

# "MEET THE BREEDERS"

Kevin and Debra Cline

## Forest Creek Cavaliers



WHERE DO YOU LIVE AND WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

Debra & I live in Shreveport, Louisiana with our two daughters, Rachel and Emily. Shreveport is a medium sized City located in the Northwest corner of the state. I met my wife at Louisiana State University Medical School in Shreveport, and we both completed our residencies here. I am a Urologist and my wife is an Obstetrician/gynecologist. We both practice medicine full time.

DESCRIBE YOUR YOUTH. DID YOU GROW UP WITH DOGS OR OTHER ANIMALS?

I grew up in a military family, as my father was an F-4 pilot in the United States Air Force. I had a wonderful childhood moving frequently. I lived in 8 different states as well as Okinawa, Missawa, Japan, and Paris, France. My parents were very interested in purebred dogs and showed Boxers on a limited basis. There was always a Boxer in our house while I was growing up and we even took one to Paris with us.

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH CAVALIERS?

Medical school and residency were quite strenuous, and unfortunately afforded us very little time. We did, however, have a wonderful Labrador Retriever named Annabelle that was a true companion to us during these stressful times. After our residencies Debra and I decided that the time was right for another dog and we brought our first Cavalier into our home. At that point our two daughters, Rachel and Emily, were toddlers.

We had always enjoyed dog shows and it was Debra that mentioned, during one of these shows that she would like to have a Cavalier. Her decision was based primarily on the fact that Cavaliers are a smaller breed, very affectionate, easy to care for and most of all great with children. Having had larger dogs growing up, I was not very familiar with the Cavalier. After some research we decided that this was indeed the breed for us, and at that point we got our first Cavalier. This was in 2003, and "Lady" is still with us today. We finished her in the AKC and at this point decided that one was not enough for us. I had by that time become fascinated with showing and began exhibiting on a regular basis in both the AKC and the CKCSC, USA. Not long thereafter, Rachel and then Emily began showing in juniors and both still show today.

WHEN DID YOU BREED YOUR FIRST LITTER, AND HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?

Our first litter was bred from our first Cavalier, Lady, after we finished her championship in the AKC. We sought out a very nice male, and bred her. There were two puppies in this litter, both of which were placed with close friends. We finished one of these puppies. At this point I had begun showing in the CKCSC, and decided that I would need a more competitive Cavalier and retired our first girl. Our second Cavalier, Stevie (Loranka's Weave A Dream) was shown heavily in the CKCSC and not long out of the Puppy classes she received a Best In Show. It was actually at this particular show that I met Mark Sedgwick of Pascavale Cavaliers. I continued to show

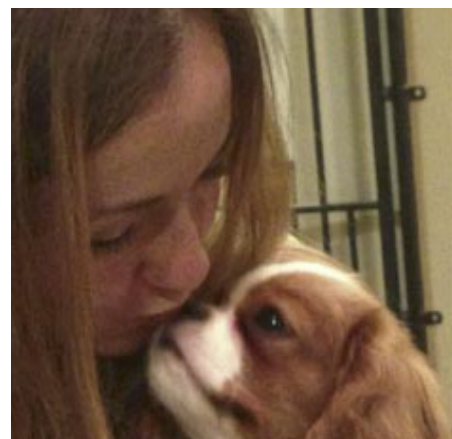
Stevie and finished her championship about a year later. About a year and a half

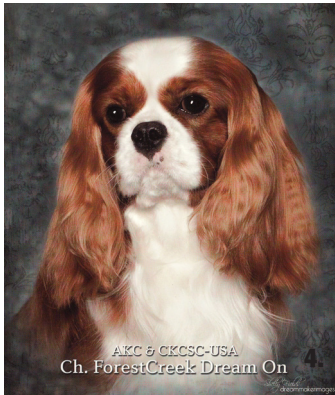
later, as fate would have it, I took Stevie to Pascavale in the UK, to be bred to a dog that I had admired from afar, Pascavale Enchanted. Later, Stevie was bred to another Pascavale dog, Jai, and produced one of my top winning males, ForestCreek Dream On, who went on to become the first American bred Cavalier to finish a championship in the UK.

WHO WAS ESPECIALLY INFLUENTIAL TO YOUR BREEDING PROGRAM?

There are two breeders that I am grateful to for helping me get started in Cavaliers. They trusted me with two very nice bitches, both of which were championed. These were Lorraine Hughes' Loranka's Weave A Dream ("Stevie") and Mayfield Bonnie Bright ("Bella") from Marilyn Mayfield. Both of these bitches, directly and through their progeny, produced many of my early champions. My greatest influence however came when I met Mark Sedgwick and Michael Levy of Pascavale. To this day they continue to be great friends and have mentored me in the world of

(Left to right:) Emily with Chloe at the "Blessing of the Animals;" Rachel with the CKCSC.USA CH Princess Diana going RBIS. (Rachel earned both majors on Diana to finish her championship); Rachel with a ForestCreek puppy.





Cavaliers. Their friendship, instruction, and dogs have been paramount to my breeding program. They have trusted me with some of the very nicest Cavaliers in the world. These have provided the foundation behind ForestCreek Cavaliers.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE CURRENT STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN THE BREED?

In my opinion, for the fairly short time that Cavaliers have been on the scene in the United States, they have come a considerable distance. Certainly, since I have been exhibiting, I have noticed a great improvement in the overall depth of quality.

The strength of any breed lies in the stewardship of the owners. In that regard we have some of the most loyal and devoted enthusiasts in the sport. I feel that Cavalier breeders are working hard to constantly better the breed in the areas of conformation and health. There is always work to be done and improvement to be made, but I feel the future looks particularly bright for the Cavalier.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

I am very proud of my breeding program

and feel honored to be able to compete with my Cavaliers on a national and international level. I have finished 47 Cavaliers in the AKC and 19 in the CKCSC, USA, the majority of which were bred at ForestCreek. I am particularly proud of Bentwood Chloe of ForestCreek who went Best In Show at the CKCSC, USA National Specialty in 2013, and then went on to win the Best of Breed at Crufts in 2014 and finish her English Championship. Two of my homebred dogs have earned top honors as well. AKC, CKCSC, Eng CH ForestCreek Dream On was the first American bred Cavalier to earn an English championship and AKC GCH ForestCreek Louisiana Lagniappe just took Best Of Breed at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club in February 2015.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO WORK ON YOUR JUDGING LICENSE TO JUDGE CAVALIERS?

There are several reasons that I choose to pursue judging. The primary one, however, is to further advance my knowledge of Cavaliers. Judges are afforded the tremendous opportunity of being able to evaluate many dogs, in a structured environment. This is a privilege that I do not take lightly. In my

opinion, judging pushes one to contemplate the relative importance of qualities such as structure, movement, temperament and breed type. This knowledge, when used appropriately, can, on a small scale, influence a breeding program, and on a larger scale influence the breed as a whole.

TALK ABOUT THE HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE BREED AND THE BEST WAY, IN YOUR OPINION, TO DEAL WITH THEM.

Canine health is a subject that is very important to me. We all face health issues, and certainly dogs are no exception. Being a physician, I have a scientific and clinical background that helps me assimilate some of the health issues facing the Cavalier. Cavaliers, as do many other breeds, face unique problems because their gene pool is very limited. It is therefore important to encourage genetic diversity. Obviously, breeders must take seriously the dedication to keep the breed strong and healthy. This is especially true regarding diseases that affect our breed with an increased prevalence such as valvular heart disease. As new problems and diseases surface, however, we need to react cautiously, after careful study of these individual problems. Health screenings are of utmost importance, and their results have to be considered carefully and realistically, so as not to eliminate otherwise healthy Cavaliers for problems which are not fully understood. In summary, a careful scientific methodical approach over time favors an immediately reactive one.



**1.** A Forest Creek puppy. **2.** ForestCreek Double O Seven winning RWD and RBIS under Judge Chris Knight at the CKCSC,USA COS show on 5-9-14. **3.** AKC GR CH Louisiana Lagniappe, (Louie), winning Best of Breed at Westminster, 2015. **4.** ForestCreek Dream On (Tyler), the first American bred Cavalier to earn an English Championship. **5.** Bentwood Chloe of ForestCreek, BIS winner at the CKCSC,USA National Specialty in 2013, and Best of Breed winner at Crufts in 2014. **6.** Emily with ForestCreek Princess Diana.