

CAVALIER CAPERS

Newsletter of .



February 2026 Edition

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Editor's Report

Hello and welcome to the February edition of our newsletter.

I hope this finds you all in good health and well rested after the holiday break.

Coming up this year we have a Bunnings Day scheduled for April 19th at Manly West Bunnings.

Our Club Championship Shows are scheduled for 4th and 5th July, our Club Open show will be held in September and our Club picnic in October- and the date will be circulated when it is confirmed.

On Sunday last weekend we catered at a very successful Bunnings Day- which will give the Club a good start for the year.

On a very sad note- we lost one of our long term Committee members and friend- Michelle White- please read the tribute to her below.

We hope to see you at our functions throughout the year.

Bronwen Gordon- (Editor)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the President of Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Of QLD, I present my report for 2025.

The year has been rewarding in many ways for the club, and it only has been attainable due to the hard working club officials and many of its members. A club can only function successfully when its members contribute by volunteering. Thank you all for making our club as it is.

A special thanks to our capable secretary. The club's reputation has been dependent, not only on its two Conformations Shows, but also on its social activities.

As well as in the show ring, the club's annual picnic day, plus an excellent newsletter with its promotion of our breed, all leads hopefully to attract new members, and retain current ones .

2025 saw the club in a stable financial position. I am proud to report it finished off the year with a surplus, a first for many years. This is primarily due to the two successful Bunnings days plus an excellent raffle at our Champ show. Many thanks to our Madam Treasurer for all your hard work.

Our two Championship shows in July were organized and enjoyed by the many exhibitors and visitors on both days .Our show manager, stewards and of course the judges, presented well run shows.

An added bonus was the breed lecture presented by our judge Geoff Beckett on the night of the show dinner. Other persons helping out with before and after the shows, I thank you.

The Open Conformation show was organized and completed in a favourable manner. Thank you again to the people working to make it so.

Our Cavalier Picnic, always an enjoyable day, was held in early October. To see our lovely, enchanting breed running free and happily socializing with others makes you proud to own a Cavalier.

A band of workers as usual, including obedience and grooming demonstrations, plus many donated raffle prizes, made it a great day.

On a sad note for myself, family and others, we have recently lost a dear friend and hard working club member in Michelle White. Michelle has had many cavaliers and has bred under the Davra prefix. She will be sorely missed .

This year looks to be a rewarding one, in the show ring, socially and breeding wise.

We have a few Bunnings days, our two Champ shows, an Open Show and our Picnic scheduled on the calendar.

An added Trick Trial will be an addition to our Champ show and I'm sure will be a bonus to activities for our breed.

Happy Cavaliering for 2026

Bob Crapp
President



TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE



It is with much sadness that I report on the death of Michelle White.

Michelle acquired her first cavalier from Eunice Edward's lines in the 1990's and bred some lovely dogs.

She has been an active member of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel club for many years now, first as a member, then later as a committee member and Vice- President.

Michelle was always thoughtful and honest and you always knew that any problem that she was dealing with was given her utmost attention and careful consideration, and she was a much valued member of our club.

Over the years Michelle bred and showed her cavaliers under her Davra Prefix, and she enjoyed travelling south to attend some of the Cavalier Specialties.

Michelle had strong values and principles and was a very strong and competent teacher and Principal which enabled her to deal with the many difficult students and parents that she encountered during her career.

She also had a great sense of fun, humour and always enjoyed a good laugh and a social gathering with her friends.

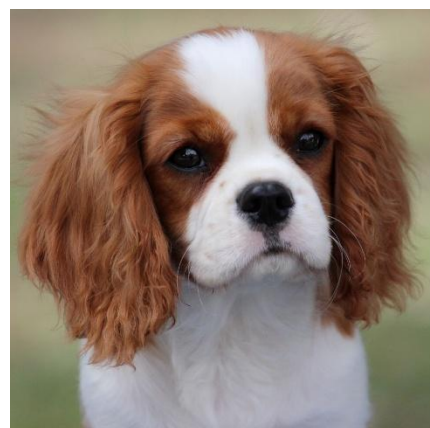
On a personal level Michelle was one of my very closest friends and we had a friendship that spanned 47 years. Our children grew up together and our families celebrated many special occasions.

Long term friendships are extremely precious and I will always treasure our years of friendship and the many happy memories that we shared.

Michelle has battled ill health for the last two years and again showed her strength of character in that she did not give up easily in the face of many difficulties.

She passed away peacefully at home shortly after Christmas last year.

She will be greatly missed in our club and by her family and friends. (Bronwen Gordon)



XYLITOL TOXICITY IN DOGS

Xylitol Toxicity is becoming more and more of a concern for our companion pets.

As we humans try and trick ourselves that we are eating healthy by avoiding products that contain sugar and sourcing those that contain the sweetener called Xylitol.

Xylitol is a naturally occurring sugar alcohol found in small concentrations in some plants such as the fibres of some fruits and vegetable, berries, oats and mushrooms.

The xylitol used for commercial production however is found most commonly in birch trees. The xylitol is extracted into a white powder. The powder is finer than sugar, but tastes similar. In humans, xylitol is not harmful, and has actually shown benefits in the reduction of dental caries, and middle ear infections.

However, when dogs consume Xylitol – even a small amount – they can die!

Almost everyone is aware these days that chocolate is toxic to dogs, but did you know that xylitol is estimated to be 100 times more toxic than chocolate is to dogs?

What happens when your dog ingests Xylitol?

Xylitol causes hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar) in dogs, seizures, and death. If the dog does survive, it may have irreversible liver damage.

The dose of xylitol that has been reported to cause hypoglycaemia in dogs is 100mg/kg.

A couple of pieces of xylitol containing gum, will kill a small dog. I have unfortunately seen this in a case where the small breed young dog, raided his mum's handbag and ate less than ½ a packet of chewing gum that contained xylitol. Despite treatment, the dog did not survive.

Xylitol in dogs triggers the pancreas to release insulin. The excess insulin in the dog's blood stream causes the body to use the blood sugars and results in hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar). It is this hypoglycaemia that then results in the clinical signs of weakness, disorientation, seizures and coma.

Signs of toxicity usually set in quickly (within 30 minutes of ingestion) and include the following:

Vomiting,
Weakness
Wobbliness-Ataxia
Disorientation
Hypoglycaemia
Hypocalcaemia
Seizures
Liver Failure

What to do if you think your dog has eaten Xylitol

- Immediately contact your local veterinarian. If it is afterhours, do not delay, head straight to an emergency vet.
- Depending on when the dog ate the product, your vet may induce vomiting.
- If the product is not in the vomit, or if the dog is already showing clinical signs, your veterinarian will need to admit your dog to hospital for supportive care and regular monitoring of physical and biochemical parameters.

What products can you find Xylitol in?

Sugar free gums, and lollies, toothpastes, mouth rinse and washes, spreads including some peanut butters (more on that later), some medications (especially liquid), sugar alternatives, vitamins and supplements, biscuits, desserts, ice cream and yogurts, sauces, drink powders etc. Basically – you need to read the labels of everything.

Recently, xylitol has been added to some

peanut or nut butters. The concern here, is that many pet owners use peanut butter as a reward in kongs, or baked peanut butter biscuits etc for their pets, and may inadvertently poison them.

The good news is, that in Australia, I have only found a couple of brands that contain Xylitol at this stage – these are those advertised as high protein nut butters and are usually sold in health food shops or online.

The 2 brands I have found in Australia that contain Xylitol are:

- Nuts N More Peanut butter
- P28 Peanut butter

The brands below are the ones that I have checked and are clear of xylitol (I will still recheck each label as I buy a new jar):

- Mother Earth
- Dick Smith OzEnuts
- Kraft Natural
- Kraft Smooth and Crunchy
- Kraft Light
- Sanitarium
- Woolworths Select
- Homebrand
- Bramwell American Peanut butter
- Bramwell Peanut butter
- Mayver's Peanut butter
- Skippy Peanut butter



References:

VCA Animal Hospital
Wikipedia (2016)



"SHOW DOGS AND STUD DOGS"

by Richard G. (Rick) Beauchamp

A STUD DOG IS NOT SIMPLY A MALE DOG. Neither do show records or championships have anything to do with a dog's producing ability. Winning in the show ring proves the dog has the quality necessary to win. Siring outstanding offspring is the only thing that proves a sire's ability. These are two entirely different qualities.

A dog can be a truly great show dog and a poor sire. A dog can hate the show ring and never win a point and be an outstanding sire. It is just as simple as that. The biggest mistake breeders, novice or veteran, can make is to confuse their show dogs with their breeding dogs. They can be the same. We hope they will be the same. Often they are not.

There are those who say show wins are the indicator of a dog's value to the breed. In other words, if many judges agree a particular dog is the current ideal in its breed, the dog should be bred to. I agree - but only to a degree.

You can get every judge in the country to agree that the dog of the hour is the dog of the hour, but that same dog can be a complete disappointment in the breeding department. If a dog's quality is not realized in the whelping box, all we have is a box full of ribbons and nothing more.

This is not to say a winning dog cannot also be an outstanding producer. Records prove otherwise. But I cannot stress strongly enough that it is the producing ability that must be looked to and not the show record!

Even the outstanding sire can be misused. Most breeds have had those truly wonderful show dogs who develop records that become the envy of one and all. Unfortunately, they become the envy of too many who feel if a dog is good enough to win every award in sight, it must be good enough to breed every bitch in sight. In a way, the popular stud dog that produces well only with certain bitch lines can be very destructive to a breed. A few excellent youngsters emerge from the right combination and the parade begins. Every bitch that can see lightning and hear thunder is bred to the dog, but the percentage of quality produced is

minuscule. The breed takes a big step backward.

This is actually not the fault of the sire, but of the owners of the many bitches who follow the parade to the popular sire, regardless of the fact that he would in fact be the last choice for their particular bitch.

Truly great sires are really few and far between. There's an old saying I heard somewhere along the way that goes something like, "You can breed that one to a fence post and you'll still get good pups." They are the rare ones, the ones that any breed is lucky to have, but it is highly doubtful that any breed will have such a dog any more than once in any breeder's lifetime.

This no doubt all sounds perfectly logical, but I could write whole books on the excuses young breeders make for not breeding to the correct dog for their bitch: snow storms, rain storms, typhoons and earthquakes; the correct dog's third cousin lives down the street; it's just her first season and I'm "proving" her; etc., etc., etc.

There is only one breeding worth making - the right one. When it comes time to breed your quality bitch, stop and think, what if this turns out to be the only litter she will ever have!"



BREEDING TO WIN

There is a difference between winning and being recognized and that difference matters, whether you breed dogs or cats.

Anyone can put up an animal on a good day. Anyone can reward what is flashy, what is groomed to perfection, what catches the eye in a single moment in the ring. But when you win under someone who has bred generations, who has lived with dogs and cats in their home, who has made hard choices and stood by them long enough to see the results, that win carries a different weight.

Because those judges understand that excellence is never accidental. They know what it takes to build a breeding program, not just a winner: the years of patience, the animals that fell short, the litters that taught painful lessons, the virtues that had to be protected while faults were carefully managed. They understand balance because they've chased it. They respect moderation because they've seen what happens when exaggeration overtakes purpose. And they reward soundness, type, and harmony not because they are trendy, but because they are sustainable.

Winning under breeder-judges who have made a real contribution to a breed, dog or cat, is not about ego. It's about validation. It says: I see what you were trying to preserve. I understand the long view. I recognize the structure beneath the grooming, the phenotype beneath the presentation.

That is very different from winning under someone who hasn't yet walked that road. Judges early in their careers, or those whose experience has been limited, may be sincere and knowledgeable. But experience matters. Depth matters. The ability to look past polish and into function, balance, and genetic consequence matters. Without that perspective, judging risks becoming transactional, rewarding what looks impressive today rather than what will still serve the breed ten or twenty years from now. Breeder-judges don't just judge animals, they judge decisions. They see a head and think about what it will reproduce. They see movement and understand skeleton, not

speed. They see coat, eye, expression, and proportion and know which elements are negotiable and which are not. And when they put up a dog or a cat, they are, whether consciously or not, endorsing a philosophy of breeding.

That's why those wins endure. They aren't just ribbons, points, finals, or photos. They are moments when someone who knows the cost, financial, emotional, and generational, of doing it right says, Yes. This matters. This is worth continuing.

In a fancy, dog and cat alike, that is struggling with shortcuts, shrinking mentorship, and fading institutional memory, those moments are not small. They are the compass. (Omar F Gonzalez)



KEEPING DOGS SAFE AT EASTER

Easter is a joyful time filled with family, food, and fun – but for our furry friends, it can be unexpectedly dangerous. Every year, the RSPCA and vets across the country treat pets – especially dogs – for chocolate toxicity and other holiday-related risks. To ensure this Easter remains safe and happy for everyone, here are some simple tips and important info every pet owner should know.

Keep Your Pets Out of the Easter Egg Hunt

It might be tempting to include your dog in your Easter egg hunt – but please keep chocolate eggs and their foil wrappers well out of reach. Chocolate is toxic to dogs, cats, and other domestic animals. This is because chocolate contains compounds like theobromine and caffeine which, if ingested, are extremely toxic and even lethal for our pets. While all chocolate is risky, dark and cooking chocolate are the most dangerous. Just 50g can be fatal if ingested by a small dog.

Symptoms of chocolate poisoning include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Increased thirst
- Weakness
- Tremors or seizures
- Irregular or fast heart rate

These signs may not appear for several hours, but, in severe cases, death can occur within 12–36 hours of ingestion. If you suspect your pet has eaten chocolate, please contact your pet's veterinarian immediately. Early intervention can make a huge difference for your pet.

Dr. Liz, Chief Veterinarian at RSPCA NSW, urges pet owners to explore alternative ways to get their animals involved in the celebrations, saying “pets can enjoy an Easter

hunt of their own, just as long as you replace any chocolate with dog-friendly treats that your pup considers really high value.”

“Break them up in small pieces before hiding them around your house or garden,” Dr. Liz suggests. “Sniffing and searching are really healthy natural behaviours for our dogs and cats.”

Other Easter Foods to Avoid

Chocolate isn't the only concern. Many Easter staples can be harmful to pets, including:

- Hot cross buns (contain sultanas/raisins, which are toxic to dogs)
- Onions and garlic
- Cooked bones
- Fatty BBQ leftovers
- Corn cobs

Stick to pet-friendly treats available from vets, pet stores, or supermarkets. Your pet can still enjoy the celebrations – just remember to do so safely!

Travelling With Pets This Easter?

Heading away for the long weekend? Don't forget:

- Never leave pets tied up, unattended in hot cars, or on the back of a ute
- Secure pets properly if travelling in utes or trailers
- Pack essentials: food, water, medication, bedding, toys, leads, crates
- Make sure microchip details and ID tags are up to date

Keep the contact details of your local vet saved so if you think your pet has ingested something, you can contact your local vet immediately. (RSPCA NSW)



*SHOW COATS, SNOODS,
WATERPROOF BODY SUITS AND
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Made to Order by Janelle Dyckhoff

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