

Bonitos Companeros deluxe

beautiful companions



**Markus Kirschbaum gives us an in-depth account of his history in becoming a breeder of King Charles Spaniels
He relates his story to Barbara E. Magera MD, PharmD, MMM**

Most of you know Klaus, my husband, and I from our Bonitos Companeros Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. Since my teenage years, I have always had a strong affection to the other "Royal Companion," the King Charles Spaniel. It was absolutely "a dream come true" when, with the support of my partner, we established our Charlie breeding program under the affix of Bonitos Companeros Deluxe. It is our vision and goal to preserve this lovely and special breed into the 21st century.

For the sake of our dogs, we decided to leave town and move to a more rural area. We live in an old, charming, farmhouse in the area called "Oberbergischen Land." Our home is located in the beautiful, hill country located between Cologne and Dortmund. For the past seven years until the present, we have been busy creating our version of "dog paradise." We arranged our 3000 square meter yard for the dogs. It feels so good to let them outside, without a lead, and see them run free in the forest right in front of our house. This is another "dream come true."

As children, Klaus and I grew up with dogs. My uncle always owned Cavaliers and was particularly proud of his U.K. imports. Klaus grew up with an English Cocker Spaniel. No one in our families were breeders, handlers or judges of dogs. Our parents were dog lovers but they were not connected to the "crazy dog world." Our families were very supportive and helped us a lot to realize our plans to show, breed and judge.

Our very first Charlie was Rivermore Sorelle and came from Valerie Harvey of Rivermore Kennels in Great Britain. She was a very typeful Tricolor and even though she never produced a litter, we really enjoyed her company as our beloved pet. Her personality was more feline than canine. She made the rules of the house. She decided when she was in the mood to cuddle. She expected us, her servants, to fulfill her wishes with extra goodies. She was the one to start the "Mausi tradition." I really love the name "Mausi" particularly for a Charlie. I always need a "Mausi" in our house. When translated into English, Mausi means mouse.

I am an art lover and I always admired the Charlies in the old paintings because of their unique look. Klaus loves old movies and when he first saw a Charlie in an old black and white film, he immediately fell in love with them.

What really makes Charlie's so special is their unique empathetic personality. The more we learned about this wonderful breed, the more we were fascinated by them. Thus, it was a natural consequence that we started a breeding program.

Our personal claim is that each generation has to be better than the previous generation. At the time we started breeding, this was a real challenge because of the very small gene pool of

Charlies in Germany. Trying to find a good foundation bitch was nearly a "mission impossible." It took us more than seven years to succeed.

"Dottie," named after her many dots, was not "pearl-white-grounded." She had freckles all over her, a very good temperament, great type and stylish movement. She was exactly what we were looking for in a Charlie bitch. We mated her with an English stud Charlie and thus began the line of "Bonitos Companeros Deluxe."

We chose "fruits and flowers" as our theme to name puppies. The German system requires that all puppies from the same litter are named using the same initial letter and in alphabetical order. For our first litter, the initial "A" resulted in Amaryllis and Adonis whom we kept in our household.

As we had accomplished a lot with our Cavaliers, we knew exactly what features we wanted with our Charlies namely style, type, healthy dogs with a good temperament. Many people supported us in our initial efforts. We want to especially thank Ruth Mochrie (Downsbank Charlie's) who sold us "Mausi Number 2," Ch Downsbank Cherry Companera. With her we started our successful Charlie show career. Our first little Charlie bitch showed like a movie star. She never stopped wagging her tail. She definitely was the type of dog that "rocks the ring." She easily became a German Champion, World Winner, European Winner, twice "Bundessieger", and International Champion. She came to us just in time because up to that point our start was very difficult. We experienced a lot of set backs which made us doubt whether we should really continue breeding Charlies. Our love for this breed urged us to keep going but it was our beautiful "Mausi" who provided encouragement and motivation.

Another milestone in our program was when Shealagh Waters and Bill Moffatt sold us Ch Maibee Debonair. When I first saw the Maibee Charlie's, my deepest wish was to have that same quality in our line. It was Maibee Debonair who gave us the type we wanted.



Ch Maibee Debonair

From our Cavalier background, we knew that you have to breed to the best and you need a solid base to create your own line. For these reasons, we started to build up a network with other Charlie breeders from all over the world.

One day I saw this really pretty, eye-catching dog from France. I immediately fell in love. His pedigree was different from the English lines. I asked the owners, Roman Lep and his mom, to borrow him for our breeding program. This was a decision that worked out well and marked another important step forward for Bonitos Companeros Deluxe



Ch. Dimitri de la Cartledge

The outcome was **Bonitos Companeros Deluxe King of Pop** known as Jackson



Then, I found Bennie who really wrote the breed history in Europe. I was judging a Cavalier show in Dallas, Texas when I saw this flashy Charlie Tricolor male in the adjacent ring. I was so impressed with him that I could hardly concentrate on my judging. After judging, I tried to read his number so I could locate his owners in the catalog. I am talking about **GCH CH Clussex Champagne Breakfast** known as "Bennie". I was wasting my time trying to look him up in the catalog because he was already in the Group Final. I contacted his owners and the our show began.



Bennie arrived in Europe to attend his first show, the World Dog Show in Helsinki, Finland. He definitely arrived in style! When I tried to book our flight home

from Finland, I learned there were no more seats in the Business Class so we had to fly First Class. With the captain's permission, the newly crowned World Champion was sitting right next to me and was eating his dinner from china plates.

Bennie rocked the ring all over Europe but most of all he was an ambassador for promoting the breed. He accomplished what no other Charlie had done in history. It was our pride and pleasure to accompany this little gentleman on his victory tour. The results of his win career include: World Winner Helsinki, BOB Crufts 2015 Champion, UK Champion, German Champion, Luxemburg Champion, Hungarian Champion, FCI European Winner 2015, Multi BOB, BIG and BIS winner.

Bennie really influenced and advanced our breeding program so much! He passed on open temperament, stylish movement and sound structure. His progeny is our lovely Bonitos Companeros Deluxe Olive known as "Olivia." Her awards include Junior Champion VDH, Luxemburg Junior Champion and European Junior Winner

Since 2005, we have been showing Charlies. For us, the most important criterion of selection is an open and gentle temperament. Without that, you won't be able to enjoy living even with the nicest Charlie. We select for short, compact bodies, with a lot of substance, a level top line, strong bone structure and a cobby rib cage. We also love stylish movement.

In our opinion, the "mismarked discussion" in Charlies is overestimated. We really admire the results of our dear friend, Ruth Mochrie, who after decades of strong selection achieved clear and correctly marked Charlies. We are very happy and proud that Mausi Number 2 brought that into our breeding program.

Faults that are most important is a bad temperament. Intolerable is a Charlie that looks "Cavalierish" which means the wrong head shape. A flat skull, high ear set, and tendency for a longer nose are absolutely a "no go" for a Charlie. A Charlie needs to be typeful with a soft expression and not extreme in any way.

From unforgettable Shealagh Waters, I learned you must be able to draw a straight line from the ear set to the eyes. She taught me how to recognize that in puppies as young as eight weeks old.

When we speak with people worldwide, we often hear that they make a difference between the "English" compared to the "American" type Charlie. In our opinion this is wrong because there is only one breed standard. Sometimes, the Charlies bred in the US are bigger and have a heavier bone structure than those in Europe. But, there is definitely a big difference in the way the Charlies are presented in the ring. Some have trimmed feet or move like little sport machines. We cannot say which is our preference as it depends upon each individual Charlie.

When breeding, we definitely do not limit our choices to the European type or American type. We try to pick out the very best attributes in Charlies from every country in order to complement and improve our breeding program.

The one feature that warrants the attention of Charlie breeders is temperament. We repeat that it is so important to maintain an open and gentle temperament. We do not believe that the whole colors and parti colors should be judged separately. A good judge should be able to identify the best

Charlie independent of color.

In the beginning, our litters were rather small in number however; after increasing the gene pool and mixing the lines, our litter size started to increase with normal size pups. Our largest litter was seven puppies but our average is four puppies per litter.

In the show ring, a Charlie who really enjoys showing is what catches our attention. We like to see a relaxed but attentive to the handler Charlie shown on a loose lead gaiting beside the handler. Even though some Charlies do not like to stack in front of the judge, the goal is that they stand happily before the judge wagging their tail. The magic word is to “socialize” your Charlies.

For judges new to evaluating Charlies, we offer this advise: visit breeders who are successful in the show ring and will take time to talk about the breed. With your hands, go over every Charlie and learn the breed standard.

Outside of the show ring, we love to go outside in our forest with our dogs. This is especially nice because it is right in front of our house. With our dogs we can do agility, barn hunting, rally, obedience and more!

We go to every show which we think is important for our breed and fun for our dogs. We attend local and worldwide shows. In November 2017, the big German Winner Show and the World Dog Show will take place in Leipzig, Germany. Attendance for every dog lover is a must. We hope many Charlie fanciers will attend.

is hard to imagine how difficult this was to accomplish because of the numerous and varied rules. With persistence and patience, after six years, the Charlie Club was established. One rule requires ten bitches and four dogs that are not related. Although this sounds like an easy task, with the limited number of Charlies and small gene pool, fulfilling this requirement became a major challenge. Many worldwide Charlie breeders helped and supported our mission. Before the club could be established, we had to show with several other toy breeds. It was difficult to promote our breed at these multi-breed clubs and shows. Another major challenge is the outdated club rules. For example, it is forbidden to breed whole color Charlies with the parti colors. This is really necessary in order to expand the gene pool. After much effort and hard work, we finally have our own Charlie club which is The King Charles Spaniel Club Deutschland e.V. Our website is: www.king-charles-club.de



Whenever our schedule allows, we usually take time to visit the local sights where the dog show is held. When I judged the Canadian Nationals, we made a special trip to Niagara Falls. When I judged in Paris, we had to see the Eiffel Tower. We encourage all those who come to Leipzig to take time to tour the area.

The most satisfying aspect of breeding Charlies is the pride we gain from improving this breed and successfully presenting them in the show ring. The positive results are not just personally rewarding but prove that we are on the right path with our breeding program. We also enjoy meeting so many interesting people from all over the world. “Charlie-Mania” connects people of all heritages, backgrounds and ages. The Charlies immediately provide a common connection.

To strive to become a better handler or breeder of Charlies, we suggest you learn from the best and never stop learning. Never follow current fashion trends. Our mantra is this: each generation has to be better than the previous generation!

We founded a new Charlie Club in the FCI/VDH system. It

Also, we created a worldwide Charlie online page which is a meeting place for all Charlie lovers.

This is a brand new adventure and we hope to get more members to join our Charlie community.

Links to Markus & Klaus:

http://www.king-charles-spaniel.de/sites/eng_ueberuns.shtml

<http://www.kirschbaum-cavalieri.de/Englisch-Home-Bonitos-Companer/Home/home.html>



More photos of the beautiful Bonitos Companeros Deluxe Charlies



Ch Bonitos Companeros Deluxe Galileo Galilei



*Bonitos Companeros Deluxe Delicious
11 years old*



1st litter puppy



In Love Again



Ch Bonitos Companeros Deluxe Jupiter Mango



Herbie



Trullalai