

Internet. It is easy to put up a fancy website depicting darling puppies—whose pictures are often lifted from the websites of legitimate breeders. However, these Internet breeders never allow any prospective buyers to come to the breeding establishment, and they meet the buyer instead at gas stations and store parking lots, or they offer to ship very young puppies anywhere.

We must all do our best to warn potential puppy buyers not to buy from pet stores or from the Internet, but to go to parent-club sites for a list of reputable breeders who sign codes of ethics.

Donations to help future Cavalier rescues can be made to CavalierRescueTrust.org. —M.J.-S.

Thank you, Meredith.

—John V. Ioia, M.D., Ph.D., *bonefixr@gmail.com*

American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club website: *ackcsc.org*

Chihuahuas Why You Aren't Winning in the Show Ring

You went to see a dog show and thought it would be a great family hobby. You decided to look online for a show dog to purchase. Hey, that was easy! You walk in the ring with your beautiful little Chihuahua, expecting that “blue ribbon” or purple ribbon for points. What? You didn't win?

Well, that's not surprising. I've heard it over and over again with regard to all the “show dogs” purchased who weren't really show dogs. Unfortunately there are many disreputable breeders out in the world who count on the buyer who doesn't do their homework. These breeders brag about “champion lines” and how many champions they have bred, how many champions are in a pedigree, and they show you lots of photos of beautiful Chihuahuas. The Internet is full of these breeders.

Then, after several thousand dollars spent on non-show dogs, you realize

you might need to do something different. You start doing your homework. You contact the parent club and ask for references of quality breeders. You spend time studying the Chihuahua standard and what it means. You go to shows and study the dogs and see what the winning dogs have to offer. You make contact with their owners and breeders and establish some quality groundwork. You might choose to join an online group of mentors.

Yes, this all takes time. Patience is the key to all success in the show dog world. So many people just keep running in circles trying to get that great show dog, forgetting that anything worthwhile takes time, energy, and effort.

A show dog is one who is a good example of the AKC standard of that breed which has been developed by the breed's parent club. The standard is a blueprint of what your show dog should look like. Unfortunately, most people have much more to learn about dogs in general. How is a dog put together? How should he move? What was his breed created for? The dog has *many* parts. All these parts must come together to culminate into one dog, a dog who is “put together” well.

Then there is the fact that no dog is perfect. So we need to pick and choose those things that we personally can accept or cannot accept in the dog whom we select for the show ring and possible breeding program.

Don't take the easy road. Don't keep spinning your wheels and spending your money on dogs who aren't worthy of a championship. Find a mentor—someone who has been breeding top dogs for generations. Nothing beats the years of experience of top breeders. You can read everything, but with experience behind you, you will always be more knowledgeable.

Dog shows are a great family hobby. However, any hobby is more

fun and rewarding when you excel. This sport of dogs can be expensive and time consuming. If you are going to participate, get smart, get informed, and get going!

—Virginia (Jenny) Hauber, *wynjynchis@yahoo.com*

Chihuahua Club of America
website: *chihuahuaclubofamerica.com*

Havanese Apps You May Find Useful

I've discovered a number of mobile apps that can be fun and helpful for dog owners, and I thought I'd share some of them.

- *Pet Pic*

This app makes animal sounds so your dog will look immediately directly at the camera. Choose between dog, cat, or squeaky-toy sounds to test what better attracts your pet's attention.

- *Petsnap*

This helps you take great photos of your dogs. You can choose between 32 built-in sounds to help you get your dog's attention before the picture is taken—then choose between seven frames to finish your picture, and save it to your camera roll.

- *PetMD's Dog First Aid*

This app can lead you through most emergencies. It has concise descriptions so you know what to expect, meaning in some cases you might be able to begin emergency treatment before you can get to a vet.

- *Pet First Aid*

This app has many videos and illustrations to help you give your pet first aid. Learn how to deal with cuts, bruises, choking, and CPR. Pet First Aid also lets you save the medical information for all of your pets and keep track of when vet appointments or vaccinations are due.

- *MyPetED*

This universal app is a great tool for dog owners. You can create a profile for your dog with all of his vital information, keep track of vet appointments and vaccinations, store