

MEET THE BREEDER

HEIDI MOHN,



COVINGTON CAVALIERS

I grew up in the All American Family and an Air Force brat, the oldest of 3 younger brothers. My Dad, a F4 fighter pilot in the Air Force, has always been my hero. My favorite childhood memories were being his co-pilot when he'd take me flying in private plans. We travelled to every historical site in the world we possibly could, we lived off the Air bases so we could learn to appreciate the different cultures and have no prejudices. We were brought up with a strong moral, Christian, conservative foundation, where you sacrifice for the greater good, are responsible for your own actions and never live beyond your means.

When stationed in England in the early 70's, we lived in a renovated council house in the small village of Islip, Oxfordshire. Mom plugged 50 pence pieces into a meter in the kitchen to keep our power on. I went to the English schools, rang with the Oxford Diocese Of Church Bell Ringers and was confirmed Church Of England.

The next year when we moved to the town of Bicester, my parents agreed I could have a pony if I could find a place to pasture it. A farmer down the road allowed me for 2 pounds a month. Mr Kelly and son also raised steeple chase racing Thoroughbreds. Kelly was very old school, loved to talk horses and taught me from the hoof up what makes a good running horse. Correct length and angles of bones, correct balance, carriage, reach and drive. He also had great knowledge in the importance of growth rate in young horses and the potential devastating effects. I joined the Pony Club, attended riding



academies, horse camps, gymkhana's and fox hunts. Hours were spent learning horsemanship, anatomy and animal husbandry. I outgrew my Welsh Cob quickly and fortunately had enough talent to work with and ride to the hunts (one which Prince Charles himself rode) on some of the big Hunters at a nearby stable. It was the experience of a lifetime and still without question, the best days of my life. Back stateside, in Clovis New Mexico – Cowboy Country. Encouraged to live the culture, I joined 4H, FFA (Future Farmers of America) and started rodeoing. - I LOVED IT! I continued rodeoing when my parents retired in Washington state. I was one of the first girls to participate in bull rid-

ing competition once it became a women's event. I made All Around Cowgirl in 1979 and was Rodeo Queen for the North Whidbey Stampede in 1980.

• • •

Greg and I met and married after graduation in 1984 from Central Washington University. We lived in the small horse community of Covington, Washington. We never had children but enjoyed having horses and our pet Cocker Spaniels. Inevitably, a congenital hip problem in both my hips that had plagued me for years got the better of me and I had to quit riding and have both hips replaced. We had planned that we would transition into dogs when the time came and it was initially between Great Danes

and Cavaliers. But while out boating with friends we came across a Blenheim Cavalier on a neighboring sailboat. Smitten with the beauty and temperament of the breed our decision was made. With no internet we found a rare ad in the paper and filed it away for a future reference. Two years later, in 1993, we called that ad. It was Cathy Chandler of Patchwork Cavaliers. Cathy graciously gave us her attention and told us about CKCSC-USA and the local COTW club which at the time was quite active in the Northwest. We immediately got involved. In short order I met Marian Oxenham of Raymar Cavaliers in Seattle. Originally from England, Marian is the local historian of the breed with yearbooks and books of Champions dating back to the beginning. Like her, I became obsessed with pedigrees and using 3 ring binders I had every significant pedigree out there. I was crazy about the Craigowl dogs. I loved their type. They had brilliantly crossed the Homerbrent and Kindrum lines. I loved the elegance and beautiful eyes on the Kindrum dogs and the cobby short coupled, broad back skulled Salador dogs. All these were my inspiration in creating a Covington dog from scratch. I received the best advice from the ever so elegant Pam Thornhill of Kindrum. While dining at her table during the English Club show in 1997, where I was also able to spend a few one on one minutes with the famous Alberto of Kindrum, she advised, "Listen to everything everyone has to tell you, then go do what you want to do and let them be mad if they need to be."

We started with the best we



Opposite page: Heidi and Charlemere Royal Windsor of Covington, Heidi's foundation dog. **Clockwise from top left:** Heidi with her first Cavalier in 1994; CKCSC,USA and AKC CH Covington Maker's Mark; AKC CH Rosscreea Flying High at Covington, dual ROMs and #7 Cavalier with AKC Breed Standings in 2008. Multiple BIS winner CKCSC, USA and AKC CH Covington Cowboy Up (Heidi's first champion).

could get our hands on at the time with the focus on confirmation and pedigrees, not cosmetics. Our initial foundation stock started with an undershot Blenheim bitch with a smudge, Raymar Friendly Persuasion of Covington ROM-AKC, (Islip was an Alberto of Kindrum daughter bred to a Springtide of Alansmere son), and a Blenheim dog with white in one eye, Charlemere Royal Windsor

& AKC CH. Covington Cowboy Up. Most of my pedigrees today go back to Windsor and Islip. The rest go back to AKC CH. Crossbow Consuelo, bred by Wesely Schiffman. When Consuelo was bred to the first of my influential imports, AKC CH. Rosscreea Citizen Kane, she produced our 2002 National Specialty Winner, BIS CKCSC-USA and AKC CH. Covington Kiss This and her lit-

duced Covington Latigo Lace ROM who herself produced 3 club Champions and a ROM in a single litter.

• • •

My cherished relationship with Wendy Taylor of Rosscreea UK began in 1998 when I phoned for a visit to see her wholecolors. I decided not to breed wholecolors but got goose bumps when I watched the only blenheim in her house when

Rosscreea Summertime, both of whom I co-own with Jennifer Flowers Foster), Rosscreea Alizadora and Rosscreea Tarantino, who is making a nice impact on our breeding program.

But it was AKC CH. Rosscreea Flying High, dual ROM-#7 Cavalier AKC Breed System 2008 (Rosscreea Vanilla Sky X ENG. CH. Aranal Ballistic) who made the biggest impact on our breeding program despite losing his fertility before he was 3. He is an up to size, beautifully put together dog with a text book temperament, good health and a consistent producer. Today, Flying High is in most of my pedigrees, many through his sons, the "Band Of Brothers" of which all are still producers at 6 and 7 years of age: CKCSC-USA and AKC champions Covington PayDirt ROM AKC- #3 Cavalier AKC Breed System 2009; Covington Chrome; Covington Makers Mark; Covington Patent Pending; Covington Predator, AKC CH. Covington Burnt Suede and their sister, CKCSC-USA and AKC CH. Covington Gotta Kiss The Girl. The majority have gone on to produce Specialty

Famously, the Kindrum and Salador blood lines had crossed beautifully and when I executed my plan & crossed these two dogs in 1999, they produced my first Champion & Multi BIS CKCSC-USA & AKC CH. Covington Cowboy Up.

of Covington, bred by Angela Thomas of BC. Windsor was a repeat breeding of CKCSC-USA and CKC CH. Charlemere Headliner. (CAN. CH. Peatland Dasher daughter bred to CKCSC-USA and CKC CH. Laughing Charisma). Famously the Kindrum and Salador blood lines had crossed beautifully and when I executed my plan and crossed these two dogs in 1999, they produced my first Champion & Multi BIS CKCSC-USA

termate brother CKCSC-USA and AKC CH. Covington Not For Sale. We were able to breed to some very influential dogs at the time including Jo Anne Carvill's BJ Back to the Future and Karin Ostmann's Ch. Sheeba Special Edition. Mike Hat-ter also allowed me to own and show AKC and CKC CH. Ivy-lane Sampson (BJ Hullabalo X Saintbrides Nautica) for a couple years. Sammy bred to my Special Edition daughter pro-

duced Covington Latigo Lace ROM who herself produced 3 club Champions and a ROM in a single litter. . . . My cherished relationship with Wendy Taylor of Rosscreea UK began in 1998 when I phoned for a visit to see her wholecolors. I decided not to breed wholecolors but got goose bumps when I watched the only blenheim in her house when on the move, a young bitch, already with her 1st CC, Eng. Ch. Rosscreea Memphis Belle. Two years later I imported the first of my Rosscreea dogs of which all go back to Memphis Belle: AKC Ch. Rosscreea Citizen Kane (Linjato Ace of Base X Rosscreea Memphis Belle). Other Rosscreea imports include his litter sister CKCSC-USA and AKC CH. Rosscreea High Society, her daughter ENG, CKCSC-USA and AKC CH. Rosscreea Bedazzled, AKC CH. Rosscreea Aces High, Rosscreea Swingtime, (dam to Eng CKCSC-USA and AKC CH. Rosscreea Graceland, as well as CKCSC-USA and AKC Ch.



Clockwise from top left: CKCSC,USA and AKC CH Covington Kiss This winning BIS under Sandra Ireland; CKCSC,USA and AKC CH Covington Gotta Kiss the Girl; CKCSC,USA and AKC CH Covington Paydirt (AKC ROM, #3 AKC Breed Standings, 2009); Rosscrea Tarantino at Covington (Eng., CKCSC,USA and AKC CH Pascavale Jamie x Rosscrea Yours Truly); Heidi at Wendy Taylor's in England with Eng. CH Rosscrea Memphis Belle and CKCSC,USA and AKC CH Rosscrea High Society at Covington.

winners, AKC and CKCSC-USA Champions.

I realized quickly that I needed to apply patience, have a multi-generation plan and prioritize characteristics I was trying to obtain and omit. It would require a process of selection and elimination over generations. For example, how should I prioritize a gay tail or white in the eye or an inguinal hernia or a slipping patella and does my priority change if it's a grade 1 vs a grade 4 slip in otherwise beautiful healthy specimens?

Early MVD and SM are no brainers, these dogs must be eliminated from a breeding program and if placed then with full disclosure. But what about the off-spring from those dogs that develop MVD or SM at 4 years old? What about 6 years old? Does my priority change if they are champions or consistently producing champions? The list goes on.

The ultimate goal is to have dogs that live long quality lives who don't suffer from genetic flaws. Everyone has priorities

and depending on our goals they respectfully differ with each individual breeder. In my opinion it is that diversity that will determine the ultimate survival of the breed. There comes a point when one truly realizes this and it is what differentiates us as breeders. Through the process of selection and prioritization over generations, a breeding program can offer more predictability in quality, type and health.

It is for this reason, that my biggest fear for the future of our breed is not the health issues themselves, but that slowly and surely we are losing the "kennel era" and this will fundamentally change our breed. Our larger breeders have strength in numbers and the ability to manage qualities through selection and elimination in an environment where loss of individual dogs doesn't mean a loss of a breeding program. These are the breeders we want to buy our dogs from and use their stud dogs because they have been able to offer up more consistency and predictability. What happens when these

kennels are gone? Who are tomorrow's breeders?

• • •

Greg and I celebrated our 28th wedding anniversary in March. We live on acreage high on a hill in the Mt. Rainier foothills overlooking the small town of Orting. Our home and daily lives revolve around the dogs. Greg has worked as an engineer for Boeing for 26 years. I retired in 2000 from the telecommunications industry where I worked for the same organization for 17 years.

It's a team effort, and Greg plays a huge role. He has previously served on the COTW BOD for several terms and is the BEST ring steward. He loves the dogs and knows them all individually. He likes to do the feeding and has to do the heavy work like hauling dog food and replenishing gravel. We often argue about things like how wide the window in the dog room should be left open or if a fan should be on high or medium and what direction it should point or how

thick the blankets need to be. Greg is the dogs' biggest advocate when it comes to their constant comfort. My dream in the beginning was to breed just one club champion and for someone to want to put a picture of him or her in their next book. If I could do that, I would be a success. Since then we have made up 23 CKCSC-USA Champions (19 homebred) & 2 ROMS as well as 56 AKC Champions, #7, #3 AKC Breed ranked dogs, and 2 ROMs. We've had photos of many of our dogs in books. Judging seems the natural progression and like many, I became a judge because my peers encouraged me. I was approved to judge club shows last year and I love it. When you judge, you judge "On The Day" to "The Breed Standard". Not on what you think the dog will look like next year or if its head will enhance your personal breeding program. This year I'm applying for my AKC Judging license.

