

## Malta Canine Society Show – 14/15th November 2009

This was my second visit to the wonderful Mediterranean island of Malta. The welcome that I received was as warm as the wonderful climatic conditions of the island. The change from the previous week in Finland was indeed great from -3 c to the wonderful 25 c of Malta.

The venue for the show was wonderful and the organization was second to none.

On the Saturday afternoon were the first two groups of the show. First the Toy group which was won by the Pekingese owned by Darren Mifsud & Bernard Gauci, Livanda Rooney, who as a male fits the Breed Standard so correctly (males being smaller than the females). This dog had the most wonderful head beautiful eyes and correct body shape, moved with the correct roll and in this warm climate had no breathing problems. I was also delighted to award this handsome boy RBIS. Reserve in this group was J.Attard's Pug, Sasquehanna Guajawa who was another of correct construction with a body of substance (not fat). He had wonderful work in his head, correct small ears and beautiful round black eyes.

Gundog Group winner was the Pointer, Sh.Ch. Pipeway Black Jake owned by Dr. J.Galea, a beautiful black and white dog who is a great credit to his breed with a beautiful chiseled head and correct soft mouth. This boy used the ring showing his wonderful forehand extension and drive from the rear. Reserve Gundog was C.Agius's Black Cocker, Moralis Buttons N' Bows, a bitch of correct size and balance with good soft expression with good correctly set leathers. Good bone throughout, very good feet, in excellent show condition.

Sunday, our second day started with the Working Group. This group was won by S&C Bebiano's Alaskan Malamute, Equinox Woodvram Polarni Usvit who at 7 months is to the standard as you could ever wish to find. Head, ears and eyes are so correct and remembering that this young male can only get better. Not only did he win the Group but also the Working Puppy Group and BPIS. Reserve in this group was J.Joyce's Great Dane, Justinian April Rose. This beautiful fawn bitch bred in the UK had a beautiful expression; flowing crested neck into a well put together front assembly. The lines on this bitch flowed from nose to tip of tail with correct straight long bones.

The Working Puppy Group was won by the Alaskan Malamute and Reserve in this Group was the Rottweiler, Xandarett Zeus, owned by S.Carwana & L.Vella, of very good size and substance correctly marked with excellent temperament. Well handled.

The Terrier Group was won by J.Schembri's WFT, Eng.Ch. Travella Special Feature. This is the most outstanding dog who has all the character of this wonderful breed. All the boxes were ticked for size, structure and temperament. Moved so correctly and was at one at all times with the excellent handler. The winner of this Group and eventually BIS. Reserve Terrier was a most impressive SBT, Dazmarnic Maltese Falcon, owned by A.Mallia. A brindle bitch with a strong powerful head, good cheeks and small ears, Beautiful body tone throughout, moved with the correct gait.

Terrier Puppy Group was S.Sammut's Bull Terrier, Cedant Special Edition Of Ultimate Bullies, a white puppy of 5 months who stood alone but is very correct throughout. At this stage is still teething with has affected the ears (eyes, ears and feet are affected by teething in all breeds) but this did not detract from the quality of this puppy.

Utility Group winner was D&C.Sciberras' young Boston Bitch, Barocco At Deniro who had the most beautiful head, excellent front assembly and with the correct top line rising over the loin with correct tail set and good angulation at the rear and moved very well. Reserve was the Bull Dog, Black Home Velvet Rose, owned by N&V.Fenech, a beautiful brindle bitch with a good head showing power and expression work. Good strong under jaw and dentition. A body of good size and excellent substance with correct body tone. This bitch moved very correctly and had no stamina problems and I feel could have gone on forever.

The Utility Puppy Group was won by N&V.Fenech's White Bull Dog Soul Guardian Cold As Ice who has quality stamped throughout and also moved very well. Reserve was Zyppirus Plati Pu Anga very young cream Shar Pei owned by E.Bugeja who had even at this young age super padding, clear eyes and the correct small tipped ears. She also had the correct pigmentation in her tongue and roof of her mouth. She may have appeared to have been somewhat over wriggled throughout her body but this as we know she will grow into.

The Hound Group was topped by J.Mifsud's Basset, Cora Bassjoy Gloomy Clown who was such a good example of this breed, this lemon and white bitch has a very correct head and folds with beautiful leathers of correct length and a body of very good substance. Her top line and tail set flowed. Her first and second thigh was well developed and she has good ankle front and rear and moved correctly. Reserve was S.Mercieca's Smooth Hair Standard Dachshund, Ch.Hampdach Celebrity At Chebec who had such a pleasing headpiece with correct ear set and good neck. She had a very good keel, flowing firm top line and an excellent jacket

Hound puppy Group was won J.Mifsud's Daikiki Del Val Vezzeno, Wire Hair Standard Dachshund of good size and substance, one to watch for the future. Reserve in the Hound Puppy Group was a 7 month old Basset owned by A.Hili, Swede Sun's Xven, who was only attending its second show. It is of good size and type but just a little nervous only having been here from Sweden a short time.

Best In Show was the Wire Fox Terrier, Eng.Ch. Travella Special Feature, Reserve the Pekingese, Livanda Rooney, Best Puppy In Show the Alaskan Malamute, Equinox Woodvram Polarni Usvit.

Peter Jolley- Judge