

Judith G Echazarra

I was born in Spain in a family where dogs lived like family members. Always had at home 4 to 5 dogs at home. My mother got her first cavalier when I was 18 years old and since then I felt in love with the breed. I went to the states for my high school and also for my bachelor degree, and when I came back started to work as a human resource manager. After 10 years, I understood that that life was not meant for me and that I wanted to do something that had a real meaning. My husband suggested then to get our first show cavalier. He had been a breeder hence he was 14 years old, and was a founder of a breed club. He is a vet and I studied Veterinarian medicine for a year, but I realized I was attached too much to the dogs to be able to have the distance to perform a surgery so I decided to study Business Administration and Finance, as I was good with numbers.

We decided to look in France and assisted several times just to watch and carefully decided what we wanted. We fell in love with a small dog that was a dream, CH Carham actors studio. And decided to patiently wait for a son. As I wanted to show but never intended to breed. We got our first tricolor cavalier whom obtained the RCC at the French club show years after under Mr Michael Leonard. Hence then, we started learning, traveling and having really clear what we wanted. So from then on we started getting girls that fit the type we wanted with nice pedigrees with dogs we loved. A niece of Pascavale enchanted, a daughter of Gentleman and so on. We looked for type, structure, classic heads and health. Years ago I was invited to judge abroad and felt I would have loved to go and serve the breed in other way. I will not breed forever as breeding consumes lots of energies and I do not picture myself breeding at 85. So I started the process passing the qualifications and exams to become a judge, just in cavaliers. Cavaliers are my life, and all goes around them. We have bred around 215 champions and 3 world winners, 2 junior world winners; 1 European Champion 1 UK champion, 1 RCC at the cavalier club show and 1 CC at Northern Ireland CKCS Club show. Several French champions. Showing is a way to have fun with our dogs, and is a way to see others people work and check the reality of a breed, maintaining a close contact with the breed and helps us to self evaluate us.

I am a graduate in Business Administration by Georgetown university DC. And have two children. So breeding was a way of being at home and raising my children, while doing what for me has always been a passion, dogs. Then when you get your first cavalier you do not want any other breed, which it was clear at my family home, 35 years ago. We have assisted to the NE in France since 15 years ago, WDS, European shows and so on. As I understand that as my holidays doing what I enjoy the most, being surrounded by what I love, Cavaliers.

The breed needs people eager to work and serve it, as is being constantly put into question. Judging with honesty is a way of enhancing the dogs that should be rewarded and therefore, is a way of working for the breed in a different way. As a dog in type and female would always help the improvement of later generations. As poor examples of the breed can hurt it. I am very self exigent with myself, I am my worst judge, and I hope I will be up to my own requisites of honesty, knowledge, accuracy and being able to translate it all on a rapport that will be easily understood by all exhibitors. Shows should be breed celebrations, and where the judge is open to answer and be accessible to all kind of questions. Hope to be up to that level as we need new people coming in, doing things right and with respect.

The pic I enclose was a very significant day, Kamelot obtaining the RCC at crufts at 12 months old under a judge I admired and will always admire as a breeder and a judge for his charisma. Cavaliers are truly life companions, and I would not how to live without one by me. I have judged in Iceland the club show, in Denmark the club show, in the US the cavalier club of the Midwest, and in France the NE, which is the club show.