we want to keep to promote our breeding program. We've had 5 litters this year and kept our pick from every litter.

9. What changes have you seen in the breed over the years.

Klaus: Too big, too long, and overcoated. Cavaliers should have a moderate, silky coat and not wooly like Afghans.

Markus: The main reason I love Cavaliers is the character and temperament. But I see that so many dogs at shows are not enjoying themselves. And the reason is because the breeder is only focusing on looks and not on temperament. If you have a good show dog like Constellation -- he loves showing and meeting new people and going new places and being a companion -- you'll see his tail never stops wagging. But I see

an awful lot of dogs that don't wag their tails.

10. Anything exciting coming up?

Markus: We will bring our new star out B.C. Finger Licking Good, who is 15 months old. She is out of our "golden goose" Unbelievable, and Caribbean Rum.

11. Anything else?

Klaus: Yes, I have a funny story. If we keep two puppies out of a litter we will call them after very attractive people, like George and Clooney. But we couldn't think of any suitable names for a recent litter so the last two girls we kept we called Poly and Ester!



Previous page: 1. Elaine Mitchell, Lana Adair, Klaus, Dorota Bialek and Markus. (Dorota owns B.C. Kaleo). 2. U.K. and Nordic Ch. B.C. Extreme, the first Eng. Ch. to be bred and owned outside of England. 3. Int'l Ch., CKCSC, USA & AKC Ch. B.C. Halli Galli owned by Niccola Morrison and Ted and Mary Grace Eubank. 4. B.C. Gianna Nannini, owned by Lana Adair. 5. UK Ch, World Winner 2012, European Winner 2012, current #1 dog All Breed in Germany: Miletree Constellation, 6. UK Ch. Craigowl Santana. 7. Typical Bonitos Companeros puppies. **This page:** 8 & 9. Int'l, German and Austrian Ch Aranel Energie. 10. Int' & German Ch. Caribbean Rum. 11. New hopeful B.C. Finger Licking Good. 12. Int. Ch. B.C. Polish Gold. 13. Norwegian & UK Ch. B.C. Extreme. 14. The 2012 World Dog Show in Austria with (L to R): World Jr. Winner B.C. High Energie; Miletree Constellation; World Winners Bitch B.C. Zoom Zoom.

