

Malta Canine Society Show – 17/18th November 2007

Show Report - Judge: Sharon Pinkerton.

Malta Canine Society Championship Show November 17th & 18th 2007

This was my first ever trip to Malta and to combine that with a judging appointment was very exciting. Unfortunately despite some very pleasant weather prior to the show it seems that I brought along some very typical wet and stormy weather normally seen at home!

However I did receive a very warm welcome from the enthusiastic exhibitors that awaited me at the fabulous Cottonera Sports Complex. I had been pre-warned about the lovely big ring but I didn't expect it to be as big, nor to find it covered in carpet and contained in a very professional looking ring fence.

I was very pleased to find a lot of quality dogs – some imported dogs and some homebred dogs. Handling varied with a lot of dogs being handled very professionally and some exhibits and owners could do with some ring training to get the best of our their exhibits. It was also pleasing to see good sportsmanship between the exhibitors. Some of the exhibits lacked muscle tone and some nails needed some attention. Only one dog tried to re-arrange my fingers and I found that unacceptable especially considering the size of the dog in question.

My grateful thanks to my steward Daren Zahra who not only helped explain the judging system he became my own personal driver for the two days.

Onto the dogs with the first group decision being the Terrier Group which was topped by Messrs Mizzi's striking Bull Terrier AESIR THE SKY GOD. A lovely quality dog with a huge personality, typical head and lovely naughty expression, well sprung ribs and standing on good legs and feet, moved on a good stride with lots of drive. In runner-up position was Mallia's SBT BORDPOL BRINDLE BOY another quality exhibit who moved well. The Terrier Puppy Group winner was Mallia's SBT DANCE 'N KISS very much a youngster with plenty of developing still to do. Needs to learn to move at a pace which shows off her movement and not be allowed to pace.

The Working Group was next in with some lovely quality dogs and a real close decision between the winner and runner-up. Best Working was Borg's Rottweiler COTARINN KELTIC WIZARD who got the nod on the extra maturity and outgoing showmanship. Lovely well made Rottweiler with a masculine dry head, lovely expression, well set ears used well, strong boned limbs and good feet, strong neck of good length, well sprung ribs reaching well back, well angulated hindquarters, moved with lots of drive and on a long profile stride. He returned on the second day to give another good performance to win RBIS. Reserve was Abela's GSD DENT SAISSE AGRAM another lovely quality young dog. Balanced in head with a good expression, strong neck, well boned limbs and reasonably good in feet and pastern, lacking a little spring in ribs but he is still young, strong hindquarters and really did move with drive

Working Puppy Group was won by the Alaskan Malamute Neil's VANILLA SNOW MAN DEL BIAGIO very well presented and schooled, lovely balanced head and good expression, super boned legs and good feet, well bodied but would prefer a little shorter in body length, well angulated behind, moved well. Reserve was the Boxer Borg's GALRAY WOODSTOCK MIDNIGHT BLUES a little plain in head but so very well made with good length of legs and presenting a good shape when stacked.

Best Locally bred on the first section was Sciberras's Rottweiler DENIRO LORELEI who was also my Best Bitch in breed. A strong old-fashioned type of bitch but well made and had the best legs and feet, moved and showed well.

On the morning of the second day my first group was the gundogs and I was disappointed in the lack of muscle on some of these dogs. One Pointer I liked very much obviously didn't want to be in the ring and his lack lustre performance cost him a much higher place. Later on in the Pugs there was another dog I liked very much but he played about on the move and this too cost him a higher place.

My winner of the group was Galea's Pointer Sh Ch PIPEWAY MONTY. A masculine dog with a long head, slight occiput, kind expression, good length of neck leading into good shoulders, good legs and feet, well-bodied dog with strong angulation behind, moved on a good stride. Reserve was Borg's Cocker Spaniel SH CH CANYONN CLASSIC DREAM AT FRAMOD a black dog of good quality, pleasing head, lovely expression, long clean neck into good shoulders, well ribbed body and an excellent topline, moved soundly keeping his topline firm.

Gundog Puppy group winner was another black Cocker male, Formosa MORALIS I'M OUR MAN. Very cockery in type, well grown youngster, lovely head and the best legs and feet, well ribbed body, thick coat, moved with lots of drive and attitude, eventually winning RBPIS. Runner-up was a very raw English Setter puppy, Debono's TA CLAUSE GINGER. He was very sympathetically handled but showed good conformation and moved with promise.

Another close decision for the Toy Group which was won by the Smooth Coated Chihuahua CH WIDOGI ROCKET MAN owned by Mr & Mrs Young. What a showman! Lovely head and expression with well set ears, neck of good length and fine boned limbs, well ribbed body and strong hindquarters which enabled this dog to move with drive topped with such an attitude he was difficult to overlook. Close to the overall winners later in the day and would have been BIS 3. Runner-up was the outstanding Pug puppy who also topped the Toy Puppy Group and eventually went on to win BPIS. From such a strong Pug entry Messrs Attard & Carabott SASQUEHANNA GRANAT showed such promise for the future. This well grown dog showed well and really did move with drive and purpose. Lovely round head with well placed ears, strong neck, good boned limbs and good feet, strong well ribbed cobby body but standing on good length of legs, strong hindquarters and a good topline.

Runner-up in the Toy Puppy Group was the Griffon Muscat's HUVIKUMMUN LOLLIPOP CANDY very young and raw but shows good promise. Nice conformation she was also a good colour and was in good coat.

In AV locally bred Gundog or Toy I awarded that to Micallef's Pug PANGO who was cobby in body and had good length of leg and a strong topline, showed well.

In the Hound Group I awarded the first place to Formosa's Whippet NEVEDITH OFA OPAL. When this bitch first came into the breed class I liked her very much but her handler "ran the legs off her" as he took her around. Even though the bitch coped with this extra speed she was even better taken at the slower pace which enabled the bitch to show her extension in profile and her tidy away and back movement. Still quite young, she has quality and is so well made from her very feminine head, lovely expression, neat well placed ears, long neck into clean shoulders, nicely boned legs and the best of feet, correct topline, strong hindquarters and a lovely size. Handler needs to adjust his handling methods slightly as this will only enhance this Whippet's potential. Pleased to award her BIS overall.

Runner up was Mifsud's Basset CH SHERMAN BASSJOY MORAVIA BRAY an upstanding male hound showing lovely quality, balanced head with a strong neck, strong well boned legs and good feet, good forechest and spring of ribs, excellent topline, moved well although I would have liked a slightly longer profile stride.

Best Hound Puppy was the Miniature Long Haired Dachshund TORWOOD BURNING AMBITION owned by Messrs Aquilina & Borg. Still very much a baby puppy she was so well made and had good boned limbs, lovely topline and moved with style. Runner-up was Borg's Beagle Framod Star Ranger another lovely puppy who was well grown and had such great legs and feet, strong neck, well ribbed body, moved well.

My Utility Group winner was Sciberras Boston Terrier CH WILDAX WILD CARD such a shapely bitch with a quality head, well marked, well set ears, good limbs and feet, strong body, moved on a good stride. Runner up and also Best Utility Puppy was Spiteri's Bulldog VORTIEN GIZMO. A well-grown puppy with a good head, super legs and feet, strong ribbed body running up to a definite waist and well developed hindquarters, moved soundly and with such attitude.

Runner up Utility Puppy was the baby French Bulldog DER MICKLEOVER SALACIA. The most appealing head and expression and well-set ears, good legs and feet and a well-ribbed body, moved confidently when she got going.

Best locally bred Hound or Utility and overall Best Locally Bred dog was Mr & Mrs Hili's Smooth Haired Dachshund EMMANUELA NEAR AT CHEBEC. A real quality hound with an aloof expression, long neck into clean shoulder, good keel and well boned legs, lovely topline and developed hindquarters, moved soundly.

I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Malta and I enjoyed judging the dogs and I wish the exhibitors the very best for the future.

Sharon Pinkerton - Judge