



## Mrs Kirstie McMurray - Merryoth

When I was 1 year old my Mother, Marie McFarlane, decided that she would like a Cavalier and she and Dad travelled to a lady in Scotland called Betty Robinson of Buckny Cavaliers. They went to look at a litter with the intention of bringing one puppy home but they turned up with two and the rest as they say is history!

I was bitten by the same Cavalier bug and I soon started travelling with Mum to shows and at the age of 6 started to

show her Cotterlee Cavaliers. When in the show ring

I always wanted to be with the adults in the breed classes rather than handling classes. This stemmed from once being in a handling class and I couldn't understand why everyone was laughing at me. When all the dogs (and handlers) were going round the ring in a circle the dog I had was on its two hind legs with its front two firmly planted on the back of the bitch in front!

When I was 11 I was given my own affix of Merryoth and for Christmas that year I got my very own dog, Homaranne Chanel of Merryoth. Merry did very well in the show ring including winning my first Reserve CC at Darlington Championship Show under Brian Townsend. I was 13 years old and a day I will never forget as I cried all the way home!

I bred my first litter in 1983 and started judging in 1986 and at the age of 16 was certainly one of the younger judges in our breed. In 1998 I was privileged to award CC's for the first time at Scottish Kennel Club and since then have been lucky to judge our wonderful breed in Holland, Sweden, Finland, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. The highlight of my judging career so far was doing bitches at the Cavalier Club Show in 2014, one of the most memorable days.

I am also involved in one of the general championship shows in the UK where I am currently the Chief Steward. A two day all breeds show in the Scottish Borders that attracts nearly 6,000 dogs. I am also a Committee Member of the St Bernard Club of Scotland, a breed that my mother in law shows.

I feel a great honour and privilege to be asked to judge The Norwegian Cavalier Club Show and I hope the exhibitors enjoy their day as much as I will.