

The Malta Canine Society
2010 Annual Ch Dog Show
Saturday and Sunday 13th & 14th November 2010

My second visit to Matla the first being in 2005. I was very much looking forward to this appointment and felt honored to be asked back. The venue for the event was the impressive old Power Station which is situated on the Valletta Waterfront, literally on the other side of the road moored up was the spectacular Queen Elizabeth paying a visit on her maiden voyage and on Sunday her sister ship The Queen Victoria also paid Malta a visit too. Now how is that for a back drop for a dog show!

The showing fraternity in Malta are a competitive group and take their hobby seriously and there are dogs there that can compete with best in the world. Also their junior handlers are excellent and show much talent and skill. I wish their representatives good luck at Crufts in 2011 in the International Handling Competition. It was my duty to judge all the Breeds and Best in Show. Day 1 was a leisurely start at 3 pm judging the Working Group and Terrier Group, however Day 2 started off a 9 am with the Toy Group followed by the Gundog Group with a rather extended lunch break judging recommenced at 3 pm with the Utility Group and Hound Group and competition for Best in Show and Best Puppy in Show. I found both quality in depth and numbers in Pugs, Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs and certain individuals in many breeds!

My six Group Winner were the **Alaskan Malamute, Wire Fox Terrier, French Bulldog, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Pug and Clumber Spaniel.**

The Gundog Group winner was the Clumber Spaniel owned by Mr J Pell, Tweedsmuir Mahal and as her affix suggests bred in the UK and has bags of quality, only a baby but could not be denied this group. So correct in all departments and so sound with normal maturity and progression should do really well.

The Hound Group winner was the Rhodesian Ridgeback owned by Ms Mikolajczyk, Imara Leo Ginger, again only a junior but shows so much promise. Typical in head, eye and expression, correct in neck and forequarters, just the right amount of bone with good feet. Overall correct in body outline, excellent length in ridge with well defined crowns, just needs to carry more body condition to trouble the best. When settled showed easy flowing strides.

Toy Group winner was the Pug, Deandra Miie Halcyone owned by Mrs Jacqueline Job. Very pretty exhibit of the highest quality. Correct for size and pigmentation, loved her head qualities, neat small ears which are well set, show back, excellent top line with a good tail set. Front assembly so correct, this enabled her to show such excellent movement, very sound, super profile and presented in excellent condition. Pushed the main winners all the way!

Working Group winner was the Alaskan Malamute, only a puppy and more about him later.

My **Reserve Best in Show** was the Terrier Group winner Eng Sh Ch Travella Sharp Action WFT, no prizes for guessing where he was bred, piloted by the talented handler Ivan Calleja. No denying this exhibit's quality, super head which has excellent length, keen eye, neat well placed ears, super neck and forehand, short back, excellent set on, plenty in rear, quality in bone. When stood looked a picture of health, moved with true purpose and presented in first class order. Will always be a contender.

However **Best in Show** could not be denied to the charming French Bulldog Ch Nyakabully Ada, imp from Hungary and owned by Mr Patrick Pellegrini. What a character, so full of charm, super head and expression, so correct in skull and stop, well placed ears, beautiful eye, correct for size, excellent over all body shape. She is full of quality, moved so soundly both coming and going. Presented in excellent order. Never gave up showing.

My six Puppy Group finalists were the **Alaskan Malamute, Clumber Spaniel, Bull Terrier, Pekingese, Boston Terrier and Whippet.**

Hound Puppy Group winner was the Whippet Der Mickleover Ile Baron owned by Oliver Apap. Very raw at this stage but has all the essentials to do well when maturing. Handsome head of correct balance, good over all body outline, once settled moved ok.

Gundog Puppy Group winner was the Clumber Spaniel (see Group report).

Toy Puppy Group winner was the Pekingese Emperor Guardian Grand Entrance owned by Mifsud/Gauci. Fawn baby, pleasing over all appearance with many good breed characteristics. Excellent for size and general outline, correct shaped head with level ear set, clear eyes which are round dark and sparkling, correct open nostrils, neat lips, thick neck which enables him to carry his head correctly. Sound in front with a broad chest and well sprung ribs narrowing at the waist, tail set high and carried well over the back. Moved soundly and was presented in excellent coat and condition. One with a future.

Terrier Puppy Group winner was the Bull Terrier, Esprit De Corps the Joker, most attractive coloured exhibit with plenty to admire. So typical in head eye and expression, good mouth with strong teeth, ample bone with good feet, powerful neck and a well developed fore chest. Her overall body balance is correct. When stood looked a picture. When she decided to put her best foot forward she displayed true and active movement. Liked her a lot!

Reserve Best Puppy in Show came from the Utility Puppy Group the Boston Terrier, Deniro Exotic Orchid handled by owner/Breeder Mr D Sciberras. So full of charm and character, so correct in head, beautiful dark expressive eyes, well placed ears, clean in muzzle and mouth. Lovely shape in body outline, correct in top line, excellent ribbing, tail set and quarters. Due to her super front angles which connect so well with the rear she was able to power around the large ring with excellent forward reach and positive rear drive holding a clean outline at all times. Presented in "A1" condition and well schooled to gain maximum output. A very worthy runner up indeed.

Best Puppy in Show went to the Working Group and Working Puppy Group winner the Alaskan Malamute Ivram Stars and Stripes, bred by the talented Ivan Calleja and handled

for his new owners. Most striking individual of top draw quality. Handled to get every last ounce of showmanship from him to fend off some exciting contenders for top spot! Excellent head qualities with good width in skull, neat well placed ears which were used to good advantage giving off a super expression, excellent neck which flows into a well angulated front assembly, already fore chest well developed, super ribbing, correct sloping topline which in turn leads to a well set tail. Good width in thigh, excellent strength in hock. On the move he exudes power with effortless reach and drive. Presented in stunning coat and condition has “CH” stamped all over him!

JUDGE: Martin Sanders
UK