

*Bonitos Companeros & Deluxe
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels & King Charles Spaniels
of Markus Kirschbaum and Klaus Vorderstrasse*



*Top: Cavalier King Charles Spaniel - Bonitos Companeros Je T'Aime
Bottom: King Charles Spaniel - Ch. Downsbank Cherry Companeros*

Cavaliers came first, I grew up with them. My uncle imported three Cavaliers from Scotland when I was about 10 years old. They were house pets. My first Cavalier "Lilly" is sitting beside me as I write this. She came from "von den lustigen Kommonarden" one of the first Cavalier breeders in Germany. She was a great stock bitch to begin with, and we are still using her lines 13 years later.

I waited 7 years to have my first Charlie, because they were rare and hard to find. My dream was a tri-color bitch, even harder to find. I finally was able to buy one from Valarie Harvey at Rivermore Kennels (UK).

11 years ago I met my partner, Klaus Vorderstrasse at a Toy Dog Club meeting/Bar-B-Que. This was the beginning of the era of "Bonitos Companeros". Klaus was and still is an excellent handler. He excels and enjoys showing quality dogs. We realized very early on that showing and winning with one's own breeding gives a feeling like no other. My passion is the breeding. I love to combine the lines and create a new generation.

But to breed and show successfully, one must develop a network of friends, partners in the breeding program, and overall support. We are in a good position in both Cavaliers and Charlies, having both good friends and mentors. In Cavaliers we work closely with Ruta and Peter Towse of Miletree Kennels, and Norma and Gordon Inglis of Craigowl, both in England. In Char-

lies, we work together with Ruth and Alistair Mochrie of Downsbank Charlies and Bill Moffat from Maibee Kennels also from England.



*Eng. & Ger. Ch. Miletree Constellation
winner BOB at Crufts 2012 and 3 BIS in
Germany*

In Charlies, we are trying very hard to make the breed more popular in Germany. The most important things for us are good temperament, medium size, and good substance. The rules and regulations in Germany are very restrictive. One of the main problems is that there is no Specialty club for Charlies in Germany. We often are stuck in and between other breed clubs. It is vital at the moment to break apart the restricted gene pool. We are the only country in Europe that is not allowed to breed particolored with whole colors. At the moment we are working to find a reasonable compromise and re-work the existing rules. With a lot of backing from the motherland, we continue our fight.

(Continued on page 71)

(Continued from page 70)



KCS litter of all 4 colours by Maibee Debonair X Ch. Bonitos Companeros Deluxe Copyright Melrose

In Cavaliers, we are trying produce a puppy that fits both of our personal tastes into one dog. Klaus looks for style and structure, as he in the one stepping into the ring, and I want nice structure, but put just as much importance on type. This is a constant discussion in both our relationship and our breeding program.



Bonitos Companeros Finger Licking Good - Current CKCS winner at Germ. Bundessieger 2012

We cannot say which was our most successful Cavalier, but in 2011, 7 Bonitos Companeros finished their International Championship, and several more finished championship around the world.

2012 was also a special year for us as Bonitos Companeros Halli Galli, exported to Texas, is a contender for the #1 Cavalier in the Cavalier King Charles Club, USA. We also finished Craigowl Santana in the UK getting his Champion title there.



UK & Multi Int. Ch. Craigowl Santana

We cannot forget our huge success at the World Dog Show 2012 in Salzburg, Austria where we won with both sexes, both titles in both breeds!

The icing on the cake came in October, when our co-owned, Crufts-winning dog, Miletree Constellation, won German Dog of the Year (#1 Dog all breeds) 2012. He won 3 all breed BIS, 3 Reserve BIS and 14 Toy Groups. At the moment we are too overwhelmed to set goals for the fu-

(Continued on page 74)



*Bonitos Companeros Deluxe Good Golly Miss Molly
Best KCS Puppy at 2012 World Show*



*Above: World Show KCS Winner Maibee Debonaire, 2 CC, 2 RCC; Owners: Markus Kirschbaum & Klaus Vorderstrasse, Melanie and Jörg Kolb
Below: Painting of Maibee Debonaire*



(Continued from page 71)

ture.



*UK & Ger. Ch. Miletree Constellation
German Dog of the Year 2012
(#1 Dog all breeds)*

In Charlies we imported Maibee Debonair from Shealagh Waters and Joyce Robbins, and he is our favorite. He is producing some fabulous puppies. His titles include: European Winner, German Federation Winner, World Winner, Winner Amsterdam, 2 CC's and 2 Reserve CC's in the UK, and BOB at the Windsor Championship Dog Show.

My ideal Charlie would be hard to describe, but I can tell you what I love. I love the type and full heads of Maibee and Downsbank's Charlies. It was such a pleasure to use the current all time UK CC record holder "Ch. Maibee Theo" for stud. I presently sit beside the litter box, looking at the puppies, hoping that perhaps by adding some Bonitos Companeros to the mix, I have created something outstanding. This puppy "Mango" just might be the

one...



*2 KCS puppies by
Ch. Maibee Debonair X Ch. Bonitos
Companeros Deluxe*

My ideal Cavalier is a true little toy spaniel, very graceful with a short back, and a sweet expression. Some of my current favorites are Keyingham Branwell, Aldachel Victoria Rose, Aranel Genesis. And Miletree Constellation, of course.

We do not have a set formula when breeding. We look at each bitch individually, decide what she needs, and find a male who is known to produce it.

(Continued on page 76)



*Above: Downsbank Cherry Companera
Below: Bonitos Companeros Kaleo At Diorchavon owned by Dorota Bialek (USA)*



(Continued from page 74)

We know what we have in our lines and we are aware of any possible health issues. We also often seek advice from our mentors who have many more years' experience.

We start assessing our puppies when the puppy is first born, speculating on body proportions, markings, sex and so on. This continues every day until about 8 weeks, when I can get a good picture of the development. We never give up any puppy before 3 months, and have rarely changed our minds in the third month.



*Cavalier Puppy -
Bonitos Companeros Unbelievable*

When training puppies my best tip is use the dog's nature to have fun and work your way into show behavior. More rewards, no pressure.

Our best and worst moments? It was a magic moment to finish a UK Champion which was not bred in the UK, nor im-

ported. We made history by having the first foreign UK Champion Cavalier, and he was Bonitos Companeros X-treem. The worst moments are dealing with certain people. You know them, every breed, every club in every country has them.

Next for us? We are on our way to New Orleans for a judging assignment, then off to Orlando for the Eukanuba World Challenge. Next year, who knows.....?



*Am. Ch. Bonitos Companeros Gianna
Nannini owned by Lana Adair (USA)*



Bonitos Companeros Deluxe High Society at 8 weeks



Bonitos Companeros Deluxe High Society owned by Ruth Mochrie (UK)



Downsbank Vis a Vis at 5 months



Downsbank Vis a Vis at 13 months