

remain a fixture not only in Italy but across Europe. Fragonard and Manet (France), Verboeckhoven (Belgium), Verschuier (Holland), and many other artists depicted toy spaniels in the late 18th and 19th centuries across the European continent. In the U.S., there were also numerous 19th-century depictions of toy spaniels that are clearly Cavalierlike in form, from notable artists like John Singer Sargent to those whose works were more accessible to the general public.

A lithograph of 1846-7 from the Kellogg Brothers, in Hartford, Connecticut, shows two Victorian ladies and their household pets—a quirky cat and a very recognizable Blenheim Cavalier.

And so there remain accessible to us today reminders of the popularity that our Cavalier toy spaniels and their antecedents have enjoyed over centuries. Discovering that vintage micro-mosaic brooch in an auction catalog just reinforced the notion. It is no wonder that the Italian jewelers of the 1800s would include in their mosaics the little spaniels who were the favorites of the wealthy leisure classes, hoping to win their patronage. Little did they know that their wares would still be attracting Cavalier lovers nearly 200 years later.

—Stephanie Abraham, *Scotland, Conn.*;  
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## Chihuahuas

### Thoughts on Specialty Events

The Chihuahua Club of America recently held the club's first spring rotating specialty to feature the new four-day format, with the Chihuahua Club of Michigan hosting. Our membership voted to go to this format a little over two years ago. Essentially, it allows us to schedule two sweepstakes and two separate shows without overloading the judges, and it poses no need to share judges as we have had to do in the past. As with any first effort, there are many improvements that can



be made in the future; nevertheless, this was a very special, enjoyable event that the host club can be proud of. There were many activities, including ringside mentoring, a seminar on handling, a panel discussion, and a match, along with a welcoming breakfast, a banquet, and an auction.

The most impressive aspect of this event had to be the participation of our junior members. While there were

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only nine of them entered, that is still more than we usually see, and these young people really got involved. It seemed at times that they were everywhere, doing all sorts of jobs to help the clubs.

Our goal when we began to upgrade our juniors program was to encourage their participation and make them a more visible and involved part of our membership. These shows proved that our juniors can be a valuable asset to the clubs. We will have young people growing up in the sport and being trained to do the work and accomplish the missions that are so integral to the CCA and the regional clubs.

There is another very positive aspect to the juniors program. These young people provide a new dynamic and energy to club functions. At this spring show, our older members seemed to take their cue from the juniors, emulating

their exhibition of sportsmanship and camaraderie. This has always been a sport for the whole family, and these shows really had that feel throughout. The seminars were attended by young and old alike, and it seemed that everyone gained from the experience.

The educational value of these specialties is incredibly rich. The shows and seminars, combined with the

chance to meet and share ideas and techniques with Chihuahua enthusiasts from around the country, provide a venue that will benefit anyone who has an interest in our breed.

The four-day format should serve us well in the future and hopefully will feature most of the things we are able to offer in the fall—most notably, judges' education, which is always something that we need to make avail-

able in different parts of the country.

The next spring rotating CCA specialty is in California, and the plan is to feature a Top Twenty show in conjunction with the specialties.

By the way, the juniors have requested a junior handling seminar like the one we have been doing in Chicago. We will do everything possible to see that they get it.

If you love Chihuahuas, the CCA national and the CCA rotating spring specialty events will be of great interest and benefit to you, so make plans to attend these wonderful shows at your earliest opportunity. For details and locations, please visit our website at [chihuahuaclubofamerica.com](http://chihuahuaclubofamerica.com).

—Bruce E. Shirley, *San Antonio, Texas*;  
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## Chinese Cresteds



### Consider the Older Dog

In the last year or so, I've noticed an interesting trend: More than half of the calls that we've gotten from people looking for a Chinese Crested have requested an older dog of anywhere from 10 months to 5 years. This is certainly a change from the calls we used to get, where the caller wanted a puppy "as young as possible." Older dogs used to be next to impossible to