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# Circling Back

## THE CYNDELLA STORY

*Kelly Neeley  
Cyndella*

***CE: What events and inspirations led to your decision to breed and show Collies competitively? What dogs were being shown at the time that inspired you?***

Thank you, Nancy, for asking me to write my story. I am a visual person, so trying to put words on paper is not always easy for me, but I will do my best.

As I look back at a list of champions that spans 16 years of breeding, it struck me: I tend to circle back to the familiar. This is not a new thought for me; it is something I think about from time to time. Browsing the list of champions, a few names leap off the page, the ones that hold meaning, the ones that I treasure... Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party (Kylee), Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot (Jameson), GCh. Cyndella's Miss July (Madison), Ch. Cyndella's Pixy Stix (Pixy), and Cyndella's Triple De Lite (Gisele).

My love of Collies started when I was a child growing up in Washington State. I had a sable Rough as a companion, a best friend who was there through the ups and downs of childhood. One day in my early twenties I had the thought, "Hey, showing dogs looks like fun," and I knew what breed I would get... a Collie.

It seems silly to say I wanted to show dogs based on a whim. At the time, I was taking dressage lessons and leasing a horse named Cynch, and honestly it was getting too expensive of a hobby. Maybe I saw a commercial for a dog show. I had never been to one - I just recall thinking it could be a fun thing to try. As for the breed, that's easy - growing up I had my sable, Kayla, and she was great. I never knew the breed came in blue merle,

but when I saw one I fell in love with the color. I will say, showing is FUN but I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

I called an ad in a paper. I cannot recall who answered, but they referred me to Marie Markovich of Marko's. Marie sold me my first show dog in early 1996, opened her home, and taught me the basics. The puppy I brought home was a 12-week-old blue Rough bitch that I named Cynder, after my horse, Cynch. Cynder was by Ch. Marko's Aatuk Blue Austin (a Ch. Twin Creeks Lonesome-n-Blue son) out of Ch. Marko's Black Magic.

I must tell the story of my first show with Cynder. Unfortunately, Marie could not be there that Saturday and she told me who to find and that they would help me



*Kelly with Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party  
"Kylee"*



*Ch. Marko's Outta The Blue in July 1998*

my search for a male for Cynder, as the tri Rough boy I had bought turned out to be sterile. I was not a fast learner in this department, and it would take a few failed attempts at breeding Cynder for me to figure this out. While this ended up being a good thing, at the time it was a huge disappointment.

I was introduced to Heather Newcomb at this National. She had been referred by Marie as a person who could handle Cynder for me. Upon meeting Heather and her mom Vicky, I was also introduced to "Harrison" - Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM. The more I hung around their set-up, the more I became smitten with him. This was quite a

if necessary. Armed with my table and crate I found a spot and off I went seeking out this person. Well... the interaction was not friendly and not what I expected, either, so I headed back to my spot to try my best to remember how to groom. I was struggling when these two ladies stopped to chat and give me some pointers. They were very friendly and helpful. It turns out they were Janine Walker-Keith and Miriam Stempler visiting from California with "Gina" (BIS Ch. Aurealis Charidan Regina). I believe Cynder won her Puppy class that day, and eventually despite a series of life hiccups (a move to Colorado only to relocate to South Korea for most of 1998 and then back to Colorado), she would become Champion Marko's Outta The Blue when I finished her with back-to-back majors in February 1999 in Colorado.

surprise to me, as I had no love for the Smooth variety going into Wichita - though I should admit I hadn't been seeing Smooths like him, either. Cynder would be bred to Harrison to produce the first Cyndella litter, whelped in December 2000. This litter marked the beginning of an appreciation and love for the Smooth variety, as well as a friendship with Heather that is still strong today.

I'm not sure how everyone whelps their first litter, maybe they watch or maybe a friend assists. For me... it was books. I'm an avid reader. I was armed with an assort-

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At some point, I started thinking about a kennel name. I would need one eventually, and drawing on inspiration from Cynder and the Disney movie Cinderella (this whole idea of showing seemed like a fairytale), I created the name "Cyndella." Only later would I learn there was a Cinderella Collies, owned by Terri Parker. It was my understanding they were phasing out of Collies, so there should be no conflict and I kept the name.

I attended my first Collie Club of America National specialty in 2000 and was overwhelmed with the number of beautiful dogs exhibited. At this National I was starting



*Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM*

ment of books and a phone that night, as I had never witnessed a whelping. While I can't recall everything about that night, I do remember Heather answered every call with every puppy. I can still hear her talking very loudly - okay, maybe yelling - when the first puppy (a blue Rough male) was born that I needed to rub harder, she wanted to hear that puppy squeak. In the long run, there were twelve puppies, but only eight would survive.

My first homebred champion, a blue Rough boy, would come from this breeding: Ch. Cyndella's Forbidden Treasure (Indy). He would go sterile at a young age, never siring a litter. His sister, Cyndella's Life Is A Party (Allie), a sable Rough, would be bred back to her father Harrison to produce my second litter. It is from this litter that Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party (Kylee) was born. There was another pretty puppy in this litter, a sable Smooth boy I was calling Cooper, that unfortunately had to be placed due to a retained testicle - a frustrating issue that still haunts me today.

Anyway, Allie was only shown a handful of times, as I was once asked, "Why do you want to spend hundreds of dollars on this bitch when her daughter is obviously better than she is?" What an interesting question to ponder. Ultimately I would place Allie into a pet home, deciding to concentrate my efforts on her daughter Kylee. This would prove to be one of the smartest things I could have done, as Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party is behind every dog today. Kylee was the dam of six champions, including Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot, Ch. Cyndella's Triple Temptation, Ch. Cyndella's Party Favor, Ch. Cyndella's Rookie Sensation, Ch. Keepsake Cyndella Dare To Dream, and MBISS GChB. Keepsake Builder Of Dreams.

To wrap this up, I have always loved showing and I felt early on that no one was going to sell me their best, and frankly, why should they? Therefore, I started breeding. Now, I'm pushing myself to breed better, more typey Collies. I'm excited for what is to come.

### The Development of Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party



4 Weeks



10 Weeks



15 Weeks



6 Months

### CE: From what breeders did you seek mentoring?

I've had a few people help me on my journey and at different stages. I will always be appreciative of everything I learned from them, and I'm still eager to learn from a variety of breeders. Watch out - you never know when I might pick your brain!

Marie was my first mentor. Without her there would not be a Cyndella Collies. She trusted me with an adorable puppy and showed me the basics of showing and grooming. She helped build my confidence and guide me toward the must-have books of the breed: *Collie Concept* and *Evolution of the Collie*.

When I met Heather, I thought I had a good understanding of the Standard. I did have a foundation of sorts; however, it would be Heather who would get me to understand the Collie head. In the early years when I would see Heather but once a year at the National, we would have a tutorial on heads. Not so much anymore, though typically she still offers up her opinion on what I bring every year. I appreciate her telling me what she likes or doesn't. How else does one learn? Nowadays, I take what she says and think about it. I may or may not agree with her, but I always reflect on what she says. She has been in this breed a lot longer than I have, and I feel what she says is of value. To this day, we are still great friends and have done multiple co-breedings.

It would be Carmen Leonard (Lisara) who would get me thinking about evaluating puppies. Until Carmen, I cannot recall if I would sit and watch the puppies play in the yard - to watch how they stack themselves or how they use themselves. Through the Lisara dogs I realized I love a dog that can SHOW, and I started to select for it. You can teach any dog to show, however, I wanted the dog that walks into the ring with that "look at me" attitude, and they think they own the ring. With Carmen as a co-breeder, I bred and handled such a dog - Best in Show/Best in Specialty Show/

Name	Coat	Sire	Dam
Ch. Marko's Outta The Blue	R	Ch. Marko's Aatuk Blue Austin	Ch. Marko's Black Magic
Ch. Cyndella's Forbidden Treasure, HIC	R	Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM	Ch. Marko's Outta the Blue
Can Ch. Cyndella's King Of The Road	S	Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM	Ch. Marko's Outta the Blue
Ch. Epic's Keepsake Of The Heart	S	Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM	Bellvue's Bronze Sensation
Ch. Cyndella's Slam Dunk	S	Ch. Lisara's Hair Unapparent, ROM	Cyndella's Party At Clanjak
Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party	S	Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM	Cyndella's Life Is A Party
Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	S	Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM	Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party
Ch. Cyndella's Blue Moon Rising	R	Ch. Lisara's Hair Unapparent, ROM	Cyndella's Party At Clanjak
Ch. Cyndella's Wicked Indulgence	S	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	Ch. Lisara's Fixn To Bwitchn, ROM
Ch. Lisara's Thrills Not Frills	S	Ch. Lisara's Blue Streak	Ch. Lisara's Carbon Copy, ROM
Ch. Cyndella's Triple Temptation	S	Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM	Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party
Ch. Cyndella's Rookie Sensation	S	Ch. Cyndella's Blue Moon Rising	Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party
Ch. Cyndella's Party Favor	S	Ch. Cyndella's Blue Moon Rising	Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party
Ch. Cyndella's Shantituck Sweet Spot	S	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	Ch. Lisara's Fixn To Bwitchn, ROM
GChB. Keepsake Builder Of Dreams	S	Ch. Edenrock The Mask Of Society, ROM	Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party
GChS. Cyndella's Yes, I'm Charmed	S	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	Ch. Lisara's Thrills Not Frills
Ch. Cyndella's Jack Frost	S	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	Ch. Cobblecreek's See'n Is Believ'n
Ch. Keepsake Cyndella Dare To Dream	S	Ch. Edenrock The Mask Of Society, ROM	Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party
GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image	S	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	Ch. Lisara's Thrills Not Frills
Ch. Cyndella's Wild Wind Centerfold	S	Ch. Lisara's Sorcerer	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Temptation
GCh. Cyndella's Promiscuous Girl	S	Ch. Lisara's Sorcerer	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Temptation
Ch. Cyndella's Me Myself 'N Lisara, HT	S	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	Ch. Lisara's Thrills Not Frills
Ch. Cyndella's Flirtitude	S	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	GChS. Cyndella's Yes, I'm Charmed
Ch. Cyndella's Pixy Stix	S	GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image	Ch. Cyndella's Shantituck Sweet Spot
Ch. Cyndella N Pyman's Ring Side Gossip	S	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	GChS. Cyndella's Yes, I'm Charmed
GCh. Cyndella's Miss July	R	Ch. Lisara's Sorcerer	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Temptation
Cyndella's Triple De Lite	R	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	GCh. Cyndella's Miss July
Ch. Cyndella's Moon Beam At Sandmoor	R	Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot	GCh. Cyndella's Miss July
Ch. Taliesin I Am Hot On Cyndella	S	Ch. Kings Valley Demuirshere I Am, ROM	Ch. Southland's Long Hot Summer
GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium	R	Ch. Taliesin Lynmar's Kung Fu Panda	GCh. Cyndella's Miss July
Ch. Cyndella's Flashback	S	GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image	Ch. Cyndella's Nite Lites
Ch. Cyndella's Pandalicious	R	Ch. Taliesin Lynmar's Kung Fu Panda	GCh. Cyndella's Miss July
GCh. Cyndella's Magical Moments	S	GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image	Ch. Cyndella's Nite Lites
GCh. Cyndella's Enigma	R	Am/Can Ch. Tallywood Paradox	Ch. Cyndella's Pandalicious
Ch. Cyndella's Partini	S	GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image	Ch. Cyndella's Nite Lites
Ch. Cyndella's iCandy	S	GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium	Ch. Cyndella's Pixy Stix
Ch. Cyndella's Fabulosity	S	GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image	Ch. Cyndella's Nite Lites
Ch. Cyndella Tango's Starburst	S	GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium	Ch. Cyndella's Pixy Stix
Ch. Cyndella's Nite Lites	R	Am/Can Ch. Tallywood Paradox	Cyndella's Triple De Lite
Ch. Cyndella's Farandole	S	GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image	Cyndella's Triple De Lite
GCh. Cyndella's I'm A Party Girl	S	GChB. Keepsake Builder Of Dreams	Ch. Cyndella's Dolled Up
Ch. Cyndella's Dolled Up	R	GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium	Cyndella's Triple De Lite
Ch. Cyndella's Joi Ride	S	GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium	Ch. Cyndella's Pixy Stix
Ch. Cyndella's Fabulicious	S	GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image	Cyndella's Love Letters To Enchanted
Ch. Cyndella's Divatude	R	GChB. Keepsake Builder Of Dreams	Ch. Cyndella's Dolled Up

Multi-Group Winning and Placing GChS. Cyndella's Yes, I'm Charmed.

When I moved to Colorado, I met Kelly Roche. She was one of the most welcoming of the Collie people here. I would later learn she previously had owned a Smooth Collie bitch from Heather and Vicky Newcomb and was good friends with Janine Walker-Keith. I believe I said something to the effect of, "Hey, that's the lady that helped me at my first show"! What a small world. I'm amazed at the history she knows, and she still surprises me with some gem of a story. I can't even begin to tell you the stories I've heard, but some include the likes of Ch. Braegate's In The Blues and Ch. Tartanside Cinnamon Elijah. When it comes to pedigrees and "what do you know," she's the first one I turn to. She was around to see the dogs that I only have a name for and maybe a photo if I'm lucky. To have her to tell me about the dog - virtues and faults - is a valuable resource with regard to breeding. We're good friends and we co-own dogs together. Unfortunately, her boy Sulley - GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image - is now nine years old and this is probably his last year of consistently being shown. I'm hopeful the next litters will have a new puppy for her.

**CE: Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party became your foundation bitch. Can you describe your thought process for her breedings? What was your path progressing along the development of the Cyndella family?**



Kylee was whelped in May 2002. I believe she represents my past, and I would like to think she represents my future, too. She was a tri bitch from a sable-to-sable breeding. I make note of this because on more than one occasion I've been accused of not liking brown. I think it's the other way around - brown does not like me!

Kylee would be my first real success in the specialty ring. At the 2003 CCA in Rochester, she won the Bred-by-Exhibitor class under Joe Reno. I've never admitted this in writing, not that I can recall anyway, but that day when Joe pointed out his class placements it was all I could do to refrain from looking around and questioning him as my brain said, "Me?" Kylee went on to win Best Opposite Sex to Best Bred-by-Exhibitor as well as BBE Bitch (winning the Bettie Crawford medallion) under Joan Graber.

Kylee did not finish until September 2004, and this was due to a trip to the whelping box. You see, I had already been thinking about breeding Kylee, as I knew what I wanted to do but didn't know if I could do it. If I was to do this breeding it also meant breeding her on her first season, which is taboo to some. I've learned over the years that my girls tend to be around a year of age by their first season, but I did not know this yet. I was not willing to wait until a second season if I used the dog I had in mind, as he was already nine years old. The dog... her father, Harrison. I must say in defense of Heather that she did ask me if I was crazy and if I wanted one-eyed, three-legged puppies.

While we laughed about it, I was serious in my inquiry. You see, books I had read said the result of a father/daughter breeding was cookie cutter puppies - okay, maybe not those exact words, but that was the gist. While Kylee was the best in her own litter, I would not have said I got cookie cutter puppies out of it. I reasoned that because Harrison was an outcross and I had originally bred an unrelated bitch to him - Cynder - I did not get the so-called "cookie cutter puppies" when I did the first father/daughter breeding.

I believe I bugged Heather enough that eventually she allowed the breeding. The result was only two puppies, both tris, and my two "cookie cutters." Tracing

*Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party at the 2003 CCA National*

.....Ch. Kanebriar Patriot  
 .....Ch. Kanebriar Keepsake Pioneer  
 .....Ch. Keepsake When You Care Enuf  
 .....**Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM**  
 .....Ch. Lisara's Faux Paws  
 .....Ch. Lisara's Treasured Keepsake  
 .....Lisara's Free Spirit  
**CH. CYNDELLA'S TRIPLE SHOT**  
**CH. CYNDELLA'S TRIPLE TEMPTATION**  
 .....Ch. Kanebriar Keepsake Pioneer  
 .....**Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM**  
 .....Ch. Lisara's Treasured Keepsake  
 .....Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party  
 .....**Ch. Keepsake Telesis, ROM**  
 .....Cyndella's Life Is A Party  
 .....Ch. Marko's Outta The Blue



three times to Harrison, these two grew up to become Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot (Jameson) and Ch. Cyndella's Triple Temptation (Halle).

From the moment this litter arrived I was smitten with the tri Smooth boy, whom we eventually named "Jameson." Jameson became my heart dog, and for that reason he's probably one of the few dogs I have not shown entirely myself. He visited Heather briefly, and if memory serves me correctly, he was handled by Cindy Weiner-Robinson in February of 2005 to complete his championship. After his championship, I did not show Jameson much except for at a couple of Nationals. Those few Nationals he did not do anything grand, and that was okay by me, as I was so proud of the crowd support he always received.

Jameson had a way of "nicking" with the bitches brought to him, and only years later have

I realized this is not typical and that I was very fortunate to have been blessed by him. His first litter would produce two champions out of a bitch I leased from Carmen Leonard, Ch. Lisara's Fixn To Bwitchn (a Ch.



Lisara's Hair Unapparent, ROM daughter). He later would be bred to a second Lisara bitch, Ch. Lisara's Thrills Not Frills, producing his two most notable kids: Best in Show/Best in Specialty Show GChS. Cyndella's Yes, I'm Charmed (Sabrina) and Group-Winning GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image (Sulley). Jameson sired 16 champions for me and a handful for other breeders.

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*Ch. Cyndella's Triple Temptation (left) and Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot (above)*



*GCh. Cyndella's Splitting Image*

I thank the breeders who believed in him; because of them, he was awarded the honor of Top Smooth Sire in 2011 (*Dogs in Review*) with seven champions finishing that year. Unfortunately, I was to have my heart broken when he was taken by cancer on March 12, 2010, at the young age of six-and-a-half. I still miss him to this day and find peace in knowing his spirit lives on through his offspring.

Moving on, it would be Triple Temptation's daughter, GCh. Cyndella's Miss July (Madison), who would help propel me forward. Madison is the result of taking Halle to Carmen Leonard's blue Smooth boy, Ch. Lisara's Sorcerer (a Hair Unapparent son). It was a disastrous whelping, ending in a C-section and three live puppies, two Smooths and one Rough (Madison). Therefore, Halle was never bred again, and I did worry that a daughter of hers could have the same whelping experience. Luckily for me, Madison did not take after her momma in this area.

In prior years, I had learned the lesson that breeding does not necessarily have to take place after completing a championship, and I was not about to make that mistake with Madison, so into the whelping box she went, twice, before completing her title. She had a classic outline (nice length of body with beautiful neck) with a soft pretty face, clean sides, and nice fill of skull.

For her first litter, I bred her to Triple Shot, an uncle/niece breeding. This resulted in a beautiful bitch who unfortunately did not like showing, Cyndella's Triple

De Lite (Gisele). A crying shame, really, but I was nine years into breeding by that time and I had learned not wanting to show is not the end of the world, so Gisele stayed on. We'll get back to her part of the story later.

Madison's second breeding was a bit more complicated. I had been doing mainly linebreedings (for those not aware, Harrison was a blend of two families, Kanebriar and Lisara), and I had been looking for a dog to outcross to. In true fashion, I dragged my feet a bit too long and instead of being able to use the dog I was attracted to, I had to find a son. (My biggest downfall is I overthink every decision. It is something I'm working on.)

Anyway, I recall seeing this particular dog as a puppy at the Nebraska specialties in November and then seeing him again at the 2010 CCA in Pomona. I can still see him leaving the show building in Pomona with his owner, tossing a toy into the air, chasing it and re-tossing. I knew this was the dog for me and I contacted Jennie Rutkas to inquire on using the future Ch. Taliesin Lynmar's Kung Fu Panda (a Ch. Tartanside Power Play, ROM son). In a nutshell, all I can say is I will forever be very thankful to Jennie and Michael for going above and beyond to make this breeding happen. If they hadn't, I would not have GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium (Carter) or Ch. Cyndella's Pandalicious (Chloe).

After two litters, Madison went on to complete her championship with placements in the Open Blue and Brood



*GCh. Cyndella's Miss July*

Bitch classes at the 2011 CCA in Tulsa. Ultimately, I had to place Madison. She went to my good friends Robin and Greg Ungano who completed her Grand Championship and treated her like the princess she was.

Born two years after Miss July in the spring of 2009 was Ch. Cyndella's Pixy Stix (Pixy). Pixy is sired by GChS. Cyndella's Splitting Image out of a daughter of Ch. Lisara's Fixn To Bwitchn, the bitch I leased from Carmen in 2004. I co-bred Pixy with my friends Judy and John McKnight, and she came to me as a 12-week-old puppy. She was a pretty pup with such spunk, and I was quite excited to have her. I finished her at a year-and-a-half of age with three five-point majors and promptly sent her back to the McKnights. She was one of the most obnoxious dogs I had ever owned! At the McKnights' house, Pixy blossomed into a beautiful "pet" who didn't display any of her bad traits that she had had with me. Go figure.

You may wonder why Pixy was important to me and still is. Not only is she a double Triple Shot granddaughter, she is also a double on the Lisara family. She possessed the virtues I value - well-sprung ribs with a chest combined with a classic outline. Throw in the long, lean, clean head and pretty expression and she is the total package to me. Why was she never specialied? She lived with Judy and John, Westie breeders, and was happy on their couch. Not finding a male for an outcross, the opportunity to



*Ch. Cyndella's Pixy Stix at 12 Weeks*

breed her to a Jameson grandson presented itself when GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium was whelped. It would be a few years later when I did the breeding and it would produce her daughters Ch. Cyndella's iCandy and GCh. Cyndella Tango's Starburst (owned by Lily Russell), but no boys worth keeping. I decided to repeat the breeding, crossing my fingers for a boy. Next time around this breeding produced another daughter, Ch. Cyndella's Joi Ride (co-owned with Ann and Jim Boles), winner of the 9-12 Smooth bitch class at the 2015 CCA in Oklahoma City. The third attempt to breed her resulted in a pregnancy that ended with a pyometra. While it was upsetting to lose the litter and spay Pixy, I took comfort in the fact I had three beautiful daughters to move forward with.

Born in the fall of 2009 from one of Triple Shot's last litters came Cyndella's Triple De Lite (Gisele), whose dam was GCh. Cyndella's Miss July. I was so excited about Gisele, and when I realized she was not a dog who liked to show it was a great disappointment. In my early years, I might have placed this bitch, but by then I was learning that you don't have to show all of them to utilize them in the breeding program. I just knew coming forward I would want to select offspring that liked the show ring.

For her first litter, I bred her to Am/Can Ch. Tallywood Paradox, an outcross breeding. This breeding produced a champion singleton bitch, who then produced champions. However, after not getting what I was looking for I made the decision to not continue down this path.



*Cyndella's Triple De Lite*

*Cont'd on page 14*



*Ch. Cyndella's Dolled Up (Rough) and her daughter, GCh. Cyndella's I'm A Party Girl*

It would be Gisele's second litter, by GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium (Carter), that so far has shown to be the path forward. After trying the outcross, I had decided linebreeding was in order, and breeding her to Carter would double on GCh. Cyndella's Miss July. The result was the beautiful Ch. Cyndella's Dolled Up (Danika), along with two other lovely puppies being shown by Robin and Greg Ungano (Cyndella's In Kahootz With Doe Run) and Geri Cox (Cyndella's Rockette). Danika would go third in the Brood Bitch class at the 2015 CCA in Oklahoma City with her two daughters sired by GChB. Keepsake Builder Of Dreams (a Kylee son). Placing Danika was not easy but something I had to do to keep both her daughters.

Her daughters, co-bred with Heather Newcomb and Hannah Melissas, are BISS GCh. Cyndella's I'm A Party Girl (Kelsey) and Ch. Cyndella's Divatude (Meghan). Kelsey placed fourth in the Bred-by-Exhibitor class at the 2015 CCA, and piloted by Caitlin in 2016, she has completed her Grand Championship, placed in the Group, and beaten me to win a Best in Specialty. Also in 2016, after taking a backseat to her mother, Meghan hit the ring and finished quickly

with Group placements and multiple variety wins over specials.

Gisele was then bred a third time to her half-brother Splitting Image to produce Ch. Cyndella's Farandole (Farran). Farran finished quite easily handled by both Caitlin and I, and then she was bred to Pandamonium to produce a singleton boy. Unfortunately, boys are not my strong suit, and he was not what I wanted to move forward with, so was placed into a pet home. I'm currently contemplating options on how I should breed Farran.



*Ch. Cyndella's Farandole*

***CE: Which virtues have been preserved in your family coming down from Kylee and how have you used her offspring with other families to continue to approach your vision? Her son Triple Shot has been used on bitches from a variety of different families. What are you seeing that he's producing consistently?***

Kylee is my foundation and she is behind every dog today. When I linebreed on her I envision her beautiful body. She possessed lovely rib spring and chest, and beautiful curves with her head set in front of her shoulders. She had a round muzzle with fill under the eye combined with a clean head and nice backskull. Her eye was dark and had a sweetness to it. Kylee represented what I love about Smooths - what you see is what you get. To me, Kylee represented a blend of her ancestors - Kanebriar, Keepsake, and Lisara. I give credit to Heather Newcomb, Helga Kane, and Carmen Leonard for having the dogs behind Kylee for me to build a foundation on.

When Kylee was bred to Harrison, I did it to see if I could get puppies that would cement the virtues mentioned above. Kylee herself comes from a father/daughter breeding; however, there was a lack of consistency in the litter - no "cookie cutters," as I call them. When I took her back, again, I would get two puppies from the breeding, a dog and bitch, my cookie cutters.

The dog would become Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot, who would sire 16 champions to date. I say "to date" as I have frozen semen and I hope to have a Jameson litter in the future. Jameson offspring had his body balance, with rib spring and chest, along with that fill of muzzle and clean heads. The bitch would become Ch. Cyndella's Triple Temptation. Halle would only have the one litter and she is behind all the Miss July kids and grandkids.

Next I would take Kylee to her nephew Ch. Cyndella's Blue Moon Rising (Jace), whose sire was Ch. Lisara's Hair Unapparent. Jace was a pretty blue Rough who had a beautiful outline and finished quite quickly. I really thought this would be a nice breeding. Ultimately, two champions would come from this breeding. However, in all honesty the dog, Rookie Sensation, was just "okay" and not what I wanted to use in my plans, so he went to a



*Above: Ch. Cyndella's Blue Moon Rising  
Below: Ch. Edenrock The Mask Of Society, ROM*



nice pet home. The bitch, Party Favor (Paige), was a nice moving bitch with substance and femininity. I believe this was the beginning of me thinking, hmmm, the girls are better than the boys. Anyway, I did try to breed Paige and now I can't even recall to whom, but she did not conceive.

After the 2006 CCA National, Heather approached me about leasing Kylee to breed to Ch. Edenrock The Mask Of Society, ROM (Bandit). I didn't hesitate to help Heather and at the same time I thought this was a fabulous opportunity to introduce some new blood - Edenrock and Society - while still doing a linebreeding on Harrison, which had proved successful the first time.

What to say about Bandit? He was a beautiful dog and oozed type. Choosing puppies based on photos I went with a darling blue bitch. She ended up being a pretty girl but too extreme for my liking. I should have listened to Heather, who wanted me to take a tri, but no, I had been stubborn. Heather did keep the tri bitch and finished her quite easily. However, it would be the blue brother, GChB. Keepsake Builder

Of Dreams, who would be the superstar. Following in his daddy's National-winning footsteps, Mason would win Best Opposite Sex to Best of Variety at the 2014 CCA in West Springfield. Mason is also the sire of 10 champions, including the 2011 CCA Best of Breed winner, GCh. Lonepine Who Knew.

*Cont'd on page 18*

*From Lily Russell*  
*Tango*

In early 2008 I began to seriously look at stud dogs for Ch. Tango's She's Got The Look ("Sophia"). Her pedigree is a blend of Lisara and Impromptu. I was looking for a dog that had Lisara in the pedigree to complement what I was working with. Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot ("Jameson"), a tri Smooth dog who had been extensively health tested, had the pedigree that I wanted. In addition to the Lisara dogs, Ch. Keepsake Telesis was in his pedigree, on both the sire's and the dam's side.

That breeding produced a litter of five puppies. Four of those puppies went to conformation homes: GCh. Tango's Walking On The Moon, owned by Donna and Megan Holloway; GCh. Tango's Brace For Impact At Balmoral, owned by Pat and Allen Rawich; GCh. Tango's Running Down A Dream, owned by Bea and Arnold Henderson; and Ch. Tango's American Girl, whom I kept.

I kept in contact with Kelly as the puppies were shown, and had the opportunity to talk to her often, discussing possible pedigrees to use in the future, health issues and health testing available to us, and what shows we would be attending.

In 2012, GCh. Tango's Love Is A Long Road ("Gina"), a Sophia daughter, was bred to GCh.

Cyndella's Pandamonium. My thoughts were to take a female from this litter and breed her to GCh. Tango's Brace For Impact At Balmoral, but sadly this breeding did not take.

In 2013, Kelly had a litter of puppies on the ground by GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium x Ch. Cyndella's Pixy Stix. At that time I was not actively looking for a puppy, but saw a video of the litter and asked Kelly if she would consider placing the tri Smooth female with me. An agreement was reached and I am very happy and proud to own GCh. Cyndella's Tango's Starburst - "Ava." I did breed her to GCh. Tango's Brace For Impact At Balmoral in the spring of 2016, but unfortunately the one live puppy only survived 24 hours.

At the time of this writing, Ava is with Kelly waiting to be bred to Keepsake Edenrock Just Living The Dream (by GChB. Keepsake Builder Of Dreams x Ch. Larkspur Raindrops On Roses). I am looking forward to seeing what this breeding produces.

Aside from our dealings with the dogs, it has been a pleasure for me to watch her daughter Caitlin mature into an excellent handler and sports-woman. It is gratifying to know that we have young people in the sport with her enthusiasm and interest. I am sure that there are many more successes in both the breeding and exhibiting of Collies waiting for both Kelly and Caitlin. I look forward to seeing what the future brings to their breeding program.



*Left: Ch. Tango's She's Got The Look*  
*Below: Ch. Cyndella's Triple Shot*



# GCH. Cyndella Tango's Starburst



*Ava*

Ava completed her championship with specialty wins under Tom Coen, Larry Willeford, Bob Hawkins, Pati Merrill and Janet Hitt.

We congratulate Kelly and Cyndella Collies on their many accomplishments. We are very fortunate to have Ava as part of our collie family and look forward to puppies from Ava in the future.

GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium X Ch. Cyndella's Pixy Stix  
Owned by Maria (Lily) Russell

# Tango Collies



*Ch. Lisara's Thrills Not Frills*



*GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium*



*Ch. Cyndella's Fabulicious*

In the two years following this litter Kylee would get a case of pyometra. With the help of my vet I did the prostaglandin treatment on her the first time, which was successful. I bred her the next season following treatment, to whom escapes me, as Kylee would pyo yet again. This time I spayed her. She lived out the rest of her years as a family dog, lying on the bed or couch. Basically, whatever Kylee wanted to do, she did. She would pass peacefully in my arms on June 10, 2015 at 13 years old.

***CE: In your growth as a breeder, what are your personal priorities when you plan each breeding? Have these priorities changed over time? Has your interpretation changed? In what ways?***

Most definitely I've evolved. Living in a state that does not offer many specialties and with the closest specialty being eight hours away (Utah), I did focus more on the "all-breed dog" in the beginning. Some may feel I bred to Harrison because he won the Variety the year I attended the National, but in truth I bred to him because he was a dog with good substance who made a proud picture. His side gait had one of the prettiest kick-outs and he had a beautiful face. I was looking for the traits I felt the all-breed judges desired. It would only be with Heather's influence that I would really start to understand what makes a Collie a Collie. As breedings progressed and I was figuring out what I wanted to see in my dogs, I would turn to the Lisara family for their outline, long clean heads, and soundness of mind and body. I leased a bitch and then bought a bitch from Carmen. Both bitches - Ch. Lisara's Fixn to Bwitchn and Ch. Lisara's Thrills Not Frills - are still behind my dogs today.

I would then go through a funk, for the lack of a better word, through the next few years. I was showing, having fun and finishing champions, but they just weren't measuring up to what I was envisioning in my mind. I was trying to work on expression and profiles but I just wasn't getting there. The reality was that I was going to need to go out to bring in what I was seeking, and for me that was a scary thought. Finally, telling myself "nothing ventured nothing gained," I went searching.

As mentioned above, in 2010 I would do an outcross to Michael and Jennie Rutkas's boy Ch. Taliesin Lynmar's Kung Fu Panda (Po), a Ch. Tartanside Power Play ROM son (whose dam was linebred on Ch. Southland's Bowen Island, ROM). I knew I wanted a Player son, and for me Po checked the boxes - long head, beautiful expression, classic outline with nice length of back, and the most happy-go-lucky temperament. I took my prettiest bitch - GCh. Cyndella's Miss July - who had all the virtues I cherish and sent her to Po. The resulting offspring would be GCh. Cyndella's Pandamonium (Carter) and Ch. Cyndella's Pandalicious (Chloe). Unfortunately, Chloe would only have one litter as she would pyo two seasons later and was spayed. Today, Chloe's contributions come down through her



*Caitlin with GChS. Cyndella's Yes, I'm Charmed*

her most notable win to come that summer, Best in Show under Donna Buxton.

Why did I briefly tell her story? It would be after this win that Ron would question me: what more did I have to do in dogs? It was a very honest question from someone who tries to understand why I'm passionate about this crazy hobby. Well, after her fabulous win and my husband asking me what more do I want to do, the answer was right there... specialties.

By using Kung Fu Panda I was already working on getting a more typey Collie. With his kids and grandkids I was traveling to more specialties. By then I was also becoming aware of something I would like to call "Oh, I didn't think about that." You know the saying, "You don't know what you've got until it's gone?" So, as I dwelled and thought about my progression forward I had the thought... sometimes you need to go back to go forward.

granddaughter Ch. Cyndella's Fabulicious (named in honor of her grandma). It would be Carter who would be bred to a few key bitches (Pixy Stix/Triple de Lite) to produce my future.

Running parallel to the above litters would be the show career of Sabrina (GChS. Cyndella's Yes, I'm Charmed), and ultimately she would be the one who would cause the next shift. You see, she is still my most successful dog in the ring, winning more than any dog that I have ever bred or shown. Born in October of 2006, Sabrina would be the youngest Smooth to finish in 2007 (*Collie Expressions*, April/May 2008), then she raised a litter and hung out at home.

When Caitlin decided she wanted to try Juniors, she went to a few matches trying out both Sabrina (Smooth) and Madison (Rough). Ultimately, Kelly Roche and I decided Caitlin would use a Smooth as she could see the feet better.

We planned for Caitlin to enter the February 2012 shows, and as it would turn out, I would travel to Washington in January to meet Nancy Anstruther. I entered Sabrina on a whim because she had not been to a show in years. Not missing a beat, her first weekend out, Sabrina would win the Group, a first for me. I was thrilled and scared at the same time. I now had to walk into the Best in Show ring! Sabrina would be selectively shown in 2012 and 2013, with

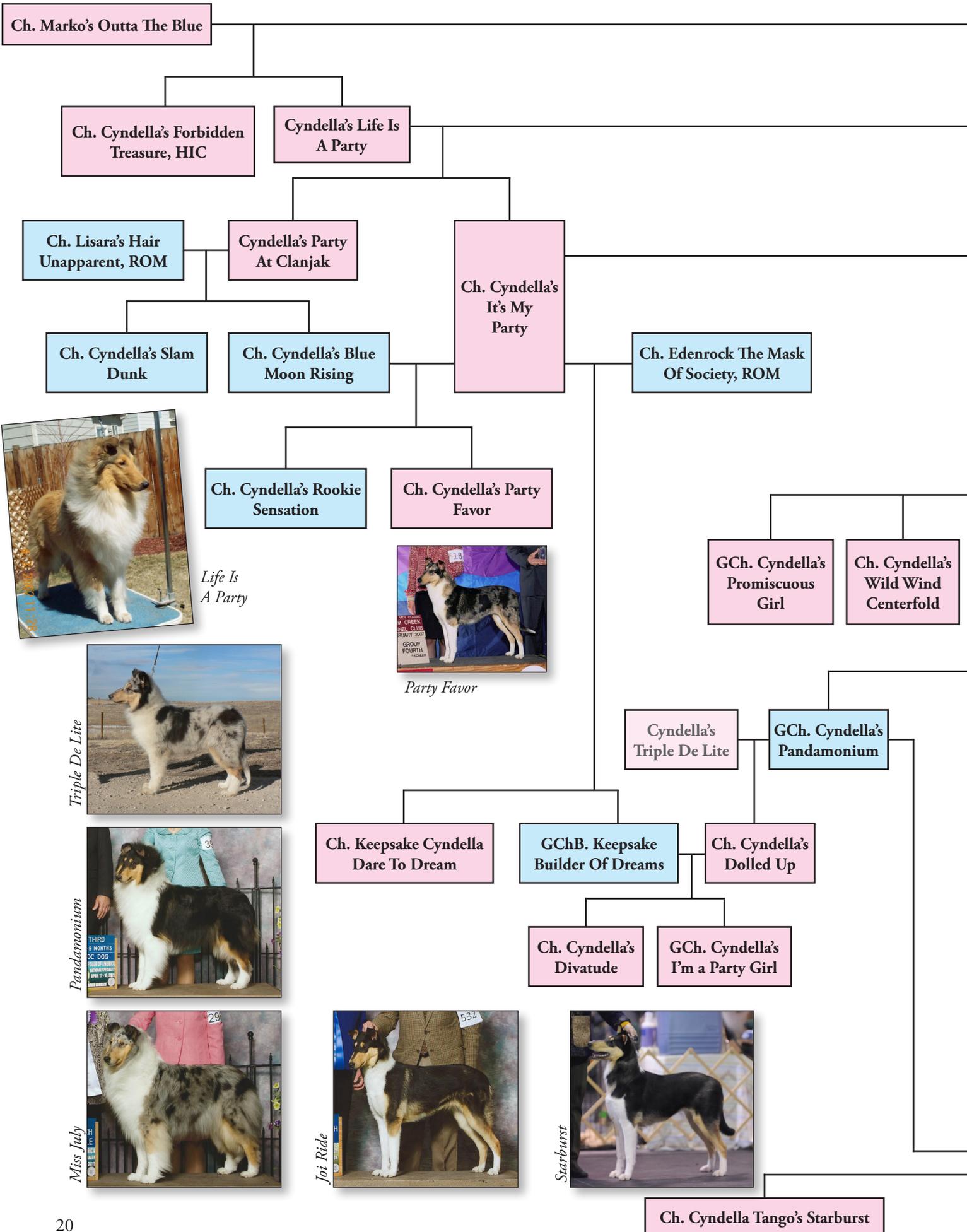
Luckily for me there was an It's My Party son living in California. Luckier for me he was owned by my good friend who didn't hit me over the head when I said, "Hey, what would you think of me using Mason?" Heather did answer with, "I didn't think you liked him." Got to love her, Heather calls it as she sees it. So, I explained myself. I have a very pretty bitch, just a touch on the small side, and I continued to talk about the ways they clicked - to sum it up I thought he complimented her and she him.

Heather agreed, and when Ch. Cyndella's Dolled Up (Danika) came into season, she was bred to GChB.

*Cont'd on page 22*

*GChB. Keepsake Builder Of Dreams*





*Life Is A Party*



*Party Favor*



*Triple De Lite*



*Pandamonium*



*Miss July*

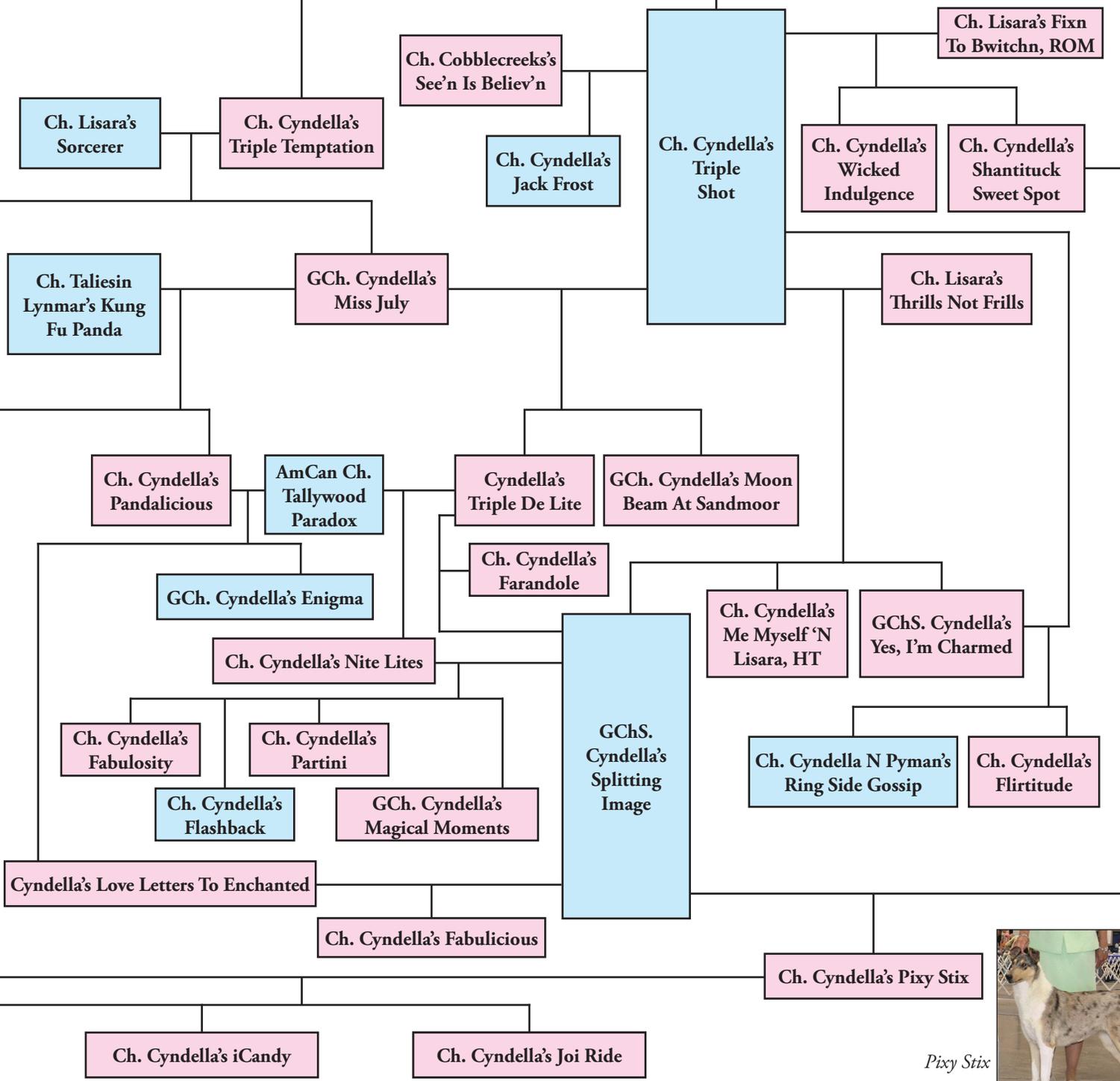


*Joi Ride*



*Starburst*

**CH. KEEPSAKE  
TELESIS, ROM**



*Pixy Stix*

Keepsake Builder Of Dreams for a co-bred litter. This litter would produce BISS GCh. Cyndella's I'm A Party Girl (Kelsey) and Ch. Cyndella's Divatude (Meghan). Kelsey was so named because of her striking resemblance to her grandmother, Kylee, while Meghan, who is a better version of her mom, got a "D" name, Divatude.

***CE: The apple hasn't fallen far from the tree - your daughter Caitlin is a talented handler and obviously a great asset. Talk a little about how you manage family relationships and duties while building a successful breeding program. How do family members contribute and support you? Talk a little about Caitlin's accomplishments and drive and what inspires her.***

At the beginning of this journey, I only wanted Roughs, but after meeting Harrison, that would change. It's funny how what I kept from the first litter would be two Rough puppies, Indy and Allie. Anyway, in May of 2001, Caitlin was born. Shortly after her birth would be about the time I started thinking about those Smoothies a bit more. I was married with two kids (Nicholas was born in October 1997 so he was 3½ years old), a Golden Retriever, two Collies, and two puppies, all on a lot in a golf course community. We needed more space and got it - forty acres, where we currently live. Ultimately, progressing forward with the Smooths made it easier for me to have a busy family life and keep the dogs in the condition I wanted. As everyone knows, Smooths make for quicker grooming as well as weekly upkeep. No worries on matting - easy breezy.

My husband Ron has always traveled for work so it wasn't the easiest to get away to shows when the kids were little. While people rarely see Ron at shows, and I believe he has only been to one National, he has always been my biggest supporter in this endeavor. He doesn't tell me what I can't do, he doesn't tell me how many dogs I can have, and rarely does he tell me no. He is the absolute best and I'm very lucky to be married to him. One reason I believe Ron is lenient on the number of dogs I have is because I police myself. On occasions, he's come home

from work to learn that I've decided I'm placing so-and-so and they are going to a wonderful pet home on this day. I typically go about my business and from time to time will mention a breeding. Most of the time he just rolls with what I have going on, except for one time. It was the time that Kylee (the only dog who has ever slept on our bed) went home with Heather Newcomb to be bred to Bandit. I did not ask or tell him about Kylee, I just showed up at home without her. Honestly, at first I was quite surprised by his behavior though later when I thought about it, I realized I shouldn't have been. Ron and Kylee had a connection and I used to joke with him about Kylee being his "girlfriend."

I have been a stay-at-home mom up until this past August, which has allowed me to take care of the number of dogs with ease. With regards to the daily dog chores, it's all on me. From time to time Ron will help, especially when he knows I'm sick or when I'm taking care of a new litter. And then there's the times he just hangs out in the dog room while I'm feeding to talk about the day's events. When Caitlin expressed an interest in showing, I decided she needed to help me as her way of earning the privilege to go to shows. You see, I've never made either of the kids help with the dogs. The dogs are my hobby so they are my responsibility.

Caitlin... She is so much like me it is scary. I love her to pieces and am proud of the way she is maturing into a responsible young adult. She is crazy-competitive in everything she sets her mind to, and a bit of a perfectionist. Every school

year she takes a few Advance Placement classes and pulls a 4.0, though this sophomore year is proving to be a bit more challenging, requiring more time doing homework and less time helping with dogs. In her early Junior Showmanship years, I instilled in her the importance of having fun. This is supposed to be a hobby, not a career. To this day, I don't say, "Good luck" - I tell her to "Have fun."

When she wanted to be one of the top Juniors, I taught her to strive to be in the Top 10, and after you reach that, then work on being in the Top 5. This is how we



*Caitlin with GCh. Cyndella's I'm A Party Girl*

start every year because it is only for special shows that I let her miss school - club volleyball takes up quite a few missed days.

About halfway through 2016, when she was in the upper numbers, she came to me about trying for Number 1. We've had this talk before, and with us living in Colorado it will be a challenge. We do not have the number of local shows necessary and the shows we would need to do would be a d-r-i-v-e. This was going to take a family effort, the whole family. She agreed to not play school volleyball in the fall, while Ron and I agreed to support her in this endeavor.

During the summer, Caitlin and I went to shows I have never been to. Ron even went with us to Arizona, and as a bonus we got to spend the afternoon at the Grand Canyon, a sort of mini-family trip (minus Nicholas, of course). Remember I said it would take the whole family? Well, it did. Nicholas had graduated high school in the spring and was more than capable of taking care of the dogs - the catch was that he never had. The boy loves the dogs but really doesn't do much with them past the adorable puppy stage. The first time we left him alone I was a nervous wreck. I shouldn't have been; he did awesome! Upon closer exam, a few things weren't quite done the way I had instructed, but bottom line, the dogs got food, water, and exercise and the house was still standing. I call that a success. Nicholas proved himself valuable on this quest, taking care of dogs (and house) on more than one occasion.



*Caitlin with Ch. Cyndella's It's My Party in 2009*

With excitement and nervousness Caitlin looked up the final stats a few weeks ago, hoping that all the miles and early ring times had paid off. It did! She ended the 2016 year as the #1 Breed and #3 Herding Junior. She has already decided that her focus next year will be on attending shows, when we can, where there is a chance to earn scholarship money (to date she has earned \$1650). Thank goodness we're taking a break, because I need it.

***CE: Clearly, health is an important element to your breeding strategies. Beyond the obvious, what drives you to maintain your dedication to scientific validation of your efforts? As a Breeder of Merit, what kind of job do you think the AKC is doing to support and promote legacy breeders?***

When I decided to have my first litter, I wanted to try to do everything right. I guess you could say I marched to the beat of my own drum. When reading different books on breeding, they would mention doing health clearances as well as puppy health checks. As a novice, this got me thinking. I do not have the years of experience, so how do I *know* I am breeding healthy dogs? Well, I don't, so I thought I could at least do a few generalized tests which would give me a foundation to build upon.

I started with OFA hips and went from there. Wouldn't it be nice if health testing would guarantee a healthy adult? However, as we all know, breeding is not easy. We are dealing with living, breathing animals and their genetics. Unfortunately, sometimes those genetics like to sneak up and whack you on the head. Today, I still find that health testing makes for good building blocks, especially with the new DNA tests that are available. That being said, health testing is not the whole dog, and I do not think testing defines how to breed - it is a tool. Health testing is also not more important than the Standard or breed

*Cont'd on page 26*

*I'm A Party Girl and Divatude at 10 Weeks*

*From Leah Ryan  
Vedameca*

My first personal contact with Kelly Neeley was a world apart, when I was in the final planning stages of importing our last male Collie into Australia: Am/Aust Ch. Fantasy's North Star ("Ty") in 2008.

Ty's Dam, Ch. Wayside Sweet Georgia Brown, needed one more American champion to obtain her ROM, a conquest Debbie Holland sought to achieve for Wayside.

Since she was laden at the time with her clients' dogs, we were happy to oblige Debbie, and sought the help of our longest and dearest American friend, Hildy Morgan, to find the right handler for Ty. As luck would have it, Kelly Neeley of Cyndella Collies agreed to execute that triumph.

In the short time Ty spent in Colorado, Hildy set about finalizing all his final medical procedures and pertinent certificates for export, whilst Kelly catered to his every need on the show circuit, and in no time at all he achieved his American championship.

Looking back through my US judging assignments, I was elated to see how many notable awards I have bestowed on Cyndella Collies over the years. As recently as last year I was delighted with my Collie entry, which exceeded the entry at the Collie speciality the day prior.

*Am/Aust Ch. Fantasy's  
North Star ("Ty"),  
handled by Kelly  
Neeley of Cyndella  
Collies*

Among my entry there were numerous quality Cyndella Collies I awarded highly, beginning with Ch. Cyndella's Pandemonium, the Select tri Rough dog. Winners Bitch went to the blue Smooth puppy, Ch. Cyndella's Fabulicious, and her sire GChS Cyndella's Splitting Image was my BV.

A judge can impact a breed's direction with *good decisions*, and a *good breeder* can make a judging assignment a thrill. Among my quality-packed Herding Group, I was even more thrilled to award my Group 1st to a very typey Collie Rough, and my Owner-Handler Group 4th to Splitting Image.

If I were stranded alone in a harsh unyielding environment in the hilly counties of Scotland with a large flock of sheep, needing a dog who was hardy, quick-witted, courageous, and resourceful, whose bloodline would I choose?

A Cyndella Smooth Collie would be hard to beat!



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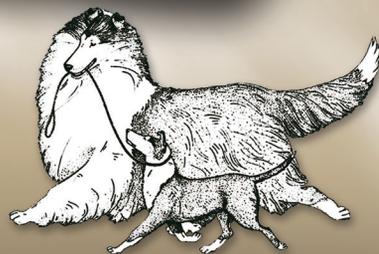
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*Caitlin with Ch. Cyndella's Divatude*

type. It is a bonus. I try to “first do no harm” and I also try to not push my ideals on to anyone.

Regarding the Breeder of Merit program, I think the AKC is trying to do right by breeders with the benefits of the program. Is it really working? It's hard to say. While I do not take advantage of all the benefits, like free online classifieds, I am sure it is a saving to the breeders that do. I like the \$5 coupon code for litter registrations and I am a huge fan of the \$20 monthly credit for online reports. One of the downsides to the program is their lack of enforcement with regard to the 100% of puppies being individually registered. I know of breeders who aren't registering all their puppies, yet the AKC still allows them to be a Breeder of Merit. In my opinion, I think this makes the program lack a bit of merit.

***CE: It's significant that you are a gold medal holder for 10 BBE champions. Talk a little about your experience succeeding from that class.***

I really enjoy showing in the Bred-by-Exhibitor class. To me it's a badge of honor to call myself a breeder. I've always had the thought that if I bred this dog and I'm keeping this dog then I want to show off this dog in the class that is only for breeders. Think about that. There is a class only for breeders, who in my mind are a group of dedicated people going through sleepless nights and a whole lot of puppy poop to raise the next generation. There is no better class than to exhibit our finest. At least that is how I think it should be. Yes, on occasion I will

use another class - say if a puppy is out for experience and mom is actively being shown. I won't put both in the same class, of course. Also, I'm sure some of you are wondering where I show my puppies. Well, I put them in the Bred-by class too. I've heard the “argument” that puppies belong in the Puppy class, but I'd like to think my puppy is as competitive as those adults. Eventually should you win your Puppy class, you must run with the big dogs and compete for Winners. I would much rather come from the Bred-by class, where the judge has possibly put my puppy up over an adult, versus getting into the Winners class to run around the ring at the end of the line. I want to mention that now with Caitlin showing dogs, I really enjoy watching the judge's reaction when she walks into this class. It can be so amusing at times. I don't know what they are thinking when they do their double-takes, but I do hope they look at her not just as the future of our sport but also as the future of our breed.

***CE: Can you describe some of your kennel (and life) management strategies?***

Escaping the golf course, we now have forty acres, though most of it is leased to the neighbors for their cows. We built our house with the dog room attached to the kitchen nook via double doors. I like having the dogs close to us in the event of an emergency, and as a bonus the dogs are acclimated to household noises, which makes placement later easier. The kitchen is tiled for easy clean-up and this allows them to take turns hanging out helping me do dishes, laundry, or cook.

The dog room is a little over 500 square feet and has five 4x6 pens with raised beds along a wall. Opposite the pens are five 500 Vari-Kennels that are raised off the concrete. Also at any given time there could be smaller crates for puppies who have begun their crate training. Behind the crates, we created a chainlink wall with a gate so when the dogs come and go they cannot run about the entire room. This half of the room has a grooming table and a wall of cabinets with a raised tub. It is the side of the room where puppies are raised when they move from the guest room at around four weeks.

Having more Smooths than Roughs helps me to maintain the conditioning of the dogs more easily, especially with Caitlin playing year-round volleyball (school and club teams). Not all the dogs are actively being shown, but the ones that are get their nails and teeth done weekly, are bathed every 10 to 14 days, and head trimmed every other week. I keep track of bathing on a whiteboard (I'd never remember any other way). I also keep a 15-foot

piece of ring matting down always, so whether I'm working with them or not, the dogs get used to the feel of the ribbing under their feet. I feel putting in the work at home (grooming and training) makes the dogs more competitive at the shows, as I firmly believe in "what you put in is what you get out."

I feed Fromm Gold, adult and puppy formulas, twice a day. They also get a cranberry and apple cider vinegar pill along with a tablespoon of coconut oil. The dogs go in and out most of the day, except for after breakfast when they are put away for four hours. I feel the constant rotation leads to more active exercise and more fit dogs, as they are not lazing about as much when they are outside.

***CE: Which Collies are now important to your future plans? How far ahead do you plan breedings, and why?***

The sisters I'm A Party Girl (Kelsey) and Divatude (Meghan) are both key bitches for the future, as they are linebred on It's My Party. As of this article, the girls are in the whelping box raising litters, co-bred with Heather Newcomb/Hannah Mellissas, sired by Keepsake Edenrock Just Living The Dream (Casey). Casey is by GCh. Keepsake Builder Of Dreams out of Ch. Larkspur Raindrops On Roses (Ch. Southland's Lexington x Ch. Larkspur Forget Me Not, ROM). What excites me about these litters is the doubling on Mason (Bandit/Kylee) with a nod to Southland (the girls are Kung Fu Panda great-granddaughters). Casey is a young dog of good size. I love his length of back and natural neck, which makes a beautiful silhouette. He has his father's expression with round muzzle (with the fill fitting right up to under the eye). His head is one seamless piece that flows smoothly from tip of nose to skull. As I'm sure you can tell, I'm very excited to watch these little ones grow.

I also think the Pandamonium/Pixy Stix daughters (iCandy, Starburst, and Joi Ride) are going to play an integral part. Ch. Cyndella's iCandy was bred back to her father, Pandamonium, to produce the 9-month-old Cyndella's Candy Stix (Tessa). Ch. Cyndella's Joi Ride was bred to GCh. Sealore's "A" List, and the resulting puppy is a 16-week-old tri Smooth named "Josie," who is co-bred/co-owned with Ann and Jim Boles.

*Ch. Cyndella's iCandy*



I am waiting on GCh. Cyndella Tango's Starburst to come into season so she can be bred to Casey. I've purposely chosen three types of breedings (inbreeding, outcrossing, and linebreeding) in the hopes of weaving the offspring down the road. Of course, you can plan breedings on paper but they can only materialize if you get the right offspring to move forward.

I'm always thinking ahead. How do you know where you're going if you haven't charted a course? I could also ask, "How do you know your future if you don't know your past?" This does not mean plans can't change - you must learn to be flexible - but I like having a plan in place.

Here is a good example of planning: I found a dog I would like to use; however, he is an outcross, which for my girls is not good as I do not have anything behind them to match up to either of his families. In my mind to make this a success I think I will have to go "right" in order to go "left." By that I mean take one of my girls to a male from one side of his family, then hope for a bitch who I could then take to the original



*"Josie"*  
GCh. Sealore's "A" List x  
Ch. Cyndella's Joi Ride

boy. I will admit it's a lot of variables, but I think it's a good solid plan to produce not just any puppy but a puppy that hopefully will be linebred on the virtues I went in search of.

Again, thank you for asking me to write my story. I enjoyed my trip down memory lane, though sad at times. However, I walk away from this article excited for the future and for what is to come.

