

of the Ohio River. Chris often accompanied her grandmother there, enjoying the friend's beautiful gardens and having tea served in special china cups. These visits made Chris feel very special and adult. When she sought a kennel name, those happy days came to mind.

Tobuddy (Patty Kanan). Named for the village in which she once lived in Scotland, in Lord Abinger's original hunting lodge, which was later turned into a Michelin five-star hotel.

Legem (Dennis and Tina Homes). The name is a combination of their astrological signs, Leo and Gemini.

Lizmoer (Lizzie Gardner). Her best friend Lizzie is from her first litter; *moer* is French for "mother."

Rose Arbor (Betzie Smith). Betzie's grandfather took tender care of his beloved roses. He was her childhood hero, and she thought of him immediately when seeking a kennel name.

Tea Time (Betsy Clagett). The name came from the many hours she spent having a "cuppa" with her mentor in Morgan horses.

Spiccolife (Jean McAloon). Named after a toaster cover she saw in 1991!

Timsworth (Katie Eldred). Named for the village in Dorset, England, where Eldred and her two oldest children lived during World War II while her husband was overseas.

There you have it—a small insight into some of the many fascinating names we have all grown to know and respect. —Stephanie Abraham; landmarks.properties@snet.net; American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club website: ackcsc.org/Home.html

Chihuahuas The Good "Tiger Mom"

By now you have probably heard the term "tiger mom." It is sometimes used to describe an overbearing mother who pushes her child to achieve, and examples of such often sound cruel and heartless. Those who take pride in the label, however, define it as encouraging outstanding behavior. Their view is that it builds the child's self confidence, enabling the

child to face challenges with an optimism that she or he is capable of great things.

Consider being a good "tiger mom" to your Chihuahua, beginning as early as possible.

Training for the show ring cannot start soon enough. The Chihuahua who enters the ring happy, with tail up and moving confidently, instantly has an edge over the shy, unsure, tail-down, apprehensive dog. (Remember our standard, which mentions the breed's "terrierlike" qualities.) If that same dog is rock-solid for the table exam, the edge can be significant.

Expose your puppy to new environments, new people, and new surfaces to walk on. Buy a piece of mat material (a ridged stair-tread works well), and attach a strip of duct tape across it. Give the pup a treat for walking on this unfamiliar surface.

Bring your puppy to a variety of places, such as pet-supply stores, training centers, and fun matches. At each new place, have different kinds of people, both male and female, hold your puppy. Have each person continue holding the pup until it's clear that she is relaxed with her new friend.

Find treats and toys that the puppy really likes, and use them only for training. Set up a ringside table in your house and put the puppy on the table a few times a day. Feed the puppy on the table, and give her treats while she's on it. Be sure to avoid doing grooming on this table—the puppy needs to learn that good things happen on the table, and she might not enjoy some aspects of grooming. Have other people approach her on the table and "play judge."

While this may sound like all the other training tips you've heard, the key is in being a "tiger mom"—you, the owner-handler, must be consistent, strict, and disciplined.

I got my first Chihuahua after 20 years of training and showing Shiba Inu. My first few attempts to train my Chihuahua to self-stack didn't seem to have an effect. I figured the little dog couldn't see the bait, so although get-

ting up and down wasn't easy for me, I began getting on my knees and trying to hand-stack him.

A very tall Chi exhibitor soon told me that not only could Chihuahuas be taught to self-stack, they can make for a very dramatic picture when you're the only one in the ring with a self-stacked dog and everyone else is on their knees trying to hold their dog together. Since then, I have taught all my Chihuahuas how to self-stack. I might have to bend at the waist quite a bit, but they can see and smell the bait quite well.

Stop making excuses for your dog's incorrect behavior. ("She's shy" ... "It's his first show" ... "Another dog scared her.") Keep practicing until the desired outcome is consistent and reliable. —*Evelyn Plano Behrens; blueoon@mn.state.net; Chihuahua Club of America website: chihuahua-clubofamerica.com*

Chinese Cresteds The Breed's Hare Foot

It's a small thing ... actually, several small things. I'm talking about Chinese Crested feet. The feet don't get much attention, but of course they are very important to the dog.

The breed's standard is brief and to the point on the subject: *Hare foot, narrow with elongated toes. Nails are trimmed to moderate length.*

Pretty simple, except that many Cresteds have hair that all but covers the shape of the foot as well as the nails. It becomes difficult to tell whether what's hiding under there is a hare foot, or a little, round cat foot. It's simple enough to gently move the hair aside to check the shape of the foot, but very few judges do it.

To the unaccustomed eye, a hare foot is not nearly as attractive as a compact cat foot or a pretty little oval foot. Add to this the fact that many Crested breeders and judges have come from other breeds that require a different-shaped foot, and the problem becomes more obvious.

A Crested's foot is an interesting piece of equipment. Many use them almost like hands, minus the thumb.