

Snapshots from the 147th Westminster K.C. Show

By Barbara E. Magera, M.D.

In May, 2023, the 147th Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) show was held in Flushing, New York. Breed Judge Ted Eubank (Pinecrest) evaluated 26 champion Cavaliers.

CKCSC members whose Cavaliers competed in conformation at WKC include:

BOB to GCHP: CH Castle Peak Field of Dreams bred by Patricia Johnson and owned by Rebecca Lofholm, Janet Talmy and Patricia Johnson. Pride and emotion overwhelmed expert handler Janice Hayes when handed the coveted WKC rosette.

BOS: Kelly Fadel with CH Crownheir Hallelujah

SELECT BITCH: Anne Eckersley with CH Chadwick Trivial Pursuit

AOM: Ann Knauss and Carla Close with GCHB CH Carlen Myrddin Wylit at Tycwn

AOM: Lynnette Bragg with GCH CH Mtn to Sea Hope Diamond Shining at Ranlyn

AOM: Beverly Manley with Braemore KBPride It's Only Make Believe) "Marigold".

On the eve of group judging, Judge Beth Sweigart entered the ring with poise, grace and elegance. True to her style, her cuts were decisive and swift. During their final lap around the ring, tension and excitement mounted as fans cheered for their favored starlet. Her top honors went to the Petit Basset Griffons Vendéen, affectionately known as the PBGV's. Judge Sweigart awarded BIS to CH Soletreader Buddy Holly breed by Gavin and Sara Robertson, expertly shown by handler Janice Hayes and owned by Janice Hayes, Lizzie Canmore, Cathy Oneill and Donna Moore.

The thrill of WKC intensifies with each show I attend. WKC showcases champion canines who perform at the pinnacle of their athletic careers. From all over the world, canines compete against the best specimens of their breed. Annually, WKC introduces new breeds recently recognized by the AKC. WKC is a unique experience to observe champion pure bred dogs and to learn from seasoned breeders and experienced handlers.



PHOTOS ON THE GREEN CARPET BY BARB MAGERA, M.D.



A Judge's Road to Westminster

EDITOR'S NOTE: A big Thank You to Ted Eubank, who kindly agreed to be interviewed about his judging assignment at Westminster this year. Here is an informative behind-the-scenes narrative of how he prepared for it and what was going through his mind on the actual day.

1. When did you first decide to apply for your AKC judge's license, and why?

My first application was for Cavaliers in 2006. I had judged CKCSCUSA shows for a few years and had been asked to judge in foreign countries. There were no foreign countries that recognized the CKCSCUSA judges to judge point (Championship) shows. So that led me to seek AKC Judging approval.

2. How long did it take? How many breeds are you now approved to judge?

I now judge 56 breeds (23 Toy breeds plus the Toy Group and 33 Sporting breeds plus the Sporting Group). I was



Ted, Janice Hayes, & Castle Peak Field of Dreams

approved to judge the last 7 sporting breeds in 2022 and I am still Permit status for several of those. By the end of this year I should be Regular status on all of these two groups. I have applied to judge 6 breeds in the Non-Sporting Group and have an interview with an AKC Executive Field Rep in June.

3. Describe your reaction when you received the invitation to judge at Westminster. (How many AKC judging assignments had you completed prior?)

Approximately 125 including domestic and foreign assignments prior to Westminster.

I was blown away when I received the invitation letter from The Westminster Kennel Club. I had shown there 8 or nine times and won Best of Breed 3 times plus three Awards of Merit. I never thought I would be asked to judge it.

4. Between the period of receiving the invitation and judging at the show, how did you mentally prepare yourself? How did you feel about this assignment compared to past ones?

From the day in October (2022) that I received the invitation, there was not a day that I did not think about it. I began reviewing all of my studies I had accu-

mulated on each of the 8 breeds/varieties I had been assigned. Some of the breed clubs have breed courses on the AKC website (the Canine College) and I went back and replayed all that were available.

I called on my mentors who had helped me in my studies and a we met and watched videos of breed judging from past events including some old Westminster shows.

5. What was your state of mind on the day of? What was the entry? (You looked fairly relaxed in the photos I saw.)

I knew I would have butterflies and I did! My total entry was 119 dogs. The first breed for me that day was Pugs. There were 28 entered and I was nervous when they entered the ring. One or two dogs into the judging and all butterflies were gone. It was just fun and concentration after that.

It is so much more fun to judge quality exhibits and that is what I had. In every breed there were really good dogs and bitch-ees and a very few that were not.



Ted, Kelly Fadel and CH Crownheir Hallelujah

In Cavaliers, there were also 28 entered. Some I had seen and judged before but there were more that I had not judged until that day. My Best of Breed could win anywhere in the world. Best of Opposite and Select Dog and Bitch were excellent. I was allowed to award three Awards of Merit and they were really beautiful dogs too. Any one of these could win in another competition on any given day.

6. What was your overall impression of the dogs presented to you. (Do you want to talk about your winners, or no?) see above.

I had never seen the Pekingese that I awarded Best of Breed. It was a beautiful male and went on to win the Toy Group that night and Reserve Best in Show the next night. 🐾

