

September 2025, ECSCC National Specialty, Club Canin Chomedey, Terrebonne, Qc.

Critique and Comments by Pierre Talbot, Judge

I'm truly honored and thrilled to have had the opportunity to judge the National Specialty of the English Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada, held at Club Canin Chomedey. It was a privilege to step in for Ms. Whitfield, who was regrettably unable to attend.

My sincere appreciation goes to the Québec committee and all the dedicated volunteers for your hard work and warm hospitality. Bravo!

Congratulations to all my winners, and a big round of applause to every exhibitor and friend who made the effort to be present at the National. Your passion and dedication to the breed were truly appreciated.

I must say right away—the overall quality of the entry truly shone on the day. The youngsters showed great promise for the future, and the veterans were nothing short of inspiring.

In general, I was looking for correct type—shape, balance, style, soundness, and condition.

My critiques are what I saw and felt on the day.

The English Cocker Spaniel is a breed of beautiful moderation, and one key feature I paid close attention to was the forechest. It should be well-developed and set under the body to properly support the weight of the rib cage—an essential element of correct structure and function.

WINNERS DOG AND BEST OF WINNERS

GOLDEN GAIT BEACH BUM I BELIEVE IN MAGIC 7/15/2024

At 1 year and 2 months old, this young black dog was presented from the Bred By Exhibitor class. He carried himself with confidence and had a lovely type and overall balance. His ribcage was well-sprung, complemented by a moderate forechest that was correctly set under the body to support the rib structure.

He displayed a well-constructed front assembly, a firm topline, and a short loin. His hindquarters were strong, with proper moderate hocks, contributing to a sound and efficient movement.

Beautiful coat condition, enhancing his overall presentation. A promising youngster with much to offer.

RESERVE WINNERS DOG AND BEST PUPPY

BLUESTEM TELLURIDE 10/29/2024

This 11-month-old tri-color male was presented in the Senior Puppy Dog class. He is a promising youngster who will continue to develop with time and maturity.

At present, his topline is somewhat unsettled, but this is not unexpected at his age and should improve. He exhibits correct spring of rib, appropriate bone, and pleasing coat texture. He uses himself well on the move, showing coordination and drive.

A very handsome puppy with lovely breed type, balanced proportions, and an ideal temperament— alert, and eager to please. With continued growth, he should mature into a fine representative of the English Cocker Spaniel.

VETERAN DOG

GCHB RANZFEL VOLKA TONIC 9/1/2016

At 11 years and 10 months, this veteran was quite impressive on the move. He demonstrated excellent reach and powerful drive—remarkable for his age and a testament to his enduring structure and conditioning.

A distinguished gentleman of experience, strength, and elegance, he continues to use himself well. His balance and angulations remain correct, contributing to a sound and fluid movement.

A true credit to the breed and a joy to watch in the ring.

WINNERS BITCH

GOLDEN GAIT'S BEACH BUM I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES 7/15/2024

This elegant black bitch, litter sister to my Winner's Dog, was again presented from the Bred By Exhibitor class. Her quality was undeniable, with excellent breed type and overall balance.

She possesses a beautifully shaped head with a correct stop, and her eyes and expression are particularly captivating—soft, intelligent, and true to the breed. Her topline was firm and level on the move, supported by a well-sprung ribcage and correct bone. Her coat was silky and in superb condition.

She showed with confidence and ease, demonstrating sound movement from both front and rear assemblies. A lovely bitch in every respect, with presence, precision, and poise.

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH**SIDECAR HENLEY'S ONE STOP 7/3/2024**

Shown in the 12–18 Month class, this young bitch shows potential and will hopefully benefit from continued maturity and development. At present, she lacks forechest, which affects her reach and limits the efficiency of her drive. Nonetheless, her motion remains easy and fluid, showing a natural rhythm even without full extension.

She presents a pleasing head with beautiful eyes and soft, expressive features. Her coat is silky and well-maintained, adding to her overall appeal.

VETERAN BITCH, BEST VETERAN and AWARD OF MERIT**GOLDEN GAIT'S I HOPE YOU DANCE 7/9/2018**

This 7-year-old golden veteran bitch was simply stunning. On the move, she excelled with an easy, flowing gait that demonstrated proper balance and impressive ground cover. Her topline remained firm and level throughout, supported by correct front and rear angulations.

She is a substantial bitch with enduring quality and elegance. Her headpiece is particularly pleasing, featuring a correctly arched skull and a defined yet moderate stop, in keeping with the breed standard. Her ear set is well-placed, and she possesses lovely eyes with excellent pigmentation, contributing to a soft and intelligent expression.

Beautiful example of the breed, showing both grace and soundness in her veteran years.

BEST OF BREED**GCHS CARNABY ONE AND DONE 4/4/2023**

This 2½-year-old dog presents as a handsome and mature individual with good substance and excellent breed type. His ribcage is well-sprung, with a moderate forechest that supports his overall balance. The neck is cleanly set into the shoulders, contributing to a firm and level topline, with the tail correctly carried off the end of the back.

His coat is in beautiful condition, enhancing his outline and presentation. He moves with a powerful yet effortless gait, covering ground with ease and precision. His front and rear assemblies are very good, with a sound and fluid movement.

A merry sporting dog through and through—confident, stylish, and full of breed character. Bravo!

BEST OF OPPOSITE**GCH ESPECIALLY'S ONE NIGHT STAND AT CHERRYWOOD 10/6/2024**

At 15 months of age, this young bitch displays excellent breed type and commendable balance for her stage of development. As the daughter of my Best of Breed, she is certainly one to watch.

She presents a moderate forechest, well set under the body, and a short, strong back that supports her sound movement both coming and going. Her side gait is lovely, with correct reach and drive, allowing her to cover ground with a powerful yet effortless stride. Her motion is merry and true to the breed's sporting nature.

Her headpiece is pleasing, with a moderate stop, a well-proportioned muzzle, and low-set lobular ears. Her eye and expression are soft and engaging, and her overall condition and presentation were excellent.

Well done.

SELECT DOG**CH GIROFLÉE DALWHINNIE VINTAGE 12/23/2023**

At nearly 2 years old, this dog was a strong contender. He presents with a super head and neck, fine sloping shoulders, and a developed forechest paired with a deep brisket—hallmarks of correct breed structure.

His rear is well-angled, and his tail is properly set and carried with lively action. On the move, he covers ground with a powerful and effortless gait, maintaining balance and rhythm. A merry sporting dog with excellent breed character and ring presence.

SELECT BITCH**CH GOLDEN GAIT'S DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY 7/7/2022**

This 3-year-old golden bitch presents a compact, cobby outline with lovely proportions and breed type. She carries a strong neck that flows cleanly into well-laid shoulders, contributing to her balanced silhouette.

Her head is sweet and feminine, with a soft expression that enhances her overall appeal. She shows a well-angled rear, allowing her to move with drive and purpose.

Congratulations to all exhibitors.

Pierre Talbot