

**MALTA CANINE SOCIETY**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW JANUARY 2011**

It was a great honour to be invited to judge the above show. This was the second time I had officiated at this event – the first having been in 1997. Sadly on this occasion Frank Borg the Secretary of the Society was unable to attend due to a flu-like illness which eventually meant he had to be hospitalised. I hope that the news of him improves. The venue was excellent with a good floor and a very adequately sized ring. The atmosphere at the show was lively and friendly and the exhibitors seemed very sporting in their attitude all round.

Despite Frank Borg's absence the show went off efficiently and I felt that the Best in Show line-up was a great credit to the world of dogs in Malta. The strength of quality in some breeds seemed to me to be very high and this was especially so in Pugs, French Bulldogs and German Shepherd Dogs.

Best in Show went to the young Alaskan Malamute Ivramwoodland Stars and Stripes, he is just over a year old but has developed and matured well and was shown in excellent coat and condition. He is very well proportioned and was excellent in neck and topline and tail carriage – particularly on the move. He had a typical head and expression with enough breadth without coarseness, well developed body and excellent bone and he moved well both in front and behind with good reach in front and drive behind without over exaggeration. His breeder and owners can be justly proud of him and I feel that he and his litter brother must have tremendous futures ahead. Reserve Best in Show was the 18 month Pug bitch Tal-Bidnija Trend Setter Fifi who had taken Best of Breed in a very strong entry of this breed. She had a very good head and expression with a good skull, correct nose – typical without being overdone. Just enough neck and good in topline and in tail set. She was shown in good body with the correct rib and proportions and was fit. She moved well in front and behind and was good in shoulder and had enough bend of stifle without being overdone there. She put up a spirited performance and showed well throughout.

Best Puppy was the German Shepherd Dog bitch Barkun Fame. She had femininity and type and at the same time moved around the ring and up and down very well. She was typical in head with just the right amount of development there for her age. She was really good in topline when moving and had the right backline and croup on the move - without over-exaggeration. She was good in stifle and moved with drive. Good body development for her age and was just right for her age. Reserve Best Puppy was the Beagle Nikita Cobaka From Elly's Pack which also took Reserve in the Hound Group. She was very good in head with enough skull, stop and foreface. She shows a very clean cut outline and was excellent in topline and carries her stern well. She moved well in front and behind and retained her topline well on the move. She is big enough for her age of six months and mustn't grow on much more in my view.

Toy Group. Winner – the Pug see Reserve Best in Show above. Reserve in Group – the Pekingese dog Livanda Rooney, very strong headed Peke without being overdone and moved up and down and around the ring well and with enthusiasm. Correct shape of body and shown in good but not excessive coat. Correct weight again without excess.

Toy Puppy Winner – the Pug Deandra Querida-Rev a very promising pup just under five months and really a miniature adult - which always bodes well for a promising

puppy. Very good in head and skull and excellent in expression. Good body and all in proportion. Moved really well for her age and showed really confidently.

Gundog Group Winner – the Pointer Sh Ch Pipeway Monty OK in head, very good in neck and topline and tail well carried. Moved very soundly behind with plenty of drive and held his topline well when seen in profile on the move. Correct rib carried well back and good in loin. Good overall outline and proportions. Reserve the German Short Haired Pointer, Sh Ch Odelot el Primero, another smart dog which went very well behind but could be slightly better in front. Good head without being in any way coarse there and pleasing in expression. Well bodied and well muscled but could be slightly shorter in back.

Gundog Puppy Winner – the Cocker Spaniel Crosstree Pretty Lady – very pleasing in head and expression and moved soundly. Good in shoulder and enough bone for her age. Good outline and correct proportions. Just needs a bit more ring training.

Utility Group. Winner – the French Bulldog bitch Ch Nyakbully Ada – she caught my eye as she entered the ring. Typical in head, ears and expression, good eyes not overdone, typical; top-line and tail set and carriage,. She was excellent In body and rib and had good muscle. She moved well and was shown fit. Feminine in appearance and had a great deal of quality. Reserve – the young Boston Terrier Deniro Exotic Orchid, only 14 months but very showy and good in head for age, correct in neck and typical in topline. Good strength of body and moved soundly.

Utility Puppy Winner – the French Bulldog Tal-Pointer Vania Junior, very mature youngster with a good head with correct eyes and ears. Enough neck and OK in typical topline. Moved better behind than in front but shown fit and well muscled.

Hound Group Winner – the Whippet Ch Chebec Flawless Diamond, a very pleasing dog with a good head and eye, correct depth of brisket and good topline and tuck up without exaggeration. Elegant enough for a male and moved very soundly both in front and behind. Good neck, correct in pasterns and very well muscled all through. Reserve – the Beagle Nikita Cobaka From Elly's Pack see Reserve Best puppy in Show above.

Hound Group Puppy the Beagle Nikita Cobaka From Elly's Pack see Reserve Best puppy in Show above.

Working Group Winner - Alaskan Malamute Ivramwoodland Stars and Stripes – see Best in Show Winner above. Reserve the GSD – Ch Carne JB, a very pleasing dog which very much caught the eye. He had a good head and was excellent in topline on the move. Very good shoulder and front movement. Moved with drive behind and was good in hock and not overdone in stifle. Correct typical pasterns. Good depth of body and just right in rib. Pressed hard for the Group but was behaving unnecessarily noisily at some crucial moments and had to pay the penalty.

Working Group Puppy - the German Shepherd Dog bitch Barkun Fame – see Best Puppy in Show above.

Terrier Group Winner – the Bull Terrier Ch Realstrong Bulls Black Flames, very sound bitch with a good head, correct strength of body and good rib, well muscled and moved jauntily and well, both in front and behind. Enough bone and typical quality outline all through. Reserve the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Dazmarnic Double Trouble, a young bitch with a very pleasing head and skull and good stop and

expression, good front and correct in body proportions. Moved well and was well muscled behind with strong second thighs. Could use tail better.

Terrier Group Puppy – the local Fox Terrier Clealy King, stood alone as the only puppy in the Terrier Group. Only the second time I have judged this breed but I found this one to be rather poor in front and behind and sadly he didn't make the most of himself at this show.

The presence of so many young people at this show augurs well for the future of the dog game in Malta and the prominence given to the young people and children means that the handling classes are given the importance that is their due.

In the Junior Handling Class a strong contingent of youngsters was headed by Fabianne Chetcuti who made a really good and professional job of her task – both with her chosen dog and with the substitute. She handled the two dogs appropriately, both for the breed and the particular dog, and did not overdo things. Second was Eman Spagnol who came a close second and he too took charge of the two exhibits well, but without in any way showing in the stylised manner which is sometimes employed by certain Junior handlers.

The Children's Handling Class with eight competitors was won by Elona Fenech. She handled a young dog who could scarcely have been more awkward and she did that calmly and well. This young lady must surely be a star in the making! Reserve was Craig Joyce who also made a good job of his task but with not yet quite the same confidence as the winner. Future judges should be warned to use their words carefully. My instructions to take the dogs round me, were at one stage adhered to rather too literally and absolutely to the letter!

**Ronnie Irving.**

Judge

January 19, 2011.