

Malta Canine Society Show – 15/16th November 2008

Show Report - Judge: Steve Hal.

Held there annual Championship show at Cottonera Sports Complex in Malta on the 15th/16th November 2008.

This being my third time here in Malta to judge one of there show, this show turned out to be a special occasion as it was thirty five years since the inception of this society, ironically this was the year that I first started showing dogs as well.

I would like to thank my most able stewards for the professional way in which they conducted the proceedings, as always I have always found these exhibitors in Malta to be nothing but friendly and most sporting towards their competitors.

As in all shows there are some excellent dogs and not so excellent, this is the world over, however, I did find some dogs that where a little less friendly with regards to temperament towards me, this I find totally unacceptable in any breed, the worst by far was some of the Alaskan Malamute's, such a big dog, if indeed a dog bit a judge, these dogs are working dogs, not guard dogs, they work in teams with 6 or 8 other dogs, they must be sound in temperament to work all day with other dogs. The ring was huge and fully carpeted in green, on the evening for Best in Show the lights where dimmed and each group winner was allocated a six foot oval red carpet and this was spotlighted (rather like Crufts main ring) this was quite spectacular and very well done. The first day started with the Junior handling (this is a Crufts Qualifier) the winner was Stacey Vella a very capable handler of a whippet at first she did move her charge a little too fast, but corrected this when asked to, she then handled a beagle it was obvious that she also knew exactly what se was doing, well done.

First group up was the Utility Group. Leading this group was the Toy Poodle Ch. AEDAN DOUBLE DARE an extremely nice specimen and although not young he was very active and precise with his action, lovely dark eyes that were full of fire and mischief, excellent proportions, very level topline with a good tail set.

Reserve was the Bulldog CH VORTIGERN GIZMO. a dog that did not have any exaggeration at all, excellent timbers giving him the advantage over others when moving, very well balanced head with a strong turn of under jaw, powerful bodily proportions and in very good order. UTILITY GROUP PUPPY was the Akita MELODOR CALL THE SHOTS well upstanding dog that covers the ground for a moderately angulated dog, all male skull, excellent length to body, good firm rear action, big dog that takes a lot of handling well done, could have performed better in the best puppy challenge as I felt his attention was on other things.

Reserve was the French Bulldog DEANDRA FIRE STRIPE lovely brindle bitch that was a delight to go over, excellent head properties particularly ears, very good mover for one so young. Second group of the day was the Hound Group. The winner here was CH DANA AT BARKUN a very honest blue/grey brindle bitch that had the most wonderful smooth racing lines, looked every part a hound, very nice head with a good kind eye which was dark, good length to loin so important in any coursing breed, this bitch eventually became my reserve best in show. Reserve Hound Group was the Smooth Haired Dachshund CH EMMANUELA NERA AT CHEBEC. In the hardest condition you could obtain, she had nothing I would have changed, very firm mover in both directions, lovely feminine head and expression, good turn of keel, level topline which she kept on the move.

Hound Group puppy. Was the Bassett Hound SANCHARM ALBA. I thought her rather charming and at five months still had a lot of growing to do, there was no exaggeration here, good timber that lifted her from the ground and not over wrinkled, I found her a breath of fresh air, very good mover and held her topline at all times, could have took res best puppy in show but did not give her best on the night.

Reserve Hound Group puppy, BARKUN CHANEL a lovely whippet out of my best of breed bitch, same colour and all the attributes of her mother, looks like a carbon copy, very good mover , I'm sure she will have a very bright future.

Second day Working group winner was the Rottweiler CH COTARINN KELTIC WIZARD a very sound and typical Rottie in good form my only criticism he could have been a touch bigger, but nevertheless, he was nice and gave his all, portrayed a lovely picture in stance and on the move, very well balanced head with a keen eye, very well handled into this top spot. Reserve Working Group, AM. CAN. MULTI CH. SNO QUEST'S KING OF LANDWOOD, a most handsome Alaskan with a delightful head and expression, first class body proportions, carrying the best of jacket so thick and harsh to the touch, excellent timbers both ends, appeared to be a bit short in leg, however, he is a most magnificent dog.

Working Group puppy. IVRAM WOODLAND TAKE ME TO THE RING. A well made dog that was well up on it's toes, excellent proportions particularly in leg length which gives him lovely balance, head still needs to break at seven months you have to be patient. Reserve Working Group puppy. Was the Rottweiler ESTALEA ISN'T SHE LOVELY. Yes she is lovely!! Very well proportioned and gave her all, I thought she was a delight to go over, nice topline and tail set, calm natured bitch that took it all in her stride.

Next group up was the Terrier Group. This group was rather weak and the winner was a young bull terrier BUGAN THE SEAFRONT EYE CATCHER, well proportioned at only four months old with floppy ears at present but I'm sure these will stiffen when the muscles decide to correct them, good bodily for age and a nice head piece, good mover fore and aft.

Reserve Terrier Group was the Glen of Imall Terrier. BLUE ROMAINVILLE , quite a nice dog of good type, but would not lift it's head from the ground, unfortunately sniffed all the way around the ring, this did spoil his performance somewhat, who knows he could have won the group if he had just performed a touch better.

Terrier Group Puppy winner BUGAN THE SEAFRONT EYE CATCHER Reserve puppy Staffordshire Bull Terrier, NETEREX SUNSHINE IN THE RAIN nice bridle puppy only five months old, gave a good performance reasonable balanced head a touch long cast in body, very active mover.

Next group the Utility Group this was by far the best group of the show, there was so much depth of quality and this is where my eventually best in show winner came from the pug LAMBADA VOM SACHSEN ADEL a most delightful bitch at only 8 month old charmed me into giving her Best in Show, but I must admit with her make and shape and one of the best moving pug I have had the pleasure to watch, this didn't take much, a most wonderful head with nice dark eyes, lovely dark mask, good turn of chin, the neatest of ears and very well set, no hesitation as I thought this was the star of the show.

Reserve was the Chihuahua (smooth-coated) TAXIBIXI TUTTI FRUTTI. 10 months old with a most wonderful disposition, beautiful skull well balanced with correct ear placement and very attentive, good neck and front, good body and level topline which she retained on the move, good rear quarters that propelled her without much effort.

Final group was the Gundog Group CH PIPEWAY BLACK JACK b/w pointer square in profile, and was at his best on the move with a lovely profile, not disrespecting his handler, if this dog was handled by more experienced handler he would no doubt be quite stunning and who knows how far he could have gone. Really good mover when he got his stride.

Reserve Gundog Group SH CH CANYONN CLASSIC DREAM AT FRAMOD a lovely dog that left you in no doubt to his gender, built on good lines, very supple mover both fore and aft, I particularly liked his tail set but he tended to carry it a touch too high, could have took the group but needs better Finish.

Best puppy in Gundog Group was the pointer PIPEWAY SUN LEGEND. Quite a nice dog that refused to perform at first but as time past he gained more confidence and did enough to top this puppy group.

Reserve Gundog puppy group was the black Labrador LADIV CHIC QUEEN OF SPADES. At only eight months old she was in very good condition but tended to lack breed type, but what she had was good , moved ok for age, reluctant for me to check her teeth, rather exuberant at times. Best puppy in show was obviously the young pug bitch LAMBADA VOM SACHSEN ADEL and reserve was Alaskan Malamute IVAM WOODLAND TAKE ME TO THE RING.

Steve Hall - Judge.